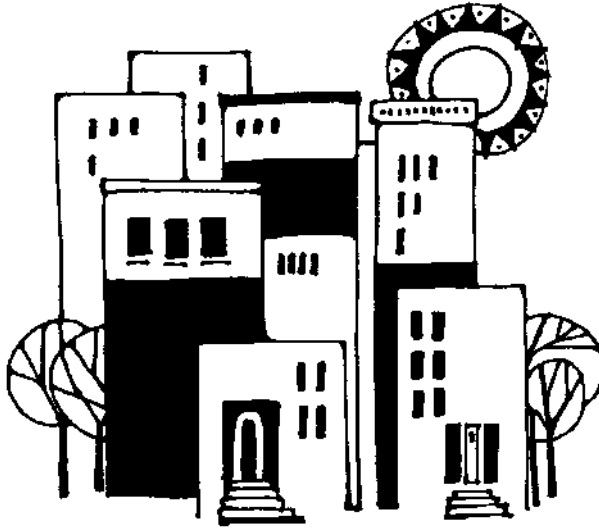


Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024

J O H N 3 : 16



FOR · GOD · SO · LOVED
THE · WORLD · THAT
HE · GAVE · HIS · ONLY
S · O · N

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

**8781 Brunswick Road
Minocqua, WI 54548**

(715) 356-2255

E-mail: Trinity@trinityminocqua.org

Website: www.trinityminocqua.org

TRINITY EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
MINOCQUA, WISCONSIN

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024

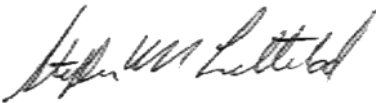


Rethinking Religion
Rethinking the Solution to Sin

While not every religion uses the word “sin,” they all embrace the concept. Every religion acknowledges that mankind’s flawed attitudes or misguided actions are a source of pain, both now and potentially in eternity. So, every religion offers a solution: a set of laws, a moral code, a path to more enlightened behavior. What do they have in common? We are to solve sin through human effort. Be better! Try harder! This is the heart of every false religion. Those who correctly understand they will never overcome their sin are crushed by guilt. Those who ludicrously believe they have defeated their sin are killed by pride.

True religion offers a better way—one that frees us from guilt and has no room for pride. Jesus teaches that the solution to our sin is not to work harder. It is to trust in the work he has done for us. Salvation comes through Spirit-wrought faith in Christ.

To God alone be the glory!




Pastor Stephen Luchterhand

Welcome to all—both guest and member alike! May our gracious God fill your heart with joy, peace, and hope through the message of forgiveness in our living Savior, Jesus Christ!

- If you are in need of restrooms, they are located on the left as you leave church.
- Parents please use the welcome center or church fellowship hall to quiet an upset child.
- Please silence all cell phones and devices before worship.
- Please limit your conversations in the sanctuary and narthex.
- Please do use the welcome center to greet one another.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP: SETTING TWO

OPENING HYMN: 409 “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, blest Re - deem - er,
2 Dare we pass that cross un - heed - ing, breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing with more fer - vent

whom we love, foun - tain in life's des - ert drear - y, Sav - ior
pent - ant vow, as we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing, see your
love for you! May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing to be -

from the world a - bove, of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Since your sin - less death has brought us
hold your cross a - new, till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er

gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; yet, up - on the
life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest, on - ly what your
from the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, grav - en in our

cross ex - tend - ed, you en - dured the pain of all.
grace has taught us calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied!

Text: tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–1896, alt.; Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–1498

Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.**

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



THE WORD

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 21:4-9 (EHV)

The Lord promised a solution for the bite of venous snakes. That solution perhaps seemed nonsensical. Yet, all those who trusted God's promise lived.

⁴ They set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!"

⁶ The LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result many people from Israel died. ⁷ The people went to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD to take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed on behalf of the people.

⁸ The LORD said to Moses, "Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live." ⁹ Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 2:1-10 (EHV)

God's solution to sin is offered by grace and received through faith.

You were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked when you followed the ways of this present world. You were following the ruler of the domain of the air, the spirit now at work in the people who disobey.

³ Formerly, we all lived among them in the passions of our sinful flesh, as we carried out the desires of the sinful flesh and its thoughts. Like all the others, we were by nature objects of God's wrath.

⁴ But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! ⁶ He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. ⁷ He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPELACCLAMATION *John 3:16*

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.**

Text: © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712324

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21 (EHV)

Christ is the solution to sin. Whoever believes in Christ shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁴ “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ This is the basis for the judgment: The light has come into the world, yet people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ In fact, everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, or else his deeds would be exposed. ²¹ But the one who does what is true comes toward the light, in order that his deeds may be seen as having been done in connection with God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: 811 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart;
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran-sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; take all my
my zeal in - spire! As thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide. Bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll, blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran-somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887
Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Numbers 21:4-9

The Utter Foolishness Of Faith: Look Up And Live!

- 1. That Was God's Command To His Dying People of Old!**
- 2. That Is Still God's Command To You and Me Today!**

Please stand.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS

Please sign the friendship registers at the ends of the pews during the musical selection.

HYMN: 570 “God Loved the World So That He Gave”



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; his Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives the



Son the lost to save that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
him a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares that we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood; bap - tized, you are a child of God.

- 5 If you are sick, if death is near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death; this is the anchor of my faith!
- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessèd Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens- Opfer, Stettin, c. 1778

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

PRAYER

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN: 519 "There Is a Redeemer"



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope_ for sin - ners slain.
there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in_ that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Text: Melody Green, b. 1946

Tune: Melody Green, b. 1946, alt.

Text and tune: © 1982 Birdwing Music/Ears To Hear Music/Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publ., admin.

CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: CCLI no. 3208360

Serving God and Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Glenn Schwanke
Organist: Hymnsoft

Last Weekend's Worship Attendance

- 187 (Sunday—158; Monday—29)

Stewardship Encouragement from Scripture

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Lessons for Next Sunday (Fifth Sunday in Lent)

"Rethinking Religion: Rethinking Devoted Commitment"

- Isaiah 43:1-7
- Hebrews 5:7-9
- John 12:20-33

Prayers: If you would like your name on the prayer list, or you have a friend you would like to add, please call or e-mail the church office.

Offerings: You may leave your offering in the basket as you walk out today. You may continue to mail in your offering, give online at www.trinityminocqua.org, or on the Vanco Mobile app. On the app, search for Trinity Evangelical Lutheran or search for Minocqua.

Meditations: Copies of the newest edition of *Meditations* are available on the table in the fellowship hall and in the rack in the welcome center. This copy begins March 3 and goes through June 1. Each booklet is \$3.00.

Office Hours/No School: This week, Trinity will have no school for spring break. Please keep in mind that during this time, the church and school office hours will be abbreviated.

Easter for Kids—Registration: All area children, ages 3-10, are invited to attend Easter for Kids. It will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 9:00-11:30 am. Registration forms can be found on the table in the fellowship hall or you may register online at www.trinityminocqua.org.

Invitations: There are postcard invitations that you can use to invite someone to our Holy Week and Easter services. They can be found on the table in the fellowship hall. Please take as many as you can use.

Book Club: Trinity Book Club will have their next meeting Tuesday, March 19, from 12:00 -1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be discussing the book, "Warrior Monk" by Ray Keating. This novel features a former CIA operative turned Lutheran minister.

Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society: We encourage you to check out the table in the fellowship hall that has information on the upcoming LWMS Convention being held in Sioux Falls, SD at the end of June. Registration information is available.

Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars: If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, don’t forget to direct your Choice Dollars! Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice program can benefit our church and school. Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2024 to direct any remaining 2023 funds. Help Trinity and don’t let those dollars expire. To direct your Choice Dollars, go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or you can call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt.

Easter Choir Rehearsal: There will be a choir rehearsal on Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 pm to prepare for Easter. This rehearsal will be for anyone who would like to sing, men and women. All are invited to participate.

Friends Network: Abby Micheel, daughter of Peter and Leah Micheel, who are former members of Trinity and Peter was our principal, is finishing her 5th year at Martin Luther College. She is majoring in Elementary and Special Education in the hopes that she can bring our WELS school ministries a step further in making any child to have the possibility of growing in Christian education. As she looks to graduation and planning for what God has in store for her, she has been accepted by Friends Network to have the opportunity to be a part of the mental health/disability ministry that currently exists in Mito, Japan. What pushes her toward this ministry is knowing how less than two percent of this country identifies as Christian. There is also a high need for people to seek mental wellness . What can be offered as a greater comfort than to know that there is one who has redeemed you from your greatest problem in life and will continue to still care for you in the future? If you are both willing and able to provide for making this ministry a reality for Abby, she would greatly appreciate your help. For more information on the Friends Network and how you can contribute, please visit their website at friendsnet.org.

Opportunities to Grow & Serve at Trinity This Week		
Sunday	9:00 am	Worship
Monday—Friday		No School at Trinity
Monday	6:30 pm	Worship
Wednesday	4:00 pm	Lent Worship
Sunday	9:00 am	Worship w/Holy Communion
	10:30 am	Bible Class & Sunday School
Monday	6:30 pm	Worship w/Holy Communion

Hymns and liturgy: Reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-712324 and CCLI #3208360.
 The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2018 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved.
www.wartburgproject.org
 Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.
 Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you to Mrs. Sarah Odell for serving as our PreK teacher last week! After Spring Break, Mrs. Lynn Shonts will begin serving as our long-term substitute (on March 18th). She is a former co-worker of our K-1 teacher, Mrs Kim Brace, and has decades of experience in early childhood education. We are grateful to the Lord for providing such capable teachers for us at this time!

Mid-week Lenten services continue on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Series theme: **“God on Trial.”**

- March 13 = Luke 23:1-12 “Misconceptions”
- March 20 = Matthew 26:57-75 “Testimony”

Lenten season Sunday worship continues to explore the theme, **“Rethinking Religion.”**

- March 17/18 = **Rethinking Religion: Rethinking Devoted Commitment**
Sermon Text: Hebrews 5:7-9 “Saving Us Cost Christ Everything!”
- March 24/25 (**Palm Sunday**) = **Rethinking Religion: Rethinking Real Strength**
Sermon Theme: Hebrews 12:1-3 “Let Us Keep Our Eyes Fixed on Jesus”

Easter for Kids, Saturday, March 23 (9-11:30 a.m.) for children ages 3-10. Interested in serving? Please speak with Jake or Kristen Smith or Pastor Luchterhand.

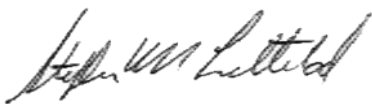
Bible study opportunities:

- **Pastor’s “Wednesday Encouragement” blog**, continues to be found on Trinity’s Facebook page and on our church website. You can also have this devotion sent to your email each Wednesday.
- **Sunday Bible Study (and Sunday School)** – Sunday School (*No Class today for SS!*) is for children PreK3 through 4th grade. Adult Bible Study is working through the book of Exodus under the theme, “Deliver Us!”

Let’s talk about Easter! It’s just four weeks away – on March 31st. Whom will you invite? Seriously. Who needs to hear the message of a risen Savior who gives us life now and forever as a gift?!

- **Easter Dawn** (6:30 a.m.) = Sermon Text: Isaiah 25:6-9 Sermon Theme: “He Wipes Away Tears”
- **Easter Festival w/ Holy Communion** (9:00 a.m.) = Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Sermon Theme: “The King Still Has One More Move”

God keep you and yours in his gracious care,



Pastor Stephen Luchterhand

THE UTTER FOOLISHNESS OF FAITH! LOOK UP AND LIVE!

Sermon Notes on Numbers 21:4-9

Part of the Series: Rethinking Religion.

Introduction: Who was Charles Stanley and what is he known for?

The Utter Foolishness Of Faith! Look Up And Live!

I. This Was God’s Command To His Dying People Of Old!

1. What caused God’s people to complain against Moses? _____

2. What are some “same old, same old” things we often complain about? _____

3. What happened to God’s people when they complained? _____

4. What foolish remedy did the Lord give to his people? _____

II. This Is Still God’s Command To A Dying World Today!

5. Jesus himself explained that the bronze snake on a pole pointed ahead to something. What/ who was that? _____

6. How were the Israelites healed if they had been bitten by a poisonous snake? _____

7. Where does the writer to the Hebrews tell us we need to look for help to free us from our sins? _____

8. It seems foolish, but what did Paul insist that we Christians must preach? _____

Will We Share The Foolishness Of Our Faith? “Look Up And Live!”



Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
www.wels.net

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9:00 am
Mondays at 6:30 pm



Pastor

Rev. Stephen Luchterhand
Cell: (602) 377-0940
Email: stephenluchterhand@gmail.com

Visitation Pastor

Rev. Glenn Schwanke
Cell: (906) 869-6101
Email: yooperrev@gmail.com

Welcome to Trinity

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. If you have any questions during your time with us today, please ask an usher for assistance. If you would like to know more about our church, our teachings, our Christian school (grades K-8), our preschool (3-4 year old) or the studies and programs offered at Trinity, please introduce yourself to our pastor. He would be delighted to speak with you and serve you in whatever way he can.

"Our mission at Trinity Lutheran Church is to teach the Word of God, to train believers for lives of Christian service, and to tell the good news of Jesus Christ to the Northwoods community and to the world."

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

8781 Brunswick Road
Minocqua, WI 54548

(715) 356-2255

E-mail: Trinity@trinityminocqua.org

Website: www.trinityminocqua.org

