

## From the Pastor's Pen

"I will believe the truth about myself, no matter how beautiful it is."  
- Macrina Wiederkehr -



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This past summer I read a great book called, *Things Become Other Things*, by Craig Mod. It is the author's story of healing and transformation, as he walked hundreds of miles along Japan's ancient pilgrimage routes. This book is a combination of two of my favorite things, memoirs and photography. Chronicled in his powerful photographs and evocative words, through thousands of steps and dozens of conversations with the people he encountered, Mod uncovers truths about himself and the world, which had been shrouded by his past - buried in the rubble of a troublesome upbringing.

Toward the end of the book, Mod recounts a conversation with a friend that I find particularly profound, "[Seamus and I] talk about ... the beauty of the world and wonder why it's so hard for people to see, to see the beauty. For too long, he says, the church made this world out to be the place of sin with the wonder stashed up above, when the wonder lay here before us all along." There are many wonderful elements to our Lutheran heritage, especially the accent on salvation by grace alone and the theology of the cross. However, one aspect of the tradition that has been unhelpful, even harmful at times, is the accentuated emphasis on our inherent sinful nature, our flaws and unworthiness, and that of the world. The implication is that Jesus came to save us from this evil, stained world ... to (hopefully) take us to a better place when we die - the place where beauty and wonder are "stashed" away.

Of course, there's no denying the brokenness of our world. Every moment, we are bombarded with this. It continuously comes across our screens, newsfeeds, and timelines. Regular examination of ourselves, and the structures and systems of the world that harm others, and confession of this sin will always be a critical practice of the church. However, if we are not mindful, we could believe that the sin, the evil, the darkness is all there is. The reality is, if you are expecting depravity in yourself and the people around you, that's what you will find. When you are looking for evil in the world, that's what you will see. On the other hand, if you are watching for beauty, you will see it. If you are searching for wonder, you will find it all around you. Creation is filled with divine goodness and splendor.

On November 30th, our walk through Advent together begins. Advent is traditionally a season of waiting, watching, and preparing. We wait for a savior. We watch for a healer. We prepare for a redeemer. The enigma in this is that the one for whom we wait is already here. The light already shines in the darkness in which we sit. During this Advent season, I invite and encourage you to practice being open to and aware of the beauty already within you and all around you. In so doing, we can learn to transform Advent from merely being a four-week season in December to a daily posture - a way of being in the world - hoping, waiting, and watching for the light and beauty in our midst every day.

God's Peace. Pastor Steve

# Unapproved November Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Church Council meeting  
Tuesday, November 11, 2025  
7:00 p.m.

President Kurt Christiansen led the Council in reciting Trinity's mission statement.

President Kurt Christiansen called the meeting to order.

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

Voting members absent: none

Non-voting members present: Tami Christiansen, Karen Giles, Lucas Muller, Alicia Koch, Marie Millage, Darrel Presuhn, Ben Kapelle

Non-voting members absent: Alicia Entringer, Rachel Waagmeester

Vice-president Virginia Lemme gave a devotion about giving thanks. The apostle Paul encouraged the early church to rejoice, pray, and give thanks—all things that may be incorporated in our thanksgiving celebrations.

Pastor Steven Lindley prayed the opening prayer.

Motion by Vice-president Virginia Lemme, seconded by Patti Weber, to add a discussion of the digital pianos under new business. Motion carried. Motion by Past president Tom Farrell, seconded by Eric Anderson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Motion by Vice-president Virginia Lemme, seconded by Past president Tom Farrell, to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2025, meeting as printed. Motion carried.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Past president Tom Farrell gave the Financial Report. As of October 31, 2025, the offering is \$46,113.64 below what was projected in the 2025 Mission Plan.

Total income received through October is \$257,887.23. Discussion of the current financials led to a decision to provide the congregation with an explanation of the current financial status through a temple talk and articles in the newsletter and E-news.

The replacement of the windows in the education wing cost \$33,810.00. Gifts totaling \$16,773.83 were received leaving a balance of \$17,036.17 to be paid from the Cornerstone Fund. The bill for bat mitigation was \$21,407.80. One gift was received. The balance will be paid from the Building Fund.

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

## REPORTS

Pastor Steven Lindley submitted a written report. No additional applications for the custodial position have been received. He stated that he made 15 visits during his visit week in October.

Deacon Koren Lindley submitted a written report.

President Kurt Christiansen reported that staff evaluations were completed in October.

Vice-president Virginia Lemme thanked the non-voting members for attending the meeting stating that it is good to hear their points of view. The Nominating Committee has 12 openings to fill and continues to meet.

## Board of Deacons—Patti Weber reporting

- The program for the Hanging of the Greens service is ready to go to the printer.
- Artificial poinsettias for the altar have been ordered.
- The coffee hour letters for December have been sent, and the 2026 schedule for coffee hour is done.
- The Home Care Team met. Karen Giles will confer with Pastor Steven Lindley about the mission and goals of the Care Team.
- The pianos have been tuned.
- Lucas Muller hopes to have the new website online by the end of November.
- Questions were raised regarding the viability of continuing to broadcast the Sunday worship service on KJAM. The cost of each weekly broadcast

# Unapproved November Council Meeting Minutes

is \$50.00. There is no option through KJAM to determine the number of listeners, and the broadcast has been inconsistent.

## Board of Trustees-Eric Anderson reporting

- The issues with the Daktronics bulletin board have been resolved.
- InfoTech has investigated the wireless issues in the office. They suggested mounting a router on the ceiling between Alex Eykamp's desk and Pastor Steven Lindley's office. Joel Brick has worked out another solution which provides a good signal to the Pastor's office and is currently being utilized.
- Midwest Glass has replaced the window in the Fellowship Hall.
- The Board has accepted a bid from Richard Wolf to sand and paint the new windows in the education wing.
- The search for cameras to be mounted on the exterior of the building continues.
- The Board identified some items that will require repair or replacement soon.

## Board of Faith Formation—Dani Ruhd reporting

- The Confirmation Sunday went very well.
- They discussed what the Kids Christmas Worship might be this year.
- The Women's Bible Study will be completing their current study in a few weeks.
- Only a few members of the congregation are taking advantage of the lectionary study with Pastor Steven Lindley.
- The Preschool fundraiser was very successful.
- The Board is not making plans for the 2027 National Youth Gathering. Lutheran Outdoors is not providing the same services that were offered for the 2025 National Youth Gathering, and there has been minimal interest expressed by Trinity's youth.
- No date has been set for Bingo Bash.

## TEAM BUILDING

Each person responded to a question selected from the "Gratitude Jar." Council members got to know each other a little better through the responses to the questions.

## OLD BUSINESS

President Kurt Christiansen reminded the Boards to have their requests for the 2026 Mission Plan to him by December 1, 2025.

Vice-president Virginia Lemme thanked the Boards for providing names of potential officers and board members to the Nominating Committee. The list of candidates must be completed by January 1, 2026.

## NEW BUSINESS

Vice-president Virginia Lemme distributed copies of the descriptions for each position on the Boards as listed in the Constitution. She requested that the people currently serving in the positions note any changes in the duties they actually perform and return the edited descriptions to her by October 2026.

Vice-president Virginia Lemme introduced the Council Year End Report. This report, developed by the vice-president and Dani Ruhd, is designed to provide the newly elected members of the Council with additional information about their positions.

Vice-president Virginia Lemme noted that a digital piano is one of the items on the Bethel Home's wish list. Trinity has four digital pianos, two of which are not being used. She proposed donating one of the pianos to the Bethel Home. Motion by Past president Tom Farrell, seconded by Dani Ruhd, to donate one of the Yamaha digital pianos to the Bethel Home. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the Church Council will be Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion to adjourn made by Past president Tom Farrell and seconded by Patti Weber. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

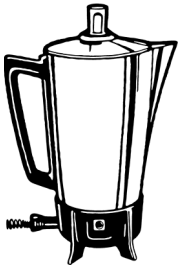
Nancy Sabbe, secretary

## December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Holy Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays Home Communion on the 3rd Sunday	01  • 7:00PM–8:00PM Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall	02  • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Scouts Committee Meeting : Fireside Room
07 <i>Advent 2</i>  • 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 Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM	08  • 7:00PM–8:00PM Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall	09  • 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
14 <i>Advent 3</i>  • Jingle Change • 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 Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM	15  • Pastor's Visitation Week • 7:00PM–8:00PM Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall	16  • Pastor's Visitation Week • 9:30AM–11:00AM Mary Circle : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 11:30AM–1:30PM Piano Tuning : Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary
21 <i>Advent 4</i>  • 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 w/Kids' Xmas Worship : Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM	22  • No Preschool–Christmas Break	23  • No Preschool–Christmas Break • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall
28 <i>Christmas 1</i>  • 9:30AM–10:30AM Worship : Sanctuary • 10:30AM–11:30AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM	29  • No Preschool–Christmas Break	30  • No Preschool–Christmas Break • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office

## 2025

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
03 • 10:00AM–1:00PM DSU Tabling : Off Site • 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 : Sanctuary • 7:00PM–8:00PM Wed. Eve. Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall ; HS Youth Group : Youth Room	04 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall	05 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	06 • 5:00PM–6:00PM Fellowship Potluck Meal : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion : Fellowship Hall
10 • 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 HS Youth Group : Youth Room ; Wed. Eve. Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall	11 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Arrow of Light & Webelo Den Meetings : Fellowship Hall	12 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	13 • 9:00AM–10:30AM Covenant Choir Party : Fireside Room
17 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation Christmas Party : 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 HS Youth Group : Youth Room ; Wed. Eve. Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall	18 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 10:30AM–11:00AM Preschool TR A.M. Christmas Program : Sanctuary • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 3:00PM–3:30PM Preschool TR P.M. Christmas Program : Sanctuary • 6:30PM–7:30PM Scouts Pack 5 Meeting--Christmas Party : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:15PM Lions & Tigers Den Meetings : Youth Room	19 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study • 10:30AM–11:00AM Preschool MWF A.M. Christmas Program : Sanctuary • 3:00PM–3:30PM Preschool MWF P.M. Christmas Program : Sanctuary	20
24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> • No Preschool–Christmas Break • 5:00PM–6:00PM Christmas Candlelight Worship : Sanctuary • 10:00PM–11:00PM Christmas Candlelight Worship : Sanctuary	25 <i>Nativity of Our Lord/Christmas Day</i> • No Preschool–Christmas Break • Office Closed	26 • No Preschool–Christmas Break • Office Closed • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	27
31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> • No Preschool–Christmas Break • 6:30PM–7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room			



## December Coffee Hour

The December Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Family of Kindness. The Family Group Leaders, Diane Plack and Cheryl Iverson, will be contacting you. Your help is always appreciated. FYI – January 2026 Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Family of Goodness.

## 2026 Coffee Schedule Fruit of the Spirit Family Groups

Serving Month	Group #	Group Family	Group Leader(s)
January	6	Goodness	Carol Andersen Tom & Joyce Farrell
February	7	Faithfulness	Tonia Meadows Gayle Maberry
March	8	Gentleness	Linda Nighbert
April	9	Self-Control	Mary Hutchinson
May	1	Love	Patti Weber
June	2	Joy	Jennifer Briggs
July	3	Peace	Scott & Beth Delzer Karen Kalvig
August	4	Patience	Lana Johnson Nancy Rook
September	5	Kindness	Diane Plack Cheryl Iverson
October	6	Goodness	Carol Andersen Tom & Joyce Farrell
November	7	Faithfulness	Tonia Meadows Gayle Maberry
December	8	Gentleness	Linda Nighbert

## LAKE COUNTY FOOD PANTRY CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX AND ANGEL TREE PROJECTS

The Food Pantry has provided food to over 500 people so far this year and is continuing its regular distribution of emergency food supplies. As the holiday season approaches, the Food Pantry is preparing for the 43rd annual Christmas Projects.

### CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX

In 2024, 172 families consisting of 586 people received Christmas food boxes, valued at \$75 each. Eligibility for receiving food boxes is determined by ICAP, the Community Health Nurse, the local Social Services office and the Madison Ministerial Association. If you know of anyone in need of a Christmas food box, please contact one of these agencies.

### ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree Project is in its 41st year. Three 'angel' trees will be set up on November 15, one each in the community window of Gary's Bakery, the Madison Public Library, and at Montgomery's Furniture. On each tree are 'Angels' which identify deserving children and suggested gift(s). In 2024, 308 children received over 650 gifts through this program. Most children will be in 8th grade or younger. We encourage any interested person or group to 'adopt' Angels and purchase that child's gift. Donations of money are also welcome (Food Pantry account at First Bank and Trust), through your church, or to PO Box 61, Madison, SD 57042.

Gifts should be delivered to the Downtown City Armory (198 Van Eps Ave N., Madison) beginning Saturday, December 6th through Wednesday, December 10th, 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. daily except Sunday. The food and gifts will be delivered on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

We again are asking for your support of the Food Pantry Christmas Programs. Your past support has meant a merrier Christmas for many Lake County families. All donations to the Food Pantry are tax deductible.

Food Pantry Board of Directors







Thank you to Susan Williams, Wade and Jennifer Briggs, Karen Kalvig, Roberta Janke, Mark Jensen, and Karen Giles for serving Home Communion in November.

## Blue Christmas Worship

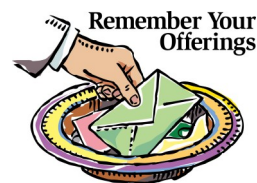
You and your family are invited to join us for worship on the longest night.

Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 4 p.m.  
St. John Lutheran Church  
122 N. Grant Ave  
Madison, SD 57042  
(605) 256-4855

We gather to acknowledge the pain, grief, loss and other challenges that come with this holiday season. Through music, scripture, and prayer we will pause and take time to acknowledge our pain, but will also look toward the hope and the promise to come.



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services  
with Holy Communion**  
Wednesday, December 24, 2025  
5:00 and 10:00 p.m.



## Financial Response as of 10/31/2025

Offering is **\$46,113.64 below** what was projected in the 2025 Mission Plan.

The year-to-date statistics are:

Total Income (YTD)	\$257,887.23
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Total Expenses (YTD)	\$344,062.30
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Thank you for your generous support of Trinity's mission!

## Come to Church this Sunday

## Join the choir!

Grades 1 - 4



**Wednesdays 5:30 - 6:15**  
**Mary Hunter - director**  
**(605) 270-4217**



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](http://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 December Mission of the Month is The Family Connection, Sioux Falls. This organization opened in 1996 to support the families of the inmates who are in the penitentiary in Sioux Falls and provides two sites that offer both shelter and meals.

*Gifts may be designated on offering envelopes/checks to Mission of the Month Fund. The Jingle Change collection on December 14 also supports the Mission of the Month.*

### Congregational Information

**Deaths:** none

**Baptisms:** none

**Weddings:** none

### Food Pantry

The Lake County Food Pantry mission of the month for December is peanut butter. 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