

# Trinity Tidings

A monthly newsletter for family and friends of historic Trinity Lutheran Church-Prairie, Illinois

Volume 374, Issue 463

April 2026

## Table of Contents

Pastor's Message	1
Council Minutes	2
Special Voters' Min	4
Bs & As	5
School	6
Key Inventory	6
ANNA Group	6
Rummage Sale	7
BOCE	8-9
Invitation	10
TT deadline	10
Altar Guild	10
Acolyte Schedule	10
Usher Schedule	10
Welcome	11
Lily Sale	12
Thank You	12
Tornado	13-19
Treasurer's Rpt	20-21
Calendar	22
Editor's Note	23

## Pastor's Message:

“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’” (John 8:12)

The church's celebration of Christ's resurrection begins early on Easter Sunday morning (Sunrise Service) with the lighting of the Paschal Candle, accompanied by the proclamation, “The Light of Christ!” This largest candle is marked with a cross and the Greek letters Alpha (A) and Omega (Ω), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, symbolizing the eternity of Christ (see Revelation 1:8, 22:13). The Paschal Candle remains lit throughout the Easter Season.

It is also lit on two other occasions in the life of the church. When the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is given, we recall that Baptism is God's

**Continue on page 4/Message**

## Official Acts

**Wedding:** Aaron & Emily (Luebke) Kothe on March 14

**Baptism:** Reygan Leedle on March 28

**Confirmation:** Maggie Roy, Micah Sattler, & Kelton Schnepel on March 29



## Trinity Workers

*Pastor:* Rev. Scott Hojnacki  
Phone: 282-2882  
E-Mail: trinitypastor@htc.net

*Principal/Teacher:* Dr. Robin Booth  
School Phone: 282-2881  
E-Mail: office@trinityredbud.com

*Church Music Director:* Sarah Koester

*Teachers:* Cassie O'Hara, Andrea Sattler, Alyssa Wetzel, Angie Trask, Andrew Wiggenhorn

*Church Secretary:*  
E-Mail: church@trinityredbud.com  
Office Phone: 282-2882  
FAX: 282-4045

*School Choir Director:* Andrew Wiggenhorn

*Youth Leader:* Lisa Luebke

*School Secretary:* Joyce Stehl  
School Phone: 282-2881  
E-Mail: jstehl@trinityredbud.com

*Trinity Tidings Editor:* Maureen Liefer



**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
10235 S. Prairie Road  
Red Bud, IL 62278

**Trinity Lutheran School**  
10247 S. Prairie Road  
Red Bud, IL 62278

Visit Trinity Lutheran Church & School on the Web <http://www.trinityredbud.com>

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting  
March 3, 2026

**Present:** Pastor Hojnacki, Ken Fehr, Mark Liefer, Kathy Nagel, Dean Schoenbeck, Brenda Brewer. Roger Liefer, Cliff Harms, Michael Koester, Tim Luebkekmann, and Robin Booth.

**Opening:** Chairman Ken Fehr called the meeting to order. Pastor led us in prayer.

**Secretary's Report:** With no changes or corrections, a motion was made, seconded and moved to accept the secretary's report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dean presented the treasurer's report. We have had a few donations coming in from outside sources to help pay for teachers at Trinity. There were no unusual expenses for January or February. However, the expenses for those two months have exceeded the income by \$38,000. The Dieterich LOC is at \$7,312 and the Liefer LOC is at \$15,173. The building fund had expenses of \$1483 for furnace repair at the school and church. We were short again this month on reaching our mission budget. A motion was made, seconded and moved to accept the treasurer's report.

**Pastor's Report:** Attendance for Feb was good with an average of 120 each weekend. Ash Wednesday there were 80 in attendance. In official acts, we had three adults confirmed on February 8, Mandy Wandro, and Billy and Hannah Walter. On February 28, the three Walter children were baptized, Waylon, Lincoln, and Flynn. There was one transfer out, Emily Luebkekmann to St. Paul, Wine Hill. Emily and Aaron Kothe will be married here at Trinity on March 14. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation questioning will be held on March 25, with 4 students, one of them is a member of Ruma. Palm Sunday, the three Trinity 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be confirmed here. The following week is Holy Week, with Easter on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Elder's Report:** Tim Luebkekmann reported that someone has offered to pay for the new computer needed for church. He will continue to research the best computer for our needs. One other major problem is the internet capabilities in the church and parsonage. He checked with HTC and they will be running fiber optic down South Prairie by summer. We only have a current speed of about 15. With the fiber optic we could have a speed of 50 to 300. They will try to get us some temporary equipment for free until the fiber optic is available to increase our speed. The fiber optic would raise our cost about \$20 a month. Tim will inquire if we could run the church and parsonage under the same router to save money. With the new internet we would have a lot more capabilities in regards to recording our services, maybe even live stream. Another suggestion was if that would be possible, we could possibly eliminate the services on WHCO and eliminate that cost of about \$1600 annually, along with a subscription fee for the editing software. In addition, this would eliminate the time it takes each week, for someone to edit the service down to 26 minutes This will be brought up to the congregation to get feedback on this.

**Principal's Report:** Robin reported that the career day went well last week. This

**Continue on page 3/Council**

**Church Council:**

Friday, Bob, the animal guy will be at school. Also on Friday night is a Bunco Night, open to the public. Today the Wind Symphony of Concordia University Chicago presented a concert here at Trinity School, which was enjoyed by everyone. Robin attended the America 250 meeting in Red Bud, which the event will be held Aug 29<sup>th</sup>. They are looking for people to set up booths with info to share. The Pre-K Roundup will be held March 16.

**Trustees Report:** A bid was received from Prime Cutting to continue doing the lawn mowing. He raised his price for this year as labor and expenses continue to increase. He only charges if he cuts; if it's dry and he does not cut we do not have to pay. He also offered that if we sign up with him for 4 years, he would lower the price for two years with the option that he could raise the price after two years but no more than 5%. After discussion, it was noted he does a very good job and we will sign the contract for four years.

**Redecoration Voters Meeting:** This Sunday will be the voters meeting to make final decisions on the flooring, moving the rail and the pews.

**School Board:** It was noted that all the teachers have signed their contract for next year. Plans are to raise the tuition next year, and to lower the credit for volunteer hours from \$20 to \$15 per hour.

**Pastor's Anniversary:** Pastor Hojnacki will be celebrating his 10<sup>th</sup> year here at Trinity this month. Plans are being made for an open house celebration on Friday evening, April 10. More details will be announced when plans are in place.

The meeting was adjourned. Pastor led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Nagel, Secretary



**MAUNDY  
THURSDAY**

**Maundy Thursday, April 2**

**Good Friday, April 3**

**Easter Sunday, April 5**



**Special Voters Meeting  
March 8, 2026**

A special meeting was called to order by Chairman Ken Fehr with 56 members present. The meeting was to vote on 3 proposals from the redecorating committee.

**The Flooring:** Do we want to replace the flooring as we have now, hard flooring under the pews and carpeting down the isle and in the chancel area? Or do we want to go with all laminate flooring with different options, such as a different color or design down the aisle and the chancel? This would save about \$20,000 if we did not use carpeting, and it would be easier for the janitor. After a brief discussion a motion was made to go with all laminate flooring. By a show of hands, the motion passed.

**The Kneeling Rail:** It was proposed to move the rail out 18 inches and further to each side. This will allow more room for administering communion, a larger opening to step up to the chancel, and it will be easier for the ushers to change the numbers on the song board. A motion was made to move the rail as proposed. By a show of hands, the motion passed.

**Pews:** With the railing moved out further, at least one row of pews will need to be removed. Since all the pews will need to be removed to do the flooring, it was proposed to eliminate two rows of pews. And then the pews would be spaced approximately 4 inches further apart to allow more room when moving in and out of the pews. This will also allow more room in the front, especially for funerals, etc. A motion was made to remove the two rows of pews and space them further apart. By a show of hands, the motion passed.

The radio broadcast of our church services on WHCO was brought up. The Council would like feedback to know how many people listen to these services. Since you can watch the whole service on the internet, are people still listening to WHCO? If we find people are listening to the services it will remain, but if we find no one is listening, we may just run ads to let people know where to watch the complete service on the internet. This would be a cost savings.

With no other business, the motion was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Nagel, Secretary

---

**Message:**

granting of new life, in connection with Christ’s resurrection (see Romans 6:4-5). Those who are baptized are given a smaller candle, lit from the Paschal Candle, symbolic of the Light of Christ which now shines within them.

The other is during Funerals, as a confession of faith, hope, and the assurance of the final resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come (see John 11:25-26). The central message of every Christian funeral is not hopeless sorrow, or mere eulogizing, but rather the resurrection of Christ and the promise of eternal life to all who believe in Him.

When you see the Paschal Candle lit on Easter Sunday, and any other time, remember the Resurrection of Christ, the Light of the World, and that the light of His life guides us through the darkness of this world to the life of the world to come.

**April Birthdays\***

**April 3**

Lisa Ratz  
Paul Rehmer  
LeRose Wandro

**April 4**

Cain Huegle

**April 5**

Nicholas Stamm  
Seth Trask  
Cora Worthington

**April 6**

Ronald Fehr  
Flynn Walter  
Lincoln Walter

**April 7**

Jennifer Voss

**April 9**

Ella Trask

**April 10**

David Buch

**April 11**

Austin Krebs  
Sharon Langrehr

**April 14**

Hannah Walter

**April 15**

Jacob Roberts  
Angie Trask

**April 16**

Marie Everding

**April 17**

Stanley Burmester  
Thomas Goetting

**April 19**

Logan Schoenbeck

**April 20**

Brie Kern  
James Schnepel

**April 21**

Hannah Mehring

**April 22**

Larry Erdmann

**April 23**

Jean Voges

**April 25**

Caleb Mehring  
Claudia Mehring

**April 27**

Sarah Fowler

**April Anniversaries\***

**April 8**

David & Jean Salger

**April 11**

Tyler & Kelsey Jeffers

**April 12**

Matt & Cindy Schaefer

**April 13**

Brent & Pam Piel

**April 15**

Kevin & Dana Salger

**April 18**

Dean & Sheila Schoenbeck

**April 23**

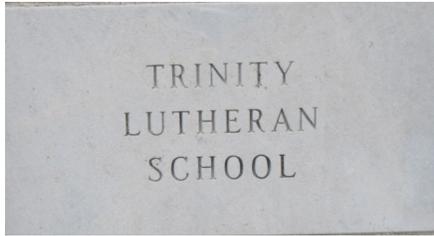
Alan & Karla Mueth

**April 24**

Eugene & Margie Buch  
Greg & Lynnette Elceser



*\*If there are any edits, corrections, deletions, or additions to these lists, please notify Pastor Hojnacki so the church's membership computer program can be updated.  
Thank you!*



### Trinity Lutheran School

Dr. Robin Booth, Principal

**Mission Statement:**

*To aid parents and the church by providing Christian education to nurture children in mind, body, and spirit.*

trinityredbud.com

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

- ⇒ April 2: No school—Maundy Thursday
- ⇒ April 3: No school—Good Friday
- ⇒ April 6: No school—Easter Monday
- ⇒ April 10: Progress reports go home
- ⇒ April 17-19: Spring rummage sale

Month						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat



We are currently updating the key inventory for the school. If you have a key to the building, please stop by the school office to have your key checked and recorded.

If you no longer need your key, please arrange to turn it in. You can contact Joyce in the school office or Charlotte Schnepel at 618-615-2449 to coordinate returning your key.

### Anna (Widows') Group

The Anna (Widows') Group enjoyed the warmer temperatures with a picnic at Lincoln Park on March 19. Devotions on "The Beautiful Feet of Jesus" and "Finally a Widow" and fellowship were shared.



We have 6 devotions remaining in Life After...Devotions for Widows before we move on to our next book, Life Continues On...Devotions for Widows. These devotions include personal reflections, Scripture passages, and practical insights written by widows for widows. We have extra copies of both books for anyone who would like to join us.

Our next gathering is Thursday, April 16, with plans yet to be determined. We are planning a trip to Kimmswick, MO, in the near future. All widows are welcome to join our group at any time. Contact Janice Cowell or Cheryl Sauerhage for more information.



**FRIDAY APRIL 17TH | 1PM - 7PM**  
**SATURDAY 18TH | 9AM - 2PM**  
**SUNDAY 19TH | 11AM - 1PM**

**EVERYTHING  
IS PRICED  
TO GO!**

**Baby & Womens Clothes**  
**Games • Toys • Books**  
**Gentle Used Furniture**  
**Household Items & More!**

10247 S Prairie Road, Red Bud, IL 62278

**ITEM DROP OFF AT TRINITY:**  
**April 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**5pm - 7pm**  
**April 12th 2pm - 4pm**

**\*\*Do not leave items outside unattended.\*\***

**Please, no drop offs during school. Gym doors will remain locked during school hours.**

### **Trinity Lutheran BOCE Meeting 1-28-2026**

Present: Pastor, Lori Woods, Cheri Lange, Jonathan Mehring, Charlotte Schnepel, Julie Fehr, Stephanie Stamm

Finance report: Charlotte provided the November and December monthly reports and the annual report with year end totals. They were reviewed and approved (Motion made by Lori Woods, seconded by Cheri Lange).

#### Old Business:

Trivia night will be held Friday February 6th, Silent auction items can be brought that night.

The December basketball tournament went well. No issues to report and had plenty of help. Will definitely consider having it again next year.

#### New Business:

We welcome new members Stephanie Stamm and Tim Schrader to the BOCE. We thanked retiring members Lori Woods, and Julie Fehr for their service to our school. They both have gone above and beyond in their positions on the BOCE and support to our school and church.

#### New Positions are:

Jonathan Mehring, President  
Charlotte Schnepel, Vice President  
Chari Lange, Secretary  
Tim Schrader, Events Coordinator  
Stephanie Stamm, Sunday School Representative

The school received a large donation from TMW which is greatly appreciated.

There are 2 new students starting at Trinity this week.

The Animal Day will be rescheduled due to snow days.

The popcorn machine is in need of repair. The part is \$233 and a new machine is over \$1,000. Approved ordering the part and repairing it rather than buying a new machine.

#### Upcoming events for the school include:

February 20th will be family Skate Night

February 27th will be Career day at Trinity. Tables will be set up in the gym and they are looking for volunteers to talk to students about various careers.

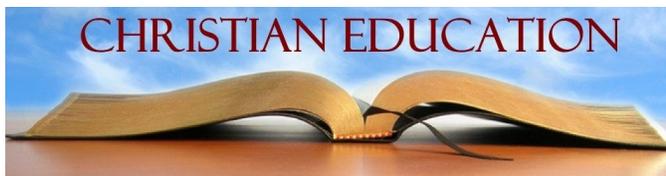
March 6th will be a Bunco fundraiser for the district scholarship fund.

Aftercare is in need of a worker ASAP, will post in the church bulletin.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Next meeting is February 24th at 7:00 p.m. with Jeff Fick attending to present BOCE training and responsibilities to the board.

Respectfully submitted by Cheri Lange



## **Trinity Lutheran BOCE meeting February 26, 2026**

Present: Pastor, Dr Booth, Jonathan Mehring, Charlotte Schnepel, Cheri Lange, Tim Schrader, Stephanie Stamm

Jeff Fick from SID presented the board with the responsibilities and duties of Lutheran school board members.

Minutes and reports from last month were approved

Finance report was reviewed and approved

Administrator's report:

2/27 is Career Day – various professionals will be available to talk to the students about their careers

3/3 Concordia concert will be at the school

3/3 is 8<sup>th</sup> grade night for Girls Volleyball at 6:00 pm

3/6 is Bunco Night with a silent auction, concessions and \$15 admission fee

3/6 Animal Guy is at school

3/16 is Kindergarten Roundup and school open house at 6:00 pm – think of ideas or people to invite for a good turnout, has been posted on Facebook already

Dr Booth attended the Red Bud 250 planning meeting. Festival will be held on 8/29 at Lincoln Park, discussed ideas for ways the school could be involved

8<sup>th</sup> grade Field trip planned to visit city hall, etc

Tentative calendar for next school year was distributed, will be adding a Registration Day in late July

Old Business:

Trivia Night review – had a great turnout, made \$2,230 with trivia/silent auction \$130 from bake sale

Staff contracts have been completed

New Business:

8<sup>th</sup> grade Graduation is May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Discussed rates for the 2026-2027 school year for tuition and fees. Jonathan will present to the church council at the next meeting for approval

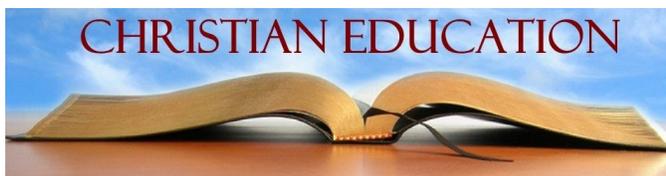
Review of tuition waivers rate, which currently is \$20/hour for volunteers to be applied to tuition. Discussed setting the new rate at \$15/hour for the 2026-2027 school year. The tuition waiver is available to be earned by the student's parents and/or grandparents. Student volunteers do not count towards tuition waivers.

Spring Rummage Sale will be held 4/17-4/19 – item drop off dates will be announced soon

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Next BOCE meeting is March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Cheri Lange



Dear Trinity Family,

We would like to invite the members of Trinity to a celebration of Pastor and Heather Hojnacki's 10th anniversary at Trinity.

You are invited to an Open House on Friday, April 10th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the event room (upstairs) of Ratzkeller. We will have appetizers from SLAM catering, drinks, and desserts.

We are leaving blank note cards with envelopes in the church addition for those who would like to personalize a message to Pastor and Heather. Please share a note of thanks, a favorite memory, or even a favorite scripture verse.

God has blessed us with a faithful Shepherd, please join us to celebrate.

If you have questions, please reach out to Ken or Julie Fehr.

Ken Fehr, Congregation Chairman

**Newsletter Deadline:**

Please submit items for the **May 2026** issue of Trinity Tidings **by April 22**...articles, information, recognitions, pictures, etc.  
*I try to reply to all messages, voicemails, and texts to confirm receipt.  
If you do not receive a reply from me within a day or two,  
please contact me again.*

**Note:** Items submitted after the deadline date may not be included in the issue.

Thank you!  
Maureen Liefer  
mmliefer@htc.net  
618-615-3091 (cell/text), 282-2072 (home)  
Hard copies accepted.

**Altar Guild Schedule**

April 2: Lexi, Brie, & Emily  
April 3: Faye & Cathy  
April 5: Carol & Betty  
April 11: Pearl & Cindy  
April 12: Cathy & Michelle

**Acolyte Schedule**

April 5: Kelton  
April 12: Addie  
April 19: Micah  
April 26: Leah

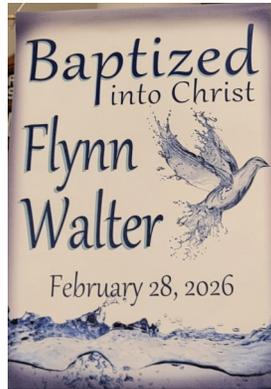
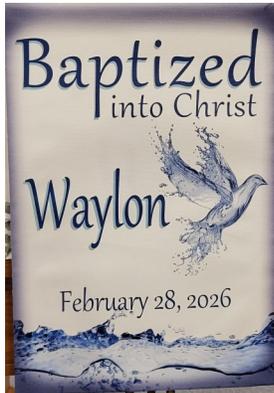
**Usher Schedule (for the week of...)**

April 5: Doug Stamm  
April 12: Tim Luebkemann  
April 19: Youth Group  
April 26: Jeff Mehring

May 3: Matt Piel  
May 10: Michael Koester  
May 17: Daryl Whelan  
May 24: Dean Schoenbeck  
May 31: Roger Liefer



Mandy Wandro  
and  
The Walter Family: Billy, Hannah,  
Waylon, Lincoln, & Flynn



This rainbow appeared in the sky to the northeast of Trinity just before the Saturday evening service on February 28, 2026.

It was visible for a short time just minutes before Waylon, Lincoln, & Flynn were baptized.

Blessings, little ones!



### 2026 Easter Lily Sale

The flower committee is happy to announce we will be "selling" lilies to adorn our church on Easter Sunday, but with a different purpose. ALL purchases/donations received will go directly to offset expenses for the church roof repairs. Your name will be published in honor/memory of someone and have a choice of getting a lily. Any questions contact a committee member Please fill out the form below and place your order with payment:

1. **in the Lily Box** in new addition
2. **give to** Catherine Burmester, Janice Cowell, or Lois Eckert,
3. **MAIL form and payment to: Trinity Flower Comm.**  
%Janice Cowell, 5305 Richfield Rd. RB



Additional forms are available in the church addition. A list of donations will be in the Easter bulletins and May newsletter.

**Please have donations to committee by April 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Please pick up your Lily after the 10 am Easter Service.**

*Thank you for your support. Blessings to you this Easter season!*  
*~Trinity Flower Committee.~ Catherine ~ Janice ~ Lois ~ Sue ~ Beverly*

**Please detach lower portion & mail/give with your donation**

Make checks payable to: **Trinity Flower Fund FOR: Church roof**  
Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / / Cash / / Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
I would like 1 lily: / / Yes / / No

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**A donation from Richard & Helene Roehrkasse has been made to Trinity Building Fund in honor of Sandra Ruhmann's retirement from Dieterich Bank.**

**Trinity Church has received a donation in memory of Paul Liefer.**

**The “Ides of March” EF-0 Tornado  
March 15, 2026  
LORD HAVE MERCY...**

According to the US National Weather Service Saint Louis Missouri (March 16 at 1:00 p.m.):  
“An EF-0 tornado with peak winds of 85 mph touched down north of Ames, IL in Monroe County at 5:35 pm on March 15. The tornado crossed into Randolph county northwest of Ruma, damaging trees and outbuildings. The strongest damage occurred to Trinity Lutheran Church, which sustained roof damage. The tornado lifted 8 minutes later north of Grigg, IL at 5:45 pm.

EF Rating: EF-0

Max Wind: 85 mph

Length/Width: 8.71 mi/150 yards

Fatalities/Injuries: 0/0 ”

*<https://www.facebook.com/NWStLouis>*



**Sunday, March 15**

Shortly after the storm passed.

Pastor & Heather Hojnacki, thanks for sharing.

### The "Ides of March" EF0 Tornado March 15, 2026



#### Monday, March 16

The morning after.  
View of damage during daylight hours.

**Pastor Hojnacki wrote:** It is my sad duty to report that the Trinity church building received significant damage during last night's storms. The Trustees and many others have been hard at work in assessing the damage and beginning cleanup and repair. At this time, it appears that the interior of the sanctuary remains undamaged, but we are awaiting a more thorough inspection.



#### Tuesday, March 17

Damage assessment

**Pastor wrote:** This week's Wednesday evening Lenten service will be in the School Gym. Recording for YouTube may not be available for that service. The storm debris has been removed from the church building. At this time, it appears that the entire south side of the church roof will need to be replaced. There is no visible damage to the interior sanctuary, but more inspections need to be made. We are awaiting input from the insurance company, inspectors, and contractors; until then, we do not yet know how long repairs will take, or whether or not we can use the church building in the meantime.



Drone picture by

← Matt Fehr

### The “Ides of March” EF0 Tornado March 15, 2026



Damage assessed  
by drone.

Thank you,  
Matt Fehr, for  
sharing some  
pictures.

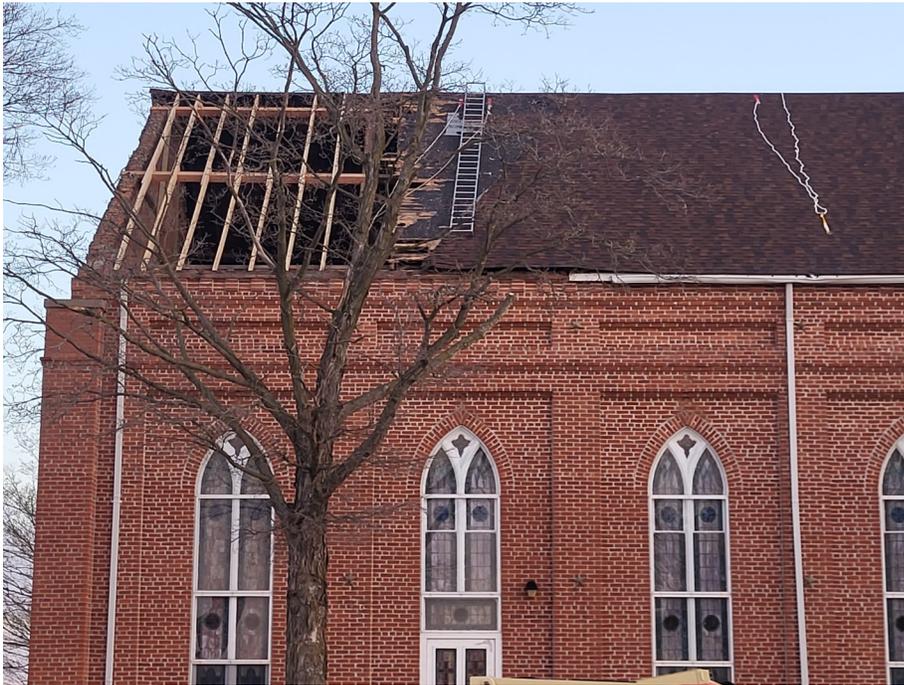


### Wednesday, March 18

Lenten Service held in the school gym.



## The “Ides of March” EF0 Tornado March 15, 2026



**Thursday, March 19**

Repairs begin.

Praise God for our most favorable weather this week. We pray for the safety of all workers.

**Pastor’s update:** The work crews have made quite a bit of progress in cleaning up the debris from the storm and beginning the repair process.

I am pleased to announce that this Sunday’s service will be held in the church building. The damage was confined to the exterior of the building; everything in the interior of the sanctuary remains in good condition.

However, please note that no one is allowed in the church building while the work crew is present and working on the roof (a matter of safety and liability). Also, we recommend that no one sit on the south side of the balcony until the repairs are complete (just as a precaution).

Please also be cautious in the south parking lot, especially near the building.

There may yet be stray small pieces of wood, glass, or metal among the rocks.



**The “Ides of March” EF0 Tornado  
March 15, 2026**

**Friday, March 20  
Morning**

Closing the missing  
section of roof.



**Friday, March 20  
Afternoon**

Significant  
progress.



### The "Ides of March" EF0 Tornado March 15, 2026



**Saturday, March 21**  
Morning

Damaged section is completely covered.



**Saturday, March 21**  
Morning

Our most sincere thanks to Middendorf & Reuss Construction Company!  
Two M&R workers, Chad & Landan tying up a few loose ends.

Go to Middendorf & Reuss Construction, Inc on Facebook...  
scroll to March 18 to see a time-lapse video of the damaged roof removal.

### The "Ides of March" EF0 Tornado March 15, 2026

Pastor Hojnacki has done a great job keeping the congregation apprised of the situation via email messages.

**Saturday, March 21** evening Pastor wrote:

We are back in the church building for service tomorrow morning. However, please note a few things:

The south parking lot is only partially available, there's quite a bit of construction equipment still on site, and we're still picking up wood, glass, and metal. Recommend parking at school or off Prairie Road if you are able.

The south entrance door to the church will not be used, as it is in the active work zone. That means that the ramp is currently off-limits as well.

We're asking people not to sit on the south side of the balcony, as a precaution.

The inside of the church will not look 100% normal. We had to move quite a few things around to guard against damage, and not everything has been put back yet. So you may notice a few things out-of-place for now.

Nevertheless, Thanks be to God that we gather in His house once again.

#### **Sunday, March 22** Morning

Indeed, we were able to have the Divine Service inside the church with only very minor disruption.



**Above:** Tarps over pews in the south balcony (west end).  
**Left:** Ceiling plaster flaking.  
**Right:** Ceiling plaster on the carpet below.



**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

Trinity Lutheran Church and School  
February 2026

**GENERAL FUND**

<b>Balance February 1</b>		<b>29,603.72</b>
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Fidelity, Pershing, Ed Jones, Schwab	4,000.00	
General Fund Envelopes	32,494.00	
General Fund Plate	770.00	
Lutheran Witness	25.00	
Mission Donations from other sources (use for Trinity payroll)	200.00	
Mission Fund Envelopes	150.00	
Mission Fund Plate	221.50	
Rent	100.00	
Sale of unused items	200.00	
Thrivent	1,063.00	
Tuition	1,088.00	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>40,311.50</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
AW SVCS (water testing service)	100.00	
Brotherhood Mutual (church and school insurance monthly premium)	1,433.58	
Cintas (fire alarm inspection, school)	1,082.12	
Concordia Publishing House (Lutheran Witness, Liturgy license)	160.84	
Culligan Water, water treatment	88.00	
Dieterich ACH Fee (payroll)	10.00	
Dieterich LOC	500.00	
Ebers Locksmithing (keys made)	140.00	
Employee self retirement savings	254.30	
Federal Withholding & SS	7,324.88	
Hart & Associates (Payroll accountant quarterly payment)	500.00	
Health Equity Fee	13.20	
IL Dept of Revenue	1,520.77	
IL Secure Choice	176.39	
Insurance Deductibles	30.29	
Monthly benefits/life/disab/retire	9,223.04	
Osborne Office Equipment	215.12	
Reliable Sanitation	300.90	
Salaries	27,651.05	
Trinity Lutheran School (reimburse for supplies)	181.34	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - Church	498.79	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - Parsonage	206.18	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - School	2,912.06	
WHCO - broadcast	120.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>54,642.85</b>
<b>Balance February 28</b>		<b>15,272.37</b>
<b>Dieterich LOC Balance</b>		<b>7,312.60</b>
<b>Liefer LOC Balance</b>		<b>15172.99</b>
<b>Total Loans</b>		<b>22,485.59</b>

Trinity Lutheran Church and School  
February 2026

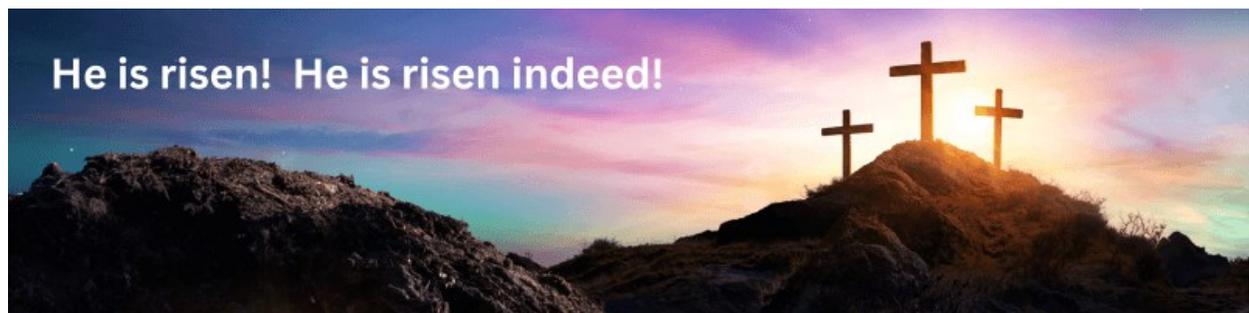
**BUILDING FUND**

<b>Balance February 1</b>			<b>9,449.16</b>
<b>INCOME:</b>			
Building Fund	50.00		
Interest	0.60		
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>50.60</b>	
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Neal's Htg & Clg (school furnace repair)	440.00		
Neal's Htg & Clg (school furnace repair)	177.50		
Neal's Htg & Clg (church furnace repair)	865.97		
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>1,483.47</b>	
<b>Balance February 28</b>			<b>8,016.29</b>
<b>Allocated Funds</b>			
School Memorials	914.86		
Painting Door Fund	865.00		
Cemetary Fund	1,983.95		
Church Remodel	926.18		
CD#3=14265.30 CD#4=227690.69 CD#5=15000.00 CD#6=5900.00			
<b>Total Allocated Funds without CD's</b>			<b>4,689.99</b>
<b>Total Allocated Funds in CD's</b> 4 CD's Church Remodel		<b>262,855.99</b>	
<b>Non Allocated Funds</b>	(Building Fund General Use)		<b>3,326.30</b>

**MISSIONS**

<b>Mission Commitment</b>			<b>15,000.00</b>
Envelope Offering	150.00		
Plate Offering	221.50		
<b>Total Offering</b>	<b>371.50</b>		
Trinity School Payroll		371.50	719.50
Southern Illinois District		0.00	0.00
<b>Total Offering to date</b>			<b>719.50</b>
<b>Balance of Commitment</b>			<b>14,280.50</b>

Dean Schoenbeck, Treasurer



# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 7:50 a.m. Chapel 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 12:30 p.m. Quilting	<b>2 Maundy Thu.</b> 7:00 p.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm.  <i>No School                      Easter Break</i>	<b>3 Good Friday</b> 7:00 p.m. Divine Service  <i>No School                      Easter Break</i>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Easter Sunday</b> 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service 8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Adult Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm.	<b>6</b>  <i>No School                      Easter Break</i>	<b>7</b> 7:00 p.m. Elders 7:30 p.m. Church Council	<b>8</b> 7:50 a.m. Chapel 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 12:30 p.m. Quilting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5:30–8:30 p.m. Pastor’s 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House at Ratzkeller	<b>11</b> 5:00 p.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm.
<b>12</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Adult Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm. 7:00 p.m. Youth Conf. Class	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00 p.m. Sow N Grow	<b>15</b> 7:50 a.m. Chapel 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 12:30 p.m. Quilting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 1:00–7:00 p.m. Rummage Sale  <i>11:20 a.m.                      School Early                      Dismissal</i>	<b>18</b> 9:00a–2:00p Rummage Sale
<b>19</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Adult Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Divine Service 11:00a–1:00p Rummage Sale 7:00 p.m. Youth Conf. Class	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:50 a.m. Chapel 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 12:30 p.m. Quilting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 2:00 p.m. Goddard/Bauer Wedding  5:00 p.m. Divine Service
<b>26</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Adult Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Divine Service 7:00 p.m. Youth Conf. Class	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00 p.m. BOCE	<b>29</b> 7:50 a.m. Chapel 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 12:30 p.m. Quilting	<b>30</b>		

**Editor's Note:**

As I'm working on this April *Trinity Tidings* issue (March 20, 2026) and revisiting MY confirmation in 1969, I realize that my confirmation it was exactly 57 years ago today.



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHESTER ILLINOIS  
(Missouri Synod)

March 20, 1969 PALM SUNDAY No. 13

Services at 8 & 10 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m.  
Rev. W. A. Ranta, Pastor Harold Austermann, Vicar  
Organists: Mr. Holtzen & Mr. Rehmer  
Usher Staff: Mr. Omar Knop & Mr. Art Gerberding  
Radio Staff: Mr. Paul Prouse & Mr. Leonard Weber  
Acolytes: 8:00 Steve Korando & Albert Powley  
10:00 Paul Dunwoody & Albert Powley

Hymns: 160 332 333 338  
Introit & Gradual: Pages 64 & 65  
Order of Service: Page 5  
Epistle: Rev. 3: 14-22 Gospel: John 12: 1-16  
Liturgist: Rev. Ranta  
Text: Phil. 2: 5-11  
Sermon: "Openly Proclaim Jesus Christ As Lord"  
Rev. Ranta

**CONFIRMATION** In the 10:00 service this morning 30 eighth grade students will renew their baptismal vows through confirmation. May our Redeemer's rich blessing abide with these confirmands.

Roger Abell	Donna Kaempfe
Carl Caraway	Ronald Kaempfe
Sharon Coffey	Debra Klindworth
Donna Davis	Ronald Kueker
Karen Decker	Brenda Ohlau
Lloyd Draves	Colleen Powley
Earl Eggmeyer	Nelson Rathert
Gregg Ehlers	Patty Rehmer
LaDonna Gerberding	Connie Reinhardt
Karen Hartenberger	Rhonda Renner
Bruce Hartman	Maureen Rowold
Susan Hartman	Karen Rubach
Susan Hanks	Theodore Search
Germaine Hoops	Kevin Weber
Linda James	Craig Wibart

**FLOWERS** The lilies in the arch are given by the Confirmation Class of 1969 in commemoration of their day of Confirmation. The altar flowers and chancel flowers are given in honor of the eighth grade class by the following parents. On Monday the flowers will be taken to the hospital and given to our members.

Mr. & Mrs. Rober Ohlau	Mr. & Mrs. Alan Wibart
Mr. & Mrs. Don Hartenberger	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Klindworth
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Renner	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Rowold
Mr. & Mrs. Willard Rathert	Mr. & Mrs. Herb Gerberding
Mr. & Mrs. Ervin Hoops	Mr. & Mrs. Ervin Kaempfe
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Heinke	Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Decker
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Powley	Mr. & Mrs. Ardeil Kueker
Mr. & Mrs. Frances Coffey	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Abell
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Ehlers	Mr. & Mrs. William Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Kaempfe	Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Rubach
	Mr. & Mrs. Earl Eggmeyer

It is also our privilege to confirm the following five adults:

Richard Kriete	Mrs. Frances Barnes
Richard Lesperance	Linda Kriete
	Elmer Doza

**60TH ANNIVERSARY** Yesterday afternoon the confirmation class of 1969 celebrated the 60th anniversary of their confirmation with a pot luck dinner at the school. Out of a class of 24, the following 13 attended and will be at the 10:00 service: Clara Hartje Hunt, Doris Heinboken Brelig, Hulda Moeller Richtert, Ernestine Richtert, Anna Koppelman Gnaegy, Hilda Gilster Welge, Arnold Wiebusch, Henry Lemmerman, William Saak, Bert Gilster, Erwin Middendorf, William Koopmann, and Elmer Hillerman.

**CANTATA** St. John's Choir of Red Bud will present the cantata "The Dawn of Easter" on Tuesday evening, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church. Our congregation has been cordially invited to attend.

My confirmation verse:  
**The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.**  
*Psalm 23:1*

**DEBT FUND** A gift has been given to the Debt Fund by Mrs. G. F. Buenger and family in memory of Mr. Buenger.



**Very special memories!**  
Above: Confirmation bulletin (30 of us)  
Left: Pastor W. A. Ranta  
Right: My confirmation dinner napkin  
Bottom left: Vicar Allen Bachart  
Below center: My parents Marcella & Walter Rowold  
Below right: My baptism sponsors Zuehla Rowold & Lena Wilson

