



TRINITY TIDINGS

February, 2020

Believing in Christ, we are called to grow and are sent to serve.

Thinking Out Loud With Pastor Josh

If you read my newsletter post from January (I'll give you a second to grab it, I'm sure it there on the fridge), or you've spent more than 5 minutes around me, you'll know that I like to think up wacky ideas. I tend to have more questions than answers, more thoughts and than concrete solutions.

I have another one: what if we all, as in all of us at Trinity, read a book together? For Lent.

Okay, let's do it!

The book is Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times, by Adam Hamilton. Hamilton is a Methodist pastor who is also a prolific writer with an uncanny sense that churches like to study and talk about topics during the season of Lent. Thus, this particular book is broken into five sections to match the five weekends and midweek services of Lent when we can get together to study and have talk. He also, in his uncanny marketing wisdom, puts out DVDs that match the sections and help build on the theme of the series.

And every single book I've read and led from Pr Hamilton is great. He is the living example of the adage, why reinvent the wheel when a pastor somewhere else has the time and skill to craft an excellent one?

BTW, these are the five sections he covers:

1. Understanding and Countering Fear
2. Crime, Race, Terrorism, and Politics
3. Failure, Disappointing Others, Insignificance, and Loneliness
4. Apocalypse, Change, Missing Out, and Finances
5. Aging, Illness, Dying, and Fear of the Lord

These are so good. We could spend weeks on each one. But we won't, one week each.

Here's the really wacky part. We will do this group study multiple ways. For one, we'll use those Sundays after worship in Lent to dig into the sections. We will also use our midweek worship times to reflect on the sections. I am also proposing a book club to digest some of these materials. Meet up at a host's home and share our wisdom outside of the church. We could easily have several short term book groups going.

Ordering the book is easy, its on Amazon and elsewhere (cheap plug to use AmazonSmile and note Trinity Lutheran Church). If you're a Kindle user, its \$4.99, hardcovers are \$16.50. We will put together an order list in the office during February. I will put out a sign up for the book club(s) and start asking around.

I know, this is crazy. All of us studying and thinking and praying together as one body. I hope you are able to join this Lenten conversation as part of our *City on a Hill*.

Trust in God's Grace, Pr Josh Ehrler

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, Feb 26, 7:00pm

TRINITY LUTHERAN'S MISSION STATEMENT

Believing in Christ, we are Called to Grow and Sent to Serve

TRINITY LUTHERAN'S CORE VALUES

1. We believe Jesus Christ is our Savior and Lord.
2. We are a faith community striving to create a safe space inclusive and accepting of God's people, regardless of race, gender, orientation, age, or status.
3. We learn as we teach, sharing our faith and being an example of Christ in our community.
4. In partnership with our Lutheran synod, neighboring congregations, and civic organizations, we enrich the quality of life of God's people through our resources, time, and skills.
5. We offer quality worship experiences centered on God's Word and the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.
6. We remain open to new opportunities and experience new perspectives.

Trinity Lutheran Church



From the gospel of Matthew 5.14: "You are the light of the world. A *City on a Hill* can't be hidden."

Stewardship as defined by Webster's dictionary: "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care."

If everything we are is a gift from God, then it goes that we are called to be faithful stewards to what has been entrusted to our care. This applies to our physical health, mental health, our families as we define them, our possessions, our planet, our fellow humans, our faith in Christ. It is all intertwined. There is no separation between how we care for ourselves and how we care for every other aspect of our lives God has given us (even the parts we don't want to care about).

Because we are a *City on a Hill*, all that we do is projected and magnified into our community and world. We are given Christ's light to share Christ's light.

We are given a building in God's name to share this building.

We are given each other to share our faith with each other and to build each other up to live fully in our community. You, friend, are a gift to Trinity from God. May we hold you in love and care. You are a gift to your neighbors. May you hold those near and far from your reach in compassion and mercy.

BUILDING FIRE RESPONSE KITS

For Mt Morris Fire Department

Kendra Ehrler and Pr Josh are building fire response kits for the Mt Morris Fire Department. Each kit is designed to aid an individual or family displaced from their home due to fire or crisis. The plan is to use a Thrivent Action Grant to buy much of these supplies in bulk to ensure sameness (particularly the backpacks). Once the supplies are gathered, folks will be invited to help assemble the kits. Thanks for your support.

Each kit will contain: backpack, fleece blanket, bar soap, travel size laundry soap, bottle of water, toothbrush, travel size toothpaste, hair brush, socks, roll of quarters, \$40 Walmart card, knit hat, notepad/pen, small stuffed critter, and fire booklet from the fire department. Talk to Kendra to find out how these kits are coming along and if anything is still needed.



ASH WEDNESDAY
February 26

MID-WEEK LENTEN

SOUP SUPPERS & SERVICES
March 4 - March 25

PALM SUNDAY - April 5

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 9

GOOD FRIDAY - April 10

EASTER VIGIL - April 11

EASTER - April 12

PLAN NOW FOR LENTEN STUDY

Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope

in Uncertain Times

By: Adam Hamilton

During the season of Lent (Feb 26-April 11) everyone is invited to read and study together this book by Pr. Adam Hamilton. Along with midweek and Sunday Learning Hour discussions, we will be organizing short term book clubs to gather in homes or local places (ex: Cork n Tap, Village Bakery in Oregon, Campus Café, Senior Community Center, Pinecrest Grove in Mt Morris could all work well).

What we need are hosts, folks willing to either welcome people into their homes or make sure there's a table set aside for our group wherever we're meeting up.

Please look for the sign-up sheets and put you name down. And if you want to join a group for five weeks (that's it!), there's a sign-up for you, too.

Book orders will be collected in the church office. Books are \$16.50 each, Kindle versions are \$4.99. AmazonSmile has copies available.



Now you can get your goods AND support Trinity. The site functions the same as you are used to with a minor change. You need to enter Amazon through their Smile pathway. You will know you're going the right way because Amazon will note below the search bar the organization you are supporting.

Type: Amazon.com/Smile
Search for "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church" in Mt Morris, IL

DEEP DIGS ADULT LEARNING

Sunday, Feb 16, 10:45am

The gospel writer Matthew wants us to remember we have a #ThrowbackFaith. That has been our worship theme for January-February and we'll talk a little about how Matthew connects Jesus to Moses. And maybe more interestingly, why Matthew makes Jesus sound so much like Moses. We'll touch on some key differences between all four gospels and then dig into Matthew, our gospel for 2020. Bring your favorite Bible, we'll be using them. See you in worship and then afterward in our multi-use space.

NOISY OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY

The purpose of our Noisy Offering is to teach the joy of giving to God.

During February, we continue collecting coins and cash gifts for Trinity's Family Assistance Fund. This vital fund is administered by Pastor Josh and shared with our neighbors who are in financial crisis. Jobs come and go, income will fluctuate wildly, rent goes up, medical expenses appear without warning, and family situations change. The reasons are many and always unpredictable.



Our Family Assistance Fund has been, and will continue to be, a refuge for folks who have no where else to turn. And in our county, there are very few resources available. With your coins and direct gifts, our church can continue to be a safe space for anyone who is struggling in search of hope.

This fund is not a line item in our church budget, it is solely dependent of offerings and designated gifts.

Results of the Collection for Trinity's Family Assistance Fund = \$96.23 through January 26th

Thank you for your generosity.

FAITH5 –

HOLDING YOUR PEOPLE TOGETHER



We're going to change up this part of the Tidings to gear it more closely to family faith development (however you define your family). With that, be watching this section every month for a devotion, online ideas, or book suggestions meant to help families share your faith in Christ with each other.

February: as you gather with your family for Faith5 (Share, Read, Talk, Pray, Bless), consider this reflection: Everyone look forward in time, as far as you want. How do you imagine God is walking with you? What will you be doing? What will God be doing through you?

**TRINITY'S FUNDS DISPERSED
FOR THE QUARTER
ENDING DECEMBER 30, 2019**

From the Operating Budget

Northern Ill. Synod Benevolence \$ 3,000.00

From the Offering Envelope Donations

Northern Ill. Synod - World Hunger \$ 360.00
Loaves & Fish Food Pantry 390.00
Lifeline 125.00
Family Assistance Fund 991.51
TELC Pajama/Book Project 62.50

From Other Resources

Family Assistance Fund -Thrivent Choice Funds 465.00
TELC Strong Girls 2 Women Camp -Thrivent Choice Funds 300.00
WELCA -TWELCA) 100.00
Loaves & Fish Food Pantry -TWELCA 75.00
TELC Strong Girls 2 Women Camp -TWELCA 75.00
TELC Youth for National Youth Gathering – TWELCA 75.00
Compassion International - Thrivent Choice Funds 76.00
ELCA Good Gifts - Noisy Offering 327.00
Hiteman Scholarship Awards 6,000.00
Vacation Bible School - Noisy Offering 136.53
Loaves & Fish Food Pantry - Cantata Offering 510.30
Lifeline Food Pantry - Cantata Offering 510.30

FINANCIAL REPORT

DECEMBER, 2019

Total Monthly Budget Income \$ 25,464.16
Total Monthly Budget Expense \$ 18,071.37
Year-to-date Budget Income \$ 226,608.13
Year-to date Budget Expense \$ 224,302.16
Year-to-date Surplus (Deficit) \$ 2,305.97

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Many of us have found it much easier to make online transactions than cash or checks. If you use direct deposit or electronic bill pay, please know that Trinity offers that option for regular giving as well. The church office has the form needed to get started.



A summary of the
January 13, 2020
Council meeting:

- Devotions centered around Faith Stories and Galations.1.11-24.
- Council Retreat will be February 1, 2020.
- 2019 Fiscal Year finished \$2,305.97 in the black.
- Council approved an anonymous donation of \$8,000 to remodel the kitchenette.
- 2020 Proposed Budget approved.
- Meeting adjourned with prayer.

TWELCA NEWS



T.W.E.L.C.A. stands for Trinity Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

TWELCA's Mission statement: **to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.**

Dorcas group meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am. at the church, except for Aug & Dec.*

Naomi group meets the 4th Monday at 1:00 pm April through November at the church except for Aug. & Dec*

*Dorcas & Naomi hold joint events together.

Both groups invite all women to join them!



ANNUAL VALENTINE TREATS FOR NACHUSA

TWELCA will be delivering treats to the youth of Nachusa.

They would appreciate your help!

Please have your donations to the church
by Monday, February 10th

The following items are suggestions:
Sorry! No homemade items. Must be commercially packaged:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Cheetos | Candy |
| Assorted Snacks | Microwave Popcorn |
| Pretzels | Popcorn, Popped |
| Potato Chips | Cookies |
| Brownies | Peanuts |

LIFELINE FOOD PANTRY NEWS

LIFELINE is located in Conover Square (old piano factory) at 203 N 3rd St, Suite 6, Oregon, IL

Hours:

Tues 1:30—4:00 pm (food & clothing)

Thurs 1:00—4:00 pm (clothing only)

Fri 1:30—4:30 pm (food & clothing)

Sat 10:30—1:30 pm. (clothing only)

We hope everyone had a nice holiday and we wish everyone a good year. We wish to THANK EVERYONE who gave donations and food to Lifeline, we sincerely appreciate your help. We want to THANK all our volunteers for their time and help! Just a reminder, there will be a Mobile Food Pantry in February, we don't have a date as of yet! Watch the newspapers for the date.

Winter weather information: Unfortunately, Lifeline Pantry must sometimes be closed for extreme weather. Closing will be listed on:

TV stations 13, 17 and 39.

They will also be announced on radio station **WSEY KOOL 95.7**

You can also call our phone number at Lifeline **815-732-7891**, if we don't answer, this means we are not open.

We are in need of: Hamburger Helper, boxed potatoes/dinners, Jello and canned soups.

For the month of December we served 245 clients. Questions? Call 815-564-8234.

Below, opening worship at 2019 CRE



LOAVES & FISH FOOD PANTRY SERVING MT. MORRIS & LEAF RIVER

The Pantry is located on the lower level of the Church of the Brethren:

409 W Brayton Rd, Mt. Morris.

Hours: 1st & 3rd Thurs of each month: 4:30 – 7 pm

2nd & 4th Monday of each month: 2:00 – 4:30 pm

For December, 112 households were served, for a total of 294 individuals.

Want to volunteer at the Pantry?

Please call Lori at 608-774-9370.

2020 CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING EVENT (CRE)

**Saturday, March 14 9 am - 3:15 pm
at Kishwaukee Comm.College, Malta, IL**

Keynote speaker: **ELCA Presiding Bishop**

Elizabeth Eaton

In addition to workshops from the keynote speaker and NIS Bishop Jeffrey Clements, other workshops feature topics including: Administration/Council/Treasurers, Education, Evangelism/Outreach/Hospitality, Global/Inter-Faith, Leadership, Social Justice, Spirituality/Prayer/Health & Wellness, Stewardship, and Youth/Young Adult/Family Ministry.

Registration opened January 15.

**Bring everyone from your congregation to attend
different workshops.**

Then get together and learn from each other!

Session and room assignments will be based on how many people register for each workshop. This information and any updates will be posted at NISynod.org/cre/ by March 1st.

Kishwaukee College is located at 21193 Malta Road, Malta, IL 60150 between DeKalb & Rochelle on IL Route 38.

Kishwaukee College is handicap accessible.

We hope to see YOU at CRE!

JUNIOR HIGH (YC) MINISTRY

What Have They Been Up To?

January was a quick month for us at YC. We spent some time considering the feminine nature of God, and wondering if and how to call God “She” (our natural default is to call God “He”). The book of Proverbs is helpful for this, so we read from chapter 8 and discussed how girls are treated differently from boys. Can we see God at work equally in the women around us? We also met up with E4C to think about all the ways Jesus may look, talk, think, and walk in our world. And we continued dwelling on our core theme of Resilience and how the resources given to us (Family, Forgiveness, Grace, Mercy, Community) can strengthen our resolve in the face of adversity, and maybe help us make healthy choices for ourselves and others.

MONTHLY YOUTH GATHERING FOR 6th GRADE thru HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday, February 16
12:00 - 2:00 pm

Valentine Service Project
Lunch, Service, Devotion

Bring: Yourself, Friend(s) and \$5 each

STRONG GIRLS 2 WOMEN (SG2W) CAMP DATES SET!

Mon, Jun 15 - Thurs, June 18, 2020
8:00 am - 11:30 am

Trinity’s Third Annual camp, for all girls 4th thru 6th grades will take place at Trinity during the above dates!

Be sure to watch for our March fundraiser and April registration information!



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Feb. 2, Start a Fire Exodus 3:1-20
Feb. 9, Form an Alliance - Ruth 1
Feb. 16, Keep Cool - Daniel 3:1-27
Feb. 23, Stay Nourished - Exodus 16:1-18
Mar. 1, Find Water - John 4:1-26
Mar. 8, Get Rescued - Luke 5:17-26
Mar. 15, Ice Cream Party
Mar. 22 Ice Cream Sundae -2nd Chronicles
7:1-10
Mar. 29 Blizzards & Flurries - Acts 10:9-48
Apr. 5, Banana Split - Mark 9:14-29
Apr. 12 Easter Sunday
Apr. 19 Root Beer Float - Romans 10:9-12
Apr. 26 Ice Cream Sandwiches - Exodus 14
May 3 Frozen Yogurt - Matthew 13:31-35
May 10 Ice Cream Cone—Philippians 3:7-14
May 17 Klondike Bar - Matthew 13:44-46

Sunday School will resume on **September 13**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On January 12th, we welcomed Jim and Lori Spratt, as well as Tara (Spratt) Hendricks and her daughters, Wyatt and Monroe, into our faith community. We look forward to growing in our relationship with each other through Christ, and serving together for the sake of our neighbors. Make yourselves at home, friends.



On Saturday, February 15th, we will celebrate the baptism of Monroe Ruth Hendricks. Monroe is the daughter of Tara & Aaron Hendricks. She was born September 6, 2019. Her God parents are her Aunt, Danielle Spratt, and Uncle, Brean Roman.



TRINITY'S SERVANTS FOR FEBRUARY 2020

Altar Guild

All month: Amanda Cowen and Kelly Handschuh

Acolytes

2 RJ Keene
9 Cooper Johnson
16 Caleb Ehrler
23 Noah Johnson
26 Cooper Johnson, Ash Wed.

Ushers/ Greeters

All month: Sat: Kevin Nelson
Sun. All month: Joe, Nicole, Evan & Riley Ricks

Song Leaders & Cantors

2 Mary Jo Dilbeck
9 Linda Borneman
16 Lily Welp
23 Jan Christ

Assisting Ministers:

2 Kendra Ehrler
9 Kendra Ehrler
26 Kendra Ehrler, Ash Wed.

Blood Pressure Checks

Robin Keene, Dave Link

Lector Schedule*

All Month: Jackie Heather

Scriptures for February*

2 Exodus 4.18-22
Matthew 2.19-23
9 Deuteronomy 9.9-21
Matthew 4.1-11
16 Exodus 20.1-17
Matthew 5.1-16
23 Exodus 24.12-18
Matthew 17.1-9

Coffee Hour Hosts

2
9
16
23

Altar Flowers

Calendar & Information is on Bulletin board in Narthex (back of worship space). Questions? Ask Karen Larson, any Altar Guild member or contact office.

1/2
8/9 (continued next column)

15/16
22/23

Home Communion

(Normally 1st Sunday of Month)

Dave & Cindy Link
Sandra Stengel

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. — Thurs.
8:30 am — 12:00 pm
1:00 pm — 4:00 pm

Friday:

8:00 am — 12:00 pm

Please note: Staff Meeting
1st Wed. of each month
Office Closed 12 - 2 pm

WORSHIP CANCELLATIONS DUE TO WEATHER

It's that time of year!

If you are not sure whether or not we are gathering for worship, see the options below:

***Check local (Rockford) TV Stations:**

WREX (NBC 13)

WIFR (CBS-23)

WTVO (ABC-17) or

WQRF (Fox 39)

Channel numbers may be different pending your video provider.

Cancellations will scroll across the bottom of the screen.

- **Check Trinity's Facebook page. Will say "Cancelled"**
- **Check local Radio Stations:**
WRHL 1060 AM,
WIXN 1460 AM or
WSEY 95.7 FM

- **When in doubt, stay home.** Thank you for your love for worship and yet, please keep yourself safe!



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

308 East Brayton Road
Mt. Morris, IL 61054
815-734-6354

Email: trinitymmoffice@gmail.com

Website: www.trinitymmil.net

Follow us on Facebook—

facebook.com/tlcm

Instagram: trinitymtmorris

Trinity's Mission Statement
Believing in Christ,
we are called to grow,
and are sent to serve.

Ministers: All Members of Trinity

Pastor: Josh Ehrler
Office 815-734-6354

Email: prjoshehrler@gmail.com

Christian Education Director
Melissa Nicholson
815-440-0279

Email: melissa8305@gmail.com

Office Manager: Nancy Nelson
Office 815-734-6354

Email: office@trinitymmil.net

Sexton: Floyd Drumheller
815-734-6354

Parish Musician: Karen Larson
815-734-6358

Chime Choir Director: Matt Guschl
217-417-5952

Email: matt.guschl@gmail.com

Financial Secretary:
Louise Suttman
815-938-2650

Assist. Financial Secretary:
Linda Duffy
815-440-9503

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
308 East Brayton Road
Mount Morris, IL 61054

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TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

308 East Brayton Road, Mt. Morris, Illinois 61054

Office: (815) 734-6354 E-mail: trinitymmoffice@gmail.com
web-site: www.trinitymmil.net Facebook: [facebook.com/tlcmm](https://www.facebook.com/tlcmm)

FEBRUARY 2020

WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE (*DETAILS INSIDE)

SATURDAY evening worship service at 5:30 pm

SUNDAY: 9:30 am Worship Service
Fellowship Time following Worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:30 - 11:30 am.*

*We welcome 4 yrs. old through 6th grade.

We also have a Youth Group (6th grade through high school) that meets on a monthly basis

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS

Wednesday: 6:00 pm Chime Choir

Wednesday : 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE (* DETAILS INSIDE)

- Feb. 1, Council Retreat!
- Tuesdays at 12:00 pm Brown Bag Bantering (held in chapel/gathering space)
- Mon. Feb 3, 6:30 pm Committee Meetings - Come to see where **you** can use **your** time and talents
- Sun, Feb 16, 10:45 am Deep Digs Adult Learning.*
- Sun, Feb 16 , 12 pm - 2 pm Youth Gathering*
- Tues, Feb 25 , 9:00 am Dorcas Group Meeting*
- Wed. Feb 26, 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service*
- March, Lenten Book Clubs*
- Wed. Mar 4, 6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper,
7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Service
Soup Suppers & Midweek Services continue weekly through March 25.