April Trinity Tidings

Trinity Lutheran Church 328 George St., West Chicago, IL 60185

Church Office: 630-231-1175 www.trinitywc.org



March, they say, comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. Indicating, I suppose, that the weather starts out wintry, wild and roaring then ends up warm and gentle.

This year April comes in with Lent and out with Easter. We begin the month with the purple, meditative fourth week of Lent and we exit the month with the white light and joy of the second week of Easter. Just as the weather turns from wild to mild in March, this

April in the church we turn from solemness to celebration.

But we always know, especially here in the Chicagoland area, that even though March has passed, its wintry lion can still roar. We have had that random snowstorm in April. Yes, it is spring, but we don't put the shovels away just yet.

Similarly, while we celebrate the joy of our Lord's resurrection, we do not forget or put away the sacrifice that He made on our behalf. After all, there cannot be a resurrection without there first being a death. In fact, the only reason we can celebrate with joy and thanksgiving is because of what He did on the cross. It was there that the battle was fought and the price was paid.

Our Easter celebration here at Trinity is always more than just a one day event. It begins on the 13th of this month, Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. On this day we honor Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The crowds welcomed Him with songs of praise and by laying palm leaves on the path before Him. So, we celebrate with songs and palm branches too. Yet, while there is joy at our Lord's arrival, it is bittersweet. The religious leaders of the city, who had been working against Jesus since He began His ministry, were now at their most desperate. They would gather false witnesses and turn the crowds against Him.

Holy Week continues with Maundy Thursday. The name comes from the Latin Word "mandatum," which means "mandate" or "command." John 13:34 records Jesus telling His disciples that evening in the upper room, "A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another; as I have loved you." The center of our Maundy Thursday worship is the Lord's Supper. That evening, the night on which He was betrayed, our Lord instituted this Sacrament. Through His body and blood, given to us by means of bread and wine, our Lord is truly present as He touches us with the gifts He won on the cross; forgiveness, life and salvation.

Our Maundy Thursday worship service concludes after this holy meal. The altar and the sanctuary are cleared as a reminder of what lay ahead for our Lord. After He left the upper room, He would go to the garden to pray and be turned over to the soldiers. So we leave church Thursday evening in contemplative silence.

We gather together again on Good Friday, the day of our Lord's death. Our worship picks up where it left off the evening before, beginning in silence. Most scholars believe that the term "Good" comes from the phrase "God's Friday." It may seem odd to call this day "good," but for sinners like us, it truly is. Because on this day

(Pastor's Message Continued)

our Lord fought the battle and died the death we deserve. We will read the Scriptural account of our Lord's Passion and we will extinguish the candles as we approach His death. This is why the service is traditionally known as "Tenebrae," the Latin word for "darkness."

At the close of the service, after all the candles but the Christ candle, have been extinguished, the remaining lights will go out and finally the Christ Candle will be extinguished. This is to signify the darkness of death. There will then sound the "strepitus," or "loud noise," signifying the earth shaking and the rocks splitting at Jesus' death. After a few moments of silence, the Christ candle is relit, demonstrating our Lord's victory over death. Darkness cannot keep its hold on Him! The lights of the sanctuary are turned on and the congregation leaves in silence, anticipating the joyous Resurrection that is to follow on Easter morning.

Easter morning shouts the joy and light of the Resurrection! The tomb is empty! The light shines! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Sin, death and the devil have been conquered! Christ has won the battle for us! Now He comes in triumph! Now we sing, "Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy; From sin's power, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!"

March came in like a lion and out like a lamb. April this year, comes in with Lent and exits with Easter. May this be a most joyous time of meditation and celebration.

Pastor Gaede



Assistants.... If you aren't available for your assigned Sunday, it is your responsibil-Assistants ity to find a substitute.

2025 SCHEDULE	Count Team	Worship Asst.	Usher	Altar Guild	Lay Reader
4/2/2025	Fourth Lenton Midweek Service	Ron Benes	Dan Rakow	Ron Benes	Ron Benes
4/6/2025	Nancy Westra and Ron Benes	Doug Schmidt	Wayne Matejka	Nancy Westra	Nancy Planek
4/9/2025	Fifth Lenton Midweek Service	Ron Benes	Dan Rakow	Ron Benes	Ron Benes
4/13/2025	Greg & Sharon Garcia	Wayne Matejka	Doug Schmidt	Sharon Garcia	Eldra Rakow
4/17/2025	Maundy Thursday	Ron Benes	Dan Rakow	Nancy Planek	Nancy Planek
4/18/2025	Good Friday	Ron Benes	Dan Rakow	Nancy Planek	Nancy Planek
4/20/2025	Jim and Kristi Horvath	Ron Benes	Larry Kotke	Eldra Rakow	Nancy Planek
4/27/2025	Laura Grobe, Sue Mennecke and Jeni Siekmann	Larry Kotke	Jim Grobe	Sue Mennecke	Marvin Boorsma

Midweek service donations will be counted the following Sunday.

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL NOMINEES FOR THE MAY VOTER'S MEETING

Please prayerfully consider volunteering for one of these positions or assist us by nominating a Trinity Member that you think would be interested in serving in one of these positions; shared Director responsibilities is also an option. Pastor Gaede and the Elders will be consulted regarding proposed nominees. Elections will be held May 4, 2025 at 9:30 AM during the Voters Assembly. Please speak to Jim Grobe or Sue Mennecke regarding nominations, or if you have questions about the position responsibilities.

Thank you for your expertise. Sue Mennecke **Assistant Congregational Executive Officer** Treasurer **Board of Evangelism Board of Christian Education Board of Public Relations Board of Stewardship**

Position descriptions are on the following page.

Assistant Congregational Executive Officer

The Assistant Congregational Executive Officer, in the absence of the Congregational Executive Officer, acts for and in the stead of the Congregational Executive Officer.

Treasurer

The Treasurer reviews congregational receipts and disbursements, presents financial records for review, is responsible for monthly remission of offerings and for prompt payment of salaries and bills, receives reports of offerings (or other sources), signs all checks for payment of bills, salaries, or other financial commitments of the congregation of any sort.

Board of Public Relations

The Director of the Board of Public Relations is responsible for presenting a Christian image and publicizing the work of the congregation through various channels.

Board of Stewardship

The Director of the Board of Stewardship initiates programs for the development of good stewardship attitudes in the members of the congregation in regard to time and talents.

Board of Evangelism

The Director of the Board of Evangelism brings the Gospel to non-members and is responsible for the deepening of the faith and activity of the members of this congregation.

Board of Christian Education

The Director of the Board of Christian Education is responsible for planning and administration of the various educational programs of the congregation.



Find us on Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church West Chicago

Have something you'd like to post?
Email secretary@trinitywc.org or
Darcy.l.lee@gmail.com

FYI—The <u>current</u> Trinity page has no comma in it's name. If the picture associated with the account is of the outside of the church, you're on the wrong page.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

A special Voters Assembly was held on March 16, 2025, to obtain unanimous approval to extend a call to the Reverend Dr. Eric Moeller to be the next Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church. The call document was delivered to Pastor Moeller on March 20, 2025, and the Call Committee awaits his response. Please keep Pastor Moeller in your prayers as he prayerfully considers becoming the next pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, please see one of the Call Committee members.



Thank you,

George and I want to thank the congregation for their help in our food drive. With your help we were able to collect 150 pounds of food for the West Chicago food bank. Thank you very much! - Josh



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry April Newsletter Article



"Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out" (Deut 28:3-6).

This is God's promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground or their wombs, their flocks or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there's a catch. He would do this for Israel only "if you obey the voice of the Lord your God" (Deut 28:2b). If they did that, He would cause that "all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you" (Deut 28:2a).

If they didn't obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn't keep the commandments of the Lord and walk in His ways (Deut 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh, fulfilled the law for us – in in our place and for our benefit; died for us – in our place and for our benefit; and is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit.

By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon His work and not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and thereby it becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is not in order to receive blessings but because in Christ we already have.

It is with this in mind that we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).

Do you know of anyone that should be included in our **Prayer Chain**? If so, please contact Rita Dauber at 630-293-0518 or rita.dauber3@gmail.com



A JOYFUL NOISE

Thank you for the beautiful music provided to our congregation by the Joyful Noise choir under the direction of Ms. Heather Greubel. The men and women of this dedicated group enhance their talents at regularly scheduled practices every other Tuesday night. Their performances during worship services are a special gift enjoyed by the entire congregation throughout the year. You are invited to attend our Maundy Thursday, Good Friday (both at 7:00 pm) and Easter Sunday Worship service on April 20, 2025, at 9:30 am to hear the Joyful Noise perform to the Glory of God. "All glory and praise is given to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

"Sing to the Lord a new song; for he has done marvelous things". Psalm 98:1-3





Trinity Youth (at Heart) Group BYOE

(bring your own eggs for coloring)



Easter Egg Devotions

Saturday, April 12th from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Light refreshments and Plenty of Fun & Fellowship

Please RSVP to Tracy Kotke at tlckotke@gmail.com or 630-386-7646









Good morning, Pastor Gaede,

I am writing to say "thank you" to you and Trinity for your January gift to Lutheran Church Charities. God uses your gifts in miraculous ways to make His love in Jesus alive and real for people living through the unimaginable dark times of life. Your gifts ensure Lutheran Church Charities continues to do the work God calls us to do. THANK YOU!

Also, if you have a prayer request(s) for yourself or someone you know, please respond to this email, and I will gladly pray.

I will pray that God will bless you, congregation, and all of you in reach and outreach mission programs as He uses you to speak the Good News of Jesus to a world in desperate need of Good News.

God bless you as travel through this season of Lent.

Rev. Tom Tews – Donor Relations Lutheran Church Charities

Youth at Heart had a great time in March at movie night:

The Forge tells the story of Isaiah Wright, a 19 year old who lives for basketball and video games. A year out of high school, he still has no job, no plans, and no idea how to be a man. At odds with his single mom, Cynthia, Isaiah is given an ultimatum - to step up or move out. Feeling the pull from his friends and the push from his mom, Isaiah is hired by Moore Fitness, but has no idea how the owner will personally impact his life. With the prayers of his mother and unexpected guidance from his new mentor, Isaiah is forced to deal with his past, sacrifice his selfishness and discover how God might have a greater purpose for his life.



Please contact Tracy Kotke if you would like to attend



Join Lutheran Women in Mission

Saturday, April 26, 2025

"Coffee &..." at 8:30 a.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

5211 Carpenter St - Downers Grove, IL 60515



SPRING RALLY for Zones 5, 6, 15 Come learn how you are helping seminary families preparing for pastoral ministry through your mites—with an LMWL NID grant to the Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne Food & Clothing Coop

see attached listing for specific ways you can help



Program concludes at 11:30 a.m.

Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne Food Co-op Donation Ideas (Gluten-Free options are acceptable also)

Live far away? You can order and ship it to us or we can pick up at the local store!

Walmart Food Co-op Wish List



https://www.walmart.com/lists/shared/WL/e1cc7784-2547-4fc9-8153-803cd0937de8

If you want to place a Walmart order for a pick-up, please contact Deac. Katherine Rittner first to arrange date/time, then on the order list her as an authorized person and forward the order confirmation to Katherine.rittner@ctsfw.edu

Pick-up Store: Fort Wayne Supercenter 5311 Coldwater Rd Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Amazon Food Co-op Wish List

https://a.co/i302hX6



Shipping/Delivery Address:

CTSFW Food Co-op 6600 N Clinton St Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Sauces Bag

Suggestions:

Ketchup
Mustard
Mayo
BBQ Sauce
Soy Sauce
Worcestershire Sauce
Salad Dressing
Hot Sauce
Pancake Syrup

Baby Bag

Suggestions:

Diapers
Baby Formula
Q-Tips/Cotton Balls
Tear Free Shampoo
Tear Free Baby Bath
Ointment (A&D, Desitin)
Juice
Baby Cereal
Baby Food
Wet Wipes
Nursing Pads
Infant Motrin

Dinner Bag

Suggestions:

Spaghetti Sauce
Pasta
Canned Fruits
Tuna
Sloppy Joe Sauce
Taco Meals
Refried Beans
Oriental Dinners
Boxed Meals
Canned Tomatoes
Rice
Macaroni & Cheese
Chili Mixes
Kidney Beans
Garbanzo Beans

Breakfast Bag

Suggestions:

Cereal
Oatmeal
Pop Tarts
Breakfast Bars
Hot Chocolate
Juice
Muffin Mix
Pancake Mix
Syrup
Coffee/Tea
Canned Fruits
Applesauce

Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne Food Co-op Donation Ideas (Gluten-Free options are acceptable also)

Lunch Box Bag	Baking Bag	Laundry Bag		
Suggestions:	Suggestions:	Suggestions:		
Peanut Butter	Aluminum Foil	Liquid Laundry Detergent		
Jelly (anything but grape)	Plastic Wrap	Laundry Pods		
Ziploc Bags	Cake Mixes	(Regular/Free & Clear)		
Canned Soups	Icing	Fabric Softener		
Canned Pasta Meals	Brownie Mix	Bleach		
Fruit Cups	Cupcake wrappers	Non-chlorine Bleach		
Crackers	Non-stick Cooking Spray	Dryer Sheets		
Tuna	Vegetable Oil	(Regular/Free & Clear)		
Snack Sized Snacks	Sugar	Stain Pre-treat		
Applesauce	Flour			
Raisins	Brown Sugar			
Pudding Cups	Salt/Pepper			
G I	Seasoning (Garlic, Italian,			
	etc.)	Medicine Cabinet Bag		
Snack-time Bag	Bread Crumbs			
	Corn Starch	Suggestions:		
Suggestions:	Karo Syrup			
	· -	Ibuprofen (200 mg)		
Goldfish		Children's Motrin		
Snack size Chips		Acetaminophen (500 mg)		
Graham Crackers	Cleaning Supplies Bag	Cough Syrup (adult, child,		
Fruit Snacks		infant)		
Pretzels	Suggestions:	Band-Aids (all sizes)		
Nilla Wafers		Antibiotic ointment		
Cheese-its	Paper Towels	Benadryl		
Tortilla Chips	Rubber Gloves	Throat Lozenges (i.e.,		
Salsa	Trash Bags	Hall's, Ricola, etc)		
Chips	Pine Cleaner			
Chip Dip	Bleach			
Applesauce	Furniture Polish			
	Window Cleaner			
	Powder Cleaner (Comet)			
	Scouring Pads			
	T' '1D' 1 0			

Liquid Dish Soap Dishwasher Pods

SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America & the Caribbean: missionaryMAC





News from Volunteer Coordinator Erin Mackenzie | missionaryMAC.blogspot.com | 📫 erin.mackenzie5



(If you received a hard copy of this and would like to help me be green and save on postage, please email erin.mackenzie@lcms.org.)



New resource alert! Posted to the LCMS website in late 2024, the 8-page document entitled "Exploring International Mission Trips: A Guide for Congregations" answers age-old questions like

- Why should my congregation consider sending an international mission team?
- What kinds of international mission trips are available?
- What do we do? What do you do?
- How do we know who should go on the team?
- How do we get support for this project?
- What does the timeline look like from when we first decide to do a mission trip until we get home?

What to Expect When You're Not Expecting

A coworker told me once that my job is essentially "expectation management": preparing volunteers adequately so they aren't taken aback by the reality of serving internationally. If they expect to sleep on tile floors with no electricity, bunk beds and A/C will seem like the Ritz Carlton. If they expect the Ritz Carlton, they'll shudder at the thought of flipping a switch to get hot water.

I can relate to shifting expectations. While visiting my brother's family in Charleston, SC, in 2023, we went shark tooth hunting one day. Judging by a couple of Instagrammers, we expected to find molar-sized specimens you'd see on a puca shell necklace in a beachy souvenir shop strewn everywhere. Our hopes were quickly dashed. Not long after, my nephew claimed he'd hit the jackpot—the remnants of a previous beachcomber's abandoned hunt. We were positive he was crying wolf, but alas, he'd stumbled across a small pile of shark teeth on a rocky outcropping. Teeny, tiny shark teeth. We resumed our quest with a more realistic expectation of what we were looking for and soon began to easily spot distinctive black shapes among broken shell fragments.

We have a God who beckons us to adjust our expectations: not to look for itty bitty shark teeth instead of social media-worthy samples, but rather the opposite. His power and majesty are far more astounding than our feeble minds can grasp. Paul concludes Ephesians 3 (vv. 20-21) with this doxology:

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

God commands and invites us to pray, then answers in astonishing ways. He desires that we meditate on His Word, then blows our minds with insights from God-breathed texts. Perhaps most inconceivable of all despite generations of prophecy are the cross and empty tomb. My

sinful self doesn't expect or deserve to be saved by grace, but I look forward with eager expectation to glorying in Christ Jesus forever and ever because I am.





Praises and Petitions

- Thanksgiving that <u>Safe</u>
 <u>Harbour Lutheran</u>
 <u>Church</u> on Grand
 Cayman is once again able to worship at the South Sound
 Community Centre.
- 2. Thanksgiving for the first ever VBS in Constitución, Chile.
- 3. Thanksgiving that the Rev. Sergio Maita has accepted a call to serve as an LCMS missionary in Puerto Rico.
- 4. For the Sharp family, having transitioned to Puerto Rico late last month after 10+ years in Uruguay.
- 5. For the DR seminary community, as students, spouses, and kids suffer from an ongoing bout of seasonal illness.

It's All Good in the Hood

Cerro Alto (my neighborhood) has a neighborhood association! Regional Business Manager Stan recently asked me to accompany him to a town hall meeting; I came away pleasantly surprised by the experience. The circle meets every other



Monday at 8 pm in an open-air facility contained within a local park, and 8 pm means 8 pm—NOT island time. There were perhaps half a dozen people in addition to us, mostly members of the board. After opening with prayer—including for the Pope—the secretary invited us, the guests, to state our piece. Everyone else listened attentively, sympathized, and assured us they'd take immediate action. When it was time to move on, we were given the option to stay for the rest of the agenda or leave (we left). What an honor to represent the LCMS missionary community—proud renters of 11 homes and 9 apartments—in the public sector. Maybe next time I'll bring treats!



Above (left): A new perspective on Iglesia Luterana El Buen Pastor in Valley of Peace, Belize. Above (right): Missionary spouse Markie Burch & I on the Burches' veranda in Banana Bank, Belize.

Left: Waiting to meet fellow missionary Kris's parents as they exited the Scarlet Lady, docked at the Taino Bay cruise port in Puerto Plata, DR.

Quote of the Month

"Fruit is always the miraculous, the created; it is never the result of willing, but always a growth. The fruit of the Spirit is a gift of God, and only He can produce it. They who bear it know as little about it as the tree knows of its fruit. They know only the power of Him on whom their life depends."

--Dietrich Bonhoeffer

To support the LCMS through me, you may give a tax-deductible gift...

- **online**, securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/mackenzie;
- by **phone:** 1-888-930-4438 (donor care rep) or text *LCMSMACKENZIE* to 41-444;
- by sending a check (with "Mackenzie/Latin America" on the memo line) to:
 - ⇒ LCMS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861; or
 - ⇒ Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 Rowan Gregory	Ren Hughes	3	James Siekmann	5
6	7	8 Emilia Pena	9 Jake Bradley Jr.	10 Rite Dauber	11	12 Abigail Helfgot
13 Lindsay Bruce	14 Gavin Lee	15	16	17	18	19 Jean Musick
20	21	22			25 Miles Dameron	26
27	28	29	30 Timmy Kotke	1	2	3



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Nancy Westra	31	1	2	3	4 Jerome Planek	5
6	7 Noah Pena	8	9	10	11 Dan Rakow	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Josie Kotke	22 Lynda Benes	23 Clark Kline	24 Kevin Grobe	25 Cynthia Macko	26 Ren Hughes
27	28 Carrie Tedrahn Grayson Matejka Chapman	29	30 Leila Pena	1	2	3



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2		4 Lonnie and Doug Schmidt	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20			23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1 Sharon and Greg Garcia	2	3

TRINITY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	31 7:00pm Call Committee	1 6:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal	2 6:00pm - 6:45pm Confirmation 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Service	3	4 9:30am Organ Tuning	5
6 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	7	8 6:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal	9 6:00pm - 6:45pm Confirmation 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Service	10	7:30pm Compassionate Friends (Fellowship Hall)	1:00pm - 2:30pm Trinity Musicians Rehearsal 3:00pm Youth Group Egg Coloring (BYOE)
9:30am Palm Sunday Service 10:30am Fellowship 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	14 7:00pm - 8:00pm PPC Meeting	15 6:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal	16 6:00pm - 6:45pm Confirmation	6:00pm - 8:00pm Trinity Musicians Play at Worship 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	18 6:00pm - 8:00pm Trinity Musicians Play at Worship 7:00pm Good Friday Service	19 9:00am Easter Breakfast Setup
20 8:30am - 10:30am Trinity Musicians Play at Worship 9:30am Easter Worship Service 10:30am Easter Breakfast 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	21 7:00pm Call Committee	22	23	24	25	26
9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	28 7:00pm Elder's Meeting	29 6:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal	30	1	2	3 Youth Group End of Year Scavenger Hunt/Picnic