



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

March 5, 2024



Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service we receive God's grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!

- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School Room (located in the back-corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

The Meaning of Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the Christian's 40-day journey with the Lord to the cross and tomb, preparing for the celebration of Easter. The 40 days are reminiscent of several biblical events: Jesus' fast at the beginning of his ministry; Moses' stay on Mount Sinai at the giving of the Law; Elijah's fast on his way to the mountain of God.

Ash Wednesday begins the Christian's Lenten journey with a reminder of our mortality and a call to repentance. The ancient practice of imposing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful gives Ash Wednesday its name. The church father Tertullian (AD 160-215) writes of the practice as a public expression of repentance and of our human frailty that stands in need of Christ. The ashes remind us forcefully of our need for redeeming grace as they recall words from the rite for Christian burial: "...earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust..." words that will someday be spoken over all of us. The imposition of ashes has never been an exclusively Roman Catholic practice and today is observed widely by many Christian branches.

Serving the Lord and Serving Us:

Pastor: Rev. Paul Jenkins

Today's Focus: God works our repentance for our salvation. Our worship follows a special order that includes the Rite of Imposition of Ashes for worshippers who desire it.

We Come into the Presence of God

PASTOR'S GREETING AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION

REMAIN SEATED

PSALM 51

Be gracious to me, God,
according to your mercy.
Erase my acts of rebellion
according to the greatness of your compassion.
² Scrub me clean from my guilt.
Purify me from my sin.

³ For I admit my rebellious acts.
My sin is always in front of me.
⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned,
and I have done this evil in your eyes.
So you are justified when you sentence me.
You are blameless when you judge.
⁵ Certainly, I was guilty when I was born.
I was sinful when my mother conceived me.
⁶ Since you desire truth on the inside,
in my hidden heart you teach me wisdom.
⁷ Remove my sin with hyssop, and I will be clean.
Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness.
Let the bones you have crushed celebrate.
⁹ Hide your face from my sins.
Erase all my guilty deeds.
¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God.
Renew an unwavering spirit within me.
¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence.
Do not take your Holy Spirit from me.
¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation.
Sustain me with a willing spirit.
¹³ I will teach rebels your ways,
and sinners will turn to you.
¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
the God who saves me.
My tongue will shout for joy about your righteousness.
¹⁵ LORD, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

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16 For you do not delight in sacrifice,
or I would give it.
You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
17 The sacrifices God wants are a broken spirit.
A broken and crushed heart, O God, you will not despise.
18 As it pleases you, do good for Zion.
Build up the walls of Jerusalem.
19 Then you will be pleased with righteous sacrifices,
burnt offerings and whole offerings.
Then bulls will be offered up on your altar.

Silence for meditation

INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, to ask our Father for forgiveness, and to commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

STAND

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

**C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own grievous fault
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

(continued on next page)

M: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy for those more prosperous than ourselves

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

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M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Be Seated

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes come forward. Baptized children may come forward at their parents' discretion.

The minister applies ashes to the forehead of each in the form of a small cross, saying:

M: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Stand

After all who desire have received ashes, the minister says:

M: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

C: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

M: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

ABSOLUTION

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

HYMN 304, Jesus Sinners Does Receive, verses 1-4

1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; Oh, may all this
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet his words, rich
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray Are not by the
4 Come, O sin - ners, one and all, Come, ac - cept his
say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
Lord for - sak - en; Wea - ry souls who lost their way
in - vi - ta - tion. Come, o - bey his gra - cious call;
And from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope
Here their ills have per - fect heal - ing Who with hum -
Are by Christ, the shep - herd, tak - en In his arms
Come and take his free sal - va - tion! Firm - ly in
for all who grieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
ble hearts be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
that they may live— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
these words be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: MEINEN JESUM LASS ICH NICHT (78 78 77) *Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1699, alt.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 12:1-13

So the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came and told him this:

There were two men in a city. One was rich and one poor. ²The rich man had a large number of flocks and herds. ³The poor man did not own anything except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He raised it so that it grew up together with him and his children. It ate from his food and drank from his cup. It slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. ⁴When a traveler came to the rich man, the rich man was unwilling to take an animal from his flock or from his herd to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. So he took the lamb from the poor man and prepared it for the man who had come to him.

⁵David's anger flared up against that man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this is as good as dead. ⁶In place of that lamb, he will restore four lambs, because he did this and had no pity."

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⁷ Nathan told David, “You are the man. This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says.”

I anointed you king over Israel. I rescued you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I gave the house of your master to you, and I gave the wives of your master into your embrace. I gave you the house of Israel and the house of Judah. If this was too little, I would have added even more. ⁹ Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in his eyes? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword. You have taken his wife as your own wife. You have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰ So now the sword will not depart from your house forever, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

¹¹ This is what the LORD says. Look! I am raising up disaster against you from your own house. Right in front of your eyes I will take your wives and give them to your neighbor, and he will lie down with your wives in the sight of the sun. ¹² Because you acted in secret, I will do this in front of all Israel in broad daylight.

¹³ David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

Nathan said to David, “The LORD himself has put away your sin. You will not die.”

PSALM 130

Read Responsively

M: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

C: O LORD, hear my voice.

M: Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

C: If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,

M: O LORD, who could stand?

C: But with you there is forgiveness;

M: therefore you are feared. I wait for the LORD; my soul waits,

C: and in his word I put my hope.

M: My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning,

C: more than watchmen wait for the morning.

M: O Israel, put your hope in the LORD.,

C: for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

M: He himself will redeem Israel

C: from all their sins.

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

6 As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says: At a favorable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation!

STAND

GOSPEL AND HOMILY TEXT

Matthew 6:1-21

"Be careful that you do not do your righteous works in front of people, so that they will notice. If you do, you have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ² So whenever you perform acts of mercy, do not sound a trumpet for yourself, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets to be praised by people. Amen I tell you: They have received their reward. ³ Instead, when you perform acts of mercy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴ Then your acts of mercy will be in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

⁵ "Whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by people. Amen I tell you: They have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your private room, close your door, and pray to your Father who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what others cannot see, will reward you.

⁷ "And when you pray, do not babble like the heathen, since they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ However do not be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Therefore pray like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. ¹³ Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'

¹⁴ "Indeed if you forgive people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive people their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

¹⁶ "Whenever you fast, do not make yourself look sad like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces to show everyone that they are fasting. Amen I tell you: They have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it is not apparent to people that you are fasting, but only to your Father who sees what is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁹ "Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Because where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY: 125, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,



On which the Prince of glo - ry died,
Save in the death of Christ, my God.
Sor - row and love flow min - gled down.
That were a trib - ute far too small;



My rich - est gain I count but loss
All the vain things that charm me most,
Did e'er such love and sor - row meet
Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,



And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: HAMBURG (LM) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872.

HOMILY

Text: Matthew 6:1-21
Theme: This Will Be Done

HYMN: 397, Just As I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind;
 5 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive,



But that thy blood was shed for me
 To rid my soul of one dark blot,
 With man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,
 Sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,
 Wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve;



And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 Fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
 Be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down.
 Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871.
 Tune: WOODWORTH (LM) William B. Bradbury, 1816–68.

OFFERING

Please take a moment to register using the little book found in your pew.

The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Holy and righteous God, as we begin the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your pardon and peace.

C: **Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.**

M: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand the incomprehensible love he showed in suffering and dying for us.

C: **Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.**

M: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and ability to proclaim boldly the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

C: **We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

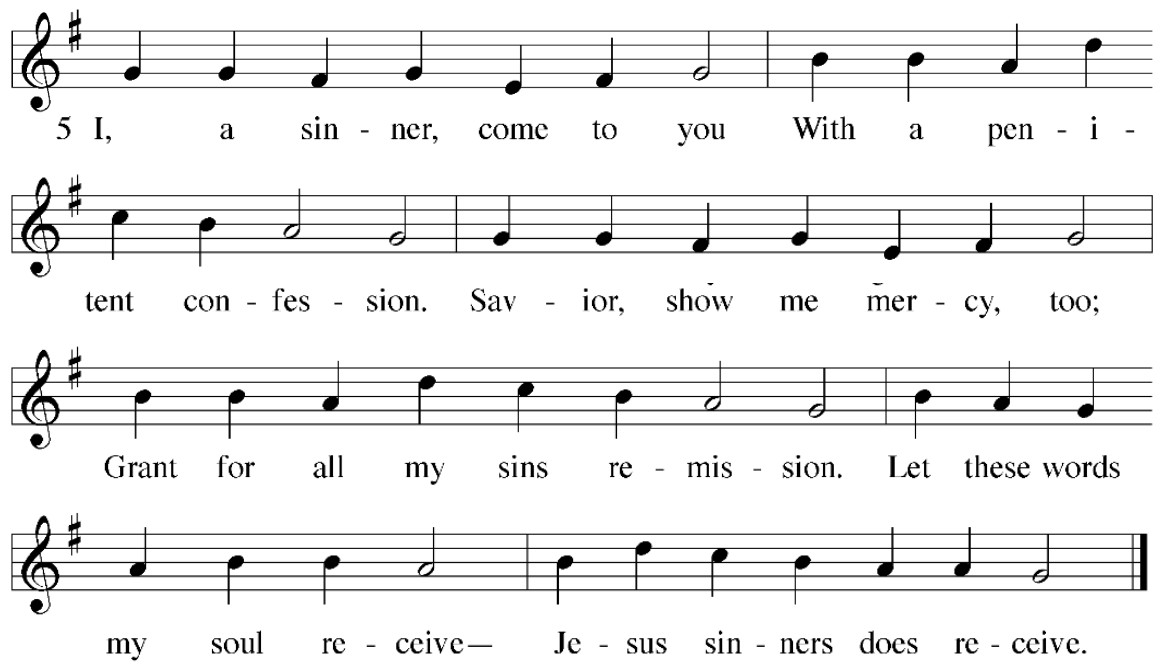
BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN: 304, Jesus Sinners Does Receive, verses 5-7



5 I, a sin - ner, come to you With a pen - i -
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;
Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words
my soul re - ceive— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

6 Oh, how blest it is to know,
Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By your blood and bitter passion,
For these words I do believe—
Jesus sinners does receive.

7 Jesus sinners does receive.
Even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave—
Jesus sinners does receive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: MEINEN JESUM LASS ICH NICHT (78 78 77) *Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1699, alt.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Women's Bible Study - March 8

The Trinity Women's Bible Study will meet Saturday, March 8 at 9:00 am at Trinity. We'll discuss chapter 6 of the book "Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success" by Sharla Fritz. Please join us!

Wine and Word Bible Study – March 6

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or dawn.f.knox@gmail.com to RSVP.

Lenten Suppers

On the five remaining Wednesdays of Lent, potluck suppers will start in the Fellowship Hall at 6, followed by short devotions around 6:30. Everyone is welcome!

Fifth Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Trinity's next outreach event will be our Fifth Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12 at 2pm. Eggs filled with candy will be ordered again this year, but you're welcome to add your own to the stash, if you'd like. Our goal is to show kindness and also invite our unchurched neighbors to join us for Holy Week worship. This is a low-volunteer event, but a few will be needed to supervise and to staff a welcome table. If you'd like to help, please speak to pastor. Thank you!

Catechism Essays; Confirmation Sunday

Our two young friends Carice Hendricks and Mary McKnight will read their Catechism essays to the congregation at the top of the 11:00 service on Sunday, April 6. The purpose of the essays is to demonstrate that they have been instructed in the basic truths of God's Word as laid out in Luther's Small Catechism, and are therefore prepared to confess their face publicly and to begin communing on Confirmation Sunday.

The Rite of Confirmation will be held in the 11:00 service on Palm Sunday, April 13, with cake and celebration time following in the Fellowship Hall.

April Communion Dates

Please note that Holy Communion will be celebrated in April on the first, second, and fourth Sundays (April 6, 13, and 27). This is so that there will be Communion on Confirmation Sunday, but not on Easter Sunday when many guests from outside our fellowship often worship with us.

Trinity's Little Free Library is one of our church's most effective tools for reaching out to our neighborhood. Many families in the area around Trinity regularly visit our LFL for books and shelf-stable food items, especially those who are experiencing food scarcity. Particularly useful are canned or boxed foods that do not require additional ingredients besides water to prepare. Books are always welcome, too, of course! If the shelves happen to be full, there is a donation bin for overflow items in the Fellowship Hall beside the door to the hallway.

Small Choir

Trinity's choir sings about once a month during worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Andy Lutz. If you have any questions or are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email worship@trinityofwoodbridge.org. You can also scan this code to sign up:



Lord's Supper Available to All Members

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or revpauljenkins@yahoo.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.

It is the mission of



to glorify God

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.