

The New Trinity Times

- TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL -

APRIL 2025

Lombard, Illinois



A Minecraft Movie *by Addison Meredith*

There is an amazing new movie that came out on April 4. This film made all the other movies look like little tiny babies. IMDb (Internet Movie Database) says this is the most popular movie, because it is. **Minecraft** is a well known and much loved video game for a long time, and finally decided to make a movie. **A Minecraft Movie** features amazing actors: Jack Black as Steve, Jason Momoa as Garrett, Emma Myers as Natalie, Jennifer Coolidge as Vice Principal Marlene, Danielle Brooks as Dawn, and Sebastian Eugene Hansen as Henry, who previously played only minor roles before this role in **A Minecraft Movie**.

[continued on page 2]

- April 25: Grade School Band Concert @ Walther, 7 p.m.
- April 28: Track Meet @ Willowbrook High School, 4 p.m.
- April 29: Hot Lunch - Taco Tuesday!
- April 30, May 1 & 2: Class Trip, 7th & 8th grade
- April 30: Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
- May 3: St. John's Track Meet @ Willowbrook High School, 4 p.m.
- May 4: Spring Band Concert @ Walther, 3:30 p.m.
- May 6: Hot Lunch - Pizza
- May 7: Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
- May 8: Track Meet @ Concordia University Chicago
- May 9: Nachos \$1
- May 11: Mother's Day, Students Sing in Church, 9 a.m.
- May 13: Hot Lunch - Mac 'n' Cheese
- May 14: Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
- May 16: Fine Arts Festival, doors open 6 p.m.
- May 18: Confirmation
- May 20: Hot Lunch - Hot Dog
- May 22: Graduation, 6 p.m.
- May 23: Last Day, Closing Chapel, 8:30 a.m., Early Dismissal, 11:30 a.m.
- June 2-6: Vacation Bible School, 9:15-11:30 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Minecraft Movie *[continued from page 1]*

This film has taken the movie industry by storm, with its action filled, stupidly hilarious, fun for your family and all your friends, that will leave you on the edge of your comfortable theater seats.

This movie is about four misfits who get sucked into a magical portal because of the Orb of Dominance. When they get to the other side of the portal they find themselves in Minecraft, with the villains who are called Poglins (Poglins are humanoid creatures who invade the overworld, under the command of their leader Malgosha, and the very funny General Chungis.) The poglins want the Orb of Dominance, because the Orb of Dominance allows them to rule over the overworld. It is up to the four misfits - Henry, Dawn, Garrett, and Natalie - along with the amazing Steve to beat the poglins, and save the overworld.

This movie includes some of the many amazing lines you see all over any kind of social media. Some of these lines are: "I, am Steve," "chicken jockey!," and "flint and steel." These lines have been very big hits in the theaters. Calmer movie crowds may just clap or recite the lines along with the characters on screen, but some of the crazier theatergoers throw popcorn, jump up and down, and become quite loud with excitement. One fan even ended up sneaking a chicken in the theater, and brought it out when Steve said, "chicken jockey." This kind of craziness only happens infrequently, usually in college towns. No matter what kind of theater you find yourself in, you will likely find this movie is a prime example of what is often described as *peak cinema*, because it simply is *peak cinema*. [EDITOR'S NOTE: ICYMI, *peak cinema* is "a truly remarkable work of film art which stands above others."]

One amazing part of this film is the Steve's Lava Chicken song. When the five characters get to the village, Steve shows them his Hot Lava Chicken stand, with a jingle that is sure to be stuck in your head:

*La-La-La-Lava, Ch-Ch-Ch-Chicken
Steve's Lava Chicken yeah it's tasty as **//
Ooh, mamacita, now you're ringing the bell
Crispy and juicy, now you're having a snack
Ooh, super spicy, it's a lava attack.*

This song is absolutely beautiful, and never fails to bring tears to this reviewer's eyes with its wonderfully catchy lyrics, and Jack Black's amazing vocals.

No matter, whether you enjoy watching movies or not, whether you play **Minecraft** or not, or whether you like going to the theaters or not...there is no excuse to miss this flick. You need to see **A Minecraft Movie**. It is amazing, beautiful, and absolute *peak cinema*. You need to see this movie in your lifetime - you need to - it's perfect in every way.



*My Starbucks that i was able to sneak into **A Minecraft Movie** - because even food deserves to watch this beautiful piece of cinema.*

Just a bit over a week ago, we walked through Holy Week from Palm Sunday through Easter. In the afterglow of the Easter celebration of Christ's Resurrection, it's worth taking time to look back on the road from Jerusalem to Calvary.

PALM SUNDAY

by Robert Hawn and Abby Pilny

Palm Sunday is the day that Jesus came to Jerusalem and rode down the road, everyone shouting, "Hosanna, to the son of David!".

The Pharisees were upset and asked Jesus to make them stop, but Jesus said, "If they were to stop, the very rocks would cry out," and He went away. One of the things that happened on Palm Sunday when Jesus came to town was that He asked His disciples to go and get a donkey. This donkey had never been ridden before. When Jesus got the donkey the disciples put their coats on the donkey and went to town. When the people saw him they threw their coats on the ground and grabbed palm branches and waved their palm branches saying "Hosanna, to the son of David."



READ ABOUT THE FIRST PASSOVER IN EXODUS 12 AND ABOUT JESUS' PASSOVER IN JERUSALEM IN MATTHEW 26:17-29.

A Quick Introduction to *Holy Week*



Palm Sunday

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.



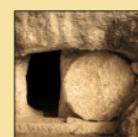
Maundy Thursday

Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.



Good Friday

Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying the Stations of the Cross and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.



Holy Saturday

Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.



Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.

READ ABOUT THE FIRST PASSOVER IN EXODUS 12 AND ABOUT JESUS' PASSOVER IN JERUSALEM IN MATTHEW 26:17-29.

Passover

by Ariana Mehrazar

The Passover, the Old Testament Biblical commemoration of God's liberation of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt was recognized from April 12 to April 20. As New Testament Christians, we celebrate through the Lord's Supper, instituted on the Passover, at Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples. In Holy Communion, the new Passover, Jesus is the Passover Lamb, taking away the sin of the world.

By participating in Communion, we are celebrating and thanking Christ for His sacrifice. The Lord's Supper consists of bread and wine, which is Jesus' body and blood – the body and of blood of Jesus, sacrificed on the cross.

Jesus died for our sins, even though He didn't commit any sins. He promised us salvation and life in heaven with Him. Jesus loves all of us, and the Passover recalls Jesus's promise to us.

Earth Day

by Kellen Pilny and Arian Gomez

Earth Day was originally recognized in 1970, and its purpose was to inform people about environmental issues. This would sometimes extend into Earth Week!

One of the main purposes of Earth Day is to encourage people to do their part to clean up our planet. Methods for doing so, could include recycling, picking up trash, unplugging a TV, or even using your bike instead of your car. Actually, Earth Day was partially inspired by Vietnam war protesters, when Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson pressed the government about damage to the earth post-war, due to big oil spills, pesticides, or fatal smog.

April 22 isn't globally known as just plain old "Earth Day". In other countries, some call it "International Mother Earth Day" (as dubbed by the United Nations in 2009)

- which is actually newer than the United States' "Earth Day," which was founded in 1970. But there is one thing about Earth Day that is globally true, and that's the fact that everyone can participate in it. Even if it's just planting a single tree, or cleaning up one's own neighborhood a bit.

A fun fact about Earth Day is that it has its own theme song! The Earth Day Anthem was created in 2013, by an Indian poet named *Abhay Kumar*. Since then the song has been translated and sung in all UN Languages! So everyone all over the world can sing and add a little joy into this day. Though, it was not always this way. Back when Earth Day was first created, only about 10% of America participated in the holiday. Which was only about 20 million Americans.



Sadly, although Earth Day has become more widespread, over three billion students lack environmental awareness and education. In 2020, people decided to try and change this. People at <https://www.earthday.org> released the *Climate Literacy Campaign*, which was made to encourage governments to participate in Earth Day, and to make Climate Literacy a part of the school curriculum throughout the world. As of now, over 300 million people support this, and 400 organizations support it.

**THE EARTH IS THE
LORD'S AND THE
FULLNESS THEREOF,
THE WORLD AND THOSE
WHO DWELL THEREIN,
FOR HE HAS FOUNDED
IT UPON THE SEAS
AND ESTABLISHED IT
UPON THE RIVERS.**
PSALM 24:1-2





Perennial Plants

by Ava Harrison

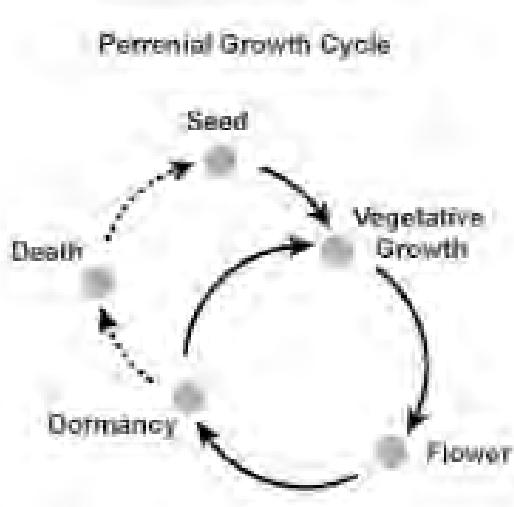
Perennial plants are plants that come back every year.

Coneflowers, peonies, sedums, daylilies, lavender, catmint, salvia, yarrow, alliums, and daffodils are some examples of perennial plants.

Perennials return to bloom each year because their root systems remain alive under ground throughout the winter, allowing them to sprout new growth from the same base when spring arrives. Even though the plant part above the ground dies in the cold weather, fresh growth re-emerges in spring from the thriving roots underground.

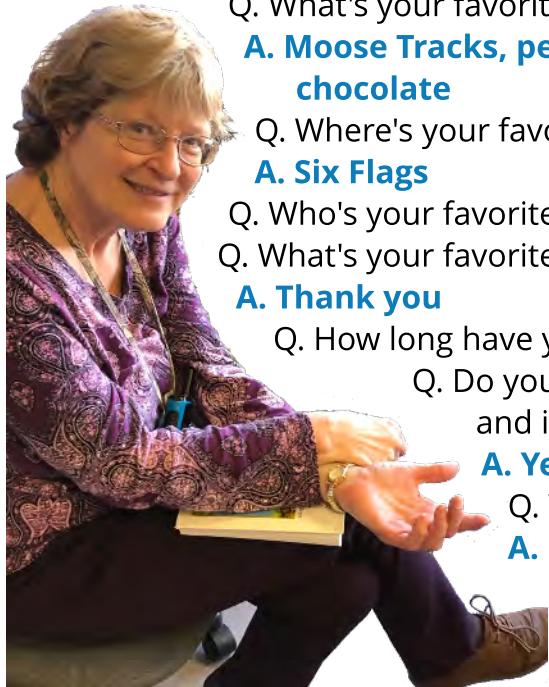
The word perennial comes from the Latin words "per" and "ennial" which literally translates into "through the year."

Pictured top to bottom: Catmint, Salvia, and Yarrow.



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

Meet and Greet Mrs. Scott *by John Doerries*



Q. What's your favorite color? **A. Blue**
 Q. What's your favorite ice cream flavor?
A. Moose Tracks, peanut butter cups and chocolate
 Q. Where's your favorite amusement park?
A. Six Flags
 Q. Who's your favorite author? **A. Lori Wick**
 Q. What's your favorite word in sign language?
A. Thank you
 Q. How long have you taught? **A. 38 years**
 Q. Do you enjoy teaching younger children, and is it a problem sometimes?
A. Yes, and the joys outweigh the challenges
 Q. What's your favorite park?
A. Danada, because they have horses
 Q. What do you do on your free time?
A. Bake, read, and walk
 Q. Where else have you taught?
A. One school in New York, five schools in Illinois

Q. What's your favorite subject? **A. Religion**
 Q. Where were you born? **A. Hannibal, Missouri**
 Q. Where did you go to school? **A. Concordia University in Nebraska**



My Interview with Pastor Wagner *by John Doerries*

Q. What's your favorite color? **A. Blue**
 Q. What's your favorite food? **A. Tex Mex or Mexican food**
 Q. What's your favorite book? **A. The Bible**
 Q. What's your favorite park? **A. Candy Cane Park in Conroe, Texas, where I grew up.**
 Q. What was your favorite school? **A. Conroe High School**
 Q. Where else did you go to school? **A. Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne**
 Q. What's your favorite Bible passage? **A. Romans 8:28-39**
 Q. What made you want to be a pastor? **A. I wanted to be a Catholic priest until I got older.**
 Q. What's your favorite holiday? **A. Christmas**
 Q. What's your favorite movie? **A. Rudy**
 Q. How old are you? **A. 57**
And one final important question...
 Q. What's your favorite sports team? **A. Houston Astros.**



Rev. Steve Wagner is Trinity's sole pastor.



Meet Mrs. Pilny

by Angelina Iverson



Q: How long have you been teaching at Trinity?

A: 7 years

Q: Favorite movie?

A: Secretariat

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: Spend time with my family.

Q: Favorite Bible verse?

A: John 14:27 "Jesus says, peace I leave with you my peace I give you. I do not give as the world gives. Don't let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

Q: Do you have any siblings?

A: Yes, an older sister.

Q: What school did you graduate from?

A: I attended Indiana State University

Q: Where is your hometown?

A: Columbus, Indiana

Q: What is your dream vacation?

A: My dream is to start visiting other countries with my family.

Q: Do you have a favorite book?

A: I've read a lot of great books, so I don't really have a favorite.

Q: Favorite holiday?

A: Christmas

Q: What is your favorite season and why?

A: Spring going into Summer when all the trees and flowers start to bloom and the birds start chirping.

Q: Biggest fear?

A: Roller coasters and snakes

Q: Favorite quote?

A: In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.

Mrs. Amy Pilny and Mrs. Sandra Iverson work with Trinity's preschool classes and each has a daughter in Journalism class.

MEET MRS. IVERSON!

by Abby Pilny



Q: How many years have you been at Trinity?

A: I've worked at the school since last year, and been at the church since 2001.

Q: Do you like teaching preschool, and if so why?

A: Yes, I love the kids.

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: I read and run.

Q: What's your favorite bible verse?

A: Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Q: Favorite Peruvian tradition you still celebrate?

A: Peruvian Independence Day

(Mrs. Iverson is from Peru)

Q: Do you speak any other languages and if not would you like to learn?

A: English, Spanish, and I'd like to learn Italian.

Q: What is your favorite color?

A: Green

Q: What is your favorite type of music?

A: Latin or pop music

Q: Any embarrassing moments you would like to share?

A: When I was 4, I wondered what a bald head felt like, and asked my older sister if I could touch someone's, and she said it was okay, so I did - it wasn't until after I did that I realized that it was wrong!

Q: If you were to have a superpower, what would it be and why?

A: Clone myself so I could do multiple things at a time.

Q: Where is your dream vacation?

A: Anywhere with a beach.



Meet Miss Rose

by Arian Gomez

Q: What's your favorite color? A: **MUSTARD YELLOW!!!**

Q: Why did you get involved in music?

A: **Both of my parents were music teachers, so it was given that we had to be involved in music, and it became the talent that I most wanted to develop.**

Q: What's your favorite food? A: **Toss up between lobster bisque and croissants...the best is when the lobster bisque has puff pastry on top because then it's like having both at the same time!**

Q: What kind of music do you like?

A: **A LOT of different stuff. Contemporary worship music, pop, alternative, country, Broadway, and a bunch of music that you would now call OLD.**

Q: if you had to pick another job that had no correlation to music what would it be?

A: **I would have my own event planning business or catering/microbakery.**

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: **White Christmas**

Q: Cats or dogs? A: **Dogs**

Q: What's your hometown? A: **Maywood, Illinois**

Q: What was your favorite subject in school?

A: **Algebra**

Q: How long have you taught at Trinity?

A: **I am not sure exactly how long I have taught in the building every week at Trinity, but I have been part of the Walther Music**

Program working with Trinity students for 20 years.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do when you're not working?

A: **Go on a hike/birding or binge a show, depending on the weather.**

Q: What's your favorite song? A: **There's no way I can pick just one.**

Q: What's your favorite hymn? A: **Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

Q: What's your favorite Bible verse?

A: **I can't choose single verses, because I like them to have context, but I'll give you my two favorite passages and the verse that hits me most. 2 Corinthians 4 "Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart...But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body...Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal," and John 1:1-14 "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."**

Miss Rose teaches music at Trinity and directs the Walther Grade School Instrumental Program which coordinates Band, Piano, and Strings programs at Trinity. She also is Trinity's piano accompanist for chapel.



MUSIC MAN: MR. LINSTEAD

by Chloe Doolin

Q. When did you start playing the organ at Trinity?

A. 2015

Q. Where else have you played the organ?

A. Several churches, all in the suburban Chicago area.

Q. As music director for Trinity Lutheran Church, what else do you, or have you done?

A. I am working for a company that builds and tunes pipe organs. This has been my only other job since school.

Q. How long have you been playing the organ?

A. 35 years

Q. Where were you taught to play the organ? Did you go to school to learn how to play it?

A. My first lessons were with Paul Frese, who was also my 3rd grade teacher at St. John Lombard. He plays for many Advent and Lent Wednesday services here at Trinity. I also attended school at Concordia River Forest and Northwestern Evanston.

Q. How many pipes are there in Trinity's organ?

A. 1702, both of metal and wood.

Q. Have you taught anyone else how to play it?

A. Yes, a couple of people.

Q. What is your favorite hymn?

A. It is difficult to choose only one, perhaps, *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Q. Do you play any other instruments?

A. Piano, which all organists start with. Also, French Horn.

Q. What's your favorite type of service to play for?

A. I like the Easter season that we are now in.

Q. What's your favorite Bible verse?

A. 1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

Q. What do you do when you're not playing the organ?

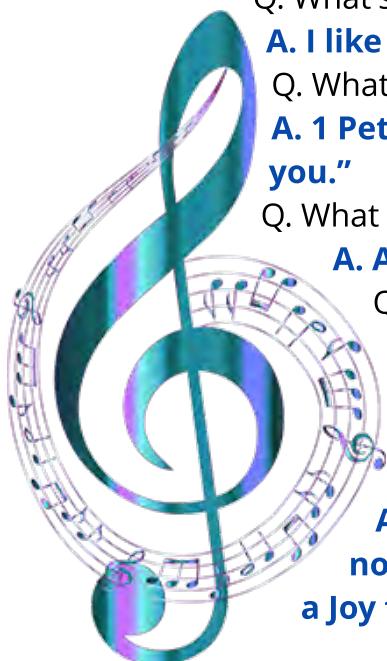
A. Attend an occasional concert and tend to the 'chores.'

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. Reading, listening to music, and enjoying outside weather in spring.

Q. What is something you would like to let people know that I haven't asked you about?

A. Joyful singing, whether we have a 'good' singing voice or not, is not only encouraging to our fellow worshiper, but is also a Joy for God to hear!



Both Christian, Seeking Change and Reform, Men of Protest... Keeping the Martin Luthers Straight *by Joshua Camiola*

In 1934, an African-American Baptist minister named Michael King made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and attended an international conference in Germany, where he learned about a native son and Protestantism founder Martin Luther King. King changed both his name and that of his young son, who became known to the world as Martin Luther King Jr! Thus marked the first and clearest connection between the two famed men. But while they were from different generations and countries, they had much more in common in their paths to a place in the history book.

The OG Martin Luther =



Frustrated by the hypocritical practices of the Church, Luther was particularly incensed by the selling of "indulgences," in which people essentially paid for the grace of God to fund such lavish projects as the new St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. He eventually determined that there was no need for a controlling and corrupt Church hierarchy; one could achieve salvation simply by putting their faith in looking to Scripture as the central religious authority.

King's anger wasn't directed toward the Church, but at a system of races had became elevated in everyday life and law since Reconstruction, one acutely felt by a highly intelligent and able African-American boy raised in the Jim Crow South. The seeds of Reformation were planted well before Martin first opened a Bible, as dissenters like 14th-century English theologian and academic John Wyclif (also spelled Wycliffe, among other variations) had previously spoken out against the Church's abuse of power. However, Luther benefited from the relatively recent invention of the printing press, which allowed his ideas to quickly spread across Europe.

Similarly, efforts to organize and empower African Americans had been around since before King was born, but the courageous stand of Rosa.

By standing up to the wrongs in the Church, Luther is credited with igniting the Reformation, which led to concepts of individuality, religious liberty and self-government. Today, more than 70 million people name their religion as Lutheran.

King's work also brought significant changes, from the 1956 Supreme Court ruling that ended segregation on city buses to the Civil Rights and Voting Acts of 1964 and '65. Recognized as an important figure of the American civil rights movement, he is one of the few non-U.S. presidents with a monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., and the only one to be honored with a national holiday.





All About Guinea Pigs

by Juliana Rivera

Guinea pigs like to be in groups. They are very social animals. These creatures spend up to 20 hours a day active. The critters have unique vision that allows them to almost see 360° around them. They have an odd number of toes. These animals love to hide.

The World's Deadliest Animal

by Ava Harrison

Do you know what the world's deadliest animal is? It is the mosquito. You might not expect something that small and common to be the world's deadliest animal but mosquitoes are responsible for over one million deaths globally each year. The reason this little pest is so deadly is because it can carry diseases like Malaria, Dengue, Zika, Chikungunya, Yellow Fever, and West Nile virus. Malaria

is a parasitic infection that can cause severe illness and death and it is primarily transmitted by Marsh mosquitoes or Anopheles mosquitoes. Dengue is a viral disease that is primarily spread by Aedes mosquitoes or Tiger mosquitoes. Zika, Chikungunya, and Yellow Fever are viral diseases that are also transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes. West Nile virus is a viral disease that is spread by Culex mosquitoes. It is very unlikely to be bitten by an infected mosquito but wearing bug spray will help deter mosquitoes.



DO-IT-YOURSELF MOSQUITO REPELLENTS

non-toxic



Lemon Eucalyptus Oil
One of the most effective natural repellents



Citronella Oil
Works by masking scents that have proven to attract mosquitoes



Lavender Oil
One of the most popular essential oils, known for its soothing effect



Peppermint Oil
Often cited as a repellent for many pests including mosquitoes and house mice



Soybean Oil
A common base ingredient in many natural mosquito repellents

Fun Facts:

- Only female mosquitoes bite because they need blood to produce eggs.
- Male mosquitoes primarily feed on nectar and plant juices.
- Mosquitoes can detect body heat from up to 75 feet away.
- A single female mosquito can lay up to 300 eggs at a time.
- It's estimated that mosquitoes drain 1.6 million gallons of blood from us every year.

RIFF WOOD

by Addison Meredith and Arian Gomez

Riff Wood is a wonderful band based out of Utah that includes three members: Hyrum Russon, Carson Groves, Asher (Shredder) Winegar. They have created a band called Riff Wood which these authors [Addison and Arian] personally love. Hyrum and Carson are each 15-years-old and Archer is 16-years-old. The lead singer and lead guitarist is Hyrum, the second guitarist is Carson, and the drummer is Asher. One of their most popular songs is *Blur*, (with which they won the Utah State Battle of the Bands as ninth graders in 2024 - along with a then fourth member of the band, Jaxon). Another of Riff Wood's hits is *One Thing's On My Mind*.

Riff Wood's song's are well written and well played rock songs, slightly reminiscent of Green Day. They are catchy and stick in your mind for hours. We recommend checking them out - give them a listen. Find Riff Wood and their (in these reviewers' opinions) amazing songs. If you are already a follower (perhaps one of the 170,000 on Riff Wood's Instagram account?) , you may know there are talks of a new album coming out .



Tell Me About Unicorns

by Sophia Garcia



Unicorns have always been known as powerful, wild animals. They are symbols in many different mythologies, including Celtic and Greek myths. They are also the national animals of Scotland.

In Celtic mythology, unicorns are visualized as purity, innocence, and power. There is a Celtic legend that only a noble young virgin could catch a unicorn, that the unicorn would be so mesmerized by the maiden that it would go to her willingly. Then it would fall asleep with its head on her lap, submitting to capture.

The unicorn in Greek mythology is a strong and fierce animal. The Greeks and Celts talk similar about attempts to capture a unicorn, but the Greek find its existence in a philosophical text known as the *Physiologus*, which describes fantastical creatures.

Did you know that the unicorn is also the Scottish national animal? It became the national animal in the 15th century several hundred years after King James II added it to his coat of arms. Following that, the unicorn became the widespread symbol for royalty in Scotland, and was subsequently adopted as the national animal.

Enjoy these photos from Trinity's recent Science Fair





The New Trinity Times is a monthly newsletter produced by the 5th through 8th grade students of Trinity Lutheran School in Lombard, Illinois. The 2024-2025 staff members are: Addison, Abigail, Angelina, Arian, Ariana, Ava, Bobby, Chloe, Damian, John, Joshua, Juliana, Kellen, and Sophia, under the direction of Mrs. Lori Solyom, journalism teacher.