

Growing as Disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, learning, fellowship and outreach

Lent: A Season to Renew Our Hearts

What is the season of Lent all about? To give something up? To take something on? To be somber for forty days?

The Proper Preface (a seasonal prayer said during Holy Communion) for Lent and the Ash Wednesday invitation give us direction:

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they many come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. (Proper Preface, Prayer Book, p. 153).

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and alms-giving; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. (Invitation, Prayer Book, p.544)



The purpose of the season of Lent is to “cleanse our hearts” through intentional disciplines.

We don't engage in these activities because we think that by them God will be more pleased with us if we can check all the boxes as done. Instead, we engage in them as we respond to God's love for us as we seek to cleanse our hearts in order to love Him more deeply.

And we don't just engage in these activities for Lent. This is what we should be doing every day! In some ways, Lent is like intensive training. We are meant to eat right and exercise all the time, but can also enter into times of intensive training.

The Church is here to help us in our training! There are several things going on this Lent that can help you engage the season well.

Ash Wednesday Services. There is simply no better way to start the season of Lent than by attending one of the Ash Wednesday services. We will have a simple service at 12pm and a service with music at 7pm. Both include the imposition of ashes (a reminder of our mortality and need for penitence) and Holy Communion.

Tuesday Morning Healing Eucharist. On Tuesday mornings during Lent, we will have a chapel service of Healing Prayer and Holy Communion at 10am. It is a wonderful opportunity for those desiring healing in body, mind, or spirit to receive anointing and prayer.

Wednesday Evening Program. On Wednesday Evenings from March 9 to April 6, we will have an opportunity for fellowship, worship and teaching.

Bring-your-own brown-bag dinner from 5pm-6pm. Tables will be set up for folks to gather in fellowship and enjoy their meal before a time of worship and teaching.

Evensong, or sung Evening Prayer, begins at 6pm. This traditional Anglican offering is a time of prayer and Scripture reading that is actually meant to be part of our “daily spiritual diet.”

Teaching on the Apostles' Creed. About half-way through Evensong, we will have a time of teaching on the Apostles' Creed, the ancient baptismal creed of the Church. These are the foundational truths of our Christian faith.

Don't miss these opportunities to renew your heart this Lent, so that you can love God more deeply and experience His love more fully in your life.

Yours in Christ,



THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call him Immanuel (which means, “God with us”),” -Matthew 1:23, ESV

The First Council of Constantinople (381)

The next council on our list of seven *Ecumenical Councils* is the First Council of Constantinople. It was called in 381AD by Emperor Theodosius with 186 bishops in attendance.

In this council they confirmed the previously written Nicene Creed as well as adding more components that we are now familiar with. They also dealt with existing issues of Arianism (see last month's article for more details on Arianism).



Previously, the councils dealt with the divinity of Jesus Christ, this time the question was the divinity of the Holy Spirit. The bishops concluded that the Holy Spirit was equally divine to the Father and the Son, giving us the portion of the creed, “We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son), who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified.”

The heresy known as *Macedonianism* argued that the Holy Spirit was created by the Son and thus subordinate to the Father and the Son. The council disagreed with this argument.

In this council we start seeing a fuller and fledged out understanding of the Holy Trinity. One God, three persons. We as Christians do not only worship one of the three, but all three, acknowledging them as One God. To have a proper relationship with God, we must acknowledge who it is He is.

The Council of Ephesus (431)

The third council, the Council of Ephesus, was gathered in 431AD called by Theodosius II. The topic of this council was on the Theotokos (Greek word meaning “God-bearer”).

Theotokos is a term for Mary, but it is directly related to defining who Jesus is. The Bishop of Constantinople, Nestorius, wanted Mary to be the Christokos (Christ-bearer). He stated that God does not need a mother and Mary only gave birth to Jesus, the man. This would become a heresy known as *Nestorianism*. However, the Bishop of Alexandria, Cyril, debated that Mary was the Theotokos because Jesus is God, thus she bore God, not only a man.

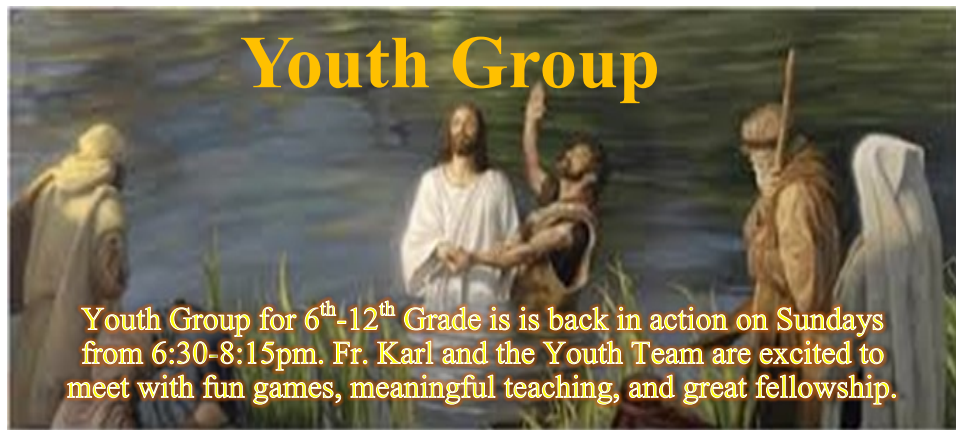
Technically, the term Christokos is not wrong as Jesus is the Christ. But it is erroneous in the sense that it often denies his divinity, a common theme in the early councils of the Church. Thus, Mary is the Theotokos.

Many see this council as being Marian, but it is in fact very focused on Jesus and who he is. Understanding Mary's role in salvation allows us to understand Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus is God, and Mary is deemed the Theotokos (God-bearer) at the Council of Ephesus.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Spencer Stubblefield" followed by a small cross symbol.

Fr. Spencer Stubblefield



TRINITY PRESCHOOL



Valentine's Day was filled with so much love, sweet treats, and pizza. A lot of fun Valentine's Day cards were exchanged by our precious children. The classroom walls were decorated by amazing artwork and fun crafts were created by the students. Pictures of the students with photo ops are always a hit! We love Valentine's Day!



In the next few months, we will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with fun gold chocolate coins!



Easter will follow, with a fun easter egg hunt for our students. If you would like to donate filled plastic eggs, please do! You can bring them to the preschool office, Monday through Friday! All candy needs to be prewrapped from the store. Nothing hard, nothing too tiny, and no gum please. Stickers and novelty toys are a good way to fill a plastic egg.



It's hard to believe that we soon will be planning our Pre-K Graduation. This school year has gone by so quickly. We will plan according to the most current guidelines. I am really looking forward to celebrating our students.

Trinity Preschool is doing the best we can since we are still in this pandemic. We have wonderful families who support us, and only want the best for our preschool and for their little ones. We continue to pray that the Covid count lowers and we can begin to run the preschool as we did prior to March of 2020.

Wishing you a wonderful month full of health and happiness!

Much Love,
Ms. Jennifer – Director

In The Parish Family

In Sympathy for...

The Mark Smith Family on the recent death of Mark's mother, Patricia Smith.

Ed & Patti Taylor on the recent death of Patti's mother, SallyAnn Marvin.

The Kleindienst Family on the recent death of Jane's son-in-law, Bob Murphy.



Ash Wednesday

March 2nd

Distribution of Ashes
and Holy Communion

12 noon & 7 p.m.



Lenten Evensong

with teaching on The Apostles Creed

Wednesday Evenings March 9th~April 6th

5:00 BYO Brown-bag dinner

6:00 Evensong with Teaching

CHURCH-WIDE GOAL SETTING GATHERING

Saturday, March 19th

9am-12p

Come join us on Saturday, March 19th, for a morning of celebrating God's faithful work in our midst, dreaming about our future, and discerning what steps God is calling us to take as we live into His mission for Trinity.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Ezekiel Gatza

Phyllis Herrick

Josh Lewis

Carolyn Foutch
Myron Lewis

Emma Steward

Debbie Gibson
Ainsley Nommensen

Chris Olofson

Ruth Johnson

Reginald Bogie'
Guy Lingo

Ken Miller
Reagan Williams

Marlene Watson

Ethan Chase

Jane Kleindienst

Patti Taylor

Patty Smale



LADIES BROWN BAG LUNCH SOCIAL



Our next Brown Bag Lunch will be on Tuesday, March 22nd at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall. All ladies of Trinity Church are invited to join us and bring a lunch and drink. Please feel free to invite a friend or two. Guests are always welcome!

TRINITY STATS

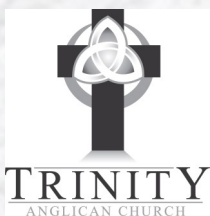
Financial

January 2022

	Month	Year-to-date
Operating Income	\$34,977	\$34,977
Operating Expense	\$48,705	\$48,705
Building Debt Payment	\$9,000	\$9,000

Ages to Ages II (collected in January): \$3,290.00

Our Vision is to be followers of Jesus in the Anglican tradition, connected through discipleship groups, with every member engaged in traditional Worship, in-depth Bible Study, Parish Ministry, and local and global Mission Outreach.



WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Morning

8 a.m. Holy Communion
10 a.m. Holy Communion
Livestream at 10 a.m.

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