



## Immanuel-Trinity Lutheran Church

# The Beacon February 2024



"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19 (NRSV)

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

I ran across this story and wanted to share,

*"At 40, Franz Kafka (1883-1924), who never married and had no children, was walking through a park one day in Berlin when he met a girl who was crying because she had lost her favorite doll. She and Kafka searched for the doll unsuccessfully. Kafka told her to meet him there the next day and they would come back to look for her. The next day, when they had not yet found the doll, Kafka gave the girl a letter "written" by the doll saying "please don't cry. I took a trip to see the world. I will write to you about my adventures." Thus began a story which continued until the end of Kafka's life. During their meetings, Kafka read the letters of the doll carefully written with adventures and conversations that the girl found adorable. Finally, Kafka brought back the doll (he bought one) that had returned to Berlin. "It doesn't look like my doll at all," said the girl. Kafka handed her another letter in which the doll wrote: "my travels have changed me." The little girl hugged the new doll and brought the doll with her to her happy home. A year later Kafka died. Many years later, the now - adult girl found a letter inside the doll. In the tiny letter signed by Kafka it was written: "Everything you love will probably be lost, but in the end, love will return in another way." Embrace change. It's inevitable for growth. Together we can shift pain into wonder and love, but it is up to us to consciously and intentionally create that connection."*

I have said it many times, and I continue to believe this, Immanuel-Trinity is at a crossroads. We are, like many churches, struggling with identity, purpose and application. Many in our membership remember the "good ol'days" and try to replicate those feelings. Others who may not have experienced those memories are focused on the present feelings and opportunities in our midst. I pray others, especially those in leadership positions, are looking out and dreaming about what this congregation will look like 5 years, 10 years, 25 years down the road. Each expression has its place, all expressions make up who we are as a people of God.

We struggle in 2024 with a couple of realities. 1) The world has and is changing at breakneck speed. Church world is not the same before Covid (4 yrs ago) let alone 20 years ago. Those things that important and invaluable to ministries may not be anymore. People of God no longer have the luxury of only focusing on the wants of the membership, we are being called the focus on the needs of our larger community. Social media, digital communities and changed realities are the new tools of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. These new tools are no different that the printing press, radio and television of years past. Personal connection is and will always be the greatest strength of believer's communities. 2) God is Good and God is in control. No matter what or how much the world seems to change, we know that our God is greater than any challenge that we might face. We have faith that "if God brings us to it, God will walk us through it. No matter what our future might be, we know who holds our future". (Insert any other inspirational saying here).

Like Kafka in the story above, we and followers of Jesus will be different tomorrow than we are today. Thank God! That's how we grow and mature in faith. As we come to our Lenten season this year, let those things that keep us from Christ, die their natural death, and may we become a new creation in his Word.

Blessed Lent.  
Pastor Tom



Upcoming:  
**Ash Wednesday Services with Communion at 10:30am and 6 pm on Wednesday, February 14**



Weekly Lenten Services held at 10:30am & 6:00pm on February 21 and 28 & March 6, 13 & 20.



**February is a Gift from the Heart**

## Red Bags for the Fond du Lac Food Pantry

- Take a bag and fill it up with non-perishable food items.

*(You are also welcome to use your own bags.)*



- Once it's filled with love, bring it back to the church by Feb. 29th

- It's that simple to give the gift of food to those in need!

What is more important than the practices we take on is the heart attitude behind them. If there's anything we should give up this time of year, it's our sense of superiority either to those outside the church or those inside the church who do things differently than we do. The cross levels us all. And that's true whether or not you practice Lent.

~

TREVIN WAX

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A donation has been given to the Chancel Guild in memory of LaVonne Waller by Bob and Audrey Greenwood.

A donation has been giving in memory of LaVonne Waller by Charles and Carla Kenas.



**February 2**  
Karen Pitts  
Debra Reddy  
Lori Schneider  
Sandra Schroeder

**February 3**  
Geraldine Martin

**February 4**  
Ethan Pagel

**February 5**  
Olivia Dilling  
Jack Dalton

**February 6**  
Catherine Will

**February 9**  
Benjamin Jacobs

**February 10**  
Irene Willett

**February 11**  
Monica Blatz  
Deborah Greenwood  
Jennifer Steinbrecher  
Karleigh Wilbee

**February 14**  
Rita Belling  
Julie Vis

**February 15**  
Steven Jackowski

**February 17**  
Beverly Hegner  
Kaleb Masteller

**February 19**  
Andrea Pittman  
Griffin Jacobs

**February 20**  
Lyle Hari  
Gary Kopf  
Abigail Long

**February 21**  
Sandra Glass  
JoAnn Munson

**February 22**  
Tina Hanna

**February 23**  
Donald Nevala

**February 25**  
James Parduhn

Caden Rottman  
Callie Rottman

**February 27**  
Amie Schwarze

~ February 2024 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:45a, 10a, 11:15a Stay Strong 1:00p Deborah Circle 6pm FdL Wildcats Basketball	2	3 5:30pm Worship w/ Communion
4 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Littles class Adult Education	5 9-10am Yoga w/ Kneis on the Mat 10:15a- 11:15am Chair Yoga 5:45pm Champions of FdL 6pm Facilities Mtg	6 8:45a, 10a, 11:15a Stay Strong 7pm Boy Scouts	7 6:30pm Spark, Connect, SHYG, Confirmation 8:30p Prayer Group	8 8:45a, 10a, 11:15a Stay Strong 6pm FdL Wildcats Basketball	9	10 5:30pm Worship
11 9:30am Worship 10:30am Littles class Adult Education	12 9-10am Yoga w/ Kneis on the Mat 10:15a- 11:15am Chair Yoga 5:45pm Champions of FdL	13 8:45a, 10a, 11:15a Stay Strong 6:30pm Council Meeting 7pm Boy Scouts	14 Ash Wednesday Services with Communion @ 10:30a & 6pm 6:30pm Spark, Connect, SHYG, Confirmation	15 8:45a, 10a, 11:15a Stay Strong 6pm FdL Wildcats Basketball	16	17 5:30pm Worship w/ Communion
18 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Littles class Adult Education	19 9-10am Yoga w/ Kneis on the Mat 10:15a- 11:15am Chair Yoga 5:45pm Champions of FdL	20 8:45a, 10a, 11:15a Stay Strong 7pm Boy Scouts	21 Lenten Services Services with Communion @ 10:30a & 6pm 6:30pm Spark, Connect, SHYG, Confirmation 8:30pm Prayer Group	22 8:45a, 10a, 11:15a Stay Strong 6pm FdL Wildcats Basketball	23	24 5:30pm Worship
25 9:30am Worship 10:30am Littles class Adult Education	26 9-10am Yoga w/ Kneis on the Mat 10:15a- 11:15am Chair Yoga 5:45pm Champions of FdL	27 8:45a, 10a, 11:15a Stay Strong 7pm Boy Scouts	28 Lenten Services 10:30a & 6pm 6:30pm Spark, Connect, SHYG, Confirmation	29 8:45a, 10a, 11:15a Stay Strong 6pm FdL Wildcats Basketball	Notes:	