



Vol. 59 No. 4

Glad Tidings

APRIL 2026

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

Strength for Today and Hope for Tomorrow

“Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?”¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,²⁰ and our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. – Luke 24:19b-21 (paraphrased)

The Road to Emmaus Story. You remember. Cleopas and his friend are walking home from Jerusalem, lamenting the events of Holy Week. Jesus joins them and asks what they are discussing. Cleopas says, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know what has taken place?” Jesus says, “What things?” The two begin to tell Jesus all about WHO Jesus was, and HOW the chief priests and leaders arrested, condemned, and crucified him. They tell him how *they had hoped* Jesus would redeem Israel. They tell him how it had been three days since Jesus’ death, and that some women had visited the tomb, which was empty, and how they said that an angel had told them Jesus was alive. They tell Jesus that others had also visited the empty tomb.

At this point, Jesus loses his patience reminding them that the events they just described *were* foretold in the scriptures. Jesus joins them at home for supper. While they are sitting at the dinner table, he holds up the bread to bless it, and their eyes are opened and they recognize him...and Jesus promptly disappears. Of course they begin chattering, because now they know *exactly who he is* and *they remember* that their hearts were burning on the road when he talked to them about the scriptures. They return to Jerusalem and tell his disciples what happened. And two more people are witnesses to his resurrection from the dead.

Of all the stories of the resurrection, this is my favorite, because we know exactly what this story is about. We have never stood by and witnessed our Lord and Savior be crucified, but we most certainly have walked two by two, away from tragedy, lamenting what we have seen and heard. We have recounted the details of a tragic turn of events and the pain of the loss that follows. We have read disturbing news about senseless death and whispered, “we had hoped...”

We had hoped a child would live a good long life. We had hoped a beloved career would remain viable. We had hoped a husband would remain healthy, a church would remain vibrant, a marriage would last until death. We had hoped we would study war no more.

In the wake of loss, it is easy to stop looking for resurrection. It is easy to look for the living among the dead (Luke 24:5), which only prolongs the agony of: *we had hoped.*

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to look for the living *among the living*. Doing this moves us to that blessed moment when we too recognize Jesus in our midst. Looking for the living among the living enables us to carry both loss AND joy in our hearts. It helps us to see new possibilities. It soothes our scars with the balm of hope. It opens our eyes to see what remains in front of us: memories of what has been, holiness in what is, and hope for what might now be, not *despite* what we have lived through, *but precisely because of it*. This Easter season, let us hold our disappointments and losses beside the Good News that was, and is, and will always be with us: Jesus is Risen! And our lives will never be the same.

–Pastor Marie

Date	Worship Leader	Format	Communion
April 2, 2026	Rev. Marie Duquette	In House/Zoom	
April 5, 2026	Rev. Victor McKusick	In House/Zoom	Yes
April 12, 2026	Rev. Marie Duquette	In House/Zoom	Yes
April 19, 2026	Wendy Catera	In House/Zoom	No
April 26, 2026	Rev. Marie Duquette	In House/Zoom	Yes

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

Synod Hunger Justice Team

The Upstate NY Synod Hunger Justice team has designated this spring's ELCA World Hunger synodical appeal for ministries focused on the care and feeding of orphans and vulnerable children. Each congregation is challenged to bring a gift of \$500 or more to our Spring Assembly.

“As Jesus welcomed and embraced children, despite the Disciples’ disapproval, so we, too, are called to respond to the plight of those whose families have been fractured, leaving children vulnerable to malnutrition and disease. Through our support of ELCA ministries of feeding, nutrition and health care, we are demonstrating Jesus’ compassion for “the least of these”, those alone and with no means to care for themselves.”

Donations can be mailed to the office (443 Henry Street, Herkimer, NY 13350) or left in the offering plate. Please use "Synod Hunger Justice Challenge" to designate any donations for this cause. Donations must be received by Sunday, May 10th so that funds are ready for delegates to bring to the Synod Assembly at the end of May.

Zion/Trinity Brunch

Trinity and Zion gathered at Denny’s in North Utica on Tuesday March 24th to have brunch and connect our two congregations. We really enjoyed our time together! Look for a possible in person gathering on Friday, April 10th at Munson for their annual “Art In Bloom” exhibition..



You may also be interested in joining the **Walking Group** which will begin walking weekly on Tuesdays at the Target entrance to Sangertown Mall. The first date is Tuesday, March 3rd at 10:00 AM. Kim Marscher at Zion is the organizer. If you would like details and updates text Kim at 315-794-6233.

Serving & Sharing

May we thank Pastor Marie for the wonderful services she provides for us here and at Zion.

Thank you to all the churches who hosted Lenten lunch, and the pastors that provided many verses and teachings, to strengthen us through our Lenten journey.

We will be helping with lunches for Loaves and Fishes as needed, because the need is much larger now. Please help with donations of juice boxes, water, cookies, chips, crackers, or anything that we might put in lunches. Look for dates for highway cleanup, in the weekly announcements to lend a hand. We have to try to maintain this beautiful world God has given us.

We continue to serve a warm meal once a month at the reform church on a Saturday night. Donate food or help prepare and or serve and visit.

Anyone or everyone who would like to help with the garden let us know. What a way to help God's world to provide.

We will try to continue coffee hours on most Sundays to help grow our faith family by communication.

Please thank our technical staff, Justina, Sass, and Abby for making our services run smoothly.

Nice to see many of our children helping with many of the tasks to help serve.

Breakfasts in April will be at Ann Street Deli at 8:30 AM on April 9th and 23rd.

DONATION FOCUS

For the month of April, our donation focus will be cereal. 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

TLC Book Group will meet at 10am on April 10th at Trinity Lutheran Church. Our book for this month is *Heart and Soul* by Maeve Binchy. This book is set in Dublin, Ireland. A new Heart Rehab unit is being established. The staff member's personal and professional relationships have their ups and downs. The author is known for her character development. Come and join the discussion.

Looking ahead: May 8th a mystery *Masie Dobbs* by Jacqueline Winspear. The meeting will be at the Java Shop in Herkimer.

WOMEN OF FAITH

Women of Faith Bible Study, April 21 at 7:00pm on Zoom.

"God makes music out of riffraff," is a quote from Max Lucado. Another way to say this is God calls those that earthly leaders might see as unqualified, lacking skills, or unworthy. Jesus spoke to the Samaritans and ate with tax collectors. Join us on April 21 as we meet Rahab, the prostitute, one of God's chosen. Please read Joshua Chapter 1 and Hebrew 11:30 - 31 in preparation for our time together. Watch for the Zoom links in weekly and bulletin information. [Click here](#) to join on Zoom or find the link in the Weekly Announcements.

FAITH ALIVE

Happy Easter to all. What a Joy it is to celebrate our Salvation freely given to all of us by God's Son Jesus Christ. Please notice the new beautiful banner portraying God's Love and Grace as Jesus says with open arms "COME! I love you". This banner was designed by the children at FA. Rose volunteered to make it and graciously received instructions from the young at heart, as they expressed their excitement. Thank you Rose for sharing your GOD given gift with FA. This is how we grow together in our Faith, listening to the words of Jesus "COME".

Psalm 89: I "I will sing of the loving kindness of the Lord forever, to all generations I will make known Thy faithfulness with my mouth"... Now read the verse slowly asking ourselves the question, what is the psalmist saying by using the words "I will" twice? PRAISE and SHARE what? Hint! Think of the blessings of Easter. What are they?

Faith Alive gathering in April will be the 19th 9-10 am. Come and join us, all ages are welcome to enjoy the fellowship in sharing the joy of the Lord with each other.

Johnson Park Center located in Utica continues to be Faith Alive's outreach ministry. Another mission mentioned last month will be Blessing Bags of hygiene items being put together for the Loves and Fishers ministry. Please see Phillis or Sheila with any questions, thank you.

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday from 10 to noon in the 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 presently are studying the book of Hebrews and are continuing to discuss a different Psalm each week. With the Holy Spirit leading us we also come up with some amazing topical studies. As we grow together in our Faith, always asking the question, what is the Lord teaching us? We always end by singing the Doxology. No worries my voice is always out of tune, but Jesus loves it anyway, it's the heart that matters.

Worship, Music, and Prayer

BLESSINGS OF PRAYER:

"The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry" (Psalm 34:10)

PRAYER NOTES:

Prayer is a privilege and a joy, available to all of God's children. Any concern that is too small to be turned into a prayer is too insignificant to be made into a burden. Will this make Jesus sad, thinking we don't trust Him enough to bring everything to Him in prayer? A thought worth meditating on!

Prayer should be informal and to the point, a conversation with God. Prayer is both asking and receiving, speaking and listening. Yes, that takes time, but you can learn how to converse with our Lord. Remember to learn to pray is to pray.

An important thing to remember when praying is that Jesus backs us up. When we begin or end prayers with "in the name of Jesus," it is just as if Jesus Himself is saying, "Father, this is a prayer from your beloved child whom I love." That prayer is sanctified by the name that is above every other in heaven or on earth..... JESUS.

Jesus' example of intercession is one we should follow. The greatest thing one can do for another is to pray for them. If you pray for others, even if they are on the other side of the world, the Lord Jesus will touch them. Prayer is powerful. When we are close to God, we are already victorious. WOW! something to shout about!!!

Jesus backs us up when we pray. He stands before the Father on our behalf. AMEN!!

In His Service,
Prayer Ministry



April 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Lenten Lunch at Trinity	2 Bible Study Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service	3	4
5 Worship Service - Easter Sunday	6	7	8 Council meeting via ZOOM	9 Breakfast at Ann Street Deli Bible Study	10 Bookgroup	11
12 Worship Service - Council Installation Faith Formation with Confirmation Option	13	14	15	16 Bible Study Worship and Music Committee meeting	17	18
19 Faith Alive Worship Service	20	21 Women of Faith	22	23 Breakfast at Ann Street Deli Bible Study	24	25
26 Worship Service	27	28	29	30 Bible Study Loaves and Fishes Meeting		

Volunteer Schedule

	4/2	4/5	4/12	4/19	4/26
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	Amy Manning	Rachel Madison	Bona Starring	Susan Harkins
Singer	TBD	Lori McKusick	Susan Harkins	TBD	Susan Harkins
Altar	Amy Manning	Amy Manning	Kylene Jordan	NA	Amy Manning
Worship Leader	Rev. Marie Duquette	Rev. Victor McKusick	Rev. Marie Duquette	Wendy Catera	Rev. Marie Duquette

Please email 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: \$2,754.85

Actual Expenses Paid for the month: \$6,398.31*

Income is *short* by \$3,643.46

Paid by using excess Fund Balance from prior years.

*Pastor Marie's salary check was sent to Zion in February

Did You Know:

Easter is not just one day, but a whole season when we celebrate the resurrected Jesus. The season begins on Easter Sunday and lasts for 50 days (including Sundays). The color is white, symbolizing resurrection and joy. The Day of Pentecost falls on the 50th day of the season (*Pentecost* means 50th), when we honor the Holy Spirit and the church's mission in the world. This day uses the fiery color of red.

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Our Church Family

We have many of God's children on Trinity's prayer chain for many and various reasons for healing of mind, body and or spirit. Intercession (praying for others) is God's way of bringing before Him their concerns. What a blessing for those who pray and for those who are prayed for.

To God be the GLORY!

Here is a list of those who need support through prayer: Jim, Barbara, Edith, Gary, Ron, Rich, Jonah, Sonya, Rosemarie, Charlie, Karen, Allen, Scott, Peter, Sheila, Pat, Linda, Klaus, Marie, Tim, Cathy, Judy, Paul.

A Suggested prayer:

Almighty God,

When troubles weigh us down, help us to remember that you have already shouldered our burdens on the cross. Lord, you love us and have made a way for us to connect with you every day. Thank you for reminding us that praying for others is a privilege that pleases You as You pray for us. We want to stay close to You so that we may never forget that You are our Friend and Savior. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

CELEBRATION OF LIFE:

Our brother in Christ Paul Pryor, peacefully went home to be with Jesus on Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

Please keep in your prayers his beautiful wife Dorothy, daughters Debra and Pamela, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and their families and friends for our Lord's blessings, comfort and His Peace at this time. Thank you!

Jesus said "Those who believe in Me, even though they die, will live"

John 11:25

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS:

A continuation from March Tidings of Sara Manning, a beautiful child of God. It is such a joy in the Lord if you've known someone as a child, and knowing that you were a link in the chain, and now seeing her as an adult, recognizing her beautiful FAITH and love for our Lord and Savior Jesus. This is Sara!!! Her studies in college focused on theology and ecology. At our joint yearly picnic Sara provided inspiration on how we can appreciate and take care of our earth as God would want us to. Helping people talk about a theology of creation is one way of sharing her gift from the Lord. Yes!

Prayerfully consider joining Trinity's prayer chain. You will find a great discovery full of love and joy not only praying for others but recognizing the presence of the Holy Spirit as He helps us in guiding our prayers. It's a God happening in our own lives called FAITH. His Grace, love always comes full circle and lands right back into the prayer's heart.

If you have concerns for the prayer chain or other personal family matters, which are kept in confidence, please speak to Phillis or Pastor Marie or call the church office 315-866-6474 and leave a message. Peace!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Bona Starring	Justin Manning	Heather Marusic
Margaret K. Jones	Dan Collins	Jeremy Hinckley
Morgan Lynn Rivers	Pam Stafford	Joshua Hinckley
Timothy Smith, Jr.	Stephen Osley	Leah Donnelly
Ellen Olson	Joshua Neff	Cooper Jordan
Caden Marusic	Stephanie Merena	Lucas Rivers
Medisyn Lyle	Nancy Pollak	Martin Collins
Wesley Stewart	Brittany Engert	Veronica Gerda
Richard Savarese	Carlianna Stafford	Allison Maguire
Ruth Wicks	Robine Snow	Reese Capozzi

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Tracy & Matt Stewart	Bona & Richard Starring
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If you spot an error or omission, please notify the office. We will be happy to update this list!

Council Contact Information

President: Wendy Catera	315-360-7447	wcatera@trinityherkimer.org
Vice President: JoAnn Blaise	315-868-0291	jblaise@trinityherkimer.org
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**Worship With Us
From Anywhere!**
**Call on your landline phone,
use your computer or use
your device!**
**See Worship Schedule for
details.**

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