

**Trinity
Lutheran
Church**

**March 8th,
2026**

**First Sunday
In Lent**

**217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN**

**Website
[www.trinity
sleepyeye.org](http://www.trinitysleepyeye.org)**

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Mon-Thurs
9am - 3pm**

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Every member**

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**Custodian
Pat Lowther**

Sir, give me this

WATER

*so that
I won't get*

THIRSTY

~ AND ~

*have to keep
coming here*

**TO DRAW
WATER.**

JOHN 4:15

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT SERVICE OF THE WORD



9:00 AM MARCH 8TH, 2026

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WELCOMES ALL! *We are gathered in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who beckons us to come to Him in faith and repentance. May the gospel of the Lord inspire and fill you with the Spirit! Fellowship & refreshments are available in the Narthex and Library immediately following our Sunday worship.*

GATHERING

WE PREPARE *In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.*

RINGING OF THE BELL / PARISH NOTICE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

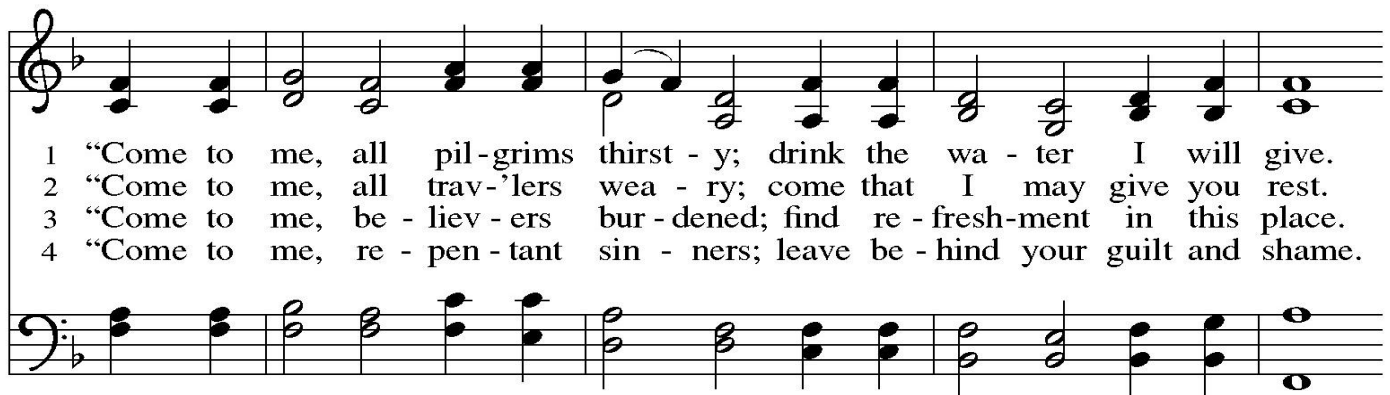
God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

ELW #777



1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh - ment in this place.
4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."
Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

Refrain



Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

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

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Exodus 17:1-7

The first reading is in Exodus chapter 17, verses 1-7. Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put the Lord to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to the Lord. The Lord commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question--“Is the Lord among us or not?”--received a very positive answer.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

The second reading is in Romans chapter 5, verses 1-11. Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL READING

John 4:5-42

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 4th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**"

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he? They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE



Pastor Dave Nissen



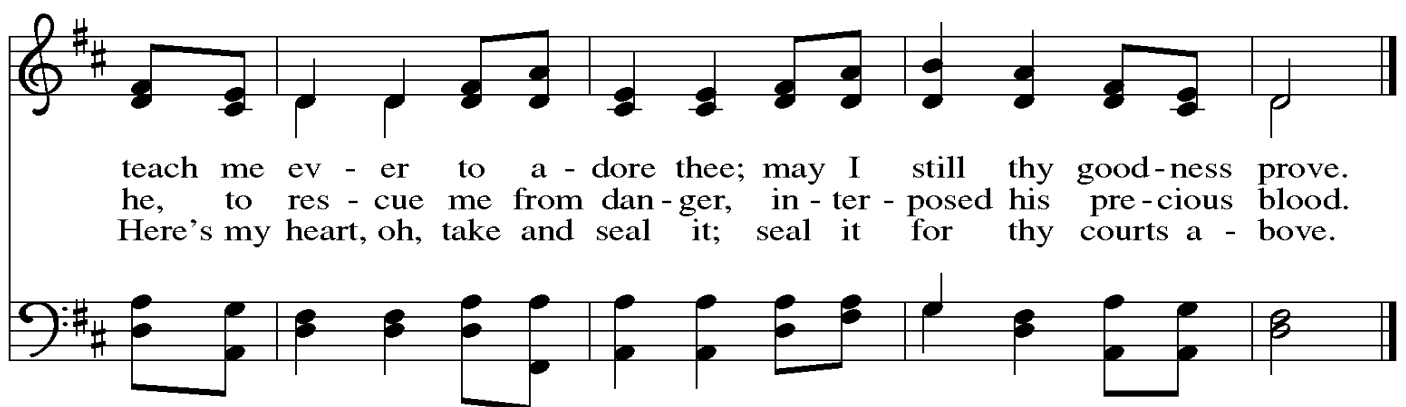
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

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**

THANKSGIVING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: respond after Lord, God of grace,



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

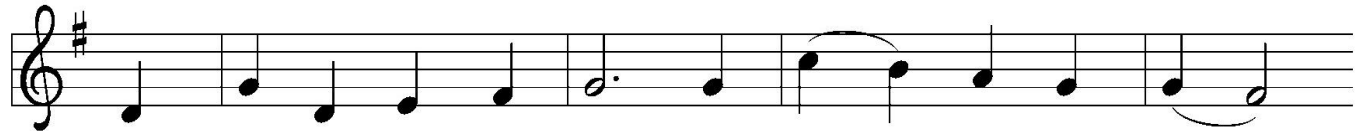
SHARING THE PEACE

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

OFFERTORY

We Give Thee but Thine Own

ELW 686



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

(The Ushers bring up the offering)

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Together, let us pray with confidence the words our Savior gave us:
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.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.
 my - self I give you; let your will be done.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE**Our Thanks To All Who Serve The Body Of Christ**

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship	Wednesday 7:00 pm Worship
Accompanist	Mary Mulry	Pastor Dave
Acolyte	Colten Case	Madelynn Mangen
Readers	Neil Neidt	***
Sound Techs	Russ Sorensen	***
Greeters	Ross Wall	
Ushers	Doug Domeier, Larry Baumgardt	Doug Domeier, Larry Baumgardt
Altar Guild	Judy Johnson, Beth Klein	



EASTER PLANTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ORDER: If you would like a plant in memory or in honor of a loved one(s) you may now place your order by signing-up in the church office. There is a nice variety of plants to choose from to brighten our sanctuary on Easter morning, which you are welcomed to take home with you after the 9:00 am Easter service. The deadline for your order is March 22nd.

We would like to stock a nursery again here at Trinity. If you have Baby equipment you no longer need, please consider donating it here. Please talk to Pastor Dave or Darlene. Thank you.



Lenten Services Wednesdays at Noon & Evenings at 7:00



The Boards of Trinity cordially invite you to join us for supper each week before the evening service at 7:00 and Church School at 6:00.

**We are raising funds to support Summer Church Camp
with the help of Thrivent Action Teams**

**Meals are served from 5:30 pm – 6:15 pm each Wednesday
Cost for the meal is a Free Will Offering**

**March 11th: Choice of Four Soups, Bread, Beverage and Dessert
Property**

**March 18th: Choice of Four Soups, Bread, Beverage and Dessert
Evangelism and Stewardship**

**March 25th: Choice of Four Soups, Bread, Beverage and Dessert
Lay Ministry & Fellowship**

Sleepy Eye Lions Club

Dad's Belgian Waffle Brunch

Sunday, March 15th, 2026

8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Snow date: March 22nd



ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

**WAFFLES, SAUSAGES, FLAVORED SYRUPS,
SUGAR-FREE SYRUP AVAILABLE AND
WHIPPED TOPPINGS, COFFEE, MILK & WATER**

- ~ Adults (at the door) \$12.00
(In Advance) \$11.00
- ~ Children 6-11 (at the door) \$6.00
(In Advance) \$5.00
- ~ Under 6 FREE
- ~ Take-outs available (inside/outside)

Tickets available at the
Public School District Office,
First Security Agency
or from any Lions member.

Sleepy Eye Public School Cafeteria
Use Elementary Wing Doors



Sponsored by Sleepy Eye Lions Club
Proceeds go to Lions Community Projects

March 8, 2026

Jesus gives “living water” to satisfy the thirsts of our lives.

THIRD
Sunday
in Lent



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well
Monday	Genesis 24:1-4, 10-27	Rebekah at the well
Tuesday	Genesis 29:1-14	Rachel at the well
Wednesday	John 7:37-44	Streams of living water
Thursday	Revelation 21:5-7	The spring of the water of life
Friday	Revelation 1-5	River of life
Saturday	Psalms 104:10-18	God waters the earth
Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“No one who drinks the water I give will ever be thirsty again. The water I give is like a flowing fountain that gives eternal life.” John 4:14 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Pour your love into our hearts, God, and let it overflow to others. Amen. (Romans 5:5)

Mealttime Prayer:

God, our bodies and souls depend on you. Thank you for feeding our bodies. Please feed our souls also for eternal life with you. Amen. (John 4:13-14)

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus pour his love into your heart. May you be filled to the brim with his living water, a spring gushing up to eternal life. Amen. (John 4:13-14)

CARING CONVERSATION

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is your favorite drink? Why?
- Jesus says that those who drink the water he gives to them will never be thirsty again (John 4:13-14). What do you think he means?
- The woman Jesus met at the well asked him some questions. What is a question you would like to ask Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Jesus told the woman at the well that God wants people to worship him “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23). As part of your home devotional time this week, talk about your household’s experiences of Sunday worship. Why do you worship? What helps you to worship? How does participating in Sunday worship address your spiritual thirsts? Discuss ways in which you could better support the worship life of your congregation. Say a prayer of thanks for your congregation and those who plan and lead worship.

SERVICE

Resolve to drink only water in your home this week. Write up or type Jesus’ words, “Come to me and drink” (John 7:37). Attach this verse to your water jugs or water bottles. Donate any money you have saved by not using purchased beverages (soft drinks, juices etc.) to a charity of your choice.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Speaking to the woman at the well, Jesus offered her “living water” to satisfy her life thirsts. As this week’s symbol, place a small bottle or vial of water in your family’s prayer space. Say this prayer together:

Lord Jesus, thank you for coming into our world to bring us your “living water.” Help us to look to you to satisfy our thirsts of body and soul. Amen.

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Please take your bulletin home for weekly devotions



Trinity's Mission Statement

We are a community where Jesus is Lord: our mission is to invite, welcome, nurture, and equip all people to be disciples in His name.

TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN Send an email to secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org or call the office at 507 794-5051. Leave a message.

TRINITY'S WEBPAGE Send an email to the church office at secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org and let Darlene know you want your newsletter via email!

TRINITY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK CHECK IT OUT!!

"Trinity Lutheran (ELCA) Sleepy Eye MN"

The Trinity Tidings newsletter is now also posted on www.sleepyeyonline.com watch this site for community news and events.



If you haven't already, please consider *Simply Giving*, an automated giving program for your offering. You determine the frequency of your offering which is deposited into Trinity's account the same day it is withdrawn from your account. It's a "hassle-free" way to give. Talk to Pat or Darlene if you are interested. Thank You.

Last week at Trinity

Weekly Worship Attendance:	96
Website	58
Bible Studies Attendance:	3+8+6=17
TREK	39
Weekly Giving: (5730.00 Needed)	\$4132,04
Yearly Giving	\$39,840.29



Thrivent members are reminded to direct their Choice Dollars each year any time after April 1st of the year!

This Week's Prayer Concerns

Pray for Trinity...that the Holy Spirit would keep our Trinity family united as we continue in worship and in helping others as we are able ...

Pray for the Church...that the Holy Spirit would empower us to live in the image of God so that we would speak and act in every way bringing glory to God before all the nations and peoples with what we have been given...

Pray for our World...that pain of war, which has penetrated so many lives that your light Lord would help us to see your presence and that the Spirit would lead us to seek the truth and practice grace for all who are hurting...

Pray for all who are ill, afflicted, or recovering...that the Holy Spirit would give comfort and daily strength to Nicole, Dave, Susie, Gary, Mark, Sherry, Kali, Isak, Vivian, Kim, Pam, Pat, Beth, Harold, Rita, Paul, Ray, Lorinda, Chris, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Duane, Milo, Ed, Carlo, Dorothy, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Linette, Tammy, John, Tony, Ted, Connor, Kimora, and Mary Jo.


Pray for the beloved... who now rest from their labors in God's mercy and for all who mourn the personal loss of loved ones...especially the family and friends of **Jane Hurley**, who passed away February 25th and was laid to rest yesterday in Worthington ... that God would fill each one with the hope of our Lord's promise to bring us to a new heaven and earth where suffering, crying, pain and death will be no more....

Pray for all families...that the Holy Spirit would bring compassion and mercy to all who are separated from one another and each would give way to mercy, love and reconciliation...

Pray for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces and those far from home...for **Brady Augustin** and his wife ...and for all of our military Veterans that the Holy Spirit would guard them in safety and keep their hearts stayed in Christ...

Pray for the missionaries of our church (ELCA)...that they proclaim their witness of the Gospel throughout the world.

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"... take in your hand the staff
with which you struck the Nile,
and go.... Strike the rock,
and water will come out of it,
so that the people may drink."

Exodus 17:5-6