

Trinity Tidings

Faith, Family, Friendship

May, 2026 Newsletter

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

- Philippians 4:6 -

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Worship at 10:30AM

We now offer three options for worship on Sundays:

1. Worship at church in the sanctuary.
2. Worship at church using the drive-in option(100.1)
3. Worship at home.

“Separation anxiety is common in young children, but it’s a normal part of children’s development and they usually grow out of it.” It can be “a sign your baby now realizes how dependent they are on [those] who care for them”.

The disciples are anxious about separation (John 14.1). For years, they have eaten, worked, travelled, and lived with Jesus. Now he has just told them: “Where I am going, you cannot follow me now” (13.38). There comes a time, early in every human life, when the reality dawns that we are fragile and vulnerable, and that we depend on others to care for us and support us. Ideally, every one of us would have parents who offer that comforting, dependable presence.

Separation anxiety in an adult person, unless there are reasons based on cognitive impairment or physical frailty, is more problematic. Growing up is meant to be a liberation from that kind of dependence. The closest bond in childhood should be between parents and child. In adulthood, another type of close bond forms — that between life partners. The job of a parent is to help their child grow into independence, to become self-reliant. But a life partnership has different parameters. It requires a more complex balance between demands and satisfactions, between support given and support received.

In the case of Jesus and his disciples, neither of these relationship models is a perfect fit. A friendship situation may unfold on a different plane in terms of the levels of demands made and satisfactions received (reciprocity). After all, friendships take place outside the framework of a formal, long-term commitment. The disciples could have walked away from their friendship with Jesus at any time. We know this because, at the Passion, that is exactly what they did. Words and promises (“Show us the Father and we will be satisfied,” John 14.8; “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you,” Matthew 26.35) were not powerful enough to overcome fear. Yet.

Every kind of relationship which human beings experience is imperfect. Augustine of Hippo was right in his development of Paul’s view that we cannot reach goodness through personal effort, but only by God’s grace. Some may object to original sin as a theological concept, but as a practical observation about human nature it is undeniable. The disconnect between ideals and realities is a flaw running through all our human relationships, whether between equals (life partners, friends) or within a hierarchy (parents and children, humankind and God). One of the things that make it difficult to evaluate the disciples’ actions is that their relationship is both the friendship of equals and also, somehow, a hierarchy of goodness between divine and human.

The miraculous sign that is the resurrection does not resolve this tension between the human and the divine. There is no neat conclusion: “Ta-dah! Sorted — Jesus is definitely divine.” But however untidy this tension may seem in terms of theory, we have in practice always been able to inhabit it, naturally and fruitfully.

It may come as a surprise that this Gospel has been seen as problematic because Jesus makes a promise, which seems not to be fulfilled (John 14.3), to return for the disciples. But, yes, that verse has caused much scholarly puzzlement, and has generated a lot of theological ingenuity. Fair enough: another stage of childhood development often includes the determination to understand the world, encapsulated in questioning everything: “Why?” “How?” I still take it for granted that, when I die, Jesus will somehow bring me home with him to God, as, I believe, he has every one of my Christian forebears.

There is a good reason for separation anxiety. We do not want to be cut off from the people whom we love. It is perfectly reasonable to fear the ending of relationships, whether life partnerships, friendships, or that most powerful bond, the bond between parent and child. A small child has no sense of the passing of time or of how it is an individual person embedded in the wider human sweep that we call “history”. But, as we grow, we learn to see ourselves in context. With physical development come self-awareness and even the recognition that not all our sources of support are visible; for God is our parent, too, and Jesus is our brother and friend, a “tower of strength from the face of [our] enemy”—1 Corinthians 15.26 indeed.



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Church Happenings

The Year 2026 Highlights:

May 10 Mother's Day

June 14 Helen & Rose's Graduation/Father's Day

July 12 Church Picnic Hot Dogs/Hamburgers

September Fall Festival

September 26 (Sat.) Trunk or Treat (for Community)

November 22 Pie Social

May Mission: Trinity Lutheran Church Maintenance

Men's Group: Breakfast will be held at Mills River Diner at 9:00AM on May 29

Women of the Church Luncheon: To Be Determined

Installation of New Members Dale & BC Koch



New Ramp completed. Looks nice!
Painting will be done in a couple of weeks.



Tore's Home

Please remember the residents of Tore's Home during this with a card or note. We are making a difference in their lives!

Tore's Home
Attn: Jennifer
43 Tore's Drive
East Flat Rock, NC 28726

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108 East King Street
P.O. Box 497
East Flat Rock, NC 28726
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Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

Church Council Members:
President: Michele Snyder
Vice President: Don Arthur
Secretary: Yvonne Forsyth
Treasurer: Larry Snyder
Janis Henderson and Dorothy Greenauer voting members

Next Council Meeting:
Sunday, May 17 @ 11:30 AM

I said a prayer for you today....



Prayer List

Resident at Tore's Home, Darrell, Tommy, Cathy, Ed, Bill, Gary, Savannah, Trish, Ola, Vicki, Evelyn, Steve John, Erin, Bailey, Ola, Robert, Corbin, Lauren

Our Call Committee
Police Officers
First Responders

Health Care Professionals
Military Personnel
Fire & Rescue Workers

Lord of Grace, we pray for all those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially for those on the prayer list of our Congregation, and for all those we name before you now. In your loving kindness meet their needs, we pray. HEAR US, O LORD...

Prayer Warrior Team



Who Can You Call On For HELP?

Trinity has a team of Prayer

Warriors that will intercede on your behalf to lift physical or spiritual needs to God. When things seem the darkest or most urgent, we are here to help. "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." (Philippians 4:13)



Honoring Mothers on May 10th:

Mother's Day is more than a date on the calendar; it is a dedicated pause to recognize the quiet, constant strength of the women who shape our lives. Whether through biological ties, adoption, or spiritual mentorship, mothers provide the foundation of grace and resilience that carries us through our hardest seasons. In a church setting, this day offers a beautiful opportunity to reflect on the nurturing heart of God, mirrored in the selfless love of a mother. Honoring them means acknowledging the sleepless nights, the fervent prayers, and the countless small sacrifices that often go unnoticed. It is a time to celebrate the hands that have held ours and the voices that have guided us toward faith. However, true honor also involves a spirit of compassion. For some, this day is a joyous celebration, but for others, it carries the weight of loss, longing, or unmet hopes. A truly meaningful tribute recognizes every woman—those who are currently mothering, those who desire to, and those who have filled the role of "mom" for someone in need of a home. When we honor mothers, we are really honoring the legacy of love they leave behind, a legacy that continues to grow in the hearts of everyone they have touched.



We have a convenient option for online giving on our church's website. It is an easy way to make financial contributions to Trinity Lutheran Church. If you would like to use this new option to donate to church, please go to the church website at <https://www.trinitylutherannc.org/donate>. There is no cost to you or the church for using this service. Donations can also be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 497, East Flat Rock, NC 28726. Tithes & Offerings.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

May Birthday's: Richard Porter (26)
May Anniversaries: Yvonne & Wayne (21)

