

From the Pastor's Pen



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I confess. I love fall, but not because of the pumpkin spice! Fall stirs all of my senses and something awakens within me, even as much of creation is preparing for the long rest of winter. The beauty of fall is emerging all around us. The persistent green of summer is shifting to an ever-changing palette of yellow, orange, and red. The days are getting shorter and temperatures are cooling. Creatures are preparing their nests, dens, and food reserves. Change is upon us.

In the past five or six years, there have been significant changes to Trinity's staff, both in called, rostered staff and in hired, support staff. Essentially, our paid staff has been cut in half in that time. It wasn't too long ago that Trinity had two full-time pastors, a full-time youth director, a part-time worship and music director, a full-time administrative assistant, and a part-time office assistant. Today we have one full-time pastor, one full-time deacon, and a full-time office manager. Please know that Alex, Deacon Koren, and I have done our best to keep up with all of the duties and responsibilities required to manage a ministry like Trinity's. However, there are certainly tasks that were once the responsibility of the staff that we are no longer able to cover.

In recent months, I have been hearing concerns about a lack of pastoral care and visitation. To be clear, pastoral care has always been a part of my weekly rhythm, and I consistently provide care through visits in homes, hospitals, and the office, messages, phone calls, and cards. This is one of my roles as pastor that I take very seriously. It is a vital part of what I do and integral to the life of any faith community. However, the concern I've heard is that what is

currently happening is not sufficient. The reality is, I am not able to work more hours than I already do, and I am unable to eliminate any of my other daily and weekly responsibilities. I began to wonder if there was a creative way to address these concerns

So, in consultation with the council, I've come up with an experiment for us to try together. Beginning in October, for the rest of this year, one week per month will be designated as a "visitation week." Most of my time during visitation weeks will be devoted to pastoral care and visitation. This will not always work out perfectly, of course, but in general I will not be leading worship or preaching during these weeks. I won't be taking on additional meetings or events, and my administrative responsibilities will be minimal. My focus will be on visiting folks in their homes, in coffee shops, over lunch or dinner, and in a variety of other ways. The first of these visitation weeks will be October 20th-24th.

Our hope is that this change will help us better meet the pastoral care needs of our congregation. At the same time, I believe this change will be good for my soul, as I truly love connecting with you all, getting to know you better, hearing your stories and how God is at work in your lives. Your main role in this experiment will be to take the initiative to reach out to me if you would like to visit, and to provide feedback on how you think the experiment is going. If you have any questions or concerns about this change, please contact me directly. I look forward to visiting with you soon!

God's Peace.

Pastor Steve

Unapproved September Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Council members recited Trinity's mission statement. President Kurt Christiansen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Voting members present: Pastor Steven Lindley, Deacon Koren Lindley, President Kurt Christiansen, Vice-president Virginia Lemme, Past president Tom Farrell, Secretary Nancy Sabbe, Patti Weber—Board of Deacons, Dani Ruhd—Board of Faith Formation, Eric Anderson—Board of Trustees

Voting members absent: none

Vice-president Virginia Lemme read the devotion from Psalms 1:1–2, calling all to delight in the word of the Lord.

Pastor Steven Lindley led the opening prayer.

Motion by Past president Tom Farrell to add two items to the printed agenda: the minutes of the special meeting on August 29, 2025, and under new business, a quote from Merle's Steam Clean. Seconded by Patti Weber. Motion carried.

Motion by Vice-president Virginia Lemme, seconded by Past president Tom Farrell, to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Patti Weber, seconded by Dani Ruhd, to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2025 special meeting. Motion carried. Motion by Past president Tom Farrell to add the following note to the minutes of the special meeting: The meeting with Andrea Liddell was postponed to Thursday, September 4, 2025, because Andrea Liddell was out of town September 2nd and 3rd. Seconded by Dani Ruhd. Motion carried. Motion by Past president Tom Farrell to approve the minutes of August 29, 2025 with the addition. Seconded by Dani Ruhd. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Past president Tom Farrell reported that the unanticipated expenses for bat mitigation and replacing the windows in the education wing will be covered by donations and the Cornerstone Reserve Fund.

As of August 31, 2025, the total offering is \$14,767.60 below what was projected in the 2025 Mission Plan.

Motion by Vice-president Virginia Lemme, seconded by Dani Ruhd, to acknowledge the Financial Report. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Pastor Steven Lindley submitted a written report and added that he purchased a laptop computer. Motion by Vice-president Virginia Lemme, seconded by Dani Ruhd, to approve repayment of the credit card debt as established through Best Buy Credit at 0% interest—ACH of \$100/month for 8 months and a final payment of \$145 with funds from the Professional Expense budget line. Motion carried.

Deacon Koren Lindley submitted a written report. She continues to meet with her Faith Forward cohort. Trinity's project will be Faith On The Go boxes containing suggestions, etc., for families seeking ways to pass their faith on to the children in their lives.

President Kurt Christiansen reported that thank you messages have been received from St. Dysmas and the Church on the Street. He, Tami Christiansen, and Vice-president Virginia Lemme did some deep cleaning of the sanctuary before the September 7, 2025 worship services.

Vice-president Virginia Lemme reported

- She and Dani Ruhd are developing a form for Board Chairmen to complete as an introduction to the position for the incoming chairmen.
- Merle's Steam Clean has provided a quote of \$2,213.73 to clean carpets and upholstery in the sanctuary and the tile in the bathrooms near the offices. Motion by Past president Tom Farrell, seconded by Patti Weber, to accept the quote. Motion carried.
- Sandy Bordewyk, Lori Johnke, and Jane Maurer have volunteered to serve with Vice-president Virginia Lemme on a committee to coordinate volunteers including ushers, communion assistants, and lectors. They suggested that the Time and Talents survey be refreshed, but after discussion, it was decided to use a survey focusing on specific volunteer needs.

Unapproved September Council Meeting Minutes

Dani Ruhd reported for the Board of Faith Formation

- The Preschool will have a float in the DSU Homecoming Parade. The Preschool Board is planning a fundraiser.
- Sunday School began on September 7. 80 students are registered.
- Adult studies are ready to go.
- Preparations are being made for confirmation in October.

Patti Weber reported for the Board of Deacons

- Tami Christiansen and Pastor Steven Lindley are preparing for the Hanging of the Greens on November 30. The theme will be Fear Not.
- October coffee letters are out.
- Richard Wolf and Karen Kalvig are assisting Patti Weber in planning the 80+ birthday party. The party will be held on September 15 from 2:00–4:00.
- Home communion volunteers and the Care Team are active.
- Pastor Steven Lindley and Lucas Muller have reviewed the information for the church website.
- Trinity fed 200 DSU athletes and coaches.

Eric Anderson reported for the Board of Trustees

- Marie Millage has requested a quote for insurance from First Madison Insurance.
- Midwest Glass from Brookings is replacing the glass in two windows—one in the Fellowship Hall and one in the Narthex—at a cost of \$1,042.39. It should be completed by the end of September.
- The bat mitigation is completed. Pastor Steven Lindley reported that they are seeing much less evidence of any bats.
- They continue to look at the options for cameras for the exterior of the building.
- The interior window sills in the education wing need painting. They will seek volunteers to sand, caulk, and paint.
- The Board will contact InfoTech about the continuing issues with the Internet.

OLD BUSINESS

Pastor Steven Lindley reported that Lake Cleaning Services is cleaning the church on a temporary basis. A listing of the opening for a parttime custodian will be coming out on Indeed.

TEAM BUILDING

Pastor Steven Lindley asked the Council to consider this question: What game are we playing? Is it the finite game dealing with issues such as how to get more people to come on Sunday morning? Or are we playing the infinite game dealing with how we can keep showing up for God's story in this place?

NEW BUSINESS

The Council considered benefits for Trinity's staff in 2026. Motion by President Kurt Christiansen, seconded by Dani Ruhd, to select the Select Copay 2000 option from Portico for Pastor Steven Lindley, Deacon Koren Lindley, and Alex Eykamp. Motion carried with Deacon Koren Lindley and Pastor Steven Lindley abstaining.

President Kurt Christiansen reminded the Board chairmen to begin working of the Mission Plan for 2026.

Pastor Steven Lindley will convene the first meeting of the Nominating Committee soon.

In response to concerns about pastoral visitation, Pastor Steven Lindley proposed devoting one week a month to visitation. This would leave no time for other duties during that week. Motion by Patti Weber, seconded by Past president Tom Farrell, that based on congregational input, for a trial period of October through December 2025, Pastor Steven Lindley will dedicate one week each month to pastoral care and visitation. During that week he will have no responsibility for other duties such as leading the worship or preaching. Motion carried.

The next Council meeting will be October 14, 2025.

Motion to adjourn by Past president Tom Farrell. Seconded by Deacon Koren Lindley. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Sabbe, secretary

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd, & 4th Sundays Home Communion on the 3rd Sunday		
05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary 9:45AM–10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary 12:00PM–1:00PM Faith Formation Board Meeting : Church Office ; Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM 	06 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00PM–8:00PM Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall 7:30PM–9:00PM Women's Bible Study : Fireside Room 	07 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall 6:00PM–7:00PM Scouts Committee Meeting : Fireside Room
12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jingle Change 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship w/Meadow Leisinger Baptism : Sanctuary 9:45AM–10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM 6:00PM–7:30PM Men's Group : Fellowship Hall 	13 <i>Native American Day</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office Closed No Preschool 7:30PM–9:00PM Women's Bible Study : Fireside Room 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office 12:00PM–1:00PM Finance Meeting : Zoom 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall 6:00PM–6:45PM Board of Deacons Meeting : Fireside Room 7:00PM–9:00PM Council Meeting : Fellowship Hall
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary 9:45AM–10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary 12:00PM–5:00PM Confirmand Retreat & Pictures : Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Preschool Pastor's Visitation Week 8:00AM–5:00PM Preschool Fall Conferences : Conference Room 7:00PM–8:00PM Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall 7:30PM–9:00PM Women's Bible Study : Fireside Room 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Preschool Pastor's Visitation Week 8:00AM–5:00PM Preschool Fall Conferences : Conference Room 9:30AM–11:00AM Mary Circle : Fellowship Hall 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall
26 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship w/Confirmation : Sanctuary 9:45AM–10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship w/Confirmation : Sanctuary 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00PM–8:00PM Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall 7:30PM–9:00PM Women's Bible Study : Fireside Room 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall

2025

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 5:30PM–6:15PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room ; Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 6:30PM–7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room ; Chapel Choir Rehearsal : Youth Room • 7:00PM–8:00PM Wed. Eve. Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall ; HS Youth Group : Youth Room	02 • 12:00PM–1:00PM Lectionary Bible Study : Fellowship Hall • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Arrow of Light & Webelo Den Meetings : Fellowship Hall	03 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	04 • 5:00PM–6:00PM Fellowship Potluck Meal : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion : Fellowship Hall
08 • 10:00AM–1:00PM DSU Tabling : Off Site • 5:30PM–6:15PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary ; Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:00PM Chapel Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room • 7:00PM–8:00PM Wed. Eve. Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall ; HS Youth Group : Youth Room	09 • 12:00PM–1:00PM Lectionary Bible Study : Fellowship Hall • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall	10 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	11
15 • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 5:30PM–6:15PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room ; Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 6:30PM–7:00PM Chapel Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room • 7:00PM–8:00PM Wed. Eve. Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall ; HS Youth Group : Youth Room	16 • 12:00PM–1:00PM Lectionary Bible Study : Fellowship Hall • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:30PM Scouts Pack 5 Meeting--Halloween Party : Fellowship Hall	17 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	18 • 9:00AM–10:30AM Covenant Choir Party : Fireside Room
22 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 10:00AM–1:00PM DSU Tabling : Off Site • 5:30PM–6:15PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary ; Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:00PM Chapel Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room • 7:00PM–8:00PM HS Youth Group : Youth Room ; Wed. Eve. Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall	23 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 12:00PM–1:00PM Lectionary Bible Study : Fellowship Hall • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Arrow of Light & Webelo Den Meetings : Fellowship Hall	24 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	25
29 • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 5:30PM–6:15PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room ; Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 6:30PM–7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room ; Chapel Choir Rehearsal : Youth Room • 7:00PM–8:00PM HS Youth Group : Youth Room ; Wed. Eve. Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall	30 • 12:00PM–1:00PM Lectionary Bible Study : Fellowship Hall • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Arrow of Light & Webelo Den Meetings : Fellowship Hall	31 <i>Reformation Day</i> • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

Upcoming Grant Applications

Faith In Action Grants

The only criterion for a grant award is that the project or organization must further the missions and ministries of Trinity Lutheran Church and is not being funded by Trinity's general operating budget. The possibilities are endless! This is an opportunity for anyone—individuals, Boards, choirs, committees, youth groups, and others. Applications are due on or before October 31, 2025.

Hazel Johnson Endowment

The established purpose of the Endowment was to provide support for missions, both global and within the United States (including local). The donor did not restrict the type of missions to be supported. Based on the requests, the Foundation will attempt to allocate some support to global missions, as well as those within the United States. The Foundation Commission's last grant was for global missions. Applications are due on or before October 31, 2025.

Applications can be obtained from the Church office, Church Website, or e-mail Tom Farrell at retiredtom.farrell@gmail.com or Alex Eykamp at office@tlcmadison.com.

Applications must be returned to the church office no later than **October 31, 2025 and only requests submitted on completed application forms will be considered**, with awards determined in late November.

Recent Memorials
September 17, 2025

In Memory of Dwayne and Edith Pecks
Barb and Margie Pecks

In Memory of LaVonne Hass
Joyce Richter

In Memory of Dwayne Pecks
Nyla Sonen

In Memory of DeAnn Molskness
Nyla Sonen

In Memory of Daniel Seitz
Nyla Sonen

Help Wanted at Bethel

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Bethel means 'House of God' – something that we keep front and center as we live our mission of *Sharing Christ through Caring Service*.



We are reaching out to you today to ask for your help in filling our staffing positions.

We have a range of openings from registered nurses to certified nursing aides. We are also in need of people to help feed our residents at mealtimes and to assist them with activities. Positions are full and part-time with varied and flexible hours. We also have opportunities for volunteers in all areas of the Bethel community.

Bethel offers competitive wages and a benefit package. Beyond that, Bethel offers the opportunity for you to join a family that is committed to caring for others and to follow a calling that comes from our Savior Jesus Christ: *Matthew 25:40 'whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

Here's how you can help. Contact Bethel if you are interested in a job change. Share this note with anyone who may be looking for a chance to serve others through a position in healthcare. Spread the word that Bethel is a worthy and fulfilling place to build a career.

Finally, thank you for keeping the Bethel family in your prayers.

Bethel Lutheran Home
info@bethelcommunity.com
605-256-4539

Confirmation Sunday is October 26th

Please join us for worship on Reformation Sunday, October 26th, as we celebrate a milestone in the faith journeys of twelve awesome young men and women! At either service, our confirmands will lead us in worship, share a bit about their journey, and publicly affirm their faith, claiming the promises of baptism for themselves. In honor of the confirmands we will also enjoy cake during coffee hour between services! This is an important opportunity for us to live out the promises we make as a congregation every time we welcome someone new into the community of the baptized.

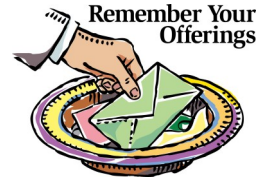


Thank you to Ron and Roberta Janke, Susan Williams, Jon and Mary Hunter, Wade and Jennifer Briggs, Karen Kalvig and Karen Giles for serving Home Communion in September.



October Coffee Hour

The October Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Family of Peace. The Family Group Leaders, Beth & Scott Delzer and Karen Kalvig, will be contacting you. Your help is always appreciated. FYI – November Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Family of Patience.



Financial Response as of 8/31/2025

Offering is **\$14,767.60 below** what was projected in the 2025 Mission Plan.

The year-to-date statistics are:

Total Income (YTD) \$211,899.04

Total Expenses (YTD) \$282,556.79

Thank you for your generous support of Trinity's mission!

Come to Church this Sunday

✂ Cut out and return to the office or complete the online version here: <https://forms.gle/u6qQ9hfxeWvdBaFd8>



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH WORSHIP ASSISTANT QUESTIONNAIRE FALL 2025

We are currently updating our list for worship assistants, and need and appreciate your help. Many hands make light work, so please fill out this form and return it to the office. Thank you in advance!!

Contact Info:

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

What is the best way to contact you? (Please circle one.)

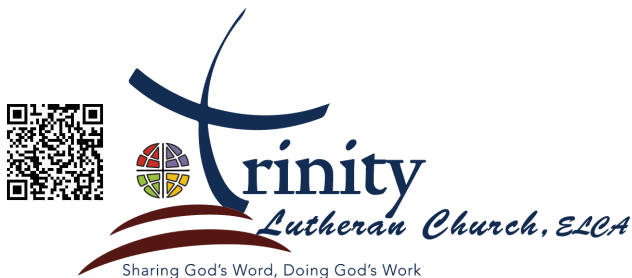
CALL TEXT EMAIL

Please mark all roles you would be willing to help with.

	Sat. 6 p	Sun. 8:45 a	Sun. 11:00 a
Usher			
Lector			
Comm. Asst.			

Please contact our Worship Assistant Committee with questions.

Jane Maurer Sandy Bordewyk Lori Johnke Virginia Lemme
(605)480-3775 (605)480-0500 (605)270-1537 (605)270-1845



203 N. Harth Ave.
Madison, SD 57042

Return Service Requested

Financial Giving Options

- Checks can be mailed to the church.
- Credit cards can be processed in the church office.
- The church website (www.tlcmadison.com) allows for one-time or recurring donations using a checking/savings account or a credit/debit card.
- The Electronic Giving option through Vanco can also be initialized by filling out an application form in the church office.
- If you should have questions with any of these options or would like to discuss which one is the best option for you, please call Alex at the church office at 605-256-2771.

Mission of the Month

The October Mission of the Month is Domestic Violence Network, Madison. Our donations help support our local center, who serves women and children impacted by domestic abuse. Men are also served but are transported to a center in Sioux Falls.

Gifts may be designated on offering envelopes/checks to Mission of the Month Fund. The Jingle Change collection on October 12 also supports the Mission of the Month.

Congregational Information

Deaths: LaVonne Hass on September 9

Timothy Schultz on September 20

Baptisms: none

Weddings: none

Food Pantry

The Lake County Food Pantry mission of the month for October is laundry detergent. Diapers and baby wipes are also requested.

Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care or know someone who is, please contact Pastor Steve or the church office.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH