



# THE CHURCH MOUSE



**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS**  
 1002 East 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Vinton, IA 52349-2385  
 319-472-5571



## 2026

**Worship Schedule**

Sunday Divine Worship  
with Holy Communion  
9:00 AM

Wednesday Vesper  
Worship  
6:30 PM

**Pastor**

Rev Stephen Preus  
Home Phone 319-472-2898

**Our Staff**

Nancy Hughes  
Church Secretary  
Lea Winsor  
Housekeeper


The Church Mouse  
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Missouri Synod  
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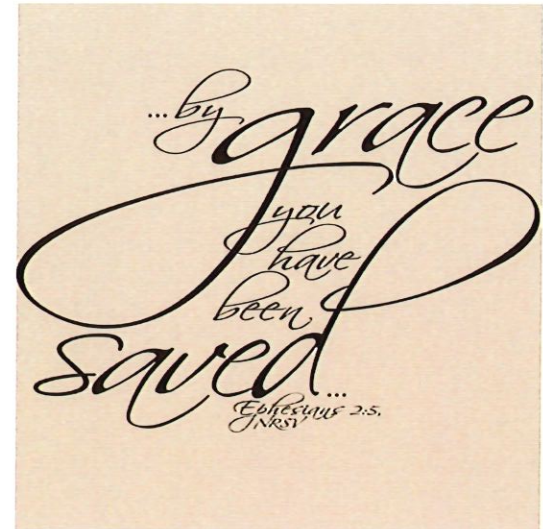

**Palm Sunday** March 29 9:00 am  
**Maundy Thursday** April 2 6:30 pm  
**Good Friday** April 3 6:30 pm  
**Easter Vigil-St John Keystone** April 4 6pm  
**Easter Sunrise** April 5 6:30 am  
**Easter Breakfast** 7:30 am  
**Easter Festival Service** 9:00 am



Serving  
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

French Toast  
Link Sausages  
Fruit / Pastries

Free Will Offering

**Confirmands Examination:**  
Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

**Confirmation:**  
Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Max Byroade  
Kinzlee Happel  
John Preus  
Kaylin Winsor

# The People Page



1. Dahson DeJong
3. Johan Ober, Emily Oldfather
4. Charley Geiger,  
Cheri Wardenburg, Linda Wieditz
6. Lisa Schmidt
8. Owen Rhinehart
10. Pat Salger
12. Mike Severtsgaard
13. Brian Burroughs, Brett Caspers
15. Bernice Ahl, Evan Petersen,
16. Brian Geiger
18. Lars Elwick
19. Joseph Preus
20. Rachel Wayson
21. John Bendickson, Alan Bookmeier,  
Jen Kreutner
24. Lisa Gattman
25. Steph Stulken
28. Joyce Flickinger
30. Karen Bahr, Wesley Winsor



3. Tim and Karen Bahr
10. Rick and Lonna Gordon
19. Kevin and Betty Cayton
22. Corey and Emily Oldfather
23. Jake and Lea Winsor
28. Barry and Nancy Lefstad

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

### NEW MEMBER:

Caszy Roegner

Transferring from College Hill LCMS, Cedar Falls, Iowa

### DEATHS:

Nancy Good                      March 11

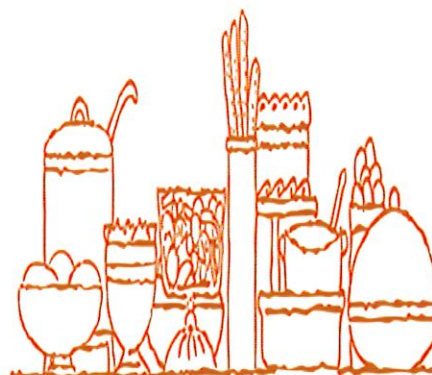
Funeral at Trinity March 14

Maury Flickinger                March 12

Funeral at a later date

### REMOVED BY THEIR REQUEST:

Josh and Janelle Miller



## Congregation Potluck

\*Schedule Change\*

**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

(Due to Easter on the  
first Sunday)

April theme =

Baked Potato Bar

***Please see the signup  
sheet in the Narthex for  
Potato Toppings***

Please join us in the Parish  
Hall after Sunday School  
and Adult Bible Class for  
great food and fellowship!



Camp lo-Dis-E-Ca

## SUMMER REGISTRATION

check out their website at

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

Located in Solon, Iowa.



FROM OUR  
**PASTOR**

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## What About?

There are plenty of issues that people have questions about in our churches. To address these questions, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) produced a series of 29 pamphlets called “What About?” While produced a couple of decades ago, they are just as relevant now as then. The truth is always relevant. While we might *add* a few more contemporary issues that the church is currently dealing with, we would certainly not *subtract* any of the “What About?” series. They address important topics of morality, doctrine, and practice.

Since these pamphlets are so helpful for our unity as a congregation and a church body, we have begun providing one issue in the “What About?” series per newsletter. This current month, we will consider the topic of “The Ten Commandments.” In this pamphlet, we learn about the gifts God is protecting in each of His ten words to us.

While I will also supply newsletter articles from time to time, I would really like to turn your attention toward this series each month. By contemplating these topics, you will understand where our congregation and church body stand on these important biblical issues. And where *you* should joyfully stand too.

If you find a topic helpful, let me know. If you find that you disagree with a topic or are confused about a teaching or practice, let me know. I would love to discuss it with you and help you to see that the teaching of our congregation and church body is faithful to our Crucified and Risen Savior and His holy Word.

Below is the “What About?” pamphlet on “The Ten Commandments.”

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Preus



What About . . .

## The Ten Commandments

*Here is the tenfold sure command, God gave to men of every land, through faithful Moses standing high, on holy Mount Sinai. Have mercy, Lord! \**

This pamphlet will help you study the Commandments and use them in your daily life.

We recognize sin in our lives as we examine ourselves according to the Ten Commandments. Sin takes a gift God has given and uses it in a way God does not want it used. Each commandment also teaches us how God's gifts are used to His honor and glory.

### **I—You shall have no other gods.**

*I, I alone, am God, your Lord; all idols are to be abhorred. Trust me, step boldly to my throne, sincerely love me alone. Have mercy, Lord!*

Where the heart is right with God, all the other commandments follow. When a commandment is broken, this is symptomatic of the fact that the human heart, by nature, is turned away from God. God made us to be His own. He has given Himself to us through our Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever claims our greatest loyalty, fondest hopes or deepest affection is our god and takes the place God alone wants to have in our lives. Through the Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts true fear, love and trust in God above all things. (Is. 42:8; Matt. 4:10; Prov. 11:28; Ps. 118:8; John 14:15; Phil. 2:13).

### **II—You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

*Do not my holy name disgrace, do not my Word of truth debase. Praise only that as good and true which I myself say and do. Have mercy, Lord!*

The Lord gave us a great treasure when we were baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The name of our Lord is above any other name, in heaven or on earth. With God's name, comes His power to save. Using the name of the Holy Trinity as a curse word, or swearing by it for dishonest or frivolous purposes, or using it to mislead people about His Word, is sin.

How good to know that we can call on the name of the Lord at any time, and in any situation in life, for any need. Because the Lord opens our lips, we declare His praise as we pray and give thanks in His holy name. (Ex. 20:7; Lev. 24:15; James 3:9-10; Lev. 19:12; Jer. 23:31; Ps. 50:5; Ps. 103:1; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 2:10-11).

### **III—Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

*Celebrate the worship day, that peace may fill your home and pray, and put aside the work you do, so that God may work in you. Have mercy, Lord.*

God has blessed us with the gift of His Word. We honor God when we gladly hear the Word of God preached and we hold it sacred. We also honor God's Word when we use it in our daily prayer. We are tempted at times to think: "I can be a Christian without attending church." That is as true as saying, "I do not have to eat today to live." But how long can we live without eating? We are able to go to church, because God is at work in us with His gifts so that we hold His Word sacred and gladly hear and learn it. (Acts 2:42, 46; Heb. 10:25; Matt. 12:8; Col. 2:16-17; Heb. 4:9-10; John 8:47; Luke 10:16; Is. 66:2; Ps. 26:8; Acts 2:42; Col. 3:16).

### **IV—Honor your father and your mother.**

*You are to honor and obey your parents, and masters every day, serve them each way that comes to hand; you'll then live long in the land. Have mercy, Lord!*

God has given us parents, pastors and other authorities for our good. They serve as His representatives. Through them, God richly blesses us, and our world, with orderly authority, as opposed to the chaos that sin brings. By honoring parents and others in authority, we honor God. (Prov. 23:22; Rom. 13:2; Eph. 6:2-3; 1 Tim. 5:4; Rom. 13:7; Col. 3:20; Titus 3:1; Prov. 23:22).

### **V—You shall not murder.**

*Curb anger, do not harm or kill, hate not, repay not ill with ill. Be patient and of gentle mind, convince your foe that you are kind. Have mercy, Lord!*

Human life is the crowning gift of God's creation. We are not to end human life through murder, abortion, euthanasia or suicide. Prejudice, bigotry and abuse of those less fortunate are forbidden. We recognize that we can "murder" a person with our thoughts, certainly with our words, and then most dramatically with our actions. As God's representative, the government has the authority to execute criminals and to wage just wars in order to punish evildoers, protect us, and maintain order. As we continue to receive mercy and kindness in Christ, so we support our neighbors when they need help. (Gen. 9:6; Matt. 26:52; Jer. 1:5; Prov. 31:8; Matt. 5:22; 1 John 3:15; Eph. 4:26; Rom. 13:4).

## What About the Ten Commandments?

### VI—You shall not commit adultery.

*Be faithful, keep the marriage vow; the straying thought do not allow. Keep all your conduct free from sin. Be self-controlled and disciplined. Have mercy, Lord!*

God has given marriage, our sexuality, and our family as great blessings. This commandment confronts us when our thoughts, words and actions fall short of the sexual purity God demands of both the married and unmarried. God wants all people, both married and single, to honor and uphold marriage as His gift. In Christ, we are set free to live sexually pure and decent lives, and to honor and cherish the husband or wife God gives us. (Gen. 2:24-25; Mark 10:6-9; Heb. 13:4; Titus 2:11-12; 1 Cor. 6:18; 1 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 6:19-20).

### VII—You shall not steal.

*You shall not steal or cheat away what others worked for night and day; but open up a generous hand to feed the poor in the land. Have mercy, Lord!*

Everything we have is a gift from God, a trust from Him to be used for His honor and glory. This is turned around when we do whatever it takes to get what we want. Christians are led by the Spirit of God not to steal or cheat but instead to do what is necessary to help others keep and improve what is theirs. (Eph. 4:28; Phil. 2:4; Heb. 13:16; 1 John 3:17).

### VIII—You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*A lying witness never be, nor foul your tongue with calumny. The cause of innocence embrace, the fallen shield from disgrace. Have mercy, Lord!*

Our good reputation is another gift from God. God gives some the duty to judge behavior and to punish evildoers, but if that is not our calling in life, we have no right to tarnish other people's reputations. We have the duty to speak in such a way about individuals or situations that we are putting the best construction on them and speaking about them in the kindest possible way, even as God treats us kindly, with mercy and compassion, through Christ our Lord. (Eph. 4:25; James 4:11; 1 Cor. 13:7; 1 Peter 4:8).

### IX and X—

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

*The portion in your neighbor's lot, his goods, home, wife, desire not. Pray God he would your neighbor bless, as you yourself wish success. Have mercy, Lord!*

Being content with the material gifts God has given us is the theme of these last two commandments. The Lord will

provide for all our needs. We are free to help our neighbor and wish him well, rejoicing with him in his good fortune, or helping him in need. As Christ has served us, so we serve others. With these two commandments, we find ourselves back again at the first, for the heart that fears, loves and trust in God is content with the gifts God gives. (Rom. 7:8; 1 Tim. 6:8-10; Phil. 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:6; Heb. 13:5).

### How does God use the Ten Commandments in our lives?

*You have this law to see therein, that you have not been free from sin, but also that you clearly see, how pure toward God life should be. Have mercy, Lord!*

*Lord Jesus, help us in our need; Christ, you are our go-between indeed. Our works, how sinful, marred, unjust! Christ, you are our one hope and trust. Have mercy, Lord!*

The Ten Commandments cause us to ask ourselves the following questions: Do I fear, love and trust in anything or anyone above the Triune God? Have I honored the Lord's name on my lips and in my life? Have I gladly held His Word sacred, listened attentively to the preaching of that Word, and made use of it in my daily life? Have I honored and obeyed all the authorities placed over me? Have I maintained the purity of my marriage and my sexual life in my thoughts, words and deeds? Have I stolen property or not helped my neighbor protect his? Have I gossiped, either by listening to it, or spreading it myself? Have I been content with all that the Lord has given to me?

The Law is a blinding reflection of our sin. The Law of God is what the Holy Spirit uses to make us realize how much we need the forgiveness Christ won for the world and now distributes through His Word and Sacraments. The Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel, to turn to Christ Jesus, who is our only hope, for He has fulfilled the Law perfectly for us and died so that our sin would be forgiven. Through His resurrection from death, He conquered death. In Christ, we have been adopted as the Lord's own dear children.

Therefore, God uses His Law in three ways: First, like a curb, by which outbursts of sin are controlled. Second, and most importantly, like a mirror, to show us our sin and our need for a Savior. And then, like a guide, to teach us what is pleasing to Him. Living in the forgiveness won by Christ, throughout our lives we pray, "Have mercy, Lord!"

\* The italicized verses in this pamphlet are from Martin Luther's hymn on the Ten Commandments, *Here Is the Tenfold Sure Command*, Hymn 331 in *Lutheran Worship* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1982).

— Dr. A. L. Barry  
President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

# TLC Preschool

We are beginning to follow Jesus and His journey to the cross. We will be learning about Jesus riding a donkey with many cheering people waving palms to welcome Him. Bible stories will help us realize why Easter is celebrated. The children will blow bubbles, when it isn't too windy, to remember that Jesus takes away our sins. The bubble is our sins, the popping of the bubble is Jesus taking away our sins.

We are grateful for the members of Trinity and the support you give to TLC preschool. We have an energetic board ready to 'pitch in' by selling calendars, preparing bake sale items, and providing and serving refreshments after our May program. Here is a list of our TLC board members; Patricia Wardenburg – chairperson, Connie Gill – secretary, Rachel Wayson – treasurer, Annie Byroade, and Becky Fisher. In addition to our church members, Stacey Happel is our preschool mom.. Thank you to our church family and the many ways you support TLC Preschool. We are truly blessed.

Easter Blessings,



*Gail Gerber*



*Monthly Budget Needs: \$21,533*

**February Offering Income: 18,574**

**February Expenses Paid: 20,188**

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**2/28 Year to Date Offering Income: 38,677**  
**2/28 YTD Expenses Paid (Budget items): 38,846**

## Trinity Church Council Meeting Minutes

Posted on the bulletin board  
across from the  
secretary's office.

*If you wish to have a copy sent  
to you by email, please call  
the church office  
319-472-5571*



**TLC PRESCHOOL** is now accepting registrations for the 2026-2027 school year for 3 year olds and 4 year olds.

Please help spread the word! Call director Gail Gerber 319-270-4511 or the church office for more information 319-472-5571.

*Quality education with a Christian foundation.*

Many, many THANKS to our great volunteers at Trinity! Some give a little, some give a lot, but every little bit helps tremendously!

Some things you notice, and other things you don't notice until they don't get done. We appreciate every one of our volunteers for the work they do. God Bless you all!



## LCMS Stewardship A Better Way

Originally published in April 2023

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, "How much should I give?" But this question really means, "Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?"

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no "Thus saith the Lord," or "should" concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 5:00 pm Catechism 6:30 pm *NO* Worship	<b>2 Maundy Thursday</b> 9:00 am *NO* Bible Study 6:30 pm Divine Worship / Strip the Altar	<b>3 Good Friday</b> 6:30 pm Tenebrae Vespers	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm Easter Vigil at St John LCMS, Keystone
<b>Altar Guild</b> Carmie Behrens Gail Gerber	<b>Offering Counters</b> Ariane Geiger Nancy Hughes					
<b>5 Easter</b> 6:30 am Sunrise Divine Service 7:30 am Easter Breakfast 9:00 am Divine Service *NO* Sunday School	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5:00 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Vespers Service	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Bible Study-Parish Hall	<b>10 Pastor's Family Day</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00 am Divine Service 10:20 am Sunday School / Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Congregation Potluck:PotatoBar 4:00 pm Preschool Bd Mtg 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5:00 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Vespers Service	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Bible Study - Parish Hall	<b>17 Pastor's Family Day</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00 am Divine Service 10:20 am Sunday School / Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 5:00 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Vespers Service	<b>23</b> 9:00 am *NO*Bible Study 7:00 pm Men's Study	<b>24 Pastor's Family Day</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00 am Divine Service 10:20 am Sunday School / Confirmands Examination-Parish Hall 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5:00 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Vespers Service	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Bible Study-Parish Hall	<b>MY REDEEMER LIVES!</b>	