

Good News!

FEBRUARY
2012

TRINITY UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
658 Grand Avenue, Waukegan IL 60085-4156

Volume 19
Issue 2



Ash Wednesday

February 22

Noon and 7 p.m. Worship

“Ash Wednesday is for people who know what it means for their soul to be logged with these icy waters: all of us are such people, if only we can realize it.

There is confidence everywhere in Ash Wednesday, yet that does not mean unmixed and untroubled security. The confidence of the Christian is always a confidence in spite of darkness and risk, in the presence of peril, with every evidence of possible disaster...

Once again, Lent is not just a time for squaring conscious accounts: but for realizing what we had perhaps not seen before. The light of Lent is given us to help us with this realization.

Nevertheless, the liturgy of Ash Wednesday is not focused on the sinfulness of the penitent but on the mercy of God. The question of sinfulness is raised precisely because this is a day of mercy, and the just do not need a savior.”

Thomas Merton

God blesses us with opportunities for growth and change. Lent is one such opportunity. Ash Wednesday, February 22, begins our 40 day journey to the cross and beyond.

The “imposition of ashes” on Ash Wednesday is a reminder of Jesus’ death on a cross, and a sign of mourning and repentance. As the ashes are “imposed” on our foreheads, we are told “you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” This ritual marks the beginning of a special time of introspection and self-denial, and meditation on the promise of resurrection, as God’s response to sin and death. The focus of Lent should be not only on human sin, but also on God’s desire for the creative transformation of our embodied lives and of the whole creation.

Please join us either at noon or 7:00 p.m. for worship.

LENT BEGINS

Pastoral Ponderings

Tim Tebow is perhaps the most controversial figures in American sports today – not because he’s political, not because he’s even very outspoken. But because he is a fusion of two things of which people hold strong opinions – sports and faith.

There are Tim Tebow lovers, and Tim Tebow haters, although at the moment the haters quite outnumber the lovers. He’s an intriguing figure. As a very successful college football quarterback he won numerous awards, including two NCAA National Football Championships (with University of Florida) and the Heisman Trophy, the only college sophomore to ever win that honor. Drafted in the first round of the NFL draft, in his rookie year, he quickly moved from back up to starting quarterback and had success, especially in engineering late game comeback drama. He’s been fun to watch... especially when your team isn’t playing against him. He has sufficient talent to propel him forward which can not be said of most successful college quarterbacks. That said, it’s not really his talent or his luck which has gotten him into trouble, but his very outward faith.

It seems that people have used him and his image to project their hatred towards organized religion, whether it be their perceived phoniness of believers or anger towards churches. He has been accused of arrogance...but how much of that is confidence – overhyped by the media? Then there is what has been called "tebowing" his distinctive one knee prayer stance he does after a touchdown or a victory. Imitated and mocked, he is accused of believing that God has been helping the Broncos to win...but I’ve seen no quotes to confirm this.

Of course people have a problem believing that God would support a particular football team – that God would care who wins. It raises some interesting questions... does God really care or make things happen in our lives so that we have our own “victories?” If things go smoothly in my day I do tend to thank God, because I don’t see any reason to take credit -- they just go smoothly. The problem with this is that when things go badly I should blame God for also actively the strings that gave me problems, which is of course silly and self-centered.

Other football players have been outspoken about their faith...like Reggie White, and Kurt Warner. Some, upon retirement, have even become pastors of their churches. Many are charitable. But few have taken such hostility, perhaps because few have been so outspoken as Tebow, who wrote a book, Through My Eyes.

What does this have to say to us about our own witness? It shows again that it is dangerous to be a Christian willing to talk about our faith. Tim Tebow’s “crucifixion” discourages other Christians in being public with their beliefs. It’s like people have made it clear that if we are vocal about our faith that we will get slammed. Yet what I think people really resent is hypocrisy and self-righteousness. I see neither of these qualities in Tebow.

Most of us will never be famous like Tim Tebow or under that media scrutiny. But we are concerned about how we show our faith to the world. It brings to mind two encouragements from the sermon on the mount...the first, where Jesus says that we are to be “salt of the earth,” “light for the world.(Matthew 5:13-16)” To be bold in faith, and definitely leave our mark in affecting change in the world..

The second encouragement is found in Jesus’ comment on public prayer. “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6: 5,6)” (This also brings to mind the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector in Luke 18:9-14) In other words, don’t make of your faith a show, or use it to impress others.

On the surface these two admonitions might seem mutually exclusive. Are we to be public or private in regards to expressing our faith? Which of these applies to Tebow? Which one to our own situations? I think it’s a matter of integrity. To not hide what is real and important in our lives...even if we open ourselves to others scorn. But also to not manipulate the faith for our own glory or pride. *(continued next page)*

(Pastoral Ponderings, continued)

There are many very public Christians I find to be offensive, who aren't good representatives of the faith. I don't see Tim Tebow as being one of those. But he is in the spotlight, and maybe we are, too. Maybe to be a Christian, a regular churchgoer in this time means we stand out. It's easy to be caricatured. It's easy to have our lives minimized by people's prejudices. Our challenge is to be authentic people, and to be able to articulate why it is we have chosen to be part of this faith community. That's our witness, and we do it together.

In Christ's name; **Pastor Rich**

Ephesians Bible Study

Ephesians Bible Study meets the last time on **Wednesday, February 1st** in Larson Hall from 10 — 11 a.m. There is no cost, and friends are welcome.

SAGES offer "Help"

On **Thursday, February 9th** at 1 p.m. our Sages (Senior Adults Going Everywhere Sharing) will screen the academy award nominated film "The Help" over coffee and goodies. All are welcome.

Healing Service offered February 12

During our February 12 Sunday worship we'll include opportunities for individuals to come forward and have hands laid on and prayers said for healing. We believe that healing is God's work and occurs in different ways. Please join us as we come together as a praying community.

Trinity Council

Trinity United council meets **Tuesday, February 14th at 7:00 p.m.** in Larson Hall with Nancy Bjerstedt providing devotions & refreshments. Members and guests are welcome to attend.

February Lessons & Themes

The following information is provided for your personal study and reflection:

February 5

EPIPHANY 5

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

February 12

EPIPHANY 6

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalms 30

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Mark 1:40-45

February 19

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Isaiah 43:18-25

Psalms 41

2 Corinthians 1:18-22

Mark 2:1-12

February 26

LENT 1

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15



Soup Suppers

Soup suppers are a favorite weekly tradition for many Trinity members. Each week 2-3 individuals or families host the supper by providing pots of soup.

Others are asked to bring simple foods to supplement the meal, such as fruit or bread. To keep set-up and clean-up simple, we ask that you also bring your own bowls, silverware, cups and beverages. Hosts provide coffee and tea. Soup suppers will begin at 6:15 PM prior to each 7:00PM Lenten midweek service, **February 29, March 7, 14, 21 and 28.** A sign-up sheet is posted in Larson Hall.

**February
Loose Offering
Designated for
PADS**





Notes from Josh

This February our church lessons run the emotional gamut. We hear hopeful stories of Jesus healing people and the triumphant glory of Jesus's transfiguration, but we also share the laments of Ash Wednesday. The famous opening verse of Psalm 30 sums up this contrast: "I will exalt you, O Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me."

At its best, our worship exalts God while acknowledging the depths in which we all sometimes find ourselves. We don't forget about our troubles simply by walking into church. Rather, God invites us, troubles and all, to remember that our truest calling is praising God with our fellow believers.

Outside the Church, February is also Black History Month, so once again I'll try to schedule one spiritual or gospel tune during every service. This works out well, because nearly all our favorite spirituals run the same emotional gamut as Psalm 30. Take the joyful

"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me". The second verse admits, "Satan had me bound", and the third asks us to remember "when I was in trouble". Even if we don't want to talk about those specific times Satan had us bound, we can proclaim it in song, and then proclaim the even greater truth that "Jesus lifted me."

This tradition carries into contemporary African-American hymns, like "Through It All", by the gospel music innovator Andraé Crouch. This beautiful song of trust opens with the lines,

*"I've had many tears and sorrows,
I've had questions for tomorrow,
There've been times I didn't know right from wrong."*

In other words, "Satan had me bound". So let's sing praises to God for freeing us from that bondage, in Epiphany, in Lent, and all year long.

THE WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM MEETS **TUESDAY, February 7th** at 7:00 p.m.
THE RESOURCE TEAM MEETS **TUESDAY, February 7th** at 7:00 p.m.

February 'Toon



Refocus for Lent

- Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
- Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
- Give up worry — trust God to provide.
- Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred — return good for evil.
- Give up anger — be more patient.
- Give up pettiness — become mature.
- Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
- Give up sin — turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up — persevere.

—Author unknown

Circle Schedule

Abigail Circle meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, **February 21** at 7:00 PM

Deborah Circle meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, **February 21** at 7:00 PM

Rachel Circle meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month, **February 15** at 7:00 PM

Rebekah Circle will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, **February 8** at 1:00 PM.

Sisters of Eve meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month, **February 7** at 7:00 PM

FEBRUARY CIRCLE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Hostess — *Rachel*

Devotions/Visitation — *Sisters of Eve*

Service — *Deborah*



The Metro-Chicago Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA and The Chicago Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Sponsor the 23rd Annual **Morning of Dialogue & Prayer** Sisters in the Same Spirit "Sharing Our Voices" **Saturday, March 10, 2012** 8:45 a.m. through 12 Noon lunch Cost: \$20 per person Our Saviour's Arlington Heights 1234 N Arlington Heights Road Arlington Heights IL More information, call 773-380-2657

**Trinity United
COOL Food of the Month:
Rice**



Trinity United Women Valentine Salad Luncheon

All women are invited to the Valentine Salad Luncheon at 12 Noon in Larson Hall on **Saturday, February 11th**. Richard "Red" Nelson will present the program "Swedish Experience". Bring a salad to share.

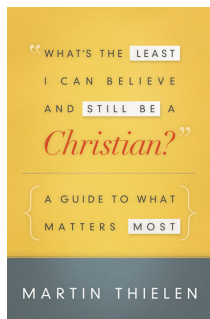


Love Never Ends

Come celebrate Fat, or Shrove Tuesday, February 21st!

There are two names associated with the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday – "Shrove" and "Fat". Some call it Shrove Tuesday, taken from an old English verb which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by way of Confession and doing penance. Fat Tuesday refers to the tradition of eating pancakes or other fatty foods the day before Lent begins, thus removing those treats from our houses and our diets.

This year Trinity will celebrate Fat Tuesday with a pancake supper, serving from 6 – 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, February 21st**. Pastor Rich will use a special buttermilk pancake recipe which you won't want to miss. We'll also share sausage, fruit and drinks. A free will offering will be taken, with a suggested donation of \$4 per person, with a maximum of \$12 per family. All are also encouraged to bring "church friendly" jokes to share, as well as the popular "In it to Win it" games shared last year by Ken Endress. Sign up in Larson Hall so we can plan for how much food to bring.



Dear Church Family

On Sunday, February 26, 2012, our congregation will embark on an exciting seven-week journey. Our entire church family, both in Sunday and Wednesday Lenten services, will read and discuss an engaging new book about mainline and moderate Christianity titled What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian? This provocative title draws us into a discussion of what's really important to believe as a Christian, and what is not.

During this unique study, we'll discuss several things Christians don't need to believe. For example, we don't need to believe that good Christians don't doubt or that it's OK for Christians to be judgmental and obnoxious. However, we'll spend most of our time studying what Christians do need to believe. In short, Christians need to believe in Jesus—his life, teachings, example, death, and resurrection. A great benefit of these beliefs is that they provide promising answers to life's most profound questions, including, *What matters*

most? Am I accepted? Where is God? What brings fulfillment? What about suffering? And is there hope?

You can help us prepare for this dynamic seven-week experience in the following ways. First, pray for this important event. Second, attend Sunday worship every Sunday during the seven-week initiative, and join us Wednesday nights, when you'll have a chance to share your experiences and thoughts in our small group discussions. Third, purchase copies of What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian? for yourself, your family, and your friends. Books can be purchased in the narthex on Sunday mornings or in the church office during the week. Finally, invite family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to visit our church during the seven week event.

I look forward to this special time together. Please contact me if you have any questions. It's a joy to be your pastor!

In Christ's love and service,

Pastor Rich Grudt

What household goods does Love INC need?

Please remember Love INC when doing your Spring cleaning this year!



FURNITURE NEEDS:

Eat on...

Kitchen table & chairs, TV trays

Sit on...

Sofas, couches, love seats, sofa sleepers, recliners, living room chairs

Sleep on...

All sizes of mattresses, box springs, and frames, sofa sleepers

Other useful items...

Dressers, lamps (table & floor), coffee tables, end tables, rugs, TVs

KITCHEN & LINEN NEEDS:

Making the meal...

- ◆ Pots & pans, baking/casserole dishes, mixing bowls, cookie sheets, pie pans, etc.
- ◆ Utensils: manual can opener, spatula, mixing spoons, pancake turner, sharp knives,
- ◆ whisk, measuring spoons/cups, cutting boards, colander, etc.

- ◆ Small appliances: toaster/toaster oven, microwave, coffee maker, George Foreman grill, etc.

Serving the meal...

- ◆ Dishes, (plates, bowls, saucers), silverware, mugs, glasses & cups
- ◆ Serving platters, serving bowls, serving spoons, pitchers (plastic or other), etc.
- ◆ Tupperware/Rubbermaid storage containers

Household Linens...

- ◆ All sizes of bed sheet sets, mattress pads, blankets & comforters
- ◆ Bath towels, hand towels & wash cloths, shower curtain with hooks, rugs
- ◆ Kitchen towels & dish cloths, oven mitts & hot pads, rugs

ALL ITEMS MUST BE IN GOOD, USABLE CONDITION (WOULD YOU USE THEM IN YOUR HOME?) Please call 847-731-0526 to make arrangements to donate your item/s.

Trinity 2011 donations to Love INC = \$542.89

Sympathy & Prayers to

- ♥ Bob & Sylvia Collinson & family on the loss of Bob's cousin Charles
- ♥ The Watson family upon the death of Arthur (Binky) Watson, Desiree Cole's first cousin
- ♥ Victor & Vicki Mintrikeff and family on the death of Victor's mother, Marguerite Mitrieff
- ♥ Gladys Piat, Cheryl & Vince Piat and family on the death of Bernard (Cheryl's father)
- ♥ The Dela Pena family on the loss of uncle & brother-in-law Earl Gurney
- ♥ Allen & Diane Layburn and family on the death of Diane's twin sister, Denise Cartwright

February Birthdays

Bjerstedt, Nancy	2/1
Ben-Carew, Lucynda	2/7
Linares, Ailani	2/11
Dela Pena, Sandra	2/17
Larsen, Helga	2/21
Ahern, Emma	2/21
Fisher, Brian	2/21
Johnson, Vincent	2/21
Roberts, James	2/21
Nelson, Betty	2/24
Rodriguez, Kimberly	2/27
Varsek, Karen	2/27
Carlson, Olga	2/28

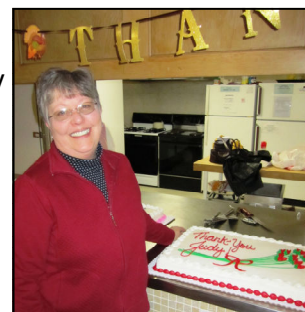
February Anniversaries

Peggy & Robert Foster (51)	2/6
David & Vanessa Dela Pena (16)	2/17



Thank You!

I wish to express my gratitude for the January 22nd coffee hour celebration held in honor of the 11 years I have served as administrative assistant here at Trinity. Thank you for your gracious expressions of appreciation, cards and gifts. It has been a pleasure to serve this congregation, and I value the many friendships made during these years. This day was doubly special as our family gathered to witness the baptism of our youngest granddaughter, Logan Grace Szostak. Thank you again for a wonderful day to remember!



Holy Baptism
Logan Grace Szostak
 January 22, 2012
 Parents: Katie & John Szostak
 Sponsors: Lara Salyer Smith & Kevin Boehm
 Grandparents: Ross & Judy Salyer
 & Bill & Debra Szostak

**February
 Newsletter Deadline is
 February 16, 2012**



**TRINITY UNITED
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
658 Grand Avenue
Waukegan IL 60085-4156

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FEBRUARY

Our Vision

Trinity United is a **welcoming community** where everyone matters.
We are **centered in Jesus Christ** and the Holy Scripture, rooted in tradition and open to the future.
We value **vibrant, creative, and meaningful worship**.
We **value our partners in ministry** – other churches, local aid groups, and global service organizations –
and seek to be known as a congregation that meets the needs of our neighbors.

TRINITY UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
658 Grand Avenue
Waukegan IL 60085-4516

Church Office 847-623-1197
Fax 847-623-0970

Email: TrinityULC@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.TrinityULC.org

Office Hours: 8:30 am — 3:00 pm, Monday—Friday

2011-2012 CHURCH COUNCIL

Nancy Bjerstedt, president
John Hansen, vice president
Helga Larsen, secretary

Bernard Ben-Carew	Bonnie Hellickson
Joe Cole	Bob Johnson
Ben Gehrt	Allen Layburn
Marilyn Hall	Terry Oldfield
Gene Sanderlin	

MINISTRY STAFF

Richard A. Grudt, *Pastor*
224-610-9702 — pastorgrudt@yahoo.com

Joshua Langhoff, *Director of Music Ministries,*
Organist & Choir Director

Lea Langhoff, *Bell Choir Director*
Judy Salyer, *Administrative Assistant*

Karen Varsek, *Treasurer*
Carole Johnson, RN, BSN, *Volunteer Parish Nurse*
Gene Sanderlin, *Maintenance Manager*



Come, Grow, Serve

Sunday 9:30 a.m. worship
(Communion — 1st & 3rd Sundays)
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.