

From the Pastor's Pen

**"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger
who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' "**

- Isaiah 52:7 -

Dear Trinity Family,

Where has the summer gone? I can't believe we are just a few weeks away from school starting back up. Back in May, we introduced Trinity's stewardship theme for the year, "Journey to Generosity." We identified ourselves as followers of the Way of Jesus, which is a journey of becoming more loving, more accepting, more forgiving, and more generous. In order to help us visualize this journey, we handed out footprints and encouraged folks to record on them the ways they are already being generous, or the ways they see others being generous, and bring the footprints back in to go up in the Narthex. We pretty quickly got back twenty or thirty of the footprints, however, in recent weeks, the growth of our path of generosity has slowed dramatically. We will continue to collect footprints through Rally Sunday on September 13th, so please keep filling them out and returning them.

In the meantime, the stewardship team continues to work to help us think about our journey together. Jesus demonstrated for us what it looks like to live generously - to freely and joyfully give ourselves away for the sake of our neighbors. He put others before himself - laying his life down for others. Our next "Journey to Generosity" weekend will not be until October, but we have a new activity for you to participate in throughout the months of August and September, which will encourage us to practice generosity in our daily lives. We are inviting you as individuals, friend groups, or families to go on a weekly Prayer Walk. Take a walk through your neighborhood, through the park, around the lake or campground, at the ballpark, or wherever you might be, asking God to reveal to you ways you could be generous to your neighbors or community on that day, or during that week. And then, we encourage you to actually take action and do the thing God places on your heart. Then, fill out a footprint and bring it in, so we can see all the ways our Trinity family is cultivating generosity in our community. Just imagine all of the love, joy,

peace, and healing we can share with our neighbors if each one of us does one more act of generosity each week!

One question our stewardship team has gotten from some of our Trinity mission partners is, "Does giving to Trinity's gen-

eral offering really make a difference in people's lives?" So, I wanted to devote a few words to this question. One might suggest that general offering just goes to things like building maintenance, utilities, insurance, and staff compensation, rather than to things that make an impact in our community. However, this is a bit of a misconception. Our facilities give us the space for connection, learning, worship, faith formation, and recreation. They allow us the opportunity to worship in a beautiful sanctuary, to prepare and share meals in our kitchen and fellowship hall, to engage in various service projects to benefit those in need, to learn and grow in our preschool, classrooms, and youth room, and for leaders to discuss, discern, and plan together. Also, this building enables us to offer hospitality to outside groups, like the scouts and other community groups.

In addition to the ways our facilities aid in our ministry, Trinity's staff passionately and diligently dreams, plans, organizes, and facilitates our shared ministry. All that we do is intended to help people have oppor-



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July Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church
Special meeting of Church Council
Wednesday, July 1, 2026
5:00 p.m.

Voting members present: Pastor Steven Lindley, President Virginia Lemme, Past president Kurt Christiansen, Secretary Nancy Sabbe, Karen Giles—Board of Deacons, Alicia Entringer—Board of Faith Formation, Darrel Presuhn—Board of Trustees, and Treasurer Dick Ellis via telephone.

Voting members absent: Vice-president Jeremiah Schneider, Deacon Koren Lindley

President Virginia Lemme called a special meeting of the Church Council to address the current bat problem. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

President Virginia Lemme introduced the issue. There is evidence of increased bat activity in the sanctuary. She presented the Additional Bat Exclusion Assessment and Scope of Work as prepared by CP Bat Mitigation. A representative of the company surveyed the building again and found that the recent bat activity indicates that the bats have established different access routes into areas of the building that they did not utilize previously. The project proposal includes:

1. two experienced technicians working for approximately one full day on-site
2. specialized commercial-grade exclusion materials and sealants
3. an 86-foot aerial lift to safely access the highest elevations of the church.

The cost of this work is as follows:

Bat exclusion and flashing repairs	\$7,452.00
Specialized aerial access equipment (86-foot lift, delivery, pickup, and fuel)	<u>\$1,686.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$9,138.00

President Virginia Lemme reported that CP Bat Mitigation would be available to do this work on July 10 and 11 with a follow-up visit in four months.

Motion by Treasurer Dick Ellis, seconded by Past president Kurt Christiansen, to accept the quote of \$9,138.00. Motion carried.

In addition, the Council considered an option for future service. CP Bat Mitigation proposes to bill Trinity a flat labor and service fee of \$2,500.00 plus the actual cost of the required aerial lift for services requested by Trinity Lutheran Church in the future. This provides the Church with a predictable and reduced cost for any future exclusion work that may be necessary. Motion by Past president Kurt Christiansen, seconded by Darrel Presuhn, to accept the future service proposal.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Sabbe, Secretary

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council meeting
Tuesday, July 21, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Voting members present: Pastor Steven Lindley, President Virginia Lemme, Past president Kurt Christiansen, Treasurer Dick Ellis, Secretary Nancy Sabbe, Darrel Presuhn—Board of Trustees, Alicia Entringer—Board of Faith Formation, Tonia Meadows—Board of Deacons designee. Vice-president Jeremiah Schneider present via telephone.

Voting members absent: Deacon Koren Lindley, Karen Giles—Board of Deacons

President Virginia Lemme called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Vice-president Jeremiah Schneider provided the devotion from Psalm 46:1–2a pointing out that our greatest resource is God's faithfulness.

Pastor Steven Lindley opened the meeting with prayer.

Motion by Treasurer Dick Ellis, seconded by Darrel Presuhn, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Motion by Past president Kurt Christiansen, seconded by Vice-president Jeremiah Schneider, to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2026, Council meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Darrel Presuhn, seconded by Treasurer Dick Ellis, to approve the minutes of the special Council meeting held on July 1, 2026. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Dick Ellis presented the Financial Report. As of June 30, 2026, the checking account balance was \$11,735.53 and the total of the accounts payable was \$26,743.98. The bill for the floor coverings in the office area totaling approximately \$13,000.00 is included in the accounts payable. The general offering received in June totaled \$20,463.70 approximately \$15,000.00 less than what was anticipated in the Mission Plan. Treasurer Dick Ellis will make a transfer of \$20,000.00 from the Hanneman Endowment Funds (12-month liquid CD) to the checking account. Motion to acknowledge the Financial Report made by Past president Kurt Christiansen. Motion seconded by Darrel Presuhn. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Pastor Steven Lindley reported

- They have found a few bats following the completion of the recent bat mitigation services.
- The next opportunity for staff and Council photos is Sunday, August 23, 2026, after the morning worship service.
- November 15, 2026, will be Trinity Foundation Sunday to raise awareness of the Foundation and the services provided through the work of the Foundation.
- He thanked Deacon Koren Lindley for leading the worship service on July 19, 2026.
- Vacation Bible School was successful even though it was hot.

July Council Meeting Minutes

He thanked everyone who participated.

- The meeting of the Stewardship Committee will be rescheduled.
- His next visitation week will be in September.
- President Virginia Lemme will contact Kevin Streff about the launch of the new website on Rally Sunday.
- He asked each council member to write something that is happening and makes them hopeful for Trinity's mission and also something that is a challenge for Trinity on a 3 X 5 card. The individual responses were part of circle prayers at the close of the meeting.

Deacon Koren Lindley submitted a written report.

President Virginia Lemme reported

- C P Bat Mitigation has completed additional work in the building. They will return in the fall to check on the effectiveness.
- Richard Wolf will be cleaning the carpeting in the building.
- A & M Mechanical has been working on the air conditioner for the sanctuary. The problem has not yet been identified.
- Sid Gulbranson will do the maintenance on the boiler.
- She extended an invitation to the Trinity Council Brunch on Sunday, August 23, 2026.
- The full Council will meet on Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

Board of Faith Formation—Alicia Entringer reported

- Vacation Bible School was a fun time with excited kids and dedicated volunteers.
- Miracle Treat Day is July 30. Trinity and St. John Lutheran will have games, water and access to bathrooms for those attending.
- Pulled pork sandwiches will be served after the 11:00 a.m. service on Rally Sunday, September 13. There will be an opportunity for members of the congregation to sign up to contribute food items for the lunch.

Board of Deacons—Tonia Meadows reported

- The schedule for music and musicians for the fall is being prepared.
- To save money on postage, communication between the Deacon of Life and Growth and the service groups will be online when appropriate.
- A sample of a card with the QR code for giving electronically was discussed. Cards will be placed in the pews and in other locations in the church. Suggestions, including adding Trinity's logo, were offered.
- Jingle change for June totaled \$91.92, and in July the total was \$147.00.
- The date for the supper for DSU athletes has not been set.

Board of Trustees—Darrel Presuhn reported

- The stained glass window has been repaired.
- Bruna Electric has been contacted about replacing some lights in the sanctuary.
- The Board has received three quotes for insurance from Marsh McLennan.

- Midco has submitted a proposal for renewal of Internet and telephone service. The proposal increases the speed from 500M data at \$145.00 per month to 1 Gig data at \$135.00 per month. Questions were raised regarding the one-time fee for business installation. Darrel Presuhn will investigate further.
- Bugs, mostly ants, have been seen in multiple locations in the church. Darrel Presuhn will follow up with Iron Twin Pest Control.

OLD BUSINESS

President Virginia Lemme reported that C P Bat Mitigation completed additional work on July 10 and 11. They will return in the fall to check the effectiveness of the work.

Pastor Steven Lindley suggested that an informational program presenting both sides of the issue of the placement of the American and Christian flags be presented before the annual meeting. He requested that anyone interested in assisting in the planning of the event contact him.

NEW BUSINESS

President Virginia Lemme raised the question of how to get younger members of the congregation more involved. The discussion included examples of how they are active in some areas.

The Mission Moment in September will be centered on the "God's Work. Our Hands" program. In October, the Trinity Foundation will be the focus.

Pastor Steven Lindley introduced updated policies prepared by the Policy Committee along with the Foundation Board. The seven policies presented are the following: Policies and Procedures of the Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation, Wedding Fees, Application for Marriage, Personnel Policy Manual, Baptismal Policy and Practices, Application for Holy Baptism, Wedding Policy. Motion by Treasurer Dick Ellis, seconded by Vice-president Jeremiah Schneider, to approve the revised policies. Motion carried.

Kolor Works submitted a proposal for replacing the carpet that was damaged by water due to a leak in the roof of the Education Wing last spring. The proposal is for carpet squares similar to those in the office area. The Council suggested requesting additional proposals and looking for ways to reduce the cost by providing some of the labor—for example, removing the existing carpet.

The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, August 11.

The meeting closed with the Lord's prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Past president Kurt Christiansen. Seconded by Darrel Presuhn. Motion carried.

The meeting concluded with a circle prayer. The members prayed for the hopes and challenges that they had recorded earlier.

Respectfully submitted.

Nancy Sabbe, secretary

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays Home Communion on the 3rd Sunday		
02 • 9:30AM–10:30AM Summer Worship : Sanctuary • 10:30AM–11:30AM Summer Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM	03	04 • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall
09 • Jingle Change • 9:30AM–10:30AM Summer Worship w/Ellens Baptisms : Sanctuary • 10:30AM–11:30AM Summer Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall ; Board of Faith Formation Meeting : Church Office • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM	10	11 • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 12:00PM–1:00PM Finance Meeting : Zoom • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 4:00PM–7:00PM Preschool T/R Class Open House : Sonshine Preschool Room • 6:00PM–7:00PM Scouts Committee Meeting : Fireside Room • 7:00PM–9:00PM Council Meeting : Fellowship Hall
16 • 9:30AM–10:30AM Summer Worship : Sanctuary • 10:30AM–11:30AM Summer Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM	17	18 • 9:30AM–11:00AM Mary Circle : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office
23 • 9:30AM–10:30AM Summer Worship w/Backpack Blessing : Sanctuary • 10:30AM–11:00AM Council/Boards & Staff Photos • 10:30AM–11:30AM Summer Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM	24	25 • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Policy Committee Meeting : Fellowship Hall
30 • 9:30AM–10:30AM Summer Worship : Sanctuary • 10:30AM–11:30AM Summer Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM	31	

2026

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			01 • 5:00PM–6:00PM Fellowship Potluck Meal : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion : Fellowship Hall
05	06 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall	07 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	08
12 • 4:00PM–7:00PM Preschool M/W/F Class Open House : Sonshine Preschool Room	13 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall	14 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	15 • 2:00PM–4:00PM Kathy Molskness Celebration of Life : Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary
19 • 5:30PM–6:30PM Confirmation Parent/Student Orientation : Fellowship Hall	20 • 12:00AM–11:59PM First Day of T/R Preschool : Sonshine Preschool Room • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall	21 • 12:00AM–11:59PM First Day of M/W/F Preschool : Sonshine Preschool Room • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	22
26 • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM–8:00PM Youth Group : Fellowship Hall	27 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall	28 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	29

Pastor's Article

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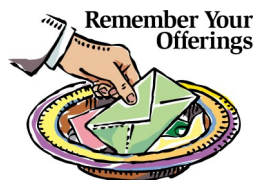
tunities to hear about and experience God's love for them, to receive healing, and to experience belonging. People are being cared for in times of need - physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Folks of all ages are learning what it means to be people of faith and are given tools to grow in and embody their faith. This might look like the preschooler offering a hug to someone who is sad, the Confirmation student reminding a friend who is struggling that their life has meaning and value, the young parent modeling a life of faithfulness and generosity for their child, the older member sharing their faith story at their table during coffee hour. These are all small ways lives are being changed along the way.

With all of that being said, this journey includes many more ways to be generous, than simply giving of our financial resources. Jesus calls us to be generous with our whole lives; with our time, energy, passion, and gifts, as well. This encompasses things like our helpers of all ages at Vacation Bible School, our Sunday School teachers and Confirmation guides, those who are a welcoming presence as people arrive for worship, the ones who share their musical talents, the folks who bring treats and serve coffee on Sunday mornings, those who assist with the Gathering Meal or DSU athlete meals, and so many others. We are blessed with so many opportunities to love and serve our neighbors.

I am so excited to hear about all the ways our church family is becoming more generous as we continue on this "Journey to Generosity" together throughout the rest of the year.

God's Peace.

Pastor Steve



Financial Response as of 6/30/2026

Offering is \$31,168.73 below the mission plan.

The year-to-date statistics are:

General Offering (YTD) \$153,831.25

Total Expenses (YTD) \$202,590.55

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



Event Name: God's Work. Our Hands.

Start Date & Time: Saturday, September 20, 2026
8:45 AM – 11:00 AM

Details:

Please Join Us for the 3rd Annual "God's Work. Our Hands." Event!

Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA is excited to partner once again with Bethel in Madison, SD for our annual "God's Work. Our Hands." service event. This special day is an opportunity for our congregation to put our faith into action by showing love, appreciation, and support to the residents and dedicated staff members of Bethel.

This year, there are three meaningful ways to get involved:

🌱 **Support Bethel Residents** – Participate in indoor activities and fellowship opportunities with residents, helping create joy, connection, and lasting memories.

🌿 **Beautify the Grounds** – Help clean up and refresh Bethel's exterior landscape to create a welcoming environment for residents, families, and visitors.

🎁 **Show Appreciation for Bethel Staff** – Help us thank the dedicated caregivers and team members who make a difference in the lives of Bethel residents every day. Volunteers may donate staff care package items, write thank you cards, and/or decorate the staff breakroom, creating a welcoming space and heartfelt display of appreciation for all who faithfully serve Bethel residents every day.

Whether you enjoy visiting with residents, working outdoors, or helping behind the scenes, there is a place for everyone to serve. Our success is measured not by the tasks we complete, but by the number of Trinity members who come together to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

Join us as we live out our faith through service, fellowship, and community. We hope to see both familiar faces and new volunteers as we continue this meaningful tradition!

God's Work. Our Hands. Together, we can make a difference. ❤️ ✚ 🤝

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

Recent Memorials

In Memory of Chuck Robbins

Marv and Sandy Rhode

In Memory of Doug Merager

Patricia Garry

Joan Merager

Todd and Susan Williams

Gene and Patricia Phillips

Dennis and Carol Nordling

John and Kristin Morse

David and Valerie Mickelson

David and Marian Wheeler

Joyce Richter

Roger and Mary Jo Renner

Diane and Myron Plack

Sharon Halseth

Richard and Barbara Ellis

Linda Bruns

Bill and Diane Bruns

Lana Johnson

Kay Johnson

Rochelle and Gary Johnson

Peggy Hoff

Cinda Brown

Karen Kratochvil

Thomas and Jen Kenyon

Foundation Sunday

November 15, 2026

Both Services

The information below is based on the discussion and decisions of the Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation Commission, which met on Wednesday, June 17, to outline plans for the first-ever "Foundation Sunday," an educational event sponsored by the Commission.

Save the date of Sunday, November 15, for the first-ever Trinity "Foundation Sunday" at Trinity Lutheran Church. Foundation commission members will lead and assist with both worship services, serve freshly made lefse during fellowship, and share updates in the E-news through early November about your Trinity Foundation.

This special day will highlight how the Trinity Foundation supports our church and community's future and ministry goals. Please join us for worship, fellowship, and delicious traditional treats as we learn more about the lasting impact of our foundation together. Save the date, Sunday, November 15, 2026.

Membership Information

Is your info. up-to-date?

Have you moved? Did you disconnect your land-line? Did you change your e-mail address? Did you get married? Did you have a baby? Did you get a divorce? Do you wonder why the church has not been connecting with you? Please notify the church office when you have an address change, e-mail change, marital status change, etc. or update the information on your Realm account.



Coffee Hour Schedule

August: Patience—Cassandra and Kyle Brunick

September: Kindness—Diane Plack and Cheryl Iverson

October: Goodness—Carol Andersen and Tom & Joyce Farrell

Confirmation Registration is open online. Sign up your 6th–8th grader here: <https://forms.gle/6xcZsCcFDtENcHa66>.

Sunday School Registration is open online. Sign up your 3-year-old (potty trained) through 5th grader here: <https://forms.gle/DMerPRk8iPL9FNDD6>.

Summer Worship Schedule

May 24–September 6

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

**Blessing of School Staff,
Students, Backpacks,
and Bags.**

**Sunday, August 23rd
during worship
at 9:30 am**





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. If you would like to give online, please use this code.
- 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 August Mission of the Month is Madison Animal Shelter, which provides shelter to animals until their owners can be found. *Gifts may be designated on offering envelopes/checks to Mission of the Month Fund. The Jingle Change collection on August 9 also supports the Mission of the Month.*

Congregational Information

Deaths: Gene Appelwick June 29

Baptisms: none

Weddings: none

Food Pantry

The Lake County Food Pantry mission of the month for August is cereal. 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