

March 2020 Newsletter Trinity Lutheran Church

March Calendar

- Sunday, March 1 – 9:15am worship, First Sunday in Lent
- Monday, March 2 – 11am Fellowship & Outreach meeting
6pm VBS planning meeting, Baptist Church
- Tuesday, March 3 – noon Lenten Lunch at Presbyterian Church,
Pastor Kerri speaking
- Saturday, March 7 – 12-6pm Chicken & Biscuit Dinner
11am-2pm Soup Walk
- Sunday, March 8 – New 9am worship time, Second Sunday in Lent;
10:15am Adult Sunday School
- Wednesday, March 11 – 11am Finance meeting;
6pm Worship & Music meeting
- Saturday, March 14 – 6pm Dinner Church resumes
- Sunday, March 15 – 9am worship - Third Sunday in Lent
- Monday, March 16 – 6:30pm Council meeting
- Thursday, March 19 – 10:30am Bible Storytime
- Saturday, March 21 – 9:30am Confirmation class at Trinity
- Sunday March 22 – 9am worship - Fourth Sunday in Lent
- Sunday, March 29 – 9am worship - Fifth Sunday in Lent
10:15am Adult Sunday School

Boy Scouts: Tuesdays 7pm
NA: Wednesdays at 7pm

Cub Scouts: Thursdays 6:30pm
AA: Fridays at 9pm

New office staffing and hours

As part of our goal to decrease expenditures in 2020, and as a way of “right-sizing” our operations as a small congregation (our average worship attendance in 2019 was 48), the paid secretary position at Trinity has been eliminated. Chrissy’s last day in the office was January 30. We are thankful for her years of service.

New office hours are as follows: Cindy Workman will be in the office on Mondays from 10am-2pm; Pastor Kerri will be in the office Tuesdays from 1:30-4:30pm and Wednesdays from 9:30am-noon (as well as other times, which vary from week to week); and Rod Gunderson will be in the office on Thursdays from 9am-1pm. Friday is Pastor Kerri’s regular day off. The office email and voicemail are checked regularly.

If you would like to meet with Pastor Kerri, feel free to stop in, or call/email/text to schedule an appointment.

The Season of Lent

What is Lent? The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, and marks the forty days (not including Sundays) before Easter. Traditionally, Lent is a season of penitence, as well as a time of education for those preparing for baptism on Easter.

There are three traditional Lenten disciplines: giving of alms to the poor, praying, and fasting. The goal of engaging in these disciplines throughout the season of Lent is to again draw our focus to God and God’s presence with us. We remember that these and other practices do not themselves make us right with God. Only God’s grace can do that. But, when we engage in these actions, we “remind ourselves of the renewal of life that baptism calls forth” (*Keeping Time*, 85).

How do we mark the season of Lent in worship at Trinity?

Our paraments change to purple, in remembrance of the royalty of Christ, who reigns from the cross. The imagery highlights the crown of thorns, and brings to mind Jesus’ suffering and death on the cross.

The altar vases are filled with bare branches, rather than bright flowers. This stark imagery calls to mind Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. In some years, a closer look at the branches may reveal emerging buds – what an apt metaphor for the God who brings newness and life out of death!

During this somber and penitential time, we fast from using “Alleluia!” in our liturgy, hymns, prayers, and readings. Our alleluias (meaning “Praise God!”) will burst forth again at Easter as we celebrate Jesus' victory over death and the grave.

We sing, instead of recite, the Lord's Prayer. It is a great gift that many of us know the Lord's Prayer by heart. This prayer gives us words when we don't know how to pray, and connects us to Christians across time and space. One of the drawbacks, however, is that sometimes in worship this prayer becomes so automatic that we no longer pay attention to the words we are saying. As prayer is meant to shape and change us as much as it is conversation with God, anything that allows us to think more carefully about the words we are praying is beneficial. When we sing the Lord's Prayer, the words are slightly different, and the pacing is much slower, so that, when we are singing, we must more closely attend to the words we are praying.

How can I observe Lent outside of worship?

Lenten devotion books are available at the information center in the sanctuary. *Wondrous Love*, published by Augsburg Fortress, focuses on the gospel of Matthew. This is available in regular or large print.

Community Lenten Lunches are held each Tuesday in Lent from noon to 1pm at Connellsville Presbyterian Church. Enjoy lunch (donations accepted) and a speaker. Pastor Kerri will be the speaker on Tuesday, March 3.

Join the SWPA Synod Lent Hunger Challenge. This challenge, sponsored by our synod's Hunger Education and Advocacy Team is a way to think more about how we are taking care of “the least of these” by specifically focusing on the problem of hunger, how we contribute

to it, and how we help fight it. Each week will have a new challenge and related information to help us all reflect on several factors that contribute to the problem of hunger and actions we can take to help. Information for each week will be shared at the information center.

Week 1: Include meat in only three meals during the week (or, for a smaller challenge, go meatless on Monday).

Week 2: Measure your food waste.

Week 3: Eat on a SNAP budget for the week.

Week 4: Consider participating in a community garden project.

Week 5: Eat only what is included in a typical backpack for the weekend (as part of a children's food backpack program).

Meet our new organist, Valerie Stipcak

Hello, everyone! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you.

I have had a lifelong journey with music. I started piano lessons when I was 4 years old and studied through when I graduated high school. When in high school, I had lead roles in musicals and participated in band and choral festivals. Until my senior year of high school, I wanted to be a doctor. I had a change of heart before graduation. I started my music studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, then transferred to Seton Hill University to specialize in sacred music. After Seton Hill, I moved to Atlanta to work on a master's degree in sacred music. For both degrees, I studied organ, piano, and voice.

I've also had a lifelong journey with the church. I was baptized and raised in the Presbyterian church. I went to Sunday school, was a member of the youth group, and went on mission trips annually when I was a teenager.

Professionally, I am a private piano and voice instructor. I have a studio in Uniontown, one in Pittsburgh, and I do some in-home lessons in Indiana County and Latrobe. I also regularly serve at churches, play for weddings, and other events.

I'm looking forward to our time together. If you play an instrument or sing, please let me know if you'd like to share your gift in worship. I can be reached at 724-388-1038 or vstipcak@hotmail.com. I'm also on deck if you're interested in piano or voice lessons, cocktail piano music at an event, or ordering Avon products!

Valerie began playing at Trinity on Sunday, January 5. Due to our budget constraints, she has signed a contract with us through the end of July 2020, but is willing to have the contract extended through the end of the year (and renewed for 2021) if we are able to raise additional funds. If you'd like to make a donation toward this, please clearly label your check or envelope with "organist". Thank you!

Annual Meeting

The 2020 Annual Congregational meeting was held on Sunday, January 26. A copy of the annual report, with committee reports and the 2020 budget, is available on our website, under the tab marked "links".

Some highlights of the meeting include:

- **Approval of the 2020 budget.** The budget reflects a decrease in projected expenses, \$126,923 down from \$149,700 last year. While this budget will still require withdrawal from our reserves, our hope is to withdraw a smaller amount in 2020, as well as seek to increase our revenues, which comes primarily through your offering and donations.
- **Election of new Council members.** New Council members are: Chrissy Dusha, Joe Dusha, Ken Goucher, Rod Gunderson, Alan Sandusky, and Jeff Williams. Council members are elected serve a three-year term, and meet monthly to make decisions on behalf of the whole congregation.

Council Report

2020 Council Members: Chrissy Dusha, Joe Dusha, Jim Gearhart, Ken Goucher, Rod Gunderson, Beckie Merchant, Alan Sandusky, Sally Stoots, Donna Welsh, Jeff Williams, Cindy Workman, and Jim Workman.

A summary of actions taken at the February Council meeting:

- **Elected officers.** President is Alan Sandusky, Vice President is Cindy Workman, Secretary is Sally Stoots, and Treasurer is Rod Gunderson.
- **Updated wedding policies, as well as the room request form for church activities.** These forms are available on our website and on the metal rack outside the office. An updated room request form for outside groups is forthcoming.
- **Approved a recommendation from the Worship & Music Committee to change our worship time to 9am, beginning March 8.**

Shout-Outs

To all our middle and high schoolers in their school's musical – break a leg! Abby Tikey is in *The Little Mermaid* at CAHS (Feb. 27-Mar. 1), and Colleen McGinley and Edward Stephenson are part of *Frozen, Jr.* at CAMS (Mar. 13-15).

Thank you to Joe and Beverly Dusha for your faithful service in preparing the altar each Sunday before worship. Your time and effort was much appreciated.

In this time of transition and adjustment, thank you to Rod Gunderson and Cindy Workman for your work in the office, to Linda Ruth for taking care of our flower orders, and to the many volunteers who have helped put together worship bulletins.

Thank you to everyone who brought in bottle caps for Glade Run!

Thank you to everyone who came out for Shrove Tuesday pancakes to support our Confirmation students!

Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School will meet on March 8 and 29 following worship.

Bible Storytime is a time of stories, songs, and play for kids 5 and under and their caregivers. We will meet again on Thursday, March 19 at 10:30am.

Confirmation class will meet Saturday, March 21 from 9:30am-12:30pm at Trinity.

Celebrate Creation! Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 19 from 1-3pm. Folks of all ages are invited for a time of crafts, stories, and conversation about God's good creation in honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. If you are interested in helping plan this event, please talk to Pastor Kerri or Laura Kupets.

Fellowship & Outreach

A fellowship breakfast will be held after worship on Palm Sunday, April 5.

Fellowship and Outreach will meet on Monday, March 2 at 11am.

Social Ministry

Social Ministry will meet on Wednesday, April 8 at 11:30am.

Donations to Community Ministries are ongoing! Bring non-perishable food items to Pfeifer Chapel or the shopping cart in the East Narthex. Monetary donations may be labeled on your offering envelope as "Community Ministries" or "CACM".

The Chicken and Biscuit Dinner is Saturday, March 7 from noon to 6pm. Meal includes chicken & biscuits, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, applesauce, dessert, and drink. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 years old and younger. Proceeds from the meal will go toward the Back-to-School Clothing Giveaway.

Stewardship

AmazonSmile gives Trinity 0.5% of the cost of your purchase online from Amazon as a donation. As of November 2019, we have received \$56.88, designated by 12 customers. Signing up is simple! Visit www.smile.amazon.com and choose Trinity Lutheran Connellsville as your charity. If you need help, talk to Pastor Kerri.

Lutheran SeniorLife is the highlighted ministry for March on our synod's calendar of causes. Lutheran SeniorLife provides the finest senior living communities and care options for seniors, as well as community-based health, wellness, and social services in western Pennsylvania. To donate, visit lutheranseniorlife.org.

Mission Support (formerly called "benevolence") is money given through Trinity to support the ministries of our synod office, local social ministry organizations, and the ELCA churchwide office and its programs. To donate, mark your offering envelope with the amount and "Mission Support".

Finance

January 2020 Income and Expense

	Budget	Actual
Total Income	\$8,770	\$7,969
Total Expense	<u>\$11,835</u>	<u>\$11,384</u>
Net Income	-\$3,065	-\$3,415
From Reserves	+\$3,065	+\$3,415

Meeting – The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 11 at 11am.**

Memorial Donations

In memory of Joyce Doppelheuer

By Dave and Jenny O'Casek

In memory of Judy Dian Homer

By Alberta Everitt

Worship & Music

A change to our worship time will begin on Sunday, March 8, moving from 9:15am to 9:00am. This change will give us more flexibility for special additions to our worship service and will allow Valerie to arrive at her next worship service in a timely manner. Please direct any questions to Pastor Kerri or our Council members.

Dinner Church will resume on Saturday, March 14 at 6pm. Join us in the Social Room for worship, a meal, and conversation.

Altar Guild

If you are interested in helping to launder linens, please call Linda Ruth at 724-626-0131.

Thank you Ginny Beecher (February) for all your help doing the linens. Your time and hard work are appreciated!

March – Beth Williams

April – Sally Stoots

May – Beckie Merchant

If you are unable to serve, please contact Linda Ruth.

Altar Flowers

The cost for sponsoring altar flowers has **increased to \$30**. Please remit your payments for flowers by the end of the month, and mark the check or envelope with “Altar Flowers”. As a reminder, there will be no altar flowers during the season of Lent.

Available dates for altar flowers are: April 19 & 26; May 3 & 17; June 14, 21, 28.

Easter flower order forms are available at the information table in the sanctuary. The cost for tulips, lilies, or mums is \$13. The deadline for orders or donations is March 22.

March Worship Assistants

Sunday, March 1

Assisting Minister	Ginny Beecher
Reader	Donna Welsh
Communion Assistants	Ken Goucher Sandy Nicholson
Greeters	Jim Workman (E) Sandy Nicholson (S)
Counters	Ron Kerns (W) Cindy Workman Marcia Davis Melva Roland

Sunday, March 8

Assisting Minister	Cindy Workman
Reader	Diane Ratai
Communion Assistants	Ginny Beecher
Greeters	Melva Roland (E) Beckie Merchant (S)
Counters	Ron Kerns (W) Cindy Workman Linda Ruth Melva Roland

Sunday, March 15

Assisting Minister	Don Herbert
Reader	Chandler Daugherty
Communion Assistants	Cindy Workman Rod Gunderson
Greeters	Marcia Davis (E) Cassie DeAngelis (S)
Counters	Ron Kerns (W) Cindy Workman Carolyn Kerns Melva Roland

Sunday, March 22

Assisting Minister	Alan Sandusky
Reader	Mickie Sandusky
Communion Assistants	Ginny Beecher Mickie Sandusky
Greeters	Jim Gearhart (E) Karen Pastorius (S) Ron Kerns (W)
Counters	Alan Sandusky Ron Kerns Melva Roland

Sunday, March 29

Assisting Minister	Cindy Workman
Reader	Laura Kupets
Communion Assistants	Kelly Cunningham Alan Sandusky
Greeters	Ginny Beecher (E) Jim Workman (S) Ron Kerns (W)
Counters	Cindy Workman Linda Ruth Melva Roland

Sign-up sheets for worship assistants for the coming month are posted on the bulletin board in the sanctuary, or you may contact the office to sign up. If you'd like to receive training or have questions, Pastor Kerri is happy to meet with you!

Celebrations

Please contact the office if you would like to add a birthday, wedding anniversary, or baptismal anniversary to the newsletter.

March Anniversaries

22 – Jim & Cindy Workman

28 – Bill & Linda Ruth

March Baptismal Anniversaries

2 – Rosie Striner

3 – Troy Filburn

11 – Susan Kress

12 – Roger Thompson

14 – Ryan Morrow

16 – Jerry Kerns, Ron Kerns Jr.

17 – James C. Cessna

22 – Harry Nicklow, David Striner, Joe Striner

28 – Chrissy Dusha

30 – Nate Brady

31 – David Long Sr.

March Birthdays

1 – Erica Ritenour

5 – Marge Ringer, Shelby Kerns

6 – Beckie Merchant

14 – Linda Ruth

17 – Erica McKee

18 – Wayne Harris Sr.

19 – Jim Workman, Beth Martin

21 – Linda Kaylor

22 – Shelly Dolan

24 – Jeff Cunningham

26 – Amy Brady, Nicole Smith

27 – Kolbe Cunningham

30 – Joy Sampey

Daily Readings

Sunday, March 1 - Lent 1

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Matthew 4:1-11

Monday, March 2

Psalms 32
1 Kings 19:1-8
Hebrews 2:10-18

Tuesday, March 3

Psalms 32
Genesis 4:1-16
Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Wednesday, March 4

Psalms 32
Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28
Matthew 18:10-14

Thursday, March 5

Psalms 121
Isaiah 51:1-3
2 Timothy 1:3-7

Friday, March 6

Psalms 121
Micah 7:18-20
Romans 3:21-31

Saturday, March 7

Psalms 121
Isaiah 51:4-8
Luke 7:1-10

Sunday, March 8 - Lent 2

Genesis 12:1-4a
John 3:1-17

Monday, March 9

Psalms 128
Numbers 21:4-9
Hebrews 3:1-6

Tuesday, March 10

Psalms 128
Isaiah 65:17-25
Romans 4:6-13

Wednesday, March 11

Psalms 128
Ezekiel 36:22-32
John 7:53-8:11

Thursday, March 12

Psalms 95
Exodus 16:1-8
Colossians 1:15-23

Friday, March 13

Psalms 95
Exodus 16:9-21
Ephesians 2:11-22

Saturday, March 14

Psalms 95
Exodus 16:27-35
John 4:1-6

Sunday, March 15 - Lent 3

Exodus 17:1-7
John 4:5-42

Monday, March 16

Psalms 81
Genesis 24:1-27
2 John 1-13

Tuesday, March 17

Psalms 81
Genesis 29:1-14
1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Wednesday, March 18

Psalms 81
Jeremiah 2:4-13
John 7:14-31, 37-39

Thursday, March 19

Psalm 23

1 Samuel 15:10-21

Ephesians 4:25-32

Friday, March 20

Psalm 23

1 Samuel 15:22-31

Ephesians 5:1-9

Saturday, March 21

Psalm 23

1 Samuel 15:32-34

John 1:1-9

Sunday, March 22 - Lent 4

1 Samuel 16:1-13

John 9:1-41

Monday, March 23

Psalm 146

Isaiah 59:9-19

Acts 9:1-20

Tuesday, March 24

Psalm 146

Isaiah 42:14-21

Colossians 1:9-14

Wednesday, March 25

Psalm 146

Isaiah 60:17-22

Matthew 9:27-34

Thursday, March 26

Psalm 130

Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:8-3:3

Revelation 10:1-11

Friday, March 27

Psalm 130

Ezekiel 33:10-16

Revelation 11:15-19

Saturday, March 28

Psalm 130

Ezekiel 36:8-15

Luke 24:44-53

Sunday, March 29 - Lent 5

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

Monday, March 30

Psalm 143

1 Kings 17:17-24

Acts 20:7-12

Tuesday, March 31

Psalm 143

2 Kings 4:18-37

Ephesians 2:1-10

Contact Us

Trinity Lutheran Church

126 E. Fairview Avenue; Connellsville, PA 15425

724-628-7920

trinitychurchville@gmail.com

www.trinitylutheranconnellsville.org

Facebook – www.facebook.com/TrinityLutheranConnellsville

Pastor Kerri Clark

Cell: 724-603-5589 (call or text)

Email: rev.kerri.clark@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday, 10am-2pm (Cindy Workman)

Tuesday, 1:30pm-4:30pm (Pastor Kerri)

Wednesday, 9:30am-noon (Pastor Kerri)

Thursday, 9am-1pm (Rod Gunderson)