

VINEYARD



APRIL 2026

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

LCMS

AND SCHOOL

WINFIELD, KS

LUTHERAN HOUR PROGRAM GUIDE  
LISTEN TO THE LUTHERAN HOUR  
SUNDAYS KSOK 1280AM, 95.9PM, 8:00AM

- April 5, 2026

**"You Don't Know What You Have Till It's Gone"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

Death is the enemy of life, but in Jesus, God made death become life's servant.

1 Corinthians 15:26

- April 12, 2026

**"Early Adopters"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

The risen Jesus is the "display model" of what we will be, through faith in Him.

1 Corinthians 15:20

- April 19, 2026

**"Not in Vain"**

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti

Because Jesus lives, your future is certain. You can also be confident that your present life has meaning and worth. In the Lord, your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

- April 26 - TBD

## WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

(1 April 2026) Isaiah 62:11—63:7      Romans 5:6—11 Luke 22:1—23:56 *or* John 13:16—38

### ***The Son of God Is Glorified in His Self-Sacrificing Divine Love for Sinners***

“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). It is in this self-sacrificing divine love that “*the Son of Man [is] glorified, and God is glorified in him*” (John 13:31). Not for His benefit, but at His own expense, “*according to the abundance of his steadfast love,*” He alone treads the winepress of His cross and Passion (Is. 63:3, 7). But “*his reward is with him*” for the salvation of sinners, whom He has not forsaken but sought out (Is. 62:11—12). Thus do we “*rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*” since we are “*reconciled to God by the death of his Son,*” and we are “*saved by his life*” (Rom. 5:10—11). As He prayed for Simon Peter against the assaults of Satan, that he should be restored after his denials and strengthen his brothers (Luke 22:31—32), so does He now send His ministers to serve and strengthen us, who recline “*at table at Jesus’ side*” (John 13:20, 23). And as we are disciples whom Jesus loves, so does He command us to “*love one another*” (John 13:34—35).

## HOLY THURSDAY

(2 April 2026) Exodus 24:3—11      Exodus 12:1—14      Hebrews 9:11—22      *or*      1 Corinthians 11:23—32  
Matthew 26:17—30      John 13:1—17, 31b—35

### ***Let Us Love One Another, as Christ Jesus Has Loved Us and Loves Us to the End***

“*The LORD’s Passover*” (Ex. 12:11) and “*the blood of the covenant*” at Mount Sinai (Ex. 24:8) foreshow the Lord’s Supper. The blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, now covers us, and we keep His Supper “*as a feast to the LORD*” (Ex. 12:14). In Him, we see “*the God of Israel*” (Ex. 24:10), and yet He does not lay His hand on us to punish us, but from His hand we eat and drink in peace. As our High Priest, He “*entered once for all into the holy places ... by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption*” (Heb. 9:12). He shed His own blood in order to “*purify our conscience*” and bring us before His God and Father “*without blemish*” (Heb. 9:14). The holy apostles received this New Testament in His blood from the Lord Jesus “*on the night when he was betrayed,*” and they delivered the same to His Church, which we also now receive in the name and remembrance of Christ (1 Cor. 11:23—26; Matt. 26:26—28). He has “*loved his own who were in the world,*” and He loves us “*to the end*” (John 13:1); therefore, let us also “*love one another*” (John 13:34).

## GOOD FRIDAY

(3 April 2026) Isaiah 52:13—53:12      Hebrews 4:14—16; 5:7—9      John 18:1—19:42 *or* John 19:17—30

### ***Behold the Lamb of God, Who Takes Away the Sin of the World***

Jesus, the Lamb of God, is led to the slaughter of His cross as the Sacrifice of Atonement for the sin of the world. “*Despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief*” (Is. 53:3), He is the righteous Servant who justifies many by His innocent suffering and death. He bears our griefs and sorrows; He is wounded for our transgressions; He is crushed for our iniquities; He suffers our chastisement; “*and with his wounds we are healed*” (Is. 53:4—5). As the Son of God, He fulfills the Law for us in human flesh, and so fulfills the Scriptures (John 19:7, 24). In perfect faith and faithfulness, He shares all our weaknesses and temptations, “*yet without sin*” (Heb. 4:15). As our merciful High Priest, He brings us to the Father in peace, “*makes intercession for the transgressors*” (Is. 53:12), and joins our prayers to His own, so that we are heard “*because of his reverence*” (Heb. 5:7). From His cross, He gives us His Spirit (John 19:30), washes us with water from His side, and covers us with His blood (John 19:34).

## HOLY SATURDAY

(4 April 2026) Daniel 6:1—24      1 Peter 4:1—8      Matthew 27:57—66

### ***We Live and Love in the Peace and Promise of the Resurrection of Christ Jesus***

The disciples of Christ Jesus, like St. Joseph of Arimathea, deal in love with the body of Christ, in the sure and certain promise of the resurrection (Matt. 27:57—60). For they also remember what He said, that after three days He would rise, though His enemies conspire against Him and seek to thwart Him (Matt. 27:63). Indeed, we find a type and promise of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ already in the prophet Daniel. For he was blameless and faithful, and “*an excellent spirit was in him*” (Dan. 6:3—4, 22). Although he was accused and delivered over to death, the Lord preserved his life and raised him up in righteousness, “*because he had trusted in his God*” (Dan. 6:23). So let us also pray and give thanks to God (Dan. 6:10), finding peace and Sabbath rest in Jesus Christ. And knowing that “*the end of all things is at hand,*” let us be “*self-controlled and sober-minded,*” and “*keep loving one another earnestly*” (1 Peter 4:7—8).

## **EASTER SUNRISE**

(5 April 2026) Exodus 14:10—15:1 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 John 20:1–18

### ***The Lord Jesus Brings Us Out of Death into Life with His God and Father in Heaven***

In Adam, all people die because all people sin. The children of that first gardener have been driven out of Paradise and return to the dust whence they were taken. But now another Gardener has come, who has made His bed in the dust of the earth and who, by His rising, restores Paradise to all the children of men. With His voice of the Gospel, He calls us by name, and He opens our eyes to behold Him by faith. At His Word, we enter His tomb through Baptism into His death, so that, just as He is risen, we also “*rise from the dead*” (John 20:9). Come, then, “*sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously*” (Ex. 15:1). He has fought for us against our enemies, and in His resurrection not one enemy remains. “*Fear not,*” therefore, but “*see the salvation of the LORD*” (Ex. 14:13), which He delivers “*as of first importance*” by the preaching of His Gospel (1 Cor. 15:3). Thus, we are raised with Christ “*in accordance with the Scriptures*” (1 Cor. 15:4), and we stand firm because we “*are being saved*” (1 Cor. 15:1–2).

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

(5 April 2026) Acts 10:34–43 or Jeremiah 31:1–6 Colossians 3:1–4 Matthew 28:1–10

### ***The Victory of Christ Crucified Is Given to You in the Preaching of His Resurrection***

Every Sunday is the Lord’s day, the day of His resurrection, “*after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week*” (Matt. 28:1). In the Divine Service, the Church enters upon the eternal “*eighth day.*” The Lord Jesus, “*who was crucified,*” who “*has risen, as he said*” (Matt. 28:5–6), is the firstborn from the dead and the firstfruits of the new creation. Because “*you have died*” with Him in Holy Baptism, “*you have been raised with Christ*” and “*your life is hidden with Christ in God*” (Col. 3:1, 3). The Lord Jesus has become our God, as surely as He is “*the God of all the clans of Israel,*” and we now belong to His people (Jer. 31:1). In this, He “*shows no partiality*” (Acts 10:34), but “*everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name*” (Acts 10:43). As “*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power*” and “*raised him on the third day,*” He also raises us up and pours out His Spirit upon us through the Gospel (Acts 10:38, 40).

## **EASTER EVENING / MONDAY**

(5 or 6 April 2026) Exodus 15:1–18 or Daniel 12:1c–3 Acts 10:34–43 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b–8 Luke 24:13–35 (36–49)

### ***The Passover Lamb of God Is Known in the Breaking of the Bread***

The celebration of Easter is a never-ending feast because “*Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed*” (1 Cor. 5:7). “*Let us therefore celebrate the festival*” (1 Cor. 5:8), and let us “*sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously*” (Ex. 15:1). He is our strength and our song because He has become our salvation. “*They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day*” (Acts 10:39–40). His chosen witnesses, “*who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead*” (Acts 10:41), now preach “*forgiveness of sins through his name*” (Acts 10:43). By this preaching, Jesus draws near and leads us to His holy abode. He opens the Scriptures to us, and He opens our minds to understand “*the things concerning himself*” (Luke 24:27). He opens our eyes to recognize His wounds and to know Him “*in the breaking of the bread*” (Luke 24:35). At His table, He pours out the Spirit of His Father upon us, so that we shall be delivered; we shall be awakened from the dust of the earth, not to shame and everlasting contempt, but “*to everlasting life*” (Dan. 12:2).

## **EASTER TUESDAY**

(7 April 2026) Daniel 3:8–28 Acts 13:26–33 Luke 24:36–49

### ***Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins Are Preached in the Name of the Risen Lord Jesus***

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego trusted in the Lord their God, and in such faith they “*set aside the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God*” (Dan. 3:28). And when they were cast “*into the burning fiery furnace,*” the Lord was with them to preserve their bodies and life against all harm (Dan. 3:23–27). Thus did they come out of the fire as a type of the resurrection of Christ Jesus, who trusted His Father and went to His death in fulfillment of “*the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms.*” No less so is it written, “*that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name*” (Luke 24:44–47). For “*what God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled*” now also for us, by raising Jesus from the dead. So does Christ Jesus send His ministers with “*the message of this salvation*” (Acts 13:26, 32–33). They are “*his hands and his feet*” in the world, bearing the promised Spirit from His Father and bestowing His peace upon us (Luke 24:36, 40, 49).

## **EASTER WEDNESDAY**

(8 April 2026) Acts 3:13–15, 17–19 Colossians 3:1–7 or 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 John 21:1–14

### ***The Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Feeds His Disciples and Grants Them Life with God***

The Lord our God has fulfilled His promises by handing over Christ Jesus to the suffering and death of His cross, and by raising Him from the dead (Acts 3:15, 18). As He has thus “*glorified his servant Jesus,*” He now calls you to repentance, “*that your sins may be blotted out*” through faith in Him (Acts 3:13, 19). So did Jesus reveal Himself “*to the disciples after he was raised from the dead*” (John 21:14), thereby calling them to repentance and restoring their faith and life in Him. Recalling earlier signs of His glory, He granted them a miraculous catch of fish and then fed them a meal of bread and fish that He had prepared for them (John 21:6, 9, 12–13). The same Lord Jesus continues to feed His Church through the ministry of His servants; for what they have “*received from the Lord,*” His body given and His blood poured out, they also deliver to His disciples in remembrance of Him (1 Cor. 11:23–24). Therefore, set your mind on “*Christ who is your life,*” and “*seek the things that are above*” within His Holy Sacraments (Col. 3:1–4).

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

(12 April 2026) Acts 5:29–42 1 Peter 1:3–9 John 20:19–31

### ***Christ Jesus Breathes His Spirit and His Life into Us by the Ministry of the Gospel***

The crucified and risen Lord Jesus establishes the ministry of the Gospel in order to bestow His life-giving Holy Spirit and His peace upon the Church. To those who are called and ordained to this office, and to those they serve in His name, He grants the Holy Absolution of all sins. By the fruits of His cross, He replaces fear and doubt with peace and joy, and thus gives “*repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins*” (Acts 5:31). Through the preaching of His sent ones, He calls us to believe that He “*is the Christ, the Son of God,*” so that by such faith we “*may have life in his name*” (John 20:31). In His resurrection, we have the “*living hope*” to which we have been “*born again*” and by which we are guarded “*for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time*” (1 Peter 1:3, 5). Until then, “*though you have not seen him, you love him,*” and by the mercies of God “*you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory*” (1 Peter 1:8).

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

(19 April 2026) Acts 2:14a, 36–41 1 Peter 1:17–25 Luke 24:13–35

### ***The Risen Lord Jesus Is with Us in Holy Baptism and in ‘the Breaking of the Bread’***

From “*before the foundation of the world*” until heaven and earth pass away, “*the word of the Lord remains forever*” (1 Peter 1:20, 25). This “*living and abiding word of God*” is the preaching of Christ Jesus, namely that God “*raised him from the dead and gave him glory*” (1 Peter 1:21, 23). By this living word, we “*have been born again*” to eternal life (1 Peter 1:23) and ransomed from our sinful and mortal life “*with the precious blood of Christ*” (1 Peter 1:18–19). This living word also calls us to repentance, to dying and rising in Holy Baptism “*in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins*” (Acts 2:38). In this, we receive the Holy Spirit “*for you and for your children and for all who are far off*” (Acts 2:39). Through the preaching of His cross and resurrection, Jesus draws near to bring us “*into his glory*” (Luke 24:26). As He opens the Scriptures, He opens our minds to comprehend “*the things concerning himself*” (Luke 24:27), and He brings us to know Him “*in the breaking of the bread*” (Luke 24:35).

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

(26 April 2026) Acts 2:42–47 1 Peter 2:19–25 John 10:1–10

### ***The Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ Is Our Good Shepherd***

Although we “*were straying like sheep,*” the Lord Jesus Christ has willingly suffered and died for us, bearing our sins “*in his body on the tree*” (1 Peter 2:24–25). We are healed by His wounds (1 Peter 2:24), and in His resurrection He gathers us to Himself as our Good Shepherd, by whose righteousness we “*have life and have it abundantly*” (John 10:10). Now through other shepherds whom He calls and sends in His name, He guards and keeps us in the green pastures of His Church, leading us beside the quiet waters of our Baptism and spreading the feast of His table before us. Since He has called us by the Gospel to be His own dear sheep, we also “*hear his voice*” and “*know his voice*” (John 10:3–4) in the faithful preaching of His Gospel, and we follow Him by faith. When we receive His Gospel, we have the abundant life and common unity of the entire flock under one Good Shepherd, in “*the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship*” and in “*the breaking of bread and the prayers*” (Acts 2:42).



**Calendar for Lent**

- Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – 12:00pm Holy Week Noon Worship
- Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – 12:00pm Holy Week Noon Worship
- Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – 12:00pm Holy Week Noon Worship
- Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship
- Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6:30pm Good Friday Worship
- Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm Easter Vigil Worship
- Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> –
  - 6:30am Sunrise Easter Worship
  - 7:45am Breakfast
  - 9:00am Easter Worship
  - 10:30am Easter egg hunt



Congratulations to Colleen and Nash Ringquist on the birth of their son, Clyde Ringquist, 8lbs 5 oz, 21.5 inches, born 1:34 am on March 23. All are doing well. If you want to send a card and/or gift, the address is 3427 Kendale Dr, Ft Wayne IN 46835-3314.



Redeemer Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran Churches are taking an outing to the ballpark! Wind Surge Baseball Outing (Wichita) Friday, May 1, 6:35 p.m. Wind Surge vs. Arkansas

Special promotions include Friday Fireworks and Scooby Doo Night!

Tickets are ~\$16-\$20 each with cheaper options if we get at least 20 people to sign up by April 20. Many attendees are willing to carpool. We'll start a ticket sign-up in early April.

Questions? Contact Becky Reid, 620-218-5871



**Youth group is meeting on Sundays: 4:00-5:30pm.** Join us! Friends are welcome!

**The KS District Middle School Huddle** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) is April 17-18, 2026, at Rock Springs Ranch.

Pastor Meyer is the keynote speaker and Pastor Warneke in on the planning committee. Registration packets and \$65 were due by March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Late registration is accepted at an increased price.

**The youth will host the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.** Youth will hide eggs at 8:30 am and then sit with their family during the worship service.

**Mark your calendars!** We are planning a youth trip to Branson June 12-13<sup>th</sup> (Fri/Sat). Specific details will be emailed soon.

**We welcome Amy Vibbert!** She was elected to join the youth board leadership.

- April 5<sup>th</sup> No youth group: Easter Sunday
- April 12<sup>th</sup> Yes
- April 19 Yes
- April 26 Yes
- May 3 Yes
- May 10 Yes
- May 17 No youth: WHS Graduation
- May 24 No youth: Memorial Day weekend
- May 31 Yes

Serving for Him, Debbie, Savannah, Mandy and Janet



Trinity School 7th-8th graders are going on a field trip to Oklahoma City! They will be touring the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, the Science Museum, and more! To help defray the cost of this field trip, the students are holding a bake sale. The bake sale will be held on Sunday, April 12th. It will be held outside on the sidewalk area by the main parking lot. Come ready to buy tasty treats! We appreciate your support of our students!



Trinity Members are invited to the Trinity Lutheran School Spring Musical. Their production of Danny and Shacks will take place Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm and Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00pm.

**No school or Bible Study on Good Friday – Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The office will be closed. There is no school Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The office will be closed.**



The youth will host an Easter Egg Hunt for the children at Trinity. The hunt will happen after the 9:00am Worship Service on Easter morning.

Join the members of Trinity on Easter morning for an Easter breakfast! Breakfast will start after the Sunrise Service.



On March 21st. Katie Wilson, Diane Glasgow and Sharlene Book traveled to El Dorado to attend the Wichita Zone Spring Event which was hosted by the LWML Women of CHRIST(Augusta) and GRACE (El Dorado) Lutheran Churches. Pastor Scott Goltl led the Prayer Service.

One of the Service Projects we heard about was the “Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch” The offering gathered that day will be sent to the Ranch in Minot N.D. The Care Facility is the recipient of Mission Grant Number 8 for the 2025-2027 term. The Grant was \$60,000. The Ranch is a facility for young girls and boys who need loving care and healing from abusive home situations.

We heard a presentation about another Mission Project for the 2025-2026 term that is based in the Wichita area. Grant #23 “Faith & Food for Single Mothers” which uses the \$36000 given to them for helping supplement food to a nearby food bank for qualifying single Mothers. This was spearheaded by Risen Savior Wichita- Lutheran Women in Mission. (LWML)

Both of these Grants are examples of how the Mite Offerings collected by LWML each month from congregations all over the United States have helped in so many ways!! Thanks to all who have dropped your coins into Trinity’s Mite Offering Box which is placed in the back of the Sanctuary as you walk in the last services of each month.

**Circle Meetings**  
**RUTH- April 13 at 6 pm**  
**Hostess: Rachel Dehning**  
**Trinity Overflow**  
**Bible Study Leader:**  
**Rachel Dehning**

**ESTHER- April 14 at 9am**  
**Hostess: Nancy Lann**  
**#20 Fleetwood Drive**  
**Co Hostess:**  
**Christine Logan**  
**Bible Study Leader:**  
**Katie Wilson**

Upcoming on May 5th LWML “Ladies Night Out” at Pizza Ranch in Ark City at 5:30 pm. Any interested Trinity Ladies are invited to join us for our last meeting for fellowship and reflection of our activities this year and goals for the coming year. We are also inviting Redeemer Ark City ladies to join us for the event. Questions and to RSVP call Sharlene Book 620-218-4429

VI. The Sacrament of the Altar  
*As the Head of a Family Should Teach It  
 in a Simple Way to His Household*

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

Answer: It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, for us Christians to eat and to drink, instituted by Christ Himself.

From "VI. The Sacrament of the Altar" in The Small Catechism, Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, Pocket Edition. © 2005, 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Source: <https://bookofconcord.cph.org/en/small-catechism/communion/>



Coming soon... Beginning in the month of April, Trinity will be offering communion at both the Saturday and Sunday services every week. In order to help prepare hearts and minds for this treasure, an expanded communion policy is currently being revised. The intention is for these sheets to be laminated and placed in each hymn rack for easy access. These are intended for the member and nonmember alike. While not all inclusive of any and every situation, they aim to give guidance on what is Communion. Also included is: who should participate in this Sacrament, who should abstain for a time, how one might come to receive Christ's body and blood for forgiveness,

life, and salvation. I would ask that you make a practice of coming early in order to read, mark, learn, and meditate on this gift and in order to assist visitors in their understanding as well. Blessings and Godspeed to you all.

## DAILY LECTIONARY

See pages 299-304 of Lutheran Service book  
Or The Treasury of Daily Prayer

01 Apr	Ex 10:21—11:10	Heb 4:1–16
02 Apr	Ex 12:1–28	Heb 5:1–14
03 Apr	Ex 12:29–32; 13:1–16	Heb 6:1–20
04 Apr	Ex 13:17–14:9	Heb 7:1–22
05 Apr	Ex 14:10–31	Heb 7:23–8:13
06 Apr	Ex 15:1–18	Heb 9:1–28
07 Apr	Ex 15:19–16:12	Heb 10:1–18
08 Apr	Ex 16:13–35	Heb 10:19–39
09 Apr	Ex 17:1–16	Heb 11:1–29
10 Apr	Ex 18:5–27	Heb 12:1–24
11 Apr	Ex 19:1–25	Heb 13:1–21
12 Apr	Ex 20:1–24	Luke 4:1–15
13 Apr	Ex 22:20—23:13	Luke 4:16–30
14 Apr	Ex 23:14–33	Luke 4:31–44
15 Apr	Ex 24:1–18	Luke 5:1–16
16 Apr	Ex 25:1–22	Luke 5:17–39
17 Apr	Ex 31:1–18	Luke 6:1–19
18 Apr	Ex 32:1–14	Luke 6:20–38
19 Apr	Ex 32:15–35	Luke 6:39–49
20 Apr	Ex 33:1–23	Luke 7:1–17
21 Apr	Ex 34:1–28	Luke 7:18–35
22 Apr	Ex 34:29—35:21	Luke 7:36–50
23 Apr	Ex 38:21—39:8, 22–23, 27–31	Luke 8:1–21
24 Apr	Ex 39:32—40:16	Luke 8:22–39
25 Apr	Ex 40:17–38	Luke 8:40–56
26 Apr	Lev 8:1–13, 30–36	Luke 9:1–17
27 Apr	Lev 9:1–24	Luke 9:18–36
28 Apr	Lev 10:1–20	Luke 9:37–62
29 Apr	Lev 16:1–24	Luke 10:1–22
30 Apr	Lev 17:1–16	Luke 10:23–42

**"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me..." - John 5:39**

## An Extremely Brief History on Communion Statements

At this time the Elders of Trinity and I are exploring how to fully express what we believe to be true concerning the Sacrament of Holy Communion in an efficient way. This... is somewhat of a difficult thing. Fullness and efficiency are often in competition with each other leaning either into halve truths or overly complex diatribes.

The need for written Communion Statements is a fairly recent one. In days before our present systems of movement by planes, trains, and automobiles, movement was severely limited. Travel necessitated time to plan and prepare. In addition, people came to expect and accept other limitations and formalities. The back cover from Trinity in 1941 says this, "... Announcement is to be made to the pastor in person at time appointed." In short, this meant that the only ones taking communion in those days were those who had scheduled, or more likely, had been told when they were to come and meet with the pastor before they would be admitted to the Lord's Table. Pastors might send a letter ahead of a visitor or the guest might carry a card identifying them as a member in good standing of another sister congregation.

For good, for bad, more recent communion statements have been adopted which reflect in some ways the changing world. Travel is easier. Formality is viewed as unbecoming. The truth? It is actually impossible to put together a comprehensive statement that doesn't fall into open communion or become an undue barrier.

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod speaking not simply to communion statements but concerning the practice of "closed" communion notes the following as absolute truths:

1. Concern that the recipients know "what they seek" and "why they come" (Luther's Large Catechism, "Of the Sacrament of the Altar"), and therefore receive Christ's body and blood for their benefit (forgiveness), not harm (1 Cor. 11).
  2. The New Testament requires unity in doctrine and doctrinal practice (1 Cor. 1:10, etc.).
  3. There are exceptional cases that require pastoral discretion.
- <https://reporter.lcms.org/2024/close-closed-closed-communion-three-words-one-meaning>

Here he hits the nail on the head identifying that Communion is Christ's gift given to His church on earth. As such, care should be taken to make certain that there is ongoing knowledge, care, and unity employed by the visitors, the members, and the Pastors. More to come...

Godspeed, Rev Seth A Meyer