

TRINITY TRIBUTE

April 2026
Newsletter

"We believe there is no person or created thing which is outside the active love and grace of God shown so clearly in Jesus Christ. And through the active love and grace of God, we, as a body of Christ, are called to invite, welcome, and care for all."

Trinity Lutheran Church-ELCA Cook, Minnesota
trinitycook.org info@trinitycook.org



April Star Word Prompt: Where do you find the hope and good news of the resurrection in/through your star word?



Welcome to Generous Together!

Generous Together is a year-round stewardship experience intended for congregations in collaboration with the Northeastern and Southeastern MN Synods of the ELCA.

Trinity is participating in this experience with congregations from Faith Lutheran Isle, French River Lutheran, Salem Lutheran Hermantown, Zion Lutheran Milaca, Trinity Lutheran Albert Lea, Trinity Lutheran Spring Grove and Bethlehem Lutheran Mankato.

The hope of Generous Together is to celebrate the generosity that already exists in our congregations by identifying, naming and claiming these stories. When we connect, share and grow together we inspire future acts of generosity.

On Saturday, March 21, Deacon Kari Olson, Elizabeth Storm, Laure Maki, Steve Maki and Crystal Whitney attended the Generous Together kickoff retreat at Salem Lutheran in Hermantown. Team members received The Generosity Project (TGP) guide that contains resources and activities to connect all generations in the faith practice of generosity. Additionally, team members are participating in monthly Zoom meetings to learn and share with our cohort congregations.



Look for our first Generosity Session on Sunday, April 19, based on Genesis 1:27-31a

Focus: Being generous. We are made in God's image and blessed by God to be generous too.



Experience Community. Experience Giving. From the Generosity Team

"God's Work, Our Hands"-- just a few of those dedicated, behind-the-scenes workers who make Trinity's monthly Community Meals happen.



Leigh Zika, Susan Stone, Barb Schmidt & Jennifer Kinler

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

April 23, 2026

Served Drive-Thru or Eat-In
4:00 - 5:30 pm (or until gone)

April's menu: Scalloped Potatoes and Ham, Vegetable, Roll and Cookie!



Save the Date!

Piatigorsky Foundation Concert
April 16, 2026
7:00 pm.

Northwoods Friends of the Arts is again sponsoring a concert of the Piatigorsky Foundation's 2026 Minnesota tour which will be held at Trinity.

The year's event is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, and will be a one-hour, intimate performance featuring the musical talents of Alexander "Sasha" Yakub, a violinist from Amherst, Massachusetts, and Kessa Mefford, pianist from Peekskill, New York. The presentation will begin at 7:00 pm, and all are encouraged to stay following the concert to meet the artists.

Trinity is happy to provide the venue for this wonderful opportunity for the Cook area. Please come, enjoy and be inspired!

This concert is generously sponsored in part by Northwoods Friends of the Arts & Free Will Donations

Kindness Quilt

32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

You may have noticed one of the new quilts hanging in the Fellowship Hall near the children's play area. That is a Kindness Quilt made lovingly by Bible Quest kids and Norma Thomas.

During Bible Quest this year we have been focusing on kindness and what we can learn from the Bible about what it means to be kind. Through stories from the Bible, we've been learning and practicing what it means to be kind and how to live that out in the world.

Kindness is:

- * Jesus Blesses the Children (Mark 10: 13-16)
- * Listening to God and to Others (Zacchaeus, God calls Samuel)
- * Sharing and Generosity (Jesus feeds the 5,000. Sheep and Goats, Widows Offering)
- * Hope and Giving (Angels Visit, Christmas Story)
- * Caring for Creation – In General, Pets/Animals, Mind/Emotions, Our Bodies (Genesis 1 and 2, Psalm 139)
- * Love – the world, our enemies (John 3:16, Matthew 5:38-48)
- * Confession and Forgiveness (Psalm 51)
- * Compassion (Micah 6:6-8)
- * Jesus the Good Shepherd (Psalm 23)
- * Serving (Last Supper, Washing the Disciples feet, Holy Week and Easter)



Deacon Kari

With Norma Thomas' guidance and sewing skills, kids decorated fabric squares with ways we can show kindness to others. Norma then sewed all of the kindness squares into a beautiful quilt which is now hanging on the wall in the Fellowship Hall near the children's play area. The quilt will hang there for a while as a reminder of how we can show love and kindness to others, and one day, we will give it away as an expression of love and kindness. I encourage you to take some time to really look at the quilt and take in all the images of how we can show kindness in the world.

Blessings,
Deacon Kari (she/her)

Sunday School is Happening!
Most Sundays following the Children's Sermon, Jennifer Kinler and Lauren Simensen coordinate activities for the younger Children of God to hear, see and learn in a more child-friendly way.



Just a few of the mix.

April Call Committee Update -- *Anyone know where the portage is ??????*

I'm sure that some of us can recall a past trip into the BWCA where we struggled to find the portage? A portage that would take us to our final destination on a beautiful lake with a somewhat level area to pitch a tent.



This usually happened at the end of the day when everyone was tired, cranky and at wits' end. How could this possibly happen??? We had a map and compass!! How could we still not locate the portage??

As a call committee, I think we are experiencing a lot of the same "portage issues" that can be found on a trip into the BWCA. The committee is currently in the process of both looking for and traveling various portages that will get our congregation to our final destination.

We have a map (Ministry site profile) and a compass (Call Committee members) and along with God's help, we will eventually reach our goal of both locating the portage and arriving at that beautiful lake with a somewhat level campsite.

Your continued thoughts and prayers are appreciated during this special season of Lent.

Nick Nicklow
Call Committee Director of Public Relations
(Time to remove the rust and sharpen last year's Lindy rigs)



What: Camp Work Day
When: Saturday, May 16, 2026
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Site: Camp Vermillion 2555 Vermilion
Camp Road, Cook
Ages: All ages
Cost: Free

Camp Work Day is a time to prepare the site for our summer camping season and we can't do that without your help! Join us at our site to work on some planned projects and cleaning. Come as a group or individually. There are plenty of projects for everyone!

Info: vlmcamps.org/all-programs-events/cvworkday

The Mental Health & Wellness team is now offering blood pressure screenings 2nd & 4th Sundays each month during fellowship time. This service is provided by Kathy Leppert and Laure Maki.



The next screening will be April 12.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Kathy Leppert at 218-232-7923.

We look forward to serving the needs of
Our Congregation.

Trinity Lutheran Church - Giving in Grace - Financial Report

General Fund

Budget Receipts	\$25,062.95
Budget Expenditures	\$22,455.53
Checkbook Balance	\$7,218.14

2/28/2026

2026 Budget = \$301336.92

Offerings Needed

Monthly = \$25,111.41
 Sunday = \$5,794.94

<u>Income</u>	<u>February Receipts</u>	<u>Monthly Anticipated Budget</u>	<u>YTD Received</u>	<u>Anticipated YTD Budget</u>
Envelope Offering	\$ 20,947.95		\$ 43,302.45	
Loose Offering	\$ 4,115.00		\$ 4,297.00	
Church usage			\$ 75.00	
Total Regular Income	\$ 25,062.95	25,111.41 **	\$ 47,674.45	\$ 301,336.92

<u>Mission Support</u>	<u>February paid</u>	<u>YTD Paid</u>
NE Synod	\$ 635.00	\$ 1,270.00
VLM	\$ 81.00	\$ 162.00
Total Mission Support	\$ 716.00	\$ 1,432.00

Expenses

Education	\$ 80.97	\$ 375.01	\$ 119.70	\$ 750.02
Wellness Ministry		\$ 12.50		\$ 25.00
Stewardship	\$ 95.97	\$ 125.00	\$ 181.33	\$ 250.00
Mental Health & Wellness	\$ 100.00	\$ 41.67	\$ 104.46	\$ 83.34
Social Outreach Ministry	\$ 107.97	\$ 166.67	\$ 107.97	\$ 333.34
Worship	\$ 1,250.18	\$ 833.16	\$ 2,103.31	\$ 1,666.32
Church Operations	\$ 12,248.51	\$ 9,575.46	\$ 24,049.85	\$ 19,150.92
Pastoral Salary & Bene		\$ 4,512.59		\$ 16,548.34
Congreg Care Minister Sal & Bene	\$ 7,855.93	\$ 8,274.17	\$ 15,711.87	\$ 9,025.18
Misc & Moving Expenses		\$ 479.17		\$ 958.34
Total Expenses	\$ 22,455.53	\$ 25,111.40	\$ 43,810.49	\$ 50,222.80

VancoMobile link



Regular offerings keep Trinity going; *Thank You* for continued support. Whether worshipping in person or online, TLC ministries and missions are dependent on faithful giving. *If you would like to set up regular electronic payments* contact Sue for more information at 218-666-5965 or email sue@trinitycook.org.

February

<u>February</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Feb 1	71
8-Feb	81
15-Feb	84
22-Feb	80

Receipts for the month **BELOW** budget by \$48.46. Receipts, are **BELOW** budget for the year \$2,548.37.
 Expenses are **BELOW** budget for the month by \$2,655.88. Expenses are **BELOW** budget for the year \$6,412.33.

Memorials received this month in memory of:

Given by:

There were no memorials given in February.

GIFTS	Received	Submitted-YTD
Noisy Offering		
Cook Food Shelf		
Social Outreach Ministry		\$63.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		
Salvation Army		
Lenten Offerings		
Mental Health and Wellness		\$2,695.00
Cook Lions Club-flood relief		
Camperships		

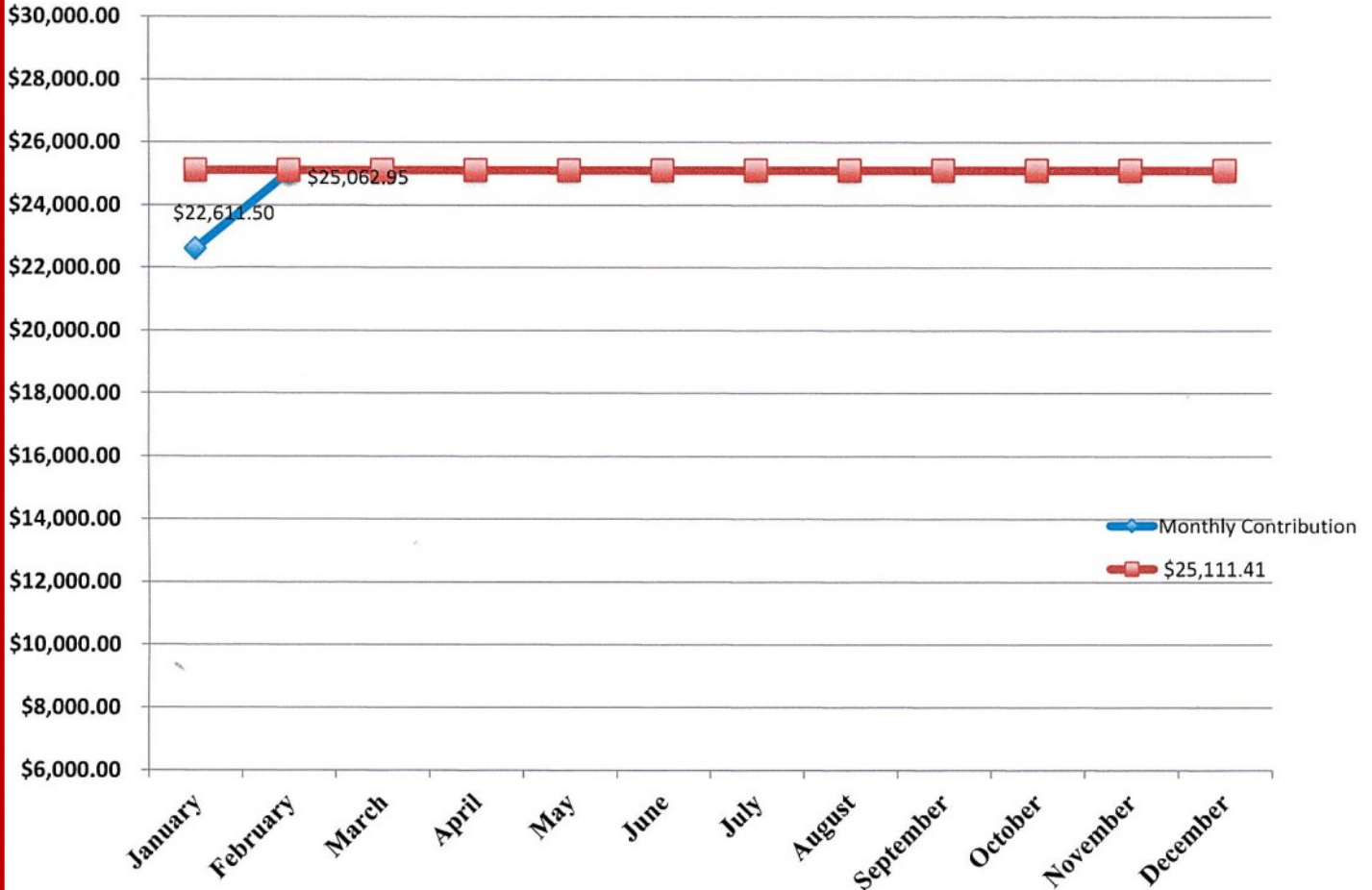
Lenten offerings collected during weekly Wednesday services & Holy Week services as well as Noisy Offering collected on Palm Sunday have been designated for Youth Camperships to Camp Vermilion (Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry).
 Registration is now open at:
vlmcamps.org



Submitted by Sue Carstens, Bkkp

Giving in Grace

2026 General Fund Offerings February 28, 2026



Save the Date: April 18
 2026 EcoFaith Summit of the Upper Midwest
From Fear to Fire: Igniting Community for a Planet in Peril
 First Lutheran Church, Duluth, MN and Livestreamed via Zoom



Registration now open
 More information & online registration can be found at:
www.ecofaithnetwork.org/ecofaith-summit-2026

*"[Our hearts] will sing of the day you bring, let the fires of your justice burn,
 Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn."
 Canticle of the Turning - ELW #723*

The Spirit's baptismal spark blazes away this dross, making space for a different fear that ignites our hearts: the fear of the Holy One, Creator of the Cosmos, Healer of All, Sustainer of Life. Living in wonder, awe, and sacred trembling, we fall in love with Creator's self-revelation, Healer's presence, Sustainer's gifts: the beauty and bounty of this planet, all our kin, our beloved and only home.

- We gather to be refined through cross-generational repentance and lament.
- We gather to be refueled in creation, community, worship, and art.
- We gather to be reignited by a constellation of speakers and organizers - youth, young adults, and elders.
- We gather to be a renewed community, ablaze with New Life for God's beloved Creation.

We gather for our fear to become our fuel...

This year's Summit is Co-Presented by: Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota; Minneapolis Area Synod; Northeastern Minnesota Synod; Northwestern Minnesota Synod; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; Saint Paul Area Synod



- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Laura Bergman | 17 | Caroline Roesch |
| 4 | Charlie Franks | 18 | Irene Baumgartner |
| 5 | Lynn Polich | 19 | Bailey Conger |
| | Randy Swenson | 21 | Dave O'Melia |
| 6 | Jody Bixby | | Elmer Vanden Heuvel |
| 7 | Bill Conger | 23 | Kathy Jowaski |
| 10 | Sully Roesch | 24 | Jeanne O'Melia |
| 11 | Dan Reing | 25 | Lindy Wilenius |
| 12 | Laure Maki | 26 | Steve Stone |
| | Ron Maki | 28 | Bill Bryson |
| | | | Gina Nukala |

- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 3 | Bill & Bailey Conger |
| 5 | Garrett & Lauren Simensen |
| 26 | Bill & Brenda Tibbetts |
| 27 | Jeff & Lisha Pearson |

**PRAYERS
and
LOVE**

Lord, Hear Our Prayers for those needing healing and comfort:

Bill Peterson, LoAnn Trygg, Bo Simpson, Rev. Ellen Taube, Cindy Aune, Mary Adriani, Marilyn Jenkins, Roni Sarazine, Walter Putney, Art Dale, Gary & Patty Carlson, Marla Kahn, Bruce & Judy Anderson.

Patti Naughton & family as they mourn the death of Mike, who passed away on March 26.

The Call Committee as they continue in their steady search to find a new pastor for Trinity.

For healing, strength and understanding for our community nation, and those elsewhere who are feeling confused, disrupted, angry and unsure; those facing medical testing, challenges, and difficult situations; those serving in the armed forces; and those seeking Jesus Christ in their lives.

APRIL SUNDAY COFFEE SERVERS

- | | |
|---------|------------------------|
| 4/5/26 | Lindy & Leo Wilenius |
| | Beth Wilenius |
| 4/12/26 | Leigh Zika |
| | Peter & Susan Stone |
| 4/19/26 | Julie & Dale Horihan |
| | Laure & Steven Maki |
| 4/26/26 | Sue & Duane Gustafson |
| | Jenifer & Davin Moberg |

Please be sure to check the table in the Fellowship Hall for monthly list updates.

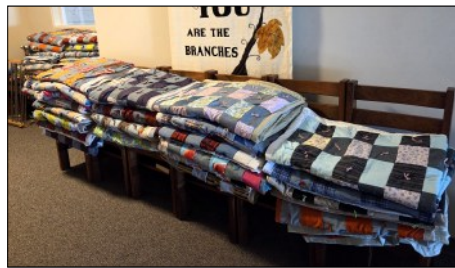
For more information or to volunteer, please call or text:
Leigh Zika (218-780-1769) or
Lindy Wilenius (218-780-4644)

MAY SUNDAY COFFEE SERVERS

- | | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 5/3/26 | Jody & Dale Bixby |
| | Jennifer & Tom Kinler |
| 5/10/26 | Kristen Foster |
| | Kathy Leppert |
| 5/17/26 | Crystal Whitney |
| | Elizabeth Storm |
| | Linda Kronholm |
| 5/24/26 | Trisha Aune |
| | Ashley Skorseth |
| | Kerrisa & Joel Anderson |
| 5/31/26 | Margaret & Nick Nicklow |
| | Kim & Rob Marwick |



Trinity's *Women of the ELCA* will be gathering on Wednesday, April 8, beginning at 9:30 am. for a short Bible study.



The quilters have been busy -- 156 quilts completed, 50 by Hope Simpson. March is a 5-week month, so they do have one more week to add to that total. A majority of them are displayed on the backs of the pews, with many more piled around the sanctuary and narthex. *A Blessing of the Quilts* will take place later in the month of April after which most of them will be boxed up and transported to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul to be distributed worldwide.

They are a busy and productive group, whether each can make it here weekly or only once or twice. Even making time for coffee and sometimes birthday cake.



***Scripture Readings
April 2026***

April 5

Easter Sunday
Matthew 28:1-10

April 12

2nd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 19

3rd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

April 26

4th Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

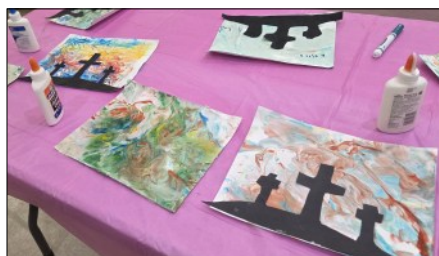


Bible Quest will be taking a break on April 1 and April 8 and will resume on April 15, The final session of the current year will be Wednesday, April 22.

A big project this month to “tie up” the Kindness theme has been the completion of a quilt. Blocks were designed by the children and then assembled by Norma Thomas. It is currently hanging in the Fellowship Hall -- stop in and check it out!



In addition to the Kindness Quilt, the group has been busy with many projects throughout the month. These are just a few as they learned about Lent, Holy Week and Easter. You may have noticed some of the art work displayed in the Fellowship Hall and various places throughout the building. These kids (and the “big” kids who assist Deacon Kari each week) are awesome.



Thanks to Nicole & Tom Hed (and all those not pictured) for the snacks this spring.



2026 Synod Assembly theme is “A New Creation is Everything!” from Galatians 6:15b

Until All Are Fed—Creating Generosity and Hope

For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address the root causes of hunger and poverty around the world through ELCA World Hunger. One of the synod’s largest fundraisers for world hunger has been the Quilt and Marketplace auction at the Synod Assembly. Quilts and other handmade items are available in an online auction. Trinity quilter, Vickie Lange, has donated a beautiful quilt to this cause which will be a part of the online quilt auction and bidding. Take a look!



Bidding is open from April 12 until 11:00 am on April 26. Quilts and Marketplace items will be on display at Breezy Point Resort starting at 4:00 pm Friday, April 24 through Sunday April 26 at 11:00am. The display and auction are open to the public. You can view and bid on items using the QR here.

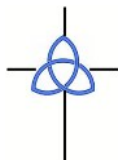


QR Code/Quilts

‘Creating Generosity and Hope; One Quilt at a Time’

QR Code/Marketplace

Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA
P O Box 1196
231 Second Street SE
Cook, MN 55723



TRINITY
TRIBUTE



April
2026

Trinity Lutheran Church Information

Congregational Care: Dn. Kari Olson
Music Director: Bailey Conger
Financial Manager/Bookkeeper: Sue Carstens
Secretary: Beth Sprouls



Sunday Worship 9:30 am

(Holy Communion Most Sundays)

Livestream Available on
Facebook & YouTube

Office Hours

Mondays by appointment
Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Phone: 218-666-5965

Email: info@trinitycook.org

Website: www.trinitycook.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TLC.Cook.MN

YouTube: www.youtube.com

(Trinity Lutheran Church of Cook)

The Trinity Tribute newsletter is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of church programs and to report news about the Trinity Lutheran Church community.