



# Trinity Tidings

FEBRUARY 2024



*A newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church*

*63-70 Dry Harbor Road*

*Middle Village, NY 11379*

*Office – 718-335-7300*

Sunday School	Sunday 9:15am
Social Time	Sunday 10:00am
Worship Service	Sunday 10:30am <i>in person and on Zoom</i>

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church, founded in 1863 and confluent with Ascension, Glendale in 2011. We are a family of Christian believers called together by the Holy Spirit and dedicated to serving God and community. We are followers of the Lord Jesus; in our life together we seek the promise, the love, the peace and the hope, which are God's gifts to us as His people. Our doors and our hearts are open to you in God's name. We invite you to share with us the adventure of faith that unfolds each week at Trinity Lutheran Church. Our fellowship embraces many activities, to which you are most warmly invited.

Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).  
Church Office: 718-335-7300, 9:45am to 2:45pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

**ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS:** Zoom meeting ID = 7183357300, password= 11379

Using a phone, dial +16469313860

When prompted enter the meeting id followed by # 7183357300#

When prompted enter the password followed by # 11379#

## CHURCH STAFF AND TEAM

The Rev. Donald Lemke, Interim Pastor  
Mr. Frank B. Auriemma, Jr, Minister of Music  
Mrs. Renee Robertazzi, Parish Secretary  
Ms. Doris Tegge, Sunday School Coordinator

Mr. Vincent Mele, Sexton  
Dcn. Lois Jenkins, Synodical Deacon  
Dcn. Masayo Kagita, Synodical Deacon  
Ms. Masayo Kagita & Mr. Jeff Gardner, Worship  
Streaming Technical Team

Trinity Tidings is edited and published by Doris Tegge and Renee Robertazzi. We welcome articles and devotionals from our readers for the purpose of enriching our faith community. All articles and comments may be submitted to [information@trinitymiddlevillage.org](mailto:information@trinitymiddlevillage.org) or [administration@trinitymiddlevillage.org](mailto:administration@trinitymiddlevillage.org)

## PASTOR'S NOTE

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### FORTY DAYS, FORTY YEARS, LENT

The time we call Lent is based upon the periods of deprivation and transition experienced by the people of Israel. The people were uprooted from Egypt. They escaped an army by the opening of the Red Sea. But they complained that the vegetables aren't good enough and they want better bread and oh meat. And since Moses is up on the mountain, we need an Idol. And the journey became 40 YEARS. And more rules.

The forty days of Lent is intended to remind you of Jesus spending fasting days after his baptism. It is a graphic reminder of Jesus being recognized as the Son of God, driven and challenged, as a sign of Hope.

We often look at the 40 days of Lent as a time of penance so we give something up so we suffer. No meat, no ice cream, no wine, no, no, no... We journey the days of Lent expecting change. We invite you to live the calendar for 2024. Join us for Shrove Tuesday and throw out what traps us in the past. Live the journey with ashes that remind us to live on 14 February, not just exist. Be the offering and growth this Lent that changes the world. Walk this walk with us.

### FROM THE EDITOR

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The beginning of a New Year is the time for resolutions and new commitments. Mostly our initial energy fades as the realities and difficulties of life chip away at our resolve. Even in our privileged communities the challenges and obstacles we face when we look towards our goals can make us lose heart. What can be done when the world is falling apart? But God sees the big picture of which we know only a part. The great heroes of the Bible, Abraham and Moses, believed in God's promise but what they had hoped for was only realized in later generations. A hero of our time, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., never saw his dream realized. Yet today, others continue the work that he started. We may never see the outcome of our efforts, but we can all do our part. In the words of Mother Teresa, "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love."

### LOOK AT WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT TRINITY!

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#### IMPORTANT DATES

- *Annual Congregation Meeting – February 11 at 12:00pm*
- *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner – February 13 at 5:30pm*
- *Burning of Ashes – February 13 at 7:00pm*
- *Ash Wednesday worship and imposition of ashes – February 14*
- *Spring Market – March 9 from 9:00am to 3:00pm*
- *Palm Sunday – March 24 at 10:30am*
- *Maundy Thursday – March 28*
- *Good Friday – March 29*
- *The Resurrection of our Lord - March 31 at 10:30pm*





## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PLAY

On December 17, the Trinity Sunday School performed a short Christmas play about the experience of the shepherds who sought the Christ Child. The theme was that Jesus came for everyone and everyone is invited - even scruffy shepherds. Thank you, kids and parents, for your support!

Sunday School meets September through June at 9:15 on Sunday.

For more information contact Doris Tegge at [information@trinitymiddlevillage.org](mailto:information@trinitymiddlevillage.org)

## WELCOMING NEW COMMUNICANTS AND NEW MEMBERS

On January 7, Kaitlin, Connor and Sophia celebrated their First Communion. The children have been studying for weeks in preparation for this important milestone. On the same Sunday, Melissa Back and Kathleen McKeiver were received as members of Trinity. Welcome Melissa and Kathleen! A fabulous lunch was held after the service.



## EPIPHANY BLESSING OF THE CHURCH

Blessing the house on Epiphany is a Christian tradition that goes back many centuries. It is a simple ritual that asks Christ's blessing on the home, in this case our sanctuary. First a scripture verse is recited from the Gospel of John, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."* (John 1:1-4, 14, 16)

An inscription is marked over the entryway in chalk: 20+CMB+24 The 20+24 is the current year. CMB stands for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* or Christ Bless this House. Then we pray for Christ's blessing on the house and all who enter. You can see the chalk markings over all the entrances to the church. House blessing kits are available in the narthex for those who want to ask for Christ's blessing on their own home. This is a simple and lovely ritual that reminds people that we don't leave our faith behind when we leave the church building, but our homes can also be expressions of the love of Christ.



### TRINITY TOWN HALL

On January 28, Trinity held a Town Hall. 19 members were present, 13 in church and 6 on Zoom. Topics discussed included:

- Whether the clothing box be removed. Items are being left outside of the box. There has also been concern in the community about theft from the box.
- The leak in the sexton's apartment by the sprinkler pipe. The contractor will be contacted to resolve the issue.
- New folding chairs are needed because the present ones are breaking and disappearing. Possible opportunities for donations to buy new chairs were explored.
- Pastor Lemke spoke about the Transition Team. This team is a necessary part in preparation for the call of a permanent pastor. A meeting will be arranged with Mother Gladys and the Transition Team. Anyone interested in serving on the Transition Team should contact the church office.
- Pastor Lemke spoke about all the organizations that are regularly meeting at Trinity. In addition, more Production Companies are interested in using our space. This is an important source of income for Trinity.
- The settings for the liturgy. Some people find the musical settings hard to follow. Suggestions for changes will be reviewed by the Worship and Music Committee.
- AA was thanked for their donation.



### SCOUT SUNDAY

February 4 was Scout Sunday. Troop 106 Scouts and Cub Scouts attended the morning worship in their uniforms and gave a presentation of the Scout Law. The scouts are an important part of the Trinity community and are always ready to lend a hand. Scouting provides an environment in which young people can learn skills, develop character, and grow into contributing citizens.

## SPRITUAL REFLECTIONS

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### “COME AND SEE”

*The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He met Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Philip was from the town of Bethsaida, the same as Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the man that Moses wrote about in the law. The prophets wrote about him too. He is Jesus, the son of Joseph. He is from Nazareth.”*

*But Nathanael said to Philip, “Nazareth! Can anything good come from Nazareth?” Philip answered, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said, “This man coming is a true Israelite, one you can trust.” Nathanael asked, “How do you know me?”*

*Jesus answered, “I saw you when you were under the fig tree, before Philip told you about me.” Then Nathanael said, “Teacher, you are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel.” (John 1:43-49 ERV)*

After meeting and knowing Jesus of Nazareth, the Person that Moses and the prophets wrote about Who will redeem Israel, Philip wanted to share the good news with his friend, Nathanael. But his enthusiasm was met by Nathanael’s sarcasm, who said, “Nazareth! Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

Many Israelites shared Nathanael’s low regard for Nazareth. It was an obscure, forgotten town in Galilee, far from Jerusalem, the center of Jewish religious life. Nazareth was unknown even in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Although probably surprised by Nathanael’s reply, Philip did not patronize or argue with him. He did not cite any scriptural verses to persuade Nathanael. He just said, “Come and see.”

Nathanael agreed to meet Jesus and that changed his whole life. Jesus seemed to know everything about him – his nonsense honesty and truthfulness, even his routine of sitting under a fig tree. (Many Jews would plant a fig tree in their front yard and sit under its shade to study and pray.)

Probably inspired by the Holy Spirit, he realizes only God could know his personality and details of his daily life. He acknowledges Jesus’ divinity and confesses Him as the Son of God and the King of Israel – the Promised Messiah! This was a radical reversal for Nathanael -- from sarcasm and unbelief to faith.

Nathanael became one of the Twelve disciples of Jesus. The invitation to him has changed from “Come and see” to “Come and follow Me.”

Our preconceived ideas can inhibit us in sharing the Gospel. We do not want to sound “religious or too holy;” we are afraid to be asked difficult questions. But it is not about us; it is about God’s love offered to everyone despite the problems in finances, relationships, health or even loneliness. It is about God’s grace in Christ who offered His life on the Cross so that through faith in Him, anyone can find forgiveness for sin and be reconciled with God.

Our role is simply to invite the “Philip’s” around us to “come and see” Jesus and what He is doing in our life -- nothing fancy, nothing complex. We have God’s promise that the Holy Spirit will teach us the words to say when the time comes (Lk. 12:11-12).

Prayer: Dear God, sustain us in our desire to invite others to come and see Jesus in our life with Him. In His Name. Amen.

Reflection: Jesus knows you by name and every detail of your life. How does this fact affect your view of the problems you are facing now?

## **PRAYER, BIBLE STUDY, AND FELLOWSHIP**

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### **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

We are a small group of women from various churches that meet every 2nd Friday of the Month. Bring a sandwich and we'll provide coffee and tea and something sweet.

Here we are enjoying Christmas cheer at our December meeting.



### **TRINITY WEEKDAY PRAYER GROUP**

Monday through Friday, 12:15pm – 1:15pm, on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/7183357300> password = 11379

### **MORNING TRINITY BIBLE STUDY WITH REV. DON LEMKE**

Thursdays, 10:30am, on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/7183357300> password = 11379, Dial-up +1 646 558 8656.

### **WESTERN QUEENS CONFERENCE PRAYER MEETING**

Wednesdays, 7:00pm, on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/6370126621> password = 062145

### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH BIBLE STUDY WITH HOWARD COHEN, BILL GATI AND DONNA KUHNER**

Tuesdays, 7:30pm, on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/2729059246>, Dial-up +1 646 8769923

### **DAILY PRAYER LINE WITH DCN. INGRID COMPTON**

Monday through Friday, 6:00am, Phone# 605-468-8820, access code = 1885702

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE**

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### **TRANSITION TEAM**

The process of calling a permanent pastor to Trinity requires the formation of a Transition Team. We need people to participate in this effort so that our congregation can move forward. No previous experience is required. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office or email [information@trinitymiddlevillage.org](mailto:information@trinitymiddlevillage.org)

### **TRINITY WORSHIP**

Volunteers are needed each Sunday to read the lessons in person or on Zoom.  
Volunteers are needed to assist with the Eucharist, usher, and deliver communion.  
Contact Lois Jenkins at [council-president@trinitymiddlevillage.org](mailto:council-president@trinitymiddlevillage.org)

### **CLOTHING BOX DROP**

The large orange container is near the church entrance on Dry Harbor Road. Please do not leave items next to the container. The container is emptied multiple times each week.

### **FINANCIAL**

Support needed to continue ministry is estimated at \$3,500 per week to cover salaries, insurance, utilities, and repairs. Current weekly donations are falling short of the required amount, requiring that money be withdrawn from investment accounts to pay bills. Please be generous.

Income from community use of the fellowship hall is becoming an important source of income for Trinity. Anyone interested in using the Trinity campus space should contact the office or email [adminitration@trinitymiddlevillage.org](mailto:adminitration@trinitymiddlevillage.org)

### PROPERTY

Please consider making a special donation towards the repair and maintenance of the Trinity campus. There is currently water damage that needs to be repaired.

### FUTURE MINISTRY

Donations continue to be needed to support our technical ministry. This includes sound and video equipment, streaming, WIFI, and online hosting. The technology enables Trinity to reach out to a wide range of people.

### STEWARDSHIP

In addition to worship service offerings, donations can be made online by clicking the DONATE button on [trinitymiddlevillage.org](http://trinitymiddlevillage.org) or going directly to [tithely](http://tithely.com). You can also use the QR code on the right to make a secure electronic donation.



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## IN THE COMMUNITY

### STACEY'S PANTRY

48-08 91<sup>st</sup> Place, Elmhurst  
Saturdays, 8:00am – 10:00am  
Contact 917-533-1679 or [stjacobuspastor@gmail.com](mailto:stjacobuspastor@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/Staceyspantryelmhurst/>

### FOOD MINISTRY AT ST. JAMES – ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

119-15 135<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South Ozone Park  
Thursdays 3:00pm-4:pm, sign up by Wednesday  
Contact 718-845-8770 or [foodin11420@gmail.com](mailto:foodin11420@gmail.com)

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## ON THE CAMPUS

### AA

AA continues meeting on our campus on Mondays & Wednesdays at 10:30am (open discussions) and Tuesdays (beginners) & Thursdays (step meeting) at 7:30pm. Pray for their ministry of healing.

### BOY SCOUTS

On Black Friday, November 23, 2023, the Boy Scouts and friends made almost 600 wreaths to sell, this is their biggest fundraiser of the year!

Boy Scout troop 106 meets Fridays 7:30pm in the Education Center.

### GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scout troop 04633 meets Fridays in the Education Center.

Girl Scout Daisies meet Monday afternoons in the Parish Hall



## CUB SCOUTS TROOP 106

Cub Scout Pack 106 has been having a wonderful and productive winter. In December, the scouts held a beautifully decorated holiday party in the fellowship hall, where they celebrated the season together with friends, gifts and a special visitor dressed in red! The scouts also finished collecting for the Jared Box project, where they made many wonderful donations to the children's hospital and family shelters. Some scouts were able to place wreaths at Cypress Hills Ceremony in part of Wreaths Across America. Once again, we thank the church and everyone who donated to any of our collections this fall/winter. Now, the scouts are working feverishly on their Pinewood Derby cars, a special event that requires the scouts and families to create and race a wooden car down a track. It's one of the most popular events all year long! Wish us luck!

Email: [Communications.pack106@gmail.com](mailto:Communications.pack106@gmail.com)

Website: <http://cubscoutpack106.weebly.com/>



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## MEMORIALS

In loving memory of **Kay Treiling** by  
Lillian Hoffmann

In loving memory of **Noel Davis** by  
Lillian Hoffmann

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## PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW

**Q:** *How did Valentine's Day come about?*

**A:** When Valentine's Day became popular in the Middle Ages, the climate was warmer than it is now. Birds mated, flowers bloomed, and love blossomed. Greenland really had green pastures and Vikings ran cattle. During this period, springtime in Italy frequently began in February.

Originally the Romans had a mid-February fertility festival, Lupercalin, to celebrate the change in seasons. In A.D. 496, Pope Gelasius 1 replaced the raunchy affair with a St. Valentine's Day.

That should have ended everything. St. Valentine was a nice guy who was kind to children, helped the early Christians, and was executed on February 14<sup>th</sup>. There was nothing lusty about him. (However, some legends say he healed and befriended his jail keeper's daughter and sent her a farewell note, "From your Valentine.")

So, what do you get when you combine a romantic saint with the beginning of Spring? A mushy mid-February holiday. *Submitted by Joyce Beaudoin*



## TRINITY LEADERSHIP

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Rev. Don Lemke  
Dcn. Lois Jenkins - President  
Dorothy Russo - Vice President  
Lillian Hoffmann - Treasurer  
Doris Tegge - Secretary

Joyce Beaudoin  
Sandy Boos  
Rich Eichinger  
Muriel (Didee) Davis  
Dcn. Masayo Kagita

Nancy Keicher  
Bill Muller  
Cyndy Rooney  
Karin Spykerman

A copy of the council minutes is available on request. Email [information@trinitymiddlevillage](mailto:information@trinitymiddlevillage)

## TRINITY TIDINGS BOOSTERS

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Marilyn Adamo  
Kenny Ash  
Joyce Beaudoin  
Jo-Ann Benini  
The Boos Family  
Boy Scout Troop 106  
Eva Calov  
Muriel Davis  
Joan Dowdle  
Ted & Laura Fackelman  
Bob Firneis  
Lori Grill  
Jim & Ann Haas e  
Egbert & Dorothy Hardin  
Lillian Hoffmann

Nilda Janacek  
Gloria & John Krebs  
Dorothy Kummer  
Pastor Don Lemke  
Henrietta & Erwin Markisch  
John Maysonet  
Rev. Thomas Mugavero  
Kay Neuendorf  
Joyce Norgalis  
Emma Richter  
Janet & Jerry Rugg  
Edna Schwenk  
Rev. E. Phillip Sebastian  
Linda Swiatocha  
Eleanor Tuohy

Marie Wengert  
Anthony Zalak

### IN MEMORIAM:

Ezio Benini  
Olga Finneran  
Elsie H. Johnson  
Florence & Henry Limbach  
Pastor Leo E. Longan  
Rev. Paul J. Pfadenhauer  
Dorothy Rentel  
Kathleen Treiling  
James J. Tuohy

### Help Support This Newsletter – Be a Trinity Tidings Booster

Yes, I will “boost” my favorite parish newsletter. Enclosed is my contribution of \$10.00 and my name as I want it to appear on the Booster pages.

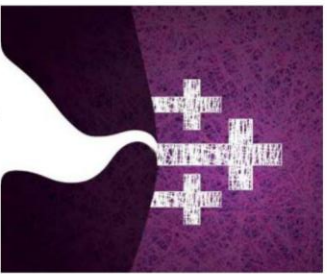
NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: **Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Send to: Trinity Lutheran Church, 63-70 Dry Harbor Road, Middle Village, NY 11379.



# 2024 Lenten Calendar

Offering and Growth at  
Trinity Church

40 Days to Change the World

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
18	What are you most grateful for? Name it	19	Pray for those who think they are in power	20	Pray for the sick	21	Pray for healthcare workers	22	Pray for those that work for justice. Give thanks for Global Refuge	23	Fast from sugar	24	Pray for your congregation. Give thanks for MNYS and the ELCA
25	Pray for those who have died in the past year	26	Think about how the holy spirit manifests in your life. Be amazed	27	Pray for enough water	28	Pray for someone that needs healing	29	Pray for those struggling with addiction. Give thanks for AA	March 1	Be gluten, nut, and shellfish free today. Pray for those with severe allergies	2	Fast from screens (no TV, no phone, computer, etc.)
3	Get up early and spend 15 minutes in <u>prayer</u> and <u>silence</u>	4	Pray for those in prison	5	Pray for help and the willingness to receive it	6	Pray for the children of your congregation, past and present	7	Pray for peace among nations and unity	8	Fast from stuff	9	Pray for forgiveness. Shed Guilt
10	Think about a part of today's service that made your heart swell	11	Pray for soup kitchens and those that serve the poor	12	Pray for the youth that served your congregation	13	Pray for the young adults of the congregation	14	Pray for your Pastor and the diaconal of your congregation	15	Fast from gossip	16	Pray for your ancestors
17	What does it mean for Jesus to be "The Intercessor?"	18	Notice yourself showing partiality to others and stop in both directions	19	Fast from news. Enjoy the silence	20	Pray for new members of your congregation	21	Contemplate what it means for you to be content. What is stopping you?	22	Fast from political debate	23	Pray on the thought "how can I help?"
24 – Palm Sunday	Apologize to someone you have hurt. Make amends	25	Pay attention to someone you are tempted to brush aside	26	Pray for the person who brought you into your faith	27	Pray for the staff of your congregation	28 – Maundy Thurs	Pray for those who serve your parish	29 – Good Friday	Fast Be Still	30 – Holy Saturday	Think of Mary after Jesus' death. Breathe