

TRINITY LUTHERAN

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Hymn of the Month “When Our World is Rent by Violence” ACS #1052

When our lives are burnt to ashes and our hopes fade like a dream, when our stories lose their meaning and despair becomes their theme, God, we raise our lamentation: come, Lord Jesus, to redeem, come, Lord Jesus, to redeem.

Raise up beauty from the ashes; end our violence; tend our peace. Give us visions of a future where all captives find release, where oppression is evicted, and all works of hatred cease, and all works of hatred cease.

We Pray For

We pray for Kenny Stroman; Barb Kunkel; Carla Boggs; Barb Allner; Diane Riediger; Bill Nagel; Ed Kunkel; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

For those battling cancer: Jayme Webb –breast cancer; Jeni Aman.



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From the Pastor

Greetings My Dear Siblings in Christ,

I am writing this on the Monday of Holy Week. My mind is in a few thousand different places right now. I need to get this written so that I can start working on writing four different sermons for the week. I need to read over the drafts of the bulletins that Sadie has sent out. Part of that is also trying to figure out what I was thinking two weeks ago when I planned the worship services.

Each of the services this week have different emotional weight. Each deserves to have the space to exist separately and to blend together. There are complex emotions associated with Holy Week and Easter, both in the texts and services and within each of us.

Palm Sunday, Passion Sunday, is different from what many of you experienced as children. Even when I was a child, Palm Sunday was just Palm Sunday, there was the joyous procession with palm branches waving, children laughing and swinging the palms, sometimes hitting siblings, completely accidentally I assure you. At that time though, if a normal Sunday had 150 in attendance, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday also had 150, often more, in attendance.

Now, there are fewer children and young folk wanting to run around waving palms and attendance at Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services have dwindled. So, we tell the story of Christ's passion in its entirety on Palm Sunday. This is a counter-cultural thing. Many of us, our culture even, want to run from joy to joy, celebration to celebration. We want to hear Palm Sunday as a joyous parade and skip to the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter, passing over the betrayal, the trial, torture and death. We want to skip the uncertain, terrifying day in the tomb.

One of the responsibilities of the Church is truth telling. It is not always easy. It is not always comfortable. But without the betrayal, the torture and torment, without the cross there is no Easter. God's wisdom appears as foolishness to us. God's strength is revealed in human weakness. We witness, we testify of Christ's suffering, his seeming defeat on the cross, to better see the victory in the empty tomb.

The cross event reveals something incredible about who God is and what lengths God is willing to go for you. God in Christ is willing to become human, to suffer rejection, betrayal, pain, and even death to reach out for you, to lift you up, to save you, and to bring you back into relationship with our triune God.

April is a month of goings on. Half of Holy Week and Easter fall in the first week of April. We have two baptisms scheduled this month. The intergenerational worship service. The end of KidZone and Confirmation classes for the season. There is synod assembly. We also have some beginnings. There is a meeting this month to re-energize the women's ministry group. We will meet to restart the visitation committee. We will start a Bible Study at the end of the month (still working on that).

From the Pastor

Recently, I have heard a few folks talk about having never had confirmation classes or who want to have something like a confirmation class for adults. Kymberly and I are interested in the possibility of teaching/leading a class on Luther and Lutheranism. If you are interested in this or a different sort of educational opportunity. Let myself know.

I want to thank you all. We tried something new during Lent. The midweek services were a form of Dinner Church. We ate together and we worshiped together. Over the five weeks the service changed from following the order prepared by Kellie Lisi and Martin Lohrmann to something that only had the Lord's Prayer in common with their service. Thank you to all of you that tried something new. Thank you to all of you who prepared food and served food. I hope we can experience these sorts of worship again together and build on the ways we can serve and worship God.

Blessings and Peace,
Rev. Ed

Birthdays

4 - Livvy Brosamle
Jessica Cross
Faith Stamm

5 - Dylan Malm

7 - Lindsay Green
Corey Lloyd

8 - Kati Swanger

9 - Lauren Locke

12 - Jeremy Cross
Reed Mitchell

13 - Axton Lindgren
Shaylee Ruhler
McKenna Flaugh

14 - Rick Steffen

15 - Staci Schweder

16 - Dolores Benedix

17 - Lane Benedix
Jodi Kleemeier
Max Molland

19 - Bryan Alfredson
Wendy Ruhler

20 - Carsen Coulter

21 - Brady Butters

23 - Hunter Koehn

25 - Marty Riediger
Keely Sanchez

26 - Oaklynn Black
Kane Meyer

28 - Nick Wahlberg

Anniversaries

6 - John & Deb Wilcke (1985)

7 - Mark & Wendy Kennedy (1990)

8 - Mike & Gail Ploen (1978)

16 - Chad & Michelle Willer (2005)

27 - Philip & Joyce Sanderson (1968)

28 - Norman & Michaela Peterson (2001)

Thank you!

-March Worship Assistants

-Ruth Chartier for playing beautiful music for us during worship

-To all who participated in dinner church.

-Micayla Nyreen and Sherry for their work in the garden. It looks great!

-Larry Etler for letting us borrow his dump trailer to work on the church lawn.

April Worship Assistants

Organist: Ruth Chartier

Altar Guild: Roger & Susan Christiansen

Scripture Reader: Denny Bain

Offertory Accountants: Steve & Lisa Rippke

Tech Assistant: Rebecca Brockhaus

What's going on at TLC?

MidWeek Lenten Dinner Church

Trinity Lutheran hosted Dinner Church on Wednesday nights during the Lenten season. This was been a great time to gather, worship, and join in a time of fellowship. Special thanks to all those who helped plan and prepare meals and to everyone who showed up. A big thank you to Pastor Ed for sharing this great idea and spearheading it!

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday was Sunday, March 29th. It was also Jerzee Bauer's first communion. We celebrate with her in this step of her faith journey! Thank you to Pastor Ed for ordering and picking up the palms!



Holy Week at Trinity Lutheran

Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 PM
Good Friday Worship 7:00 PM

EASTER:

Sunrise Easter Service 7:00AM
Breakfast & Kid Crafts 8:00-9:30 AM
Easter Egg Hunt 8:45 AM
Easter Service 9:30 AM



What's going on at TLC?

Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning is upon us! We will be getting the schedule and tasks list out soon. Before we do that, please let us know if you have noticed anything around the church that needs done. We want to make sure everything gets taken care of! With that being said, start thinking about what tasks you can help with. Any help, no matter how small, is appreciated!



KidZone Schedule - A Look Ahead



As we finish up the year of KidZone, here are some important dates to mark on your calendars.

April 1 - Holy Week - NO KIDZONE

April 5 - Easter

April 26 - Sundaes on a Sunday 9:00 AM

April 29 - Final KidZone

2026 Western IA Synod Assembly

2026 Western Iowa Synod Assembly is being held Friday, April 17th and Saturday, April 18th. Our congregation will be sending Jill and Casey Stratton, along with Pastor Ed, and Kimberly Pease who serves on the planning committee. It will be held in Sergeant Bluff this year. If you have anything you need voiced, please talk to Jill, Casey, or Pastor Ed before April 17th.

TLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 2026

Trinity Lutheran Church

Date: Sunday, February 8th, 2026

Present: Jill Stratton, Nick Wahlberg, Denny Bain, Deb Wilcke, Cindy Ploen, Lindsay Green, Patti Christiansen, Cody Christiansen, Sadie Stratton, Blake Stratton, Sherry Beaver, Sonia Locke, Pastor Ed, Corey Steffen

Call to Order : The meeting was called to order at 10:30AM by President Blake Stratton.

Opening: Pastor Ed led a prayer.

Annual Planning (Short and Sweet)

- Priorities for the year, how can we step outside the box? Develop questions for a google form: What do we want to know from the congregation?

Pastor's Report

Announce:

- Synod / ELCA updates

- Synod Assembly - April 17-18 in Sergeant Bluff - like to send 1 male and 1 female. Be thinking about it!

Registration is Feb. 1- March 22

ELCA Youth Gathering - June 28 - July 2, 2027 - "Imagine More"

- Additional announcements

- Kidzone resumed on Feb. 4th

- Ash Wednesday is Feb. 18th

- Midweek Lenten Breakfast Schedule - Trinity Host on March 4

- Midweek Lenten Services - Dinner Church at 6:00PM in the basement. The following groups will organize the food:

- 2/25 - Council
- 3/4 - Kids Zone
- 3/11 - Men's Group
- 3/18- ?
- 3/25 - Potluck

- Sleep in Heavenly Peace Tree is coming!

- Confirmation class sign-up - January - April is on ushers table - Need volunteers for March - April

- February - Backpack program - Confirmands have been packing

TLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 2026

Trinity Lutheran Church

Discuss/Follow-Up:

- Church building / Parsonage
 - Parsonage Roof Update - Corey will look into quotes.
 - Office Filing Cabinet - Do we need something waterproof?
- Church Directory Update - Rebecca continues her work with this.
- Designate Lenten Offerings - See motion
- Do any bank account access need to change this year? - Blake will talk to Lynn
- Youth Group - Request to start a bank account - Names on it will be Blake Stratton & Lynn Morgan. See motion
- Sponsorships and Advertisements. At this time we do not have a policy - See motion to table until next month.
- Fellowship and Visitation Committees
- Vault: Would like to purchase a shelf to hold binders of old bulletins, minutes, agendas, etc. The office is getting full, so the old ones should be moved downstairs for safe keeping. - See motion
- Blake shared a picture of a food pantry at a church in Milford - is this something we could put together just inside, near the elevator? Let's talk about this possibility at the next meeting.

Decide:

- Motion made by Deb Wilcke, seconded by Cindy Ploen, to join the Merville Chamber of Commerce for \$150. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Cindy Ploen, seconded by Sonia Locke, to designate the Lenten offering to LSI. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Denny Bain, seconded by Sherry Beaver, to open a youth group bank account. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Pastor Ed, seconded by Denny Bain, to approve the January meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Sherry Beaver, seconded by Sonia Locke, to approve the January Treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.
- The March council meeting is set for March 8 following worship.

Adjourn: Motion made by Pastor Ed, seconded by Cindy Ploen, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:03PM.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted

Jill Stratton, Council Secretary

APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 No KidZone No Confirmation	2 Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM	3 Good Friday 7:00 PM	4
5 Sunrise Service 7:00 AM Breakfast 7:45-9:30 Easter Egg Hunt 8:45 Easter Service 9:45 AM	6	7	8 KidZone 3:30-5:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 - 7:00 PM	9	10	11
12 Council Meeting 10:15 AM	13	14	15 KidZone 3:30-5:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 - 7:00 PM	16	17 Synod Assembly	18 Synod Assembly
19	20	21	22 KidZone 3:30-5:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 - 7:00 PM	23	24	25
26 Sundaees on a Sunday 9:00 AM	27	28	29 Final KidZone 3:30-5:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 - 7:00 PM	30		