



Let God's Word...

# GOOD NEWS FROM THE PEWS

March/April, 2024

...Rule Our Hearts and Guide Our Footsteps

## Pastor's News, views, and attitudes

What is Lent? As we are in the season of Lent, some of you may not know what it is and its significance in the life of the church. The following is an article of the UMC on our beliefs on Lent.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of Spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Until next time  
Pastor Lisa



## Nurture news

Creative Crafters continue to produce a variety of items and donated more stocking hats to Ridgewood School already this year, thanks to our Mad Hatter, Irma Gripp. We praise God for this wonderful mission outreach and encourage anyone interested in joining to come on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m.

We sent Valentines to all our shut-ins, and they are listed on the bulletin board in the Narthex. They love receiving cards, phone calls and visits from church members.

Our Lenten Bible Study is going very well. Julie Derrer had a wonderful experience speaking to 75 youth at the Quad City Youth Conference the end of February. Julie is now planning to expand to youth Grief Share events and would appreciate prayers for guidance and support.

We had a great time calling Bingo at Crosstown Square in Silvis in February and are planning to do it again on March 21 at 1:30. Please see Barb Downs or Katie Gillispie if you would like to volunteer for this enjoyable outreach. We have many prizes to take with us but could use some food items to include in our prizes. They really enjoy big candy bars and Pringles and other chips. They also like paper towels and laundry detergent sheets.

Plans are in full swing for the soup supper on March 9 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thanks so much to everyone who volunteered to help and everyone who is praying for the event to be a successful outreach. Thanks so much to Barb Downs for volunteering to chair the event. Be sure to invite all your friends and family and complete strangers, if possible, to come and bring friends with them. We want to have a great time of fellowship for the whole community.

We are hoping to provide special music for Easter Sunday. If you have suggestions or would like to be part of the music, please let someone on the Nurture Committee know. If you can't join us, please pray for us.

We are having a combined worship service on April 14 – Native American Ministry Sunday – at Camp Milan. Dan Liberger will be our speaker and the service will start at 10:30 with a potluck to follow. Two Rivers, Green River and Milan churches are all included and encouraged to invite others.

We are also planning a different mission outreach each month in 2024. We did toothbrushes and razors for January and February. March is 15 ounce cans of green beans and April is cereal. Thanks so much for your wonderful support!

Please feel free to come to our next Nurture meeting on Monday, March 4 at 5:30 if you have any questions or ideas about other things our church could do. Thanks so much for all your support and all your prayers. We thank God for such a wonderful church family.

## ***Upcoming Events >>>***

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Open Road	12 <sup>nd</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> Tues	6 pm
Creative Crafters	Wednesdays	9 – 10 am
Nurture	March 4	5:30 pm
Staff Parish	March 20	5:30 pm
Bingo	March 21	1:30 pm
Trustees	March 23	9:30 am
Finance	March 23	10:00 am
Church Council	March 23	10:30 am

## **Office Hours**

Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm. Fridays CLOSED. Pastor's hours are available by appointment. If the church office is closed, please leave a message and Pastor Lisa or Rebekah will return your call. If you have an urgent issue, you may call or text Pastor Lisa on her cell phone at 217-898-8403 or email her at [pastorllisa@gmail.com](mailto:pastorllisa@gmail.com).

## **Newsletters**

We have been sending newsletters in the mail and electronically. In the future, those who attend and do not have an email address, will receive their copy at church. Some newsletters will still be mailed. We anticipate the post office will start charging us full price and we are trying to reduce expenses.

*Be sure to notify the church office  
with any changes in addresses and/or  
phone numbers.*

***Pennies For Missions will  
be collected the second  
Sunday of the Month***

## ***Milan Christian Food Pantry***

Thanks to everyone who is donating, working and/or praying for the Food Pantry. We are so grateful for your amazing support. We are requesting donations of 15-ounce cans of green beans for the Easter Baskets. You can bring them to the church or directly to the Food Pantry when we are open on Mondays from 9 to 11 a.m. or Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m. St. Matthew Lutheran Church is having a Trivia Night to support the Food Pantry. It is Saturday, May 4, 2024 at St. Matthew's church. Doors open at 5 p.m. and trivia starts at 6 p.m. You can bring your own snacks and beverages, but water & pop will be available by donation. The cost is \$10 per person and a maximum of 8 people per table. There will also be raffle baskets to bid on and distributed at the end of the night. It would be great to have several tables from our church.

\*\*\*See Pearl Smith or Pam Pearson to get included in a table or for further details

# Financial News

Treasurers Report – For Period Ending 31 January 2024

Submitted by Linda Armstrong Lindy

**Message:** You can probably tell by the income vs. expenses for last year plus the income vs. expenses for January 2024, that we are dependent on our savings to make ends meet. Hopefully 2024 will be a good year

**Recap:** Below is a recap of our finances for January 2023-December 2023:

	January	February*	March	April	May*	June*	July*
Income	8752.17	13777.29	6237.46	6398.39	18022.43	22110.6	12606.9
expenses	11714.21	12460.10	9740.26	8821.82	10220.13	14493.90	10005.85
difference	-2962.04	1317.19	-3502.80	-2423.43	7802.30	7616.70	2601.05
Savings used		5000			8000	16000	5902

2023	August	September	October	November	December	totals
Income	6654	7816.12	28052.30	8801.29	7247.40	126476.39
Expenses	17034.02	6147.36	11054.16	12278.25	8412.05	132382.11
Difference	-10379.98	1668.76	16998.14	-3476.96	-1164.65	-5905.72

Months with an \* behind them include transfer from savings. The extra 5,902, is the refund for property tax that we were charged erroneously in 2022. Note that in October 2023, the church was given \$20,000 from an estate. This does make us in the black for the year, but if you look in the 'totals' column, you will see a negative balance which shows our balance thru November without the \$20,000 inheritance.

Also, starting in 2024, we will begin reporting, in the bulletin, giving by month so you will see:

-Needed income

-Income for the month

-And week number and the total number of Sundays in the month.

**FOR EXAMPLE: Needed income: \$100**

**MTD income: \$50**

**2/4 Sundays included**

**2024:**

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Income	5843.88						
expenses	9334.74						
difference	-3490.86						
Savings used							

***BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
WITH CAKE!!!***

***First Sunday of every month***

**March Birthdays**

Jeff Gerard	3
Willy Mallder	8
Gary Howe	11
Linda Snell	11
CeCe Wilson	13
Pam Pearson	21
Deb Howe	23

**April Birthdays**

Dennis Bloomburg	11
Kathy Coffman	17
Nic Harrison	19
Keith Smith	22
Marilyn Woelke	24
Rod Shaw	24

**Anniversaries**

We have none to report. If you have one, please let the church office know.

***Help Needed for Miscellaneous Accounts***

*You may direct extra-donations if you are looking for somewhere specific to donate:*

- ❖ Office Supplies
- ❖ Computer Supplies (Web support or software)
- ❖ Mowing / Snow Removal
- ❖ Food Pantry

**Attendance**

(in person + online)

<b>Jan 7</b>	<b>35 +</b>	<b>Feb 4</b>	<b>30 + 33</b>
<b>Jan 14</b>	<b>snow +</b>	<b>Feb 11</b>	<b>25 + 30</b>
<b>Jan 21</b>	<b>snow + 47</b>	<b>Feb 18</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Jan 28</b>	<b>26 +</b>	<b>Feb 25</b>	<b>28</b>

***Please join us for  
Communion the first  
Sunday of every month.***

**Ushers and Liturgists  
Opportunities Available**

As part of our worship service each week, we have opportunities for ushers, liturgists, acolytes and assistants for communion. Coffee helpers for after worship fellowship are also needed. Sign-up sheets are posted in the narthex for these positions. We currently have many spots open for service. Please prayerfully consider signing up as a volunteer in service to God and to your church.

***Thank You...***

**Bell Ringer**

March – Michael Shannon  
April - volunteers still needed

**Acolytes**

March – Nicole Koester  
April - volunteers still needed

**Liturgists**

March - Jeff Gerard  
April - Julie Derrer

**Coffee Helpers**

March - Barb Downs/ Sandy Mallder  
April - Barb Downs/Barb Lee

**Ushers**

March – Willy Mallder/Greg DeSchepper  
April – Willy Mallder/Greg DeSchepper

***“Go and make disciples...”***

Trinity United Methodist Church Non-profit Org.  
300 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Milan, IL 61264

Pastor Lisa Wiedman  
Email: [pastorllisa@gmail.com](mailto:pastorllisa@gmail.com)  
Church phone (309)787-1362

Sunday Worship Schedule  
8 & 10:30 am Sunday School  
9:00 am Worship

Email: [milantrinity@sbcglobal.net](mailto:milantrinity@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.milantrinity.com](http://www.milantrinity.com)  
Facebook: Milan Trinity UMC

