

# Trinity Times

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We all have been tested. Perhaps those tests have been in mathematics or social studies. Doctors have tested us for high cholesterol and low blood sugar. Even our credit and our arrest records can be tested by our employers. Facebook even offers tests to see if we can remember famous people in the 80's. We have all been tested and we all have at one time or another received a less than perfect "grade" or "score." We all have been tested and we all have missed the mark or fallen short.

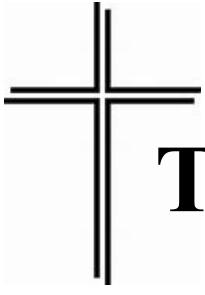
Nowhere is this more evident or clear than when God tests us compared to his only Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Nowhere do we miss the mark more than when God compares our faithfulness and obedience to the faithfulness and obedience of Christ. Our loyalty doesn't just match up to Jesus' loyalty, which was loyal even to death on a cross. Our love doesn't compare to Jesus' love, which was willing to spill blood. Our humanity falls short of Jesus' humanity, the only human without sin and with perfect obedience.

But while Jesus' death reveals to us, we all fall short, Jesus' death also reveals how long, deep, wide and high is God's love for us. God was willing to send Jesus to his death: an ugly, unjust and treasonous murder, to reach, find and deliver the murderers (that's us). Such love is this, that Jesus would not just die for his friends, but that Jesus would die for his enemies (that's us) to transform them into his friends. Such love is God's to take us humans who fall short of Jesus and through Jesus to lift us back up to the humanity God wanted us to have. O the Love of God that will not let us go but seize us and lift us back to our rightful place in creation, humans created in God's image.

As disciples of Christ we are on the way to the Kingdom of God, but we are not there yet, and that means daily we fall short of Christ. This means that daily, but more so in Lent, we need to accept the responsibility for our thoughts, misdeeds, actions and inactions. Daily we need forgiveness for sins, sins both done and left undone, and daily we need filled with things Right, Good, and True. This then is faith in Lent, acceptance and acknowledgement of who we are; on the one hand we are sinners who when tested fall short and on the other we are beloved sons and daughters of God for whom the Son of God chose to die to make right.

Perhaps then, we have found at last the perfect "A" for Lent: to see and accept the responsibility for our daily falling short and to acknowledge the Grace of God which covers our errors and fills us with Righteousness. Perhaps Lent is about taking responsibility for "I" and taking his forgiveness and new life God gives, solely because God chooses to give it in love! I encourage you therefore this Lent, to accept responsibility for "I": My thoughts, our words, my actions, and our failures. But also, acknowledge Jesus Christ: I have forgiven you, I have given you my own life. Then, we just might find that as the people of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we at long last will pass the test of God! For that we say Alleluia! And Thanks be to God!

In Christ,  
Rev. Mark



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## A Note From Session



Your session is moving forward in the new year with elders participating in and leading the committees here at Trinity. With your help and willingness to be part of those committees, the work of Trinity can move forward.

Session is in the process of approving a Policy for Baptism.

The Elders and Deacons will meet together, sharing a meal, on March 20th so that we can share our callings, learning the work we are each doing.

We continue to have an “Elder on Call” each month. If anyone has concerns about Trinity, or suggestions for Session, please avail yourself to the Elder on Call or to any elder. Beth Dougherty is the Elder on Call for March.

We thank you for your prayers for us as we carry out the work of Session.

Blessings,

*Mary Belding, Clerk*

## From the Ministerial Relations Committee

Remembering that we, as a congregation, took a vow during the ordination of Rev. Mong to “pray for him, to encourage him, to respect his decisions, and to follow as he guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church”, the Ministerial Relations Committee was formed to address any issues that might arise between the congregation and the Pastor, as well as to help insure that we take that vow to heart.

We have been meeting with Rev. Mark for several months, and have addressed issues that have been brought forth.

On January 30, 2019, Rev. Mong received a negative anonymous letter from a congregation member. The committee would like to address the issues raised in this letter if the author would agree to come forward to have a constructive

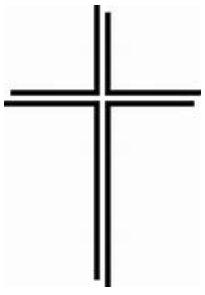
conversation. Any other concerns can be addressed directly to the committee. Members of the committee are: Dale Fassett, Beth Dougherty, Pam Bloom and Mary Belding.

It is our hope that we can all work together, loving each other as Christ loves us, to be the church that we are called to be.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

We will be collecting for the One great hour of sharing on Easter Sunday, April 21st.

Envelopes will be in the pews and inserts in the Sunday bulletins. Please put your envelope in the collection plate, mail, or drop off to the church office.



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**Saturday, April 13  
9:00 am – 12:00 Noon**

## **From Property & Finance**

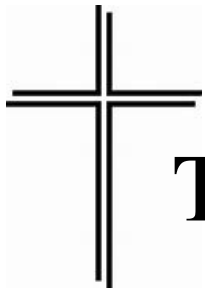
**Our Christian Ed Committee has purchased two TV's for our Church! Soon they will be secured on a wall in the Playroom (Nursery) and the Hoyt room.**

**As you all know the house is down. The company will be back in the spring to add a layer of top soil and grass seed to the lot.**

**We are looking for Building and Grounds Stewards. Property & Finance would like to form a group of "Beautifiers". If you have an interest in painting, handyman jobs inside and out, weeding, mowing, IT, social media, electrical, or anything you are interested in helping with, please see Beth Dougherty.**

**"God doesn't call us to go to church; He calls us to BE the Church"**

**Blessings and peace,  
Beth Dougherty  
Property & Finance Chair**



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## **Shrove Tuesday**

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper sponsored by our Board of Deacons will be held on March 5th from 4:30-6:30pm. The menu this year will be pancakes, sausage, fruit and a new Menu item this year, eggs. A freewill donation is requested to support the Deacons' work throughout the year. Hope to see you there.

## **Ash Wednesday**

One can scarcely believe that Lent is almost upon us, seeing as how we just finished the Christmas Season. But, our time together on our Lenten journeys is almost upon us. We will be having our annual Ash Wednesday service on March 6th at 7pm. We will have our usual worship service including the imposition of ashes and communion by intinction. Please join us as we begin our time together in repentance and introspection.



## **Baptism Class**



We are looking to start a class for parents wanting to have their child or children baptized. The class is four, one-hour sessions spent with Rev. Mark. We are looking to begin on March 10th from 2-3pm. Please speak with Rev. Mark or the church office to register.

## **Notes from Christian Education.....**

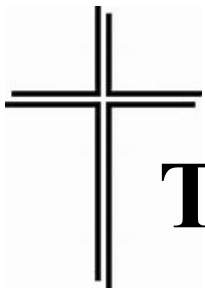
On Saturday, February 16th, we had our first meeting for Vacation Bible School. This year's theme is ROAR....Life is Wild, God is Good! We'll be visiting the Safari Monday, June 17 through Friday, June 22nd from 9a.m. to 12 p.m. to learn all about the ways that God is at work in our lives. We'll be meeting again on Saturday, March 16th at 10 a.m. to continue the planning.

Hope to see you then!



## **Community Outreach.....**

During the month of March, Community Outreach is conducting a shoe and boot drive for our friends at G O Ministry. We ask that if you have gently worn shoes or boots that you no longer need, could you bring them in and add them to our shoebox. Community Outreach thanks you for your help in this project.



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## Thank You...

We are grateful to our church family for all the kind words and thoughts we received at the passing of my brother, Larry.

Your expressions of sympathy and friendship were indeed a comfort to us.

*Mary and Norm Jepson*



United States Armed Forces, Meredith Ayers, Lynda Bennett, Don Brunnel, Jackie Cardona, Hilda Cook, Liz Evans, Dale Fassett, Dee Fassett, Al & Pauline Headman, Jerry Jefferies, Ruth Ann Lautanen, Newborn son of Max and Lauren McConnell, Family of William Reiter, Karen Scott, Adraine Smith, Barb Stewart, Norma Strock, Christi Stroud, Trinity Shut-Ins, Fran Wilson, Ken Zaebst

## EVERYONE IS INVITED TO A BABY SHOWER

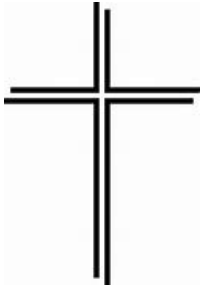


**Sunday, March 31, 2019**

**During Fellowship Hour**

**For: G.O. Ministries H.I.P Program**

**Please bring a gift to help in caring for babies and small children, such as:  
Baby Health & Hygiene Products, blankets, clothes, food and ESPECIALLY  
DIAPERS, WIPES & GALLON STORAGE BAGS  
SAVE THE DATE....THERE WILL BE CAKE!**



# March 2019

DEACON ON CALL: Barb McClure 440-997-5748

ELDER ON CALL: Beth Dougherty 440-661-1416

USHERS: The Strocks

LITURGISTS: Hobart Shiflet

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Cluster Mtg. 10am @ 1st Church Lion's Club Spaghetti Dinner 4-7pm
<b>3 COMMUNION</b> Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am <b>Worship/Faithbuilders</b> <b>10:30am</b> C.E. Mtg. After Worship	4	5 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 4:30-6:30pm  AI-Anon 8pm	6 Adult Study 10am  <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Service 7pm</b>	7  Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbells 6:30pm	8 Brown Bag Ladies 10am	9
<b>10 Daylight Savings</b> <b>Time Begins</b> <b>2¢ A MEAL COLLECTION</b> Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am <b>Worship/Faithbuilders</b> <b>10:30am</b> <b>Baptism Class 2-3pm</b>	11	12 Romeos 8am  Game Day 11:30am  AI-Anon 8pm	13 Adult Study 10am	14 Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbells 6:30pm  Property & Finance Mtg 7:30pm	15	16  VBS Mtg. 10am
17 Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am <b>Worship/Faithbuilders</b> <b>10:30am</b>	18  MRC Mtg. 6:30pm	19  AI-Anon 8pm	20 Adult Study 10am  Joint Deacons/ Session Mtg & Potluck 6pm	21 Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbells 6:30pm	22	23
24 Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am <b>Worship/Faithbuilders</b> <b>10:30am</b> Lunch & Conversation hosted by Transformation Group	25  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!	26 Game Day 11:30am  AI-Anon 8pm	27 Adult Study 10am	28 Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbells 6:30pm	29	30
31 Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am <b>Worship/Faithbuilders</b> <b>10:30am</b> Community Outreach Baby Shower during Fellowship Hour						