



Burnt Branches and Olive Oil

Every year, usually in February, I prepare a unique concoction of burnt palm branches and extra virgin olive oil. Getting the right ratio is something I work on every year so that it is neither too dry or too gooeey. This combination creates a rather potent black sludge. Great care needs to be taken when handling the stuff. Then, one by one people, young and old and every age in between, come to me and I smear a daub of this messy black sludge on their foreheads or top of their hands telling them without reservation that they are going to die to become worm food!

This sure sounds like a rather bazaar ritual when you stop to think about it. And it is messy. But its significance is most clearly revealed in its messiness.

Take for example the black sludge. This goop symbolizes our mortality. Death is part of our story. We put a smudge on our bodies and hear the words, “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.” In this call

to “remember” it is more than “not forgetting” as in don’t forget your appointment or don’t forget to take the trash out. We remember who we are, human beings who rebel against God and our neighbor. It’s the nasty acknowledgement of sin’s power in our lives. The blackness of the smudge conveys our sorrow for this reality.

This happens through a ritual we do in the Ash Wednesday service called the “Imposition of Ashes”. We make the sign of the cross with these ashes to remind us of Jesus’ death and resurrection when the power of sin, death and the devil were overcome. It begins our Lenten Journey which exists to help us prepare for the celebration of the empty tomb.

I hope you will be able to join us for our **Ash Wednesday service on February 22 at 6:00pm.** Our service will include imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Pastor Tim Vadis

UPCOMING

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5
High School Youth going on the Summer Montana White-water Rafting trip will talk about their upcoming trip at the 9:30am worship service.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16
New Member Orientation for those wishing to join the congregation at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall.
More info on page 3

**ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 22**
Special Ash Wednesday Worship Service with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 6:00pm.

CHECK THE CALENDAR
You can see all events listed at ComeToTrinity.com

Help Out on Sundays

We have a dedicated core helping to support our worship services. In order to help keep energy up and burn out low we are looking for more people to get involved serving in a worship assistant role. Here are descriptions of various roles for the Sunday morning services.

POWER POINT OPERATOR

Arrives about 20 minutes before service and powers up laptop. Advance slides on the big screen during worship on Sunday using a remote controller. Training is provided.

SCRIPTURE READER

Read the appointed Bible passages aloud from up front at the reading stand. The readings are sent via email in advance to aid in preparing for service.

LIVESTREAM OPERATOR

Arrive 20 minutes before Sunday service to set up and operate the Livestream, which streams to YouTube, during the Sunday morning service. Basic computer skills are needed and training is provided.

USHER

Ushers have a variety of duties before, during, and after the Sunday

worship service. They hand out bulletins, greet attendees, deep track of attendance, turn on and off lights, unlock and lock doors and help monitor the service for any needs. Training is provided.

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild assists behind the scenes by setting up the chancel area for worship and putting out needed items for communion and baptisms. Altar Guild members are paired up when they serve. Training is offered by a guidance from a mentor.

SUNDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SERVER

Arrive about 30 to 40 minutes before service begins. Make coffee and fill airpots. Put out coffee cups and napkins, help bake cookies provided by church, monitor coffee fellowship needs after worship, help clean up, finished by about 11am.

We can use help in all these areas. If you are new we will be in contact to provide an orientation. You can sign up by using SignUpGenius which is accessed at ComeToTrinity.com then clicking the "Serve" tab

Thrivent Choice Dollars®

Remember that you have to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars EVERY year. Otherwise, the dollars you have earned will be absorbed back into Thrivent. Here is how you can direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars:

1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice
2. In the "GET STARTED" section on the right, click **Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars®**.
3. Log in by entering your user ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "**Register for account access.**")
4. Choose the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - a. To direct to a previous organization: Click "**Direct Now**" next to the organization's name, or Click on the "**View activity history**" link, scroll down and click on the **name of the desired organization**.
 - b. To direct to a new organization, **enter key word(s)** like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click "**Search.**"
5. Choose "**Direct All**" or **enter a specific number** and click "**Direct Now.**" Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

By phone

1. Call **800-847-4836** and when prompted, say "**Thrivent Choice.**"
2. **Press 1** to direct Choice Dollars or **2** to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars® program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

Make use of your Thrivent Choice Dollars so that they can support the work you choose.

How Do You Say Thank You to God?

1 Peter 4:10

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

Do you ever stop to think about God's goodness in your life? About the many blessings we all have? Have you considered the blessings we share at Trinity? Are they taken for granted? Are we thankful for them? Are we willing to share our abundance with others?

God gives us everything we need and only asks us to pass it on. Trinity wants to help provide both the means and the ways to help us all live out our gratitude and thanks for our blessings as we pass them on to others.

Over the coming months, Giving Thanks to God will help us all consider our blessings and responses to them. Be watching your emails and newsletters.

An Opportunity for Everyone

Yes, everyone is welcome to be a member of altar guild. **What is altar guild?** Altar guild prepares the altar each week for communion. Members set-up the communion table, usually on Saturday, finish set-up before the service on Sunday, and then cleanup after the service.

Each member of altar guild commits to a weekend that works best with their schedule, usually about once per month. The commitment is only about 40 minutes. total. Everyone, men, women and families, can find out more about altar guild by stopping in

the sacristy (the room to the right of the altar) after Sunday service or by contacting the Pastors, or Sue Underberg at 262-719-7898.

Another opportunity to assist with altar set-up is even more behind the scenes. Each week some of the communion linens are soiled and need to be washed. Ideally, the linens would be returned the next Sunday. This is a job that could be done by one or more individuals. Again, just stop by the sacristy, or contact the Pastors or Sue Underberg .

New Member Orientation

It has been some time since we have had a New Member session for those people who are interested in becoming members of Trinity Lutheran. Generally we have held two of these New Member sessions twice each year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Pastor Tim will be holding our **Spring New Member Orientation on Thursday February 16 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

The New Member Orientation is designed to help people get connected to the life and ministry of the congregation. We will include time to get to know one another, learn about some of the programs of the church and give people time to ask questions.

Since we have not held

one of these sessions for a couple years anyone new to Trinity Lutheran is encouraged to attend even if you have already officially joined.

The orientation time is a vital step in serving well at Trinity. It also allows the Pastors to get to know new people in a more intentional way. This gathering is designed to help us see that we are not just joining a church but that we are on a mission together for Jesus.

If you are interested in attending and still have questions please contact Pastor Tim directly. You can email at: tvadis@cometotrinity.com or call 715-362-4258 (office) or 715-437-0774 (cell).

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Our giving is done first, as a joyful and faithful response to God's gift of grace in Christ.

Our gifts are joyfully given so that the ministries of ones congregation can grow and be vibrant in the proclamation of Christ and God's grace.

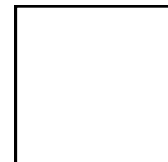
Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Year-to-Date Through December 31, 2022

	Year-To-Date	December
INCOME:	\$118,614	\$34,888
EXPENSE:	\$117,163	\$36,300



2023 Offering Envelopes should have arrived in January. If you have not received yours, please contact Marina in the church office. Additionally, if you have not received envelopes in the past and would like some, we can provide those too!

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Address Service Requested

Come to Trinity, go out to serve!



715.362.4258



tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com



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