

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Becky Ferris, (Feb. 24); Darcy Loseke, (Feb. 26); Mark Muhsman, (Feb. 27); Eli Jablin, (March 1) and Madie Jablin, (March 1). Happy Birthday!

THE FLOWERS TODAY are given to the glory of God by Janet Talbott in loving memory of Jim Talbott.

A COFFEE PERSON is needed for setting up and getting the coffee started for our Fellowship Time on Sundays. We are suggesting that you sign up for a month at a time. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gruver Room. If this is something you might be interested in, please contact Cheryl Wilson @ 760-8731. Individuals and families are still asked to provide goodies on Sundays and this sign-up sheet is still posted on the pole in the Gruver Room.

SUNDAY MORNING STUDY CONTINUES! We invite all whom are interested in learning more about the power of prayer. Please grab a cup of coffee and join us in the Otto Dahl chapel at 9:15.

FROM CAMPUS MINISTRIES: If you are a college student (UW, LCCC or WyoTech) and need a nice, quiet break during the week, come join us on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. here at the church for our "Weds. Get-Away" group. Dinner is provided. This is a social time with games & activities and some community events throughout the semester. Bring a friend; we would love to have you. For more information, get in touch with either Eric Wright or Sabrina Forbis.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKES FOR THE ALTAR GUILD! Members of Altar Guild—and those interested in becoming members—are invited to a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner at the home of Eric Nye and Carol Frost, 5:30 pm on Tuesday, March 4th. We'll discuss the "Secrets of the Guild" and other more mundane matters, refreshing our memories on the routines that make the Guild successful. Interested members please contact Eric for further details (745-3719).

SOUP SUPPERS! In the season of Lent, a simple soup supper takes place at 6 pm prior to our church service at 7 pm. We do not have soup supper on Ash Wednesday. Soup suppers begin on March 12 with the Mom's Group, March 19 with the Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study, March 26 are the Confirmation Class with their parents, April 2 will be the college students along with the choir. These soup suppers really provide a place where a sense of community can be built.

DINNER FOR EIGHT! Dinner for Eight is an opportunity for people to gather once a month and share a delicious meal. We meet in various homes, each person contributing an item to the meal along with warm conversation. We currently have two groups of eight, with a third group of six. I would like to express a thank you to those whom invited others to join their groups as well as to extend an invitation to others to consider joining. In the month of May we will have a large potluck in the Rohr Fellowship hall to plan for the summer. In the meantime, enjoy each other's company. If you are interested, sign up on the pole in the Gruver room.

THIRD SUNDAY POTLUCK! We will be having another potluck in the month of March. However, due to spring break, we will be having a "bit of the green" potluck on March 16. Let's make this an Irish Potluck! Dorly Piske has volunteered to offer an opportunity for us to make jewelry or to buy some to support an effort to purchase a mammogram instrument for Brazil. Once again we will be meeting at noon. Many thanks to those who came in February, a really nice first turn out, with many board games being played afterwards.

CHANGING THE LOCKS: During the first full week of March (Mar. 3-7) the church will be getting re-keyed. If you feel you need a key, you will need to come by the office later in the week. You also might leave a message in the secretary's box.

HEART-TO-HEART is once again conducting its "Baby Bottle" Campaign. Bottles are now available in both of the lobby areas. Please take one, fill it up with your loose change and bring it back to the church by Sunday, April 13th. All proceeds will go toward the work of *Heart-to-Heart Pregnancy Center*. If you would like to be eligible to participate in the drawing for a quilt, please place a personal check in the baby bottle with your loose change before returning the bottle.

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PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK: Transfiguration of Our Lord:
Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9.

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Serving the Church

	<u>TODAY (2/23)</u>	<u>NEXT SUNDAY (3/2)</u>
<i>Lector:</i>	8:00 a.m. Debbe Conyers 10:30 a.m. Tracy Kidwell	8:00 a.m. Mark Rehwaldt 10:30 a.m. Linda Kidwell
<i>Acolyte:</i>	8:00 a.m. Kate Jablin 10:30 a.m. Trey Muhsman	8:00 a.m. Paul Boss 10:30 a.m. Eric van Wig
<i>Ushers:</i>	8:00 a.m. The Anderson Family 10:30 a.m. Carol Frost Eric Nye	8:00 a.m. Mike Nutter 10:30 a.m. Jason & Jolene Roesler
<i>Greeters:</i>	8:00 a.m. Janet Talbott Tracy Bennett 10:30 a.m. George & Jennifer Zenor	8:00 a.m. Dave & Mary Brinkman 10:30 a.m. Ed & Lois Hiller
<i>Nursery:</i>	8:00 a.m. Lexi Dockter 10:30 a.m. Rosalind Kidwell	8:00 a.m. Hailey Anderson 10:30 a.m. Lexi Dockter

Stewards: R. Kidwell & E. Nye

Altar Guild: C. Frost/E. Nye

Coffee Fellowship:

This Week at Trinity

Sunday, Feb. 23	8:00 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. SS / Coffee Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday, Feb. 25	9:00 a.m. Quilters
Wednesday, Feb. 26	10:00 a.m. Women's Study 6:00 p.m. Weds. Get-Away 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Confirmation
Thursday, Feb. 27	7:00 p.m. Seekers
Saturday, March 1	8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ <i>McDonald's</i>



*If anyone slaps you on the right cheek,
turn to them the other cheek also.*

Matthew 5: 39

WE ARE HAPPY to have you with us today. We hope that our worship service has meaning for you and that you will come back and worship with us again soon. For those who wish, a nursery is provided during the worship service, just off the south lobby, for children ages five and younger. Please join us for coffee in the south lobby area after the service today.

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS are found in the back of the pew in front of you. If you wish, please fill them out and hand them to the usher during the hymn after the sermon. PEW PADS are found at the inside end of each pew. Please fill them out, pass them down to the end, and then return them to the center.

PLEASE RECYCLE THE BULLETINS: You are encouraged to take home any part of the bulletin that you would like. **Please** recycle the pieces that you do not choose to keep by putting them at either end of the pews at the back of the church. Help us save some trees! Thanks.

RIDE MINISTRY: Since there are now several people at church who need rides to worship, we have established a Ride Ministry. If you are interested in helping out with rides, please talk with Lois Hiller, 742-6455, or call the church office @ 745-4222.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:** (In unison)

Let us pray.

Holy God of compassion, you invite us into your way of forgiveness and peace. Lead us to love our enemies, and transform our words and deeds to be like his through whom we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**ANTHEM: "Know That God Loves You" Carson P. Cooman
Chancel Choir**

FIRST READING: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

The Holiness Code in Leviticus urges people to be holy since God is holy. Holiness is lived out in partiality for and consideration of the poor and the weak. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. ⁹When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.

¹¹You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. ¹²And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD.

¹³You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way¹ of your statutes,
and I shall keep it¹ to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall¹ keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with¹ all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of¹ your commandments,
for that is¹ my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to¹ your decrees
and not to¹ unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from be-¹ holding falsehood;
give me life¹ in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise¹ to your servant,
which is for¹ those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach¹ that I dread,
because your judg-¹ ments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for¹ your commandments;
by your righteousness en-¹ liven me.**

**Glory be to the Father and¹ to the Son:
and to the¹ Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and e-¹ ver shall be:
world without end.¹ Amen.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church and its ministry. We are God's temple because God's Spirit dwells in us, and we belong to Christ. Hence we are called to build wisely upon this sure foundation not for our own benefit but for others to experience Christ's benefits.

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. ¹⁶Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

¹⁸Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

"He catches the wise in their craftiness,"

²⁰and again,

"The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,
that they are futile."

²¹So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, ²²whether

Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all belong to you, ²³and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:38–48**

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares an end to the law of vengeance. God's people will respond to evil with love and forgiveness.

³⁸"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'
³⁹But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴²Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?
⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME:

Pastor Keith Prekker

SERMON: "Perfect?"

Pastor Keith Prekker

HYMN: "Goodness Is Stronger than Evil" (sing twice)

#721

***HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glory to God . . ."**

Assisting minister
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
All
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.
For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

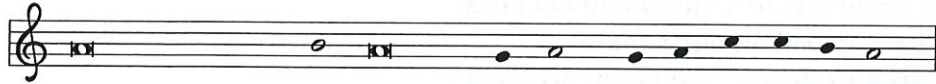
***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



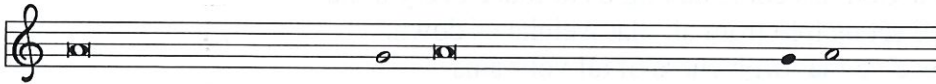
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



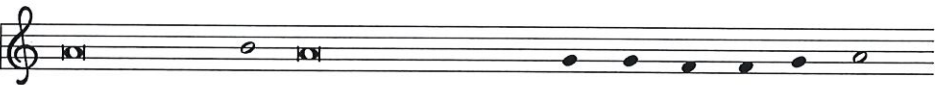
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

***APOSTLE'S CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

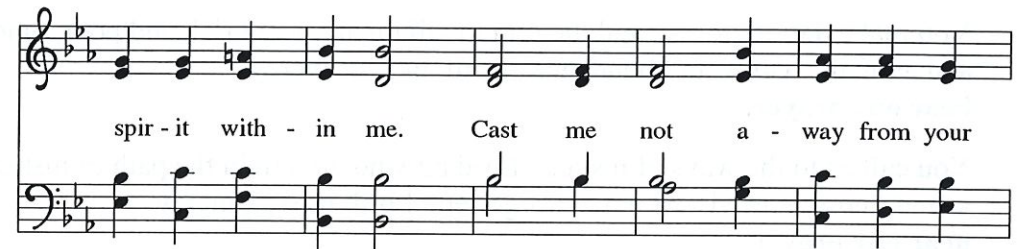
OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY: "Create in Me..."**



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the light of Christ, who has been made known to the nations, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

**A brief silence.*

Holy and perfect God, you call us to share your word of love even when it seems like foolishness to the world. Make your church bold to proclaim our hope in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You make the sun to rise and the rain to fall on all. Feed rich and poor, land and animals, with your abundance. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You call us to the ways of justice. Lead all who govern in the path of justice, so that those in need will not be forgotten. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us come into the light of Christ.

(Silence for reflection)

Holy and Faithful God,
we so often choose our own way instead of yours.
We think we can evade your commandments.
We have spoken in ways that kill,
strayed with our hearts,
betrayed friends, and hated enemies.
We have broken our promises.
Search us deeply and create us anew.
Lift the heavy burden of our sin
and free us to follow your way of life.
Amen.

“Call upon me,” says the Lord, “and I will answer.”
 Our God has come among us to loose every bond
 and set us free from all that weighs us down.
 Receive the forgiveness of all your sins
 in the name of + Jesus Christ,
 our crucified and risen Savior.
Amen.

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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God's Work . . .
. . . Our Hands

Interim Pastor **Keith Prekker**
Congregation President **Terri Rittenburg**
Office Secretary **Colleen Miner**
Organist/Pianist **Xu Meng**
..... **Dan Groathouse**
Choir Director **Larry Hazlett**

Sunday, February 23, 2014 – 7th Sunday after Epiphany

*Standing

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In today's first reading we hear, "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." Yet we know we cannot achieve perfection. Our attempts to love neighbors and even our enemies fall short of what God desires for us. Yet in Jesus we see one who loved even those who persecuted and killed him. We are made holy in baptism, and forgiven at the table of God's mercy. As a people made holy by God, we go in peace to love as we have been loved.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*HYMN: "Alleluia! Voices Raise"

#828

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

All in need belong to you through Christ. Strengthen weary caregivers. Comfort those who are sick and in pain. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Help this congregation trust that your Spirit dwells in us. Show us the way to be your holy people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

**Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Sustain us, O God, until we gather with all your saints from every time and place in your eternal protection. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Radiant God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who has made his dwelling among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

*BLESSING

PARISH SHARING TIME

*HYMN: "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"

#452

*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES . . . HYMN CHIME

*POSTLUDE

Reclaiming the "P" Word

We receive constant messages through movies, music, standardized tests, and self-proclaimed experts of what constitutes "real" beauty, "real" intelligence, "real" success, or a "real" relationship. We are led to believe that anything in our lives that doesn't match up with that picture of perfection is somehow deficient or wrong.

As a result, the command to "be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt. 5:48) can turn instantly into a kind of performance evaluation that says, "You had better show some improvement in these areas!" How many people have wasted all kinds of mental and emotional energy trying to live up to that impossible standard?

Fortunately for us, the world's idea of perfection bears little resemblance to God's. The word Jesus uses in this passage—the one we know as "perfect"—is the same word he utters from the cross when he says, "It is finished" (John 19:30). There, it's a sign of completeness: of Jesus having lived fully and courageously into his God-given identity. It's a fulfillment of the promise he received when the heavens opened and God's voice came upon him saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17).

That's your identity too. When Jesus calls you to be perfect, he's calling you back to your baptism. He's inviting you to see your life not as the sum total of your accomplishments and failures, but in the light of God's love for you. Because of that love, your life will never be judged on your own faithfulness, but on Christ's. The standard-bearer has clothed you in the robe of righteousness. Wear it with confidence that you are called, chosen, and accepted just the way you are. You are, for Christ's sake, perfect.

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 23, 2014 - Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Tuesday, February 25 - Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

Saturday, March 1 - George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

Sunday, March 2

John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.



DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOU ARE
GOD'S
TEMPLE AND THAT GOD'S SPIRIT
DWELLS
IN YOU?