



the good news is..

so good, it catches
us by surprise

First Sunday in Lent

FEBRUARY 21-22, 2026



SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

Pastors

Dan Gerrietts, Daniel Hanson, Beverly Butler

Preacher

Pastor Dan Gerrietts

Organist

Jodi Korth

Cantor

Melissa Shallberg

Special Music

Clapper Bell Choir

Bronze Bell Choir

Directed by Marta Eenhuis

Acolytes

Charlie Ritter, Noah Koob

Scripture Readers

Saturday: Sally Becker

Sunday: Kathy Dobrzynski

Ushers

Saturday: Chris and Jace Suntken

Sunday: Brad Baalson, Craig Miller, Kevin Hendrikson, Burton Tekippe

Technical Support

Grace Koob

Greeters

Ray and Betty Gogel

Coffee Fellowship

Mindy Farland, Phyllis Rush

Worship Transportation

Dean Graven, Tonya Brunsvold

Building Host

David Stine

First Sunday in Lent

Saturday, February 21, 2026 - 5:00 PM

Sunday, February 22, 2026 - 9:00 AM with Livestream / KCMR 97.9

The Good News is....

...so good it catches us by surprise.

Lent was originally a season for new converts to Christianity to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: God's mercy, radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, and nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—good news for us and for all people.

This week we focus on the subversive and playful nature of the good news. The kingdom of heaven is so good it should catch us by surprise! Like a mustard seed, the good news can grow from the smallest seed into the tallest tree. Like an unruly weed, or fine wine saved for last, the good news is abundant and cannot be contained.

ALTAR FLOWERS

are given in honor of

Bob and JoAnn Mason's 48th Wedding Anniversary

Welcome to Trinity! We are glad you're here. If you are new to Trinity Lutheran, please complete an informational card which can be found in the pews.

We love having small children in worship! Those needing a space to change or feed little ones are welcome to use the **Child Care Room** located next to the nursery. An **unstaffed nursery** is also available, located on the 2nd floor just outside the north sanctuary door (the door under the stained glass window door).

Seating for People with Limited Mobility is reserved in several places throughout the Sanctuary. Just look for the blue accessibility signs.

Large print bulletins and listening devices are available from the ushers.

Activity Bags are available for children during worship. They are located in the narthex and at the front of the church. Please return them at the end of services.



Our Mission *We are called to share God's healing love through Christ's forgiveness and our personal servanthood.*

Prelude *(Saturday)*

It Is Well with My Soul

Lloyd Larson

Clapper Bell Choir

(Sunday)

Sunshine and Shadow

Margaret R. Tucker

Bronze Bell Choir

Michael Last, Percussion

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

P You may have heard, “All is fair in love and war,”
or “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.”
But God says, “Forgive seventy times seven.”
God says, “I am slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”
God says, “Turn the other cheek.”
God’s mercy catches us by surprise.
So with wonder and gratitude, let us go to God in prayer.
Let us be surprised by God’s grace all over again.

(silence is kept)

P Friends, let us pray:

C Loving God,

**somewhere along the way we picked up the message
that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious.**

We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.

We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.

We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door.

But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed.

You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.

Forgive our doubt.

Pull us closer into your embrace.

With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.

P God’s grace is wild and unruly.

God’s mercy is abundant and surprising.

God’s love is expansive and unending.

So if you ask, “Holy One, am I forgiven?”

the answer is and always will be:

of course, of course, of course.

This is the good news of the gospel.

C Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW 325

***Greeting**

P Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.
C **And also with you.**

***Prayer of the Day**

P Holy One,
it is easy to see the mustard plant and forget to marvel at the seed.
It is easy to taste good wine and not appreciate it.
It is easy to miss the holy that is in our midst.
So as we turn to your text today, we pray, surprise us.
Speak to us. Move through us. Draw us closer to your good news.
In Jesus' name,
C **Amen.**

Children's Message

Pastor Dan Gerriets

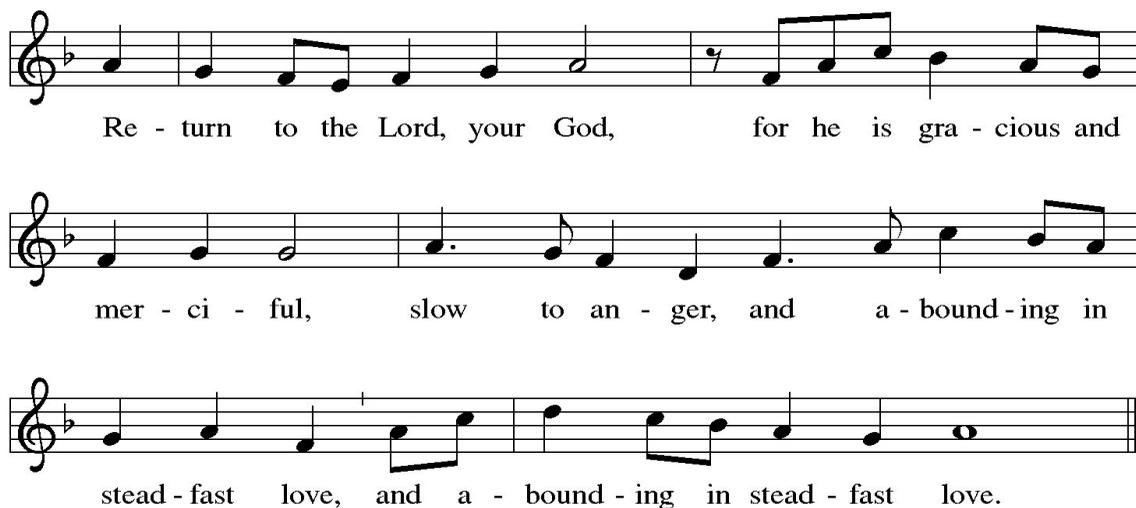
First Reading: John 2:1-11

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. ⁹ When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**

ELW pg. 142



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

***Gospel: Matthew 13:31-32**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³¹ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Dan Gerrietts

Hymn of the Day

Lord of Light

ELW 688

***Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

P Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

***Peace**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Announcements

THANKSGIVING

Offering

Text to Give is available at Trinity!

Simply text the amount you wish to give to 833-412-0093.

Or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

Please note where your gifts should be directed towards



***Offertory**

Doxology

Praise God, whose blessing gives us life,

Like morning's gentle dew.

We will trust you through the wilderness

And walk the way with you.

To the God who calls us servants

Neighbor, stranger, friend made fair;

Christ is present in the water,

In the fire, the earth, the air.

May we live to love in all we do,

And grant our neighbor rest;

All creation praises God on high,

Now may these gifts be blest.

Sung to the tune "Thaxted" ELW 880

Written by Colby Gochanour

***Offering Prayer**

P God of surprising grace, receive these gifts as small seeds of your kingdom, and grow them beyond our imagining into mercy, welcome, and love for all.

Use what we offer, and who we are, to share the joyful, unruly good news of Jesus Christ for the life of the world.

C **Amen.**

***Lord's Prayer**

C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P As you leave this place,
when you meet anger, speak with love.
When you meet fear, speak with hope.
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.
But no matter what, speak the good news of the gospel:
God became human in Jesus for us,
to bring love and justice for all,
and joy that surprises.
Thanks be to God
for this good news!

C Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

Jesus, Still Lead On

ELW 624

***Sending**

P Go in peace! Walk with others in faith!
C Thanks be to God.

Postlude



This Lent at Trinity, we want to remember that the good news really is *good news*. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world.

JOURNEY WITH JESUS: Mondays in Lent, Monday, February 23 | 12Noon | Fellowship Hall

The season of Lent is a great time to commit to spending time with God and tending our spiritual life. We invite everyone at Trinity to read Scripture together as a spiritual discipline, using the devotional Journey with Jesus, as we read the Gospel of John. Journal questions are provided to dig deeper and to reflect on the daily readings. We encourage you to form a group to reflect weekly on the readings and questions or join the gathering at noon on Mondays in the Fellowship Hall to discuss and process the Scripture in community. You are encouraged to bring a lunch and stay for as long as you are able.

BROWN BAG BACH Wednesdays in Lent | Wednesday, February 25 | 12:15pm to 12:45pm

Join us for a series of Wednesday Noon-hour concerts during Lent. Music begins in the Sanctuary at 12:15 for 30 minutes. This week's organist will be Charles Sukup from Sheffield. You are welcome to bring your lunch and enjoy it in the pew during the concert.

WALKING THE JOURNEY WITH JESUS: Thursdays in Lent | Thurs, Feb. 26th | 4:15 pm

Join us to walk and talk about the Gospel of John. We'll walk the halls and stairways of Trinity Church as we discuss and process the Scripture for the week in the Lenten devotional. Meet at the East Entry.

LET US PRAY TOGETHER *Gathering in prayer to hold space for peace and unity.*

Thursdays in Lent | Thursday, February 26 | 2pm—2:45pm | First United Methodist Church

Join us in a time to gather as Christians as we offer Prayer petitions for our community, our country and our world. Opportunities to add individual prayer petitions either silently or aloud will be included. We'll gather at a different church every week. Our February 26 location is First United Methodist.

LUNCH AND LEARN Thursday, February 26 | 12Noon—1:00 pm | Fellowship Hall

Our Guest Speaker is Sue Stone, Parish Administrator at St. John's Episcopal Church and coordinator of the Hygiene Pantry since its creation. She will be sharing stories of the lives that have been touched by the Pantry over the years. A light soup and sandwich Lunch will be provided by the Trinity Woman's Cabinet for a free-will donation. Please call the church to reserve your spot or sign up on the clipboard outside the office.

WELCOME TO THE TABLE CLASS Wednesdays, March 18 and 25 | 5:15pm

Wednesdays, March 18 & 25, 2024 5:15 PM The Education Committee and church staff recommend 4th grade as a good time to receive instruction on Holy Communion. Our two-part Communion class, Welcome to the Table, is being offered for Grade 4 students accompanied by at least one parent. The class is designed for those youth who have already taken Communion and those who are preparing for their first Communion. We welcome older or younger students who have not yet had Communion instruction or desire to have Communion instruction before 4th grade to participate. Students who complete the class will be recognized on Maundy Thursday at 6:30 PM with a reception following in the Gathering Space. RSVP to participate: <https://www.trinity-mc.org/first-communion/>

Wednesdays in Lent, February 25

COMMUNITY MEAL THIS WEEK: 6:00pm to 6:30pm | Fellowship Hall

Menu: Soup & Breadsticks, Salad Cookes & Bars

Hosted by the Youth as a fundraiser for their summer trip to CA for the Western States Gathering.

*Lenten Mid-Week Services

1:00 PM (Chapel) & 6:30 PM (Sanctuary)

Shorter traditional service with a creative liturgy and message

*Confirmation | Fellowship Hall | 6:30pm

*Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room | approx. 7:10pm (After Lenten Service)

Trinity's Choir is open to all vocalists, high school age & older. Please join us!

*Nursery | 6:30pm—7:30pm | The Nursery is located on 2nd floor, just outside the Sanctuary.

The Nursery is UNSTAFFED but is available for preschoolers and their parents during this time.

*Campfire Kids, Grades 1-6 | Rm 208 | 6:30pm—7:10pm

Campfire Kids is our elementary programming here at Trinity on Wednesday nights. Students embark on fun Bible adventures with their leader Nate Ruge, and other wilderness guides, as they experiment with Bible Stories and Faith Traditions. This week we are learning about "Lent".

BAPTISMS AT THE EASTER VIGIL SERVICE

Are you, or someone you know, interested in being baptized? We would love to talk with you about our opportunity for baptism at the Easter Vigil Service on Saturday, April 4th at 5:00 pm. People of all ages are baptized each year at the Vigil, following a centuries old tradition in the Christian church. Please contact the office or one of the Pastors to learn more.

2026 EASTER BAG FOOD PROJECT *All deadlines are Tuesday, March 10th*

The Ministries Committee is coordinating the Easter Bag Food Project and asking for your help!

Monetary donations are needed to provide local, less fortunate individuals and families with a healthy Easter meal to enjoy. A donation of \$35 will feed a household of up to four people, \$70 will feed a household of eight people, and so forth.

Contact the church by calling (641) 423-0536 or email at denise.lind@trinity-mc.org

Donations

*donate by mailing your donation to the church, noting "Easter Bag Food Project".

*donate with your offering envelope, noting for the "Easter Bag Food Project".

*donate online- there will be a special selection available during Lent

*donate at the office Monday thru Friday.

Recipients

If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving an Easter Bag of food, please call or email the church office.

Delivery Drivers

You can help by signing up to deliver food bags to recipients on Saturday March 28 in the morning. Please call or email the church office by March 10th to sign up.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 9:00 AM Quilt Workshop (Fellowship Hall)
- 12Noon Lenten Scripture Discussion (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30 PM Bronze Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class (Gathering Space)
- 9:30 AM Caregivers Support Group (Rm 300, Zoom)
- 6:30 PM Trinity Council Meeting (Rm 300)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
- 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study
- 12:15 PM Brown Bag Bach Organ Concert (Sanctuary)
- 1:00 PM Lenten Mid-Week Service (Chapel)**
- 6:00 PM Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 PM Lenten Mid-Week Service (Sanctuary)**
- 6:30 PM Campfire Kids (Rm 208)
- 6:30 PM Confirmation Class (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:10 PM Choir Practice (After Service in Choir Room)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class (Gathering Space)
- 10:30 AM Coffee and Clapper Bell Choir (Rm 307)
- 2:00 PM Let Us Pray Gathering (First United Methodist)
- 4:15 PM Walking the Journey with Jesus (East Entrance)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

5:00 PM WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

- 9:00 AM **WORSHIP SERVICE** - Livestream, KCMR
- 10:30 AM **WORSHIP SERVICE** (Contemporary)
- 11:30 AM Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)

PAM FIKE TO RETIRE Pam Fike, our Parish Administrator, will be retiring at the end of April. Pam has been a steady, caring presence in the life of our church, and her behind-the-scenes work has meant more than most of us will ever know. We are deeply thankful for her many years of faithful service and wish her joy,

NOW HIRING: PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Trinity Lutheran Church is seeking a Parish Administrator to provide leadership for church finances, operations, and facilities, and to partner with staff and lay leaders in supporting our ministry. This role includes supervising administrative and facilities staff and supporting the work of the Church Council and committees. Strong organizational and accounting skills, attention to detail, and a collaborative spirit are essential. Search "Trinity Mason City Administrator." at Indeed.com.

CELEBRATING REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING AND BLACK HISTORY

MONTH Sun, February 22
4pm—5:30pm at the First Congregational United Church of Christ. An event honoring outstanding Black Women in the civil Rights Movement. The featured Speaker is Vikki Brown with music by the Iowa Choral Society. Complimentary soup and soul food supper and fellowship to follow.

EASTER EGG CANDY & TOY COLLECTION

We are looking to fill 2000 eggs this Easter season for our Community Easter Egg Hunt! Your donation of candy and toys helps to off-set the cost. Donations should be dropped off to the office by March 20th. Please bring wrapped candy, and small toys/stickers/tattoos to fit into plastic Easter eggs.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Due on Sunday, March 1st
College scholarship applications for the 2026-2027 school year are available to pick up on the ledge outside the church office. Forms are available on Trinity's website at