

# trinitynews

April 2019

volume 25 • issue 4

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 East Main Street  
PO Box 188  
Spring Grove, MN 55974

507.498.5291  
www.trinitysg.org



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



### Office hours:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 10a.m. – 4 p.m.

Wed: Noon – 6:00 p.m.

### Sundays at Trinity

9:15 a.m. Worship  
10:15 a.m. Fellowship  
10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Listen live on KVIK 104.7 FM

### STAFF

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David Myrah, Custodian  
Scott Solberg, Choir Director  
Rachel Storlie, Organist  
Willy Leafblad, Handbell Director  
Jean Ellingson, Pianist  
Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist  
Mark Udstuen, Praise Band leader

## OUR FINAL WEEKS OF LENT LEAD INTO HOLY WEEK

### April 3: Mid-week Lent

- Trinity Taco “Bells” supper served from 5:30-6:30 p.m., hosted by Handbell Choir
- Worship at 7:00 p.m.

### April 10: Mid-week Lent

- Spaghetti supper served from 5:30-6:30 p.m., hosted by Care and Support Teams
- Worship at 7:00 p.m.

### April 18: Maundy Thursday

- Worship at 7:00 p.m., with communion

### April 19: Good Friday

- Tenebrae service at 7:00 p.m.

### April 14: Palm Sunday

- Worship at 9:15 a.m.

### April 21: Easter

- Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. with communion
- Easter Brunch served from 7:30-9:00a.m.
- Festival service at 9:15 a.m. with communion



## Meaning behind the words.....

### Maundy — from the Latin word “mandatum”

it is from a verb that means “to give” or “to order” — command. After Jesus and the disciples finished the Last Supper and walked toward Gethsemane, Jesus taught them a new commandment — “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34).

### Tenebrae — Latin for “shadows” or “darkness”

Tenebrae is usually held the evening of Good Friday and includes the gradual dimming of the lights and extinguishing of candles. The Christ candle is removed from the sanctuary and a concluding “Strepitus” or loud noise (slamming shut the Bible) symbolizes the earthquake and agony of creation at the death of Christ.

Dear friends in Christ,

One of my most sacred Easter memories is from an Easter sunrise service when I was growing up at First Lutheran Church in my hometown of Northwood, IA. We entered a very dark church that morning with the sanctuary still stripped bare of altar cloths, flowers, etc., from the Friday evening Tenebrae service. At a certain moment, my dad (the senior pastor) announced loudly "Halleluia! Christ is risen!" and we all answered, "Christ is risen indeed! Halleluia!"

And at that moment, the organ and trumpets started that wonderful old hymn "Christ Our Lord Is Risen Today." And the altar guild (plus reinforcements) began reassembling the front of the church with dozens of lilies and the altar cloths, etc. And the choir marched in. And the congregation, full of extra voices for the occasion, began singing.

But the most remarkable part of that particular Easter morning was the sun. My dad liked to time the Easter sunrise service with the actual sunrise, and that morning it worked miraculously. Because at the very moment when the congregation responded "Halleluia!," the sun hit the stained-glass windows of the church, sending its multi-colored rays and sparkles throughout the sanctuary and causing us all to gasp in response. The Son had risen indeed!

We are just three weeks away from Easter, and so far during our Lenten Journey to the Cross, we have learned about the first disciples, the 70 who Jesus sent out ahead of him; the healing of the 10 lepers, only one of whom returned to thank Jesus; and the healing of a blind man on the side of the road as Jesus walked to Jericho. Next week, Pastor Lane will talk about the Prodigal Son (also known as the Gracious Father), and we'll finish our Lenten journey with Zacchaeus, the "wee little man" who climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus.

This is my first Lent and Easter season as your pastor (and as a fully ordained pastor!) and I feel so blessed to be leading worship during this sacred time. I hope you'll join us for the remaining journey to (and from) the cross:

- ♦ Wednesdays (April 3 & 10) at 5:30 pm for supper, followed by worship at 7 pm.
- ♦ Sunday, April 14, at 9:15 for a special Praise Band Palm Sunday service, including our Noisy Sunday offering.
- ♦ Maundy Thursday, April 18, at 7 pm for Holy Communion service, including First Communion for our fifth graders.
- ♦ Good Friday Tenebrae service, April 19, at 8 pm.
- ♦ Easter Sunday at 6:30 a.m. (sunrise) and 9:15 a.m. with breakfast in between served by our youth.

This year, we'll begin our sunrise service in the cemetery and process into the church (weather permitting). And yes, we have timed it with the actual sunrise! Who knows what could happen as we celebrate the glorious resurrection of the Son of God. I hope to see you there.

God bless you all, *Pastor Elizabeth*



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**UPDATE ON THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP** Rev. Mark Boorsma, Chair of the Committee on the Election of a Bishop, shares the following update with the people of the synod: "As a result of conference assemblies voting on March 24, seven potential bishop nominees will be invited to participate in the May discernment conversations on May 13, 14, and 16, 2019. These seven potential nominees are Emily Carson, Heather Culuris, Sean Forde, Regina Hassanally, Glenn Monson, Kristen Venne, and John Weisenburger. To all whose prayer and participation have led to this milestone on the path to calling this synod's next bishop, THANK YOU!"

The discernment conversations are open to everyone in the synod and will take place on:

**Monday, May 13, 6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.** at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waseca

**Tuesday, May 14, 6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.** at United Redeemer Lutheran Church in Zumbrota

**Thursday, May 16, 6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.** at Zion Lutheran Church in Stewartville

### **THIRST DAY IS APRIL 25: "Jesus: A Novel," by Walter Wangerin, Jr. (continued)**

Since we are deep in Lent and on the road to the cross with Jesus, it seems only fitting that we focus on the last week of Jesus' life for Thirst Day in April. So we're going to read Book III of "Jesus: A Novel." It's the final section, called "The Sacrifice of the Messiah," and you can find it on pp. 267-391.

A number of people read the whole book when we studied it in February, and they found it very moving to read about the last week of Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension in this unique novel format.

Please note that Thirst Day for April will be on the **FOURTH Thursday of the month** because of Holy Week, and Bev and Steve Nelson have kindly volunteered to host! Maybe there will be a lamb or two (or more), which would also be fitting as we read about the Lamb of God.

If you're thirsty for conversation about the Bible and topics of faith, we hope to see you at "Thirst Day" in April. (You don't have to read the book. Just show up for great fellowship!)

See you at Steve and Bev Nelson's on March 25 at 7:30 p.m.!

### **ROOT RIVER CONFERENCE WELCA 2019 SPRING GATHERING**

This year's Spring Gathering is Saturday, April 13, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church, 100 N. Fremont St., Lewiston. We would like to have a large representation from Trinity. Let's get together and carpool.

**Everyone is welcome**, whether you are an active member or not.

Registration, coffee fellowship. Displays and vendors begin at 8:00 a.m. The program begins at 9:00 a.m. with lunch at 12:30. The cost is \$10.00 which includes the program, morning coffee and lunch. Preregistration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. Contact Judy Bratland, 498-5147, to pre-register.

The theme for the program is "Celebrating our Heritage – Both Family and Spiritual." The guest speaker will be Janet Martin from Hastings. She is one of "Those Lutheran Ladies." She has co-authored several books including "Growing Up Lutheran." She will share humorous experiences of growing up Scandinavian-Lutheran in midwestern farming communities.

Thrivent representatives will be collecting used Bibles, devotion books and other Christian reading material to be distributed to places in and out of the U.S. Please bring any of these items from your home or church that you are no longer using.

There will not be a spring collection of quilts and other items for Lutheran World Relief. October drop-off information will be sent later.

### **NEW WELCA OFFICERS FOR 2019**

President: Jacque Wennes; Vice President: Marilyn Sylling; Secretary: Mary Newgaard; Treasurer: Judy Bratland

Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey on Trinity's forms of Communicating. Your feedback will help us be better informed and to keep you better informed. Please fill this out and drop it off at the church or mail it. There is also a link on our website to an online version of this survey. We would like as many members of Trinity as possible to fill out the survey...even young children! **But please only fill it out once. Thank you!**

## COMMUNICATIONS at *Trinity* Lutheran Church

Tools we use for Church Communications	How often do you use this form of communication? (choose 1 response)	Comments:
Printed Newsletter	Always <input type="checkbox"/> Quite Often <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/>	
Emailed Newsletter	Always <input type="checkbox"/> Quite Often <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/>	
Printed Sunday Bulletins	Always <input type="checkbox"/> Quite Often <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/>	
Emailed Sunday Bulletins	Always <input type="checkbox"/> Quite Often <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/>	
Trinity's Weekly Friday Email	Always <input type="checkbox"/> Quite Often <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/>	
Announcements at Worship	Always <input type="checkbox"/> Quite Often <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/>	
Radio Worship Service	Always <input type="checkbox"/> Quite Often <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/>	
Website	Always <input type="checkbox"/> Quite Often <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/>	
Facebook	Always <input type="checkbox"/> Quite Often <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/>	

Tools we use for Church Communications	How often do you use this form of communication? (choose 1 response)	Comments:
Call or Stop at Church Office	Always <input type="checkbox"/> Quite Often <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/>	
Church Team Meeting, Circle, etc.	Always <input type="checkbox"/> Quite Often <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/>	
Family Member	Always <input type="checkbox"/> Quite Often <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/>	
Word of Mouth	Always <input type="checkbox"/> Quite Often <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/>	

If you were to pick the **TOP 3** ways you hear about things happening at Trinity from this list, which three would they be?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR AGE ☐ Years Old

☐ 0 - 19

☐ 20 - 30

☐ 31 - 45

☐ 46 - 60

☐ 61 - 75

☐ 76 +

Other Comments:

**THANK YOU!!** ~ Communications Team

Communications Survey



## Pastor Lane's corner

Tall Maple Trees sway in the breeze, 60-70 feet high.

The Sun heat strikes at the snow, which melts and cringes away, retracting.

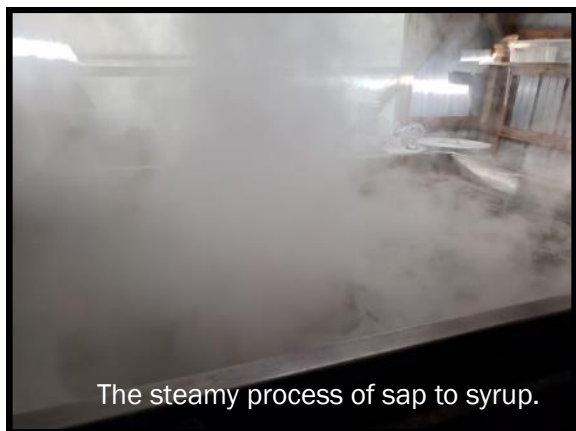
The voice of Spring's life begins its mighty roar.

The maple sap begins to push its way to buds.

Maple Syrup season is here! The taps are in the trees. The sap is running.

It is an early sign that the hard winter is over, warmth and life is on its way.

This winter, for some reason, seemed a little tougher than usual. It might have been the extra helping of snow. It might have been the -35 degree night. In any case it is nice to be out in the woods for the resurrection from the deadness of winter.



The steamy process of sap to syrup.

Trees first show up in the Bible when God plants them in the garden. There are numerous statutes about trees in the first five books of the Bible, especially fruit trees. The rules are for the most part – if they bear fruit – don't cut them down. Maple trees don't grow in the Mideast. But I can't help thinking that God would have said don't cut them down while they are able to produce sap for maple syrup. The wood of a maple makes gorgeous furniture. The branches cut up make great firewood to boil the sap. So when a maple tree has lived out its life, it is very useful. But while it lives it can be counted on to produce the sweet syrup that gives us a hint of the sweetness of heaven!!!

~ Pastor Lane

## VISION AND PLANNING — TIME TO DREAM

The Vision and Planning Committee has been meeting and talking with staff, team leaders, and others at Trinity. They would like to share ideas they have gathered and they would also like to hear your dreams for Trinity that can be developed into a plan for future growth and enhancement of Trinity's ministries, programs, congregation, and outreach. Join us during Fellowship on April 7 and 14.

**EASTER EGGS** It is hard to pin-point a certain date and time when eggs began to be associated with Easter.



In many cultures around the world, the egg is a symbol of new life, fertility and rebirth. In the Christian tradition, Easter eggs are symbolic of the resurrection Christ. As early as the 13th century, eggs were dyed red as a way to represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross. The hard shell can represent the sealed tomb of Christ and the cracking of the shell can represent Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Egg rolling events, such as happen on the White House lawn each year, can be a symbolic re-enactment of the rolling away of the stone from Christ's tomb.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING IS AVAILABLE** Consider setting up your electronic giving account and discontinuing your envelopes...we can save money on envelope orders. Contact the office if you'd like to change to your envelopes. With online giving, you set the schedule as it best fits for you! To set up online giving, visit [www.trinitysg.org](http://www.trinitysg.org). On the right-hand side of the home page, click on the link "Contribute" then click on the bar "Contribute Online" and it will bring you to the site to set up your online giving account. If you set up using your debit card there are no additional fees charged to the church; if you use your credit card for the automatic payment the church is charged a fee for the transaction. Questions? Just let us know! Thank you!

Pastor Lane

tidbits

## MARCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Motions approved:

- To nominate Steve Nelson as Vice President of the Congregation Council.
- To accept the recommendation of the Finance Team to replace the two existing copiers with a new Canon Image Runner Advance copier (C7260) with a sixty-month lease (with service and supplies) and a \$488 monthly fee.

**Next Meeting: April 10 at 7:45 p.m. in the Gathering Room.**

Complete minutes are on Trinity's website, at sanctuary entrances, and in the office.

## THANK YOU FOR GIVING OF YOUR TIME AND TALENTS TO TRINITY!

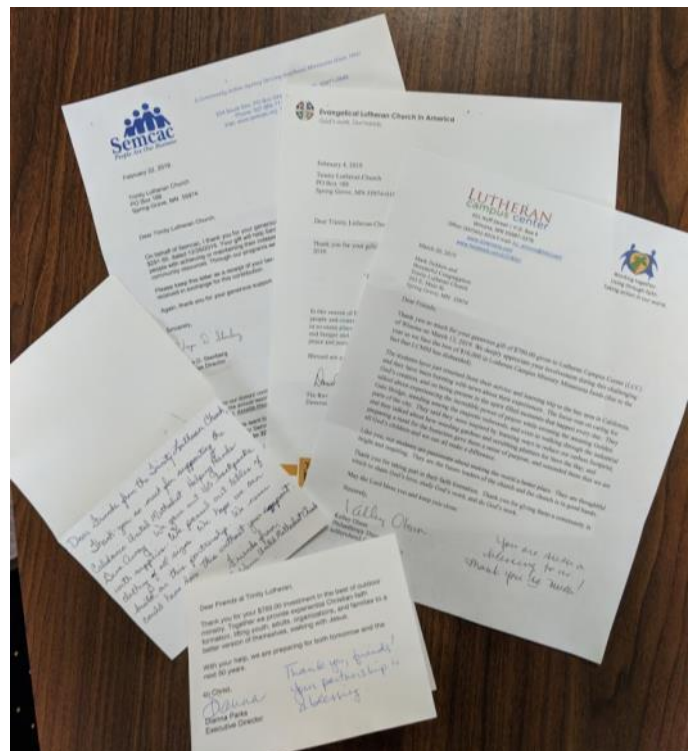
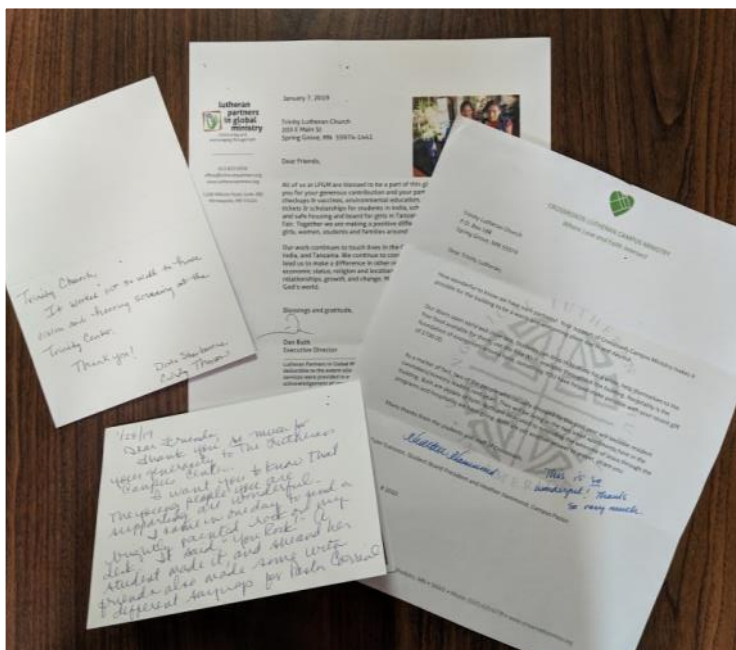
- Lori Wilhelmson for updating the planters at the entrances
- Rick Sundet, David Myrah, Lee Hoekstra for shoveling melting snow, vacuuming water, and drying out the carpeting after water leaked in
- Vocal and instrumental musicians during our Lenten services
- Love Day ladies for making quilts for Lutheran World Relief and for setting up the display for National Quilting Day.
- For all those that donate to the Radio Broadcast Fund and help make it possible for us to broadcast our Sunday service each week — our radio ministry makes a difference.

We recently received this note,

*Dear Pastor Hermeier and members of Trinity Lutheran Church,  
I would like you to know that I listen to your worship services every Sunday morning and appreciate them very much. Best Wishes to you all!*

*Hanna L. — Decorah*

Many thank you notes have been received. Such blessings to our church! If you'd like to read them, look for a binder in the Fellowship Hall.







**THANK YOU** for your wonderful support of the youth on Sunday, March 17 attending their Lenten breakfast! The funds raised will go toward Confirmation meals and the mission trip to Indianapolis this summer.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Trinity's youth.

youth news

**MIDDLE SCHOOL GAME NIGHT** The next Middle School Game Night will be April 13 at 7:00 p.m. for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Come for air hockey, ping pong, MarioKart, board games, and snacks! Bring a friend!



**3:16S WILL LOOK DIFFERENT THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.** 3:16s, our senior high youth group, will look a little different in the coming months. Bekah is working with a planning team of high school youth to plan monthly meetings for 3:16s instead of our current weekly model. 3:16s will meet monthly until the fall, where they will return to weekly meetings on Wednesday nights. 3:16s will meet at Bekah's house on April 24, May 22, and August 28 at

8:00 p.m. For June and July, out-of-town activities are being planned and dates will be announced soon! Dates are subject to change. Bekah and the planning team will keep you updated!

**PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP** Trinity will be taking a mission trip to Puerto Rico in the summer of 2020! Anyone completing 8<sup>th</sup> grade and older are eligible to attend. That's right, **youth AND adults** can attend this mission trip!! Keep an eye out for more information to come! Questions? Contact Bekah!



## QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING YOUTH RELATED?

Bekah would be happy to answer your questions!

She can be reached at 498-5291 or [bekah@trinitysg.org](mailto:bekah@trinitysg.org)





◀ Fifth grade students made communion cups that they will use for their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. ▼ ▶



◀ Sunday School children sang and also collected a noisy offering. \$155.77 was collected. ▼ ▶



▼ When the summer heat rolls around we will be ever so thankful for this installation of air conditioning!



◀ Lutheran World Relief's National Quilting Day was celebrated here on March 17. Thank you to our Love Day ladies for all the work you do creating quilts!

PHOTOS

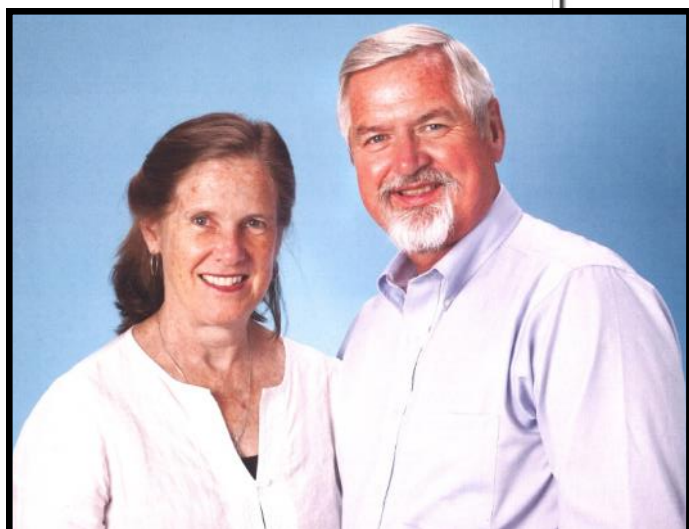


# Congratulations on your retirement, David!

From crazy schedules like mowing the lawn in December (1998 ▼) to cleaning to repairing to shoveling to vacuuming to knowing all the ins-and-outs of the buildings, David Myrah has been Trinity's custodian for nearly 21 years. Thank you for all that you have done for Trinity! We appreciate your work!



Come help David celebrate his retirement  
on **Sunday, April 7** during Fellowship.  
All are invited!



## ELCA Global Church Sponsorship



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Thank you for your generous  
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blessings

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC	3 1:00pm Release Time (K) 5:30pm Lenten Supper 5:45pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation students meet with mentors 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Finance Team, MR 7:45pm Choir	4 5:00pm Education, MR	5	6 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
7 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:15am Fellowship, David's Retirement celebration 10:30am Sunday School, <i>no Babel</i> , 1st Communion Class meet in kitchen 6:45pm Praise Band practice	8	9 9:00am Deborah Circle 5:00pm Support, GR 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC	10 9:30am Adah Circle 2:00pm Release Time (1 <sup>st</sup> ) 5:30pm Lenten Supper 5:45pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation students meet with mentors 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Council, Choir	11	12	13 10:30am Praise Band practice 7:00pm Middle School Game Night, Bekah's
14 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:15am Worship/Praise Band 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School, Babel, Communications, Stewardship, Outreach 11:30am TCC Service 6:45pm Youth Handbells	15 7:00pm Hannah Circle	16 10:00am Anna Circle 2:30pm Phoebe Circle 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC	17 2:00pm Release Time (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) <i>No Confirmation</i> 7:00pm Adult Handbells 8:00pm Choir	18 9:30am Communion at The Manor 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship, Communion	19 7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service	20 <i>No worship service</i>  Happy Birthday, Pastor Elizabeth!
21 <b>Easter</b> 6:30am Sunrise Service/ Communion 7:30-9am Easter Breakfast 9:15am Festival Worship/ Communion <i>No Sunday School or Babel</i>	22	23 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC	24 1:00pm Release Time (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) 6:00pm Confirmation w/ Supper 7:00pm Adult Handbells 8:00pm Choir 8:00pm 3:16s	25 9:30am Communion at Tweeten Apartments 10:30am Communion at Assisted Living 12:00pm Newsletter info due! 7:30pm Thirst Day, Bev & Steve Nelson's	26 9:00am Love Day	27
28 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School, Babel 6:45pm Youth Handbells	29 2:00pm Newsletter mailed	30 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC				

## VOLUNTEERS

*Thank you for all that you do!*

	APRIL 3 Lenten Service	APRIL 7	APRIL 10 Lenten Service	APRIL 14 Palm Sunday	April 18 Maundy Thursday	APRIL 19 Good Friday	APRIL 21 6:30 Easter	APRIL 21 9:15 Easter	APRIL 28
LECTOR		Melissa Wold		Scott Solberg, <b>6 more needed</b>	Judy Tollefsrud	Mary Newgaard	<b>Volunteer needed</b>	Judy Bratland	Jim Gray
ACOLYTE(S)		Tysen Grinde, McKenzie Fisch		Hunter Holland			Caleb Griffin	Haley Ellingson, Julia Halverson	Maggie Lile
COMMUNION SERVERS		Gary & Lori Wilhelmson, Kim Kapplinger			Bekah & Willy Leafblad, Mary Newgaard		Howard & Mary Deters, Jean Ellingson	Kari & Dan Alstad, Steve Nelson	
COMMUNION BREAD	April 7 and 18 (Maundy Thursday) : Vivien Mathsen; April 21 (Easter): Judy Tollefsrud								
ALTAR GUILD	Jan Lochner (chair), Jan Kraabel, Marilyn Hillman, Bev Nelson, Sue Engen, Cindy Thorson								
COFFEE HOSTS		Carol & Curt Rustad, Judy Ruehmann, Mark Engebretson		Janna & Len Myrah and team			Easter Breakfast		Dean & Sue Wiste, Mark & Betty Dokken
498-AMEN	March 31-April 13: Bev Nelson	April 14-27: Jan Lochner				April 28- May 11: Lara Mendez			
SUNDAY USHERS	Phil Griffin (captain), Aaron Solum, Mike Solum, Steve Hagen, Len Myrah, Ron Onsgard								
LENT USHERS	Deb Spence		Lori Wilhelmson		Judy Tollefsrud	April Team	Mark, Jonah, Ben Udstuen, Howard Deters	April Team	





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### We invite your Easter gifts in a variety of ways:

- ◆ Flowers to beautify our Easter worship. We would love to “grow” a spectacular Easter garden!
- ◆ Donations to Habitat for Humanity, the Heating/Cooling System, or the General Fund.

Gifts can be given in memory of, in appreciation of, or in honor of a special person. We welcome all gifts. Forms are available in the office, on our website, and in upcoming bulletins.

Flowers can be purchased locally at Calluna or from any source that you desire. We ask that flowers be delivered to the church by Friday, April 19. ***Thank you!***

