

THE TRINITY TRIBUNE

A Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, Hanceville, Alabama

March 2024

The Seven Last words of Jesus on the Cross



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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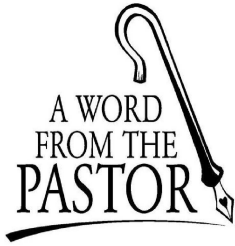
SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:45 AM

WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY!



Jesus Speaks Love to Us from the Cross



As I said in the Ash Wednesday sermon, Lent is not a season of despair. Lent is a season of both reflection and hope. Into the truth that we are dust and that we don't deserve any goodness from God our Lord speaks. He speaks from His cross where He hangs; suffering and dying for our sins. Among the agony and the bloody death we have caused Him and which He has gladly taken up He speaks to us words of love and hope and comfort. This Lenten season we are looking at these words Jesus speaks to us even as He is suffering and dying for us.

As He looks down on those who by their sin would crucify Him again - and yes, that includes us - His first words from the cross still come to the Father: "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." The Father still hears. The Father still forgives for the sake of His Son.

The second word from the cross is the personal assurance Jesus gives to the repentant thief: "Today you will be with Me in paradise." Surely we need that compassion today, we who have robbed God of so much.

Again our Savior speaks. This time it is a word of provision. "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" Jesus, who is honoring His heavenly Father by doing His will and dying for the sins of the world, honors also His earthly mother by making provision for her. He follows the Law for us, to the letter and in its spirit, by honoring the fourth commandment to honor our parents.

The Son next cries out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" He reminds us that the Father has forsaken His Son with your sin, so that He will never forsake you.

Jesus' simple word, "I, thirst," reminds us that we are not alone in our suffering. He is our great High Priest who has gone through everything we have and can not only sympathize with your suffering but can remove it or use it in whatever way is best.

One word in Aramaic; the language Jesus spoke. One word in Greek, *tetelestai*; the language in which St. John wrote his Gospel. One word so misunderstood. One little word. One powerful word full of an eternity of meaning. "It is finished." The will and command of the Father for our salvation is completed by His Son, our Savior, Jesus as He dies on the cross for us.

In His last moments of mortal life Jesus leans on His Father and the Word as should we. "Into Your hands I commit my spirit." The death of Christ shows us that there is no fear for the believer but a joyous translation into the hands of God.

There is so much more depth to these words than I can express in this short space. Won't you come to our mid-week Lenten services so we can explore together the deep meaning and love expressed in these words by our Savior Jesus as He goes to the cross for us? We see in these words, not defeat, but the prelude to victory on Easter. As we watch the Lord pass through the gates of death into the hands of God, as we hear our Lord's final words from the cross, we hear an echo of a word which He spoke before these Seven Words: "The third day He shall rise again."

In Christ,

Pastor Jankens

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2024</h1>					1	2
3 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers: Collins	4 6:30 pm Choir Practice	5	6 6:30 pm Lent Mid-week Service	7	8	9
10 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers: Schmidt	11 6:30 pm Choir Practice	12 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study 6:30 pm Elders	13 6:30 pm Lent Mid-week Service	14	15	16 10 am Knit/Crochet Service Project
17 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers: Brooks	18 6:30 pm Choir Practice	19	20 6:30 pm Lent Mid-week Service	21	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 10 am LWML
24 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers: Dahlke	25 6:30 pm Choir Practice	26	27	28 6:30 pm Holy Thursday Service	29 6:30 pm Good Friday Service	30
31 7:30 am Breakfast 8:45 am Sunday School Flowering of the cross 10 am Divine Service						

Special Days for the Month of March

Birthdays

Casey Culwell	3/2
Marion Fox	3/3
Kylie DuBose	3/3
Robert Durand	3/5
Ellen Schmidt	3/8
Margie Burkart	3/9
David Dingler	3/16
Cindy Jones	3/18
Myra Stimson	3/20
Michelle Moody	3/23
Don Cochran	3/24
Alesia Ayers	3/24
Paula Wiram	3/27
Carl Lampitt	3/28
Timothy Smith	3/30



Anniversaries

Wayne and Sharron Nichols	3/7
Gordon and Martha Blanton	3/7
Robert and Elizabeth Jochum	3/8

Baptism Birthdays

Norma Lampitt	3/3
Isaac Dale	3/7
Lou Dingler	3/14
Lee Michelfelder	3/18
Debbie Hamilton	3/19
Timothy Smith	3/22
Margie Burkart	3/23
Linda Durand	3/23
Patricia Brooks	3/23
Casey Culwell	3/28



Board of Elders News

It has been encouraging to see our pews more filled at our services recently, as we see some new faces, along with some long absent faces returning after having missed some during the holidays and due to illnesses.

Since we are in the Lenten Season, we would like to encourage everyone to join us at our mid-week services.

- Wednesday services continuing at 6:30PM weekly through 3/20/23
- 3/28/24 - Maundy Thursday Service - 6:30PM
- 3/29/24 - Good Friday Service - 6:30PM
- 3/31/24 - Easter Sunday Service (we will not be holding a Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday)

Our Sunday morning Bible study continues to be blessing to those who attend, and attendance has been very good, as we study the "Lutheran Difference: End Times" so please join us as we study God's Word together and interact with each other in Sunday School. Our Wednesday Bible Study has been paused until after Easter.

The Elders met on 2/14/24 and we are continuing to contact those we see absent from service, but everyone can assist in this, if you notice someone missing and would like the Elders to contact them during the week, please let one of us know as you leave service that Sunday.

Our Security Team has recently purchased an AED system. This will be mounted in an area easily accessible from the sanctuary. It can accommodate both adults and children in its use if necessary. As we discussed in our last CPC Meeting and Voter's Meeting, this was purchased with memorial funds and will be in memoriam and honor of Darryl Kretzschmar and Billy Rau, and also thanks to a generous contribution for the remaining balance due from Atlas Precision Consulting in Hanceville (a company owned by our member Nicholas Podner and his father). We will have a plaque in memoriam made to hang in display with the mounted AED Unit.



Thanks you for allowing us to serve our congregation and please feel free to engage any of the Elders in conversation or approach us with any questions or needs that you may have.

May the Lord bless and keep each of you always.

Your brother in Christ,
Tim Smith / 205-492-0235

Board of Evangelism News

We were so happy to have so many of you join us for the Mardi Gras Bingo party on February 11th. It was a fun evening of Christian fellowship and good Cajun food.

Thank you to everyone who donated pasta items for the Lion's Kitchen Food Pantry at Wallace State Community College. The large container they provided for us to collect in was overflowing with your contributions. During the month of March, we will be collecting pasta sauce of any variety. Contact Paula Wiram (205-446-8206) with any questions.

Thank you, also, to everyone who donated Yoo-Hoos for the Knapsacks for Kids project. Trinity will help pack the Knapsacks on March 21st at the Hanceville Civic Center. Contact Linda Durand (256-339-2269) for more information or if you would like to help.

In a recent Lutheran Hour sermon, Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler spoke about different ways of evangelizing or sharing the Gospel. One way was to simply tell the story of Jesus and what He has done for us. To tell that story, we must first really know who Jesus is and believe that He is our very own, a gift from God our Father. Rev. Zeigler encouraged his listeners to look to the Gospel of Mark as a concise narrative of who Jesus is. He challenged them to listen to or read the entire Gospel of Mark at one sitting and to do it several times.

During this season of Lent, may we all accept that challenge and read or listen to the entire Gospel of Mark, perhaps once a week. This will prepare us to introduce others to Jesus with a sincere, compelling voice of faith in who He is, and what He has done for us. Do this to the glory of God!

In His service,
Margie Burkart
256-531-4122

Board of Education News

Happy Easter!

The Board of Education is having our annual Easter egg hunt/potluck lunch on Sunday March 24th after service. We are asking our chefs/cooks to help out again with the wonderful dishes and desserts. Please make sure your child/children bring baskets to collect all the eggs!

We will have the Easter morning breakfast potluck on Sunday March 31st at 7:30 am. Directly after breakfast is the Flowering of the Cross in the church, followed by Sunday school/Bible class and then the Divine Service.

We hope to see you there for food, fun and fellowship! We want to say "Thank You" in advance for all you do!

Easter season is more than egg hunts, food and fun. It's about Jesus and His sacrifices for all believers. It's about His resurrection and His defeat of Satan. This is the time to reflect on where your journey is going and which roads you want to take to achieve your goal. There are so many opportunities available at Trinity to help you on your journey.

To name a few:

Sunday school/Bible study 8:45 am

Sunday service 10:00 am

Pastor's Bible study (after Easter) every Wednesday at 10:00 am

Marty's Bible study every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm

LWML Bible study with Judy every 3rd Saturday at 10:00 am

Men's bible study with Dan Dahlke (TBA)

Can't wait to see you!

In Christ,

Anne Gotch (256) 636-4288

Board of Stewardship News

Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

"You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other" (SC 1).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God's fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have - every possession, every relationship, every ability - is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God's purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

LWML News

Trinity LWML met on Saturday February 17 at 10:00 am. President Kay Michelfelder opened our meeting with the LWML Pledge. There was discussion on the upcoming service project meeting that Trinity LWML will be hosting on February 24. We will be stuffing backpacks for homeless.

Marty reported that the 2nd Tuesday extension of LWML Bible study. There were 10 ladies in attendance and all ladies are continuing to enjoy meeting together for this study and fellowship.

The knitting and crochet classes now known as "Trinity Crafters", continue to meet and have even extended into new knitters/crocheters in their own homes. This is another wonderful service outreach extension activity as LWML continues to Serve The Lord With Gladness.

The LWML District Convention will be held in Prattville, AL on April 26th and 27th. Marty Cowart will serve as our delegate at the convention. There will be a proposal presented at the convention to raise our Mission goals to 60% and our operations down to 15%. This would result in our Mission going from \$65,000 to \$75,000. Mission grants have been raised from \$32,500 to \$45,000 and scholarship money from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

It's Time for Spring Cleaning

LWML will be hosting a rummage sale in April. A tentative date has been set for April 12th-13th. More information will follow.

Save the Date

LWML will be hosting a Ladies Tea and silent auction at our May meeting. All ladies are invited and bring a guest along for this special ladies event.

Other Items

Elnora continues to send 3 quilts per month to either to Lutheran World Relief or Dakota Boys Ranch.

LWML ladies have made 50 contacts to the sick since our November meeting.

We are continuing our Donna Snow Bible Study "Where Love Abides". Margarete Cowart hosted our delicious refreshments and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

We hope to see more ladies at our next meeting on Saturday. March 16. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Thank You



"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus."

1 Corinthians 1:4



January 2024

Greetings from the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Thank you for your care and gifts for the Co-op Marketplace this past year. Our students are truly blessed by your love and care as they are formed into the pastors and deaconesses of tomorrow. For many of our students, the Co-op is their only source for food and household items while they are on campus. As a former student wife, I can tell you firsthand what it meant to my family and me when we were benefactors of the love and gifts given by people like you.

Because of you, our students received gift cards from various retailers, restaurants, and gas stations. Each of our off-campus students also received a ten-meal lunch ticket for the dining hall. The total given to each MDiv and deaconess student was just shy of \$500 per student. This was in addition to the beautiful quilts that were lovingly handcrafted from all over the country. We also held forty-nine gift basket drawings with items ranging from an alb, cincture, and vestment bag to game night. With your donations we were also able to feed the distance deaconess students during their two-week on-campus winter intensive. What a tremendous blessing to be able to do this for the students!

Jesus provides us more gifts than our hearts and minds could ever imagine. You truly are a gift to the students who are preparing for a life of full-time church work. Thank you.

In His service and yours,

Deaconess Katherine Rittner

Deaconess Katherine Rittner
Director, Food & Clothing Co-op



LBW
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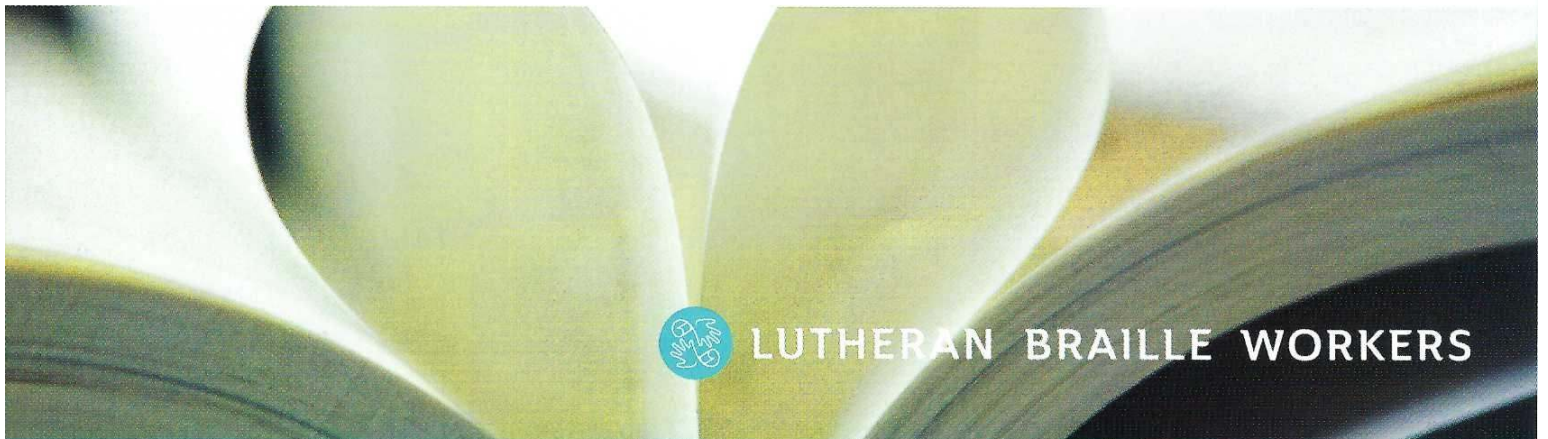
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