Making Lent Holy

On Ash Wednesday, we invite the people of God:
To the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.

This year my wife, the Rev. Jo Nygard Owens, created a wonderful resource for churches to learn about this holy season. In it she teaches how Lent is deeply integrated into our spiritual journey and our relationship with God. She talks about the history of Lent, the foundational practices we observe and even about whether or not it’s supposed to be depressing.

Where did Lent come from? Lent goes back at least to the Council of Nicaea in 325, when it was discussed as a 40-day season of fasting. It helps to remember that while fasting is always difficult, for most of human history people have not had the same access to food as we have today. Yet even now we see great hunger and malnutrition. Can we perhaps recover food practices in Lent that remind us of God’s providence and help us check our excessive practices, while also engaging in justice work around food and hunger today?

Lent was also the final weeks of preparation for catechumens, those who for three years had been preparing for baptism. Our disciplines and practices are not simply churchier versions of new year’s resolutions: they are rooted in our baptismal promise to see God in the things and people of this world, and to make a separation from those things that distract us from our life-giving relationship with God.

Why observe Lent? As the church has adapted to a changing world, Lent has had a curious staying power. It is profoundly counter-cultural, especially as we continue to be a people steeped in consumerism, greed, individuality and egocentrism. In our broken world, the message of Lent rings true: we are preparing ourselves “for the Glory of Easter, we are orienting ourselves back to God, and we are sharing in what Jesus went through,” to quote Jo’s resource.

In this journey of 40 days, we recall Jesus’ time in the desert, a time of hunger and vulnerability, but also one of discernment and growth and holiness. Jesus rejects the comforts and the power plays of this world and instead claims the power of love.

Jo closes with my favorite question: Should Lent be depressing? The answer is a resounding “no!” Jesus tells us to fast, and not to make a big public show of how hard it is on us. But there’s more to it than that. Lent is not ultimately about where we’ve fallen short: it’s about recovering the goodness and joy at the heart of our relationship with God.

“Lent does not need to be depressing,” Jo writes. “However, Lent should be a meaningful time of reflection, as well as a change in habits that do not serve you as a follower of Christ.”

The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Lunch and Supper Groups Forming

Would you like to meet other folks at Trinity and maybe make some new friends? Supper and Lunch groups can help newcomers and long-timers get to know each other, in a casual meal setting (supper or lunch). Supper groups meet in group members’ homes and take turns hosting (there will be a COVID vaccination requirement for Supper groups) and Lunch groups meet in a restaurant setting, usually after church on Sundays. If you’re interested, sign up at the table in the promenade this Sunday or send an email to Ginger Bitikofer, gbitikofer@trinitycleveland.org.

LGBTQ+ to Attend North Coast Men’s Chorus Concert

Trinity’s LGBTQ+ outreach ministry will host the North Coast Men’s Chorus singing the songs of ABBA at the Mimi Ohio Theatre in Playhouse Square (3 p.m.). You can learn more about the concert at ncmchorus.org/2022/10/08/abbapalooza.

Sunday Schmooze!

by Ginger Bitikofer – Associate for Congregational Life & Membership

Do you occasionally have a Sunday when (after a stimulating sermon from the Rev. Adrienne Koch or Dean Owens) you just want to have coffee and catch up with your Trinity friends? Us, too. Well, let’s do it. Starting in March, we’ll schedule some fellowship time into each month, and we’ll call them Sunday Schmoozes. These extended coffee hours will take place during the 10:10-11:00 a.m. hour, in the Piazza (look for the high-top tables), and we’ll have more than just cookies to snack on. Sunday Schmoozes will also be great opportunities to get to know our newcomers and new members, so stop by and chat with someone you haven’t met before.

Upcoming Sunday Schmooze dates will be March 12, April 9 and May 14.

20s/30s Brunch

Join other millennials for brunch after the 11:15 a.m. service on March 12. At 1 p.m., the group will gather at Merwin’s Wharf, 1785 Merwin Avenue, Cleveland where they will dine on the banks of the Cuyahoga River on Irishtown Bend. If you have questions, please contact Michael Drivas at michaeljdrivas91@gmail.com.

Solemn Eucharist

You are welcome to join Solemn Eucharist, a formal service that includes incense, bells, plainsong and the ceremonies of a sacred Anglican high church service. The service takes place at 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 5. The Rev. Lisa O’Rear, rector of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Mentor will preach and the Rev. John Drymon, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Findlay will celebrate. The deacon is the Rev. Dan Hinde, deacon at St. James’s Painesville.

In April, Solemn Eucharist will fall on Palm Sunday, April 2, and will include the liturgy of palms and procession. The Rev. Rosalind Hughes, rector of Church of the Epiphany in Euclid will preach. The Rev. David Radzik, rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Berea will celebrate. The deacon is the Rev. Bryan Gillooly from Christ Episcopal Church in Shaker Heights.
GOD CALLS LEADERS

Trinity’s Adult Faith Formation mission team will soon be starting a new Bible study series called God Calls Leaders on Sunday, March 26 at 10:10 a.m. in conference room C/D. The format is the same as the last two Bible study events: The Kerygma Program. Be inspired by the classes, which will be taught by a variety of Trinity facilitators. The class will take place on March 26; April 16, 23 and 30; May 7, 14 and 21.

According to Kerygma’s course description, “Inspired leaders make a difference in the unfolding biblical drama. Understanding how God worked through the lives of the patriarchs, prophets, Jesus and the apostles will light the path for new leaders who will continue the journey.”

Reading Lenten Old English Prose Psalms – March 19 at 10:10 a.m.

Join medievalist Dr. Emily Butler as she facilitates discussion on the Old English Prose Psalms for Lent. The psalms have been part of communal worship in Jewish and Christian traditions for millennia, and the psalter encompasses the full range of human emotions, from despair or anger to joyous praise and thanksgiving. The Old English Prose Psalms, a medieval paraphrase of the first fifty psalms, invites readers very specifically to imagine themselves in communion with individuals from the Old Testament who have felt the same emotions or wrestled with the same challenges of mortal life. This Lent, join us for a discussion of what we might learn from reading the psalms alongside Lenten themes of lament and repentance.

In Confidenza: Secrets and Transcendence

Make sure to visit the Trinity Commons Gallery this month for In Confidenza: Secrets and Transcendence. This fiber art installation was created by Trinity member Anne Kmieck, whose installations have been exhibited in colleges and art spaces around the midwest as well as western New York, California and China. She has received two Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Awards, in 2015 and 2021.

The exhibit will be on display throughout the month of March. The gallery is open:

Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Wednesday 11 a.m.–7 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Check-in at the front desk at Trinity Commons is required. Call 216.771.3630 to confirm arrival time or for questions.

In speaking of the exhibit, Kmieck said, “I construct clothing to explore complex issues around gender and identity. In Confidenza was a response to the ongoing crusade to erase moral agency by criminalizing gender and reproductive decision. This work invites meditation on religious history, biology, and their revelations to empower in the melding of a sublime 15th century painting of the Madonna with an artistic expression of the extraordinary selective nature of the female reproductive system.”

Kmieck will give an artist’s talk on Sunday, March 5 at 10:10 a.m. in the gallery. On Wednesday, March 15 from 7–8 p.m, The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Kaeton, Episcopal priest and activist, will speak via Zoom on the early history of the reproductive rights movement and The Episcopal Church’s role then and today. The presentation will take place in conference room A/B.
EYE23

EYE (pronounced E-Y-E) stands for Episcopal Youth Event. It is a gathering of youth ages 15-19 or grades 9-12 from around the world who assemble on a college campus to learn, laugh, and worship together. It is the single greatest and second largest event the Episcopal Church does, and it's only once every three years.

The culture of EYE is like summer camp...a really, really big summer camp! Until you have seen it first-hand, the sight of over a thousand young people and adult leaders in one place is unimaginable. The enthusiasm of the young people in attendance is infectious, equaled only by the compelling commitment to their faith, showing the vitality of The Episcopal Church both now and in the future.

This year's EYE23 is taking place at the University of Maryland located in College Park, Md. Dates are July 4–8. If you are interested, please visit dohio.org/calendar/2023/07/04/episcopal-youth-event-eye.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PILGRIMAGE

Youth in grades 6-8 from across the Diocese of Ohio are invited to an overnight retreat at Trinity Cathedral. Arrival is at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 18. Families are invited to the 9 a.m. service on Sunday morning, March 19 and depart thereafter.

This retreat is centered on storytelling and identity. We will be inspired by the art exhibit in Trinity’s gallery to gain insight and confidence into who we are and who we are called to be.

Expect games, friends, and other fun activities! To learn more and to sign up visit dohio.org/calendar/2023/03/18/middle-school-pilgrimage.

Bellwether Farm Summer Camp

Each Bellwether Farm Summer Camp is a small, weeklong camp centered on the beauty of all things great and small. Campers participate in a variety of activities stemming from and connected to our farm, fields, and forests. Activities include animal time with goats, sheep, chickens and more, foraging, creeking, swimming, reading, singing, cooking, hiking, fishing, farming, canoeing, archery, and arts and crafts. Reflection, prayer, and discussion are also incorporated into the day-to-day life of the community. Campers will reside in cabins with up to 8 campers and 2 counselors, organized by age and gender identity. Bathhouses are a short walk away. All meals are farm-to-table and emphasize the connection of our bodies to God’s creation.

For more information and to register, visit bellwetherfarm.com/camps/summer-camps.

CHILDREN’S CHAPEL

Children in grades pre-K through 5 can join in each Sunday for children's chapel, offered after the Gospel until the passing of the peace at the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services. It features lessons, stories, crafts, activities and more!
A quiet day is for special devotion, meditation and instruction. It will take place Saturday, March 25 from 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Participants will come together for three communal liturgies, and explore multiple rooms for small group conversation or individual reflection, all related to the theme of healing. The main workshop is on the ancient Japanese art-form of mending broken dishes together with gold; participants will create their own artwork. This workshop will be offered by Mary Kate Strimpfel, retreat coordinator from Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in Fremont. Other workshops include a 10-minute shoulder massage room, a discussion room on renowned author Kate Bowler's books on healing, a meditation room and the use of the labyrinth for individualized walks of healing prayer. The $25 fee covers the cost of snacks, lunch, and materials. Scholarships are available. You can register here. Contact akoch@trinitycleveland.org with questions.

Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) Making a Difference on Youth Bindover

Hats off to those from Trinity who attended the GCC youth bindover public hearing on December 6. You helped make a difference!

The Cuyahoga County Public Defender's Office has consistently advocated for an increase in the number of children assigned to its office for representation, especially those children facing the possibility of being bound over to the adult criminal justice system. Just recently, the Juvenile Court agreed to increase delinquency appointments to the Public Defender's Office from 25% to 40%.

“GCC's advocacy, on juvenile justice issues and on the problem of juvenile bindovers in Cuyahoga County, directly contributed to this positive development,” says Cullen Sweeney, Chief Public Defender, Cuyahoga County Public Defender's Office.

All agree this is a positive step, but Sweeney points out that the Public Defender’s offices in other major Ohio cities receive 100% of the juvenile delinquency appointments, so Cuyahoga County still lags far behind.

You can get more background on the decision in this Signal Cleveland article: signalcleveland.org/cuyahoga-county-public-defenders-office-to-represent-more-children.
Wednesday, March 22, 7 p.m.
Bishop Coadjutor-elect the Rev. Anne B. Jolly

In the face of challenges that include systemic inequalities, climate change, and the breakdown of community, churches and their leaders have a particular part to play in bearing witness and advocating for peace, justice, and human dignity.

As she prepares to become the Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Ohio, Bishop-elect Anne B. Jolly will join the Trinity Forum to offer a vision for being the church in the world today. She’ll offer her thoughts, speak in conversation with Dean Owens, and take your questions.

What role must pastoral leaders such as Bishops, clergy, and lay leaders play in a rapidly changing world, and how can churches and cathedrals be both evangelists and agents of change?

Trinity is Community Partner with Cleveland International Film Festival

Trinity has once again partnered with the 47th annual Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF47), which runs from Wednesday, March 22 – April 1. Trinity is community partner for the film 1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted a Culture. It is a feature documentary that follows the story of tireless researchers who trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a grave mistranslation of the Bible in 1946.

It chronicles the discovery of never-before-seen archives at Yale University which unveil astonishing new revelations, and casts significant doubt on any Biblical basis for LGBTQIA+ prejudice. Featuring commentary from prominent scholars as well as opposing pastors, including the personal stories of the film’s creators, 1946 is at once challenging, enlightening, and inspiring. You can learn more and see trailers at 1946themovie.com.

This year’s CIFF47 will take place at Playhouse Square in downtown Cleveland and online as CIFF47 Streams from April 2-9. Full program information will be announced on the festival’s website on March 3.

Trinity Communications 2022

We hope you’ve had an opportunity to review Trinity’s annual report for 2022 which was released just before Trinity’s Annual Meeting on February 12. If not, you can check it out here.

Some statistics weren’t included in the annual report, but we thought you’d be interested in the following communications department metrics in 2022:

52 Weekly e-news (The Trinity Weekly/This Week @ Trinity)

11 monthly newsletters (Cathedral Connections)

105 Email Campaigns

7 Press Releases

559 Social Media posts
BrownBag Concerts

Held Wednesdays at 12 noon, Music & Art at Trinity Cathedral has presented these concerts free-of-charge since 1978.

March 15
The Choirs of Hathaway Brown School These young singers offer an array of choral music.

March 29
Salzedo Harp Duo
Sponsored by the Ashly Whitmer Correa Foundation. Harpists Nancy Lendrim and Jody Guinn bring artistry and beauty in an inventive program for harp duo.

Choral Evensong

March 8
Commemoration Perpetua and Felicity, third century Christian martyrs
Homily: The Rev. Adrienne Koch
Sopranos and altos of the Cathedral Choir
Service: Sumsion in G

March 15
Commemorating Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac, founders of the Daughters of Charity
Homily: The Rev. Gayle Catinella, rector of St. John’s Episcopal, Youngstown
Trinity Chamber Singers
Service: Finzi, Lo, the full, final sacrifice

March 22
Commemorating James de Koven, priest, educator and leader of Anglican Ritualism in the Episcopal Church.
Homily: The Rev. Alex Martin, rector of St. Barnabas Episcopal in Bay Village
Trinity Cathedral Choir
Service: Walmisley in D minor

March 29
Commemorating John Keble, English Anglican priest and poet who was one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement.
Homily: The Rev. Anna Sutterisch, Canon for Christian formation in the Diocese of Ohio
Trinity Chamber Singers
Service: Gibbons short service
Holy Week 2023 Worship Services

Palm Sunday, April 2
8, 9* and 11:15 a.m.*

Tenebrae, Wednesday,
April 5
6 p.m.*

Maundy Thursday, April 6
6 p.m.*

Good Friday, April 7
12 noon Solemn Liturgy*
7:30 p.m. Good Friday Concert

The Great Vigil of Easter,
Saturday, April 8
8 p.m.*

Easter Sunday
9* and 11:15 a.m.*

* Service will be livestreamed

Cathedral Connections
Prayer Requests: Doreen Hughes, 216.774.0415, dhughes@trinitycleveland.org
Donations: bit.ly/PeriodicOnlinePayments
Space Rentals: trinitycleveland.org/facilities-use-requests
Cathedral Connections: Submit your news items by sending to sblanchard@trinitycleveland.org

You Tube: youtube.com/trinitycleveland
Facebook: @trinitycleveland
Web: trinitycleveland.org
Email: trinity@trinitycleveland.org
Telephone: 216-771-3630

The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens, Dean

CONTACT US

2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115