



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville

*The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 7, 2021*

Welcome in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ! If you come as a visitor today, we hope you will leave as a friend. We count it a privilege and a blessing to have you with us in worship. If you are not presently a member of any congregation, please feel welcome to gather with us around Jesus in this community of his disciples at Holy Trinity. Come and worship with us again!

Invitation to Communion: Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

Procedure for Communing: We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

Gluten-free wafers are available; let Pastor know when you come forward to receive.

Service of the Word

Significance of the Day: In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

Gathering

Prelude

Selections from Sixty Pieces

(Peeters)

Greeting and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Holy God,
you search us and know us.
You are acquainted with all our ways.
We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.
We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.
We distrust those who are not like us.
We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.
Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.
Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;
receive them in your divine mercy.
Amen.

How vast is God's grace!
Through the power and promise of + Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.
Indeed, we are forgiven.
In the wake of God's forgiveness,
we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

O God of Light

(Please be seated. We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,
2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,
3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing,
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way
though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,
to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,
and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,
and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day,
who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.
see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

(The assembly stands.)

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint.
Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may
be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(The assembly is seated.)

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

A reading from Isaiah:

21 Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

23 who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

25 To whom then will you compare me,

or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,

mighty in power,

not one is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
29 He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
30 Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
31 but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

(Saturday psalm will be spoken responsively, Sunday psalm will be sung by Cantor.)

- 1 Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!
- 2 The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem,
and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.**
- 3 The LORD heals the | brokenhearted
and binds | up their wounds.
- 4 The LORD counts the number | of the stars
and calls them all | by their names.**
- 5 Great is our LORD and might- | y in power;
there is no limit | to God's wisdom.
- 6 The LORD lifts | up the lowly,
but casts the wicked | to the ground.**
- 7 Sing to the LORD | with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp | to our God,
- 8 who covers the heav- | ens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth,
making grass to grow up- | on the mountains.**
- 9 God provides food | for the cattle
and for the young ravens | when they cry.
- 10 God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,**
- 11 but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD,
in those who await God's | steadfast love.
- 20 The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!**

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

16 If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!
17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. 18 What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

19 For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (*The assembly stands.*)

Alleluia.

**The servant of God took our infirmities
and bore our diseases.**

Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37 When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." 38 He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." 39 And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly sits.)

The Sermon

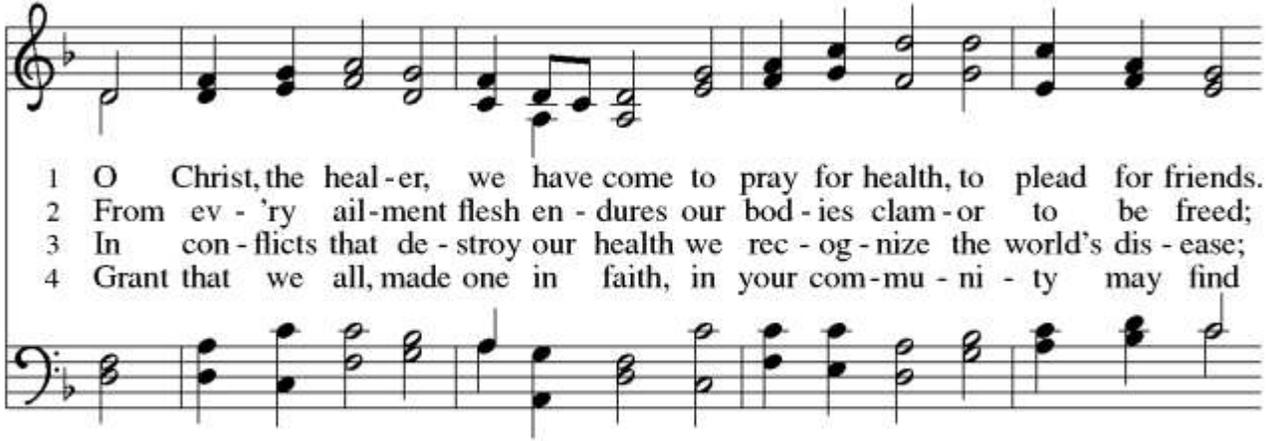
Pastor Brenda Martin

(The assembly remains seated.)

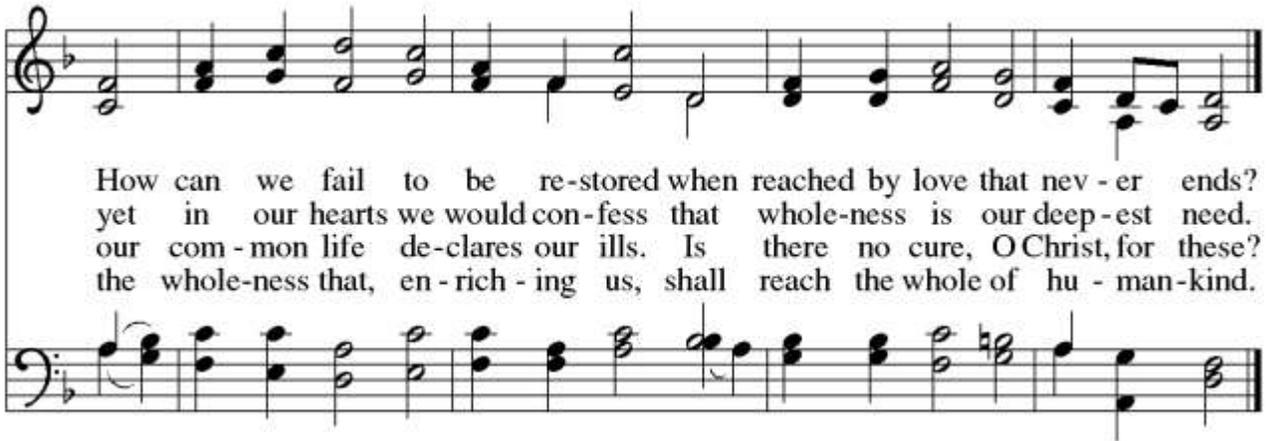
Hymn of the Day

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

(We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)



1 O Christ, the heal-er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
2 From ev - 'ry ail-ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed;
3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;
4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find



How can we fail to be re-stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
yet in our hearts we would con - fess that whole-ness is our deep - est need.
our com - mon life de - clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
the whole-ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man-kind.

(The assembly stands.)

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Prayers of Intercession

A: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need, responding, "Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

(Brief silence)

A: For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors, deacons, musicians, worship leaders, council members, and teachers. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth. We pray for our farmers who are marking your seasons by planning and preparing for their spring planting. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need. We pray for our president, Joe; our governor, Tom; our local school and municipal leaders, that they serve all your people. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you. We pray for those sick with COVID, for health care workers serving them, and for those now administering a life-saving vaccine. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: For this congregation: for outreach and social ministries centered here; for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God. We remember especial Sally, Donald, Bev, Allan, Evelyn, and Jayna. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: Are there others for whom we should pray?

P. Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(The assembly sits.)

Meal

Music as the meal is prepared

Interlude on *Distress*

(Wood)

(The assembly stands. The deacon, on behalf of the people, prays.)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

You are indeed holy,
almighty and merciful God;
you are most holy,
and great is the majesty
of your glory.

We give thanks through Jesus Christ,
your beloved Son,
whom you sent
in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us
and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word,
inseparable from you.

Through him you created all things,
and in him you take delight.

He is your Word,
sent from heaven
to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature
and our lot and
was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit
and of the virgin Mary.

Having come into the world,
he fulfilled for us your holy will
and accomplished our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup is the new
covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored
in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread
and cup, that, nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is
yours, Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of Bread

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

(The assembly sits.)

Communion of the Faithful

***Procedure for Communing:** We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.*

(Following the Communion the assembly stands for the blessing.)

Music during communion

Appointed hymns

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.

Amen.

Sending

Our Prayer for These Times

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Variation on *Atkinson*

(Manz)

(Once the pastor is at the back of the church, ushers will dismiss by row.)

Serving Tonight

Presiding Minister Pastor Brenda Martin
Pianist Maidene Hackett
Liturgical Deacon Dan Eppley

Serving Today

Presiding Minister Pastor Brenda Martin
Organist Maidene Hackett
Cantor Lauren Faber
Liturgical Deacon Linda Armstrong
Communion Assistant Catherine Snyder
Lector Judi Moinet
Head Usher Debbie Faber
Altar Guild The Alyssa Martin family

Acknowledgments

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Pastors in residence:

The Rev. Martin Roth, Pastor Emeritus, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
The Rev. Julia Fraser, chaplain at St. Paul Homes
The Rev. Brian Riddle, Thiel College Campus Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson, retired, Thiel College

This Week at Holy Trinity

Sunday, February 7, 2021, *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany / Souper Bowl of Caring*

- 9:30 a.m. Liturgy of the Word
- 10:45 a.m. Sunday Church School/Confirmation
- 7:00 p.m. AA Big Book meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. AA and AA Women's Discussion

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

- 7:00 p.m. Weekday Communion

Thursday, February 11, 2021

- 10:00 a.m. Weekday Communion
- 5:00 p.m. Officers' Planning Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Happy Hour (Zoom)

Saturday, February 12, 2021

- 5:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 14, 2021, *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

- 9:30 a.m. Liturgy of the Word
- 10:45 a.m. Sunday Church School/Confirmation
- 7:00 p.m. AA Big Book meeting

Monday, February 15, 2021, *President's Day*

Office closed

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

- 7:00 p.m. Congregation Council
- 7:00 p.m. AA and AA Women's Discussion

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

- 12:10 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
- 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 18, 2021

- 10:00 a.m. Weekday Communion
- 7:00 p.m. Happy Hour (Zoom)

Saturday, February 20, 2021

- 5:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 17. There will be two liturgies at Holy Trinity for in-person worship at 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m. Both services will include imposition of ashes and the Eucharist. Both services will be live-streamed.

For those who wish to participate in the liturgies but do not feel safe with in-person worship, Pastor Brenda will be at the Clinton Street entrance to the church between the end of the early service (approximately 1:15 p.m.) and 2:30 p.m. to distribute both ashes and Holy Communion (the host only). That means you can watch the live-streamed service, then come to the church to receive ashes and Holy Communion. If you wish to do this, please come to the Clinton Street door. If it appears that someone is already at the door, please wait until they leave before approaching the door. Pastor Brenda will also bring ashes and Holy Communion to your car if you feel that is safest for you. For those who prefer to remain in their cars, please call the church office on the morning of February 17 so that she will know to watch for you.

Morning Prayer

We will **NOT** be gathering at the church to pray Morning Prayer on weekdays during Lent. However, one member of the congregation will pray Morning Prayer at the church each day on our behalf. Because we typically pray for every member of the congregation by name during Lent at these services, we have created a simplified order of Morning Prayer for you to pray at home every day. See that order, and the list of names for each day, elsewhere in this newsletter.

Wednesday Evening Prayer and Lenten Study

We **WILL** gather for Evening Prayer at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Because we have had a daily Eucharist scheduled for Wednesday evenings since June, a brief distribution of Holy Communion will occur at the conclusion of Evening Prayer for those who wish to remain in the church.

We will also have a Lenten study at 7:15 p.m. Pastor Brenda will hold the study in-person at the church for a small number of people who attend Evening Prayer and prefer to remain in the church. The study will also be available via Zoom for those who feel safer gathering in that way. If you would like to participate via Zoom, please contact the church office so that we can email you the Zoom link.

The study this year will be on the Luther writing, “Freedom of the Christian.” Last year was the 500th anniversary of the publication of “Freedom of the Christian,” and we will explore what it means for those of us who usually think about “freedom” as the freedoms we enjoy as citizens of a Western democracy, and compare that to what it means to be freed in Christ.

Stations of the Cross

We will not gather in person to pray Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings. We will, however, have Stations of the Cross available on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCamdIF705R3knw7NEksvFvg>. You can pray Stations on Friday evenings by using the posting on that channel.

Sunday Church School Lenten Project 2021 - Calling All Bunnies!

The Parish Education Committee is requesting participation from the congregation in our SCS Lenten Project.

For the Good Shepherd Center's Easter basket distribution this year, we will again be collecting chocolate bunnies. We ask that the bunnies be medium-sized, preferably 6 oz. Bunnies can be brought in, starting on Ash Wednesday (February 17) and placed on tables which will be located as usual at two spots – in the narthex, and in the administrative hall near the back alley door. We will need to have all bunnies collected by **Tuesday, March 23**, in order for GSC to have them in time for the Easter basket distribution dates.

Thank you so much in advance for any help you can provide with our Lenten Project!

Offering Envelopes

The boxes of 2021 offering envelopes are at the church and ready for you to pick up. **Please make note that there will be no quarterly mailings to your home. These envelopes are for use beginning in February.** You can stop in Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The boxes are in the nursery in alphabetical order. If you need to make other arrangements, please call the office at 724-588-8870 and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Good Shepherd February Request

The Good Shepherd Center is our church community social service agency that supports the needs of many in the area. The Good Shepherd Center's request for Holy Trinity for **February is canned fruit.** Donations may be placed in the marked box in the cloister.

Please note there is an urgent need for toilet paper.

Donations may be dropped off at the church office or directly at the Food Pantry.

Please Pray For

Permission is necessary to add a person to the prayer list. Please ask before your call the office. Thanks.

Health and Healing:

| | |
|--|---|
| Chris Hansen (cousin of Betty K. Junk) | Nancy (friend of Linda Armstrong) |
| Laurie Campbell (friend of Fran Black) | John L (father of Catherine Mott) |
| Dennis (brother of Jim Martin) | Brenda (sister-in-law of Betty K. Junk) |
| Tammy (friend of Jill Murrin) | Lori |
| Betty K. | Carl |
| Hank (son of Henry and Ruth Heil) | Paul |
| Kate (friend of Paul and Sue Bittler) | Dillon (friend of Ed Pitcher and Beth Harpst) |
| Jim | Belle (granddaughter of Linda Bateman) |

Christ's comfort for those who grieve the death of:

Kelly Henderson (cousin of Jill Murrin)
Allan Wilkins
Beverly Richards
The Rev. Donald Hake
Cynthia Richardson (mom of Ray and Cathy Richardson)
Evelyn Ramming
Sally Werner (friend of the congregation)

In Military Service

Specialist (SPC) Andrew McCall, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado (son of Mark and Jane McCall, grandson of Karen McKay and the late Jim McKay)
Sgt. First Class Nicholas Carman, US Army, Frederiksberg, Virginia (grandson of Nancy Ullstrom)
Admiral Richard Childs, Assistant Surgeon General of the USA (nephew of Harvey Childs)
CDR Ryan Leary, USN, Operation Officer, 7th Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan (son of David and Judy Leary)
Tim Ross, Navy Special Forces, (grandson of Rae Johnson, nephew of Lori McEwen)
Ian McQuiston, US Air Force, Kuwait (friend of Betty K. Junk)