

TRINITY TIDINGS

Growing faith, family and friends with our future in Christ



Kocsis' Kontemplations

As we move from Easter into the Pentecost season, I am struck by the reality that Easter does not end. It is better described as morphing into Pentecost. As Jesus ascends into heaven we are reminded that He has promised to send The Comforter, The Holy Spirit. He gives the command to, "Go make disciples."

A disciple is more than just a follower. A disciple is one who submits to the master's discipline, becoming more and more like him. St. Paul describes the Holy Spirit as one who renews our minds. He admonishes us to have the same mind as Christ. The 1st part of the Church Year we are reminded of the life of Christ, His birth, ministry, death and resurrection. The 2nd part of the year focuses on the growing church beginning with Jesus' commission on Easter evening, "As the Father has sent me so I am sending you." Jesus' great commandment was to "love one another as I have loved you."

He put aside his rights. He chose to conceal his identity in order to serve instead of being served.

This raises the question of why we become members of a given congregation. Is it to be served or to serve? The church is called "The Body of Christ" or as some have put it, "Jesus with skin on." We are here to proclaim the Kingdom of God. We are here to do the work of Christ. To go, as he did. To seek and to save as he did. Unfortunately all too often we focus on our own frailness and come to simply be served, forgetting that Christ served us so that we can serve others.

Jesus has called us to be partners in His Father's business. May we come to receive from Him what we need in order to go out and do the work of His Father. May we continually be in His Word in order to be transformed and equipped by the Holy Spirit. May we not just follow Jesus and not only become disciples, but also to go and make disciples.

Pastor Mark

Trinity Lutheran Church

105 Luther Way
Dothan, AL 36301
334-792-9745
Trinitylutherandothan.org



Pastor: Mark Kocsis

tluthpastor@comcast.net

Admin Asst: Ann Spradley

trinitydothan@outlook.com

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 8 am to 12 pm

Sunday Service 9:45 am

Pastor Mark Kocsis

Or Watch:

- live stream:
<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLutheranDothan>

- Youtube channel:
Trinity LCMS Dothan

Sunday Bible Study 8:30 am

With Pastor Mark Kocsis
Study: *The Book of John*

With David Reed
Study: *Liturgical Worship*

President's Message

SAFETY CONCERNS - In our ongoing attempt to make our facility and services as safe as possible, the council has approved the purchase of a ring door bell for the lower level of the building. This will enable staff working during office hours to visually see who is at the door. The lower level will be locked prior to service. **Please also be advised the front doors will be locked fifteen (15) minutes after the starting time of a service.** Please be on time.

NEW STOVE - We have had issues with the gas stove and it has been deemed unrepairable. We are currently paying a minimum of \$50.00 per month for gas service with the stove being the only appliance using gas. As such the council voted to discontinue gas service to the church and purchase an electric 30" stove for the kitchen. The new stove should be installed in the near future.

VOTERS MEETING - Our May voters meeting will be held after service on May 17. With the implementation of the new constitution and bylaws, which call for an October/April cycle of congregational meetings, the council is recommending all officers remain in office through this year. New officers will be elected during the October meeting. The May council meeting has been moved up a week to May 3rd to avoid conflict with Mother's Day.

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WORKSHOP OUTCOMES - Last month I listed the strengths of our congregation as perceived by those members who attended the recent workshop. The following is a list of weaknesses of Trinity as named by attendees: lack of young families; lack of music programs; lack of long range planning; reliance on the Pastor; physical location; inability to retain the next generation; lack of outreach; and, lack of diversity. Next month I will list some of the opportunities named. If you wish to discuss any/all of these items, please let us know.

YOU HAVE MAIL - Please check your mailboxes for items. If you notice someone has not been picking up their mail, please remind them or take their mail to them. Several of the boxes are overflowing with items.

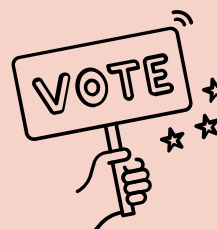
MOWER SHED & CONCRETE REPAIRS Both items are on-going or will begin shortly. As most have noticed the painters are in the midst of their job. Comments or questions? Ask.

ITEMS TO PONDER - Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a mechanic.

- Age is a high price to pay for maturity.
- A closed mouth gathers no feet.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- If you must pick between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.
- Finally, artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

In His Service,
Marvin Weber

Semi-annual Voters Meeting



**Sunday, May 17, 2026
after church**

75th Anniversary Update & History



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
*75th
Anniversary*

SAVE THE DATES
AUGUST 1 & 2, 2026

Why Keep our History?

"Many have attempted to write about what had taken place among us. They received their information from those who had been eyewitnesses and servants of God's Word from the beginning, and they passed it on to us. I, too, have followed everything closely from the beginning. So I thought it would be a good idea to write an orderly account for Your Excellency, Theophilus. In this way you will know that what you've been told is true." Luke 1: 1 - 4 (God's Word Translation Copyright 1995 by God's Word to the Nations)

Church history is the documented record of the works of our Savior as He worked throughout the past as well as the present.

Carefully remembered history is not a useless appendage to the church's mission. Rather, church history serves as the carrier of our tradition. Church history is as old as St. Luke's Gospel and St. Luke's Acts of the Apostles.

How we remember Trinity Lutheran Church in Dothan, Alabama, not only reflects current attitudes, it actually shapes our plans. Past events are interesting to the Christian, for in the memories, we recognize God as the Lord of all history. We honor history as a record of the wonderful works of God in our lives.

Martin Luther argued that every age should take note of what happened in its midst. Luther commented, "Although not everything can be collected, at least the most important events should be concisely preserved."

75th Anniversary Update & History



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
75th
Anniversary

SAVE THE DATES
AUGUST 1 & 2, 2026

Trinity's 75th Anniversary Aug 1 & 2, 2026 Schedule

"For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations" Psalm 100:5

Saturday, August 1, 2026

10am - 2pm: LERT - Lutheran Early Response Team Training (open to Trinity Members & area LCMS churches)

- 10 am: Coffee & Registration - classroom training in the Sanctuary (starts at 10:30 am)
- Noon: Lunch for attendees - in the Fellowship Hall
- 12:30 pm: resume LERT Training in the Sanctuary - end of class approx. 2:00 pm

3:00 - 5:00 pm: Saturday Afternoon - Ice Cream Social - Outside

- Ice Cream/drinks - open to Trinity members, guests and community members (Trinity's school/kindergarten alumni)

Sunday, Aug 2, 2026

8:30 am: Bible Classes

9:45 am: Divine Service with guest speaker - Rev Eric Johnson, Southern LCMS District President, followed by a complimentary meal in the Fellowship Hall by Forged by Fire.

Sunday Afternoon - Celebration continues . . .

- Early afternoon Program of Music & Memories in the Sanctuary & Dedication of New Organ
- Cake & Punch Reception in the Fellowship Hall

LWML News

Next LWML Meeting:

May 9th @ 10am in the Fellowship Hall

All women of the congregation are welcome

Trinity Lutheran Church Rummage Sale



May 2, 2026 ★ 8 am to Noon
105 Luther Way
Dothan, AL 36301

We thank you for your donations.
All money received is used for our mission projects.

We will accept donations on the following days and times:

- ★ **April 29th - 11 am to 2 pm**
- ★ **April 30th - 1 pm to 3 pm**
- ★ **May 1st - 2 to 4 pm**

We can use the following:

hangers, plastic bags, and boxes to place purchased items in.

These can be brought in with your donations.

Tables and racks will be setup and ready for your donations on these dates.

If possible, please bring clothing donations on hangers.

ANNUAL TRINITY LUTHERAN CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**@ TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
DOTHAN, AL**

Saturday Nov. 14, 2026 - 9 am to 2 pm

CALL FOR VENDORS

Contact Ann Spradley
334-796-5528



Stewardship

Follow Him in Generosity

Originally published in May 2023

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus

shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed”

(1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

<https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/national-mission-bulletin-blurbs-and-newsletter-articles-may-2026?>



Thrivent Members
Thrivent is a fraternal organization that seeks to help its

members be involved in activities within their church and community. The 75th Anniversary Committee asks Thrivent members to please contact us if you are willing to help us facilitate a Thrivent Action Team to benefit our 75th Celebration activities. Thank you!

This Month's Events (see calendar for all events)

Weekly Schedule

Tuesday	9 am	Quilting (see calendar for schedule)
Wednesday	11:30 pm	Lunch OUT
	6 pm	Bible Study
Thursday	8 am	Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
Friday	12 pm	Crafts and Game Group (potluck lunch)

Don't forget to lock your car in the church parking lot.

Please Note:

Pastor and others have fragrance sensitivity.
Please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne.



Sunday
May 31th
after service.
Bring your
favorite potluck
item

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please email articles to
Karen Sanders at
TLCDothanNews@gmail.com
by the 20th each month.



May 16th @ 9 am

As we approach our 75th Anniversary
we will continue to spruce up our church
and church grounds

Save the date
Additional Work Days:
June 13
July 11

May Quilting



Please join us on:
Tuesday, May 12th @ 9 am

The quilting group will be on summer
break and will return on August 4th

Trinity Lutheran

105 Luther Way Dothan AL 36301 (334) 792-9745

Rev. Mark Kocsis, TLuthPastor@comcast.net

May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 12:00 pm Lunch, crafts and games	2 8:00am LWML Church Rummage Sale
3 8:30 am Bible Study 9:45am Worship 11:00am Church Council Meeting	4	5 9:00 am Quilting	6 11:30 am Lunch out 6:00pm Bible Study	7 8:00 am Men's prayer breakfast	8 12:00 pm Lunch, crafts and games	9 10:00 am LWML Meeting
10 <i>Mothers' Day</i> 8:30 am Bible Study 9:45 am Worship	11	12 9:00am Quilting	13 11:30 am Lunch out 6:00pm Bible Study	14 8:00 am Men's prayer breakfast	15 12:00 pm Lunch, crafts and games	16
17 8:30 am Bible Study 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Voters Meeting	18	19 Pastors' Meeting at TLC  Primary Election Day	20 11:30 am Lunch out 6:00pm Bible Study	21 8:00 am Men's prayer breakfast	22 12:00 pm Lunch, crafts and games	23
24 8:30 am Bible Study 9:45 am Worship	25  Memorial Day	26	27 11:30 am Lunch out 6:00pm Bible Study	28 8:00 am Men's prayer breakfast	29 12:00 pm Lunch, crafts and games	30
31 8:30 am Bible Study 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Potluck						