



Dear friends in Christ,

This year we will have what is, in comparison to recent years, an early Transfiguration and a late Ash Wednesday. How can that be? It is a function of the lectionary that we are using. Let me explain.

Ash Wednesday is always 46 days before Easter. It marks the beginning of Lent. While we talk about Lent as being a 40-day season, on the calendar it is 46 days. The reason for this is that the Sunday's don't count. Historically, they were viewed as mini-Easter celebrations within the Lenten season. So, forty weekdays plus six Sundays gives you Ash Wednesday 46 days before Easter. The three-year lectionary that we have used in recent years places the Transfiguration of our Lord on the Sunday immediately before Ash Wednesday. Last year, for example, Ash Wednesday was on February 14, and the Transfiguration was celebrated on February 11.

The one-year lectionary introduces (or, better said, returns) to us an additional transitional time in the church year that is known as Gesimatide, or sometimes called Pre-Lent. It is a period of three Sundays that is intended to prepare Christians for the coming Lenten season. Some of the Lenten practices are introduced, such as the omission of Alleluias and the Gloria in Excelsis. Historically, it was a time where people would eat up all the meat and dairy in their houses in preparation for the Lenten fast, a practice that you can see an echo of in the Fat Tuesday celebrations that occur in some places.

There are three Sundays in Gesimatide: Septuagesima (the septua- indicates seventy), Sexagesima (the sexa- indicates sixty) and Quinquagesima (the quinqu - indicates fifty). While these names are just approximations instead of exact counting, they begin the church's march toward the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord.

What this means is that, while our observance of the Lenten season will begin with Ash Wednesday on March 5 (rather late), the Transfiguration of our Lord will be observed on February 9 (rather early). On that Sunday, we will say our farewell to Alleluia and begin our march toward Calvary's cross and the empty tomb.

February is also when our LCMS MN North District Convention will be held, February 23-25 in Grand Rapids. Gary Schmidt and I will be delegates representing Trinity. We pray for a fruitful and faithful convention.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Lieske



New Member Sunday

New members of the Trinity congregation were celebrated
on Sunday, January 19th!

Steve, Branda, and Kendall Mouritsen

Brenda Olson

Les Gadow

Sue Schroeder

Dennis, Abby, Gabriella and Greta Gerold

Welcome to the Trinity Family!

Main Street Living

Tuesday, February 13th, will be a special opportunity to show your support for your Main Street Living North Media Ministry! This is **“GIVING HEARTS DAY 2025”**, and this will be our ministry’s second year of being involved. You can add your support by going to <https://app.givingheartsday.org/> at any time by February 13th. Support may also be mailed in advance to: “Main Street Living NORTH”, 821-5th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103. Date the check “February 13, 2025 and write “Giving Hearts Day” in the memo line, and have postmarked by and preferably several days before that date.

“MSL North” Programs for February 2025:

Feb. 2nd: ND District President, Rev. Arie Bertsch, Minot, ND, presents the message: **“Depart in Peace”**, based on Luke 2:22-32. *This Is The Life Program: “The Measure Of A Man” - A newspaper editor learns forgiveness.*

Feb. 9th: Rev. Christopher Neuendorf, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Bottineau, ND, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Rugby, ND, and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Willow City, ND, presents the message: **“Jesus Makes Us Fishers of Men”** based on Luke 5:1-11. *This Is The Life program: “Shepherd of Main Street” - The challenges of an Inner-City church.*

Feb. 16th: ND District President, Rev. Arie Bertsch, Minot, ND, presents the message: **“Bodies Will Rise”**, based I Corinthians 15:12-20. *This Is The Life program: “The True Abundance” - A tale of misunderstanding and forgiveness.*

Feb. 23rd: Rev. Kent Borglum, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Montevideo, MN., presents the message: **“Undeserved Love”** based on Luke 6:27-38. *This Is The Life program: “Richest Man in the World” - A gardener reminds a town what’s most important in life.*

“MAIN STREET LIVING” is a locally-produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North and North Dakota Districts of our LCMS, along with a 30-minute Lutheran Hour program (normally **“This Is the Life,”** along with occasional church-season specials). Programs are broadcast starting at 9:00am Central time on Fargo-Moorhead: KVRR Channel 15.1 programs are also archived for one year and can be viewed at any time on www.mainstreetliving.com then click on **“(Fargo)”**.

Meet the Trinity Family



Albert Koennicke

Born 12/2/35 rural New York Mills
Graduated from Perham H.S. 1953

Marcella Rottmann

Born 10/16/36 Green Isle, MN
Graduated from Perham H.S. 1954

High School Sweethearts 1953-54

In 1954 Al joined the Air Force and Marcie moved with her parents to Brewster, MN.

They were married Dec. 20, 1954 in Brewster and moved to Rantoul, IL for 3 years where they had their children, Dawn and Douglas. They now have 2 grandsons and 2 great-grandchildren.

In 1958 they moved back to Perham and Al worked at Olson Radio and TV Sales & Service. In 1960 they purchased the business and moved to Frazee. In the afternoons Marcie ran the store while Al took care of outside repairs and installing antennas within a 30 mile radius.

In 1966 they moved to Fergus Falls and Al worked for Otter Tail Power while Marcie worked at JC Penney. She retired in 1995 and he retired in 1998.

They accepted the chairman job for the Phase One pledge drive at Trinity. During Phase Two, Al and Norm Schoening spent so much time overseeing the project that some people thought they had beds in the church.

They have both been involved in lots of things at church because of their faith. Al was a trustee for a lot of years. He mowed the cemetery, built the altar, pulpit, lectern, and storage shed.

Marcie has been involved in the LWML, Evening Circle, was Chairman of the LHCH for at least 10 years, serving groups, kitchen, and special events. Marcie helped for many years when Trinity supplied workers at the Food Shelf the Monday after the fourth Sunday.

They worked together with Local Outreach, Church Council and Altar Guild. The church has been a very important in their marriage. They gladly served as greeters and ushers and made it a priority to attend church.

Marcie delivered Meals by Wheels from almost the start of the program. They delivered as a couple during the last years when Trinity sponsored two weeks four times a year.

Al was on the board at the OTC Museum for many years and worked on several projects at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center. After his retirement he worked for a local auctioneer. Fine woodworking was Al's real love. He built most of their furniture and filled orders for others.

Now that they cannot do a lot of things separately, they thank God for giving each of them abilities to help each other. "God has really blessed us."

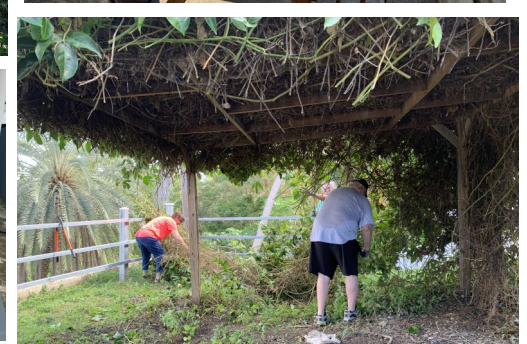
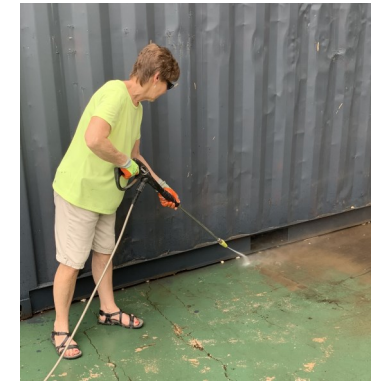
The Koennicke's shared the celebration of their 70th Wedding Anniversary with the Trinity congregation following the service on December 22nd. Congratulations and Thank You for all that you have done for Trinity!

Puerto Rico Mission Trip

We were excited to return to Puerto Rico after two years and to work with the missionary team in Mayaguez and Ponce again. We had a group of thirteen volunteers including the original nine who had been in 2023. The group included Pastor Bill & Deb Aufdenkamp, Jay & Betty Johnson, Kerry & Julie Zimmerman and Tammy Nelson from Elbow Lake, Michael Wilshusen from Missouri and Lori & Leon Dawkins, Jerry Schmidt, Shawn & Dave Schneeberger from Trinity Lutheran in Fergus Falls. Ashley Lehr, our main volunteer missionary contact worked hard with the missionary team to put together a work project list for the church property in both communities. There were a wide variety of projects requiring various skill sets and abilities with something for each of us. We all have many different talents that can be utilized to accomplish God's mission and purpose. We found out immediately that our group was going to work very well together and have an amazing week as each one found a project to begin working on from the start.

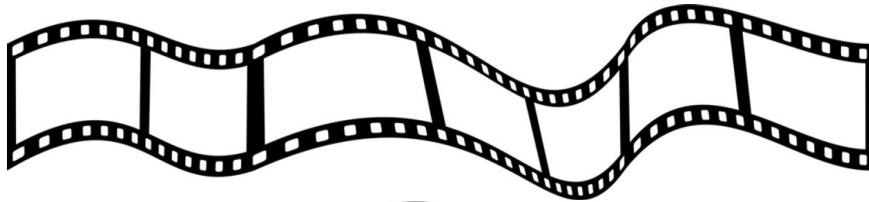
The first two days were spent in Mayaguez where we built a three tiered platform for the altar, refinished the pulpit, replaced the pressure tank on the roof, changed locks on the doors, cleaned out the laundry room, organized various items and put them in tubs, repaired some leaky plumbing, installed a light, mirror and towel holder, power washed all of the exterior floors & steps and cleared/trimmed a lot of the bushes/trees/itchy vines that were overgrown and out of control.

The next day was spent on projects in Ponce where we did some extensive deep cleaning of the facility (since their normal maintenance person is hospitalized), tore down and re-built a zinc metal sheet dividing wall, built a rock climbing wall, installed some shelves in a kitchen, sanded and stained seven picnic tables, installed a sun shade over part of the outdoor patio, repaired some leaky plumbing, fixed a hole in wall, moved some heavy duty exercise equipment and repaired/painted a doorway. We also had the opportunity to meet several parishioners from each of the churches during a bible study and supper following a midweek Epiphany service in Mayaguez and a Sunday service, bible study and dinner in Ponce. (cont. pg. 14)





The mites that are collected by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) are used for mission grants that are approved at their conventions. One of those is the Mission Grant for \$100,000 that will help Lutheran Heritage Foundation meet the growing need for Spanish Bibles that include Luther's Small Catechism in Central and South American. By combining the catechism with the Bible, readers will be able to better understand the teachings and doctrine within the Bible. A Child's Garden of Bible Stories, devotional booklet — Jesus Never Fails, Luther's Small Catechism, and Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics Volume 1 will also be translated and published. People reading these publications will learn of the love of Christ and they will grow in their understanding of God's Word for them.



If you use a cell phone or computer, have an email address, and are not using the online church directory, you should sign up! Go on the church website <https://trinityff.org>, click on the Church Directory link, enter your email address and choose a password. That's it! There are a lot of empty places that need faces however. If your listing does not have a photo, your family status has changed, or your picture is very outdated, please consider sending a new photo to the church office. secretary@trinityff.org Or you can stop in any time and JoAnn will gladly take a picture of you.

GOD'S PEOPLE PRAY

Ongoing Concern: Janet Maack, David Boese, Brian Fitzner, Jeremy Elshaug, Elaine Culp, Ned Stueve, Gene True, Loretta Derke, Jennifer Wood (Jerald & Tami Gerhardson's daughter), Jim Anderson (Cal & Helen Johansen's friend), Jon Jastram (Phyllis Jastram's son), Dylan Maack (Bob & Janet Maack's grandson), Robin Roberts (Austin & Elaine Culp's daughter), Doug Litrich (Melvin & Marlene Reed's son-in-law), Stephen Hauser (David Hauser's brother), Brenda Keilen (Lois Fitzner's daughter), Tara Reynolds (Sarah Goerd't's friend), Micah Sebek (Bobbie Adam's grandson), James Hohenstein (Karl Hohenstein's brother) Kate Matter (prior pre-school parent), Craig Johansen (son of Calvin Johansen), Bridget Jackson (June Knopp's granddaughter), Jasmin Torvinen (great-granddaughter of Pastor & Ginny Lange), Ethel Klepel (Branda Mouritsen's mother)

Prayers for the families of Lucille Scramstad and Rudy Hasbargen. Lucille passed away on January 15th and Rudy passed away on January 22nd.

Thanksgiving for the new babies! - Zoey Sorkness (Jan. 11) , Granddaughter of Schan and Shari, and Lily Ann Flerchinger (Jan. 14) , daughter of Travis and Anna.

Homebound: Gary Froehlich, Dick Anderson, Lois Helm, Wally Lubben, Marlys Lueders, Ron Schulz, Lorraine Drews, Lois Fitzner, Beverly Hess, Norma Bradow, Marilyn A. Boese

Military: Callen Mouritsen, MN National Guard; Lt. Col. Dennis Gerold, U.S.A.F. Reserves (Lori & Leon Dawkins' son-in-law), Tech Sargent Isaac Christopher, U.S.A.F., Andrews Air Force Base, Washington D.C. (Donna Christopher's grandson); Lt. Col. George Hauser, DDS U.S. Army, Ft. Bliss, El Paso, TX; (David & Mary Hauser's son); Gabe Johnson, MN National Guard, (Ken & Toni Erlandson's son); Major Dinsmore, MD MN National Guard (Al & Marcie Koennicke's grandson)

Missionaries: Rev. Dan & Joan Jastram, Japan; Deaconess Kim Bueltmann, Germany (TIM Missionary); Delano & Linda Meyer, Africa; Jacque Breman, Africa; Ashley Lehr, Puerto Rico

Call the church office or the Pastor with prayer requests.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

February 2025

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

 <p>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Fergus Falls, MN</p>	<p>A live up-to-date calendar is available online on the church website: www.trinityff.org</p>	<p>On-Call Pastor Phone Number (218) 321-0993</p>				<p>1</p>
<p>2 9 am Divine Service 10:30 Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 Elders</p>	<p>3 9:10 am Chapel</p>	<p>4 8 am Men's Bible Study 9:10 am Chapel 2:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg.</p>	<p>5 1 pm Lydia Circle 4:00 pm Confirmation</p>	<p>6 12:00 Crafters 12:30 pm Quilters</p>	<p>7 9 am Hebrew Study Group</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 9 am Divine Service 10:30 Bible Study & Sunday School</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 8 am Men's Bible Study 2:00 Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>12 1 pm Knitting & crocheting 4 pm Confirmation</p>	<p>13 12:00 Crafters 12:30 pm Quilters</p>	<p>14 9 am Hebrew Study Group </p>	<p>15 8 am Men's Network</p>
<p>16 9 am Divine Service 10:30 Bible Study & Sunday School Chili Cook-Off</p>	<p>17 </p>	<p>18 8 am Men's Bible Study 9:10 am Chapel 2:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Church Council</p>	<p>19 4 pm Confirmation</p>	<p>20 10:00 Broen Home 12:00 Crafters 12:30 pm Quilters Newsletter Items Due</p>	<p>21 9 am Hebrew Study Group</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9 am Divine Service Food Shelf Sunday 10:30 Bible Study & Sunday School</p>	<p>24 9:10 am Chapel</p>	<p>25 8 am Men's Bible Study 9:10 am Chapel 2:00 Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>26 1 pm Knitting & crocheting 4 pm Confirmation</p>	<p>27 12:00 Crafters 12:30 pm Quilters</p>	<p>28 9 am Hebrew Study Group</p>	

CELEBRATIONS!

February Birthdays

February 3	Lois Fitzner
February 3	Jessica Krog
February 4	Toni Erlandson
February 7	Myron Drevlow
February 8	Ginny Lang
February 8	Brenda Schmidt
February 12	Caleb Neubauer
February 14	Ana Lieske
February 15	Marion Stach
February 17	Schan Sorkness
February 17	Aaron Wylie
February 18	Julie Drews
February 19	Alexis Schneeberger
February 25	Anika Phillips
February 28	Marilyn A. Boese

Please let us know if your special date is missing (or if you would prefer it not be included in future years)

February Anniversaries

February 17	Trevor & Rachael Larson
February 21	Ken & Sue Heidorn
February 25	Roger & Ginny Lange

February Baptismal Birthdays

February 2	Joseph Eberle
February 8	Anna Mort
February 11	Barbara Peloquin
February 15	Rodney Schmidt
February 17	Rev. Christopher Lieske
February 19	Myron Drevlow
February 22	Lois Fitzner
February 22	David Hauser
February 26	Anastasia Lieske
February 28	Brenda Schmidt
February 28	Austin Longoria
February 28	Izabella Olson

SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Ushers for February

<u>February 2</u>
Rodney, Dale, & Jerry Schmidt
<u>February 9</u>
Gene Lindblom, Larry Stein, & Arnold Bolland
<u>February 16</u>
Jon Schoening, Jeff Johnson & Tim King
<u>February 23</u>
Bobbie Adam, Blaine & Margie Rasmussen

Greeters for February

<u>February 2</u>
Donna Umlauf & Tami Gerhardson
<u>February 9</u>
David & Esther Schlicker
<u>February 16</u>
Cal & Helen Johansen
<u>February 23</u>
Dale & Sharlene Schmidt

Eders for February

<u>February 2</u>
Gary Schmidt
<u>February 9</u>
Ross Eberle
<u>February 16</u>
Aaron Schultz
<u>February 23</u>
Eric Schneeberger

Altar Guild for February

<u>February 2</u>
Nancy Olson & Shari Sorkness
<u>February 9</u>
David Hauser
<u>February 16</u>
Sharlene Schmidt & Tami Gerhardson
<u>February 23</u>
David & Esther Schlicker

Acolytes for February

<u>February 2</u>
Adrian & Analicia
<u>February 9</u>
Ainsley & Jackson
<u>February 16</u>
Ana & Samuel
<u>February 23</u>
Isabella & Ainsley

Chili Cook-Off

There will be a "Chili Cook-Off" February 16th after Bible Study. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite chili to share, and those in attendance will vote for their favorite.

Here are a couple photos from the archives of past winners, plus the **reigning champion, Eric Schneeberger!**



Winners 2016



Winners 2017



Valentine Ingathering for the Fergus Falls Health and Resource Center



Please consider supporting a Thrivent Action Project for the Health and Resource Center. Toni and Ken Erlandson are participating in an action grant to support our local pregnancy center. If you would like to donate diapers, wet ones, receiving blankets, baby soap or shampoo, and infant toys. Please bring items to the church on February 2nd and February 9th. Thank you.



If you would like to renew or start a new subscription to the Lutheran Witness Magazine, please bring your check to the church office by Feb. 20th. A one-year monthly subscription costs \$27.85. Please make checks payable to CPH.

Looking way ahead

Trinity Preschool will be hosting a Rummage Sale May 8-10. Hang on to those treasures and donate them for the sale!

RUMMAGE
SALE

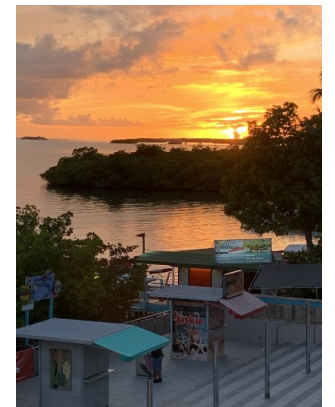
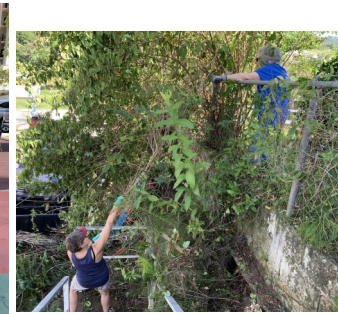


Spring Clean Up Day? There are some areas in the church that need a thorough cleaning. The kitchen, pew cushions, windows, storage areas, and more. The outside of the building and grounds will need attention once winter is over as well. Is there a group or very organized person out there that would like to take on the challenge of organizing such an event for all able-bodied members?

It was not all work and no play for the group, however, as we had several evening and cultural day activities. We had inspirational group devotions each morning and evening with music provided by Leon and Jay. Leon was our master chef for most of the delicious suppers he prepared. We took an evening boat excursion to the Bio-Luminiscent bay, one of the few in the world, attended a winter league baseball playoff game where we cheered on the Mayaguez team to victory, toured the Hacienda Buena Vista, a plantation that grew and processed/milled coffee, corn and other grains, enjoyed the beautiful waterfalls and pools at Gozlandia and saw a couple of the Puerto Rican beaches.

Overall, it was a positive, productive and amazingly rewarding experience for each of the team members as we were able to support the missionary team in Mayaguez, Ponce and San Juan allowing them to focus on their ministry efforts of establishing relationships and growing the congregations in those communities. It was clearly evident that God does not call the equipped, he equips the called as we experienced first hand. We were blessed to be a blessing by providing the hands and feet for God's mission in Puerto Rico.

To God be the glory!
(submitted by Dave Schneeberger)



A Winter Full of Fun and Learning at Preschool at Trinity

The winter season has been a time of joy, discovery, and fun for the children at Preschool at Trinity! From bundling up for outdoor adventures to staying warm with indoor activities, we've made the most of this special time of year.

The kids have loved exploring the wonders of winter by playing in the snow, making memories with their friends while climbing snow hills and creating snow angels. Indoors, we've embraced the season by crafting bird feeders to care for our feathered friends and engaging in exciting science experiments that spark curiosity and creativity.



Our parachute play sessions have been a big hit, fostering teamwork and lots of giggles, while our fun snack times continue to bring smiles and full tummies. It's a blessing to see the children learning, growing, and enjoying the beauty of God's creation all around them.

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to you, our church family, for your ongoing prayers and support. Your encouragement makes a difference in the lives of these little ones and helps us continue to provide a loving, Christ-centered environment for them to thrive. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we guide these children through the joys of learning and faith.



Trinity Homeschool Co-op in January

It was great to return to our Trinity Homeschool Co-op after time off for the holidays. It's nice to start our time each week by joining with the preschoolers for chapel and then having the opportunity for some of the kids to practice public speaking.



This January started out with a craft project in which the kids made cross keychains and lanyards for their name tags. One of the best things about our arts & crafts days is watching the older kids help the younger kids. It is such a beautiful thing!

Music classes are getting exciting! Ms. Sylvia has been hard at work with the kids and putting together music and stories that all the ages can work with. It's fun watching the older kids using the xylophone & boomwackers to the tune while the younger kids get to pop in on different sounds with their little instruments. In addition to this, they have been hard at work practicing the song "I Am Jesus Little Lamb" complete with hand motions. By the time you read this, they will have already sung this for us in church on January 26th.



On January 21st a group from Lake Region Electric Cooperative came in to speak to us about electricity and linemen work. One of the men was the father of one of our homeschool families! The men brought an incredible display and demo that kept the kids (and moms!) fascinated. We learned how electricity gets from the power plant to our homes and all the steps in-between. We learned safety measures in the case of downed powerlines or if we are in a car that crashes into a power-line. It was a fascinating time filled with interaction and lots of questions.



In February we look forward to a field trip to the bowling alley, making and exchanging Valentine's Day cards, and our guest speaker: Dr. Jill Iverson, Chiropractor.

Thank you all for your amazing support. This co-op is a blessing to many families and children who want to raise their families with a Biblical worldview all day long.

If you know anyone who would like to join the Homeschool Co-op in this, please contact Michele Lieske: MicheleLieske@gmail.com

+ CHURCH & PRESCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION +

Church Website	www.trinityff.org
Preschool Website	www.preschoolattrinity.org
On-Call Pastor Number	(218) 321-0993
Rev. Christopher Lieske, Pastor	(cell) (612) 554-5411 pastorl@trinityff.org
Church Office /JoAnn Orpen	(218) 736-4869 secretary@trinityff.org
Preschool at Trinity, Stacy Larsen	(cell) (507) 430-9644 slarsen@preschoolattrinity.org
Church Office Hours	Tues-Thurs 8:30-4:00, Fri 8:30-2:00
Church Office E-mail	info@trinityff.org
Preschool at Trinity E-mail	info@preschoolattrinity.org
Cemetery Sexton Cal Johansen	(218) 671-0383

FEBRUARY SERVICE PLANS

February 2 — Divine Service 3

The Purification of Mary and

Presentation of Our Lord

Hymns 398, 519, 530, 461, 938, 332

February 9 — Divine Service 3

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Hymns 414, 413, 400, 417

February 16 — Divine Service 3

Septuagesima

Hymns 555, 853, 557, 826, 923

February 23—Divine Service 3

Sexagesima

Hymns 660, 577, 728, 655, 834, 806

SERVING THE LORD AND YOU

Trinity Congregational Officers

President Jon Schoening

Vice-President Schan Sorkness

Secretary Cheri Anderson

Treasurer Cindy Schmidt

Financial Secretary Sandy King

Board Contact Persons

Elders Wayne Goerd

Christian Education E. Schlicker

Trustees Margie Rasmussen

Stewardship Larry Stein

Outreach Dave Schneeberger

School Dave Schlicker