



Senior Recognition Sunday

Trinity's Mission

As a Christian community we spread the Good News, grow in faith, discover and use our gifts to serve God, and care for all people.

Please continue to be respectful of others' choices and boundaries regarding masking and distancing. If you are feeling ill, remember you can worship from home via the radio or Facebook Live.

WELCOME!

Hymns and Liturgy pages in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red) hymnal

* = Congregation stands; feel free to remain seated as needed.

Prelude

Welcome / Announcements

Service of the Word

GATHERING

Choral Call to Worship

Jesus, We Are Gathered
Trinity Choir

Confession and Forgiveness*

p. 211 (right column)

Gathering Hymn 379*

Now the Green Blade Rises

Greeting*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Kyrie*

p. 213

Canticle of Praise*

Glory to God in the Highest

p. 213-215

Prayer of the Day*

O God, nourish our life in your Son's resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of his love and know the fullness of your joy. We pray for all this in your name. Amen.

Anthem

Crusader's Hymn (Beautiful Savior),
Arr. by Frederick Wick; Performed by the Trinity Choir

Children's Sermon

WORD

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip. LISTEN now to what the SPIRIT is saying to the CHURCH.

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."
(This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was

an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:25-31

read responsively

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
**those who seek him shall praise the Lord.
May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
**before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.**

³⁰Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,

³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love. LISTEN now to what the SPIRIT is saying to the CHURCH.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation*

p. 216

Gospel*

John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Easter is from John, chapter 15, verses 1 through 8: **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing. LISTEN now to the GOOD NEWS the SPIRIT is bringing to the CHURCH:

¹(Jesus is speaking to his disciples) "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot

bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

“The Branch in Me”

Pastor Elizabeth Hermeier

Hymn of the Day 449

We Know that Christ is Raised

Offering will be received during the hymn.

Blessing of our High School Graduates

Seniors and Parents — please come to the rail

Psalm 20: A Psalm of Blessing read responsively

¹May the Lord answer you when you are in distress;
may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.

²**May he send you help from the sanctuary
and grant you support from Zion.**

³May he remember all your sacrifices and
accept your burnt offerings.

⁴**May he give you the desire of your heart
and make all your plans succeed.**

⁵May we shout for joy over your victory
and lift up our banners in the name of our God.

May the Lord grant all your requests.

⁶Now this I know: The Lord gives victory to his anointed.

**He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary
with the victorious power of his right hand.**

⁷Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

Amen.

continued→



(Parents—drape quilts/blankets over your senior.)

PARENTS AND CONGREGATION: May this day and these quilts and blankets be a reminder for you of your family at home and your family at church. You are a gift from God. You have been a blessing to us. Wherever you go, our love goes with you. Whatever you do, you will always be in our hearts. May you always know that in God's family, you are never alone; we bless you in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.



(Seniors kneel; parents lay hands upon them.)

P: Loving God, we ask your blessing on these young people as they enter a new time in their lives of faith. Bless them and grant them your gifts:

Joy – as they live their lives of faith in the world;

Openness – to hear your word and share in your supper;

Eagerness – to share you in thought, word and deed;

Dedication – to serve all people following your example;

Confidence – to seek you for daily guidance.

C: Amen

The Apostles' Creed*

hymnal — inside front cover

Prayers of Intercession*

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need of good news.

(Silence for Reflection.)

After each petition: P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Receive our prayers.**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **C: Amen.**

Sharing The Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING

Canticle of Thanksgiving* *Salvation Belongs to Our God* p. 219
Offering brought forward during the hymn

Thanksgiving for the Word* p. 220

The Lord's Prayer* p. 221

Blessing* p. 221

Sending Hymn 881* *Let All Things Now Living*

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



Today's **Media Ministry** on **KVIK 104.7 FM** and **Facebook Live** is given in honor of Trinity's Youth; and especially our Seniors on this special day.

PRAYER WORKS!! Please include the following people in your prayers. Prayer requests? Please call the office, 498-5291. Thank you.



For Healing & Strength: Judy Bratland, Linda Nerstad-Kemp, D Wennes, Ricky Rud, Wilder Sherburne, Lorna Kasten, Connie Simon, Brian Henkel, Geri Worden, Judy Tollefsrud, Karson Betcher, Lori Vesterse, Terry "Rudy" Simon, Ione Selness, Janet Fossum, Pr. Bob Stoskopf, Nadia Wold, Lois Steele, Lisa Ochwat, Linda Tollefsrud, Paul Morken, Laurie (Hagen) Jensen, Lucas AJ Wiste, Mary Amundson, Anna Bingham Yearous, Rachel Krenzke, Mavis Johnsrud, and Jennifer Wedmann.

For Blessing & Guidance: Our High School Graduating Seniors.

For the Bereaved: Family & Friends of Edith Johnson.



We also pray for our congregations in the SEMN Synod and our global Lutheran partners in Colombia, Tanzania, and South Sudan:

Dale Lutheran, Kenyon Deer Creek Valley Lutheran, Glenville
Fountain Lutheran Church Mazoezi Singa Lutheran, Tanzania
Ntwike Lutheran, Tanzania
Seniors Programming Soacha, Colombia



Congratulations!!

We're so happy and proud of you.

May God's blessings follow you through
your life wherever you may go.

Maria Juliet Albrecht | Austin Jody Conway

Ellie Mae Halverson | Elijah Michael Solum

Jaxon Christopher Strinmoen

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Today, April 28—Senior Recognition Sunday

Pastor: Elizabeth Hermeier

Musician: Bethany Engen **Lector:** Milly Halverson

Acolytes: Liam Rohland, Chase Peterson

Trinity Choir: Scott Solberg, director

Fellowship Hosts: Bev Nelson, Roxie Finnesgard, Barb Gulbranson

498-AMEN: April 21-May 4...Lara Wold Mendez

April Usher Team: Phil Griffin (captain), Steve Hagen, Ron Onsgard, Aaron Solum, and Mike Solum

Next Sunday, May 5

Lector: Ruth Johnsrud **Acolytes:** Rohland Bjerke, Tyler Turner

Communion Servers: Janice Messner, Jacque Wennes

Fellowship Hosts: Steve & Joyce Bergrud, Jeff & Sue Engen

498-AMEN: May 5-18...Terry Holland

May Usher Team: Dana Kjome, Blaine Liudahl, Curt Roverud,
Alfred Wendel

May Altar Guild: Dawn Hewitt (chair), Milly Halverson, Carolyn
Kampschroer, Carolyn Olson, Carol Sherburne

NEWS

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL will be **May 12**, which is also Mother's Day. **Wednesday Bible School** activities are done for the year. Thanks to all of the families that participated in these programs. Look for information about our fall programming in the August newsletter. Also, **Thank You** to all the volunteers who provided treats for Wednesday Bible School attendees this year. Also, Special Thanks to Pr Lane and Pr Len for leading Release Time during the school year!

TRINITY YOUTH AND PARENTS – watch your mail this week for information on the **Syttende Mai Meatball Dinner**: Our youth will be serving dinner on Sunday, May 19, from 10:30 a.m. until gone. This year, we are offering limited in-house dining (up to 125 tickets). Meals are \$13 each and it includes meatballs, gravy, potatoes, glazed carrots, lefse, bun, rømmegrøt and dessert. Watch the newsletter and next week's bulletin for more information.

Trinity Post-Secondary Scholarships Available Students in your 2nd-4th year of college — remember Trinity has a scholarship opportunity for you through our Scholarship Endowment! **Deadline to apply for the scholarship is Wednesday, May 29**. Applications are in the office or on our website.

“TO BE—TOGETHER SINGING ONE” An Evening Spring Concert will be presented **Next Sunday, May 5, at 7 p.m.** at Decorah Lutheran Church, at 309 Winnebago Street. This annual concert features **The Luren Singers, Luther College Norskkor** (freshmen male chorus), and Decorah Middle School's **Viking Voices** and the High School's **Bass Clef Ensembles**. Several Trinity members sing with Luren. The free-will offering collected will go to the Decorah Area Food Pantry. Refreshments will follow the concert. **Join Us!!**

Update from Finance Team Lead, Jacque Wennes

What a glorious return to Spring Grove seeing the steeple glowing as we came home from Arizona. The Finance Team is happy to report that the steeple fund has paid in full for the repairs and replacement of slate with the ornaments on Trinity's steeple as voted at the 2023 Annual Meeting. Trinity is approximately \$10,000 shy in the windows restoration fund in order to complete the window restoration of the west windows on the church. Trinity is extremely grateful for those who participate in preserving a central icon in Spring Grove to carry on God's Work through our hands.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sun. 4/28	8:50 a.m.	Senior Recognition Sunday Choir Rehearsal, FH Worship
	9:15 a.m.	
	10:15 a.m.	Fellowship & Reception for Seniors
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Wed. 5/1	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation, FH
	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
	7:15 p.m.	Outreach Team, FH
	8:00 p.m.	Choir, Sanctuary
Fri. 5/3	9:00 a.m.	Love Day, FH (rescheduled from Fri. 4/26)
	7:00 p.m.	NA, TC
Sat. 5/4	10:30 a.m.	AA, TC
	5:00 p.m.	Worship with Holy Communion and Holy Baptism for Ole Miles Wilhelmson
Sun. 5/5	9:15 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School

LOOKING AHEAD

May 11	SEMN Synod Assembly in Mankato
May 19	Syttende Mai Meatball Dinner
May 29	Community Baccalaureate Service, Sanctuary

FH=Fellowship Hall MR=Middle Room YGR=Youth Gathering Room
 TC=Trinity Ceneter Hand sanitizer is available at all entrances.

Welcome

We're Glad You're Here

- I am visiting today. *Welcome! Please join us again!*
- I would like the pastor to contact me.
- I would like to receive the church newsletter:
 - via email
 - via mail
- I would like to receive the weekly email.
- I would like to know more about joining Trinity Lutheran.

Please tear off this page and drop it into the offering or hand it to an usher. Thank you!

Today's Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Prayer request / Additional Information:

Mother's Day Weekend Event Come to the Trinity Center on Saturday, May 11 from 1-4 to celebrate mothers and the little people who make it all worthwhile. Space is available for mothers of all ages to do crafting, sewing, or other soul-fulfilling activities, a nap room (Bring Your Own Blankets), and Activity Rooms for older children available upstairs, complete with Legos, diamond art, paper crafts, and other kid oriented things to do. A light snack will be provided. Please inform us of any food allergies. Please contact Charity Schroeder at 319-360-3107 or email her at charityschroeder75@gmail.com if you're interested in attending. Note: RSVP is needed for children 4 and under due to their special supervision needs, and highly recommended for children 5 and above. A free will donation will help cover the costs of the event.

Trinity Lutheran Church



Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 10am - 4pm
(507) 498-5291 ▪ trinityspringgrove@gmail.com ▪ www.trinitysg.org

Pastor: Elizabeth Hermeier **Visitation Pastor:** Lane Zaffke
Support Staff: Marlene Deschler, Stewart Storlie **Bookkeeper:** Nicole Krenzke
Organist: Rachel Storlie **Choir Director:** Scott Solberg
Pianist: Linda Gjerdrum, Rachel Udstuen **Handbell Director:** Demitre Ellis
Custodian: Gary Wilhelmson **Technology Lead:** Rick Sundet