

# TRINITY *news*

MAY/JUNE 2021

VOLUME 27 ▪ ISSUE 5&6

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 East Main Street ▪ PO Box 188  
Spring Grove, MN 55974  
507.498.5291 ▪ [www.trinitysg.org](http://www.trinitysg.org)



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



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



**YouTube**

Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove

### Office hours:

Mon - Fri: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Sundays at Trinity

9:15 a.m. Worship  
10:15 a.m. Fellowship *Suspended*  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School

**Listen live Sundays on KVIK 104.7 FM**

[www.kvikradio.com](http://www.kvikradio.com)  
and on Facebook

**Saturday Worship** 5:00 p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays each month

### STAFF

Elizabeth Hermeier, Lead Pastor  
[trinitysr@springgrove.coop](mailto:trinitysr@springgrove.coop)

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[lane.zaffke@gmail.com](mailto:lane.zaffke@gmail.com)

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Gary Wilhelmson, Custodian  
Rachel Storlie, Organist/Pianist  
Willy Leafblad, Handbell Director  
Scott Solberg, Choir Director  
Jean Ellingson, Pianist/Organist  
Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist  
Mark Udstuen, Praise Band Leader  
Rick Sundet, Technology Lead

## SECURITY UPDATE

As we announced in the March/April newsletter, there were several instances of vandalism and after-hours entry at the church last winter which resulted in damage to the building. After prayerful consideration, the Congregation Council voted to secure the east side of the Trinity building during non-office, non-regular-activity church hours.



As a result, the Little Free Pantry moved to the southwest corner of the church, so it is still accessible 24/7. And beginning Monday, May 3, the southeast door of the church building (closest to the parking lot, on Main Street) will only be open **during office hours** (Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.) and worship Saturdays (first and third Saturdays of the month, 4:30-6 p.m.) and Sundays (8 a.m.-noon). It will remain locked at all other times unless there is an event (funeral, wedding, etc.) at the church. In addition, the kitchen doors will also be locked during these same times. The southwest door (across from the park, on Main Street) will be unlocked.

If you need to drop off something at the church during non-business hours, a lock box will be placed near the southeast door. If you lead a team or other activity and you need access to the east side of the building during non-office hours, please contact the church office. If you have questions about any of this, please contact Pr. Elizabeth or Council President Saundy Solum. Thank you.

## SYTTENDE MAI MEATBALL DINNER

We are excited that we are able to have the Meatball Dinner again!

Trinity Youth are serving this year's dinner on Sunday, May 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (or until dinners last). Price of meals is \$10 each. This dinner will be a drive-through event serving carry-outs only.

Follow the signage on the day of the dinner to get your meals. Meals will include: meatballs in gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, rømmegrøt, lefse, a roll, and a brownie. All proceeds will go toward Trinity youth ministries.



## MAPLE SYRUP

Delicious home-grown syrup from the Zaffke maple woods is available for purchase in the office for \$10. Syrup is not only scrumptious on pancakes and waffles, but also a great sweetener in coffee, oatmeal, and in recipes. Proceeds from the sale of the syrup go to youth programming here at Trinity.

*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." John 20:19-23*

Dear Easter people!

Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the other disciples were shocked, surprised, and delighted, but still full of fear when Jesus appeared to them after the resurrection. Thomas even wanted additional proof! Somehow, no matter how many times Jesus told them what was to happen – that he would be crucified but on the third day rise again – they didn't absorb it fully. But Jesus went through a locked door to assure them it was true.

I have experienced Easter 60 times. (I think everyone knows by now that I just had a milestone birthday – no use denying it.) When the lights are turned on and "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" organ prelude begins – even pre-recorded during a pandemic – I still get chills, knowing what happened on that first Easter morning.

It must have been mind-blowing for the disciples, who had walked along Jesus IN THE FLESH for those many years. It was no wonder they retreated to that locked room. And I think we can begin to understand a little of how they felt, after a year of Zoom meetings and Facebook Live worship services. I am so grateful we are back worshipping together in person.

We still have a ways to go. In the next weeks and months, I hope and pray that we will resume more and more of our "normal" activities. But I also hope and pray that, like the disciples 2,000 years ago, we will have discovered something new about ourselves, about our faith, in this year-plus of pandemic.

The disciples, on that day in the locked room, were overjoyed. But it would be just 50 days until they'd have to say goodbye to Jesus once again. And then their real ministries would begin. Jesus said to them: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

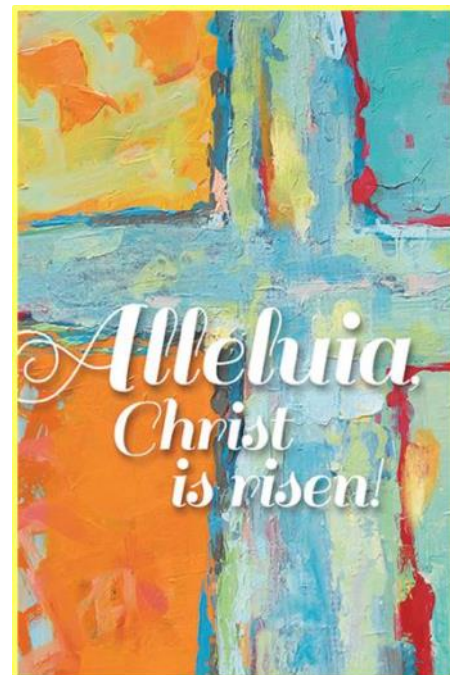
Jesus says the same to us! We will mark Ascension Day on May 13, and we will celebrate the Day of Pentecost on May 23. And then, like the disciples before us, our new work begins.

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!

Christ Is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Dear church, let's get to work!

~ Pr. Elizabeth



**Mothers and Fathers come in a great variety....  
birth parents, adopted parents, step parents,  
mothers and fathers to nieces and nephews, and more.  
You are all very special and wonderful people!  
Happy Mother's and Father's Day to you all!**

## STARTING THE CONVERSATION ON DIVERSITY, WE BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING

*Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective* articulates the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) on the church's relation to society and its public presence and responsibilities. The statement begins with the claim that the witness of the church in society flows from its identity as **a community that lives from and for the gospel**. It sets forth the basic affirmations that structure how faith is active in a love that calls for justice in relationships and structures of society. The statement also identifies as basic commitments the church's institutional witness in society, the baptismal vocation of individual Christians, and the church as a community of moral deliberation. This document was the first social statement, adopted by the ELCA in 1991.

How does a congregation in the whitest denomination in the U.S. (the ELCA) begin to talk about race?

How does a rural congregation in an area where up to 70% of dairy farm workers are Latinx immigrants begin to talk about immigration?

More than a decade after a divisive Churchwide vote to include openly Gay and Lesbian pastors in the call process, how does an ELCA congregation begin to talk about sexual identity?

A week after the guilty verdict in the murder of George Floyd, how do Christians begin to talk about justice?

We begin at the beginning, with our faith that God created all humans in God's own image. "God spoke: 'Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature ...' Genesis 1:26 (The Message)

We begin with the gospel, the good news that Jesus Christ is Lord of all. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13 (NRSV)

We begin with our call to answer God's call. "... and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

A number of people have already expressed interest in the Diversity Conversation which begins this week at Trinity. This conversation includes both members of Trinity and members of the surrounding community. If you want in on the conversation, please contact Nolie Kapplinger. If you want to learn more about ELCA social statements, go to <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Church-in-Society>.



## "WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT." (Matthew 25:21)

"In 1963 a heated ramp entrance was constructed on the north side of the church making it possible for lame or wheel chair worshippers to attend services." ("History of the Trinity Congregation") The ramp was also used to bring caskets into and out of the church for funerals.

In 1994, after seven years of studies and discussions, the congregation voted to build a large elevator and drive-under canopy, which was dedicated on March 26, 1995. With the installation of a large-size elevator, the ramp became obsolete.

In the 25-plus years since the elevator was installed, the ramp deteriorated badly. The heating elements stopped working, large chunks of concrete eroded away, and cracks and potholes were prevalent. In 2019, the ramp was closed due to safety issues. Inquiries were made about possible repairs; however, the costs were prohibitive, especially with updated ADA guidelines. This spring, the Congregation Council voted to have the ramp removed to ensure no one – especially children – would be injured.

We give thanks for the many years the ramp enabled worshippers with mobility issues to attend services. We give thanks for the many times loved ones were carried up and down the ramp before their final journey to the cemetery. We give thanks for all those who donated to build it and who helped care for it for more than 50 years.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

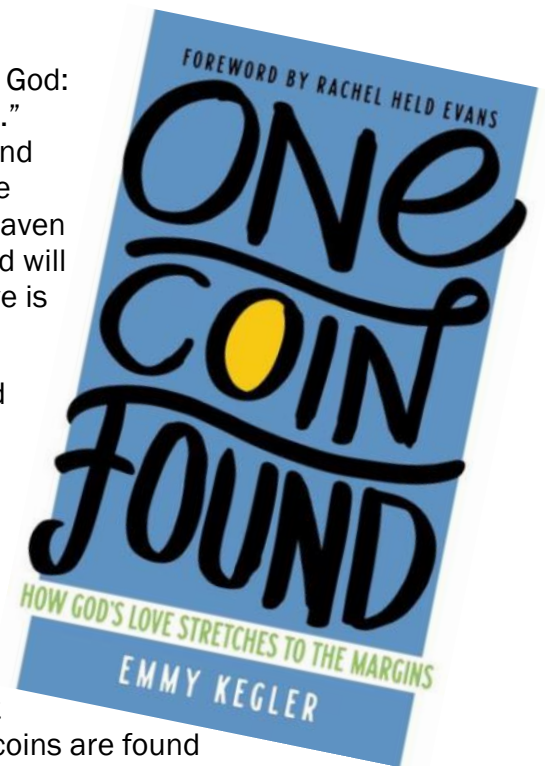


## THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN

*“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’” Luke 15:8-9*

Over the last couple of months, the Congregation Council read “One Coin Found: How God’s Love Stretches to the Margins” by Pr. Emmy Kegler, in our ongoing efforts to listen to all people and to learn how Trinity can be a more welcoming congregation to all Christians. The Council was overwhelmingly moved by Pr. Kegler’s story. (Fast fact: Pr. Kegler was good friends with Jenna [Landsom] Paulsen during college at St. Olaf.) Here are a few of the thoughts from Council members...

- “It was a quote from Dorothy Day, social activist and servant of God: I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least.” And this brought me to tears. Still does. I can see it and feel it: “And God has paced the flagstones of a farm porch, eyes always on the horizon, wondering and waiting, a seat still empty at the table, heaven incomplete until all the family is home. We have been and are and will be found in such a myriad of ways, but always, always, always love is seeking us. Dare to be found.”
- “Like all of us, [Pr. Kegler] struggles to figure out who she is and how to fit into our world. Finally she realizes that God loves us for who we are – not what others think of us. A lesson that we have to keep relearning. ... Also, you can believe in both science and Christianity. That is something I totally agree with.”
- “I have heard the shepherd and the lost sheep many times, but never the lost coin. That really resonated because coins can’t get lost by themselves. We have friends and family who are the lost coin, ‘precious and yet hidden, rolled under a cabinet or hidden in an unswept bit of dust.’ And then the closing where coins are found by love. I especially loved the quote by Rev. Fred Rogers, ‘All of us have special ones who have loved us into being.’ God loves us all and sweeps every corner looking for his lost coins. All of us are never forgotten. We are all children of God no matter what color, sexual orientation, economic level, and more. He accepts all of us and it is time we do a better job of following in His footsteps.”
- “From Dr. Martin Luther: ‘A Christian is a perfectly free Lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.’ I have had a struggle through the Pandemic and through the Presidential election, listening to some very self-absorbed, selfish, one sided individuals ... Therefore, my strongest reply is ‘What would Jesus do?’ He had and has time to be with lepers, the sick and dying, the hungry, people with all skin colors, prostitutes, the rich, the poor, the generous, the selfish. I do believe we are servants to all.”
- “The ‘ah ha’ moment in the book ‘One Coin Found’ for me was the revelation of how much more difficult it is to be a gay / Christian teen than it is to be a heterosexual teen.”
- “Those who live on the margins of society have always been central to the ministry of Jesus. When we read their stories, we are challenged to find a new way forward ... so we can begin to reverse the harm that has occurred because their voices were absent or dismissed.”
- “For too many years the church ignored or dismissed the voices of GLBTQIA+ individuals, to our great loss. As the Apostle Peter proclaims in Acts 11:17: ‘So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?’”



**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION** Registration for the Beary Patch Preschool opens on May 1. We are taking registrations for Early Preschool (3 years old by Sept. 1, 2021) and Pre-K (4 years old by Sept. 1, 2021). Please contact Beary Patch preschool teacher Bethany Bergsgaard for more information, 507-498-5100 or via email: bethany.bergsgaard@springgrove.k12.mn.us.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** Trinity will be hosting a family Vacation Bible School on Wednesday evenings in June. Families are invited to attend VBS together (both parents and children!) on June 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. There will also be supper served beforehand at 5:30 for those interested. Registration is required - you can attend one or all evenings of VBS. Registration forms will be available on the church website in the first week of May. Parents will also receive a letter with more information very soon! All are welcome! Questions? Reach out to Bekah - cyf.trinitysg@gmail.com

**CONFIRMATION CAMP AT TRINITY** Unfortunately, Trinity's confirmation youth will not be going to Good Earth Village this summer for confirmation camp as they are not offering their normal weeks of camp. But Trinity will be offering our own confirmation camp for 7th and 8th graders! Trinity 7th and 8th graders will be attending Trinity's confirmation camp during the week of June 13-16.

**BONFIRES AT BEKAH'S** Students going into 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Bekah's backyard for a bonfire and fellowship on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer at 8:30 p.m. Bonfires will begin Wednesday, June 9 and go through Wednesday, August 25. There will not be a bonfire on Wednesday, July 21 as Bekah will be on the houseboat trip with Trinity youth. Invite your friends! All are welcome - youth do not have to be Trinity members to attend. Hope to see you this summer!



**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, June 2 at 7:00 p.m. outdoors** here at Trinity. If the service needs to be moved indoors due to inclement weather, attendance will be limited. Watch our website and Facebook page for updates.

**SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE** The Scholarship Endowment Committee marvels at the tremendous generosity that brought this fund into existence and has continued to fuel its growth over the last several decades. We are glad to have helped many students from Trinity throughout the years, thanks to the generosity of congregational members and other donors. The Trinity Scholarship Endowment scholarship application deadline for post-secondary students is fast approaching. Trinity members may apply for up to four years of scholarship funding. Completed applications must be submitted to the church office no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 28. No late submissions will be accepted. Applications are available in the office or on our website, [www.trinitysg.org](http://www.trinitysg.org)..... click on "Endowments" from the toolbar at the top of the home page, click "Scholarship Endowment" from the drop-down box, click on "Download Scholarship Application" on the upper right-hand side of the page and the scholarship application will open.



## TRINITY WELCOMES ALL AS MEMBERS

The Outreach Team is working on gathering names of persons who might be interested in joining our family at Trinity. If you or someone you know are thinking about membership or if you have questions about it, please call the church office and let us know. We would love to talk to you about the joys of being a member at Trinity Lutheran and are excited to welcome you as a sibling in Christ.

## LOOKING FOR A DELICIOUS HEALTHY MEAL? CHECK OUT SENIOR DINING!

Carry-out meals are available Monday-Friday. Call Annette at the Legion, 498-3385, from 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. to sign-up for a meal; please give 24 hours notice. A donation between \$3.75-\$7.00 is requested, whatever you can pay. Delicious meals include such things as chili con carne, enchilada casserole, baked turkey, ham and bean soup, beef and rice with cabbage hotdish, and more sides and dessert. Yum! You can also contact the Rushford SEMCAC office to sign up for meals, (507) 864-2786.

**APRIL 14, 2021 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- 13 students registered for the five weeks of Sunday School his spring .
- Confirmation will begin again on Wednesday, April 14. Most groups will meet in person at church with a couple of groups meeting off site or on Zoom.
- Release Time has started again and will meet for the months of April and May. We will meet with eight classes once a month on Wednesday afternoons.
- The houseboat is full at 10 youth participants, Scott Bingham and Bekah will be the chaperones for the trip.
- Youth made \$467 for the houseboat trip and the youth account at the Easter Breakfast.
- VBS for families will be on Wednesday nights during the month of June. Supper will be offered at 5:30 and activities for families will be from 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- Good Earth Village is not offering any overnight camps this summer, so Pastor Elizabeth and Bekah are planning our own confirmation camp at Trinity for those 31 youth who are eligible. It will begin with a lock-in on Sunday, June 13 and will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday-Wednesday.
- Outreach Team sent 20 gift/treat packages to college students and military.
- Dave Selness (Trinity's insurance agent) will re-evaluating the insurance coverage for the church.
- Several trees around the parsonage need to be looked at.
- Diversity Task Force will start meeting as soon as a leader is decided upon.
- Music Task Force finalized questions for a survey of individuals currently involved in Trinity's music ministry. The survey includes questions designed to gather information on participation, planning, recruitment, and future worship options.
- Pr. Elizabeth shared thoughts and questions of locking and unlocking the southeast door that leads to the offices. The staff will start on May 1 using keys to unlock and lock the southeast door.
- Facilities Planning Committee will be meeting with the architect and Wieser Brothers in the next few weeks.
- The ramp has been removed and grass seed will be added to the dirt area.

Motions passed:

- to extend a temporary contract to Scott Solberg, Choir Director, effective March 10, 2021 to June 10, 2021 (Another contract will be offered in the fall.)

**Next Meeting: May 12 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.** Complete minutes are on Trinity's website.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF TRINITY AND ITS MINISTRIES**

Thank you so much for your continued support of Trinity and our ministries during this time when we haven't been together.

We have several options to receive your offering:

► **ELECTRONICALLY:** via our website, [www.trinitysg.org](http://www.trinitysg.org). Click on the "Contribute" link on the right-side of the page.

► **BY MAIL:** Trinity Lutheran Church, 203 E. Main St., Spring Grove, MN 55974.

Remember — **sponsorships for the Media Ministry Fund** (\$100) or **Missionary for a Day candle** (\$40) can also be done. Do you have a certain date in mind? Give us a call, 498-5291, or send us an email, [trinity@springgrove.coop](mailto:trinity@springgrove.coop).

*Thank You*  
FOR  
**GIVING**  
...  
GENEROUSLY

## UPDATE FOR WELCA TRIENNIAL CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST

In a specially called meeting December 23, 2020, Women of the ELCA's executive board decided how and when to hold the organization's convention and gathering. The meeting and Just Love Gathering were initially scheduled for July 14-16, 2020. When the coronavirus pandemic hit, the board, in its April 2020 meeting, rescheduled the convention and gathering for early August 2021. "Since the April board meeting, the coronavirus has spread in ways that few would have imagined," said Linda Post Bushkofsky, churchwide executive director.

As of December 23, more than 323,000 people have died in the United States due to the coronavirus, she said. More than 18.2 million people have been infected to date in the U.S. Leading epidemiologists describe the current trajectory of the virus as a "surge upon surge upon surge."

THREE RECOMMENDATIONS Therefore, believing that in-person meetings will be unsafe into 2021, the executive board approved three recommendations:

1) That the Eleventh Triennial Convention, currently scheduled for August 3-5, 2021, be held virtually (or digitally) on those same dates. "The triennial convention cannot meet virtually until the 2017 voting members amend the constitution to allow for virtual meetings," said Bushkofsky. Before the organization can hold a virtual convention, she said, voting members of the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017) must approve it. "So, the staff will take steps necessary to be in touch with the voting members regarding proposed changes to the constitution." Those proposed changes were made by the executive board at its October 2020 meeting.

2) That the Just Love Gathering, currently scheduled for August 5-8, 2021, be postponed and registration refunds be offered. Staff will then find other ways to build community and bring women together virtually in 2021 and 2022.

3) That the Twelfth Triennial Convention and a Gathering be held in Phoenix, Arizona, during the week of September 18, 2023.

"The executive board recognizes that the recommendations carry with them several other implications," Bushkofsky said. "Despite the challenges, we feel that these are the best options at the current time."

[www.womenoftheelca.org/blog](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog)

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**LOVE DAY** The quilters are meeting on the last Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, following COVID safety guidelines. The gatherings will be shorter for now. Do you have items such as blankets, fabric, sheets that are clean and in good shape that are no longer being used? These items can be used to make quilts.

If you would like to help tie quilts for this worthwhile project, consider joining us for Love Day. Many hands make light work. It is very rewarding to know that the quilts we make are keeping people warm in different areas of the world.

In addition to quilts, we also assemble school kits, baby care kits and personal care kits. Personal care kits are sometimes overlooked.

The following items are included in each **personal care kit**:

- One light-weight bath-size towel (maximum 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail clipper (attached file optional), remove packaging

The following items are included in each **school kit**:

- four 70-sheet notebooks, wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8 x 10½; no loose-leaf paper
- 30-centimeter (12-inch) ruler or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- pencil sharpener
- one blunt point scissors
- four unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- five ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- one box of 16 or 24 crayons
- one 2½" eraser



## Thank you notes received....

*"Thank you for your generous donation of new socks (50+ pairs) for the Men's Clothing Closet. Your attentiveness to the needs of our struggling brothers and sisters is greatly appreciated. It will help the staff and volunteers of Catholic Charities to meet some of their most pressing needs immediately. We are honored to have you join us as we work to serve Christ in those who most need our help!" ~Catholic Charities, La Crosse*

*"Thank you for helping confirm all lives are valuable; especially those feeling isolated and in great need — your help makes a difference! Your investment in our mission blesses those we serve in southern Minnesota. You create opportunities for those living on the margins and help them reach their full potential. Because of you, our staff and volunteers are able to provide help and create hope for families in crisis, vulnerable adults, and seniors, and children in need — regardless of age, gender, faith tradition, ethnic background, or ability to pay. Your compassion transforms the lives of the poor and vulnerable. You inspire and restore hope. Your investment of love reaps rewards that are beyond measure!" ~Catholic Charities, Winona*

*"I'm writing to thank you for your generous sock donation to 180 Degrees' Brittany's Place and Clifton Place programs. We're incredibly thankful for your commitment and generosity, and your support in providing emergency shelter for people in crisis in Minnesota. These will keep our clients warm! With your help, we can help empower and turn lives around." ~180 Degrees, St. Paul*

*"Thank you so much for donating brand new, warm socks to our agency. It is not often that we are able to distribute unused items to families in need. I was absolutely delighted to be presented with three bags of various sizes to share with survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and child abuse. To some, socks might seem like a trivial or 'small' item, it is certainly an overlooked item in the donations that we are fortunate enough to receive from community members. I just wanted to take the time to point out that these socks will make a huge difference for families who are trying to rebuild their lives in the face of adversity and violence, and will make a positive impact on Houston County communities. Your generosity is moving, thank you for thinking of us and our clients." ~Bluff Country Family Resources, Inc., Hokah*

## "IF YOU CAN'T FEED ONE HUNDRED, FEED AT LEAST ONE" -MOTHER TERESA

A large portion of the Care Team's ministry is about providing food where there is need. This makes our hearts full. Here are some suggestions on how you might help.

- There are baskets at the entrances to church for donations to the Houston County Food Shelf. They continue to need our support especially during circumstances related to COVID-19.
- Trinity's Little Free Pantry has high usage. If you'd like to place a bag of items there, these are items that go quickly: cans of chili, stew, baked beans, ravioli, spaghetti/meatballs, chicken/dumplings, gravy, fruits, vegetables, and soup (esp. one serving soups). Other non-perishables are great also. We're very pleased Trinity can offer this Pantry to our community. It's new location is through the SW door. "Give What You Can, Take What You Need"
- Please consider becoming a Meals On Wheels deliverer. It takes about an hour and a half starting at 11:00 Mondays through Fridays. A schedule for 5-6 months is mailed to you indicating 2 days of delivering. It's easy to switch days if there's a conflict with dates.

Also, if you'd like a delicious lunch; ordering one, or a few, or the whole month's worth helps the program immensely. They offer carry-outs at this time. Stop at the Legion between 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. to pick up a menu and get details about ordering.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please call the church office. Thank you!

~ Care Ministry Team





## A PASTORAL WORD ON THE VERDICT OF GEORGE FLOYD'S MURDER TRIAL

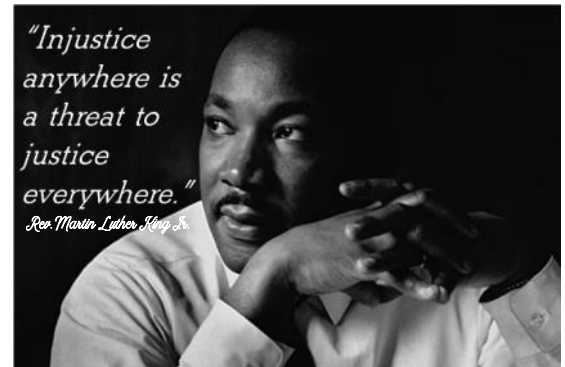
4/20/2021

The trial of Derek Chauvin, the former Minnesota police officer charged with the killing of George Floyd, has riveted our national attention these past weeks, and now a verdict has been reached. Together with people around the world, we have anticipated the jury's decision with troubled hearts. As members of the community of Jesus, we affirm that "if one member suffers, all suffer together with it" (1 Corinthians 12:26, NRSV).

No jury verdict can erase the pain of the Floyd family, and we share our condolences and pray for ongoing comfort in their suffering and for all whose lives have been touched by this tragedy. As people of the cross, we believe in the hope of the resurrection. Yet we cannot rush to Easter Sunday without reflecting on the oppression of Good Friday.

The murder of George Floyd is one of the many examples of the ongoing abuse of police authority. The extrajudicial killings of Brown and Black bodies must stop.

We recommit ourselves as a church to continue to fight against the sin of racism and to hold accountable unjust systems and structures that perpetuate injustices, including our own. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." The work of confronting these injustices is long overdue.



Let us together in our congregations and communities discern how we are being called in this moment to live out our baptismal promise to serve all people and strive for justice and peace.

For further discussion, you can read the following sections from ELCA social statements and policy:

***The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries***, [elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Criminal-Justice](https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Criminal-Justice) (pages 9 and 13).

***Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture***, [elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Race-Ethnicity-and-Culture](https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Race-Ethnicity-and-Culture) (pages 4 and 5).

***Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent***, [Slavery Apology Explanation.pdf](https://www.elca.org/Slavery-Apology-Explanation.pdf) (page 2).

In Christ,  
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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This is a partial list of the many resources shared by the ELCA.

### BOOKS:

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou  
*Raising Our Hands* by Jenna Arnold  
*Sister Outsider* by Audre Lorde  
*So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo  
*The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century* by Grace Lee Boggs  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston  
*White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo, PhD

### PODCASTS TO SUBSCRIBE TO:

1619 (New York Times)  
About Race  
Code Switch (NPR)  
Intersectionality Matters! hosted by Kimberlé Crenshaw  
Momentum: A Race Forward Podcast  
Pod For The Cause (from The Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights)  
Pod Save the People (Crooked Media)



**Southeastern Minnesota Synod**  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



April 5, 2021

*The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."*

*So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."  
(Matthew 28: 5-10)*

Dear Church,

Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed!  
Alleluia!

We have wound our way through the travails of another year to the resurrection joy of Easter morning. Who could have fathomed just what the journey between last Easter and this would hold?

Yet, here we are again. Another proclamation of resurrection hope in the midst of layers of pandemic life.

As we see signs that the end might be in sight, it is tempting to spend too much time looking back. I do not mean reflecting on the past year (it would serve us well to do so). I mean looking back further still, all the way back to the way things were before pandemic life began. It is tempting to look back and search for ways to reconstruct the lives we once lived. We long, perhaps, to be a people restored.

There is a difference, though, between restoration and resurrection.<sup>1</sup>

As followers of Jesus, we, dear friends, are a people not of restoration but resurrection. We are a people, not of rebuilding a life that once was but invited into the abundance of the new life Christ has claimed.

We seek not restoration but resurrection.

There are, indeed, pieces of our past, recent and ancient, that continue to do God's good work in the world. But what if, instead of allowing our present and future to be shaped by the realities of life that once was, we allow the expanse of holy imagination to push wide the bounds of life as we knew it and invite us into what will yet be?

I am reminded of the women's encounter with Jesus just after the resurrection. They fall down before him and cling to his feet as Jesus tells them to **get up and go**.

<sup>1</sup> Many thanks to Bishop Leila Ortiz, who sparked this notion within me.

I'm fairly confident I would cling to Jesus's feet, too. I would want to hold on to the one I had thought I had lost and never let go. But for the resurrection story to be told, the women must let go of reclaiming what they had known and run to tell the others of an impossible truth: Jesus is alive, and a whole new way of life has just begun.

Dear church, Jesus is alive and, in his living, a whole new way of life has just begun!

When Jesus broke free from the tomb, he was not simply restored to what he had been; he was resurrected! His new life was not just a reconstruction of the old. It was new.

What if the Spirit's invitation in this season is not to restore us to what once was but to invite us into a new way of life? A way we might call resurrection living.

In this new life, it seems wise to take our cue from the women who were the first to encounter Jesus's resurrection. To get up and go and tell everyone we can about what Christ has done.

This has been a long year. We are weary. Our neighbors are weary. For so many reasons, we are tired.

Into this weary exhaustion and season of prolonged grief comes the resurrection of Jesus. As followers of Jesus, we are first hand witnesses, people who have seen and are invited to get up, go, and tell the good news. This good news is the story of a God who came into a weary world, among a broken and weary people, and offered us new life. "I have come that they may have life," Jesus said, "and have it to the full."<sup>2</sup>

It is new life offered to us, but not only us. It is resurrection life offered to God's whole beloved world.

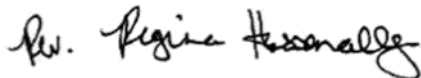
What miraculous joy Easter morning holds, that we would not only join in witnessing the resurrection but also in the invitation to share this good news far and wide; that we would be welcomed into resurrection living.

It is tempting to hold onto what once was, to cling to what we once knew. But the resurrected Christ longs not to simply restore us but show us the way of abundant life. "And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'"<sup>3</sup>

In the midst of our exhaustion, our weariness, our grief, what joy this Easter morning brings! We, the followers of Jesus, just like the women all those years ago, have been invited to witness the abundance of resurrection living, and in that living to get up, to go, and to tell the world Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

With Easter joy,



Bishop Regina Hassanally  
Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

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<sup>2</sup> John 10:10 NIV

<sup>3</sup> Revelation 21:5 NRSV

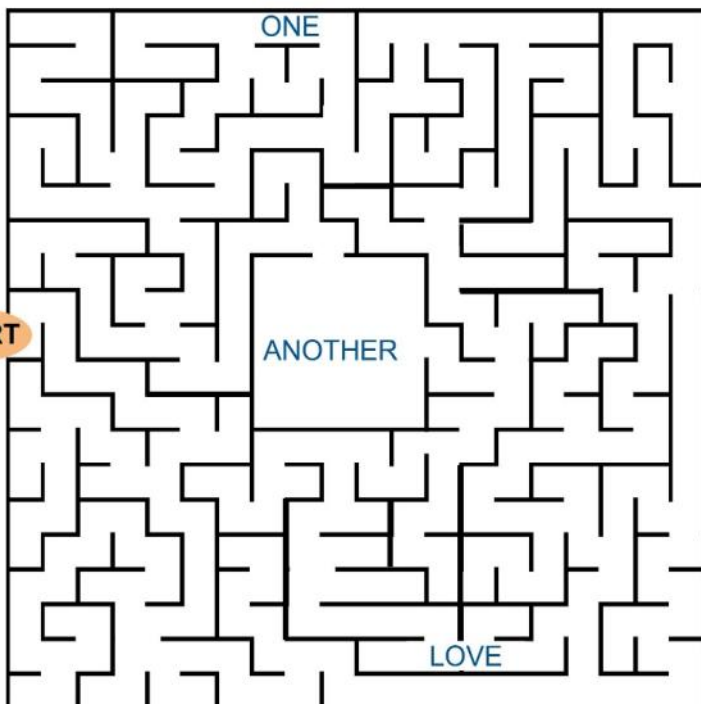
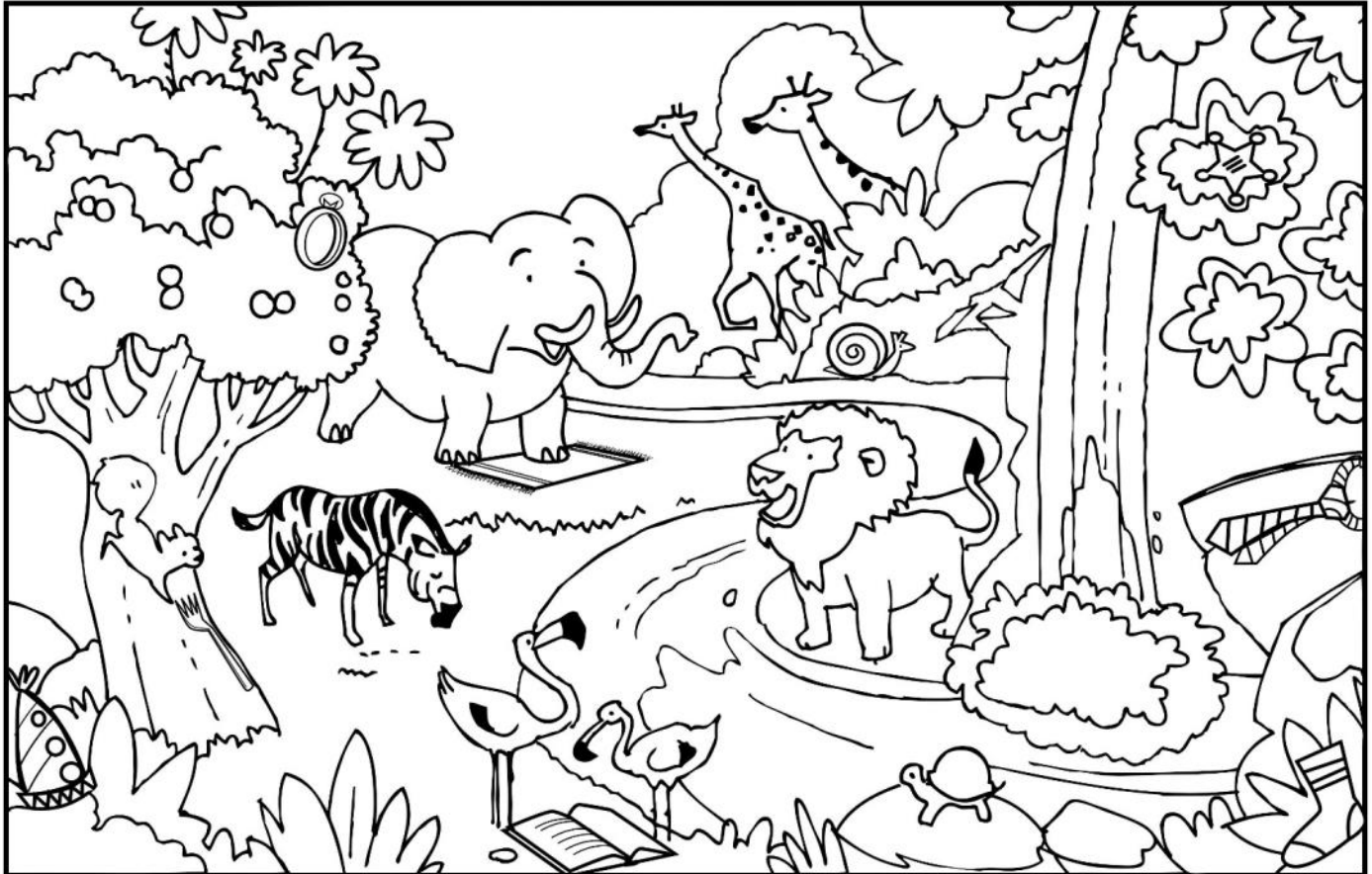


## Genesis 1:24-25

<sup>24</sup>And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

### Hidden Pictures: God Made the Animals

Find these objects hidden in the picture below:  
 book, clown's hat, fork, necktie, ring, rug, sherrif's badge, snail, sock



### Love One Another Word Maze

Find your way from the start of the maze and connect the words from the answer phrase in their correct order.

Love one another. John 15:17b HCSB





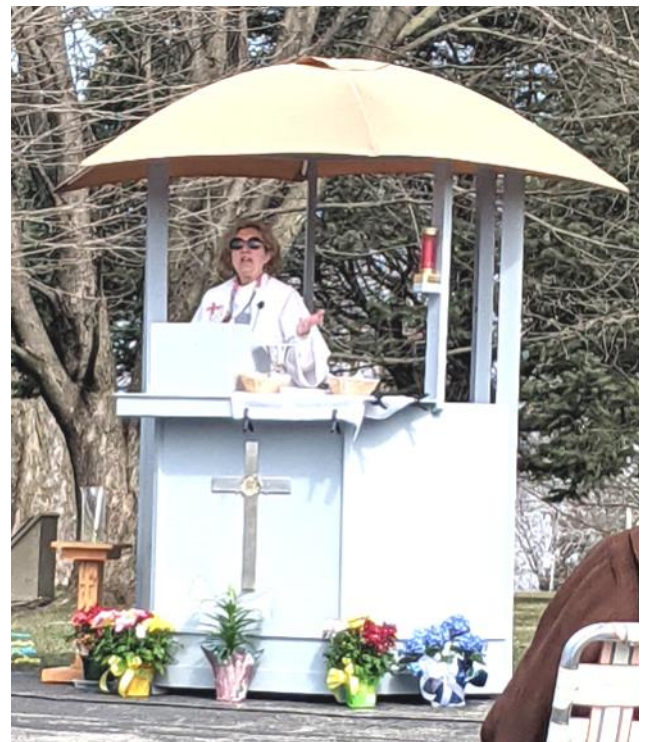
In 2019, the ramp was closed due to safety issues. This spring, the Congregation Council voted to have the ramp removed to ensure no one would be injured. The deconstruction was done in late March.



The ability to have outdoor worship has been a blessing. We plan to have outdoor worship again regularly this summer.

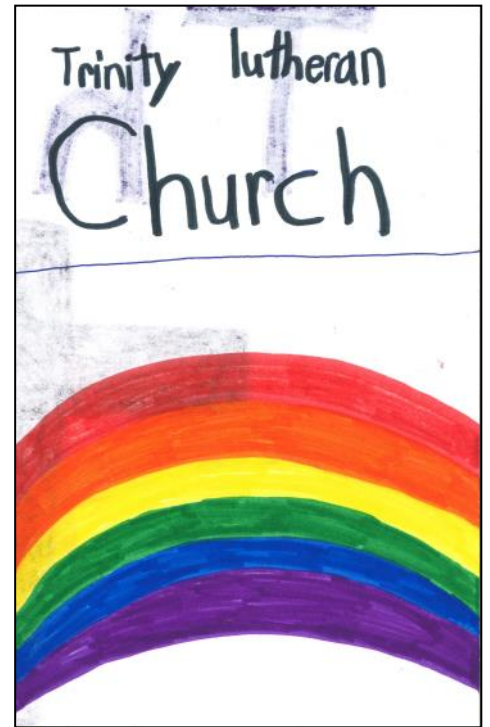
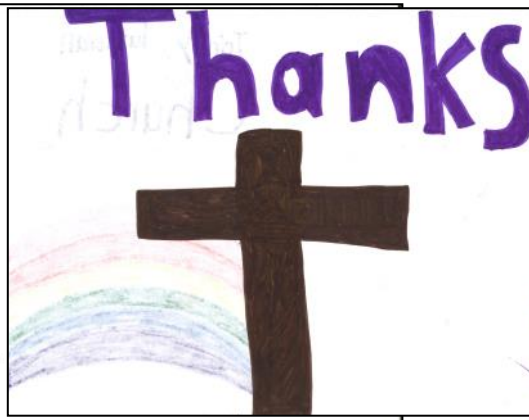
◀ A new mobile pulpit was built by Rick Sundet (left) and Lee Hoekstra (right).

▶ It was used for the first time on Easter Sunday.





Deer Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church  
thank  
you  
for sending  
us in the church  
we didit have  
the were to  
go to i wish  
we ~~could~~ could repay  
you  
FROM CUB SCOUTS



▲ Kind and thoughtful thank you notes were received from Cub Scout members.

◀ Our first Sunday back at in-person worship. What joy!

▶ A view from the media booth.

▼ Love Day has begun to meet again to sew quilts for Lutheran World Relief.







▲ We were able to worship together in person on Palm Sunday.

▶ The Little Free Pantry has moved locations. It is now accessible from the southwest door on Main Street.



▲ Help us help the Houston County Food Shelf. Donations can be left in the baskets by the elevator and southeast entrance.

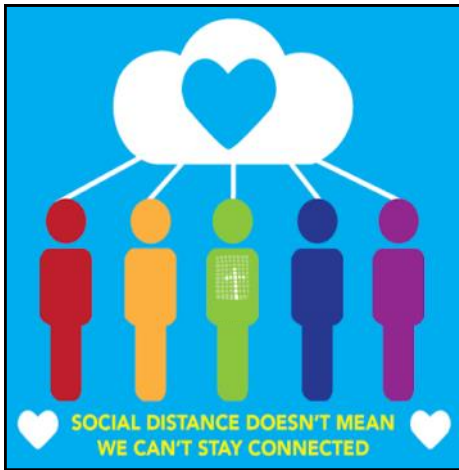
## We celebrated our youth!

▲ At a special service on Maundy Thursday, 5th and 6th grade youth received their First Communion.

▶ At a special service on May 25, we recognized and blessed our graduating high school seniors.

Many blessings to all of you!





**WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED TO TRINITY**

- **498-HOPE (4673)**  
-short daily messages and updates
- **498-AMEN (2636)**  
-daily devotions
- **www.trinitysg.org**  
-news, updates, info
- **Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove**  
-updates, music, worship, info
- **YouTube:**  
*Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove*  
-video recordings of worship, Bible Stories with Bekah
- **Instagram**  
-photos, updates
- **KVIK 104.7FM**  
- Sunday worship service,  
- www.kvikradio.com

*This is how we care for ourselves and our neighbors.*

**Friendly reminder on how to wear a mask.**

And remember....they need washing, too! 😊



**Yes!**  
nose, mouth, chin covered.

**No...**  
nose not covered.

**No...**  
nose, mouth, chin not covered.

**LITTLE FREE PANTRY**

Do you know someone that needs a little help with food or toiletries? Please let them know that Trinity has a Little Free Pantry – enter using the southwest door (on Main Street, farthest from the parking lot).

**GOOD SAMARITAN FUND**

We also have a Good Samaritan Fund. Please call the church office if you or someone you know has a need.





Mon. June 7	Darla & Jim Hunzeker
Tue. June 8	Darla & Jim Hunzeker
Wed. June 9	Bill Fried
Thu. June 10	Bill Fried
Fri. June 11	Mary & Howard Deters
Mon. June 14	Mary & Howard Deters
Tue. June 15	Jana & Len Myrah
Wed. June 16	Jana & Len Myrah
Thu. June 17	Nolie & Kim Kapplinger
Fri. June 18	Nolie & Kim Kapplinger

Usher Schedule



May ushers
Curt Roverud, captain
Dana Kjome
Alfred Wendel
Les Storlie
Blaine Liudahl
June / July / August ushers
Family groups — would you like to usher? Contact Kim Kapplinger, 498-5825.



April 25 – May 8	Lara Wold Mendez
May 9 – 22	Barb Gulbranson
May 23 – June 5	Nolie Kapplinger
June 6 - 12	Saundy Solum
June 13—19	Alisha Solum
June 20—July 3	Bev Nelson
July 4—10	Ruth Johnsrud

**PRAYER CHAIN** We as a congregation have a wonderful opportunity to pray for each other in times of need. We currently have two phone prayer chains (see below). We also have had some interest in having an email prayer group. For the email prayer group, you would receive an email from with the prayer request information. All that you need to do is pray for the request, you don't need to pass on any info.... it's the simple and amazing power of prayer! Would you like to be added to the email prayer group list or added to a phone prayer chain? Please contact the office, 498-5291 or [trinity@springgrove.coop](mailto:trinity@springgrove.coop).

**How to start a prayer request:** Prayer requests can be made on behalf of someone; however that **person must first give their permission**. When a prayer request is made, **please include:** 1) how much information should be shared with the Prayer Chain members/what wording should be used, 2) if the request should also be in the bulletin prayer box and if so for how long, 3) if you are calling for someone, please tell us your relationship to them and confirm you have their permission.

Phone Prayer Chain 1	Phone Prayer Chain 2
Joyce Landsom	Karen Gray
Nolie Kapplinger	Bev Nelson
Terry Holland	Janet Wold
Bonnie Solberg	Jan Lochner
Dawn Hewitt	Ruth Johnsrud
Lynn Rostad Anderson	Judy Bratland
Milly Halverson	

# MAY HAPPENINGS AT TRINITY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 10:30am AA, FH 5:00pm Worship, Communion
<b>2</b> 9:15am Worship, Communion 10:00am Sunday School	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:00pm AA, FH 5:30pm Music Task Force 7:00pm Response Team	<b>5</b> 1:00pm, 2:00pm Release Time, TC 5:00pm Facilities Planning Team 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Handbells 8:00 pm Choir; 3:16s, TC	<b>6</b> 5:30pm Education Team 7:00pm Finance Team	<b>7</b> 7:30pm Middle School Game Night, TC	<b>8</b> 8:00am-3:30pm Virtual Synod Assembly 10:30am AA, FH
<b>9</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 9:15am Worship, Praise Band 10:00am Sunday School 11:15am Nursing Home worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:00pm AA, FH 7:00pm Staffing Team	<b>12</b> 1:00pm, 2:00pm Release Time, TC 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Handbells 7:30pm Council, FH 8:00 pm Choir; 3:16s, TC	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Syttende Mai Celebration	<b>15</b> 10:30am AA, FH  <i>no worship</i>
<b>16</b> 9:15am Worship, Communion 10:30am-1:00pm Drive-Thru Meatball Dinner	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00am Worship at Assisted Living 5:00pm AA, FH	<b>19</b> 1:00pm, 2:00pm Release Time, TC 7:00pm Handbells 8:00 pm Choir	<b>20</b> 9:30am Worship at Manor 7:00pm Staffing Team	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:30am AA, FH
<b>23</b> 9:15am Worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:00pm AA, FH	<b>26</b> 1:15pm, 2:00pm Release Time, TC 7:00pm Handbells 8:00 pm Choir	<b>27</b> 9:30am Worship at Tweeten Apts	<b>28</b> 9:00am Love Day	<b>29</b> 10:30am AA, FH
<b>30</b> 9:15am Worship	<b>31</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>  <i>office closed</i>					

**FH** = Fellowship Hall (large room in basement)  
**MR** = Middle Room (upstairs by offices)  
**GR** = Gathering Room (in basement near men's bathroom)  
**TC** = Trinity Center

# JUNE HAPPENINGS AT TRINITY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:00pm Community Baccalaureate	3 5:30pm Education Team 7:00pm Finance Team	4	5 10:30am AA, FH 5:00pm Worship, Communion
6 9:15am Worship, Communion	7	8 5:00pm AA, FH	9 5:30pm VBS Supper 6:00-7:00pm Family VBS 7:30pm Council 8:30pm Bonfire @ Bekah's (7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> gr)	10	11	12 10:30am AA, FH
13 9:15am Worship, Praise Band 11:15am Nursing Home worship 5:30pm Confirmation Camp lock-in	14	15 5:00pm AA, FH	16 5:30pm VBS Supper 6:00-7:00pm Family VBS 8:30pm Bonfire @ Bekah's (7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> gr)	17 9:30am Worship at Manor	18 Newsletter info due	19 10:30am AA, FH 5:00pm Worship, communion
20 <i>Father's Day</i> 9:15am Worship, Communion	21	22 5:00pm AA, FH	23 5:30pm VBS Supper 6:00-7:00pm Family VBS 8:30pm Bonfire @ Bekah's (7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> gr)	24 9:30am Worship at Tweeten Apts 2:00pm newsletter assembly	25 9:00am Love Day	26 10:30am AA, FH
27 9:15am Worship	28	29 10:00am Worship at Assisted Living 5:00pm AA, FH	30 5:30pm VBS Supper 6:00-7:00pm Family VBS 8:30pm Bonfire @ Bekah's (7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> gr)	<b>FH</b> = Fellowship Hall (large room in basement) <b>MR</b> = Middle Room (upstairs by offices) <b>GR</b> = Gathering Room (in basement near men's bathroom) <b>TC</b> = Trinity Center		

*Trinity*  
Lutheran Church  
203 East Main Street  
PO Box 188  
Spring Grove, MN 55974

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55974  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*God's Word is a  
Living water that  
detoxifies our soul.  
The more we drink  
of it, the more it  
cleanses, refreshes  
and renews us. -  
Caroline Naoroji*

