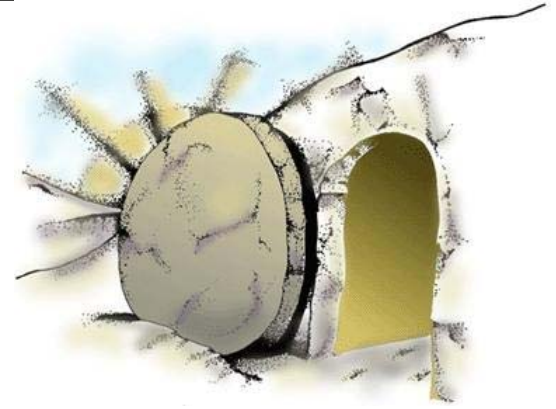


Dear Friends in Christ,

The morning of the resurrection, Jesus met two women at the tomb and told them to “go and tell” (Matthew 28:10). What were they supposed to go and tell? That Jesus was with them: “Do not be afraid.” He said, “Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” Apart from the women, Jesus’ disciples hadn’t seen, felt or heard His presence, but He wasn’t dead. He wanted them to know that He was with them.



The Gospels tells us that not all of them believed it right away. Why?

They were certainly overwhelmed with everything that had happened. Looking at everything through the lenses of the here-and-now, it was hard to focus on what Jesus had taught them and what God had witnessed to people in the Scriptures over thousands of years.

For example, they had just celebrated the Passover. On the first Passover each Hebrew household sacrificed a perfect yearling lamb and sprinkled the blood on the crosspiece and sideposts of the door. The Angel of Death passed over the houses which were protected by the blood of the lamb. At the time, they couldn’t see the connection to Christ’s death on the cross, but later Peter wrote, “*You were saved... with the precious blood of Christ, who was like a pure and perfect lamb*” 1 Peter 1:18-19 (NCV).

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep”
1 Corinthians 15:3-6 (NIV).

Then, during the Passover, they had celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread. For this feast, they cleaned their houses thoroughly, got rid of all leaven, and ate only unleavened bread. The apostle Paul a devout Pharisee at that time would have done that. Later as a Christian he wrote, “*Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth*” 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 (NIV)

Then also, on the day of Christ’s resurrection was the Feast of the Firstfruits. “Firstfruits” refers to the first portion of the harvest. The Feast of Firstfruits was instituted when the people was still wandering, without land or crops. It was observed in faith that God would lead the people to the land He had promised. I’m sure at the time they couldn’t see the connection to Christ, but later on the apostle Paul writes, “*But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep*” 1 Corinthians 15:20 (NIV)

They couldn’t connect any of this at the time. Later however, when Jesus personally met them, He “*opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day’*” Luke 24:45-46 (NIV).

There are times when God just has to open our eyes to see that He’s got everything under control. Faith in Christ is meaningless without the promises of God’s Word. Even though we do not personally see, feel or hear Him. He speaks to us in His Word. He is risen and He is near to you. The women thought they were alone, just as we might think we are alone at times, but it’s not true. (continued next page)



**Trinity's Vacation Bible School for 2018:
Shipwrecked—Rescued by Jesus!
June 18-22, 6-8 pm
VBS Celebration BBQ and
Concert by the Watoto Children's Choir on Friday, 22nd**

Our most important resource need for VBS is people. God uses His people (that's us!) to love children and to bring them to Jesus. Please keep VBS in mind as you plan for the summer. Teaching VBS with the curriculum we use is designed to be easy. Everything is planned and laid out for you. Group sizes are small. We use both teachers and helpers for each group, so no teacher is leading alone. Lessons are only 15 minutes long.

Of course, we all have different gifts and abilities, and not everyone will be able to teach. If that's the case for you, there are many ways you can still help with VBS:

- Begin praying now for the children and families that will be impacted by the gospel message through our VBS. Pray for God to work powerfully through us.
- Think about people you could invite to VBS and places you could place/distribute advertising flyers. Make a list!
- Volunteer to help with: registration and attendance, providing and serving snacks, running the video and sound desk, serving in our closing celebration BBQ on Friday.
- Begin putting aside items you may have that we could borrow for the set we will create (see list below)

Our theme this year is "Shipwrecked-Rescued by Jesus." Our set will have a tropical island theme. Some of the things we will be looking to borrow or use to create our set are:

- Artificial tropical greenery (palms, ferns, palm leaves, tropical flowers, tropical plants)
- Natural color rope for building a castaways' shelter
- Carpet tubes for creating palm trees and our castaways' shelter (the sooner we get these the better, since other churches will be looking for them too. We could easily use 8-10.)
- Rustic wood boxes/crates
- Old-fashioned lanterns like what might be used on a ship (decorative, does not have to work)
- Tiki torches, clean and decorative (We will not be lighting them)
- Sea chests/foot-lockers/old-fashioned suitcases for ship travel
- Large anchor and chain
- Raffia/bamboo décor (curtains, mats/garland)
- Life preserver décor
- Large stuffed animals or posters/pictures of: sea gulls, parrots, toucans, sea turtles, sting rays, sloths, monkeys, green lizards, tropical ocean fish
- Sea shells, sand dollars, sea stars, sea glass
- Fish net décor

Questions? Comments? Contact Jill Boylan: jill@boylansweb.net, 217-379-3214

The River Will Rise



Elder Chairman's Message

In my haste to meet last month's newsletter deadline, I failed to attach all the correct documents for Marianne. What follows was my intended article, which still rings as true this month. Enjoy...

The rain just kept falling. It fell for a solid week across the Midwest and in our area, with stretches of heavy rain. With the sun completely hidden most of the time, you could scarcely tell what time of day it was without sneaking a peek at the clock. The WCIA-3 weather guys - Kevin, Jack & Adam all had a pretty repetitive routine—morning showers, followed by strong winds and rain all day and into the night with periods of heavy rain. They would occasionally add in the “wintry mix” comment, but with temperatures so warm, it wouldn't stick. Low lying areas have a high potential for flooding. Rivers and streams will completely fill, and widespread flooding is expected as the storm continues into the weekend.



I didn't see a rainbow when these storms ended, but recalled God's Old Testament promise to Noah. We could watch the Sangamon River rise right behind our house. As the banks overflowed and the flooding continued, eventually the river became part of the back yard. You know its close when you can “hear the river” flowing through the tall timber, and making all sorts of splashing, bubbling, rushing and gurgling sounds. Occasionally there's a loud crack & splash as a tree or large limb meets its demise. I've grown somewhat used to it, after living beside the river since 2005. The sights and sounds of the river are equally impressive when there's thick ice on top, (but that's another story).



At first glance you see the flood water has covered every inch of land in its path. Next you make an assessment of how deep it is, by how much of the tree trunks or other landmarks are covered. You can see bubbles, branches, and the surging current racing downstream. It seems like a relentlessly powerful event for which you have front row seats, but no control of at all.

If we take to heart some of Pastor Shawn's teaching from his Feb. 21st Lenten sermon (which was to *be still*) and really listen, then God can speak rather clearly to us. (See *Mark 6:30-34*) Take time out from the hustle and bustle of the day, and relax. Get away from things for a while, even if it's just for a few minutes, and refuel your spiritual batteries. In those “be still” times, the river of your life may represent many different things, some helpful and others not. Seek Jesus and ask for his guidance and comfort, and wait patiently on Him, as he reveals his plan for you and your life here, in this place, at this time. (continued next page)

What does a river represent to you? God's love and grace flows from him like a River. His river is unstoppable. His river has no end. His river continues forever. Don't be afraid to get into your "faith boat," and take your lifelong journey in God's River. It's the only river that leads to eternal life with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Billy Graham, perhaps the world's most well know modern evangelist, passed away on February 22nd at the age of 99. Billy said "Being a Christian is more than just an instantaneous conversion - it is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ". Billy Graham boldly proclaimed God's Grace and Christ Crucified. He also said "My home is in Heaven. I'm just traveling through this world." I believe Billy was a servant of the Lord, who followed the Lord's call, to be an instrument whereby those who heard God's word, could be moved and transformed by the Holy Spirit. May we all continue to grow to be more like Christ, until that day when our life's river excursion ends, and we step out of our faith boat, to meet him at our heavenly home.

In HIS Service,
Kevin Donoho – TLC - Elder Chairman

YoungLives Baby Bottle Fundraiser 2018



COINS
FOR
CAMP

The international ministry of Young Life (www.younglife.org) sponsors a number of faith based programs for teens, and one of these programs, YoungLives, provides Christ-centered mentoring and support for a group of teenage moms in Champaign County. The world sees a teen mom and her child. We see a girl who needs the unconditional love of Christ, and the encouragement to become the woman and mother God created them to be. YoungLives is about loving teen moms in the

midst of the circumstances they're in – no matter what they are. Because we've experienced mercy, compassion, and grace through a relationship with Christ, we desire to love teen moms in the condition they come to us.

A group of teen moms and their babies from our area - Young Life Champaign County (<http://il19.younglife.org>) will be attending summer camp in northern Michigan from July 17 to 22, 2018 and we could use your prayers and support. Camp fees and travel cost each teen mom and child \$750. A favorite fundraiser to raise funds for camp expenses has been the Baby Bottle idea! We hand out baby bottles to all interested during the middle of April. It can sit on the kitchen counter or your work desk; and daily change/bills can be dropped in over the days and weeks before Mother's Day. We collect them on Mother's Day and all funds collected goes directly to camp expenses.



Here at Trinity: Mid-April you will be able to pick up a Baby Bottle in the narthex for Coins for Camp donations. Judy Roegge will be collecting the bottles; the deadline will be the weekend of May 12-13. Thank you again for your prayers and support!

JOY Group will meet April 18th at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Come catch up! It's been awhile!



YOUR LCMS AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS AT WORK

Lutheran Women Missionary League

Who We Are: The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) is the official women’s auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For 75 years, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman’s relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

Vision Statement: The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.



Trinity’s LWML group, Women in Mission, are meeting April 10 at 6:00p at the church. Hostesses for the month are Carolyn Meyer and Liz Knocke. Ruth Benton will be giving the devotion. Pastor Shawn will be giving the Quarterly topic . The Rummage Sale Set-up begins Sunday, April 29 and goes through Wednesday, May 2. The Rummage Sale runs Thursday, May 3 and Friday, May 4 from 8:00-4:00p with the Bag Sale running Saturday, May 5 from 8:00-12:00p. Any and **all** help is greatly appreciated.



New Sunday Morning Small Group What in the world is going on? Are we in the “end times” or approaching the end of the age? Let’s journey through the Bible, looking at the PAST, the PRESENT, and the FUTURE in answer to the ABOVE QUESTIONS.

We’ll look at various topics and subject matter that relate to the above questions and relate to the following topics: understanding end time prophecy, the life and times of Jesus, Israel, heaven, hell, salvation, the Rapture, etc.

The tentative start date is Sunday, April 15th, between services in the Conference Room. We will start our study looking at the book, *The Harbinger*, by Jonathan Cahn. If there are any questions, please contact Al Willms. 217-367-2432 or agwillms@yahoo.com



Wee Disciples Preschool News

Wee Disciples Preschool is quickly filling up for the 2018-19 school year. Registration continues in the month of April. If you know of any families with preschool age children who may be interested in our program, please share with them that they can register at any time. Registration forms and program brochures are available right outside the preschool classroom. We also have a wealth of information on the church/preschool website. I am happy to answer any questions that families may have regarding our program. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

During the month of April, we will focus our Bible Time on learning about the Easter story and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will also end the month taking some time to learn about the “fruits of the spirit.” The students have really grown in knowledge about Jesus over the past several months. I pray that they always know God’s love for us and use this love to follow Jesus’ teaching.

There is no school for preschool on April 2nd for Easter Monday. I wish everyone a happy Easter time to celebrate that Jesus Christ lives for us. April Reading Buddy time will be held on Wednesday, April 4thth starting at 10:30 am. Then we have Chapel with Pastor Shawn on April 18 and 19th.

We begin April by talking about Spring and the signs of Spring. Then we will dive into a study about tools and building/construction. To see pictures of our preschool fun, please check out our Wee Disciples Preschool Facebook page this month.

God’s Blessings,
Karen Rohrer, Director and Teacher

Thrivent Choice Dollars Each year Thrivent policy holders need to designate where their Choice Dollars go. All Thrivent policy holders should go to: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/> and direct your Choice Dollars to Trinity Lutheran Church, Urbana, IL. The funds go to Wee Disciples Preschool. If this is done by March 31, 2018, the preschool will get all the 2017 dollars, otherwise the dollars will go to

March Financial Report		March Attendance Report		
Date	Weekly Totals	Date	Attendees	Communion
03/04/2018	\$8,381	03/04/2018	175	147
03/11/2018	\$6,403	03/11/2018	164	138
03/18/2018	\$5,177	03/18/2018	145	123
03/25/2018	\$5,293	03/25/2018	126	98
Weekly Budgeted Amount	\$7,746			
YTD Budget Amount	\$92,948			
YTD Receipts	\$78,004			

TRINITY'S OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE!

As we look forward to participating again in 2018, please consider these year-round gift ideas. Please post the chart where you will continue with various gift purchases the remainder of the year. Thank you!



YEAR-ROUND GIFT IDEAS

Savvy shoppers know that they can impact more children around the world for eternity by looking for shoebox items throughout the year. Check out our packing guide for the suggested item of the month. You can use this guide to help put together shoebox gifts that are sure to bless and delight boys and girls.

 Hats, Gloves & Scarves January	 Dental February	 Sewing & Tools March	 Small Stuffed Animals April
 Hygiene May	 Toys June	 Clothing July	 School Supplies August
 Games September	 Musical Instruments October	 Letter, Photo & \$7 Donation November	 PRAY December



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/2 Helene Strater
4/3 Connor McElwain
4/4 Jhane Reifsteck
4/5 Sandy Burt
4/6 Vickie Phelps
4/6 Gary Revell
4/7 James Wanagat
4/8 Dave Becker
4/8 Mark Bull
4/9 Larry Seggebruch
4/11 Katherine Rossow
4/12 Matthew Becker
4/13 Leonor Canteras
4/14 Margaret Rossow
4/15 Lowell Timm
4/17 Cheryl Farruggia
4/19 Hilary Rouse
4/25 Brenda Donoho
4/25 Jack Peifer
4/26 Doyle Hartle
4/27 Katrina Holhubner
4/28 Donna Jedele
4/30 Debbie Cagle

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4/4 Jim & Betty Albers (48 yrs)
4/7 Kevin & Brenda Donoho (29 yrs)
4/20 Dean & Pamela Hull (33 yrs)
4/30 Charles Reifsteck & Lisa Courtney (35 yrs)
4/30 Nicholas & Deirdre Tsiakals (18 yrs)

"May the Lord *bless* you
and *protect* you.
may the Lord smile on you
and be gracious to you.
May the Lord show you his *favor*
and give you his *peace*."
Numbers 6:24-26



THOSE WHO SERVE:

USHERS 8:30

Fred Holhubner, John Steer

10:45

4/1 Rossow Family
4/8 Brent & Blake Burr
4/15 Rossow Family
4/22 Debasai & Yosef Stifanos
4/29 Rossow Family

ELDERS

Saturdays: Richard Adams

4/1 Kevin Donoho
4/8 Nick Tsiakals
4/15 Jim Wanagat
4/22 David Kuehn
4/29 TBD
Jim Rossow (L)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

4/1 Jill Boylan
4/8 Risë Lange
4/15 Deb Winkel/Hilary Rouse
4/22 Sandy Burt (E) Carol Niemann (L)
4/29 Pastor Shawn

CANTORS/READERS

4/1 8:30 Donna Schaal
10:45 Stephen Bean
4/8 8:30 Dee Dee Williams
10:45 Brent Burr
4/15 8:30 Kevin Donoho
10:45 Phyllis Johnston
4/22 8:30 Fred Holhubner
10:45 Randy Niemann
4/29 8:30 Jan Kane
10:45 Stephen Bean

AUDIO/VIDEO

4/1 Karl Newman
4/8 Wayne Schmidt
4/15 Wayne Schmidt
4/22 TBD
4/29 TBD

ALTAR GUILD

Mary Ellen Dorner

Pastoral Care

Pastor Shawn Boylan
cell: 217.379.7443
pastorshawn@trinity-urbana.org

Pastor Donald Ehlers
cell: 703.472.3624
ddehlers@comcast.net

Ministry Team

Marianne Whitacre, Secretary
Office Hours: M-F 8:00a-2:00p
Office phone: 217.367.8923
marianne@trinity-urbana.org

Brenda Donoho, Organist
home: 217.586.5865
knbdonoho@gmail.com

Jason Gardner, Choir Conductor
Cell: 317.670.0154
jpg2@illinois.edu

Ruth Benton, Parish Nurse
rabenton1@comcast.net

Sunday School

Jill Boylan Carol Niemann
Allison Allender Nick Tsiakals

Wee Disciples Preschool

weedisciplespreschool@yahoo.com
Karen Rohrer, Director/Teacher
office: 217.607.2096
cell: 217.778.5206
Sara Sullivan, Board Chairman





TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL 2018

Experiencing and
Sharing Jesus

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EASTER SUNDAY 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt/ BP-✓ 10:00a Trinity WDWS 10:45a Contemporary Service	2 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00p Youth Fellowship 7:00p Women's Book Group	3 9:30a Bible Study 7:00p Home Fellowship	4 10:30a Reading Buddies 6:00p Choir 6:00p Pieces of Love	5 6:30a Breakfast Bible Study 6:00p Ministry Council 6:30p Girl Scouts	6 6:30p Home Bible Study	7 5:30p Worship Service
8 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Service 12:00 Confirmation Class 12:00p Young Adult Bible Study 6:30p Couples Bible Study	9 6:00p LWML-WIM 7:00p Home Fellowship	10 9:30a Bible Study 6:00p Choir 7:00p Home Fellowship	11 6:00p Choir	12 5:30p Preschool Board 6:30p Girl Scouts	13 6:30p Home Bible Study	14 5:30p Worship Service
15 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a Sunday School 10:00a Trinity WDWS 10:45a Contemporary Service 12:00p Confirmation Class 2:00p Cottage Bible Study	16 5:30p Property Management 7:00p Youth Fellowship 7:00p Women's Book Group	17 9:30a Bible Study 7:00p Home Fellowship	18 11:30a JOY Group 6:00p Choir 6:00p Pieces of Love	19 6:30a Breakfast Bible Study 6:30p Girl Scouts	20 NEWSLETTER ITEMS 6:30p Home Bible Study	21 5:30p Worship Service
22 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Service 12:00 Confirmation Class 6:30p Couples Bible Study	23 30 Rummage Sale Set-up	24 9:30a Bible Study 7:00p Home Fellowship	25 6:00p Choir	26 6:30p Girl Scouts	27 6:30p Home Bible Study	28 5:30p Worship Service
29 Rummage Sale Set-up 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a Sunday School 10:00a Trinity WDWS 10:45a Contemporary Service 12:00 Confirmation Class						