



Vol. 58 No. 4

# Glad Tidings

APRIL 2025

*Disciples of Jesus Christ called to bring God's light into the world:  
through worship, serving, learning and sharing the Good News!*

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I was making a mental list about what people used to do while waiting before SmartPhones were invented. It included:

1. Watch people more intently
2. Read the newspaper we had tucked under our arm
3. Whistle / wish we could whistle / wonder how people whistled.

This led me to imagining Jesus, in the tomb, waiting to rise. Did he rise early, then realize he could lie there another hour and still be out before the women came? Maybe he rose much like I rise from sleep, except of course, he was dead rather than sleeping. Which is a fairly big difference. Still...

He sits up slowly. Lays back down. Dreams a little longer.

Opens his eyes. Blinks, letting his eyes adjust to the dark.

Sits up. Stretches his arms above his head. Groans.

Remembers he is out of milk. And cereal. And a bowl, a spoon, a kitchen.

Stumbles to the entrance of the tomb, hand on the stone wall, groping for the light switch.

Makes a note to himself, "inspire someone to invent a light-switch."

Grabbing a stick, he makes a To Do list on the wall, including things he has already done just for the sense of accomplishment.

1. ~~Rise from the dead~~
2. Move stone
3. Surprise Mary : )
4. Go to Galilee
5. Surprise, like, everyone, ever

He bends his right ear to his shoulder. Then his left. Hears his neck crack.

He puts his right hand on the wall fingertips only, the hole in his hand still tender, he pulls it back, looks at the fresh scar, runs his thumb across it gently. Makes a fist, just because he can.

Clasps his hands together. Drops his chin, takes a moment to pray: *Father, grant me the strength to move that big-ass stone.* He thinks, "how's this for some truth, Pilate?" And throws his full weight against the stone.

It falls away easily.

Pulling himself up and through the doorway, into the semi-darkness of just-before-dawn, he inhales the cool morning air. Walks a few steps, then filled with a sense of mission, breaks into a light jog. He passes a couple of women on the road. They, so bent in sorrow, neither see, nor hear him... Whistling.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Communion</b>
April 6	Judy Sadlon	In House/Zoom	No
April 13	Rev. Marie Duquette	In House/Zoom	Yes
April 20	Rev. Marie Duquette	In House/Zoom	Yes
April 27	Rev. Marie Duquette	In House/Zoom	Yes

To virtually participate in Sunday Service, please join us at 10am on either Zoom, Facebook or the website.  
Zoom Phone: 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 3158666474 Password: 13350

Now that we have joined Zion and Trinity together in shared ministry, there are twice as many opportunities to worship during Holy Week! Please attend the ones that work for you – and do not limit yourselves to only the congregation in which you are a member. Full collaboration will lead us to deeper understandings of one another and greater clarity in our shared mission. Come --Let us worship the Lord!!

**Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>: Worship at 10:00 at Trinity & Zion** – The passion story will NOT be read at either location this year; we will focus just on the Palm Sunday portion of the story.

**Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>:**

**TRINITY 6:00 pm: COMBINED Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Service.** It will include Holy Communion, the stripping of the altar, the Tenebrae service of candles and the reading of the Passion according to John.

**ZION 6:00 pm:** Simple Supper with Holy Communion, Pastor Janet Griffiths presiding

**Good Friday:**

**ZION 7:00 pm:** Candlelit Tenebrae Service – reading the Passion according to Luke

*NO Service at TRINITY because Maundy Thursday Service includes Good Friday*

**EASTER SUNDAY:**

**Trinity Worship 9:00 am!**

**Zion Worship 11:00 am!**

**Easter Breakfast**

Following 9am Easter service, brunch in the Fellowship Hall will be served. Please join us to celebrate Christ.

## **Women of Faith**

Thank you to the Women of Faith at Zion for hosting International Women's Day brunch with open arms, hearts, and good food, something that definitely made us smile and warmed us inwardly and out. The population is 51 percent women in the United States let our voices be heard to make a difference.

WOF is sponsoring a Zoom Bible Study about Family and Relationships on Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00 PM. Linda Bennett will lead this study. The material is taken from the May/June Gather Magazine, and is available free online.

## **Serving & Sharing**

Look what we have been doing both at Trinity and in different collaborations!

- Lenten lunches continue to bring churches in the valley together. Don't forget April 9th we will be hosting the lunch from 12 to 1 at our church.
- An article in Gather magazine, talked about how the Lutherans are partnering with Catholic Charities and Mennonites to help with the disaster in North Carolina and South Carolina to help to rebuild bodies and homes. What an awesome God and his people we have.
- Serving and sharing had a meeting to discuss plans for the church garden. May God's grace bear many vegetables, to be used for the people in need.
- Game day helps bring us together to make new friendships and fellowship God wants us to enjoy.
- The Warming center will be closing soon, but please look for the many upcoming fundraisers to help financially prepare for next year.
- Without Weekly Announcements and our tech support, we wouldn't know about the many works of God.
- Our next Community Dinner at the Herkimer Reformed Church will be Saturday, April 12th.
- Meals for Fed My Sheep continue to be made to help shut ins and sick or people who need a little help. May the grace of God keep this work alive.

May we show love and caring, and forgiveness, during this Lenten season.

## **APRIL'S DONATION FOCUS**

For the month of April, our donation focus will be cereal. We will also be collecting paper products and feminine products. Each month we will have a different donation focus, but other items will always be in need and accepted. Thanks to all who continue to donate!

## **Learning BOOK GROUP**

Our next TLC book group meeting is on Friday, April 11 at 10am at Trinity Lutheran Church. Our book is *Camino Island* by John Grisham. This is a novel about a bookstore, rare books and authors on a fictional island in Florida. It is one of 3 novels in a series about the same area. Hope you can join us.

## **FAITH ALIVE**

Hello Christian friends. We are excited as we reflect on how our Lord is leading us together on this exciting adventure. Yes, we speak of Faith Alive. We laugh, learn, even knowing that we can be a little loud. Why? Simple because the JOY of the Lord is our strength. YES!!

As we move forward to our next gatherings on April 13th & 27th our focus will move on to the JOY of Easter and what JESUS' LOVE and ultimate sacrifice accomplished, for all of us on the cross.

If so led by the Holy Spirit, consider bringing a non-perishable food item, for our local food pantry, for those who might need just a little help. Thank you!

Johnson Park Center, located in Utica continues to be Faith Alive's outreach ministry. Sharing Jesus' awesome love to all is our JOY! It's contagious and puts a smile on Jesus' face. God's work our hands!! YES!!

Please read Psalm 89:1 slowly as a prayer. "I will Joyfully sing of the loving kindness of the Lord forever. I will make known Thy faithfulness with my mouth." Food for thought: How can this verse make a difference in our daily walk with Jesus???

As a reminder, new ideas and crafts are always welcome and appreciated. Just leave a message on the church phone at 315-866-6474 and someone will get back to you ASAP. Thank you!

#### BIBLE STUDY:

Every Thursday 10-noon in fellowship hall. All are welcome, knowledge of the bible is not required. If you have your own bible please bring it with you, if not we will supply one. We are presently studying the book of the prophet Isaiah, and now after approximately 800 yrs after Isaiah spoke, we see the fulfillment of these prophecies in the New Testament. WOW the connection of the OT with the NT is truly a GOD happening.

### **Worship, Music, and Prayer**

#### BLESSINGS OF PRAYER:

"Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my groaning. Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God. For to Thee do I pray. In the morning, O Lord Thou will hear my voice; in the morning I will order my prayer to Thee and eagerly watch." (Psalm 5:1-3)

#### PRAYER NOTES:

The powerful words of Martin Luther: "Tomorrow I plan to work, from early until late. In fact, I have so much to do that I spend the first three hours in prayer."

Did you know that Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble", inspired Martin Luther to write the great hymn,

"A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD." Consider praying this Psalm every day, allowing the Holy Spirit to bring to light new and marvelous things. And as HE leads, share them with each other! Always remember that Jesus receives us just as we are and accepts our prayers just as they are. In the same way a child cannot draw a bad picture, a child of God cannot offer a bad prayer.

PRAYER is an attitude of total dependence on God. "I can't do it but God can help me do it." We learn to lean on and trust Jesus throughout the waking moments of every day for help. Our whole life, when it is lived to the Glory of God, is a form of prayer. Take time to pray and learn to lean on God for everything!!

#### A PARAPHRASE of PSALM 23:

God is my caretaker, all my needs are met.

God gives me the most beautiful place to rest. He nourishes me.

He illuminates my way for HIS GLORY!

Even though I stumble and fall, and the world closes in, I trust in You.

You lift me up and I am reassured.

Your hospitality to all is abundant and filled with Your grace.

God's goodness and mercy are always with me now and forever.

Thanks be to God!!

< April 2025 >

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Bible Study	4	5
6 Worship Service	7	8	9 Lenten Luncheon at Trinity Council meeting via ZOOM	10 Bible Study Worship and Music Committee Meeting	11 Book Group	12 Dinner at Herkimer Reformed Church
13 Church Alive Worship Service	14	15 Loaves and Fishes Meeting	16	17 Bible Study Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service	18	19
20 Evening Worship Service	21	22	23	24 Bible Study	25	26
27 Church Alive Worship Service	28	29	30			

## Volunteer Schedule

	4/6	4/13	4/17	4/20	4/27
Counter 1	Bona Starring	Bona Starring	JoAnn Blaise	JoAnn Blaise	JoAnn Blaise
Counter 2	Cathy Mayton-Collins	Cathy Mayton-Collins	Phillis Becker	Phillis Becker	Phillis Becker
Reader	Bona Starring	Phillis Becker	TBD	Amy Manning	Sue Harkins
Singer	Judy Sadlon	Sue Harkins	TBD	Judy Sadlon	Sue Harkins
Altar	NA	Amy Manning	Judy Sadlon	Amy Manning	Judy Sadlon
Leader	Judy Sadlon	Rev. Duquette	Rev. Duquette	Rev. Duquette	Rev. Duquette

Please email [info@trinityherkimer.org](mailto:info@trinityherkimer.org) with any changes.

### Stewardship

Monthly giving needed to fund the approved budget of \$152,472 is \$12,706

#### January Information

Actual Offerings Received for the month:     \$3,954.26

Actual Expenses Paid for the month:            \$9,539.15

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Income is *short* by   \$ 5,584.89

Paid by using excess Fund Balance from prior years.

#### **Did You Know:**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. The ELCA was officially formed on Jan. 1, 1988 by merging three church bodies: the Lutheran Church in America, American Lutheran Church and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches.

### Our Church Family

God's children in need of support through prayer, phone call or maybe a note of encouragement or even a short visit. A suggested prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ, as named below, may be helpful.

Heavenly Father, in the Name of Jesus Christ we lift to You, by name, those who need Your healing touch of mind, body and or spirit:.. Scott, Sheila, Michele, Neil, Jeff, Levi, Gary, Sue, Charlie, Asha, Judy, Jim, Alice, Ruth, Leah, Matt, Mary, Rosemarie, Theresa, Billy, Heather, Jennifer, Ron, Ethan. In Jesus Name Amen!

The joyful blessings of prayer is that we can be anywhere, in any state of mind, at any given time and connect immediately through the Holy Spirit with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please place before the Throne of Grace all those listed above by name, even if you might not know them, yet knowing Jesus does.

Psalm 37:4 "Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart". When we put ourselves before God the Father through prayer we find the JOY of being with Him more valuable than anything else in life. Discovering that delighting in the Lord alters the desires of our heart. WOW!!

There are many of our brothers and sisters, at Trinity, working hard behind the scenes. The list goes on and on. I will not attempt to name everyone, in fear of inadvertently leaving someone out. All are appreciated with Love. Thank you! Knowing that serving Jesus and using the unique gifts He has personally given each one of us is the ultimate and the perfect Joy of the Lord. AMEN!

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Kristin Omerzu  
 Bona Starring  
 Margaret K. Jones  
 Morgan Lynn Rivers  
 Timothy Smith, Jr.  
 Ellen Olson  
 Caden Marusic  
 Medisyn Lyle  
 Wesley Stewart  
 Richard Savarese  
 Ruth Wicks

Justin Manning  
 Dan Collins  
 Pam Stafford  
 Stephen Osley  
 Joshua Neff  
 Stephanie Merena  
 Nancy Pollak  
 Brittany Engert  
 Carlianna Stafford  
 Robine Snow  
 Heather Marusic

Jeremy Hinckley  
 Joshua Hinckley  
 Leah Donnelly  
 Cooper Jordan  
 Lucas Rivers  
 Martin Collins  
 Veronica Gerdau  
 Allison Maguire  
 Reese Capozzi

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Tracy & Matt Stewart

Bona & Richard Starring

If you spot an error or omission, please notify the office. We will be happy to update this list!

### Council Contact Information

President: Amy Manning	315-868-9224	amanning@trinityherkimer.org
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**Worship With Us  
 From Anywhere!  
 Call on your landline  
 phone, use your computer,  
 receive a DVD, or receive a  
 printed copy of the  
 sermon! See Worship  
 Schedule for details.**

If you would like to receive a copy of finalized Council meeting minutes please contact the office.