



April 2024 Volume 27, No. 4

Trinity Lutheran Church

A welcoming faith community
living together in God's love to
share the joy of Jesus Christ.

TIDINGS

Camp at Sky Ranch

Sky Ranch registration is underway! We are planning a Trinity week at camp **July 21-26**, there is programming for all ages this week. If you would like to attend, Trinity will pay \$100 per camper (regardless of the cost of camp for the week). If you have already registered and not paid, let me know and we can still make that adjustment. If you have paid, let me know and we'll figure something else out! To register, click [HERE](https://skyranchcolorado.org) (skyranchcolorado.org) and use this code: 24TLCFC. As always, scholarships are available, contact me for more information. To use this discount, you must register by April 1 (earlier is better to ensure there is enough space!)

Wild Life VBS | June 10-13 9am-12pm

Think about the weirdest animals you know. What noise does an armadillo make? Is an axolotl really smiling? Is a wombat a type of a bat? It is wild that God helps each animal grow and thrive....and us, too! VBS is for PreK-5th grade. Registration now open, register [HERE](#).

Adult Forum

April 7 We will watch and discuss the 5th and final episode of “Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland”

April 14 Nyla Anderson’s grandson, Tommy Pontius, will join us from Belfast, Ireland to discuss the impact of the Troubles on Northern Ireland today. Tommy is currently a history and political science major at Queen’s University in Belfast.

April 21 Becky Davis from The Natural Funeral will update us on the latest in environmentally-friendly options for terramation, such as natural organic reduction or body composting, water cremation (aquamation or alkaline hydrolysis), and natural earth burial.

April 28 Join us as we celebrate and learn about how we can help facilitate an encounter with Christ on the mountain tops for ALL at Sky Ranch.

Updates from Greece/Ephesus Trip

Do you want to stay up to date on how the Easter Pilgrimage to Greece/Ephesus is going? Check Trinity’s Facebook page — facebook.com/TLCfortcollins — often (daily/every other day), you do not have to be on Facebook to read these updates, there will also be updates added to the weekly e-News.

LuMin in the News!

Listen to the story about LuMin from KUNC Radio! The Student Housing Security Initiative was recently covered in a public radio series on housing insecurity. This piece was featured on Good Morning America and All Things Considered! To hear more about housing insecurity in Colorado and what LuMin's doing to help, listen to the story or read the written article [HERE!](#)

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



www.trinitylutheranfc.org

Phone: (970) 482-1226

Preschool: (970) 221-9852

After Hours Emergency:
(970)-400-7252

OFFICE HOURS

MON-THURS 9AM-3PM

WORSHIP TIMES

SAT: 5 PM | SUN: 10:30 AM

Senior Pastor

Rick Reiten

pastorrick@trinitylutheranfc.org

Education & Family Minister

Deacon Katie Kline

katie@trinitylutheranfc.org

Office Administrator

Deana Andrist

office@trinitylutheranfc.org

Financial Manager

Brenda Moore

bmoore@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Communications & Volunteer Coordinator

Amanda Backsen

amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org

Church Musician

Carrie Hansen

carrie@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Chancel Choir

Tessa Espinosa

choir@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Handbell Choir

Jill Hunt

bells@trinitylutheranfc.org

Saturday Worship Leader

Clinton Ellerbe

saturdayworship@trinitylutheranfc.org

A/V Techician

Claire Pickerel

claire@trinitylutheranfc.org

Sunday School

Jennifer Reeve

childrensminister@stpauls-fc.org

Nursery Coordinator

Tiffany Klijewski

tiffany@trinitylutheranfc.org

TLC Preschool Director

Brenda Harju

bharju@comcast.net

Minister's Message—Sabbath as Celebration

This summer, as I enter an intentional time of sabbatical, the congregation is granted this gift as well. I pray that it is a time for intentional rest, renewal, and reflection. And for celebration.

We have heard the commandment – Remember the Sabbath and Keep it Holy – but what does it mean for Trinity in 2024? We break all the commandments regularly, but our addiction to ‘busyness’ prevents us from appreciating the joy of sabbath.

Sabbath is more than coming to worship or “Blue Laws” prohibiting the purchase of non-essential goods on Sunday. Our work schedules may not even allow us a free weekend in today’s society.

How do we resist our over scheduled lives?

How do we break away from alarms and deadlines?

How do we remember sabbath, and truly honor the gift of rest?

Our Jewish siblings built an intentional practice of both rest and renewals, with traditions of Shabbat – weekly sabbath; Shmita - sabbatical year; Yovel – Jubilee year.

The Torah calls for Jews to work six days and rest on the seventh but also work the land six years, letting it rest in the seventh. After 49 years, seven cycles of seven, the 50th is Yovel.

In that Shmita year, debts are to be forgiven, agricultural lands to uncultivated, private land holdings to become open to the commons, and staples such as food storage and perennial harvests to be freely redistributed and accessible to all.

Like the sabbatical year, the Jubilee is one in which no agricultural work is to be done and the land is to lie idle and empty. It was a year of rest, renewal, and re-creation; for the people, and the land. The celebration also included everyone released from debts and slavery, so that all could start year one with a clean slate. It is probably different than what we imagine – and the Jubilee year has not been marked for centuries, but it is a beautiful theology. Even without Yovel, sabbatical time is central to life.

Sabbath days and sabbatical years are reasons for celebration, as we intentionally take time to connect back to what we are here and to recommit to our common mission. To see where God is at work and continue to tell that story.

We may not be able to erase our calendars, or limit how far we travel on Sunday - but we can reclaim sabbath practice. By minimizing our busyness, simplifying our commitments, and celebrating every opportunity to “break the cycle of ‘more’ that our world constantly asks of us: achieve more, accomplish more, perform more, possess more.” (Walter Bruggemann).

Thanks be to God for the opportunity for us all to celebrate Sabbath in a new way.

Pastor Rick

Highlights from Co-Op Committee Meeting

The Co-Op Committee composed of clergy and lay leaders of each faith community discuss the functioning of the faith partnership, coordination of collaborative projects, and other items affecting the faith communities. At the 22 Feb 24 meeting the following items were discussed:

Shared History: Each faith community discussed the denomination & local history of their community and touched a bit on polity of each faith community.

Holiday Office Hours: Discussed when the church office will be closed during holidays.

Shared Service and Fundraising: Discussed having fundraisers associated with each meal after the shared service and how many fundraisers were too many during the year. Discussed other options related to fundraising, including loose change left in the offering plate during the shared service going towards a particular benevolence.

Electronic Sign Update: There is a scheduled meeting with an electrician to obtain an estimate to connect electricity to the sign. Once electricity is hooked up to the sign, an antenna will need to be placed on the sign followed by training on how to post signs.

Taizé Service: Noted relatively good attendance at the first Taizé Service and the soup supper. Need to coordinate tech support.

Stations of the Cross Installation: Posters for the stations of the cross will be installed. Each faith community will contribute to the cost for the posters.

New Interior Signs & Parkin Signs: Revisited estimate for one of the interior signs. Decided to go with a different company than with the company that created the outdoor electric sign.

If you would like to receive a copy of the minutes of the Coop Meetings, please email your request to Deana at office@trinitylutheranfc.org.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Volbrecht

301 Faith Partners (FP) — Working Together

301 FP Quilters The 301 Quilters meet **Fridays from 10am –12 pm** in Room 2. All are welcome - male, female, any age, any skill level, & as often as you are able. Come, meet, and connect with others in the 301 family. All you need to bring is your helpful heart and your favorite coffee mug or water bottle.

301 FP Fellowship Get-Togethers take place the **2nd Thursday of the month, March 14 at 3:30 pm**, the location is picked closer to the date, so check the e-News. All gatherings are informal and no RSVP needed.

301 FP Prayer Group will be on break for April and May, join again on Monday, June 24. Spirit continues to be doing something new at Trinity, as St Paul's, Mary of Magdala, & Trinity continue to live out our commitment to the 301 Covenanted Partnership.

Small Groups

Trinity Readers Group will meet on **Monday, April 1 at 9:30 am** in room 2 to discuss a historical novel based on the life of the 18th century midwife Martha Ballard: *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Since the church office will be closed that day, there will be no Zoom link available. Park in back of the church and enter through the door that the nursery school uses. Looking ahead to May, our selection will be *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. This is also historical fiction about the enslaved groomsmen who trained the most successful racing horse in history.

Pie and Coffee Those that are in the Pie & Coffee Small Groups, your next meet up will be on **Sunday April 7 at 3 pm** at the home of Pat Wiedower, 4350 Arriba Ave Unit 217, Loveland. RSVP to Cherlyn Gorsky at csgorsky@hotmail.com.

Yoga - All Levels! A beginner friendly and gentle, stress-relieving yoga class to stretch and strengthen the body gradually. Cost is \$10 per class with professional instructor, Kati Thompson. Classes are **Wednesdays April 10 & 24 & May 8 & 22 from 10am-11am**. Yoga will be in Room 2, across the hall from the preschool. If you would like, you are welcome to park in the southeast back parking lot and enter the door next to the preschool.

JOY Luncheon Save the date for JOY's next luncheon on **Monday, May 13 at 11:30 am**, more details coming soon. We delight in welcoming all older adults and those young at heart to join, no registration is required but an RSVP is requested for each luncheon. Cost will vary depending on the meal.

Chapter Two Readers will take a break for the month of April and resume in mid-May. If you're interested in more information or would like to receive email updates/reminders about Chapter Two Book Club, please email Maddie Fairfax at madeline.b.fairfax@gmail.com.

Quilting We've been busy these winter months. Look in the West hallway and you'll see some of the finished quilts. Between the quilts is a printed page describing the group, and on each quilt will be a tag stating where that particular quilt will be sent. We are grateful for so many donations of fabric. As we make more and more quilts, we need more and more fabric. So keep it coming. :) Here's a fun idea: if you've donated fabric, look at each finished quilt to see if you can spot your donation that's been made into something new! The Quilters meets almost all **Fridays from 10am -12 pm** in Room 2.

TGIF is on break for April due to no host being available. Join again on May 10. If you have questions and or would like to sign up to Host, please contact Liz Johnson at 402-320-3699 or lizj8485@gmail.com.

Saints & Sinners Golf Starting to mark your calendar for summer activities? Saints & Sinners Golf Group will resume monthly golf rounds on **Saturday, May 18**. We plan to play on Saturday morning once a month in **May through October**. We play 9 holes and then gather for snacks and conversation. Further dates and details will be sent to group members. If you would like to join the group send an email to donnadauner@gmail.com.

APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
	1 Office Closed Sky Ranch Discount deadline 9:30am Trinity Readers 6 pm Property	2 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:30 pm Soc/Eco Justice 6:15 pm 301 FP SEJ
7 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 3 pm Pie & Coffee	8 12 pm I Love to Tell the Story	9 9:30 am Volunteer @ Irish Elem 6:30 pm Executive
14 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	15 12 pm I Love to Tell the Story	16 9:30 am Volunteer @ Irish Elem 6:30 pm Council
21 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 11:45 am Faith Formation	22 12 pm I Love to Tell the Story	23 9:30 am Volunteer @ Irish Elem
28 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 6:30 pm Grace Tables	29 12 pm I Love to Tell the Story	30 9:30 am Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:30 pm FP Eco Justice

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 12:40 pm Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:30 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	4 9:30 am Bible Study	5	6 5 pm Saturday Praise 5:45 pm Fellowship
10 10 am Yoga 12:40 pm Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:30 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	11 9:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm FP Get Together 4 pm Finance	12 10 am Quilting Grp	13 5 pm Saturday Praise 5:45 pm Fellowship
17 12:40 pm Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:30 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	18 9:30 am Bible Study	19 10 am Quilting Grp	20 12 pm Sweet Treats 2 pm Prayer Cards 5 pm Saturday Praise 5:45 pm Fellowship
24 10 am Yoga 12:40 pm Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:30 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	25 Synod Assembly 9:30 am Bible Study 6 pm Chap 2 Readers 6:30 pm 301 FP Co-Op 7 pm Immigration	26 Synod Assembly 10 am Quilting Grp	27 Synod Assembly 5 pm Saturday Praise 5:45 pm Fellowship

**PULL ME OUT! HANG ME UP!!
 PUT ME ON YOUR FRIDGE!**

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

- April 6/7 Trina Garlo / Gerry Olsen
- April 13/14 Vicki Volbrecht / Don Garman
- April 20/21 Sherry Albertson Clark / Tessa Espinosa
- April 27/28 Vicki Volbrecht / Eric Jurgenson

301 FP Joint Ecological Team (JET) ECO Tip of the Month

The first Earth Day was on April 22 in 1970. Senator Nelson, junior senator from Wisconsin, announced the idea for a teach-in on college campuses. Denis Hayes, a young activist, was recruited by Senator Nelson to organize the campus teach-ins and to scale the idea to a broader public. The decades that followed saw substantial environmental legislation enacted. Earth Day continues to be an important motivation for environmental activity. Join one of the local activities on Earth Day. **LOCAL ACTIVITIES:**

TINY TREKKERS: EARTH DAY IS FOR EVERYONE! On **Thursday, April 18 from 10-11 am** bring your 2-5 year olds for a morning filled with nature exploration, stories, and connection with our amazing natural world. They will plant sunflower seeds to take home and learn about how the earth provides what a plant needs to grow. A parent or guardian must accompany the child. Registration is required, program is free, register at larimer.gov/events/tiny-trekkers-earth-day-everyone-2024-04-18

14TH ANNUAL EARTH DAY FORT COLLINS at Civic Center Park on **Saturday, April 20 from 11 am-5 pm**. Sponsored by Sustainable Living Association, with booths, demos, music, art, food, & yoga. Bring a can of food for the Food Bank. For more info see sustainablelivingassociation.org/earth-day-fort-collins-2/.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY BY PICKING UP AND PACKING OUT LITTER on **Saturday, April 20 from 9 am-12 pm**. Sponsored by Larimer County Natural Resources Department. This event starts at the Department of Natural Resources Administration Offices near Carter Lake. Introductions, hand out cleanup supplies and then everyone will head out to Carter Lake, Flatiron Reservoir, Pinewood Reservoir and Ramsay-Shockey Open Space to remove unsightly litter from the land. For more information, and to sign up, see <https://www.larimer.gov/events/litter-cleanup-earth-day-2024-04-20>.

The Joint Ecological Team meets as needed to plan educational events, bike to work day, volunteer opportunities and advocacy. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, April 30 at 5:30 pm**. Be sure to check out the JET table and bulletin board in the NW corner of the Fellowship Hall. Please email any suggestions for future Eco-Tips to the Trinity church office.

Volunteers Needed

Signing up is easier than ever, thank you SO MUCH for helping to make our church possible!

SATURDAY Sign Up Here—> <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4fafa929aaf49-tlcsaturday>

Communion Preparation: Set up and Clean up Elements for Saturday Service

Communion & Assistant: Readings for Service & Help Serve Communion

Fellowship: Prepare treats (i.e. wine, cheese, & crackers), greet attendees after Saturday Service

SUNDAY Sign Up Here—> <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054eafa62da3fa7-sunday>

Welcome Table: An usher and a greeter had a baby, that baby became the Welcome Table Host.

Fellowship Host: Make a fresh pot of coffee during postlude, then clean up at 12 pm.

e-News

Are you getting Trinity's e-News? The e-News is an electronic way TLC shares what is happening in the life of our church. Each week, an email is sent out with the weekend's happenings, upcoming events, and news to share. We also use this method to inform members of funerals and other time sensitive news. If you would like to receive Trinity's emails, please email Amanda at amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org.

Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

2024 Annual Report

Thank you to the people of Trinity Lutheran Church for making an investment in the future of the church through the ELCA Fund for Leaders. We are grateful for your partnership! In the 2023-2024 academic year, the ELCA Fund for Leaders provided scholarship assistance of more than \$3 million in support of 350 future pastors and deacons. Thank you for your role in ensuring that these future leaders will be freed from the burden of student debt so that they can go and serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.

Students supported in 2023-2024: Total \$1,600

- Your funds were used to support Theological Education for Emerging Ministries, TEEM

We are grateful that the Trinity Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund - Fort Collins, CO has provided a total of \$7,500 in scholarship awards to nominated students since its inception.

Trinity Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund - Fort Collins, CO, E272427

Market value as of 12/31/2023: \$46,990.33

New gifts given to your fund in 2023: \$0.00

Total amount available for you to award for 2024-2025: \$1,700*

*This number is calculated with a 10% holdback to ensure that all promised scholarships can be paid during both semesters, even if the market fluctuates. Please issue awards in whole dollars.

Process and Timeline

2024 Guidelines for Congregations

This document contains eligibility criteria and notes on the selection process and timeline.

2024 FFL Congregation nominations

Congregations submit nominee information to FFL by May 1, 2024 using this Excel template.

2024 Instructions for congregation nominees

Synods send to each nominee by May 15.
This document assists students registering/ applying in ELCA GrantMaker. **Students register and apply: May 15-June 5, 2024.**
Students accept the grant agreement online in July 2024

For more information, please visit [ELCA.org/fundforleaders](https://www.elca.org/fundforleaders) or call our office at 800-638-3522, ext. 2936. Again, thank you to the people of Trinity Lutheran Church for your generous support –we thank God for you!

Your Gifts In Action ~ Summit Stone

Mental illness is common in the U.S., causing one in five U.S. adults to be living with mental illness. One of every two people in the world (and in the U.S.) will develop a mental health disorder in their lifetime. According to the Global Burden of Diseases, the U.S. ranked first with substance abuse disorders, 15th for anxiety disorders and 29th for depressive disorders. The most common mental illness is anxiety disorder, then depression. Yet, most people like to pretend that it is something that happens rarely and always to someone else. Because of the stigma of mental illness, it is still not something people like to talk about openly when it happens in their own family. It is important to understand that mental illness is a disease, just like diabetes or heart disease. It is nothing of which to be ashamed; it happens to people without their causing it.

Mental illnesses vary in degree from mild to moderate to severe. Some are easily treated with medication alone, some require medication and talk therapy, and some require in-patient hospitalization and close monitoring over a period of time.

In Ft. Collins, there is excellent treatment center for mental health disorders. Summit Stone was started as an outgrowth of the Larimer County Mental Health Department in 1957. It is now the largest provider of behavioral healthcare services in Larimer County serving more than 10,000 clients annually. There are four facilities, one in Loveland and three in Ft. Collins. Summit Stone provides substance abuse care, acute care, crisis services, group therapy, vocational support and peer support services. Trinity supports Summit Stone with our benevolence funds as part of our commitment to social ministry.

When you give to Trinity, you give to Summit Stone



Birthdays



Eric Jurgenson	4/3	Walter Hansen	4/8	Kent Garvin	4/21
Benjamin Yust	4/3	Jeff Fairfax	4/9	Barb Klamann	4/21
Marilyn Bycroft	4/4	Annika Garlo	4/10	Katie Remmers	4/21
Ben Keyser	4/4	Joslyn Gebhardt	4/10	Jessica Lipscomb	4/22
Karolyn Kufeld	4/4	Bowen Schock	4/10	Colton Hopkins	4/23
William Foos	4/5	Pollyann Sersen	4/10	Anita Dahlquist	4/24
Charlotte Jacobson	4/5	Joy Gertsch	4/12	Zachary Yust	4/24
Hannah Murphy	4/5	Patty Telleen	4/12	Howard Nornes	4/27
Lee Currie	4/6	Stephen Zink	4/16	Melissa Mize	4/29
Claire Makinen	4/6	Liz Johnson	4/19	Kieran Simske	4/30
Rose Zubradt	4/7	Brittany Knotts	4/20	Hope Wolf	4/30
Bennie Drews	4/8	Samuel Dahlquist	4/21		

Anniversaries

Doris & Jimmie Schwartz	4/2	Bonnie & Rod McKenrick	4/18
Karl & Lori Schmidt	4/16	Ken & Michele Christensen	4/29

TLC 2024 Ministry Fund Plan Actuals

	February	Year-To-Date
Receipts:		
Offerings	\$ 27,030	\$ 57,295
SPE and MoM Building Use Donations	4,348	9,900
Building Use	270	616
Benevity Funds Released	1,400	2,800
Total Receipts:	33,048	70,611
Expenditures:		
Operating and Support	\$ 25,382	\$ 50,856
Ministries	10,549	18,935
Benevolence/Gifts (Synod, Sky Ranch, etc)	-	-
Total Expenditures:	35,931	69,791
Receipts less Expenditures:	\$ (2,883)	\$ 820
Total Checking/Savings as of 2/29/2024		\$ 163,855.00
Total Checking/Savings as of 12/31/2023		\$ 166,656.00
Difference		\$ (2,801.00)

Ways to Give at Trinity

Become a Realm giver! Call the office to get an invite to REALM, our new giving platform. In Realm you can donate from a checking account, savings account or your credit card. Donations can be done weekly, monthly, or annually. Also, you can look at the history of your giving and even print a statement for your taxes. Check it out!

For **One-Time Donations** go to www.trinitylutheranfc.org and click on “Give” at the top of the webpage. Find One-time Donation and follow the prompts from there. Again, you can have the donation come from a checking account, savings account or your credit card.

Are **charitable rollovers** an option for you? If you are required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA, you might be able have the check payable to Trinity, and not pay taxes on the distribution (please check with your tax advisor, or financial institution). The same applies if you have a charitable donor advised fund. Check with your financial institution on the frequency that works best for you.

Does your bank offer their customers a **bill paying option**? You can check with your bank about this. Some banks do not charge for this convenience. Have **automatic deductions** from your checking or savings account, done weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly.

Have the Venmo app? Trinity is also on Venmo! We are “Trinity-LutheranFC”.

Use Regular Offering **Envelopes**-either brought to worship or mailed in.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider these options. Please feel free to call the office if you have any questions or need help; 970-482-1226 or email bmoore@trinitylutheranfc.org.



TRINITY LUTHERAN
301 E. Stuart St.
Fort Collins, CO 80525
(970) 482-1226