



Lent Resources for Trinity Lutheran



Lent and Easter Schedule

MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

“The Hand of the Lord” Message Series

Wednesdays, Feb. 25-April 1, 11 a.m., Chapel

A simple, liturgical worship service with Holy Communion.

PALM/PASSION WEEKEND WORSHIP

Saturday, March 28, 5 p.m./Sunday, March 29, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

We'll recount the events of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem the week He was crucified. Palms will be distributed.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m.

On the night Jesus was betrayed, He gathered the disciples to celebrate the Passover and make a new covenant. We gather for worship and pay special attention to the Lord's Supper and the center of our life with Christ.

GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTION

Friday, April 3, 1 p.m.

During the hours when Jesus hung on the cross, we gather for prayer, to read scripture and meditate on the greatest moment in human history.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

Friday, April 3, 7 p.m.

We gather for solemn worship that recounts the seven last words of Christ leading to His death. At the last word, Jesus gives up his spirit, so we slam the Altar Book and walk the eternal flame out of the sanctuary. In darkness, we sing “Amazing Grace,” in anticipation of Easter Sunday and greet each other with the scandalous claim, “He is risen!”

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 5, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Choir performance, special music and Holy Communion at both services.

Sermon Series

For the season of Lent, Trinity's sermon themes focus on "Renewal Through the Psalms," and the following verses will be used for the focus on that week's sermon.

Feb. 21/22 - Psalm 23

March 14/15 - Psalm 46

Feb. 28/March 1 - Psalm 147

March 21/22 - Psalm 142

March 7/8 - Psalm 118

March 28/29 - Psalm 24

Easter Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday, April 5, from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m., Trinity hosts an Easter Egg Hunt and activities for children. Worshippers are invited to attend a robust fellowship hour in the Community Center.

Easter Flowers

Purchase a flower or plant to help the Altar Guild beautify the sanctuary for Easter. A single lily is \$13, mums are \$15, hydrangeas are \$25 and Azaleas are \$23. Self-serve sale runs through March 15. Order forms are available in the church foyer located near the drop box. Pay by check or cash. For more information, contact Kathy Conrad at 586-914-4512.

Easter Food Baskets

Trinity's food pantry provides Easter meals for up to 100 families in need. To make this possible, we are collecting food donations. Please bring items to the church by Wednesday, March 25, for distribution on Saturday, March 28. Refrigerated items may be dropped off Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Hams (10-14 lbs)

Scalloped potatoes (boxed)

Eggs

Yams or sweet potatoes

Frozen fruit pies or cakes

Baked beans, green beans, or corn

Dinner rolls and butter

Lent Bingo

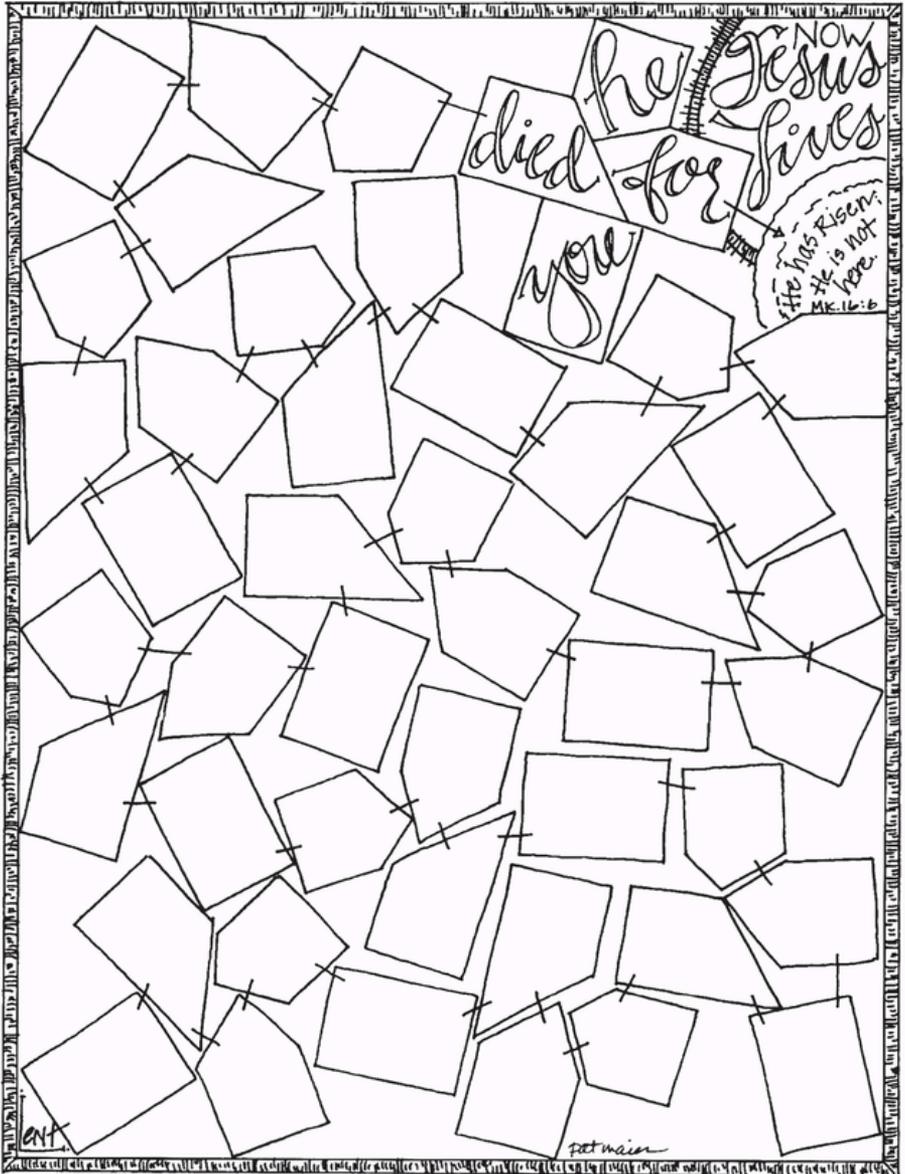
A phrase we've heard over and over this year is, "That wasn't on my Bingo card." Well—now it is. For Lent, we've created a Bingo card filled with meaningful, Lent-themed activities. As we journey through the season together, we invite you to check off as many as you can. Each activity is designed to help us slow down, focus on Christ, and grow through prayer, reflection, and service.

B I N G O

Listen to a worship song (maybe one from our playlist) and think about what it means to you	Start a prayer journal to keep during Lent	Go 24-hours screen free. No phone, tablets or even TV.	Bring in an item for Trinity's Easter food baskets. More info on page 2	Create a countdown to Easter paper chain
Attend Ash Wednesday Worship	Think of something you can give up, or sacrifice for Lent	Share the Easter services and invite someone to church	Write a note/email of encouragement to a Trinity staff member	Dip your fingers in a bowl of water as a way to remember your baptism
Bake a pretzel using the recipe on page 26. Read the story of the pretzel	Learn how to make a cross from a palm leaf after Palm Sunday		Listen to a Crosstalk devotion and put the verse in your own words	Say "thank you" to God for 3 things today
Write a friendly letter that we can mail to a shut in member	Attend a Sunday morning class (Bible Study, Youth Group or Sunday School)	Wake up 15 minutes earlier to start your day with prayer (if you don't already)	Pick up a rock outside Trinity and paint an Easter image or scripture for Trinity's rock gardens	Donate a hygiene item or toilet paper to the food pantry
Do something kind for a stranger without making it obvious	Purchase a lily or plant from the church to beautify our altar for Easter	Take prayer requests from friends and family and tell them when you pray for it	Memorize a Bible verse from one of our Crosstalk devotions that meant something to you	Do something healthy for your body. Take a walk, avoid sweets, eat a healthy meal.

Prayer Space

Prayer Space is an area to jot notes or names during prayer time —praises, thanksgivings, and requests. Add color, shading, or doodles as you pray. This practice, known as Visual Prayer, is meaningful for all ages. Learn more at Visual Faith Ministry's website, visualfaithmin.org



A Simple Guide to Personal Devotions

Lent is a time of self-examination and repentance. Through disciplines such as fasting, praying and self-denial, Christians refocus their attention on Jesus and the salvation He provides through His death on the cross. One way to do this is through daily devotions and Bible readings. To help this become a useful practice, Trinity provides the following information on reading and meditating on God's Word:

Martin Luther's simple way to read scripture was originally written to the people of Wittenberg in 1535. This method is identified as Instruction, Thanksgiving, Confession, Prayer (I.T.C.P.) It's also a great way of listening to a sermon.

Begin with this prayer:

By your Word and Spirit, draw me away from my restless labor, that I might find rest in you alone. Merciful God, grant that fearing and loving you above all things, I may never despise the hearing of your word of life, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it. Through Jesus, Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Next, Luther suggests that we engage the text by answering four questions:

1. What is God teaching me in this text?
2. For what should I give thanks?
3. What sins should I confess?
4. For what should I pray, both for myself and others?

Finish by focusing your attention on the fact that God's presence is with you. Teaching, Convicting, Forgiving, and Guiding. Take as much time in silence, as you need to remember your eternal acceptance in the heart of God through the gift of His grace.

Crosstalk

Trinity's Lent Audio Devotions

Trinity offers regular audio devotions throughout Lent. Listen to them on the computer or mobile device while you work, commute, eat dinner or meditate in your own way. The theme throughout Lent is “A New Day, A New Beginning,” and it will focus on a new topic each week.

- Week 1 - A Heart Renewed
- Week 2 - Walking in Trust
- Week 3 - Hope in the Lord
- Week 4- Joy in His Presence
- Week 5 - Strength for the Journey
- Week 6 - Learning to Lament
- Week 7 - Holy Week - The Cross and the New Beginning

This resource provides the readings for each Crosstalk and space to jot notes or write questions.

To tune into Crosstalk, visit trinityct.org/crosstalk, scan the QR code below or search as noted on the platforms below.

iTunes

Add Trinity Lutheran Church Crosstalk

YouTube Podcasts

Search for Trinity Lutheran Crosstalk
Audio Devotion

Alexa device

Say "Play Trinity Crosstalk Podcast"



Week 1 - Sermon Sheet

Our Lent sermons follow the theme of the Crosstalk audio devotions. As we tie together themes and Scripture, use the Sermon Notes as a place to jot ideas and concepts for reference in the coming days.

Sermon Title _____

Theme Scripture _____

Music: Write one line from a song or hymn that emphasized today's theme.

Sermon: List 2-3 main points from the sermon today (Take notes on the bottom of this page during the sermon.)

Sermon Summary: In the space below or on the next page, write a summary of the sermon message in your own words.

NOTES

Crosstalk Readings Week 1

A Heart Renewed

Ash Wednesday

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalm 32:5

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Psalm 86:5

You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you.

Answering the Call with a Renewed Heart



Thomas Gastmeier, Sr.'s faith journey began at the baptismal font of the original Trinity church on Dickenson. He grew up in the church and attended Trinity's school for several years. However, his faith grew most after Lisa Riviera, director of Human Care, asked Tom to help with Trinity's food pantry. For several years, he's helped package food for the needy families who request help from Trinity. That task led to a deeper faith and a renewed heart in God.

Tom Gastmeier (right) and his granddaughter, Ainsley.

Tom was part of one of the first students to attend Trinity Lutheran School. After several years, he moved on and eventually graduated from Mount Clemens High School. Following that, he went to work, married the late Sue, and spent most of his years working seven days a week to support his family. Tom called those years a "sabbatical" from church, but he credits his daughter-in-law and Trinity kindergarten teacher Andrea Gastmeier for bringing the family back to where it all started for him.

"Andrea was big into church up in Gaylord where she lived. After my son, Mike, and Andrea were married, they started going to church here. They would come to church with my wife and my sister-in-law, Zula. I didn't go until I was retired," Tom said.

However, once Andrea and Mike had their children, coming to Trinity meant they could also see their grandchildren and be part of their faith journey as well.



Tom Gastmeier with his grandson Keane.

Service is part of Tom's life. Even after he retired, he continued to work.

"After the kids had grown and moved out, the wife's like, 'I'm going crazy at home' and went out and got a job at H&R Block. A friend of mine who worked at a grinding shop asked me to come work with him and drive a hi-lo a few days a week," Tom said.

When they weren't working, the Gastmeiers traveled. He said they visited all 50 states, traveled for a HARP (Helping Appalachian Rural People) mission and saw so many things along the way. However, Sue's health began to fail. After a life of diabetes, her organs became strained and she was placed on dialysis for her struggling kidneys. Sue passed away on Sept. 8, 2023.

Adjusting to a quiet lifestyle was difficult. Tom was Sue's full-time caregiver and once busy days were suddenly a lot less busy. Trinity's Director of Human Care Lisa Riviera asked him to help with Trinity's Food Pantry to fill some of his time.

"I didn't think twice about it. I thought it was a great idea," Tom said, who took to the process and enjoys helping those who call in for food assistance. When the church office needs support during staff meetings, Tom steps up. And he said being involved with his church changed his relationship with the church and with God.

"Trinity is the last place I saw my wife. I love to be here. It's where I get to praise God and worship with my family," said Tom. "And I appreciate the fact that I'm allowed to serve him in other ways, like when I get to be here and help other people."

Lent Paper Chain Countdown

Lent is a period of 40 days (plus 6 Sundays) beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on with the empty tomb on Easter morning. A paper chain can be an easy way to countdown to Easter and also serve as a reminder to spend time each day in prayer, reading scripture or listening to Crosstalk.

SUPPLIES

- Cardstock - Any color, but purple is the traditional color of Lent
- Scissors
- Stapler

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut the paper into strips. Standard paper chain strips are roughly 1-inch wide.

Make the first link by stapling the ends of the paper together to form a paper ring.

One the first ring is formed, thread another strip through the center of the loop. Join the ends together and staple.

Repeat this process until the chain has 46 links. Subtract days from Ash Wednesday if made later in Lent.



Week 2 - Sermon Sheet

Our Lent sermons follow the theme of the Crosstalk audio devotions. As we tie together themes and Scripture, use the Sermon Notes as a place to jot ideas and concepts for reference in the coming days.

Sermon Title _____

Theme Scripture _____

Music: Write one line from a song or hymn that emphasized today's theme.

Sermon: List 2-3 main points from the sermon today (Take notes on the bottom of this page during the sermon.)

Sermon Summary: In the space below or on the next page, write a summary of the sermon message in your own words.

Crosstalk Readings Week 2

Walking in Trust

Psalm 23:1

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 37:5

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:

Psalm 56:3

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

Psalm 62:8

Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Walking in Trust Together



The Auten Family from left to right: Bonnie and Marty Harrison, Julie, Henry, Allison Glen and Annie Auten

Glen Auten has counted the number of Lutheran churches between his home in Shelby Township and Trinity. Five. He passes five other Lutheran churches on his way to church on Sunday morning. Glen drives on, however, because he trusts God put his family at Trinity to grow their faith together.

When Glen was in sixth grade, he had a conversation with his mom that he says went something like this:

Glen asked his mother, "What is so good about Good Friday?"

She responded, "You don't know what Good Friday is?"

"No."

"You know what Easter is, right?"

"Yeah, that's the day Jesus rose from the dead."

"But you don't know what Good Friday is?" she asked.

"No," Glen replied.

"Well, we have got to fix that."

The Autens were Mount Clemens residents and knew several families in the neighborhood that attended Trinity for church, so the summer between Glen's sixth and seventh grade school years, the family began coming to church on Sunday. By the fall, he was enrolled in the school.

“And that’s where I met my wife, Julie,” said Glen.

That wasn’t the moment their love story began, but it is one of the instances where Glen said he can see God working in his life. They went to different high schools, but Glen and Julie reconnected while at Wayne State University. Through a mutual friend, they connected again, began carpooling to WSU, started dating and eventually married.

His wife wasn’t the only thing to come out of his time at Trinity. Glen also found a connection with Jesus and a joy to serve. He said everyone at Trinity can serve according to their strengths and talents. As a high school teacher, Glen was drawn to Vacation Bible School. With the summers away from his classroom, Glen devoted his time to being part of VBS, and using his skills as a teacher to teach others about Jesus.

“I wanted to be part of VBS. My kids wanted to be at VBS. It was fun, it was loud and we drew in up to 300 kids, who would be in the church singing at the end of the day and it was such an amazing experience,” said Glen.

That’s not the only place he’s served. Glen has been an elder, served on Mission Council and volunteered as much as possible.

“The leadership at Trinity always tries to find your strengths. Trinity has been a place of enabling and empowering so many to share their love of Christ, grow in their family and become part of the church community,” said Glen, adding that his parents and in-laws have gotten involved at Trinity, each finding their niche within the church.

“My father-in-law, Marty Harrison, has been at Trinity since he married his wife, Bonnie. His heart is in it completely. He finds joy in serving behind the scenes, doing things nobody would ever even know about. He has been on the HARP mission trips, he helps Manny (Delitela) and Gary (Trombley) go out and build wheelchair ramps and help with projects like that,” said Glen. He said his mother-in-law Bonnie Harrison, who has been at Trinity her entire life, is involved in the Women’s League and is active with the counters that help with offerings.

Glen’s mom, Annie, has been a Stephen Minister and is still active in helping maintain Trinity’s gardens.

Glen said they don't do these things because they have to, they do it because they want to serve Jesus. And it doesn't stop with Glen and his wife — they, too, are raising another generation of Trinity members. Their children Allison and Henry were baptized and confirmed at Trinity. They didn't attend the school, but Glen said it was still important to him that they were part of the Trinity community.

Both completed confirmation, but each found their own way to connect to the church. For his daughter, it was through the Youth Group.

"When Allison was young, we'd drive her back for youth group events and when she got old enough to drive, she'd still go and she'd bring along her friends," said Glen.

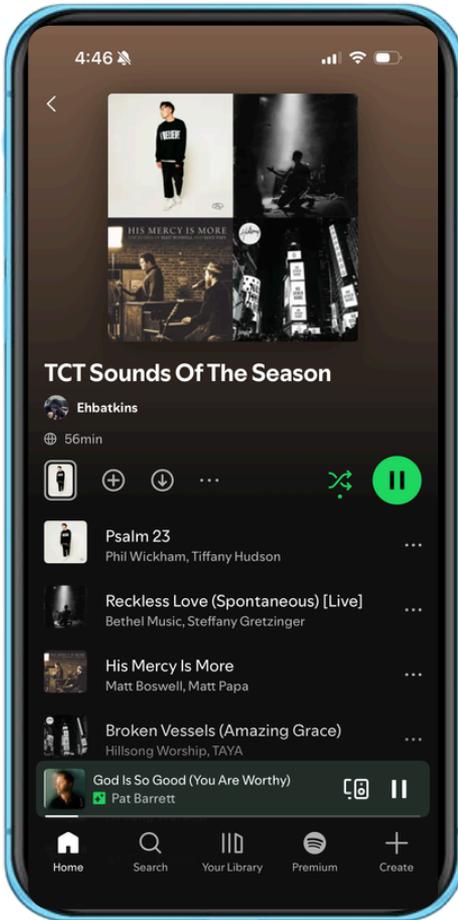
Now that she's an adult, he said Allison is excited to see what the LoFi (group for young adults) can offer to the young adults that grew up together.

Glen said the experience at Trinity isn't always serving, it's living in a community of believers.

"One of the best things that happened to me at Trinity was joining the Trinity golf league at 18. I met so many people through the golf league that I wouldn't have known otherwise. I've played on the men's softball team. My daughter and my wife both play in the women's softball league with the other Lutheran churches," said Glen. "It's cool to have those connections and be around people who believe in Jesus and live their lives similarly."

And Sundays are also a chance to be together. The Autens are often at church with Julie's parents, the Harrisons, and Glen's mom Annie. "We go to church and then we go back to Marty and Bonnie's house and we have breakfast. It's a time to worship and then time to spend with family. It's in our DNA. It's been modeled for us by the patriarchs and matriarchs of our family and down through us."

Lent and Easter Playlist



Trinity's Worship and Music Director, Erica Batkins, has compiled a special collection of songs celebrating the joy and hope of the Easter season.

Many of these selections are performed by contemporary Christian recording artists and are regularly featured during our contemporary 11 a.m. worship service.

Spotify is a free app in the App Store or Google Play. This playlist is available on Spotify by searching "TCT Sounds of the Season." Scan the Spotify barcode to the left using the app.

No app, no problem. You can also access the browser-based version of the playlist by visiting Trinityct.org/Easter.



Week 3 - Sermon Sheet

Our Lent sermons follow the theme of the Crosstalk audio devotions. As we tie together themes and Scripture, use the Sermon Notes as a place to jot ideas and concepts for reference in the coming days.

Sermon Title _____

Theme Scripture _____

Music: Write one line from a song or hymn that emphasized today's theme.

Sermon: List 2-3 main points from the sermon today (Take notes on the bottom of this page during the sermon.)

Sermon Summary: In the space below or on the next page, write a summary of the sermon message in your own words.

Crosstalk Readings Week 3

Hope in the Lord

Psalm 33:20

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield

Psalm 42:5

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Psalm 71:14

As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more.

Psalm 62:5–6

Yes, my soul, find rest in God, my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation, he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

Psalm 147:11

The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Grief Leads to Hope in the Lord



Karin, Thomas, Jeff and Abigail Maier.

Thomas Maier was born with a complex heart defect that could not be corrected. The surgeon was not able to close the hole between his ventricles. His mom, Karin, knew eventually she'd care for her son as his heart failed, but what she didn't expect was her son developing a brain abscess in his freshman year of college and passing away at just 18 years old. Now, as she mourns her son, Karin is finding hope in the Lord through her faith.

The Maiers were connected to Trinity through Thomas' grandfather and Karin's father-in-law, also named Thomas, who began coming to Trinity in 2010. It wasn't a strong connection, Karin said, but her children, including Thomas and her daughter Abigail, were baptized in the church and family attended when they could.

"After Thomas passed away, it was all very different," said Karin, who joined the choir at Trinity in Fall 2025 and hopes to continue this spring.

Thomas was born with the heart defect and while it certainly impacted his health, Karin said he never complained. In grade school, his doctor said he couldn't go out for recess if the outside temperature was below 40 degrees. Karin said Thomas didn't complain when he sat in the office while his classmates went outside. In 2020, he developed arthritis out of the blue. It was painful, but she said he never complained. She said he never complained about his crooked teeth or his bedroom that wasn't decorated with the most up-to-date and modern decor. That was just his personality.

In fall 2024, his family was elated to move him into the residence halls of Adrian College. He had several years of decent health, Karin said, and he was looking forward to a normal college experience.

“He texted us at the end of October and said he had a headache for a few days,” Karin said, as she began to describe the last five weeks of her son’s life. An urgent care visit yielded no helpful results. A few days later, the headache was back and he wanted to go to the hospital.

Karin said her husband made the drive to Adrian and took her son to the hospital, where they treated him with a migraine cocktail and sent him on his way. The father and son got dinner, assuming the worst was behind them, before his dad, Jeff, headed home.

The very next morning, Thomas called for help again. Karin picked him up from Adrian and brought him home. He deteriorated enough that she decided to take him to the emergency room. Thomas was diagnosed with a brain abscess and transported to C.S. Mott Hospital in Ann Arbor. The doctors drained the abscess, but he experienced brain swelling and a week later he went into septic shock.

The hole in his heart led to a large infection in his brain.

Due to all of his complications, his cardiologist had to have a very tough discussion with Thomas.

“That’s when he decided to come home,” Karin said, through tears. “He knew what was coming. He came home on Dec. 11, 2024 and passed away on Dec. 12.”

However, for Karin, his death turned her to God, and God has provided her hope and reassurance.

“Thomas believed in God,” Karin said. In the final days of his life, she saw it most clearly. “In the hospital, one evening, my husband Jeff was in the room while the nurses were cleaning up Thomas. He was in so much pain that he started to recite the Lord’s Prayer.”

They weren’t regular church-goers, but she knew he believed and he was baptized--which gave her hope. Hope that continued to fill her even after he was gone.



Karin, Jeff, Thomas and Abigail Maier.

“I like to sing. Thomas also liked to sing. I needed to do something and I wanted to contribute to the church, so I joined the choir,” Karin said. Not only does it remind her of her son, she’s able to praise God for the gifts in her life as part of the choir, something Karin said she hopes to continue.

Erica Batkins, Trinity’s Director of Worship and Music, said having Karin as part of the choir was inspiring, for two reasons.

“I’m blessed to know her, for sure, and I’m thankful to have her as part of the group—for her musical gifts, but a great testament and reminder of God’s love and faithfulness,” said Batkins. “Karin walks in His goodness every day--tall and strong.”

Karin said she feels peace, comfort and hope that Thomas is in Heaven and she will see him again.



Abigail, Karin, Thomas and Jeff Maier.

Pretzels for Lent

Pretzels have a historic significance in the church. In the fourth to seventh centuries, Christians followed a special diet during Lent. This included avoiding dairy, meat, and eggs during the 40 days of Lent. People made a simple Lent bread from flour, water and salt - the same ingredients used to make pretzels. The bread was often twisted into a shape that represents arms folded in prayer. This week, consider making a pretzel to eat during prayer and devotion time.

Recipe

- 1 ½ cups hot water
- 1 TBSP sugar
- 1 TBSP salt
- 1 package active dry yeast
- 4 TBSP (½ stick) unsalted butter, melted
- 4 ½ cups flour (22 ounces)
- 10 cups water
- ⅔ cup baking soda
- 1 egg, beaten and mixed with 1 TBSP of water



Instructions

1. Mix water, sugar, salt, and yeast together in a large bowl. Let the mixture sit for 5 minutes, until the yeast starts to foam on the water.
2. Add in the butter and flour, and mix until the dough is smooth.
3. Cover the bowl and let sit until dough doubles in size, about 1 hour.
4. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F and spray baking sheets with oil.
5. Boil water with baking soda in a large saucepan.
6. Divide the dough into eight pieces. Shape each piece of dough into a 24-inch rope and then twist it into pretzel shape.
7. Dip each pretzel in the boiling water for 30 seconds and put on baking sheet.
8. Brush the pretzels with egg wash and sprinkle them with salt.
9. Bake for 12-14 minutes.

Week 4 - Sermon Sheet

Our Lent sermons follow the theme of the Crosstalk audio devotions. As we tie together themes and Scripture, use the Sermon Notes as a place to jot ideas and concepts for reference in the coming days.

Sermon Title _____

Theme Scripture _____

Music: Write one line from a song or hymn that emphasized today's theme.

Sermon: List 2-3 main points from the sermon today (Take notes on the bottom of this page during the sermon.)

Sermon Summary: In the space below or on the next page, write a summary of the sermon message in your own words.

Crosstalk Readings Week 4

Joy in his Presence

Psalm 16:11

You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalm 30:5

For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

Psalm 34:1

I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.

Psalm 100:2

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Psalm 118:24

The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

Singing leads to Joy in God's Presence



David Turner (top row, far right) finds joy in singing.

When it comes to joy, long-time Trinity member David Turner said he finds it in singing praises to God as part of the choir.

It all started at First Baptist Church in Athens, Georgia. David said he loved to sing and he was able to do that in his church.

“I’ve always received more joy and more deep faith feelings from singing than I have from the spoken word,” David said.

He was able to continue that when he moved on to the U.S. Air Force Academy, as students were required to attend chapel. He said after the Academy, he went through an “unchurched” time, but joined a choir at the local church when he felt more settled. “The choir was a place to sing and to meet people,” said David.

Life took him back to Athens and First Baptist Church, but he said, it wasn’t the same. He hoped to find more. It was about that time when his late wife, Joan, told him they were moving.

“Joan said, ‘we’re going to go to Michigan and be grandparents,’” said David. So the two followed their daughter, Beth Chaiser, to Michigan where she had a job teaching kindergarten at Trinity.

Not only was the couple now with their daughter and grandchildren, they had the opportunity to get involved at Trinity as well.

“Beth was here and she had the job. We saw we could help her with some things in the classroom. I loved being involved with the kids. As we were here, Pastor Ken (retired Trinity pastor) said, ‘why not go to church here?’ It followed naturally to coming up here and getting involved with the school,” said David.

Once attending church, David decided to get more involved by participating in Trinity’s golf league and also joining the choir.

“I get tons from being in the choir. More than words can describe,” said David. “Now that Erica (Batkins) has started the choir again, it’s great. I truly enjoy choir.”

His joy in the choir is something that radiates, said Erica Batkins, Trinity’s choir director.

“David truly enjoys singing. Whether we are just practicing or we are singing in worship, his heart is fully involved. You can see it from the look on his face,” said Batkins.

David said that while he enjoys choir and it brings him joy, that joy is something he hopes to show through in other parts of his life as well.

“I want to honor my parents in everything I do,” said David. “I want to have interactions with people and for them to walk away knowing not that I’m just a Christian, but that I’m a good guy.”



Trinity's Voices in Praise choir in 2022.

Hymns of Lent and Easter

It's easy to come up with a playlist of contemporary Christian songs for a playlist, but it's more difficult when it comes to traditional hymns. In 2017, the Michigan District, LCMS, commissioned The Hymnal Project to make traditional music more accessible and readily available.

The idea was to arrange hymns in various styles and make them available, free of charge, for those looking for lead sheets to use for church musicians and choirs and also recordings.

Peter Prochnow, Director of Worship Arts and Community Engagement for the Michigan District, has worked with a group of artists, arrangers and liturgists to create this arrangement, which was made possible in partnership with the donation of Carl and Patsy Fabry.

Use the links below to explore the traditional Lutheran music that make up the Lent and Easter services.



The Hymnal Project - Lent Hymns

thehymnalproject.com/lent

Includes hymns such as "All Glory Laud and Honor," "Go to Dark Gethsemane" and "When I Survey the Wonderous Cross."



The Hymnal Project - Easter Hymns

thehymnalproject.com/easter

Includes hymns such as "Were you there," "Jesus Christ is Risen Today," "I Know that My Redeemer Live."

Week 5 - Sermon Sheet

Our Lent sermons follow the theme of the Crosstalk audio devotions. As we tie together themes and Scripture, use the Sermon Notes as a place to jot ideas and concepts for reference in the coming days.

Sermon Title _____

Theme Scripture _____

Music: Write one line from a song or hymn that emphasized today's theme.

Sermon: List 2-3 main points from the sermon today (Take notes on the bottom of this page during the sermon.)

Sermon Summary: In the space below or on the next page, write a summary of the sermon message in your own words.

Crosstalk Readings Week 5

Strength for the Journey

Psalm 18:2

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 27:14

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Psalm 73:26

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalm 121:1–2

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Leaning on God for Strength in the Journey



Edna Grogan

In 2019, Edna Grogan was in the hospital. She was very sick, weak and weary from the treatment for her cancer. Doctors told Edna and her family there wasn't much left to do and began to discuss the possibility of hospice care.

"I wasn't scared. I knew if anything happened, I'd be in Heaven," said Edna. "God gives you that strength--it's a peace like no other when you believe! Long ago and now, I attend Bible class, where I learned that Christ died for our sins. He did that for me personally!"

For her, faith came long ago when she was baptized and confirmed at Trinity. She grew up in the church, watching family members serve as ushers during services and attend Bible studies. Edna, too, participated in various Trinity organizations and studies, serving others as part of the congregation. She wanted to bring that to the next generation, so she raised her son and two daughters at Trinity.

"I can see their faith in their lives today," said Edna.

Throughout the years, her faith deepened and grew. When she faced the struggle of cancer and the effects of treatment, she turned to the Lord.

"I asked the Lord everyday for strength to get through everything I had going on," Edna said.

In an effort to save her life, the doctors changed Edna's treatment plan and she started to get well.

"I started eating again. I couldn't eat for a very long time. Then, I started feeling better and getting stronger," Edna said. Not only did her health turn around, but she found a new calling in the Early Childhood Center, working for ECC Director Jessica Platte and Assistant Director Katie Biemann, making sure the children have their snacks and food each day.

"My friend Faith Briggs said to me, 'I think Jesus saved this job for you,'" said Edna. "I am so thankful and feel so much more connected. When I was sick, I would sit there every day, not even able to get up or get exercise. Now I walk so much as part of the job. I love to see the children and the teachers in the classrooms are wonderful."

She said portioning out snacks and meals allows her to work in the kitchen with Cynthia Chilcutt and Lisa Curley (Trinity's food service team), who inspire her daily with their kindness and compassion. She added that delivering the food to each daycare and preschool classroom has brought her so much happiness.

"I'm a very positive person. I always look for the positive side of things, but I never knew how much joy the Lord had in store for me after my illness. I'm glad to be able to serve Jesus, the ECC families, children and staff every day."

Paint rocks and share Jesus



Trinity's rock garden is located near the school entrance, next to the garage door. If you can't find a rock, grab one here.

Painting rocks can be a meaningful craft to complete during Lent. This hands-on activity offers a quiet, visual expression of faith through times of reflection, prayer and preparation for Easter. Each rock can serve as a reminder of God's promises, Christ's sacrifice and the hope of the resurrection.

Participants of all ages can paint symbols, words, or images that connect with them or simple reminders of grace and love.

There are many directions to take when painting your rocks.

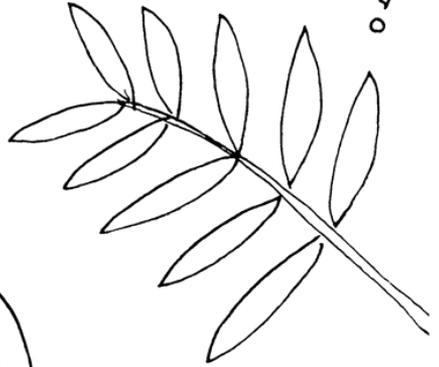
Consider Lenten symbols such as crosses, hearts, praying hands, ashes, or a crown of thorns.

Include words like Hope, Forgiven, Grace, or Alleluia. Scripture verses, three crosses on a hill, a sunrise tomb, or handprints and bright colors are a few suggestions, but use your creativity.

Acrylic paint works best because it adheres well to stone and holds up outdoors. Paint pens or permanent markers are useful for adding details or lettering. A clear sealant spray can be used to protect the finished rock from weather. Take a walk, explore your yard, or visit a local park to find rocks, just make sure you have permission to take them! However, if you're unable to find suitable rocks, take one from the school's rock garden along the garage outside of the school doors. Rocks can be returned to the garden or given to the Early Childhood Center to be placed in the rock garden outside of the Transition classroom.

REJOICE!

SHOUT!



Hosanna!

Week 6 - Sermon Sheet

Our Lent sermons follow the theme of the Crosstalk audio devotions. As we tie together themes and Scripture, use the Sermon Notes as a place to jot ideas and concepts for reference in the coming days.

Sermon Title _____

Theme Scripture _____

Music: Write one line from a song or hymn that emphasized today's theme.

Sermon: List 2-3 main points from the sermon today (Take notes on the bottom of this page during the sermon.)

Sermon Summary: In the space below or on the next page, write a summary of the sermon message in your own words.

Crosstalk Readings Week 6

Learning to Lament

Psalm 13:1

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

Psalm 69:3

I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for my God.

Psalm 42:9

I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?"

Psalm 80:4, 6

How long, Lord God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people. You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.

Psalm 79:1-2

O God, the nations have invaded your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple, they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble. They have left the dead bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the sky the flesh of your own people for the animals of the wild.

Pat Anderson Leans into Faith During Life Trials

The last year has not been easy for Trinity members Pat and Julie Anderson. While 2025 was among the most challenging. Throughout the years, the Andersons remained faithful and focused on all that God has provided them. With this new “lease on life,” as Pat calls it, he feels God is calling him into a new chapter.

Nagging ankle injuries had finally caught up with Pat and there was only one recourse: total ankle replacement. Surgery was scheduled for April 2025. This was terrible timing since Julie was recovering from back surgery.

“It was actually two surgeries in one,” Pat said. He explained that the foot was misaligned from repetitive injuries, so the first part of the surgery involved breaking his heel bone to realign his foot and place plates and pins to hold it in place. The second part was the total ankle replacement. “I had 11 weeks of not bearing any weight on my foot. I had a knee scooter and my ankle was in a splint.”

Pat said the 11 weeks dragged on, but he and Julie had plenty of help and he was actually relieved to have the years of ankle pain behind him.

“I started counting my blessings. When you go from enough pain that you can’t do steps to no pain, you have hope,” Pat said. “We had a hidden support system already in place and there for us. I never felt alone or isolated. I always felt like I was still engaged with people.”

He said the Wednesday morning men’s Bible study group would check in and pray for him. Julie’s sisters were readily available to help—one even worked with Pat to figure out a way for him to get in and out of his van with his knee scooter so he and Julie could leave the house.

After 11 weeks, he was able to start walking with a walker and graduated to a boot. The end of the process was in sight--but then he broke his other foot.

"We had the carpet cleaned and there was one chair that we wanted to straighten the way legs lined up. After I did that, I pushed off my foot to stand back up and broke it," said Pat. "It was a really bad sprain that pulled a small part of the bone away."

While the break didn't require surgery, it did require another six weeks in a boot.

"I said, 'So you're just going to make me be patient, aren't you God?'" Pat said. "In the summer, I golf and I bike. I have a very nice Trek bike and it sat there. I would go into the garage and look at it and say, 'maybe someday.' It was frustrating but we got through it."

By the third week of August, nearly four and a half months after surgery, Pat was able to put on a pair of shoes. Later in the fall, Pat and Julie took a trip to the Upper Peninsula and he was able to do light hiking paths. And things kept getting better from there.

"I'm already hitting golf balls. I'm looking forward to a good golf summer for 2026. I am ready to ride my bike--to get on my bike and ride as many miles as I want. We had hired a lawn service for last summer, but this year, I'm going to take back the grass too," said Pat, adding he and Julie hope to make lots of day trips this year as well.

"The way I'm viewing my health and my recovery is that He still has things for me to do and I want to be open to what I'm supposed to be doing," Pat said.

He said he looks to Isaiah 6:8: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

"It's scary to say that out loud but it's true. Who am I supposed to be helping? Now that I have my health, what am I supposed to do?" Pat said.

Prayers of Lament

This week's Psalms are prayers of lament—cries of grief, sorrow, anger, and confusion. They show that God invites His people to pray honestly, even asking, “Why, O Lord?” “Where are You?” or “Do You hear me?”

At the end, prayers of lament are anchored in God's promises, grounded in Christ, and focused on hope. This follows the pattern found in the Psalms: Complaint, remembrance, and trust. Examples include:

- You remain my refuge and strength.
- Into Your hands I place this grief.
- Keep me in Your peace.

Visual Faith Ministry provides a lament prayer practice (full instructions at visualfaithmin.org by searching Prayer of Lament). The summarized practice appears below.

- On a blank sheet of paper or index card, write whatever is weighing on your heart—no concern for spelling or neatness.
- When the space is full, turn the card 90 degrees and write over what you've written.
- Repeat filling the card and turning to write more until the timer ends. You may not be able to read it—that's okay. God has heard the lament.

For younger children, invite them to draw or doodle their concern while talking to God. They may also decorate the card and add a Bible verse.

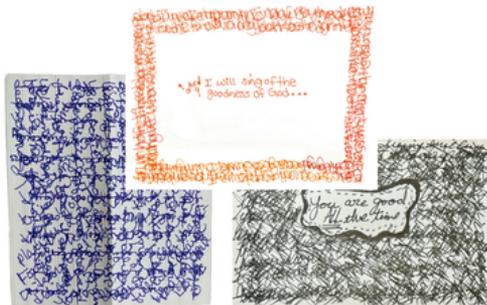


Photo from Visual Faith Ministry

Week 7 - Sermon Sheet

Our Lent sermons follow the theme of the Crosstalk audio devotions. As we tie together themes and Scripture, use the Sermon Notes as a place to jot ideas and concepts for reference in the coming days.

Sermon Title _____

Theme Scripture _____

Music: Write one line from a song or hymn that emphasized today's theme.

Sermon: List 2-3 main points from the sermon today (Take notes on the bottom of this page during the sermon.)

Sermon Summary: In the space below or on the next page, write a summary of the sermon message in your own words.

Crosstalk Readings Week 7

The Cross and the New Beginning

Psalm 22:1

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?

Psalm 31:5

Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.

Psalm 69:20

Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none.

Psalm 116:13

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Psalm 34:20

He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.

HARP provides new beginnings



Members of the 2025 HARP team with Chuck (standing, with friend) a local they helped

Once a year, a team of Trinity members volunteer to spend a week with the HARP (Helping Appalachian Rural People) Mission in Caldwell, Ohio, which serves people in areas experiencing high levels of poverty, unemployment rates and low levels of education and infrastructure. Trinity's team often serves the disabled, elderly and veterans help with home repairs and modifications to dilapidated houses.

Trinity member Shawn McCormick leads the Trinity's group on the trip and she said not only does HARP offer new beginnings for the people they serve, but also for the volunteers who get to be part of it.

Shawn said last year, the group served at the home of a man named Chuck. He was disabled and getting in and out of his house was a challenge. Without intervention, he would have likely become homebound.

"Chuck kept asking the group 'why are you doing this?' He couldn't understand why we were there. He couldn't believe our group was working for free," said Shawn.



The HARP volunteers work on anything from building projects to yardwork.

She said the group worked to put a ramp on his house to make it easier for him to get in and out. Also, they sealed his roof, which leaked and caused water damage on the inside. “We gave him a Bible and told him we are the hands and feet of Jesus. This is what we do. We were giving him a new beginning. He was able to use the ramp that we built and meet us at a restaurant we eat at for dinner. It was just so special.”

Shawn said stories like Chuck’s are not uncommon during the

mission trip. The group makes connections with the people they serve each year. She said having those relationships enhances the experience.

“When we leave there, we like to see that we’ve been able to help them get a fresh start or a fresh outlook on life. They either don’t have a lot of hope for their health or their financial situation, but we come in to make it a bit easier and share the message of Jesus,” Shawn said.

Five years ago when Shawn joined the group, she, too, made a meaningful connection—with the other members of the team.

“It was my first connection with people who had similar beliefs in life. It was a new beginning for me at 48 years old to say, ‘wow! I found my people,’” she said.

While working with the group, Shawn says others have shared similar stories. One she remembers clearly. She said the volunteer had experienced so much negativity in their life that they couldn’t believe an organization with such positive outcomes exists.

Each June, the roughly 20 member team from Trinity (sometimes joined by those from smaller churches), heads to the region for the week. They work on everything from painting and demolition to hauling and yard work. There are also some organizing and gardening.

Volunteers can be those of any skill level and of almost any age. Shawn said children as young as 10 years old are invited to join them on the mission.

"I love this option, because it allows the children and their parents to connect with each other more deeply, with other members of the church and with those we serve," Shawn said. "And we don't just leave kids to play kickball all day. We work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and it is all hands on deck."

Part of the program involves mentorship. Shawn said more experienced members of the team are paired up with those who want to learn. The mentors can show them how to use power tools or demo a bathroom and more. She said this helps the next generation of volunteers grow into the skills they can use to help HARP or others in the future.

Shawn said the group also hopes to develop some of the team members into the next group of leaders.

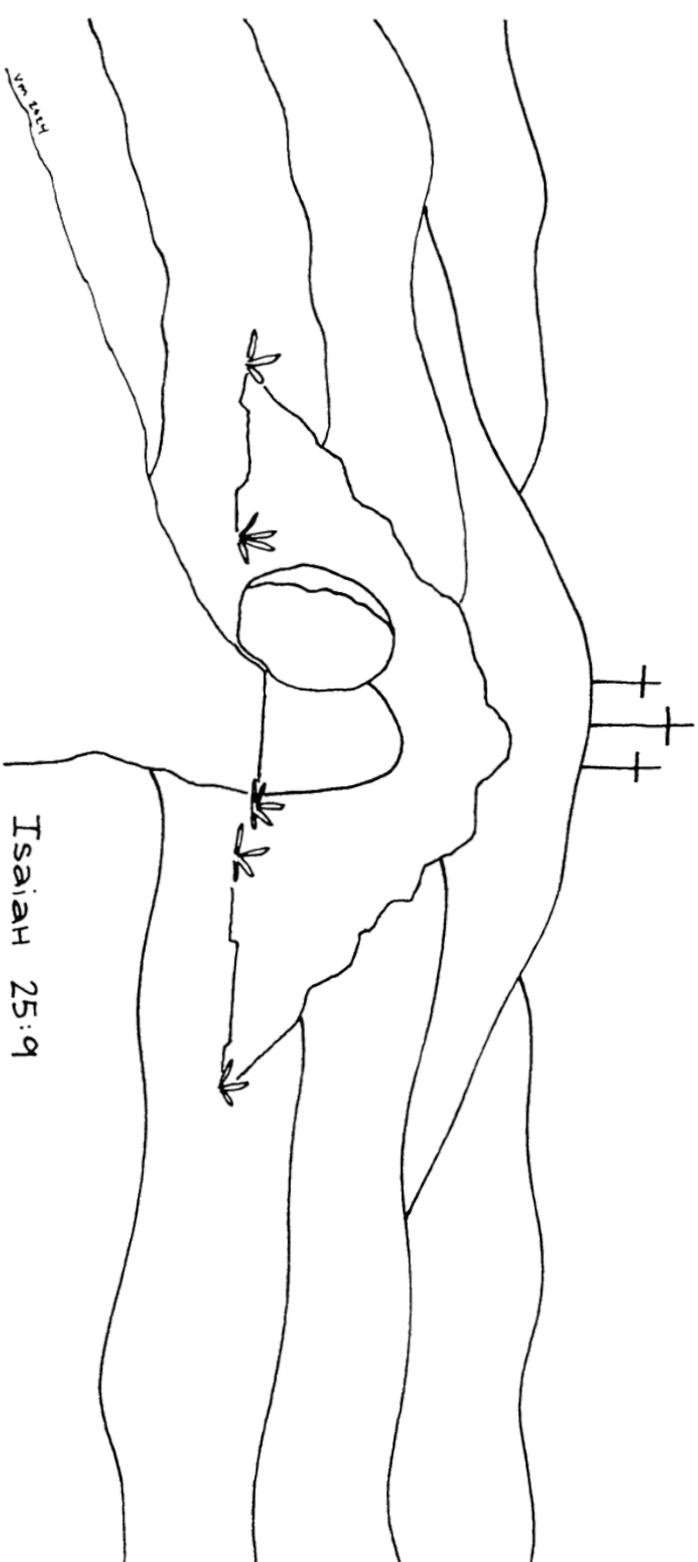
"Honestly, when I took over HARP, I never thought I could lead a mission trip. I've learned and I've grown and I can teach those skills to others," said Shawn.

Shawn said the experience HARP differs from some of the other missions because it's not local. She said she appreciates local projects and mission opportunities but traveling five hours from home, disconnecting and being away from the normal routine often helps the volunteers to connect with the God, each other and the people they serve in an immersive way.

"We do devotions in the morning and then we head out to work," said Shawn. "We'd love to take more people to experience this mission."

To learn more about Trinity's HARP mission involvement, contact Shawn at mccormickshawnharp@gmail.com.

This is the LORD; we have waited for Him;
let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.



Isaiah 25:9

Next Step: Focus on Values

Over the past few months, Trinity leaders have been taking meaningful steps forward in developing a three-year strategic plan. At the heart of that work is one central goal: to articulate a compelling, Christ-centered vision for Trinity Clinton Township that unites our whole organization and the entire body of believers, recognizing that this mission belongs not to leadership alone, but to all whom God has gathered at Trinity to form fully devoted followers of Jesus.

A vision is a bit like the horizon—something you can see clearly enough to orient your direction, even if fully arriving there remains aspirational. It keeps us moving toward what matters most, especially when day-to-day ministry becomes chaotic.

That's why one of our first priorities has been to identify our organizational values—not as slogans, but as shared

commitments that shape our culture, guide our decisions, and help our discipleship pathway take root in everyday life. Here are the values we have developed, along with Bible verses and explanations for further clarification. Our staff and leadership would love to hear your feedback as we continue to move towards the vision God has for us.



1) Worship — Truth of God's Word

Verse: John 17:17 — “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

Explanation: We worship and live from what God has revealed, not what culture is currently applauding. Scripture sets the tone for our preaching, teaching, and decision-making—keeping our identity and hope anchored in Christ.

2) Grow — Mutual Accountability

Verse: Hebrews 10:24–25 — “Let us consider how to stir up one another... encouraging one another...”

Explanation: Disciples don't grow alone. We pursue spiritual maturity in relationships where we're known, encouraged, challenged, and supported—speaking truth in love and helping each other take next steps with Jesus.

3) Service — Transparent Trust

Verses: 2 Corinthians 8:20–21 — “We take this course so that no one should blame us... for we aim at what is honorable...”

Explanation: We serve people where they are with the love of Jesus—and we work to earn trust, not assume it. We're committed to integrity and transparency in how we use time, money, and ministry resources, so our service is received with confidence and points clearly to Christ.

4) Share — Motivation for Multiplication

Verses: 2 Timothy 2:2; Matthew 28:19–20 — “Entrust to faithful people... teach others also.” / “Go therefore and make disciples...”

Explanation: We share with a generational mindset because Jesus sends His church to make disciples. We invest in people and ministries in a way that outlasts us—so disciples make disciples—and we trust the Spirit to multiply ordinary faithfulness into Kingdom growth.

As our visioning unfolds, we close the season of Lent—a time of reflection, repentance, and renewed focus on Christ. Now, as we celebrate the joy of Easter and the resurrection of our Lord, we are reminded that new life is at the heart of God's work. We now begin to explore this three-year plan—moving forward together, confident that Christ goes before us as we seek to form fully devoted followers of Jesus. Join us in the coming weeks as we dive into the values together.