



Disciples of Jesus Christ called to bring God's light into the world: through worship, serving, learning and sharing the Good News!

Ashes in the Shadows

It is the season of half light, the winter skies often gray and days still short. Thus is Lent in the north: cold, slippery, cocoon-like days made for warm socks, good soup and quiet. Although Lutheran Lenten rituals have evolved over the centuries, in my life, Ash Wednesday has always meant ashes.

As with all meaningful rituals, ashes carry complex meaning. The hopes and dreams and expectations that we embrace – about God, about our lives, about the future – which caused us to wave our palms and cry out Hosanna have dried out and are now turned into ashes and we begin again.

We are drawn back to the first beginning when God gathered some dust from the ground and formed an earth creature; God breathed the Spirit into the creature and a human lived. One day, as with all living things, there will be a moment of ending, when the last breath leaves the body. The ashes proclaim “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

Ashes are terribly messy. But then, so is life. With ashes, we enter into the Lenten season of prayer and meditation, a time of quiet and listening, a time of extra generosity. The 5 weeks of Lent are a gift; in the deepest shadows of winter, we are given an opportunity to re-focus on our faith, re-claim our identity as children of God and re-new spiritual practices that sustain us. It is a season of extra devotion.

We cannot safely gather on Wednesday Feb 17th to take on ashes; I will miss the ashes even if they are but a symbol. However, with Psalm 51 as our base we will gather remotely and have a brief service on Ash Wednesday so you might mark the beginning of your Lenten time.

Prepare for our time together. Develop a small area set apart, to be used for our shared worship. It will provide a visual reminder to you throughout our journey to the cross. Lent is a time for stark visuals, minimal decoration, a little wilderness of your own. I like to use a purple base with dried grasses, perhaps some stones, a candle or two and a bowl of water...the water of baptism.

Be sure to have the small piece of rice paper which came with the Tidings, and a pencil at hand as we prepare to worship that evening. Rice paper dissolves in water. We will consider some of our broken places, places of sin or sorrow and write them on the paper. Then, we will commend our sinfulness to the waters of baptism (your small bowl of water) and watch our Lord wipe them away with Divine Love.

Ash Wednesday we will gather around Psalm 51, a psalm of confession and repentance and renewal. Wednesdays we will continue to focus on our hearts with psalm verses (the schedule is below). Join with me for a brief devotion, a pause in the middle of your week.

The five weeks of Lent are a perfect length of time to commit to a renewed spiritual practice. Develop a practice of prayer or a daily journal of gratitude. Consider extra gifts to the most needy among us or around the world. Read a little scripture each day; join us for Wednesday worship time.

Be blessed my friends, and be a blessing to others.
Pastor Wolling

Date	Worship Leader	Format
February 7	Deacon David Grindle	Zoom/Facebook
February 14	Dean Gail Wolling	Zoom/Facebook
February 17	Ash Wed. - Dean Wolling	Zoom/Facebook
February 21	Deacon David Grindle	Zoom/Facebook
February 28	Dean Gail Wolling	Zoom/Facebook

**Worship With Us
From Anywhere!**

Call on your landline phone, use your computer, receive a DVD, or receive a printed copy of the sermon!

Midweek Service Psalms:

- 2/17 Psalm 51.10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
- 2/24 Psalm 119.11 I treasure your work in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.
- 3/3 Psalm 62.8 Trust in God at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.
- 3/10 Psalm 31.24 Be strong and let your heart take courage all you who wait for the Lord.
- 3/17 Psalm 16.9 Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices; my body rests secure.
- 3/24 Psalm 19.14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and redeemer.

February - Keeping Warm and Dreaming Forward

“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4: 9

How is God calling us as members of Trinity Lutheran Church to shape 2021 and beyond? This is the “big question” for us to tackle in the months to come. From the Synod level down to our local congregation, conversations can be shared about how to keep our traditions while finding ways to encourage all individuals, especially young families, to be excited together to discover what God has in store for us in 2021! He has plans for us to explore and deepen their faith in the Lutheran tradition. The Synod will be electing a new Bishop in June. What are we as a congregation looking for in our Synod leadership? Watch for more details in the Weekly Announcement email about discussion opportunities on that topic. Our Council will be seeking your input on Trinity’s future also. What committee or team might benefit from your ideas and input? Please continue to pray for Trinity’s successful path forward, and for God’s message to you about becoming involved. Together, we can follow His lead into an exciting TLC future.

Annual Meeting Follow-up

Thank you to all who attended the January 17th Annual Meeting via Zoom. It was gratifying to see so many on the session and to make quorum for the meeting. The Annual Budget was passed. Phillis Becker and Amy Manning were elected to three year terms on Council and Gary Manning was elected to fill the two-year opening. One seat on Council will remain unfilled at this time. Thanks was expressed for the service given by departing Council members JoAnn Blaise, Dan Pollak, Risleigh Roche and Judy Sadlon. A resolution to close the books for the fiscal year was passed, and a robust list of Thanksgiving was offered by Dean Gail Wolling. The list of Thanksgiving can be found at the end of the Tidings.

Church Council News

The 2021 Church Council held a brief organizational meeting following the Annual Meeting. During that meeting, the following officers were elected: Ann Maher, President; Phillis Becker, Vice President; Cathy Mayton-Collins, secretary. The Council also appointed Kylene Jordan as Treasurer and Wendy DeLuca as Financial Secretary. The February meeting of Council was set for Wednesday, February 10th at 6:15 via Zoom.

Update to Trinity's Safe Use of Space Policy

Trinity's Council met recently to review and update our Covid Safety Procedures for the church building. **If a person has any symptom of illness, that individual should not enter the church building.** The latest CDC information indicates that the virus can remain airborne for many hours. Therefore, wearing a **face covering** is **MANDATORY IN ALL PARTS OF THE BUILDING**, even if you are ALONE! **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Please use the hand sanitizer and sign in on the form at the bottom of the stairs. Don't touch your face. If you are with other people, maintain social distance. Since we don't clean the building after each person exits, compliance with safe practices is important.

Church Office Hours

Cassie will be in the office Monday-Wednesday 10am-1pm, and at other various times throughout the week. *Reminder* During these hours, the front doors will be unlocked so you may safely step inside and get your offering envelopes. If you need to make other arrangements to obtain your envelopes, please contact Cassie at 315-866-6474 or Cbecker@trinityherkimer.org and she will be happy to assist you.\

Stay connected with us weekly

Did you know you can receive our weekly announcements in your email? Head over to our website Trinityherkimer.org enter your name and email right at the top of the page. Then click SIGN UP. You will receive an email to confirm, and that's it!

Serving and Sharing

The Serving and Sharing Committee continues its enthusiastic work. Ongoing donations for the Food Pantry are delivered weekly. From donations left on the Parsonage porch. **Financial donations to the Food Pantry are also encouraged** to provide perishable items that supplement our donations. **Checks made out to "Salvation Army Food Pantry" can be mailed directly to the Salvation Army at 429 N Prospect Street, Herkimer, NY 13350.** The "Feed My Sheep" program sends frozen meals to individuals in need and the monthly meal we call "S.A. Cafe" is provided at the Salvation Army. "God's Work, Our Hands" - being lived out by the work of our volunteers. **A Box for Socks is our latest outreach project, and thanks go to faithful donors already.** One of the ministries at The First United Methodist Church (FUMC) is called "Worship Without Walls". Through this ministry, they offer resources, food, and a listening ear to anyone who needs it, and that often includes people who are homeless or living in marginal circumstances. A collection box has been made available on the parsonage porch, just like for Food Pantry donations. Anyone who wants to provide new, warm socks of any size, style or color can add them to the box. JoAnn Blaise will deliver them to FUMC as a supply accumulates. Another way to help our neighbors! Want to become more involved? Contact JoAnn Blaise, Cathy Mayton-Collins, or any member of the Serving and Sharing Team.

Faith Formation/Learning

BOOK GROUP

Hope is on the horizon as we make appointments for personal vaccinations and wait (impatiently at times) for the winter to pass by. No meeting is scheduled for February, out of caution for everyone's well-being. We will hope that March may be a time we can gather safely again. Call a friend and share reading experiences! It's a great way to spend the winter months.

Worship, Music, and Prayer

BLESSINGS of PRAYER:

It's in response to our prayers that God accomplishes His purpose demonstrating once again that He is "Hearer of Prayer". (Psalm 65:2)

PRAYER NOTES:

Martin Luther was a "Prayer Warrior" and look what he accomplished in the Lord!! Remember the date October 31, 1517. This day a humble monk made public 95 reasons why the church needed to change. Today we call it Reformation Sunday.

In prayer we can do more than we could ever imagine. Talk to Jesus persistently, in His will, and then be patiently waiting on His timing. In other words NEVER GIVE UP!!!

Remember prayer warriors of Trinity are here for you. (Harriet, Sue H., Shirley, Wendy C., Gary P. and Phillis) Simply contact any one of us on the prayer chain, and immediately your concerns will be lifted up to Jesus. It would be helpful that when your prayer has been answered that you again contact one of us so that we can Praise and Thank God for His goodness and faithfulness to His children.

For those who might not know, our "Prayer Banner" was made for God's glory by Bonnie Wicks. We thank God for her great talent and sharing it with Trinity.

IN HIS SERVICE,
Prayer Ministry

Volunteer Schedule

As needed, the following have volunteered as counters:

January 31st and February 7th - Cathy Mayton-Collins and JoAnn Blaise

February 14th and February 21st - Ann Maher and Sue Harkins

February 28th and March 7th - Phillis Becker and Judy Sadlon

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cassie or Wendy at the Office. 315-866-6474

Stewardship

Thanks to everyone who has continued to mail offerings to church (443 Henry Street, Herkimer, NY 13350) or continue to use Simply Giving. The mission of the church continues throughout the pandemic. If you wish to receive more information about giving directly to Trinity through the Thrivent Simply Giving Program, please contact Wendy DeLuca at wdeluca@trinityherkimer.org.

Our Church Family

God's children in need of prayer and support: Steve, John, Ali, Rose, Peter, Judy, Mike, Loren Jr., Ann, Charlie, Jan, Rich, Jennifer, Abby, Alex, Irene, Felix, Ernie, Gary, all those touched by the COVID-19 virus, and all those on Trinity's prayer chain.

Our prayers are with the families of Paul Janeka, brother of JoAnn Blaise, and Bonnie Wicks, sister of Guy and Ruth Wicks. Paul went to be in the presence of Jesus on Friday 1/1/21 and Bonnie on Sunday 1/3/21. May God's peace, which passes all understanding, comfort all their loved ones remembering our Lord's promise of life eternal in Christ Jesus.

If you have concerns for the prayer chain or other personal/family matters, please call Phillis Becker at 315-866-2379 or text her at 315-601-2279.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Andy Schrader
Christopher Skibinski
Wendy DeLuca
Steve Crane
Camryn Knoblauch
Kim Engert-Torres
Matt Stewart
Patricia Glogowski
Ron Snow

Kristen Burger
Stephanie Gee
Judy Grande
Paul Kucerak, III
Daniel Kornutiak
Brenda Briggs
Gertrude Douglas
Richard L. Becker
Kelly Merena

Jennifer Lipczynski
Sara Lilly Manning
Mason Pawelek
Lorie Schrader
John Kane
Joanne Belcourt
Hope Ruff
Macade Knoblauch
Thomas Manning

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Rose & Ron Snow
Jodi & Dan Rivers

Cathy & Tim Marquissee
Jody & Travis Kirk

You can send news for the upcoming issue to Tidings@trinityherkimer.org. Justina, Cassie and Ann will all receive that email. We appreciate feedback and ideas to improve our newsletter too!

President: Ann Maher	315-891-3952	amaher@trinityherkimer.org
Vice President: Phillis Becker	315-866-2379	pbecker@trinityherkimer.org
Sec.: Cathy Mayton-Collins	315-867-8426	cmayton-collins@trinityherkimer.org
Treasurer: Kylene Jordan	315-404-3945	kjordan@trinityherkimer.org
Amy Manning	315-868-9224	amanning@trinityherkimer.org
Bona Starring	315-868-8393	bstarring@trinityherkimer.org
Gary Manning	315-717-4830	gmanning@trinityherkimer.org
Paul Kucerak	315-868-8805	pkucerak@trinityherkimer.org

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TLC Annual Meeting Closing “Resolutions” - January 17, 2021
Offered by Dean Gail Wolling

We thank God that the Holy Spirit has called us together as a community of faith who is grounded in a crucified and risen Jesus. The faith we share binds us into one body that cares not just for one another but also continues to care for our neighbors. We give thanks that in the midst of a spinning world, God’s promise to us in Jesus remains steadfast.

We give thanks that we have worshipped together throughout these strange times. Preachers from around the synod have brought God’s Word to us, sustaining and challenging us through street protests and complex social issues, political divides and economic hardship. We have prayed together and gathered at the communion table.

We give thanks that so many were able to continue their generosity which reaches beyond our walls and our community. Throughout the year, you have supported the ministries at Trinity and in the community like the local Food Pantry, Feed My Sheep, SA Café, World Hunger and more.

In this difficult year your Council has worked hard to keep us moving forward safely and faithfully. They are thoughtful and deliberate, keeping Jesus’ teaching always in mind as decisions were made. Worship required the talents of several hard working individuals week after week who organized and learned the technology we needed. Volunteers stepped up to assure that communication continued. A new discussion group was formed; the book club continued. Our staff has continued to care for us. We have much for which to be thankful even as we mourn the passing of members, friends, or family, the shift away from well-loved traditions and the wonder of being together in a sacred place as one body. We give thanks for the ability to share the Good News through new technology and for the talents of members who facilitated it.

We give thanks for the faithful dedication of our outgoing Council Members, JoAnn Blaise, Deke Pollak, Judy Sadlon and Risleigh Roche. We welcome and thank our newly elected Council Members Phillis Becker, Amy Manning, and Gary Manning (and any from floor). We give God our gratitude for the leadership of Dean Gail Wolling during this most challenging year.

We praise God for our faithful employees and volunteers, John Keiser, Sue Kubica, Wendy DeLuca, Justina Kane, Arnold Schrader, Cassie Becker and Howard Schaffer, who persevered under difficult circumstances. We could not have maintained our ministries here at Trinity without them. We give God thanks and praise for guiding the hands of those creating vaccines and for the healthcare professionals who have ministered to our sick. Give them the strength and courage to continue and time to find much needed rest.

I give thanks that I have been blessed by the people of Trinity, Herkimer with your strong faith and good leadership. As I write this on Epiphany Day, God bless and keep you. May you grow in your life of faith, deepening your commitment to justice, mercy, and peace.