



TRINITY *tidings*

April, 2026 | Monthly Newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church, Rolling Meadows, IL

Mark Your Calendar

- **Maundy Thursday: April 2 at Lutheran Church of the Cross at 7 pm.**
- **Good Friday: April 3 at Trinity Lutheran at 7pm**
- **Easter Sunday: April 5 at Trinity Lutheran at 9:30am**
- **Easter +7 Days Breakfast: April 12 at Trinity Lutheran at 10:30AM**
- **Congregational Meeting: April 12 at Trinity Lutheran at 10:30 AM**

A Word From Our Pastor.....

HOPE IS WHAT YOU DO: A THEME FOR THE EASTER SEASON

The Reverend Dr. Mitri Raheb, who had been Pastor of Christmas Church in Bethlehem, Palestine and is both the founder and President of Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem and many other parts of Palestine including Gaza, used this phrase when I heard him speak recently in Naperville.

It reminded me that hope, like love, is better described as a verb and something we do, rather than a feeling we have or a thought we hold.

It felt that this phrase, "Hope is what you do," describes what the early disciples did. When the women went to the tomb after Jesus' crucifixion, that took courage, but also some hope that the story was not yet over.

When they told other disciples and followed the order to go to Galilee, that was an act of hope. When they put their hands in Jesus' wounds, even

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Hope Continued...

though he appeared as somewhat of a ghost, that was an act of hope.

When the disciples went out and proclaimed Jesus' resurrection and healed others, even when they had been threatened—that too was an act of hope!

You will see that hope is both courageous and undefeated. It goes into areas that others might consider worthless, hopeless and dead, and is able to see life and value in those moments.

And hope was not just something for the disciples of the first and second centuries, but remains with us today.

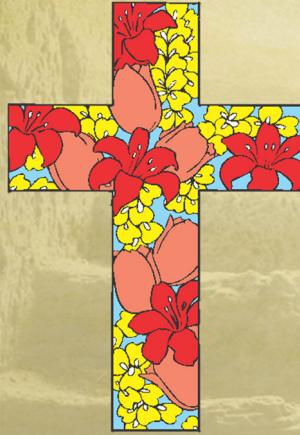
My favorite Scripture verse is Hebrews 11:1: *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."*

When we do hope, it means that we courageously do things knowing that God is in the midst of them and doing things that have sustaining energy and bring about new life, even when what I may experience is sacrificial.

The cross is Hope that Jesus did. The resurrection is Hope that God gave. The command to go into the world and make disciples and trust that God is with us when we are doing this is Hope.

Hope is what we are being asked to do. It is not some wish that things will change, but involves courageous sacrifice where we know God is making new things and making all things with New *Hope*.

In Christ, Pastor John



The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

Matthew 28:5-6

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

Our regular bi-annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 12 immediately following worship in the Lounge. Easter Breakfast will be served as this is the Second Sunday of Easter, and we assumed people will not be as busy with other plans for entertaining on this day.

We will have one order of business, and that will be to elect/re-elect council members and congregational officers. The following terms will be concluding and will be considered open:

- Vice President-Dena McIntosch
- Secretary-Lynn Griesmeyer
- Council Members: Chrissy Barille, Al Corbett, Dottie Jachim, Shirley Walter

Dena, Lynn, Chrissy, Al and Shirley have all volunteered to serve another term in their present positions, and Joe Szafran has also offered to serve in the capacity of a council member.

Any other persons who would like to serve are also welcome to serve.

While no action will be taken on the second item of business, you will hear proposals for a focused pet ministry, designed to revitalize our congregation as well as a proposal to extend and expand the ministry capacity of Trinity for time and scope that is not viable in our present capacity.

Our goal will be to engage in conversation about pursuing one of these two courses for the congregation and get us thinking about the future God is preparing for the people and institution of Trinity Lutheran Church.

CONSIDERING THE FUTURE

At the Congregational Meeting on April 12, we will hear presentations and have discussions about some options for Trinity Lutheran. Some of the proposals will be difficult to hear. All will entail some difficult decisions, remembering that the choice to “do nothing differently” is a decision as well.

The reality is that the direction of Trinity is not good. Our demographics show us to be an aging, congregation which has lost membership largely to death and loss of health. Finances have been in the red for at least the last six years and we will be running out of funds to carry us in between two and ten years.

We have no youth to speak of and we live in a context where many churches are experiencing the same kind of loss we are experiencing.

I commend us because our worshiping community is rather steady and people who are members are all mostly active in things we do. However the course is not one that looks like it is sustainable.

A number of members have said they would rather not close the church and I (Pastor) have said that to do this, we mostly have to give up the way we look now and dedicate ourselves to some way of engaging the community with the hopes that it might reenergize and welcome new people into membership and leadership. The thing to remember is that if this is done right, our church cannot look or feel much like it does now, but has to fully invest in this new purpose and mission.

Pet Ministry is what we have concluded might be the thing we have the most propensity to do. We do know that there is a large population that loves their pets but is not involved with any faith community.

Every person will have to be able to share what the difference between a Pet Ministry and a Pet Services is. And this difference must be compelling. It means we will move and utilize our resources to fully address this if this becomes our purpose.

AT TRINITY LUTHERAN

Another option that will be presented is for us to close this particular congregation, but for us to move en masse to another congregation where this community will continue to thrive and be cared for.

It will bring a much more similar look to what we have. It will also suggest that by utilizing our resources we can have a more influential impact on our community for a much longer period.

To choose one of these two options will be a courageous one. It trusts the Gospel message that we can sacrifice all that we have and trust that God will make something new out of it that will bring new life.

Our third option, is to do nothing or to do little; to try to hang on to things the way we know them. First of all this is almost certainly a recipe for total loss, or as I call it “disintegration.”

But I also think it is not faithful, courageous or hopeful. It tries to hang on to what we have, and the one thing all my years as a hospice chaplain has taught me is that we cannot hang on to anything.

My hope is that during this Holy Week you will believe the essence of the Gospel. All God requires is to give up ourselves to God.

To remember that all we are and all we have is a gift of God’s and God will demand it back.

But to also remember that Easter tells us a story that when we thought everything was gone and lost, God brings new life and new hope to our world that becomes unstoppable.

Peace to you this Holy Week and Easter Season. Remember, Hope is what you do!

In Christ, Pastor John

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

April 26th is Good Shepherd Sunday. On this day, ELCA congregations in Illinois will make a special effort to lift up the programs of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). This offers the opportunity to open our hearts and arms to welcome all into Jesus' abundant life. LSSI is the social ministry organization of the three ELCA synods in Illinois. LSSI serves people across Illinois by providing whole person care through:

- Affordable Senior Housing Services
- Home-Based Care for Seniors
- Intellectual and Developmental Disability Programs
- Mental Health and Addiction Programs
- Prisoner and Family Ministry
- Services for Children, Youth, and Families

To learn more about LSSI, see their website at LSSI.org.

Trinity will be taking up a special offering to help support the programs of LSSI. Please bring a check payable to Trinity with "LSSI" written on the

memo line or donate by credit card through Trinity's website at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YRVQ/campaign/C-13N2J> or on your smartphone using the Vanco app. You can also donate

directly to LSSI on their website at <https://www.lssi.org/giving/>



Sundays and Principal Festivals	First Reading	Psalms	Second Reading	Gospel
2nd: Maundy Thursday	Exod 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14	Ps 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
3rd: Good Friday	Isa 52:13--53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10:16-25 or Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1--19:42
4th: Easter Vigil			Rom 6:3-11	John 20:1-18
5th: Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34-43 or Jer 31:1-6	Ps 118:1-2, 14-24	Col 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43	Matt 28:1-10 or John 20:1-8
12th: Second Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Ps 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
19th: Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Ps 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
26th: Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:42-47	Ps 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10

April Birthdays

- Samaira Minz 04
- Calvin Johnson 07
- Ray Godfrey 11
- Priyanka Minz 16
- Denise Williams 25



**TRINITY LADIES GROUP
APRIL 14 IS THIS
MONTHS LADIES GROUP
MEETING.**

**STARTS AT 12 NOON IN
THE CHURCH LOUNGE.**

**WE WILL PLAY BINGO
AFTER WE HAVE TIME TO
LUNCH TOGETHER!**

COME AND JOIN US!

April Anniversaries

**Scott & Michelle Henry
04-15-1988**

**Don't Forget.. Apr-12..
2nd Sunday Sereal Collection
For The Food Pantry!**

Pictures From The Painting Party At Trinity

On March 20, 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p>  <p>Palm Sunday 9:00am TLC Farmers' Market 9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service at Lutheran Church of the Cross</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Good Friday 2:00pm Masihi Church of God 7:00pm Good Friday Worship Service at Trinity</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>Easter Sunday 9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>7:00pm Fellowship Ministry</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship</p>
<p>12</p>   <p>TLC Second Sunday Cereal Food Drive 9:00am TLC Farmers' Market 9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 10:30am TLC Congregation Meeting 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>12:00pm Talk, Lunch, Crafts - TLC Ladies Club</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Earth Day</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>7:00pm TLC Council Meeting</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship</p>
<p>26</p>  <p>Good Shepherd Sunday - Special Offering for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois 9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship</p>

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