

LENTEN PROJECT 2026

acts of love & kindness

SERVE IDEAS



PROJECT DETAILS, VOLUNTEER & DONATION LINKS:
SCAN, TEXT **LENT** TO TRINITY 952.473.8577 OR SEE DISPLAY

week one: serving those in need

outreach partner: *Coated in Love* – provides hope, help, and resources to people experiencing homelessness and those in need. Their annual one-day event, *3000 Acts of Kindness*, brings their mission into action.

ways to help:

- *Donate gently used coats and winter boots (bin at Trinity).*
- *Assemble a Blessing Bag for someone in need (Ziploc with socks, water, snacks, ChapStick, band-aids, etc.).*
- *Send a note to someone to show you care.*
- *Share a smile with 10 people today.*
- *Support neighbors through Trinity's Amazon Wish List or financial donation. Text AMAZON to Trinity.*
- *Meet someone new and make a friend.*

reflection: How did it feel to show kindness this week? What did we learn about loving others as God loves us?
prayer: *God, help us see the needs of others and serve them with love. Amen*

week two: serving with an open heart

outreach partner: *Simpson Housing Services* – started in 1982 as an emergency overnight shelter at Simpson United Methodist Church. For over 40 years, Simpson has helped people experiencing homelessness, providing shelter, meals, and support for those in crisis.

ways to help:

- *Donate new men's t-shirts, underwear, and washcloths (bin at Trinity).*
- *Check in with someone who is lonely (bring flowers or a treat).*
- *Sort household items to donate to Bridging (see table for listing).*
- *Pay for someone behind you at the coffee shop.*
- *Volunteer for Simpson lunches through Trinity. Text SIMPSON to Trinity.*
- *Attend the **Kindness & Love Service Fair** on **March 15**, following worship.*

reflection: What feelings come up when thinking about homelessness? How can God soften our hearts toward those in need?

prayer: *Lord, thank you for showing us how to love. Help us share kindness daily. Amen*

week three: sharing joy & encouragement

outreach partner: Salem Lutheran Church – located in North Minneapolis, Salem is a partner of Trinity that welcomes all who are seeking God's love and grace. They serve the community through fellowship, worship, and outreach programs, creating spaces for connection and encouragement.

ways to help:

- Write a thank-you note to a teacher or coach.
- Invite someone new to sit with you or play with you.
- Volunteer at Salem's Community Meals (see Trinity signups or text SALEM to Trinity).
- Call a relative or cousin you haven't spoken to in a while.
- Donate small bottles of soap, shampoo, conditioner, and lotion for personal care kits.
- Help at the **Kindness & Love Service Fair** on **March 15**, following worship.

reflection: How can a simple thank-you note brighten someone's day? Have you received encouraging words?

prayer: Lord, may our words and actions bring joy to others. Amen

week four: loving our neighbors

outreach partner: IOCP – for nearly 50 years, the Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners has served as a safety net for people living in Western Hennepin County, right here in our community. IOCP offers food, clothing, financial assistance, and other resources to help neighbors in need.

ways to help:

- Donate food items during MN FoodShare Month (see listing on table).
- Fill a Little Free Library with books you no longer use.
- Donate to IOCP's store or volunteer (Trinity shift or Second Harvest Heartland). Text IOCP to Trinity.
- Write a note to a neighbor or someone you haven't seen in a while.
- Count your fridge items and donate that many quarters to a food shelf.

reflection: How does giving help us appreciate what we already have?

prayer: Jesus, help us love our neighbors as you love us. Amen

week five: being a light in the world

outreach partner: ODC – Outreach Development Corporation and its housing partners address complex affordable housing challenges, transforming them into life-changing solutions. By partnering with organizations like IOCP and Habitat for Humanity, ODC provides families with stable housing and support for a brighter future.

ways to help:

- Set the table or help clean up without being asked.
- Donate a quarter for each door, window, and room in your home to a housing organization.
- Sign up for a future Habitat for Humanity build day. Text HABITAT to Trinity.
- Create a Welcome Home Kit for a family moving into housing (see table for ideas).

reflection: Is it easier to show kindness through big actions or small everyday gestures? Why?

prayer: Jesus, help us be a light for others through kindness and love. Amen