

# Tribune—April 2026

LET ALL THAT I AM  
WAIT QUIETLY BEFORE GOD,  
FOR MY HOPE IS IN HIM.

PSALM 62:5

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

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# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

820 Lockett Road  
Kirkwood, Missouri 63122

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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



# Great God, Your Love Has Called Us.

Over the years, I have shared with you all multiple times the way that certain songs or hymns have impacted my life and faith. It seems to happen a lot around the big holidays of the church year. And while we are hurrying toward the triumphant songs of Easter, there are still a few days of contemplation before we hit that celebration. While often the songs that affect me most are ones I have known since a child there are some that I have only grown to appreciate as an adult.

This year, I find myself returning again and again to ELW 358, "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us." It is a hymn meant for Holy Week, and especially for Maundy Thursday, but its words speak to so much of what I am feeling when I consider the world these days. While the first verse reminds us of what we were created to be... God's likeness made with and for love... it also recognizes that we do not live up to that expectation. Then the second verse emphasizes it even more:

"We come with self-inflicted pains of broken trust and chosen wrong, half-free, half-bound by inner chains, by social forces swept along, by pow'rs and systems close confined, yet seeking hope for human-kind."

I am not sure how you all are feeling as you look around at the world that we live in right now, but the line "by social forces swept along" feels pretty accurate to me right now. There is so much that I don't like and don't agree with, and a million things that I wish we as a

country or we as people of faith could do better. There are so many injustices and failures that make me question how God can continue to love us in our broken state. And yet that is the joy and the mystery of faith. And it is echoed in the third verse where we sing, "you call our name and then receive us as your own, not through some merit, right, or claims, but by your gracious love alone." We don't deserve God's love. We are broken and imperfect. We hurt ourselves, each other, and God's beautiful creation. But at Easter we hear again and again that God's love is greater than our failures. And even as we go through the stories of the disciples after Christ's resurrection we find that Jesus calls them over and over through their doubts and their fears to believe and to share the love he first offered them. This is the promise the hymn ends with as well:

"Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your joy to share.

Give us your Spirit's liberty to turn from guilt and dull despair, and offer all that faith can do while love is making all things new."

This is my Easter prayer and hope... that we would turn from all the things that turn us inward and away from loving one another, that we would instead be made new in Christ's love and go into the world to share it with everyone.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!  
Pastor Carrie McElfresh

# Member Announcements

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### Health Concerns:

Jan Bishop

Chara Helton-Rodenhaus

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

Susan Ludwig: cousin of Terrie Karcher

Carolyn Muessmann: friend of Cindy Donnell-Foster

Sue Murphy: Rich Allen's sister-in-law

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

Jana Royer: Terrie Karcher'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 Tributout: friend of Holly Graham

### Grieving:

Family and friends of Peggy Riley, Gene Pool's sister.



### Anniversaries:

4/10 Dave and Gaye Mizell (50th)

4/12 Leslie and Cary Schuman (41st)

4/18 Kris and Anna Sanders (17th)

4/22 Jim and Carol Heyde (54th)

4/23 Bruce and Janet Williams (44th)

4/25 Michael and Terrie Wise (56th)

4/26 Matt and Teresa Stephens (29th)

### Birthdays:

4/2 Gene Pool

4/4 Cindy Donnell-Foster

4/6 Andrew Holmes

4/10 Rick Berry

4/11 Kelly Faust

4/14 Torrey Munger

4/16 Jan Kotas (99th)

4/17 Karl Bolton

4/18 Cheryl Klocke

4/18 Nick Parisi

4/18 Georgia Sippel

4/23 Dan McElfresh

4/24 Kevin Karcher

4/25 Matthew Berry

4/27 Sue Sullivan

4/29 Grace Wenzel

## 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: [clhelton1@aol.com](mailto:clhelton1@aol.com)

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



# 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.



**SPECIAL THANKS** to Bruce and Janet Williams, Pastor Carrie, and all the soup-makers and dessert-gurus, who helped to make this year's Wednesday Evening Lenten Soup Suppers such a success.

Sharing meals and fellowship mid-week with our friends from St. Thomas-Holy Spirit is a special way to journey through Lent.



**Like us on  
Facebook!**

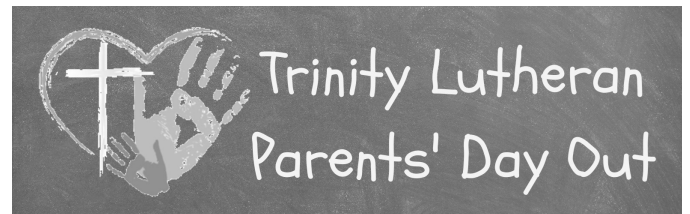
- receive Sunday's Gospel reading
- access Sunday morning worship on YouTube
- keep up-to-date with the goings-on at Trinity
- and more!

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

# WELCA NEWS

Katie's Crew – Wednesdays,  
April 8 and 22, at 11:30 a.m.

On April 25 the Eastern Cluster of Women of the ELCA will be having a gathering. It will be at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Manchester. Pastor Kendra Nolde will give her talk on the woman at the well which she presented at last summer's convention. Pastor Janice Hawley will talk about her trip to Papua New Guinea last November. After lunch we will have communion with Pastor Kendra. If you are interested in going there is a notice on the WELCA bulletin board outside the lounge kitchen. You can call or email Eunice Halverson 314 -269-7994 or [Eunice.Halverson@yahoo.com](mailto:Eunice.Halverson@yahoo.com) to RSVP.



Happy Easter Trinity!

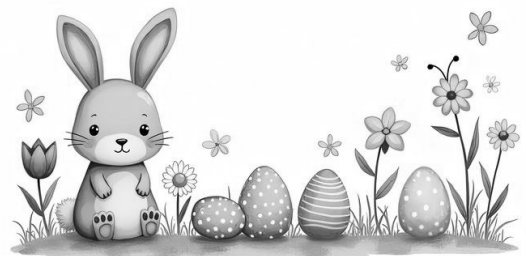
Spring has sprung and we are loving it here at PDO! During the next 5 weeks we will be exploring our Easter, Zoo/Wild Animal, Occupation, Recycling/ Earth Day, and Ocean units. Tons of fun crafts, activities and lessons are planned. I'm sure it's going to be a great month for everyone! Students and teachers alike are looking forward to enjoying the warmer weather and getting more outside play.

All of our summer camps have several children already registered and our classroom numbers for each class next fall are steadily rising. We are anticipating our annual DESE and Fire Marshall inspection in April, and we passed our annual Sanitation inspection with no issues last month.

The school year is already starting to wrap up and we'll begin practicing for our end of year performance and Pre-K graduation in a few short weeks.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter!

With Gratitude,  
Erika Duenwald, Director



Dear Trinity members,

Council has compiled two documents they would like to share with you:

1. The first is "All About Trinity", which is a listing of all Trinity's activities, committees and events. We hope this will help to make members aware of our different activities. Questions are encouraged (The Points of Contacts are indicated) and we welcome you to join in with us, if interested.
  2. The second attachment is "2026 Trinity Calendar". Please mark the dates on your calendar and plan to join us. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.
- Your Trinity Council

## **ALL ABOUT TRINITY—Groups and activities**

Church Council – Currently consists of 6 congregational members along with the Pastor and the Treasurer. Council manages the business side of Trinity. New members are selected each year at the June semi-annual congregational meeting. **POC – Kris Miller**

Foundation Committee – Currently consists of 6 congregational members along with the Pastor and the Treasurer. Committee manages the philanthropic giving for Trinity outside of the established budget items. New members are selected each year at the June semi-annual congregational meeting. **POC – Shala Parisi**

Personnel Committee – oversees employees of the church, acts as a liaison with the church staff, council and the congregation. **POC – Susan Sullivan**

PDO Committee – acts as a liaison with PDO, council and the congregation. **POC – Kathy Malnassy**

Hospitality Committee – provides refreshments after church service, will support special events. **POC – Barb Tuckett**

Music and Worship Committee – helps to plan the Sunday services with different liturgy and songs. **POC – Pastor Carrie**

Fellowship – plans and supports different activities for the congregation, such as lunches and special holiday events. **POC – Bruce Williams**

Outreach – plans and supports different activities to provide assistance to outside communities. Council – **POC – Kris Miller**

Choir – adult choir sings during different services, about once a month. **POC – Sherri Telaar**

Assisting Ministers – assists with the prayers, liturgy and communion during service. **POC – Pastor Carrie**

Lectors – reads the Bible passages during the service. **POC – Pastor Carrie**

Ushers – assists with the bulletins, offering and communion during the service. **POC – Bruce Williams**

Altar care group – prepares communion items for each Sunday, ensures altar cloth is clean and appropriate for the church season. **POC – Carol Buhr**

Education committee – plans different teaching activities and opportunities for the congregation. Teaches Sunday School lessons to 3-year-olds up thru 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Plans Confirmation activities. **POC – Pastor Carrie**

Property Committee – works on all aspects of the church property including grounds, garden, and interior maintenance and repairs. **POC – Kevin Karcher, Bob Tuckett**

Financial Committee – supports all financial activities with the Treasurer including expenditures, receipts and budgeting efforts. **POC – Dave Mizell**

WELCA – Women's group that supports a number of activities thru the year including luncheons, sales, community outreach. **POC – Gaye Mizell**

Lydia Circle – makes quilts, pillowcases, scarves, and other items that children can use, for various area non-profits. **POC—Shirley Mees or Beckie Roth**

Handbells – handbell group plays on special occasions. **POC – Gaye Mizell**

Quilters – group that quilts for individuals, LCW and new baptisms. **POC – Kay Poropat**

Building management – new activity just getting started. Intended to provide management oversight of all groups and activities that utilize our building space. **POC – Council**

Ad hoc groups – short term committee's focused on addressing one main item such as the Labyrinth committee of financial audit team. **POC - Council**

## **2026 Trinity Calendar**

**April 5** – Easter – Breakfast to be provided beginning at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed to set up and take down tables and chairs, set the tables, prepare food at home to bring to the meal, serving food during the meal, cleaning up the kitchen afterwards, putting tables and chairs away. See sign-up sheets in lounge for specifics. **POC - Bruce**

**May 17 (TBD)** - Student and graduate recognition/end of school year **POC – Kris Miller**, celebration picnic **POC – Bruce Williams**

**June 28 (TBD)** – Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting **POC – Kris Miller**

**July** –

**Aug** –

**Sept 13** – Rally Day – celebration to start Sunday School and Confirmation classes with a picnic. Volunteers are needed to set up and take down tables and chairs, set the tables, prepare food at home to bring to the meal, serving food during the meal, cleaning up the kitchen afterwards, putting tables and chairs away. **POC – Pastor Carrie and Bruce Williams**

**Oct 25 (TBD)** – Trunk or Treat in Church parking lot – volunteers are needed to decorate their cars and hand out treats to the trick or treaters. Typically held on Saturdays. **POC – Kris Miller**

**Nov 22 (TBD)** – Hanging of the Greens after Church Service – decorating the Church and grounds for Christmas – scheduled on the Sunday before the beginning of the Advent season. Typically, a light lunch is served prior to the decorating. **POC – Bruce Williams**

**Dec 3 (TBD)** – Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting **POC – Pastor Carrie**

**Dec 10 (TBD)** – Cookies with Santa **POC - TBD**

**Dec 24** – Christmas Eve Service **POC – Pastor Carrie**

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

## Report for February 2026

The Treasurer's Report has a new format for 2026.

- Receipts for February totaled \$21.8K, which included \$100 given to support the Property Reserve Fund. Receipts YTD total \$41.6K, which was about \$0.9K under-budget.
- Spending from the General Fund totaled \$22.1K. There were no property reserve expenses in February. YTD our expenses total \$47.1K and were under our monthly budget by about \$500.
- Net, for February we had a deficit of \$274.
- In February, PDO had receipts of \$17.3K and expenses of \$17.5K. PDO had a deficit this month of \$178

### CASH FLOW SUMMARY

#### INCOME

	<u>Feb-2026</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Direct Giving	\$ 13,755.07	\$ 26,128.83
Other Receipts	7,923.12	15,278.25
Sub-Total General Fund	<u>21,678.19</u>	<u>41,407.08</u>
Property Reserve Income	100.00	200.00
Total Income	<u>\$ 21,778.19</u>	<u>\$ 41,607.08</u>

#### EXPENSES

General Fund Spending	22,052.50	44,124.33
Property Reserve Expense	0.00	3,003.21
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 22,052.50</u>	<u>\$ 47,127.54</u>

NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)    \$ (274.31)    \$ (5,520.46)

### ACCOUNT BALANCES

	<u>01/31/26</u>	<u>02/28/26</u>
General Fund	\$185,750.53	\$180,817.42
Foundation Acct	\$182,959.99	\$182,980.39
Youth Restr Acct	\$ 7,802.72	\$ 7,772.73

### RESERVE and RESTRICTED FUNDS

	<u>Fund</u>	<u>01/31/2026</u>	<u>02/28/2026</u>
Reserve	Operating Reserve	\$ 28,062.21	\$ 28,062.21
	Property Reserve	8,361.57	8,461.57
	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	654.17	662.17
	Holy Trinity Reserve	12,740.00	12,740.00
Restricted	Seminary Education	35,360.74	35,360.74
	All Other Restricted	1,822.47	1,972.47
	Total Funds	\$ 118,429.32	\$ 118,687.32

Trinity received \$415 from the Thrivent Choice Dollar Program in 2025. A big thank you to all our Thrivent Members who have chosen to participate in the program.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Mizell,  
Treasurer 03/06/2026

Council Notes  
Monday, 9 Feb. 2026

	Jan YTD	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Direct Giving	\$12,373.76	\$12,373.76	\$13,333.34
Other Receipts	\$7,355.13	\$7,355.13	\$7,816.00
Total Op Revenues	\$19,828.89	\$19,828.89	\$21,149.34
Spending	\$25,075.04	\$25,075.04	\$22,288.31
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(5,246.15)</b>	<b>\$(5,246.15)</b>	<b>\$(1,138.97)</b>

Call to order – Kris

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

Members absent – Rich Allen

Opening Prayer – Pastor Carrie

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

**Pastor’s report – Approved**

- Carrie continues to meet with members via personal visits, email, text and phone calls
- Adult Bible Study continues
- Building policy is still needed. Bob offered to write the first draft of the document.
- Carrie reported that the Crossroads Group has been notified that they will no longer be allowed to use the church facility.
- As a means to further integrate new members into Trinity, a list of groups, committees and activities was provided.

**Ministry Area reports**

- Property – New exhaust fan was installed in the men’s restroom downstairs. Toilet flush valve needs to be replaced, Bob to call a plumber for repairs. Some discussion about possibility of lead pipes in the church building which could lead to renovation requirements in the future. Door in women’s restroom being fixed to open out, rather than in.
- Education – Sunday school and Confirmation classes continue.
- Worship and Music – some choir practice has been held for upcoming services.
- Fellowship – a calendar of planned events was provided to council for review, covered the remaining calendar year. Soup Suppers and St. Patrick’s Day lunch are next events to be held.
- Outreach – idea of congregation members sending postcards to other members, offering thanks or prayers for their service and participation.
- PDO – Six summer camps are being planned, enrollment is going well. A Kid’s Night Out is planned for 13 Feb. PDO is looking at different ways to advertise their services and calendar.

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

- Net for January had a deficit of \$5,246.15. Year to Date is the same. One Sunday service in January was cancelled. PDO revenue is increasing. No Garden fund established yet, although there is \$100 in the Farm account.

**Old Business**

- Timeline update for creating a new Pictorial Directory was presented and discussed. Cutoff for pictures at church will be in early March, with a goal of completing the directory by end of March/early April.
- Garden area had old bed borders removed, area was partially tilled in prep for new raised beds. Moving forward with plans to build raised garden beds.

**New Business**

- Redemption requested a few mods to the 2026-2027 contract. Council approved a slightly reduced fee for use and included a clause for early notification of intent to sell property.
- Need to establish a committee for the Labyrinth project. Will reach out to Stephens and Beckners to see if they would like to support.
- Bruce suggested that Sharyle Wilhelm might be interested in working on personnel or PDO committee. Follow-up with Sharyle recommended.
- Topic of employee bonuses was tabled, to be discussed at next month’s meeting.

**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 Mar
  - 13 Apr
  - 11 May
  - 8 Jun
  - 13 Jul

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Williams





# **Drive Up Communion:** **April 12**

**11:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m.**

**Upcoming dates:**

April 26 and 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://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d8e6e4f37fce41a1f622e01/t/606643e0941d284e1fbceb2f/1617314786041/Desktop-April-Verse.jpg>



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Postage