A Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church, Bemidji, Minnesota (218) 444-4441

Worship Services

9:00 am, Sunday There are no Wednesday Services during vacancy Sunday School (Sept - May)

10:30 am - 11:30 am



trinity3@paulbunyan.net

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Saving souls: Christ's work, not ours

March 5, 2024 / Reporter / By Rev. Matthew Harrison

The Synod does a lot of research to know what works. For instance, Concordia Publishing House just published a fantastic new book by the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, LCMS Youth Ministry director, and DCE Julianna Shults, Youth Ministry program manager. The book is Seven Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry, and it's the culmination of extensive research, surveys and interviews designed to find out what works in youth ministry and what has the highest likelihood of retaining youth in a faithful Lutheran congregation. Go to cph.org to buy your own copy! You'll be surprised at what we've found.

In other news, the Synod is embarking on a significant church-planting initiative. Here, as with Youth Ministry, we've spent years studying the data to know what practices (always under the Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions) have yielded and continue to promise the best results in church planting. These are just two examples of the thoughtful, informed and long-term preparation behind the work your Synod is doing. There are many more I could offer from the LCMS Office of International Mission, Mission Advancement, Communications and the Office of Pastoral Education.

We want to be good stewards of the resources you've entrusted to us to do the work you've asked us to do. It's a matter of trying to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves," as Jesus says (Matt. 10:16). But for all our research, we must confess that nothing we do makes anyone a Christian. By God's grace, we might clear out the junk in front of the door, but the work of saving souls is Christ's.

In fact, more often than not, the Lord does His work of converting sinners quite in spite of us. I recently heard LCMS Eastern District President Rev. John Pingel preach about how the times he spends, hour upon hour, with a person or family who needs Christ often seem to result in nothing, while a moment with a passing acquaintance or a chance incident happens to bring a person to church.

Who of us could have imagined an LCMS church plant in Rome? Your LCMS missionary in Rome, the Rev. Tyler McMiller, reports that people are hungry for the comforting, pure Gospel preserved in the Lutheran Confessions. Read about how a handful of young men stumbled across the LCMS via the internet, one thing led to another, and now we have a confessional Lutheran church plant just a couple of miles from the seat of Roman Catholicism. Even in Rome, when people find out what they can expect to receive from our Lutheran pulpits and Lutheran altars, they seek us out.

It is like how Luther describes why we should go to confession: "If this were explained in detail and if the need that ought to move and lead us to make confession were pointed out, then one would need little urging or coercion. For everyone's conscience would so drive and disturb him that he would be glad to do what a poor miserable beggar does when he hears that a rich gift of money or clothing is being handed out at a certain place. So as not to miss it, he would run there as fast as he can and would need no bailiff to beat and drive him on. For those who really desire to be true Christians, to be rid of their sins, and to have a cheerful conscience already possess the true hunger and thirst. They reach for the bread,

just as Psalm 42:1 says of a hunted deer burning in the heat with thirst, 'As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for You, O God.' In other words, as a deer with anxious and trembling eagerness strains toward a fresh, flowing stream, so I yearn anxiously and tremblingly for God's Word, Absolution, the Sacrament, and so forth" (Brief Exhortation to Confession, 23, 32–33).

No amount of research or planning can save anyone. God will save all of His elect. This is the wonderful comfort of the Doctrine of Election. If a year from now we discovered that all our supposed best practices, based on the best research and statistics, were completely wrong, it would not change the number of God's elect by a single one. All His elect will be saved. We simply cannot mess up His good and perfect work.

"We know that out of pure grace, without any merit of our own, we have been elected in Christ to eternal life. No one can pluck us out of His hand [John 10:29]. He has not only promised this gracious election with mere words, but has also certified it with an oath and sealed it in the holy Sacraments. We can call these to mind in our most severe temptations and take comfort in them, and with them we can quench the fiery darts of the devil [Ephesians 6:16]" (FC Ep XI, 13).

God's elect will be saved, to be sure, but God wills to save His people through His blessed Word spoken through poor miserable sinners like us, and it is our deepest privilege to participate in His mysterious work of electing — of saving — sinners. People all over the world are seeking out The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for our clear confession of the Word of God. They want what we have. They long for the blessed Gospel of the free forgiveness of sins, without any work or merit on our part. There are more requests from sister church bodies and emerging church bodies all over the world than we can manage. We have requests for over 200 more missionaries worldwide. There is a worldwide hunger for the clarity of the Gospel. The harvest is ripe, indeed!

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



Ladies Aid

Ladies Aid will meet on Thursday, May 2nd at 1:30 pm at the Church.

Trinity Afternoon Guild

The Afternoon Guild will meet on Tuesday, May 7th at 1:30 pm at the Church.

Men of Trinity

Will meet on Monday, May 6th at 6:30 pm at the Church.

Hannah Circle

Will meet on Thursday, May 9th at 1:30 pm.

* Active Christian Fellowship

ACF will meet on Monday, May 13th at 6:30 pm.

Altar Circle

Will meet on Monday, May 20th at 1:00 pm.

Eunice Circle

Will meet on Tuesday, May 21st at 9:30 am.

Christian Singles

The Christian Singles will meet for lunch on Sunday, May 12th.

Happy Quilters

The "Happy Quilters" meet on the 3rd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 9:00am at the church.



I.C.Y.M.I.

TLC Preschool / Childcare Visits the Science Center



Youth Group Bowling Party!







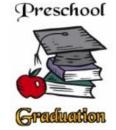
LIC Summer Registration is OPEN!

Our registration is completely online on our website. If you have questions about registering, you can contact the office at 218-583-2905.

ALL program descriptions are also on our website.

TLC PRESCHOOL & GROWING TREE LEARNING CENTER

GRADUATION SPRING CONCERT MAY 15 AT 5:30 PM



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

MAY 17TH

LAST DAY OF GROWING TREE

MAY 24TH



Church Offices will be CLOSED

On Monday May 27th in Observance of Memorial Day.

ATTENTION SERVERS! The Youth group is looking for a group/family that is willing to take over serving on some Sundays for our coffee hour. The slots we are wanting to fill are the 2nd Sundays in July (14th), September (8th), and November (10th). If you are able to take on these Sundays, please contact the church office. *Thank you*



DIAPER DRIVE TO SUPPORT THE NORTHWOODS PREGNANCY CENTER

The Mission Board is once again doing a diaper drive in support of the Northwoods Pregnancy Center. They are in need of diaper sizes 4 and 7, unscented wipes and used boys and girls clothing sizes 2/3T. There is a table in the fellowship hall for your donations. Please contribute before Mother's Day. Support those who support life!

~Thank you - your Mission board.

Lutheran Island Camp UPCOMING EVENTS



May 11

Spring Work Day

It's time to gear up for our busy summer season and we need YOUR help! Join us on May 11th from 8a-2p to clean up the Island and prepare for the summer. Projects include cleaning cabins, cleaning vehicles, splitting wood for campfires, setting up volleyball, soccer and archery nets, cleaning trails, processing shoes, and mulching trails. As always, lunch will be provided. Lodging is available for those coming from long distances. Please let us know you're coming by giving us a call at 218-583-2905.

June 7

Volunteer Donor Appreciation Dinner

If you are a volunteer or donor to Lutheran Island Camp, you are invited to a dinner in honor of YOU! Please RSVP before May 24th.

The doors will open at 4:30pm and dinner will be served at 5pm. A time of worship around the campfire will follow the meal. For questions, or help RSVPing, call us at 218-583-2905.

August 3 Quilt Auction

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is back! The Live Quilt Auction will begin at 8:30am with the opportunity to view the quilts. The bidding will begin at 10:00am. Meal tickets will be available for purchase. More information will be available in the coming months.

The Online Quilt Auction will begin after the Live Auction is complete. More details will be available in the coming months.

August 9-11

LWML Retreat

Bring your daughters! Bring your friends! We gather together as sisters in Christ to learn more about Christ our Savior and sharing His love for us with others. The keynote speaker for this retreat is Pati Kachel. She is a Christian Story Teller and will join us to share personal faith stories and sing her gentle songs as she shares practical insights of timeless truths in the third chapter of Ecclesiastes. More information and registration information at www.islandcamp.org/schedule.

DISTRICT NEWS

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis | Tuesday, April 23rd | 7:00 PM

CALL DAY 20

Concordia Theological, Ft Wayne | Wednesday, April 24th | 7:00 PM







CHRISTIANITY CULTURE CONFERENCE 2 0 2 4

JUNE 28-29

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO EVANGELISM

Featuring - Rev. Jonathan Fisk & Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz



CHRIST THE KING

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod 500 4th Ave SW Spencer, Iowa

This summer we are hosting a double speaker event!

Save the date for this special Friday and Saturday event.

Come worship with us and learn in a series of 6 one-hour sessions over 2 days.

Lunch on Friday and fellowship breaks make this format enjoyable and understandable for everyone, Christian laity and clergy alike.

Tickets and registration available now on Eventbrite.

Ask about special promo codes for most attendees

You won't want to miss it!

712-262-2244 for latest information





2024 WORKSHOPS

APRIL 25-27 | SANDY, UT

Principles of Biblical Interpretation for Everyone DR. JAMES W. VOELZ Creditate Professor of Exception Theology

JUNE 3-5 | VALPARAISO, IN
Poetry, Prophecy, Songs, Prayers:
Exploring the Mystery and Beauty
of the Psalms

JUNE 3-5 | SALINA, KS

The Beginnings of Genesis and the Genesis of Beginnings REV, PAUL LANDGRAF Pastor, Pigrin Lutiwan Church/Saint John Lutiwan Church Chamos/Drafu, MO

JUNE 6-8 | MONTEREY, CA That'll Preach

Processor Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Practical Theology

JUNE 10-12.1 MENTOR, OH

DR. ADAM FILIPEN Goest Instructor, Concorder Seminary and Advert Professor, Concorder University, Saint Plad, May

JUNE 17-19 | TONAWANDA, NY The Communal Shape of the

Associate Projector of Procinal Theology JUNE 24-26 | BOURBONNAIS, IL

An Introduction to the Early Church
DR. JOEL SLOWSKY
Professor of Material Theology

JULY 8-10 | HAYS, KS

What Does It Mean to be Lutheran in America? Discord in the LCMS in the 1960s and 1970s or. CERHARD BODE

JULY 8-10 | YORK, NE Decoding the Apocalypse: Study of the Book of Revelation

DR. DAVID PETER
Professor of Practical Theology

JULY 8-10 | SANTA FE, NM

Prophets Teach the Zist Century? DR. KEVIN GOLDEN Associate Professor of Enegation Theology

In the Beginning: Studies in Genesis
DR. REED LESSING
Professor of Theology and Ministry

JULY 29-31 | SPRINGFIELD, MO It Stands Written: The New Testament Appropriation of The Old Testament DR. KEVIN COLDEN

AUG, S-7 | DUBLIN, OH Luther's Soul Care Theology for the 21st Century DR. RICHARD MARRS



QUESTIONS? CONTACT CONTINUING EDUCATION

© CORDISION J 314-505-7286





Open house 1-3

Trinity Lutheran church 29th St. and Bemidji (Ave.

No present, cards only please!

Please send cards to Adeline Grage c/o Beverly Parobek 3270 Doral Dr. ME Bemidji 56601

Before U were thought of or time had begun, God even stuck U in the name of His Son. And each time U pray, you'll see it's true You can't spell out JesÚs and not include U. You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name, For U, He was born; that's why He came. And His great love for U is the reason He died. It even takes U to spell crUcified. Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand He rose from the dead, with U in His plan. The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew, and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U. When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension, He felt there was one thing He just had to mention. "Go into the world and tell them it's true That I love them all – Just like I love U." So many great people are spelled with a U, Don't they have a right to know JesUs too? It all depends now on what U will do, He'd like them to know But it all starts with U.

--- written by Charleen Coleman



cannot be made angry easily. Love does not remember wrongs done against it. I Corinthians 13:5

Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. Proverbs 31:31

Love never fails! I Corinthians 13:8

-Thammadapalli Vijayaraj



LIFT UP THE WORD LIGHT UP THE WORLD

THE 73RD ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!

What you need:

- Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



What you do:

- Roll out a portion of clay to about ½-inch thickness.
- Cut out a circle that's slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
- To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
- Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
- 5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase.

 Arrange flowers and greenery to
 make a Mother's Day bouquet.



Activity Page



UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment. How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong.

Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.

flower, stem, bee, leaf
pink, red, yellow, blue
mother, sister, brother, aunt
purple, dress, skirt, blouse
necklace, ring, bracelet, braid
diamond, emerald, heart, ruby
orange, cherry, potato, kiwi
my, our, she, your
faith, family, love, hope
sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature
cookie, cake, pie, sandwich
silver, white, gold, bronze

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"Rather, it should be that of your inner self,
the unfading beauty of a g _ _ _ _
and qu _ _ _ p _ _ _, which is
of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:4, NIV



SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Learning Center and Preschool News

Growing Tree Learning

Center & TLC Preschool

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2024-2025

2024-2025 Preschool Registration forms are now available for all children attending the center.

Please see Danielle in the office for forms and/or questions.

Preschool Last Day

Little Lamb's—May 16
Noah's Ark—May 17

Growing Tree
Childcare Last Day

Friday, May 24th



Bible Verse of the Month:

"My God turns my darkness into light."

-Psalm 18:28

GRADUATION & SPRING CONCERT

Wednesday, May 15th at 5:30 p.m.

Please join us in celebrating our graduates moving on to Kindergarten!

We will have a potluck immediately following the concert.

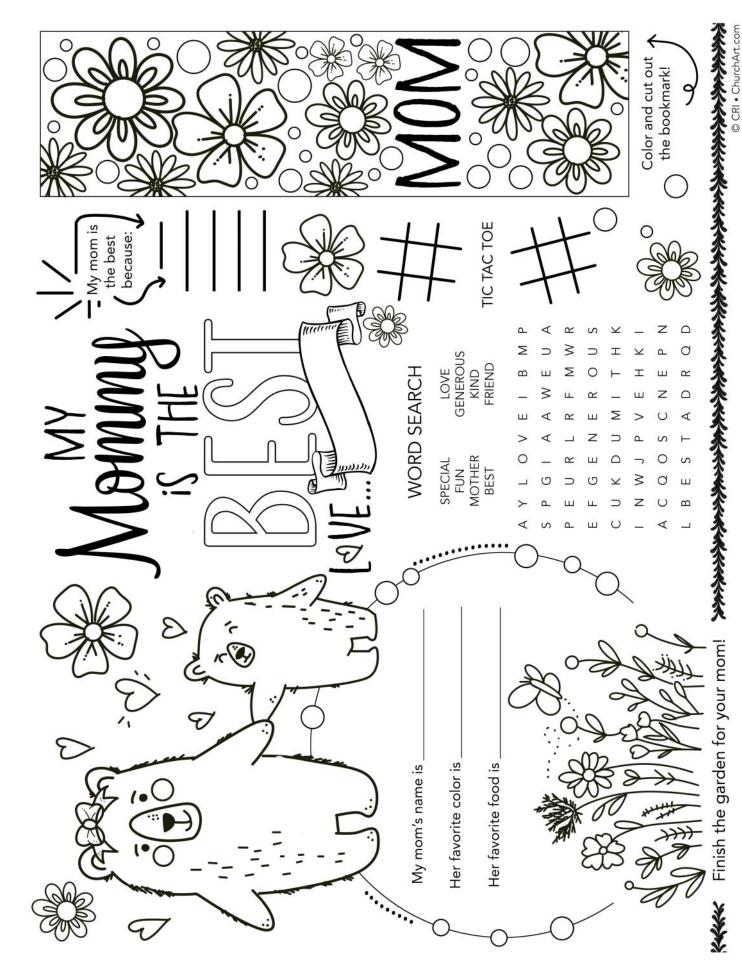
ALL children are welcome to participate!

SUMMER VACATION

Center is closed from May 24th—September 3rd Have a fabulous summer vacation! See you all in the fall!







APRIL STEWARDSHIP

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without technically lying. You tell just enough of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing how close we can get to sinning without technically going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.





Monthly Receipts/Expenses	March 2024		
General Fund Receipts	\$34,051.59		
PS/CC Receipts	\$19,358.67		
Interest Receipts	\$71.66		
(Transfer to Money Market) Adjustments			
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$53,481.92		
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$41,228.33		

Monthly +/OVERAGE/SHORTAGE +\$12,253.59



YOU CAN NOW GIVE YOUR TITHE OR OFFERING ONLINE?!

It's Easy, just follow these steps...

- 1. Visit Trinity's Website at www.trinitybemidji.org.
- 2. Click on "Donate" at the top right of the Home Page.
- 3. On the next page, Click the <u>Donate</u> button and you will be directed to our PayPal page.
- 4. From here, you can either donate with your existing PayPal account **OR** if you don't have an account you can donate with your Credit Card.
- 5. Then just complete using your information and submit.

If you have any questions about the process, please call the church office.

The Benefits Of Online Giving

STEWARDSHIP

You have the option of giving a one time gift, or having your tithe post monthly.

CONVENIENT

You can continue to support Trinity even if you are away on vacation or gone for the winter.

FLEXIBILITY

You can give to the General Fund or choose to give to a specific Ministry of the church.

If you would like help in learning how make your donation or tithe to Trinity online, just stop in to the office, we are happy to help.



MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

neon Wentzel

3 Heather Ellis

5 Lila Bruun, Kevin Muller Brían & Tanía Kuhrke (23)

S Jeff Korbel, Rebecca Theis Dennis & Sharen Bowman (53)

Paul Maatz

Clarine Speck

Sara Porter

13 Brian Kuhrke, Lois Reierson Wayne Tieman

Ty Lundeen, Steven Woodke

17 Mark Teigland

1 S Cole Koebke

19 Robert Sherman

20 Jolene Lundin

21 Tailor Lang, Bonnie Wentzel

26 LilyAnn Haugse, Amber Korbel
Nash Kubitz

 $27^{\text{Roger Smith}}$

28 Andrew Manecke Jeremíah & Andrea Freye (19)

29Shelby Kubitz, Jerry Larson Darla Yarbrough

3 Jim & Linda Erickson (49)





ALTAR FLOWER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



Please sign up to tend the Altar Flowers. We still need volunteers for 2024!



ADDRESS/PHONE

If your address and/or phone number changes, please let the church office know, so your information will be correct in the church database. Thank you!





PRINT bulletins are available for those that have difficulty with the regular bulletin. If you would benefit from having one of these bulletins, please ask an usher for a copy.

If you are interested in being a Greeter or an Usher, please speak with one of the Elders.



WHEN YOU LEAVE GOD'S HOUSE, please turn out ALL the lights (except in the office hallway) and please check that ALL the entrance doors are LOCKED, even if you didn't unlock them.

Greeting Cards Available!



Individual Cards are \$1.00 each. Boxed cards are priced on bottom. Checks are preferred. Please make your checks out to Trinity Ladies Aid and put your

payment in the container provided. Thank you.

Check out the "RESOURCE TABLE" in the Fellowship Hall for FREE Books, Periodicals, Devotionals, and More.



Portals of Prayer are in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.



Easter Sunday is followed by six more Sundays of the Easter season, according to our church calendar, and the paraments ALTAR CIRCLE remain white.

Ascension Day is the 40th day after Easter Sunday and commemorates the day when the risen Lord ascends into heaven. Pentecost concludes the Easter season.



A "Gluten Free" option is available for communion. If you would like to advantage of this option, please speak with Pastor or Elders.

BEMIDJI AREA FOOD SHELF

Trinity, along with United Methodist Church volunteer the 3rd Monday of each month at the Food Shelf. The first shift is from 9am-12pm and the second shift is from 12-3:30pm. Both Food Shelf shifts need 6-7 volunteers.



The Food Shelf would not function without all the volunteers who give of their time. Thank you for all you do to help the Food Shelf run smoothly. ~June Roxstrom

Check out our website. www.trinitybemidji.org





Please check the covered bulletin boards in the Church Entrance Hall for posted Letters, Community Events, Concerts,

Meals, Fundraisers, local activities and news.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - MAY

- 1 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Titus, Philemon
- 2 Psalm 121 Hebrews 1-4
- 3 Psalm 122 Hebrews 5-7
- 4 Psalm 123 Hebrews 8-10
- 5 Psalm 124 Hebrews 11-13
- 6 Psalm 125 James 1-3
- 7 Psalm 126 James 4-5
- 8 Psalm 127 1 Peter 1-2

- Psalm 128 1 Peter 3-5
- 10 Psalm 129 2 Peter
- 11 Psalm 130 1 John 1-3
- 12 Psalm 131 1 John 4-5
- 13 Psalm 132 2 John, 3 John, Jude
- 14 Psalm 133 John 1-2
- 15 Psalm 134 John 3-4
- 16 Psalm 135 John 5-6

- 17 Psalm 136 John 7-8
- 18 Psalm 137 John 9-10
- 19 Psalm 138 John 11-12
- 20 Psalm 139 John 13-14
- 21 Psalm 140 John 15-16
- 22 Psalm 141 John 17-18
- 23 Psalm 142 John 19
- 24 Psalm 143 John 20-21

- 25 Psalm 144 Acts 1-2
- 26 Psalm 145 Acts 3-4
- 27 Psalm 146 Acts 5-6
- 28 Psalm 147 Acts 7-8
- 29 Psalm 148 Acts 9-10
- 30 Psalm 149 Acts 11-12
- 31 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Acts 13-14

May 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church - 444-4441

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	inow the path of age formed in a m understand the wo aker of all things	the wind, other's womb, sk of God,	1 4:30 PM 6th Grade Confirmation	1:30 PM Ladies Aid 5:30 PM Board of Elders National Day of PRAYER	3	4
9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School	6 6:30 PM Men of Trinity	7 1:30 PM Trinity Afternoon Guild	8 4:30 PM 6th Grade Confirmation	9 1:30 PM Hannah Circle	10	11
9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Christian Singles Choir Serves	6:30 PM Active Christian Fellowship	14	4:30 PM 6th Grade Confirmation TLC Preschool Graduation & Spring Concert 5:30 PM	9:00 AM "Happy Quilters" 6:00 PM Church Boards 7:00 PM Church Council	Last Day of Preschool	ARMED FORCES DAY
9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School	20 1:00 PM Altar Circle	9:30 AM Eunice Circle	22	9:00 AM "Happy Quilters"	Last Day of Growing Tree Learning Center	25
26 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study	MEMORIAL DAY	28	29	30	31	Hello Spring!