

TRINITY TIDINGS



Living faithfully + Renewing hope + Sharing God's Love

The Time after **Epiphany**
into the season of **Lent**



*Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land,
My Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.
African American Spiritual, ELW 333 refrain*

February— March 2026

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Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Jesus, Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:19-21)



The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday. It's a time to prepare for the new life that will be revealed on Easter Day. Lent is usually characterized by fasting, self-denial, and repentance. Even those who do not observe Lent know about the struggles of letting go of things, self-denial, and trying to change your life.

A collection of common questions often arise around Lent. What should I do for Lent this year? What should I read or study? What should I give up or take on? They are good questions but sometimes we can be overly focused on the doing aspect of our lives. But what about the *being* aspect?

Who do you want to be? How do you want to be? My sense is that if we get the who and how of our lives worked out the what of our lives follows more naturally. Maybe that's why in the gospel reading every year for Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, we hear Jesus say, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Our heart follows what we treasure. We give our heart to what we value most. So where is your heart these days? To what treasures are you giving yourself over to? What do you most value and how is that reflected in the words you say, the actions you take and the way you live day to day?

When we name our treasures, we find our heart. When we name our treasures, we begin to see—for better or worse—the direction in which our life is headed. Is your life heading in the direction you want to go? Does what others see of your life reflect who and how you want to be?

Some treasures are of lasting and eternal value. They enrich and grow life. They benefit others. They enlarge our world and make room for others. They are worth holding on to. Other treasures, however, hold our hearts captive and impoverish or cheapen life. They diminish our dignity and the dignity of others. They are fool's gold, and we need to let go of them regardless of how much we think we love or need them.

What if we lived as treasure hunters searching for our hearts? We might uncover what we truly value and how we really want to spend our time and energy. This is less about whether we are good or bad, and more about discovering the riches of God's grace for us, recovering our lives through that grace and becoming more whole, more at peace.

Learning and knowing God's love for us and learning to love in return and what and who to love is the journey of Lent. That's how we learn what to hold on to and what to let go of. Let the Lenten work that heals our lives and offers healing to others begin!

In the peace and joy of the Lord which is our strength,

Pastor Susan



Sundays in the Time after



Epiphany IV, February 1

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

Epiphany V, February 8—Barbara Bernstengel, Guest Preacher

Isaiah declares that when we loosen the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

*TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD, February 15

The Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle of seasons comes to a close today.

On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words of his baptism.

This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem.

We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter.

***Litany for burying our**



February 18

12:00 PM--Holy Communion with Distribution of Ashes
In-person or Zoom

Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.



THE SUNDAYS IN LENT 2026

A SEASON OF PARADOX

The season of Lent holds together the paradoxes of human experience in the contrasting imagery of the parched desert and the streams of living water. Lent is also the season of learning important stories of the faith—the story of salvation from creation to new creation. On the Sundays in Lent, we will focus on these stories from the Hebrew scriptures which will be touchstones on our baptismal Lenten journey.



*First Sunday in Lent, February 22—Created in God's image

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. As a consequence of Adam and Eve's disobedience, their eyes "were opened" and this moment of self-awareness is the beginning of shame and our bondage to sin and death from which we cannot free ourselves. Jesus experiences anew the temptations Israel faced in the wilderness but he endures the testing of the evil one.

***Annual Congregation Meeting immediately following the worship service.**

Second Sunday in Lent, March 1—Blessed to be a blessing

As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Jesus reminds a curious Pharisee about God's love for the world and tells him he must be born of water and Spirit.

Third Sunday in Lent, March 8—Water from a rock

The thirsty Israelites quarrel with Moses and put God to the test. Moses cries out in desperation to God. God commands Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The psalmist recalls God's gracious provision to a quarrelsome and thirsty people and invites everyone to "shout for joy to the rock of our salvation."

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 15—Anointed

As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives. The reading about Samuel's anointing David, the youngest of the sons of Jesse, is a good reminder that God's actions can be surprising.

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 22—The valley of dry bones

In the gospel reading, Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD, MARCH 29

Procession with Palms and reading of the Passion according to St. Matthew





Lenten Stepping Stones Taize Prayer Service Wednesdays at Noon Begins February 25 In-person or on Zoom Lunch sandwich wraps, coffee or tea to stay or to go immediately following the service.

In the Bible, rocks symbolize God's strength, faithfulness and permanence or steadfastness. They serve as a metaphor for a firm foundation for faith, a refuge from life's storms, and represent Jesus Christ as the unshakeable cornerstone of the Church. They also signify memorials—stones of remembrance—and divine truth, contrasting instability like sand.

Our Lenten journey will take us to five "stepping stones" that will help us make our way through the Lenten wilderness to the Cross and Easter Day.

Week I, February 25:	The Lord is my Rock (Psalm 18:2)
Week II, March 4:	A stone named Ebenezer (1 Samuel 7:12)
Week III, March 11:	You are salt (Matthew 5:13)
Week IV, March 18:	Living stones (1 Peter 2:5)
Week V, March 25:	The wise who build on the rock (Matthew 7:27)

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Thank you to all who contributed non-perishable foods and warm socks for our Reverse Advent Calendar Project. Because of your generosity, we were able to deliver approximately 15 bags of items to the Center for Food Action.



**February 22, 2026
Annual Congregation Meeting**

11:30 AM
Immediately following worship

Please plan to attend!



A

**STEWARDSHIP***short . . . A commitment to giving ...*

*Behold, behold, I make all things new, beginning with you, and starting from today.
John Bell, Singing in Community Hymn 5*

*Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.
Psalm 25:10*

*Lent is a season for contemplating stewardship**

During the season of Lent it is appropriate for each believer to examine her or his faithfulness to attributes that define God. We say that God offers providence, which verbalizes simply that God takes care of us. Jesus puts this concept in the form of a question: "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" *Matthew 6:26*

Psalm 25 at its heart addresses the one who prays out of a sense of sinfulness and need for forgiveness. The one who prays asks that God steer his or her life: "Lead me in your truth, and teach me." But the petitioner also suggests even more by way of confession: "For you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long." The promise to wait is in itself revealing. The one who prays offers persistence and endurance as a means to obtain what God alone can deliver. Persistence and endurance also reveal earnestness. Jesus' parable of the Unjust Judge (Luke 18:1-5) praises a woman who received justice only because of her dogged resolve. Likewise, the psalmist promises to wait "as long as it takes."

For stewards, Psalm 25 offers several divine attributes that conceivably, those who give and serve faithfully might mimic. Among those divine traits offered by the psalm, we read about God's mercy, truthfulness, steadfast love, and faithfulness. When the psalmist prays to God, "Teach me your paths," he asks for a portion of the essence of what makes God what God is for us. Later in the incarnation, Jesus becomes the character of the Godhead – divine traits assuming human flesh. Christ, consequently, answers Psalm 25's prayer. To learn of God means that stewards assume God's traits with the faithful intention to share those Godlike traits with the world.

**--Reflection by David Mosser, ELCA Stewardship Services Lenten Devotional, 2007*

*You could also go to our website and make a donation online today!
<http://holyltrinityhasbrouckheights.com/home/donate>





Grace-Full Dollars Months

Now is a time when we need one another.

Now is a time to live and act as faithful people of God.

February is LSMNJ Easter Dinners Month

Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey (LSMNJ) is many partners but one mission. LSMNJ partners with congregations throughout the state in responding to the homeless, those that are food insecure or impacted by disaster. Each year, Holy Trinity gathers funds to send to LSMNJ for their annual Easter Dinner drive. We provide the funds and they do the shopping and delivering to those in need. To learn more about LSMNJ, click here:

<https://www.lsmnj.org/purpose/lutheran-connection/>



CENTURION seeking freedom for the innocent in prison

March is Centurion Ministries Month

Centurion Ministries is a national nonprofit that seeks freedom for the innocent in prison. Since 1983, this organization founded by James McCloskey, a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, has helped release 72 men and women who were serving life or death sentences for crimes they did not commit. In particular, they take on the hard cases—cases that may not have DNA evidence available, or need reinvestigating, recovering lost evidence and finding new evidence and helping to overturn false confessions. To learn more about this organization, click here: <https://centurion.org>

In February, please make your check out to Holy Trinity with “LSMNJ Easter Dinners” in the memo line of your check.

In March, please make your check out to Holy Trinity with “Centurion Ministries” in the memo line of your check.

Or go online to our website:

**<http://holytrinityhasbrouckheights.com/home/donate>
and designate your gift to “Grace-Full Dollars”**

When you know God's grace, you want to share God's grace.



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who contributed to the College Student Exam Bags. These bags supply the students with some extra snacks to fuel their exam preparations. These bags are distributed to the students over Thanksgiving Break.

We received notes of appreciation from two of our students.

Hello,

Just wanted to say thank you to you both for the generous college care package of snacks! I will certainly be going through them over the next couple weeks. Thanks and hope you have a great holiday season!

Best,

Nicholas Obiso

Dear Members of Holy Trinity,

Thank you so much for the exam goodie bag!

*Love,
Christian*

STITCH ONE, SHARE ONE

The Stitch One, Share One group is a very popular ministry at Holy Trinity. We now meet on the fourth Sunday of the month and are open to the community. We have 2-3 regulars from the outside community who attend, one of whom sometimes attends church services with us. We have also welcomed younger members over the years.

Our group has been productive, inter-generational and fun. We average a steady 7 to 9 people at each meeting. In this past year, we have crafted and donated hats and scarves to PERC, the Palisade Emergency Resident Coalition. We have also donated carrier pads to the Teterboro Animal Shelter in the past. We look forward to another productive year in 2026.

If you have any questions about this ministry, please reach out to **Dianna Mammone**.



Happy Birthday!



February

Gail Gugliotti
Dianna Mammone
Karen Lindberg
Nancy Fanslau
Christian Lindberg

March

Stacy Margiotta
Laurie Varga
Paul Martinez
Tony Gugliotti
Karen Brig
Erin Lang
Kristen Valentine
Meghan Foster
Christopher Cupo

Happy Anniversary!

March

Salvatore & Eleanor Altomare – March 3



Thank You!

- **To all who decorated the Church for our Christmas services and to all who removed the decorations after Christmas.** As always, the church looked lovely.
- **To all who contributed non-perishable foods and personal care items for our Reverse Advent Calendar Project.** Because of your generosity, we were able to deliver 15 bags of groceries and personal care items to the Center for Food Action in Hackensack. Thank you to **Anastasia and Kaitlyn Kaminski** for making those deliveries.
- **To all who continue to graciously volunteer their time and talents to make Holy Trinity a wonderful place to worship!**



Lutheran Girls' Camp Association, Inc.
www.mahetu.org

Kathryn Carpenter
1316 Garden Avenue
Roseville, MN 55113

September 29, 2025

Susan Chiaravalle

Dear Sue,

Greetings from Camp Ma-He-Tu!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Camp Ma-He-Tu, I want to acknowledge a generous contribution to our Keep the Campfires Burning Fund made by Trinity Lutheran Church in your honor. This contribution will allow us to continue to provide a wonderful camp experience for girls each summer.

The Lutheran Girl's Camp Association is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code making your donation deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. No goods or services were received in exchange for this donation.

Once again, we are very thankful for this generous contribution.

Sincerely,

Kathy Carpenter

Kathryn Carpenter
Corresponding Secretary

Donation Details

Gift Date: 8/18/2025

Off-Season Contact: 6 Soundview Drive North, Huntington, NY 11743 (631)-351-1657
Summer Contact: 520 Seven Lakes Drive, K-24, Bear Mountain, NY 10911 (845)-351-4508
Email: INFO@MAHETU.ORG



Seafarers International House

The Lutheran response to the urgent needs of seafarers and immigrants since 1873

January 13, 2026

Sharon
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
92 Burton Ave.
Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604

Dear Friend of Seafarers,

Thank you for having connected with the stranger across oceans this past holiday season. **Your participation in Christmas-at-Sea brought joy to over 3,200 seafarers**, people who are working on cargo ships and who spent Christmas apart from loved ones. Hundreds of caring individuals like you shared Christmas cheer by giving freely of their time, knitting hats or scarves, donating, or gathering warm clothing, or ordering them through our Amazon Wish List to fill the satchels.

Perhaps more meaningful than my words are those from seafarers, who enjoyed your kindness as expressed in this email sent to us – and to you:

Dear Reverend, Church Members, Mission Friends,

On behalf of the crew of the containership Southampton Express, I extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generosity and kindness this Christmas season. Your donations and thoughtful preparation of gifts [satchels] have brought joy and comfort to us in ways words can scarcely express.

Christmas is a time of giving, of light in the darkness, and of hope renewed. Through your support, you have reminded us that we are part of a larger family - one that stretches beyond oceans and harbours, bound together by faith, compassion, and goodwill.

Please know that your efforts have touched our hearts deeply. Each gift is more than a present - it is a symbol of care, of solidarity, and of the true meaning of Christmas.

*With sincere appreciation and warm wishes for a blessed holiday season and new year,
Capt. Laszlo*

With sincere gratitude,

Henryk Behnke
Director of Development & Communications
henryk@sihnyc.org * (212) 677-4800 ext. 7203

120 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011 | 212-677-4800 | www.sihnyc.org

