





Sunday, March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Theme of the Day:**

*Open Door Policies: God's Surprising Strategies for Getting Sinners Back Home- Grace Instead of Condemnation*

*Congregation sings or speaks the bolded text*

**653 Lord, to You I Make Confession**

CW 653

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

*Please stand.*

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Confession**

P: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

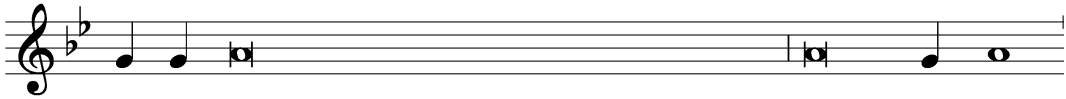
P: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy**

CW 174

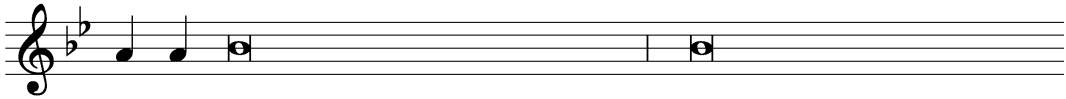
In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



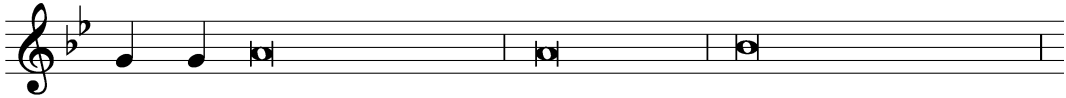
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of



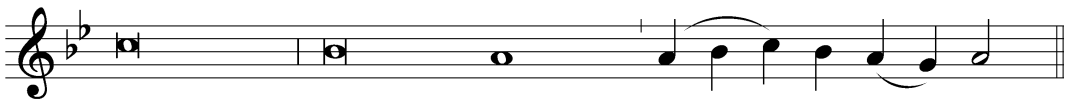
God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**A - men.**

Tune: Marty Haugen Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714016

# The Word

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading

*Isaiah 12:1-6*

*God's grace turns the fear of our condemnation into the joy of our salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>In that day you will say: "I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. <sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation." <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>In that day you will say: "Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. <sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

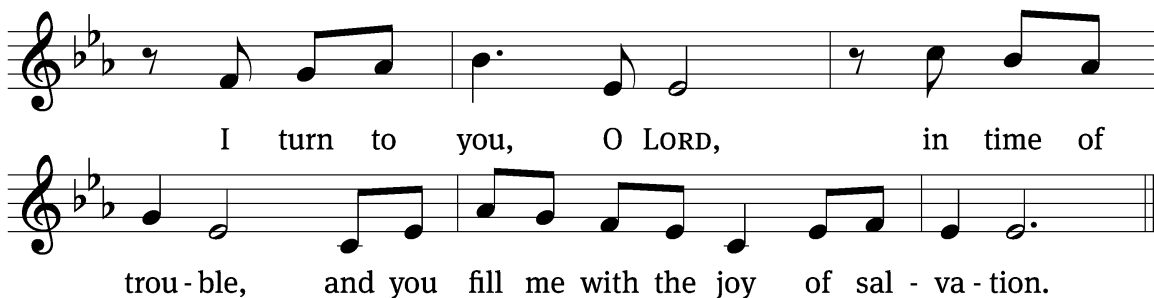
P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## 32A I Turn to You, O LORD

*Psalm 32A*

*Refrain*



I turn to you, O LORD, in time of  
trou-ble, and you fill me with the joy of sal - va - tion.

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are for- / given,  
whose sins are / covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count a- / gainst them  
and in whose spirit is / no deceit.

When I kept silent, my bones wast- / ed away  
through my groaning / all day long.

For day and night your hand was heav- / y on me;  
my strength was sapped as in the heat of / summer.

Then I acknowledged my / sin to you  
and did not cover up my in- / iquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions / to the LORD."  
And you forgave the guilt / of my sin. *Refrain*

You are my / hiding place;  
you will protect me from / trouble.

Many are the woes of the / wicked,  
but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who / trusts in him.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Text: Michael Guimont Tune: Michel Guimont Text: © 1998 GIA Publications, Inc. (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714016 Tune: © 1998 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714016

## Second Reading

*Romans 8:1–10*

*In Christ Jesus, God has already condemned all sin. For us there is only grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 15:10

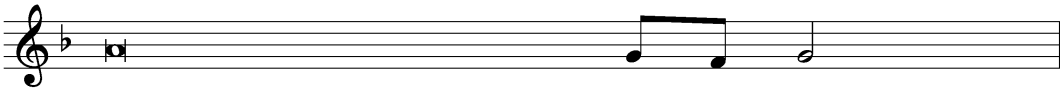


### Refrain



Glo - ry, praise, and hon - or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

### Tone



There is rejoicing in the presence of the an - gels of God



over one sinner who re - pents.

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## Choir Sings During the Gospel: “Lead Me Back”

### Gospel

Luke 15:1–3,11–32

*How does God respond to those who object to or are enraged by his grace? He responds with more grace.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup>But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup>Then Jesus told them this parable: <sup>11</sup>Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup>“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’

## **654 Jesus Sinners Does Receive**

*CW 654*

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1699 Text and tune: Public domain

*Please stand.*

### **Sermon Text: Luke 15:24b-32**

So they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>“ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Please be seated.*

### **Sermon Theme: The Prodigal Father Leaves the Door Open for his Lost Sons**

*Please stand.*

### **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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Prayer of the Church**

### **Offering**

### **Friendship Registration**

**Guests:** Please fill out name, address, and phone number.

**Members:** Please fill out name and any new information.

***Please, return the booklet to its original location. Thank you!***

## **523 How Deep the Father's Love for Us**

*CW 523*

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963 Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963 Text and tune: © 1995 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: One License Reprint and Podcast no. A-714016

*Please stand.*

P: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**All: 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**

P: 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.**

## **576 Amazing Grace**

*CW 576*

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790 Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman Text and tune: Public domain. **Acknowledgments:** Setting Two from Christian Worship Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.



## *Announcements*

**WELCOME!** Thank you for joining our Trinity family in worship today. We invite you to keep growing with us through God's Word and Sacraments. If you have a question, please speak to a pastor or a Trinity member. If you are a guest, please pick up a guest packet and give your name and address in the friendship registration located in each pew. Ask the ushers if you need a pocket-sized aid for the hearing impaired. Large print bulletins are available upon request, with the Hymns for the service printed in them. A Nursery with our service on TV is located off the lobby for parents who need to calm young children.

**THE WELS CONNECTION** will be shown after both services today.

**CALL MEETING DATE** Thank you to everyone who attended the Pre-Call Open Forum this past Tuesday evening. We thank District President Sims for leading us in a Bible Study of Acts 1:15-26 and its application to our Call process as we seek to fill our upcoming pastoral vacancy and remain confident that the Lord will meet our needs at the right time with the right candidate just as he did for his New Testament church. **Our first Call meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, April 27 at 9:30 AM (between services)** - please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend this meeting. Pastor Krueger will be leading the meeting. Voters will consider a list of qualified candidates and vote to extend a Call to a Pastor at that time. Questions: Contact Congregational President Ron Bower or Staff Minister Falck.

**IMMANUEL VICAR PROGRAM SUPPORT OPPORTUNITY** Members desiring to support this program should make their gifts directly to Immanuel Lutheran. We are no longer actively collecting for this at Trinity.

**BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE** The contract for construction of the 86'x20' storage addition on the west side of the school gym has been signed. The contractor (Garlock Construction of Findlay) is in the process of finalizing permits with Wood County. The contractor is waiting for quotes and scope of work from subcontractors to finalize and schedule the start of the work. There are several items that anyone in the congregation could assist with or do to offset the cost of the project. These items include elements on the front and back end of the project such as site-prep work and finish work. If you have any questions you can call committee co-chairmen Jamie Siferd or James Miles. Please pray that God continues to bless this project as we look to maximize our space and provide the best setting for the many ministries we carry out in his name at Trinity!

**LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION OF OHIO (LSGOO)** If you are not taking advantage of this excellent opportunity to direct a portion of your Ohio tax liability directly to our school's ministry, please check out [www.lsgoohio.org](http://www.lsgoohio.org) or talk to Mr. Falck.

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** We will continue our study through the book of 1st Corinthians for the rest of the school year. Paul wrote an important letter to a deeply divided congregation with problems. Paul addresses the issue of dealing with the issues of adiaphora (neither commanded nor forbidden by God). Join us as we study chapters 8-10, as we discuss this topic in today's Christian life.

**ALPHA PREGNANCY HELP CENTER DONATIONS:** Do you have clothes and toys your children have outgrown? Please consider donating them to the Alpha Pregnancy Help Center. We will offer them to Alpha families along with the Gospel and prayers they will one day be in heaven with us. "The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." *Please put all donations in the tote in the south entryway.* Are you interested in other ways to support the Alpha ministry? Contact Cindy at 614.804.4773 or email her: [Cindy@justasking.org](mailto:Cindy@justasking.org).

**VOLUNTEERS** are needed to help at Easter for Kids on Saturday, April 26 from 9:30 AM -12:00 PM. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of church if you are able to help. You can specify what you would like to help with—crafts, music, games, registration, snacks, or group leaders.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY:** Part three of "Time—It's a Gift" Bible study is scheduled for Monday, April 7 at 6:30 PM in the church basement Bible classroom. In Lesson three, we'll talk about identifying and assessing our current season of life, noting that choices are involved and priorities may need to be adjusted. We'll look at the importance of depending on God's wisdom as a guide rather than on what the world has to offer. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of church if you are planning to attend.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

April 20<sup>th</sup>- Easter Sunday; April 26<sup>th</sup> - Easter for Kids & Outdoor Egg Hunt (Rain Date: April 27)  
May 4<sup>th</sup>- Confirmation; May 25<sup>th</sup> – Graduation Sunday

**EGGS AND EASTER** Jesus is Risen: Bring your children/grandchildren to learn about Jesus's resurrection and celebrate Easter at Mornings with Mommy on Monday, April 7 or Tuesday, April 8. Play with colorful rice and Easter grass, make tissue paper butterflies, hop like bunnies and explore colored salt. After snack, we will have an indoor Easter egg hunt. Register online at [tlcjenera.org](http://tlcjenera.org) or call 262-391-7994.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Women's Ministry is volunteering at the West Ohio Food Bank in Lima on Thursday, April 24 from 1:00-3:00 PM. We will be packing/preparing boxes, sorting through foods and checking expiration dates, and much more! Please sign up on the sheet in the back of church if you are able to join us. Anyone is welcome to come help—men, women, teens! The address is 1380 Kibby St. Lima, OH 45802. Questions? Contact Jenny Boehm 262-391-7994.

**MIDWEEK LENT SERVICES** started, Wednesday, March 5th: Reflections on Repentance from Psalm 51 - Using David's great penitential Psalm 51, penned following his affair with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah, this series of Lenten reflections explores the depths of our sinful depravity, the brokenness of our relationship with God, our dire need for rescue, and the good news of forgiveness, cleansing, and rejoicing in our restored relationship with God and the promise of eternal life through Jesus our Savior. Lent worship services will be Wednesday at 7 pm, starting March 5th. Join us to reflect on our Savior's sacrifice for us and our salvation.

**EASTER FOR KIDS & EGG HUNT:** Trinity is hosting Easter for Kids on Saturday, April 26 from 9:30 AM-12:00 PM. The program is open to children age 3 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This event will give your children an opportunity to celebrate and learn about the true meaning of Easter. Children will discover the good news of Easter and what Jesus' resurrection means for them. The program features Bible-based activity stations where kids learn about the Savior's resurrection, praise him in song, make crafts, play games, and enjoy snacks together. Families are invited to stay after our Easter for Kids program for an **egg hunt** on the school grounds. Snacks and drinks will be provided for families in the parking lot following the egg hunt. The egg hunt is for toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary age children. If your children are not attending Easter for Kids but would still like to participate in the Egg Hunt, please register for the Egg Hunt. Please register online at [tlcjenera.org](http://tlcjenera.org) (click on the "Upcoming Events" icon) or pick up a registration form in the back of church. Questions—contact Jenny Boehm 262-391-7994.

**THE LWMS SPRING RALLY** will be on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> @ Immanuel Lutheran Church in Findlay. Registration will begin at 9:00am. The featured speaker will be Rev. Timothy Flunker, and he will be speaking on Home Missions. RSVP to [office.immanuelfindlay@gmail.org](mailto:office.immanuelfindlay@gmail.org) or sign up on the sheet on the sign-up table.

#### **DAILY LECTIONARY**

**Sun:** Gen 41:28-57, Mark 11:20-33

**Mon:** Gen 42: 1-34, 38, Mark 12:1-12

**Tue:** Gen 43:1-28, Mark 12:13-27

**Wed:** Gen 44:1-18, 32-34, Mark 12:28-44

**Thu:** Gen 45:1-20,24,28, Mark 13:1-23

**Fri:** Gen 47:1-31, *Gen 48:1-49:28*, Mark 13:24-37

**Sat:** Gen 49:29-50:7,14-26, Mark 14:1-11

**Sun:** Ex 1:1-22, Mark 14:12-31

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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website: tlcjenera.org

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (week of March 23<sup>rd</sup>)

Total Worship Attendance: 240, Early: 125, Late: 115; Adult Bible Study: 24; Sunday School: 33; Teen Bible Class: 4; Midweek 4: 115; Online Worship Views for Mar. 16<sup>th</sup>: 33

**MONEY COUNTERS** for this morning through April 5<sup>th</sup> are the members of David Bower's Undershepherd group. Beginning Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, will be the members of Bill Hull's Undershepherd group.

**GREETERS** today are: Joe & Jean Spaeth – early  
Mark & Jane Boehm – late

Next Sunday: Dwight & Norma Rader – early  
Jerry Burkholder – late

## THIS WEEK AT TRINITY (March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 6<sup>th</sup>)

**TODAY Worship 8:00 & 10:30;** WELS Connection; Adult Bible Study, Teen Bible Class, Sunday School 9:20

**WED** Lenten Meal 5:30; Handbells 6:00; Lenten Service 7:00; Choir after service

**SUN** **Worship 8:00 & 10:30;** Communion; Adult Bible Study, Teen Bible Class, Sunday School 9:20

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

**Mon** Faculty Bible Study 3:30  
**Tue** Track Practice Begins 3:30-4:30  
**Wed** Chapel 8:20  
**Thu** Track Practice 3:30-4:30  
**Sat** Ohio Academic Day

Vanco  
Mobile  
App



**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to glorify our Triune God as we train, strengthen and nurture ourselves and others through His Word and Sacraments, so that we are enabled by His love to live lives of faith and to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people.*