

TRINITY MONTHLY

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



Turning Toward

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The season of Lent is upon us once again. Lent is a time to focus on repentance, that is, turning back to God. The Church has always known that one of the best ways to turn toward God is to turn away from ourselves. Martin Luther put it well in his lectures on the book of Romans by saying that “Scripture describes man as so curved in upon himself that he uses not only physical but even spiritual goods for his own purposes and in all things seeks only himself.”*

It is precisely this problem, the being “curved in” toward our own wants and needs, that often leads us away from God’s will. We often reach for things we should not; not because they are bad, or that we are exceptionally bad, but because we are compelled by our wants more than by our beliefs about what is right or best. The Church has used the practice of fasting to help Christians turn their backs on themselves so that they can turn toward God, that is to repent.

(continued)

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

Lenten Vespers | 3

Youth Easter Outreach | 6

Moms & Daughters Tea | 7

Senior Ministry | 7-8

Fasting is a traditional practice in the Lenten season. It is customary to make a choice to repent in some place in one's life while we await the celebration of new life that comes with Easter's celebration of the resurrection. I encourage you to fast this Lent, to choose repentance in a tangible way. Pick something that you're not sure you can live without and let it go. Turn your back on yourself, not as a form of punishment, but as a way to free you up to turn toward God. He is dependable and trustworthy. He will see you through every hardship, even the ones we get ourselves into through our choices. Fasting can be an eye opening spiritual experience if you let it.

Fasting may help us address the way we are curved into ourselves, but that is not all there is to repentance. Repentance is only complete when we turn to Christ. He alone is our righteousness and our salvation. He is the only just judge. I invite you to participate in Evening Prayer services on Thursday nights throughout Lent. Every week in Lent we will focus on a section of Luther's Small Catechism, reacquainting us with the core beliefs of our faith. After each service there will be a short time of instruction and prayer using a simple form that can serve as a guide for your home and group prayer and devotional time. I hope you'll join us.

In Christ,
Pr. Kevin

**This quotation can be found in Luther's Works, vol. 25, p. 345, as well as pgs. 291-92. Talk to Pr. Kevin if you would like to learn more about this topic.*



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



All of our Sunday messages are recorded and posted for viewing on our YouTube channel!

Of course, you are always welcome to stop by Trinity's office:

Monday - Thursday
9am-5pm



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, Mar 5th | 11am & 7pm

Join us as we begin the season of Lent together with Communion services. We will gather twice on Wednesday, March 5th at 11am & 7pm.

LENTEN VESPERS SERVICES

Thursdays during Lent | 6pm

Join us on Thursday evenings during the season of Lent for vespers services. We will gather beginning March 13th, and continue March 20th & 27th, as well as April 3rd & 10th. We hope to see you there as we journey through Lent together in community and prayer.



JOIN US FOR A LENTEN STUDY: *PRACTICING THE WAY*

Sundays, through Apr 13th | 10-10:50am | Trinity Room

Our culture is distracted, fragmented, and hurried. Many of us are simply too busy and exhausted to have a meaningful life with God. *Practicing the Way* is a clear path to being formed by Jesus in the modern era, rather than being counter-formed by a culture that skims near the surface.

Get more information about this opportunity in the Christian Education section of the newsletter, on page 10.

CELEBRATING THE FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

A huge thank you to everyone who made the Father-Daughter Dance a resounding success! In February, we hosted our annual Father-Daughter Dance, and we couldn't be more thrilled with the turnout. It was truly heartwarming, and we are so grateful to all the volunteers who helped with planning, preparation, setup, and cleanup. Your time and effort made this special evening possible, and created memories that will be cherished for years to come!



CELEBRATING EASTER

WITH TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL
13TH

PALM SUNDAY

Worship Services | 8:45am & 11am

APRIL
17TH

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Communion Services | 11am & 7pm

APRIL
18TH

GOOD FRIDAY

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

APRIL
19TH

EASTER VIGIL

Holy Saturday Communion Service | 5:30-7pm

APRIL
20TH

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Communion Services | 8:45am & 11am



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH





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!

Juan Acuna | 95 years | March 19th

Olive Abrams | 88 years | March 27th

Racine Nelson | 97 years | March 20th

Marlene Rose | 92 years | Mar 30th

Barbara Applegate | 86 years | March 27th

Fred Mosher | 86 years | March 31st

WHAT'S ON THE MENU

WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH

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

MAR
5

Macaroni Casserole

Garlic Bread & Rice Crispy Bar

MAR
12

Smothered Chopped Steak

Mashed Potatoes, Corn,
& Easy Cake Mix Bars

MAR
19

Taco Lasagna

Salad, Chocolate Peanut Butter Cake

MAR
26

Tater Tot Casserole

Cole Slaw & Cherry Pie Bars

RSVP required by Monday. Call ahead for carry-out.

Please call:

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

**Please note all meals are subject to change*

TODDLER TIME CONTINUES

Thursdays, March 13th & 27th

10:30-11:30am | Jack's Place

Let your toddlers burn off energy while you enjoy fellowship with other moms at Toddler Time! This free program offers a safe space for kids to run, play, and have fun under the supervision of former preschool director Joyce Picking.

Plus, Mr. Mark Koehler will bring creative movement activities to keep the little ones engaged. Don't miss this great opportunity for fun and connection!



Toddler Time follows the scheduling of Ashland City Schools winter weather delays or cancellations, so please be aware of weather-related schedule changes.

YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH EASTER OUTREACH PROJECT

Wednesday, Mar 26th | 6-7pm | Youth Room

Spread some love this Easter season by joining us on March 26th in the Youth Room for a special outreach project! We'll create Easter gifts to brighten the days of our Trinity shut-ins. Lite snacks will be provided as we come together to make a difference in our church family. Your time and care can bring joy to someone in need!



Youth Events Coming This Spring:

Youth Easter Outreach Project | *March 26th*

Youth Indoor Mini Golf | *April 30th*

Senior Dinner Celebration | *May 21st*



GIRLS' NIGHT OUT: BUNCO FUN!

Monday, Mar 10th | 5:30-7:30pm

Ladies, join us for a fun night out playing Bunco together! This month, we're partnering with Cookies by Chocolatina, and sending notes and cookies to AU students. The cost is \$8 to cover food and cookie sponsorship. Watch for sign-ups!

MOMS & DAUGHTERS AFTERNOON TEA: MADE IN HIS IMAGE

Sunday, Mar 9th | 1:30-3:30pm | Church Home

You are cordially invited to a special afternoon of fun and bonding for moms and daughters! Our Afternoon Tea will be held on Sunday, March 9th from 1:30-3:30pm 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 1st. Cost is \$8 per guest. We hope you and the special girl in your life can make it for our afternoon tea. Let's celebrate mother-daughter bonds and make joyful new memories!



SENIOR MINISTRY

LUTHER CLUB

Thursday, Mar 6th | Noon | Jack's Place

All seniors are invited to join us for a delicious lunch and some great fellowship! The menu will feature a Reuben casserole, side salad, & cake. After lunch, we'll hear from speaker Mary Dulce of LifeWise Academy. LifeWise provides Bible education to public school students. The cost is \$7, and an RSVP is required. We hope to see you there!

MNM'S: MAKING NEW MEMORIES

Monday, Mar 17th | Noon | O'Bryan's Pub

Women on their own are invited to join us for the next MNM's (Making New Memories)lunch! We're meeting at O'Bryan's Pub, located at 1065 Claremont Avenue. Please RSVP by contacting the church office. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful opportunity to share good food and great company! *Don't forget to wear green!*

EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

Friday, Mar 21st | Noon | Lower Level Hallway

Do you enjoy making greeting cards? Join us for Expressions of Faith, a creative time for anyone interested in crafting cards. Bring your lunch and any ideas you'd like to share—we'd love to see your creativity in action! No sign up needed. Please bring your own lunch.



EUCHRE NIGHT

Thursday, Mar 27th | 6:30pm | Jack's Place

If you enjoy playing Euchre, join us for a fun evening of cards! You don't need a partner to register—just bring your enthusiasm and we'll pair you up. Be sure to RSVP by contacting the church office. We look forward to a great time together; all skill levels welcome!



TRINITY TRAVELERS IS GOING CRUISING!

Informational Meeting on Saturday, Mar 29th

10:00am | Rooms A & B

Ahoy! We'll enjoy five nights, sailing from Miami on November 16th, 2025 on the MSC Seaside, to Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve and Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.

For more information, contact Wendy Shreffler at Wendy@trinityashland.org. Those interested can also attend an informational meeting on Saturday, March 29th at 10am in Rooms A & B.



JOIN US FOR A LENTEN STUDY: *PRACTICING THE WAY* Sundays, through Apr 13th | 10-10:50am | Trinity Room



Our culture is distracted, fragmented, and hurried. Many of us are simply too busy and exhausted to have a meaningful life with God. *'Practicing the Way'* is a clear path to being formed by Jesus in the modern era, rather than being counter-formed by a culture that skims near the surface.

Draw closer to Jesus during Lent by joining the *Practicing the Way* course. Each session features teaching, guided conversation, and spiritual exercises designed to lay a foundation for lifelong apprenticeship to Jesus. We'll take the journey together during the Sunday School hour!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES TAKE PLACE THIS MONTH

Sundays, March 9th - 30th | 10-10:50am | Mitchell Hall

If your child is in 3rd grade or has not yet taken a first communion class, join us in March for a 4-week class. Each class is designed to introduce The Sacrament of communion through instruction and hands-on activities led by Pastor McClain.

Parents are required to attend with their child/children. Sign up using the QR code, or by calling the church office.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: MARCH COLLECTIONS

Help us spread the Gospel one shoe box at a time! This March we are collecting coloring books, crayons, play-dough, toy cars and trucks, and yo-yos. You can drop off any donations to the drop off location under the table by Center Street Doors near Jack's Place or drop off items to the church office. Thank you for your continuous support!



JOIN THE PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to join others in prayer for requests that are brought to us as a congregation, please let us know and we will include you on our prayer chain. As prayers are received we will forward an email to you for your faithful prayers!

Bring hope and help to those who are in need of prayer. Please send us a message on the "reach out" section of our website, or call the office to be included.

MYERS & MILLERS & CLARKS, OH MY!

Thursday, Mar 27th | 6:30 | Freer Children's Home

The Ashland County Historical Society invites you to "Myers & Millers & Clarks, Oh My!", a presentation by Ron Marenchin on Thursday, March 27th at 6:30pm at the historic Freer Children's Home. Subtitled "A History of Musical Philanthropy in Ashland Witnessed by the Trinity Lutheran Pianos," he will use the history of the keyboard instruments at Trinity to highlight a century of music philanthropy by the leading citizens of Ashland.

Marenchin kicks off the 2025 Spring Speaker Series with this free opportunity. Parking is available onsite. For questions, contact us at (419) 289-3111 or by contacting achs@ashlandhistory.org.

December 2024 Church Services		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
November 30–December 1, 2024	80	327
December 7–8, 2024	95	268
December 14–15, 2024 Musicals	64	617
December 21–22, 2024	81	440
December 24–25, 2024	N/A due to Christmas	997
December 28–29, 2024	N/A due to Christmas	236
December 31, 2024	N/A due to Christmas	52

December 2024 Receipts	
DATE	AMOUNT
November 30–December 1, 2024	\$32,775
December 7–8, 2024	\$26,838
December 14–15, 2024	\$33,343
December 21–22, 2024	\$30,104

Operating Fund YTD	
INCOME	\$1,097,674
DISBURSEMENTS	\$1,312,046
DEFICIT	-\$206,393
WEEKLY INCOME NEEDED FOR OPERATION BUDGET	\$25,232

January 2025 Church Services		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
January 4-5, 2025	95	328
January 11-12, 2025	110	335
January 18-19, 2025	79	279
January 25-26, 2025	11	448

January 2025 Receipts	
DATE	AMOUNT
January 4-5, 2025	\$10,497
January 11-12, 2025	\$42,472
January 18-19, 2025	\$9,145
January 25-26, 2025	\$15,786

Operating Fund YTD	
INCOME	\$77,900
DISBURSEMENTS	\$131,231
DEFICIT	-\$53,331
WEEKLY INCOME NEEDED FOR OPERATION BUDGET	\$32,808

REGARDING GIVING ENVELOPES:

If you receive envelopes for giving but would like to discontinue receiving them, you may request this through emailing giving@trinityashland.org. Please include your name and address and we will confirm your request. You may continue to give electronically/paperless via our website.

**Newsletter receipt and operating fund amounts reflect information from two months prior, as approved and available at the time of newsletter composition.*

COUNCIL REPORT: FEBRUARY 2025 MEETING

Meeting Highlights

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Kevin emphasized the season of Lent, encouraging sacrifices for new life through faith in Christ's resurrection.

From Pastor McClain

- Pastor McClain is planning to take March 8 & 9 off.

Approval of Minutes and Financial Report

- Jeff Gray moved to approve the minutes and financial report; motion carried.

Staff Updates

- Introduction of Vicar, Gage Garlinghouse.
- Pastor Ben Mollohan is transitioning to the ordination track. Motion passed to support his candidacy, including covering associated costs.

Old Business

- Strategic Planning: Committee members nominated for approval. Pastor McClain and Pastor Brashears to continue the process.
- Constitution Amendment: Approved revision requiring annual congregational approval of the operating budget.

Christian Education

- Lenten study "Practicing the Way" begins Feb 23.
- First Communion classes for 3rd grade and older start Mar 9.

Finance

- Stewardship Program: Joe McFrederick leading project with discussion in February.
- 2025 operating budget approved by congregation.
- Rental Property Fund and Clark Fund used to cover 2024 operating deficit.

Kitchen

- Weekly Wednesday night suppers averaging 150-165 people.
- Staff busy with funeral luncheons.

Montessori

- Beach Bingo event raised \$13,000 for a preschool parent.
- Preschool open house on Feb 22.

Personnel/Lay Leader

- Music positions update.
- Ohio Pro Clean update: Need for detailed scope of work and cost reduction coordination.
- Staff council terms and gratitude expressed by staff for Christmas bonus, party, and raises.

Property

- Standard Heating addressing system issues, including thermostat replacements.
- Air compressor and countertop repairs approved, to be funded from the Rybolt Property Fund.
- Kahl Electric completing wiring for the choir loft; Barefoot Floors scheduled to start flooring in mid-March.

Women and Children

- Father-Daughter Dance: Sold out and well-received.
- Toddler Time continuing through March.

Worship and Music

- Women's Choir has started with 25+ members at each rehearsal.
- High Praise trip scheduled for Memorial Day weekend; \$1600 raised at the pancake breakfast.
- Kids choirs sang at the folk service, with a good turnout despite icy conditions. They will sing again on Palm Sunday and Mother's Day.
- Preparations have started for Easter worship.
- Summer interns clarification: will be funded from the Music fund.
- Harmony Boys will sing at the folk service on March 1st.
- Ash Wednesday services on March 5 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Lenten Vespers begin Thursday, March 13 at 6 p.m. for five weeks.
- Committee responsibilities discussed, including correspondence with the Missions committee.

Nurture

- February meeting cancelled due to illness; will be rescheduled soon.

Additional Reminders

- Outgoing council members to begin submitting nominations for the May Congregational Meeting.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.