



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sharing the story of Jesus Christ so all may experience God's Love

We Value ~ Empowerment * Generosity * Identity in Jesus * Relationships * Worship Experience

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From Pastor Denise

This month I’m going to touch on three things for March.

First, I would like to encourage everyone to join us March 8 after worship, and some Kringle, for further discussion around the pray ground proposal that was presented at the Annual Meeting. Since the Annual Meeting, myself, council leaders and staff have received feedback from many of you about various aspects of a pray ground in the sanctuary. Purpose, placement, a trial period, funding, hopes and fears for the future – these aspects and others have been brought forward as points of discussion for our time on March 8. If you were at the annual meeting you heard both some fears and some hopes around the proposal of a pray ground. Please give prayerful thought

to your own ideas and how to share them and join us on March 8 for further discussion. The March 8th discussion will be facilitated by TLC leadership.

Second, I will be leaving for Israel and the Palestinian Territories on March 9th with Bishop Erickson and 14 others from our synod, including my daughter. This is a Solidarity and Accompaniment trip to visit the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). We will be hosted by the ELCJHL in the West Bank. For the safety of our hosts, I will not be posting on Facebook. I will be back on the 18th but am taking the 19th as a vacation day. So I will be with you again the weekend of March 22. During the time I’m gone our Lay Worship Team will lead both Lenten services on March 11 and March 18, Lisa Maxfield will lead Holden Evening Prayer with Karel Suchy. Sunday worship on March 15 will also be a lay-led worship with Soul Purpose leading music. Pastor Karl-John Stone from House of Prayer in Franklin will be on call for any pastoral care needs. Pr. Karl-John’s phone number is 262-833-7348.

Third, the first four Sundays in March, our gospel lessons are four of the major stories from the gospel of John. Instead of reading the long passages for these stories, we are going to use video clips from “The Chosen.” The producers of the show have done a great job capturing the context, culture, and environment of the time and remaining faithful to the scriptural setting. “The Chosen” has also done a great job of capturing the inspiring nature of these foundational stories for our own faith: March 1 is Jesus and Nicodemus; March 8 is the Woman at the Well; March 15 is the Healing of the Blindman; and March 22 is the Raising of Lazarus. I hope you enjoy hearing and seeing these gospel stories in a new way.

Finally, a huge thank you to all our teams who are hosting this year’s Lenten Simple Suppers.

God’s peace be with you all as we continue our Lenten journey to renewal and rebirth in Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.

Pastor Denise



OPEN CONVERSATIONS
with Pastor Denise

4th Wednesday of the Month
Wednesday, March 25
from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at
Hillside Coffee House
237 E Ryan Rd
Oak Creek



From Our President

Dear Trinity,

It is both an honor and a humbling responsibility to begin serving as your next president. Trinity has been an important part of my family's faith journey for over 20 years, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside you in this next chapter.

Before looking ahead, I want to express my sincere thanks to the leaders who have brought us to where we are today. Our congregation has been well served by the faithful leadership of our previous president, Tammy (my wife of almost 24 years...I can attest she's pretty great), along with the Executive Team and Council members who have given their time, wisdom, and heart to Trinity's ministry. I am especially grateful to our most recent Council members stepping down - Eileen, Sharon - along with the many other council members past and present whose stewardship and dedication have strengthened our foundation. Because of their leadership — and your support — Trinity is a strong faith community.



As I step into this role, my focus is simple: to build on the momentum already present at Trinity.

Our values are strong. Our ministries are active. Our people are generous. My goal is to help us continue growing our impact — within our congregation and across the neighborhoods and communities we are called to serve.

A healthy and growing church welcomes and nurtures the next generation. Children and families are not just our future — they are part of our church today. As we explore ideas like the Prayer Ground and other ways to help young people engage more fully in worship, I know these conversations may bring different perspectives and strong feelings. That's okay. What matters most is that we approach one another with grace, respect, and a shared commitment to Trinity's long-term vitality. Our goal is not change for its own sake, but for us to take thoughtful steps that help all generations feel seen, valued, and connected to worship.

Another important priority for me is ensuring Trinity's long-term financial strength. As someone who works in financial planning, I believe strongly in responsible stewardship so that Trinity remains healthy and sustainable for generations to come. While last year brought some financial ups and downs, I'm grateful for the faithfulness of this congregation. Because of your generosity, we finished 2025 with a surplus, and January started strong with \$2,000 of net income. At the time I'm writing this note, I don't know what February will bring us, but regardless, we have started strong, which is a testament to your commitment to this ministry.

In the months ahead, I hope that we continue to move forward together — grounded in our faith, guided by our values, and focused on the mission God has given Trinity.

Thank you for your trust, your prayers, and your partnership. I am grateful to serve this congregation and excited about what God is doing — and will continue to do — through Trinity.

With gratitude and hope,

Jason

ATTENTION PLEASE



Please note that the Pastor will be on the Bishop's Trip to the Holy Land from March 9 - 19.

Pastor Karl-John Stone at House of Prayer in Franklin will be on call while Pastor is away. His phone number is 262-833-7348.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers and Recently Hospitalized

David Hahn, Paul Sevald, Greg Buck, Gail English, Bruce Peacock, Kathryn Swanson, Sandy House, Kerry Kirchoff

Altar Flowers for March

March 1	Kathryn Swanson; **
March 8	Mark & Karen Sostarich; **
March 15	**, **
March 22	Scott & Lois Lukas; **
March 29	**, **

The bouquets are \$25 each. Please sign up on Signup Genius tinyurl.com/TrinityFlowers or contact the church office. You can also sign up on the board outside the church office. (**) means nobody has signed up. You may pick up your flowers or call to arrange delivery

40-in-40 Drive

Every child enjoys a cake on their birthday. However, it is not always feasible for families. The Caring Outreach team is collecting 60 birthday kits for Human Concerns during Lent. This runs through Easter. A birthday kit consists of a box of cake mix, a container of frosting, and candles. Please place individual kits in a Ziplock bag. Human Concerns will pass these out throughout the year to families. Thanks for your continued support thus far, with 29 kits donated!

2026 Craft & Vendor Fair

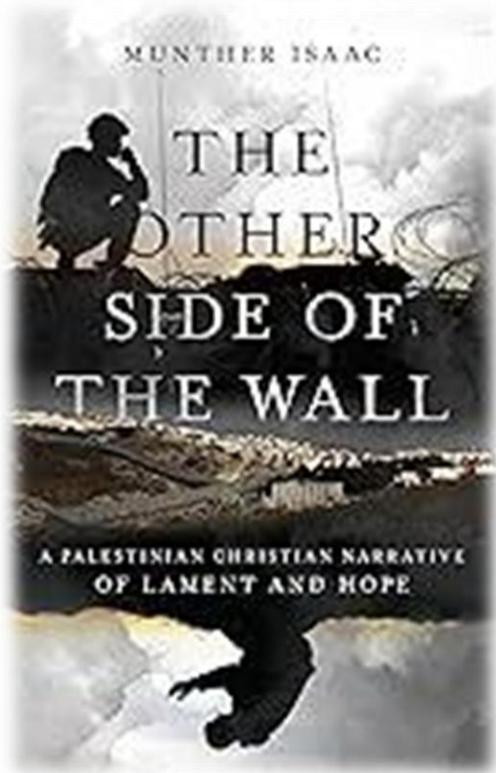
Submitted by Patty Rosek-Johnson



Are you a crafter or vendor, or do you know someone who is? Registration is now open for Trinity's Fall Craft & Vendor Fair on Oct 24, 2026. Interested vendors must complete a preapproval form before a registration form will be emailed from Patty Rosek-Johnson. Note - in years past all tables have sold by mid-July, so act now to reserve your table!

Complete the form by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/TLCCraftVendorFairForm>

Spring 2026 Book Read



Join us for our Spring Book Read on Saturday, April 18 at 9:30am at Castillo's, 5656 S. Packard Ave. Cudahy. We are reading ["The Other Side of the Wall"](#) by Rev. Munther Isaac, a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. We will have discussion around the book and Pastor Denise's recent trip to Palestine with the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

The Other Side of the Wall: A Palestinian Pastor's Invitation to Lament and Hope

Christians have lived in Palestine since the earliest days of the Jesus movement. The Palestinian church predates Islam. Yet Palestinian Christians find themselves marginalized and ostracized. In the heated tensions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the voices of Palestinian Christians are often unheard and ignored.

This book provides an opportunity to hear the realities of life on the ground from a leading Palestinian pastor and theologian. In *The Other Side of the Wall* Munther Isaac:

- Gives the perspective of Palestinian Christians on the other side of the separation wall surrounding most Palestinian West Bank cities today
- Laments the injustices suffered by the Palestinian people yet holds out hope for a just peace and ways to befriend and love his Jewish and Muslim neighbors, and
- Offers a theology of the land and a vision for a shared land that belongs to God, where there are no second-class citizens of any kind, in stark contrast to the dominant religious and nationalistic ideologies and agendas for the region.

"This book is my invitation to you," Isaac writes, "to step into the other side of the wall and listen to our stories and perspective. It is my humble request to you to allow me to share how Palestinians experience God, read the Bible, and have been touched and liberated by Jesus—a fellow Bethlehemite who has challenged us to see others as neighbors and love them as ourselves. . . . This book paints a picture of our story of faith, lament, and hope. And I invite you to join and listen, on our side of the wall." (from amazon.com)

Readings for March

March 1, 2026 – Second Sunday in Lent – Family First Worship – No Saturday services during Lent

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

March 4, 2026 – Lent Worship – Holden Evening Prayer – TLC Value: Generosity

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

March 8, 2026 – Third Sunday in Lent – No Saturday services during Lent – Daylight Savings

Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 11, 2026 – Lent Worship – Holden Evening Prayer – TLC Value: Identity in Jesus

Scripture: Galatians 3:23-29

March 15, 2026 – Fourth Sunday in Lent – Lay Sunday - Soul Purpose - No Saturday services during Lent

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 18, 2026 – Lent Worship – Holden Evening Prayer – TLC Value: Relationships

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:14-27

March 22, 2026 – Fifth Sunday in Lent – No Saturday services during Lent

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

March 25, 2026 – Lent Worship – Holden Evening Prayer – TLC Value: Worship Experience

Scripture: Psalm 66

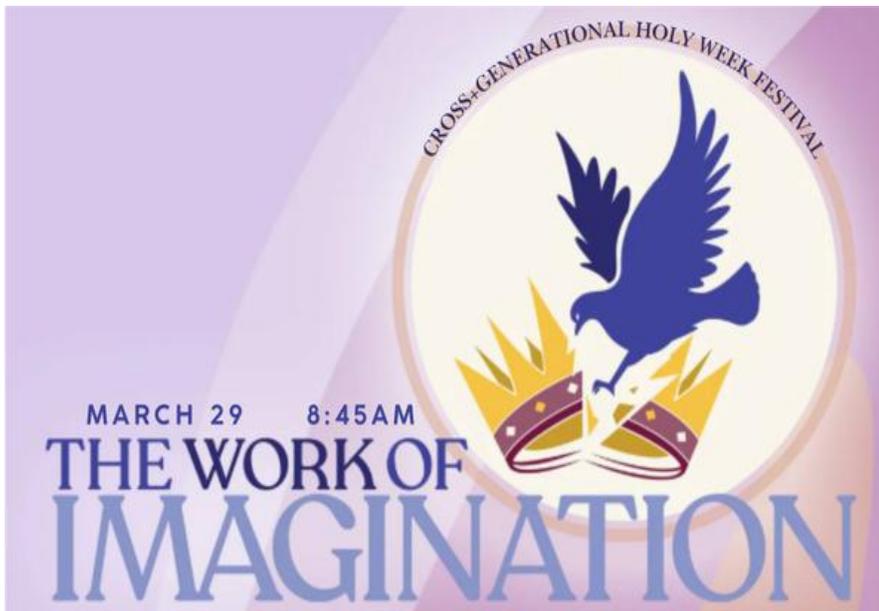
March 29, 2026 – Palm/Passion Sunday – Choir – Holy Week Festival - No Saturday services during Lent

Scripture: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-17



Youth and Family News

Submitted by Ray Bergwin and Alyssa Olson



Cross+Generational Holy Week Fest

Our annual Cross+Generational Holy Week Fest will be **on Palm Sunday, March 29, from 8:45-9:30 a.m.** Meet us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for story, prayer, and play.

People of all ages are invited to join us as we explore the season and revisit our Advent “Will to Dream” theme with “The Work of Imagination!”

Lent invites us to tell the truth with tenderness—to notice what is broken and to trust that love is still at work among us. The Work of Imagination frames this season as a shared journey

of wonder and courage, helping communities confront despair, practice justice, and hold hope with care. Come journey in community as we prepare for Holy Week.

Cinnamon Roll Sale

March 29 10:30 a.m.

After Palm Sunday worship, we'll have our GIANT cinnamon roll sale (\$5/roll, cash preferred), with all proceeds going directly to our youth and family ministries. Thank you for your support!

If you would like to volunteer to bake or sell rolls, reach out to Alyssa at youthtlcsm@gmail.com



Summer Fun at Lutherdale



Looking for something fun to do this summer?

From kid and family camps to bus trips and quilt auction, our local Lutheran outdoor ministry center has it all! It's also a wonderful place for young adults to work and they're hiring now.

Check out Lutherdale.org to find out more.

“Camperships” are available if the cost of camp is inaccessible. Please reach out to Alyssa at youthtlcsm@gmail.com with questions.



*Save the dates for the 2027 ELCA
National Youth Gathering!
June 28-July 2, 2027*

The Youth Gathering is a unique faith formation experience. Every three years, thousands of ELCA teens from across the country converge on one city for a week of worship, service, and fellowship unlike any other.

Teens must be in 8th-12th grade in fall 2026 to attend the Youth Gathering. For those 18-35, the national Young Adult Gathering will happen at the same time. There are also pre-events for disabled youth and youth of color to gather in community before the large event. Our tentative plan is to take the train, with potential for a fun extra stop along the way! Learn more at <https://www.elca.org/gathering-2027/about-what-is-the-gathering> and stay tuned for informational meetings and registration this fall.

We'll need adults to help lead, plan, and fundraise. In the coming months, please prayerfully consider if you might be feeling called to be part of this once in a lifetime faith experience.

Highlights from the February 2026 Council Meeting

- The council began with prayer and welcoming our new members.
- The council approved appointments for Sue Zylka as Council Secretary and Josh Hiett as Council member. We now have the required officers for the state of Wisconsin non-profits.
- All reports in the Consent Agenda, Pastor's Report and Treasurer's report were approved.
- Pastor reported that the Greater Milwaukee Synod along with 4 other ELCA Synods received preliminary injunctive relief for sensitive locations from immigration activity. The synod had joined a lawsuit against Homeland Security through Democracy Forward. As part of that injunction pastor reported to the synod Trinity's two parking lots and all the green space around the building as protected areas.
- Pastor reported that the Renewal Team has finished its time with our coach and decided to discontinue meeting. It was a challenging process to think about church in new ways.
- There was discussion around the feedback the pastor and council leaders have received from Trinity members regarding the pray ground proposal. There was discussion on plans for leading the pray ground listening session on March 8 following worship.
- The new council was installed on Feb. 22 at the 9:30 a.m. worship.
- The Mutual Ministry chair submitted 2 new names for ratification for the Mutual Ministry Committee: Tammy Woodbury and Kari House. The council approved these new members. Janice Navarro and Sue Zylka are going off the Mutual Ministry Committee.
- The March 2026 council meeting will be moved to March 24, 2026 after Pastor Denise is back from Palestine.

Lent and Easter 2026

March 4, 2026 – Trinity's Core Values: Generosity

6 p.m. Simple Supper

7 p.m. Worship with Holden Evening Prayer led by Pr. Denise, Shelby Brooks, and Karel Suchy

March 11, 2026 – Trinity's Core Values: Identity in Jesus

6 p.m. Simple Supper hosted by the Caring Team

7 p.m. Worship with Holden Evening Prayer led by Lisa Maxfield and Karel Suchy

March 18, 2026 – Trinity's Core Values: Relationships

6 p.m. Simple Supper hosted by Worship and Music Team

7 p.m. Worship with Holden Evening Prayer led by Lisa Maxfield and Karel Suchy

March 25, 2026 – Trinity's Core Values: Worship Experience

6 p.m. Simple Supper hosted by the Finance Ministry Team

7 p.m. Worship with Holden Evening Prayer led by Pr. Denise, Shelby Brooks, and Karel Suchy

April 2, 2026 – Maundy Thursday

6 p.m. Simple Supper (Cousins Subs)

7 p.m. Worship with Individual Confession and Absolution, Holy Communion and the Choir

April 1, 2026 – Good Friday

1 p.m. Worship with special music

7 p.m. Worship with the choir

The Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Sunday

Sunrise service at 6:15 a.m. at Lake Vista Park (Sunrise at 6:26)

Rain? Meet at Trinity

Festival Worship at 9:30 a.m. at Trinity with Bell Ensemble and Choir





Breaking the Chains Fundraiser & Restaurant Meet Up



Financial Update for January

Submitted by David Hahn

After ending 2025 on a nice positive note, we started 2026 with a good January.

1. Net income and Year-to-Date were +\$2,159.
2. We did have \$500 of income from Open and Initial offerings.
3. Compared to last year at this time, we are \$1,000 up in operating income and down \$500 in expenses.

Thank you again for your generous support in 2025 and your continued support as we begin a new year.

Pledge Update: At the time of our Annual Meeting, we had 74 households pledging \$235,734 for 2026. Compared to last year with the same number of households, we are \$23,000 ahead of last year. This has helped Trinity project a balanced budget for 2026.

Project Uplift: Balance of \$28,054; Income of \$1,283. We do anticipate having some major roofing repairs, so keep Project Uplift in mind for special gifting as you are able.

Impact Report:

Endowment Fund Grants

- \$1,000 Synod-Great Spirit Church Campaign
- \$148 Music purchase

Thrivent

- Action Team Grants: Lent Simple Suppers, Souper Bowl for Human Concerns
- Choice Dollars





March 2026

2507 5th Ave.
 South Milwaukee, WI 53172
 Phone: 414.762.6626
 Email: office@lchsml.org
 Web Site: WWW.LCHSM.ORG

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45 Sunday School for Elementary 9:30 Family First Worship in person and online 10:30 Education & Youth Ministry Team meeting in person 10:30 Caring/Outreach Ministry Team Meeting in person	2 8:30- 1:30 Office Open 6:30 Confirmation	3 9:00 Lutheran World Relief Quilting 10:30 Property Ministry Team Meeting in person 7:00 Executive Committee Meeting on Zoom	4 6:00 Simple Supper 7:00 Lenten Worship in person and online	5 8:30- 1:30 Office Open 10:30 Adult Bible Study No Bell Ensemble Rehearsal No Choir Rehearsal	6 Pastor's Day Off	7 No Saturday Worship during Lent
8 Human Concerns Weekend 8:45 Sunday School for Elementary 9:30 Worship in person and online 10:30 Pray Ground Follow-Up Discussion	9 Pastor on Bishop's Trip 8:30- 1:30 Office Open 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Finance Ministry Team Meeting on Zoom	10 Pastor on Bishop's Trip	11 Pastor on Bishop's Trip 6:00 Simple Supper 7:00 Lenten Worship in person and online	12 Pastor on Bishop's Trip 8:30- 1:30 Office Open No Adult Bible Study 6:30 Bell Ensemble Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	13 Pastor on Bishop's Trip 4:00 Restaurant Meet Up at Cassillo's in Cudahy	14 Pastor on Bishop's Trip 1:00 Saturday Stitchers No Saturday Worship during Lent
15 Pastor on Bishop's Trip 8:45 Sunday School for Elementary 9:30 Worship in person and online with Soul Purpose 10:30 Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting in person	16 Pastor on Bishop's Trip 8:30- 1:30 Office Open 6:30 Confirmation	17 Pastor on Bishop's Trip 9:00 Lutheran World Relief Quilting	18 Pastor on Bishop's Trip 6:00 Simple Supper 7:00 Lenten Worship in person and online	19 Pastor on Bishop's Trip 8:30- 1:30 Office Open No Adult Bible Study 5:00 Community Meal at United Church of Christ South Milwaukee 6:30 Bell Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 Thrivent Member Group Meeting on Zoom 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 No Saturday Worship during Lent
22 8:45 Sunday School for Elementary 9:30 Worship in person and online	23 8:30- 1:30 Office Open 6:30 Confirmation	24 7:00 Council Meeting on Zoom	25 9:30-11:30 Open Conversations with Pastor Denise at Hillside Coffee House in Oak Creek 6:00 Simple Supper 7:00 Lenten Worship in person and online	26 8:30- 1:30 Office Open 10:30 Adult Bible Study 6:30 Bell Ensemble Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	27 Pastor's Day Off	28 No Saturday Worship during Lent
29 Palm/Passion Sunday 8:45 Cross-Generational Holy Week Festival 9:30 Worship in person and online	30 8:30- 1:30 Office Open No Confirmation	31 9:00 Lutheran World Relief Quilting	April 1	2 Maundy Thursday 8:30- 1:30 Office Open 6:00 Simple Supper 7:00 Worship in person and online	3 Good Friday 1:00 Worship in person and online 7:00 Worship in person and online	4 Easter Sunday 6:15 Sunrise Worship at Lake Vista Park 9:30 Family First Worship in person and online

Letters of Appreciation



Dear Trinity Family,

Our family wanted to express their appreciation to you.

This is the letter written by my grandson Joshua Janusiok.

We are blessed!

Thank You Phyllis Bruner

2-5-2026

To Friends & Families of Trinity, and all those who helped in the celebration and remembrance of the life of Russell Bruner while Russ' passing difficult for us, his celebration of life at Trinity reminds us of all the things we love about Russ, that will carry on through the rest of his family, friends and community.

The presence of so many kind faces and supportive words & gifts, the memories related through stories and photos, and the beautiful ceremony not only emphasized the lives that Russel impacted for the better, but also the support and connections that all the attendees have for one another.

We thank everyone who was part of this ceremony and all who continue to show their love and support for us, and for one another.

Love from the families of
Russell Bruner



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

February 5, 2026

Thank You

Trinity Lutheran Church
2507 5th Ave
South Milwaukee, WI 53172-2710

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,805.75 to ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) through ELCA Good Gifts.

*"From [Christ's] fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."
—John 1:16*

As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power and hope that flow from God's full, boundless love. Drawn together and guided by the Holy Spirit, we accomplish together what none of us could do alone, grace upon grace.

Your Good Gift is a very good gift indeed! Through resources such as seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you equip God's people — around the world and around the corner — with what they need to live abundant lives.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. You make God's love real.

With gratitude,

Rachel Wind

Rachel Wind
Executive for Development

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your official receipt.

Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit
Come join us

DreamCatcher Class

April 25th, 2026

3127 S HOWELL AVE

10am - 2pm

Please call or inbox on FB

414-534-4944

**Some people are like beautiful
dreamcatchers absorbing the most terrible
things for those they love and leaving them
only the softest, gentlest thoughts behind.**

limited Sitting

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION STAFF

	Rev Denise M.H. Mbise Pastor 262-930-8267 tlcsmpastor@gmail.com		Nicole Ferrell Communications & Office Manager officetlcs@gmail.com
	Lisa Maxfield Music Director choirtlcs@sbcglobal.net		Kari Pink Pianist/Organist karijanderson@hotmail.com
	Karel Suchy Saturday Keyboardist karel@studio1259.biz		Alyssa Olson Youth, Family & Education Director youthtlcs@gmail.com
COUNCIL OFFICERS			
	Jason Woodbury * Council President Jasonwoodbury@outlook.com		Vacant Council Vice President
	Sue Zylka* Council Secretary suezylka@gmail.com		David Hahn Council Treasurer tlcsmtreasurer@gmail.com

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS & COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

	Eileen Kelley Caring/Outreach Ministry Team kellyblackmon2@gmail.com		Joanna Miller * Cross Generational Ministry Team joaronmiller@yahoo.com
	Mike Radtke Finance Ministry Team radtke22@hotmail.com		Steve Mueller Property Ministry Team swm755@gmail.com
	Patty Rosek-Johnson Stewardship Ministry Team patty.rosekjohnson@gmail.com		Jim Lembke * jalembke@gmail.com
	Josh Hiatt * hiatt.josh@gmail.com		Darcy McDaniel * cfiatp2020@charter.net

* denotes Council member

CHURCH TEAMS AND COMMITTEES

	Sandy Mueller Mutual Ministry Team drsandymueller@gmail.com		Sarah Brooks Communications Team scbrooks5@gmail.com
	David Hahn Thrivent Member Group djhahn610@gmail.com		Aron Miller Endowment Committee aronmiller0675@gmail.com



March 2026 TIDINGS

For more information about our congregation, please visit our website at www.tlcsm.org.



Contact Us
Trinity Lutheran Church
2507 5th Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

414-762-6626
tlcsmpastor@gmail.com
officetlcsm@gmail.com
www.tlcsm.org
www.facebook.com/tlcsm

In person worship at 5:00 p.m. Saturday
In person and livestream worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School 3-year-olds – 8th grade at 8:45 a.m.
(Labor Day – Memorial Day)
Church office Hours: Monday & Thursday 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2507 5th Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172