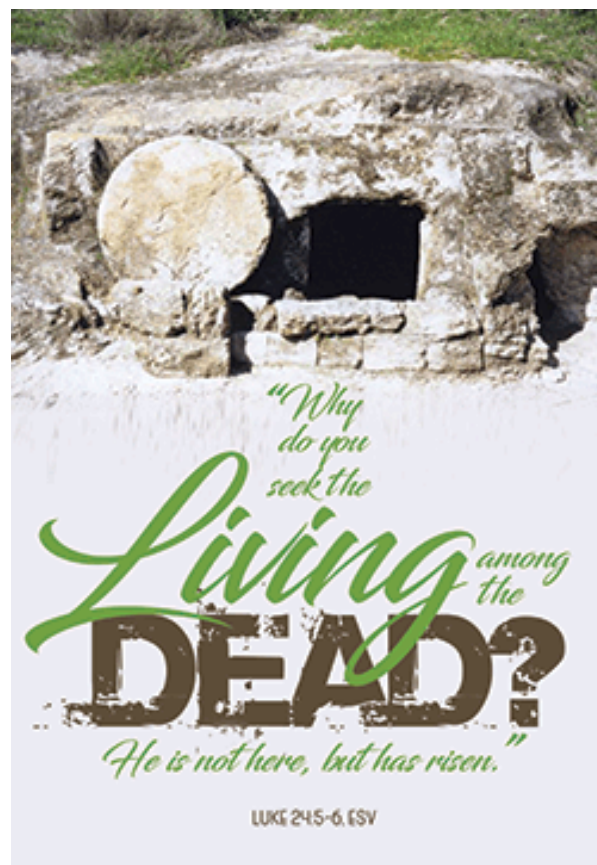




APRIL 2025



**701 East Florida Avenue
Urbana, Illinois 61801
trinity-urbana.org
Phone: 217-367-8923
Rev. Joel Cluver, Vacancy Pastor**

**Liturgical Worship - Saturday - 5:30pm and Sunday - 8:30am Contemporary Worship - Sunday - 10:45am
Join us online - Sunday - 8:30am & 10:45am**



Dear Friends in Christ,

The Lenten Season will shortly be drawing to a close. We have two mid-week Wednesday Lenten Services remaining at 6pm on April 2nd and April 9th.

Maundy Thursday Service is April 17th and Good Friday April 18th, both services at 6pm.

On Saturday April 19th (5:30pm) and Sunday April 20th (8:30am and 10:45am) join us for the celebration of Easter. Because Jesus lives, we also live! He is the Resurrection and the Life! Whoever lives and believes in Him will never die!

It is as the hymn writer, Samuel Medley (1775) wrote: (LSB 461, verses 1,8)

I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever living head.

He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Yours in Christ,
Vacancy Pastor Joel Cluver



Changes That Come in Our Lives

We have all had to make some changes in our lives at some time. The most common ones are leaving your parents' home to live on your own. Getting married and living with someone else again. Starting a new job or changing jobs. Moving to a new city. These are all common but sometimes the changes are very difficult and hard on us. We also see these in the Bible.

Adam and Eve were evicted from their home in the Garden of Eden and had to bear the pain of childbirth and hard work toiling in the soil for their food. The death of their son Abel was another unwanted change.

The world had gotten so evil that God took the only righteous family and had them build a huge boat. They were ridiculed while building the boat by everyone for over a hundred years. Then came the flood and the earth had changed. There is only Noah and his Family.

Abraham lived in what was considered a modern city. Then God had him become a nomad and live in a tent, moving him all over the place. Then God was going to destroy the town where his nephew Lot lived because it was full of evil. Because of Abraham's praying, Lot and his daughters were saved from the destruction.

Jacob had twelve sons, eleven of whom did not like Joseph since he was Jacob's favorite. They devised a plan to get rid of him and threw him in a well to die.

We can go on and on about the changes that have happened to God's people. But one that has been true most of the time, is that people do not like change unless it benefits them in some way. The one thing that has never changed is God's love for his people. Adam and Eve's sin in the garden got them kicked out of their home. They were ashamed and tried to hide from God. Even though God changed their lives he gave them a promise. Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel." This is God's first promise of a Savior.

The one thing that has never changed no matter where you are or what you have done, is God's Promise. John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son to condemn the world but to save the world through him."

If it were up to us to save ourselves we would fail miserably. We can only be saved by accepting that Jesus died for us to take away our sins.

Changes come. We will have some changes that will happen over the next months. We could have a different Pastor each weekend until our Vacancy Pastor starts. We might have to change our Worship schedule or times. This could change week to week so we need to be flexible. God has a plan for Trinity Lutheran Church and we need to listen to Him even if that means we need to change some things. For we come to worship and praise God to Honor Him.

David Nation

CALL COMMITTEE

On March 23, the membership of Trinity voted to extend a call to Rev. Brian McQuiggin to be our next pastor.

This is an exciting and nervous time for us, as I am sure it is for Pastor McQuiggin's family and the folks of his current congregation at River of Life Lutheran Church in Saint Peter, Minnesota. We should all join them in praying for God's good guidance as Pastor McQuiggin considers this call, and that the Lord's peace will rest on all of us regardless of the decision.

In accordance with LCMS guidelines, we sent Pastor McQuiggin the official call document with the following general information:

- Trinity's Constitution & Bylaws
- A pictorial church directory
- A sample service bulletin
- A sample monthly newsletter
- Links to relevant information about the Champaign-Urbana community
- A description of dual-credit programs offered by the two public school systems in partnership with Parkland Community College

We also told Pastor McQuiggin that we would be pleased to host him and his family for a visit to Trinity.

In His service -The Call Committee



Spring Work Day!
Saturday, April 12
9 AM

For those who like to get dirty:
FLOWER BED CLEANUP!

For those who like to fight dirt:
WINDOW WASHING!



WIM News

Remember to save your treasures for our **upcoming rummage sale on May 8-10**. Set up begins Sunday, May 4, and continues through Wednesday, May 7. You may bring your donations Sat. evening, May 3, throughout the week until the day of the sale and leave them in the Fellowship Hall. If you need to bring donations in earlier, you may place them on the shelving in the northeast storage closet of the Fellowship Hall. Call or text Faith Wetzels at 217-714-4177 or Nina Frank at 320-360-7937 for more information. We always receive a wide and wonderful variety of donations but are unable to accept electronics or used child car seats. There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex later this month for people who would like to volunteer to help with our rummage sale and/or provide food donations for our workers. Your support is always much appreciated.

LWML CID Mission Grant #8 – Bible Storybooks for Ghana’s Children

The mission field in Ghana is unique in that many Muslim children attend Lutheran grade schools to receive a quality education and 80% of the country’s adults are illiterate. Ghanaian pastors want to use Lutheran books in that education. Funds will be sent to Lutheran Heritage Foundation for the translation and subsequent printing of ‘A child’s Garden of Bible Stories’ and Luther’s Small Catechism.

Pray that God provides/uses these books to help the Ghana children and adults to become Christian.

Editor’s Note: I am going to take this opportunity to use (or abuse) my position as assembler of the newsletter to say a word about WIM. During this call process I have been guilty of fretting over our limitations as a congregation, rather than focusing on the opportunities that surround us and the God who empowers us to accomplish things beyond our knowing. Many of these accomplishments have been occurring right under our noses for a long, long time. Throughout the 40+ years that I have been at Trinity, the WIM/LWML group has been a constant presence encouraging us all, overtly and by example, to be a beacon in this community where God has placed us. They go about their business diligently and modestly, but they are always here and always serving in ways great and small. Thank you, ladies, on behalf of all of us.

LENTEN GIVING PROJECT



Instead of 'giving up' something for Lent, join us in 'giving' for Lent! Each week during the Lenten Season, Trinity will collect fresh grocery items to add to the food pantry at Grace Lutheran Church in Champaign. A box will be available in the Narthex for you to drop your donation. Please have your donation at church by noon on the listed date.

April 6 - 1 lb. bag of carrots
April 13 - 3 lb. bag of onions

NOTE: Bags cannot be divided due to health code rules. Please adhere to sizes noted: for instance - two 1 lb bags of carrots is ok, but one 2 lb bag is not. If any clarification information is needed, speak with Jan Kane, Hiliary Rouse, or Dee Dee Williams.

Homeless Care Kits

Winter is a hard time for the unhoused population, so we want to do something to cheer them up after the long, hard season. Women in Mission (LWML) will be collecting supplies to put together homeless care kits throughout the month of March. Items that are helpful include (travel sizes especially):

Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
Deodorant & Hand Sanitizer
Combs & Brushes
Soaps & Lotions
Tissues & Washcloths
Razors & Shaving Cream
Snack Packages & Small Water Bottles
& Whatever else you think might help a person who lives on the go!



Collection ends April 5!

**We will put these care packages together at our April meeting,
so feel free to join us to bless the bags together.**

Join us for
Easter Brunch



**Sunday, March 20
Between Services**

Food! Games! Trivia!

**COME CELEBRATE WITH
US!**

Please sign up in the Narthex if you can
bring food and/or help



Registration for the 2025-26 school year 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 at www.trinity-urbana.org. I am happy to answer any questions that families may have regarding our program. Please do not hesitate to contact me at weedisciplespreschool@yahoo.com.

During the month of April, our Bible Time focus is the Easter story with the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. 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' teachings. Also, we begin this month with a unit of study about transportation, and we will end the month learning about flowers and Spring. We have Reading Buddy Time on April 2. Our annual Easter Egg Hunts are on April 16 & 17 and there is no school for the preschool on April 18th, Good Friday, and April 21, Easter Monday. Chapel with Carol Niemann is on April 23 & 24 followed by story time with the Rouses and their comfort dogs is April 25th.

I would like to take a moment to thank and recognized the members of the Preschool Committee. This year our members are Carol Niemann, Ginger Roney, Brent Burr, Andrea Nation, Susan Sheppelman, Barb Albers, and Jennifer Shoemaker. I am so grateful to this group of caring individuals who give their time to the service of Wee Disciples Preschool and Trinity Lutheran Church.

Easter Blessings to all,
Karen Rohrer, Director, and Teacher

Another big THANK YOU to all the people who have helped with Sunday Coffee Fellowship for March. They are such a blessing for all our congregation.

Vacation Bible School will be held **July 28th through August 1st**. Starting at 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Please mark your calendars. Come join us for fun evening activities learning about JESUS. We also are in need of volunteers to help share the Good News of Jesus and help make this VBS happen. Any questions please contact Nina Frank 320-360-7937 or Jennifer Holhubner 217-840-9439.

Just a reminder that if you would like to purchase Easter Lilies for the altar please sign up on the sheet on the table in the Narthex.

- submitted by Nina Frank



March Giving Report

Submitted by Marianne Whitacre, Treasurer

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Other Designated</u>
3/2	7,948	8,037	501
3/9	4,771	2,515	122
3/16	3,175	1,475	17
3/23	4,576	2,000	15
3/30	3,511	12,997	16
Direct Deposit Gifts	750	290	0
Subtotals	24,731	27,314	671
General Fund Budget Need/Month	34,444		

	As of Feb. 25	Budget
Total Income	14,130.19	34,229.72
Total Expense	17,650.82	32,103.21
Mortgage	4,127.50	4,000
Net Income	-7,648.13	-1,873.49

Treasurer's Report: Our Net Income shows a deficit of around \$7648. With the Lenten and Easter season upon us, hopefully, we will make up this deficit. The Parish Council is ever aware and are looking into ways to meet our budget as the year progresses. A balance of \$477,112 was reported in the Building Fund. As indicated above large donations were made and will be paid on that balance. In addition, a special payment from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund will also go towards the Building Fund.



04/02	Helene Strater	04/19	Hilary Rouse
04/03	Connor McElwain	04/24	Greg Williams
04/04	Hannah Carmichael	04/25	Brenda Donoho
	Robert Okerlund	04/25	Jack Peifer
04/05	Debra Okerlund	04/26	Doyle Hartle
04/06	Kristen Stout	04/27	Katrina Holhubner
04/07	Jim Wanagat	04/30	Debbie Cagle
04/17	Ben Riefsteck		

04/07 Kevin & Brenda Donoho (36 years)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6p Lenten Service 6:45p Choir	3 7a Breakfast Bible Study	4	5 5:30p Worship Service
6 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Service	7 6:15p Women's Book Club	8 6:30p Women in Mission	9 6p Lenten Service 6:45p Choir	10	11	12 5:30p Worship Service
13 Palm Sunday 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	14	15 6p Parish Council	16 5p Pieces of Love 6:30p Choir	17 7a Breakfast Bible Study 6p Maundy Thursday Service	18 No Preschool 6p Good Friday Service	19 5:30p Worship Service
20 Easter Sunday 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a Easter Brunch 10:45a Contemporary Service	21 No Preschool 6:15p Women's Book Club	22	23 5p Pieces of Love 6:30p Choir	24	25 7p Friday Nite Small Group at Church	26
27 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	28	29	30 5p Pieces of Love			