



Trinity Lutheran Church

Proclaiming, Teaching and Living the Gospel of Christ!

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:30am

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly on Saturday & Sunday

Sunday School & High School Bible Study
9:30am-Sundays

Sat. Adult Bible Study 4:00pm
Sun. Adult Bible Study 9:45am

A Prayer for the Church

Lord, Your people want to follow You. Still, the church on earth is made up of imperfect, sinful humans. Guide Your flock as it represents You to the world. Keep it from being a place of contention and strife. Give its leaders a heart for service and a firm adherence to Your Word. And breathe into Your church the flame of Your love, that it may reach the lost and draw them to You.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.



Concordia Publishing House
Portals of Prayer
April-June 2024, page 116

April 2024 - Newsletter

Sincere Thanks!

Thank you to all that donated candy filled eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt! We appreciate your generosity.

High School Youth 2nd Sunday Funday!

All high school youth are welcome to join us for 2nd Sunday Funday to be held Sunday, April 14th from 10:30am-1:30pm in the Parish Hall. This month we will be making pizzas with the Varvels! Come join in for food, fun, & fellowship!



**High School Youth
2nd Sunday Funday**
★ ★

Quarterly Voters' Meeting

Our Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held Sunday, April 21st at 11:00am. Lunch will be served that day at 10:45am.

Vacation Bible School Celebrate the Savior June 3-7, 2024

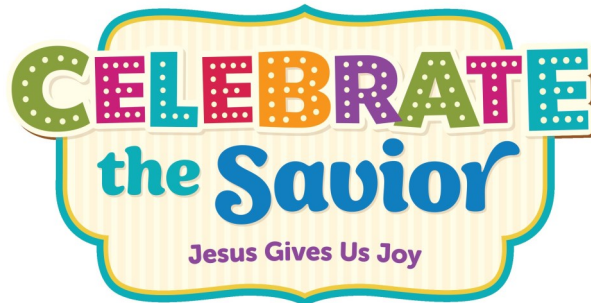
We are excited for Vacation Bible School 2024! Join the celebration! 16 students have already registered!

Student and volunteer online registration is open! Go to: vbsmate.com/trinitylutheranherscheril

You may contact our 2024 VBS Director, Heather Meredith with any questions.

Heather—Phone/text: 815-573-1056

Heather—Email: hmj8706@yahoo.com



255 E. Third Street, P.O. Box 414 Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2262

Web site: trinitylutheranherscher.org Email: trinityherl@comcast.net

Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/trinityherscher

Colossians – Jesus is Important



One of the great dangers to our faith that we may come across is that we just get bored. We get bored of the Gospel, we get bored of Church, we get bored of Jesus. We think we know it all already, and we want something novel, something “exciting and new”. We can get distracted easily in search of this excitement, and we can get lost in the weeds.

This actually is nothing new. As Paul is writing to the Church at Colossae, they are facing the exact same ho-humness, and more over, there are false teachers who are peddling false teachings that are shiny, gleaming and very attractive. All these false teachings do the same move – they push Jesus and His Cross off to the side and dangle something else before our eyes, hypnotizing and mesmerizing us.

So Paul writes the letter to the Colossians, and in this letter Paul refocuses us upon Christ Jesus, but does so in a way to reawaken our wonder with Christ. It's not that Jesus is boring, it's not that the Church or the Gospel is boring – the problem is that our familiarity with Jesus and forgiveness can breed contempt. So Paul has us look at Jesus with some fresh eyes of wonder, pondering the things we may easily overlook.

Paul notes that Jesus is “the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible....” (Col 1:15-16a) Whatever you want to ponder, whether it's deep things about God, whether it's about creation – Jesus is at the center of it. If you are to understand God, it's through Jesus. If you want to understand creation, it's Jesus' creation – He's the One who made it and runs it. Don't let people push Jesus out of the picture, because there's nothing that He isn't really at the heart and center of.

This includes your own life – “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.” (Col 3:3-4) Everything in your life—the works, the vocations, the neighbors you are given—these are all things that come from Christ. It might not be obvious (that's the “life is hidden” aspect), but it's there when you ponder, when you see things in terms of Christ. You don't need to run after the latest Christless trend – there's more than enough wonder and mystery in who you are in Christ Jesus.

So if you ever are feeling bored or sluggish regarding the faith, if the sense of wonder is lacking, give Colossians a read. It's quick, but it is profound and wonderful. Have a wonderful month in Christ!

Pastor Brown

Christian Education Schedule/ Bible Study

Sunday School is held on Sundays at 9:30am. Meet in the front of the church for the opening.

High School Bible Study is held on Sundays at 9:30am in the church basement. All high school youth are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Sunday Adult Bible Study is held on Sundays at approximately 9:45am after the Sunday worship service and the Sunday School opening. We are currently studying the *book of Matthew*.

Saturday Adult Bible Study is held on Saturdays at 4:00pm before the worship service. We are currently studying *The Small Catechism*.

Facebook Live devotions are held online most weeks, Monday through Thursday at 8:00am.

Be in the Word!
It's a great place to be!
All are welcome!

Choir-Wednesdays

Children's Music 5:30pm
Handbell Choir 6:00pm
Vocal Choir 7:00pm



Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive at Trinity will be held Thursday, May 16th. The need is great, please mark your calendar to donate.



Weekly Bulletin Deadline

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office each **Wednesday by noon**. Thank you!



Monthly Newsletter Deadline

Articles, announcements and information for the May newsletter are due **Monday, April 22 by 9:00am**. Thank you!

Pastoral Care & Church Office Hours

Pastor Brown will be in the office on Mondays & Wednesdays 8:00-11:00am-ish. He will be happy to meet with you at other times as well, just call, text or email.

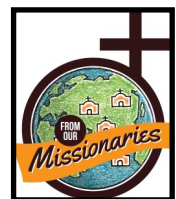
Pastor's Email: pastorbrown.trinity@comcast.net
Pastor's Cell phone (call or text): 815-953-9995
Pastor's Office phone: 815-426-2262 x102

Diane Hart will continue to be in the office as often as needed. Phone messages and email are checked multiple times daily.

Diane's Email: trinityher1@comcast.net
Diane's Office phone: 815-426-2262 x101
Diane's Cell phone (call or text): 708-307-2710

Missionaries

Please continue to pray for our missionaries Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump and their family as they continue to share God's love and spread His Word.

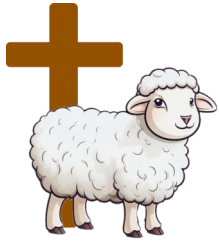


Courtyard Estates of Herscher Services



A worship service is planned at Courtyard Estates of Herscher on Mondays, April 8th & 22nd at 2:00pm. Watch the bulletins for updates.

Little Lambs Preschool



Spring has sprung, and our April themes definitely reflect it. First and foremost, everyone's favorite project starts at the beginning of the month: the hatch project! Mrs. Orr will once again be resuming her role as Master Hatcher. This year we are being extra ambitious and planning a double hatch with a second incubator and some new equipment. We can't wait to see if there is any impact on hatch rates! There will be about a week's delay between the start dates of the two batches. Once hatched (starting the third week of April), chicks will remain at the preschool for about a week before being adopted out to students and their families. Be sure to follow the church Facebook page for updates and (hopefully) some livestreams of hatching chicks! It takes a mere twenty-one days for a fertilized egg to develop into a hatched chick, and we get sneak peaks at their progress when we candle the eggs. Is there anything better than watching the growth of new life to drive home the wonder of God's creation?

Building on the animal theme, we will also have a unit on pets. Students' families are invited to bring their well-behaved pets to visit the class, which is always a treat! Dr. Beth has also graciously invited us back to tour her clinic, weather permitting. Students get to learn about all the ways she and other vets help their pets, and they may even get to meet one of the furry clinic denizens! We are grateful to Dr. Beth and her clinic staff- especially Heather Thurston, who handles the logistics of our trip- for making this wonderful opportunity possible.

Rounding the theme off, we will be studying the butterfly lifecycle by hatching caterpillars into butterflies (the start date of this project depends on the weather). Butterflies often appear in Christian symbolism as reminders of Christ's resurrection and ascension, both of which feature in our Bible lessons this month, tying it all together.

Aside from our animal projects, students will be getting ready for promotion and graduation on the 9th of May. As with our past events, we will be looking for volunteers to help set out and serve refreshments. Promotion begins at 10:15 AM and graduation at 6:00 PM, with some light preparation beforehand; if you would like to help out, please call or text Celia Brown at (815) 954-9962.

We are grateful that we never seem to find ourselves short of help. This sometimes takes of the form of volunteers at our events, or maintenance of the preschool space and equipment; other times, it is monetary donations. Thank you to the ladies of Hannah Circle and our other anonymous donors for your support, and to everyone in our congregation who helps take care of the preschool!

– Mrs. Brown

Enrollment update: Our Pre-K 3 roster is up to five, which is fairly typical for this point in the year. Our Pre-K 4 morning class is full at sixteen, and we have a waiting list of six. We are hoping to get enough interest to start an afternoon class!

Raise Right Gift Card/Scrip Card Program—go to: raiseright.com Raising funds with *NO SELLING!*

Trinity's Gift Card Program through Raise Right: This program is available year-round. If you need gift cards, this is for you!

All orders will be placed on Mondays, allowing for delivery usually by Thursday of the same week (online orders will be submitted with the paper orders). While they are most popular for holiday and birthday gifts, people also purchase cards to use themselves at places they regularly shop. New customers please contact Diane Hart in the office for the enrollment code or with any questions. Thank you for supporting Little Lambs simply by shopping!

Martha Circle & Trinity Sewing

Martha Circle will meet for breakfast Friday, April 5th at the Herscher Restaurant at 8:30am. Guests are welcome.

The Trinity Sewing Group is busy binding and tying quilts. We will meet Tuesday, April 9th from 12:30-4:00pm. If you are available for only part of that time, please come and join us. We have eighty quilts in the closet. As LWR requires closer ties we are finding that it takes a little longer to tie a quilt. We are always in need of sheets and flannel sheets for liners. We appreciate all the support we are getting for our quilting mission.

LWML Zone 18 Spring Rally will be held Saturday, April 20th at St. Paul's Grade School, Bourbonnais. Rev. Singer from Lutheran Church Charities will be the guest speaker.

Just a note, Operation Christmas Child boxes will be filled on October 5th at the fall workshop. It was noted if tee shirts are purchased, please buy the following sizes: extra small; medium; large; extra-large. Skip the small. We are purchasing for 2-4-year-olds, 5-9-year-olds, and 10-14-year-olds. Homemade crochet hats are very much appreciated. Thank you for your continued support. Ruth Fulton from Dwight has been to Aurora where they sort through boxes and make sure everything is appropriate before sending.

Church Council

The Church Council will meet Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Board of Education

Contact Heather Thurston for the next meeting date or with any questions.

Hannah Circle

Hannah Circle will meet Tuesday, April 16th at 6:30pm at the home of Debbie Witheft. Please read ahead chapter 8 in DAUGHTER OF THE REFORMATION.

April Card Care: Maggie Noffke

Herscher Council of Churches

We are hosting a Senior Luncheon Thursday, April 11th at 1:00pm at Courtyard Estates. Free will donations for the meal will be accepted. If you plan to attend, please contact Jackie Eberle at 815-421-4048 or email at: jackiejoel1957@gmail.com .

Our quarterly meeting will be held Tuesday, April 23rd at 7:00pm at Trinity.

Dartball

Dartball Season Summary-Team 2

Team 2 finished the regular season in 3rd behind Emmanuel and Zion. Randy Kerschke had the best season average for the team with 397. Last Sunday, the team won the League's Round Robin Tournament with 6 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie, while Emmanuel posted 6 wins and 2 losses. Kim Weerts' tournament average was 360. Joe Hart (aka Stevie Wonder) erupted for 4 home runs and 5 RBI's one of which was in our last at bat vs. Emmanuel to procure a critical win. Thanks also to Kevin and Jack Kruse for spending Sunday afternoon with us and scoring some needed runs as well!

Team 1 did not share statistics on the season/ tournament but commented, "we had a lot of fun!"



Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Inc. (RLOM)-Illinois Expansion

Contact Barbara Schwark, Trinity's RLOM Advocate with any questions.

Visit rlom.org/expansion for updates and information regarding the new home in Illinois.



Member Birthdays



- 1 Randy Kerschke, Denise Sanders
- 5 Paul Johnson, Ava Kruse,
Marianne Mau, Don Sharper
- 6 Elizabeth Jensen
- 7 Eleanor Fortado, Jackson Kruse
- 8 Barbara Schwark
- 9 Michelle Sims, Deegan Thurston,
Debra Weerts, Emily Wojnowski
- 10 Matthew Marcotte
- 13 Jonathan Kersten
- 14 Taylor Foltz, Kevin Peterson
- 15 Laurie Howard, Trever Miller
- 16 Mark Howard Jr., Knox Scanlon
- 19 Ronald Thomas
- 21 Gunnar Noffke
- 22 Larry Clapp, Tammy Gray, Paul Mau,
Greyson Zirkle
- 23 Carter Hendrix
- 26 Donald Carpenter, Jessa Ruel
- 27 Chase Meredith
- 28 Denise Huston
- 29 Blake Nitsche
- 30 Brooke Lucht

Please notify Diane in the church office if there are any errors or omissions. Thank you!

A Birthday Prayer

God of time and space, on this day of celebration, we mark another year in the life of Your servant. Thank You for the blessings You have bestowed on this, Your beloved child, in the past year and for Your enduring presence in future days. As he/she laughs, plays, toils, and serves, bring daily reminders of the unfathomable gift won by Your Son. Make this special person and all believers blessings to those around them.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

*Concordia Publishing House
Portals of Prayer
April-June 2024, page 112*

Trinity Lutheran Church February 29, 2024 Financial Summary

General

Beg. Balance	\$21,358.69
Receipts	22,818.05
<u>Expense</u>	<u>23,373.50</u>
Ending Balance	\$20,803.24

Mission Fund

Beg. Balance	\$ 2,515.00
Receipts	2,530.00
<u>Expense</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 5,045.00

Little Lambs Preschool

Beg. Balance	\$ 8,178.36
Receipts	6,722.30
<u>Expense</u>	<u>5,616.03</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 9,284.63

Complete financial reports are reported at Quarterly Voters' Meetings held on the third Sundays of January, April, July and October.



Please contact Diane in the church office if you need to pick up your offering envelopes, have them issued, or wish to be removed from the offering envelope list.

Sales Tax Exemption

Contact Diane in the office for a copy (electronic or paper). **This should be used for all purchases for Trinity.** There are additional forms/bar codes available for church purchases made at Home Depot and Menards. Please get a copy of the forms/bar code prior to making purchases. Thank you.

Parish Hall Rental/ Property Check-Out List

The Parish Hall may be rented to Trinity members for various functions. Please contact Diane in the office to schedule, remit rental fee, and obtain a copy of the guidelines. Also, any property borrowed (old tables, kitchen items, etc.) need to be signed out on the check-out sheet in the church office. Please note, per the Church Council, the white tables and chairs may not leave the church property. Also, all items used are to be returned clean and stored appropriately. Thank you!

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – April 2024



Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are *his*: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership *to you*? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since *you* belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

Serving Our Lord This Month—April 2024

Elder/Communion Assistant

April 06 Jerry Brutlag
April 07 Joe Hart

April 13 Al Janssen
April 14 Ken Taube

April 20 Joe Hart
April 21 John Varvel

April 27 Kevin Kruse
April 28 Don LaChappell

USHERS

THIS MONTH



Usher Captains

Gerald Kruse (Sat.)

Dan Shute (Sun.)

Usher Team

Kevin Kruse

Don LaChappell; Jeff Stutz



Bonnie Matherly,
Heather Meredith &
Jane Schaumburg

Altar Flowers

Weekend or date:

April 06/07 Paul Johnson on the occasion of his birthday

April 13/14 *Available*

April 20/21 *Available*

April 27/28 Jane & Carl Schaumburg on the occasion of their 22nd anniversary and Chase Meredith's 7th birthday



Trinity— April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Little Lambs-No School Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Little Lambs Easter Party 10:15am	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Little Lambs Easter Party 10:15am Children's Music 5:30pm Handbells 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	Martha Circle at Herscher Restaurant 8:30am	Communion Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 2:00pm	No School Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Courtyard Estates Service 2:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Circuit Meeting @ St. Paul, Bourbonnais 9:30am Quilt Tying/ Sewing Group 12:30-4:00pm Council 7:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Children's Music 5:30pm Handbells 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Intergenerational Pastor's Conference Herscher COC Senior Lunch 1:00pm @ Courtyard Estates		Communion Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am 2nd Sunday Funday 10:30am-1:30pm Confirmation 2:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Circuit Visitor Meeting @ Walcamp Hannah Circle @ Debbie Witheft's 6:30pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Children's Music 5:30pm Handbells 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am		Communion LWML Zone 18 Spring Rally @ St. Paul, Bourbonnais Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am Lunch 10:45am Voters' Meeting 11:00am Confirmation 2:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am May Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Courtyard Estates Service 2:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Herscher Council of Churches 7:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Children's Music 5:30pm Handbells 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am		Communion Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
28	29	30				
Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am Zirkle Parish Hall 4-H 4:30pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am				
Deadlines for printing: Bulletin announcement deadline-Wednesdays 12:00pm May Newsletter deadline-Monday, April 22 by 9:00am						