

THE TRINITY TRIBUNE

A Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, Hanceville, Alabama

April 2024



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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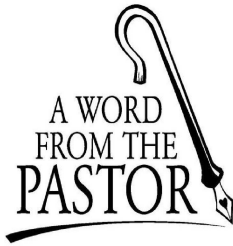
SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:45 AM

WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY!



A Fool and His Money



This month contains both April Fool's Day and Tax Day. Seems appropriate then to speak to the topic of "A Fool and His Money." Jesus gave us a parable about this in Luke 12. It's a story of ingratitude, greed, and presumption.

First, it's ok to have stuff; even a lot of stuff. In the parable Jesus it is the ground that produces. Just as it is for us, everything the rich man had especially his abundance was a gift from God. So, if you have more than you need, or really anything that you have no matter how much or how little, it comes from God. But nowhere in the parable does the rich man thank or even acknowledge God. He has no gratitude at all for that with which he has been blessed. But how often do we stop to thank God for the gifts we receive? I dare say that we are all guilty of taking God's loving care and provision for our lives for granted.

Despite how the economy is going these days, we American are very blessed. Americans are truly the great barn builders of today. But is that greed? Is having more and more "greed" or just enjoying God's blessings? St. Ambrose who lived in the 300's AD answered the rich man's problem by saying, "You *have* [bigger] barns - the bosoms of the needy, the houses of the widows, the mouths of orphans and of infants." Jesus never condemned prosperity by He did condemn greed that led to the neglect and abuse of the less fortunate the neglect of supporting the kingdom of God and the work done for it here on earth. It is not the place you store your possessions, it is the place they occupy in your heart that makes all the difference. Sadly, riches often bring on a gradual deadening to any feeling of love either for God or man.

The last problem of the Rich Fool is that he *presumes* to think that since everything is going well it will continue that way and he will live a long a comfortable life surrounded by all his luxuries. What heights of presumption. Who knows how long God will permit us in this life. In the parable God Himself calls the man a fool and say that today his life is demanded of him. Life itself is a gift of God that belongs to Him and which He can take back at any moment to either give you the better gift of eternal life or the wages of your sin which is eternal death. All the barns, all the wealth, all the goodies, all of a sudden don't mean a thing! You really can't take it with you!

Earthly wealth cannot long satisfy, but those who are rich toward God will be satisfied forever. "**Being rich toward God**" - its just the opposite of everything we have been talking about. Instead of ingratitude, being rich toward God is to believe that God is the giver of all things including life and salvation. Instead of greed, being rich toward God is to show that you believe in Him by sharing with others the gifts God gives. Instead of presumption, being rich toward God is to believe that He will care for you each and every day with exactly what you need. And when life comes to an end, it is believing that God will take you home to be with Him forever because of what Jesus has done for you by dying for your sins and rising again. For us who believe in Jesus, the shroud has no pockets to hold riches, but neither can it hold us! We are God's treasure.

One thing is for sure, we are "poor, miserable sinners." But, God's greater riches of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus are abundant, overflowing, immeasurable, boundless, selfless, generous . . . you get the picture. "**A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions**" - it consists in the abundance of God's forgiveness and mercy for the sake of His Son Jesus! On that you can depend because it will satisfy and keep you for all eternity.

In Christ,

Pastor Jankens

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2024</h1>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers - Nichols	8	9 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study	10 10 am LifeLight Bible Study	11	12 Rummage Sale	13 Rummage Sale 10 am Knit/Crochet Service Project
14 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers - Jane Barnett	15	16	17 10 am LifeLight Bible Study	18	19	20 9 am Men's Bible Study 10 am LWML
21 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers - B&K Barnett	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23	24 10 am LifeLight Bible Study	25	26	27
28 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers - Dinger	29	30				

Special Days for the Month of April

Birthdays

Jansen Morin	4/1
Brandon Gotch	4/3
Colleen Grund	4/4
Frances Brown	4/4
Rhys Nelson	4/4
Angie Collins	4/7
Sophia Hudson	4/8
Doris Evers	4/9
Beau Barnett	4/11
Eugene Hamilton	4/13
Virginia Fox	4/17
Emma Littleton	4/20
Jason Moody	4/23
Pamela Coan	4/25



Anniversaries

Carl and Ellen Schmidt	4/4
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Baptism Birthdays

Gail Dixon	4/1
Michelle Moody	4/3
Billy Barnett	4/5
Robert Durand	4/6
Virginia Fox	4/17
Brandon Gotch	4/17
Carl Schmidt	4/27



Board of Elders News

Greetings from the Board of Elders,

It's truly a blessing to see the fellowship in the Body of Christ each Sunday, and the Board of Elders is so thankful that Spring seems to have brought an increase in attendance.

Our Sunday morning Bible study continues to be blessing to those who attend, and attendance has been very good, Sunday School is such a blessing, to be able to study God's Word and to answer questions, discuss, and interact with Pastor and fellow members. If you are missing Sunday School, you are really missing something good.

The Elders met on 3/14/24 and we are continuing to contact those we see absent from service, but everyone can assist in this, if you notice someone missing and would like the Elders to contact them during the week, please let one of us know as you leave service that Sunday.

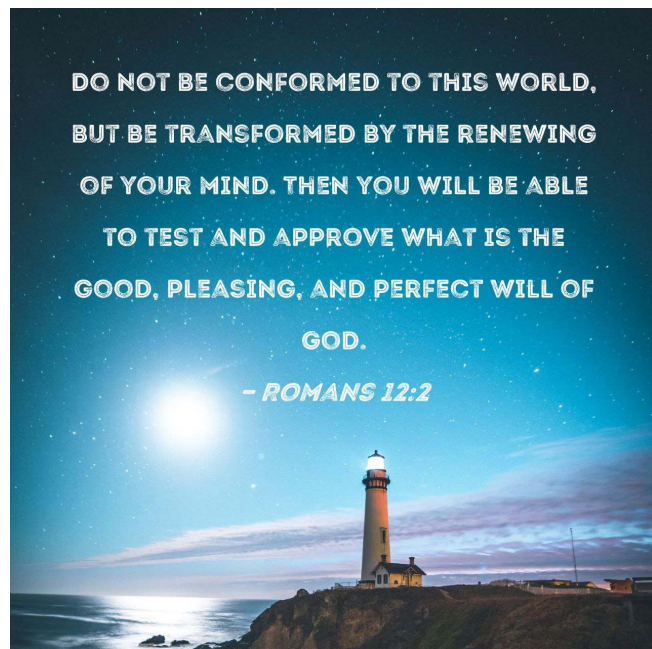
Our fellow Elder Dan Dahlke will be doing a Men's Summer Bible Study again this year. It will take place at 9 am on the 3rd Saturday of the month, for 3 months only. Please keep your eye on your bulletins for the starting date. I encourage our men in the congregation to attend this opportunity to enjoy fellowship, interaction, and study God's word together. We'll also be having breakfast biscuits from Jack's provided.

Thank you for allowing us to serve our congregation and please feel free to engage any of the Elders in conversation or approach us with any questions or needs that you may have.

May the Lord bless and keep each of you always.

Your brother in Christ,

Tim Smith / 205-492-0235



Board of Evangelism News

Thank you to everyone who contributed pasta sauce for Lions' Kitchen Food pantry. We will be collecting peanut butter in April.

Also, thank you for your donations of Yoo-hoos for the Knapsacks for Kids project. March 21st was Trinity's day to help pack the knapsacks. We packed 97 bags and prayed for God to bless them for the nourishment of the children who would receive them. Just a reminder that they only want the **boxed** Yoo-hoos because the cans are too heavy and the bottles are breakable and heavy. Thanks again for your help on these outreach programs.

As we continue to bask in the Easter celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, let us rest in the assurance that we too will rise with Him into eternity. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 4 that we carry this knowledge of the Gospel as a treasure to be shared with others. Verses 13-15 Paul says, ***It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken. With that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence. All this is for your benefit so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."*** May we all be like Paul and work diligently to speak this Gospel message to others.

In His service,

Margie Burkart

256-531-4122

Board of Properties News

I'm happy to report that there are multiple things on the properties survey list that have been completed. There are also projects that are in the process. We are getting there!!

God bless and thanks to all that has worked and contributed in any way to help maintain God's house and properties.

If there are issues or concerns that need attention from the committee, please let me know.

In His Service,
Kay Michelfelder

Board of Education News

After some weeks of instruction with Pastor Jankens, River Nelson and Hazzie Bales (along with their parents) have been examined and found scripturally prepared to receive the Lord's Supper and did so on Palm Sunday for the first time. Another student is also undergoing instruction and should be ready soon. Congratulations River Nelson and Hazzie Bales on making your First Communion! God's blessings on you both.



Thank you to all who participated in the Palm Sunday potluck lunch and the Easter Sunday breakfast, whether you brought food or helped to set up and clean up. You are truly appreciated! I know we made all the children's day (no matter what age!).

God's Word is more than just Pastor's sermon on Sunday morning. It's reading the Bible and attending Bible study. Trinity has many choices, so please, how about picking one and trying it out to see if it's a fit! Can't wait to see you!

Sunday school/Bible study 8:45 am

Sunday service 10:00 am

Pastor's Bible study (after Easter) every Wednesday at 10:00 am

Marty's Bible study every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm

Crochet/Knitting every 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00 am (devotion, discussion and fellowship)

LWML Bible study with Judy every 3rd Saturday at 10:00 am

Men's Bible study with Dan every 3rd Saturday at 9:00 am

In Christ,
Anne Gotch (256) 636-4288

Board of Stewardship News

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Newsletter Article – April 2024

Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are *his*: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership *to you*? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since *you* belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

LWML News

The ladies of Trinity LWML met on Saturday, March 16 in the parsonage. There were 5 members and 1 visitor present.

Some of the ladies are getting prepared to attend the Gulf States District Convention in Prattville, AL on April 26 and 27.

Our service project gathering held here at Trinity on February 24 was well attended. There was a total of 31 ladies from 7 different churches. We gathered for devotion, stuffed toiletry items in 56 backpacks for the homeless, and had lunch and fellowship together. Praise God for instilling His love for serving others in the heart of the LWML.

LWML extension opportunities available include the 2nd Tuesday Bible study at 1:00 pm and the Trinity Crafters knitting/crocheting classes. Trinity crafters are making hats and scarves to be sent to Dakota Boys Ranch.

We will host rummage sale on Friday, April 12 and 13.

Our regular May meeting will be a ladies tea and silent auction (more information to follow)

All ladies are welcomed to join LWML as we continue our mission to serve our Lord with gladness.

Seminarian News

February 1, 2023.

Dear members of Trinity,

Greetings to you all! We pray everyone is doing well this quarter. Once again we are back into the swing of things here at the seminary. Currently, we just finished our second quarter for the school year. We have one more quarter left before our first year at the seminary is over. Time sure did fly by since Summer Greek started last year. A lot has happened this quarter it seems.

With this quarter, first we introduced to the world our second child, Madelynn Rose Hallock, who was born November 11. She is now three months. She is becoming more and more aware. She started chuckling, a very little chuckle and also has started attempting to roll over. Jacob is approaching 2 years old and he is advancing really quick. He has started babbling some coherent words here and there. One thing he does is he will babble as if he's reading when he pulls a book of the shelf. Both of them come to the seminary about once a week to attend story time as well as Wednesday Divine Service at Kramer Chapel. Analise sure does have her hands full most of the day, but handles it like a champ. Together they spend their days either going shopping for our needs, going to the seminary to the co-ops for items we need, reading stories at home, playing, participating in our church's kids music classes, or watching kid shows.

Christmas break was quite busy it seemed. We did not get a chance to go home for Christmas, but we did have family come to visit us. Jacob very much enjoyed all the presents he received, seems like our apartment is now half full of his toys. He got a kitchen play set for Christmas and lots of toy food that he absolutely loves playing with. Analise spent a lot of time decorating the apartment keeping it very festive for the holiday.

Classes are going quite well this quarter. This time around I am taking; Liturgics, Homiletics, Lutheran Confessions I, Hebrew I, New Testament Greek readings, and Field Work I (which is a carry-over from last quarter). So far my favorite classes have been Lutheran Confessions and Liturgics. I very much enjoy looking at our theology at a closer level and studying how we worship as Lutherans. Hebrew has surprisingly been enjoyable as well. In some ways, I find it a tad easier than Greek because it does not have all the same grammar rules or forms that Greek has. Greek readings has been fun as well as we look at the original language of scripture and dissect it. It gets quite nerdy, but it is a lot of fun to study a text closely. This quarter we finally are learning how to preach which I have had a lot of fun with. After this class, we will be authorized by the seminary to preach under a pastor's supervision. Next month I will have the opportunity to preach at my fieldwork church for Lent Midweek services.

This past month we also had the seminary's symposia which was a real joy. Not only did we get to meet pastors and theologians from across the synod, but we also had the opportunity to hear our synod leaders and theologians lecture on various topics. It is safe to say that as much as we enjoyed symposia, it is nice that the chapel is no longer packed from all the people.

Outside of classes, a couple weeks ago the seminary participated in the March for Life here in Fort Wayne. It was a great opportunity to hear about legislation being passed in defense of the unborn. We also got to hear a story from someone who had experiences with abortion. And then of course we got to march singing our hymns as we went down the streets.

I look forward to writing to you all next to let you know how the Spring quarter goes. We thank you for your generous gifts to us as we continue this seminary journey. We really could not do this without the generosity you all give us. I pray you all are well!

In Christ,
Gabriel, Analise, Jacob, and Madelynn



Thank You

The family of Glenda Speegle would like to thank you all for showing us such Christian love during her illness and passing. We appreciated the calls, texts, visits, cards, prayers, and flowers. We also very much appreciated the delicious breakfast that was prepared and served to our family and friends on the morning of her funeral by the ladies of our church.

Our family would also like to thank Pastor for his prayers, visits, and texts, especially during her last days. His love and wisdom made her passing easier for mom, and for us, as she transitioned to her Heavenly home with our Savior, Jesus. Pastor's sermon was truly a blessing to all in attendance.

We love our church family, and so did our mother. We are so blessed and thankful for you all.

With love,

Susan Cupp and family
Angie Collins and family



Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for your generosity in providing giftcards to our family this Christmas season. Your support during our time at the Seminary is appreciated more than we can say. The giftcards have been such a blessing in providing groceries, gas, and outings! We have been able to create some wonderful memories with our three young boys thanks to you!
In Thanks,
The Hartkeneyer Family