

TRINITY LUTHERAN

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Hymn of the Month “What is the World Like?” ACS #1047

What is the world like when God’s will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

What is the world like when God’s will is done? No
more is neighbor just ally or friend: peace thrives
in places where once there was none. This is how
God works when rivalries end.

We Pray For

We pray for Susan Christiansen 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; Doug Dahlke-continuing treatment.

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From the Pastor

Greetings, my dear Siblings in Christ,

As I am writing this note, I am sitting in the office with the lights off and the laptop screen turned low. I have a migraine and the final KidZone session starts in five hours. I have only a small inkling of what I will do for confirmation and no idea what I shall do for KidZone.

You see, I have been tasked with “do something fun for the final session.” There is a serious problem with this, I am not a “fun” person. I am generally a low-energy, introverted person. I am happiest alone doing something rather quiet if not silently. I can spend hours sitting in silence thinking, reading, or just silently existing. I’m not actually entirely sure that I know what “fun” is. As a late-diagnosed Autistic adult, I have realized that I don’t experience emotions like the average person. I can use the language of emotion because intellectually I know what a “normal” person would say they feel, but I don’t necessarily have the same sensations. (I did this above when I wrote “I am happiest...”) This is called Alexithymia.

Well, look at that, it is the end of April and April is Autism Awareness/acceptance month. I am writing this for May which is Mental Health Awareness month. Both are topics that affect our community, I know that I see it in others, but I am part of the community, and I am both autistic and have mental health diagnoses (Generalize Anxiety Disorder and Major Depressive Disorder). We have several youths that participate in KidZone who are autistic or who have ADHD, there are folks with dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysphonia among our congregation. Issues of mental health also surround us. Many of the mental health and neurotypes (autism and ADHD) are invisible.

When I think of the neurotype differences and the mental health diagnoses, I think of God’s diverse creation. We are not identical. We each have different strengths and weaknesses. We have different things that we can offer others and different needs that others can help us with. We are all part of the body of Christ, we all can’t be feet. (I normally say this very differently but for the newsletter, I have decided to be a bit more family friendly.)

Your presence here enriches me and enriches us all. You are loved, loveable, and infinitely worthy of love just because you are you, whatever that might mean. You matter. You are important.

I have taken to signing off on the Mango videos and Monday morning devotional video by saying, “God loves you; Jesus loves you; the Holy Spirit loves you; I love you too.” Sometimes it can be hard to remember this, which is why I say it so much, we constantly need to be reminded.

Blessings,
Rev Ed

Birthdays

3 - Barb Gray
Tonya Flaugh
Eunice Sternadel
5 - Jackson Calvillo
Mikayla Mitchell
7 - Madisyn Sampson
8 - Julie Thies
9 - Seth Even
12 - Brody Thomas
13 - Owen Wahlberg
15 - Jacob Wohler
16 - Bob Jensen
Raquel Meyer
17 - John Ringkob
18 - Makenzie Melby
19 - Erica Christiansen
Justin Locke
20 - Kasidi Wiste
22 - McKenna Peters
23 - Randy Kuehl
24 - Lisa Gilbert
25 - John Huecker
26 - Paityn Hagberg
Rodney Lindgren
27 - Kenzie Cross
Kymberly Pease
Ann Rogers
28 - Braden Coulter
29 - Samantha Benedix
30 - Kari Collins
Barb Deming
31 - Carter Bleil
Kaleb Bleil

Anniversaries

2 - Joe & Vicky Phillips (2005)
17 - Corey & Tina Malm (1997)
18 - Brian & Leann Henschen (1996)
31 - Bernie & Rebecca Thomas (2003)

Thank you!

-April Worship Assistants
-KidZone Volunteers & Pastor Ed for putting on a fun Sundaes on a Sunday worship!
-Micayla Nyreen for sharing her gifts to spruce up our garden!
-Ruth Chartier for playing beautiful music for us during worship
-The Men's Group for hosting a wonderful Easter Breakfast

May Worship Assistants

Organist: Ruth Chartier
Altar Guild: Dave & Patti Christiansen
Scripture Reader: Rebecca Brockhaus
Offertory Accountants: Rebecca Brockhaus & Gloria Healy
Tech Assistant: Jill & Casey Stratton

What's Going on at TLC

Easter Sunday

Trinity Lutheran had a wonderful Easter Sunday with around 170 people in attendance. There was a breakfast hosted by the men's group with delicious rolls brought by members of the church and a fun Easter Egg Hunt between the two services.

Sundaes on a Sunday

On Sunday, April 26 Trinity had a special worship where members of KidZone and Pastor Ed led worship. Afterwards Sundaes on a Sunday was held in the church basement. Thanks to all who helped with this worship service, especially Julie Rumohr for handling the music!

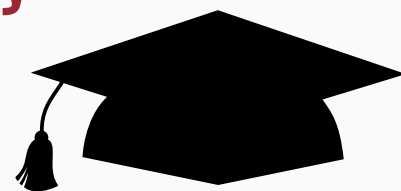


Worship at the Park

Trinity Lutheran will be hosting another Worship at the Park (Main Street Merville) on Sunday, June 7th at 10:30 AM. There will be a potluck to follow. This is a great way to connect with the community and each other! Please join us as we round out Merville Days!

Honoring Graduates in May

On May 10, we will be honoring the high school graduates during worship. Afterwards there will be a small reception with cake in the church basement. Seniors, please bring your graduation gowns that day and meet in the church entryway.



TLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 2026

Trinity Lutheran Church

Date: Sunday, March 8th, 2026

Present: Deb Wilcke, Cindy Ploen, John Ringkob, Pastor Ed, Blake Stratton, Jill Stratton, Corey Steffen, Peggy Hopp, Denny Bain, Gloria Healy

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:32AM by President Blake Stratton.

Opening: Pastor Ed led a prayer.

Pastor's Report

Announce:

- Synod / ELCA updates
- Synod Assembly - April 17-18 in Sergeant Bluff - Jill and Casey, and Pastor Ed. Need to register asap
- ELCA Youth Gathering - June 28 - July 2, 2027 - "Imagine More"
- Additional announcements
- Midweek Lenten Services have been a success!
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace Tree
- Easter is April 5
- April 2 - Maundy Thursday - 7:00 April 3 - Good Friday - 7:00 April 5 - Worship - 7:00
- Breakfast and Kid's Activities - 8 - 9:30
- Worship - 9:30

Discuss/Follow-Up:

- Church building / Parsonage
 - Parsonage Roof Update - Insurance check deposited, Walkers will be here this month to repair.
 - Lawn Care/Garden- Volunteers for garden, quote for EPS to treat
- Women's Group Update- Deb and Gloria are working on a plan to offer a multigenerational Women's Group as well as brainstorm some possible activities. Deb, Gloria, and Jill will meet to plan the April 8th informational meeting for the women of the church.
- Church Directory Update - March 30 is the deadline to submit photos/information so hard copies can be ordered.
- Graduation Recognition - May 10th
- Synod Assembly Offering - See motion

TLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 2026

Trinity Lutheran Church

Decide:

- Motion made by Denny, seconded by Cindy, to use \$1,000 from the Trust Fund for Synod Assembly offering. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Pastor Ed, seconded by Cindy, that we do not sponsor booster books / programs, etc for schools. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Deb, seconded by Pastor Ed, to approve February Council Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by John, seconded by Denny, to approve the February Treasurer's Report. The motion passed unanimously.
- The April Council Meeting is set for April 12, following worship.

Looking Ahead:

- Merville Days: Worship at the Park will be Sunday, June 7th with a potluck to follow.
- Spring Cleaning - (After Kidzone)
- WC Community Service Day - April 24

Adjourn: Motion made by Denny, seconded by Cindy, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:18AM.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Stratton, Council Secretary

MAY 2026

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Council Meeting 10:15 AM | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Graduate Reception 9:00 AM | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Spring Cleaning 8:00-12:00 AM |
| 31 | | | | | | |