**March 1, 2021 Update**

From Pastor Mark

Happy Monday, Trinity!

Here is a bible verse and prayer for today.

"Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments." Psalm 119.66

Let us pray: Gracious God, though we are saved by faith, you call us to a life of good works. May we always treat one another with gentleness and remember that each person is created in your image. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Worship in Lent!** Worship is at 7 pm and will be streamed live on our Facebook Group page and on our YouTube channel (Trinity LutheranSparta). One of our 9th Grade Faith Formation Small Groups is leading worship and the theme for Wednesday night is “Faith and Hope”.

**And before worship,** join us tonight on ZOOM from 6:15-6:45, before service. We will have a devotion and then break out into small groups for discussion and fellowship. Here is the Zoom information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84320511861?pwd=Y2Y0SUdvZFFjZmFXYlNYSlRUR2MvQT09>

**Meeting ID: 84320511861**

**Password: 113427**

**Attached is the Lent fellowship devotion for March 3rd.**

Here are the themes for the rest of our Wednesdays in Lent:

March 3: **Faith and Hope O Christ Our Hope. #604**

March 10: **Seeing in a Mirror When the Poor Ones #725**

March 17: **Abiding in Love. Abide with Me #629**

March 24: **Noisy Gongs and Clanging Cymbals Loud boiling test tubes #731 Earth and all stars**

**A new and wonderful to share the love of Jesus!**

Recently, through the generosity of a couple of our members, we have acquired a DVD-copier, and three portable dvd-players. We will be making copies of our worships on to the DVDs. Our hope is that these DVDs can be shared with our members who do not have access to the internet, and the players shared with our members who do not have DVD players in their homes.

If you know of someone that we could reach out to in this way, please let us know: office@tlcsparta.org or 608.269.5081.

Our awesome FF students will be helping lead worship throughout Lent!  Tune in at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday evening as we gather together from our homes for this special time of joining Jesus on His journey to the cross.  Even as we have to be apart, God connects us in love for one another.

Here is our schedule:

Wednesday, March 3:  Andrea & Pam's 8th grade group

Wednesday, March 10:  Evie's 8th grade group

Wednesday, March 17:  Chip's 8th grade group

Wednesday, March 24:  Adelynn's 7th grade group & Morgan/Nadia's 7th grade group

I will also be emailing a caring conversation each week for you to use with your families anytime around your table.  These sheets will include questions to get your family engaged in face-to-face conversations.  Extra copies of these sheets will also be available in our resource box found outside of the church.   If you have any questions at all on the above, please reach out to me.  I'm always happy to help!  All of you are in my constant prayers, & I never stop thanking God for you!

God's love, grace, & peace to you!

Michelle

From Pastor Mark

In honor of February being Black History Month, I have been sharing writings of African American voices who have much to teach us about Jesus Christ. Today I share with you parts of the very last speech delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr shortly before his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee. The speech is intitled, “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop.” And Dr. King delivered it on April 3, 1968.

“One day a man came to Jesus and he wanted to raise some questions about some vital matters of life. At points he wanted to trick Jesus, and show him that he knew a little more than Jesus knew and throw him off base. Now that question could have easily ended up in a philosophical and theological debate. But Jesus immediately pulled that question from midair and placed it on a dangerous curve between Jerusalem and Jericho. And he talked about a certain man who fell among thieves. You remember that a Levite and a priest passed by on the other side; they didn't stop to help him. Finally, a man of another race came by. He got down from his beast, decided not to be compassionate by proxy. But he got down with him, administered first aid, and helped the man in need. Jesus ended up saying this was the good man, this was the great man because he had the capacity to project the "I" into the "thou," and to be concerned about his brother.

But then the Good Samaritan came by, and he reversed the question: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?" That's the question before you tonight. Not, "If I stop to help the sanitation workers, what will happen to my job?" Not, "If I stop to help the sanitation workers, what will happen to all of the hours that I usually spend in my office every day and every week as a pastor?" The question is not, "If I stop to help this man in need, what will happen to me?" The question is, "If I do not stop to help the sanitation workers, what will happen to them?" That's the question.

Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge, to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation.

Well, I don't know what will happen now; we've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life—longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've

looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. And so I'm happy tonight; I'm not worried about anything; I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

**RETURNING TO TRINITY**

At the February 9, 2021 meeting, the Trinity Lutheran Church Council prayerfully voted to restart the process of returning to our facilities.

The covid 19 new case rate for Monroe County is **16 per 100K** (orange, moderate risk) as of February 25.

We are allowing small groups up to 10 persons to meet in-person at Trinity. We will be proceeding at a measured pace as risk levels dictate and we gain experience. We ask that you review the covid documents on the website. We ask for your patience.

We will allow up to 3 small groups in different areas to meet at the same time. We will limit meetings to three areas for now. Start times and end times for multiple meetings must be staggered by 10 minutes to avoid congestion in the halls and entrances.

Contact the office to establish meeting times and locations. Each group is responsible for coordinating its access to the building as well as mitigations and sanitation protocols.

Please contact the office with requests for meeting times and location, and with your group’s trained person for sanitizing.

If you have questions, please contact Jim Moorhead, 608-633-3658.

Les Stanley, President

Jim Moorhead, Return Committee

**CHRIST IN OUR HOME**

The Christ in Our Home devotions for April, May and June have arrived. There is a supply in the Resource box if you would like to pick up a copy.

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Prayer Concerns: Please take some time to pray to God over these concerns expressed by your sisters and brothers of Trinity Lutheran:

Please pray for the family of Paul Brandau, who passed away on January 2, 2021.

**If you have any prayer concerns, please contact Pastor Mark at pastor.tlcsparta@gmail.com or Jonelle Intihar, our prayer group coordinator, jonelle@the intihars.com (we will post prayer requests for 2 weeks unless we hear otherwise). Thank you!**

**TO ALL QUILTERS**

Please mark your calendars – We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall on March 2nd and 5th this week, and next week March 10th, 11th, and 12th from 8:30 – 10:00 am. Call Alice Olson if you have any questions (608) 487-5409.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY PRAY**

Dear God, in the midst of everyday troubles we can sometimes lose sight of the promise of our salvation in You. Be with our Stephen Ministers as they walk beside their care receivers, helping them to rely on Your promises and to turn to You for strength.

**31 DAYS OF PRAYER IN MARCH**

Please e-mail or text Michelle with your favorite Bible verse & she will include them throughout the month of March.  If you would like to read on Facebook one day, please let her know that.  Her e-mail is: thehyattfive@gmail.com & cell is 343-0324.

**SUGAR CREEK**

Summer Camp 2021 Online Registration opens tomorrow! We have exciting new programs as well as beloved favorites—be sure to check out our summer brochure or the program descriptions on our website.

Follow the link button below to visit our [Summer Programs](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001k3Lo8jwtVKV9hA2dkDyQ9CpxbAvTKXxe28NCI2OU9RQZ-2aRp5IkK5_joMLTtWq4SCY3VvMnsJkYYuND1pFniSHwK6Kdp5lVPWl0UGbGQ7FWj5D0HRPAvLVqJJDeJGQkjCsUWUshzN24i5B7W9fL4S8yp8wE1ouhaliHSlR22Knjm83a9b3Upds_tAGg0yXy&c=mW6OeDu9F0V6LiwPzSAIod6Cy7986WR67nCho5qf73glX371oxFRyQ==&ch=5_F78GEQkqJtv2R5gC4GqAtAtFLS2x7rTknyqEO9kaC7s4VERzPUFw==) page.

As vaccines are delivered nationwide, safety practices are honed, medical knowledge increases, and camp programs and facilities are adapted, we are confident in moving forward with plans for summer Bible camp. *Youth and families will benefit from camp now more than ever!*

We hope YOU can join us at camp this summer. Sign up by March 15

for a free Summer 2021 Sugar Creek T-shirt. As usual, all deposits and payments are refundable up until June 1, 2021 and possibly beyond depending on Covid-19.

**We can't wait to see you again!**

**FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) Summer Sports Camp (grades 7 – 12)**

New dates!  New location!

Wednesday, June 30 - Saturday, July 3, University of Northwestern, St. Paul, MN

LOTS of details have yet to be worked out, but COVID practices are in place, & it still promises to be a powerful, faith-filled camp experience!  Michelle will be in touch as soon as registration opens.  Until then, please continue to pray for FCA & its ministry.

**CAN YOU HELP?**

See attachment regarding Texas Storm Relief. Anything you can do to help, is much appreciated. Thank you!

**DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN OUR WEEKLY UPDATES?**

If you do, please email our Administrative Assistant, Myrt, at office@tlcsparta.org.  Or, you can call her at 608-417-9265.