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To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

We can't rush any season, let alone winter. So let it do its job. Slowly, slowly.

Wintering is there to help us adapt and rejuvenate.

Rest, reflect, put the house in order.

Spring will surely come in time.

Sheridan Voysey

Dear Members and Friends of the Trinity Family,

I came across a helpful word recently: Wintering. Author Katharine May uses wintering to describe those moments when life turns cold through crisis or loss and we find ourselves living at a different, slower pace from everyone else. As winter is a time of retreat and hibernation for much of the natural world, wintering is the process by which our bodies and souls and spirits seek rest and recuperation when the clouds descend and light fades.

Plants and animals don't fight the winter; they don't pretend it's not happening and attempt to carry on living the same lives they lived in the summer. They prepare. They adapt. They perform extraordinary acts of metamorphosis to get them through. Winter is a time to step back, to withdraw from the world, to maximize resources. It is a time for reflection, recuperation, for putting your house in order - literally and figuratively. It's a time for coziness and comfort, reading a book by the fire, enjoying a soft blanket, going to bed early, making homemade soup.

Wintering is deeply unfashionable. Slowing down, getting enough sleep, taking your time, resting...is a radical, but essential act. God has something to teach us during each of the four seasons. In God's hands all the seasons are purposeful. All have meaning. So instead of counting down the days until Spring when the daffodils start blooming and the days get longer, let's settle into winter for a few more weeks. Let's learn what God wants to teach us during this season of slowing down, resting, and healing. As our hearts yearn for the new life of Spring, let's settle in. Let's practice some wintering. Let's do it together.

Peace, love, and joy,

Pastor Susan Crowell

# **COUNCIL NOTES**

At their January meeting, the Congregation Council...

- ---appointed Dean Hybl to a two-year term on council to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of Lane Lewis;
- ---received an Annual Report from Chris Sullivan, chair of the Trinity Foundation Committee, detailing the \$93,937 in grants dispersed in December, 2023 (the list of grants is included in this publication);
- ---received with joy the outstanding news that giving to support the 2023 budget exceeded all expectations and places Trinity in an excellent financial position at the beginning of 2024;
- ---affirmed the appointment of a new 429 Team composed of Dale Hamann (chair), Helen Reetz, and Jerry Wesley to serve as a liaison to the Executive Committee in discussing the 429 property with potential buyers and reviewing proposals for purchase;
- ---was given an update on the organ and the hope that installation will begin soon; and
- ---learned that efforts are underway to de-clutter and reorganize spaces throughout the facility to better support mission and ministry.

#### MUSIC MINISTRY

Adult Choir will rehearse Wednesday's immediately following evening worship during Lent. Adult Choir rehearses in the Choir Room on the second floor of the Pence Building. Each Sunday the group gathers at 9:30 am in the Choir Room for a brief rehearsal and warm-up. For 10:00 am worship, the choir assembles in the balcony or around the piano in the



Gym to support and strengthen congregational singing and to offer special choral music aimed at drawing minds, emotions, and imaginations more deeply into God's word.

Handbell Choir will rehearse on Wednesday, February 7 from 6:00 to 6:45 pm in the Handbell Rehearsal Room on the second floor of the Pence Building. Rehearsals will pause for all of Lent and resume on Wednesday, April 3. If interested in ringing during April and May please e-mail Pastor Parham at the e-mail address below.

The enrichment of instrumental music in worship is welcome. If interested in sharing instrumental skills in worship, please contact Pastor Parham at 864-242-5702 or jcparham@trinitylutheran.ws.

#### NURSERY FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP



A nursery is available during the 10:00 am worship service on Sunday morning, whether the congregation is worshipping in the Sanctuary or the Gym. Practices and protocols follow all DHEC recommendations for daycare centers. All staff and volunteers must be fully vaccinated and are trained and approved in Trinity's Child Protection Policy. A copy of the updated guidelines can be obtained through the Church Office.

## **GIVING TO TRINITY**



Trinity is grateful for all the prayers, contributions, and displays of support from members, friends, and guests. Financial contributions can be placed in the offering plates during worship, mailed to the church, or given electronically by going to <a href="mailto:trinitylutheran.ws">trinitylutheran.ws</a>, by scanning the QR code, or texting TLCGIVE to 73256.



# FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 4

Worship at 10:00 am in the Gym

Baby shower for Angie and Emily Hager to follow in the back of the Gym.

February 11
The Transfiguration
Worship at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary
Refreshments and fellowship to follow on the front lawn.

February 18
Worship at 10:00 am in the Gym
Refreshments and fellowship to follow in the back of the Gym.

February 25
Worship at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary
Refreshments and fellowship to follow on the front lawn.

# YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Trinity Children (Kindergarten through grade 5) will gather on Sunday, February 25 following worship to enjoy lunch and activities centered around the Lenten season. The group will meet in the Youth Room after worship and pick up is at 1:00 pm.

Trinity Youth will gather on February 11 for the monthly event to prepare for the ELCA Youth Gathering in July. All youth are invited to attend. These monthly events will center around the youth gathering theme, *Created to Be*, and will provide the opportunity for all youth to build relationships and grow in their faith. The theme is centered on Psalm 139:14 - "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." The group will meet from 5:30 pm - 7:00



pm in the Youth Room for dinner, lessons, and activities. The dates for this monthly event are March 10, April 21, May 19, and June 9.

## TRINITY LUTHERAN FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation Committee met in December to consider grant applications for 2023. Eleven grants totaling \$93,937 were awarded to the following recipients:

- Fostering Great Ideas \$14,338 to support mentors for youth in Foster care
- Furman University, Upstate Medical Legal Partnership \$15,000 to subsidize court fees to prevent client attrition
- Gay Men's Chorus \$10,000 to support staffing for the Gay Men's Chorus
- Greenville First Steps \$12,000 to provide funding for a project to encourage local churches to offer childcare services within their existing classrooms
- Greenville Organized for Accountable Leadership (GOAL)
   \$1,500 to continue to build a justice organization comprised of congregations in Greenville that work together to tackle community problems
- The Homeless Period Project \$10,000 to support a statewide advocacy to eliminate the SC tax on menstrual health products
- Trinity Lutheran Church \$2,598.95 for Pastor Crowell and Mark Allen to attend a Tell Me the Truth about Racism training event in Hampton, VA
- Trinity Lutheran Church \$7,500 to provide scholarship assistance to Patrick Preacher for his third year of seminary
- Trinity Lutheran Church \$4,500 to support Queerly Beloved Youth Day at Trinity in 2024
- Trinity Lutheran Church \$9,000 to fund sabbaticals for Trinity's three rostered leaders
- 864Pride \$7,500 to provide funding for free group mental health therapy for LGBTQIA+ youth

The Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation has given away in excess of \$2,000,000 since 1997.

# FAITH FORMATION

#### Faith Formation for Children

Children are invited to leave worship after the children's sermon to hear the scripture readings in ways more appropriate to them. Using the lectionary stories heard in worship each Sunday, the children sing and listen to the scripture or a related book and enjoy an activity related to the theme of the day. The children return to worship in time to share the peace and participate in communion.

#### Faith Formation for Youth

Youth in grades 6 though 12 are invited to stay after worship once a month for Lunch and Learn, a time for fellowship, lessons, and activities. The group will meet on Sunday, February 25.

#### Faith Formation for Adults

An adult faith formation class meets at 9:00 am in Rooms 12 and 13 of the Activities Building. During the month of February, Deacon Amy Brown will lead the class in exploring issues related to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The class ends in time for worship at 10:00 am. Those interested in participating in the class via Zoom should contact Kay Cook for sign-in information.

## NEW MEMBER CLASS AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Pastor Crowell will be teaching a new member class via Zoom for anyone interested in exploring the possibility of joining Trinity. These classes will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 pm on Mondays, February 26 and March 4 via Zoom.

Please reach out to Pastor Crowell at <a href="mailto:sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws">sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws</a> to register to attend these classes or to let her know that you would like to join the Trinity family. New members will be received on Sunday, March 10 at the 10:00 am worship service.

# HISTORY READING GROUP

Please join the Trinity Lutheran Church History Reading Group to discuss selected topics based on historical nonfiction books. The group will meet Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 3:00 pm in Rooms 12 and 13. Nell Orscheln will lead the discussion of *Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour* by Lynne Olson. Contact David Hill at <a href="mailto:jdhillnc50@gmail.com">jdhillnc50@gmail.com</a> or (704) 307-0520 or Don Todd at <a href="mailto:dktodd47@gmail.com">dktodd47@gmail.com</a> or (803) 517-8129 for more information. Participation via Zoom will be available.

# **LENT 2024 AT TRINITY**

#### Ash Wednesday Services

Services will be held on Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary and at 6:15 in the Gym. Both services will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

#### **Lenten Discipleship Group**

A Lenten Discipleship Group facilitated by Patrick Preacher and Pastor Crowell will gather on Wednesdays February 21, February 28, March 6, March 13, and March 20 at 10:00 am in the Parlor to participate in simple relationship-building activities, discussing the scripture and poem for the day, sharing joys and burdens, and praying together before worship at 11:00 in the Sanctuary.

# Mid-week morning worship at 11:00 am followed by a simple lunch

A mid-week Lenten Worship Series will take place on Wednesdays during Lent at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary and will also be live-streamed. Gathering under the theme *Living Life Moment by Moment in Lent*, these thirty-minute services will include prayer, word, song, and poems by Julia Fehrenbacher. These services will be followed by a simple lunch of sandwiches and cookies in the Parlor or The Welcome Table community meal in the Multipurpose Room. Dates for these services include February 21, February 28, March 6, March 13, and March 20.

## Mid-week Evening Worship at 6:15

The Trinity family, neighbors, and friends will enjoy worship and table fellowship each Wednesday during the Lenten Season at 6:15 pm in the Multipurpose Room. Participants will share a meal together and also worship at table. The evening will conclude by 7:30. Dinner will include soup, sandwiches, and a simple dessert. Vegetarian and low sodium soups will be provided. Volunteers are needed to provide crock pots of soup, plates of sandwiches, and simple desserts on each of these Wednesdays. Anyone interested in volunteering to provide soup, sandwiches, or dessert or are willing to help serve or clean up may reach out to Karine Lawrence at <a href="karinelawrence@yahoo.com">karinelawrence@yahoo.com</a> or Kay Cook in the Church Office at <a href="kmcook@trinitylutheran.ws">kmcook@trinitylutheran.ws</a>. A sign-up genius will be available soon to volunteer online. These worship and fellowship opportunities will take place on Wednesdays, February 21, February 28, March 6, March 13, and March 20. Please register if able for these weekly worship and dinner opportunities through the Church Office

# MARDI GRAS PANCAKE BRUNCH

All are invited to a *Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch* following worship on Sunday morning, February 11 in the Multipurpose Room. Not only will participants enjoy fellowship and pancakes, there will also be opportunities for all ages to learn about Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday, and Lent. Please contact the Church Office to make a reservation.



#

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 9:00 ADULT FAITH FORMATION 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE GYM AND LIVE-STREAM 11:30 BABY SHOWER FOR ANGIE AND EMILY HAGER	4	5 9:30 QUILTING GROUP	6 10:30 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD  9:00 ADULT FAITH FORMATION  9:30 SECOND SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE  10:00 WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY AND LIVE-STREAM  11:30 MARDI GRAS PANCAKE BRUNCH  1:30 CONGREGATION COUNCIL  3:00 HISTORY READING GROUP  5:30 YOUTH MINISTRY	11	9:30 QUILTING GROUP 6:00 GOAL MEETING	13
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT  9:00 ADULT FAITH FORMATION  10:00 WORSHIP IN THE GYM AND LIVE-STREAM REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW  11:30 OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH	18	19 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	20
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT  9:00 ADULT FAITH FORMATION 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW  11:30 - 1:00 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY 11:30 - 1:00 YOUTH MINISTRY LUNCH AND LEARN	25	9:30 QUILTING GROUP 6:30 NEW MEMBER CLASS VIA ZOOM	27

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	6:30 QUEER-LED WORSHIP IN THE GYM	2	3
7 6:00 HANDBELL CHOIR 7:00 ADULT CHOIR	8	9	10
14 6:30 AM MEN'S REFLECTION GROUP 11:00 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY  6:15 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP IN THE GYM ADULT CHOIR AFTER WORSHIP	7:00 BOOK GROUP	16	17
21 10:00 LENTEN DISCIPLESHIP GROUP IN THE PARLOR 11:00 LENTEN WORSHIP 11:30 WELCOME TABLE  6:15 LENTEN DINNER AND WORSHIP IN THE MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 7:30 ADULT CHOIR	6:30 LOVE WINS	23	24
10:00 LENTEN DISCIPLESHIP GROUP IN THE PARLOR 11:00 LENTEN WORSHIP 11:30 SIMPLE LUNCH  6:15 LENTEN DINNER AND WORSHIP IN THE MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 7:30 ADULT CHOIR	29		

#### SECOND SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to all who continue to contribute to the Food Pantry. In addition to regular items, the pantry is in special need of canned meats, toilet paper, and canned vegetables. All are encouraged to bring donations to worship. A volunteer will be stationed at the Red Canopy Door from 9:30 to 10:00 am on the second Sunday of each month to assist in unloading donations. Upcoming date is February 11. The following items are most needed: dried beans (16 oz), peanut



butter (16 oz), cereal, canned fruit, rice (2 lb bag), pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat, canned vegetables, individually packaged snack items, and toilet paper. Your support and love is greatly appreciated. If interested in volunteering to collect items during the Sunday Food Drives, please contact Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws

#### **BOOK GROUP**

The Trinity Book Group, which is open to all readers, meets in the Parlor on the third Thursday every other month at 7:00 pm to discuss books of all The next meeting will be Thursday, February 15. The group will discuss the book Horse by Geraldine Brooks. The group will also select additional books for 2024.



## QUILTING GROUP

The Quilting Group typically meets in the Activities Building on Mondays at 9:30 am to make guilts which are distributed by Lutheran World Relief. In February the group will meet on February 5, 12, and 26. experience is needed. For questions about this group contact Sarah Weeks at OUILTING GROUP sweeks14@charter.net or 864-787-1160.

#### **OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH**

Out to Lunch Bunch is open to all Trinity adults who want to enjoy fellowship and eat lunch together after worship once a month. The group will meet Sunday, February 18 at Rocky's Hot Chicken Shack, 420 Laurens Road, Grenville, 29607.

#### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

In an effort to stay connected, please consider extending birthday greetings to the following members. If you would like the church to know your birthdate please contact the Church Office to submit this information through Realm.

Mark Allen - February 14
Jeff Balck - February 22
Marilyn Boeker - February 10
Caroline Brightwell - February 4
Ann Coon - February 26
Charlotte Darby - February 8
Ronny Dillard - February 3
Heather Fanning - February 15
Angie Hager - February 23
Calvin Harmon - February 12
Teresa Harrington - February 11

John Janssen - February 21
Janna Kelley - February 3
Clark Lawrence - February 6
Angie McCormack - February 6
Pastor Parham - February 6
Joshua Rhodes - February 23
Stefani Robinson - February 28
Alice Smith - February 4
Niko Thomas-Harewood - February 7
Al White - February 8
Jan Willis - February 15



# GREENVILLE ORGANIZED FOR ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP

All GOAL network members and anyone passionate about justice work in the community should make plans to attend a gathering at Trinity on Monday, February 12 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room. This event will help prepare Trinity members and friends for the Nehemiah Action event on Monday, April 15 at 6:30 pm at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 4 Harrison Bridge Road, Simpsonville.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP



and Fellowship Group

The Women's Bible Study Group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. The group usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month. All women are invited to attend on February 6 at 10:30 am in Rooms 12 and 13. The group is discussing the book *Falling Upward: Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr. Contact Terry Morgan at tfmorgan101@gmail.com for additional information.

#### Men's Reflection and Fellowship Group



A Reflection and Fellowship Group for men meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 am to 7:30 am in the Church Parlor. Calvin Harmon leads and facilitates this group with the intent of providing a brave, safe space for mutual sharing and encouragement. The morning includes a light breakfast as well as time for devotions and prayer. Upcoming meeting dates include February 14 and March 13.

#### PRAYING FOR POSSIBILITIES

Praying for Possibilities is a program at Trinity dedicated to praying for the ministries of the congregation. Members and friends of the congregation are invited to sign up for a specific week during the year when they are encouraged to pray through the written prayers one time during the course of the assigned week. This ministry requires a small commitment of time with the possibility of tremendous blessing. To ask questions about the ministry or to sign up to participate, please reach out to Beth Bennett-Hill at <a href="mailto:bethbhnc@yahoo.com">bethbhnc@yahoo.com</a> or 704-307-0521 or to Terry Morgan at <a href="mailto:tfmorgan101@gmail.com">tfmorgan101@gmail.com</a> or 864-230-6252.

#### **February Prayer Volunteers**

February 4 - 10 Joshua Rhodes

February 11 - 17 Jess Thomas-Harewood

> February 18 - 24 David Hill

February 25 - March 2 Mary Valenti

#### THE WELCOME TABLE

The Welcome Table is so grateful to be partnering with Feed & Seed Company of Greenville to continue serving and connecting with our neighbors. February's meal will take place on Wednesday, February 21 at 11:30 am in the Multipurpose Room. An RSVP is not required to attend. All are welcome and encouraged to come for lunch! If you would specifically like to volunteer, please reach out to

Patrick Preacher via text at 864-483-2590.



# TLC4TLC



TLC4TLC is for anyone who would like to write notes and cards for members who are ill, grieving, or unable to attend worship, as well as for those who are celebrating joys. Interested participants may contact Debbie Farstad at debfars@att.net.

Please join the Trinity Family for a Baby Shower in honor of

Angie and Emily Hager

as they anticipate the birth of their son

Sunday, February 4 11:30 am following worship in the Gym

The Hagers' registry can be found at <a href="https://www.babylist.com">www.babylist.com</a>
Emily and Angie's Baby Registry





# QUEER AND JUSTICE MINISTRY



#### Queer-led Worship: Taize Around the Cross

On Thursday, February 1 worship will begin at 6:30 pm in the Gym. New queer leaders are always welcome. Please email Patrick Preacher at <a href="mailto:pdf/pdf/emailto:pdf/e

## LOVE WINS FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Love Wins meets the third Thursday of each month to discuss a book or podcast and enjoy fellowship together. The group will meet on Thursday, February 22 at 6:30 pm at Tipsy Taco, 14180 Wade Hampton Boulevard, Greer to discuss *The Shift*, by Colby Martin. All are welcome! Contact Angie McCormack at <a href="mailto:ahmccormack@trinitylutheran.ws">ahmccormack@trinitylutheran.ws</a> or 864-630-4026 for more information.



# WITHIN THE TRINITY FAMILY . . .

## **Deaths**

Jeff Greene on January 23 the mother of Marcus Blackstone

#### BAPTISM

James Edwin Long, son of Charlie and Clare Long, on January 7 Benjamin Heyward Wessinger, son of Matthew and Grace Wessinger, on January 21

## **HOSPITAL Patients**

Pattimarie Janssen - Discharged Chris Sullivan - 2512, Heart Institute at Prisma Health Greenville Memorial

#### ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY

Sundays	1/7	1/14	1/21	1/28
Online devices In Person	276 <u>153</u> 429	268 <u>132</u> 400	241 <u>174</u> 415	218 <u>155</u> 373

Queer-Led Worship on 1/4 - 35 in person, 187 online devices

#### OFFERING SUMMARY FOR JANUARY

DOES NOT INCLUDE OFFERING FROM JANUARY 28

	<u>Ja</u>	<u>NUARY</u>	<u>YTD</u>	
Needed for Budget Given to Budget Difference	\$ \$ \$	93,834 94,571 738	\$ <u>\$</u> \$	93,834 94,571 738
Given to World Hunger	\$	275	\$	275

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 421 North Main Street Greenville, SC 29601-2090

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