



TRINITY TIDINGS

April 2025

Believing in Christ, we are called to grow and sent to serve.

Thinking Out Loud With Pastor Josh

Lent Midweek Prayer every Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.
Holy Week April 17-19, 7:00 p.m.

Holy Week is a long, drawn out affair. It's not terribly enticing to consider coming to worship three nights in a row before coming one more time Easter morning. I'm saying this as the Pastor who helps organize and plan each of those services. I hope I'm not too far removed from reality to acknowledge it can seem like a lot.

It's why many Christian churches no longer have Holy Week, or condense it to one day. It's why Palm Sunday includes the passion of Christ. Church leaders wanted people to hear the story that is only told on Good Friday, knowing that it's not easy to get to Good Friday.

Trinity continues to hold onto holding worship all three nights. The three nights are a way for us to remember the fullness of Christ's betrayal, arrest, and death on the cross before we leap joyously into Easter morning. No, not because we insist on being morose. And not because we're trying to focus on the physicality of Christ's death in all its gory detail.

We are attempting to put ourselves into the patterns and thoughts that compelled, and allowed, Jesus to be tried as a criminal despite his innocence. We are struggling to comprehend the depths of Christ's love to allow any of this to happen, despite his divinity as God's Son. In early Luke, the devil is right. At any time Jesus could command angels to lift him from disaster and keep him from scratching his foot on a rock. At any moment, he could have done whatever was needed to put a stop to it, and continued on his way.

Holy Week defies our logic by interrupting schedules and expectations, pointing us to Christ's love for us. We can't believe we are loved so profoundly. We may not believe we are worthy of unconditional love. Yet, you are. You are forgiven, you are beloved, you belong to God. No matter what. Throughout Holy Week, this is the Word Christ proclaims into our lives. Across the three days before Easter, we slow our pace and hear God's Word speaking life into us, making us ready to dance and sing with joy on Easter.

Trust in God's Grace.
Pr Josh Ehrler

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Ministers All members of Trinity

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The Month of April

Worship At Trinity

Lent and Holy Week

Lent continues through April, and culminates with worship across Holy Week. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when we celebrate the arrival of Jesus. Grab a palm branch and cross and join the parade. Maundy Thursday we return and will experience the Last Supper in a very unique and engaging way. After the altar and space is stripped of its beauty, we continue our week with Good Friday, in which we hear the last words of Christ reflected on through spoken and sung elements. We end the night in silence, and come back to the tomb for Holy Saturday, when we sit and tell stories of all God has done with hope that God will fulfill the promise of life. Easter morning the dread of death and the words of doubt are silenced by the proclamation, He is risen indeed! Alleluia.

Palm Sunday April 12/13, 5:30 p.m. & 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday April 17, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday April 18, 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday April 19, 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Reads the Bible

Christ's Resurrection Told 4 Times

Across four gospels we get four versions of Christ's resurrection. Each is told to widen our understanding of God's promise fulfilled, and to give us a sense of what each author wants to tell us about Christ. The reading plan will be all four versions separated into a reading plan for the month of April. Please note: there is no Bible study in April.

Racial Justice Team at Trinity

Pastor Josh is seeking individuals who are interested in studying and doing the work of racial justice in our church and community. We'll study together, create learning opportunities for the whole church, and consider how we can shape our ministries and impact our community for the betterment of our Black and brown neighbors. This is a group that met years ago; its time to see if there's new energy to do the work.



Trinity's Core Values

1. We believe Jesus Christ is our Savior and Lord.
2. We are a faith community striving to create a safe space inclusive and accepting of God's people, regardless of race, gender, orientation, age, or status.
3. We learn as we teach, sharing our faith and being an example of Christ in our community.
4. In partnership with our Lutheran synod, neighboring congregations, and civic organizations, we enrich the quality of life of God's people through our resources, time, and skills.
5. We offer worship experiences centered on God's Word and the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.
6. We remain open to new opportunities and to experiencing new perspectives.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Curious? Talk with Pastor Josh.



News And Learning

Easter Egg Hunt!!



All kids up to 6th grade are invited to hunt for eggs on the church lawn, following the Easter worship service.

Junior High and High Schoolers are needed to hide the eggs before worship Easter morning. Contact Melissa if you can help: 815-440-0279 .

We're collecting small, individually wrapped candy in the chapel until April 13, when we'll fill eggs.

Save the Date!

Trinity is invited to a Birthday Party for Three of our members, Don & Darlene Cornelius and Ruth Stauffer, whose ages total 280! Sunday, July 27, 2025. Join us for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Details to follow. Your presence will be the only gift needed. We hope to see you there!



Spring is in the air!



Please join the Women of ELCA for a Tea Party on Sunday, May 4, at 2 p.m. in Trinity's Fellowship Hall.

Enjoy a variety of teas, an assortment of tea sandwiches, pastries, and petit fours.

Our easy and fun project will be planting a flower or succulent in a teacup or mug. We will have teacups available or, you can bring a special teacup or mug to use.

We are creating a display of tea pots. If you have one you would like to share, please bring it with you.

Please call Teri at the church office 815-734-6354 to make your reservation. The cost is \$5.00 per person

All women are invited so invite your friends.

Later- in-Life Issues

On Saturday, May 3, Trinity plans to offer a seminar on the topics of Later-in-Life Issues. We expect to have speakers to answer your questions and cover: health and nutrition; financial planning; hospice and palliative care; estate planning; legacy giving; mortuary services; and religious services. There will be more details, as the plans materialize; consult weekend Service Bulletins, TIDINGS, and Trinity's Web Site.

Although walk-ins will be welcome, for planning purposes, it would certainly help to have "sign ups". If you, or those you know, might be interested in this seminar please contact Trinity's office manager Teri Ulferts: 815.734.6354 or at trinitymmooffice@gmail.com, and let her know of your interest.

Strong Girls 2 Women 2025

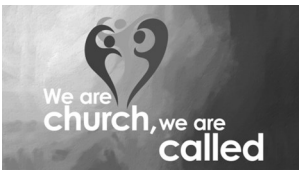
Strong Girls Under the Sea!

SG2W will be June 23-26 this summer, 8:30-11 a.m. Each day our campers will be invited to consider all the potential and possibility that lies just below the surface. There is so much diversity, beauty, and ability that sometimes we can't see, even in ourselves. So, we'll go looking for it. Our Role Models will tell us about their successes and their challenges, and inspire us to imagine all that we are capable of because, as we always say at SG2W, I AM ENOUGH!

Registration opens online April 1 and costs \$20/ family. Strong Girls 2 Women is open to any strong girl going into grades 4-6 in Fall 2025. SG2W also welcomes junior high aged strong girls to be junior counselors, and we'll be recruiting alumni campers as high school counselors.

SG2W 2024





Works of Trinity

Reflect – Pray – Give

The Gift of Grace

In this spot in the newsletter, as we consider ways we are called to give, this month we'll simply spend a few moments giving thanks for God's grace. Grace is our forgiveness that comes swifter than our next breath. Grace is our redemption for the things we've done and left undone, and it is freedom from the burden of our past. Grace is us being recreated in God's image, and lifted back to our feet when we fall short. Grace is a promise revealed through Christ that nothing, not even death, will keep us from God's mercy and love. Grace is complete, it is life-giving, it is affirming, it is transforming us every day, and it is given without a single expectation. Grace flows ceaselessly and abundantly and even as it is meant for every person where they dwell, it is poured out without limit across Creation. Grace is incomprehensible and makes no logical sense. Neither does forgiveness, or Christ becoming us to free us, so that we can know we are loved by God.

REFLECT on the gift of grace, and the absolute promise that you are loved. Unconditionally.

PRAY for the faith to trust this promise, and to give thanks with joy.

GIVE thanks. How is up to you.

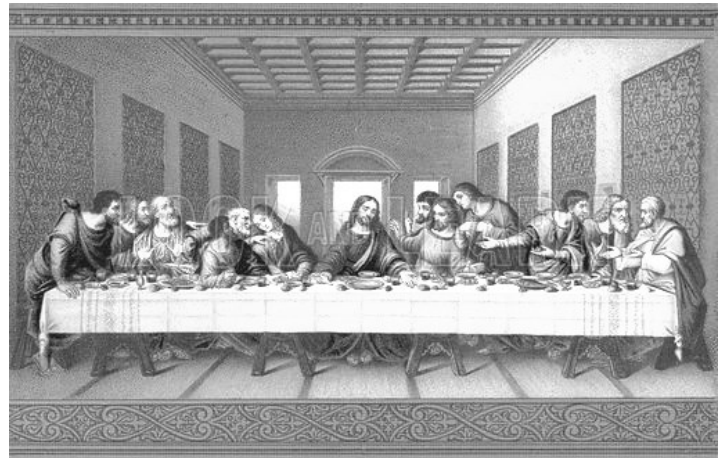
Use this QR code for electronic giving to Trinity's ministry.



Maundy Thursday

During Holy Week, the Maundy Thursday service will take place on Thursday, April 17th at 7:00 p.m. This year, something new will be happening on that day at our church. Talented members of Trinity will be presenting a program during the service called the Living Last Supper.

Two thousand years ago, God took twelve ordinary men and filled them with the Holy Spirit. The LIVING LAST SUPPER is a dramatic presentation by these twelve disciples of Jesus set in the pose of Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting, "The Last Supper". One by one the disciples "come alive" to share their feelings and wonder aloud. Powerful statements of faith and doubt are voiced, providing a strong sense of the feelings of loyalty and love that the disciples had for Jesus.



Join us on Maundy Thursday this year to commemorate the Last Supper in this unique way. The entire congregation will be invited to share in the Lord's Supper following the presentation. All are welcome to attend. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit Loaves and Fish Food Pantry in Mt. Morris.



Works of Trinity

Ministry in Focus:

Northern IL Synod Candidacy Scholarships

For the month of April, our ministry in focus is a fund designed to support seminarians pursuing ordained ministry. Seminary can be a significant financial burden, and each candidate is offered a scholarship each semester that they are in seminary. At this time, they can request up to \$2,000.00 per semester. This year, there are more candidates than usual intending to enter seminary. The synod budget for scholarships may not be able to cover the needs of all our students. Our gifts are one way to provide solidarity with this vital ministry.

Sunday, April 27, Pastor Julie Monnard, Assistant to the Bishop, will preach and speak at Trinity.

Use this QR code for electronic Giving to Trinity's ministry.



Thank you for your generosity.

TWELCA Health Kit Items

TWELCA (Trinity Women of the ELCA) will continue to collect health care items for Lutheran World Relief thru April 20, Easter Sunday. Lists are available on the church tables or you can get the list from our website under calendar. Bins are located at both church entrances.

Thank you for your generosity!



Property Committee Meeting

On April 7 at 6:30 p.m., the Property Committee will be meeting in the Chapel. Everyone is invited to attend. Are there things you see that need updating or repaired? Also, with Floyd's retirement, we would appreciate your opinions and suggestions on filling the void in his absence. Please attend and help us look to the future with a fresh set of eyes.

Trinity Night!

There will not be an April Trinity Night. Soup will be served at 5:30 p.m. on April 2 before the Lenten Prayer Service at 6 p.m.

March Council Highlights

- The property committee reported that no asbestos is present in the crumbling wall in the fellowship hall. The committee will investigate how to proceed with repairs.
- The finance committee discussed planning for the upcoming Legacy Planning seminar in May.
- The dates of June 14th, July 27th, August 23rd, and September 14th were set as joint services for 2025.
- The Worship committee discussed this year's Maundy Thursday service, The service will be highlighted by a Living Last Supper. There will be a free will offering with the proceeds going to Loaves and Fish.

Financial Report: February 2024

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Total Monthly Budget Income | \$ 14,421.77 |
| Total Monthly Budget Expense | \$ 20,169.08 |
| Year-to-date Budget Income | \$ 30,021.37 |
| Year-to-date Budget Expense | \$ 40,530.66 |
| Year-to-date Income Surplus (Deficit) | \$(10,509.29) |

Trinity offers electronic giving free for members who wish to have their contribution debited automatically from a checking or savings account. Forms are available in the office.



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
308 East Brayton Road
Mount Morris, IL 61054

Return Service Requested

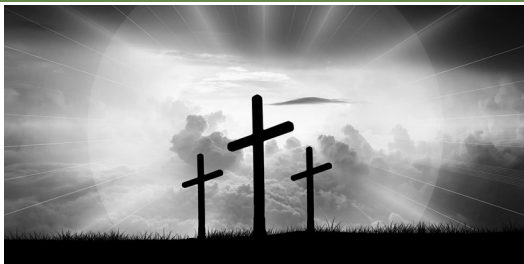
Non-Profit
Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
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Mt. Morris, IL 61054

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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APRIL 2025



Important Dates to Note

Lenten Soup Supper/Services—April 2 & 9 (no Trinity Night on April 2)

Blood Pressure check—April 6

Property Committee Meeting—April 7

Palm Sunday—April 13

Maundy Thursday—April 17

Good Friday—April 18

Holy Saturday—April 19

Easter Sunday & Easter Egg Hunt—April 20

TWELCA Spring Tea—May 4

Loaves & Fish Food Pantry

409 W. Brayton Rd., Mt. Morris, IL 61054.
(Lower level of the Church of the Brethren.)

Hours: 1st & 3rd Thur. 3:30 – 6 p.m.
2nd & 4th Mon. 2 – 4:30 p.m.

Anyone in Mt. Morris or Leaf River experiencing food insecurity is eligible. Do not need a referral or proof of income. If questions, contact 815-613-8776 or www.facebook.com/LFpantryMM.

Lifeline Food Pantry

201 N. 3rd St., Suite 6, Oregon, IL 61061. Contact them at 815-732-7891. (Oregon residents only.)

Hours: Mon. & Wed. closed
Tue. 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. (food only)
Thur. 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. (food & clothing)
Fri. 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. (food & clothing)
Sat. 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (clothing only)