



The Parish Messenger April 2026

Mission Statement

We are a Christian community
rooted in God's love growing
in Christ through reaching out
and serving.

CHURCHES

Georgetown Lutheran
PO Box 86
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Office: 715.857.5580

Trinity Lutheran
2532-15th Street
Cumberland, WI 54829
715.822.3001

PASTOR

Diane Norstad
715-501-4129 (cell)
715-268-5706 (home)
revdianenorstad@yahoo.com

WORSHIP TIMES

Georgetown
Worship 10:30 AM

Trinity
Worship 8:45 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES

Georgetown
9:15 AM (Sept-May)

Trinity
10:00 AM (Sept-May)

OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 10:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Parish Holy Week Service Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 2

Trinity – Worship Service 7:00 PM

Good Friday, April 3

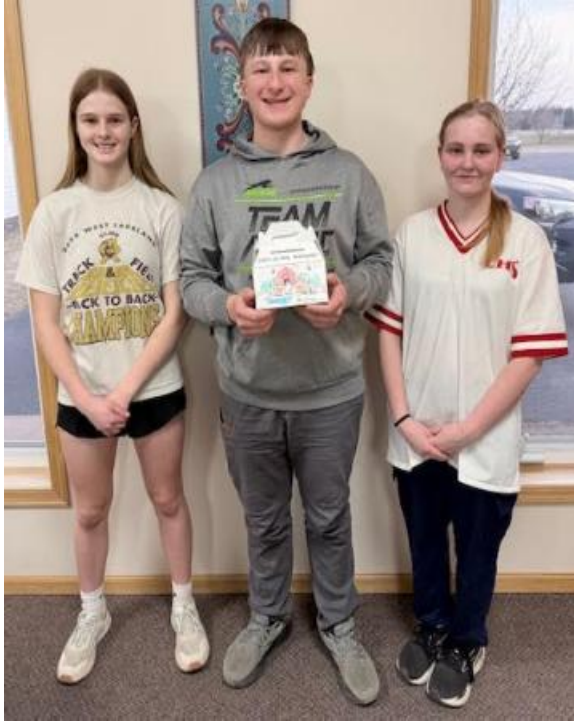
Georgetown – Worship Service 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday, April 5

Trinity – Worship Service 8:45 AM
Georgetown – Worship Service 10:30 AM



Farming with God **A Look at God's Creation and Our Stewardship**



This year's lenten services were lead by our confirmation students.

Donations raised during our time together are being donated to ELCA World Hunger - God's Global Barnyard. Paige, Griffin and Evelyn then chose what would be purchased with our donations. They chose the following:

- \$ 10 fruit tree seedling
- \$200 community vegetable garden
- \$100 seeds and gardening tools.

Thank you Paige, Griffin, and Evelyn.
You did an outstanding job!

First Communion Sunday

First Communion Sunday is a significant event that marks the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith and spiritual growth. It is a communal ritual that holds deep significance for both children and their families.

During this event, children are introduced to the sacrament of the Eucharist, which represents the commemoration of Jesus Christ's Last Supper. It is a time for families, friends, and the congregation to come together and rejoice in the spiritual growth of the newly initiated members. God bless you!



Adalia Ann Bystrom
Brantley James Bystrom



Declan Carl Barker
Jackson Landon Barker

APRIL 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Meeting/Activity
Thursday, April 2	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service -Trinity
Friday, April 3	7:00 PM	Good Friday Service - Georgetown
Sunday, April 5	8:45 AM	Easter Sunday Service - Trinity
	10:30 AM	Easter Sunday Service - Georgetown
Monday, April 6	9:30 AM	Bible Study - Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study - Trinity
Tuesday, April 7	12:00 - 6:00 PM	Red Cross Blood Drive - Georgetown
Wednesday, April 8	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Confirmation Class - Trinity
Friday, April 10	5:30 - 7:30 PM	Pancake Supper - Georgetown
	8:00 PM	Youth Lock In - Georgetown
Sunday, April 12	8:45 AM	Worship Service - Trinity
	9:15 AM	Sunday school - Georgetown
	10:00 AM	Sunday school - Trinity
	10:30 AM	Worship Service - Georgetown
	11:30 AM-2:00 PM	Palt Dinner - Trinity
Monday, April 13	9:30 AM	Bible Study - Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study - Trinity
Wednesday, April 15	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Confirmation class - Trinity
Sunday, April 19	8:45 AM	Worship Service - Trinity
	9:15 AM	Sunday school - Georgetown
	10:00 AM	Sunday school - Trinity
	10:30 AM	Worship Service - Georgetown
Monday, April 20	9:30 AM	Bible Study - Georgetown
	6:00 PM	Joint parish council meeting - Trinity
	7:00 PM	Bible Study - Trinity
Wednesday, April 22	6:30 -7:30 PM	Confirmation class - Trinity
Thursday, April 23	4:00 - 6:00 PM	Garage Sale - Georgetown
Friday, April 24	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Garage Sale - Georgetown
Saturday, April 25	8:00 AM - Noon	Garage Sale - Georgetown
Sunday, April 26	8:45 AM	Worship Service - Trinity
	9:15 AM	Sunday school - Georgetown
	10:00 AM	Sunday school - Trinity
	10:30 AM	Worship Service - Georgetown
Monday, April 27	9:30 AM	Bible Study - Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study - Trinity
Wednesday, 29	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Confirmation class - Trinity



Georgetown Youth Easter Egg Hunt prior to church service on Sunday, April 5.

Trinity Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Sunday, April 5 at 10:00 AM following service. May be indoor or outdoor, weather permitting.



To the beloved of the NWSWI,

Happy Easter to you as we celebrate the most sacred day of the year when Jesus squarely looked death in the face and overcame the grave! When I think about what that says about our God, I am continually overwhelmed by feelings of gratitude because of the sheer depth of God's love. To think about what Jesus went through in those final days, it is simply the best illustration of what God's grace looks like – a gift to us as individuals and as a family of faith – all without merit.

While on a Civil Rights pilgrimage last month, I found myself quite perplexed when listening to the central message of many civil rights leaders, including many that I met in person. While visiting Birmingham, I worshiped at the 16th St. Baptist Church, which was bombed on a Sunday morning just before worship on Sept. 15, 1963. Four young women (all teens) died in the blast as they were preparing to serve in the youth led service. As our group heard about the story in the tour the day before our worship, this central message was proclaimed – love. Later that day we spent time with another black leader in the city whose ancestors were also victims of white supremacy. She too acknowledged the central message that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught over and over in his messages – a message of love, even for your enemies.

That struck me. When victims of oppression look at their oppressors and can maintain a posture of love in hopes that the hatred they've experienced would someday be extinguished, I could only think about the depths of God's love. While most of us would at minimum defend ourselves from the oppressive actions taken against them, if not fight back and seek retribution, they instead turned to love and forgiveness. It is their faith in God that could give them the strength to practice love.

We still live in a world where hatred and prejudice exist. But the story of Easter is rooted in love. Jesus went to the cross after praying in the garden of Gethsemane, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done." (Luke 22:42) Your will be done. This is true sacrifice rooted in love for humankind. This is love revealed to broken and sinful people. This is a love for us all – no exception.

As we celebrate the day Christ rose from the dead, offering forgiveness to all humankind, let us rejoice in acts of love. Let us respond to God's gift of grace through acts of love!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bishop Martin Habon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Crochet/Knit Group Georgetown Lutheran Church Third Sundays @ 4:00 PM

Bring a current project you are working on to share with the group, come to learn, or just come to visit and maybe learn a new hobby!

WELCA Quilting Georgetown Lutheran Church Fridays 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Come and enjoy a time of crafting, visiting, and, of course, ***some coffee and treats!***



Red Cross Blood Drive Georgetown Lutheran Church Tuesday, April 7, 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS
or
visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter
Balsam Lake WI to schedule an appointment.

Parish Pancake Supper & Youth Lock In

Friday, April 10th, 2026


5:30-7:30 PM supper & Youth lock in to follow

All you can eat Golden Griddle Pancakes, Real Maple Syrup, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Links, Coffee, Orange Juice, & Milk.



****FREE WILL DONATION****

All donations will Support our Youth Activities Fund.

Maple Syrup donated by 

PÅLT

Dinner

Trinity Lutheran Church
Sunday, April 12
11:30 M – 2:00 PM

Traditional (Swedish) Boiled Palt
Butter Fried (American) Palt
Baked Ham
Cranberry Salad
Scandinavian Fruit Soup
Homemade Pie

\$20 adults; \$5 Ages 6-12; under 6 free

Trinity Lutheran Church
Sunday, April 19
10:00 AM

Meet after service at Trinity.
Garbage bags and reflective vests
will be provided.



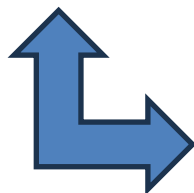
Georgetown Lutheran Church
Thursday, April 23 4 PM – 6 PM
Friday, April 24 8 AM – 5 PM
(lunch served)
Saturday, April 25 8 AM - NOON

There is something for everyone!

All proceeds benefit the Georgetown Lutheran Church Winter Fund and mission projects!

Women of the Northwest Synod

Apple River Conference



Spring Fling
Sat. April 25, 2026

“I Need a Faith Lift!”

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.” *Hebrews 11:1*

Guest Speaker:
(Helda Pay) Penne Fewall

8:00 - Registration
9:00 - Program

Registration fee is \$15 and includes lunch.

Hosted by: Luck Lutheran
510 E Foster Ave
Luck, WI

TIME TO CELEBRATE



April 1	Doris Gaetz (GT)
April 10	Sara Sellent (T)(*)
April 12	Diane Veenendall (GT)
	Marge Filkins (GT)
April 13	Steve Kelch (T)
April 15	Ryan Braastad (GT)
April 17	Lacy Sellent (T)
	Jeremylee Stacy (T)(*)
April 19	Cash Rouzer (T)(*)
April 21	Jody Binfet (GT)
April 22	Ben Anderson (T)
April 23	LeAnn Jensen (GT)
	Jean Ebert (GT)
April 24	Bridgett Bergmann (GT)
	Jim Glenna (GT)
April 25	Dennis Anderson (T)
	Tom Weaver (T)
April 28	Chelsey Jensen (GT)
April 29	Dorothy Lauritsen (GT)
April 30	Cecilia Renstrom (T)

If we are missing your birthday and/or baptism (*) and you would like it included, please send to church email.

Loaves & Fishes Monthly Report

Open Tues. & Thurs. 11 am-1:00pm
Lions Hall, 300 1st. Street Luck, WI
P.O. Box 554 Luck, WI 54853

February 2026

Households served 47 Luck 30
Adults: 69 Unity 17
Children: 24 New families: 1
Total people: 93

Donations: Money: \$7,493

(Below includes TEFAP, purchased food, donations)

Weight of food coming in: 2,785#

Weight of food going out: 2,292#

Volunteer hours: 61.25 hours.



The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federally funded USDA food program, which is administered through the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Loaves & Fishes is a recipient agency.

Needs for next month: vegetables, pasta, peanut butter, cake mix, brownie mix, muffins. **We can always use more volunteer workers. If interested, please contact Pam Girtz 320-232-7541 email: girtzp@gmail.com; or Gena Bugno nobug115@yahoo.com**

Dear Parish,

Happy Easter! This may be a little early or late depending upon when you're reading the newsletter, but I wish you not just a Happy Easter Sunday but a Happy Easter Season. The Easter Season may not be very long in our



church calendars, but it is the season we live our lives in. Let me explain. We have the blessing of living in our time and knowing that Christ was risen. We know the end of the story. Imagine, however, being one of the disciples. The scriptures make it clear that they didn't always understand what Jesus was doing and preaching. That makes sense. How can you understand the death and resurrection of the Messiah unless it's already occurred. They'd seen Jesus persecuted and crucified. They probably wondered if all that they had put their hearts into was for nothing. Their leader was gone. We've lived knowing the end of the story all our lives but imagine the awe and excitement the disciples had. It must have been amazing.

So, in a nutshell, we live our whole lives in the Easter season as Easter people. We know the fullness of the good news. Every spring we celebrate Easter and renew our faith lives in hope and joy. Now.... What are we going to do with that? What are we going to do when the bright Easter outfits are put away and all the plastic eggs are mismatched or lost? The brightness has faded (except for maybe the Easter candy we get on clearance). We still have the Good News, hope and joy. Are we going to keep it to ourselves? I sure hope not. April is the perfect time in our parish to share that joy. Are you a little hesitant inviting people to church? We have perfect situations! Invite them to the pancake supper, lock in, palt dinner, or garage sale. Invite anyone and everyone! Share our Easter joy with them and let them know they're welcome with us. They're welcome to come just as they are, where they are in life, and wherever they are in their faith journey. That's the incredible thing about faith – there's always room for more people.

Another wonderful way to grow faith is sending youth to camp. Both congregations have funds available to do this and would be delighted to help youth go to camp and grow in faith. Camp is a unique environment where joy and faith come together as a foundational experience that will live with these youth all their lives. Luther Point and Luther Park have wonderful websites that explain all the options. Talk to your council members about the help we have available. It's a wonderful investment in our youth.

So, let's have a wonderful Easter season and live out our Easter faith all our lives. Let's share that joy and knowledge with others. He is Risen Indeed!

Alleluia,

Pastor Diane Norstad

NEWS FROM OUR COUNCILS

Georgetown Lutheran Church Council Meeting March 8th, 2026

Meeting attendees: Ryan Peterson, Time Frendt, Kim Doyle, Stephanie Fansler, Bruce Peper, Nicki Norlund, Kirsten Klugow, Andrew Frendt

Absent council members: Dennis Wiese

President Ryan Peterson called meeting to order.

Pastor Diane Norstad led opening prayer and devotional

Motion was made and 2nd to accept minutes from previous council meeting. Motion carried.

Roberta Hansen Gave treasurer report. Motion made and 2nd to except treasures report as print. Motion carried.

Committee reports were given. Invites are being sent out to the local communities for the Pancake supper and Lock-in being hosted at GTLC by Bruce and Nicki.

Nicki Reported that has given out a children's bible to congregation member, Renee Norlund's granddaughter.

Old Business

Security system update: Ryan is asking for volunteers to help run the wiring for the security cameras that were purchased for the church.

Update on Polk-Burnett Electric usage-Ryan talked to Polk-Burnett and their suggestion to try and figure out where the issue of the high electricity usage is to shut off the breakers and then slowly turn them back on and see which one triggers the meter. This will require 2 people. Someone watches the meter and another to individually turn the breakers on. This will be revisited when at next meeting.

Update on the door replacement by the kitchen. Ryan has found a door from the same company that the previous door was purchased from and was able to get pricing for 2 different options. 1st option was a wooden door like what is already in place. 2nd option was a white door with no window. It was put to vote, and it was decided to go with the white door as this would be less maintenance and a cheaper option. Nicki's husband Charlie Otto has volunteered to install the door.

Furnace Fundraiser update: Still looking for fundraising ideas to help with the cost of replacing the furnace in the church this winter. Ryan suggested looking into doing a bake sale and raffles like we have done in the past at Sherrard's resort or at Eagles lounge. Suggested to host event at "Mixed up on Staples Lake" This item is to be revisited at next meeting with more details.

Annual Garage sale will be held April 23 4-6pm, April 24 8am-5pm, & April 25th 8am-12pm. Donations can be dropped off prior to the event starting Sunday April 19th.

"Soup-er" bowl Sunday was a success. There has been a lot of positive feedback about the event. Thank you to the Frendts for organizing.

Pancake supper and Lock-in is looking for adult volunteers to help with the event. Nicki will update the fliers and email them to Stephanie to print out to distribute and hang up in local communities.

Discussion about starting up the community meal again was brought up. Volunteers are needed to help lead it. We would also need funding such as Thrivent to help. There also needs to be someone that is safe-serve certified at the event. Nicki volunteered and will be brought up during church announcements to see if there is anyone else that would be willing to do so.

The ceiling in the Sunday school room still needs to be addressed and fixed after fixing the pipes to the furnace in the attic. Bruce will take lead on this project with help. Kim said she would ask her husband Derrick to help, and to have the fan in the fellowship hall looked at. Plan is to fix the ceiling with a hinged door for easy access to the piping in the ceiling.

New Business

Only 1 building use request has been turned in for Krystal Zuniga's Bridal shower. Request has been approved for the event.

The funds from the blessing bucket were brought up. An idea was brought up to possibly use the funds to start up the community meal. Further discussion will be had on that at next meeting.

Lacey Selant from trinity will be ordering palms for Palm Sunday again this year for both churches. Palm Sunday will also be 1st communion for the children of Kevin and Emma Bystrom

The Easter Egg hunt will be held easter Sunday morning during Sunday school. The plastic eggs will be brought down from the attic and available for congregation members to fill if they choose.

Blood drive will be held at GTLC on April 7th

Open discussion: Stephanie brought up that shepherding groups need to be reevaluated. More help is needed in all groups. This was tabled for future meetings.

New thermostats were brought up for the church. We used to have programmable ones that would allow for the temperature to be adjusted and then automatically it would turn back down after a certain amount of time. It was suggested that we investigate replacing our current thermostats with programmable units again to help with the usage of gas to heat the building. Kim will ask Derrick to investigate new thermostats, and we will revisit this topic at next meeting.

Joint council meeting at trinity will be April 20th with dinner at 530 and meeting to start at 6.

Next meeting for GTLC was set for April 12th following church service.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Motion was made to adjourn meeting. Motion was 2nd. Meeting adjourned.

No minutes available from Trinity council meeting at time of publication