

# Tribune—February 2026

Hope  
grows even in the  
coldest season.

dreamtime.



**Our Mission:**  
Gathering to receive God's grace and to  
grow in faith and service.

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Drive Up Communion Schedule

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

820 Lockett Road  
Kirkwood, Missouri 63122

office: (314) 822-8244  
fax: (314) 822-9290  
email: TLCKirkwood@gmail.com

Website: [www.trinitykirkwood.org](http://www.trinitykirkwood.org)

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/TrinityKirkwood](http://www.Facebook.com/TrinityKirkwood)

YouTube: [youtube.com/@trinitylutheranchurchkirkwood](http://youtube.com/@trinitylutheranchurchkirkwood)

A congregation of the ELCA  
([elca.org](http://elca.org))

### Sunday Schedule

10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
10:45 a.m. Sunday School

### Wednesday Adult Bible Study

10:00 a.m. via Zoom

#### Pastor

Carrie McElfresh  
tel: 314-635-8588  
em: [prcarrie@gmail.com](mailto:prcarrie@gmail.com)

#### Administrator

Brenda Chatham  
tel: 314-822-8244  
em: [TLCKirkwood@gmail.com](mailto:TLCKirkwood@gmail.com)

#### Worship Music

Shari Telaar  
tel: 314-488-1067  
em: [stelaar@comcast.net](mailto:stelaar@comcast.net)

#### Organist

Cindy Donnell-Foster  
tel: 314-822-8244  
em: [l\\_pray\\_2@yahoo.com](mailto:l_pray_2@yahoo.com)

#### Parents' Day Out Director

Erika Duenwald  
tel: 314-808-3850  
em: [trinitylutheranpdo@gmail.com](mailto:trinitylutheranpdo@gmail.com)

### Council Members

President:	Kris Miller
Vice President:	Kevin Karcher
Secretary:	Bruce Williams
Treasurer:	Dave Mizell
	Rich Allen
	Sue Sullivan
	Bob Tuckett

#### Main Office Hours:

Monday—Thurs: 9 a.m.—5 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

#### Pastor Carrie's Office Hours:

Monday: 10 a.m.—1 p.m.  
Tuesday: Noon—2 p.m.  
Wednesday: 11 a.m.—2 p.m.  
Thursday: by appointment  
Friday: Sabbath  
Sunday: by appointment



# Jesus speaks about love

I do not normally approve of taking verses of the Bible out of context. As you have heard me say often, context matters. But sometimes it is good to see the overarching themes by looking at what is said across contexts and gospels.

The following list is not exhaustive. It is a beginning selection of things Jesus has to say about love across all four gospels. The word love is used most often in John and least often in Mark. Some of the things Jesus says about love are repeated in multiple gospels. Often Jesus' words about love include quotes from the Jewish scriptures.

Here is what I find to be the key takeaways: Jesus calls his followers and those he teaches to love God and love the neighbor, to love one another as they have been loved by him, that loving others is keeping Jesus' commands, and loving Jesus means caring for others.

In light of these many and various quotes about loving and caring for neighbors as a way to show that we love God and Jesus... how are we living that love? What actions and words are we using to show love? Silence and inaction are deafening in the face of hate and violence that harm our neighbors. If you are looking for more ways, or new ways, to show love and aren't sure where to start - let's talk. I am sure we can find a way for God's love to shine through you each day.

**Matthew 5:43-44**<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'<sup>44</sup> But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (see also [Luke 6:27-36](#))

**Matthew 22:36-40**<sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"<sup>37</sup> He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'<sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and first commandment.<sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'<sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (see also [Mark 12:28-34](#))

**Luke 10:25-28**<sup>25</sup> "An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.<sup>26</sup> "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"<sup>26</sup> He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"<sup>27</sup> He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself."<sup>28</sup> And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

**John 13:34-35**<sup>34</sup> "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.<sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

**John 14:15**<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep <sup>[g]</sup> my commandments."

**John 15:9-13**<sup>9</sup> "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.<sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.<sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.<sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.<sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

**John 21:15-17**<sup>15</sup> "When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."<sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."<sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Christ's blessings,  
Pastor Carrie McElfresh

# Member Announcements

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### Health Concerns:

Carol Heyde

Gayle Woolf

Amanda Berry: niece of Rick Berry

Beth Deters: Cindy Donnell-Foster's sister

Bill and Shirley Donnell: Cindy Donnell

Foster's father and stepmother

Nancy Donnell: Cindy Donnell-Foster's mother

Gail Helton: Chara Helton-Rodenhaus' Mother

Sheryl Hoth: mother of Pr. Carrie

Susan Ludwig: cousin of Terrie Karcher

Susan Muessmann: friend of Cindy Donnell-Foster

Tom and Regina Owens: friends of Cindy Donnell-Foster's mother

Dan and Jana Royer

David Wise: cousin of Mike Wise

### General prayers:

Zach Dillard

### For Those Serving in the Military:

Matt Brenner: nephew of Bob and Barb Tuckett

### Living with Cancer:

Krystal Beckner

Ken Berry: brother of Rick Berry

Matthew Berry

Nanette Chatham: Brenda Chatham's sister-in-law

Rory Gargus: Cindy Donnell Foster's cousin

Raelle Jackson

Jeane Moora: friend of Kymberly Blaksley

Cheryl Tribout: friend of Holly Graham



## FEBRUARY

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### TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN— NEED A PRAYER?

Chara Helton-Rodenhaus is the volunteer facilitator of Trinity's prayer chain.

The prayer chain is separate from our Sunday's spoken/printed prayer list and is private. Your prayer requests will only be shared with those prayer warriors who are members of this chain.

Contact Chara directly with your private prayer requests: [chlhelton1@aol.com](mailto:chlhelton1@aol.com)

If you want to participate as a member of the prayer chain, please contact us. We welcome you!

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY

17 Chara Helton-Rodenhaus and John Rodenhaus (8)

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

4	Carol Buhr
4	Ted Chumley
12	Therese Munger
17	Ax Kramer
18	Carol Heyde
19	Alec Miller
21	Melissa Williams Sills
23	Steve Korris
26	Julia Beckner
26	Daniel Berry

For God  
So loved the world  
that He gave His  
only  
begotten  
Son So  
that whoever  
believes  
in Him shall  
have everlasting  
life.



John 3:16



# What's Going on at Trinity?



## **Sunday**

### **Worship Schedule**

<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
<b>10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
<b>11:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>

## **Adult Bible Study**

**Wednesdays via Zoom**  
**10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.**

No need to prepare anything before you come, just join us at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom any Wednesday you are available.

Email the church office  
at [TLCKirkwood@gmail.com](mailto:TLCKirkwood@gmail.com)  
for the Zoom sign-in link.



**Sunday worship assistants:** Assisting Ministers, Lectors, Ushers/Greeters. For more information contact [TLCKirkwood@gmail.com](mailto:TLCKirkwood@gmail.com).

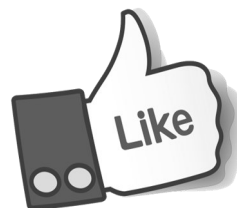
#### **Outdoor Enthusiasts:**

Our green areas are in frequent need of weeding, trimming, beautifying.

**Property needs:** assist with maintenance needs that arise at Trinity. For more Information, please contact Bob Tuckett.

**Technical:** website, computer, Audio Visual assistance.

**Additionally:** Sunday Coffee Hour servers, voices for the choir, fellowship and seasonal events planners/do-ers, main office coverage.



## **Like us on Facebook!**

- receive Sunday's Gospel reading
- access Sunday morning worship on YouTube
- keep up-to-date with the goings-on at Trinity
- and more!

Be sure and like us:  
[www.Facebook.comTrinityKirkwood](https://www.Facebook.comTrinityKirkwood)

# WELCA NEWS

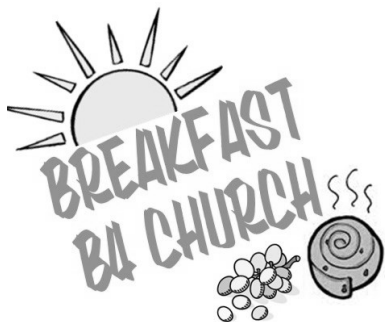
**Katie's Crew** – February 11 & 25 at 11:30 a.m.

This month we have Ash Wednesday on February 18. We will be serving brunch after the 9:30 service. There are 2 sign-up sheets on the bulletin board by the upstairs kitchen. One sheet is for bringing food (egg casserole, fruit salad or pastries). The second sheet is to confirm that you will be attending.

Looking forward to seeing you then. Everyone is invited!

## ASH WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST

Wednesday, February 18  
following morning worship  
and Imposition of Ashes



Sponsored  
by WELCA

Everyone  
is invited!



Hello Trinity!

We sure have a lot planned at PDO this month! The month will kick off with our Dental Health unit. Children will do fun crafts and activities demonstrating the importance of good dental hygiene. We will also throw in a craft or two for Groundhog day during the first week of February, as well.

Our Valentine's Day celebrations will be the entire week of Valentine's day. The children will take turns exchanging valentines all week, so everyone can participate in the fun regardless of which days they attend. Cards and goodies will be sent home on your child's last day of the week.

The following week is our "Everyone is Special" unit. The children will learn about how everyone is different, but equally special, and the importance of diversity in our communities.

The last week of February will focus on our 5 senses. Kiddos will learn all about sight, smell, touch, taste and hearing through various crafts and activities. We hope to engage in a lot of hands on learning and group fun.

Here's to another month filled with lots of love and fun here at PDO!

With Gratitude,  
Erika Duenwald, Director







**6:00 P.M. MEAL**

**7:00 P.M. CASUAL WORSHIP**

Join us and our friends at St. Thomas-Holy Spirit Wednesday evenings, for a warm meal and fellowship, as we journey through Lent (sign up sheets to bring soup, bread, desserts will be on the lounge bulletin board in a couple of weeks).

TRINITY HOSTS:

- 2/25
- 3/11
- 3/25

ST. THOMAS - HOLY  
SPIRIT HOSTS:

- 3/4
- 3/18

# Upcoming Events at Trinity



## **Sunday, January 15**

11:45 a.m. Pancake & Sausage Brunch

## **Monday, February 16—Presidents' Day**

Church offices and Parents' Day Out closed



## **Wednesday, February 18—Ash Wednesday**

9:30 a.m. Worship service with Imposition of Ashes  
Followed by: WELCA Ash Wednesday Breakfast. Everyone is invited!  
6:00 p.m. Worship service with Imposition of Ashes

## **Wednesday, February 25—Lenten Soup Supper & Casual Worship (also on 3/11 & 3/25)**

6:00 p.m. at Trinity (upstairs lounge)

## **Wednesday, March 4—Lenten Soup Supper & Casual Worship (also on 3/18)**

6:00 p.m. at St. Thomas-Holy Spirit (downstairs fellowship hall)

## **Sunday, March 15—St. Patrick's Party**

(live music by the Adapters Band)

11:30 a.m. following worship



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

## Report for December 2025

### CASH FLOW SUMMARY

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Direct Giving	\$ 18,999.03	\$ 183,121.54	\$ 162,000.00
Other Receipts	\$ 5,515.93	\$ 89,199.69	\$ 101,640.00
Tot Op Revenues	\$ 24,514.96	\$272,321.23	\$263,640.00
Spending	\$ 24,406.68	\$263,101.03	\$272,653.20
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 108.28	\$ 9,220.02	(\$ 9,013.20)

### ACCOUNT BALANCES

	<u>11/30/25</u>	<u>12/31/25</u>
General Fund	\$144,586.39	\$177,481.40
Foundation Acct	\$181,169.41	\$177,592.85
Youth Restr Acct	\$ 7,957.67	\$ 7,647.77

### TREASURER'S DISCUSSION

- Receipts for December totaled \$24.5K, so we had a very strong month with offerings. YTD our receipts total \$272.3K which is about \$8.7K over-budget
- Spending totaled \$24.4K and was under our monthly budget by about \$400. YTD Spending totals \$263.1K which is about \$9.5K under-budget. We paid the quarterly property and liability insurance premium \$4,577 at the end of December. We paid snow and ice removal services in December totaling \$1,062.
- Net, for December we had a surplus of \$108. YTD we have a surplus of \$9,220.
- In December, PDO had receipts of \$13,152 and expenses of \$15,745. PDO had a deficit in December of \$2,593. YTD, the PDO operating account has a deficit of \$10,023. The Balance in the PDO Reserve Fund of \$8,845 was transferred to the operating account, leaving a deficit of \$1,178. PDO has receivables of \$1,995 at the end of December and as that cash comes in it will eliminate the deficit.

The status of Reserve and Restricted funds is shown below.

### RESERVE and RESTRICTED FUNDS

		<u>11/30/2025</u>	<u>12/31/2025</u>
Reserve	Operating Reserve	\$ 28,062.21	\$ 28,062.21
	Property Reserve	12,916.72	11,264.78
	Williams Bequest	13,814.96	13,814.96
	Patrick Bequest	10,000.00	10,000.00
	Pastor Reserve	7,613.20	7,613.20
	Thrivent Choice Dollars	639.17	654.17
	Holy Trinity Reserve	12,740.00	12,740.00
Restricted	Seminary Education	34,530.36	34,530.36
	All Other Restricted	272.47	1,822.47
	Total Funds	\$ 120,589.09	\$ 120,502.15

Respectfully submitted, Dave Mizell, Treasurer  
01/09/2026

## 2025 Annual Committee Reports

Due: Friday,  
February 27th.

preferably via email:  
TLCKirkwood@gmail.com



Council Notes  
Monday, 8 December 2025

Call to order – Kris Miller

Members present – Pastor Carrie, Kris Miller, Kevin Karcher, Dave Mizell, Sue Sullivan, Bruce Williams

Members absent – Rich Allen, Bob Tuckett

Opening Prayer – Pastor Carrie

Approval of notes from the November meeting –  
**Approved**

Pastor's report – **Approved**

- Carrie continues to meet with members via personal visits, email, text and phone calls
- Adult Bible Study continues
- Carrie has mentioned that the contracted cleaning effort has not been good. Bathrooms have been dirty, cleaning company has had issues with staffing, some items get missed. Council needs to investigate whether our \$750 monthly budget for cleaning services (8 sessions/month) is reasonable.
- Carrie has suggested the need for a building manager, and written policies for renting space with fees, etc. Would provide a single point of contact for building needs. Dave and Bruce to draft policies.

Ministry Area reports

- Property – Bathroom stall door does not open properly in women's restroom, needs to be reversed so it opens outward, not inward. Also, sidewalk by Bell tower needs to be raised to eliminate a tripping hazard.
- Education – Sunday school continues
- Worship and Music – Christmas Eve service to be held at 5:00
- Fellowship – need to schedule a chili cook-off in the near term
- Outreach – Donations to Lumin were delivered
- PDO – Sue Sullivan is the only member left on the Personnel Committee. Staff policies and evaluations are not being completed due to lack of support. Council needs to address additional resources for the committee. Pastor Carrie has

been involved with many of the personnel situations.

Treasurer's report – Dave Mizell – **Report Accepted**

Net for November had a deficit of \$1,271.29. Year to Date has a surplus of \$9,111.92.

	Nov YTD	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Direct Giving	\$12,921.93	\$164,122.5 1	\$148,500.00
Other Receipts	\$5,488.86	\$83,683.76	\$93,020.00
Total Op Revenues	\$18,410.79	\$247,806.2 7	\$241,520.00
Spending	\$19,682.08	\$238,694.3 5	\$245,611.85
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$1,271.29)	\$9,111.92	(\$4,091.85)

Old Business

- Timeline for creating a new Pictorial Directory was presented and discussed. Effort to collect information and pictures during January with a goal of producing the new directory by February.

New Business

- 2026-2027 Contract with Redemption was discussed, a few modifications to be made to clarify Sanctuary time and storage areas. A summary of the changes will be made available to the Congregation and a special interest meeting will be held for a 'question and answer' period on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December.
- Kitchen to be cleaned over the Christmas holidays. Refrigerator will be emptied, cleaned and sanitized.
- Need to establish a committee for the Labyrinth project. Will reach out to Stephens and Beckners to see if they would like to support.

Calendar Items

- Sunday, 4 Jan – Un-hanging of the Greens

Council meeting schedule – Second Monday of the month at 4:00

- 12 Jan
- 9 Feb
- 9 Mar
- 13 Apr

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Williams



# **Drive Up Communion:** **February 8**

**11:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m.**

## **Upcoming dates:**

February 22

March 8 & 22

April 12 & 26

May 10

If you are planning to participate in the Drive Up Communion, please call or email the church office no later than the Thursday before.

Front cover artwork:

<https://www.dreamstime.com/january-snowdrops-blooming-snow-inspirational-quote-white-snowdrop-flower-s-emerging-fresh-winter-landscape-image429036867>



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Postage