



Trinity Trumpet

April 2024

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 5**, immediately following the service for the purpose of the **election of council members**. Jeff Andert and Teresa Momenee-Young are the incumbents running for their second terms.

The Pastors Letter

The little introductory paragraph for our bulletin this week reminds us that “The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ’s presence.” Last Sunday, The Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday, is one day, but Easter, this season of surprise as the Risen Christ shows up in our midst, lasts until the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, some fifty days from now. (Pentecost is from the Greek *pentekoste* which means fifty or fiftieth, but that’s a newsletter article for another day). In these intervening days, while we wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, we get seven weeks to celebrate the wonder of the resurrection. There’ll be less trumpets, the lilies will have gone home with you (because they don’t do well in our windowless sanctuary), and alas Wayne will not organize a weekly brunch, but it is still Easter, nonetheless. The paraments are still a celebratory white, the sanctuary still adorned with budding trees, and the music is still very much Easter.

The music is, in fact, what I hope you’ll pay attention to this season. The Worship and Music team worked out a list of the most Eastery feeling hymns we could find. The ones that just announce, this is a hymn for Easter Sunday. We are singing hymns from that list every Sunday for the next six weeks as the gathering hymn. Sometimes at other parts of the

service as well, but the gathering hymn especially was selected to give you that feeling of walking into worship on Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday.

So for this Easter Season, listen at the start of worship to be reminded that Easter is not a one day celebration. Every Sunday, but especially last Sunday and these next six Sundays, is an opportunity to celebrate that Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen, Indeed, Alleluia.

Peace,
Pastor Kjersten

Wednesday Bible Chats

It's Easter! Time to see Jesus popping up among his disciples in the most unexpected of places. Join Pastor Kjersten on Wednesdays at 10:30am or 5:30pm in the lounge to discuss the texts. Bring your questions and hear what others are thinking.

FED: Faith, Food, Fellowship

Our new dinner church with the Woman's Co-op continues to feed people with faith, fellowship, and food. In March, St. Peter joined us as we explored the words of the Lords Prayer. Then we shared a delicious meal of spaghetti.

FED is now a monthly occurrence, on the third Thursday of each month. Our next opportunity for worship is April 18th at 5:30 pm. All are invited to come check it out. This is a great service to bring a friend who isn't familiar with church because it is very informal and casual.

Bishop Satterlee Visiting April 21st

On April 21st, Bishop Satterlee and his wife Cathy will be joining us for worship. This is a special opportunity for us to thank him for the synod's generous gift to us which we received back in January. Also, it is Cathy's birthday, so there will be cake. Please join us to thank the bishop and celebrate with Cathy.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 1



Our 3 Marvelous Mavens who shared sequential, late March birthdays which coincide with Easter this year were celebrated at Coffee Hour.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH ... PART 2

"Trinity members, Laurie and Bob Swanson and Jeff Andert celebrating their Norwegian heritage and a nod to the Irish as marchers in the 2024 Kalamazoo St. Patrick's Day Parade.



ROAD RUNNERS



The Roadrunners will meet at Finley's on April 18 @ 11:30am. Bring a friend(s). Also, on October 17 the Roadrunners will meet at Sand Hill in Marshall instead of Big Boy.

Wayne

Franklin Pantry Needs

The Franklin Pantry is especially in need of the following items:

- Quart Size Plastic Bags (used to package fresh fruits & vegetables)
- Peanut Butter
- Juice
- Peanut Butter
- Canned goods (no super large cans please)
- Toilet Paper
- Bar Soap



Please put all donated items in the wagon in the narthex. THANKS!!

Volunteer Opportunity



Our tech team that oversees the sound and live streaming during our services is in need of volunteers to help on Sunday mornings. No previous experience needed – training will be provided. Questions? Ask Ellis Cutler or Travis Sullivan.





RECIPE CORNER

Peanut Butter Cookies

Preheat Oven to 375 degrees

- 1 ½ C. Flour
- 1 ½ tsp Baking Powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 2/3 C. Shortening
- ½ C. Creamy Peanut Butter (Jif is the BEST)
- 1 C. Firmly Packed Brown Sugar
- ½ tsp Vanilla
- 1 egg

Sift dry ingredients.

Cream shortening and peanut butter. Add brown sugar in ½ C. increments, mix well. Add egg and vanilla. Mix well.

Blend in dry ingredients. Roll into balls and flatten in a crisscross pattern with a floured fork.

Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet for 9-10 minutes.

Makes around 2 dozen. I often double the recipe.

From the Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee has been working with a corresponding committee from the Co-Op concerning homelessness. The following is from the ELCA Advocacy Office in Washington, DC.



YES IN GOD'S BACK YARD ACT: On Mar. 12, Sen. Sherrod Brown (OH), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs (Senate Banking Committee), introduced the [Yes In God's Back Yard \(YIGBY\) Act](#), legislation to support faith-based organizations and colleges wanting to build and preserve affordable housing on their land and reduce barriers to the development of this housing. YIGBY was [endorsed](#) by a group of faith groups and coalitions including the ELCA. The Senate Banking Committee in mid-March [held a hearing](#) to discuss bipartisan approaches to address the chronic shortage of affordable housing. This came after a series of housing hearings in the spring of 2023 highlighting the core policy challenges that have led to development barriers, homelessness and skyrocketing home costs. Among the legislative proposals, lawmakers highlighted support for some efforts such as authorizing proactive disaster recovery resources and offering increased resources for churches seeking to build affordable housing.

Why It Matters in the ELCA:

Congregations across the United States have increasingly invested more in developing community housing in recent years as the lack of affordable options has become one of the leading drivers of homelessness. Development planning, zoning approval and other local barriers to building new housing can take years before ground is even broken on a new project. New technical assistance for congregations, and incentives for local governments to lower development barriers proposed in the Yes in Gods Back Yard Act, could go a long way in supporting ministry efforts to end homelessness in our communities.

What's Next:

Though introduced in the Senate, the Yes in Gods Back Yard Act needs support from across the country in order to make it to the president's desk. ELCA Witness in Society staff will be tracking the legislation as updates move forward.

Other issues from the ELCA Advocacy Office:



FEDERAL BUDGET: The House and Senate passed the first tranche of 2024 spending bills, including funding for agriculture and housing programs. The bipartisan deal reached in both chambers in time to avoid a shutdown of many key federal agencies would fully fund core anti-hunger initiatives, such as the Women, Infant, and Children program (WIC), and does not include any harmful policy changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) nutrition program. The deal would also give a two percent increase to federal housing programs – which comes at a critical time when rents, housing costs and affordability continue to climb.

Why It Matters in the ELCA:

Hundreds of Lutherans over the past month took action on hunger issues in the budget, and hundreds more sent messages on the need for affordable housing support over the last year. Rumors of proposed cuts in earlier negotiations would have been a serious blow to the efforts of our ministries at the fore of addressing poverty in our communities.

What's Next:

Lawmakers must now look to pass 2025 spending bills for domestic programs as the President's Budget request makes its way to Congress.



RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT: The ELCA has supported the passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), S.1149, a bipartisan bill that would allocate nearly \$1.4 billion of annual dedicated funding for state and tribal fish and wildlife management agencies. Even with bipartisan support, RAWA seems to have hit a stall with no indication of movement. An [Action Alert](#) is available in the ELCA Action Center to contact lawmakers on this bill.

Why It Matters in the ELCA:

The 2023 ELCA social message "[Earth's Climate Crisis](#)", which built upon the foundational work of the social message [Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice](#), "challenges all expressions of this church to...engage in legislative advocacy at all levels of government, individually and collectively" (p. 16). Our continued advocacy on environmental policies is in direct response to this challenge.

What's Next:

Additionally, Chairman Bruce Westerman (AR) of the House Committee on Natural Resources quietly filed the America's Wildlife Habitat Conservation Act, H.R. 7408, last week in competition with RAWA. While there has been some confusion between the two bills, it is important to note that while the America's Wildlife Habitat Conservation Act would focus on the importance of habitat, it stops short of dedicating the necessary funding for fish and wildlife management agencies that hunters and anglers have long

sought through the advancement of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.



UYGHUR POLICY ACT OF 2023: The Uyghur Policy Act of 2023, H.R. 2766, was passed by the House and has been sent to the Senate for consideration. The act authorizes the establishment of a Special Coordinator for Uyghur Issues position within the Department of State. The role is established to coordinate U.S government policies, programs and projects concerning the Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups. Further, it authorizes \$250,000 over three years to human rights advocates working on behalf of the Uyghurs and other persecuted ethnic groups.

Why It Matters in the ELCA:

The ELCA social statement [For Peace in God's World](#) states that "Human rights provide a common universal standard of justice for living with our differences, and they give moral and legal standing to the individual in the international community. We therefore will continue to teach about human rights, protest their violation, advocate their international codification, and support effective ways to monitor and ensure compliance with them" (p. 14).

What's Next:

The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.



CALLS FOR CEASEFIRE, RESTORATION OF UNRWA FUNDING: There have been multiple calls by the ELCA and its leadership for both a permanent bilateral ceasefire and the restoration United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)'s funding.

- Following the Feb. 27-Mar. 5 Conference of Bishops (COB), the body advanced a [statement](#) and letter to President Joseph Biden, calling for a permanent ceasefire, return of hostages and political prisoners, and protection of civilians and lasting peace efforts. This [letter](#) was delivered on Mar. 3.
- Following allegations by Israel that 13 of UNRWA's 30,000 staff were implicated in Oct. 7 events, and as UNRWA investigates the allegations, the ELCA joins many others in urging that humanitarian assistance not be further cut off amid the military siege in the densely populated Gaza territory. UNRWA provides humanitarian assistance, health and educational services for some three million of the 5.9 million Palestinian refugees in Gaza, East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. In Gaza, where infrastructure has been devastated and essential supplies are dangerously reduced, two million Palestinians in Gaza rely on UNRWA for humanitarian assistance.
- The ELCA joined Churches for Middle East Peace in organizing congressional meetings with legislative offices on Feb. 13, focusing advocacy on calls for a

permanent bilateral ceasefire and restoration of UNRWA funding. Bishop Tracie Bartholomew, New Jersey Synod, met with senior policy staff as well as directly with Sen. Chris Van Hollen (MD) on that date.

Why It Matters in the ELCA:

The opening line of the ELCA social statement [For Peace in God's World](#) states: "We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America share with the Church of Jesus Christ in all times and places the calling to be peacemakers."

What's Next:

The ELCA will continue to advocate for a permanent bilateral ceasefire and the restoration of funding to UNRWA.



SOLIDARITY WITH ANNUNCIATION HOUSE: On Mar. 4, the COB issued a [statement](#) in solidarity with migrants and Annunciation House. Annunciation House is a volunteer-run Catholic organization with over 40 years of providing hospitality to migrants in El Paso, Tex. On Feb. 20, the Attorney General of Texas announced it was suing the El Paso organization for alleged potential legal violations which stem from Annunciation House defending itself from demands for sensitive information. On Mar. 5, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition released an [interfaith statement](#) that collected numerous signatures from Lutherans.

Why It Matters in the ELCA:

The COB statement of solidarity with migrants and those who respond to God's call to serve their neighbors, like Annunciation House, is rooted in a long tradition and legacy of welcoming newcomers. In the United States, congregations accompany migrants in their communities through welcoming and sanctuary congregations and synod task forces, accompany migrant children and families as the physical presence of the church in the immigration courtroom, and pray for justice among other responses.

What's Next:

On Mar. 11, Judge Francisco Dominguez from Texas' 205th District issued a ruling blocking further action by the attorney general against Annunciation House until the judge can review the constitutionality of the attorney general's requests. On Mar. 5, [via X/Twitter](#), Annunciation House posted: "Thanks to the ELCA Conference of Bishops for this statement of solidarity."

April Prayer Partners

We are praying weekly for Lutheran Congregations in our Synod. Our prayer partners for April are:



April 7 – First Lutheran Church, Muskegon, Rev. William Uetracht

April 14 – Harbor of Grace Lutheran Church, Muskegon, Rev. Jeff Ferra

April 21 – Trinity Lutheran Church, New Era, Rev. Sarah Samuelson

April 28 – Bethany Lutheran Church, Northport, Rev. Chrysanne Timm

Worship Volunteers & Readings for April

Lay Assistants, Sound Board

April 7 – LA: Laurie Swanson
Sound: Ellis Cutler

April 14 – LA: Chase Lehman
Sound: Travis Sullivan

April 21 – LA: Teresa Garver/
Teresa Momenee-Young
Sound: Ellis Cutler

April 28 – LA: Linda Hermann
Sound: Travis Sullivan

Readings

Acts 4: 32 – 35
Psalm 133
1 John 1: 1 -- 2:2
John 20: 19 – 31

Acts 3: 12 – 19
Psalm 4
1 John 3: 1 – 7
Luke 24: 13 – 35

Acts 4: 5 – 12
Psalm 23
1 John: 3: 16 – 24
John 10: 11 – 18

Acts 8: 26 – 40
Psalm 22: 25 – 31
1 John 4: 7 – 21
John 15: 1 – 8

April Birthdays

4/13 Bob Swanson
4/14 Kathy Chapman
4/15 Gloria Kolodzieizyck
4/29 Don Boulton



Prayer Requests

COMMUNITY

Sharon Cutler
Pam Ellison-Kring
Linda Hermann
Family of Rose Walentowski
Tish Gancer

IN OUR HEARTS/ON OUR MINDS

Jim Hines (Maxine's Nephew)



OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT WITH TRINITY

Trinity's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/trinity.church.581>

"Like" the Trinity Facebook page to follow events and activities.

WEBSITE

Trinity website: <http://www.tlcbattlecreek.org>

Check out the **What's New** tab to see the latest events going on at Trinity. You can also find transcripts of Pastor Kjersten's sermons under the **Worship** tab.

TRUMPET

To update your newsletter email/mail preferences, contact Pastor Kjersten at pastor@tlcbattlecreek.org or 963-5356. Let us know if you would like to be added our quarterly mailing list to receive a color brochure of what's new at Trinity.

ONLINE GIVING

Trinity now has online giving. Simply go to Trinity's website, <http://www.tlcbattlecreek.org> and click on the yellow button that says "Donate" on the bottom left corner of the page. Or go to Trinity's Facebook page and click on the blue button that says "Donate" on the right side of the page.

APR2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	01	02	03	04	05	06
	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live 12:30 Food Pantry	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:45 Choir			
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	6:45 Choir Pastor K	At ELCA	Through	April 14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live 10:30 Worship & Music	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:45 Choir	Road Runners @ Finley's, 11:30 FED, 5:30		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live	10:30 & 5:30 Bible Chat 6:45 Choir			
28	29	30				
10:30 Worship Coffee Hour	8:30am-4pm Woman's Co-Op Monday Mixer	1:00 Bible Chat FaceBook Live				

