

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

32946 Route 4 Between Virden and Girard Illinois

Rev. Keith GeRue, Pastor

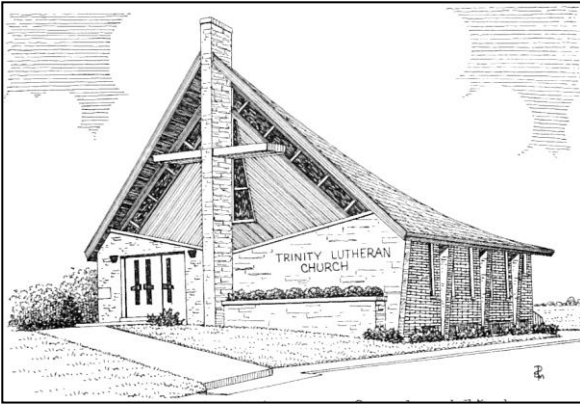
Parsonage: (217) 965 – 3736

Office: (217) 965 – 4816

Cell: (618) 975 – 5240

Trinity website:

www.ourchurch.com/member/1/lcms



Worship Service

Saturdays 5:30 p.m. Sundays 10 a.m.

Lenten Services Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Midweek Coffee and Dessert

Each Wednesday of Lent following Ash Wednesday we will have coffee and dessert after the midweek service. A sign-up sheet is posted in the back of church.

Private Confession & Absolution (by appointment)

Bible Studies

Nursery through 8th Grade Sunday School (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

High School and College Bible Class (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

Sunday Morning Bible Class Sunday (9:00 a.m. World Religions)

Catechesis

Adult Information Class (Sunday Afternoons 3:00 p.m.)

Youth Confirmation Class (Wednesday Evenings 6:00 p.m.)

THE LENTEN CYCLE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

In her history the Church takes time to prepare for the great festival of Easter. This preparation involves several stages. The first stage involves **the three Sundays of Pre Lent**, which sets forth the invitation and call to repentance. The Season of Lent is 40 days devoted to renewal of life, based upon the grace of God, and expressed in a faithful response of confession, prayer, devotion and Christian sacrifice, and continually returning to the font of Baptism and the table of the Lord's Supper.

The Sundays in Lent are not included in the 40 days. These Sundays, therefore, are “in” Lent, but not “of” Lent (just as we Christians are “in the world,” but not “of the world”). Every Sunday is a “little Easter.” Nevertheless, the Lenten themes also touch us during the Sundays in Lent.

The first four Sundays in Lent, signaled by the color Purple, comprise “**Lententide**,” and here we consider our human sinfulness and our failings in the light of God's gracious deliverance. The fourth of

these Sundays is a “Refreshment” Sunday, signaled by the color Rose, and here we rejoice--in the midst of repentance--over the bread of life which nourishes us in Christ's Word and Sacrament.

The last two Sunday in Lent, signaled by the color Scarlet, comprise “**Passiontide.**” Here, the mood shifts to an emphasis on the fact that the forgiveness of sins comes to us through the suffering and death of our Savior. Lent then concludes with “**Holy Week,**” where we meditate on the sobering reality of the events which mark the salvation of the world as Christ, the Lamb of God goes through condemnation, suffering, death, burial, and the glorious resurrection, by which we have been redeemed.

Ash Wednesday begins these forty days (not counting Sundays) of repentance and renewal. It confronts us with the startling reality spoken to our first parents in the Garden, and to all mankind through them: “Thou art dust, and to dust thou shall return.” The truth of this reality is symbolized in the church's practice by the imposition of ashes on the forehead, from which the day gets its name. Ash Wednesday reminds us that everything around us is passing away. We, too, due to sin, our sin, are passing away. Ash Wednesday begins a time of personal sacrifice, but we know that, really, we have nothing at all to sacrifice. Nothing, including our lives, is ours. Ash Wednesday is not a beginning of self-improvement, but a beginning of self-mortification. The true life of renewal is not with us, but with God. So, this day turns us to God, dead that He might give us life from the cross, empty-handed that He might give us life from the empty tomb.

Silent Prayer (before worship)

Lord Jesus, I come into your presence tonight to remember and to praise you for the love and mercy that brought you to the cross to suffer and die for my sins. Fill my heart, soul, and mind with your love. May this hour of worship strengthen my devotion to you and my resolve to reach out to others with the love you have shown for me. Amen.

Old Testament Reading:

Joel 2:12–19

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people.

¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

Epistle:

2 Peter 1:2–11

²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Tract

Ps. 103:10; 79:8a, 9a

P He does not deal with us according to our sins,
C **nor repay us according to our iniquities.**
P Do not remember against us our former iniquities;
C **let your compassion come speedily to meet us.**
P Help us, O God of our salvation,
C **for the glory of your name.**

Holy Gospel:

Matthew 6:16–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁶[Jesus said:] “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.