

# News of the Son

Trinity Lutheran Church — Columbia, MO



May  
2026

## Contents

From the Pastor	1
Announcements	2
Meeting Minutes	3
Lutherans for Life	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Calendar	7

## Devotional on Psalm 148:

### Encouragement in the Symphony of Creation

*“Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!”*  
(Psalm 148:1, ESV)

Psalm 148 rises like a mighty chorus on a still morning, calling every corner of creation to lift its voice in praise. From the highest heavens to the deepest seas, from shining stars to rustling trees, from kings to children, all things declare the glory of the God who made them. In seasons when the heart feels heavy—when illness lingers, loss aches, or uncertainty presses close—this psalm fills us with fresh encouragement: the same Creator who holds the universe in His hands also holds you, and His praise never ceases.

Picture the night sky stretched above like a velvet canopy, stars singing their silent song while the wind whispers through the pines. The psalmist sees it all: angels and hosts above (vv. 1-4), great sea creatures and stormy winds below (vv. 7-8), mountains and fruit trees, beasts and birds (vv. 9-10). Even you and I are invited into this grand harmony (vv. 11-13). Nothing is too small or too broken to join. When your own voice falters under the weight of sorrow, remember that creation itself testifies to a God who is greater than every storm. His word brought light from darkness, and that same word still speaks strength to weary souls. You are not alone in the silence; the whole creation is already praising on your behalf, calling you to rise and add your voice with confidence.

The psalm ends with bold assurance: God “has raised up a horn for his people” (v. 14)—a strong Savior who has come near. In Christ’s cross and empty tomb, this promise is sealed. Your sins are forgiven, your life is held secure, and the same One that commands the oceans now enlivens you to face every valley. Here is encouragement that endures: the God who rules all things has made you His own by grace. Step forward today. Let the breeze on your face, the song of a bird, or the steady rhythm of your heartbeat remind you—He is exalted above all, and His steadfast love stirs you to praise with renewed courage.

#### Prayer

Gracious God, when our hearts grow weary, open our eyes to the unending praise of Your creation. Encourage us with the knowledge that You hold every moment in Your hands. Draw us near through Your Word and Sacraments, and fill us with the strength that comes from knowing Christ has overcome all things. In His name we pray, Amen.

Your Servant in Christ,

*Rev. Brian K. Thieme*

Knowing Christ's Love  
Seeking His Will  
Spreading His Word

# SERVE AND ENCOURAGE

## Women's Fellowship Time—Spring Brunch

- Saturday, May 23 at 10:00 am
- Fellowship Hall
- RSVP to Amanda Hakes 573-864-6757

The body of Christ is designed to serve and encourage one another as we toil here on earth awaiting the second coming of Christ. We want to connect the young and the experienced women of Trinity for a time of fellowship. We are seeking to share and receive encouragement and wisdom from fellow Lutheran women. We so hope you will attend.

We will also be collecting baby hygiene items to donate to My Life Clinic. Items needed at this time include baby soaps, baby lotions, and diaper creams.

## Lutheran Ladies (and Friends) Having Fun Night

- Thursday, May 28 at 6:30 pm
- Thieme House
- *Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply* Bible Study by Deb Burma
- RSVP to Sarah Thieme at 573-999-7746
- The idea of a coffee break is enticing, isn't it? Even if coffee isn't your beverage of choice you look forward to downtime, especially if it is with the company of a friend. Jesus wants our company. He invites us to meet Him in His Word. Time spent in Bible study will fill you to the brim and beyond with God's Good News. Sip, savor, and drink deeply from His Word. Receive the outpouring of His grace, His joy and His peace! We will have a fun night of a Bible study and coffee served with options of homemade coffee syrups by Amanda (Thieme) Livesay. We will also have a game that will give us an evening of laughter.

# LIFE TEAM

## Missouri's Largest Diaper Shower!

- May 10-June 21, 2026

Please help young mothers care for the babies the Lord has given them by donating diapers which will be given to Life Network, the local pregnancy resource center and Lutheran Family and Children's Services. Your Life Team and Missouri Lutherans For Life Board of Directors is hosting their annual diaper shower

between Mother's Day (May 10) and Father's Day (June 21) again this year. Look for the display in the Narthex. Thank you in advance.

# LWML NEWS

## Vesper Guild

- Tuesday, May 12 @ 5:30 pm
- Church Library

## Mary Martha Guild

- Wednesday, May 13 @ 9:30 am
- Fellowship Hall
- Ingathering: Diapers for Lutherans for Life

## 2026 Missouri District LWML Convention

- Cape Girardeau, Missouri
- June 12-14, 2026

It is almost convention time! Time to spend with other Lutheran women, celebrating our pledge of willing service wherever and whenever our Savior has need of us. Be Rooted in the Word with Bible Study opportunities and become more informed with Breakout Session Speakers. Learn more about our mites by selecting one of the Mites in Action speakers.

This convention opportunity is coming up soon-- June 12-14, 2026, at the Drury Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Cape Girardeau and you can still register online for \$210, which includes Saturday boxed lunch and Saturday banquet buffet.

Visit [missourilwml.org](http://missourilwml.org) website to register and learn more about details.

**April 14, 2026 Board of Directors  
(draft meeting minutes)**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was held in the Fellowship Hall on April 14, 2026, beginning at 6:33 p.m. The following board members attended: Larry McCoig (President), Pastor Thieme (until 6:47), Warren Harms, Keith Davis, David Attebery, Connie Coil, Dan Watts, Kassen Lock, Emily Derendinger, Karen Niederjohn, Hunter Kevil, and Debbie Antel (Secretary).

President McCoig called the meeting to order. Pastor Thieme opened the meeting with a devotion. Two additions were made to the meeting agenda: Discussion about the custodian services and the Board of Elders update as to the progress for calling a pastor and the naming of three candidates for the Nominating Committee slate. Connie Coil made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; seconded and approved.

Keith Davis, Financial Secretary, presented the report of operating income through March 31. Regular envelopes year-to-date actual collections are \$154,928.37. Loose plate year-to-date collections are \$5,672.17. Building Fund year-to-date collections are \$75,485.00. Other year-to-date collections are \$11,730.54. After discussion, the motion to receive the Financial Secretary's report was seconded and approved.

Warren Harms, Treasurer, presented the financial reports ending March 31. The three reports include a summary of the Operating Budget for the Church and the Child Learning Center and the balances on Net Operating Cash and Reserve Accounts; five pages of detailed income and expenses; and four pages detailing designated gifts. Warren noted that with 25% of the year complete, we are operating pretty much right on budget. The motion to receive the Treasurer's reports was seconded and approved.

The consent agenda includes the minutes from the March 10, 2026 regular meeting, Pastor Thieme's report, and board reports from the Elders, Evangelism, Social Ministry, Youth, and Endowment Fund. The Elders report includes the following membership changes:

Transfers In:

Jonathan Christian Gwartney – 3/1/2026, Adult Baptism and Confirmation

Stephen Nagel – 3/2/2026, Transfer LCMS

Carolyn Nagel – 3/2/2026, Transfer LCMS

Sydney Young – 3/15/2026, Adult Confirmation

Transfer Out:

Donna Jean Weber – 3/3/2026, Removed by request

Death:

Harry James Besleme – 3/4/2026

Keith Davis made a motion to accept the consent agenda; seconded and approved.

**Old Business - None**

**New Business**

Scholarship applications - President McCoig announced that Trinity has received applications for scholarship funds for the 2026-2027 academic year from three people: Chris Bailey, Matthew Frerking, and Joshua Thieme. There is currently \$23,262 in Account #195 – Scholarship Fund (LCEF). President McCoig, for purposes of starting the discussion, suggested to award \$4,000 to each of the three applicants (\$2,000/semester). Dan Watts so moved, and the motion was seconded. Discussion followed. It was noted that the April 15 deadline remains in effect and the motion will include "unless additional application(s) are received." Hunter Kevil made a motion to amend the amount to \$6,000 (\$3,000/semester), and the motion was approved as amended. [This item will be presented at the May 31 AOV meeting.]

Food Bank service event update – Board of Social Ministry representative Emily Derendinger reported that ten Trinity members assisted with sacking potatoes at the April 11 event. The Board plans to participate again in three months and will promote the opportunity in the bulletin.

May 31 AOV Meeting meal – David Attebery made a motion to cater the meal, as a change from the usual potluck. Funds will come from the budgeted Account #604 – Fellowship Meals. The motion was seconded and approved.

Custodian services – Debbie Antel and other board members shared concerns about the cleaning in the building. The BOD asked Debbie to direct the concerns to the Board of Trustees.

Board of Elders updates to consent agenda report – David Attebery reported on the progress being made for filling the vacant pastoral position. The Board of Elders will meet this month with Rev. Peter Kirby from the Missouri District. The next step will be a congregational survey. An update will be provided at the May 31 AOV meeting.

David noted that three members have agreed to serve as candidates for the Nominating Committee slate: Chris Bailey, Travis Provost, and Kimberly Walker. A fourth candidate is being sought. The election will be held at the May 31 AOV meeting.

## Announcements

BOD Meeting – May 12, 2026; 6:30 p.m. Written reports from all boards (see Bylaw 7.1.7)

are due to Debbie Antel, Congregation Secretary, and Heather Asbeck, Church Administrator, by 4:00 p.m. May 6.

AOV Meeting – May 31, 2026; 12:30 p.m. Catered meal at 11:45 a.m. Agenda items are due by 9:00 a.m. May 15 so publication of the agenda can comply with Bylaw 3.1.3. Reports for the agenda packet are due to Debbie and Heather by 4:00 p.m., May 27.

Dan Watts made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded and approved. The Lord's Prayer was recited. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Debbie Antel  
Secretary

## May Assembly of Voters Meeting

A Regular Assembly of Voters (AOV) meeting will be held on Sunday, May 31, 2026. There will be a catered lunch beginning at 11:45 a.m., featuring barbecue sandwiches, assorted sides and desserts, and beverages. As a result, there will be no potluck for this meeting. The AOV meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m.

All items of business for the AOV agenda (motions, plans of action, etc.) are due by 9:00 a.m. May 15. Bylaw 3.1.3 requires publication of Old and New Business items at least two weeks in advance of an AOV meeting. The Old and New Business listing will be available in the narthex on Sunday, May 17, and via email upon request made to the church office. No additions will be permitted to the published list so be sure to meet the 9:00 a.m. May 15 deadline.

All officer, board, and other reports for the AOV agenda packet are due before 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 27.

Agenda items and reports should be e-mailed to Debbie Antel, congregation secretary, (debbieantel@gmail.com) and Heather Asbeck, church administrator, (church@trinity-lcms.org) before the deadlines detailed above. The completed AOV agenda packet will be available in the church office beginning late Thursday afternoon, May 28, and may also be picked up on Friday or Saturday. Packets will be available at the meeting on May 31. Handouts brought to the meeting will not be accepted or distributed.

Should you have any questions or wish to propose an agenda item, please reach out to Larry McCoig, President of the Congregation, as soon as possible. His telephone number is 660-247-3026.

### 2026 Trinity Lutheran Church Officers and Board Members

#### President

Larry McCoig

#### Secretary

Debbie Antel

#### Treasurer

Warren Harms

#### Financial Secretary

Keith Davis

#### Board of Elders

Benjamin Asbeck

David Attebery

Mike Brame

Jim Cherrington

Ron Dickes

John Frerking

Carey Smith

#### Board of Christian Ed.

Connie Coil

Karen Provost

Hillari Roberts

#### Board of Early Childhood Ed.

Jordan Bedsworth

Tom Myers

Kendal Reaser

Kylie Sterling

Dan Watts

#### Board of Evangelism

Nelson Akpabli-Tsigbe

Kassen Lock

James Roberts

#### Board of Social Ministry

Emily Derendinger

Jessica Kespohl

Travis Vellema

#### Board of Stewardship and Finance

Jon Berendzen

Lori Dickes

Mary Frerking

Richard Mangold

Karen Niederjohn

Mason Reaser

#### Board of TLC

##### Endowment Fund

Pat Hansen

Hunter Kevil

Chuck Murphy

#### Board of Trustees

Aaron Bedsworth

Conrad Brown

Jordan Duenckel

#### Board of Youth

Jenny Brame

Brooke Cameron

Jacque Eckhoff



### Life Newsbytes

A Texas County Just Became 22nd in the Nation to Ban Abortions – On April 13, the Commissioners’ Court of Lynn County, Texas (pop. 5,596), considered an ordinance “Outlawing Abortion within the Unincorporated Area of Lynn County, Declaring Lynn County a Sanctuary County for the Unborn.” After a presentation from Right to Life across Texas, the measure was adopted in a unanimous 5-0 vote by County Judge Mike Braddock, Matt Woodley, John Hawthorne, Tate Gass, and Larry Durham. In adopting the measure, Lynn County became the 22nd county in the nation and the 20th county in Texas to pass a Sanctuary County for the Unborn Ordinance. Lynn County follows the Texas counties of Mitchell, Goliad, Cochran, Lubbock, Dawson, Jack, Shackelford, Camp, Shelby, Hopkins, Dickens, Howard, Motley, Crosby, Borden, Hall, Hood, King, and Sterling. Lynn County is the 6th county and the 10th political subdivision to pass such a measure in 2026 ... In addition to providing protections for pregnant mothers and their unborn children, the ordinance also educates members of the community on the Thriving Texas Families Program and the resources that can be obtained through centers listed on the Texas Pregnancy Care Network website ([textexaspregnancy.org](http://textexaspregnancy.org)). (Read more: [lifefews.com/2026/04/17/this-texas-county-just-became-22nd-in-the-nation-to-ban-abortions](http://lifefews.com/2026/04/17/this-texas-county-just-became-22nd-in-the-nation-to-ban-abortions))

### Speaking up For Life

“By the washing of water, John made God’s divine intentions clear. Jesus was our brother indeed, on a heavenly mission to rescue and purify us from all sin. Dear Lord, keep us patient as we wait for You. Amen.” *Rev. Paul Koelpin, Martin Luther College*

“As Christians, we know that God’s commitment to upholding life started long ago—before photos—before the beginning of time even. From His ordered creation of the world to His ordered creation of you in your mother’s womb, God’s work has always been life-affirming. Grafted into His family through Baptism, we have become children of God and inheritors of eternal life.” *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life*

“Live abundantly, friends, graduates, loved ones, and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ! Know who you are and to whom you belong.” *Deaconess Janet Nicol, Word of Hope*

“We rightly honor our dead who are near to us in time, realizing this is but a passing phase of memory, that in another already-determined Time, all the graves shall be opened, and all shall rise to meet the Judge of the Living and the Dead, whose Kingdom shall have no end. Memory eternal.” *James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James*

[lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes](http://lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes)

## HE IS RISEN!

BY REV. DR. ARIC FENSKE



**H**e is risen! There is no greater For-Life message than these three words from the angel. God despises death so much that He was willing to be swallowed up by death Himself to destroy it from the inside and free the world from its icy cold grip.

Easter morning is our yearly reminder that God’s desire for mankind is that our lives never end! According to His own words, He laid down His own life so that “everyone who lives and believes in Him shall never die” (John 11:26).

Our resurrected Lord truly is the Lord and giver of life. It is inconceivable to think that the same God who suffered crucifixion and death in order to destroy the curse of death would also approve of the wanton destruction of the very people for whom He died to grant everlasting life.

**The Easter proclamation of “He is risen” is the reason we are Lutherans For Life.** We all know that in this world of sin and death, this Good News of Jesus is often met with anger and hostility. But we can’t let that discourage us. Before He died, Jesus prepared His disciples for this very thing. **“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world”** (John 16:33). These words, **“He is risen,”** are the proof that Jesus has, in fact, overcome the world.

We can continue to share God’s message of life with confidence and hope because of these three beautiful words. He is risen! What comfort these words bring us! The resurrection of Jesus changes everything! It vindicates His entire earthly ministry—His miracles, His teachings, and His self-offering as a sacrifice for the sin of the world. The empty tomb is the confirmation that all transgressions have been forgiven, that the world has been reconciled to the Father in Heaven, and that death has been undone. The resurrection of our Lord proves that He is God of gods and Lord of lords.

The devil can rage with all his might. The world can fight against the Church and bring about all manner of death and destruction. But He is risen! This means that they will never destroy Christ’s Church. Try as they might, they will never stomp out the flame that was lit on that Easter morning. The truth of God’s Word of life will continue to be proclaimed until the day that Christ returns. And nothing they do can steal Christ’s salvation from us. And so the Church sings,

*Take they our life,*

*Goods, fame, child, and wife,*

*Though these all be gone,*

*Our vict’ry has been won;*

*The Kingdom ours remaineth.*

(“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” LSB 656, st. 4)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, may this Easter season fill us with such “joy and peace in believing” that we may not only abound in hope (Romans 15:13) but that we may continue to be Gospel-motivated voices for life, boldly speaking the truth in love to the world around us.

Happy Easter! He is risen. He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

**3**  
 Connie Morrow

**4**  
 Nick Couper  
 Al Hebard

**5**  
 Dan Buchheit  
 Pat Campbell  
 Clark Laupp

**7**  
 Esther Stone

**8**  
 Libbie Couper  
 John C. Kuehner

**9**  
 Sue Ousley

**10**  
 Daniel Hakes

**12**  
 Justin Lehenbauer  
 Melinda Lehenbauer  
 Ruthann Wunder

**14**  
 Dax Bongard

**18**  
 Sophia Frerichs  
 Norman Gephardt

**20**  
 Derrick Harms  
 Kristin Tipton

**24**  
 Chris Cott  
 Kimberly Walker  
 Easton Watts

**26**  
 Elizabeth Raisch  
 Alan Weber

**29**  
 Amber Cameron  
 Cooper Stine

**30**  
 Carson Samuel

Daniel & Debi Derendinger ..... May 1, 1970  
 Rob & Cherrie Gannon ..... May 9, 2015  
 Trenton & Jessica Coleman ..... May 12, 2012  
 Jere & Candis Francis ..... May 16, 1981  
 Jess & Doris Lyons ..... May 19, 1973  
 David & Sherrie Attebery ..... May 19, 1984  
 Tyler & Mary Sanders ..... May 27, 2016  
 Tom & Rachael Marler ..... May 29, 2011

Dear Church Family,

**Please contact the Church Office when:**

- a member of your family is admitted to the hospital so visits can be made
- someone you know is very ill or has passed away
- you would like to be assigned a Stephen Caregiver to help you through a difficult time
- your class, board, or group would like to use the church for a meeting or event so it can be scheduled on the church calendar
- your contact information or address changes
- a new baby arrives in your family
- a member of your family leaves home for college, joins the military, or is getting married
- you would like to have a member call you to visit or assist you in some way
- you have a prayer request
- you would like to share your time and talents
- you feel the church can assist you in any way

# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>26</b> 8a Divine Service 930a Sun. School 1030a Divine Serv 6p JCC	<b>27</b> 9a Bible Study 6p Divine Service	<b>28</b> 545p Pickleball	<b>29</b> 9a LC Chapel 630p Lutheranism 101	<b>30</b> 7a Men's Bible Study 9a LC Chapel 545p Pickleball	<b>1</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>2</b> 9-1 Confirmation Pics & Rehearsal Exam & Reception
<b>3</b> <b>Confirmation</b> 8a Divine Service 930a Sun. School 1030a Divine Serv	<b>4</b> 9a Bible Study 6p Divine Service	<b>5</b> 5p BoECE 545p Pickleball 6p Stephen Min.	<b>6</b> 9a LC Chapel 630p Lutheranism 101	<b>7</b> 7a Men's Bible Study 9a LC Chapel 11a Communion @ Lenoir 545p Pickleball	<b>8</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 8a Divine Service 930a Sun. School 1030a Divine Serv	<b>11</b> 9a Bible Study 6p Divine Service	<b>12</b> 530p Vesper Guild 545p Pickleball 630 BOD	<b>13</b> 9a LC Chapel 930a MM Guild 530p BOCE 630p Lutheranism 101	<b>14</b> <b>Ascension</b> 7a Men's Bible Study 9-11 TLCLC grad 6p Ascension Service	<b>15</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 9-11 TLCLC grad	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8a Divine Service 930a Sun. School 1030a Divine Serv	<b>18</b> 9a Bible Study 6p Divine Service	<b>19</b> 545p Pickleball	<b>20</b> 9a LC Chapel 6p Life Team 630p Lutheranism 101	<b>21</b> 7a Men's Bible Study 9a LC Chapel 11a Communion @ Lenoir 545p Pickleball 6p Evangelism	<b>22</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>23</b> 10a Women's Brunch
<b>24</b> <b>Pentecost</b> 8a Divine Service 930a Sun. School 1030a Divine Serv	<b>25</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> <i>office closed</i> 6p Divine Service	<b>26</b> 530p Trustees 545p Pickleball	<b>27</b> 9a LC Chapel 630p Lutheranism 101	<b>28</b> 7a Men's Bible Study 9a LC Chapel 545p Pickleball 6p Elders 630p Lutheran Ladies	<b>29</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 5p Wedding Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 2p Hanson-Pilsudski wedding
<b>31</b> <b>Holy Trinity</b> 8a Divine Service 930a Sun. School 1030a Divine Serv 1145a Lunch 1230p AOV	<b>1</b> 9a Bible Study 6p Divine Service	<b>2</b> 545p Pickleball	<b>3</b> 9a LC Chapel 630p Lutheranism 101	<b>4</b> 7a Men's Bible Study 9a LC Chapel 11a Communion @ Lenoir 545p Pickleball	<b>5</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>6</b>

Trinity Lutheran Church  
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Columbia, MO 65203-1433

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COLUMBIA, MO  
PERMIT NO. 184



**Rev. Brian Thieme, Pastor**

**Divine Service:**

Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Monday 6:00 p.m.

**Bible Study & Sunday School:**

Sunday 9:15 a.m.

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fax: 573-445-4078

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website: [trinity-lcms.org](http://trinity-lcms.org)

facebook: [trinitylutherancomo](https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutherancomo)

youtube: [TrinityCoMo](https://www.youtube.com/TrinityCoMo)