the good news is...

protection & care for the vulnerable

4th Sunday in Lent

MARCH 14 –15, 2026

SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

Pastors

Dan Gerrietts, Beverly Butler

Preacher

Pastor Beverly Butler

Organist

Deb Nielsen

Cantor

Melissa Shallberg

Special Music

Saxophone Quintet

Brian Bauer, John Henry, Emily Koob, Deb Nielsen, Craig Remmen

String Quartet

Pat Guetzko, Sophie Fitzgerald, Melissa Shallberg, Dan Gerrietts

Acolytes

Perrin Echelberger, Calah Hesley

Ushers

Saturday: Stu Vold, Earl Kiefer

Sunday: Dean Graven, Tracy Farland, Joe Blanchard, Brook Boehmler

Scripture Readers

Saturday: Stu Vold Sunday: Warren Torkelson

Communion Assistants

Sunday: Gary and Sharon Lindgren

Technical Support

Johnathan Frein

Greeters

Mike and Lynn Brown

Coffee Fellowship

Cynthia Zach, Audrey Warner

Worship Transportation

Travis Hesley, Tonya Brunsvold

Custodian

Dave Smith

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion

Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 9:00 AM with Livestream / KCMR 97.9 FM

The Good News is….*protection and care for the vulnerable.*

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 will consider how the instructions to the ancient Israelites on caring for the most vulnerable in their society and how Jesus' regard for the most vulnerable in society in his day apply to us today.

ALTAR FLOWERS

are given in honor of

Bob and Linda Godfrey's

25th Wedding Anniversary on St. Patrick's Day

Welcome to Trinity- We are glad you are here!

If you are new to Trinity please complete the Welcome Card located in the pews so we can follow-up with you.

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

Seating for People with Limited Mobility is reserved throughout the Sanctuary. Just look for the blue accessibility signs or ask your Usher.

We love having small children in worship!

1) ***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.
2) ***The Child Care Room*** is available for those needing a space to change or feed little ones, located next to the nursery. Nursery space is available but won't be staffed. The nursery is located on the 2nd floor of the education wing and just outside the north sanctuary door. Ushers are available to direct you if needed.

GATHERING

Prelude

(Saturday) ***When I Survey the Wonderous Cross***
Saxophone Quintet

(Sunday) ***Psalm 23***
String Quartet

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

P Family of Faith,
every week we pray the Prayer of Confession,
because every week we need to be reminded of God's abundant grace.
Every week we need to be reminded of God's love.
Every week we need to be reminded that we too can grow and change.
So join me in this moment of honesty as we seek transformation.

(silence is kept)

P Friends, let us pray:
God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."
C Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.
P Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
C We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.
P God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."
C We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.
P Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."
C We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.
P Fortunately for all of us, God also said,
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine."
**C By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**
P May this good news change our lives!
C Amen.

Gathering Hymn** ***There Is a Balm in Gilead ELW 614

*Greeting

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

P Holy One, sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear. You say, "Love your enemy." "Turn the other cheek." "Care for the widow and the orphan."

And we want to know: How? When? Where? Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear your truth for what it is. Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we listen, we pray.

C Amen.

Children's Message (Sunday) **Pastor Beverly Butler**

First Reading: Deuteronomy 24:17-22

17 "You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a wid-
ow's garment in pledge. 18 Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God
redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

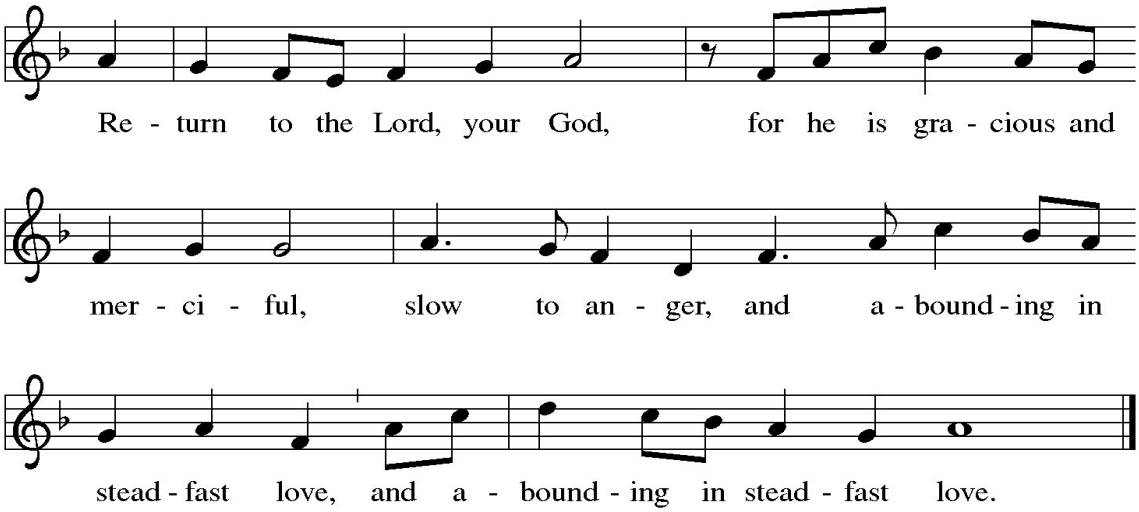
19 "When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not
go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that
the Lord your God may bless you in all your undertakings. 20 When you beat your olive
trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

21 "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for
the alien, the orphan, and the widow. 22 Remember that you were a slave in the land of
Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation** ELW pg. 142



*Gospel: Matthew 19:13-15

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the nineteenth chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

13 Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them
and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, 14 but Jesus said, "Let the
children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of
heaven belongs." 15 And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon **Pastor Beverly Butler**

Hymn of the Day ***Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*** ELW 779

*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

MEAL

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.

Anthem *(Sunday)*

You Raise Me Up
String Quartet

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 His 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 light, you reveal your love through Christ and through your people. Receive these gifts as signs of our lives offered to you, and use them to make your light and mercy known in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

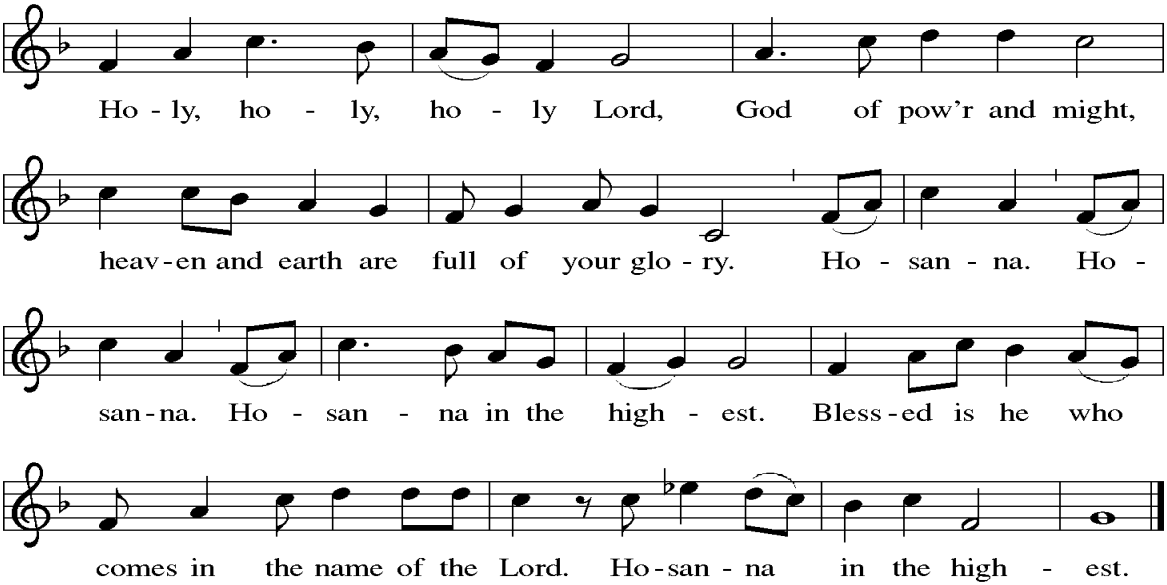
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ELW pg. 144



*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

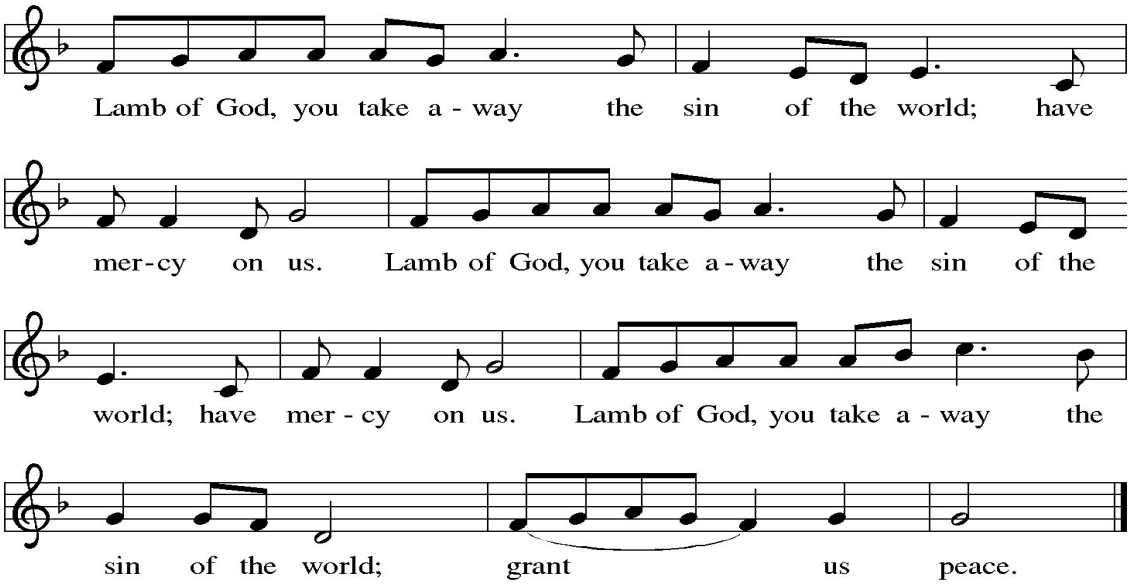
C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is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

Communion

All who desire the presence and forgiveness of Christ that comes in the sharing of this bread and wine are welcome to commune with us today. Ushers will direct you from the outside aisles to one of the stations in the front of the sanctuary, where you may kneel at the rail. You will return to your seat by the center aisle. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available. If for any reason you are not comfortable participating in communion today, we invite you to come forward with your arms crossed over your chest to receive a blessing.

Lamb of God

ELW pg. 146



Communion Hymns

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky ELW 553
Dearest Jesus at Your Word ELW 520

*Prayer after Communion

P God of radiant love, in this meal you have revealed Christ to us and filled us with his light. Send us out to reflect your grace, that your love may be made manifest in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

C 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** ***In the Cross of Christ I Glory ELW 324

*Sending

P Go in peace. Share God's Blessing.
C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

(Sunday) ***May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You*** Meredith Willson
String Quartet

Please join us for Coffee Hour following the Sunday 9am Service
where cupcakes have been donated in honor of
Pat Marshall's Birthday.

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, March 16|** 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, March 18 | 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 Anna Burns from Ventura, an organ scholarship student of Mary Jane Crail. You are welcome to bring your lunch and enjoy it in the pew during the concert.

WELCOME TO THE TABLE CLASS Wednesdays, March 18 and 25 | 5:15pm
Wednesdays, March 18 & 25, 2026 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/

JOURNEY WITH JESUS WALK & TALK Thursdays in Lent | Thurs, March 19 |4:15 pm
Join us to walk and talk about the Gospel of John. We'll walk inside or out, depending on weather, as we discuss the Scripture from the past week in the Lenten devotional. Meet at the East Entrance.

LET US PRAY TOGETHER *Gathering in prayer to hold space for peace and unity.*
Thursdays in Lent | Thursday, March 19 | 2pm—2:45pm | First Congregational United 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.

WEDNESDAYS in LENT: March 18th

COMMUNITY MEAL THIS WEEK: 6:00pm to 6:30pm | Fellowship Hall | Free-will offering
Menu: Pizzas, Salad, Cookes & Bars

***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.

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FELLOWSHIP COFFEE Tuesday, March 17 | 9:30am | Fellowship Hall
Join us to enjoy time in fellowship with coffee and treats.
Kim Pang will join us to share Part 2 of his very interesting life story!

REJOICING SPIRITS Wednesday, March 18 | 5:00 pm | Fellowship Hall
Rejoicing Spirits is inclusive of all ages and abilities as we connect with God and one another. Join us as we learn about the miracles of Jesus through camp-style music, interactive skit, and prayer. Following the worship service, enjoy pizza and root beer floats for a free-will donation.

NEW TRINITY PICTURE DIRECTORY April 2026
Trinity will be making a new pictorial directory in April! We want everyone to have their picture taken at church so that our new directory will be complete. ***It won't be complete without you!***
You can make your appointment online– just go to the home page on our website. Please do that now!
Photo dates are: April 13-18 and April 20-22. You will have a photography session, see your proofs, get a free 8x10 picture, be included in this great connection tool, and have the opportunity to purchase extra portraits if you like. You may also sign up in person with scheduling volunteers who will be at a table at the east entrance before and after the Saturday service and between the Sunday services.
Questions? Contact carol.dettmer@trinity-mc.org Thank you!

COMMUNITY KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Our congregation provides 4-6 volunteers at the kitchen, two times per month: first Monday mornings from 9:00 to 12:30; fourth Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00. Typically, volunteers help prepare the meal by cleaning and preparing fresh fruit and vegetables, then helping serve the meal to the community, all the while enjoying the fellowship of one another. If you are interested in being a part of this opportunity, please use the sign up sheets outside of the church office! If you have any questions, volunteer coordinator Susan Bangert is happy to answer them at (515)341-2193.

EASTER AT TRINITY

BAPTISMS AT THE EASTER VIGIL SERVICE
Are you, or someone you know, interested in being baptized? We would love to talk with you about your 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 Chirstian church. Please contact the office or one of the Pastors to learn more.

BRASS MUCISIANS NEEDED FOR EASTER SUNDAY!
If you play a brass instrument and would like to play for the Easter Services, please contact Coby Gochanour at colbe.gochanour@trinity-mc.org.

EASTER GARDEN & MEMORIALS
Easter Plants for our Easter Garden can be purchased for $15 each to honor or remember a loved one. There is a limit of 30 to be designated. You can also honor or remember a loved one with an Easter Memorial, which is money given to a specific ministry. Sign up boards are posted outside the church office or you can call the church office with your request. The Easter garden and memorials sign-ups need to be received by Sunday, March 29.

2026 EASTER BAG FOOD PROJECT ***Donations are still being accepted!***
Thanks to all who have donated for this special, annual project for Trinity! As you can imagine, we have more requests than last year and look forward to providing for each one.
Donations are accepted online, using the special envelopes at the entrances and in the offering as well.
Contact the church by calling (641) 423-0536 or email at denise.lind@trinity-mc.org

TRINITY COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT Saturday, March 28 | 10am - 11am
Trinity will be hosting the annual Community Easter Egg Hunt for infants through 6th grade.
All children from the surrounding area are welcome to join us!

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.

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY "CROSS WALK" Friday April 3 | 12Noon
Join with others of the Mason City Christian Community as the cross is carried through the downtown area. Meet outside main entrance First United Methodist at 119 S. Georgia Ave. at 12:00 Noon.

GOOD FRIDAY CANTATA Friday, April 3 | 6:30 pm | Sanctuary
Our Good Friday Service will be the Cantata *"It is Finished"* featuring the Trinity Choir, Bronze Bell Choir and various instrumentalists from Trinity and the Community. Join us for this meaningful observance of Good Friday during Holy Week.

MONDAY, MARCH 16

9:00 AM	Quilting Workshop
9:00 AM	Centering Prayer (Rm 322 and on Zoom)
12Noon	Lenten Scripture Discussion (Fellowship Hall)
5:30 PM	Bronze Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

8:00 AM	BASES Exercise Class (Gathering Space)
9:30 AM	Fellowship Coffee (Fellowship Hall)
10:30AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry (Rm 307)
12Noon	Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

7:00 AM	Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
8:30 AM	Women's Bible Study (Library)
12:15 PM	Brown Bag Bach Organ Concert (Sanctuary)
1:00 PM	**Lenten Mid-Week Service (Chapel)**
2:00 PM	Cancer Support Group (Rm 300, Zoom)
5:00 PM	Rejoicing Spirits (Fellowship Hall)
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, MARCH 19

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 Congregational)
4:15 PM	Walking the Journey with Jesus (East Entrance)

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

5:00 PM	**WORSHIP SERVICE**

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

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

YOUTH LENTEN MEALS

The Trinity Youth will be serving just one more Lenten Wednesday Meal at 6:00pm. Join us to support their Youth Trip to California this summer with a free-will offering.
Their last fundraising meal will be on March 24 with a "Ball Park Menu" with Hot Dogs, Nachos and Ice Cream. You won't want to miss this fan favorite!

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS!
Join us for Packing Easter Food Bags.

Middle Schoolers are needed to help fill Easter Food Bags on Friday, March 27 from 4:00-6:00pm at Trinity. The bags will be distributed to families in need on Saturday. After filling the bags, we will eat pizza and hide Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt that will take place on Saturday, March 28th (10:00am-11:00am.) Please let Carol know if your 7th or 8th grader would like to help on Friday. Thank you!

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, rest, and many blessings as she begins this next chapter.

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.