

April 2025



Trinity Lutheran Church

Villa Park, IL

Always Growing in Christ

The Lion's Roar

Amos 3:8

"The lion has roared; who will not fear?"

The Lord GOD has spoken; who can but prophesy?"

"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." (Luke 24:5-6)

WHY DOES IT MATTER TO US?

I love Easter. It is by far my favorite holiday. Easter is pure Jesus without all of the silliness that has come to accompany Christmas. While we might give the kids Easter baskets and we might die some eggs or have a special meal, that's about the extent of the worldliness attached to Easter. Although you would never know it from the promotions in the stores, Easter is the highest holy day of the Church.

The fact that Easter is almost ignored by the World (as opposed to Christmas and Halloween) shows us how little it matters to those outside the faith. I read that Halloween has almost surpassed Christmas now. I know there are people on my block who put up elaborate Halloween decorations that I am sure cost hundreds if not thousands of dollars. Yet Easter is all but forgotten.

When I was young there was almost a traffic jam on our block as everybody left their homes for worship on Easter morning. Every neighbor on the block was backing out of the driveway at 9am to go to the Easter breakfast and worship. All the boys had on new suits and the girls had new dresses and, being in the south, some of the moms had new hats. I remember receiving my first "grownup" Bible on Easter Sunday in 1974. I was very proud to carry my new Bible to church and show my pastor.

Now, our street will be a ghost town on Easter Sunday. There might be a couple of us leaving for worship and a couple more will have family over for lunch but it will be nothing like Halloween and Christmas. Yet Easter is so much more important than Christmas and especially Halloween? On Easter, we commemorate the event that predicates everything we believe, teach, and confess as Christians. St. Paul said it in 1 Corinthians 15,

"But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." In other words, nothing about religion matters without the resurrection of Christ from the dead. If Christ is not raised from the dead, then the atheists are right and religion is just for weak-minded people who need a crutch to get through life. Christmas is a nice celebration of His birth but the importance of Christmas is not His birth but His incarnation. He became flesh so that He could die and be raised again from the dead to live for all eternity. Halloween is a fun, spooky day to give away candy and have costume parties but it has nothing to do with anything important like eternal life.

No, Easter should be the huge celebration full of parties and gifts and decorations and feasts. But honestly, I'm glad the world has ignored it. It's nice to have three days devoted to worship: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The lack of worldly falderol allows us to focus our attention purely on Christ and Him crucified and risen. It allows us to stand with the women and the tomb and hear the angels proclaim to us: "He is not here, but He has risen." And that fact changes everything for us.

We are not a group of social workers whose primary task is to make sure that everyone has a comfy bed and plenty of food in this life. We are not club with mutual interests who get together and discuss those interests. We are the family of God, centered on the cross and doing everything we do to glorify our Lord until we join Him in paradise, and that is all that matters.

Pastor Rogers



Lent & Easter Worship Schedule

Remaining Lenten Services:

Wednesdays, April 2 & 9

5:30 p.m. - Soup Suppers

7:00 p.m. - Worship Service

Palm Sunday - Sunday, April 13th

Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 17th, 7 p.m.

Good Friday - Friday April 18th noon and 7 p.m.

Easter

Sunday, April 20th

Worship 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast: 9:00-10:30 There are 2 ways to enjoy Easter Breakfast! In person or To-Go.

Reservations are required by April 9th, for in person and pre-orders for pick up, please call the

office, 630-834-3440 or

email Margaret@trinityvp.com. Payment will be taken at the door. \$10 per person, \$5 for kids 10 & under, under 3-Free.

Easter Egg Hunt - Kids, come join us in the prayer garden for this year's Giant Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00am on Easter morning! Remember to bring a bag for all of your goodies.

Easter Flowers

Please complete the order form in the Children's bulletin, to order your Easter flowers. Orders must be received by the church office no later than April 7th.





Confirmation Capstone Service

Thank you to the confirmation students who led worship on March 23, serving as lay readers and puppeteers.

Check out the photos and video of the students on the "Trinity Lutheran Villa Park" Facebook page (March 23).

Thank you to LWML for the grant to buy the theater and to Shari Zeman for giving Trinity the puppets.

Congregational Meeting

COUNCIL POSITION NOMINATIONS - At the June Congregational Meeting the following Council Board Director positions will be up for election: Executive Director, Treasurer, Evangelism, Parish Fellowship, Human Care and Youth. If you are interested in more information or would like to be considered for any of these, please contact Scott Golz (sgolz1@ameritech.net OR 708-878-4754 or members of council.



Stewardship Ministry

John 6:5 – "Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?'"

Why does Jesus ask Philip this question? Of course Jesus knows the answer already — He knows how He means to care for His people. The Lord provided, and He still provides. But we need to know this, and so Jesus gets Philip thinking about it. The knowledge that the Lord provides frees us for generosity without fear.

~LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Save the Date

April 27 - Dart Tournaments

July 19 - 23 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans

Saturday, September 27th, 2025 - 5th Annual Jim Van Ewyk Memorial Golf Outing & Fellowship Dinner

Worship Services

Saturdays 4:30 pm

Sundays 8 am & 10:30 am