

Tribune—May 2026

And we know
that in all things
God works for the good
of those who love him

ROMANS 8:28

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
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: i_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



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

In our mission statement we say we are going "to grow in faith and service." Which is a beautiful statement, but it can be difficult to parse how we make that happen. What are the ways that we grow in faith? How do we grow in service? Defining these and laying out pathways or plans can help us move from a pretty statement to an actual mission.

This is the work that your Church Council has ahead of them. We are delving into the mission statement we worked on together and coming up with ideas on how we can live it out. Because we as a people of God are more than just a nebulous statement. We are called and sent to bear God's word and grace into the world. But moving beyond the mission statement only really works when we have buy-in and commitment from the people who gather with us in our community.

It is my hope, and belief, that we are more than just a group who gather on Sundays and occasionally eat a meal together. I believe we are people who have a passion for God and for our neighbors. But sometimes we lose our way in how to share who we are with others.

As we move into the long green season of Pentecost (starting at the end of May and throughout the summer and into fall), we are going to work

through some experiments on how we grow in faith and service. We will be taking on some different faith practices in our homes and daily lives, and I would love to hear from you all on how you feel about them.

I would also like for us to find some different ways to serve people outside of our congregation where we can interact with those we are helping. Are there organizations that you know of that could use our time, but would be a good fit for our congregation? There are many places that we as a congregation have supported financially, and a few that we have donated to with items that we have collected. What more can we do to serve our community?

And most of all, I would love to hear your stories. Stories of faith and how it has impacted you. Times and places, people and events that have strengthened or caused struggles in your faith. I want us to learn more about faith together, in community. My hope is that you want that too.

Your Church Council and I look forward to hearing from you about what ideas you have for growing in faith and service so that we can move into the future together as one people of God.

Christ's blessings,
Pastor Carrie McElfresh

Member Announcements

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Health Concerns:

Chara Helton-Rodenhaus

Gayle Woolf

Amanda Berry: niece of Rick Berry

Pat Clark: Pastor Carrie's aunt

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

Jim Murphy: Rich Allen's brother-in-law

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

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

Jim Ross: friend of Terrie Karcher

Bob Strayer

David Wise: cousin of Mike Wise

Nancy Breningmeyer: Cindy Donnell-Foster's aunt (Godmother)

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

Jan Bishop

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

Jake Widmann: friend of Rich Allen

Grieving:

Jim Heyde and family and friends of Carol Ann Heyde who passed away 4/21.

Family and friends of Cindy Donnell-Foster's uncle, Lloyd Breningmeyer, who died April 29. He had been married to Nancy for 68 yrs.

Jami Boyles and family and friends of Marvin Boyles, Jami's father.



Anniversaries:

5/1 Jason and Kris Miller (33rd)

5/10 Holly and Steve Graham (18th)

5/25 Paul Koepke and Elizabeth Neuner (13th)

Birthdays:

5/1 Anna Sanders

5/2 Nora Wenzel

5/5 Dave Mizell

5/6 Gaye Mizell

5/9 Barb Tuckett

5/10 Shala Parisi

5/11 Lou Malnassy

5/12 Kristen Shafer

5/15 Donamay King (95th)

5/15 Shannon Walter

5/17 Brenda Chatham

5/19 Cheryl Chumley

5/20 K.C. Walter

5/24 Gayle Woolf

5/25 Addie Harrelson

5/28 Kris Sneeringer

5/29 Dawn Quello

5/29 Kris Sanders

5/31 Kirsten Houg

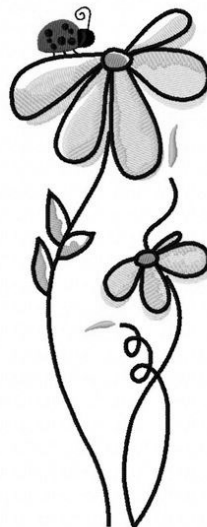
TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN— NEED A PRAYER?

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!



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.

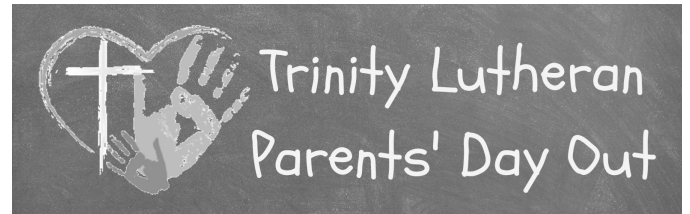


Like us on Facebook!

- 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](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityKirkwood)

WELCA NEWS



Katie's Crew – May 13 and 27 at 11:30 a.m.

We meet in the upstairs lounge for our monthly WELCA meeting, then move to the quilt room to tie quilts.

On April 25 five of our ladies went to a WELCA Eastern Cluster Gathering, We heard a talk on Vessels of Faith from Pastor Kendra Nolde. We also heard from Pastor Janice Hawley about her trip to Papua New Guinea last November. After lunch we had a short communion service with our hymns accompanied by Pastor Karen Scherer on the flute. It was a wonderful event.



Happy May Trinity!

It's unbelievable that it's the last month of school already! It has been an amazing school year and such a privilege to be a part of the growth of so many great children! We appreciate all of the support our program has received this year and each and every one of our families whole-heartedly!

We only have two theme's planned for the month of May; Children's favorite stories and Summer-Fun. Even though we only have two themes planned it's sure to be a busy month as we gear up for our end of year performances and graduation ceremony on the 21st. PDO has 6 kiddo's graduating this summer and moving on to Kindergarten in the fall. We are so proud of all of the growing and learning they have achieved during their time here with us at TLC Parents' Day Out.

As our school year wraps up, we are also preparing for the 6 summer camps PDO has on schedule in the coming months. Even though school won't technically be in session, our staff and students will still be very present during the summer months. We hope everyone at TLC has a beautiful summer!

With Gratitude,
Erika Duenwald,
Director



Special News

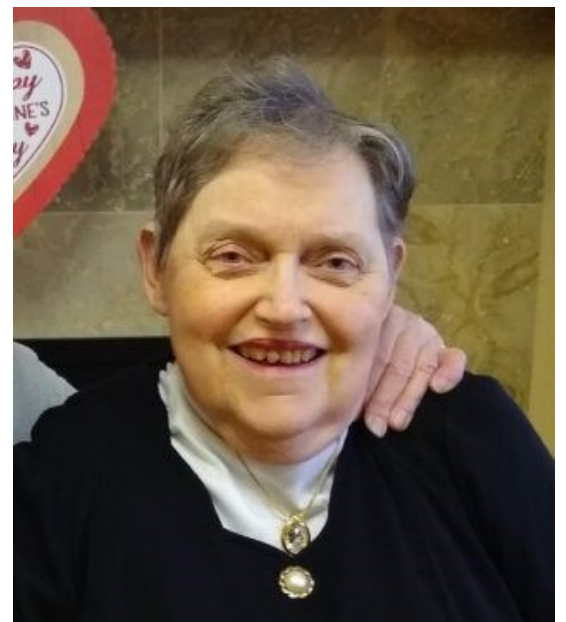


Our very own Jan Kotas on her 99th birthday,

Dear Trinity Friends,
I send a big thank you to the youth group and all for your greetings to me for Valentines Day, Easter and my recent birthday. My days were made very special by your thoughtfulness!
God's Blessings to all.
Jan Kotas

Carol Ann Heyde (née Costley) entered into rest in the early hours of Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at the age of 84. Beloved wife of James L. Heyde; loving mother of David (Katrin Noller), Paul (Elizabeth Fuller), and Jonathan Heyde; dear grandmother of Paul Emil Noller; dear sister of the late Charles G. (Carolyn) Costley; dear sister-in-law, aunt, and friend.

Carol was born on February 18, 1942, in St. Louis, MO, to Charles and Angenette (Specht) Costley, and grew up in Lemay and Affton. She graduated from Bayless High School, class of 1959, and worked at Union Electric in the 1960s. Carol married Jim Heyde on April 22, 1972. They settled in Kirkwood, where they raised their three sons and were long-time members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Carol spent her final years in the care of the dedicated staff at Laclede Groves in Webster Groves.



Carol was a member of the St. Louis Ski Club in her twenties and fondly recalled the ski trips she went on to the Rockies and the Alps; she remained an enthusiastic traveler throughout her life and traveled extensively in retirement. Carol was an avid reader of everything from the classics to today's bestsellers, enjoyed learning and trying out new recipes and cuisines, and was always a supportive and dependable wife, mother, and friend. She will be missed.

Upcoming Event at Trinity



Sunday, May 17—

**End of School Year -
Student and Graduate
Recognition
and Congregational
Celebration Picnic**

**Sign up sheets for a head count,
as well as food, are posted on the
bulletin board in the lounge.**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT
Report for March 2026

- Receipts for March totaled \$26.7K, which included \$100 given to support the Property Reserve Fund. Receipts YTD total \$68.3K, which was about \$4.8K over-budget (receipts over-budget are a good thing!). The Easter season contributed to the bump in giving.
- Spending from the General Fund totaled \$25.9K. At the end of March, we paid a quarterly property insurance premium (about \$4.6K). Property Reserve expenses totaled \$1.1K. YTD our expenses total \$74.1K.
- Net, for March we had a deficit of \$356. Considering the quarterly insurance payment, we did remarkably well having a small deficit.
- In March, PDO had receipts of \$20.9K and expenses of \$16.5K. PDO had a surplus this month of \$4.3K.
- The Garden project received \$200 in March. About \$1,400 was spent on planters in March and was paid from Thrivent Gifts and temporarily from Property Reserve. Future gifts Garden will offset PR fund.

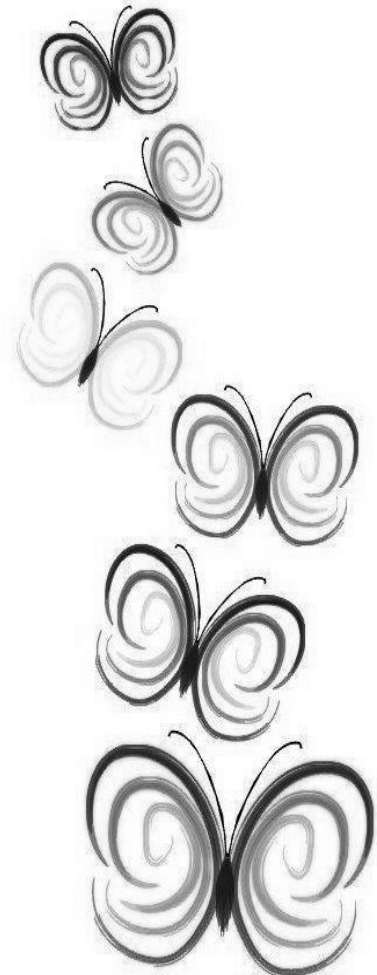
CASH FLOW SUMMARY		
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>3/31/2026</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Direct Giving	\$ 19,116.73	\$ 45,245.56
Other Receipts	7,442.16	22,720.41
Sub-Total General Fund	26,558.89	67,965.97
Property Reserve Income	100.00	300.00
Total Income	\$ 26,658.89	\$ 68,265.97
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
General Fund Spending	25,941.18	70,065.51
Property Reserve Expense	1,074.25	4,077.46
Total Expenses	\$ 27,015.43	\$ 74,142.97
NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	\$ (356.54)	\$ (5,877.00)

ACCOUNT BALANCES

	<u>02/28/26</u>	<u>03/31/26</u>
General Fund	\$180,817.42	\$179,851.35
Foundation Acct	\$181,566.78	\$181,589.26
Youth Restr Acct	\$ 7,772.73	\$ 7,742.74

RESERVE and RESTRICTED FUNDS

	<u>Fund</u>	<u>02/28/2026</u>	<u>03/31/2026</u>
Reserve	Operating Reserve	\$ 28,062.21	\$ 28,062.21
	Property Reserve	8,461.57	7,487.32
	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	662.17	12.17
	Holy Trinity Reserve	12,740.00	12,740.00
Restricted	Seminary Education	35,360.74	35,360.74
	All Other Restricted	1,972.47	2,072.47
	Total Funds	\$ 118,687.32	\$ 117,163.07



Respectfully submitted, Dave Mizell,
 Treasurer 04/07/2026

Council Notes
Monday, 9 March. 2026

	Feb YTD	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Direct Giving	\$13,755.07	\$26,128.83	\$26,666.68
Other Receipts	\$7,923.12	\$15,278.25	\$15,634.00
Total Op Revenues	\$21,678.19	\$41,407.08	\$42,300.68
Spending	\$22,052.50	\$44,124.33	\$44,676.62
Surplus (Deficit)	\$(274.31)	\$(5,520.46)	\$(2,375.94)

Call to order – Kris Miller

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 February meeting – two errors were found in the notes, and a correction will be made and distributed – **Approved, with corrections**

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 she is still waiting to hear back from the lawyer on contract mods with Redemption.
- Carrie is attending the Gatherings of Grace sessions with other clergy women; first overnight retreat will be in April.
- Trinity needs to find 2 members to attend the Synod Assembly. It will be an online event this year, scheduled for 6 June (9 am – 3 pm).
- Carrie proposed purchasing some lightweight chairs to be used in the lounge to replace the heavy and aged wooden chairs. All agreed to go forward with this.

Ministry Area reports

- Property – Door in women’s restroom being fixed to open out, rather than in – waiting for parts. Also noted was the increase in the Spectrum bill.
- 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, along with Easter brunch on Sunday morning.
- Outreach – postcards going out to remind people of Holy Week schedule.
- PDO – Working on website and personnel evaluations are ongoing. Have had a large number of illnesses affecting students and teachers.
- Personnel – Sharyle Wilhelm and Ann Tollefson will be joining the committee.

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

- Receipts for February totaled \$21,800. YTD receipts are about \$900 under budget. Spending totaled \$22,100, and YTD expenses are about \$500 under budget.
- Rick Berry, Theresa Stephens and Dave are doing the 2025 audit.

Old Business

- Raised beds have been delivered, need to assemble. Kevin coordinating. Need to ask congregation for donations.
- Timeline update for creating a new Pictorial Directory was presented and discussed. Cutoff for pictures at church will be Easter Sunday, with a goal of completing the directory by mid-April.
- No projects identified yet for Church-wide service project.
- Personnel committee to schedule a meeting with the new members.
- No meeting yet with the Labyrinth committee.

New Business

- Still awaiting feedback from lawyer on Redemption contract changes.
- Need 2 members to participate in the Synod Assembly Zoom session this June.
- Need to purchase new chairs (and possibly tables) for lounge area.
- April council meeting will focus on deep dive into Trinity Mission areas and how to develop defined direction.

Calendar Items

- Sunday, 15 Mar – St. Patrick’s Day lunch
- Wednesday evening service with soup suppers
- Sunday, 5 Apr – Easter brunch

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

- 13 Apr
- 11 May
- 8 Jun
- 13 Jul
- 10 Aug

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Williams



Drive Up Communion: **May 10**

11:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Upcoming dates:

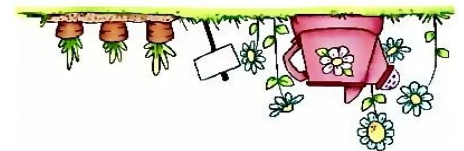
June 7 and 21

July 5 and 19

August 2, 16, and 30

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/22799541860440094/>



Trinity Lutheran Church
820 Lockett Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Postage