

Deacon's Discourse

What Is God Calling Us to Dream Next?

One of the things I have loved about my year serving on the leadership team for SD Synod's Holy Playground is discovering that sometimes the best way to imagine new possibilities for ministry is simply to go somewhere and see what another congregation is doing. This summer, I had the opportunity to do just that at Trinity Lutheran Church in Miller, South Dakota, one of the congregations participating in the 2026 Holy Playground cohort.

And where did we worship? **At the baseball field.**

On a beautiful Sunday evening, the congregation gathered in the bleachers for worship. Everyone received a worship bulletin along with Cracker Jacks and bubble gum. The service was organized into innings, and it was one of the most joyful and creative worship experiences I have attended.

The ceremonial first pitch was thrown by one of Trinity's oldest members and caught by one of their youth, who happens to be a catcher on his baseball team. The first inning was the call to worship. The second inning was "Play Hard, Pray Hard." The third inning was confession and forgiveness, using a baseball analogy to remind us that with God, our stats are completely cleared. The fourth inning was Scripture, leading into the fifth inning's message: "3 Strikes U R OUT! — Not with God!" The sixth through ninth innings continued to incorporate familiar Lutheran liturgy with a baseball twist. There was even a seventh-inning stretch—and, yes, we sang "Sweet Caroline!"

People of all ages participated. Members of the congregation read Scripture, led different parts of worship, took the offering, and even led the famous baseball "wave." What struck me most wasn't simply how clever the baseball theme was. It was seeing children, youth, adults, and older adults all participating together—and seeing how naturally faith and community came together. After worship, everyone gathered together for hot dogs, chips, and popcorn.

As I sat in those bleachers, I couldn't help but think about Madison. Madison is a baseball town. We love our baseball. We love our community. And I found myself wondering, "How fun would it be to do something like this at Trinity?" But then my thoughts went

a little deeper. **"What else might we do? What is God calling us to try next?"**

The Board of Faith Formation is already dreaming about our fall program year and will be hosting a Rally Sunday meal following second worship on September 13. But what if Rally Sunday isn't just the beginning of another program year? What if it could also be the beginning of some new dreaming? That is where Holy Playground comes in.

So, what exactly is the Holy Playground? Holy Playground is a ministry initiative that invites congregations to dream, faithfully experiment, and have fun creating new ways for people of all ages to experience faith and community. It isn't about finding the next big church program or simply copying what another congregation is doing. Instead, Holy Playground encourages us to look at our own community, pay attention to where God is already at work, listen to the people around us, and ask, **"What might God be calling us to try?"**

Holy Playground isn't primarily about doing something different just for the sake of doing something different. It's about creating opportunities for people to encounter God in places and ways that connect with their lives.

Throughout my year with the Holy Playground leadership team, I have had the opportunity to learn and grow as a leader alongside congregations and ministry partners from across South Dakota. I have learned from organizations such as Narrative 4, Re-Focus Ministries, and Messy Church, as well as from the creative ideas and experiences of our fellow South Dakota churches. It has been one of the best ministry experiences I have had. And now I find myself wondering, **"What if Trinity Lutheran in Madison took the leap, too?"**

An Invitation to Dream Together

The next Holy Playground cohort will begin in 2027, with applications opening in October. I would love to see Trinity form a Holy Playground group of 3–5 people across various generations who are willing to

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Unapproved August Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 11, 2026
7:00 p.m.

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

Voting members present: Pastor Steven Lindley, Deacon Koren 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, Tami Christiansen—Board of Deacons designee

Voting members absent: Vice-president Jeremiah Schneider, Karen Giles—Board of Deacons

The members recited Trinity's mission statement.

Past president Kurt Christiansen gave the devotion on the love of God shown through sacrifice. His love is selfless. We love because He first loved us, and apart from God, love does not exist.

Pastor Steven Lindley opened the meeting with prayer.

President Virginia Lemme asked for a motion to accept the agenda with an addition under new business dealing with replacing carpet damaged by water. Motion by Past president Kurt Christiansen, seconded by Darrel Presuhn, to accept the agenda with the addition. Motion carried.

Motion by Darrel Presuhn, seconded by Treasurer Dick Ellis, to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2026, Council meeting. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Dick Ellis reported that the balance in the checking account is sufficient to cover the August bills. The general offering in July totaled approximately \$42,000. This total includes a \$20,000 transfer from the Hanneman Endowment Funds. To date, expenses are approximately \$18,000 less than anticipated.

The remaining balance in the Cornerstone Reserve is \$19,220.04. The total remaining in the Hanneman Endowment Funds is \$89,000.

The Stewardship Committee continues to meet.

He suggested that cards indicating that members give electronically be available in the pews. Placing a card in the collection plate would serve as a visual reminder to younger members that they are providing financial support for Trinity's mission.

Motion by Past president Kurt Christiansen, seconded by Alicia Entringer, to acknowledge the Financial Report. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Pastor Steven Lindley submitted a written report.

Deacon Koren Lindley submitted a written report. She added that the Blessing of the Backpacks will be August 23, not August 16 as written in the report. In addition, she reported that 76 children are signed up for Sunday School and 35 are registered for confirmation classes. There are openings for a few more Sunday School teachers.

President Virginia Lemme reported

- Richard Wolf continues cleaning the carpets.
- The full Council will meet in September.
- There will be a Council Brunch at the Lemmes' on August 23.
- Photos of Council and Board members will be taken following the service on August 23.

Board of Trustees—Darrel Presuhn reported

- Marsh McLennan has contacted the Board requesting more information which has been provided. Also, Acuity Insurance, Trinity's current carrier, has contacted the Board about possibly providing a better price.
- Riddle Glass will be contacted about sealing leaks in the ADA door and the north hallway door.
- Iron Twins Pest Control quoted a price of \$495 to treat the exterior and interior for bugs. They offered a recurring service at \$370 annually for applications spring, mid-summer, and fall. This comes with a service guarantee that they would resolve any additional bug problems without additional charge.
- Kolorworks was contacted about using a lower priced carpet for the two Sunday School rooms on the lower level. They suggested using the same carpet as was used in the office area because there are 18 extra carpet squares left over from

Unapproved August Council Meeting Minutes

the office project that can be used in the Sunday School rooms. The difference in price is nominal, and it was decided to go ahead with the project using the same carpet as is in the office area.

- Midco will not charge the one-time fee for business installation. The monthly charge will be \$233.86 for 1 Gig data and business telephone service.
- Members of the Board of Trustees have been taking care of some maintenance issues in the absence of the Maintenance Manager. Pastor Steven Lindley will contact the Maintenance Manager for additional information.

Board of Faith Formation—Alicia Entringer reported

- Deacon Koren Lindley's report covered the information about Sunday School and confirmation. Alicia Entringer added that many appreciative comments have been received from parents and children about Vacation Bible School.
- Sheri Dubbelde and Deacon Koren Lindley will meet later in August to discuss plans for the Women's Bible Study.
- There will be no preschool Christmas Concert this year since Beth Himley will be on maternity leave. There will be an opportunity for parents and students to make a craft. The spring concert will be held.
- Rally Sunday potluck sign-up is up. More publicity will be forthcoming.
- Activities for Miracle Treat Day were canceled due to the weather. All the supplies for the activities are in totes in Deacon Koran Lindley's office.
- Pastor Steven Lindley noted that the High School youth will meet on August 26.

Board of Deacons—Tami Christiansen reported

- Tami Christiansen will be meeting with music directors to get organized for the fall.
- The Hanging of the Greens service is being planned.
- One of the cantors has retired leaving two cantors. It is possible that there may not be a cantor at some services.
- Additional pages are being printed for the Celebration Book at a cost of \$300. This expense is covered by the music memorial fund.
- Notices to service groups serving coffee hour have been sent.
- Rev. Andrea DeGroot Nesdahl will lead worship on August 16.

- The QR codes for electronic giving will be in the pews soon.
- Jingle change in August totaled \$192.52. It will be donated to the Madison Animal Shelter.
- There has been no contact from Dakota State University regarding feeding the athletes. At this point, Trinity would not have enough time to organize a supper before classes begin.
- Two more young people have expressed an interest in training to video record the services. Deacon Brenda Soper has raised some questions about the payroll for the videographers. She will contact the office manager about a cutoff date for the submission of the timesheets for payment.

OLD BUSINESS

The Council discussed how to provide information about the placement of flags in the church. President Virginia Lemme will chair a committee to work further on this. Past president Kurt Christiansen and Pastor Steven Lindley will also serve on the committee. President Virginia Lemme will seek at least two additional members.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Treasurer Dick Ellis, seconded by Past president Kurt Christiansen, to approve the expenditure of up to \$2,021.00 to replace carpet in the two Sunday School rooms on the lower level. Kolorworks will complete the project which will include using carpet left over after the replacing the carpet in the office area. If possible, the work should be completed by Rally Sunday. Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned with the Council praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Sabbe, secretary

**Come to Church
this Sunday**

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Holy Communion on the 1st & 4th Sundays Home Communion on the 4th Sunday		01 • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–8:00PM Scouts Registration Night : Fellowship Hall
06 • 9:30AM–10:30AM Summer Worship w/Rhett Lindholm Baptism : Sanctuary • 10:30AM–11:30AM Summer Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM	07 <i>Labor Day</i> • Office Closed • No Preschool • 7:00PM–8:00PM Scouts Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall	08 • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 12:00PM–1:00PM Finance Meeting : Zoom • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM–9:00PM Council Meeting : Fellowship Hall
13 <i>Rally Sunday</i> • Jingle Change • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship w/Cross Hoff Baptism : Sanctuary • 9:45AM–10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–10:45AM Sunday School : Fireside Room, Sunday School Rooms • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM ; Rally Sun. Luncheon : Fellowship Hall	14 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 7:00PM–8:00PM Scouts Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall	15 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 9:30AM–11:00AM Mary Circle : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office
20 <i>God's Work. Our Hands Sun. at Bethel Luth. Home</i> • Pastor's Visitation Week • No Worship • No Coffee Hour • No Sunday School	21 • 5:30PM–8:00PM Preschool Board Meeting : Conference Room • 7:00PM–8:00PM Scouts Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall	22 • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall
27 • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship w/Sun. School Teacher & Confirmation Guides Installation : Sanctuary • 9:45AM–10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–10:45AM Sunday School : Fireside Room, Sunday School Rooms • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship w/Sun. School Teacher & Confirmation Guides Installation: Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM	28 • 7:00PM–8:00PM Scouts Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall	29 • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Scouts Committee Meeting : Fireside Room ; Policy Committee Meeting : Fellowship Hall

2026

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
02 • 11:00AM–2:00PM DSU Activities Fair : Off Site • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM–8:00PM Youth Group : Youth Room	03 • 8:00AM–9:00AM Trustees' Board Meeting : Fellowship Hall • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall	04 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study • 12:00PM Office Closes	05 • 5:00PM–6:00PM Fellowship Potluck Meal : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion : Fellowship Hall
09 • 10:00AM–1:00PM DSU Tabling • 4:30PM–5:15PM Epiphany Bell Choir Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:15PM–6:00PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room • 7:00PM–8:00PM Youth Group : Youth Room	10 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall	11 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	12
16 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 4:30PM–5:15PM Epiphany Bell Choir Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:15PM–6:00PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM–8:00PM Youth Group : Youth Room • 7:00PM–8:15PM Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall	17 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM–8:00PM Scouts Pack Meeting : Fellowship Hall	18 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	19 • Pastor's Visitation Week
23 • 10:00AM–1:00PM DSU Tabling • 4:30PM–5:15PM Epiphany Bell Choir Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:15PM–6:00PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM–8:00PM Youth Group : Youth Room • 7:00PM–8:15PM Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall	24 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall	25 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	26
30 • 4:30PM–5:15PM Epiphany Bell Choir Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:15PM–6:00PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room • 7:00PM–8:00PM Youth Group : Youth Room • 7:00PM–8:15PM Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall			

Deacon's Article

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spend the coming year dreaming, learning, experimenting, and asking what God might be up to in our congregation and our community.

I would lead our group, and we would have the opportunity to learn alongside other congregations, receive resources and support, and be eligible for mini-grants as well as a larger grant to help bring some of our ideas to life. And perhaps we'll dream up something completely unexpected. Maybe we'll worship at a baseball field. Maybe we'll discover something that doesn't look anything like worship, education, or sharing God's love as we know it. Maybe we'll create something for children and families, something for our neighbors, something that brings generations together, or something that helps people who don't normally walk through our doors experience the love of God in a new way.

You don't need to come with an idea or a plan. You simply need to come with curiosity, a willingness to listen, and a desire to imagine what might be possible. We don't have to know the answer yet. That's part of the point. For now, I'm simply inviting you to **pray and wonder with me.**

Where do you see God already at work in Madison and the surrounding towns and in our Trinity faith community?

What are the needs, gifts, passions, and possibilities in our communities?

What might happen if we were willing to try something new—not because we know exactly what will happen, but because we trust that God is already there?

If you feel a little nudge of curiosity—or maybe even excitement—I hope you'll talk with me. I'm looking for 3–5 people across the generations who would be willing to say, "Let's see where this goes."

The application for the 2027 Holy Playground cohort will be available in October.

Maybe this is our year to play.

Maybe this is our year to dream.

Maybe this is our year to see what God is calling Trinity to do next.

And who knows? Maybe there's a baseball field waiting for us. Or maybe God has something else entirely in mind.

Praying and wondering with you,
Deacon Koren



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 J. D. Reinicke
Marv and Sandy Rhode

In Memory of Gene Appelwick
Nyla Sonen



Thank you to Jon & Mary Hunter, Wade & Jennifer Briggs, Ron & Roberta Janke, and Karen Giles for serving Home Communion in August.

Rally Sunday Lunch

Join us Sunday, September 13, after our second worship service (around 12:00 p.m.) in the Fellowship Hall as we kick off another season of learning, growing, serving, and sharing life together at Trinity.

We'll gather around the table for a delicious meal, celebrate the start of all our fall ministries, and enjoy a few fun, hands-on activities for all ages. Whether you're 2 or 102, there's a place for you!

This is more than lunch—it's a chance to connect, laugh, create, and begin the year together as a church family. Everyone is welcome!

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050544A4A729A0F85-64626480-2026?useFullSite=true>

We can't wait to celebrate with you as we begin another year of ****belonging to, growing in, and embodying the Trinity.****



Financial Response as of 7/31/2026

Offering is \$42,839.96 below the mission plan.

The year-to-date statistics are:

General Offering (YTD) \$172,993.35

Total Expenses (YTD) \$242,793.62

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

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

September: Kindness—Diane Plack and Cheryl Iverson

October: Goodness—Carol Andersen and Tom & Joyce Farrell

November: Faithfulness—Tonia Meadows and Gayle Maberry

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

Come join Covenant Choir Grades 1 - 4



**Rehearsals on Wednesdays 5:15 - 6:00
in the Fireside Room**

Sing once each month for Sunday worship

First rehearsal Wednesday, September 9

Mary Hunter - Director
Alex Eykamp - Accompanist



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 September Mission of the Month is Kids' Backpack Project (Madison). Begun by the Lake County Food Pantry, this program offers children a backpack with food on Fridays during the school year (September–May). *Gifts may be designated on offering envelopes/checks to Mission of the Month Fund. The Jingle Change collection on September 13 also supports the Mission of the Month.*

Pastoral Care

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

Congregational Information

Deaths: Jerome "Jerry" Larsen on August 4

James "JD" Reinicke on August 10

Mildred "Millie" Moser on August 13

Timothy "Tim" Schut on August 18

Baptisms: Crew Ellens on August 9

Edison Ellens on August 9

Weddings: none

Food Pantry

The Lake County Food Pantry mission of the month for September is canned meat. Diapers and baby wipes are also requested.