

TRINITY *news*

MAY/JUNE 2022

VOLUME 28 ▪ ISSUE 5&6

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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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

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Listen live Sundays on **KVIK 104.7 FM**

www.kvikradio.com

and on Facebook Live

Saturday Worship 5:00 p.m.

1st and 3rd Saturdays each month

STAFF

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Rachel Storlie, Organist/Pianist

Scott Solberg, Choir Director

Logan Olson, Handbell Director

Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist

Mark Udstuen, Praise Band Leader

Rick Sundet, Technology Lead

TRINITY RESPONDS TO THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE

In March, the Congregation Council voted to match, dollar-for-dollar, monetary donations made to support refugees from Ukraine. You responded with donations totaling **\$5,301.12**. With the match (and an additional donation that came in too late for the match), Trinity contributed **\$10,701.24**. Lutheran World Relief is matching donations dollar-for-dollar as well, so our gift now totals **\$21,402.48!!**

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is responding in a big way to this crisis, with a pledge of \$7 million so far, including:

- Medical supplies and equipment.
- Partnerships with networks throughout Ukraine to provide shelter.
- Shipping and distributing LWR Quilts (some of them could be from Trinity!).
- Emergency cash and vouchers for Ukrainian refugees in Poland totaling \$2 million to support an initial caseload of more than 1,300 refugee families for the next three months.
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: LWR is integrating a referral system at their cash distribution sites in Poland so refugee women and children can safely and easily access protection services. LWR is an active member of the Regional Gender Task Force for Ukraine response, which is co-chaired by UN Women and Care International.
- Ongoing support for the Evangelical-Augsburg Church of St. Martin in Krakow, Poland, which has established a hostel for Ukrainian women and children, including essential supplies of milk, energy biscuits, personal hygiene products and room partition panels.



Thank you, thank you, thank you for your generosity!



Sun. May 15 ▪ 10:30 a.m.—2 p.m. ▪ Syttende Mai Meatball Dinner

Sun. May 22 ▪ 9:15 a.m. ▪ Senior Recognition Sunday

Wed. June 8 ▪ Education Team serves at Music in the Park

Mon. June 20 - Thu. June 23 ▪ Day Camp and VBS

Sun. July 10 - Fri. July 15 ▪ Confirmation Camp ▪ Good Earth Village

Sun. July 24 - Fri. July 29 ▪ W.Y.L.D.E. High School Service Trip

“My cup overflows.”

Psalm 23:5b

Dear people of God,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Oh, my goodness, what a blessing it was to have a bit of “normal” back in our Lent and Holy Week worship! It was such a joy to hear the choir singing in person, to see our kids march in waving palms, to hear the Passion story read in dramatic form, to share in fellowship at the Easter breakfast served by our youth, and to sing once again “Thine Is the Glory” with trumpet and organ and bells. And how fun was it to have a baptism at second service?!

I hope you enjoyed our 6-week study of Psalm 23 as much as I did as well. As many times as I’ve read Psalm 23, both silently and aloud, I don’t think I’ve ever felt as close to the text as I did during our Lenten study. I don’t think I’ll ever read it the same way again.

We have so much to be grateful for at Trinity. I know I am grateful for your patience and support during these last years of pandemic. I am grateful for your response to the crisis in Ukraine with generous donations that will make a difference in refugee lives. I am grateful for our staff, our Congregation Council and other teams and committees, our volunteers, our musicians and singers, all of whom make it possible for ministries, fellowship, and worship to happen. I am grateful to God, who is with us and loves us and blesses us to be a blessing.

I am now in my fifth year at Trinity, believe it or not! It continues to be a blessing and a privilege to serve you.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

~ Pr. Elizabeth



2022 Maple Syrup season is over! Whew! While it is a lot of fun, it is relieving when it is over because it is a lot of work. There were 62 rough gallons of syrup this year. That translates into 49 gallons of syrup in jars and 10 gallons sold to Rock Filter Distillery to make bourbon infused maple syrup. The rest was waste. This summer, the youth will be selling syrup at the Farmers Market in town as well as in the church basement. It is also available at Bluff Country Artist Gallery. Or stop in the office for a jar. It is \$10/jar.

Getting the maple syrup into jars is quite a process. This year we bought 35 cases of new pint jars besides the jars people brought back after emptying them. Other tools we need are four big stainless steel pots, a filter and pads, diatomaceous earth, a canning pot and other complementary tools. The syrup is heated to about 190 degrees. This kills any bacteria. It is then pumped through a filter with diatomaceous earth to clean any impurities (think: forgiveness of sins!). From the filter it is pumped into the canning pan and then into sterilized jars.



The profit from the sale of the syrup, about \$5 or 50% goes to the youth and family ministry. It is a great fundraiser because it doesn’t compete with other businesses in town. So it is a great way to support those ministries. Maple syrup makes great gifts for birthdays and holidays.

~ Pastor Lane

MARCH 9, 2022 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTSUpdates:

- Lenten Suppers are March 9-April 6, youth will be serving the suppers with teams helping prepare the food.
- 24 youth and adults are going to WI Dells for a retreat March 4-6.
- Jeff Ellingson is now the scheduler for Meals on Wheels.
- American Rescue Plan Act gave the Little Free Pantry \$1,000.
- Wednesday Night Bible School is averaging around 16 children per night. This has increased our attendance in the upper elementary students. The students have expressed that they want to be at the church for their education times.
- Need to update treasurer management services—payrolls are done electronically; account admin. Is Lorilyn Dehning and needs to change to Nicole Krenzke (bookkeeper).
- Change in our Constitution — it states the treasurer should be assisted by others in counting the offering. ELCA Constitution does not reflect this practice. This will be looked at before the Annual meeting.
- Still no bids for the boiler at the Trinity Center.
- Gary Wilhelmson (custodian) and Dave Eiken met with Winona Controls to look at a different water heater.
- Nancy Gulbranson (Staffing Team) will email staff an evaluation form with questions and ask them to return it before their reviews which will be after Easter.
- Logan Olson's contract for the Handbell Choir is up at the end of May.
- There will not be a 5th Sunday activity by Stewardship in May because it is Memorial Day weekend.
- COVID protocol changes—masks are optional. Fellowship will begin in April. People will be allowed to rent the Trinity Center and Fellowship Hall beginning in April. The high school choir will be allowed to have their spring concert at Trinity.
- Root River Conference Assembly was held Feb. 20 via ZOOM. A Social Statement was written on child protection and was passed by the Root River Conference. It will be sent to the Synod to see if they will take it to the Synod Assembly in May.
- The audit will be completed after April 18.

Motions passed:

- To give half of the special Ukraine offering to Lutheran Immigration Services and half to Lutheran Disaster Response.
- To remove the \$10 fee for Facebook livestreaming of funerals.
- To approve \$240 to replace LED lights in the kitchen.

Next Meeting: April 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Complete minutes are on Trinity's website.

APRIL 13, 2022 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTSUpdates:

- COVID protocols update — all ropes removed, started communion at the rail, choir singing
- Master Plan will share the outline of their goals in the next newsletter
- Trinity Center boiler — Dan Alstad (Property Team) is still waiting for bids and said he may be able to find replacement parts with considerable savings.
- The congregation's Ukraine donations were matched by our General Fund and this entire amount was matched by Lutheran World Relief.
- First Communion kids had their First Communion class, 8 kids this year. We will be buying a small gift for them in remembrance of their First Communion.
- Norwegian Lag Stevne lunch and tour request for August 11. Pastor Elizabeth will check with Kerri to see if youth are interested in serving a meal.
- The idea of a council retreat will be discussed next month — Navigating a New Future.

Motions passed:

- To repair boiler, if possible, instead of purchasing new.
- To reinstate Scott Solberg's choir director contract using the same amount as last year (\$7,915/year) with prorated monthly salary starting on April 3. His next contract will be in 2023.

Next Meeting: TUESDAY, May 10, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. Complete minutes are on Trinity's website.

MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE/BUILDING ADDITION UPDATE

The Facility Planning Committee completed their work late last year regarding the proposed addition to the church building. After presenting ideas to the congregation in four focus group sessions, the committee voted to pass the plan on to the Congregation Council for review and next steps. The committee believes the plan is “90%” of the way to meeting the needs expressed by the congregation during the Vision and Planning Committee process.

During the course of their work, the Facility Planning Committee received feedback about other church building issues. As a result, the Congregation Council voted to create a Master Plan Committee to do a thorough review. The Committee met several times over the last couple of months. They have now completed the first phase of our work.

The committee created a 10-year plan for the church building, which you will find on the next page. At the last Congregation Council meeting it was decided to create a new committee which will combine members of the Facility Planning Committee with members of the Master Plan Committee. Their task is to combine into one master plan the church projects detailed on the next page with the possible new addition. When their work is complete it will be presented to the congregation. This may take several months to complete.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact any member of the committee.

Master Plan Committee members: Steve Kemp (Committee Lead and Stewardship Team Lead), Bev Nelson (Education Team), Aaron Solum, Dana Kjome (Property Team), Dan Alstad (Property Team Lead), Eric Frydenlund (Heritage Team), Barb Arnold, Jacque Wennes (Finance Team), and Mary Deters, plus Congregation Council President Saundy Solum and Pr. Elizabeth Hermeier, both ex officio.

See next page for 10 year plan.

MOVING WITH MEANING

Laurie (Hagen) Jensen has been on the Trinity prayer list for many months after being diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer last year. After finding that jogging (she calls it “trotting”) contributed to her overall health, she partnered with the Mayo Clinic to raise awareness and funds for pancreatic early detection with a special fundraiser she’s calling “Moving with Meaning.”

She will be “Moving with Meaning” in Stillwater’s Half Marathon on May 28 to raise awareness and funds for the Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer Research. If you choose to donate, 100% of your donation will support Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer Research at Mayo Clinic.

WAYS TO DONATE: (Mayo Clinic is a 501c(3) charitable organization and will issue a receipt to donors)
Checks made out to: Mayo Clinic, in memo line: Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer Research/In Honor of Laurie Jensen. Mail checks to Laurie: 15096 Bridgewater Drive, Savage, MN 55378.

Credit card donations. Please follow the below instructions as it is **imperative** that the correct designation is selected.

- 1) under Gift Details, enter the amount you want to donate
- 2) the next lines says, Designate my gift to....please DO NOT choose CANCER, but rather scroll all the way to the bottom and hit OTHER.
- 3) You will then need to type “Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer Research”
<https://philanthropy.mayoclinic.org/LaurieRunsStillwater>

Our prayers, along with her treatment and overall health plan, are working! Laurie is in remission at this time and “living my best life!” Praise God!



PROPERTY TASKS NEEDING ATTENTION

YEAR	NEW ADDITION	EXISTING CHURCH BUILDING	ONGOING PROJECTS	FUNDING SOURCE	AVAILABLE FUNDS in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS	NEXT STEP
2022		Repair stained glass windows		Heritage ~\$35,000 available 2022	\$8,000	Vendor
		Bury electrical lines on north side		Property		City Council
2023	Vote on addition after tweaking plan			Building Fund	\$700,000	Master Plan Comm
		Landscape Old Cemetery		Special Accounts	\$3,791	Get plan/person
		Repair steeple roof		Heritage		Get contractor
		Replace Fellowship Hall (FH) floor		Heritage		Get contractor
		Love Day storage after FH floor		Property		Get plan/estimate
		Replace FH bathrooms		Heritage		Get contractor
2024		FH pillars (Possible removal)				Get estimate
		West entrance stairs		Heritage		Get design/estimate
2025			Tuck-pointing	Heritage	\$7,355	Get contractor
		Refurbish sanctuary		Capital campaign		Get design/estimate
2026		Handicap accessibility				
		Altar				
		Paint/carpet				
		Pews				
		Lights				
		Sound				
2027		Refurbish education wing		Heritage		Get design
		Education rooms				
		Storage areas -music, banners/ decorations, files, education supplies				
2028		Establish area for history				
		Landscape outside				
2030			Kitchen Updated 2010			Get estimates

* Congregational vote required for any project over 10% of budget.

* Congregation Council may enter into contracts up to \$10,000 for items not included in the budget.

* Property has \$40,401 in their special accounts and \$3870 in the Olerud Bequest available for projects.

* Timeline may evolve as needed

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL—MAY 8

All 3 year olds through 6th grade youth will be singing in church this Sunday, which is also Mother's Day. Following worship, we will be going to the nursing home to sing some of our songs to them as well.

SYTTENDE MAI MEATBALL DINNER

Our youth will be leading the Meatball Dinner on Sunday, **May 15**. We will be serving from **10:30 a.m. –2:00 p.m.** as drive-thru only. Youth and parents — please sign up for a shift or as a team. Kerri has sent out a Google doc where you can see what shifts are available. It will also be on our website.

SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

On **Sunday, May 22** 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: Reid Bjerke, Sierra Blaskowski, Julia Halverson, McKenzie Fisch, Brielle Neeley, Ava Olerud, and Jonah Udstuen.

COMMUNITY BACCALAUREATE

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 1 at 7:30 p.m.** here at Trinity.

HIGH SCHOOL BONFIRES

Starting **June 8**, we will have weekly bonfires on Wednesday nights from **8-10 p.m.** for 9th-12th grade youth on the big lawn at the church. There will be games, devotions, community time, and of course.....s'mores! Bring a friend or two, you do not need to be a Trinity member to attend — all are welcome!

TENNIS TUESDAYS

The first Tuesday in June, July, and August we will meet at the tennis courts from **7-9 p.m.** and have fun playing tennis, no skill needed, as Kerri has no skill! Bring a racquet and tennis balls if you have them. This will be a fun community time for 7th-12th grade youth. Our first Tennis Tuesday is **June 7**.

SUGAR CREEK DAY CAMP

All Kindergarten—6th grade youth are invited to attend Day Camp led by counselors from Sugar Creek Bible Camp. Day Camp is **June 20-23 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** at Trinity. Cost is \$20. It will be a great week of fun games, Bible studies, activities, and more! We also need two host families for these college-aged counselors.

PRESCHOOL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our preschool Vacation Bible School will be held the same week of Day Camp, but only a half-day program. We are looking for one or two people to lead VBS. Kerri will prepare the curriculum, but is in need of people to teach the lesson and crafts. Please contact Kerri if you are interested in this opportunity to work with our young youth.

CONFIRMATION CAMP AT GOOD EARTH VILLAGE BIBLE CAMP

ALL 7th - 9th graders are encouraged to attend Confirmation Camp on **July 10 -15!**

Confirmation campers have memorable faith-building adventures during this week! Campers spend time each morning with our pastor or a confirmation leader exploring faith topics in depth. In the afternoon and evenings, campers enjoy group activities, canoeing, swimming, arts and crafts, epic games, and campfire worship led by the GEV summer staff.

1. Please sign up online by June 1: <http://goodearthvillage.org/register>
2. Make sure to list in your registration: CONFIRMATION CAMP with TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, SPRING GROVE, MN in the program space.
3. You will have to pay a non-refundable deposit when you register.
4. Total cost per youth is \$200 (monies from WELCA and other groups have been given to offset the costs). If you are unable to pay the amount or deposit, please let Kerri know and we can help figure out a way for your child to attend camp!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH SUMMER SERVICE TRIP — BOUNDLESS W.Y.L.D.E.

All youth entering 9th–12th grade this fall are invited to participate in this trip. We will experience a powerful week of immersive youth ministry. The Boundless Wisconsin Youth Leadership Development Event is at Sugar Creek Bible Camp in Ferryville, WI. It is a gathering designed to inspire, equip, and send. The trip dates are **July 24-29**. We will experience hands-on service opportunities, leadership learning activities, spirit-filled worships, meaningful faith exploration, and supportive community! **Cost is \$300. Deadline to register is June 1.** (This trip is replacing the ELCA Youth Gathering that was cancelled.)

Questions? Contact Kerri, cyf.trinitysg@gmail.com, 507-884-7972.

Boundless W.Y.L.D.E.

Program Highlights

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP</u>	<u>FUN!</u>
<p>Local SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP Spend a day on the trails with Daniel and the Sugar Creek staff blazing new trails to epic lookouts!</p> <p>Regional FRIENDS OF POOL 9 Learn about River Conservation and spend the day cleaning on the Mississippi River.</p> <p>Relational SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP Practice relationship building skills learned with Lyle to counsel and support fellow campers.</p>	<p>Peer Ministry LYLE GRINER Daily sessions led by Lyle Griner that will inspire, empower, and equip your youth for Church leadership.</p> <p>Diversity Training DANIEL KIRSCHBAUM Intentional time every day with Daniel Kirschbaum leading deep conversations about diversity.</p> <p>Team Building ALL OF US TOGETHER Guest leaders, Sugar Creek staff, Campers, and Pastors working together and learning from one another.</p>	<p>Activity Rotations SUGAR CREEK STAFF Every day youth will let loose and have fun! Archery, Horseback Riding, swimming pool and more!</p> <p>Nature SUGAR CREEK STAFF Youth will be outdoors and unplugged for the week! Connected with one another and God's creation.</p> <p>Community EVERYONE Spend time each night playing fun games and enjoying epic campfires!</p>

Schedule - subject to change

<p>Day 1 Sunday 2-4pm: Arrival & Registration 4: Orientation 5:30: Dinner 6:30 Activity Orientation 7:30 Opening Worship 8:30 Campfire & Fellowship</p>	<p>Day 3 Tuesday 8am: Breakfast 9: Devotion & Bible Study 10: Service Project (River) Noon: Lunch 1pm: Service Project (River) 3: Peer Ministry Training 4: Diversity Training 5:30: Dinner 6:30: Community Time 7:30: Worship 8:30: Campfire & Fellowship</p>	<p>Day 4 Wednesday 5:30: Dinner 6:30: Community Time 7:30: Worship 8:30: Campfire & Fellowship</p>
<p>Day 2 Monday 8am: Breakfast 9: Devotion & Bible Study 10: Service Project (Camp) Noon: Lunch 1pm: Activity Rotations 3: Peer Ministry Training 4: Diversity Training 5:30: Dinner 6:30: Community Time 7:30: Worship 8:30: Campfire & Fellowship 9:30: Night Swim</p>	<p>Day 4 Wednesday 8am: Breakfast 9: Devotion & Bible Study 10: Service Project (Relational) Noon: Lunch 1pm: Activity Rotations 3: Peer Ministry Training 4: Diversity Training</p>	<p>Day 5 Thursday 8am: Breakfast 9: Devotion & Bible Study 10: Closing Worship Noon: Lunch & Farewell!</p>
<p>Day 5 Bonus Time!</p>		<p>Day 6</p>
<p>Thursday 1pm: Free time 4: Debrief 5:30: Dinner 7: Christ Hike 9: HS Worship 10: Campfire</p>		<p>Friday 8am: Breakfast 9: Cabin Time 10: Worship 11:30: Lunch 1pm: Closing Program</p>

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 Tuesday, May 31. No late submissions will be accepted. Applications are available in the office or on our website, 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.

The Scholarship Endowment will be having a fundraiser during fellowship on Sunday, October 9. Watch for more details to come. Thank you for your support of this endowment.

LOVE DAY You’re invited to be a part of Love Day — a time when friends gather to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Even if you aren’t a sewer, there are many options of other jobs to do! They meet on the last Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and wrap up about 3:00 p.m., stay as long as you can. Bring a sack lunch. All are welcome!

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.

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 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



ROOT RIVER CONFERENCE WELCA 2022 SPRING GATHERING

Saturday, May 7, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Chatfield Lutheran Church. Guest speaker: Kathy Little from Houston, MN. She is a retired English teacher and school counselor. She writes a monthly column for the Fillmore County Journal. Cost: \$10, includes program, morning coffee, and lunch

FREED TO ASK DIFFICULT QUESTIONS:**HOW DO WE ASK—AND ANSWER—THE BIG QUESTIONS?**

(reprinted from the April 2022 edition of Living Lutheran magazine, edited for space)

By Anna Madsen

Several years ago I was having an over-the-fence conversation with my neighbor. My garden lay at the edge of my property line, and her children's play set stood at the edge of hers, so we'd exchange chitchat now and again as neighbors do.

On this afternoon, she peeked over the pickets and said somewhat breathlessly, "Anna, today I had to take my daughter out of our Baptist day care and put her in the Lutheran one."

This was clearly a big deal for her. "My goodness!" I exclaimed. "Why?"

"Well," she said, "I was cleaning out her pockets and discovered a note stuck in her jeans that announced that they had been teaching her yoga."

I kept waiting for a punchline like ". . . in the middle of a busy street!" But it never came. Yoga, it turns out, was the punchline.

She waited for my response. The best I had to offer was a confused expression. Then she said, "Don't they realize that an open mind is just an open door to the devil?"

In that moment, I couldn't help but think of the beloved Lutheran poet and theologian Gerhard Frost. I imagined him with his arms draped over the fence next to me, gently reciting from his poem "The Goal":

*In parenting and teaching,
let this be our aim:
not to make every idea
safe for children, but
every child safe for ideas.*

When you get down to it, though, many of us are like my neighbor in that moment: we know what we know, we don't know what we don't, and we aren't particularly motivated to move beyond that.

Those of us who identify as Christians can sometimes feel extra-emboldened—compelled, even—to be *certain*. Lutherans are not exempt from this.

There are a handful of reasons why Christians hesitate to ask questions.

First, questions might indicate doubt. If we doubt, we might disbelieve. And if we disbelieve, well . . . then what? How, we wonder, will God feel about that, about us, who once believed but are no longer as certain?

Second, we might worry that asking questions borders on disrespect. Can there be things about which God does not want us to wonder? Is asking questions an act of audacity and pride in the face of a mysterious, ineffable, powerful God?

Third, asking questions in public betrays that you can't grasp something that perhaps you ought to. Admitting that you don't know, you don't understand or you're not sure makes you vulnerable. It's safer to pretend we have it all down pat.

And fourth, raising a question can change present and reigning realities. Asking a question can be risky because it can upend the way things are and always have been.

New ways of thinking and being

Those who hold power can be the most averse to questions, a fact well known by people who traditionally lack it (people of color, women, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, immigrants). Womanist theology, which centers the experiences of Black women, has been at the forefront of posing this fundamental question: "Whose voice is not being heard?"

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DaMisha McFarland-Pollock wondered why she didn't learn about certain kinds of question-asking until she was in seminary. "I thought, 'Why? Why do I learn that in seminary?' God is big enough to handle our questions. We don't need to protect, we don't need to safeguard God. How can we equip our people to question and learn new things?"

In 1980, Lutheran philosopher Tom Christenson preached a chapel sermon titled "A Place for Honest Questioning." Based on Psalm 77—itsself a litany of questions—the sermon began, "It is unfortunate that we do not have a place in our liturgy for the asking of questions. We confess our sin, proclaim God's grace, preach God's word; we praise, witness, affirm and so on. But we have no sacred occasion for questions, no rite of puzzlement."

What would this look like, this opportunity for a communal holy acknowledgement that we are out of our depth? That we are curious about countless things?

Everyone asks questions from their own perspective, but the more one recognizes that perspective, the more one realizes how it changes both the question and how the answer is interpreted.

Baptized and engaged Christians believe that Jesus lived among us, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, forgiving the wicked and extolling the faithful. He ate and drank with gusto, taught, and was taught and welcomed. He was killed—partly for asking questions that roiled people in power—and we believe that he was raised from the dead. That resurrection assures us that nothing—not even the most dangerous questions—can separate us from God.

That assurance frees us not only from fear, sin and death but from our hesitancy to ask hard questions, uncertain questions, audacious questions, questions born of grief, wonder and humility. So, too, are we freed to welcome not only those questions but also the answers and their implications.

In this way we can confidently say, "This is what I believe—and maybe there's more to it than that."

When we do so, we open ourselves not to the devil but to the possibility of God bringing about something new.

Anna Madsen is an ELCA pastor, freelance theologian through OMG: Center for Theological Conversation and founder of [Spent Dandelion](#), a retreat center in Two Harbors, Minn.

You can view or download a Study Guide "Freed to ask difficult questions" at:

https://livinglutheran.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/0422_questions.pdf.

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



Meals served Monday-Friday at the American Legion front room, please sign up 24 hours ahead of time by calling Annette at the Legion, 498-3385 from 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. or (507) 458-4046 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. A suggested donation of \$3.75-\$7.00 is requested, but any amount is fine.

Chair volleyball will be played after lunch on Thursdays. Anyone is welcome to play!

Upcoming meals in May: pork chop medley with cheesy hashbrowns, meat loaf with baked potato, scalloped potatoes with ham, chicken pot pie with salad, creamy chicken parmesan with rice pilaf, Alpine chicken casserole, and many more items! Enjoy a delicious hot meal and conversations with friends.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF TRINITY AND ITS MINISTRIES!

Thank you so much for your continued support of Trinity and our ministries.

We have several options to receive your offering:

► **ELECTRONICALLY:** via our website, 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, trinityspringgrove@gmail.com.

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
...
GENEROUSLY

When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. -Luke 24:9-11 (NIV)

In the midst of Easter preparations, a seasoned pastor looked around the room and wondered aloud, “how can we possibly tell this story so people believe it?”

It is true much of what we proclaim during the Easter season can seem like utter nonsense to those who have not encountered its truth. It isn't just because the first proclaimers were women that others found them hard to believe (though that is undoubtedly part of it!). It might also be because what the women proclaimed was unbelievable.

It is a story we continue to tell. Indeed, a story upon which our lives of faith are built. Jesus died by crucifixion on a cross. His body was then laid in a tomb. That tomb was sealed, and then...

And then, when the women came with spices to properly care for Jesus' lifeless body, they found the boulder that had sealed the tomb rolled away and Jesus' body simply...gone.

In Luke's version of the story, as the women are standing in the midst of a now-empty tomb, trying to make sense of what they see, they are confronted by the angel Gabriel who asks them, “don't you remember what he told you? That he would be crucified and on the third day be raised again?!” ^[1]

And then...

And then the women run, as fast as they can, until they reach the others and tell them the truth. But the truth isn't easy to believe. The others aren't easily convinced. How can it possibly be?

Peter, of course, verifies things for himself (he isn't the only one with a need to do so). The story of resurrection continues to unfurl from there.

Dear friends, if this Easter story seems hard to believe, you are in good company. It has always been hard to believe. The sheer miraculousness strikes us senseless, and at first, we cannot comprehend what God has done. I'm not sure we ever really can.

But the story is true. This story of crucifixion and resurrection, of abundant life overcoming the stronghold of death, of God's expansive love acting in and transforming the fixtures of creation... is all true.

Even when we can scarcely believe it.

It strikes me that we are not charged with ensuring people believe the story but rather that they hear it. The Spirit does the good work of opening hearts and minds toward belief.

We proclaim the story, as impossible as it seems, because we serve a God who does impossible things.

So, tell the story in every way and every place you can. Have we ever needed it more? This story: tells of God's power overcoming every war, fear, hatred, and sin. That binds us together when it seems we have all but broken apart.

Perhaps we will tell of crucifixion and resurrection, and people will consider what we say nothing more than an idle tale. That has never stopped the disciples before. So, tell the story anyway. Tell the story because it is true. Even when it is hard to believe.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!

In his name,

Rev. Regina Hassanally

Bishop Regina Hassanally
Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA



Southeastern Minnesota Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





Wisconsin Dells Retreat
24 youth and adults went to the Wilderness Resort in March for a time of Bible study, faith formation, fun, and community together.





◀ Youth led worship on Sunday, March 13. Everyone enjoyed seeing them have an active and vibrant part of worship.

▶ Different groups helped prepare Lenten Suppers and youth served the meals. Our own staff got in on the fun and served Breakfast for Supper!



▼ Palm Sunday. It was so joyous to have youth waving palms again!





▲▶▼Fifth grade youth created their own communion cups with assistance from SGPS Art teacher, Renee Eiken. They used their cups on Maundy Thursday for their First Communion.



▲◀Joyous Easter!! Children's sermon, communion at the rail, and the baptism of sweet little Holly Lawinger (parents Jenna Ingvalson and Jason Lawinger).

Lectors	
May 1	Mary Newgaard
May 8	Greg Wennes
May 15	Bonnie Solberg
May 22	Karen Bingham
June 5	Abe Mendez
June 12	Terry Holland
June 19	Julianna Lile
June 26	Dean Wiste

Acolytes	
May 1	Gavin Ostern
May 8	Grayson Staggemeier
May 15	Ezra Griffin Zander Thorson
May 22	Kohl Betcher
May 29	Ben Udstuen Caleb Eiken
June	Families — watch for details coming from Kerri

Fellowship	
May 1	Sue & Jeff Engen, Jan & Carlyn Kraabel
May 8	Mary Zaffke, Karen Fried, Terry Holland
May 15	Meatball Dinner
May 22	Steve & Bev Nelson, Dennis & Barb Gulbranson, Bob & Roxie Finnesgard
May 29	Karen & Jim Gray, Yvonne Krogstad
June 5	Sara Kroshus, Sarah & Mark Schroeder
June 12	Tammy & Chris Petersen, Jackie Parker
June 19	Chris & Candyce Deck, Jen & Scott Solberg
June 26	Richard Storlie, Stewart Storlie, Joyce, Joyce & Justin Landsom, Jeff Landsom

May Ushers	June Ushers
Curt Roverud (capt) Dana Kjome Alfred Wendel Blaine Liudahl	Families & Friends — can you help usher? Please contact Kim Kapplinger, 498-5825

May Altar Guild	June Altar Guild
Carolyn Olson (chair) Carolyn Kampschroer Dawn Hewitt Carol Sherburne Milly Halverson	Linda Pierce (chair) Betty Dokken Doris Sherburne Marcia Holland Judy Roble

498-AMEN	
April 24-May 7	Lara Wold Mendez
May 8-21	Barb Gulbranson
May 22-June 4	Nolie Kapplinger
June 5-11	Saundy Solum
June 12-18	Alisha Solum
June 19-July 2	Bev Nelson
Christ in our Home devotional booklets and 498-AMEN instructions are located right inside the southeast entrance of the church.	

Communion Bread Makers	
May 1, 15	Sue Wiste
June 5, 19	Terry Holland

Communion Servers	
May 1	Scott & Karen Bingham
May 15	Mike & Laurie Moen
June 5	Bob & Roxie Finnesgard
June 19	needed

Prayer Chain	
Chain 1	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
1 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:15am Fellowship	2	3 5:00pm AA	4 3:30pm Bible School, TC 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Handbells 7:30pm TrinityU: Art Appreciation 8:00pm Choir	5 5:00pm Cub Scouts, FH 5:30pm Education Team 7:00pm Finance Team	6	7 7:30am-5:00pm SEMN Synod Assembly in Mankato 9:30am Property Team 10:30am AA 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
8 Mother's Day 9:15am Worship, Sun School Children sing 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School (last day, sing at nursing home) 11:15am Nursing Home service	9	10 9:00am Deborah 9:30am Anna 5:00pm AA 6:30pm Hannah, SG Library 7:30pm Council, FH	11 9:30am Adah, Tweeten Apts. 3:30pm Bible School, TC 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Handbells 8:00pm Choir	12	13 Syttende Mai Celebration	14 10:30am AA
15 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:30am-2pm Meatball Dinner, drive-thru only	16 2:30pm Phoebe	17 5:00pm AA	18 2:00pm Eve, Manor 3:30pm Bible School, TC 6:00pm Confirmation 8:00pm Choir	19 9:30am Worship at Manor	20	21 10:30am AA 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
22 Senior Recognition 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship	23	24 5:00pm AA	25 3:30pm Bible School, TC 6:00pm Confirmation 8:00pm Choir	26 9:30am Worship at Tweeten Apts	27 9:00am Love Day	28 10:30am AA
29 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship	30 Memorial Day office closed	31 10:00am Assisted Living service 5:00pm AA		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 7:30pm Community Baccalaureate	2 5:30pm Education Team, MR	3 7:00pm SGHS Graduation	4 10:30am AA 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
5 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:15am Fellowship	6	7 5:00pm AA	8 9:30am Adah, Tweeten Apts. 4-7pm Education Team serves at Music in the Park 7:00pm Council 8-10pm High School Bonfire, Trinity lawn	9	10	11 10:30am AA
12 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 11:15am Nursing Home service	13	14 9:00am Deborah 9:30am Anna 5:00pm AA 6:30pm Hannah, SG Library	15 2:00pm Eve, Manor 8-10pm High School Bonfire, Trinity lawn	16 9:30am Worship at Manor	17 July newsletter info due!	18 10:30am AA 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
19 Father's Day 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:15am Fellowship	20 2:30pm Phoebe	21 5:00pm AA	22	23 9:30am Worship at Tweeten Apts 2:00pm newsletter assembled	24 9:00am Love Day	25 10:30am AA
<p>———— Sugar Creek Day Camp ▪ 9am-3pm VBS ▪ 9am-12pm ————</p>						
26 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship	27	28 10:00am Assisted Living service 5:00pm AA	29 8-10pm High School Bonfire, Trinity lawn	30		

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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!

