



The Trinity Truth

March 2017



Reformation 500 Continued

With the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, I thought we might take a look at how so many things in the church calendar changed due to Martin Luther's insights. Let's begin with Lent.

The Church in the Middle Ages had a works based message and theology. What counted, they said, was what you were doing for God; not what God had done for you. When it came to observing Lent, their theology led them to tell their people that sacrifice and special good works prescribed by the church would give you special

attention from God. Therefore, Lent became all about "giving things up" to earn God's favor. One could also add Pilgrimages to sites identified by the church, or other special activities that earned the Christian advantages before God.

When Luther identified both the Gospel and Justification by faith, he upended this works based system. Luther advocated keeping the Lenten observance; but changing its focus. Instead of giving things up to earn God's favor, Luther taught that we exercise our faith and build our Christian character

when we fast or deny ourselves things we would like. But more than self denial during Lent, those who followed after Luther encouraged the church to add to their spiritual life rather than take things away. Extra services were added in Lent. More time was carved out for prayer and Bible reading. Far from gaining the favor of God, these additions were a blessing to the individual believer. They helped us grow stronger and wiser in our faith.

Luther also had an impact on the church calendar.

Pastor Tom's Article Continued on Page 3.

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Sunday School News

Sunday School Students will be finishing up a study of Jesus' miracles and later in the month, they will observe Lent by beginning to learn about the events of Holy Week.

Class meets each Sunday from 9:20-10:15 AM.

Children age 3-grade 6 are welcome to participate in class.

Students in grades 7-12 are welcome to be classroom helpers.

Please contact the Director of Family Ministry with any questions.



Middle School Youth News

Confirmation Class Due to different school spring break schedules, classes will not meet on March 6 or 13.

Confirmation class for 5th and 6th graders will meet on March 20 and 27

from 4:00-5:00 PM.

Jr. High Camp

Invite a friend to join us at Jr. High Camp this May at Tonto Rim Christian Camp near Payson.

Camp runs Thursday through Sunday,

May 25-28. Cost is \$100 per person.

Please contact the Director of Family Ministry, for more information or if you have any questions



Like Us On Facebook

Trinity now has an official Facebook page. If you are on Facebook, take a minute to stop over to <https://www.facebook.com/tlcfhaz/> to like our

page. You will get updates and reminders about happenings at Trinity. We will also be trying some things out during Lent to complement

our mid-week worship services.

Pastor Tom's Article Continued

Instead of special feast days for numerous saints that few knew, understood, or could even prove that they existed; Luther and his followers took us back to the catalogue of saints as found in the Scriptures. These were people identified by the Holy Spirit as worthy of following.

Once again, no special favor came from such observations. The Christian found encouragement and focus from the life of the saints who had gone before them.

This year at Trinity, our Lenten focus will be on the Word of God. Each week we will examine a different type of Scripture, as our

God communicates His wisdom and love to us. We will begin on Ash Wednesday with a focus on Law and Gospel. May God bless us as we add a little more Biblical knowledge to our lives this Lent.

Pastor Tom

Soup Suppers

Soup suppers will be offered on Wednesdays during Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 1. Suppers will be served from 5:45-6:30 PM.

Three volunteers are needed each week to prepare a

large crock pot of soup (crock pots are available to borrow from Trinity, if you do not have your own) **and also help set up and clean up after the meals.**

Please sign up on the poster outside of the Director of Family Ministry office if you

are willing to serve in this capacity.

Please contact Christine or Grace if you have any questions.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline to submit news items for the April edition of *The Trinity Truth* is Tuesday, March 21.

Please email items to: newsed@tlc.phxcoxmail.com or drop them by the church

office. Thanks!



INTRODUCING ON-LINE GIVING



We are pleased to announce a convenient new way for you to make your regular offerings. **With Trinity's new electronic giving program, you can easily set up a recurring giving schedule or make one-time contributions.** We encourage you to set up a schedule of recurring contributions. It's convenient for you and provides much-needed consistency

for our church. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, our church will continue to receive your contributions on an uninterrupted basis.

www.tlcfhaz.org and look for the on-line giving link. It will take you to our on-line giving page where you can quickly and easily register. If you would rather not register on-line, please ask the church office for an authorization form and we will register for you.

Carol,
Stewardship
Chairperson

How do you become an electronic giver? It is simple. Just go to our website:

Bible Reading and Discussion This Lent



As Pastor Tom mentioned in his article, this Lent our worship services will be focused on exploring the Word of God by looking at different types of Scripture.

We will be looking at the diversity and beauty of Scripture.

- Law and Gospel
- Old and New Testament
- The writings of Moses

- The Gospels
- The writings of the Prophets
- The writings of the Apostles

Each worshipper will be given selections of readings from each of these sections of Scripture to take home and read throughout the week.

Informal discussions

about the readings will take place on Trinity's Facebook page.

So be sure to visit and like our page if you are on Facebook (information is found on the second page of this publication).

We look forward to digging deeper in to the richness of God's Word with you!

Trinity's 25th Anniversary Celebrations

As Trinity reaches this special milestone, there are multiple events that take place throughout the year for our celebration.

March 12 will be the Kick-Off Brunch held in between services. Full details of that event are found below.

At the end of April we will join together in a picnic.

In September we will have multiple opportunities to serve our community in thanksgiving of being part of such a great town for the last 25 years.

The "official" commemoration of Trinity's anniversary will be marked in November. There will be a special brunch and worship service.

More details about these events will be made available very soon.

In addition to these events, Trinity's retired pastors and those who have served at Trinity in the past have been invited to speak at worship services throughout the year; all celebrating the theme: *Lifting High The Cross!*



25th Anniversary Celebration Kick-Off Event

Join us for a special brunch to kick-off our year of 25th anniversary celebrations on Sunday, March 12, in between services- beginning at about 9:05 AM.

This special brunch will be catered by The Saddle Bronc Grill. The catered meal will include

Salmon and other delicious brunch items!

Please sign up on the bulletin board outside of the Director of Family Ministry Office in the Narthex hallway if you plan to attend.

A free will offering will be gathered to help defray costs for this event.

We hope to see you there!!





Link to online Calendar:

<http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/calendar.aspx?ci=G1J4L6M7K5K5O9L6I3>



Ushers Needed

Ushers at Trinity play a vital role in welcoming members and guests into the sanctuary and in helping worship services run smoothly.

Ushering is a great way to serve the Lord and let His love and light flow through you as you welcome others into His house.

If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Steve.

Ps. New ushers are paired with those who have been serving as ushers for a while to learn the ropes.

25th Anniversary Help Needed



The Inreach Team is planning a festive brunch for the 25th anniversary celebration in November 2017.

For this special occasion, we are looking for fluted champagne glasses and six piece silverware sets that

members are no longer using and wish to donate to the church.

Please contact Debbie if you would like to make a donation or have questions.

Lutheran Women In Mission



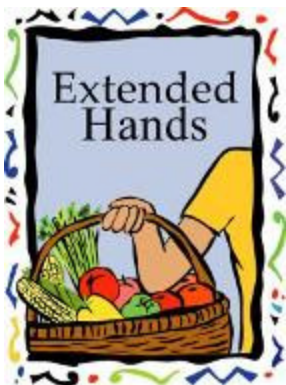
Trinity's LWML will meet on **Saturday, March 18, at 10:00 AM** for their regular monthly meeting. All women of Trinity are invited to attend this time that includes a Bible devotion and

discussion about current and upcoming projects upon which the group is working.

LWML Mite Sunday will be March 26. Please bring in your filled

mite boxes to either worship service on that day. Anyone (young or old, male or female) can fill a mite box with loose change. *Please pick up an empty Mite Box from the table in the narthex.*

Extended Hands Food Bank



During the month of March we will continue to collect paper goods (toilet paper, tissues, paper towel) in addition to our

regular collection of nonperishable foods for the Extended Hands Food Bank.

Please place all donations in the green receptacles

located by both of the main entrance doors of Trinity.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Cookbook Update

The LWML cookbook project continues to progress. We thank the 83 TLC members and friends who submitted 353 delicious recipes. Many of the dishes in the cookbook have already been tried at the various TLC functions and several are treasured family recipes handed down from generations. The Inreach Team will feature a "Frequently Requested" recipe for fellowship on two Sundays of each month during the year. These recipes can also be found in the cookbook.

The cookbook team has been quite busy in coordinating all parts necessary to create this special 25th anniversary edition of the first ever cookbook created at TLC. The team first edited each recipe for accuracy prior to

submitting to the publisher. The second edit was done comparing the recipes to the draft cookbook. They found over fifty corrections during this process. The cookbook parts will be delivered toward the end of March. The next step will be to assemble the cookbooks by inserting the individual pages into the cookbook cover. That should be completed in early April, when the cookbooks will go on sale for \$15 per book.

Special thanks go to Bill Kabat, a frequent visitor to TLC and a professional photographer, for creating the cover photo and an updated picture of the three crosses that will be on the inside cover page. The LWML team also extends

heartfelt thanks to an anonymous donor who made this project possible by covering the printing cost estimated at \$1,500. Proceeds from the Cookbook sale will be used for a special holiday project to be developed later this year.

Please reserve your cookbook with Debbie .

Please make checks out to LWML.

We will mail your paid copies free of charge if you depart prior to their delivery to TLC.

Christine and Debbie, Cookbook Committee Co-Chairs



Trinity Lutheran Church

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March Worship Schedule

8:00 AM Worship

Followed by Fellowship

9:20 AM Christian Education for all ages

10:30 AM Worship

Holy Communion is celebrated at all Sunday morning worship services.

Mid-Week Lenten Worship Schedule Begins March 1

Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017 Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes at 12:00 NOON and 7:00 PM.

All other Wednesdays in March Worship is at 7:00 PM.

A Complimentary Soup Supper is offered beginning at 5:45 PM.

Bible Studies

Sunday morning at 9:20 AM with Pastor Tom

Tuesday morning at 10:00 AM with Pastor Tom

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

Please call (480)837-0130 to confirm times and places

