

MARCH

From the Pastor's Pen

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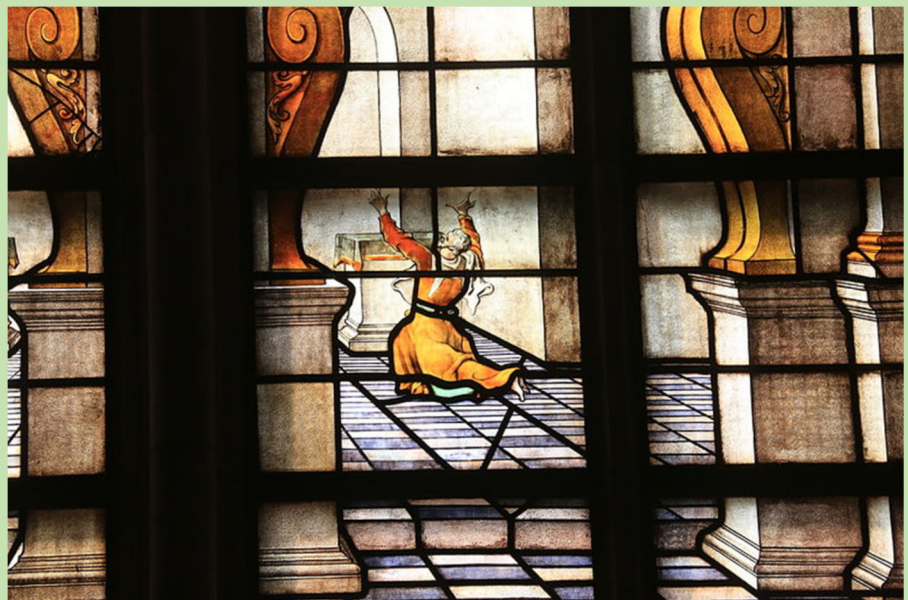
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Humble Hearts



(Detail of Stained-Glass Window 27, "The Pharisee and the Publican" at the Sint Janskerk at Gouda, Netherlands)

"Thus says the Lord: Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is my resting place? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things are mine, says the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look, to the humble and contrite in spirit, who trembles at my word."

-Isaiah 66:1-2

On Wednesday, March 6th at 6:30, we will begin the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service. Like Advent, Lent is a season of preparation and prayer. Unlike Advent, though, we don't have angel visitations and expectant mothers. We don't giddily look forward to the coming of the Christ child and the hope, peace, love, and joy that he brings. Instead, we take these six weeks to grapple with Christ's suffering and death, anticipating the miracle of the resurrection.

But it's important that we don't get swept into Eastertide too soon. It's far easier to ignore the more solemn tone of our services, to skip out on the

Pastor's Pen cont.

calls to rededicate ourselves to prayer, penitence, and service. Here, easier is definitely not better. If we could say that the cardinal virtue of Advent is patience (as we wait actively and expectantly), we could say that the virtue for Lent is humility. We need humility in order to honestly assess our lives and work to make changes to follow Christ more closely.

Still, we get into a lot of trouble with the way that we talk about humility. We sometimes think of the meek as though they were the 90-pound weaklings getting sand kicked in their faces at the beach. They are brought low, abused, and yet somehow have the faith and the calm temperament to see it through without complaint. We imagine that they hate everything about themselves and devalue everything they offer while they see others as holy and valuable, bringing beautiful gifts to God and to the world.

I'm going to go ahead and call, "shenanigans" on this definition. What we often assume is humility sounds a lot more to me like low self-esteem, abuse, and clinical depression to me. I don't believe that this is what God wants for us in Lent or otherwise. In his classic book, The Screwtape Letters, C.S. Lewis talks about humility. He says that the temptation is to tell lies to ourselves about our own abilities and character, bringing them low in our own sight. Because what we are trying to believe is quite far from the truth, we end up telling tales of nonsense that we can't possibly believe. We end up spinning our wheels to no end. Lewis says that God wants to bring us to the state of mind in which:

"[we] could design the best cathedral in the world, and know it to be the best, and rejoice in the fact, without being any more (or less) or otherwise glad at having done it than [we] would be if it had been done by another....[God wants us] to be so free from any bias in [our] favor that [we] can rejoice in our own talents as frankly and as gratefully as in [our] neighbor's talents – or in a sunrise, an elephant, or a waterfall." (70-71)

Humility means honesty and joy that, yes, comes through the pain of the realization of our own sinfulness. Still, in humility, we recognize that God is God and we are not. We recognize that we are not perfect, but that God loves us all the same. We remember that God's mercy is ever-extended, ever awaiting us. We learn that we can turn a new page, start a new practice, love more fully in this world.

In Lent, even though the air is somber, we see that our focus on sin is not to bring us low, but to raise us all up together. We see that sin is not the end of the story and so we do not need to fear the discipline of penitence. When we humble ourselves, we draw nearer to God and to one another. May God bless us all in this time of preparation. May we find areas to grow and areas to celebrate. May our wounds find healing and may our swords be remade into plowshares. Amen.

-Pastor Elana

Monthly Liturgy

Transfiguration of the Lord—March 3rd

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Ash Wednesday—March 6th

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

1st Sunday in Lent—March 10th

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

2nd Sunday in Lent—March 17th

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philemon 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

3rd Sunday in Lent—March 24th

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

4th Sunday in Lent—March 31st

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Music

Erik Collins

MARCH MUSIC NOTES

March 2019

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me is an African-American spiritual that focuses on a plea for Jesus to walk alongside us. It also provides an element of assurance that His answer is “yes.” As the psalmist writes, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me” (Psalm 23:4, ESV). As this song is sung, many think about what it means to constantly have the presence of God, even when no human companionship is available.

*I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

Eliza Gilkyson wrote **Requiem** as a song of grief following the Asian tsunami in December 2004, and the song found a renewed audience after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast region. This setting by Conspirare conductor Craig Hella Johnson is powerful in its emotional impact.

*Mother Mary, full of grace, awaken. All our homes are gone, our loved ones taken.
Taken by the sea - Mother Mary, calm our fears, have mercy. Drowning in a sea of tears, have mercy.
Hear our mournful plea. Our world has been shaken, we wander our homelands, forsaken.*

*In the dark night of the soul, bring some comfort to us all - Oh, Mother Mary, come and carry us in your embrace;
that our sorrows may be faced. Mary, fill the glass to overflowing. Illuminate the path where we are going.
Have mercy on us all. In funeral fires burning, each flame to your mystery, returning.*

Kyrie is a common name of an important prayer of Christian liturgy, also called the Kyrie eleison. In Rome, the sacred Liturgy was first celebrated in Greek. At some point the Roman Mass was translated into Latin, but the historical record on this process is sparse. Jungmann explains at length how the Kyrie in the Roman Mass is best seen as a vestige of a litany at the beginning of the Mass, like that of some Eastern churches. Andrea Klouse pairs this traditional text with a beautiful choral setting.

Kyrie Eleison. Christe Eleison. (Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy)

I Am His Child offers a deeply moving and profound text. Moses Hogan has such a way of conveying hope and aspiration through music that it reaches us all.

*I may not be all that you are, I may not be a shining star,
but what I am I thank the Lord for making me His child.*

*Thank you Lord for hearing ev'ry prayer,
Thank you Lord for just being there,
Thank you Lord, for I am not worthy of your Love.*

*I may not be all that you are, I may not be a shining star,
but what I am I thank the Lord for making me His child.*

*So don't use me or abuse me, for I am His child.
Don't tease me, or mistreat me, for I'm still His child,
you can even talk about me. But I'm still His child.*

Christian Education

Melinda Carver

Multi-grade Sunday School (pre-k through fourth grade)

March 3	Valerie Wagner	"Listen to Him"
March 10	Sarah Rayment	"Being Tempted"
March 17	Melinda Carver	"Bring Them Together"
March 24	Katie Orrell	"Seek God"
March 31	Kate Hanson	"Lost and Found"

The Tween/Youth Class (fifth through twelfth grade)

A Sunday School Teen class is available every Sunday and all youth, sixth through twelfth grade, are welcome in the upstairs classroom by the sound tech room. Please join our terrific teen teaching team for timely and relevant discussions from Pre-Teen Ministry.

March 3	No Sunday School—Practice for Youth Sunday	
March 10	John Clawson	"Making Time for God"
March 17	Stephanie Smith	"Pressure of School Life"
March 24	Liz Powell	"Judging Others"
March 31	John Clawson	"Prayer"

Midweek Book Study:

Midweek Book Study will be starting their new book, *God, Improv, and The Art of Living* by MaryAnn McKibben Dana, on March 6th. If you are interested in joining, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. The wonderful teaching team is composed of Pastors Lucus, Pastor Elana, and Cindy Strasheim. All interested adults are invited to join them in the cafe at 11:00 am. Lunch fellowship follows book study for all who can bring a lunch and stay for friendly conversation.



Sunday Morning Opportunities

Attention All Infants through Kindergarten: Donna Bridenstine is available for infants through preschool from 9:00 a.m. through the close of worship. Pre-kindergarteners and kindergarteners can join Donna and an adult volunteer (when necessary) following Sunday School, for safe fun learning experiences and nurturing care.

Mission

Liz Powell

BACKPACKS 4 BIXBY – It is hard to believe, but by the time Easter arrives on April 21st, the school year will be almost over! A sign-up sheet to help pack, deliver, or shop for the BackPack program during the final months of school will be circulated in early March.

During Lent (March 6th – April 18th) there will be a Food Drive to finish up the year.

Some ideas for our BackPack Food Drive:

Peanut Butter
Tuna
Macaroni and Cheese
Apple Sauce
Fruit Cups
Ravioli
Vienna Sausages
Granola Bars
Pop Tarts
Oatmeal



DWIGHT MISSION CLEAN UP – There will be a general clean up session at Dwight Mission from Friday, April 26th to Sunday, April 28th. Stay tuned for a **Minute for Mission** with more details and ways you can participate.

HAIR RAISING – Rev. Elana Levy is offering the very hair on her head for Mission! During Lent you can vote with your dollars for your favorite Mission recipients and the length of Elana's hair. There will be a Mission recipient on the local, national, and international front. Our local recipient will be BackPacks 4 Bixby, the national charity will be Wounded Warrior Project, and our International charity will be Malawi Seminary Scholarship for Women. After the contest, Rev. Levy will donate her hair to Locks of Love. The winner will be revealed Holy Humor Sunday, April 28th. Don't miss this opportunity to support these missions!

Congregational Care

Grant Kessler

Grant Kessler is the new Session contact for the congregational Care Team. And Annemarie Kessler is a new member of the team.

The Lunch Bunch will meet March 17th and we will let you know where we are going.

The most important way that you can help our Team, is by letting us know of any of Trinity's congregational members who are sick, who are in the hospital, are having surgery, or have other needs so that we may support and provide assistance to them and their families.

We will be glad to send cards, call, visit, provide meals, or other assistance as needed. Please make sure we are aware of our college students that are away from home and need a bit of additional support in the way of cards/letters and occasional gift cards.

The team is collecting contact information from members who are available to drive other members to church who are unable. Members will be seeing a sign-up list distributed during Sunday's service.

Evangelism

Dwayne Strasheim

The mission of the Evangelism Team is “to promote our Christian faith by sharing the love of God with our congregation and the surrounding community.” One way to accomplish this is to make sure that everyone who has anything to do with Trinity Presbyterian Church—members, friends, neighbors, visitors—feels welcome here. As Brenda Cunningham mentioned in last month’s newsletter, our projects for the year will include updating the Trinity Directory, communicating with new and prospective members, making sure that we have greeters and sign changers, and enhancing Trinity’s visibility in the community.

If what I’ve described sounds like something you might enjoy, please consider this an invitation to join Brenda, Cindy, and me on the Evangelism Team. You can e-mail me at dstrasheim@hastings.edu or phone or text me at 402-469-0941.



Building & Grounds

Nancy Cain

We plan to have a clean up the day before Easter and we're looking for help. Are you available April 6th to take part?

Building and Grounds group met on committee night and discussed several items relating to the care and handling of our building and grounds. We could use some help in the opening and closing of the building on Sundays. Hopefully someone can add some help in that area.

The roof continues to be a source of concern. The most recent damage has been repaired but it is difficult to determine the source of the leak. It may originate in one area of the building, but not damage walls or ceilings in that exact area, rather in a different area. Our intrepid B & G group will continue to watch for trouble and take appropriate action. A complete replacement would be expensive and we would all rather put our funds to a different use.

General approval was expressed with our new grounds company. Committee members expressed that they are doing a really good job.

You will soon be hearing about our Clean-Up Campaign. We have a list of mostly inside tasks that need attention. These jobs include: cleaning of light covers and replacing the lights that are burned out, the always challenging refrigerator-abandoned penicillin-growing items, reorganization of stored banners to prepare for the rest of the church year, also, inventorying and cleaning out of the coat closet.

We hope that if any of the members who notice things that need attention will let a member of the building and grounds group know so that we can take care of it.



Nancy Cain

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MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Join us Wednesdays at 12:00 for Sack Lunch Fellowship! </div>		1	2
3 Youth Sunday	4	5	6 Pack backpacks at 10:30 a.m. Book study at 11:00a.m. Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30pm	7 Lent study at 6:00pm Chimes at 7:00pm	8 Couples Fellowship Potluck dinner at 6:30pm	9 Elder Training at 1:30
10 Lent #1 "Winter Jubilee" at Bristow Presbyterian	11	12	13 Presbyterian women at 9:45 a.m. Book Study at 11:00a.m. Team Meetings	14 Lent study at 6:00pm Chimes at 7:00pm	15	16
17 Lent #2 Lunch Bunch	18	19 Session at 6:30	20 Pack backpacks at 10:30 a.m. Book study at 11:00 a.m.	21 Lent study at 6:00pm Chimes at 7:00pm	22	23
24 Lent #3	25	26	27 Pack backpacks at 10:30 a.m. Book Study at 11:00a.m.	28 Lent study at 6:00pm Chimes at 7:00pm	29	30
31 Lent #4						

Lenten Devotions

Welcome to the Lenten season of 2019!

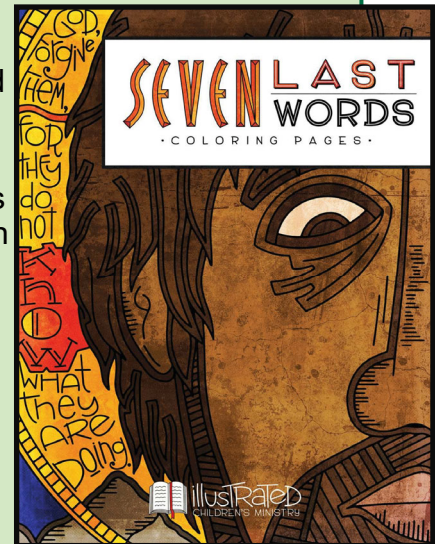
In this time of contemplation and connection with God, you are encouraged to take on a spiritual practice - whether it's abstaining from a food you love, or praying an additional prayer, and so on.

One option might be to use the email devotionals on the Seven Last Words of Jesus, and its companion coloring page, to focus your mind and heart on a specific verse of scripture. Two different coloring pages will be included each week - one is more detailed, and one is more simple, but they will serve the same focusing purpose.

A new devotion will be e-mailed each Wednesday of Lent.

May Lent be meaningful and connective for you as we journey towards Holy Week together.

-Pastor Lucas



The Parables of Jesus in Art

This Lent, our evening study will be an exploration of six different parables of Jesus and the art inspired by them. We will meet Thursday evenings starting March 7th at 6:00pm.



Ted Karner	03/02
Reggie Marshall	03/05
Dwayne Strasheim	03/08
Pat Barnard	03/14
Chuck Keppel	03/20
Tomye Mainer	03/20
Dorothy Block	03/21
Matthew Sanstra	03/31

