

THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

~Welcome to Trinity Lutheran...Warm Hearts and Willing Hands~



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

This is a letter of apology for my sermon on February 1st. I let my personal frustrations and my fears for my family and friends cloud how I preached that morning.

I would have preached a more nuanced sermon if I had realized how my emotions were affecting me.

After a conversation with members of the Call Committee and Care Committee I realized that my emotions blinded me from preaching the Gospel to you that Sunday and I am truly sorry.

I promise that I will not preach such a heavily laden political sermon from Trinity's pulpit again.

I pray that you can forgive me as we move forward in our ministry together.

Sincerely,
Pastor Eunice Woodberry



The church council and call committee are holding an Open Forum meeting on Wednesday, March 4th after our Lenten service. We ask that you all attend!

We will be discussing the goals and Blessings we have as a church family, any concerns or issues you may have, and any needs to address as we move forward this year.

We pray for your input and support.

If you have any questions, please contact any council or call committee member.

COUNCIL MINUTES

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President:; Nikki Smith
Vice President: Laurie Wille
Secretary: Kathy Wilkening
Financial Admin: Nikki Smith
Christian Ed: Ashley Parish
Ch Properties: Mark Durkee
Stewardship: Margaret Durkee
Lay Ministry: Donna Kotewa
Worship: Yvonne Noorlun
Youth: Ashley Parish



**Trinity Lutheran Church
 Council Meeting
 Wednesday February 11, 2026**

Member Present: Kathy Wilkening Ashley Parish
 Yvonne Noorlun Nikki Smith
 Donna Kotewa Laurie Wille

Pastors Report: Pastor Eunice preached 3 Sundays in January, visited 5 shut-ins, 1 baptism, and 1 funeral. The worship committee will find helpers for Lenten service worship. Participated in an Interim pastors meeting on Zoom. Attended the Watonwan Conference pastor meeting.

Secretary Report Kathy Wilkening - Laurie motioned to accept as read and Yvonne second.

Treasure Report Nikki Smith - January expenses were \$8,315 and income was \$4,886 with loss of \$3,429. Donna motioned to accept and Laurie second.

Stewardship None

Lay Ministry Donna Kotewa - One Baptism and cards

Church Properties Day Plumbing came for annual service on furnace system and new filters

Christian Ed/GIFT Ashley Parish- January 21 GIFT was canceled due to a storm. GIFT will meet on Feb. 4th and 18th and will be learning about Moses.

Youth Ashley Parish - On January 25th, 10 youth went ice skating in Fairmont. On February 15th the Youth Group will have a lock-in at the church from 8pm to 9am. They will be playing games, singing karaoke, and watching a movie. Youth will be making 3 Lenten meals serving chili, tacos, and a pasta bar.

Worship Yvonne Noorlun - Ash Wednesday is February 18 with communion. March 4th Cheesy Chicken sandwiches and 18th Beef Stew and Bread

Sticks with WELCA. Youth will serve the meal on February 25, March 11 and 25th.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Laurie motioned to have an Open Forum Congregational meeting to discuss the future of Trinity Church. Ashley second. If you have a concern please call someone on the Call Committee, Pastoral Committee or Council member.

Donna motioned to adjourn at 9:30 and Laurie second.

Submitted by Secretary
 Kathy Wilkening



Treasurer's Summary Report As of January 31, 2026

Checking Account Bal.	\$53,755
Savings Account Bal.	\$69,256
JANUARY:	
General Fund Income	\$ 3,454
General Fund Expenses	\$ 6,944
Net short	-\$ 3,490
FEBRUARY:	
Cash Available	\$53,755
Bills to pay	\$ 6,629
Cash long	\$47,126

WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE READINGS – MARCH

DATE	1ST READING	PSALM	2ND READING	GOSPEL
March 1-2nd Lent	Gen 12:1-4a	121	Rom 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
March 8-3rd Lent	Exod 17:1-7	95	Rom 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
March 15-4th Lent	1 Sam 16:1-13	23	Eph 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
Mar 22– 5th Lent	Ezek 37:1-14	130	Rom 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
Mar 29-Palm Sun	Isa 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Phil 2:5-11	Matt 26:14—27:66



Youth Director Newsletter March 2026

As I am writing my newsletter, I am also preparing for the lock-in at the church for the Youth Group. A lock-in at the church was one of the most requested activities for us to do. We will play games, sing karaoke, eat snacks and have fellowship. I think it is pretty neat that the youth wanted to not only spend time with their friends, but that they were wanting to spend the night at the church. I have always appreciated that our church is so welcoming. I remember walking into the church for the first time and I was greeted by a very friendly congregation. I remember having a feeling of acceptance and somehow a feeling of belonging. As my kids and I became more involved with the church, I was pleasantly surprised by the relationships that were quickly established. I have developed many friendships with many people that I may not have known if it were not for this church. I am able to watch my daughters get hugs from younger kids that go to GIFT. I saw how much it meant to Mariel when Cathy and Kathy surprised her by coming to one of her hockey games. Nikki has become a wonderful friend, coach and supporter to myself and my family. When we visit members of our community, we are always greeted with a friendly smile. The relationships that are made at Trinity span over multiple generations. I am proud to say that this congregation has become an extension of my own family.

As a congregation, we step up, we help each other out, we pray for each other and we cheer each other on. I am so proud to be a part of this church family!

EVENTS:

March 4th NO GIFT due to Spring Break

March 11th Lenten Supper served by the Youth at 5:15pm
(We will be having Tacos, ice cream and a beverage.)

March 18th GIFT 2:15pm-5:30pm

March 25th Lenten Supper served by the Youth at 5:15pm (We will be having a pasta bar, salad, garlic bread, beverage and dessert.)

Ashley Parish-Youth Director



Youth Lock-In. Pictured in front (L-R) Brayden Trueblood, Carleigh Hoiseth, Loriah Young, Charisma Hoiseth, Parker Sandwick and Liam Werner
Back (L-R) Gage Moon, Hannah Trueblood, Sophia Carlson, Collyn Vogel, Callie Parish, Mariel Parish & Carter Werner.

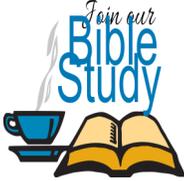
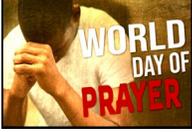
<u>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</u>	<u>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</u>
Worship Service at 10:00 am Live streamed on our FB page	Mon-8-11 Wed-8-11, 1-4 Fri-8-11



Acolytes for March

Mar 1– Grayson W & Zach S.
 Mar 8– Sydney B & Alex Ebert
 Mar 15 –Callie P & Sophia C
 Mar 22 - Jackson H & Aubree H
 Mar 29—Gabby G & Gage Moon

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 <u>Communion</u>	2	3 9:45 Open Bible Study 	4 NO GIFT Lent Supper 5:15-6:15 Lent Worship 6:30 pm	5	6 	7 Spring ahead tonight 
8 <u>Communion</u>	9	10	11 Conf 4-5 pm Lent Supper 5:15-6:15 Lent Worship 6:30 pm Council mtg after service	12	13	14
15 Pastor Heather Culuris from Synod to preach	16 Brenda on vacation	17  Saint Patrick's Day	18 GIFT class 2:15-5:30 Lent Supper 5:15-6:15 Lent Worship 6:30 pm	19	20 	21
22 Keegan Hastad to lead worship	23 Newsletter DEADLINE!	24	25 Conf. 4-5 pm Lent Supper 5:15-6:15 Lent Worship 6:30 pm	26	27	28
29 <u>Communion</u> 	30 9 am Quilting (bring a sack lunch today)	31 Days  QUILTERS		<u>March Ushers</u> Ross Ringeisen & Rick Davis	<u>Lay Readers</u> 1-Margaret 8-Brenda H 15-LeAnn M 22-Donna K 29-Dave S	<u>Comm Servers</u> 1-Sandy M 8-Ross R 29-Yvonne



WELCA News

Thank you Barb Shoen for leading the quilting group all these years. Barb Shoen and Geri Peterson have sewn all the tops and matched them with backing fabric. So the work goes very fast as we only had 5 ladies who were able to work in January. The quilt group tied 5 baby quilts, 2 lap robes, 4 large quilts and pinned 7 quilts for the February quilting days.

Next time we meet to sew is February 23 and 24, March 30 and 31.

WELCA will be serving 2 Lenten meals this year.

March 4 - Cheesie Chicken sandwiches
Chips and Bars
March 18 - Beef Stew Bread Sticks and Cookies

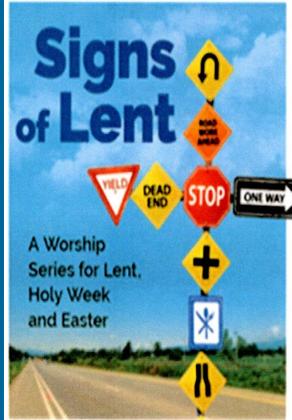
WELCA met February 10 at 9:30 after Tuesday coffee.

Discussed upcoming Lenten meals
Easter Gifts for shut-ins
Graduation Quilts
Missions Program for 2026 will be School Kits and Bravo Zulu

Mark your calendar. The Spring Festival will be in Madelia on April 14

Open bible study is the first Tuesday of the month. March 3 and April 7

~Kathy Wilkening



Lenten SCHEDULE

Wednesday, February 25 - Lenten Meal from 5:15 - 6:15
(Serving Chili and all the fixings cookies and a beverage) - Youth
Lenten Worship at 6:30 pm (First sign is STOP) w/Holden Service

Wednesday, March 4 - Lenten Meal from 5:15 - 6:15
(Serving Cheesy Chicken Sandwiches, Chips and Bars) - WELCA
Lenten Worship at 6:30 pm (Second sign is MERGE) w/Holden Service

Wednesday, March 11 - Lenten Meal from 5:15 - 6:15
(Serving Taco's and all the fixings and ice cream) - Youth
Lenten Worship at 6:30 pm (Third sign is YIELD) w/Holden Service

Wednesday, March 18 - Lenten Meal from 5:15 - 6:15
(Serving Beef Stew, Breadsticks and Cookies) - WELCA
Lenten Worship at 6:30 pm (Forth sign is ONE WAY) w/Holden Service

Wednesday, March 25 - Lenten Meal from 5:15 - 6:15
(Serving a Pasta Bar with Garlic bread, salad and dessert) - Youth
Lenten Worship at 6:30 pm (Fifth Sign is DEAD END) w/Holden Service
(All meals are Free Will Donation)

Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday - Worship at 10 am

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday - Worship at 6:30 pm

Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday - Worship at 10 am

UPDATE ON THE GROCERY RECEIPTS:



Fareway-\$114,155.80

Hy-Vee-\$102,599.25

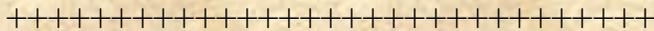
Keep those receipts coming!!

***Please make sure the receipts are not getting cut off -- this makes them useless.*

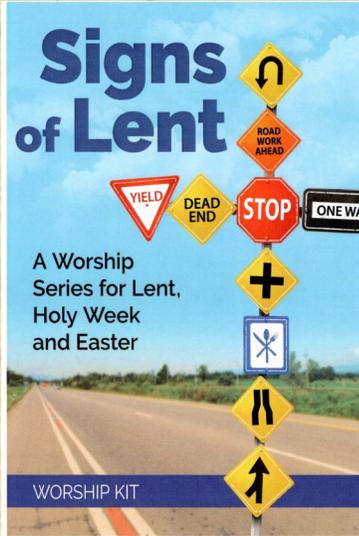
NEWS FROM OUR PARISH



Lauren Mae Flohrs was baptized at Trinity on February 1, 2026 by Pastor Eunice Woodberry. Her parents are Nicole and Kyle Flohrs. Laurens Sponsors are Jared Flohrs, Alexa Steele and Angie Sell.



Violet Elizabeth DeLong was baptized on February 15 at Shepard of the Hill Lutheran Church in Elk Mound, WI. Her parents are Elizabeth & Jordon DeLong. Violet's sponsors are Emily Finbraaten and Grant Lang. Her grandparents from Trinity are Donna & Sam Kotewa.



Our Worship Series for Lent is called:

“Signs of Lent”

Like signs we see along the roads that tell us what to do, we see signs along the way on our Lenten journey that show us the way to Christ.

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THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS



Through Thrivent Choice, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations and congregations.

\$769.00 deposit

We need to continue to apply to Thrivent for funding for our Church projects. Contact Yvonne Noorlun and she will help you with the application process!

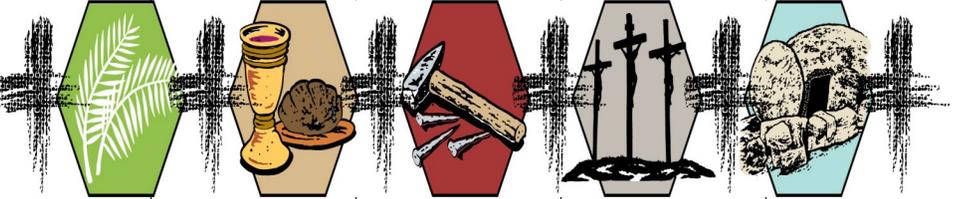


We remember in our prayers...all who face catastrophic illness, surgery, and bindings of all kinds as well as the homebound:

Jerry Teig, Norman & Marilyn Anderson, Linnea Huss, and Dan Strausser,
Be present with your Spirit, Lord, and lead us to be your presence to all. Amen.



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Carter Werner	2 	3	4 Dan & Nikki Smith (20 years) 	5 Kim Hastad Luke Kester	6	7 Brytni (Drevlow) Pettersen
8	9 Tallin Cook	10 Tom Dodge	11 Sandy Meyer	12 Tom Kneeland	13 Mike & Paula Heckman (6 years)	14 Muriel Druck (96 years) 
15	16	17 Ashlyn Cook Chris Hyndman June Speckhals	18	19	20 Colby Brudelig Jerry Teig (90 years) 	21 Julie Brudelig Jerome & Laurie Wille (45 years) 
22 Carson Hastad Karen Nickerson	23	24	25 Don & Kathy Wilkening (59 years) 	26 Darrell Buhmann (89 years)	27	28 Dan & Denise Janssen (28 years)
29 Donna Kotewa	30 Darin Carlson Don & Sandy Meyer (41 years)	31 				

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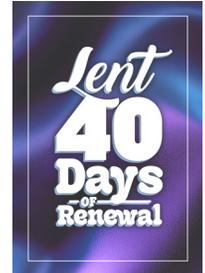
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- 7 March Birthday/Anniv.



Scan code to Give!

THE MESSENGER

March 2026



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SOCIAL

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