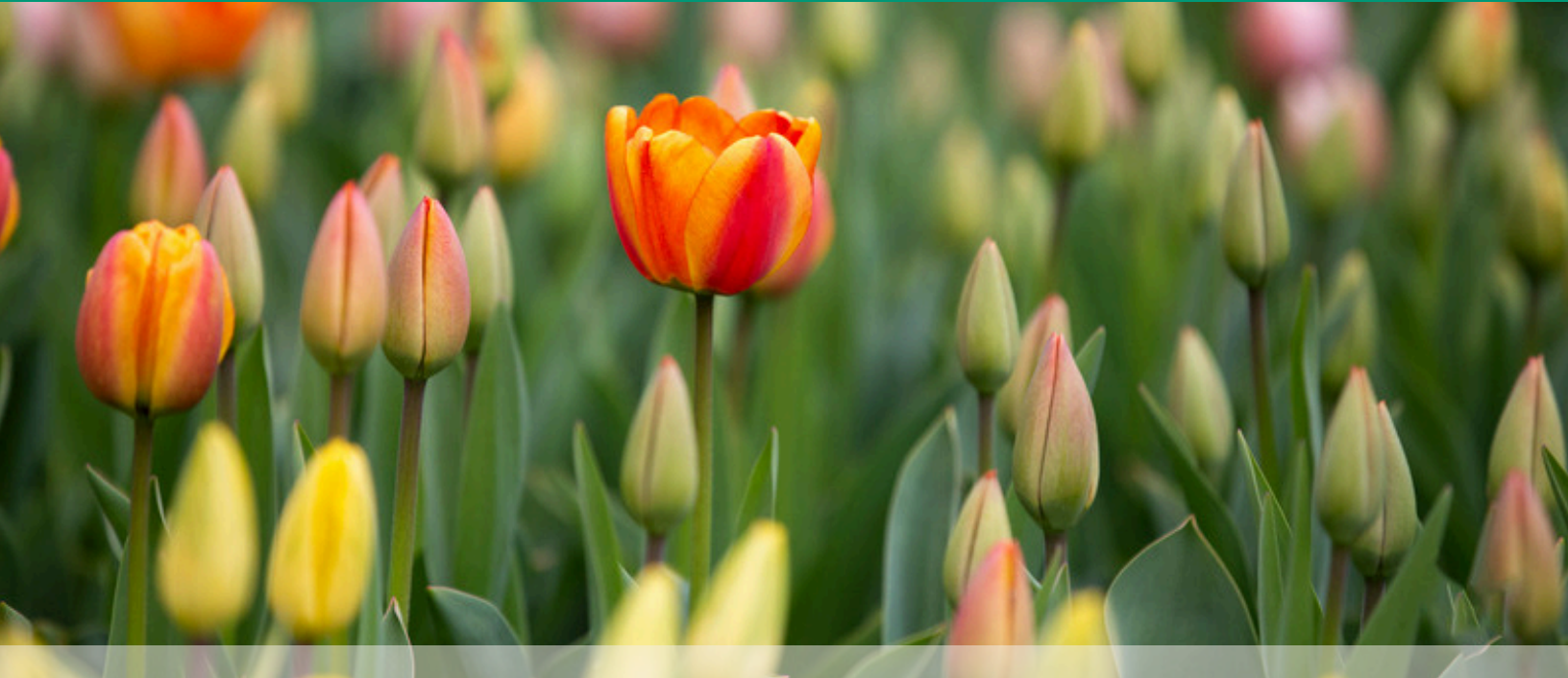


TRINITY MONTHLY

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOD'S TRUTH THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE



Life Made New

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

During the Easter season we rejoice in the gift of new life. With grass growing and flowers and trees blooming it is as though God is showing us His life giving power everywhere we look. Just as Christ was raised to new life, the world around us follows suit. What changed to make that possible? God provided the things needed for new life. Warmth, rain, and sun are the means of God's life giving grace for the natural world.

God has called us into a new life as well. The Apostle Paul tells us that "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." God gives us new life by joining us to Christ in baptism. In this gift we are united to his life, death, and resurrection so that we can begin to receive a new life from him.

(continued)

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

VBS | 6

Rummage & Bake Sale | 9

Trinity Travelers Trips | 11

Stephen Minister
Testimony | 13

Our new life also comes from the means of grace that God provides to us. The Word proclaims God's gospel of mercy and grace, baptism joins us to the unconquerable life of Jesus Christ, and the Lord's Supper sustains our lives with spiritual food: the Body and Blood of Christ.

These "means of Grace" Word and Sacrament are the powerful things that we cannot live or grow without. With them new life is ours. I pray that you are encouraged in your faith by the witness of all creation that God is making all things, even your life, new this Easter season.

In Christ,



Rev. K. McClain
Pastor Kevin McClain
Lead Pastor

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

-  508 Center Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805
-  Phone: (419) 289-2126
-  Fax: 419-289-1381
-  trinityashland.org

Of course, you are always
welcome to stop by
Trinity's office:

Monday - Thursday
9am-5pm

RUMMAGE SALE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Collections received May 4th at 9am – May 7th at 3pm

Spring is in the air, and that means it's time for Trinity's Spring Rummage & Bake Sale! This year, we're aiming to make it bigger and better than ever, but we need your help to make it a success.

Why Volunteer?

- **Community Spirit:** Connect with your neighbors and contribute to a great cause.
- **De-Stress & Organize:** Help others declutter while maybe finding a hidden treasure yourself!
- **Support Local School:** Proceeds go directly towards our Trinity Good Shepherd Preschool.

We need volunteers for:

- Sorting and organizing donated items.
- Setting up and breaking down the sale.
- Be a baker for the Bake Sale.
- Volunteer at the Bake Sale.
- Be a cashier during the sale.



Find full collection and sale details in the *Family Ministry* section (pg. 9).



CELEBRATING MAY BIRTHDAYS



Let's shower our cherished members 85 and over with lots of love and well-wishes as they celebrate their birthdays this month!

Evelyn Stephan | 85 years | May 7

Walter Kime | 85 years | May 15

Carol Obrecht | 87 years | May 3

Myron Amstutz | 87 years | May 10

Donna Shaw | 89 years | May 13

Richard Obrecht | 90 years | May 28

Carolyn Bonesteel | 92 years | May 31

Robert G. Carver | 92 years | May 17

Betty Burkholder | 99 years | May 28

COMMISSIONING OF HOME COMMUNION SERVERS

Home Communion Servers were commissioned on the weekend of April 25 and 26 at all services. Please pray for our servers as they commit to serve our homebound members in the holy sacrament of communion:



Dan Forbes, Diane Frank, Jeff and Linda Gray, Karen Laughery, Ruth Ann Linder, John McNutt, Kim Oberholtzer, Shawn Prichard, Karin Schwan, JoEllen Smalley, Michelle Vanderzyden, Gail Warnes, Judy White, Dave Wolbert, Amanda Wolfe

If you, or someone you know, is homebound temporarily or permanently, please contact the church office so we can serve you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CELEBRATION

May 9th & 10th | All Weekend Services | Trinity Lutheran Church

Please join us on May 9 and 10 as we celebrate Sunday School attendance for students in grades Pre-K through 12th during all three services. Students will be invited to come forward to receive their awards as we recognize their commitment throughout the year.

May 10 will also mark the final day of Sunday School classes for the season. We look forward to gathering again on Rally Day, September 6, 2026.

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

May 24th | 10am | Mitchell Hall



Please join us on May 24 at 10:00 a.m. in Mitchell Hall for a congregational breakfast as we celebrate the confirmation of seven very special confirmands. This event is open to all congregation members—we would love for you to join us! Please register in advance using the QR code so we can prepare enough food.



SING IN THE PREMIERE OF *KEEP WATCH BETWEEN US*

A commissioned piece by David Childs

Sunday, May 31st | 8:45am & 11am Services | Trinity Lutheran Church

You are invited to be part of a truly special musical offering as Trinity presents the world premiere of *Keep Watch Between Us*, a commissioned choral work honoring the faithful ministry of Ron Marenchin. The piece will be presented on Sunday, May 31, during both the 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.

All are welcome to join—anyone can participate, no matter your experience—as we come together to learn and present this beautiful work in tribute and praise.

Rehearsal Schedule

- May 19 | 7:00–8:00 p.m. (Sectionals)
- May 23 | 9:00–10:00 a.m. (Sectionals)
- May 26 | 7:00–8:00 p.m. (Full Ensemble)
- May 30 | 9:00–10:00 a.m. (Full Ensemble)

Vocal recordings will be provided to assist with preparation.

Donations are still being accepted to help offset the cost of this commissioned piece—contributions of any size are appreciated.

To participate, sign up using the QR code or contact Kim Wolbert at kim@trinityashland.org.

A congregation-wide breakfast will be held between services on May 31. More details to come.

WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS, FUNERALS

Celebrating and remembering the meaningful milestones in the life of our church family, including baptisms, weddings, and funerals from the past month.

Erik Drushel | Baptism | March 29

James Hillis | Baptism | April 4

Grant, Grayson & Olivia Lawrence | Baptism | April 4

Teresa Tucker | Funeral | April 22

Vacation Bible School: Rainforest Falls

June 15th - 18th | 9am-noon | Jack's Place | Ages 4 - 6th graders



Sign up now for VBS: Rainforest Falls! Kids will explore the nature of God as they study the book of Psalms. Open to ages 4 (potty trained) through completed 6th grade. We need over 100 volunteers to make this ministry run smoothly—so grab a friend and choose your favorite area. Sign up on our website or using the QR code.

Contact the church office or one of our VBS directors if you have questions!

- Amy Atterholt
- Melissa James
- Kristen McClain
- Kayla Mollahan

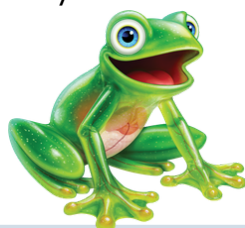


Help Make VBS a Success!

Donate to VBS Supplies

If you'd like to support our mission and keep the fun going, check out our Amazon Wish List.

Every item donated helps us create a more meaningful experience for the kids. Thank you for being a part of our VBS family! Scan QR code to order items that can be shipped directly to Trinity!



Other Ways you can help:

Pray

Pray for all children and adults who are attending VBS.

Volunteer

Volunteer to be a crew leader!

Sponsor a child

Your sponsorship helps us keep VBS free for children in our church and community.

Purchase snack items

We serve nearly 300 kids and adults each day during VBS! Watch for ways to help as VBS approaches.

TRINITY KIDS 456: YEAR END COOKOUT

Friday, May 8th | 5:30pm - 8pm | Kaeser house



Join us as we celebrate a great year with Trinity Kids 456! We'll gather for an evening cookout along with some kickball, games, and a fun service project as we wrap up the season together. Be sure to wear your orange Trinity shirt, bring your Bible, and ask your mom to mark her favorite verse (or bring it along on a note). Come ready for a great time—and don't be afraid to get a little messy! Scan the QR code for the address, full details, and to register, or call the church office at (419) 289-2126.

YOUTH MINISTRY

PRAYING FOR THE YOUTH WE SERVE

A final message from the Youth Director, Ryane Briggs

Hello! It is my hope that you have enjoyed reading about our youth members over the last six months in our feature called "Praying for the Youth We Serve." Personally, I have enjoyed writing about these special students and the opportunities we've had to spend time together studying God's Word. Trinity is certainly blessed to have very talented and faithful students who believe that God is foundational in their lives.

These students have left a deep impression on my heart, and I have discovered I am currently employed in my dream job. I have been blessed with the opportunity to talk about God and how He transforms our lives. During our Sunday School and Share Group hours, we have shared many laughs, but we have also seen growth as we strive to grow in our spiritual lives through prayer. Our Youth Committee has taken on the important task of planning for the future, and our Catechism students successfully led a Saturday night service under the guidance of Vicar Gage Garlinghouse. In June, we will celebrate the graduation of seven Trinity seniors. It has been a busy and satisfying year, and I give glory to God for His guidance.

Would you please continue to pray for our students here at Trinity and in our community? Please pray that our students will have integrity in all areas of their lives, that they will be strong enough to not be of this world, and that they will hear God's call to walk alongside new believers and share the words of Jesus. Lastly, please pray that God will lead more youth to Trinity so that we can all grow together in Christ.

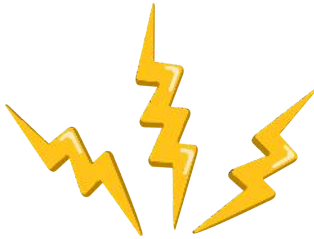
MAY YOUTH SHARE GROUPS

Sundays, May 3rd & 17th | 7-8pm | Youth Room | Grades 7-12

Let's come together for a thoughtful hour of prayer, scripture, and fellowship! We will gather in the Youth Room at Trinity Lutheran Church. Invite a friend and join the fun! Contact Ryane Briggs with any questions.

YOUTH ENERGY NIGHT

Tuesday, May 12th | 7-8pm | Youth Room



Get ready to end the school year with a burst of fun at Youth Energy Night! Join us on May 12 from 7:00–8:00 p.m. in the Youth Room for a night packed with high-energy games, friendly competition, and great fellowship. Invite a friend and come ready to have a blast!

YOUTH NIGHT: GUYS ONLY DINNER

Wednesday, May 27th | 6-7pm | Youth Room

All boys in grades 7–12 are invited to join us for a special Guys' Dinner on May 27 from 6:00–7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room! Come enjoy a fun evening of food, conversation, and fellowship with Vicar Gage and Shawn Prichard. Invite your friends and join us for a relaxed and meaningful time—we can't wait to see you there!



Youth Committee Meeting

All youth serving on the Youth Committee are reminded that there will be a meeting on May 21 in the youth room from 6:00–8:00 p.m. We look forward to gathering together to discuss upcoming events and plans.



TRINITY RUMMAGE SALE: COLLECTION WEEK

May 4th-7th | 9am-3pm | Jack's Place

Trinity's Rummage Sale Collection is officially kicking off, and we want your treasures. Whether it's a lamp that doesn't match your vibe or a stack of books you've already read twice, give your gear a second life and help us clear some clutter for a great cause. **All proceeds from the sale go directly to Trinity's Good Shepherd Preschool!** So load up the car and come see us! Let's turn your "stuff" into a blessing for our preschool.

Items we are accepting



- Household items
- Small appliances
- Home décor items
- Bedding (no mattresses)
- Small furniture
- Clean, gently used clothing (all sizes and types)
- Shoes
- Toys (In good condition)
- Books
- CDs and DVDs
- Sporting goods
- Craft items

Items we cannot accept



- ✗ Broken or damaged items
- ✗ Stained or heavily worn items
- ✗ Large appliances
- ✗ Old tube TVs
- ✗ Mattresses

Questions or
willing to help sort and organize?
Contact Dawn Forbes at
dawn@trinityashland.org.

TRINITY RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

May 8th & 9th | See Times Below | Jack's Place

The wait is over! Come find your next treasure at Jack's Place while supporting Trinity's Good Shepherd Preschool. You'll find a wide variety of gently used items—from clothing and décor to furniture and more! Shop for a great cause and enjoy some food and fellowship while you're there!

Sale Schedule

Friday, May 8 | 9am-4pm

Full selection, with lunch served

Saturday, May 9 | 9am-12pm

The Famous Bag Sale

*Both days will also feature a bake sale with plenty of delicious treats.

LUTHER CLUB

Thursday, May 7th | Noon | Trinity Room

We invite you to gather in the Trinity Room for our next Luther Club for a delicious lunch and a time of fellowship. The menu will include lasagna casserole, garlic bread, side salad and an iced cookie. We will be hearing from Grace Bryant, Miss Ashland. The cost is \$7, and RSVPs can be made through the church office or through Wendy Shreffler. We look forward to another enjoyable time together!



EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH: FELLOWSHIP & CARD-MAKING

Friday, May 15th | Noon | Meeting at Tacos & Tequila for Lunch

Do you enjoy making greeting cards? Join us for Expressions of Faith, a creative time for anyone interested in crafting cards. We will meet at Tacos & Tequila at noon for lunch, then head back to the church to create cards together. Bring your ideas—we'd love to see your creativity in action! No sign up needed.

MNM'S: MAKING NEW MEMORIES

Tuesday, May 19th | Noon | Jack's Place

Women on their own are invited to join us for the next MNM's (Making New Memories) lunch! The menu will include beef & noodles, mashed potatoes, and pie. Please RSVP by contacting the church office. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful opportunity to share good food and great company!



EUCHRE NIGHT

Thursday, May 28th | 6:30pm | Jack's Place

If you enjoy playing Euchre, join us for a fun evening of cards! You don't need a partner to register—just come ready to have fun and meet new people as you rotate partners throughout the night. Be sure to RSVP by contacting the church office at (419) 289-2126. All ages and skill levels welcome.

TRINITY TRAVELERS SUMMER TRIPS

Trinity Travelers is a welcoming group open to anyone who enjoys fellowship and fun day trips—come along for one or all of our upcoming adventures! If you are not QR code savvy you can always call the church office or contact Wendy Shreffler for more details!

1

OHIO STAR THEATER: ELIJAH PROPHET OF FIRE

Thursday, May 21st | 9:30am | Depart from Trinity



This outing includes a day trip to see Elijah: Prophet of Fire at the Ohio Star Theater, with transportation and a full buffet meal included. If interested, scan the QR code for full details.

2

DAYTON: BUC-EES & URANUS FUDGE FACTORY

Tuesday, June 30th | 7am | Depart from Trinity



This outing includes a fun day trip to Dayton, featuring Buc-ee's and a stop at the Uranus Fudge Factory, with transportation and bus bingo. If interested, scan the QR code for full details.

3

DETROIT RIVER MOTOWN BOAT CRUISE

Saturday, July 18th | 7am | Depart from Trinity



This outing includes a riverboat lunch cruise and live Motown show on the Detroit River, with transportation, a buffet meal, and onboard entertainment. If interested, scan the QR code for full details.

For questions, contact the church office at (419) 289-2126 or Wendy Shreffler at wendy@trinityashland.org

SENIOR GRADUATION SUNDAY & CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

Sunday, June 7th | 8:45am Traditional Service | Sanctuary
Breakfast to Follow | 10am | Mitchell Hall

Join us as we celebrate the high school graduation of seven of our seniors during the 8:45 a.m. service on Sunday, June 7. A congregational breakfast will follow in Mitchell Hall to celebrate those graduating.



SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

Exciting changes are coming to Trinity Sunday School as we prepare for summer and fall 2026!

Summer 2026

Children's Sunday School classes will take a break for the summer months, while adult classes may choose to continue meeting.

Fall 2026

A new eight-week session format (with a week off in between) will be introduced for all ages, from preschool through adult. This structure allows for a wider variety of classes and more flexible, shorter-term opportunities to serve.

Shepherds Needed

Do you have a heart for guiding God's people? We are looking for shepherds to help lead and support our Sunday School programs (children and adults) . If you feel called to serve, please contact Ryane Briggs in the church office—she would love to connect with you!





STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING

Upcoming training for New Stephen Ministers: September 2026. Put your faith in action and serve through this distinctively Christian caregiving ministry. This ministry is for men and women who can listen and come alongside someone who needs a little extra help. Contact Michelle Vanderzyden at the church office for an application.

STEPHEN MINISTRY TESTIMONY

A thank you from a care receiver!

"Losing my loved one left me feeling like my whole life was slowly unraveling. The grief was overwhelming, and I didn't know how to move forward. Meeting weekly with my Stephen Minister became a true lifeline for me. They listened with such compassion, never trying to "fix" me or give advice, but simply being present and hearing my heart.

They prayed for my needs and gently helped me process emotions that felt too heavy to carry alone. During a time when I was struggling deeply—even doubting my faith—they helped me reconnect with God in a way that felt real and personal again.

I truly believe God worked through this special person to bring comfort and hope back into my life. I am so thankful for their care and faithfulness.

I would encourage anyone who is hurting and just needs a listening ear and a caring friend to talk to a Stephen Minister. And to those who serve in this ministry—thank you for being willing to be used by God in such a meaningful way."

March 2026 Church Services		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
2/28-03/01	92	277
3/5 Vespers	N/A	30
3/7-3/8	97	282
3/12 Vespers	N/A	31
3/14-3/15	92	309
3/19 Vespers	N/A	34
3/21-3/22	93	322
3/26 Vespers	N/A	32
3/28-29 PALM SUNDAY	71	460

March 2026 Receipts	
DATE	AMOUNT
3/7-3/8	14,392
3/14-3/15	20,084
3/21-3/22	24,211
3/28-3/29	36,029

Operating Fund YTD	
INCOME	N/A
DISBURSEMENTS	N/A
DEFICIT	N/A
WEEKLY INCOME NEEDED FOR OPERATION BUDGET	N/A

**Newsletter receipt and operating fund amounts reflect information from two months prior, as approved and available at the time of newsletter composition.*

**Due to an issue with our financial software system, Year-to-Date figures through March are currently unavailable; this section will be updated and shared in the Midweek email once resolved.*

COUNCIL REPORT: APRIL 2026 MEETING

Opening & Pastor's Report

Easter attendance was exceptional, and we give thanks for the many signs of new life within our congregation, including upcoming baptisms and new members. As we move into May, we prepare for several important congregational meetings and celebrations, including Mother's Day, Confirmation Sunday, and Senior Recognition. Pastor Kevin also expressed gratitude for outgoing council members and their years of faithful service.

Key Updates & Reports

Approval of Minutes

- Dan moved to approve the minutes. Jeff seconded. Motion carried.
- Financial reports delayed due to software issues

From Pr. McClain

- Pastor Kevin will be on vacation May 4–20
- No communion May 16–17
- Multiple upcoming baptisms (children and adults)

From Staff

Nominees for council:

- John Maurer, Brad James, Shawn Pritchard, Sharron Sample, Jen Schuttera
- Additional nominees—please send to Pastor Kevin

New Business

- Task force created to explore sanctuary renovation (led by Rob Ward)
- Ad hoc committee formed to review bylaws, constitution, and council structure
- Council installation planned for late May

Christian Education

- Attendance recognition for PreK–12 on May 9–10
- Last day of Sunday School: May 10; resumes September 6 (Rally Day)
- New curriculum and teacher recruitment underway

Finance Committee

- Fund consolidation project moving forward
- Financial reports delayed due to system issues
- Updated purchasing policy approved

Montessori

- Preschool Sunday planned for May 3
- Last day of school: May 28
- Exploring grant opportunities for safety improvements

Nurture

- Mother's Day flowers will be distributed after all services

Outreach

- Grant requests beginning; committee will meet soon

Personnel / Lay Leader

- Heather Hartsel hired as Hospitality Coordinator (began April 21)

Property

- HVAC systems operational
- Roof project pending weather
- Seeking bids for Rose Garden improvements
- TLC Properties remain at full occupancy

Senior Ministries

- Luther Club was well attended

Women & Children

- VBS off to strong start with 100 sign-ups
- Girls Night Out had 30 attendees
- New leadership team for Trinity Kids 456
- Rummage Sale scheduled for May 8-9

Worship & Music

- High Praise concert drew 200+ attendees and raised ~\$2,000
- Women's Chorus leading worship April 25-26
- Choir Camp planning underway
- Ron's commissioned piece to be presented May 31 with breakfast celebration

Youth

- Confirmation Sunday: May 24 (with breakfast)
- Graduation Sunday: June 7 (celebrating 7 graduates)
- Summer programming (VIBE and youth schedule) in development

Adjournment

- Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

