

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✦ Paola, Kansas

2017

MARCH



During March we are in the season of the Church Year known as Lent. Understanding the origin of this season, and some of its customs, will deepen its meaning for us:

Lent—The word “Lent” comes from the old English meaning “to lengthen.” “Lent” was originally used to describe early spring, when the days begin “to lengthen” after the darkness of winter. In time, “Lent” became the name for the season prior to the celebration of our Lord’s resurrection at Easter, which occurs in early spring.

Ash Wednesday—Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, so named because of the ancient custom of marking a cross of ashes upon the foreheads of worshippers as a symbol of repentance and humility, a custom still observed in many churches. This year Ash Wednesday was on March 1.

40 Days of Lent—The season of Lent is a 40 day period of reflection upon our Savior’s suffering for our salvation, corresponding to our Lord Jesus’ 40 days of fasting and resisting temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-2). [Ash Wednesday is actually 46 days prior to Easter; the figure of 40 days for the length of Lent comes from subtracting the six Sundays during Lent, which are said to be “in” Lent but not “of” Lent.]

Holy Week—The final week of Lent, during which our Lord was betrayed and crucified.

Palm Sunday—The first day of Holy Week, commemorating our Lord’s entrance into Jerusalem as the cheering crowds spread branches before him (Matthew 21:1-11). This year Palm Sunday is on April 9.

Maundy Thursday—Thursday of Holy Week, on which our Lord instituted the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25). “Maundy” is derived from the Latin mandatum, meaning “commandment,” and is based on Jesus’ words at the Last Supper: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” (John 13:34).

This year Maundy Thursday is on April 13. We will observe Maundy Thursday with a special service of Holy Communion at 7:00pm.

Good Friday—Friday of Holy Week, on which our Lord died on the cross (Matthew 27; Luke 23; Mark 15; John 19). Even though it was the darkest day in the history of the world, it is “Good” Friday for us, because on it our Lord earned our eternal salvation by His sacrifice (Colossians 1:19-20).

This year Good Friday is on April 14. We will observe Good Friday with a special Tenebrae Service at 7:00pm.

Tenebrae Service—“Tenebrae” is Latin for “shadows” or “darkness.” In the traditional Good Friday Tenebrae Service seven candles and other lights are gradually extinguished as the Seven Last Words of Christ from the cross are read.

Date of Easter—The first Easter occurred on the Sunday following the celebration of Passover as prescribed in the Old Testament (Exodus 12:1-51). Because the Hebrew calendar was based on a lunar cycle, the date of Passover fluctuates widely according to our modern solar calendar. This led to some disputes in the early church

about the proper day to celebrate Easter. The Western churches settled on this formula: *the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox*. The Eastern churches settled on a different formula and often observe Easter on a different date. This year they happen to coincide on April 16.

The United States Naval Observatory has a web site which will calculate the date of Easter, according to the Western formula, for any year at <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/easter.html>.

Fasting—As a reminder that our Lord made the ultimate sacrifice for us, it is traditional to voluntarily “give up” something for Lent. This is often some form of fasting, perhaps eating only a simple, limited luncheon meal, or abstaining from meat or some other foods. The money saved is then donated to a charity, particularly to help feed the hungry.

Changes in Worship Services—Because Lent is a somber season focusing on our Lord’s suffering, it is traditional during Lent not to sing the Hymn of Praise (Gloria in Excelsis or This is the Feast) or use the word “alleluia” in worship services. It is also customary to read the Passion Story from the Gospels.

Lent Services—Many churches, including our own, have extra services during Lent that focus on the story of Jesus’ suffering and death. You are strongly encouraged to attend our Lenten Vespers services on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. You are also invited to enjoy a Lenten Supper in our basement Fellowship Hall before Lenten Vespers each Wednesday.

Jesus said, “Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). The Lenten season is an opportunity for you to draw closer to your Friend, Jesus, and gain a deeper appreciation for his great love for you.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Everyone is invited to enjoy Lenten Suppers in our basement Fellowship Hall before the Lenten Vespers services, each Wednesday evening throughout the Lenten season. This year's schedule is:

March 1

Trinity Youth – Soups

March 8

Block Walkers – Taco Bar

March 15

Twin Valley 4H – Baked Potato Bar

March 22

Open

March 29

*Trinity Youth
BBQ Pork & Chicken*

April 5

*Blocktoberfest Committee
Brats & Bierocks*

Thank you to all those hosting these fun fellowship events!

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Messages



FOR LENT

March 1

"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Psalms 23:1

March 5

"Satan's Triple Play"

Matthew 4:1-11

March 8

"I Shall Not Want"

Psalms 23:1

March 12

*"The Strange Story of
the Bronze Snake"*

Numbers 21:4-9

March 15

Rev. Roger Schepmann

Guest Minister

March 19

*"Food to Sustain You in
the Wilderness of Sin"*

Exodus 16:1-4, 17:1-6

March 22

"He Restoreth My Soul"

Psalms 23:2-3

March 26

*"Jesus Sets the
Disciples Straight"*

Matthew 20:17-28

March 29

*"He Leadeth Me in the
Paths of Righteousness"*

Psalms 23:3



Missionaries of the Month

Each month we remember in prayer in our worship services—and you are encouraged to remember in your personal prayers—specific missionaries around the world who are supported by our congregation through our mission offerings to our Synod.

March 5

*Freeman & Susan Rohlfing
Czech Republic*

March 12

*Rev. Charles & Connie Cortright
Czech Republic*

March 19

*Richard & Sarah Sovitzky
Czech Republic*

March 26

*Rev. Tony & Connie Booker
Czech Republic*



Rev. Tony & Connie Booker, LCMS missionaries in the Czech Republic.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a rich history of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. A few years after the Synod was founded in 1847, the first LCMS mission board was established in 1851. Since then the

LCMS has done or is doing mission work in more than 90 countries. Currently, the LCMS sends, equips, and supports a global mission team of more than 1,000 people. Also under the auspices of the mission board are over 200 United States military chaplains the LCMS endorses.

God continues to use His people to share the Gospel overseas, preparing them in His ways and faithfully providing for all their needs. Meet the Rev, Tony Booker and his wife, Connie, who serve in Prague, Czech Republic, where he pastors a congregation of English-speaking expatriates, and as LCMS Regional Director for Eurasia is building closer relationships between the LCMS and local Lutheran churches, so that we might work together more effectively in mutual mission and ministry.

Earlier in life, Booker served in the United States Army on active duty for five years. He majored in international studies and Russian area studies in college and graduate school. Then, after finishing college, he worked in sales and customer service positions for 13 years, which provided him with opportunities to travel internationally and manage diverse teams of coworkers.

Upon entering Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Booker initially had no intention of serving as an overseas missionary. However, memories of his own childhood as an overseas “missionary kid” prompted him and his wife to consider international missions. The mission board staff was excited by his language credentials and extensive cross-cultural experience.

Rev. Booker reflects, “I have always had a heart for international missions. As a ‘missionary kid’ myself growing up in Austria, I thought I would fly planes into jungle airstrips as a medical missionary. Then I received a call to the Czech Republic, which is a realization of dreams I’ve had for many years. I’m going back to places I have lived and worked before in my previous careers—but this time in a wholly unexpected way, not a businessman or government employee, but as a missionary.”



2017 Lent Vespers Wednesdays – 7:00pm Lenten Suppers Before Services

March 1 – Ash Wednesday

*“The Lord Is
My Shepherd”*

March 8 – Lent Service II

“I Shall Not Want”

March 15 – Lent Service III

*Rev. Roger Schepmann
Guest Minister*

March 22 – Lent Service IV

“He Restoresh My Soul”

March 29 – Lent Service V

*“He Leadeth Me in the
Paths of Righteousness”*

Sunday, April 2

“I Will Fear No Evil”

April 5 – Lent Service VI

*“Thy Rod and Thy Staff
They Comfort Me”*

April 13 – Maundy Thursday

*“Thou Preparest a
Table Before Me”*

April 14 – Good Friday

*“And I Will Dwell
in the House of
the Lord Forever”*

Rev. Booker now sees how the Lord worked through the various phases of his life to prepare him and Connie for international service. He notes, “Both Connie and I have lived in central Europe for quite a few years and have traveled throughout the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia. The Lord has given us a love for the people and the region that

is difficult to explain. I remember as a child praying for years for the people behind the Iron Curtain, just miles from our backyard in Austria, that they would hear the saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But, I never seriously dreamed God would answer those prayers by one day saying, ‘I’m sending you!’”



Soup, Stew, & Chili Contest and Bunko Party

Everyone is invited to a "Soup, Stew, & Chili Contest and Bunko Party" following worship on Sunday, March 5. Bring a pot (or crock pot) of your favorite soup, stew, or chili for all to enjoy and we will judge the winner! Other items such as crackers, cheese, relishes, breads, other foods and desserts are also welcome.

After lunch the fun will continue with a progressive party of the dice game bunko. *All invited—everyone welcome!*



We have again arranged for Easter Lilies to be ordered through the Church Office from Price Chopper, for \$8 each. Sign up on the counter in the church office indicating that you wish to have these plants purchased for you, and put your payment in the offering plate marked "Easter Lilies."

The deadline to sign up for ordering through the Church Office is Palm Sunday, April 9. You are also *welcome* to bring your own plants, if you wish to purchase them elsewhere or receive them as gifts. Please still sign up on the list indicating that you will provide your own plants and drop them by the church the week before Easter Sunday. When you sign up, please indicate whom your plants are in memory or honor of, the way you want it printed in the newsletter.



We rejoiced on February 19 to welcome into membership at Trinity by Affirmation of Baptism Michael Giager, and Michael Schmitt by Transfer from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Olathe.

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the Body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, to work with us in His kingdom.

Guest Minister March 15

Sarah Vogts is performing a solo with the KU Wind Ensemble at Helzberg Hall in the Kaufmann Center in Kansas City on Wednesday, March 15. To allow Pastor and Mrs. Vogts to attend that event, the guest minister for our Lenten Vespers service at Trinity that evening will be Rev. Roger Schepmann.



Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship? There is a sign-up sheet on the table with the snacks.

Our Generations group generously provides and prepares the coffee and juice each week, so those signing up are only asked to provide some treat. Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries.

Thanks to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

March 5
Soup Luncheon

March 12
Susan Henry

March 19
Suzie Prothe

March 26
Michelle Haley

Building for the Future

The Voters Assembly approved our proposed building project at the quarterly meeting on January 22. The Building Committee met with the architects last month to begin the process, and the architects are currently drafting the formal contract. That will allow the design to be finalized and complete plans drawn up for the bidding process.

It is not yet known when construction will begin. The goal is to have it completed by (and hopefully earlier than) Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018.

Brochures explaining the project, with full plans of the proposal, and pledge cards are still available in the Overflow. These materials and a YouTube video of a Powerpoint presentation about the project are also online at www.trinitylcms.org/building.

It is still possible to pledge to the project or to increase your pledge. Simply put your completed pledge card in the box in the Overflow, or mail to the church, or given to chairman Greg Windler. You may also contact Greg if you have any questions about this undertaking.

Thank you to all who pledged so generously for this project, and please pray for the Lord's blessing upon this exciting endeavor!



MARCH Birthdays & Anniversaries

Our records of birthdays and anniversaries may not complete. If your information is missing or inaccurate, please accept our apologies and notify the Church Office at 913-849-3344 or email Church Secretary Stacey Elkinton at trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com.

- March 1 Devan Boydston
- March 1 Vera Kaiser
- March 1 Guylene Klein
- March 1 Johnny Prothe
- March 1 Dave Trickett
- March 2 Lance Elliott
- March 3 Justin Hieber
- March 3 Addison Kettler
- March 5 Lorranda Baldrige
- March 5 Billy Green
- March 5 Joshua Pemberton
- March 5 Aaron Maisch
- March 6 Gary Prothe
- March 6 Sandra Schultz
- March 7 Andrew Thompson
- March 7 Jackie Thompson-Dillon
- March 8 Megan Prothe
- March 9 Faith Ordonez
- March 10 Jim Mueller
- March 10 Betty Oberheide
- March 11 Diana Deering
- March 12 Dylan Shoemaker
- March 13 Karen Garrison
- March 14 Darrel Rodewald
- March 15 Allyssa Henry
- March 15 Jacob Henry
- March 15 Kyle Kettler
- March 15 Judy Parks
- March 15 Randy Rausch
- March 17 Steve Cook
- March 17 Breanna Prothe
- March 17 Marcia Raines
- March 17 Roger Smith
- March 17 Robyn Weatherbie
- March 17 Emersyn Chapman
- March 18 Johnny Grother
- March 18 Jennifer Rethman
- March 18 Chris Smith
- March 19 Jordan Harper
- March 20 Paul Haley

- March 21 Rusty Morton
- March 21 Harry Stubbs
- March 21 Becky Stutzman
- March 23 Arnold Debrick
- March 23 Karla Debrick
- March 23 Elizabeth Kettler
- March 23 John Schlegel Jr.
- March 25 Laura Prothe
- March 26 Loren Windler
- March 28 Joyce Brown
- March 28 Zach Holtz
- March 28 Justine Prothe
- March 28 Tyler Tesar
- March 29 Wilda Bunch
- March 29 Lauren Wood
- March 31 Alvin Thoden
- March 6 .. Steve & Bobbi Debrick (18)
- March 7 Dave & Suzie Prothe (25)
- March 9 Rich & Sally Wood (26)
- March 10 ... Jim & Shelisa Mueller (38)
- March 14 ... Ryan & Brianna Hoden (2)
- March 20 ... Mike & Linda Giager (31)
- March 21 .. Sean & Robyn Weatherbie (19)
- March 28 Tom & Nancy Green (38)
- March 28 Arlin & Venita Prothe (52)



150th Church Anniversary Committee Volunteers

Trinity was founded in 1868, so we will be celebrating Trinity's 150th Anniversary in 2018. It's time to start planning! If you are willing to serve on the 150th Anniversary Committee please let congregational chairman Greg Windler know (913-285-0164; gjohnwindler@gmail.com).



Adult Bible Class

Our current study in Adult Bible Class is *The Lessons of the Lord*. In this study we are looking at the weekly Scripture readings used in our worship, including how this system developed, how the readings are selected, and a study of that Sunday's readings.

Everyone is invited to "start the New Year right" by joining in Adult Bible Class on Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow to learn more about *The Lessons of the Lord* and how these selections from God's Word can bless you on your weekly walk with God!

Nursing Home Services March 12



You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at Country Club Estates and Vintage Park on March 12. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length at each home. We begin at 1:30pm at Country Club Estates and then go to Vintage Park for the second service. The residents really enjoy these services, especially singing their favorite hymns. It's great to have church members there to greet the residents and sing along. We have a faithful few members who help but we could use your help too!



A reminder the church's new email address is trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com. The old address is no longer active and emails sent to it will not be received.



Sweetheart Dinner

February 11, 2017



More Photos Online at
www.trinitycms.org/photos

