

# TRINITY MONTHLY

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOD'S TRUTH THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE



## New Life In Jesus

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Welcome to Lent at Trinity. Every year for 5 weeks before Easter, Christians observe a season called Lent. Lent is a time to get ready. Just like someone who prefaces big news by asking “Are you sitting down?” the church prepares for the most significant news the world has ever known. Are you sitting down? Jesus has risen from the dead. He has shown the whole world that every claim,

every promise of God is true!  
There is new life in Jesus!

Well Christians don't prepare for Jesus' resurrection by sitting down, we prepare by standing up and living out the faith we hold in Christ Jesus. We prepare by turning away from the things that distract us or prevent us from living as God's people. We also prepare by doing the things God has commanded that we often neglect. You can call these things “fasting” or “works of love and service” but ultimately  
*(continued)*

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

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**TRINITY**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

it is about turning back to God. The church has a name for turning back to God: “repentance.”

Now these terms are used an awful lot during Lent, but you probably already know that these are precisely the things we Christians should be doing all the time. You're right! Lent is certainly a season set apart for returning to a life of repentance, fasting, and deeds of love and service, but that Christian life is available to all people every day. I pray that this Lenten season you are able to prepare yourself for the new life in Jesus Christ that was revealed fully in his resurrection in the most Christian way possible by living it in your life.

In Christ,



*Rev. K. McClain*  
**Pastor Kevin McClain**  
 Lead Pastor

## CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



508 Center Street  
Ashland, Ohio 44805



Phone: (419) 289-2126



Fax: 419-289-1381



[trinityashland.org](http://trinityashland.org)

And of course, you are  
always welcome to stop  
by Trinity's office,  
Monday - Thursday,  
9am-5pm!

## WE ARE HIRING: EXPLORE OUR OPEN POSITIONS

The following positions are open at Trinity,  
and we are actively welcoming applications:

- Associate Pastor
- Communications Director
- Director of Christian Development
- Part-time Bookkeeper
- Teacher/Assistant at Montessori Good Shepherd Preschool

We are currently hiring for several open staff positions at our church. Please check our website for the list of available jobs and join us in praying that God will lead just the right candidates to join our team. We appreciate your prayers as we seek gifted, passionate people to further the ministry. Scan the QR code for more information.



# HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH



## CELEBRATING MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Let's shower our cherished members 85 and over with lots of love and well-wishes as they celebrate their birthdays this month!

**Gretchen Emery** | March 1st

**Barbara Applegate** | March 27th

**Juan Acuna** | March 19th

**Olive Abrams** | March 27th

**Racine Nelson** | March 20th

**Marlene Rose** | March 30th

**Fred Mosher** | March 31st

## WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH

### What's On the Menu

5:15–6pm in Jack's Place  
Suggested \$5 donation

Taco Casserole

MAR  
6

Taco casserole, salad and yellow cake/chocolate frosting.

Beef Stew

MAR  
13

Beef stew, bread and lime poke cake.

Lasagna

MAR  
20

Lasagna, salad, garlic bread and cherry fluff.

Stuffed Pepper Soup

MAR  
27

Stuffed pepper soup, grilled cheese sandwich and brownies.

**RSVP encouraged by Tuesday. Call ahead for carry-out.**

**Please call:** Peggy: (419) 210-5226 | Robin: (419) 632-5097

# HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH



## ALL-CHURCH BOWLING AT LURAY LANES

Sunday, Mar 17th | 2-4pm | LuRay Lanes

Trinity is taking over the lanes for some all-church bonding! Cost includes bowling, shoes and pizza, just \$5 per person at the door. Put on your green! We want to see your whole family there - sign up today!



## GIVING STATEMENTS ARE GOING DIGITAL

Giving Statements were recently sent out - If you did not receive a statement please reach out to the office. We are excited to announce that starting this year, we will begin sending quarterly giving statements via email to provide donors with more timely updates. As this transition may take some adjustment, we plan to do a trial run of emailing first quarter statements in early April. By switching to email delivery, we aim to reduce costs and direct more funding toward our core mission, while also providing supporters with convenient digital access.

- During this transition, we appreciate the patience of donors as we fine-tune the updated format throughout 2024.
- If you are part of a couple that would like your donations linked and receive one combined statement, let the office know.
- Please send gifts directly to the World Hunger address, separate from regular giving envelopes, as they will not be included on the giving envelopes going forward.
- Thank you Laurie Maurer and Barb Piatt for your support and hard work during this transition process! We appreciate all you do.
- When contributing to multiple church funds, please consider writing separate checks to simplify our recording process. This helps our Sunday counters, Monday sorters, and weekly data entry volunteers.
- If you do not have email, you can still receive a paper copy.

Thank you for supporting our ministries! Every gift makes a difference.

# CELEBRATING EASTER

WITH TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH  
24TH

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## PALM SUNDAY

Worship Services | 8:45am & 11am

MARCH  
28TH

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## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Communion Services | 11am & 7pm

MARCH  
29TH

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## GOOD FRIDAY

Community Service | 12-3pm  
Friday Evening Tenebrae | 8pm

MARCH  
30TH

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## EASTER VIGIL

Holy Saturday Communion Service | 5:30-7pm

MARCH  
31ST

## EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Communion Services | 8:45am & 11am



**TRINITY**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH





## GROWING IN GRACE: MOMS & DAUGHTERS AFTERNOON TEA

Sunday, March 3rd | 1:30-3:30pm | Church Home

You are cordially invited to a special afternoon of fun and bonding for moms and daughters! "Growing in Grace" Afternoon Tea will be held on Sunday, March 3rd from 1:30 to 3:30pm in the Church Home. We welcome all mothers and their daughters to join us for delicious food, heartwarming activities, and quality time together. Our goal is to provide a space for you to make happy memories while deepening your relationship. Take a break from the busy rush of life and enjoy an afternoon of fun with your daughter or loving mom! Space is limited so please register by March 1. Cost is \$8 per guest.

We hope you and the special girl(s) in your life can make it for our "Growing in Grace" afternoon. Let's celebrate mother-daughter bonds and make joyful new memories!



## TODDLER TIME CONTINUES

Thursdays through March 21st  
10:30-11:30am | Jack's Place

This is a great chance to get your little one out of the house for playtime with other preschoolers while you connect with other moms and caregivers. We have many toys, activities and plenty of space for the kiddos to run around, explore and burn off energy in Jack's Place. Join us for this no-cost time of fun and connection. Please note: When Ashland City Schools are closed or delayed, we will not have Toddler Time.

## SAVE THE DATE: SCUBA VBS IN JUNE

Monday-Thursday, June 10-13th | 9am-12pm

Mark your calendars now and save the week for VBS! At Scuba VBS, kids age 4 (and potty-trained) through Grade 5 will have a week full of faith discoveries, memorable music and epic adventures that help kids grow in faith! If you're interested in being a part of the volunteer pool, contact Dawn Forbes for more info! Let's Dive into God's Word together!



## NERF & NAILS YOUTH EVENT: THANK YOU!

Our youth had an amazing time getting together and launching Nerf weaponry this past Sunday! Thank you to the volunteers, families, students, and staff that helped make the event a success.



## ALL-CHURCH BOWLING AT LURAY LANES

Sunday, Mar 17th | 2-4pm | LuRay Lanes

Trinity is taking over the lanes for some all-church bonding! Youth and their friends are invited to join the fun! Cost includes bowling, shoes and pizza, just \$5 per person at the door. Sign up using the QR code!



## YBS: YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays | 6:30-7:30pm | Youth Space

On Wednesdays, students in Grades 4-12 are welcome to join for a time of community, growth and faith. This year, we are exploring the Gospel of John together. Doors open at 6pm, and we gather in the Youth Rooms. Join us any time, and bring your friends!

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY



## GIRLS' NIGHT OUT: BUNCO & BROWNIES

Monday, March 4th | 6-8pm | Jack's Place

Ladies, it's time for some fun! You're invited to a special night of Bunco & Brownies (and dinner too)! Join us in Jack's Place for an evening of food, friends, and friendly competition! The cost to attend is \$10 per person which will cover our dinner and Bunco game. We look forward to seeing your beautiful faces for a night of guaranteed laughs!



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP

Thursdays | 9-10:30am | Mitchell Hall

Our Women's BSF will be studying the Book of John as a community in the weeks ahead. We meet at Trinity and offer a children's program (infant-preschool) during our time together. Find more information on Bible Study Fellowships at [bsfinternational.org](http://bsfinternational.org). We hope you'll join us!

## WOMEN'S BIBLE CONVERSATIONS

Wednesdays | 1:30pm | Meeting Rooms A & B

All women 18 and older, and their friends, are welcome to join this conversational Bible study led by Pastor McClain. No sign-up required!

## MOMS IN PRAYER INTERNATIONAL

Mondays | 8:30am  
Church Home Dining Room

Moms, grandmothers and aunts can join us to pray for their children and their schools. For more information contact Michelle Vanderzyden or visit [momsinprayer.org](http://momsinprayer.org).

# MEN'S MINISTRY

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIPS (BSF)

Day and evening options

Our Men's BSF groups will be studying the Gospel of John in the weeks ahead. More information on BSF is available at [bsfinternational.org](http://bsfinternational.org). Our **day group** meets in the AU Convocation Center at Noon on Tuesdays. The **evening group** meets in the Trinity Community Room at 6:30pm on Mondays.

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

1st & 3rd Thursdays each month | 8-9am

This Thursday morning Bible study is open to all men 18 and older, and is led by Pastor McClain. We gather in Meeting Rooms A & B at Trinity. No sign-up required, just show up!



# SENIOR MINISTRY

## LUTHER CLUB

Thursday, March 7th | Noon | Jack's Place

Come to hear missionary Amanda Wolfe of *Grow in Hope Ministries* share stories of her adventures with God, the past and the adventure she is currently experiencing. On the menu is Reuben sandwiches, French fries and green milkshakes. Cost is \$7.



## EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

Friday, March 15th | Noon | Lower Level Hallway

If you love creating original greeting cards, join us! Bring a packed lunch, and then craft handmade greeting cards to be used by staff and ministries at Trinity. Cards are also available for purchase.



## MNM'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

Sunday, March 17th | Noon | O'Bryan's Pub

Let's share some St. Patrick's Day fellowship! If you are a woman who is single, widowed or on your own, you are invited to join. We will gather at O'Bryan's Pub, 1065 Claremont Avenue, Ashland. Please RSVP by March 12th by calling the church office. We will meet at the restaurant.

## EUCHRE NIGHT

Thursday, March 21st | 6:30-8:30pm | Jack's Place

Shuffle up and deal! Join us in Jack's Place for a lively game night of Euchre. All skill levels and ages are welcome, and you don't need a partner to attend. Contact the office at (419) 289-2126 to RSVP and come enjoy an evening of cards and camaraderie.

## NAVIGATING TECHNOLOGY

Did you miss our class on using our web site last month, or attended but still have questions? Please contact Wendy Shreffler in the church office.



## MUSIC MAKERS SINGING

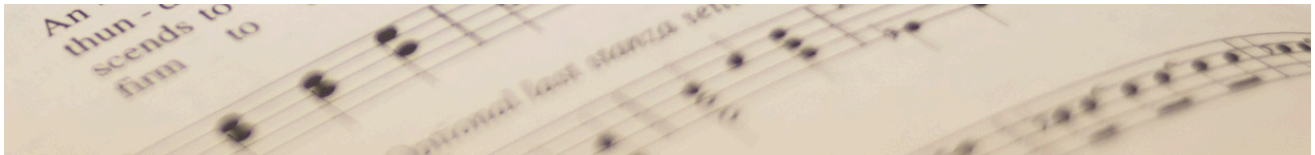
Saturday, Mar 9th | Folk Service

The Music Makers will sing as part of the Saturday Night Folk Service, and share their gift of song.

## WOMEN'S CHOIR SINGING

All Services, Weekend of Mar 9-10th

The Women's Choir will share their worshipful music with the community at all weekend services.



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER: MUSIC AND MEANING

### **Palm Sunday, March 24th**

8:45am Traditional Service

The Cherubs, Notes of Joy, and the Choir will combine to lead the congregation in singing "The Palms." Hear the story of Christ's entry into Jerusalem and his Passion and Death for our salvation.

### **Maundy Thursday, March 28th**

11am & 7pm Services

We gather at the Lord's table on Maundy Thursday, the first day of the "Three Days" or "Triduum," when Christians remember the sacrificial suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum" ("commandment"), which Jesus gives to us in our Gospel text. The three services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter are like the acts of a three-act drama, building in sequence to the conclusion in the last act on Easter. When the altar has been stripped and prepared for Good Friday, the pastor will dismiss with the words "Go in Peace." The Benediction will come when the Three Days are complete, and we have celebrated the risen Christ at Easter.

### **Community Good Friday Service, March 29th**

12-3pm Service

We pray, sing and meditate on Jesus' final seven words that He spoke from the cross.

## Good Friday Tenebrae Service, March 29th

### 8pm Service

This service features a reading from the Passion according to St. John, the traditional reading for Good Friday. The music will be a response to sections of the Passion story, reflecting Christ's suffering for our salvation and our meditation on our own mortality. We will end with the Bidding Prayers, which date back to the early church in Rome. On the day Christ died for the world's salvation, we fittingly pray systematically for all people everywhere. The Office of Tenebrae ("Shadows") dates back to the seventh or eighth century A.D. and is characterized by the successive extinguishing of candles, representing the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus. At the conclusion of the service, the Christ Candle will disappear, symbolizing the death of Christ. The noise signifies the closing of the tomb. The reappearing light symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, of life over death, when Christ rose from the dead on Easter. Thus, even in the midst of the mourning of Good Friday, we glimpse the promise of Easter Day.



## Easter Vigil, March 30th

### 5:30-7pm Service

This service will act as a culmination of what began on Maundy Thursday, which is full of contrasts between darkness and light, death and life, chaos and order, slavery and freedom. Four sections comprise the Vigil of Easter: the Service of Light, the Service of Readings and Songs, the Service of Baptism, and the Service of Holy Communion.

## Easter Communion Services, March 31st

### 8:45am & 11am Services

We celebrate Jesus' resurrection with communion and music. The 8:45am service will include Trinity Bells, Trinity Brass and the Choir. The 11am service will include the Praise Team and a special choir.



## OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, March 9th | 10-11:30am | Montessori Classrooms

Children 2 ½ years to 5 years of age are welcome! Come and explore the Montessori materials and see why children love to come to our preschool. This event will be an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about our program. We look forward to seeing you!



## ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN

We are accepting registrations for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Open to ages 2 ½ years (bathroom independent) to 5 years of age. Please pick up an enrollment packet outside of the Montessori office.



### Questions?

Contact Cindy Duffey for additional information.

Phone: 419 289-2126

Email: [montessori@trinityashland.org](mailto:montessori@trinityashland.org).

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



## KID'S RESURRECTION CELEBRATION

Sunday, Mar 24th | 10-10:50am

Upstairs of the Church Home

Resurrection Celebration will be an Easter celebration for kids from Preschool through 6th grade. Kids will enjoy a special breakfast in Mitchell Hall and then go with their teachers to the second floor of the Church Home for a story, an easter egg hunt and gifts. We hope to see you there!



## HOLY WEEK SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, Mar 24th | 10-10:50am | North Patio Room

We invite you for an opportunity to reflect on the significance of Holy week and reflect on how those events should change our lives. No sign up needed. We will watch some videos discussing the events of Holy Week and will have time for personal reflection afterwards. Those who went to the Lent Study are recommended to come.

## NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Sundays, Beginning April 7th | 10-10:45am | North Patio Room

Newcomers are welcome to this introductory class. This will be a great opportunity to become informed regarding the fundamentals of Trinity, and to get plugged into our community.

Pastor Kevin's New Members Class will be held on April 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th and May 5th, during the Sunday School hour.



**No Sunday School on Easter Sunday, Mar 31st**

**Trinity Kids Dates:** Mar 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th

**No Trinity Kids on Easter Sunday, Mar 31st**

# GET INVOLVED

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## RIDES NEEDED

We have members in need of transportation to attend church services. Can you provide an occasional ride? Any time you can volunteer is appreciated. Please contact the church office if you can help or know someone who can. Let's make sure transportation is not a barrier to participating in our church.

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Have you ever wanted to know more about how the Outreach Committee selects projects for our November ballots? Would you like to assist with that work? If so, please contact Kenny Oberholtzer at (419) 651-0185 or oberholtzer1@zoominternet.net for more information.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

March brings spring with green grass and flowers, budding trees and warm weather. But most important is Easter, without EASTER our faith is lacking. So is the faith of children around the world who have never heard about JESUS. Our Shoe Box Ministry works toward giving the good news to children who have never heard about Jesus.

Would you please help us gather donations for this important ministry? GIVING TREES will be found at the Olive Tree Café and the Sanctuary Gathering Space. These trees will be decorated with cards listing items needed to pack shoe boxes. Please remove cards of your choosing and purchase the items. You can return the items to the provided baskets by March 31st. Thank you so much for spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. Have a blessed Easter. -Ruth Ann Linder



## BECOME A STEPHEN MINISTER

Join our Stephen Ministry Team! Do you have a heart for compassionate caregiving? We invite you to consider becoming a Stephen Minister, engaging in distinctively Christian caregiving that centers around caring through listening. Stephen Ministry is a caregiving program that focuses on providing emotional and spiritual support to those in need. As a Stephen Minister, you'll play a vital role in our church community, offering a listening ear and a caring presence to those facing life's challenges. Contact Michelle Vanderzyden at [michelle@trinityashland.org](mailto:michelle@trinityashland.org) or (419) 289-2126, or Dan Forbes at [dan@trinityashland.org](mailto:dan@trinityashland.org) for more information about receiving the care of a Stephen Minister.



## CALLING ALL GREEN THUMBS!

We need your help keeping our garden fountain flowing this spring and summer. Help fill and maintain our beautiful fountain from May to September - it only takes about an hour a week. Get the kids involved or gather your Sunday school class for this outdoor project. Let's work together to care for our church grounds.

Contact Ann Miller (419) 651-6470 or Laurie Maurer (419) 606-5157 to join the Grounds Committee fountain team! Spread the word and lend a hand for an hour a week.

## A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF

Thank you to the numerous and generous food donors over the month of January and over the past year for funeral lunches. These meals are an integral part of our caring ministry and comfort to grieving families.

If you would like to provide food for our ministry, please get in touch with Peggy at (419) 210-5226, or Robin at (419) 632-5097.



## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, Mar 25th | 10:30am-4pm | Jack's Place

Our upcoming blood drive will be held on Monday, March 25th. The drive will be located in Jack's place and will start at 10:30am and conclude at 4pm.

## ASHLAND COUNTY CANCER ASSOCIATION

Located at 1011 E Main Street, Suite A, Ashland

If you're looking for a low-commitment way to give back, the ACCA is seeking individuals willing to drive clients to cancer-related appointments in Cleveland and/or Columbus. You don't need any special skills beyond a license, auto insurance and a heart to serve. Call the Cancer Association office to learn more at (419) 281-1863.

# ATTENDANCE & GIVING

## REPORTING UPDATE

We wanted to share an update on how we will report attendance and financial statistics moving forward. In order to ensure alignment between council-approved numbers and what is communicated to the congregation, there will now be a one-month lag in reporting. This change is simply to guarantee accuracy and transparency in our record-keeping processes. By taking the extra month to verify data, we can have full confidence in the attendance and financial updates we provide. Please know this shift comes from a desire to be responsible stewards of information. We remain as committed as ever to keeping the congregation informed. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask.

### December MONTH 2023 Receipts

DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
Dec 3rd, 2023	88	312
Dec 10th, 2023	55	441
Dec 17th, 2023	53	680
Dec 24th, 2023	-	927
Dec 31st, 2023	-	241



December 2023 Operating Fund Receipts	
DATE	AMOUNT
Dec 3rd, 2023	\$25,193
Dec 10th, 2023	\$28,272
Dec 17th, 2023	\$28,509
Dec 24th, 2023	\$53,832
Dec 31st, 2023	\$40,850

Operating Fund December/YTD	
Income	\$176,656
Disbursements	\$138,987
Surplus (Deficit) December	\$37,669
Surplus (Deficit) YTD	-\$98,492
Weekly Income Needed for Operating Fund December	\$27,797

Non-Operating Fund December	
Income	\$32,634
Investment Income (loss)	\$328,589
Disbursements	\$45,827
Surplus (Deficit)	\$315,396

# COUNCIL NOTES & NEWS

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## COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATES FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING

**Pastor's Remarks:** In his monthly message, Pastor Kevin encouraged us to use the upcoming Lenten season to prepare our hearts for Easter by looking ahead to what God will do. He asked council members to consider who in the church community could potentially serve on council in the future.

**Staff:** Payroll system is implemented. Committee was formed to discuss the upcoming solar eclipse event on April 8 and potentially using parking lot.

**Finance:** Addressed the 2023 budget deficit, approved to hire an interim bookkeeper and will continue working with Whitcomb and Hess for the next six months.

**Kitchen:** Wednesday night dinners going well, now offering meals to the Ashland County Cancer Association's families. Luther Club starting up again in March.

**Missions:** 20 people applied for summer mission trips. Deadline is Feb 28th for summer Bible camp trips.

**Montessori School:** Hired new office assistant. Working on grants and financial reporting. Looking for lead teacher.

**Nurture:** Held website training session. Planning for Mother's Day flowers. Would like to recognize various church volunteer groups in the coming months.

**Outreach:** Recruiting new committee members. Exploring options for donating equipment to fire department.

**Personnel:** Updating PTO policies. Interviews continue for several open positions.

**Property:** Reviewed carpet, painting, and siding repair quotes.

**Senior Ministries:** Planning for the year and looking for more volunteers

**Women and Children:** Recent women's events were well attended. Planning upcoming mother-daughter event and VBS.

**Worship:** Lent/Easter service schedule announced.

**Youth Ministry:** Volunteer coordinating youth events during transition.