

From the Pastor's Pen



"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation"

- 2 Corinthians 5:18 -

Dear Trinity Family,

Many of you know that in early-June I had the amazing opportunity to travel to Northern Ireland with a group of about twenty faith leaders from all over the United States, who are passionate about creating a culture of peace-building in their particular contexts. Under the guidance of an organization called Global Immersion, this group devoted the months leading up to our immersion trip to intensive formation. We learned about the root causes of conflict, how to recognize these factors in our communities and within ourselves, and how to cultivate authentic community that is resilient in the midst of conflict. I am continually inspired by my new friends' passion for peacemaking and by the powerful work the Holy Spirit is doing through them.

During the first four days of the trip, we were immersed in Belfast, the city at the heart of what is known as "The Troubles" - a brutal, deadly conflict that had been building for decades, and ignited in the late 1960's. This conflict arose between the predominantly Catholic "Nationalists," who believed Northern Ireland should reunite with Ireland to become one,

independent nation again, and the predominantly Protestant "Loyalists," who believed Northern Ireland should remain part of the United Kingdom. The people in these two camps were neighbors, friends, co-workers, classmates, even family, at times. And yet, this disagreement was so passionate and volatile that it fueled unimaginable violence and suffering.

In response to violent rioting in 1969, the British army was brought in to regain control. It was at this time that they erected the first of the "peace walls" in Belfast. These barriers were intended to be temporary, only remaining until the situation had calmed down. Instead, these walls became permanent, multiplied, and grew in stature over the years, and most are still in place more than fifty years later. The peace walls actually did, to some degree, reduce localized physical violence in the adjacent neighborhoods. However, at the same time, these barriers contributed to increased misunderstanding, resentment, and fear of those on the opposite side of the walls.

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Unapproved July Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 8, 2025
7:00 p.m.

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

Voting members present: Pastor Steven Lindley, President Kurt Christiansen, Vice-president Virginia Lemme, Secretary Nancy Sabbe, Dani Ruhd—Board of Faith Formation, Patti Weber—Board of Deacons, Darrel Presuhn—Board of Trustees designee

Voting members absent: Past president Tom Farrell, Deacon Koren Lindley

Nonvoting members present: Marie Millage

Vice-president Virginia Lemme read a devotion based on Luke 10:1–3, 8–9 reminding everyone that we are missionaries. We witness for Jesus by the way we live and the words we speak.

Pastor Steven Lindley opened the meeting with prayer.

Vice-president Virginia Lemme requested the addition of two items to the agenda under new business: worship assistants and tasks of Council members. Motion by Dani Ruhd to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Darrel Presuhn. Motion carried.

Motion by vice-president Virginia Lemme, seconded by Dani Ruhd, to accept the minutes of the June 17, 2025, meeting. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The general offering in June totaled \$17,878.20. An additional \$12,685.19 was transferred from the Cornerstone Fund in June.

Two CDs matured and were renewed for 6 months. The accrued interest was transferred to the Money Market account at First Bank and Trust.

Motion by Dani Ruhd, seconded by Patti Weber, to acknowledge the Financial Report. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Pastor Steven Lindley submitted a written report.

Deacon Koren Lindley submitted a written report.

President Kurt Christiansen announced that he and vice-president Virginia Lemme met with Andrea Liddell, custodian. Schedules were established. President Kurt Christiansen will be the point person for any concerns. They will meet again in a month.

Evidence of bats in the church has increased. He has contacted CP Bat Mitigation for an evaluation of the situation.

Vice-president Virginia Lemme reported that she and Dani Ruhd are developing a form for Council members to complete. It will include the responsibilities and any useful information for incoming Council members.

Darrel Presuhn reported for the Board of Trustees. Midwest Glass from Brookings has submitted a quote of \$1,042.39 for replacing the window in the Fellowship Hall and in the Narthex. President Kurt Christiansen will follow up with Madison Glass.

President Kurt Christiansen has spoken to Joel Brick about installing cameras outside the building. More information will be forthcoming.

Dani Ruhd reported for the Board of Faith Formation. Vacation Bible School will be held next week. Miracle Treat Day is July 31. Volunteers are still needed.

Patti Weber reported for the Board of Deacons. Tami Christiansen is lining up cantors and will be planning music for the school year. Patti Weber is planning the 80+ Birthday Party. Karen Giles requested information on the guidelines for the Home Care Team. Lucas Muller is working on the new website. He is also working on Trinity's opportunity to Feed the DSU Athletes. Volunteers will be necessary.

TEAM BUILDING

Pastor Steven Lindley led the members in Imaginative Prayer.

OLD BUSINESS

A message regarding the recruitment and training of livestream technicians will be sent in the newsletter, the eNews, and posted on Trinity's Facebook page.

Unapproved July Council Meeting Minutes

Pastor Steven Lindley has spoken to Gene Wocken-fuss and Jona Schmidt regarding God's Work, Our Hands at the Bethel Home in September. They anticipate that the format will be similar to last year's. Dani Ruhd suggested that the Bethel staff be recognized possibly with small gifts in the staff lounge. She will seek grant funding from Thrivent and Modern Woodmen.

NEW BUSINESS

The Vision Team will hold a Storytelling Brunch after the service on Sunday, July 20, 2025. They are planning to share stories about our shared values (what is important to us) and shared gifts (what we have to offer). Council members are encouraged to attend and to invite other members of the congregation.

Pastor Steven Lindley reported that he has had a conversation with a member who is concerned about ELCA governance. These concerns have been heard and discussed. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton addressed some of the concerns at the annual meeting of the South Dakota Synod, and Bishop Constanze Hagmaier has also responded to questions on these issues. There is no threat to Trinity's ministry related to these concerns. Any further concerns or questions should be directed to Pastor Steve.

The individual/s opening and closing the church will also be responsible for counting and recording the attendance at services and bagging and taking the offering to First Bank & Trust.

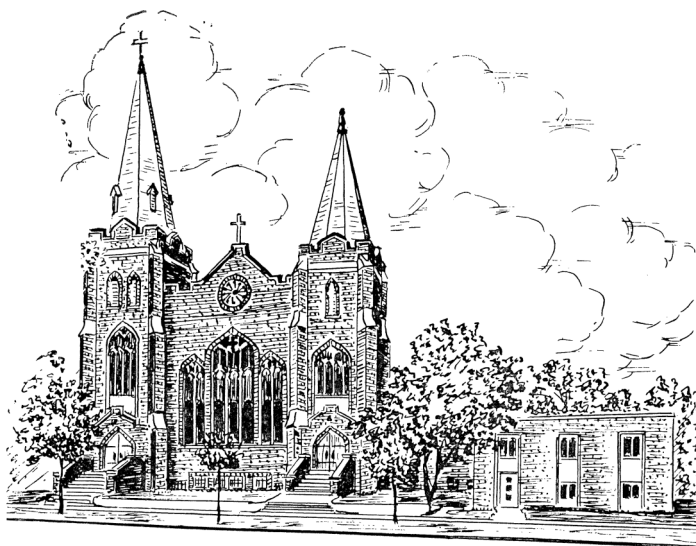
Vice-president Virginia Lemme reported that she has had numerous conversation with members who miss having lectors and ushers at worship services. This discussion will be continued at the August Council meeting.

President Kurt Christiansen and Vice-president Virginia Lemme reminded Board members that they may recruit help with any projects. They are encouraged to delegate and get more people involved in the work of the church.

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, August 12, 2025. The September meeting will include all members of the Council.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Motion to adjourn by Darrel Presuhn. Seconded by Patti Weber. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Sabbe, secretary



“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday is the ELCA’s annual day of service in communities across the nation. **Trinity Lutheran Church will be participating on Sunday, September 14th.** We had such a great time serving at Bethel Lutheran Home last year, that we decided we would do it again this year! More details will be coming your way in the next few weeks but for now please mark your calendars and plan to join us for an awesome morning of service and connection at Bethel.

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays Home Communion on the 3rd Sunday		
03 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	04	05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall
10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00AM–12:00PM Jingle Change • 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 • 6:00PM–7:30PM Men's Group : Fellowship Hall 	11	12 <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–7:00PM Scouts Committee Meeting : Youth Room • 6:00PM–6:45PM Board of Deacons Meeting : Fireside Room • 7:00PM–9:00PM Council Meeting : Fellowship Hall
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30AM–10:30AM Summer Worship w/Backpack Blessing : Sanctuary • 10:30AM–11:30AM Summer Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM • 5:00PM–8:30PM DSU Athletics Supper : Fellowship Hall 	18	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30AM–11:00AM Mary Circle : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–8:00PM Vision Team Meeting : Fireside Room
24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	25	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–8:00PM Vision Team Meeting : Fireside Room
31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 		

2025

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		01 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study • 5:00PM–6:00PM Matt Ellens & Megan Fischer Wedding : Sanctuary	02 • 5:00PM–6:00PM Fellowship Potluck Meal : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion : Fellowship Hall
06 • 4:00PM–7:00PM Preschool MWF Open House : Sonshine Preschool Room	07 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 4:00PM–7:00PM Preschool TR Open House : Sonshine Preschool Room	08 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	09 • 9:00AM–10:00AM Music Committee Meeting : Fireside Room
13	14 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall	15 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	16
20 • 12:00AM–11:59PM 1st Day of MWF Preschool : Sonshine Preschool Room • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation Orientation : Fellowship Hall	21 • 12:00AM–11:59PM 1st Day of TR Preschool : Sonshine Preschool Room • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall	22 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	23
27 • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM–8:00PM HS Youth Group : Youth Room	28 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–8:00PM Scouts Registration Night : Fellowship Hall	29 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	30

Pastor's Article

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While in Belfast, we walked the city and witnessed just how disruptive and disorienting these walls can be to the life of a community. We also had the opportunity to learn from folks who have been on the front lines of this conflict and who have been important actors in the subsequent peace movement. As a result of faithful relationship-building, mediation, and negotiation, a peace agreement was signed on Good Friday in 1998. This agreement was a historic and critical step toward peace in Northern Ireland. However, the physical walls remain as a constant reminder of the pain endured during The Troubles - symbolic of the scars on the hearts, minds, and souls of the people of Northern Ireland. Sadly, the underlying factors contributing to the conflict are still present, and there is much reconciliation work that still needs to be done to move closer to the aspiration of the agreement.

As we become more divided and parochial in our own country ... socially, politically, and ideologically ... there are similar dynamics at play in our own context. We are building metaphorical walls all over these *united* states. We erect barriers between those of differing religious beliefs, between immigrants and those born here, between "Red States" and "Blue States," between the wealthy and the poor. This segregation might temporarily make us *feel* safer but it actually reinforces biases and stereotypes, and deepens our fear of those who are different from us.

In his second letter to the church in Corinth, Paul offers a vision of what the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ means for us today. He contends that since we have all died with Christ in baptism and have been raised to new life in him, we no longer see anyone from a "human point of view" ... we no longer see them through the lenses of class, ethnicity, party, or religion. Instead, we view all people as someone for whom Christ died - as a new creation in Christ. In Christ, God has reconciled the whole world to himself. And, we have been given the privilege and responsibility of proclaiming this message of reconciliation, and helping people embody this new creation.

Rather than embracing and expressing this ministry of reconciliation, we have mostly continued to divide and separate and silo ourselves. We multiply and fortify the walls we have built up - othering and demonizing those with whom we disagree, and disassociating ourselves from them. In doing so, we deny this reality that in his death and resurrection, Christ has made all things new.

Take a moment to think about some of the walls you put up between yourself and others. How might God be calling you to be an ambassador of reconciliation?

God's Peace.

Pastor Steve

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

We are looking for teachers for the 2025-26 school year! Teach every week or every other week! We are flexible! Sundays 10-10:50 am beginning September 7th. Preschool through 5th grade



Contact Deacon Koren
korenindley@gmail.com
or call the office!

August Coffee Hour



The August Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Family of Love. The Family Group Leader, Patti Weber, will be contacting you. Your help is always appreciated. FYI – September Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Family of Joy.

Summer Worship Schedule

The summer worship schedule began on May 25. Summer worship will be at 9:30 on Sundays. This schedule will remain in effect through August 31.



NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

Recent Memorials
July 25, 2025

In Memory of Eleanor Morse
Clara Downs

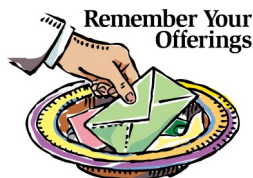
In Memory of Olive Bakke
Doug and Joan Merager

In Memory of DeAnn Molskness
Dan and Sharon Carlson

In Memory of Dwayne Pecks
Mary Lingbeck



Thank you to Jon & Mary Hunter, Karen Kalvig, Wade & Jennifer Briggs, Karen Giles, and Ron & Bobby Janke for delivering Home Communion in July.



Financial Response as of 6/30/2025

Offering is \$1,189.16 above what was projected in the 2025 Mission Plan.

The year-to-date statistics are:

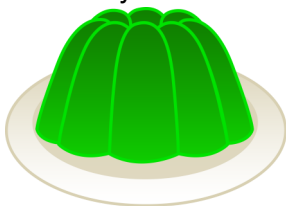
Total Income (YTD) \$174,009.54

Total Expenses (YTD) \$205,783.61

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

Bethany Lutheran Salad Luncheon

Bethany Lutheran Church of Howard, SD will have their annual salad luncheon on August 14 at 6 p.m. We will have a wonderful salad luncheon, and Kathy Blake is the speaker this year.



Friendly Reminders!!!

Wed, Aug 20st @5:30 pm
Parent/Student Orientation

Wed, Aug 27th @5:30 pm
1st Confirmation Class

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall

Blessing of the Backpacks

Students (and Teachers)
of **ALL AGES**
are invited to bring their
backpack/bag to be blessed
on **August 17th at 9:30 am**
during worship!



September 2025 Save the Dates

7th

*Fall Worship Schedule Begins

*Rally Sunday

*Sunday School Begins

14th

*God's Work, Our Hands
at Bethel Nursing Home



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 August Mission of the Month is Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota, a camping ministry of the SD Synod of the ELCA, operating three camps – Outlaw Ranch, Klein Ranch and Ne So Dak.

Gifts may be designated on offering envelopes/checks to Mission of the Month Fund. The Jingle Change collection on August 10 also supports the Mission of the Month.

Congregational Information

Deaths: DeAnn Molskness on June 30

Dwayne Pecks on July 18

Baptisms: none

Weddings: Marissa Jencks & Andrew Sparks on July 26

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