



April 2025 Volume 28, No. 4

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
A welcoming faith community  
living together in God's love to  
share the joy of Jesus Christ.

# TIDINGS

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## 301 FP Joint Ecological Team (JET) ECO Tip of the Month

When the 301 Quilters began a year and a half ago, it started as a group that would cut, sew, assemble and knot cloth to make quilts. From the beginning the group is also good at recycling. We've taken donations from all three congregations of scrap cloth, old shirts and skirts, curtains and sheets to cut and use as squares or backs. Through your donations we've been able to send over 50 quilts to help those in need of shelter or warmth. Through your donations you've kept all those "scraps" from entering a dumpster and landfill. Even the jibs that we have from cutting we save instead of throw away. We are looking into finding a veterinary practice or rescue shelter that would use our saved scraps for bedding, or a fiber art studio or school that would use them for art work projects. (If you have any leads, please let us know!) Thank you for recycling your fabrics to help us make useful items for those in need.

The Joint Ecological Team (JET) meets as needed to plan educational events, bike to work day, volunteer opportunities, and advocacy. If you have any suggestions for future Eco-Tips, please email them to the Trinity church office([amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org)). Our next meeting is **Tuesday, April 29 at 5:30 pm**. Be sure to check out the JET table and bulletin board in the NW corner of the Fellowship Hall!

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## Lenten Food Drive with The Little Food Pantry

This month, we invite you to participate in a food drive as an observance of Lent. We can use canned foods, pasta, protein items, snacks such as granola bars, shelf-stable milk, baking mixes, and just about any non-perishable you can think of. Your contributions can be put on the table with the blue basket at the back of the fellowship hall. God bless you, The Little Food Pantry Small Group

## Adult Forum

**April 6:** Amidst a year filled with enormous change in Washington, DC, David Gist with Bread for the World will share with us how we can act to eliminate hunger in our world.

**April 13:** Ukrainian refugee and Fort Collins chef, Tetiana Sherman will return to Trinity to share her story, her ongoing efforts to provide aid to Ukraine, the current situation there through the experiences of her friends, and the challenges they have faced through 3 years of war.

**April 20:** Easter Sunday! Even though Christ is risen, you won't have to rise early to attend Adult Forum which will take the week off!

**April 27:** Under construction!

## CSU Powerhouse Tour

**CSU POWERHOUSE TOUR** The CSU Powerhouse offers free one hour student led tours, details [HERE](#). The 301 Faith Partners Joint Ecological Team has arranged a tour for **Thursday, April 24 at 3 pm**, but we need to arrive 10 minutes early. If you want to participate, please email or call Wally Jacobson by April 21 at: [jacobson.wp@gmail.com](mailto:jacobson.wp@gmail.com) or (970) 223-2276. We are allowed up to 12 people, so please join us for this very worthwhile tour!

[CSU Powerhouse Energy Campus \(PEC\)](#) the stat of the art 100,000-square-foot PEC serves as the Energy Institute's headquarters, primary research facility, and cleantech entrepreneurship hub. It is the largest freestanding university-based energy research and entrepreneurship facility in the United States. Labs within the Powerhouse include areas focused on studying the integration of intermittent renewable resources onto electric grids, evaluating microgrid components, testing photovoltaic devices for solar power, testing large-scale engines, researching indoor air quality, and testing hydrogen and electric vehicles.

## Lenten Mid-Week

Join us for **Taize at 6 pm followed by Soup Supper at 6:30 pm**. Join us on **April 2 & 9**. In the spirit of Lent, the meal will be simple, with just soup and bread. Can you volunteer your time or food? Sign up to help with set up, clean up, and/or donate soup and bread. Sign up [HERE](#).

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



[www.trinitylutheranfc.org](http://www.trinitylutheranfc.org)

**Phone:** (970) 482-1226  
**After Hours Emergency:**  
(970)-400-7252

**OFFICE HOURS**  
MON-THURS 9AM-3PM

**WORSHIP TIMES**  
SAT: 5 PM | SUN: 10:30 AM

**Senior Pastor:** Rick Reiten  
[pastorrick@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:pastorrick@trinitylutheranfc.org)

**Education & Family Minister**  
Deacon Katie Kline  
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**Church Musician:** Carrie Hansen  
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**Saturday Worship Leader**  
Clinton Ellerbe  
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**A/V Techician:** Claire Pickerel  
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**Sunday School:** Jennifer Reeve  
[childrensminister@stpauls-fc.org](mailto:childrensminister@stpauls-fc.org)

**Nursery Coordinator**  
Tiffany Klijewski  
[tiffany@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:tiffany@trinitylutheranfc.org)

**TLC Preschool Director**  
Brenda Harju  
[brenda@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:brenda@trinitylutheranfc.org)

# Clergy's Communiqué - Conflict Resolution Training

"The closer an issue is to your identity: the more it hurts; the longer it takes to resolve/manage; the more we need help from others; the more challenging is the process; the more we depend on God." – Dr. Tony Everett, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

From our first initial pastoral care classes in seminary, Dr. Everett taught us that conflicts are issues near to our identity. In other words, conflict is inevitable not only in parish settings but in all vocations. Conflict is also healthy and necessary for congregation transformation (growth). Conflict management starts by understanding ourselves better, how we respond to stress and conflict, and from there we can utilize resources to better address a dilemma in the congregation or in any relationship.

I could go on and on, but I will save that for the training, that Trinity's small group leaders and council will participate in on April 27. This mutual goal from council and clergy was presented at the March congregational meeting and now being enacted. While Trinity isn't in conflict crisis (which would be unhealthy), clergy and lay leaders routinely face ministry differences. We all face conflict in our day-to-day relationships outside church. It is how we act, react and interact in those spaces – with the help of God – that determines the positive outcome of our conflict.

Deacon Katie and I will be using our own training to better equip our leaders, and hope that it will be an enriching experience for everyone. As the congregation, we ask your prayers for all those a part of this opportunity. We invite you to ask your small group leader to share their learnings with you.

As we are reminded by author...Luther Smith, "Conflict transformation training as a prerequisite for being effective in building beloved community." May it be so.

Thanks be to God. Pastor Rick and Deacon Katie

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## Holy Week/Easter

**Holy Wednesday, April 16** at **6:30 pm** Tenebrae Service in Chapel/Room 9 in East Wing

To join Tenebrae service click [HERE!!](#)\*\* (This is St. Paul's link so you need to use this one)

**Maundy Thursday, April 17** at **6:30 pm** Service with Foot Washing and Veneration of the Eucharist

To join Maundy Thursday service click [HERE!!](#)\*\* (This is St. Paul's link so you need to use this one)

**Good Friday, April 18**

**11 am-2 pm** Stations of the Cross - A self-guided prayer journey. These stations are meant **to be used from now until Good Friday along with on Good Friday from 11 am– 2 pm** and are located in the Sanctuary. Feel free to use them on your schedule (during office hours) and at your own pace, you can visit a few stations each day or all of the stations at once. There will be a meditation booklet to be used as you go through the stations. \*In person only.\*

**6:30 pm** Service with Seven Last Words and Veneration of the Cross - As we did last year, worship concludes with the invitation to gather where violence has occurred in the Fort Collins Community. We will sing and pray blessing in this spot. To join Good Friday service click [HERE!!](#)

**Holy Saturday, April 19** at **5 pm** Easter Service To join this service click [HERE!!](#)

**Easter Sunday, April 20**

**10:30 am Easter Service** - To join this service click [HERE!!](#)

**11:30 am Easter Brunch** - The Faith Formation Ministry will host a brunch on Easter Sunday after worship. Many Hands Make Light Work, sign up to bring food, serve, set up, & clean up [HERE](#).

## Small Groups

**Sermon Discussion** Enjoy a discussion of the weekend sermon to share where we see God present in our lives. Join us most **Mondays at 12 pm**.

**Bible Study** Join the fun weekly on **Thursdays at 9 am**, together we walk through the books of the Bible, exploring God's Word for our present day lives.

**Quilting** join us weekly on **Fridays at 10 am**. NO experience needed, NO need to have been coming last year, NO worries. Hope to see the old familiar as well as new faces.

**Trinity Readers** will meet in the Fireside Room on **Monday, April 7, at 9:30 am** to discuss ***The Women*** by Kristin Hannah – a historical novel centered around the nurses who served in the Vietnam War. It has been a popular book which many members of TLC have probably read, so please join us for discussion – even though you may not be a regular attendee at the book group. Looking ahead to May, we will return to non-fiction with ***Send Me: A True Story of a Mother at War*** by Marty Skovlund and Joe Kent – the story of a woman who is both a mother and a Special Ops Navy soldier. Questions? Call Nadine Hunt at 970-825-3730.

**301 FP Fellowship Get-Togethers** take place the **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday (April 10) at 3:30 pm**, the location is picked closer to the date, check e-News. All gatherings are informal and no RSVP needed.

**TGIF** (Second **Friday at 6:30 pm**) - *Note*, Hosts may opt for another Friday of the month. Come, kick back, relax, and enjoy an evening connecting with others from the Trinity family and meet new faces! Bring yourself, an appetizer/dessert and a beverage you'd like or would like to share. If you have questions and or would like to sign up to host, please contact Liz Johnson or 402-320-3699.

**April 11:** Jo & James Gearheart **May 9:** Linda Cavazos **Jun, July, August:** *Still Available!*

**Prayer Cards** This group meets to make homemade greeting cards the **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday**, **\*\*however this month due to Easter they will meet April 12 at 2 pm**. The group will decide how the cards will be used. No crafting skills needed, just a willing heart to serve others. Open Invitation to come when you are able BUT an RSVP to [Erik Elliott](#) is needed for supplies.

**Pub Theology 2.0** OPEN Group (meaning any and all are welcome!) will gather at **Moot House at 5:30 pm on Monday, April 14** (\***ALERT date change**\*). We will conclude our series of discussions of Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Holy Envy* during Holy Week! Believe it or not, our discussion will begin with the chapter entitled 'Divine Diversity' (as in D.E.I.) which will be followed with the chapter 'The God You Didn't Make Up'! For more information call James Gearhart at 303-817-2361.

**Chapter Two Book Group** meets monthly to discuss a book of the group's choice. Gather in the **Fireside Room at 6pm** on the dates below for an hour of casual discussion and to choose a future book for the group to read. Anyone is welcome to join, from 301 Faith Partners, the community, and beyond! Please contact [Maddie Fairfax](#) if you'd like to join the email list for this group or have any questions. **Thursday, April 24** to discuss *A Dog Called Hope* by Jason Morgan  
**Thursday, May 22** to discuss *James* by Percival Everett

**301 FP Prayer Group** meets the **last Monday of the month (April 28) at 10:30 am** in the Fireside Room to pray for the 301 Partnership. If you have questions or comments please email or call [Pat Wiedower](#) or 619-994-2641.

## Small Groups Continued . . .

**Little Pantry** Currently, we are in the middle of a drive for Lent, to replenish The Little Pantry. According to details on the latest Federal budget resolution, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) recipients will be receiving a cut averaging \$42 per month. In these times, our efforts to alleviate food insecurity become increasingly necessary. The Little Pantry has become a 301 Faith Partners activity. In addition, there are neighbors who have noticed our pantry and stop by to replenish it. Thanks very much for every can or package you bring.

**Garden Group** *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:....a time to plant and a time to uproot..." Ecclesiastes 3:1-2* It is about "time to plant" in the 301 Faith Partners' garden. There is work to do to prepare for the planting; the planting; the watering; the weeding; and ultimately the harvest. Working in the garden and sharing the produce is rewarding, but it does require the efforts of several volunteers. We would love to welcome more volunteers to share the workload. If you are interested and willing to join our Small Group Ministry, you can get more information by contacting Nyla Anderson at 970-231-1282 or [nander0620@aol.com](mailto:nander0620@aol.com). Monetary donations to help with the garden are always accepted, checks can be made out to Trinity Lutheran with Garden in the memo line.

**Saints & Sinners Golf Group** is back for the 2025 summer season! We plan to play nine holes on three Friday mornings and then gather for snacks and fellowship. Tee times will be reserved at Northern Colorado courses, most within 30 minute drive of Fort Collins. We are a small but committed group. If you would like to join the group, send an email to [donnadauner@gmail.com](mailto:donnadauner@gmail.com). Saint Paul and Mary of Magdala members are invited to join this Trinity small group ministry. Our tentative play dates are **June 20, July 25 and September 12.**

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## Your Gifts In Action ~ Tree, Water & People

*Our mission is to improve people's lives by helping communities protect, conserve, and manage the natural resources upon which their long-term well-being depends.*

Celebrating 25 years of service, the Fort Collins non-profit organization Trees, Water & People (TWP) has been doing transformative work in parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and the United States. They believe the people living on degraded lands are the only ones who can restore and protect their environment because they have a vested interest in preserving their local ecosystem (according to the World Wildlife Fund, approximately 80% of the world's biodiversity is protected by indigenous communities.)

TWP facilitates the process by providing the communities access to resources to reach their goals. For example, they have assisted tribal communities in southwestern Colorado in restoring native vegetation in the riparian areas along the Mancos River which has been ravaged by the invasive tamarisk. In Honduras, following a 35-year struggle, the local community has been given authority to manage and protect a natural area as a permanent wildlife refuge. In partnership with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and Red Cloud Renewable, over 6,000 ponderosa pine seedlings have been planted in the Bear Butte State Park, SD. For other examples of their work, visit them at <https://treeswaterpeople.org/>.

**When you give to Trinity, you give to Trees, Water & People**

# APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		<b>1</b> 7:30 am Men's Breakfast  5:30 pm Soc/Eco Justice 6:15 pm 301 FP SEJ Discount deadline for SR
<b>6</b> 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	<b>7</b> 9:30am Trinity Readers  12 pm Sermon Discussion	<b>8</b>     6:30 pm Executive
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b> 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 6:30 pm Grace Tables VBS Registration Opens	<b>14</b>  12 pm Sermon Discussion 5:30 pm Pub Theology 6 pm Property	<b>15</b>    6:30 pm Council
<b>20 Easter Sunday</b> 10:30 am Easter Worship 11:30 am Easter Brunch 2 pm LuMin Cooking	<b>21 Office Closed</b>  12 pm Sermon Discussion Deadline RSVP Powerhouse Tour	<b>22</b>
<b>27</b> 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	<b>28</b> 10:30 am 301 FP Prayer Group 12 pm Sermon Discussion	<b>29</b>   5:30 pm FP Eco Justice

## Donation Corner

**Prayer Cards Small Group** needs:

- #5 - 1/2 invitation envelopes
- All color card-stock paper
- Any other scrap-booking paper or supplies, even stamps!

**Quilting Small Group** needs:

- We will still (and always!) collect donated fabric, Fabric, FABRIC.

**Thrivent Action Teams:** Are you an eligible Thrivent member and have choice dollars available to direct? There are a number of groups that count on the Thrivent Action Teams. Talk to Dcn. Katie.

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2</b> Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:15p Bells 6 pm Taize 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Choir	<b>3</b> 9:30 am Bible Study	<b>4</b> 10 am Quilting Grp	<b>5</b> 12 pm Sweet Treats  5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
<b>9</b> Volunteer @ Irish Elem  5:15p Bells 6 pm Taize 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Choir	<b>10</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 1 pm FP Clergy Mtg 3:30 pm FP Get Together 4 pm Finance 6:15 pm FP Co-Op Mtg	<b>11</b> 10 am Quilting Grp  6:30 pm TGIF	<b>12</b> 10 am Good Grief  2 pm Prayer Cards 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
<b>16 Holy Wednesday</b> Volunteer @ Irish Elem  5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Tenebrae	<b>17 Maundy Thursday</b> 9:30 am Bible Study  6:30 pm MT Service	<b>18 Good Friday</b> 10 am Quilting Grp 11 am Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm GF Service	<b>19</b>  5 pm Easter Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
<b>23</b> Volunteer @ Irish Elem  5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	<b>24</b> 9:30 am Bible Study  3 pm Powerhouse Tour 6 pm Chap 2 Readers 7 pm Immigration	<b>25</b> 10 am Quilting Grp	<b>26</b> 10 am Good Grief  5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
<b>30</b> Volunteer @ Irish Elem  5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir			

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**April 5/6** Vicki Volbrecht / Gerry Olsen

**April 12/13** / Anya Reiten

**April 19/20** / Lindsay Reiten

**April 26/27** / Amelia Snyder

Pull Me OUT! HANG ME up!!  
PUT ME ON YOUR FRIDGE!

## TLC 2025 Ministry Fund Plan Actuals

	February 2025	Year-To-Date
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Offerings	\$ 39,624	\$ 78,573
SPE and MoM Building Use Donations	4,580	7,930
Building Use	3,789	4,636
Benevity Funds Released	-	1,400
<b>Total Receipts:</b>	<b>47,993</b>	<b>92,539</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Operating and Support	\$ 29,674	\$ 59,804
Ministries	13,107	20,585
Benevolence/Gifts (Synod, Sky Ranch, etc)	-	.
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>42,781</b>	<b>80,389</b>
<b>Receipts less Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$ 5,212</b>	<b>\$ 12,150</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings as of 2/28/2025</b>		\$ 187,564.90
<b>Total Checking/Savings as of 12/31/2024</b>		\$ 204,772.61
<b>Difference</b>		\$ (17,207.71)



### Birthdays



Eric Jurgenson	4/3	Pollyann Sersen	4/10	Barbara Lambert	4/22
Marilyn Bycroft	4/4	Patricia Telleen	4/12	Jessica Lipscomb	4/22
Karolyn Kufeld	4/4	Stephen Zink	4/16	Colton Hopkins	4/23
Rose Zubradt	4/7	Liz Johnson	4/19	Howard Nornes	4/27
Walter Hansen	4/8	Kent Garvin	4/21	Hope Wolf	4/30
Jeff Fairfax	4/9	Barb Klamman	4/21		



### Anniversaries



Doris & Jimmie Schwartz	4/2	Lori & Karl Schmidt	4/16
Bonnie & Rod McKenrick	4/18	Michele & Ken Christensen	4/29

## Fund For Leaders

Thank you to the people of Trinity Lutheran Church for making an investment in the future of the church through the ELCA Fund for Leaders. In the 2024-2025 academic year, the ELCA Fund for Leaders provided scholarship assistance of more than \$3 million in support of 350 future pastors and deacons.

Our current endowed scholarship currently totals \$50,405! In addition to this endowment, Fund For Leaders has allocated another \$1700 in direct support for a seminary student of our choice. Generosity begets more generosity. Thank you for your role in ensuring that these future leaders will be freed from the burden of student debt so that they can go and serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.



## The heart, hands & feet of God

Thank someone who has lived out their faith by sharing their gifts and made a difference in the church OR community, please email Amanda, [amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org).



**Wilbur's Total Beverage**--Thank you! Did you know that Wilbur's (Hwy 287 & Rutgers) continues to support Trinity by providing discounted wine-for both our communion and Saturday Fellowships-despite heavy competition from retailers? If you appreciate this, please consider shopping with them for your next wine, beer, spirit, or non-alcoholic beverage purchase. Many of their employees are sommelier (wine) or cicerone (beer) certified. Want a couple names? Ask for "Paulie" (Paul)-if you are interested in wines from Italy, or the Northwest, or Dave-who specializes in French and California wines. Since Covid, Wilbur's has reinstated their free wine tastings on Saturdays from noon-3 pm. Another reason to support them? Wilbur's is both locally owned and family run. If you have not shopped there, why don't you give them a try 970-226-8662. Thanks, Debbie Schwartz

On behalf of staff - and everyone at Trinity - thank you to two of our middle school youth - **Jasper Prows and Alex Peterson-Vecchio!!!** During our congregational meeting, they noticed some graffiti (a swastika) on our sign by the bike path - and took the initiative to clean it up. We are proud of you both as positive examples of faith in action.

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## 301 Faith Partner Prayer Group

After meeting with all our Pastors and Deacon, it appears that it is a good thing to continue our 301 Prayer Group even though in-person participation in the group has been low. We trust "where two or three gather Jesus is in our midst." The prayer group began after all three of our bishops visited us and it became apparent that each congregation needed to discern with its leadership the direction of our 301 Partnership. The bishops encouraged us, while we were doing that work, to pray together.

The purpose of the 301 Partnership Prayer Group has been to pray for our Pastors, Deacon, and all our leaders, that they might have a deeper understanding of the values of the partnership: Love, faith, compassion, collaboration, inclusivity, sanctuary, diversity, gratitude, communication, and creativity, and that they might live out these values as they work together. We now see how important it is to include each member of each congregation in our prayer, so that together we live out the values of the partnership as we pray and serve together.

This year we would like to pray for everyone to discern the spiritual gift the Spirit has promised them. What is your spiritual gift? Is it administration, artistry, discernment, evangelism, exhortation, faith, giving, hospitality, intercession, knowledge, leadership, mercy, music – vocal – instrument, pastoring, service, skilled craft, teaching, wisdom or writing? How are you using this gift in service to our communities? And we are inviting all leaders to send us your intentions, prayers and petitions, so that as we gather on the last Monday of the month, we can pray for your needs. Please join us to pray on each **last Monday of the month in the Fireside Room at 10:30 am**. Everyone is important to this work of prayer, and all are welcome, whether you have come before or not. Please join us in person or in Spirit.

## All Things Faith Formation

**Sky Ranch** Would your child like to go to Sky Ranch this summer? Elementary, Middle, and High School students are invited to Sky Ranch with other Trinity youth the week of July 20-25 (or half week for lower elementary 20-23). Please register directly with Sky Ranch: [SUMMER CAMPS \(skyranchcolorado.org\)](https://skyranchcolorado.org) and use the code: 25TLCFC). Trinity will pay \$200 per camper! This amount will automatically be taken off your registration when you use the code. If you decide to go a different week (I know, schedules are complicated) please mark Trinity, Fort Collins on your registration and let me know and you to get the same offer. As always, scholarships are available, contact me for more information. **To use this discount, you must register by April 1** (earlier is better to ensure there is enough space!)

**Family Camp** If you would like to go to family camp at Sky Ranch, they have a week dedicated for you! June 29-July 4, [FAMILY CAMPS](#) to learn more and register. Again, on your registration please indicate that you are part of Trinity, Fort Collins and your whole family will get the \$200 off as well.

**Trinity's Easter Brunch** The Faith Formation Committee and the friends and families of the Trinity youth are hosting Easter Brunch for ALL on Easter Sunday after the 10:30 am worship service. Join us for pancakes, breakfast meats, fruit, juice, and mimosas, ALL are Welcome! If you would like to contribute sign up [HERE](#).

**VBS** Save the date for Set Sail **June 9-12 from 9am-12!** Come aboard ~ as we set sail on a new adventure! An ocean cruise is perfect for relaxing, having fun, and making new memories. When we embark on a journey like this, we can trust the captain to lead us toward our destination and we can trust God in the same way! Kids PreK-5<sup>th</sup> will develop a deeper understanding of how to follow Jesus when they learn God shows us how to love others, gives us gifts to serve others, prepares us to share the good news, and loves spending time with us! REGISTRATION opens April 13! See e-News for link.

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## TLC Preschool

Welcome Spring! Everyone in the TLC Preschool classroom is more than ready for some warmer weather and the opportunity to explore outdoors!

I'm happy to share two pieces of great news from preschool. Firstly, TLC Preschool received a perfect inspection, with no violations, from CDEC State Licensing this past month. This doesn't happen very often and was the result of hard work and attention to detail. The second piece of great news is that TLC Preschool is now rated as a Level 2 in the Colorado Shines rating program. This advancement was also the result of hard work, and, while we're excited to be at Level 2, we'll be researching the possibility of further advancement.

We continue to have openings available for next school year, but our enrollment has improved somewhat, which is encouraging. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the United States has been in a cycle of lowered birth rates (falling to their lowest level in more than 40 years) and it isn't expected to increase until 2028 or 2029, so many programs continue to have openings due to fewer young children. But, we're hopeful that we'll be able to add a few more students for next year.

We wish you a beautiful spring, along with the blessings of new life and renewal! Happy Easter!

God's Peace, Brenda Harju, Director

## Highlights from Co-Op Committee Meeting

The Co-Op Committee, composed of clergy and lay leaders of each faith community, meeting monthly to discuss the functioning of the faith partnership, coordination of collaborative projects, and other items affecting the faith communities. At the March 13th, 2025 meeting, the following items were discussed:

Judy Matthews from Social/Eco Justice Partnership came to discuss SEJ's interest in having a tamale sale by La Fondita Latina for members of 301 Partner congregations in sometime this year. The business has been involved with both ISAAC and 301 Partners and is in the process of building a restaurant at 128 W. Laurel St.

We reviewed the Holy Week schedule and Raven Agape discussed a brochure his wife, Amy, is working on for the Stations of the Cross.

Pastor Rick and Paul Johnson reported on Trinity's congregational meeting that authorized a task force to work on a 7-year lease agreement for the 301 Faith Partnership to be voted on at Trinity's November, 2025 congregational meeting.

Discussion took place about the recent mailbox vandalism and how to prevent future problems.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson, VP Trinity Council

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## Sunday March 9 Annual Congregational Meeting Highlights

\*A motion was passed, after discussion, to use our 2024 Ministry Fund Plan surplus of \$21,829.43 as follows: The funds will be held for the fellowship hall furnace replacement, except that \$2,000 will be sent to Lutheran Family Services and \$2,000 will be sent to Global Refuge (formally known as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service).

Council President Eric Jurgenson introduced the Mutual Expectation process. The council has initiated this process with consideration of the congregation poll responses. He explained, with the use of slides, that the Executive Board and the clergy have worked out the goals together, to address 5 areas: growth, fellowship opportunities, youth education and involvement, varied worship and staff support. Eric enlarged on these goals, emphasizing Saturday worship, staff salaries, completing a ministry audit and improving outside communication and media use. It is expected that council members will visit Saturday night worship, support the Coop, complete conflict resolution training and develop a standard procedure for onboarding new council members. Eric called for comments. There were none. Eric led a litany of acceptance of Mutual Expectations.

A motion was passed, after discussion, to form a committee tasked with drawing up 7-year 301 Faith Partnership leases, with the intention of continuing beyond that term. Our current agreements with St. Paul's Episcopal and with Mary of Magdala Ecumenical Catholic will end March of 2026.

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## Council Highlights March 18, 2025 Council Meeting Highlights

Property will be obtaining bids for parking lot re-surfacing and striping. More handicapped parking will be added.

Council will be holding a 2-part annual retreat. The first will be April 27 from noon to 2:30 and will consist of conflict resolution training. Small group leaders will be invited. The second will be held on the evening of May 1, from 5:30 to 8:30. The focus will be building an onboarding process for new council members and finishing constitutional edits.

After the March annual meeting, there were complaints about the poor quality of the AV system. Property (Soren Nicholson, chair) will reach out to members who have explored this issue recently, and develop a plan, with the intent of having a solution in place before the next annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Morrissey, Council Secretary (Complete minutes available in the office)



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## **Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA Advocacy Day at the Capitol, March 18!**

Rocky Mtn Synod ELCA members partnered with Together Colorado (a CO multifaitlh lobbying group) on 3/18 to meet with senators and legislators in Denver. Paul Johnson, Linda Cavazos, James Gearhart and Tim Snyder participated from Trinity. A brief gathering before meeting legislators provided us info for the days activity, included a devotion and prayer from Bishop Meghan. Over 100 people participated and most were able to meet with and discuss issues with their representatives.

The main issues we discussed supported 1) reducing red tape to allow building lower cost housing on property belonging to churches or educational groups, 2) Removing restrictions in place that can prevent those in prison from contacting family and friends, and 3) Changing the requirement from two votes to allow unionization to only one.

We were able to meet with Rep. Boesenecker who is a sponsor of the bill allowing lower cost housing.



This bill passed the house recently and is headed to the senate. It was an interesting and informative day and allowed us to express our desire for action supporting human dignity.