

**March 2022**

Printed February 24, 2022



**TRINITY**  
C H U R C H

From the Pastor's Desk...

I want to say thank you for your graciousness. The last months have been a personal challenge for me, and the next months will present new challenges as I heal. I appreciate your support and understanding. It is a blessing to lead this congregation and to be surrounded by your kindness and prayers.

Trinity is truly blessed by the ministry we continue to build together. On March 2nd we enter the season of Lent. It is 40 days beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter). Remember, Lent does not include Sundays because they are ALWAYS a celebration of the resurrection.

Lent is a meaningful opportunity to focus on deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ. It is a season of faith building. It is a time to wrestle with some of the challenging questions of life, while we allow God to shape us into the disciples we are created to be. I want to encourage you to join in the upcoming church-wide Forgiving Challenge.

With our focus on Forgiveness, Sundays will be built around the acronym S.C.A.R.S. - Sin, Confession, Absolution, Restoration, and Sanctification. I know that is a bunch of big church words. We will break them down for deeper understanding. Each week during worship we will participate in the Lord's Supper and offer a time of prayer. I look forward to worshipping with each of you.

Wednesday evenings in Lent, we will dig deeper still, exploring how this process of forgiveness can bless our lives, as well as the lives of those around us. And, as always, we will enjoy soup, desserts, and fellowship together before worship.

If you have not purchased the book we will be using, "Forgiving Challenge" by Zach Zehnder, I encourage you to do so. This will allow you to go deeper, wrestle with some of those challenging questions around living free, opening the door for a fuller understanding of forgiveness, both for yourself and others.

My prayer is that this season of Lent is one in which we each grow closer to Jesus, rest in His assurance of forgiveness, and learn to intentionally share His love in the world.  
Your Pastor and Friend,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Erik".

PS. During Lent, the Wednesday night service at 6:00 p.m. will become the Lenten worship time. Following Easter, due to limited participation in the past months, the mid-week worship service will be discontinued.

# ASH WEDNESDAY

March 2

5:30 & 7:00 P.M.

Includes  
imposition of ashes  
and communion



## SUNDAYS DURING LENT



Sin | Confession | Absolution  
Restoration | Sanctification

Weekly Communion  
with space for  
personal prayer

## WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

### Live Forgiven

As we gather and explore the forgiveness of Christ, applying it to our everyday life, we are emboldened to extend His gift of love and grace to the world.

Worship, reflection,  
and practical  
application

# Lenten Series

## **FORGIVING CHALLENGE**

Take this life-changing journey to experience the gift of God's grace so that you can share it with others.



**So come.**

**Be forgiven.**

**Be free.**

Watch how God works through you to change the world.

**[CLICK TO ORDER YOUR BOOK](#)**  
**[Limited Quantity](#)**

Or visit [www.nextsteps.guide](http://www.nextsteps.guide)

From Our Pastoral Intern...

What a beautiful month February was! Didn't ever expect 50+ degree weather in February when a year ago we were sitting in -40 degree wind chills for several days. The joy of Nebraska weather is that we get to enjoy every aspect of weather - from the joys of equatorial heat and humidity to the feel of frozen North Pole temps. I'll gladly take the 50's every day in February.

Last month we had some really cool things happen. A few guests from The Raining Season joined us in worship. TRS has been a Trinity Church mission partner for more than 10 years. Jason Rust and Lori Pyle shared with us the story of the work and ministry that is being done through TRS to rescue, empower, and restore orphans in Sierra Leone, West Africa. They brought good news that we were able to celebrate about Mary Kamara (Trinity Kids sponsored child). Although Mary has aged out of the orphanage, she now lives in the Roots Center and is the first TRS kid to be approved for the University. What an incredible achievement!!

Those present for worship and watching online were moved by the stories and testimony of ministry in Sierra Leone through TRS. Many responded by sponsoring children. God is at work through our partnership with this incredible organization. If you'd like to sponsor an orphan through TRS, you will find all the details on sponsorship at <https://www.therainingseason.org/sponsorship>. Thank you for your heart to make a difference in the life of a child in Sierra Leone.

Our first LIFE YOUNIQUE course wrapped up in February. Each participant processed through their story, their gifting, and their passions all leading to discovery about God's unique and special calling for their lives. There were engaging conversations and experiences each week within the table groups. The course wrapped up with participants identifying a 90-day goal based on their calling. It felt good for me to be part of this opportunity to really connect people to each other, to help them understand that God made them uniquely, and to offer support as each person laid out an action plan to walk toward their goal and into things that matter. I look forward to having an opportunity walk with you the next time Life Younique is offered.

As we enter Lent in March, I pray this season is a time that you draw deeper into faith and are reminded each and every day that the grace of God is sufficient for you.

Matt Pearson  
Pastoral Intern

## Greetings People of Trinity Church,

As I write this newsletter article in the middle of February, I see that tomorrow's outside temperature is supposed to get up to 62 degrees and the next day, 50. Wait a minute – is this really winter in Nebraska?! I'm not complaining, but I find that I have to think twice when going outside about what coat to wear. It's hard to remember that we are still in the season of winter.

In the church, we celebrate Ash Wednesday as the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a season meant for self-reflection and faith practice that reminds us of our humanity and humility before God. Lent prepares us to more fully celebrate the joy of the Easter season when it comes.

The fact is that both the seasons of nature and the seasons of our lives are constantly in motion. One season leads into the next whether we are ready or not. Yet not without leaving us with the opportunity to appreciate the beauty and giftedness each season affords. Winter (usually) is the time we experience the beauty of snow blanketing the earth, building snow forts, drinking hot cocoa or cider, and of course Christmas and the New Year. Valentine's Day promises us that spring will indeed come just as sure as Lent reminds us that Easter is on the way. Each season has its own special gifts to offer if we are open to observe and participate.

Internship is a season of ministry for Matt in which he is invited to focus on learning and developing his practice of ministry. Within the internship year there are also seasons of ministry where some things come to the forefront and others wait their turn. This season, Matt has been hard at work developing and beginning to implement his internship project in the Yunique small group program. This month he will participate in leading Lenten worship and small group discussion using the Forgiveness Challenge materials. Exploring a new model for midweek Lenten worship is a way for Matt to explore what it means to be a worship leader as well as a leader who encourages others to grow. Please consider joining into the practice of Lent at Trinity, so that God can use this as a time for growth in your life as well as a season of growth and deepening faith in the community at Trinity.

No matter what season of life you are in, God's promise to you is that God's love is never-changing. The Holy Spirit comes to bring us what we need to thrive in each and every season of life. May we know the power of God's love to bless and equip us to live the gospel in all seasons.

God's peace and blessings to you this Lent,



Pastor Ellen Stelzle  
Internship Supervising Pastor

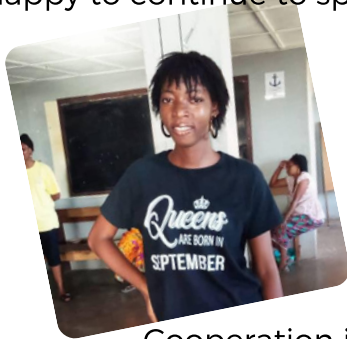


TRINITY  
KIDS

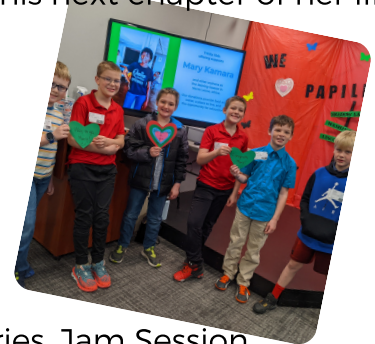
THE HEART OF TRINITY KIDS IS  
TO EQUIP PARENTS TO WALK ALONGSIDE  
THEIR KIDS AS THEY LEARN AND  
EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF JESUS.

### Trinity Kids has exciting news to share!!

Mary Kamara, the young lady that we have sponsored through The Raining Season for many years, started university in February! She is a social work major at Milton Margai Technical University in Freetown and TRS' first university student! We are so proud of her!! Mary will continue to live at the Roots Home while she pursues her four-year degree. Trinity Kids is happy to continue to sponsor and support Mary through this next chapter of her life!



[Click to  
support Mary](#)



Cooperation is the focus of our March lesson series, Jam Session.

All month we'll be looking at how  
everything is better when we work together  
...which is a fitting segue into Undie Sunday month!

We invite the whole church to join in the fun. Children served by Heartland Family Service's domestic abuse shelter are often removed from their homes with only the clothes they are wearing. These basic necessities amid exceedingly difficult life circumstances are desperately needed and appreciated! All sizes are needed.



Thanks for supporting Trinity Kids to make a difference in the lives of kids in our community!!



GRADES 6-12

# TRINITY STUDENTS

Wednesdays 6-8:15 p.m.

Use the Northeast Entrance

Pizza, student store, pop and snack machine (cash only),  
open gym, games, worship, message, small groups

## IGNITE

STUDENT CONFERENCE

Des Moines, IA

March 11-23

\$82

Covers ticket, lodging,  
Friday late-night meal &  
Saturday lunch.



**Sign Up**

As always,  
invite a friend!!



**Under the weather? Out of town?  
Catch us Live Sundays at 9:00 a.m.**



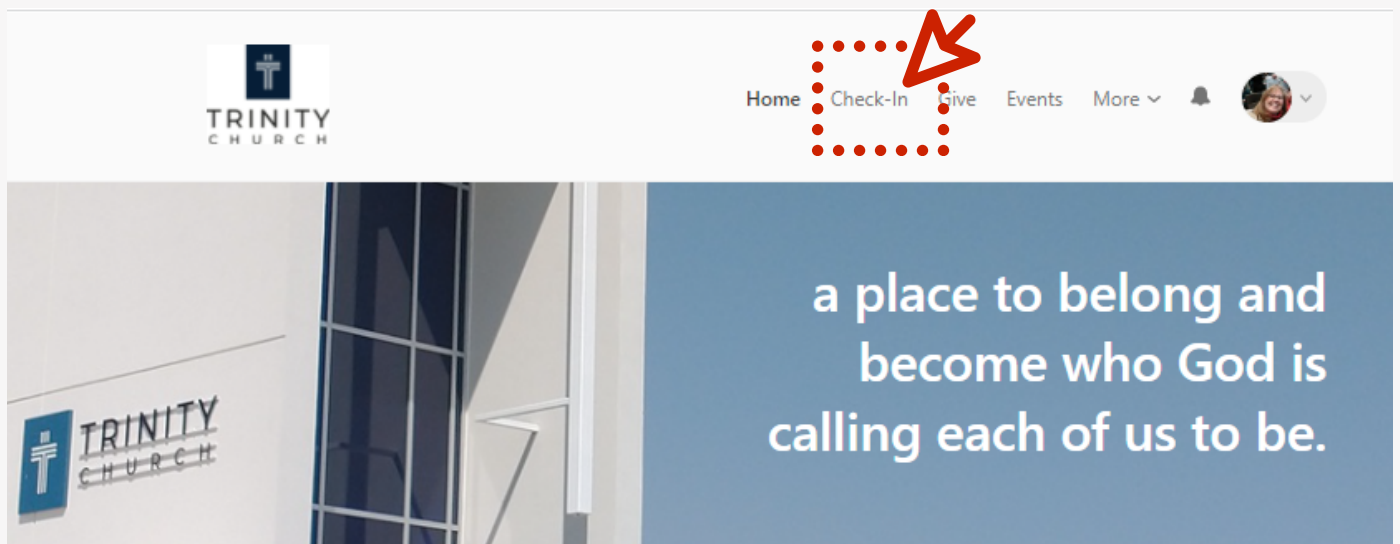
As of March 6, our livestream service will take place on YouTube. Worship hosts will be available to chat with our online community.

**Subscribe to our YouTube community at  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/TrinityPapillion>**

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## **It's Easy to Check into Worship**

Please check into worship, either in person or online, by visiting [www.nextsteps.guide](http://www.nextsteps.guide). You will land at a screen like the the image below. Then click "Check-In". It's THAT easy!!



If you are on your phone, simply open the Church Center app and click the three bars on the top right. Then click check-in.

Thank you for helping our pastoral ministry team better serve our Trinity Church Community.

# **AMONG OUR PEOPLE**

## **Happy Birthday Trail Blazers (80+) Years**

- 03/03 - Calmer Nelson
- 03/04 - Dean Abels
- 03/17 - Beverly Vitamvas
- 03/17 - Floyd Van Briesen
- 03/20 - Ellen Nemec
- 03/22 - Rebecca Kerr

## **New Babies**

- 02/03 - Chloe Brooke Florom, daughter to Chase and Kayla Florom

## **Health and Healing**

- Betty Tollander
- Deanna Rhoten

## **Sympathies**

- Bob & Marlene Graham family on the loss of their nephew, David
- Keryn Paul on the loss of her mother

### **A note from Calmer Nelson's family**

"This will be Calmer's 90th birthday. He has been a member of Trinity for nearly 60 years. Cal doesn't get around like he use to so thought it would be fun to flood his mailbox with cards or letters or a phone call to wish him happy birthday on his special day! Please send cards or letters to: 612 East 4th St, Papillion, NE 68046, or drop him a line at 402-339-8471"

## **TRINITY'S VISION**

**A place to belong and become who  
God is calling us to be**

## **TRINITY'S MISSION**

**Connecting People to Christ**

## **TRINITY'S STRATEGY**

**Love God | Grow Community | Serve Others**

# TRINITY IS GENEROUS

Our Tithes and Offerings  
Connect People to Christ!

## GIVING IN JANUARY

Offering Entries = 513

# of: Donors = 216 | New Donors = 7 | Recurring = 89

Source: Electronic Giving = 338 | Cash & Checks = 175

Total Gifts Received = \$97,799.60

General Fund: \$74,121.48

Go Vision Appeal Fund: \$20,759.09

All other giving\*: \$2,919.03

\*includes Memorials, Little Lights Preschool, IT, Trinity Kids + TRS sponsored child, Trinity Relief Fund, Little Miracles, Trinity Students, Food Pantry, & Stephen Center

## JANUARY ENDING BALANCES

General Fund: \$ 42,989

Building Fund: \$ 199,003

Endowment: \$ 397,080

### GO Fund May 2021- April 2024

Received as of 02/21 - \$462,144.66

39% of our \$1.2 million goal

has come in from 1346 donations

1064 from pledges/ 282 from non-pledged

### General Fund 2022

Received as of 02/21 - \$110,522.45

13% of our \$878,584 goal

has come in from 627 donations

260 from pledges / 367 from non-pledged

We have good work  
to do as we follow  
God's lead into 2022.



**SCAN ME**  
←  
to support the  
General Fund in 2022

Join God in what He's doing in and through Trinity Church  
[www.nextsteps.guide](http://www.nextsteps.guide) and click **GIVE**