

April Trinity Tidings

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Dear brothers and sisters,

This month we celebrate the most joyous season of the church year. Thinking about Easter this morning, a hymn came to my mind which is not an Easter hymn yet contains a wonderful Easter message. "O Rejoice, Ye Christians Loudly" has this line as a refrain: "Joy, O Joy, beyond all gladness, Christ has done away with sadness! Hence, all sorrow and repining, For the Sun of Grace is shining!" Is that not what Easter means for us. Christ has triumphed over sin and death and so therefore in the face of all trial and trouble, we can say Christ has done away with sadness. No matter what happens, we know that all is well, that eternal joy awaits us and that nothing this life throws at us can take away that joy. So, with our hearts filled with love and gratitude, we can be bold and courageous, generous and loving because of the amazing love and salvation that God has given us. He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! May God give us this joy and empower us to live with a strong and confident faith in the face of every trouble!

The elders and parish planning council have been talking about initiating a process of envisioning the future ministry of Trinity with an eye to seizing the mission opportunities that we have around us. Psalm 119:105 declares, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." God's Word gives us direction and keeps us from stumbling. When it comes to finding our way in life, I often think of Matthew 6:33 that says: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you." When we find ourselves confused in this life and wondering what direction to turn, this Scripture reminds us to make the Kingdom of God our priority. All other concerns will fall into place when we put God and His purpose and plan at the forefront of our life.

We are called to be good stewards of that which has been placed into our hands. This is true for each of us personally. It is also true for our life together as a congregation. We are stewards of a legacy which has come to us through the years: the teaching of the Gospel which has been preserved and passed on, the faith and life of the people in our congregation, the physical and financial resources we have been given, our time and our abilities. All of these things are a gift of God, passed along to us through the work and faithfulness of those who have gone before us.

As good stewards, we need to think of the future ministry of our congregation. How will we act faithfully now to bring the Gospel to our community and disciple and prepare future generations? To that end we are going to participate in a process of planning designed to help us clarify our key commitments and the ministry goals we should set. If you are asked to participate in this process or serve on a committee dedicated to this process, please give it your serious consideration. Our purpose is to plan carefully in order to be faithful in carrying out God's purpose to bring the Word to those around us. As Jesus told His disciples, "Lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest." May we likewise lift up our eyes and prayerfully seek what God would have us to do! God grant all of you a blessed and joyous Easter season!

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



The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn’t necessary because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won’t be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one’s income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attend church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we’re ecstatic that you’re giving, and that you’re giving in all these various ways — time, talents and

(LCMS Newsletter continued)

treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America & the Caribbean:
missionaryMAC

News from Volunteer Coordinator Erin Mackenzie

Dear saints at Trinity—

Thank you for your ongoing support of church planting in Latin America & the Caribbean through me. Each and every one of you is a blessing I thank God for often. This past weekend, our DR seminary students planned and led an evangelistic weekend of Matins & Vespers, children's activities, and home visits that culminated with Sunday worship – with 125 in attendance! Everyone shared a Lenten treat afterwards: sweet cream of beans (the name doesn't translate well, but it's delicious!).

Your sister in Christ,
Erin




Each month Trinity would like to highlight a board/group or person in the congregation.

In April, we would like to feature Church Properties.

Thank you, Ron Benes, for your dedication and hard work. Your efforts make all the difference!



April Church Calendar



April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:10am Bible Study 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	30	31 6:30pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	1	2 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	3 5:00pm Spanish Good Friday Service 7:00pm Good Friday Service	4 9:00am Easter Breakfast Setup
5 EASTER SUNDAY NO BIBLE STUDY 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Easter Breakfast 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	6	7	8	9	10 7:30pm Compassionate Friends (Fellowship Hall)	11
12 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:10am Bible Study 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	13 7:00pm - 8:00pm PPC Meeting	14	15	16 7:00pm Property Planning Commission Meeting	17	18
19 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:10am Bible Study 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	20	21 6:30pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24	25
26 8:00am Joyful Noise Choir Sings at Immanuel (Batavia) 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:10am Bible Study 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	27 7:00pm Elder's Meeting	28	29	30	1	2



April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 Rowan Gregory	2	3	4 James Siekmann
5	6	7	8 Emilia Pena	9 Jake Bradley Jr.	10 Rite Dauber	11
12 Abigail Helfgot	13	14 Gavin Lee	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Violet Bendinelli	25 Jennifer Moeller Miles Dameron
26	27	28	29	30 Timmy Kotke	1	2



April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	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	25 Cynthia Macko
26	27	28 Carrie Tedrahn Grayson Matejka Chapman	29	30 Leila Pena	1	2



April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4 Lonnie and Doug Schmidt
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1 Sharon and Greg Garcia	2



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

2026 SCHEDULE	Count Team	Worship Asst.	Usher	Altar Guild	Lay Reader	Greeter
<i>4/2/2026</i>	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>Ron Benes</i>	<i>Dan Rakow</i>	<i>Nancy Planek</i>	<i>Nancy Planek</i>	
<i>4/3/2026</i>	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Ron Benes</i>	<i>Dan Rakow</i>	<i>Nancy Planek</i>	<i>Ron Benes</i>	
4/5/2026	Nancy Westra and Ron Benes	Larry Kotke	Jim Grobe	Nancy Westra	Nancy Planek	Heather Greubel
4/12/2026	Greg & Sharon Garcia and Cheryl Perkis	Jim Grobe	Dan Rakow	Eldra Rakow	Andrew Greubel	Donna Brothers
4/19/2026	Jim and Kristi Horvath	Doug Schmidt	Andrew Greubel	Sharon Garcia	Grace Greubel	Andrea/Jake/Ally
4/26/2026	Laura Grobe, Sue Mennecke and Jeni Siekmann	Bob Lasater	Doug Schmidt	Sue Mennecke	Bob Lasater	Laura Grobe