



What to Do About Evil?

We've started our observance of the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday, February 22. Last month, our Gospel lessons were giving us a taste of the challenging teachings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount, a section of the Gospel of Matthew. Love your enemies. Pray for those who abuse you. Hard stuff. Hard stuff, especially in a context where the divisions and dissentions in our society are so grating.

Amid the discouraging avalanche of stories these days about abuses of power—vicious bullying, random violence, accusations of sexual misconduct, actions that leave whole groups of persons out in the cold and cut off from recognition and respect -- how should followers of Jesus respond? How do we deal with the evil that we encounter in our lives, especially when we or those we love are the targets? We pray in the Lord's Prayer "deliver us from evil" but what should we do while we hope for God to answer that prayer?

Jesus tells us to love our enemies, to pray for those who abuse us, to refrain from judging others, to "do unto others as we would have them do unto us," the Golden Rule. But how does this actually work out for those who are the victims of evil? In Matthew 5:38-41, Jesus preaches: You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile

So, is Jesus simply saying to the victims of evil, too bad for you, maybe God will fix it somehow in this life, but at any rate, in heaven you'll be OK—so pray for your abuser and just take it? Does this mean, for example, that a wife who is terrified because her abusive husband has been escalating the attacks must submit, "turn the other cheek" and just keep praying and hiding the bruises? Is there no other option?

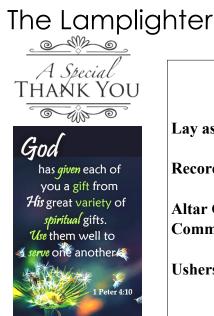
The Rev. Walter Wink, in his book *The Powers That Be*, offers a helpful insight into what Jesus might have been actually saying. He notes that the Greek word "resist" indicates that we are not to resist *violently*. The Apostle Paul writes about this: "Do not return *evil* for evil" (Romans 12: 17).

There are creative non-violent ways to respond to evil, and Jesus gives some examples. These examples show behavior that, in Jesus' day, would have significance that we don't pick up from simply reading the words. Matthew includes a detail about "turning the other cheek" that might seem a little random, but it isn't. "If someone strikes you on the <u>right</u> cheek In that culture, the left hand was used only for unclean tasks. There were strict laws and customs. So, hitting someone on the right cheek, with the right hand, would mean hitting with the back of the hand-- a backslap, which was how someone would put someone else down. To hit the "other cheek," the *left* cheek, with the right hand meant you needed to use a fist, not a backhand. This fist-fight would indicate an encounter between equals. So, if someone intended to dishonor you by treating you as inferior, by "turning the other cheek" you would give them a choice. Treat you like an equal or walk away unsuccessful in the attempt to lord it over you.

The "go the second mile" example reflects a rule that the occupying Roman soldiers could command any local person they met to carry their heavy packs for one mile, and *not any more* than that. So "going the second mile" not only tells the occupying force that you are not owned by them, it was also likely to get the soldier into trouble. So, imagine a Roman soldier asking to get his pack back? So yes, resist evil, but non-violently and creatively, humbly honoring the shared humanity of the enemy while not playing by the enemy's rules. Hate never heals hate. Only love can do that. Jesus wants us all to play by his life-transforming rules: love one another—when it is easy, and when it is not.

Pastor Karen Husby





THANK YOU TO THE FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVANTS:

Lay assistants: Pete Gustafson, Sue Gosse, Adam Pomfret, Pat McIntyre, John **McIntyre** Recording/sound engineers: Adam & Jody Pomfret; Andrew & Elizabeth Eichmiller. Altar Care: Denise Taylor, Jody Pomfret, Sue Gosse, Bloomer, Adam Pomfret **Communion Bread:** Sandy Teeters, Jody Pomfret, Carol Hawn, Kim Schoffstall Ushers: Aiden Pomfret, Gordon & Linda Afdahl, Marvin & Barbara Mericle, Pete & Donna Gustafson, Gayle Bland, Jody Pomfret, Miranda Schoffstall. Tina Teeters

Council Meeting - Mon. 3/20 @ 7pm

Mutual Ministry Virtual Mtg. - Tue. 3/21 @ 5:30p

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/5 Ray Bloomer
- 3/7 Sherri Southwick
- 3/9 Daniel Goldsworthy
- 3/16 Larry Hawn
- 3/19 James Pendergast
- 3/20 Isabel Rodenberger 3/27Michael Stewart 3/28 Kristen Goldsworthy 3/30 Dalton Brown



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/18 Sean & Sheri McLennan

- 3/22 Nicole & Brian Stewart
- 3/31 Bruce & Karol Martindale



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/1 Harry English
- 4/3 Tom Yeagley
- 4/4 Don Johnson 4/5 Tim Seitz
- 4/21 Eli Moffett 4/28 Eve Rodenberger

4/13 Kim Schoffstall

- 4/7 James Rodenberger
- 4/29 Suzi Bloomer 4/30 Mallory Pendergast



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4/11 Lynn & Angie Branz

VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH

Counters for March: Pete & Donna Gustafson



D	ATE	Lay Assistant	<u>Ushers</u>	Communion Assistants
3	/5/23	Pete Gustafson	Tina Teeters & Maranda Schoffstall	Suzi Bloomer/Sue Gosse (set-up/clean-up) Sandy Teeters (bread)
3	/12/23	Carol Hawn	Gordon & Linda Afdahl	Jody Pomfret/Pat McIntyre (set-up/clean-up) Eli Moffett (bread)
3	/19/23	Gordon Afdahl	Bob & Denise Taylor	Denise Taylor (set-up/clean-up)
				Carol Hawn (bread)
3	/26/23	Gayle Bland	Marv & Barb Mericle	Jody Pomfret/Donna Gustafson (set-up/clean-up)
				Donna Gustafson (bread)

Consider giving to the 14th & Chestnut Community Center: The local organization, located at 1403 Chestnut St., Terre Haute, IN 47807 (812-232-3126) that helps children, mothers, and families is always in need of donations for various items. Consider giving to one of the areas they have in the Center or provide a cash donation to help them raise funds for a much-needed, new roof.

<u>Programs & areas of need:</u> Center's kitchen, food pantry, clothes closet, Merit Mart reward items, craft supplies, building needs, Grumbling Tummies Café, Moms Matter

Sisters of Providence: Upcoming Events

• - <u>Taizé:</u> Tuesday, March 14, 7-8pm.

 A Day in the Life of a Sister - Sacred moments in community & ministry with Sister Tracey Horan, SP: Tuesday, March 21, 7:30-8:45p

Single women ages 18-42 are invited to join us in this free virtual mini-retreat. Meet a young sister face-to-face. Sister Tracey will lead you through what a day looks like for her, with a deeper look at community living and ministry of a Sister of Providence today.

Alpaca Encounter: Saturday, March 25, 1-3p; Meet at the WVC Farm Store

Meet our (almost) famous alpaca herd and learn where they come from and why they are so beneficial to our USDAcertified organic far. See and feel their fiber and go step by step through each process from shearing to finished goods. Participants get to make and take home a needle felted alpaca ornament.

Presenters: White Violet Center team

Cost: \$25/person, includes ornament.

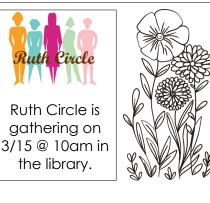
Register by March 20.



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The **quilting group** will meet Sat., March 11th at 9am in the fellowship hall. Quilts are made for both LWR and Union Layettes. Experience required: being able to tie knots in your shoelaces.





TRINITY WOMEN

Trinity Women will meet on **Tuesday**, **March 7**, at **7 pm** in the fellowship hall.



FIRST FRIDAY CARDS:

Once again, we met on the first Friday of the month, this time in February. Food was shared: cheese and crackers, Polish mistakes, meatballs, ants on a log as well as fire ants on a log,



barbecued wings, Valentine cookies and much more. We were well fed! Then, the cards were dealt. We had lots of cards in our hands some rounds and on 1 card other rounds. Play progressed. Some were really successful and others were slightly frustrated when their face card was trumped at the last minute. A few hands were difficult to deal and occasionally one person had too many or too few cards. It was a successful game because we had one winner and one loser and lots in between. Next month we look forward to having a different winner and a different loser and still lots in between. We look forward to playing again on Friday, March 3, at 7 pm. See you there.

Summer is coming! Plan time for **camp**!





Men's Breaklast at Cackleberries. Tuesday 3/14 & 3/28 @ 8:30am.

Brochures available in the narthex.

LET'S GET SHOTS! The **annual Lenten Challenge** from Trinity Women is providing immunizations for children in developing parts of the world. \$30 provides complete immunizations for one child. As we consider "giving up" for Lent, why not put the dollars you would spend on your coffee or chocolate or ice cream toward helping a child and helping prevent disease throughout the world. Our goal is one set of immunizations from each member. 5 weeks of Lent means \$6 per week. Help us meet our goal and move beyond. Donations can be made with your regular offering or by using a pew envelope. Please mark donations Lenten Challenge. You can also give your donations to any member of Trinity Women and they will direct them to the correct person.

Tuesday Zoom Bible Study 11:30-12:30 COME as you ARE!

Topical Bible study using the book, 102 Fascinating Bible Studies, written by a Baptist pastor, Preston A. Taylor. The unusual thing about this study is that each of the 102 chapters stand alone. There are 102 topics arranged in alphabetical order. Each chapter contains ten Bible passages with questions related to the topic.

We read the Bible passages and discuss the questions. We usually spend two meetings on each chapter. Talk to Johnny Neuenschwander who sets up the Zoom meetings. He will send you a link and reminder. Everyone is welcome to participate.



If viewing the pdf while you are online, you can click: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9142075889?pwd=VkU5R3BydFMzMzZOZzgyS3kvdjFzdz09



Karen & Jeff Showers Amber McNamara Houston P. K. Johnson Cindy Wembley Don, Keith, & Larry Johnson



Cheryl Johnson James Rodenberger Sherry Tacker Ray Bloomer Mark Fouts 4



NEWSLETTER ITEMS FOR MARCH 2023

Our gratitude is extended to all those who have assisted with music in worship during February. Special cheers for all our musicians who shared their talents with us this month: John Moon who played keyboard on February 5th; the Trinity Ringers who rang on February 12th; and the

Trinity Choir who sang on February 19th, 22nd (Ash Wednesday) and 26th. We also offer our thanks to Charles Parks and Elizabeth Eichmiller who were soloists with the choir on February 19th and February 22nd respectively and to our corps of cantors: Elizabeth Eichmiller, Patricia McIntyre, John McIntyre, John Neuenschwander, Charles Parks and Bill Strecker.

Our thanks and appreciation are also offered to Jen Black, our administrative assistant for providing our printed and online worship and hymn materials and helping to keep us all informed. And last, but certainly not least, our gratitude is extended to Pastor Karen for her leadership of our worship, her meaningful messages and her pastoral guidance. We are blessed by the efforts of all these servants of Christ.

APPRECIATE HOLY WEEK & EASTER MUSIC?! JOIN THE CHOIR!

Calling all singers! As we enter the days of Lent the choir is rehearsing music for Holy Week and Easter. Consider making a commitment to sing in the choir throughout Lent and Easter as a Lenten discipline. New members are always welcome. No audition is necessary. You just need to be able to make a joyful noise! Rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings following our Lenten worship at approximately 7:15 pm. During Holy Week on Wednesday April 5 we will return to our normal Wednesday 6:15 rehearsal time. If you have any questions feel free to speak with any choir member or our music director, Sara Johnson, in person at worship or by phone (812)360-0897 or email at sarajjohnson72@yahoo.com.







But for us, there is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live. (1 Corinthians 8:6)



OUR 2022 ORGAN FUND UPDATE

The Organ Committee launched its pledge drive three years ago - Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019. We appreciate all gifts received to date. The **onsite organ construction work is now expected to begin** the week of February 19th.

Through January 31, 2022, **\$141,746 in cash gifts** had been received and a total of \$132,113 had been paid to date (\$118,125 on the organ contract and \$13,988 for other construction costs). An estimated \$27,887 remains to be paid for the projected total cost of \$160,000. With outstanding pledges of \$3,965, there remains total **unfunded costs of \$14,289**. Although the use of "internal borrowing" is currently expected to be adequate to pay these unfunded costs, we welcome your continued support to help cover the estimated unfunded costs.

Sincerely, The Organ Committee



Bottle Cap Collection

We are collecting bottle caps for Reach Services in Terre Haute. Info on what is accepted is located in the narthex. We look forward to collecting caps and lids & building more benches! For more information, contact Elizabeth Eichmiller @ 812-698-3365 or ebrochin95gmail.com)

Pastor's Discretionary Fund assists with individuals in need of assistance, primarily utility needs by working with the Salvation Army. Any help replenishing this fund is greatly appreciated. *Mark your offering envelope to donate.*

TRINITY BLESSING BOX

Many vulnerable people are served through this ministry. And several people come to the box every week. Please consider donating by adding to the baskets in the NARTHEX!

What is needed?

- <u>Hygiene items</u>: Shampoo, combs, brushes, toilet paper, feminine care products, toothbrush/paste, deodorant, razors, hand soap, dish soap, hand sanitizer, baby supplies.
- <u>NON-perishable SAFE items (NOT expired)</u>. Best if cans have pull rings: vegetables, beans, rice, cereals, condiments, dried fruit, canned meat, pasta, peanut butter, and crackers.
- Consider the <u>SEASON</u>.
- **<u>Not acceptable</u>**: Produce, damaged cans or boxes, dairy.

Special thanks to the monthly coordinators who have helped to stock the box: January: Pomfret; February: Eichmiller



DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO HELP!!

Help Stock Sign-up for 2023 is Incated in the narthex.

PENNY POWER OFFERING

On the last Sunday of each month, our pennies are donated to Lutheran World Hunger in order to buy milk for children in a developing country.

January 71.68 February 36.45 March April May June July August September October November December 2023 Total: 108.13



Equals 10,813 cups of milk for needy children!!



Iron Sharpens Iron

Men's Conference 2023

Saturday, March 25th

Champaign, IL at the

New Horizon UMC

Brbs 27:17 8:30a~4:55p

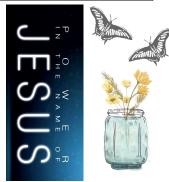
Early Registration Group Deadline is 10 days before the event. Visit *RPMFM.org/champaign* for more information and registration.

Event location:

New Horizon UMC

3002 W. Bloomington Rd. Champaign, IL 61822

The Word became flesh & made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one & only Son who came from the Father, full of grace & truth. (John 1:14)



SARAH SCOTT MIDDLE SCHOOL FISH FRY

All you can eat. 10 & under \$8. Adults \$15.

Friday, March 17th 4:30p-7:30p

COME SEE WHAT'S COOK''N!!

Fish

Rick's Smokehouse BBQ

Pulled Pork

Baked Beans

Sarah Scott Middle School

1000 Grant St. Terre Haute, IN 47802

812-462-4381

Fries

Mac n Cheese

Теа

Coleslaw Applesauce

Desserts & Soda Sold Separately

SILENT AUCTION



RAFFLE

Dine-In & Carry-Out available. Visit the Sarah Scott web page to purchase tickets.

http://vigoschools.org/~scotms

			N CHURCH at January 3			
		2023		2022		2021
	Actual	% of Budget	Budget	YTD Actual	% of Budget	Year End Actual
Giving/revenues received for budget	\$16,478.30	11.5%	\$ 142,869.00	\$7,720.71	5.6%	\$138,622.11
Expenses for budgeted items	\$14,733.95	9.1%	\$ 161,824.00	\$8,668.82	6.2%	\$140,952.90
Revenues over/(under) expenses	\$1,744.35		\$ (18,955.00)	(\$948.11)		(\$2,330.79)
At January 31, 2023, unified giving a				•	•	JS
year, and were \$4,572.55 higher tha than budget for the year, which resu	-				-)
note that there is a budgeted deficit				,		-

The Lamplighter E-Connect NEWS Update!

The Trinity Lutheran church E-connect team is moving ahead by strengthening our personal relationship with Christ and one another.

We thank the congregation for the turnout on January 29th **5th Sunday carry in**. The Trinity BINGO was a fun way to get to know each other. Many thanks to Maranda Schoffstall for her work in this great activity. **Also, thanks to the winners: Sara Johnson, Gordy Afdahl and John McIntyre!** They were rewarded with a beautiful handcrafted gift from Larry Hawn, and delicious items from Elizabeth Eichmiller and Patricia McIntyre.

The evening of **February 8th** the team met at Afdahl's for dinner and to meet with Pastor Nancy Nyland from the IK Synod office and layperson John Dahl who supports the E-connect teams. Our meal was delicious and set the stage for a productive meeting. Many thanks to

Pastor Karen presented devotions from Matthew 17:1-9, the transfiguration of Christ. We talked about the similarities/contrasts of transfiguration to transformation. As we progress thru the E-connect process we will be changed. We hope to pass these positive spiritual changes on to the rest of our church family.

Most of the meeting was spent in reviewing the result of the Congregational *Vitality* Survey which 29 participants from our congregation filled out. Here is more information about the survey:

The Congregational Vitality Survey is a tool to help congregations assess where they see themselves as a congregation. Leadership and Congregation members take the survey separately so that the we can see if there is unity between leadership and congregation or if there is a disparity between the two. They survey is helpful because it gives a good picture on what people "think" is happening. The survey results can be held up against actual facts to see if there are some "ministry myths" preventing us from moving ministry forward. A good response rate would be at least **half of your average worship attendance**. While that seems to be a low number, it will at least capture enough of the prevailing opinions in the congregation to be effective.

Processing the results is not about simply receiving them, but taking the time to discuss them, prayerfully digging deeper into some areas that seem to rise to the top, and making plans for action steps to move the ministry forward in ways that advance God's desires for the ministry. It is a tool to begin a conversation and new ways of working together to strengthen the whole church and participate in the mission of God to love and bless the world. From: https://ministrylink.org/new-congregational-vitality-survey/

Please prayerfully review the findings of DOMAIN 1: Our connection to God. Other domains will follow next month.

Demographics for the Survey:

Total number: 29 Age of participants: 18-24: 2 25-34: 3 35-44: 1

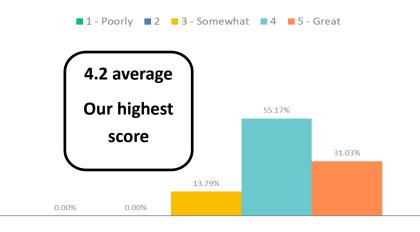
45-54: 2 55-64: 3 65-74: 14 >75: 4

There are **three domains** in the survey with the participants marking a Likert scale from (poorly) to 5 (great or very well)

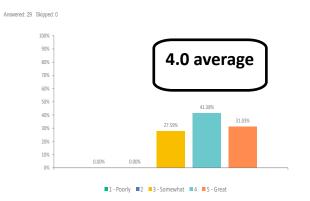
DOMAIN 1—The congregation's connection with GOD:

How well do these phrases describe your congregation?

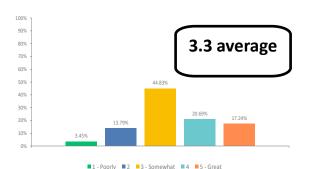
Q1: Worship nurtures people's faith



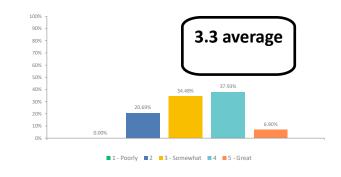
Q2: Deepens people's relationship with God



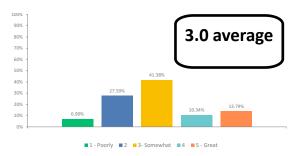
Q4: Excitement about the congregation's future



Q3: Clear sense of Mission

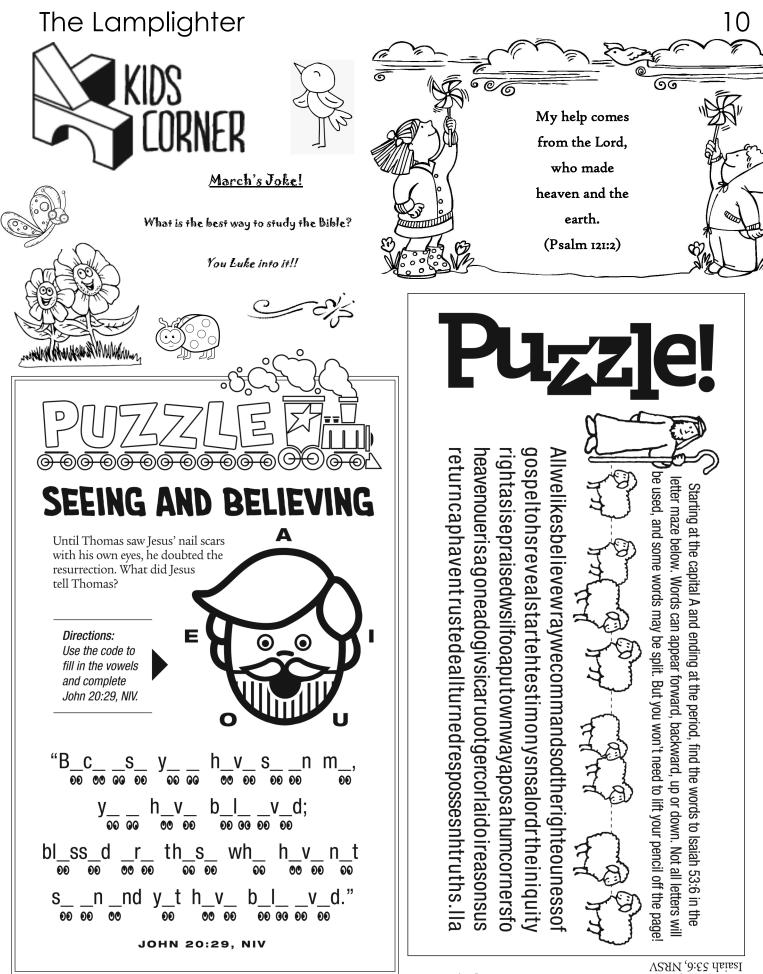


Q5: Always ready to try something new



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Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; Dlessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

Answer: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

March 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:00p Handbells 6:00p Lent dinner/lesson 7:15p Lenten Worship	2	3 6:00p 1st Friday cards	4
5 10:00a Worship <i>Ray Bloomer</i>	6	7 11:30a Zoom Bible study 7:00p Trinity Women <i>Sherri Southwick</i>	8 1:30p conf. rm. Reserved 5:00p Handbells 6:00p Lent dinner/lesson 7:15p Lenten Worship	9 Daniel Goldsworthy	10	11 9:00a Quilting Remember to set your clocks forward 1 hour before you turn in tonight!
12 Daylight Savings Begins	13	14 8:30a Men's breakfast 11:30a Zoom Bible study	15 10:00a Ruth Circle 5:00p Handbells 6:00p Lent dinner/lesson 7:15p Lenten Worship	16 Council Items Due Larry Hawn	17	18
19 10:00a Worship James Pendergast	20 Spring Begins 7:00p Council meeting Newsletter Items Due Isabel Rodenberger	21 11:30a Zoom Bible study 5:30p Mutual Ministry meeting - virtual	22 5:00p Handbells 6:00p Lent dinner/lesson 7:15p Lenten Worship	23	24	25
26 Penny Power 10:00a Worship	27 Michael Stewart	28 8:30a Men's breakfast 11:30a Zoom Bible study <i>Kristen Goldsworthy</i>	29 5:00p Handbells 6:00p Lent dinner/lesson 7:15p Lenten Worship	30 Dalton Brown	Counters: Gustafson Office: 812-232-7628 trinity2620@live.com Hours: M-F 9:30a-1:30p	Spring,



MISSION STATEMENT: Believing in Christ, we GATHER, GROW and GO with the good news of His love, compassion and forgiveness.

Worship

with us from home

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)Phone: 812-232-7628FAX: 812-232-3406Pastor Husby: 812-230-2628FAX: 812-232-3406TLC email: Trinity2620@live.comTLC website: https://trinityterrehaute.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thur: 9:00a-12:00p Contact Hours for the church office: 10:00a-12:00p

Sunday Services

10a IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCu1siDnnzqBNsnQM1xAH-Sw

TRINITY'S VISION STATEMENT

We are a welcoming family of believers in the triune God; we believe we are called to live out our faith by serving others and making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Accompanying Guiding Principles

•We are committed to a triune God who governs our lives: God the Father, Jesus Christ—his Son our Lord, and the Holy Spirit.

- •We acknowledge our spiritual weaknesses and accept our forgiveness as sinners redeemed by Jesus Christ's death and resurrection; it is by God's grace that we are saved.
- •We praise God, pray for his help in our lives and seek a strong sustaining relationship with Him.
- •We pursue the expression of Jesus Christ's teaching in our lives, supporting each other, and inviting all to join with us.
- •We strive to be a community of believers, helping and supporting, within the congregation and in the broader community; we believe that we should love our neighbor as ourselves.