

March 2026



Trinity Lutheran Church

Villa Park, IL

Always Growing in Christ

Easter is ready, Christ has risen! Celebrate!

It was a spring day, warm and fresh, and we had spent it like college kids often do, outside and relaxed. It was not the way we would spend the night. There was a loud noise about 8 pm. The sirens of the ambulance would follow. Nights we often spent in the room that he lay in, looking at monitors that never changed. Classes were difficult, when we went, but I don't remember them. He was from Texas and we drove together back and forth at breaks. We planned to room together the next year. The young man would lay in the hospital for about a week, there was no brain activity. After 72 hours, the machines were disconnected, and after about 45 minutes the heart stopped beating, and death was official.

It was in the spring, and I can remember vivid images, though the days blur together, but one of the sharpest images are of the Easter lilies which were included in so many of the flowers. They were included just a little early, for Easter would not yet be for a few days.

Bill celebrated the resurrection early, with His Lord, and still celebrates, in the eternity prepared for the faithful. That Easter, sitting in my home congregation, there was a new awareness of the hymns so familiar to the celebration.

He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

It is what the Lord does, in His time, and by His power, to bring safely to himself those whom He has made his own. It is the part of Easter that helps us see the casket in a new way, the way the Lord sees it. "Come," he calls to Lazarus. "Get up," he says to the young man being carried out to burial. "Come home," he says to his children.

Easter is ready, Christ has risen! Celebrate!

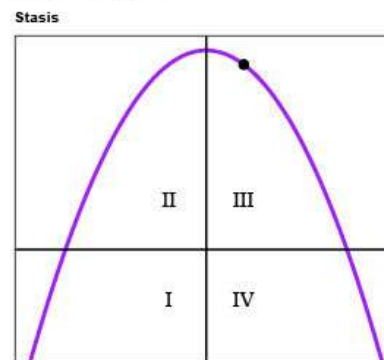
Pastor Allyn

This report presents a snapshot of the sentiment of 61 people from your congregation. Your position on the curve is based on your scores in the following factors of vitality.

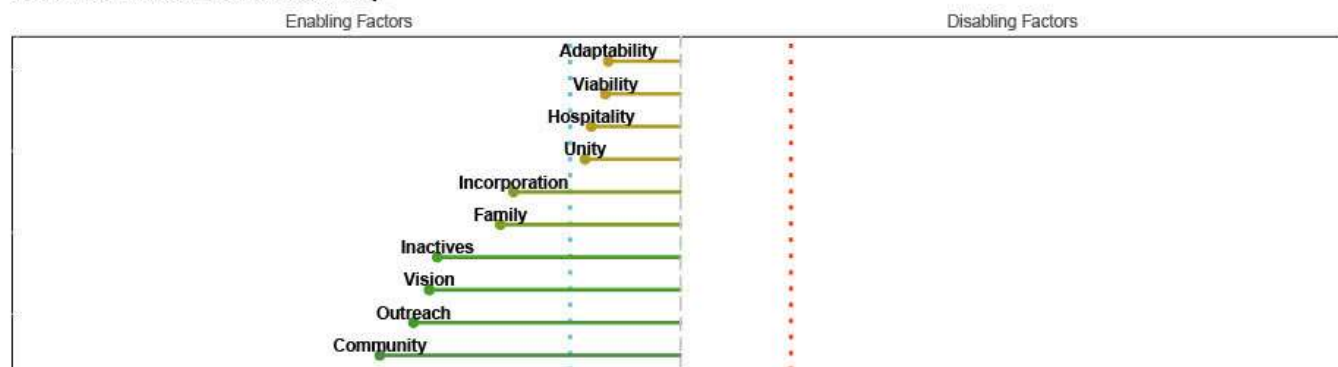
Factors of Vitality

Scale	Description
Adaptability	How willing we are to make necessary changes
Community	How willing we are to engage the community around us
Family	How well we minister to families and children
Hospitality	How welcoming and responsive we are to our visitors and guests
Inactives	How well we serve our inactive members
Incorporation	How well we help our members get involved in our ministries
Outreach	How effectively we reach out to people outside of the church
Unity	How well we get along and our overall morale
Viability	How confident we are about being able to continue our ministry
Vision	How strong our sense of our mission and purpose is

Your overall result:



Standardized results in each factor of vitality:



December 15, 2025

Congregational Survey Responses

On February 22nd, Pastor Derek Mathers presented a summary of the Congregational Survey information and explain what it indicates for the church.

The results may be what you expected, or you may see some things that surprise you. The good news is that we have many great things happening at our church. This is intended to be used by all, not just those sitting in board or council positions, as a means to start a conversation, and look for ways of improvement while taking advantage of our strengths.

Thank you to all that responded to the survey, and to those that attended the presentation.

Blessings,
 Sue Lotter
 On behalf of the Pastoral Call Committee



Lent & Easter Services

Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday February 18th at Noon & 7 pm

Midweek Services Wednesdays February 25, March 4, March 11, 18, 25 7 pm

Soup Suppers served beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday March 29th at 8 am and 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday April 2 at 7 pm

Good Friday April 3 at noon and 7 pm

Easter Services April 5 at 8 am and 10:30 am



WFG Potluck

Wednesday, March 18th

11:00 AM

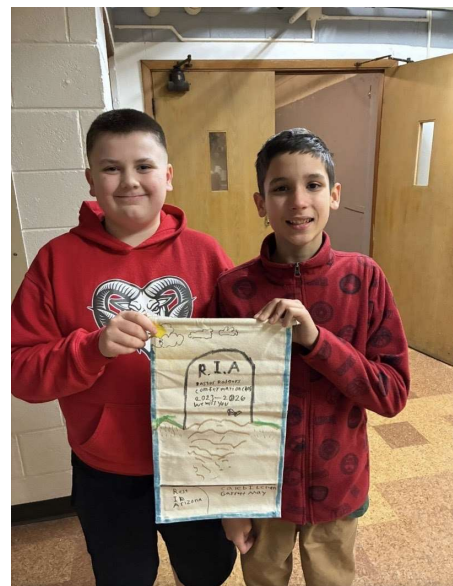
Post St. Paddy's Day Potluck in the Trinity Center!

A sign-up sheet is posted next to the Ushers' Closet outside the Trinity Center

in the Narthex. Please add your name and what dish you'd like to bring. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Donna Heuser at 630-913-6631. We hope to see you there for good food, fellowship, and a little Irish cheer!

2026 Confirmands

God's blessing to Caleb Ilcken and Garrett May who will be confirmed on Palm Sunday, March 29th at the 10:30 worship service. Join them and their families for a reception in the Trinity Center at 9:00.





Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 a.m.

Prayer Garden

Bring a Bag for Your Eggs

Easter Breakfast

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

There are 2 ways to enjoy Easter Breakfast! In person or To-Go. Reservations are required by March 31st, for in person and pre-orders for pick up, please call the office 630-834-3440 or office@trinityvp.com. Payment will be taken at the door. \$10 per person, \$5 for kids 10 & under, under 3-Free.



New Music Ensemble: Joyful Noise!

A new music ensemble is starting! All students currently in 5th - 12th grades are invited to spend Wednesday afternoons at Trinity to make music.

Openings are available for anyone who sings or plays an instrument. No musical experience is needed, however; if you don't already play or sing, there are opportunities to play chimes and percussion instruments.

Schedule:

Rehearsals from 4:30 - 6:00 pm, followed by combined dinner with Big House

Wednesdays from April 22 through May 27

Performance on Sunday, May 31, at the 10:30 service (with a 9:30 warmup)

Hope you'll join us!

Mary Stahlke

708-552-1271

Psalm 98:4a

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

(Thank you to Caroline Marchewka for creating our logo.)

Youth News

The Youth Board would like to thank everyone who volunteered to make Soup Suppers successful this year! We appreciate all who made soup and desserts plus the many helping hands in the kitchen. We couldn't have done it without you.

May 27 at 6:00: Youth Family Dinner Youth in grades 5-12 and their families are invited to dinner and a short meeting for an overview of upcoming events. Please RSVP to the church office.

The Projects: Spring 2026 Session

Tuesdays May 5,12,19,26 @ 3:30 – 5:30

To schedule a tour or register for THE PROJECTS:

630-834-3440 OR Jbruchuk@aol.com

Facebook: @TheProjectsAtTrinity



Dorcas Meeting & Outing

The ladies of Dorcas will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. March 20th for an outing to the Addison Trail Flower Show to be held March 20th at 7 pm at the Addison VFW Post 7446, 446 W. Lake St.

Enjoy a beautiful evening of flowers, fun, and support for our veterans at their Annual Flower Show!

🌟 Event Highlights Include:

🌻 Live floral arranging demo

🎟️ Raffles with over 30 baskets

🎁 Bonus raffle with larger prizes

🧡 Special cancer charity raffle benefiting veterans and their families

🍷 Light refreshments

🕒 Doors Open: 6 p.m. | Show Starts: 7 p.m.

💰 Cash only event - Tickets are \$6

All proceeds will support veterans through organizations such as the Fisher House Foundation, VFW National Home, and the Veterans' Home at Manteno, helping fund programs like service dog training, support for military families, and assistance for homeless veterans.

🌟 Come enjoy a wonderful night while giving back to those who have served our country

New Church Library Coming Soon

The Evangelism Board is working on creating a new Church Library in the former TCNS area/current Sunday School area. The hope is to have the library open to the public 1-2 days a week and of course open any time the church is open to Trinity family. The library will be a safe place for community children and adults.

We are looking for individuals who enjoy are librarians, educators or just enjoy literacy and learning who may be interested in either being on the committee to maintain the library or who are available to man the library at hours of their convenience.

A special thank you to Stacy Warpool and Eric Rundgren for helping move furniture and set up the space.

Please contact Marna Rundgren at marnarundgren@gmail.com if interested or for more information.

Grand opening to be held in April - date to be determined.

Worship Services

Saturdays 4:30 pm

Sundays 8 am & 10:30 am