

The New Trinity Times

- TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL -

FEBRUARY 2025

Lombard, Illinois



Lutheran Schools Week *by Abby Pilny*

Lutheran Schools Week is one week out of the school year when we have some fun while praising God. In fact, Trinity's is coming up March 2 through 7! And guess what? We are kicking off the week, with the students singing in Sunday morning church and we hope that you all can make it. On Monday, the **older students will be able to read with and to the younger students**. It will also be **Hat Day** where you can wear any hat you can find in your closet. On Tuesday, all of the students will wear their **Trinity spirit wear** because

we will probably have a **field trip!** On Wednesday, we will all **wear something nice**. We are starting the season of Lent with an **Ash Wednesday church service**. On Thursday, stay comfy while wearing your pajamas because it's **Pajama Day** and we'll eat

breakfast in the gym. On Friday, it is going to be a **half day**. But that's not all, it's **Grandparents Day!** Bring your grandparents or family members for some **fun activities** and **Chapel**. Watch for updates via JupiterEd and on take home notes, but that's an early peek at the plans for Trinity's celebration of **Lutheran Schools Week**.

- February 21: Hot Cocoa \$1
- February 25: Hot Lunch - Mostaccioli
- February 26: Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
- March 2: Students Sing in church, 9 a.m.
- March 2-7: Lutheran Schools Week
- March 4: Hot Lunch - Pizza
- March 5: Ash Wednesday, Lent begins, Midweek Church Service, 11 a.m., Lent Hot Lunch
- March 7: Grandparent's Day, Early dismissal, 11:30 a.m.
- March 11: Hot Lunch - Mac 'n' Cheese
- March 12: Midweek Church Service, 11 a.m., Lent Hot Lunch
- March 18: Hot Lunch - Hot Dog
- March 19: Midweek Church Service, 11 a.m., Lent Hot Lunch
- March 24-28: Spring Break - NO SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

[continued on page 2]

Plans We Had for Valentine's Day

by Ariana Mehrazar

Valentine's Day is a day for everyone, whether you have a Valentine or not. Valentine's Day has come and gone on the fourteenth of February, last Friday. But hopefully, you had opportunity to eat some pink sugar cookies, red velvet cake, or even some candy hearts! Trinity's 5th through 8th grade students shared their plans for Valentine's Day, so you can get some ideas on what you could do - or not do (?) - for next Valentine's Day!

Fifth and Sixth Grade

Bobby: "We never have plans for Valentine's Day."
 Chloe: "I don't know."
 Juliana: "Probably just chill."
 Arian: "No comment."
 John: "Probably play Roblox."
 Abby: "Ship to random people for absolutely no reason."
 Joshua: "Sharing my valentine's with everybody."

Seventh and Eighth Grade

Sophia: "Doing the worm on tables that people are eating dinner at as a date."
 Addison: "Scream Crush Culture by Conan Gray and remind myself that I am happy."
 Ariana: "Getting Valentines for my family and friends - and spreading the love."
 Ava: "Listen to CERTAIN music. *cough* *cough*"
 Damian: "I don't know."
 Kellen: "I'ma go on a date with my friend, a ginger."
 Angelina: "Me, myself, and I."



UPCOMING EVENTS

[continued from page 1]

- April 1: Hot Lunch - Pizza
- April 2: Midweek Church Service, 11 a.m., Lent Hot Lunch
- April 8: Hot Lunch - Mac 'n' Cheese
- April 9: Midweek Church Service, 11 a.m., Lent Hot Lunch
- April 15: Hot Lunch - Hot Dog
- April 17: Maundy Thursday, Early dismissal, 11:30 a.m.
- April 18: Good Friday - NO SCHOOL
- April 20: Easter Sunday - CHRIST IS RISEN, Sunrise Church Service 7 a.m., Easter Breakfast, 8:30 a.m., Easter Church Service, 10 a.m.
- April 21: Easter Monday - NO SCHOOL

5 THINGS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW about St. Patrick

- 1 He wasn't Irish: Patrick was captured by Irish pirates and brought to Ireland from Roman-Britain in the early 5th Century.
- 2 He experienced a (mystical) vision of the Irish asking him to teach them about Christ.
- 3 Having become a Bishop, he was sent back to Ireland. He preached first to the members of the royal family, and soon his audience grew. He used the druid rituals as evangelizing tools.
- 4 He used a shamrock to explain the Trinity because the Irish had a love for nature.
- 5 He instituted what is known as the Croagh Patrick Hike, where he prayed that Ireland would always keep its Christian Faith. To this day, young and old hikers follow that famous route in pilgrimage.

Happy St. Patrick's day!

MARCH 17



ASH WEDNESDAY

by Ariana Mehrazar

Ash Wednesday starts on the same day as Lent does — March 5, 2025. We should start preparing for it. But, what happens on Ash

Wednesday, you may ask? Well, the people will form a line in between the pews, and will receive ash in the shape of a cross on their foreheads from the pastor. The pastor will say, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Lent came first, its 40 days mirroring Biblical events like Jesus’s time in the desert. Easter’s date was fixed in 325 AD, but Lent’s start wasn’t set until 601 AD — when Ash Wednesday was also first observed. The ashes represent repentance and mortality, and are made from burned palms from the previous Palm Sunday, linking Lent to Holy Week.

Ash Wednesday is soon. We should start getting ready the same way we should be getting ready for Lent: Praying, growing our faith and love for God, following the 10 commandments, reading the bible, sharing the word of the Gospel, and so much more.

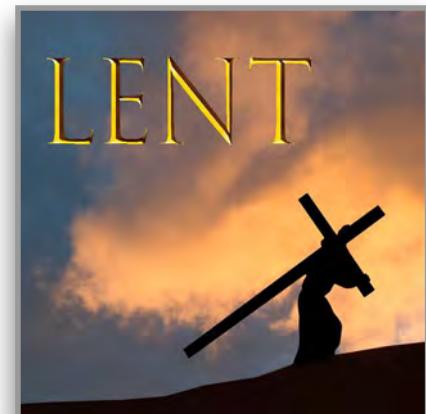
Lent

by Ariana Mehrazar

In the next month, March, Lent will start—specifically on March 5, 2025. Lent is a season of the church year that follows the Epiphany Season. There are two guiding rules: the baptized should grow their faith and love to Jesus, and we should be humble, while simultaneously maintaining a hopeful focus on God’s triumph celebrated at Easter. The purpose of Lent is to prepare for Easter through prayer and self-discipline.

Lent, which is the 40 days before Easter, began after 325 AD. It had started as a time of fasting for new Christians before their Easter baptism. Everyone in the church observed it, soon. The exact length and rules varied, until Pope Gregory I standardized it around 600 AD. The Pope set the start as Ash Wednesday — 46 days before Easter (excluding Sundays), with a daily fast until after 3 p.m., avoiding meat, fish, and dairy.

Lent will be starting soon. Make sure to keep praying, greater your faith and love to God, read the Bible, follow the ten commandments and also spread the Gospel!



Trinity's Lent Mid-Week Services:

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES – Wednesday, March 5

11 a.m. (Central) – IN PERSON & online & 6 p.m. (Central) – IN PERSON

MID-WEEK SERVICES – Wednesday, March 12, 19, April 2, & 9

11 a.m. (Central) – IN PERSON & online

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDIES –

Wednesday, March 12, 19, April 2, & 9

6 p.m. (Central) – IN PERSON & online

National Student Volunteer Day

by Angelina Iverson

On February 20th every year it is National Student Volunteer Day. This motivates students to volunteer and participate in jobs in the community or other places. It also promotes others to volunteer more. Most volunteering does not include getting compensation for the work.

Some really good examples of where to volunteer are; The animal shelter where you can help all sorts of animals, local libraries, a school, museums, and many more places.



The first volunteer organization that was organized in the U.S. was actually a firehouse founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1736. That means that this has been going on for over 250 years old! The Young Men's Christian Society had started in the United States around 1851. This association had many volunteers going out and helping and supporting American Soldiers during the War.

This is a great sign to start volunteering around your town or school, or you can even start at your own house!



POKEMON DAY IS COMING

by Bobby Hawn

Pokemon Day is the day that Pokemon announces everything new for their video games and card games. We will talk about when it will happen, why we started it, and what we can expect this year.

Pokemon day is on Thursday, February 27, 2025. Pokemon Day started when Pokemon Japan released Pokemon Red and Green for the Gameboy on December 21, 2025. Then when it transferred to America as Red and Blue, it was scheduled to be released on February 27, which is now Pokemon Day.

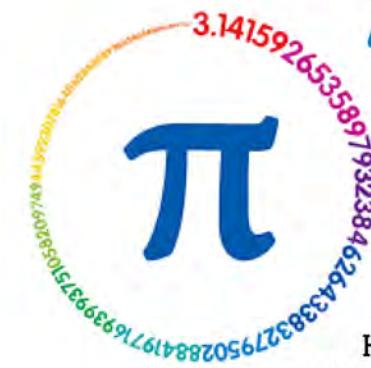
This year we can expect games for the Switch and Switch 2, which will release later in 2025. There is one game we can expect for Pokemon Day 2025, it is...

POKEMON LEGENDS Z-A!! It will take place in past Kalos, which is from Pokemon X and Y. This is the second game in the Legends series as the first was Pokemon Legends Arceus, which was the past of Sinnoh which was from Pokemon Diamond and Pearl.



We can also expect a large amount of NEW Pokemon card sets. Last year we got over five amazing sets and surely it'll be even better this year as cards from Legends Z-A will come out and no doubt those cards will be good.

So, are YOU as excited as I am for Pokemon day 2025? If you are then let's see what we will get on POKEMON DAY 2025!!!



ATTENTION: Pi Day is Coming *by Sophia Garcia*

Pi Day, or March 14 (3.14), is a day to celebrate the mathematical sign known as *pi* which is a never ending number. March 14 was chosen because of it being the first three digits of *pi*. It also happens to be Albert Einstein's birthday.

Pi Day - My Birthday *by Kellen Pilny*

Having Pi Day as my birthday isn't that bad, though it does have its downsides.

Usually being born on a holiday, or special day causes complications, like what to celebrate and when. But there are only a handful of downsides. Like having your social media flooded with pi and math. And I'm not the only person who was born on March 14, Albert Einstein was also born on March 14!

Being born on March 14 is cool though, it's honestly a pretty normal day considering how pi day isn't even that big of a deal. And it's also a fun thing to bring up when anyone brings up my birthday. It makes it a little easier to make small talk.

Pi Day isn't that bad of a day either. Pi is very important. It has been used for over 250 years, and is an essential part of math. Pi is the Greek letter π , which is the first letter of both the word **periphery** and the word **perimeter**. And as we all know, pi is the ratio of a circle's periphery to its diameter. And another cool thing about pi is that it's irrational, and goes on forever.

Overall, being born on Pi Day doesn't cause very many complications, and actually is a pretty useful conversation starter, even considering that it's a pretty mundane topic. Pi is useful though, it's been around for so long, and is such an important part of math - and mathematicians need it. I enjoy being born on that day anyways, it's a really cool day with a lot of historical value in it.

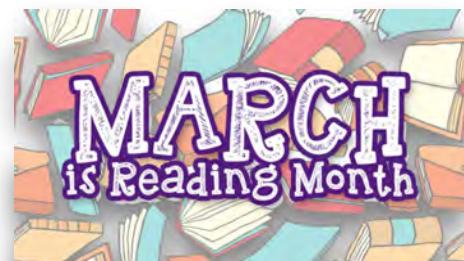
NATIONAL READING MONTH

by Angelina Iverson and Addison Meredith

March is National Reading Month. Reading is very important, and can be very helpful in your lifetime. There are so many different kinds of books. According to a study by Google Books there are about 129,864,880 physical books in the world. That is a lot of books, so there has to be at least one book out there that you can enjoy. Even if you don't like reading there is an alternative, audio books. Reading is much healthier for your mind than playing video games, scrolling on your phone, or watching television.

When you read there are so many healthy benefits, such as: reducing stress, boosting creativity, improving sleep, building a stronger vocabulary, deepening knowledge, increasing empathy, improving memory, focusing better, elevating writing skills. Readers live longer, exercise their imagination, improve their mental health, while helping to prevent cognitive decline. Reading exercises the brain and improves sleep. It helps relieve depression, while improving your mood and expanding analytical skills. Reading reduces stress, improves literacy, supercharges brain function and communication prowess. If you want to make reading even healthier, read outside in the vitamin D saturating sunshine or workout while listening to an audio book.

There are so many ways to enjoy reading, so during the month of March, reap the benefits and give reading a try.



THE MILKY WAY GALAXY

by Ava Harrison



Have you ever heard of the Milky Way? The Milky Way is the galaxy our solar system is inside. The Milky Way is a barred spiral. It was at first thought of as a spiral galaxy but after further study it was revealed to be a barred spiral galaxy.

Did you know there are no real photos of the Milky Way. They are just illustrations. The galaxy is way too large for us to be able to get that far away to get a big enough picture. We physically cannot get a photo yet because it would take around 35,000 years to get out of the Milky Way Galaxy and even longer to get far enough away to get a full frame photo. We

know what they look like because of telescopes.

Fun Facts:

- According to our current scientific understanding there is a supermassive black hole at almost every large galaxy, including ours.
- The Milky Way has about 300 billion stars.
- The Milky Way Galaxy is considered a medium sized galaxy compared to other galaxies.
- The Milky Way is a twisted shape at both ends and is not actually a straight line like most pictures depict.
- It rotates at a speed of 155 miles per second around its center.

Size:

The Milky Way is about 1,000,000,000,000,000 km, 621371192237333900 miles, or 100,000 light years across. The sun does not lie near the center of the galaxy.

No one and nothing has ever left the Milky Way. The farthest probe we have sent which took almost 50 years to get to its location of 162 astronomical units was Voyager 1. An astronomical unit is the average distance between earth and the Sun. This is not even 0.002 light years from the inner solar system. Hypothetically it would take Voyager 1 468 million years to travel to the center of the galaxy. It would take almost 1.9 billion years to cover the distance of the width. The solar system occupies a very small percentage of the Milky Way Galaxy. It is estimated to be less than 0.001% of its total volume.

The Milky Way Galaxy will collide with its nearest neighbor, the Andromeda Galaxy, in about four billion years. They are currently hurtling toward each other at 250,000 miles an hour. Earth will likely survive and very few stars will actually be destroyed and instead the newly formed mega galaxy will offer a night skyscape with a spectacular blend of stars unlike anything we can see today. I hope you learned something about our galaxy, the Milky Way.

DID YOU KNOW? The Milky Way candy bar was created in 1923 by Frank C. Mars in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was named after a popular malted milk drink of the time, not the galaxy.



All About Beluga Whales *by Juliana Rivera*

Unlike most other whales, the Beluga has a very flexible neck that enables it to nod and turn its head in all directions. Beluga whales are mammals. Their diet is carnivorous, which means they eat meat. A group of Belugas is called a pod. They can live up to 35 to 50 years in the wild.

These creatures can grow to be 13 to 20 feet long and their weight can log in between one and to one and a half tons. The Beluga, also known as the White Whale, is one of the smallest species of whale. Their distinctive color and prominent foreheads make them easily identifiable. Belugas are social animals and vocal communicators using a diversified language of clicks, whistles, and clangs. Belugas can also copy a variety of other sounds. The whale is related to the tusked "unicorn" whale known as the Narwhal.



She Said They Were Carnivores...

Here's a whale of a tale. Adrián Simancas was out kayaking with his dad down in the Chilean Patagonia, when all the sudden a humpback whale shows up.



SWALLOWED BY WHALE

The whale scooped him up. Adrián probably thought he was the Biblical Jonah 2.0.

But seconds later, and what must've felt like hours, the whale spat him out. Turns out hard-plastic kayaks aren't on the menu.

Adrián said later, "I thought I'd died - it was like, of course, a lot of terror."

Good thing his dad was there to capture the moment, and otherwise keep his cool.

Everybody's safe now, though Adrián says he's probably swearing off seafood for a while.

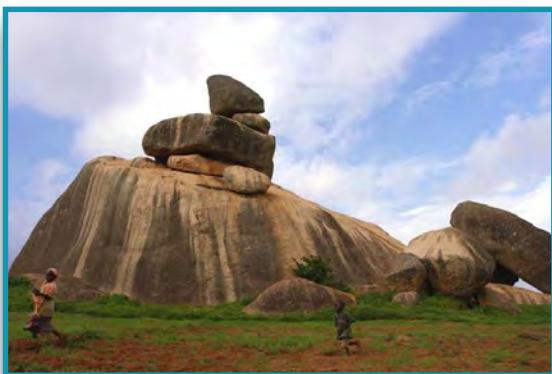
Source: The World and Everything in It and The US Sun

"And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish...And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land." ***Jonah 1:17, 2:1,10***

Serving in Nigeria *by Angelina Iverson*

In our chapel service on January 22, 2025, there was a visitor who was the father of one of Trinity's students. Mr. Camiola, or what others call him in Africa, Coach, came to tell us about his ministry. He is from New York and grew up in a family that didn't follow Jesus, but he devoted his life to Jesus at age 17 and now calls Jos, Nigeria, his home.

At the moment Africa is the fourth most populated continent, and by the end of the century it will become the second most populated country. There are 54 countries according to some people but there could also be 55 or 56 depending on the person you ask. Mr. Camiola talked about how long it takes him to get to Jos, Nigeria, which is around a full day and a couple hours to get there. In Nigeria Mr. Camiola has opened a cafe, a school that teaches about God, a garden, and so much more.



In Nigeria

by Juliana Rivera, Abby Pilny, and Chloe Doolin

In Jos, Nigeria, where the Camiola family has their ministry there are rocks that are cool looking (see photo of Riyom Rock above). In 20 years it will be the fourth most populous place in Africa. They do not have lions, giraffes, or zebras in Nigeria. Mr. Camiola was born into a Mafia family. Mr. Camiola came to Christ at seventeen years old. Has eight children, four biological and four adopted. In Nigeria the teachers can hit the children for discipline, in order to counter that the Camiola family has been running one Christian school and will soon open another. The Camiolas have also opened a coffee shop, and other businesses to help provide jobs for people in Jos.



John Camiola

by Bobby Hawn and John Doerries

John Camiola and his wife operate a ministry. They work to help Nigerians in Nigeria. Here is more about John Camiola.

His wife's name is Missy (also known as Melissa). They have eight different children, four children are biological, and four children are adopted. The town he lives in inside of Nigeria is called Jos, which means Jesus Our Savior. They have created a lot of jobs for people in Jos, training people to be tailors, running a baking school, a coffee shop (see photo of Tin City Cafe below), and a Christian school.

What we found really interesting is that John Camiola's dad was part of the Italian Mafia!

John's wears a long beard, because he will look like a Muslim and blend in when he travels to northern Nigeria. Otherwise it would be unsafe for him in that part of Nigeria, where there is a lot kidnapping and killing.





Serving in Nigeria *by Ava Harrison*

John Camiola is a ministry worker who serves in Nigeria. Why Nigeria?

In 2005, he and his wife went on a short-term mission trip to Nigeria. They loved it - and missions. When they went on the trip, they met nice people and decided to move there.

They got approval to open a safe house for victims of human trafficking. It was a facility to house and protect girls and women and teach them life skills (see photo of Grace Gardens at left).

They've lived in Nigeria since 2009. They live and work in Jos (Jesus Our Savior) with the goal of showing the love of Christ in their community.

James 2:14-17 inspires the Camiolas' heart for ministry. They believe that God's love compels us to love others.

The Camiolas serve as missionaries in Jos, Nigeria, and are committed to rescuing women and children from human trafficking and providing relief for persecuted Christians.

Serving in Nigeria *by Ariana Mehrazar*

On January 22, 2025, Mr. Camiola came to our school to talk about and present his ministry. Even though he was born in New York, and is half Italian and half Spanish, he calls Jos, Nigeria, in Africa, his home – and he told us how Africa does not have much wildlife.

Jos stands for "Jesus Our Savior." Mr. Camiola, or Coach, wants to share the Gospel and help people in need. In Nigeria, the unemployment rate is 70%. Fun fact, Africa will be the fourth most populated continent in the world, and by the end of the century, it will be the second most populated continent.

Sadly, they also have the highest rate of human trafficking. Mr. Camiola helps people with small business setups, has a baking school, teaches people how to tend to crops in Grace Gardens, with 30 green houses that feed people, and even teaches widows and other women some skills they might need to live on.

The Camiola family had a short-term mission trip to Nigeria in 2005, and Mr. Camiola was amazing at relating with the children. Mr. and Mrs. Camiola have eight children – four children being biological, and four children being adopted.

Many children in Nigerian schools are typically hit or beaten by teachers. Mr. Camiola's wife, Mrs. Camiola, didn't like this, for obvious reasons. As a result, she decided to open a school called Grace and Hope American Academy (see photo at right), which has books from the United States.

Mrs. Camiola is not a teacher, but she serves as an administrator in charge of the other teachers – and makes sure they are doing their jobs. In August, a new school will be set up for six hundred children. This new school will be nine hours away from where the Camiolas live. Both schools intentionally teach about Jesus and preach the Gospel. Mr. Camiola was not born in a Christian household but committed to Christ as a junior in high school.



We were all very happy and excited to learn about Mr. Camiola's ministry. At the end, he gave all of us a Nigerian bill! We would need 15,000 of those bills for it to equal a dollar.

It'd be great to learn more about his ministry you can do so online at www.servinginnigeria.com.

Serving in Nigeria

by Kellen Pilny, Arian Gomez, and Sophia Garcia



During chapel service, Coach C came to Trinity and told us about Nigeria and what it is like to live there. He told us some funny things, like how people find his beard scary, and some interesting facts about him and his life, like how he has eight children, four biological children and four adopted children (see family photo at left). One of them even comes to our school (see photo of Joshua below)!

Coach C's parents were both immigrants, and his father was in the Italian Mafia. Which would make you think he would have a pretty strange life, or have connections to dangerous ties, but he is actually a very interesting person.

Coach C owns 33 houses where he farms, grows food, and more. He absolutely loves farming, and he considers his staff as extended family, because they all are close and work together so well. Coach feels like it's his job to spread the Gospel. Coach also owns 25 companies in total.

Coach C runs a bakery in Nigeria called the "Tin City Bakery." He even started a baking school. He loves taking care of people and being a good person. He takes care of ex-human trafficking victims and introduces them to God and Christianity. And in Nigeria, it is dangerous during the night, due to the very high rate of human trafficking/kidnapping.

Schools in Nigeria usually allow hitting the students for discipline, but Coach C didn't think that this was an appropriate form of education and discipline, so he started his own school. Coach C and his wife operate a Christian school in Nigeria where they don't allow any sort of physical punishment, which is rare to find in Africa. He also uses books for education, whereas other schools in Nigeria make students just go off of memory.

One startling fact about Africa is that 25% of the population is in Nigeria! And Africa is made up of mostly Muslims and Christians in its 54 countries. Africa is home to some unique and interesting natural rock structures and there are some very dramatic ones in Jos, Nigeria, where Coach C lives. Despite the popular idea of African safaris, Africa isn't really a heavily animal-populated place, as the people have eaten much of the animal wildlife.

Nigeria is not perfect. Many people, including children, are beaten, or sold into slavery. And as mentioned before, there's a high rate of kidnapping and child trafficking that takes place during the evening hours. People are sometimes so fanatically religious there; they would even kill people of another religion for being in their territory. (Hopefully, Christians would not do this!)



The New Trinity Times is a monthly newsletter produced by the 5th through 8th grade students of Trinity Lutheran School in Lombard, Illinois. The 2024-2025 staff members are: Addison, Abigail, Angelina, Arian, Ariana, Ava, Bobby, Chloe, Damian, John, Joshua, Juliana, Kellen, and Sophia, under the direction of Mrs. Lori Solyom, journalism teacher.