

# Trinity Tribune: February

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church  
Paola, Kansas

## “A Call to Repentance”

Our District President has issued a request for a “Day of Repentance” for the Kansas District. He has done this since calling a Day of Repentance in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Here is the request:

This Ash Wednesday, February 14, the Kansas District will be observing a Day of Repentance, which will provide us with an opportunity to reflect on what God has been trying to teach us during this pandemic, and to turn back to Him. We encourage everyone to pray the Litany, reflect, repent, and fast. We also encourage giving to those in need, whether to the annual Kansas District Ash Wednesday Offering or another worthy cause. Ash Wednesday will also mark the beginning of another round of “Together We Pray” prayers; the daily prayers will be available at [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org) February 1.

What is a “Day of Repentance”? Is it new? Why participate in it? These are good questions. To the first question, a Day of Repentance is anything *but* new. There are many Scriptural and historical examples of Days of Repentance. These are combined with calls for fasting.

Joel, for example, begins his book with a call to repentance: “Consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord” (Joel 1:14). He would repeat this later with similar language (2:15–16).

Who can consecrate a fast or call the people together? Certainly priests (Joel 2:17), but also kings. After Jonah preached to pagan Ninevah, the king “arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes” (Jonah 3:6). He then issued a decree for a fast:

By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish. (Jonah 3:7–9)

Even Jewish kings proclaimed fasts. Jehoshaphat heard of a large army from Edom coming against Judah: “Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord” (2 Chron 20:3–4). His prayer to God is a moving one (20:5–12), and God answered him favorably, giving them victory (20:14–17, 24–30).

This has precedence in our own nation’s history as well. Here is a brief list of Days of Repentance and Fasting:

- Pres. John Adams, “Proclamation of Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer” on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1798.
- Pres. James Madison, “Proclamation of Day of Fasting and Prayer” on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1812, in response to the outbreak of the War of 1812.
- Pres. Abraham Lincoln, “Proclamation Appointing a National Fast Day” on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1863 in the middle of the Civil War. His words are striking: “Insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment, inflicted upon us, for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole People? ... It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.”
- In more recent memory, Pres. George W. Bush in 2001 encouraged Americans to pray in response to 9/11, and Pres. Donald Trump proclaimed Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 a National Day of Prayer for the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

So, what does this mean for you? How can you participate in this Day of Repentance? Firstly, spend more time in Scripture. If you are not regularly having daily devotions, consider getting your family together to have one in the morning or evening, whichever works best for you. If you already have devotions, consider adding to it or lengthening it. There will be CPH Lenten devotional booklets and another prayer aid in the back of church that you can add to your devotions. You are also invited to join us for our Lenten suppers and worship services.

Second, consider fasting. Although fasting is not for everyone (women who are pregnant or nursing, those with a chronic disease, the elderly, children, etc.), skipping a meal or cutting back on snacks in order to pray is a biblical practice. Even as Martin Luther criticized fasting because of its misuse, he called it “fine outward training” in the Small Catechism.

Finally, pray. How does Satan sow seeds of apathy and sin in your heart? Consider your empty heart and how much you rely on God. In your prayers, open your heart before God and tell him your struggles, temptations, and failures. Ask for strength and forgiveness. Combine prayer with reading God’s Word to hear back from him.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Woelmer

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

- February 2 ..... Ashtin Armstrong
- February 4 ..... Jodie Wood
- February 4 ..... Leslie Vohs
- February 6 ..... Kerry Brandt
- February 6 ..... Tanna Jones
- February 6 ..... Glenn Minden
- February 7 ..... Stacey Elkinton
- February 7 ..... Tyler Allen
- February 9 ..... Daniel Wendte
- February 10 ..... Darrell Brandt
- February 10 ..... Terry Bunch
- February 10 ..... Kathy Gerken
- February 10 ..... Blakely Strawder
- February 11 ..... Hannah Raines
- February 12 ..... James Haley
- February 12 ..... Mike Giager
- February 13 ..... Valerie Gerken
- February 13 ..... Logan Hendrickson
- February 18 ..... Joey Stephens
- February 18 ..... Stan Windler
- February 19 ..... Debbie Windler
- February 20 ..... Judy Kutz
- February 20 ..... Angie Fickel
- February 20 ..... Carolyn Warner
- February 21 ..... Jeff Davis
- February 21 ..... Marty Stutzman
- February 21 ..... Jeri Brack
- February 25 ..... Michelle Haley
- February 25 ..... Curtis Hall
- February 25 ..... Duane Rodewald
- February 26 ..... Cate Minden
- February 27 ..... Matthew Kriesel
- February 27 ..... Reita Woodall
- February 28 ..... Slina Prothe
- February 29 ..... Austin Henry

## Anniversaries

- February 10 ..... Bill and Kristina Eilts (6)
- February 10 ..... Curtis and Kristie Weaver (28)
- February 15 ..... Curtis and Jamie Hall (21)
- February 19 ..... Michael and Katie Taylor (19)
- February 21 ..... Ron and Marcia Raines (35)
- February 22 ..... Kevin and Denise Debrick (32)
- February 22 ..... Rick and Jill Druse (27)

## Lenten Services: The Blessings and Opportunity of Prayer

For our midweek Wednesday services during Lent this year we are learning from our Lord how, when, where, to whom, and why to pray. Everyone is invited to join us at 5:30 p.m. for supper downstairs and 7:00 for the service.

### February 14 (Ash Wednesday)

*"Fasting and Prayer"*

Matthew 6:16-21

### February 21

*"Invitation to Prayer"*

Matthew 26:36-39

### February 28

*"Types of Prayer"*

Acts 2:22-23

### March 6

*"The Lord's Prayer"*

Matthew 27:27-33

### March 13

*"If You Will"*

Luke 23:33

### March 20

*"Answers in Christ"*

John 19:38-42



## COFFEE HOUR

Everyone is invited to stay for Coffee Hour in the Gathering Room following worship. Our thanks to those that provide snacks each Sunday. The signup sheet to provide snacks for Coffee Hour in 2023 is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Consider signing up to honor birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.

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## BIBLE STUDY ON THE JEWS:

### “Israelite, Jew, Israeli?”

Jesus was born a Jew, fulfilling all the promises made to the Israelite people. The apostles exhorted the Jews to believe in Jesus as their Messiah, but many did not. How should Christians today regard the Jews and the promises made to them in the Bible?

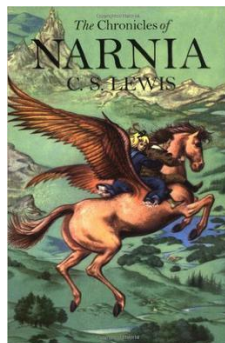
Our next Bible study, to begin mid-February will be on the Book of Judges.

Join the Adult Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays in the Heritage Room to learn more!

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## LUTHERAN RESOURCES

It may not be written by a specifically Lutheran author, but the *Chronicles in Narnia* series is a great book for middle-school kids (but also enjoyed by many adults!). Written by the Christian apologist C.S. Lewis, it tells the story of children traveling to a mythical land by various means. There are Christian stories and truths woven through the seven books.



## Pictorial Directory Update



Thank you to everyone who has had their photos taken and to those who are helping. We will continue to take photos of individuals and families for the updated pictorial directory on the remaining Sundays in January. Please sign up in the back for the Gathering Room for a time. We are also confirming or gathering information about members and families during the photo sessions. You will be provided with a form to review and edit if necessary.

Some of our members may not be living close enough to have a photo taken at church. We welcome photos from those individuals. Please forward them to Kyle Minden via email, if there is an electronic copy. If you have a hard copy photo, we can scan it and return it to you.

Do you have photos from groups and activities from recent years? We want to include them in the directory as well. For current Church Officers—we plan to have a group photo after Voters Assembly meeting 1/21/24. Other group photos can be scheduled or your group can sign up for one of the sessions in January. The more the merrier!

Please submit activity photos to Kyle Minden: [kminden@edtkc.com](mailto:kminden@edtkc.com)

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## NURSING HOME SERVICES

You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents this month. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length at each home. This month, we are scheduled for Sunday, **February 25<sup>th</sup>**. We will begin at 1:30 pm at Country Club Estates, and then go to Vintage Park around 2:15 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 few members who help but we could use your help too!

## VOTERS MEETING SUMMARY

1.21.2024

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Windler, followed with prayer by Pastor Woelmer. Roll was answered by 32 members; there were no new member requests. Financial reports by the home treasurer and mission treasurer were given. Pastor Woelmer's Q1 2024 report was given. Trustees reported that the property insurance has been reviewed, with deductible adjusted to reflect current trends, elevator inspections have been completed, and bathroom remodeling work at the parsonage has been completed. Reports were heard from the Endowment, Board of Education, and Blocktoberfest committees. Old business items included sign construction is nearing completion. New business items addressed included approval of membership transfers per Pastors Q1 report, directing Ash Wednesday, Lenten, and Good Friday loose offerings as previous year, and Pastor and secretary salary increases. Kitchen upgrades were discussed, as were continuing efforts for online giving. Reminder was given regarding the church being locked in conjunction with upcoming March elections. Approval was given to give \$500 in support of a mission family. Also approved was using \$150 from the general memorial fund to purchase digital certificates for Baptisms, Confirmations, and Marriages. Approval was also given to increase organist's salaries.

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## HOMESCHOOLING CO-OP

Have you or your family considered homeschooling? Are you interested in learning more? There will be a meeting to explore the possibility of starting a local, Lutheran co-op on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00–11:00. This first meeting will be held at First Lutheran in Paola. There will be families from Louisburg, Paola, and Block who will share ideas to get this off the ground. We'd love for you to join us!

## YOUTH SWEETHEART DINNER

You're invited to the Trinity Youth 2024 Valentine's Dinner! The food and decorations this year are going to be *Hawaiian* themed! There will be a 3-course dinner with live entertainment!

It begins on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5:30!

The tickets for the dinner are \$25, and they can be purchased after church or by contacting Michelle or Kristina.

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# Trinity Tribune

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