



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
Sundays at 9:30am through 5/17/26

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

A Prayer for the Church

Lord Jesus, I thank You that I am a member of Your Body, the church. As Paul addressed the multiple churches in Galatia, enable me to see my congregation as Your localized church. No matter my position in my congregation, bless me in my church-related vocations and grant that all the members may work in unison to support our congregation and the outreach of the Gospel. In Your holy name. Amen.



*Concordia Publishing House
Portals of Prayer
April-June, 2026
Page 116*

May 2026 - Newsletter

Confirmation

Confirmation will be held Sunday, May 3rd during the 8:30am worship service.



Confirmation Class of 2026

Elliott Scott Cox

God Bless our Confirmand!

**VBS 2026
Tropical Trek
Jesus Comes to Seek and Save
June 8-12; 8:30-11:00am**



Throughout this program, we will go on a Tropical Trek and along the way be guided by our Savior, Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life! Let's go on an unforgettable journey!

Register students and volunteers online at:
vbsmate.com/trinitylutheranherscheril

Questions??? Text Heather Meredith at 815-573-1056 or Lynne Noffke at 815-263-0411, Co-Directors of VBS 2026.

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

The “Close” of the Commandments

As you may have figured out, I love Church History. It's often a weird history, and as we come to what we commonly call the “close” of the commandments one of the weird little points of history that has eluded me shows up. I have no idea how or why we call this part the “close” of the commandments, because the word “close” isn't anywhere in the German, the Latin, or even the old English translation from 1921. And that's because it doesn't make a lot of sense.



Consider this: the phrase “I am the Lord, thy God...” comes from Exodus 20:5 – it's part of the first commandment. It's not at the end of the commandments – it's actually before the second. But I think we have here an example of mainly Germans using a bit of antiquated English in trying to explain things.

Consider what closing arguments do in a court case. They wrap everything up. Also, in Greek the word “telos” means “end” but is also means “the point, the summation.” So what we are getting here is the closing arguments of the Commandments, their point, how we can all just wrap them up. Which shows up in the question - “What does God say about all these commandments?” What's their point?

Well, we get to remember a few things about the Commandments. They are serious business. God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. They aren't child play, and breaking or ignoring them is Bad with a capital B. However, these Commandments are not just random rules God makes for no reason – they aren't just hoops He makes us jump through. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. You know, living according to the Commandments makes your life better. It's good to pray and to go to Church – that's how God gives forgiveness. It's good to have order in society – that keeps things from breaking down. The commandments are good.

The commandments are good, even though we are not. When we measure our own lives up against God's goodness, God's wisdom, God's order, we will see our sin. We will see our need to repent. That's just what comes with the Law in a sinful world – but God's love and mercy for you remains always. He just wants you to receive His blessings in the simplest and easiest way possible.

- *Pastor Brown*

Christian Education Schedule

Sunday School is held Sundays at 9:30am and will continue through May 17th. Meet in the front of the church for the opening.

High School Bible Study meets in the church basement Sundays at 9:30am. Study continues through May 17th.

Summer Sunday School schedule coming soon.

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

Saturday Adult Bible Study is held Saturdays at 4:00pm before the worship service. We are currently studying the *book of Titus*.

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

Confirmation Class will be forming and starting up in September. Contact Pastor with any questions.

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

Church Photo Directory App & Online Giving

This month TRINITY hopes to launce it's pictorial directory app for your phone. Hosted by Universal Church Directories, our private, personalized page will have access to the church's pictorial directory, links to announcements (newsletter) and calendar, and options for online giving. Stay tuned for more information.



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 June newsletter are due **Thursday, May 21st by 9:00am**. Thank you!



Pastoral Care Contacts

Pastor Brown often roams around in his duties, but he will be happy to meet with you. Please call, text or email to set up a time.

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

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. **Reminder, the kitchen, tables and chairs should be left clean and floors swept. Restrooms should be checked for tidiness.**

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.**

Villas at Herscher Services

Worship services are planned for Villas at Herscher Mondays, May 11th & 25th at **3:00pm**.

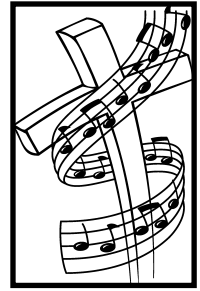


Kantor's Korner

Kantor's Trivia Question!

At the Maundy Thursday service, Kantor Dehning did not play stanza 4 of one of the Distribution hymns, "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (LSB #621). This was not a mistake, but a planned omission for that particular service. Why?

Any congregation member who tells Kantor the correct answer by May 31st will receive a prize!



Trini-Teens

The Trini-Teens Celebrate "Spectacular" Success!



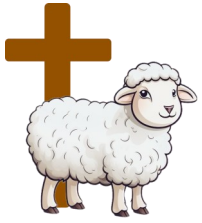
Friday night, April 17th was the Trini-Teens' "Spaghetti Spectacular"... and what a "spectacle" it was! Huge thanks to everyone who came out and supported our new youth group, especially those who made all the delicious desserts. Also a big "thank you" for everyone for their extremely generous donations. We were not intending for this to be an official fundraiser for our group, but we are very grateful for the donations. Those funds will be put towards our Higher Things and National Youth Gathering trip funds, which we will be planning for next summer!

We fulfilled 33 orders, most of which were multiple plates of food, so we estimate somewhere between 70-80 congregation members served. All with only 5 Trini-Teen members! We had a lot of fun putting it together, and made a lot of notes for ways we can improve it for next year.

I would also like to share a story with you regarding the preparation for this event. I initially met with our Trini-Teens back in February. I had three members at that meeting. All I told them was that I had a vision of bringing back the beloved Spaghetti Dinner, but I wasn't sure how it would look scaled back with significantly less members. I went into this meeting with several ideas in my head of how it could work. However, none of these ideas were ever voiced. Because they didn't need them. Immediately, those three members stood up from the tables and ran to the kitchen, shouting out their own ideas of how it could work and what it might look like. We had 2 additional meetings to prepare for the night, and all the while, I couldn't help but feel immense pride in this group. They understood the daunting task. They all stepped up big time. Everything about Friday night was brainstormed, created, practiced, and executed by our church's youth. At one point during the serving, I stepped back and just watched. Put in its simplest form: There were 5 members of Trinity Lutheran Church, all under the age of 20, serving their congregation with an event they planned all by themselves, working through issues that came up, problem solving together, and sticking to their game plan. It was an extremely powerful and profound moment I witnessed, and though it was far from perfect, I firmly believe we witnessed something incredibly special here that Friday night. I continue to thank God for the opportunity to work with an extremely impressive group of kids in this congregation.

-- Caleb Dehning

Little Lambs Preschool



This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
– Psalm 118:24 (ESV)

How can we be at the end of the school year already? Where did the time go? And how are we going to finish everything before the end of the year?! This is the time of year when I have to remind myself that the past is done, and there's no use wasting time figuring out how it could have flown so quickly. Likewise, the future is not here yet. Though it will be soon enough, planning ahead does not mean moving all the anxieties and burdens to today. I could say something about the troubles of the day being sufficient, but that is a different verse, and not the point I wish to focus on.

Each day of preschool is its own blessing. Regardless of what happened the day before or the next day, we should rejoice in the day we have. The sun rises, the students arrive, and we get to have class. Maybe there's chapel that day, or someone reading, or a trip to the basement to select library books. Maybe we're inside at recess. Maybe it's a busy day, full of catching up students who were absent, or changing plans due to unexpected needs arising. Maybe it's an undemanding day that is orderly and well-paced. Whatever the day holds, each task, each accomplishment, and each moment together is something to rejoice in. What if the day is frustrating? What if nothing goes as planned? I learn to rejoice in the fact that I had students, I got to teach them, and they are always learning, even if it wasn't how I had imagined it happening. This day was ordained by God, and He knows better than I how to use it for good.

I do have to say, though, that the end of the year makes it easy to be glad in the small things. When the number of school days hits the single digits, we tend to really notice the student who once cried every morning walking confidently through the front door, barely stopping to wave goodbye. We notice the shy student playing monster with the others at recess. Children grow so quickly at this age, and knowing we played a part in that growth— however large or small our part was— makes our hearts overflow. It reminds us to set aside the troubles of this day and every day and give thanks for all the blessings He gives to the teachers and students through Little Lambs.

As is my end-of-year custom, I ask that you please pray for our students. Pray with me that they remember to rejoice in each day themselves this summer, taking note of the many blessings God gives them. Let them see the beautiful world, full of things that creep and grow, and their loving families and friends. And let them return safely to school this fall bolstered by this joy and gladness, so they are ready to boldly meet the new school year. Amen.

– Mrs. Brown

2026-27 Enrollment Update

Pre-K 3: 13 students

Pre-K 4: 16 students



Raise Right Gift Card Program

Trinity's Gift Card Program through Raise Right—This program is available year-round.

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). New customers please contact Diane Hart in the office for the enrollment code or with any questions. Go to raiseright.com for more information or ask for a printed list of vendors if you prefer.

Thank you for supporting Little Lambs Preschool simply by shopping!



RaiseRight.

Simply the right way to fundraise

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet Friday, May 1st at 8:30am for breakfast at the Herscher Restaurant. Guests are welcome.

Trinity Sewing/Quilting Group

Trinity Sewing will meet Tuesday, May 5th. Come anytime to tie or bind quilts between 10:30am to 3:30pm We may order pizza for lunch around noon. We have close to one hundred completed and boxed. There seems to be close to twenty ready to tie on May 5th. If you are unable to come that day, you may take a quilt home to tie. Fabric donations are very welcome. Flat sheets are appreciated, thank you to the individuals donating six sheets in the past couple months. Those we cannot use we pass on to others. A sewing member takes our scrap batting to use on baby quilts for Pregnancy Crisis Center. Members are continuing to make port pillows for Phil's Friends for their boxes sent to cancer patients.

LWML



LWML Spring Rally will be highlighted in next month's newsletter.

Church Council

The Church Council will meet Tuesday, May 12th at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Board of Education

The Board will meet Sunday, May 17th at 10:30am. Please contact Lynne Noffke with any questions.

Hannah Circle

We will meeting Tuesday, May 19th at 6:30pm at Trinity in the Parish Hall. Barb Kruse will be our hostess. This will be our annual Pot-Luck dinner and last meeting before our summer break. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy the fellowship!

May Card Care: Deb Weerts

Herscher Council of Churches

Herscher Christian Church will distribute boxes from the IL Food Bank on Tuesday, May 12th beginning at 10:00am.

RLOM

(Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries)

An excerpt from RLOM's news:

Baptism in East Dundee, IL!!

This past Saturday, March 28, we joyfully celebrated a special baptism at our Illinois location! A mother and her baby were baptized, surrounded by love, prayer, and community. It was a beautiful reminder of God's promises and the new beginnings He brings. We ask for continued prayers for this sweet family as they grow in faith together. Moments like these truly highlight the heart of our mission.

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

During May, the choirs will rehearse on Wednesdays, May 6th & 13th.



Sunday, May 10th
God's blessings on Mother's Day
& every day!



Member Birthdays



- 01 Dan Shute
- 03 Mike Bruner, Vinita Brutlag
- 04 Guy Huston, Arlene Kirchner
- 06 Grant Van Voorst
- 07 Chris Stutz
- 12 Dianne Doss, Steven Gross, Pam Matern
- 13 Drake Foltz, Tyler Henson,
Kelly Knobloch, Kurt Warmbir
- 14 Kaleb Berns, Kevin Kohl,
Ellianna Whitesell
- 16 Remi Ertl
- 17 Gayle Kirchner
- 18 Bailey Shepard
- 19 Clayton Hinich, Brian Janssen,
Debbie Witheft
- 20 Nathan Jensen, Mason Moritz
- 21 Heather Thurston
- 22 Jacob Fansler, Owen Rink
- 23 Thomas Jensen
- 24 Gerald Kroesch
- 26 Jason Kohl
- 27 Cheryl Brutlag, James Hubly,
Kenneth Winebaugh
- 29 Reese Bisailon, Diane Harper
- 30 Gavin Grace, Rachel Taube
- 31 Douglas Nowack, David Smith

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

A Birthday Prayer

*Lord of our lives, You gave us our first birth through our mothers on our birthday. We thank You for that day of birth and for all the blessings You have bestowed on us from our last birthday until this one. We praise You even more for the new birth You gave us by our Baptism into Christ. Enable us to know, having been born again in Christ, that we shall celebrate birthdays into eternity!
In Jesus' name. Amen*



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Portals of Prayer
April-June 2026, pg. 107

Trinity Lutheran Church March 31, 2026 Financial Summary

General

Beg. Balance	\$15,465.15
Receipts	26,351.62
<u>Expense</u>	<u>23,915.95</u>
Ending Balance	\$17,900.82

Mission Fund

Beg. Balance	\$ 4,515.00
Receipts	4,205.00
<u>Expense</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 8,720.00

Little Lambs Preschool

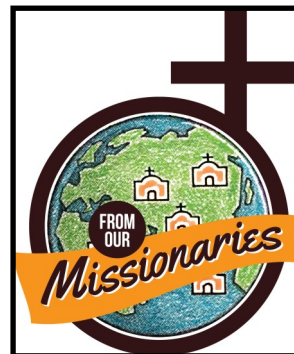
Beg. Balance	\$ 8,194.10
Receipts	3,390.56
<u>Expense</u>	<u>5,473.30</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 6,111.36

Complete financial reports are reported at Quarterly Voters' Meetings held usually 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.

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 in Africa.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter article – May

Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).



So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

Serving Our Lord This Month — May 2026

Elder/Communion Assistant

May 02* Jerry Brutlag
 May 03* Jeremy Thurston (Confirmation)


 May 09* *Available*
 May 10* John Varvel

 May 16* Chris Knobloch
 May 17* Mike Bruner

 May 23* Stan Schwark
 May 24* Jeremy Thurston

 May 30* *Available*
 May 31* Dan Shute

*Denotes Holy Communion Served



<u>Usher Captains</u>	<u>Usher Team</u>
Karl Kruse (Sat.) Mike Thomas (Sun.)	Larry Sharper Victor Brown; Joe Hart; Brandt Nottke



Sharon Dummer
&
Barb Kruse

Altar Flowers

May 02/03 Trinity Lutheran Church in honor of our Confirmand

 May 09/10 Don & Joanne LaChappell on the occasion of their 59th anniversary

 May 16/17 Nancy Snedecor on the occasion of Heather Thurston's birthday and in memory of her twin, Elizabeth

 May 23/24 Connie & Bill Tranos on the occasion of their 56th anniversary

 May 30/31 Caleb & Samantha Dehning on the occasion of their 4th anniversary



Trinity— May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>3 Confirmation Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible 9:45am</p>					<p>1 Martha Circle @ Herscher Restaurant 8:30am</p>	<p>2 Communion Hoffman Baptism 11:00am Hoffman Parish Hall 11am-2pm- Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm</p>
	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Quilt Tying/ Sewing Group 10:30am-3:30pm</p>	<p>6 Handbell Choir 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm</p>	<p>7 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm</p>
<p>Pastor's Conference-Dixon, IL May 4-</p>						
<p>10 Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am</p>	<p>11 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Villas at Herscher Service 3:00pm</p>	<p>12 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Council 7:00pm</p>	<p>13 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Handbell Choir 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm</p>	<p>14 Little Lambs Pre- K 3 Promotion 10:15am Little Lambs Pre- K 4 Graduation 6:00pm</p>	<p>15 Little Lambs end of year party @ Village Park 9:30-11:00am</p>	<p>16 Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm</p>
<p>17 Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Board of Ed 10:30am 4-H 6:00pm</p>	<p>18 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>19 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Hannah Circle Pot-Luck @ Trinity (Barb Kruse hostess) 6:30pm</p>	<p>20 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>21 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am June Newsletter Deadline 9:00am</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm</p>
<p>24 Communion Worship 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Villas at Herscher Service 3:00pm</p>	<p>26 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>27 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>28 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm</p>
<p>31 Communion Worship 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am</p>	<p>VBS 2026-Tropical Trek June 8-12 8:30am-11:00am Register online at: vbsmate.com/trinitylutheranherscheril</p>					
<p>Deadlines for printing: Bulletin announcement deadline-Wednesdays 12:00pm June Newsletter deadline-Thursday, May 21st by 9:00am</p>						