

Tribune—March 2026

It's not luck.

it's God's favor.

John 1:16

Our Mission:

Gathering to receive God's grace and to grow in faith and service.

TRIBUNE INSIDE

- 2 Trinity's Contact Info.
- 2 A Word from Pastor Carrie
- 3 Prayers & Prayer Chain Info.
- 3 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 4 What's Going on at Trinity?
- 5 WELCA News
- 5 Parents' Day Out program
- 6 Calendar - March 2026
- 8 Holy Week Schedule
- 9 Upcoming Events
- 10 Financial Report—Jan. 2026
- 11 Council Notes—Jan. 2026

Back cover:

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

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/TrinityKirkwood

YouTube: youtube.com/@trinitylutheranchurchkirkwood

A congregation of the ELCA
(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

Administrator

Brenda Chatham
tel: 314-822-8244
em: TLCKirkwood@gmail.com

Worship Music

Shari Telaar
tel: 314-488-1067
em: stelaar@comcast.net

Organist

Cindy Donnell-Foster
tel: 314-822-8244
em: l_pray_2@yahoo.com

Parents' Day Out Director

Erika Duenwald
tel: 314-808-3850
em: 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



We are called into a time of growing in spiritual disciplines.

As we go through Lent, we are called into a time of growing in our spiritual disciplines. Many people may be giving up things for Lent, such as chocolate, swearing or social media. Others may be adding new practices to their daily routines, like drinking more water, purging excess from their house, or praying daily. All of these things may be good for us, in and of themselves, but if we do not examine why we do them they may become empty gestures rather than true spiritual growth.

For too long I thought of Lent as an austere time of deprivation. It was not a time when I experienced any new growth or deepening of my faith life, but when I felt guilty yet again that I could not keep myself from indulging in things I had decided to give up. Lent is not supposed to be the redo of our New Year's Resolutions. This isn't when we go, "whoops I really messed up that whole 'get healthy' resolution I had in January, let's try again for Lent." But whatever we do should help us to focus on our relationship with Christ, with our neighbors, and with all of creation.

If it helps you, perhaps think about Lent as a time to dive deeper into your baptismal promises:

"to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share
in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in
Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the
example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in
all the earth." ELW p236

What practices can you begin that would help you to live among God's faithful people? We have plenty of people who would love to have a visit, a card, or a phone call. Some need assistance with things like car rides, others might enjoy a meal delivered. We are a community that has a deep need to support each other.

How can Lent be a time for you to strive for justice and peace in all the earth? It is deeply troubling that at the beginning of Lent we are faced with another outbreak of war in the world. Perhaps you feel too far from the conflict to do anything, but even here in Kirkwood and St Louis we can work for justice and peace. What are the injustices that you see that need to be righted? The work of faithful people is never done, until Christ comes again.

Sometimes to serve other people we do the things that Matthew highlights in our reading from Ash Wednesday. We pray (though maybe not on the street corners), we give charitably from our wealth (though not so that other people will be proud of how good we are), and we fast from self-indulgence (which can come in many different forms).

And hopefully through all of these things we take on or give up the central tenant that is seen, and heard, and felt is the good news of God in Christ. That during Lent we become the faithful people we have promised to be in each and every day of our lives.

Christ's blessings,
Pastor Carrie McElfresh

Member Announcements

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Health Concerns:

Jan Bishop
 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
 Jana Royer: Terrie Karcher's sister
 Cathy Urbaitis: Nina Pool's sister
 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:

Ken Berry: brother of Rick Berry
 Matthew Berry: Rick Berry's son
 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

Grieving:

Family and friends of Winslow Sage Keeter: grandson of Wallace and Priscilla Ward, cousin and best friend of Griffin King.

Family and friends of Diane Curtis: Pr. Carrie's best friend's mother.

Family and friends of Don Royer, Terrie Karcher's brother-in-law.



- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 3 | Beckie Roth |
| 4 | Nancy Wilson |
| 9 | Lee Reynolds |
| 10 | Lily Harrelson |
| 10 | Janet Williams |
| 11 | Terri Wise |
| 12 | Alex Elkin |
| 17 | Matt Stephens |
| 18 | Priscilla Ward |
| 21 | Ralph Kelly |
| 24 | Paul Koepke |
| 26 | Danielle Parisi |
| 27 | Steve Sneeringer |
| 29 | Teresa Stephens |

MARCH ANNIVERSARY

- 1 Brad Elkin and Jami Boyles (17 yrs.)

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: chelton1@aol.com

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

Blessing is the art of
 harvesting the wisdom of
 the invisible world.

— John O'Donohue

What's Going on at Trinity?



Sunday

Worship Schedule

10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
10:45 a.m.	Sunday School
11:45 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship

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
for the Zoom sign-in link.

Sunday worship assistants: Assisting Ministers, Lectors, Ushers/Greeters. For more information contact 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

WELCA NEWS

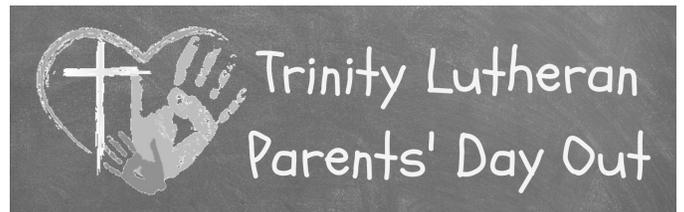
Katie's Crew – Wednesdays,
March 11 & 25, at 11:30 a.m.

On February 18th, about 20 people stayed for the WELCA brunch following the 9:30 Ash Wednesday service. There was a lot of food – casseroles, fruit salad & pastries. Thank you to all who brought food & helped set up.

Sunday, March 1, is Bold Women's Day. We should remember all the bold women in our lives.

Remember the Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa, July 16 – 19.

For more information contact Gaye Mizell.
(lovetoknit50@gmail.com)



Hello, March and all things SPRING!

This month, we are hopeful for some spring-like weather and the opportunity to get outside to play and explore!

While we're gearing up for spring break, we will be learning



about all things Dr. Seuss and Saint Patrick's day. I'm looking forward to all of the fun activities we have planned including some Seussical crafts, Saint Patrick's day celebrations, getting outside, doing some spring scavenger hunts, and maybe enjoying a picnic or two!

When we return for spring break we will be discussing the change of the season from winter to spring and gearing up for our Easter unit. Easter festivities will be on the 30th of March through the 2nd of April. PDO will be closed Friday April 3rd for Good Friday and the following Monday for Easter Monday.

Registration for our summer camps and the 26/27 school year is open and off to a good start. Please share the word with your friends and family, as our program is welcome to everyone and we'd love to make some new friends! :)

I hope everyone has a wonderful start to the spring season and a very happy Easter!

With Gratitude,
Erika Duenwald, Director

Holy Week

MARCH 29 @ 10:30 AM
PALM SUNDAY - TRINITY

APRIL 2 @ 7:00 PM
MAUNDY THURSDAY - ST/HS

APRIL 3 @ 7:00 PM
GOOD FRIDAY - TRINITY

APRIL 5 @ 10:30 AM
EASTER SUNDAY - TRINITY



Upcoming Events at Trinity



Wednesday, March 11—Lenten Soup Supper & Casual Worship (also on 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 Bash
(live music by the Adapters Band)
11:30 a.m. following worship



Sunday, March 29—Palm Sunday
10:30 a.m. Worship



Thursday, April 2—Maundy Thursday
7:00 p.m. Service at St. Thomas—Holy Spirit

Friday, April 3—Good Friday
7:00 p.m. Service at Trinity

Sunday, April 5—Easter Sunday!
10:30 a.m. Worship



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Report for January 2026

We are modifying the Treasurer’s Report to include income and spending from the Property Reserve Fund, which is a major component in maintaining our building and campus.

- Receipts for January totaled \$19.8K, which included \$100 given to support the Property Reserve Fund. Our income was about \$1.4K under budget.
- Spending from the General Fund totaled \$22.1K and was under our monthly budget by about \$200. We had \$3.0K in Property Reserve Expenses during January, primarily for plumbing and mechanical repairs.
- Net, for January we had a deficit of \$5,246.
- In January, PDO had receipts of \$18.0K and expenses of \$16.5K. PDO had a surplus this month of \$1.476.

CASH FLOW SUMMARY

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Jan-2025</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Direct Giving	\$ 12,373.76	\$ 12,373.76
Other Receipts	7,355.13	7,355.13
Sub-Total General Fund	19,728.89	19,728.89
Property Reserve Income	100.00	100.00
Total Income	\$ 19,828.89	\$ 19,828.89
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
General Fund Spending	22,071.83	22,071.83
Property Reserve Expense	3,003.21	3,003.21
Total Expenses	\$ 25,075.04	\$ 25,075.04
NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	\$ (5,246.15)	\$ (5,246.15)

ACCOUNT BALANCES

	<u>12/31/25</u>	<u>01/31/26</u>
General Fund	\$177,481.40	\$185,750.53
Foundation Acct	\$177,592.85	\$182,959.99
Youth Restr Acct	\$ 7,647.77	\$ 7,802.72

2025 Annual Committee Reports

currently due

preferably via email:

TLCKirkwood@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted, Dave Mizell,
Treasurer 02/09/2026

Council Notes
Monday, 12 Jan 2026

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

Call to order – Kris

Members present – Pastor Carrie, Kris Miller, Rich Allen, Kevin Karcher, Dave Mizell, Bob Tuckett, Bruce Williams

Members absent – Sue Sullivan

Opening Prayer – Pastor Carrie

Approval of notes from the December 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 brought up the question about how best to integrate new members into the activities at Trinity. It was suggested that we create a list of all committees and activities so that new members can see what kind of work is being performed. Bruce to provide a first cut at this compilation of groups and activities.
- Carrie reported that the Crossroads Group will be told that they can no longer use the Church for their meetings based on damage and vandalism from unattended teens during the meetings.

Ministry Area reports

- Property – Boiler pump motor went out, and repaired quickly. Caused some concern with freezing pipes in the kitchen, a portable heater was put in kitchen as a preventive move. Door in women's bathroom still needs to be fixed to make it ADA compliant. Door swings in instead of out. Fan is going out in the men's bathroom by the Fellowship Hall. Also, there is a short in the fire alarm panel that requires the local silent button to be pushed to silence alarm.
- Education – Sunday school and Confirmation classes continue.
- Worship and Music – Two Ash Wednesday services planned. Lenten Services being planned for Wednesday evenings for Trinity and St. Thomas Holy Spirit.
- Fellowship – Pancake and sausage brunch scheduled for 15 Feb and St. Patrick's Day celebration on 15 Mar.
- Outreach – Souper Bowl collections will be made on 8 Feb and donated to local food pantry.
- PDO – Kathy Malnassy is the only member left on the PDO committee, needs additional volunteers. Sue Sullivan is the only member left on the Personnel Committee. Still need additional volunteers.

	Dec YTD	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Direct Giving	\$18,999.03	\$183,121.54	\$162,000.00
Other Receipts	\$5,515.93	\$89,199.69	\$101,640.00
Total 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)

- Net for December had a surplus of \$108.28. Year to Date has a surplus of \$9,220.02.

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.
- Kitchen was cleaned over the Christmas holidays. Refrigerator was emptied, cleaned and sanitized. Cabinet space has been made available for Redemption's use. Still need to work on PDO storage.
- Garden area had old bed borders removed, area was partially tilled in prep for new raised beds.

New Business

- 2026-2027 Contract with Redemption still being discussed by Redemption.
- Need to establish a committee for the Labyrinth project. Will reach out to Stephens and Beckners to see if they would like to support.
- Bob Tuckett and Kris Miller offered to work on the Personnel committee with Sue Sullivan.
- Topic of employee bonuses was discussed. Council to bring ideas back to February Council meeting to discuss possible options.

Calendar Items

- Sunday, 15 Feb – Pancake and Sausage Brunch
- Wednesday, 18 Feb – Ash Wednesday

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

- ⇒ 9 Feb
- ⇒ 9 Mar
- ⇒ 13 Apr
- ⇒ 11 May
- ⇒ 8 Jun
- ⇒ 13 Jul

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Williams



Drive Up Communion: **March 8**

11:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Upcoming dates:

March 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.pinterest.com/pin/518899188341291903/>



Trinity Lutheran Church
820 Lockett Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Postage