

### Easter Comes Early This Year

This year Easter comes on March 23. That is about as early as Easter can fall in a calendar year. The Lutheran Hymnal, formerly used by Trinity congregation, lists the dates of Easter from 1941-2000, and over that span of years the earliest Easter fell was March 26, 1967, 1978, and 1989. This year we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on March 23.

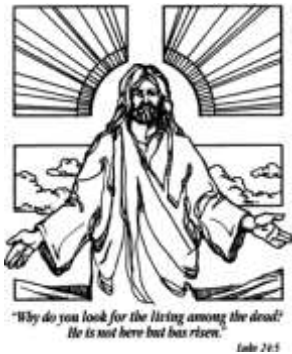
Easter comes early this year, but not too soon. Easter comes only after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. That event needed to precede Easter or there would be little to celebrate on Easter. But because Jesus Christ died though innocent of any sins of his own and suffered the punishment of wrath and hell we deserved in our place, Easter now has great meaning **for us. Christ’s resurrection assures us that Jesus is the Son of God who has won for us justification - God received his Son’s death as the full payment for the sins of the world and has announced the world to be not guilty in his sight! This is his verdict to you!**

Easter comes early this year, early Sunday morning. It was at dawn on **the first day of the week that women came to Jesus’ tomb and found it empty and heard the angels announce, “He has risen!” So Easter will come early for us of Trinity this year: we will set aside the early hours of March 23 to enter the Lord’s house of worship - 6:30 a.m and 9 a.m. services - and hear God’s Word announce to us that “He has risen!” In the early hours of March 23 we will lift up our hearts and sing, “He’s Risen, He’s Risen!”**

Easter comes early this year - or does it? The Bible teaches that in **baptism you and I “were buried with Christ into death in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” Romans 6. In other words, Easter is what we’ve been celebrating since the day of our rebirth of water and the Spirit. You have been celebrating Easter every day of this year, as you have daily died to sin and renounced its hold on you, as you have daily received God’s free forgiveness through his Son Jesus Christ and his Gospel, and as you have arisen daily in your new self of faith to live a holy and righteous life to the glory of your Lord.**

Easter comes early this year. Let today be Easter as you believe and rejoice in the salvation and new life Christ obtained for you through his death and resurrection.

Pastor Mark Kock



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## Miscellaneous News

*Share this website  
address:*

*www.WhatAboutJesus.com*

*People will get real  
answers about Christ, the  
Bible and faith.*

- If you would like to pray with us weekly, there are copies of the **prayer chain requests** in the church office every Sunday morning. If you would like to make a request for prayers, please call Pastor Kock at 294-2828 or 294-2979.
- **HELP Supply the Foodshelf** — The Open Cupboard is always in need of donations. You may bring the items to church and we will bring them to the food shelf.
- Share this website address: [www.WhatAboutJesus.com](http://www.WhatAboutJesus.com). People will get real answers about Christ, the Bible and Faith.
- **Camp Croix dates for 2008:** Christian fellowship, friendship and life long memories! Our WELS camp in Danbury, WI is looking for campers. Dates for this year's weeks of camp are July 6-12, July 13-19, July 20-26 and July 27-Aug 2. We do not have registration forms yet. Go to [www.campcroix.com](http://www.campcroix.com) for more information.

## Opportunities for Fellowship at Trinity



Each Sunday God gives you opportunity to gather with your fellow believers and grow closer to each in Christian love. Take time after service to learn of one another and **give encouragement in the Lord. The second Sunday of each month is our "Trinity Connection" where we meet in the Fellowship Hall to receive updates on our church and mission life and hear of ways to serve our Lord with our abilities and time. Your brothers and sisters of Trinity Look fo4rward to seeing you.**

**Brothers:** All men of Confirmation age and up are invited to the **Men's Breakfast, March 15, 8:30 am. Enjoy good food, great company, and study in God's Word.**

**LWMS (Lutheran Women's Mission Society)** has a Mission Project Offering in the spring and the fall. Did you know that every woman in the congregation has the privilege of participation? We collect monies using our mission boxes that are on the tables in the narthex. Of the money that is collected, 75% remains with our local circuit to be divided between the home and world mission projects, and 25% is to be divided between the two National home and world mission projects.

Did you know that you can participate in these ballots? Watcher for further information or contact Donna Cottor at 294-3962 if you have any questions.

Mark your calendars to join us for the:

**LWMS—St. Croix Circuit Spring Rally**

Sunday, April 6, 2008

Faith Lutheran, Prior Lake, MN

Guest Speaker—Jacob Theme—Outreach to Muslims

Pray for our members in the service: Mike Beck (currently stationed in Mississippi).

Pray for your fellow members who are shut-ins, hospitalized, or struggling with illness or other matters. Rejoice in the blessings of health, family, work and accomplishment that the Lord gives your brothers and sisters. Love one another sincerely.

**Baptism:**

Kylie Luanne Winkelman, daughter of Steven and Amanda Winkelman

Born 1/9/08 Baptized 2/2/08



## Our Life of Worship At Trinity

### Crossroads: Traveling with Our Savior

**Wednesday Lent Worship**, 7 pm, through March 12  
Dinner precedes each service, 5-6:30 pm

The Wednesday Lent offerings will be forwarded to the following missions:

- The Lutheran Home, River Falls
- Vietnamese Outreach
- Peace Lutheran, Boise, ID
- Missionaries in Pachuca, Mexico
- Calvary Academy, FL
- Support for a student at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
- Europe Military Chaplain

**Church Choir** rehearses on Wednesday, 6:30 pm

Come, sing to the Lord, and prepare music to bring to the Sunday worship of our Savior. Prepare songs for Lent and Easter.

The Salem Ev. Lutheran School Choir (Stillwater, MN) sings at **Trinity's worship services, on March 9.**

### Holy Week Services

March 20—Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion, 7 pm

March 21—Good Friday, Noon, 1 pm, 2pm, 7pm

#### Easter Services

March 23

Sunrise Service—6:30 am

Worship—9:00 am

Easter Breakfast, 7:15 am—8:45 am



## Evangelism: Reaching Out With the Gospel



- **“How to Share Your Faith” Training Course** begins Saturday, March 15, 10:30 am. Sessions will be held one Saturday a month, for several months. Let’s have every adult member of Trinity at some time now or in the near future take this course and learn how to sow the seed of God’s Word.
- Pastor Kock and the Board of Elders are reaching out to members who have been absent from the Gospel of our Lord in Word and Sacrament. Letters were sent to over **20 members who have not joined with us in Christ’s Holy Supper for quite some time.** Follow-up visits on these members will be made to give personal testimony to the call of the Lord to hear his Word and remember the sacrifice he made for us.

## We Grow Together in God’s Word

### Adult Bible Class

Sunday Adult Bible Class, 9:25 am: “Paul’s Letter to the Colossians”

Tuesday Women’s Bible Class, 7 pm: Lenten Devotions

Wednesday Bible Class, 10:30 am: “Jonah”



Sunday School Children Pre-K through 8th grade, 9:15 am

The Sunday School children’s offerings are now going toward mission work in the nation of Indonesia.

Inner Court for High School youth, Sunday, 9:15 am

Catechism Class for 7th and 8th graders, Wednesdays



### Lutheran Schools for Growth in the Lord

Salem Ev. Lutheran Elementary School, Stillwater, and St. Croix Lutheran High School, West St. Paul, are two nearby WELS schools that offer Christ-centered education for children and teenagers. See the narthex display on these schools. Tuition assistance is offered Trinity members. Parents who plan on enrolling a child in either of the schools this coming school year: please fill out a registration form, at the narthex display, to notify our congregation of your intention and to assist the church in planning the budget for the coming fiscal year.

**Camp Phillip**, a WELS based Christian camp in Wautoma, WI is offering many exciting opportunities for youth ages k-12. There are brochures in the narthex for those interested.



## WELS congregation is "giving back"

*From the office of President Mark Schroeder*

In spite of the title, this is not a story about money. Rather it's a story about God's amazing blessings. This week I learned of a WELS congregation and its thankful members—and of their willingness to share generously their blessings in order to support the synod's work of spreading the gospel.

Sola Fide Lutheran Church in Lawrenceville, Ga., relocated a number of years ago to a new 22-acre site. In recent years, the area around the new property began to develop. In December 2007, the congregation was able to sell about half of their property to a developer for far more than they paid for it. Sola Fide was able to pay off its mortgage and put money aside into a new account to be used for future needs.

But there's more to this story of unexpected blessings from God.

The members of Sola Fide recalled that their congregation was begun as a WELS mission some years ago. So they decided that this was an opportunity for them to use part of this gift from God to "give back." They are investing a portion of the proceeds in WELS Church Extension Fund (CEF). CEF helped Sola Fide construct its first building in the 70s, then acquire new property and construct new worship facilities. The members of Sola Fide are "giving back" so CEF can continue to help new mission congregations build their first worship facilities.

The congregation is also sending \$35,000 to a neighboring mission congregation. They are "giving back" to the mission board of their district, which has been so instrumental in the establishment of their own congregation and continues to assist in planting new missions.

There's more. The congregation is sending a gift of \$200,000 to the synod as a Congregation Mission Offering to be used by the synod in the best way possible. They are "giving back" to the synod in recognition of how the ongoing mission of the synod is to plant new congregations and to develop new mission fields for the spread of the gospel.

In addition, the congregation is sending another \$35,000 for a building fund for our Caribbean mission in St. Lucia. They are "giving back" because of close connections their congregation has with the work in St. Lucia.

This story does mention money and gifts. But it is not a story about money. It's a story about God's amazing blessings—the spiritual blessings of the gospel as it works in the hearts of people, and the physical blessings of God that flow constantly and abundantly. It's a story about a group of God's people who endured challenges and shortages, but who never allowed themselves to be distracted from their purpose as a Christian congregation, and who never set aside their trust in God's promises. It's a story about thankfulness, dedication, and commitment. It's a story about a congregation who is happy to "give back" to God for his work because they recognize that God is the giver of their gifts in the first place.

Pastor Michael Schultz wrote to me on behalf of the members of Sola Fide: "As you experience the joys and face the challenges, which are a natural part of the call God has given you, we hope this event is a bit of sunshine. We realize money for ministry pales in comparison to having as our deliverer the Sun of Righteousness who has risen over us with healing in his wings. His grace be on us all."





# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Web-site: <http://www.telcoscwi.org>

Mark Kock, Pastor  
Curt Richter, Council President  
Ron Jasperson, Treasurer  
Wayne Riba, Financial Secretary  
Nancy Beck & Carol Jensen, Church Secretaries  
Sherry Lueck (651/433-2943), Altar Guild Co-Chairperson  
Jean Brown (715/294-4566), Altar Guild Co-Chairperson



### 2008 Trinity Church Council Members:

Curt Richter, President	Harry Beck, Vice-President	Ron Jasperson, Treasurer
Robert Jensen, Secretary	Daniel Francis, Evangelism	Darryl Klawitter, Stewardship
Colin Hendricks, Trustees	Gerry Pieper, Christian Education	Kevin Rogers, Elders

### 2008 Board of Elders:

Jim Brown	Kevin Rogers	Will Stob
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### Membership Changes for 2007:

Tonya Dill: Removed  
 Brooke Pettis: Released by request  
 Kirk & Carol Otto: Transferred from WELS church to Trinity  
 Dale & Liz Thurber: Accepted by Profession of Faith  
 Tonya Tober and children, Kylee, Hunter, Brady: Transferred from WELS church to Trinity  
 Lowell & Paulette Enerson and son, Tyler: Accepted by Profession of Faith  
 Jennifer Dahl: Released  
 Scott Johnson: Released



### Accepted by Confirmation:

Nicole Willey	1/3/07
Gilbert Brown:	5/20/07
Mirielle Francis	5/20/07
Randi Funk	5/20/07
Marissa Haroldson	5/20/07
Jacobi Kock	5/20/07
Ashley Pool	5/20/07
Lisa Rydeen	5/20/07
Daniel Wells	5/20/07



Average Attendance for Sunday Worship Services: 182

## Serving Jesus With Our Gifts and Talents

### Serve the Lord with Gladness!

God's love for us in his Son Jesus opens our hearts to gladly give offerings of our time and treasures to the praise of his holy name.

Income and expenditure information for January:

Income: \$16,808    Year to date Income: \$138,141

Expenses: \$20,857    Year to date Expenses: \$125,505

Reminder: The goal of our church is to receive monthly offerings of \$18,333.00. We **pray that the Lord's grace will cause our hearts to overflow with generous donations of our time and offerings so that his saving Word may continue to be proclaimed.**

**VBS In March?! No, But this is the month to begin thinking about this summer ministry of God's Word to children of our church and neighborhood, and to seek those who will step forward to serve as VBS coordinator and teachers. How about you? Please speak to Jerry Pieper or Randy Getschel of your interest to help out with our June VBS.**

The St. Croix Conference of the **Martin Luther College Ladies Auxillary**

Will hold their annual Spring Rally, Saturday, March 8, at Good Shepherd Lutheran church, Burnsville, MN, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Support our future pastors and teachers through annual campus projects.

Harold Brown attended the annual meeting of the **Lutheran Home Association**, held January 15, at Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Belle Plaine, MN. The membership total of churches in the Association is 214. Gifts were presented to **Pastor and Mrs. Ron Ehlert in recognition of Pastor's service and retirement. Presentations were made on "Celebrating Life with Down Syndrome" and "Prenatal Genetic Screening: How Does a Christian Respond?"**

