

*... though I
was blind,
now I see.*

John 9:25, NRSV

**Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2017
Holy Communion**

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pam Illick, Pastor**



Welcome to all – especially visitors!!! **It is no accident that you are here today!** You are an answer to our prayer. We have been praying for you, and believe that God has brought you here because God wants to touch your life.

If you need some help to make your worship with us more accessible, please see an usher for assistance. A transport chair and large print bulletins are available if you have need for them.

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. I was blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

Lutherans believe that the bread and wine of Holy Communion are signs given by God that Christ is fully present among us. We invite you to participate in receiving this miraculous presence. If you are unable to receive either the bread or the wine, be assured that even in the words, Christ is present to you. You are welcome to come to the Table to be fed and nurtured with us.

(Communion record cards are available in the pew racks.)

GREETINGS - Take a moment to check in on Facebook!
Feel free to share your worship experience via social media, too.

PRELUDE & QUIET MEDITATION

GATHERING

**Please stand as you are able.*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Turn toward the aisle to face one another.

Organ Side of the Church:

I confess to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned by my own fault
in thought, word, and deed.
I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sins,
and bring me to everlasting life.

Pulpit Side of the Church:

**Almighty and merciful
God grant you healing, pardon,
and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.**

**I confess to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned by my own fault
in thought, word, and deed.
I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sins,
and bring me to everlasting life.**

Organ Side of the Church:

Almighty and merciful God
grant you healing, pardon, and
forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

*PEACE

We greet one other with the peace of the risen Christ.

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

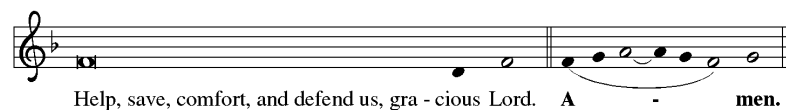
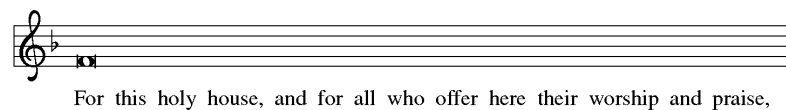
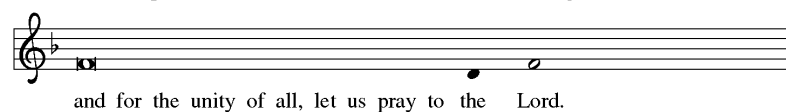
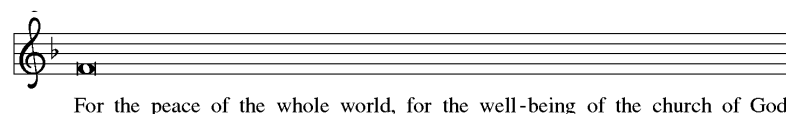
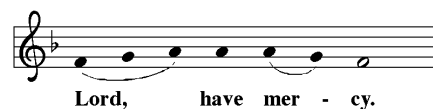
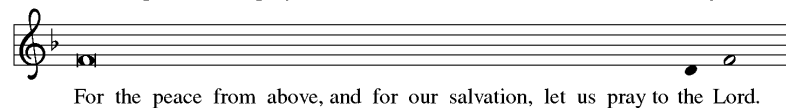
***GATHERING SONG** *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word* (ELW 520)

*GREETING

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

C And also with you.

*KYRIE



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst
and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to
drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever..

C Amen.

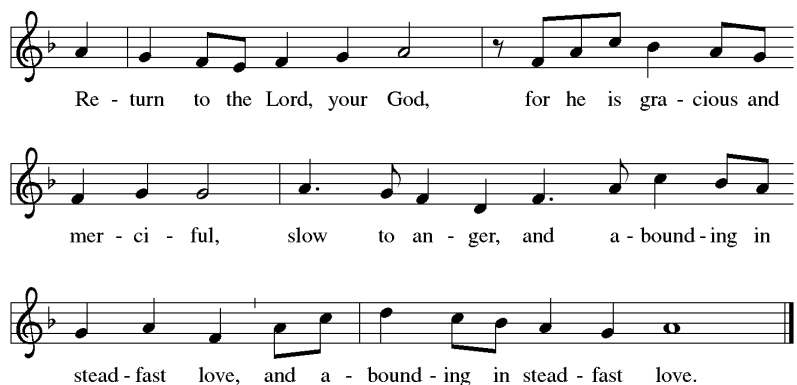
Please be seated.

WORD

PSALM: *The Lord's My Shepherd* (ELW 778)

Please stand as you are able.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

***GOSPEL: John 9:1-41**

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

P The holy gospel according to St. John.

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

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came

back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The

man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.”³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Amazing Grace* (ELW 779)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition the congregation will respond:

C hear our prayer.

MEAL

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

THANK AND TELL

*OFFERTORY

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

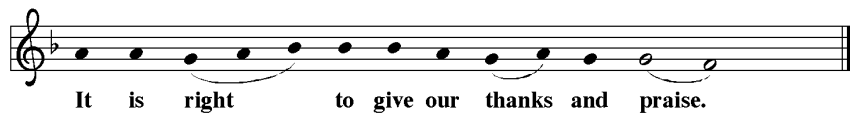
*OFFERING PRAYER

A Merciful God,

C receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

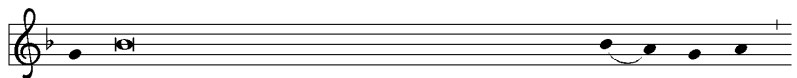


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**



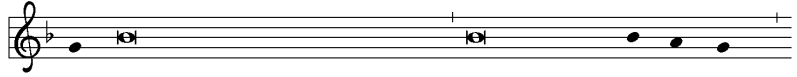
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the



pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,



we may come to the full - ness of your grace.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,



with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P In the night in which he was handed over,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

C Amen

*LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Return to God with all your heart.
Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

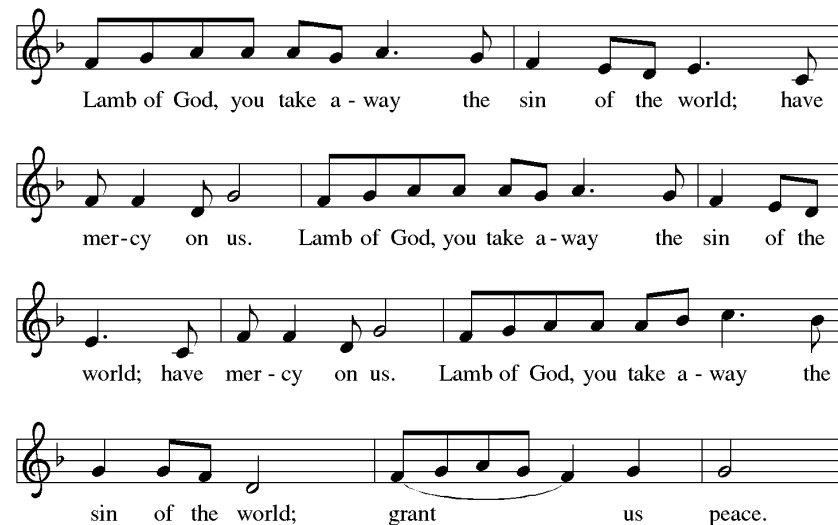
The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION

- **To receive communion**, come up the center aisle at the direction of the ushers. We offer both common cup and individual cups which are filled from the pouring chalice. Cups are available on the table at the head of the aisle. After receiving the bread, proceed to the pouring chalice or the common cup to receive the wine. Return to your seat by the side aisle.
- **If you prefer to receive a blessing**, come forward with your bulletin.
- **If you would like to have communion brought to your seat**, please indicate your wish to one of the ushers, and the pastor will come to you.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*TABLE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve us in eternal life.

C Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Compassionate God,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our
Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms,
a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;
through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please be seated.)*

*BLESSING

☞ May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.

☩ Amen.

*SENDING SONG *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*
(ELW 815)

*DISMISSAL

☩ Go in peace. Share God's message of love through your words and actions with others

☩ We will. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Worship is ended: our service begins.

☩ ☩ ☩

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☩ ☩ ☩

The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are placed by Kevin and Cindy Sherman in honor of their daughter Hailey on her birthday.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

– PRAYER AND SUPPORT –

Remember to write the name(s) of persons for whom prayer is needed on the pad in the rear of the church! The names will be included in the Intercessory Prayers this morning. If you forget to put someone's name on the list, there is an opportunity to say the name during the prayers.

Special prayers for: Congregations who are in redevelopment and renewal.

College Students: Remember Madi Kreitz in your prayers!

– UPCOMING EVENTS –

Lunch Bunch goes out on Sundays after worship for lunch (except on Sundays when we have Coffee & Conversation). Join us today at China Maple Restaurant. We invite all to be with us for this time of fellowship as we enjoy a meal together.



We invite all to join us at 6:30 each Wednesday evening in Lent for **Evening Prayer**. This service lasts approximately one half hour and provides a quiet respite in the middle of the week.

Save the Date! **The Church Picnic** will be August 6 at Pine Hill. If you would like to be on the Picnic Committee or have any ideas for a theme, please contact June Ecker (794-2013).

– FAITH FORMATION –

Summer is just around the corner and that means time for another successful **Vacation Bible School**. This year our church will host the event. Please join us as we plan for this exciting learning time for our children. Our first planning meeting will be Saturday, April 1 at 9 a.m. in the social room. Come see how you can help us to reach out to the children and families in our church and our community. Everyone is welcome!

Children's Sunday School - every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Social Room!! Open to all children. Join us and give it a **Whirl**.

Adult Forum meets at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday in the first floor meeting room. We are examining Luther's Small Catechism.

Faith Study: *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*
You are invited to go for a walk. God has invited lots of people throughout time to walk: Moses leading the people out of Egypt, the disciples on the walk to Emmaus, and perhaps the most famous walk of all time: Peter's walk on the water. God continues to call us, just like Peter, to step out in faith and walk on the water. The 6 sessions of this course will help you learn the skills of water-walking: discerning God's call, transcending fear, risking faith, managing failure, and trusting God. Come on! Step out of the boat and join us!!! The **Tuesday Night Group** will continue on Tuesday, April 4 at 7 p.m. and the **Brown Bag Lunch Group** will continue on Wednesday, April 5 at 1 p.m.

– TELC MISSION WORK FOR NEAR AND FAR –

Trinity's **Encourager Ministry** provides encouragement and outreach to our faith community. If you know of someone who could use a card, phone call, etc., let one of the members of the Evangelism Committee know. Contacts are made for special occasions/accomplishments in our lives such as an anniversary, new baby, baptism, first communion, confirmation, get well, graduation, retirement, sympathy, thinking of you, volunteer, wedding, etc. Members are Earl Duffey, Charlotte Kuhs, Sondra Musser, Judi Rice, and Donna Swauger.

Thursday in the Subway at Walmart is every Thursday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:00. Pastor Pam is available to anyone who is seeking prayer or someone to talk to. The invitation extends to our people here at TELC to stop by too. Please pray that this ministry will help TELC to take Jesus into the world.

"New Neighbor Baskets" are now available for pickup at the church any Sunday morning. All you need to do is pick up the basket, deliver it, and have good conversation with your new neighbor. God is sending us out to do a new thing—help us reach out to our community!

– STEWARDSHIP –

Sharing the abundance of God's gifts to us of time, talents and wealth with others

We need **plastic icing tubs** for the distribution of altar flowers after the service. Please place on the counter in the altar room.



Piggy Banks are available for our Lenten Almsgiving Project! Fill your bank as you are able. Our goal is to reach \$600, which will be enough to purchase 20 pigs. If our goal is reached – or we exceed our goal – Pastor Pam will kiss a pig!!! Now, you just gotta see that!!!

Update on piglet sales: As of March 19, we have received enough money (\$436.55) to purchase 14 piglets for families in need through the Always Being Made New Campaign - ELCA World Hunger.

Don't forget to drop off your **Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education**, as well as your **all-occasion cards** for St. Jude's' recycled card program, in the appropriate container at the back of our worship area. We recently sent the cards collected this past year to St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder, Nevada. Thanks to all who contributed

New Flower, Bulletin and Candle Sponsor Charts Available: Are you thinking of a way to honor a loved one's birthday, anniversary, accomplishment, baptismal anniversary, or to just say, "I love you?? Is there a special person whose life you would like to memorialize? Sponsoring flowers, bulletins and/or candles is a great way to do that! Check out the bulletin board in the hallway off the narthex for more information. There are a number of available dates on the 2017 charts.



Agnus Day by James Wetstein



"Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org"

© WETSTEIN 37-03-22



- March 26-April 1 -

Today..... 11:45 a.m. - Lunch Bunch at China Maple
 Wednesday..... 6:30 p.m. - Evening Prayer
 Wednesday..... 7:00 p.m. - Creative Christian Ladies
 Thursday..... 1:30-3:00 p.m. - Thursday in the Subway

- April 2-8 -

Sunday..... 9:30 a.m. - Children's Sunday School & Adult Forum
 Sunday..... 10:45 a.m. - Holy Communion
 Sunday..... 11:45 a.m. - Lunch Bunch at Café del Sol
 Monday..... 6:30 p.m. - Evangelism Committee
 Tuesday..... 6:30 p.m. - Daisy Scouts
 Tuesday..... 7:00 p.m. - Faith Study
 Wednesday..... 1:00 p.m. - Brown Bag Lunch Group
 Wednesday..... 6:30 p.m. - Evening Prayer
 Wednesday..... 7:00 p.m. - Creative Christian Ladies
 Thursday..... 1:30-3:00 p.m. - Thursday in the Subway
 Thursday..... 6:30 p.m. - Congregation Council
 Friday..... 6:30 p.m. - Brownie Scouts



- Our Stewardship -

| | Current Fund |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Last Week | \$699 |
| Year to Date | \$7,820 |
| Attendance Last Sunday - 34 | |
| Does Not Include E-Giving Offerings | |

**- Current Income/Expenses -
To February 28**

| | |
|----------|------------|
| Income | \$9,298 |
| Expenses | \$20,816 |
| Deficit | (\$11,518) |

- SERVING THIS MORNING -

Ministers The Disciples of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 (1 Peter 2:4-10)

Pastor Pam Illick Presiding Minister
 Charles Strausbaugh Assisting Minister
 Ruth Strausbaugh Lecturer
 Hailey Sherman Acolyte
 Katherine Dennis Crucifer
 Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice, Rhonda Rice Musicians
 Richard Berklite Usher
 Al Bingman Usher
 Adrian Kuhs Usher
 Melissa Leaper Usher
 Carolyn and Earl Duffey Altar Care
 Amy Dennis & Linda Fleagle Offering Tellers

- SERVING APRIL 2 -

Pastor Pam Illick Presiding Minister
 Terry Eberly Assisting Minister
 Teresa Papoutsis Lecturer
 Taylor Sherman Acolyte
 Alexis Kramer-Foose Crucifer
 Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice, Rhonda Rice Musicians
 Richard Berklite Usher
 Al Bingman Usher
 Adrian Kuhs Usher
 Melissa Leaper Usher
 Joanne Crider Altar Care
 Sherri Kayhoe & Carol Snyder Offering Tellers

Seven Faith Practices

**Pray
 Study
 Worship
 Invite
 Encourage
 Serve
 Give**

Now I See


Blindness means different things to different people, but it means something to everyone. While only some people experience physical blindness, everyone has moments in which we struggle to discover a truth or to see a bigger picture, as well as moments of realization or revelation or sudden remembrance—moments when we say, “*Now I see.*” Often such a moment shows that we were blind in some way. The moment of new sight might be a move of repentance, a stumbling out of naïveté, or an awakening to the needs of the world around us and the radical way God loves that world.

When Jesus meets the man born blind in John 9, he initiates all sorts of new vision. He treats the man’s physical condition. He declares that the man’s lifelong state does not have to do with how good or evil he or his parents are. Gradually the man also sees who Jesus is; he progresses from labeling Jesus “the man called Jesus” to declaring, “He is a prophet,” to worshipping the Son of Man. In this gospel reading we see Jesus challenge the assumptions the religious authorities hold about how to follow God and even what “sin” means.

The story of the man born blind invites us to open ourselves to the moments that make us say, “*Now I see.*” These moments include the realization of our wrong actions and our sinful inaction, what we have done and left undone; but they also include the rethinking of our categories, the reconsideration of how God is asking us to minister, the new affirmation of our baptism, and further listening to God’s promises and God’s call. The God who cannot be confined to categories or pathways comes to us today to challenge our blindness and open for us an ever-new way of salvation.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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 Like us on Facebook

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Waynesboro PA 17268-2136
(443) 876-4736
pam.illick@gmail.com



- Our Mission -

The mission of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rouzerville, Pennsylvania is to build, strengthen, and increase our faith community to better love and serve God – and the world community – with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



- Our Vision -

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a flourishing, Spirit-filled, Christ-centered home for all.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.