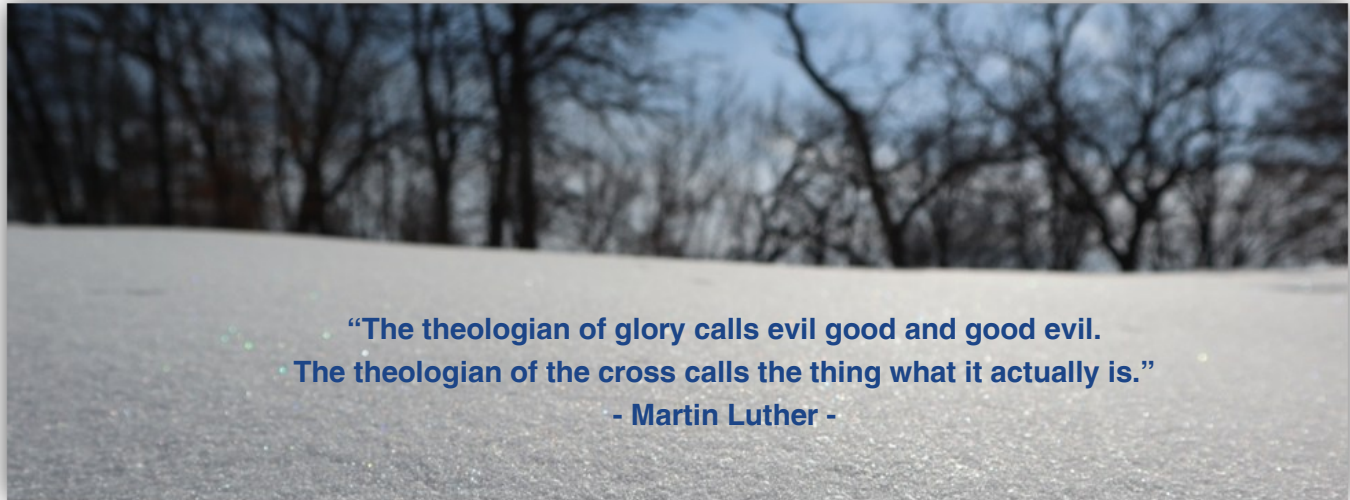


From the Pastor's Pen



**“The theologian of glory calls evil good and good evil.
The theologian of the cross calls the thing what it actually is.”
- Martin Luther -**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

One of the first things I learned in seminary is the concept that we are all theologians. Whether you believe you are or not, whether you want to be or not, whether you are Lutheran or Presbyterian, Buddhist or Hindu, agnostic or atheist, you are a theologian. You have formed, and continue to develop, an understanding of who God is (or is not) and how God is (or is not) at work in the world. You might believe that God is like a great puppet master, controlling every action and orchestrating each moment. Or, maybe you don't believe God exists at all, and life is merely a series of choices and coincidences. Whether you find yourself at one of these poles or somewhere in between, you are a theologian.

Each of our varied theologies is shaped by countless influences. We naively hope that our faith community is the strongest influence in this process, but the reality is most of us devote an hour or two per week, to intentional worship and faith formation. This means much of our formation happens organically, through sources outside of our community of faith. Our theology is informed by relationships and interactions with our family, friends, coworkers, teachers, and classmates. We glean ideas from books, movies, TV and streaming series', and news networks. We are influenced by blogs, podcasts, and social media.

Ideally, our conception of God would be our guide for how we interpret the culture around us. Unfortunately, the opposite is oftentimes true. We allow the culture to shape our understanding of who God is.

And our understanding of who God is and how God is working in our lives informs how we live. If we claim that God is domineering, angry, vindictive, judgmental, and cruel, we tend to live that way with others. We see our neighbors, especially those who are different from us, as enemies to conquer, nuisances to eliminate, or obstacles to our personal success. But, if we believe God is humble, kind, loving, and forgiving, we will regularly see those fruits in our actions and relationships. We will view those around us as someone who enriches our lives and our world, someone to learn from, someone to collaborate with.

In 1518, Martin Luther presented a lecture contrasting two kinds of theologians - a theologian of glory and a theologian of the cross. Here's how Luther described these types: "A theologian of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theologian of the cross calls the thing what it actually is." So, one might wonder, how do we define "evil?" Spiritual director and speaker Nina Barnes says, "Evil is when an image-bearer of God is dehumanized." This means, when-

(Continued on page 3)

Unapproved February Special Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council special meeting
Saturday, February 8, 2025
12:00 p.m.

President Kurt Christiansen called the special meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

Present: Pastor Steven Lindley, Deacon Koren Lindley, President Kurt Christiansen, Vice-president Virginia Lemme, Secretary Nancy Sabbe, Tami Christiansen, Darrel Presuhn, Patti Weber, Dani Ruhd, Lucas Muller, Marie Millage, Eric Anderson

Board chairs for the coming year are Patti Weber—Board of Deacons, Eric Anderson—Board of Trustees, Dani Ruhd—Board of Faith Formation.

Motion by Patti Weber, seconded by Dani Ruhd, to add Virginia Lemme as a signer on checks/documents with Kurt Christiansen, Tom Farrell, Eric Anderson, and Katie Nelson. Motion carried.

Motion by Eric Anderson, seconded by Darrel Presuhn, to appoint Alicia Entringer to the position of Youth Faith Formation to serve until the 2026 annual meeting. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Dani Ruhd, seconded by Marie Millage. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Sabbe

2025 Council and Board Retreat

Each February, Trinity does not have a regular council meeting, but rather, your elected leaders gather for an annual retreat. For this year’s retreat, we gathered for the morning on Saturday, February 8. We prayed together, devoted time to building relationships, learned about the new structure of our council and boards, and set aside some time for dreaming together about what God might be up to at Trinity in 2025. Out of this time, each of our boards and our officers discerned one word that represents their intention for the year, as they do their work together. These words are: Deacons - “connect”; Faith Formation - “increase”; Trustees - “focused”; Officers - “trustworthy”. Trinity’s leadership is committed to keeping these words of intent at the forefront of our minds, as we do our best to faithfully lead this community of faith this year.

Lenten Soup Suppers



Lenten Soup Suppers begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, from 5:30–6:30 followed by a Lenten Service in the Sanctuary at 6:30. The Family hosting dates are listed in the schedule below. Your Family Group Leaders will be contacting you to help furnish food or work on your designated date. This is a special fellowship during the Lenten Season and we are looking forward to your family sharing this time with us.

| Soup Supper Date | Group Leaders | Family of |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| 3/5/2025 Ash Wednesday | Mary Hutchinson | Self-Control |
| | Linda Nighbert | Gentleness |
| | Patti Weber | Love |
| 3/12/2025 | Carol Andersen | Goodness |
| | Joyce Farrell | Goodness |
| 3/19/2025 | Jennifer Briggs | Joy |
| | Amy Winrow | Joy |
| 3/26/2025 | Tonia Meadows | Faithfulness |
| | Gayle Maberry | Faithfulness |
| 4/2/2025 | Beth Delzer | Peace |
| | Karen Kalvig | Peace |
| 4/9/2025 | Cheryl Iverson | Kindness |
| | Diane Plack | Kindness |
| | Lana Johnson | Patience |
| | Nancy Rook | Patience |

March Coffee Hour



The March Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Family of Kindness. The Family Group Leaders, Diane Plack and Cheryl Iverson, will be contacting you. Your help is always appreciated. FYI ~ April Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Family of Goodness.

Pastor's Article

(Continued from page 1)

ever a person uses derogatory or demeaning language to describe another, whenever they deny basic human rights, whenever they question another's dignity and worth, we can and must name those behaviors as evil. We are witnessing so much of this behavior in our world, and if we do not "call the thing what it actually is", we are complicit, and we deny Jesus' call to love others as he has loved us.

We know God only through Christ suffering on the cross for others. This is how God chose to reveal himself to us. All we know of God is self-emptying love. God didn't overcome the evil of this world through domination, force, and violence. No, as Paul tells us, "though [Christ] existed in the form of God, [he] did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. ... he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross." (Phil. 2:6–8) Jesus overcame evil with goodness. He defeated hatred with love. And Jesus' call to us as his disciples is to take up our own cross and follow him in this way, as well.

On Ash Wednesday, March 5th, we will begin another Lenten season together as a community of faith. Lent is a 40-day journey to the cross of Christ. It is an intentional training ground for us to become again theologians of the cross - to see things as they actually are and name them for what they are. I encourage you to join your Trinity family on this Lenten pilgrimage. Worship with us on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Gather with us at soup suppers and other times of fellowship. Devote time each day to prayer and studying God's word. Be open to the work the Holy Spirit might do in you and in our community during this Lent.

Blessings.

Pastor Steve

Women's Retreat

Deacon Koren and NeSoDak are teaming up again for a women's retreat March 28–29! Join us as we "Reclaim Hope"! Sign up online or with Deacon Koren.

No Shoeboxes

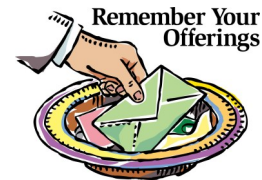
Trinity is no longer collecting shoeboxes. Please repurpose/recycle them.



Thank you to Wade & Jennifer Briggs, Jon & Mary Hunter, Susan Williams, Ron & Bobbi Janke, Karen Kalvig, and Karen Giles for serving Home Communion in February.

Service Opportunity

Throughout the month of March, Trinity's high school youth group is collecting personal care items to donate to Jack's Cupboard on the SDSU campus, which exists to help alleviate food insecurity among SDSU students. Please consider donating new, unopened toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, body wash, laundry detergent, or toilet paper. The collection box can be found in the narthex.



Financial Response as of 1/31/2025

The year-to-date statistics are:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Your General Fund Offering | \$22,837.45 |
| Expenses | <u>\$33,432.17</u> |
| Expenses over Offering | (\$10,594.72) |

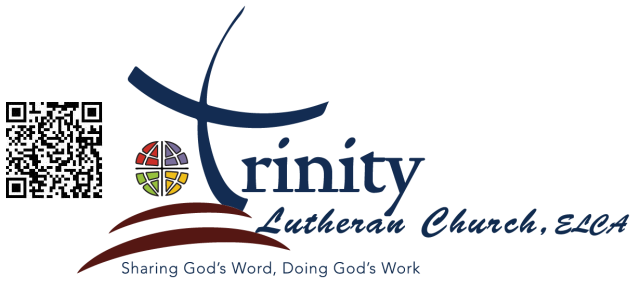


March

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday |
|--|--|--|
| Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays Home Communion on the 3rd Sunday | | |
| 02 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 10:00AM–11:00AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM | 03 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30PM–9:00PM Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall | 04 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30AM–10:00AM Money Counting : Fireside Room • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM–8:00PM Pack 5 Committee Meeting : Fireside Room |
| 09 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jingle Change • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 10:00AM–11:00AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM • 6:00PM–7:30PM Men's Group : Fellowship Hall | 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30PM–7:30PM Scouts Meeting : Fellowship Hall • 7:30PM–8:00PM Scouts Meeting : Fireside Room • 7:30PM–9:00PM Congregational Lenten Book Study : Fellowship Hall | 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30AM–10:00AM Money Counting : Fireside Room • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 12:00PM–1:00PM Finance Meeting : Zoom • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–6:45PM Board of Deacons Meeting : Fireside Room • 7:00PM–9:00PM Council Meeting : Fellowship Hall |
| 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 10:00AM–11:00AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM | 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30PM–9:00PM Congregational Lenten Book Study : Fellowship Hall | 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30AM–10:00AM Money Counting : Fireside Room • 9:30AM–11:00AM Mary Circle : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall |
| 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms • 10:00AM–11:00AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM | 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00AM–5:00PM Spring Conferences–No Preschool : Conference Room • 7:30PM–9:00PM Congregational Lenten Book Study : Fellowship Hall | 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00AM–5:00PM Spring Conferences–No Pre-school : Conference Room • 8:30AM–10:00AM Money Counting : Fireside Room • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall |
| 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 10:00AM–11:00AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM | 31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30PM–9:00PM Congregational Lenten Book Study : Fellowship Hall | |

2025

| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | 01 • 5:00PM–6:00PM Fellowship Potluck Meal : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion : Fellowship Hall |
| 05 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> • 5:00PM–5:45PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:30PM–6:30PM Lenten Soup Supper : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:30PM Ash Wednesday Worship : Sanctuary • 7:00PM–8:00PM High School Youth Group : Youth Room | 06 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Webelo Den Meeting : Fireside Room • 6:30PM–7:30PM Bear Den Meeting : Youth Room | 07 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study | 08 |
| 12 • 5:00PM–5:45PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:30PM–6:30PM Lenten Soup Supper : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:00PM Lenten Evening Prayer : Sanctuary • 7:00PM–8:00PM High School Youth Group : Youth Room | 13 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:30PM Pack 5 Meeting: Camp Sign-up : Fellowship Hall | 14 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study | 15 |
| 19 • 5:00PM–5:45PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:30PM–6:30PM Lenten Soup Supper : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:00PM Lenten Evening Prayer : Sanctuary • 7:00PM–8:00PM High School Youth Group : Youth Room | 20 • No Preschool–Spring Break • 1:00PM–4:00PM Staff CPR Training : Sonshine Preschool Room • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:30PM Bear Den Meeting : Youth Room | 21 • No Preschool–Spring Break • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study | 22 |
| 26 • 5:00PM–5:45PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:30PM–6:30PM Lenten Soup Supper : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:00PM Lenten Evening Prayer : Sanctuary • 7:00PM–8:00PM High School Youth Group : Youth Room | 27 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Webelo Den Meeting : Fireside Room • 6:30PM–7:30PM Bear Den Meeting : Youth Room | 28 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study | 29 |
| | | | |



203 N. Harth Ave.
Madison, SD 57042

Return Service Requested

Financial Giving Options

- Checks can be mailed to the church.
- Credit cards can be processed in the church office.
- The church website (www.tlcmadison.com) allows for one-time or recurring donations using a checking/savings account or a credit/debit card.
- The Electronic Giving option through Vanco can also be initialized by filling out an application form in the church office.
- If you should have questions with any of these options or would like to discuss which one is the best option for you, please call Alex at the church office at 605-256-2771.

Mission of the Month

The March Mission of the Month is the Union Gospel Mission, Sioux Falls. This organization provides three meals a day to the homeless and housing for men, women, and children. *Gifts may be designated on offering envelopes/checks to Mission of the Month Fund. The Jingle Change collection on March 9 also supports the Mission of the Month.*

Food Pantry

The Lake County Food Pantry mission of the month for March is rice and boxed potatoes. Diapers and baby wipes are also requested.

Congregational Information

Deaths: Edith Pecks on February 1

Baptisms: Cooper Fritz on January 19

Weddings: none

Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care or know someone who is, please contact Pastor Steve or the church office.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH