



# THE BEACON

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

### How to live in relationship with God?

The entire Bible, from start to finish, can be read as a cosmic narrative or divine drama, telling the stories of God's efforts—and humanity's responses—to teach and show us what it means to live in relationship with our Creator. From the idealistic beginnings pictured in the Garden of Eden in the opening of the Bible, to the dramatic events and promises of things to come in the last book of the Bible, it sketches a tale that is awesome in its scope and understanding of the human condition.

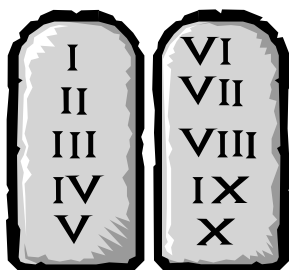
The close relationship between humanity and God, illustrated so beautifully by the intimate picture of God walking in the Garden with the man and woman, rested on a couple of simple things. These were "boundaries" or limits placed on humanity by God ("...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat..."). These were not arbitrary, but essential to maintaining the original, innocent relationship that existed. When humanity reached beyond the limits of this kind of relationship with God, the Divine Drama truly began!!

Cast out of the Garden, and no longer in the original type of relationship with God, humanity wasted no time in figuring out all the many and various ways in which it was possible to damage or destroy relationships with fellow humankind (and continue to damage the relationship with God). You know the saying, "There is nothing new under the sun..." Well, when it comes to sin (i.e. messing up relationships with God and each other), humanity had it all figured out a long time ago!

Onto this stage ("The whole world is a stage..."), God sends Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, and puts into motion events that will lead a people being "set apart" as belonging to Him. Through Moses, God leads these people (now called "the Israelites") out of slavery in Egypt, through forty years of wandering in the wilderness (learning lessons all the way), and into a land called the "Promised Land." And all this is just a brief synopsis of the first book of the Bible, Genesis!

As the story continues, we learn that God is *not* setting apart a special people to be His own to the exclusion or detriment of the rest of humanity. This "People of Israel" are to be shaped and refined and molded by God so that they can show the rest of the world what it means to live in a right relationship with God! They are to show the way, to be a light to the nations. Much of what we refer to as the "Old Testament" tells these stories... stories of David and Solomon, Goliath and Samson, Joshua, Gideon, and a cast of thousands! These are not stories of perfect people living perfect lives as our examples to follow. These are very honest, real, unvarnished stories of imperfect humans trying to live in relationship with God. Early on in the story, God had given the Children of Israel a guide to follow. We call it the "Ten Commandments," and they are simply the way we are to live in relationship with God AND with each other!

### *The Ten Commandments*



- Thou shalt have no other gods.
- Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain.
- Thou shalt sanctify the holy-day.
- Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother.
- Thou shalt not murder.
- Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- Thou shalt not steal.
- Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

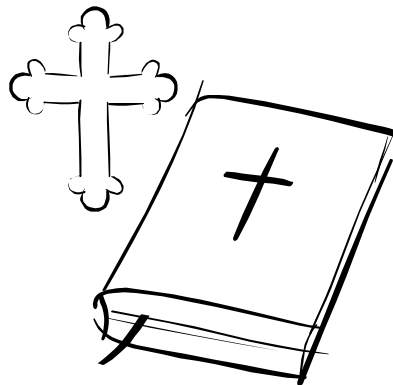
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his.

But, things didn't get any better. Sometimes Israel followed the Ten Commandments, more often not. God sent special messengers, called prophets, to warn them and bring them back to the right ways of living in relationship with God and humanity--- and quite often, these very messengers from God ended up dead at the hands of the people. Sometimes God allowed other nations to subdue Israel for a time, in punishment and chastisement to lead the people back into proper relationship. But, by the end of the "Old Testament" part of our Bible, things weren't much better than they had been all along.

Finally, about 2,000 years ago, the plot of the Divine Drama narrows down to focus on a man from Nazareth, of Galilee, called Jesus. His ministry only lasted three years (he was about 33 years old when he died). But this Jesus was the Son of God—fully human, but related to God in an incredibly intimate way...and his purpose was to restore the damaged and broken relationships between God, his Father, and humanity. Jesus would also show the way to heal the perverted, spoiled relationships between humans themselves. First of all, he summed up the Ten Commandments into two simple statements...1. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and 2. Love your neighbor as yourself. It doesn't get much more clear and simple than that. But humanity was not capable even of these two things. So instead of "rules," Jesus showed us a "way"—the Way of Forgiveness. He demonstrated this Way of Forgiveness in his life... indeed, he demonstrated this Way of Forgiveness *with* his very life on the day we call Good Friday. And it was a "Good" day for us that Friday 2,000 years ago. Jesus solved our relationship problem with God, his Father, by giving us his own relationship with God (check out II Corinthians 5:21)! We now stand forgiven before God – not perfect, but forgiven. And we are now able to give that same forgiveness to others... in other words, *humanity's relationship with God is now based on forgiveness given to us in Jesus, and our relationships with each other are now based on the forgiveness given to us in Jesus, as well!*

Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, is God's affirmation of the Way of Forgiveness as the way to be in relationship with him and with the rest of humanity. We are Easter people, learning the Way of Forgiveness for ourselves, and for each other.

*Pastor Terry*



# COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR APRIL 2008

*by Mike Kropelin*

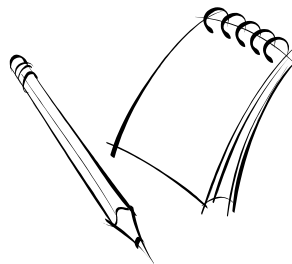


***Christ is Risen; He is Risen indeed; Alleluia!***

How wonderful that God gave His only son, Jesus Christ for us. Christ died on the cross for all of us, for the forgiveness of our sins: big sins, little sins, ALL of our sins. We are forgiven just by asking for forgiveness. Our Lord and Savior did the suffering and all we need to do is be sorry for not following God's Word.

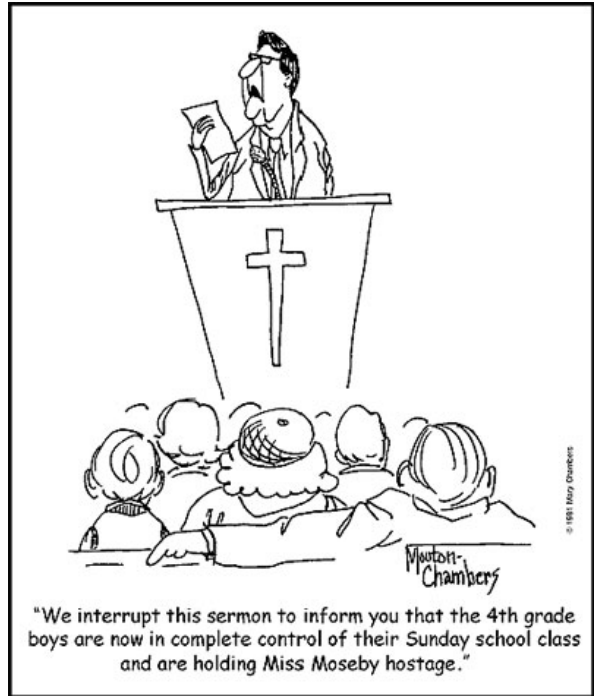
God tells us how to live in the Bible. It is like a road map to heaven. Read it, follow it, ask for forgiveness and be sorry for your sins, and God will welcome you with open arms. If it's this simple, why do worry? We have faith, don't we? We do trust God, don't we? Of course we do! It's ourselves that we don't trust. As a Christian, I sometimes wonder if I'm really following God's Word. Do I love my neighbor? What about feeding the hungry? Do I help the poor they way I should? I like to think that I'm doing things the way God wants me to, but sometimes I really wonder. Am I good Christian? Am I living the way God wants me to? What about you? Are you living the way you should? Do you love your neighbors? Are you following God's Word? If not, then now is the time to change your life. Read the Bible daily, follow God's Commandments. Most importantly remember God loves you and cares for you. Always trust God and remember that He will always be there for you. Ask Him to help you, guide you, and to forgive your sins. Who could ask for more?

***God Bless All of You!***



## TRINITY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The bulletin board found on the lower level of Trinity's building in the Sunday School wing has a new look. Many thanks to Lisa Kaminski for introducing the idea of selecting "Students of the Month". There will be two students recognized each month with photos and perhaps some of their likes and dislikes. You are invited to stop down and see the photos of Brianna and Garrett Jurewicz. All the students were given an Easter gift to remind them that God gave us a true gift. The gift of his son, Jesus, who died on the cross and was raised so that we might all have life everlasting. As the younger students work on their craft project each week, they are told what the significance of this craft is. You might ask them what they learned both in Sunday School as well as in craft time to hear God's message as only a child can tell it.



You are cordially invited to attend  
SERVICE of INSTALLATION  
For  
The REVEREND ALLEN K. GRIEP  
Chaplain

NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH SYSTEM  
Wed., April 2, 2008, 2:00 pm  
Niagara Lutheran Home & Rehabilitation Ctr.  
64 Hager Street, Buffalo  
Or

Wed., April 9, 2008, 2:00 pm  
Greenfield Health & Rehabilitation Ctr.  
5949 Broadway, Lancaster

We invite you to join us for snacks and fellowship following the service. 886-4377 for information

### 4th Annual Ride Around the Lake

A Fund-Raising Adventure on behalf of  
Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center.

**When:** Saturday, July 19, at 8:30 am

**Where:** Beginning at LCLC and  
continuing for 42 miles around Lake  
Chautauqua.

**Free** lodging available at the Retreat  
Center for riders, before and after the ride.

**The Challenge:** Raise \$20,000 to fund  
Camperships for LCLC

**Call** LCLC at 716-386-4125 or email  
[lclc@alltel.net](mailto:lclc@alltel.net)

## ELCA'S DRAFT SOCIAL STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY

*A Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality* has been drawn up by the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality. This draft is part of the process leading up to the consideration of a proposed social statement on human sexuality at the 2009 ELCA Churchwide

Assembly. Please note that this draft is not the proposed social statement. The task force will complete its work and release a proposed social statement in February 2009. Please study this draft and give it careful consideration. The task

force awaits response from this church to inform the writing of the proposed statement. Response to the task force will be due on November 1, 2008. To review and respond to the draft, or further information about the sexuality studies, please go to [www.elca.org/](http://www.elca.org/)

[faithfuljourney.](http://www.elca.org/)

A limited amount of copies can be printed in our church office if internet is unavailable to you.

Thank you for your thoughtful engagement in this social statement process.

## DEFIANT REQUIEM- VERDI AT TEREZIN

**Sunday, May 4th, 3:00 pm**  
**Kleinhans Music Hall**  
**Buffalo, NY**

**Murry Sidlin, Conducting**

The Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra will present an extraordinary concert drama, "Defiant Requiem," on May 4, 2008, at Kleinhans Music Hall. This production was conceived by Murry Sidlin, recognized conductor and educator, and recalls several extraordinary performances of Verdi's *Requiem* at the Terezin concentration camp in 1943. "Defiant Requiem" combines Verdi's work with projected images of the Terezin performances and readings of narratives from Terezin survivors.

This concert drama honors the power of music to sustain and uplift the human spirit—even under horrendous conditions—and to move those who hear it. The performances of Verdi's *Requiem* at Terezin were acts of defiance against oppression, a message that is still relevant today. The emotional impact of this single performance will resonate long after its final *Libera me*.

### FOR TICKET INFORMATION

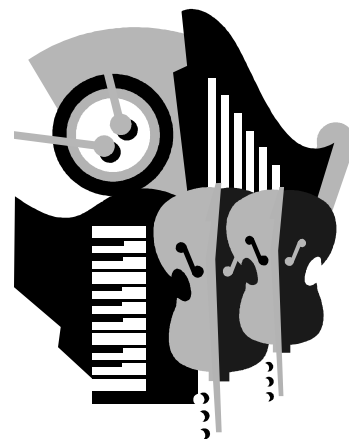
VISIT : [BPchorus.org](http://BPchorus.org)

Or call : 716-885-5000

Or see

David Hofmeier

A Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus  
 Member



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS—APRIL 2008

### April 6, 2008

Worship Assistant	8:00-Donna Kumpf	10:45-Tammy Johannes
Scripture Reader	8:00-Paula Kropelin	10:45-Becky Fix
Communion Asst.	8:00-Lisa Kaminski	10:45-Gretchen Bruning
Greeter		10:45-Donna Kumpf
Acolyte	8:00-Emily Adamczak	10:45-Louis Henley

### April 13, 2008

Worship Assistant	8:00-Helen Smith	10:45-Diane McMullen
Scripture Reader	8:00-Sharon Waff	10:45-Dale Kruschke
Communion Asst.	8:00-Sue Campbell	10:45-Erik Polkowski
Greeter		10:45-Helen Smith
Acolyte	8:00-Amy Morgante	10:45-Evan Eckerson

### April 20, 2008

Worship Assistant	8:00-Donna Kumpf	10:45-Flo Goeske
Scripture Reader	8:00-Ethel Kogut	10:45-Helen Smith
Communion Asst.	8:00-Mel Knerr	10:45-Shirley Schoenwetter
Greeter		10:45-Chuck & Pat Lowder
Acolyte		10:45-Nick Greiner

### April 27, 2008

Worship Assistant	8:00-Helen Smith	10:45-Flo Goeske
Scripture Reader	8:00-David Hofmeier	10:45-Meghan Greiner
Communion Asst.	8:00-Paula Kropelin	10:45-Diane Vogt
Greeter		10:45-Betty Sugg
Acolyte		10:45-Anthony Cinotti

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

3 <sup>rd</sup> -	Wade Wolcott
4 <sup>th</sup> -	Betty Kenline
6 <sup>th</sup> -	Ken Mekeel
	Stanley Jasinski
8 <sup>th</sup> -	Becky Fix
	Linda Kaczmarek
9 <sup>th</sup> -	Emerson Polkowski
10 <sup>th</sup> -	Sandor Nagy
	Daniel Greiner
12 <sup>th</sup> -	Karen Brown
13 <sup>th</sup> -	Gretchen Bruning
14 <sup>th</sup> -	Jennifer Aylsworth
	Deborah Greiner
15 <sup>th</sup> -	Catherine Schoenthal
	Arianna Cinotti
16 <sup>th</sup> -	Darla Infanti
19 <sup>th</sup> -	Andrew Seguin
	Evan Eckerson
22 <sup>nd</sup> -	Ken Schmidt
23 <sup>rd</sup> -	Eugene Hofmeier
24 <sup>th</sup> -	Andy Cinotti
	Michael Kropelin
	Judy Rowland
25 <sup>th</sup> -	Matthew Covell
26 <sup>th</sup> -	Wendy Yaeger
27 <sup>th</sup> -	Laura Kropelin
	Dottie Mekeel
29 <sup>th</sup> -	Sharon Schmidt

### APRIL

### ANNIVERSARIES:

17 <sup>th</sup> -	Martin & Kim Szinger
26 <sup>th</sup> -	Don & June Hoffmann

## CHILDREN OF GOD

The bulletin board by the Sunday School classrooms is being used to display our "Children of God". Each month, two students will be selected to display various pictures of their lives and achievements. This is something that parents and children can create together!

Students will be selected at random, and plenty of notice will be given. However, if anyone would like a particular month for their display, please contact Lisa Kaminski at 542-4150 or [valentine214@earthlink.net](mailto:valentine214@earthlink.net).

BRIANNA JUREWICZ and GARRETT JUREWICZ will have their time to shine in APRIL. Please stop by the classrooms for a viewing.



### Lutheran Care Partners to Conduct Spiritual Care Workshop

Lutheran Care, in partnership with the Christians in Action for Seniors Team, will conduct a workshop, "Tools for Spiritual Care" with Father Robert A. Rost, D. Min. offered at 2 locations:

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Lutheran Care,  
Rt. 12B in Clinton

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Resurrection Lutheran Church  
St. Paul Blvd., Rochester

Both begin at 8:30 am and conclude at 4:00 pm

The hands-on workshop will allow participants to explore various techniques of spiritual care through dialogue and sharing of experiences with a focus on effective patterns of providing spiritual care. It is made possible through a grant from the Lutheran Services for the Elderly Endowment.

The cost is \$55 for registrations by April 16; \$60 after that date. The cost is \$35 for students with current college ID. All fees include lunch and materials.

For more information and to register, contact Rev. Brian McCaffrey, LutheranCare Chaplain at 315-235-7125 or email, [bmccaffrey@lutherancare.org](mailto:bmccaffrey@lutherancare.org)

### Dates to note:

April 12  
*Spaghetti Supper*

April 22  
*Earth Day*

April 27  
*National Volunteer  
Week Begins*

May 1  
*National Day of  
Prayer*

May 11  
*Pentecost  
Mother's Day*

### ***LAWN MOWING BID***

The Property Committee and council are in need of someone to mow the church lawn and parsonage lawn, when needed from April 30 through October 31, 2008. Please submit your bid in a sealed envelope marked "lawn bid" by April 15. Bids can be mailed or dropped off at the church office.



### ***TALENT AUCTION***

Many thanks to all who donated their time, talent and special items to this year's Talent Auction on March 9th. Due to snow, attendance was a bit lower than previous years, but the evening still turned out to be fun and successful. Our auctioneer, Dale Kruschke and assistant, Jena Jendrowski kept the auction flowing smooth, selling everything from pies, afghans, soup, flowers and home decorations. Thanks to Donna Kumpf for all of her work putting it together.

## LADIES OF TRINITY

The Ladies March meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. They pray the weather will be greatly improved in April for their Bible study and discussion how the "Spirit brings New Life to Us", make plans for the upcoming Sidewalk Sale, and other business at hand. Their April meeting will be Monday, April 14th at 10:00 am, followed by a brown bag lunch.

Trinity's Ladies do ask your help in their participation in the Akron Sidewalk Sale to be held on Saturday, June 21st. For this fund raiser, the Ladies ask for your

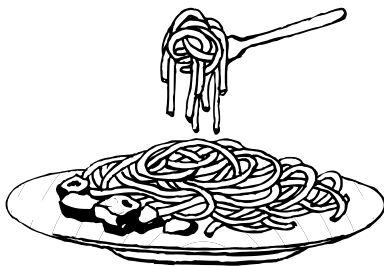
donation of items such as small toys, coloring books, crayons, cars, trucks, small dolls, etc. for the children; Change purses, candy, make-up, hair items for the teens; Tools, scarves, etc. for the adults. These items will be wrapped in newspaper (preferably comics) and put into shoe boxes, card boxes, or cereal boxes. These secondary items are also needed. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Helen Smith, Betty Sugg, or Donna Kumpf.

Remember, these Ladies gatherings are open to all. Come once, come every month, but come! Why not

join your friends at 10:00 am on Monday, April 14th? We would love to see you there!



## SPAGHETTI SUPPER



Please join us for

### Spaghetti Supper at Trinity Lutheran Church

April 12, 2008

4:30 pm-7:00 pm

The Ladies of Trinity are hosting this year's annual event benefiting the Ladies' Mission Projects and the Youth of Trinity.

FEATURING:

**All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti with Meat Sauce**

**Tossed Salad**

**French Bread**

**Beverages**

**Dessert**

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Please pray for:

Ken Mekeel, Owen Pieber,  
Jim Roehling, Candy  
Kruschke, Roseanne Ash,  
Marion Goeseke, Jeff  
Regan, Robert Hurst,  
Helga Colosi, Al Buza,  
Velma, Peter Turley,  
Sharon Nutt, Carlie Blish,  
Jerry Higgins, Carole  
Bauer, Annabelle, Jack  
Lang, Catherine Rodgers,  
J.T. Lovelady

### And the families of:

Herbie Klawer, Mr.  
Waterman, Jim Doyle

### We remember our homebound:

Daisy Graff, Margaret  
Baker, Bill Nehrboss and  
Joshua Schmidt.



## VBS

We're looking for  
people interested in  
helping with this  
summer's  
Vacation Bible School  
July 27-31  
If interested, please  
call Gretchen Bruning  
at 542-4131  
or  
Diane McMullen  
At 632-0156

## FRIENDS

Can you imagine life without them?  
If you can share one hour a week with  
someone in need....

**YOU** can help someone going thru a  
difficult time.

**YOU** can use the power of your friendship  
to help people striving for good mental  
health live happier and more productive  
lives.

**YOU** can be a COMPREER friend.

Call 883-3331 or visit us at:  
[www.compreerbuffalo.org](http://www.compreerbuffalo.org)  
[Staff@compreerbuffalo.org](mailto:Staff@compreerbuffalo.org)

*Compreer works for  
Kids, adults, and seniors.*

*Compreer, Greater Buffalo*



### Christian One Liners

*Coincidence is when God chooses to  
remain anonymous.*

*Don't put a question mark where God put  
a period.*

*Opportunity may knock once, but  
temptation bangs on your front door  
forever.*

*When you get to your wit's end, you'll  
find God lives there..*

SINGLES SPRING DANCE  
FRIDAY, APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2008

*JOIN US FOR A GREAT TIME DANCING  
AND MEETING NEW FRIENDS!*

*SINGLES MINGLE GAME WITH PRIZES!*

CONTINUOUS MUSIC WITH DJ RICK MANN  
OF JUKEBOX TONIGHT  
FROM 8:30 P.M. - 12:30 A.M.  
\$8 ADMISSION

PLAYING YOUR FAVORITE 50'S/60'S, DISCO,  
SWING, PARTY FAVORITES,  
AND SLOW REQUESTS  
ALL EVENING!

A WIDE VARIETY OF MUSIC  
PLEASING TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

HEARTHSTONE MANOR  
333 Dick Road, Depew, N.Y.

Info: —Donna -716-633-5413 or email—  
[singlesdances@verizon.net](mailto:singlesdances@verizon.net)

### Attention Married Couples

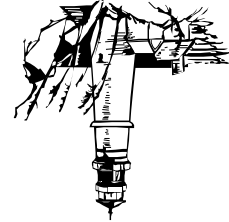
**Time is running out!**

**A few openings remain for the April 18-20 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend at the Pittsburgh Marriott North.** Weekends are designed for the enrichment of ALL marriages and run from Friday night at 8 p.m. to Sunday at 5 p.m. Two nights in the hotel, all meals, and supplies are covered by a \$45/couple registration fee plus whatever confidential contribution you choose to make at the end of the weekend. If the April dates do not work for you, the other Western PA 2008 dates are: Sept. 26-28 at the Lutheran Camp Sequanota Retreat Center in Jennerstown and Oct. 24-26 at Quality Inn and Suites in Erie. **If you'd like to attend the April weekend, call or email Western PA Chair Couple Fred & Julie Schamber today at 724-325-3166 or [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net) to confirm openings.**



April 2008

“BE A BEACON—  
SEEKING AND REFLECTING THE  
LIGHT OF THE LORD”



4809 South Newstead Road  
Akron, New York 14001  
716-542-9828  
Email: [trinc@rochester.rr.com](mailto:trinc@rochester.rr.com)

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF SOUTH NEWSTEAD

**Reverend Terry L. White, Pastor (716) 542-2309**

Erin Swiatowy, Office Manager (716) 542-9828

Mike Kropelin, Council President

Charles Lowder, Webservant (585) 547-9862

David Hofmeier/Candy Kruschke, Pianists

David McMullen, Choir Director

Sunday Worship Services: 8:00 am and 10:45 am

Sunday School (ages 3-adult): 9:15 am

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:00 am—1:00 pm

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.TRINITY-LUTHERAN-CHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.TRINITY-LUTHERAN-CHURCH.ORG)

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