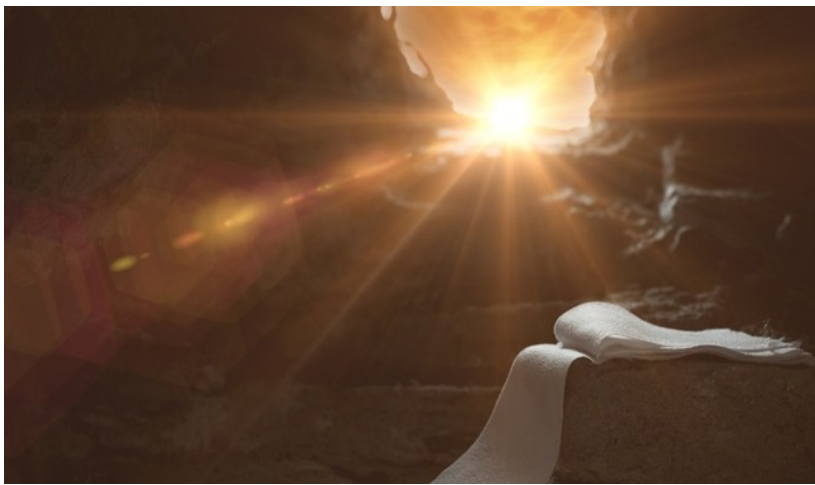


TRINITY TIDINGS



Living faithfully + Renewing hope + Sharing God's Love

Eastertide into Pentecost . . .



**Awake, my heart, with gladness, see what today is done;
now, after gloom and sadness, comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid where our bed must be made
when, as on wings in flight, we soar to realms of light.**

—Paul Gerhardt, ELW Hymn 378, vs. 1

April - May 2026

In this issue . . .

A Message from Pastor Susan	3
Greetings	2
Come Worship With Us	2
Remember the Hungry	2
Mother's Day	2
Coffee Fellowship	2
Can Tabs for RMH	2
Holy Week	4
Sundays of Easter in April and May	4-5
Bible Study	6
Your Grace-Full Dollars at work	6
A Stewardship Short	7
Grace-Full Dollars Months	8
Readers	9
Center For Food Action	9
News of Our Church Family	10
Thank You	10
Family Promise Letter	11



The Opening of Eyes by David Whyte

***That day I saw beneath dark clouds
the passing light over the water
and I heard the voice of the world speak out,
I knew then, as I had before
life is no passing memory of what has been
nor the remaining pages in a great book
waiting to be read.***

***It is the opening of eyes long closed.
It is the vision of far off things
seen for the silence they hold.
It is the heart after years
of secret conversing
speaking out loud in the clear air.***

***It is Moses in the desert
fallen to his knees before the lit bush.
It is the man throwing away his shoes
as if to enter heaven
and finding himself astonished,
opened at last,
fallen in love with solid ground.***



David Whyte's poem holds splendid images and metaphors, speaking of an awakening to the miracle of life. Spring has only recently begun, just in time for the dark clouds of Holy Week to give way to light and life anew. As we enter the very first days of Eastertide, it is salutary that we awaken to the changes happening all around us bringing reassurance, beauty and inspiration as we see the earth blossom and green. It is the perfect time to keep your eyes open, look around, notice the small miracles all around us, and be reminded of resurrection. Are we noticing the miracles that are right in front of us? Can we open our hearts to these signs and let go of old fears and resistances, of habitual patterns that limit possibility and curiosity? Can we let our heart "speak out loud in the clear air?" Do we see that all the earth is sacred ground?

May God grant us grace to enter into this Eastertide with open eyes, hearts and minds. May we be astonished by the signs of new life all around us and within us.

In the peace and joy of the Lord which is our strength,

Pastor Susan



HOLY WEEK 2026



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD, MARCH 29

Procession with Palms and reading of the Passion according to St. Matthew

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2 at NOON

Holy Communion with Rite of Foot and Handwashing

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3 at NOON

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO JOHN

Tenebrae service with adoration of the Cross

The Sundays of



in April and May 2026

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, EASTER DAY APRIL 5

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever.

In the gospel of Matthew, sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when

two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!





The Sundays of **EASTER** April and May 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, April 12

In today's gospel, the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter, the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, April 19

Two disciples walking to Emmaus are overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. Yet the risen Christ walks with them and opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, April 26 –Good Shepherd Sunday

Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, May 3

Today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. We are reminded in 1 Peter that we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, May 10 Litany of Thanksgiving for Mothers and All Women

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, May 17

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

DAY OF PENTECOST, May 24

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

The Holy Trinity, May 31

We celebrate the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.



That's in the Bible?

***Six bizarre, funny, gross
and weird stories from the OT and NT
Thursdays at 2:30 PM on Zoom
Begins April 16
Concludes on May 21***



According to our Lutheran Handbook, “humor isn’t scarce in the Bible; you just have to look for it.” Jesus employed humor (Hebrew style) in his parables. In fact, you could say comedians are among our modern-day prophets. They zero in on the absurd to make us rethink much of what we often overlook. Biblical humor is sometimes ironic, gross, and sometimes just plain bizarre. Over six weeks, we will take a deeper look at some stories that on the surface may seem absolutely ridiculous but may nevertheless reveal lessons of faith, hope, love, and God’s grace in an unexpected way.

For more information or to get the Zoom link, contact Pastor Susan at htlchpastor@gmail.com.

Your *Grace-full* Dollars at Work

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Graceful Dollars campaigns over the last six months. It has allowed Holy Trinity to impact so many lives beyond our doors, as we share God's love and live out our ministry in a tangible way.

Temple Beth El - \$564
Habitat for Humanity - \$560
K-9 Beethoven - \$538
Center for Hope and Safety - \$954
NJ Re-Entry - \$1070
Easter Dinners LSMNJ - \$1220



A

**STEWARDSHIP** short . . . *A commitment to giving*

*Behold, behold, I make all things new, beginning with you, and starting from today.
John Bell, Singing in Community Hymn 5*

True generosity comes from joy . . .

*Each one must give as they have decided in their heart,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7*

Some of you may be familiar with the practice of “regifting”—passing on to another a gift you received that you can’t use, don’t want, or for some other reason. “Regifting can be a risky practice with all types of gifts except one—the kind we receive from God,” writes Peter Marty, editor of the Christian Century. “When we share gifts of blessings that have been given to us by God, there’s no end to the joy extended.

Marty points out that besides time, money, or talent, there are other things of God that can be regifted such as organ donation. Recently in my town of Millburn, there was a story about a woman who donated a kidney to a complete stranger. Her gift not only saved his life but it has sparked a chain reaction of anonymous kidney donations from others inspired by her gift. Many people now experience new life thanks to this succession of donors.

What inspires people to behave in such generous ways? Marty is convinced that “bone-deep generosity is a way of life that has nothing to do with means and everything to do with desire. It’s one thing to enjoy spasms of personal generosity—a good deed here and a kindness there. It’s another thing to be a person so generous in spirit that a desire to be grateful guides one’s entire outlook on life.” (Christian Century, July 19, 2019)

There is no shortage of reasons for why we give. Sometimes it is for the sake of reputation, or part of a competition, or perhaps even out of a sense of loyalty. Of course there’s always the tax deduction motivation. But there can also be a sense of human solidarity that brings some inner satisfaction that inspires us. On other occasions, a worthy cause or even a perceived heavenly reward may motivate us. But so many forms of giving involve careful calculation on our part. We can be so busy trying to estimate the return on our investment or trying to ensure that we’re the most effective stewards of our resources that we lose sight of the fundamental joy that undergirds true generosity.

Usually we think feelings of joy are a result or by-product of generosity but I suspect joy precedes generosity. It’s the disposition that enables it in the first place. And joy is one of the gifts of the Spirit. Joy is not the same thing as happiness. It’s something deeper and not reliant on circumstances either good or bad. Joy is grounded in faith in God’s grace.

One of the great hymns of the church, “My Song Is Love Unknown,” contains the words: “But, oh my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need did life expend; who at my need did life expend.” True those words refer to sacrificial love, but they also testify to joy and generosity behind them as well. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells a parable about being faithful with the things we have been entrusted with. The faithful servant hears this invitation, “Well done, good and faithful servant . . . Enter into your master’s joy.” Joy is a gift that keeps on giving.

You could also go to our website and make a donation online today!

<http://holytrinityhasbrouckheights.com/home/donate>





Grace-Full Dollars April and May 2026

**Now is the time when we need one another.
Now is a time to live and act as faithful people of God.**

April is Navajo Lutheran Mission month

The Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM) Inc. humbly serves the Navajo community of Rock Point, AZ. Every day, our 100% Navajo staff feed the hungry, prioritize Christian and cultural learning, focus on community engagement, and work towards fulfilling basic community needs. In our spiritual and social work, we strive to embody and teach the grace of Jesus and listen to the call of the gospel to serve one another in love. To read more about NELM, please visit: <https://nelm.org>



In April, please make your check out to Holy Trinity with "NELM" in the memo line of your check.

May is Cross Roads Camp month

Cross Roads is committed to welcoming all people. In response to the biblical call to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8), Cross Roads celebrates diversity and promotes equal opportunity regardless of age, disability, race, color, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, creed, national origin, economic capacity, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, or gender identity. In response to God's radical love and grace, Cross Roads strives to create sacred adventures that celebrate, transform, and empower all people. To learn more about Crossroads Camp, please visit: <https://www.crossroadsretreat.com>

In May, please make your check out to Holy Trinity with "Cross Roads Camp" in the memo line of your check



Grace-Full Dollars is a program of our Stewardship Ministry Team

They invite all of us to give whatever we are able in support of the mission of a local service organization. You may send a check made out to Holy Trinity with the name of the monthly organization on the memo line.

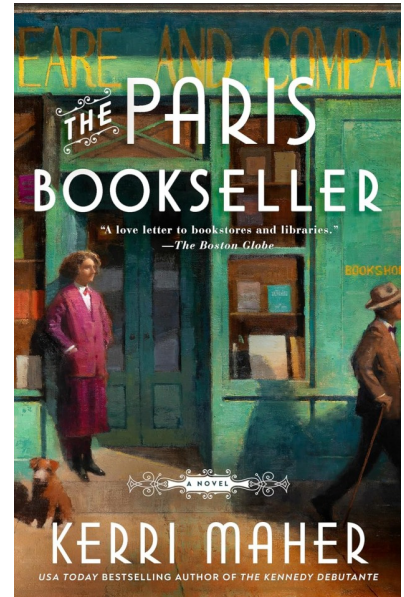
Or you can give online by going to our website: <http://holytrinityhasbrouckheights.com/home/donate> and designate on the "Other" line the organization to which you wish to earmark your gift.



READERS

Readers is scheduled to meet on Friday, May 8, at 3:30 PM. The book we have selected is *The Paris Bookseller*, by Keri Maher. It is a historical novel about Sylvia Beach, the trailblazing American owner of the famous bookstore, Shakespeare & Company, in 1920s Paris. Focusing on her decision to publish James Joyce's controversial novel, *Ulysses*, which was banned in the U.S., and the personal and financial risks involved. The book explores the literary friendships she formed with the "Lost Generation" writers like Hemingway and Stein, while also delving into her personal struggles and the challenges of running a business during the Depression. It's a story about literature, love, and the fight to keep books accessible.

Join us for what promises to be a lively discussion. Note: our discussions are always lively! Hope to see you there!



CENTER FOR FOOD ACTION

Thank you to all who have donated and continue to donate non-perishable food and hygiene items to the Center for Food Action in Hackensack. Your ongoing generosity is appreciated.

There is an extra need for the following items at this time, however any and all donations are happily accepted:

- Canned Meats
- Pet food
- Diapers (adult and child)
- Wipes
- Feminine hygiene products
- Protein supplements (Ensure, Boost, Pediasure, etc)
- Baby food
- Shelf stable milk
- Toiletries (soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes)
- Laundry detergent and cleaning products
- Paper products (napkins, paper towels, tissues)

We are looking for members to transport the donations in the months of April and May. Please contact Anastasia in the Church office to volunteer or for details. The Center for Food Action is located at The New Hope Bible Baptist Church, 316 First Street, Hackensack.

Thank you for all you do.



Happy Birthday!



April

Matthew Cupo
Janice Cupo
Debbie Margiotta
Meghan Lang
Dan Kuzmenka
Joseph Pirrello
Judy Grimes
Andrea Otazu

May

Sharon Ramsaier
Elliot Eddy
Jack Gaige
Michael Fiore Jr.
Dorothy Heflich
Karen Niestempski
Katrina Kunnapas
Maggie Cupo
Timothy Obiso
Rita Krieger
Antonio Vincent Viera



May Anniversary

Rich & Nancy Fanslau – May 21

 Thank You!

- Thank you to all who continue to donate their time and talents to Holy Trinity.
- Thank you to Anastasia for delivering 7 bags of donations to the Center for Food Action in Hackensack on March 31.



COUNCIL CORNER

On Sunday, March 15, the following Holy Trinity Council Members were installed by Pastor Susan for the 2026 calendar year:

Officers:

President Pastor Susan Nelson-Colaneri
Vice President Rita Krieger
Secretary Kathy Foster
Treasurer Sharon Ramsaier

Members:

Marge Heeren
Karen Lindberg
Karen Herr

We give thanks for their willingness to serve and for the leadership they provide to our congregation.



Thank You!

Thank you for helping families thrive in 2025!

March 1, 2026

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
92 Burton Ave
Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey 07604

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being a Family Promise of Bergen County monthly donor in 2025! Your generosity over the past year has given working families who are struggling and our food-insecure neighbors the ultimate gift: the gift of hope.

Your ongoing support and the consistent, sustained funding that your recurring donation provides allows us to meet the changing needs of the families and individuals, ensuring that they always had access to safe shelter, hot meals, and the tools needed to create a better life for themselves and for their children.

Thanks to you, we provided housing and/or vital support to 215 families, made up of 557 children and parents.

Thanks to you, our Walk-in Dinner served its 1.5 millionth meal, a major milestone in our fight against hunger.

Thanks to you, we covered \$100,000 in rent payments to keep at-risk families stably housed.

Thanks to you, we responded to the SNAP crisis by distributing \$4,500 in grocery gift cards to impacted families.

THANK YOU for helping us keep the promise we made nearly 40 years ago: That Family Promise will always serve as a lifeline to vulnerable families and individuals in our community, no matter what!

For your records, here is a summary of your 2025 giving:

Monthly Donations	2025	\$ 1,700.00
Additional One Time Donations	2025	\$ 0.00
Total: 2025 Donations		\$ 1,700.00

In gratitude,

Kate Duggan
Executive Director

Paul Shackford
President, Board of Trustees

No goods or services were provided in return for this donation. Federal Tax ID Number: 22-2853599.

100 Dayton Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450 • 201-833-8009 • bergenfamilypromise.org