

March 2021

## Pastor's Page

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Friends in Christ,

*"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

As most of you know, we have now entered the Lenten season as a community of faith. Lent is often a time for an increased focus on our day to day journey as followers of Jesus. It is a time of reflection and preparation. I know that this season will be difficult, but I trust that Christ will instill our hearts and minds with the determination to once again draw near the Cross and empty tomb.

It is still hard to believe that March 15th, 2020 was the last Sunday that we worshipped together inside our beautiful sanctuary. I'm sure it is still mind boggling for most of us what we have gone through this past year. However, there is so much hope and promise this Lenten season. Council and the safety team have had numerous conversations over the past year about how best to navigate this pandemic. We have chosen a path of suspending indoor, in-person worship with the understanding that this course of action is the best way we can live out our call to love our neighbor and serve our community. While this decision has been frustrating and incredibly hard at times, it appears that we are nearing the end of our sacrificial separation as a community.

At our last council meeting, we targeted the end of March as our **goal** for resuming indoor, in-person worship, provided we **do not see another significant rise in Covid-19 cases**. Church council will meet in mid-March to make sure our goal is still possible. In the meantime, in hope, we are planning to have opportunities for those who wish to gather together again in our sanctuary for worship. There will still be guidelines and requirements in place when we do so, such as masks, physical distancing, and no singing. And while there may still be many of you who can not safely join us in the beginning, hopefully with vaccinations increasing you will be able to soon. We are making plans for Palm Sunday and Easter and will share those with you as soon as we can. We will also continue to offer a video service for those who cannot attend.

I truly believe that we have reached the final stretch in terms of some of the suffering we have endured. Hopefully resuming services here will help alleviate some of the pain you have gone through. While we still may be a few months away from worshipping like we used to, I am grateful for the possibility of seeing many of you again in our sanctuary in whatever way we can. We are not there yet, but there is hope abounding in my heart. I pray that you feel the same.

God Bless,  
Pastor Jon



TRINITY TIDINGS

Trinity Lutheran Church

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### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary March Food Share Campaign March 1 – April 11



Due to COVID 19 many families in Minnesota are facing food insecurity and are reaching out to local food shelves to help feed their families. You can help by making a donation during this period. Issue a check to Trinity Lutheran Church, and mark it for the food shelf. Send to Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 447, North Branch. The Outreach Team will match total donations up to \$1,000.

# Children & Youth Ministry News

## Children's Ministry:

Sunday School youth and families received "Lent in a Bag" with tangible objects and scripture to use each week through the Lenten season along with "The Jesus Storybook Bible" to read stories each day leading up to Easter Sunday. We collected 25 cans of soup for "Souper Bowl Sunday" that were donated to the local food shelf. We are planning to have a Palm Branch Parade and Family Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 28. Watch for an email with further details and how to sign up.



## EDGE Youth Ministry:

EDGE youth and families received a daily devotional book and "Lent in a Bag" with tangible objects and scripture to use each week for Lent. Weekly videos will be posted to our Facebook group as we journey through the Lent season. We have an outdoor nature hike planned for the last weekend in February and hope to be able to plan other in-person activities towards the end of March.



## FROM THE CHAIR.....

My name is Linda Born and I am the new chair person for the Church Council. Our family has been members of Trinity Lutheran Church since the late summer of 1984. If you have not seen me around, I usually go to the 8:00 service. Over the years I have been in the church choir, Sunday School Teacher, Confirmation Teacher and helped out for funerals and other things around the church. Thank you to the people who have served on the church council past and present and on the many committees we have in our church. You are all very valuable to keep our church going. Also thank you to Pastor Jon, our church staff, the people who are involved in our Sunday School and Youth Groups. This has been a very trying time for all of our people, but please know how much you are all appreciated. Please contact any of your council members if you have any questions or concerns that you want addressed. They are: Dennis Aulich, Lucas Edson, Rosanne Johnson, Chris Judson, Gary Porath, Stan Sjodahl, Ann Tanko and Vicky Trampe.

God's Blessings,  
Linda Born

## Gifts Given to the Glory of God

**Undesignated** in memory of Orville Otterness from Russell & Judy Ramberg, Jon & Trudy Trenda, Sharon Fairbanks

**To be designated** in memory of Tom Fisk from Darrel & Jane Fisk, Julie Sauser-Johnson, Deb & Dennis Aulich, Patrick & Teresa Pelzer, John Olson & Charee Wagenpfeil-Cain, Julie & Darrell Jacobsma, Russell & Judy Ramberg

**Undesignated** in memory of Tom Fisk and Nancy Boyce from Jim & Caryl Nelson

**Undesignated** in memory of Joe Anderson from Albert & Ann Tanko

**Undesignated** in memory of Pam Mattick from Carol Gustafson, Tom & Candi Hals, Sandy Schoess, Nancy Zachrison, Dennis & Sue Gustafson

**To ELCA Good Gifts** in memory of Vernon & Ardell Johnson & Pastor Stu Johnson from their family

**Undesignated** in memory of Allan Sissala from Dan & Sandra Johnson, Tom & Candi Hals



# Treasurer's Report

## Statement of Income and Expenses

Month Ending January 31, 2021  
Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch, MN

<u>Income</u>	January Actual	January Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Unified Giving	\$ 29,312	\$ 30,093	\$ 29,312	\$ 30,093
Loose Offering	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
Other Income	\$ 205	\$ 263	\$ 205	\$ 263
Grants	\$ 48,744	\$ 48,744	\$ 48,744	\$ 48,744
Rent	\$ -	\$ 167	\$ -	\$ 167
Phoenix Operating Reimbursement	\$ 2,298	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,298	\$ 2,300
Special Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Regular Giving</b>	<b>\$ 80,560</b>	<b>\$ 82,066</b>	<b>\$ 80,560</b>	<b>\$ 82,066</b>
<u>Expenses</u>	January Actual	January Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<u>General Expenses</u>				
Ministry Support	\$ 25,361	\$ 28,093	\$ 25,361	\$ 28,093
Church Property	\$ 8,081	\$ 9,342	\$ 8,081	\$ 9,342
Stewardship	\$ 170	\$ 200	\$ 170	\$ 200
Learning & Youth	\$ 84	\$ 292	\$ 84	\$ 292
Worship	\$ -	\$ 225	\$ -	\$ 225
Witness & Service	\$ -	\$ 17	\$ -	\$ 17
Sub-total General Expenses	\$ 33,696	\$ 38,168	\$ 33,696	\$ 38,168
<u>Mission Support</u>				
Synod Support	\$ 2,429	\$ 2,429	\$ 2,429	\$ 2,429
Missionaries	\$ 188	\$ 188	\$ 188	\$ 188
Iringa Church Tanzania	\$ 92	\$ 92	\$ 92	\$ 92
<b>Sub-Total Mission Support</b>	<b>\$ 2,708</b>	<b>\$ 2,708</b>	<b>\$ 2,708</b>	<b>\$ 2,708</b>
Total Regular Expenses	\$ 36,405	\$ 40,876	\$ 36,405	\$ 40,876
Total Net Income - January 2021	\$ 44,155	\$ 41,190		
Total Net Income - Year-To-Date			\$ 44,155	\$ 41,190

January Income was \$1,507 under the January Budget  
January Expense was \$4,471 under the January Budget

Net Income is \$44,155

Please consider online giving

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**The church office is closed** for the 'Stay at Home' order. Staff are working remotely, and can be reached by email or voicemail. See the back page of the Tidings for staff contact information.

See our website [www.trinitynorthbranch.org](http://www.trinitynorthbranch.org) **to give electronically** on a one-time or recurring basis. Select the date and frequency (one time, weekly or monthly) and designate the amount and fund (Unified, Building, Viking Vittles, Memorial or Other.) Changes can easily be made at any time.

**Offering can also be mailed** to Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 447, North Branch, MN 55056.

## Memorial/Gratitude gift opportunity for Easter

For many of us, one of the traditions of the Easter season is to give a gift in memory of or in honor of those we love and are thankful for. This is often in the form of a financial gift to our Easter flower garden in the sanctuary. While we will be having some Easter flowers in the sanctuary this year, we have the cost of those covered. So, we are offering a different opportunity to remember loved ones this Lenten/Easter season and in doing so also help those who are in greatest need. We encourage you to give a gift towards the North Branch Food Shelf this year.



Fill out your Memorial/gratitude gift form below like you have done in the past when donating to the Easter garden and make your check out to Trinity Lutheran Church with North Branch Food Shelf in the memo line. We will then make out one check to the Food Shelf from Trinity. Your gift will go even farther as the Outreach Team will be matching up to \$1,000.00 in donations given. These matching funds will come out of the monies from Phoenix Academy rent that is designated for outreach by the church council.

As in the past, we will list all of the names of those donating, and in whose memory/honor they do so, according to the sheets that are filled out and returned to the church office no later than

**Sunday, March 28, 2021.** The church's mailing address is:

Trinity Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 447  
North Branch, MN 55056

Forms/names received by March 28<sup>th</sup> will be listed in the online worship bulletin for Easter and in the May Tidings.

Thank-you for your continued generosity and abundant flexibility in changing "traditions" to carry on the work of God's people in this time and place!

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### Easter Memorial/Gratitude Form

If you would like to contribute toward ELCA Good Gifts in memory or in gratitude of a loved one, please complete this form and mail it to the church office at PO Box 447, North Branch, MN 55056. In order to be listed in the bulletin, please return no later than Sunday, March 28. (Please print.)

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In gratitude for \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_



## Outreach Happenings

**Viking Vittles** continues to supply approximately 180 bags of food each week to children facing food insecurity. Volunteers are still needed to help with filling bags or delivering totes to school. Check out the Volunteer Opportunities on the Trinity home page or contact Mary Twitchell at 320-630-5040 about packing or Donna Setter at 612-363-5072 about delivering totes.

**COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH**

**Little Free Libraries** have been installed and filled with books at Anderson Park and Stacy Lions Park. Another library is waiting for the weather to warm up so that it can be installed at Central Park in North Branch. Check for these libraries on the map on the Little Free Libraries web page.

\$1,000 from the Phoenix Fund was designated to go toward the **Pawaga (Tanzania) Student Scholarship** in addition to the \$1,000 from the Memorial Fund. Trinity Lutheran Church has been part of the Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder to Shoulder) program between the Saint Paul Area Synod and the Iringa Diocese in Tanzania since 2001. We have been blessed to have been paired up with the Pawaga congregation and have found many ways to partner with them in ministry.

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### **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

If you have a Thrivent product, you may have earned Thrivent Choice Dollars. Trinity Lutheran Church is an eligible recipient of these funds. To direct Thrivent Choice Dollars, login to your online Thrivent account, click the "What We Offer" tab, "Generosity," "Thrivent Choice Dollars," and "Direct Choice Dollars."

Thrivent Choice Dollars earned in 2020 must be directed by March 31, 2021. Contact Julie at 651-674-7047 or [jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org) with any questions.

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## ***SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR TRINITY'S HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS***

Through the foresight and generosity of several members of our church, a scholarship fund has been established at Trinity Lutheran as part of our memorial fund giving. Following are the guidelines for high school seniors interested in applying.

1. The applicant must be a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.
2. The applicant must attend an ELCA affiliated school.
3. The scholarship will be paid directly to the school.
4. The scholarship will be for the graduating seniors in the present year and will be given in accordance with the guidelines of the school which the applicant is attending. If money remains available, it will be offered to students entering upper classes at ELCA schools.
5. Applicants must be full time students. Since each school has its own definition of full-time student, the definition at the school the applicant will be attending will be our guidelines for defining full time student.
6. The maximum scholarship will be \$500 but may be less depending on available funds and the number of qualified applicants. Please note that the number of applicants determine the amount of the individual scholarship award. The decision of the church council is all who apply and meet the guidelines will share equally in the scholarship fund.
7. Letters of application must be received by **May 1st** of the applicant's senior year and be accompanied by a letter of acceptance from the school the applicant will be attending. The letter of application should include the students name, address, phone number, name of school the student will be attending along with a statement that he/she is applying to receive the scholarship award. If the student knows whether or not the school to which he/she is applying has a matching fund plan, this information should also be included along with a copy of the letter of acceptance from the school. In cases where the application is an upperclassperson at an ELCA College, the letter of application must also be received by **May 1** for the following September—May school year. Verification that the upperclassperson meets all the above criteria will be required. A form is available in the church office and on the church website.
8. In the event there are additional moneys available after above criteria has been met, we will accept applications from other members who are students at other Christian affiliated schools.

## Worship notes for March 2021

### **Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>/Third Sunday in Lent**

*The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us; we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.*

*The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call:*

*centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.*  
**Exodus 20:1-17** After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

**Psalm 19** The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes.

**1 Corinthians 1:18-25** The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

**John 2:13-22** Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

### **Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>/Fourth Sunday in Lent**

*The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.*

**Numbers 21:4-9** Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

**Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22** You deliver your people from their distress.

**Ephesians 2:1-10** While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

**John 3:14-21** To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

### **Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>/Fifth Sunday in Lent**

*God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.*

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

**Psalm 51:1-12** Create in me a clean heart, O God.

**Hebrews 5:5-10** Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

**John 12:20-33** Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' last words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

*continued*

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**"Christ in Our Home" daily devotionals for January, February, March have arrived.**

**We have both large and regular print books available. If you'd like a copy, email [jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org) or leave a message for Julie at 651-674-7047 to coordinate pickup.**

## Worship notes for March 2021 continued

### **Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>/Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**

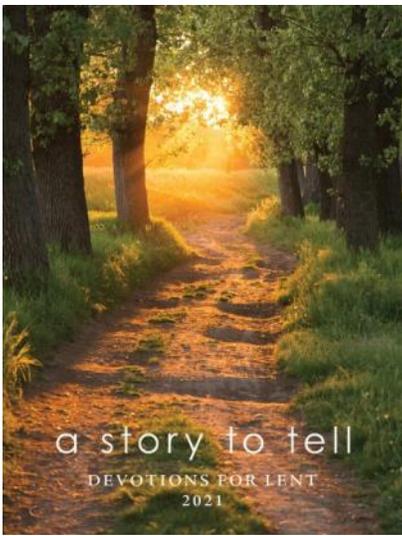
*This week the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.*

**Isaiah 50:4-9a** The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

**Psalms 31:9-16** Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit.

**Philippians 2:5-11** Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.

**Mark 14:1—15:47** The passion story in Mark's gospel presents Jesus as one who dies abandoned by all. He shows himself to be the true Son of God by giving his life for those who have forsaken him. of the cross that Jesus will travel.



## **A Story to Tell: Devotions for Lent 2021 and Holden Evening Prayer books are available in the church office.**

Lenten packets including the Holden Evening Prayer books and a Lenten devotion book are still available in the church office.

The Holden Evening Prayer will be used for the Wednesday Lenten worship services.

Call 651-674-7047 or email [jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org) to arrange pick-up or to have a book mailed to you. Regular & large print devotion books are available.

## **Online Worship Services**

One of the ways we have tried to stay connected is by including videotapes of a variety of individuals and families from our congregation reading scripture, leading the Lord's Prayer or sharing special music. Getting to "see and hear" other members of our congregational family is a highlight of the online worship service for many.



Please let Deb know if you'd be willing to participate in this way in our online worship services. Email her at: [daulich@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:daulich@trinitynorthbranch.org) and she will put you in the schedule and help you make your recording happen. Most people record their videos in their own homes/yards using their cell phone. If that isn't possible, we can arrange for another way to enable you to participate. Thank-you for your continued support of the worship life at Trinity Lutheran!

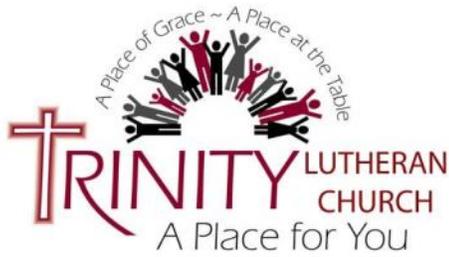
*Worship  
with us  
from  
HOME*

**Our weekly worship services are recorded in advance, and available at 6:00 am each Sunday on our facebook page and YouTube channel. They may be viewed any time, but if you'd like to watch "together" with others, tune in at 9:00 am! Our mid-week Lenten worship services will be posted at 11:00 am Wednesdays.**

**Like Trinity Lutheran Church on facebook, and comment on our posts! Updates, Bible Study and weekly worship videos are posted frequently!**



**If you do not have email, and would like to receive a bulletin by mail each week, please call the office at 651-674-7047 and leave a message for Julie to add you to the mailing list.**



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Mailing Label

# March 2021

## Partners in Ministry: The People of Trinity

Church Office: 651-674-7047 Church Fax: 651-674-7048  
 Church Office Hours: no scheduled hours at this time  
 Sunday Worship: available at 6 am Sunday mornings on our facebook page and YouTube. See our website for links.  
 Church email: [office@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:office@trinitynorthbranch.org)  
 Church website: [www.trinitynorthbranch.org](http://www.trinitynorthbranch.org)  
 Pastor Jon Yurk Cell: 612-231-2111  
[pastor@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:pastor@trinitynorthbranch.org) ext. 12  
 Sue Danielzuk, Church Administrator  
[sdanielzuk@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:sdanielzuk@trinitynorthbranch.org) ext. 37  
 Marie Ray, Director of Youth & Family Ministries  
[mray@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:mray@trinitynorthbranch.org) ext. 13  
 Sarah Krosschell, Sunday School Coordinator  
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 Deb Aulich, Director of Worship and Arts  
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 Julie Morgan, Church Office Manager  
[jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org) ext. 10  
 Cheryl Immel, Financial Recorder  
[cimmel1@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:cimmel1@trinitynorthbranch.org)  
 Jaron Roberts, Audio Visual Manager  
[jroberts@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:jroberts@trinitynorthbranch.org)  
 Tyler Olson: Sr. Choir Director  
[tolson@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:tolson@trinitynorthbranch.org) ext. 15

Roger Anderson & David Nelson, Custodians  
 Rick Olson & Luke Meyer, Cemetery Staff  
 Outreach Committee:  
[Outreach@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:Outreach@trinitynorthbranch.org)  
 Todd Fisk, Church Treasurer  
 Missionaries: Dr. Stephen Swanson family – Tanzania  
 Our Sister Congregation in Tanzania—Pawaga

**Church Council Members:**  
 Linda Born, Council Chair  
 Chris Judson, Council Vice-Chair  
 Dennis Aulich, Lucas Edson,  
 Rosanne Johnson, Gary Porath, Stan Sjodahl,  
 Ann Tanko, Vicky Trampe,

**COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE** The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive in our Fellowship Hall from 9a-3p on Friday, March 12. Register at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).