

The TLC Newsletter

March 2020



TRINITY
Lutheran
CHURCH

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

*Member Congregation of the
Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA*

The season of Lent in the Northern Hemisphere is a time of lengthening days, and the word "Lent" comes from an old English word meaning "to lighten". One symbol historically used in churches during these 40 days was a vase of pussy willows, which were just a collection of branches on Ash Wednesday, but in the growing light and warmth of the season would slowly open their buds until they became images of new life. After the darkness of late December and early January who doesn't appreciate any sign of spring.

From OUR INTERIM PASTOR



Eastern Bluebird. Photo by Nathan Bishop.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

In mid-February my son, a gifted and skilled photographer, was hiking in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and came upon a flock of Eastern Bluebirds. The brightness of their colors provides a sharp contrast to the dullness of the winter landscape. That often brings its own "ah ha" moment, which in Trinity's vocabulary might be thought of as a "God Sighting".

I know that it is easy to have such a moment of awe in the natural world. An especially colorful sunset over our great lake, the majestic vision one might have from the top of a mountain, or looking down into a deep canyon, the micro beauty found in a closeup view of a colorful flower or ferocious looking insect. Nature, because of its great diversity and wonder has no shortage of views that can bring us up short.

There is another "God Sighting" that we might pray to see, which can be more challenging to notice yet more powerful. That is the presence of God in the midst of the darkness caused by human choices.

A central tenant of the Christian faith is that everyone, everyone is created in God's image. There is something of the Divine to be discovered in any person you encounter. Some of those Divine image bearers will present themselves in unflattering ways, and seeing the holy within them can be a challenge. But it is there. A part of the life of faith is to prepare ourselves spiritually to see the good God does through what might seem ugly on its surface. Certainly, that is something we seek to do in the events of Good Friday. How can suffering, abandonment and death be an environment in which one sees the presence of a loving God? It has always seemed an impossible challenge, yet from the beginning those events became the center piece of perceiving God's activity in the world. Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians, "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified ... so that your faith might not rest on the wisdom of men but in the power of God." (1 Cor. 2:2, 5)

On the Sunday following the February 14 break-in at the church, I said in the sermon that our faith must guide our response to the crime committed. I did not advocate that we not support law enforcement in their investigation and possible prosecution for this intrusion. In truth the decision the burglars made to break into Trinity and two other establishments that Friday morning were not reflective of the light of God in which those same burglars were created. Their choice was a destructive and life denying choice. Our choice however, must be different, because we must be different from the society in which we live. We must reflect the image of God in our dealings not only with the beauty of a blue bird's flash of color on a winter day, but with the sadness of a broken person's sinful acts intersecting our own lives. Our response must reflect the power of Good Friday, for that is who we are. We are a Good Friday people. We are a people who are not surprised by the evil this world offers, but know on a deeper level that such evil does not veto the love God has for us and all people. It is that love which shapes us and guides our actions and responses, so that in our responding to scenes of brokenness and pain, others may experience their own "God Sighting" because of a faith community passionate about loving one another as Jesus loved us.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Bishop

CONNECT WITH PASTOR BISHOP

Facetime on Tuesdays - see schedule;
Email: PrSBishop81@gmail.com,
440-967-4225 (office), 440-503-4250 (cell)

STAY IN TOUCH



(440) 967-4225



PO Box 2
3747 Liberty Ave.
Vermilion, Ohio



www.trinityvermilion.org
tlcelca@gmail.com



I'D LOVE TO TELL THE STORY...BUT - PRACTICAL EVANGELISM FOR OUR TIME

Saturday, March 14 from 9:00a - 12 noon at St. Paul Lutheran Berea

What is the shape of evangelism in our time, for our church? The question is asked in part because there are many images of evangelism filling our minds. Many in the church find those images uncomfortable, and rightly so.

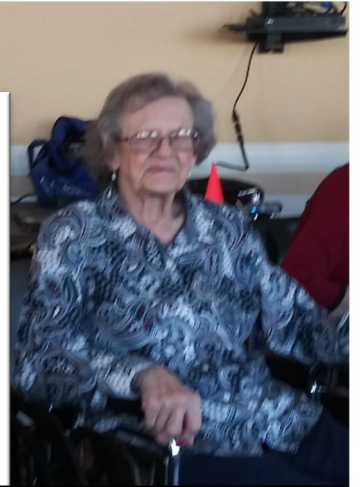
Evangelism is not "cold calls" on neighbors or strangers. Evangelism is not the imposition of a "spiritual script" on one who is unsuspecting. Evangelism is not a proscribed list of Biblical verses intended to convince or convict another about their need for Christ.

Evangelism is, and by the word itself must be, "good news". It is the good news that is a part of your own story. It is your news about how the love and grace of God has touched you and seen you through difficult times, or gives you purpose and focus for living in ordinary times.

In our conference, the workshop *I Love to Tell the Story ... But...*, hosted by our synod Evangelism Table, will be offered on **Saturday, March 14th** at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 276 E. Bagley Road in Berea. If you have questions at this time please direct them to Pastor Bishop.

KINGSTON NURSING HOME WORSHIP

Third Sunday of every month at 2:30p



Pictured right is Trinity member, Jeannine Rock, who resides at Kingston Nursing Home and worships regularly through our nursing home worship ministry, which is led by Scott & Deb Thompson. Do you have an hour on a Sunday afternoon? Join Deb & Scott to help out at Kingston. Picture left is the February 16 worship service at Kingston

our GIVING

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE MINISTRY

	Jan 2020 Actual	Jan 2020 Budget	Difference
Income	\$12,423.00	\$19,814.00	-\$7391.00
Expense	\$17,986.00	\$19,814.00	\$1828.00
Diff.	-\$5563.00	—	—
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
Income	\$12,423.00	\$19,814.00	-\$7391.00
Expense	\$17,986.00	\$19,814.00	\$1828.00
Diff.	-\$5563.00	—	—

Electronic giving is available! Pick up an electronic giving form from the rack outside the church office.

Income excludes any donations received for "special projects". A detailed financial report is on the Ministry Bulletin Board outside the Pastor's office.

DID YOU KNOW???

... that Thrivent has "given back" more than \$370 million (since 2010!!) through their Thrivent Choice grant program to help churches and other nonprofit organizations? The Thrivent Choice program gives YOU, their eligible members a chance to decide where Thrivent distributes their charitable outreach funds each year. Do you have any Choice dollars that you need to designate before the **March 31 deadline?** There are thousands of non-profit groups to choose from, and it's super easy to designate your choice dollars. Just go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or ask Jeff Walker to learn more. Jeff or his office professional, Susan Adkins, can be reached at 440-967-7526. If you would like to direct to Trinity, please search for Trinity Lutheran Church of Vermilion, OH.

GOD IS GREAT

By Elyse Ferber

My sister, Eloise and I travelled to our hometown of Tarentum, PA in early January for a Campbell Cousin get together. We met at the old train station that has been converted into a delightful restaurant. My father was one of 10 children so I grew up with over 30 cousins; our social life was family. We had such a fun time enjoying one another over a delicious lunch and reminiscing on the "good old days."

After saying our goodbyes, we headed to the local hospital where our "baby" sister works as a case manager. She had to work that day, but we couldn't leave without seeing her. Ellen led us into her office where we could have a short visit. On her co-worker's desk was a dish of homemade rock candy covered in powdered sugar. It brought back memories of our neighbor, Peg Campbell (no relation), who would invite us to help her make the candy around Christmas time. Peg was married to Mr. Campbell who was a beloved math teacher and baseball coach for our high school.

They had two children, Jeff and Shelley, who were both younger than I. I loved the sport of baseball, so I would travel with Peg to the away baseball games. They were terrific neighbors. With going off to college, getting married, and living in Ohio, I didn't see the Campbells very often. In the late 80s, I was back home in Tarentum one summer weekend. As we were sitting on the back porch, we heard screaming and wailing coming from across the alley. Mom and I ran over only to learn that Mr. Campbell passed away suddenly while mowing the lawn. It was impossible to comfort this grieving family. They were distraught. I stayed with them for a little while, trying to give them my love and support. It is a day I will never forget. As years passed by, I lost track of the Campbells. Both my parents passed away, and we didn't travel to PA very often, but my thoughts would often go to this lovely family.

After visiting with Ellen, we headed to our last stop before driving back to Ohio. We have only one living aunt who is 86 years old. Aunt Joanne is a beautiful woman inside and out. She looks 70 and still works one day a week at a local doctor's office. As we were headed into her apartment building, I noticed a woman behind us who looked a lot like Shelley Campbell, but I hadn't seen her in over 30 years. As Eloise was holding the door for this woman, it became clear that this was definitely Shelley! We all hugged and laughed and cried. Shelley asked if we wanted to say hello to her mom, Peg, who lives in the same building as Aunt Joanne. Eloise and I couldn't believe it! When I saw Peg and told her who I was, she couldn't stop saying my name and holding me. In my mind, I was thinking how great God is: that all these occurrences aligned and brought me to Peg. Peg shared with me that she is ready to join her husband; she misses him every day. I gave her words of encouragement, and I told her I will pray for her and visit her again when I return to PA. It was such a blessing to my sister and me to see this beautiful person who I had such fond memories of from my childhood and who I had the wonderful opportunity to share in fellowship with during this time after Epiphany.

God Sightings are currently being collected by the Evangelism Ministry.

Please submit your God Sighting through email to Barb Husty, barbarahusty@gmail.com

Thank you.

prayer
REQUESTS

*Prayer list is updated
each month.*

In FEBRUARY we prayed for:

Ill or Hospitalized: Mary Ellen, Jimmy, Betsy, Joshua Nahm, Cathy Beursken, Mark Flacher, Debbie Redmond, Dottie Presutto, Sue Stempowski, Alexandra Drouhard, Judy Makuch

Homebound/Nursing Home: Ray Aufdenkampe, Christine Barron, Magga Jonsson, Maebeth Neher, Marilyn Rossi, Jeanine Rock, Terry & Marilu Smith, Joan Swee, Marge Via.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

INSPIRE SPIRITUAL GROWTH

LENT 2020 - FINDING PEACE IN LENT

This Lenten season Trinity will be joining the other ELCA congregations of Lorain County, one from Cuyahoga County and the Episcopal Church from Lorain for a mid-week round robin. The theme for the season will be *Finding Peace in Lent* with a focus each week on one emphasis from the "prayer attributed to St. Francis" (Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace)

On **Ash Wednesday**, Pastor Bishop will lead worship at Trinity. Our services are at **noon and 7:00p.**, include the imposition of ashes for those who desire this, and the Lord's Supper.

On **Wednesdays in Lent** we will continue to have two services here at Trinity, again at **noon and 7:00p.** A light lunch and supper will be available with those gatherings. The noon service will be led by Pastor Bishop or one of the other pastors if she or he can make this gathering.

The weekly Lenten evening schedule is:

Feb 26	(Ash Wednesday) Pastor Bishop
March 4	Pr. Jeff Steeber, Christ, Avon Lake
March 11	Pr. Rosy Rivera, First, Lorain
March 18	Pr. Bishop
March 25	Pr. Angela Freeman-Riley, Bethesda on the Bay, Bay Village
April 1	Pr. Laurie Miller, Christ, Lorain and Redeemer, Elyria

SOUP & SANDWICH MEALS

Wednesdays - March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1

There is a sign up sheet for Trinity's Lenten tradition of soup and sandwich mealtime fellowship in conjunction with our Wednesday Lenten worship.

Please sign up for a date you are available. It sounds intimidating to make soup or sandwiches for a group of people, but it really isn't! There is a tip sheet on the bulletin board next to the sign up sheet. Invite another Trinity member, OR a friend/family member who doesn't attend worship to help you - a great way to outreach to someone you know and share Trinity's tradition of Lent.



CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation classes will be held on the **first, third and fifth Sunday of March**, beginning with a light lunch and continuing until 2:00p. We continue our unit on Theology, exploring key theological terms and resources in our tradition. Do you want to hear what our youth are discussing? Visitors are welcome to come and sit in for a class, and even share your own story of following Jesus.

St. Mary's Catholic Church of Vermilion has invited the youth of the community to a concert at the church on **Saturday, March 14th at 6:30p.** More information about this event can be found on the poster hanging on the youth bulletin board outside the church office.

Several of our ELCA congregations of Lorain County are planning a joint confirmation retreat for the weekend of **May 15-17.** Youth and families will receive additional information about this weekend as it becomes available.

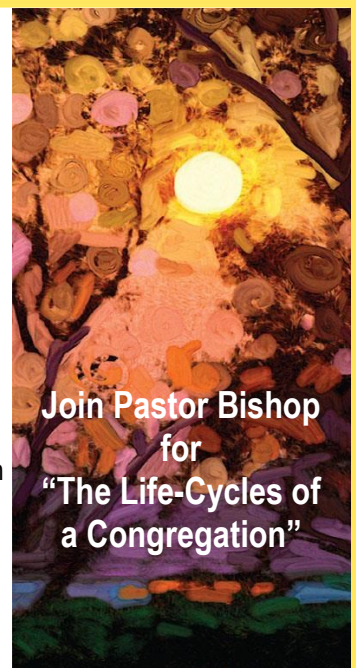
ADULT FORUM IN MARCH

Thursday, March 12 at 7:00p

This month, we will look at congregational life and vitality through a different lens. In February we approached that task by reviewing the book *Autopsy of a Deceased Church* by Thom Rainer. This resource will be used throughout the year by our church council to give them a common perspective and language to use when making decisions about our corporate life and ministry. The members, who gathered on February 13: by consensus, said it was a very enlightening discussion, and have recommended that others in the church read Rainer's work. To facilitate that, a number of copies will be purchased for our church library, and are available for individuals or small groups to borrow for their own reading and discussion time. The book is very short and accessible, and can generally be read in 90 to 120 minutes.

In March, to build upon that discussion and deepen our insight, Pastor Bishop will lead those interested through a tool developed many years ago by a professor at the Lutheran Southern Theological Seminary which uses the stages of life as a way to reflect on the life of a church. *The Life-Cycles of a Congregation* remains a relevant and accessible tool to examine and understand what is happening in and to a local church.

On **March 12th** you can join us for this next conversation intended to help us understand not only how healthy and vital is our congregation, but how to think about and act on strategies for change needed to keep us growing, or restart that process. We meet at **7:00p** in the Narthex of the church on the 2nd Thursday of the month.



Join Pastor Bishop
for
"The Life-Cycles of
a Congregation"



FAMILY

GAME NIGHT

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Saturday, March 7, 7 - 9p

Join us for fun games (bring your favorites), snacks and desserts.

Youth Pancake Brunch

Sunday, March 15, 10a



Enjoy pancakes, sausage, fruit and donuts as Trinity youth serve you breakfast in order to raise funds for their upcoming summer faith trip. ALL donations go toward the YOUTH TRIP. If you would like to volunteer to help this joint Youth/Fellowship project, please contact LeAnna Hagerich or Aimee Holmes.

HAVE YOU EVER???

... been part of a Thrivent Action Team? If you haven't, you should! It's easy, & Thrivent wants to help you get started! Members can apply online for an Action Kit by answering just a few quick questions. Your Action Kit comes with supplies, t-shirts, tips to make the most out of your project, and lots of other fun goodies! But the best part: a \$250 Visa gift card to use as seed money toward expenses for the volunteer fundraiser, educational event, or service project to support a cause they care about. Pick up a packet on Action Teams in the lobby or talk to Jeff Walker or his Office Professional, Susan Adkins at 440-967-7526 to learn more.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

Orders due by Monday, March 30

The Worship Ministry will be decorating the sanctuary for Easter with spring flowers. If you would like to donate flowers "In Memory" or "In Honor" of someone special, please fill out an Opportunities Card and place it in the offering plate or return to the church office with your \$10 payment per plant (memo line: Easter Flowers).



GOT 30 MINUTES?

Sundays between worship services

On **March 1** our Stephen Ministry team will lead an informative discussion about this ministry of one on one care and support for members of the congregation. What is a Stephen Minister? How do these trained spiritual and emotional caregivers provide support for members in need? If I am going through a difficult time in my life, how can I access this support system? Come to the *Got 30 Minutes* session on March 1 to learn more.

On Sunday, **March 15**, Pastor Bishop will lead the third conversation in which we talk about "salvation", specifically the images and languages that have been used throughout the history of the Christian movement to help us proclaim the good news of what God did in and through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Previously he led a look at the language used for the first 1000 years of the Christian movement, and then how and why that dialog switched to new metaphors for the last 1000 years of the church's history. On March 15, we will look at how our culture has changed to call for new language, what is helpful, and how we as a congregation proclaim the good news of salvation in language that speaks clearly to those living in our society and culture at this time.

COUNCIL minutes

UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES - February 17, 2020

In Attendance: Pastor Bishop, Don Dovala, Aimee Holmes, Barb Husty, Bill Matijasic, Cyndi Reid, Kevin Sooy, Karen Schultz, Kevin Sullivan, Karen Szekeres

I. Meeting was called to order by Don Dovala with the reading of the Gathering Litany. Devotion: No devotion given

II. Council Business

- A. Approval of Minutes – Motion by Kevin Sooy, seconded by Aimee Holmes, to approve January 2020 minutes. Motion carried.
- B. Correspondence - No new correspondence
- C. New Ministry
 1. Welcome to Kevin Sullivan. Kevin accepted the position vacated by Sally Roth. Kevin will be the Evangelism Ministry liaison.
 2. Karen Schultz has announced she and Phil will be moving to Florida and will be resigning her position on council. A search for her replacement will commence to be filled by May 2020.
 3. Council worked on preliminary goal planning for 2020 – to continue at March meeting
 4. Autopsy of a Deceased Church – council will read 2 chapters per month and discuss in lieu of devotions through Sept 2020
 5. Council Retreat – 4/24/2020 or 5/1/2020 – Don Dovala will research venues
- D. Treasurers Report: Karen Schultz made a motion to file the Treasurer's Report for audit, seconded by Cyndi Reid. Discussion noted that there is typically a decline in giving when the church is in a state of change.
- E. Previous Ministry
 1. Call Committee – no news/candidates to report at this time.
 2. Building Safety Committee – Kirk Hagerich has agreed to join the committee. Since the vandalism/break-in glass has been replaced, damaged doors have been ordered, back door heater replaced, carpet will be cleaned and squares replaced if needed. Additional ports for the computer router are being addressed for proper internet access and camera operation. \$500 deductible to come from Building Fund. Many thanks to Chuck and Linda Sooy for their quick response after the incident and to Kevin Sooy for his diligence in ensuring all damage is addressed.
 3. Stewardship discussion and outreach for Visitors, information to be forwarded to Ministries.
- III. Staff & Ministry:
 1. Kevin Sooy made a motion to clearly delineate the mission and duties of Evangelism and Living Disciples, seconded by Kevin Sullivan. Motion carried.
 2. Pastor's Report –
 - A. Bill Matijasic motioned to endorse a shared study/prayer process with St. Mary's Catholic Church from 8/6/20 – 9/10/20 presented by Pastor Bishop. Seconded by Aimee Holmes. Motion carried.
 - B. Survey from Bishop Election Committee due to Barb (barbarahusty@gmail.com) by 2/23/2020

Next Regular Meeting: **3/16/2020**, Prayer Scribe: Karen Schultz, Devotions: Autopsy of a Deceased Church – Chapters 1 & 2

Meeting closed in prayer by Karen Szekeres



Council members and officers were installed on February 9 at both worship services. We are thankful for these dedicated men and women who are willing to serve.

CALLING A SYNOD BISHOP

Our Bishop Abraham Allende announced earlier this year that he will retire at the end of his current term in office, so our synod will call a new bishop at our upcoming Synod Assembly in June. The process in Northeast Ohio has two parts.

First, on **April 26th** every conference in the synod will gather on their territory at the same time and hold a “straw ballot” identifying pastors thought to be appropriately gifted to serve as bishop of the synod. Those written ballots will be collected and sealed, and taken to a meeting that evening at the synod office where members of the Bishop Election Committee will open and count them together. The top ten pastors receiving votes will be contacted and asked if they are willing and open to such service. When a list of ten names is generated, those names will be published along with written responses to questions and copies sent to all registered voting members for the upcoming synod assembly.

At the assembly the election process will begin with an ecclesiastical ballot, which is the official nominating ballot. There is no expectation that the ten names previously identified would lead that list, but historically that has been the case. At the time the ecclesiastical ballot is held, pastors on that list have an opportunity to remove their name. Those names remaining will be on a second ballot, and the top seven vote totals on the second ballot will become the first shortened list for consideration. The process can take a total of five ballots to call a bishop, with each ballot requiring a lower percentage of votes to elect, beginning with 75% on the first ballot, to a simple majority on the fifth ballot.

This is an election, but also a call process. If you are not attending the synod assembly as a voting member, you are encouraged to keep this process as part of your personal prayer ministry, asking the Holy Spirit to work through these votes to call a servant leader for our synod.

this MONTH at TRINITY

MARCH 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9a/10:45a Worship 10a Got 30? 10a Parish Nurse BPs 10a Sunday School 12n Confirmation Class	2 6:30p Executive Committee 6:30p Praise Band Practice 7p All Ministry Mtg	3 10:30a Facetime 5:30p Grace's Kitchen	4 12n Worship & Lunch 6p Supper 7p Worship 8p Choir Practice	5 5:30p Grace's Kitchen	6	7 7p Game Night
8 9a/10:45a Worship 10a Sunday School	9 7p Praise Band Practice	10 10:30a Facetime 5:30p Grace's Kitchen 6:30p Stephen Ministry Supervision	11 12n Worship & Lunch 6p Supper 7p Worship 8p Choir Practice	12 11:30a Ladies Lunch Bunch 5:30p Grace's Kitchen 7:00p Adult Forum	13	14 9a I'd Love to Tell the Story Workshop at St. Paul Berea
15 Newsletter Items Due 9a/10:45a Worship 10a Sunday School & Pancake Breakfast 12:15p Confirmation Class 2:30p Kingston Nursing	16 7p Church Council 7p Praise Band Practice	17 10:30a Facetime 5:30p Grace's Kitchen	18 12n Worship & Lunch 6p Supper 7p Worship 8p Choir Practice	19 5:30p Grace's Kitchen (Trinity Volunteer Day)	20	21
22 9a/10:45a Worship 10a Sunday School	23 7p Praise Band Practice	24 10:30a Facetime 5:30p Grace's Kitchen	25 12n Worship & Lunch 6p Supper 7p Worship 8p Choir Practice	26 5:30p Grace's Kitchen	27	28
29 9a/10:45a Worship 10a Sunday School 12:15p Confirmation Class	30 Easter Flower Orders Due 7p Praise Band Practice 7p Sit & Stitch Guild Meeting	31 Thrivent Choice \$ Deadline 10:30a Facetime 5:30p Grace's Kitchen				

A heartfelt thank you to Kim Cabot, Anne Cary, Aimee Holmes, John Reid, and DeeDee Sooy for all your help making lab day possible at Trinity Lutheran Church.

I appreciate your dedication and support!

Cyndi Reid



Pictured is Trinity's Facetime Group. All are welcome! This informal group with no agenda is a great way to get to know one another through casual conversation as we reach out in a simple way into our local community.

your **MONTHLY OPPORTUNITIES**

AT A GLANCE



PARISH NURSE BPs

Sunday, March 1 - 10a

Drop by the library for some self care with our Parish Nurse, Cyndi Reid, RN.



ALL MINISTRY MTG.

Monday, March 2 at 7p

Join us at a table for our monthly planning gathering.



PRaise BAND

Most Mondays at 7p

Musicians and vocalists always welcome to join. Practices in the sanctuary.



TRADITIONAL CHOIR

Wednesdays at 8p

All are welcome!
Note time change during Lent



FACETIME

Tuesdays at 10:30a

March 3 - Black River Café, Oberlin
March 10 - Arabica, Amherst
March 17 - Berardi's, Huron
March 24 - Blue Sky, Amherst
March 31 - Panera Bread, Amherst

Conversation in the community. Connect & meet others from Trinity.



STEPHEN MINISTRY SUPERVISION MTG

Tuesday, Mar 10 at 6:30p

Meeting of current Stephen Ministers, a ministry that equips people to provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to individuals experiencing challenges in their lives.



LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday Mar 12 at 11:30a

**Olde Town Pizza, Amherst
195 Cleveland Ave**

Sign up on bulletin board or Connect Card-designate if you will meet at church or the restaurant.

Contact Karen Schultz with questions.

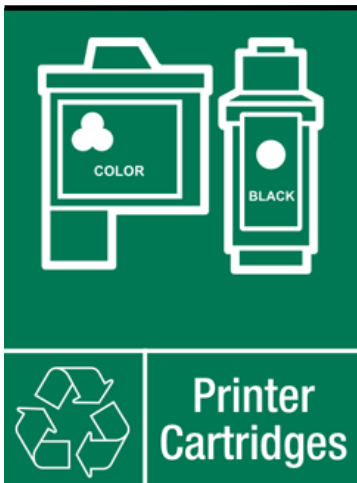


KINGSTON WORSHIP

Sunday, March 15 at 2:30p

Join Deb & Scott Thompson to sing hymns and read scripture with residents at Kingston Nursing Home in Vermilion.

Contact Deb for info.



Collection bin
in Fellowship Hall



POP TAB COLLECTION

Pop them and Drop them in the collection bin located in Fellowship Hall.

Benefits the Cleveland Ronald McDonald House.

Grace Community Kitchen



Vermilion, Ohio

**Trinity Cooks & Serves on
Thursday March 19**

Wishlist - small white dessert paper plates, butter, paper towels, canned chicken broth, bbq sauce



ALTAR FLOWERS

March 1, 15, 29

Flowers, given to the Glory of God, beautify our sanctuary, and are given to honor special people/occasions. After worship, you may keep the flowers or they can be delivered to homebound. Sign up on a Connect Card or on the bulletin board by the church office.