

Trinity - June 2026

“Cease Striving
AND
Know That
I AM GOD.”

PSALM 46:10 NASB

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 - June 2026
- 8 Miscellaneous
- 9 Semi-Annual Congr. Meeting
- 10 Financial Report—April 2026
- 11 Council Notes—April 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: 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



Share your story of faith...

When I was young the church I belonged to had a large music ministry and every year the upper elementary through high school choirs would put on a musical. Even though we moved away before I ever got to participate in the plays I remember so much about them from watching my sisters prepare for them each year. I can still sing you songs from “The Rainbow Express” and learned the story of King Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendigo from “Cool in the Furnace.” But there was one that while I don’t recall many of the songs, the stories remained with me. It was called “The Story Tellin’ Man,” and it was a musical that showcased Jesus’ teachings through the parables. I may have only been a child when I watched the musical, but obviously there was something compelling about the storytelling that brings it to mind three decades later.

The thing is that is what good storytelling does. It captivates us beyond the moment and beacons us to recall what we learned. And this is how Jesus chose to teach the people about the Kingdom of God. Through stories that caught their imaginations or connected with their realities in such a way that they would think on it far longer than the time it took to tell. He told stories about sowing and reaping that rural farmers could understand, and stories about family dynamics that were all too close to home. He wove tales about treasures lost and found, caring for sheep, and power dynamics between masters and slaves. But none of his stories was as simple as it seemed.

Throughout the gospels, as Jesus teaches, the disciples continually ask for explanations because they cannot always understand the meaning behind the stories that Jesus shares. This reminds me of the Aesop’s Fables that I grew up reading. Each story had a deeper lesson, but the lessons were not always apparent to my childish brain. But just as it takes time to discern the meaning of the fables, Jesus’ parables are ones that can be mulled over for years and you can continue to come away with new insights and deeper understandings. Just as a plant’s roots deepen year after year, our faith grows over time as we learn more and hear the stories of faith that surround us.

But it is not just Jesus’ parables or the gospel stories that inspire our faith to develop. I am guessing for most of us that it was the faith of those around us (parents, grandparents, teachers, siblings) that helped us nurture our own faith. Hearing the stories of our own community and family creates a space where we are free to learn, to question, and to dig into what it is that we believe and how we understand God. And it is an entirely faithful way for us to grow as disciples. This summer, as we hear Jesus telling stories, and as we watch the disciples question and grow, I would like to invite you all to think about how you would share your story of faith. How has faith developed in your life? Where is God sparking wonder in your life? How would you share that story with those around you?

Christ’s blessings,
Pastor Carrie McElfresh

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)

W E L C A N E W S

Katie's Crew – June 10 & 24 at 11:30 a.m.

Get out your calendars and mark them for our **Salad Luncheon** in July. It will be **July 11 at 12:00 noon**. After lunch Sue Sullivan will present a program called "Brain Hemisphericity: How Your Brain Defines Who You Are". It should be very interesting.

Saturday, July 11

12:00 p.m.

Upstairs lounge



Once again I'll put a shout out about our Women of the ELCA Triennial. It's July 16-19 in Des Moines, Iowa. So far there are 40 women from the Central States Synod going. That puts us in the top 5 attending synods.



Regular school is currently on summer break.

Summer schedule:

June 1—5, 8:30 a—12:30 p	Summer camp
June 22—26, 8:30 a—12:30 p	Summer camp
July 6—10, 8:30 a—12:30 p	Summer camp
July 20—24, 8:30 a—12:30 p	Summer camp
August 3—7, 8:30 a—12:30 p	Summer camp
August 17—21, 8:30 a—12:30 p	Summer camp
August 27, 10:30 a—11:30 a	Open House
September 1, 8:15 a—2:00 p	First Day of School

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Susan Jayne McFarland (8/18/39 - 5/28/26)

Dear Trinity family,

While this was announced Sunday morning during worship, I wanted to make sure the information was shared with the entire congregation.

Over the weekend I was made aware that Susan (Rapp) McFarland died last week on May 28, 2026. Her funeral services were held at Bopp Chapel Sunday afternoon.

While Susan had not been able to be present at Trinity for a number of years her family was one of our congregation's charter members. Susan herself was part of the 5th confirmation class here at Trinity in 1953. While she is not named on the charter documents (as a child), she was a part of Trinity's story for her whole life.

Trusting in the grace and mercy of God we hold Susan's family and friends in our prayers as they grieve her death. Rest eternal grant her, O Lord. And let light perpetual shine upon her.

Blessings,
Pr. Carrie McElfresh

KIRK care

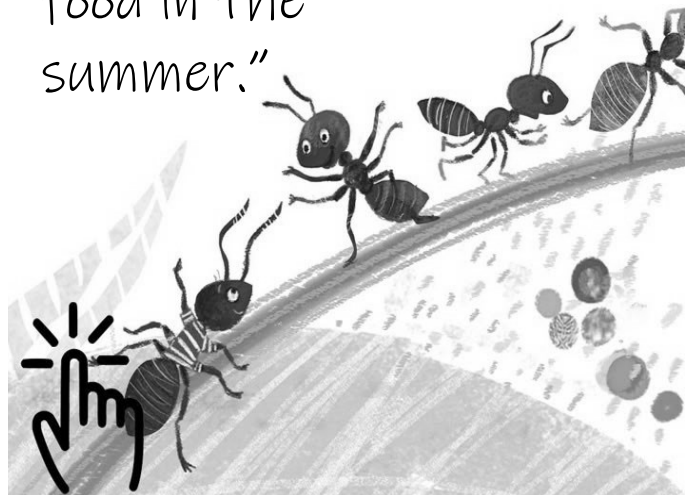
Trinity is a KirkCare Red Box location

When you're out purchasing groceries, why not grab a few items for KirkCare and then next time you're at Trinity, drop off your bags in the big Red Box located at back of our parking lot. You may also drop the bags into the big red barrel currently located in the upstairs lounge. You can't miss it.

Volunteers from the KirkCare pantry drop by Trinity every week or two to pick up the filled grocery bags.

Proverbs 30:25

"Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer."





Congregational
Meeting

**Please mark your
calendars for Trinity's
Semi-Annual
Congregational Meeting:
Sunday, June 28
11:45 a.m.
(following worship service)**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Report for April 2026

- Receipts for April totaled \$23.0K, which included \$200 given to support the Property Reserve Fund. Receipts to the General Fund YTD total \$91.0K, plus \$500 given to the Property Reserve. YTD our receipts total \$91.5K.
- Spending from the General Fund totaled \$20.7K. We had no Property Reserve expenses in April. YTD our expenses total \$94.8K.
- Net, for April we had a surplus of \$2,565. YTD we have a deficit of \$3,311.
- In April, PDO had receipts of \$19.9K and expenses of \$19.1K. PDO had a surplus this month of \$747. PDO has a surplus YTD of \$6.4K.
- The Garden project received \$225 in April.

CASH FLOW SUMMARY

INCOME

	<u>4/30/2026</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Direct Giving	\$ 14,749.10	\$ 59,994.66
Other Receipts	8,294.83	31,015.24
Sub-Total General Fund	<u>23,043.93</u>	<u>91,009.90</u>
Property Reserve Income	200.00	500.00
Total Income	<u>\$ 23,243.93</u>	<u>\$ 91,509.90</u>

EXPENSES

General Fund Spending	20,678.33	90,744.14
Property Reserve Expense	0.00	4,077.46
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 20,678.33</u>	<u>\$ 94,821.60</u>

NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) \$ 2,565.60 \$ (3,311.70)

ACCOUNT BALANCES

	<u>03/31/26</u>	<u>04/30/26</u>
General Fund	\$179,851.35	\$177,463.17
Foundation Acct	\$181,589.26	\$180,956.98
Youth Restr Acct	\$ 7,742.74	\$ 7,712.75



RESERVE and RESTRICTED FUNDS

	<u>Fund</u>	<u>03/31/2026</u>	<u>04/30/2026</u>
Reserve	Operating Reserve	\$ 28,062.21	\$ 28,062.21
	Property Reserve	7,487.32	7,687.32
	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	12.17	79.17
	Holy Trinity Reserve	12,740.00	12,740.00
Restricted	Seminary Education	35,360.74	34,923.74
	All Other Restricted	2,072.47	2,072.47
	Total Funds	\$ 117,163.07	\$ 116,993.07

Respectfully submitted, Dave Mizell, Treasurer
05/07/2026

Council Notes
Monday, 13 April. 2026

Call to order – Kris

Members present – Pastor Carrie, Kris Miller, Sue Sullivan, Rich Allen, Bruce Williams

Members absent – Kevin Karcher, Dave Mizell, Bob Tuckett

Opening Prayer – Pastor Carrie

Corrected notes from the February meeting and notes from the March meeting were presented – 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. Bruce has also offered to start a draft
- Carrie reported that she is still waiting to hear back from the lawyer on contract mods with Redemption, will go forward with modifications as written
- 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).

Ministry Area reports

- Property – awaiting installation of new door parts for women’s restroom
- Education – Sunday school and Confirmation classes continue. Last day of Sunday School will be 17 May.
- Worship and Music – some choir practice has been held for upcoming services.
- Fellowship – End of school year recognition and picnic being planned for 17 May.
- Outreach – nothing to report
- PDO – Working on publicity efforts to better advertise PDO services.
- Personnel – nothing to report

Treasurer’s report – Report Accepted

	Mar YTD	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Direct Giving	\$19,116.73	\$45,245.56	\$40,000.02
Other Receipts	\$7,442.16	\$22,720.41	\$23,452.00
Total Op Revenues	\$26,658.89	\$68,265.97	\$63,452.02
Spending	\$27,015.43	\$74,142.97	\$70,324.93
Surplus (Deficit)	\$(356.54)	\$(5,877.00)	\$(6,872.91)

- Receipts for March totaled \$26,659. YTD receipts are about \$4800 over budget. Spending totaled \$27,015 which included a large quarterly insurance premium.
- Rick Berry, Theresa Stephens and Dave are doing the 2025 audit.

Old Business

- Tabled to allow time to discuss Mission goals and plans.

New Business

- Tabled to allow time to discuss Mission goals and plans.

Mission discussion

- Discussion about how to further define and expand our current mission statement of growing in faith
- Look to bring in facilitators experienced in helping congregations further develop their missions, plans and actions
- Growing in faith might mean small prayer groups, additional education opportunities, more participation in Sunday service.
- Are we in touch with local charities that used to receive funding thru the Trinity budget? Are we aware of all the regional needs? How do we discover and identify needs of the community?
- How can the greater congregation weigh in with thoughts, comments, ideas?
- Can we support our youth by providing opportunities with the Outdoor Ministry organizations?
- More time and effort is needed to create plans necessary to support the Mission.

Calendar Items

- Sunday, 17 May – End of school year celebration and picnic

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Williams



Drive Up Communion: **June 7**

11:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Upcoming dates:

June 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.scripturepictures.co/Seasonal-Holidays/Summer/i-mXK5jsC/A>



Trinity Lutheran Church
820 Lockett Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Postage