

trinitynews

May 2019

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.trinitysg.org



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



Instagram
[trinityyouth203](https://www.instagram.com/trinityyouth203)
[trinitylutheransg](https://www.instagram.com/trinitylutheransg)

Office hours:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 10 a.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

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Willy Leafblad, Handbell Director
Jean Ellingson, Pianist
Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist
Mark Udstuen, Praise Band leader

FLAT JESUS PROJECT This summer, all of Trinity's members (especially youth) are invited to take part in our Flat Jesus Project! Flat Jesus is inspired by a national school project called Flat Stanley, based off of a book written by Jeff Brown. Just as Flat Stanley has helped children with literacy and geography, Flat Jesus helps children stay plugged into the biblical message we've been sharing with them during the school year.

The Flat Jesus Project is simple: each member gets their own paper cutout of Jesus to take with them on their summer adventures. We encourage you to take pictures of your Jesus as he walks with you through your summer adventures! Please share your pictures on Trinity's Facebook page, Instagram page, or send your pictures to bekah@trinitysg.org.



Trinity's Flat Jesus Project is a part of a national project through Sparkhouse. Throughout the month of June, post your photos on Sparkhouse's Facebook page (@wearesparkhouse) with the hashtag #FlatJesus. One church will win a gift card toward Sparkhouse products and resources.

Trinity will be holding our own contest as well! Whoever posts the most with their Flat Jesus will win a gift card to the Spring Grove Cinema. The cutouts of Flat Jesus will be given to youth on their last days of Sunday School and Confirmation. For other members who want to participate, cutouts will be available at the back of the sanctuary in mid-May.

SYTTENDE MEATBALL DINNER The youth of Trinity, along with their parents and a few other gracious helpers, will be serving this year's Syttende Mai Meatball Dinner on **Sunday, May 19** from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. Similar to last year, youth will be offering carry-outs only at a cost of \$10 per meal. The menu includes meatballs in gravy, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, rommegrot, lefse, a roll, and a brownie for dessert. Proceeds will go toward the furthering of youth ministry at Trinity. Please join us for the Syttende Mai Meatball Dinner!



SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY On **Sunday, May 26** we will honor our graduating seniors with a special blessing during worship followed by a special Fellowship Time. Please hold these seniors in your prayers as they complete their high school career and begin a new chapter in their lives. Seniors: Kai Bjerke, Hailey Conway, Kyleigh Doering, Mariah Edgington, Noah Elton, Alex Folz, Emily Guberud, Amaya Johnson, Dylan Johnson, Sydnie Kampschroer, Ryan Lawson, Gina Lund, Maria Myrah, Kailee Olerud, Calvin Sylling, and Kaitlyn Vickerman.



From Pastor Elizabeth

Dear friends in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

I have been blessed to be your pastor, now, for a full calendar year AND a full church year. I have been by your side during moments of joy, like last Sunday when nearly 500 of us celebrated our risen Savior at two Easter services. I have also consoled many of you in your grief and sorrow, as you have also consoled me.

The first week, maybe even the first day that I arrived at the parsonage last year, the lovely Griffin family showed up on my porch with a basket of spring bulbs – tulips, narcissus, daffodils – that bloomed in their basket in my living room for several weeks. I couldn't know at the time that Phil and I would have great discussions about baseball, or that Kristi and I are distantly related on the Myrah side (and her sister was my freshman R.A. at Luther), and Isaac and Caleb would be my confirmands. I couldn't know so many things about how my first year as a pastor, as *your pastor*, would go.

Quite honestly, a new pastor really just wants to show up on time for all the right events, not offend anyone (if I have, I am so sorry), and preach the gospel. Preach the gospel always. It's also good, of course, to remind oneself with humility that God is in charge at all times, and to pray and listen for the voice of God in every decision.

After the blooms fell off the spring basket, I decided to plant the bulbs in front of the house. They rested there for a year. They were covered by leaves in the fall, then by snow all winter. Easter week, I thought I saw some green coming up, but I was too busy to investigate. Then, this week, I saw blooms. That beautiful gift from the Griffins is a gift again this year and hopefully for many years to come.

And that's when I realized that I am planted here, too. Like my lovely flowers, I have put down roots. And as I looked out at all of you last Sunday, I felt like I, too, was in bloom.

We take a risk when we plant, when we let ourselves be planted. But God is in charge of the church and its people as well as the sun and the rain. I hope we continue to sow the seeds of God's love together in this place for many years to come.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

~ Pastor Elizabeth



THIRST DAY IS MAY 30 — “Love Big Be Well: Letters to a Small-Town Church,” Winn Collier

Could this be us?

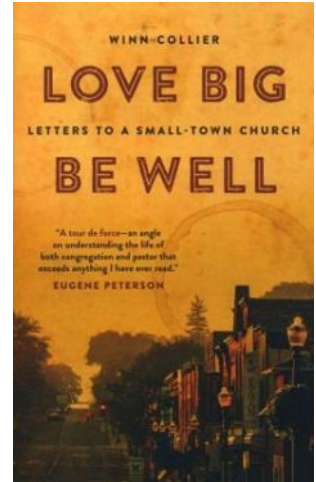
A pastor without a congregation trapped in a dead-end job meets a congregation without a pastor. The congregation is overwhelmed by the prospect of finding someone who actually wants to be a pastor, but they connect through letters, and after accepting the call, the pastor continues to write letters to his congregation on everything from fly-fishing to the Nicene Creed. The letters reveal the earthy spirituality woven into the joys and sorrows of the community, the church, and the pastor. We'll discover what it means for a pastor and a church to do the slow work of ministry in community—anchored by a common place and buoyed by a life of faith that is meaningful, rooted, and true.

Eight copies of the book have been ordered and will be available to check out in the office.

May is a very busy month, so once again, Thirst Day will move to the **FIFTH Thursday** of the month — **May 30**.

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

See you at the parsonage (or maybe on the back deck!) on May 30 at 7:30 p.m.!



PART-TIME CUSTODIAN Looking for a part-time job with flexible hours that can work around *your* schedule? Enjoy the process of providing a clean, safe and inviting environment for those around you? Consider joining the Trinity Lutheran staff as a part-time custodian! Responsibilities include basic facility cleaning duties, assisting with event setup, and maintaining the heating/cooling system. Ideal candidates will have janitorial skills, ability to lift without physical duress, good communication skills, and ability to work well with others. Applicants need a boiler's license or be willing to obtain one after hire. Must be 21 or older and submit a background check upon hire. Wage is commensurate with experience. For more information go to www.trinity.org or call (507) 498-5291. Apply online or pick up an application at the church office. Position is open until filled.

FRIENDS IN FAITH TEAM The Care Ministry Team has recently reorganized a "Friends in Faith" team. This team has been reorganized to provide regular visits to congregation members who are unable to fully engage in the life of the church and to provide extra support to members during difficult periods in their lives. The Friends in Faith team will expand our current pastoral care by providing a "Friend in Faith" who will visit each month to share Trinity news, provide encouragement, share a short devotion and provide information on resources within our church and community. A training session will be held sometime in June for those interested in being on this team. Watch for more details.

Our pastors and team have identified members who might benefit from ongoing visits. Members on this list will be contacted in June to determine their interest. Once we have permission for the visit, a visitor will contact the individual to schedule a convenient time for the visit. If you know someone who should be contacted about a visit or if you would like to be a member who visits please contact Milly Halverson at (507) 498-5339 or gmalv@springgrove.coop.

FARMER ROUNDTABLE TO BE HELD MAY 29—What Do Houston County Farmers Need?

The first roundtable generated some good discussion and brainstorming. Farmers and community members are invited to attend a second discussion on Wednesday, May 29 at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity. The goal is to identify issues in the farming community and bring regional resources to help address challenges and opportunities. The event will be hosted by the University of Minnesota Extension and the Houston County Economic Development Authority in partnership with the Spring Grove Economic Development Authority. Treats and coffee will be provided. For more information on the event and a list of agricultural resources, visit www.houstoncountymn.com/agriculture.

APRIL 14, 2019 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTSMotions approved:

- To accept the recommendation of the Staffing Team to extend the 1/4-time contract of Pastor Lane Zaffke for another year at the salary approved in the 2019 budget.

Updates:

- March bills are paid and April giving has paid all obligations, plus some other outstanding expenses.
- Day Camp and Vacation Bible School will be June 24-27, 2019.
- The tuck-pointing project is scheduled to be done this year.
- An outdoor worship service and picnic are being planned for Servant Sunday in June.

Next Meeting: May 8 at 7:45 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

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

UPDATE ON THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP Rev. Mark Boorsma, Chair of the Committee on the Election of a Bishop, has the following update for 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 discernment conversations on May 13, 14, and 16, 2019. The 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

WOMEN OF THE ELCA (WELCA) With our new officers in place: Jacque Wennes President, Marilyn Sylling Vice President, Mary Newgaard Secretary, and Judy Bratland Treasurer, monthly meetings will resume on Love Day, the last Friday of each month. We invite all women of the congregation to join us for discussion of present and upcoming events and projects. Each woman is a vital link in the organization to carry on with the many activities: making quilts, assembling school kits, layettes, sewing kits, bingo at the nursing home, lunch for blood mobile staff and volunteers, and other activities that help our church thrive.

Some of us attended the Root River Conference of WELCA held in Lewiston a few weeks ago, laughed as Janet Letnes Martin shared her down-home stories of writing about "those Lutheran Ladies;" she has many humorous books. One of her latest is *Growing up Lutheran* which tells the story of many ladies in the Lutheran church. It was a challenge to catch all her lines because laughing and listening is sometimes difficult to do at the same time.

Jacque, along with help from Alex and Jerry of Sunrise Care Center, loaded 35 quilts and 99 layettes that were delivered to Lutheran World Relief in South St. Paul. Thank you to all who helped make these quilts, bought supplies for quilts and layettes, and assembled everything. These will be a blessing to many!

Each church unit of WELCA is part of a larger organization and we learned that the 11th Triennial Gathering will be in Phoenix, AZ, July 16-19, 2020. The theme for this gathering of women will be "Just Love." This reminds us to keep things simple and God's love for us is never-ending.

FROM MISSIONARIES, MARK AND LINDA JACOBSON *"Greetings. We are moving between Africa and Minnesota with some regularity this year. It helps with the frequent flyer miles, but is something of a chore as well. Following our annual letter, many have asked for our US address. So happy to provide our new address: 1429 Hoyt Ave. W., Falcon Heights, MN 55108. Hoping to connect with many of you in the States!"*



Spring time is garden time! (Even though as I write this there is a chance of significant snow tomorrow, rats!) I get on Pinterest and look at garden ideas. Of course there is the ultimate garden – The Garden of Eden! Genesis 2:7 *“then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”*

It would be pretty cool if we had pictures or could stroll through the garden of Eden. It is of no surprise to me or you, probably, that research is showing that being out in the garden or nature is healing for the heart, soul, and mind. It seems God wanted us in a garden to tend it. Besides, no food tastes better than food that we have grown ourselves! I hope you are able to garden some and the weather will cooperate this spring.

~ Pastor Lane

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL— MAY 12 Our Sunday School children will sing at worship and then we will have games out on the lawn after worship! Join us to celebrate this wonderful year of Sunday School!

VBS/DAY CAMP It's time to register for Vacation Bible School and Day Camp! They both will be held June 24-27. Registration forms have been mailed out; did you receive yours? Need another form? Need a form for a friend? We have them! Forms are available in the office or online through our website. Go to the “Get Involved” tab and then to “Children’s Ministries.” Click on the appropriate form to open and print. Please have forms and payment to the office by Monday, June 3. Cost: VBS is \$10, Day Camp is \$20.

BONFIRES ARE BACK! Youth entering grades 7-9 this fall are invited to Bonfires at Bekah’s house (231 1st Ave SW) beginning Sunday, June 16 at 8:30 p.m. We will have bonfires every Sunday night through the summer. Come for s’mores, stay for the fun fellowship with friends! Bring your friends — you don’t have to be a Trinity member to attend.

3:16S NOW MEETS MONTHLY 3:16s will meet monthly until the fall, when we will return to weekly meetings. Upcoming 3:16s are Wednesdays, 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!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR USHERS FOR THE SUMMER Would you be willing to help? It’s an important part of our ministry and a fun way to see our Trinity family through the summer months! Four ushers are needed each week. Gather your family or friends and find a week that works for you. We appreciate your willingness to help! A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board across from the elevator by the sanctuary entrance. Any questions, contact Mark Udstuen, 498-5536. Thank you!

THE VISION AND PLANNING COMMITTEE SAYS THANK YOU! Thank you to everyone who attended one of the forums and/or filled out a survey. Your input is very much appreciated. *A special thank you to the youth and adults who filled out a survey. Youth, you are our future and we need your opinions.* If you have not yet had the opportunity to fill out one of the surveys about the current use of our facilities and our needs for the future, there is still time! There is a survey in this newsletter or find an online version at Trinity’s website. Please have them be back in the office by May 3 in order to be counted before our report to the church council. Thanks!

COMMUNITY BACCALAUREATE SERVICE This service is for all graduating seniors, families, and friends. Area pastors will be participating in the service. Join us for this meaningful service for our local graduates on **Wednesday, May 29 at 7:30 p.m.** here at Trinity.

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! **Please only fill it out once. Return by May 17. 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

Please fill out and return to the office by May 3. Thank you!

If you have already filled one out, but have thought more about it and would like to give additional input, that is fine! Please indicate this is your second survey. We would like ALL AGES to participate!

Vision and Planning Survey

—Over the past few months, we have met with current leaders of our church and we have listened carefully and kept notes. The questions we have asked are in accordance with Vision and Planning handouts from the ELCA and we are following the suggested steps.

—The survey questions are open ended and people have been encouraged to think creatively and we ask the same thing of you.

—At this time, there will be no discussion on fiscal issues. We are simply analyzing our current and potential ministries and our needs and dreams for what could be.

—We ask that you enter into this discussion with joy and thanksgiving for what we have been given through our rich heritage and keep an open mind to all possibilities

—This is not a scientific survey as we are simply gathering ideas. Please indicate by writing if this is your first or second survey. Names need not be submitted.

Thank you!

Survey _____. (1 or 2)

1. What do you see as a challenge in our current facilities?

2. What would you NOT want to change or lose about our current facilities?

3. Have you used Trinity Center? Do you foresee using Trinity Center in the future?

4. When considering our church, what are your ideas for general improvements and space needs? This is a broad question and you get to dream about what you would like to see. Feel free to express yourself!



◀ "Sing Hosanna to the king of kings!" Sunday School children sang on Palm Sunday.

▼ The service began with a "parade" of waving palms.



► Fifth grade youth took their first communion on Maundy Thursday. During their preparation for their first communion, they made their own cups to use. ▼ Thank you Renee Eiken for assisting with the making of the cups!



PHOTOS



► Good Friday Tenebrae service. "Tenebrae" is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." The service had a gradual dimming of the lights and extinguishing of candles.

◀ An Easter garden in memory, honor, and appreciation of many.





▲ A small sampling of the many musicians that made Easter morning come alive with beautiful music.

▲ It was a joyful Easter morning with two services filled with music and celebration of Christ's resurrection.

► Pastor Elizabeth's first Easter at Trinity!



PHOTOS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School, Babel, Stewardship Team 11:30am Indianapolis trip meeting, FH 6:45pm Praise Band practice	6	7 7:00pm Support, GR; Al-Anon, TC	8 9:30am Adah Circle 2:00pm Eve Circle at Manor 6:00pm Confirmation Gathering with supper 7:00pm Adult Handbells 7:45pm Council, GR 8:00pm Choir	9	10 7:00pm Middle School Game Night at Bekah's house	11 10:30am Praise Band practice
12 Happy Mother's Day! 9:15am Worship/Praise Band 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Last day of Sunday School 11:30am Tweenen Care Ctr. Service	13	14 9:00am Deborah Circle 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC	15 6:00pm Last Confirmation Gathering with supper 7:00pm Adult Handbells 8:00pm Choir	16 9:30am Communion at The Manor	17	18 <i>No worship service</i>
19 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:30am Property Team 11am-2pm Syttende Mai Meatball Dinner, carry-outs only, FH	20 7:00pm Hannah Circle, GR	21 2:30pm Phoebe Circle, GR 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC	22 7:00pm Adult Handbells 8:00pm Choir 8:00pm 3:16s at Bekah's house	23 9:30am Communion at Tweenen Apartments 10:30am Communion at Assisted Living	24 12:00pm Newsletter info due	25 Celebration 
26 9:15am Worship, Senior Recognition 10:15am Fellowship, Senior Celebration	27  MEMORIAL DAY <i>Office closed</i>	28 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC	29 10-11:30am Farmers' Roundtable, FH 7:30pm Community Baccalaureate Service	30 2:00pm Newsletter mailed 7:30pm Thirst Day, parsonage	31 9:00am Love Day Synod	Assembly

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for all that you do!

	MAY 5	MAY 12	MAY 19	MAY 26
LECTOR	Greg Wennes	Bonnie Solberg	Karen Bingham	Ruth Johnsrud
ACOLYTE(S)	Lydia Solum, Madilyn Ostern	Ella Wennes	Alison Frydenlund, Jonah Udstuen	Reid Bjerke
COMMUNION SERVERS	Sue & Jeff Engen, Jessica Sherburne		Kathy & Bruce Anderson, Ruth Johnsrud	
COMMUNION BREAD	Karen Bingham			
ALTAR GUILD	Linda Pierce (chair), Paula Karlsbrotten, Judy Roble, Rose Stadtler, Lorilyn Dehning, Danielle Myhre			
COFFEE HOSTS	Vivien Mathsen, Sue & Jeff Engen, Jan & Carlyn Kraabel	David & Rachel Storlie, Mark & Sarah Schroeder, Sara Kroshus, Abe & Lara Mendez	Syttende Mai Meatball Dinner	Senior Recognition Steve & Bev Nelson, Dennis & Barb Gulbranson, Bob & Roxie Finnesgard
498-AMEN	April 28-May 11: Lara Wold Mendez	May 12-25: Barb Gulbranson		May 26-June 8: Nolie Kapplinger
SUNDAY USHERS	Curt Roverud (captain), Dana Kjome, Tom Ellingson, Alfred Wendel, Les Storlie, Blaine Liudahl			
MEALS ON WHEELS	Mon. May 6: Jim Wilhelmson, Tue. May 7 - Wed. May 8: Barb & Steve Morken, Thu. May 9 - Fri. May 10: Linda Newgaard & Karen Kragness			

HAVE YOU...moved? ...changed phone numbers? ...changed email addresses? Let the office know! Thanks!

LET US KNOW.....If you have a loved one ill or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if any pastoral need arises.

ELECTRONIC VERSIONS..... Would you like to receive the newsletter electronically instead of a paper version? Just let us know in the office! We also send a weekly email....would you like to receive it? Let us know!

FOLLOW TRINITY ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove

Instagram: Youth account = *trinityyouth203*

Trinity Church account = *trinitylutheransg*



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Look around you: Winter is over;
the winter rains are over, gone!
Spring flowers are in blossom all over.
The whole world's a choir—
and singing!
Spring warblers are filling the forest
with sweet arpeggios.
Lilacs are exuberantly purple
and perfumed, and cherry trees
fragrant with blossoms.

Song of Solomon 2:12-13