TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
1960 East Johns Avenue
Decatur, Illinois 62521 - Phone 217-422-3630
Sixth Sunday Of Easter
May 5, 2024



Adult Bible Study Opportunities

10:15 A.M. TodayAdult Bible Study
"The Book Of Exodus"

10:00 A.M. Thursday
Adult Bible Study
"The Gospel Of Matthew"

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend our Bible based study.

Our hymns for today: 457, 464, (474, 482, 763), 680

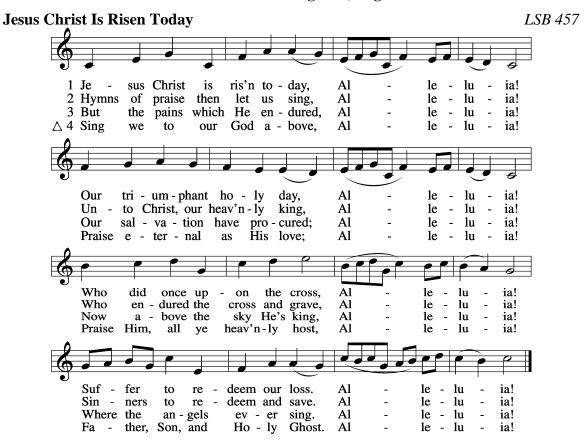
AS WE GATHER

Welcome to all who join us for worship today. We pray that God will bless you with a stronger faith through our worship service. Greet one another before and after the service, especially our visitors. Please fill out an attendance card, available in the pew racks, and introduce yourself at the door. If you would like a visit, prayer, or more information, about Trinity Lutheran Church, please note that on the card.

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

0 God, you give faith to believe in the healing power of your Word: Put away from us, we entreat you, temptations to doubt Your providential care and give us those things that are profitable for our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Divine Service Setting One, Page 151



Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Introit

Psalm 66:1-2, 8-9, 20; antiphon: v. 16

Come and hear, all you who fear God,

and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!

Bless our God, O peoples;

let the sound of his praise be heard,

who has kept our soul among the living

and has not let our feet slip.

Blessèd be God,

because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

Kyrie LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.





LSB 155







Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



P Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 47:1–12

¹Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. ²Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and behold, the water was trickling out on the south side. Going on eastward with a measuring line in his hand, the man measured a thousand cubits, and then led me through the water, and it was ankle-deep. ⁴Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water, and it was knee-deep. Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water, and it was waist-deep. ⁵Again he measured a thousand, and it was a river that I could not pass through, for the water had risen. It was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be passed through. ⁶And he said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he led me back to the bank of the river. ⁷As I went back, I saw on the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other. ⁸And he said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh. ⁹And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. ¹⁰Fishermen will stand beside the sea. From Engedi to Eneglaim it will be a place for the spreading of nets. Its fish will be of very many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. ¹¹But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. ¹²And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle 1 John 5:1–8

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand



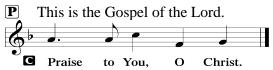
Holy Gospel John 15:9–17



⁹[Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another."



Sit

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of His Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God,

begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary

and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

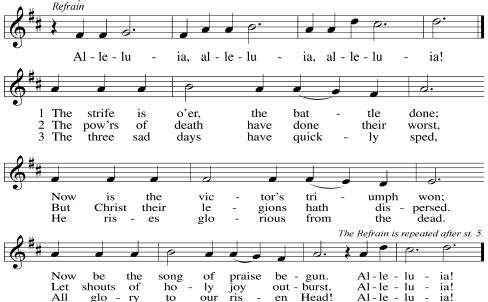
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

LSB 464



- 4 He broke the age-bound chains of hell; The bars from heav'n's high portals fell. Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!
- 5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, From death's dread sting Thy servants free That we may live and sing to Thee.

 Alleluia!

Sermon "A New River"

Sermon Text Ezekiel 47:1-12

Stand

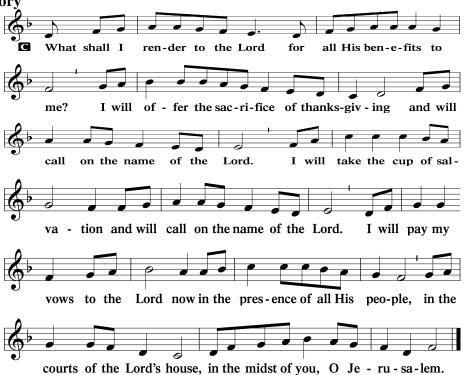
Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering

Stand

Offertory LSB 159



Preface LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



• We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

- Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
 - In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
- As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- **C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Lord's Prayer

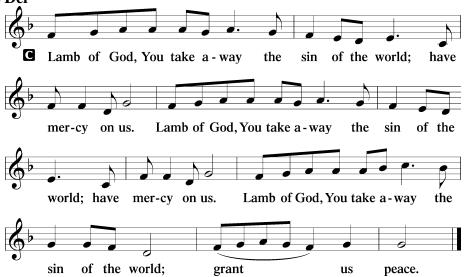
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Pax Domini LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



Agnus Dei LSB 163



Sit

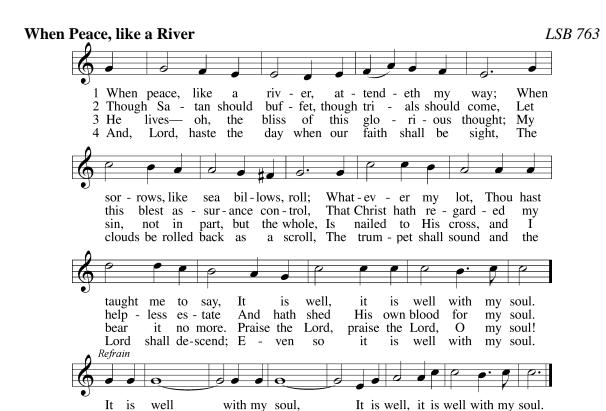
If you are a communicant member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation, you are invited to communion. If you are not a member of the LCMS and desire to commune at this altar, please contact Pastor Versemann to arrange new member classes so that the confession of Christ from this altar and pulpit may become your confession of faith. As a confirmed member we will then be one in faith and you will joyously be invited to receive Christ's body and blood from this altar for the strengthening of your faith. Peace in Christ.

Distribution



This Joyful Eastertide LSB 482





Stand

(Personal Prayer Of Thanksgiving After Receiving The Lord's Supper)

Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this Holy Supper of Your body and blood. Keep us in Your favor, and in our faith in You as our Savior, that we may live in You even as You live in us. May Your body and blood preserve us in the one true saving faith unto life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Your Name. Amen.

Thank the Lord LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.





Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



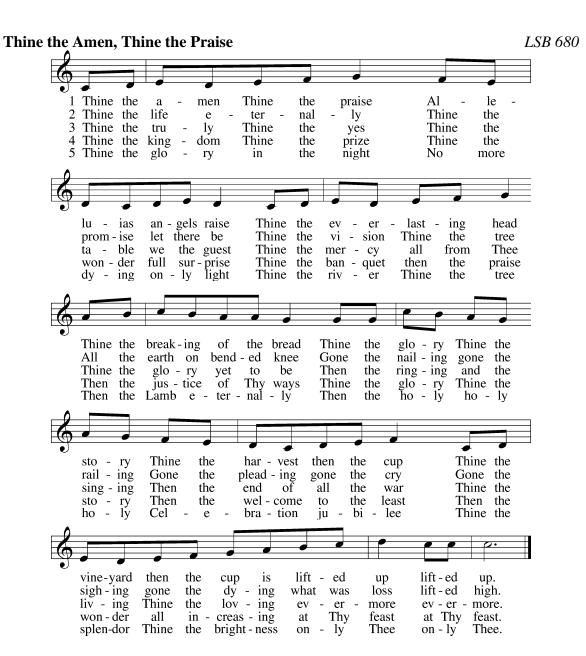
Benediction LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.





CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS may be found on the stand just outside the center sanctuary doors.

P.A. DEVICE AVAILABLE - Please see an usher if you have difficulty hearing.

PEW CUSHIONS are available from a box near the Usher's Stand. Help yourself and please feel free to leave them in your seat after services.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TODAY AT 10:15 A.M.

PRE-K – 4th GRADE – Sarah Casebeer, Laura Cogan – Downstairs

5th-8th GRADE – Tracie England, Denise Roberts - Classroom across from the church office

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY – IN PASTOR'S CLASS – Downstairs

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Pastor Versemann – Downstairs

THE CHURCH OFFICE regularly scheduled hours: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Tuesday through Friday. Pastor Versemann's hours are 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (tentative), Tuesday through Friday. If you need to speak with him, please call the church office at 422-3630 to make an appointment.

Weekly Average Offering for 2024	\$5,044.91
Weekly Offerings Needed for 2024 Budget	\$4,795.79
Weekly Average Attendance for 2024	68
Attendance for April 28, 2024	58

Sunday, May 5, 2024

9:00 AM – Worship Service

10:15 AM - Sunday School, High School Bible Study, Adult Bible Study

Monday, May 6, 2024

No office hours, Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

4:00 PM – 1st Year Confirmation Class

6:00 PM - Elder's Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 2024

8:30 AM - Quilters

10:00 AM – Thursday Morning Bible Study

4:00 PM - 2nd Year Confirmation Class

Sunday, May 12, 2024

9:00 AM – Worship Service

10:15 AM - Sunday School, High School Bible Study, Adult Bible Study



We would like to invite Trinity members to Rachel's Graduation Celebration on Friday, May 10 from 5-7:30p.m. at the Forsyth Library community room, 268 S. Elwood St, Forsyth.

Please let Pastor Versemann know if you or a family member are going in the hospital.

Leading us in worship today:

The Officiant Rev. Matthew Versemann

The Organist Rachel Versemann

The Elders Kent Birmingham, Dave Morris
The Ushers John Pranschke, Caleb Harper
The Greeters Sarah Casebeer, Bonnie Morris

The Acolyte Elena Rivera
The Altar Guild Kristy Pranschke

The Offering Counters Dave Morris, Bonnie Morris

Our Volunteers for Sunday, May 12, 2024

The Officiant Rev. Matthew Versemann
The Elders Zeb Poland, Tom Robinson
The Ushers Terry Koontz, Adam Hunt
The Greeters Pam Poland, Lynette Dukeman

The Greecers 1 am 1 orang, Lynette L

The Acolyte Greysen Sikowski

The Altar Guild Sharon Harper, Anna Shookman
The Offering Counters Tom Robinson, Barbara Robinson

Volunteers to serve snacks and coffee and clean up afterwards for Sunday Adult Bible class:

May 5 John and Sarah Casebeer

May 12 Pastor and Elizabeth Versemann





11:45AM

OUR MAY POTLUCK HAS BEEN MOVED FROM MAY 5TH TO MAY 19TH.

THE POTLUCK WILL BE AT 11:15AM (Prior to the Voter's Meeting) THE VOTER'S MEETING WILL START AT 11:45AM.

Please let Pastor Versemann know if you have a daughter, son, niece or nephew, granddaughter, or grandson, in the military so they can be added to his prayer list.



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS UPDATE

Twenty-four(24) households have participated in the Kroger Community Rewards program for the period 01/01/24-03/31/24 a total distribution of \$43.04 will be sent to Trinity in the near future and distribution will be made in the following manner:

•		C
CURRENT DISTRIBUTION		YEAR TO DATE
General Fund (50%)	\$21.52	\$21.52
Trinity's LSA Assessment (25%)	10.76	10.76
KFF Scholarship Fund (25%)	10.76	10.76
TOTAL	\$43.04	\$43.04

Grand Total Distribution from Kroger Community Rewards since March, 2015: \$2,754.34 THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who shops at Kroger and uses their registered Kroger Plus Card or Alternate ID (both of which are free) so that Trinity may receive credit towards eligible purchases. Please contact me if you have any questions about this program. Harry Kaminski



New Life Baby Buggy Campaign

April 14th was the end of the current collection of items for New Life Pregnancy. They have been sorted and boxed, ready for delivery next week. Thank you to everyone who donated to this cause. We collected a total of 95 items. (A package or box containing several items were counted as 1 item so the actual individual items would have been much higher.) While donations are accepted at any time, the next campaign will start sometime after Father's Day.

Trinity is a blessing to New Life while New Life's fight to curtail abortions is a blessing to the world. Good job everyone!



Volunteer Opportunity For The Members Of Trinity

The members of the Association Churches of the LSA are encouraged to volunteer at the LSA Resale Shop at any time, but especially on Trinity's designated Thursday. Trinity has been assigned the second Thursday of each month, from 3:00-8:30 pm, as "our time" for volunteering and serving. You do NOT need to stay the entire time, but can come and go as you please. Please join us on **Thursday**, **May 9!**



GARAGE SALE PLEASE SUPPORT TRINITY'S YOUTH GROUP RUMMAGE

Trinity's Youth Group will be having a rummage sale on August 23rd -24th, and we need your help! Please consider donating your nice - but no longer needed - items to this rummage sale. Donated items that we need: Gently used clothing in great condition (without stains, rips, or tears), Kitchen items, Home decor, Gardening items, Fishing items, games, video games, jewelry, electronics (ie. game systems, DVD players, TV's), books, Camping items, Car repair items, Bath and Beauty items, Restaurant gift cards, other gift cards, Tools, Hunting items, Small appliances (toasters, coffee pots, mixers, blenders, etc....), Silverware, Dinnerware, Cups, Pots and Pans. Bicycles, Children's Toys, Baby Items. Quilts, Needlework, etc...Exceptions: NO JUNK PLEASE. IF YOU WOULD NOT CONSIDER PURCHASING AN ITEM, THEN PLEASE DO NOT DONATE IT TO OUR YOUTH RUMMAGE SALE. Donations can already be brought to church and placed in the Northeast Room in the church basement (the room with red carpet)! Please bring your donations to church NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH!

Central Illinois District annual Scholarship Sunday is today, May 5th.

The cost of education at one of our synodical colleges is about \$54,000 per year, and about \$58,000 at one of our seminaries. Annual unmet needs after grants, loans, scholarships, parents' contributions, etc., average about \$12,500 for undergraduates and about \$27,000 for seminarians. Please include these needs in your prayers and make a generous gift to help support the unmet needs of our 7 college students and 12 seminarians as they prepare to serve the Lord as His called servants. You may use a "Will They Always Be There?" envelope provided by your church or mail your gift directly to: Central Illinois District – LCMS, 1850 N. Grand Avenue West, Springfield, IL 62702-1626.

Don't forget to pray for, thank, and encourage those called church workers who are presently serving you, as well as those who are studying to serve the Lord and you. If you are considering or know someone who would be a good candidate to study for a called vocation in the church, please speak to your pastor about them and send their names and contact information along with your check to the district office. Thank you for your faithfulness.

A Very Happy Birthday to:

Marílyn Brown May 13 Dana Chase May 13

Family prayers for Christina Hall and Louis Jr. and Linda Hall

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Tracie England in celebration of Josh's 20th birthday

The worship folders are given to the glory of God by Becky Alexander in honor of my daughter,

Laura Deerwester, for her birthday



A Dollar for Missions

The Central Illinois District encourages its congregations to invite their members to contribute one dollar per week for missions, in addition to their ordinary offerings. This kind of giving is called "A dollar for Missions. (DFM).

The current DFM project is to continue a project already begun. In 2023, DFM funds were raised to begin ministry in as many as four new prisons in central Illinois during 2024. With the funds gathered, Central Illinois District started to fund one in January, and hopes to start more before the end of this year. The current project is to ensure that funds are available so that such new ministries can be continued in 2025. The current target is \$10,000. Thanks to all CID churches participating in DFM!

For more, see https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-a-dollar-for-missions.html. Also Trinity members, John Casebeer or Harry Kaminski.

Trinity collected \$37.00 on April 7, \$63.00 on April 14, \$58.00 on April 21, and \$30.00 on April 28. The total collected in April, 2024 for "A Dollar For Missions" was \$188.00.



This year's Confirmation Class includes Conor Cogan, Charlotte Patterson, and Elena Rivera. Please join us for this special day of these youth!



2024 dates **AVAILABLE** for weekly altar flowers (\$35.00) are: 8/11, 8/25, 9/1, 9/15, 10/6, 11/3, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22.

Dates AVAILABLE for worship folders (\$10.00) are: 8/4, 8/11, 9/1, 9/15, 10/13, 11/3, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29.



SCRIPS HELP THE LSA ASSESSMENT!

The KFF Committee has once again decided to donate all earnings from Scrip orders towards Trinity's LSA Assessment for grades K-8. So far, the total earned for the current school year is \$404.00. With everyone's help, we can surpass last year's total which was \$637.00. See Ilene McQuality on Sunday mornings or contact her at 217-429-1367 or ilenemcquality@att.net. **Order date Delivery date**

Order date	Denvery date
4/21	5/5
5/12	5/26
5/26	6/9
6/30	7/14



CANDIDATES NEEDED TO SERVE AT TRINITY

At our May 19th Voters meeting, Trinity will be electing a Chairperson for our five (5) boards, which are:

Board of Education - Current Chair: Denise Roberts Board of Evangelism - Current Chair: Rachel Buckley Board of Stewardship - Current Chair: Harry Kaminski Board of Trustees - Current Chair: Holly Flanigan.

Each elected position is for a 2-year term. If you would like to add your name to the ballot, please speak with our President, John Pranschke; our Vice-President, Tom Robinson, or one of the Chairpersons listed above. You can also speak to the pastor, or any of the above, if you have additional questions. Thank you.

Contact information

1960 E. Johns Ave. Decatur, IL 422-3630 Rev. Matthew Versemann

Church e-mail: office@trinitydecatur.com Pastor's Cell Phone: 217-454-6630

Church web address: www.trinitydecatur.com email address:pastorversemann@msn.com
Church Fax: 217-422-8901 Church face book: www.facebook.com/trinitydecatur