

Deacon's Discourse

One of the benefits of writing a newsletter article every other month is that it gives me the opportunity to pause and reflect on what we, as a faith community, have been doing together. I can easily get caught up in planning our many Faith Formation and outreach opportunities and forget to come up for air long enough to appreciate all that God is doing in and through our congregation.

That is also one of the reasons I look forward to attending the South Dakota Synod Assembly each year. I appreciate hearing from the synod staff and ministry partners about the ways God is at work across our state as we "Journey Together in Christ," the South Dakota Synod's guiding theme. Those stories remind me that Trinity Lutheran is part of something much larger. Along with ELCA congregations across South Dakota, we are connected in shared ministry, learning from and supporting one another as we seek to follow Christ.

With that in mind, I'd like to share the 2026 South Dakota Synod Assembly Recap, adapted from the synod's *Food for the Journey* blog. I hope it gives you a glimpse into the work we are part of together as the South Dakota Synod.

Deacon Koren



The 2026 South Dakota Synod Assembly was held on May 29–30, 2026, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD. Pastors, deacons, lay members, and visitors gathered each day in worship to center ourselves on the necessary work of the church. Assembly participants were invited to celebrate and remember that we are **equipped** as individuals, as a Synod, and as the Body of Christ to share the Gospel of God's love and forgiveness with the world.

In addition to worship and learning, here are some of the highlights of the Synod Assembly:

- Dr. Ryan Cumming, ELCA Director of Theological Ethics, delivered the ELCA report to the Assembly. Together, the congregations in the South Dakota Synod made it possible for the synod to share \$637,748 with the churchwide organization to support our ministry together. Together as one church, we are working toward the vision of a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. No single expression or part of the church can realize this vision alone. We are stronger together, as one church. Dr. Cumming also highlighted the work of [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) and [ELCA World Hunger](#), the [Church Property Resource Hub online platform](#), which connects congregations and synod leaders with information, organizations, and guidance for faithful and effective stewardship of church property, and the social statement [Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All](#), adopted by the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
- In her State of the Synod Report, Bishop Constanze Hagmaier discussed how she has noticed a weariness veiling individuals and communities across our nation. This weariness leaves us depleted, exhausted, and sometimes unable to respond with the patience, generosity, or courage we might otherwise have. However, there is good news: the crucified and risen Christ keeps meeting us in the very places where we are weary, divided, afraid, and worn thin. Our faith allows us to see what God is making possible through ordinary hands, ordinary tools, ordinary faithfulness, and ordinary people who dare to believe the darkness is not the whole story. If you are interested in learning more about new and emerging ministry models you might explore as a congregation, conference, or area strategy, please know this: your Synod team is ready to accompany you. Bishop Hagmaier reminded the Assembly that by the power of the crucified and risen Christ,

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Unapproved June Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Voting members present: Pastor Steven Lindley, Deacon Koren Lindley, President Virginia Lemme, Vice-president Jeremiah Schneider, Past president Kurt Christiansen, Treasurer Dick Ellis, Secretary Nancy Sabbe, Karen Giles—Board of Deacons, Darrel Presuhn—Board of Trustees

Voting member absent: Alicia Entringer—Board of Faith Formation

President Virginia Lemme called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Council recited Trinity's mission statement.

Vice-president Jeremiah Schneider gave the devotion based on 1 Peter 4:10. We each serve God and the congregation with the individual gifts we have been given trusting that God is present with us. Pastor Steven Lindley prayed an opening prayer.

Motion by Vice-president Jeremiah Schneider to approve the agenda as printed. Seconded by Darrel Presuhn. Motion carried.

Motion by Kurt Christiansen, seconded by Treasurer Dick Ellis, to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2026, meeting as submitted. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Dick Ellis reported

- As of May 31, 2026, the total general offering received is \$20,800 less than projected in the Mission Plan and the expenses are \$19,147 less than projected in the Mission Plan.
- He is one of those authorized to sign checks for Trinity. He would like to have a second reviewer present when he goes over the checks awaiting signatures. He will make arrangements with the chairman of the Board of Trustees when checks arrive for signatures.
- Cash on hand at the end of May was \$3,200, and outstanding bills totaled \$21,000. \$30,000 will be transferred from the Cornerstone Fund to cover current expenses.

Motion by Deacon Koren Lindley, seconded by Jeremiah Schneider, to acknowledge the Financial Report. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Pastor Steven Lindley reported

- The flooring project has been completed. It went very smoothly, and he thanked everyone who assisted in the project.
- An update on the maintenance position—JS Mowing will be responsible for mowing this summer and snow removal next winter. President Virginia Lemme has made arrangements with a handyman for assistance as needed.
- The summer schedule began May 24. He led the worship at Prairie Village on June 7. He thanked Jim Iverson for leading the worship at Trinity on Pentecost on May 24.
- The services on July 4 and 5 will be related to the stewardship theme of "Journey to Generosity."
- The path of footprints is growing. He encouraged everyone to bring their footprints back so they may be added to the path.
- Visitation week in May was busy. He made 18 visits.

Deacon Koren Lindley submitted a written report and added that

- She finished her Faith Forward cohort in May. This was a free 1 year cohort focused on passing the faith to the next generation. She has already woven pieces of what she learned into the faith formation at Trinity.
- She has completed the Narrative 4 Story Exchange training and is a certified facilitator for Narrative 4. The training was paid for through the Holy Playground grant. It is a tool for bringing people together to bring about change.
- She will be training this month with ReFocus Ministries (also paid for through the Holy Playground grant). ReFocus Ministries focuses on generational discipleship and bridging the gap between generations, bringing faith communities together to worship, serve, and learn together.
- While the flooring in the office area was being replaced, she offered off-site office hours at Scooters and Sun-dog.

President Virginia Lemme reported

- Richard Wolf will clean the carpets over the summer.
- Rick Schmidt will take care of the humidifiers on the pianos.
- There are some problems with the air conditioners in the sanctuary. A & M Mechanical will come this week to look into this.
- Some furnishings have been donated to the Bethel Home.

Unapproved June Council Meeting Minutes

- A question has been raised regarding the location of the American and Christian flags. The flags were moved from the sanctuary to the narthex three years ago, and a member of the congregation has questioned the move. Following discussion and having reached no consensus, the Council decided to defer this issue to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Vice-president Jeremiah Schneider

- Thanked the Council for their patience with his schedule which has been busy.

Board of Deacons—Karen Giles reported

- Cantors and special music have been scheduled for the summer.
- Work on the Hanging of the Greens service is beginning.
- Jessica Johnson will join Karen Kalvig to lead the Peace service group.
- Pastor Nancy Rieke will lead worship on June 21. Deacon Koren Lindley will lead worship on July 19. Communion will be moved to July 26.
- Trinity will serve The Gathering meal on June 15.
- The jingle change offering in May totaled \$223.49. It was donated to Bethel Lutheran Home.
- There are currently three individuals trained to record the services.

Board of Trustees—Darrel Presuhn reported

- The form from Marsh McLennan regarding Trinity's insurance has been completed.
- Bruna Electric has been contacted about replacing the fluorescent lights on the north side of the sanctuary.
- JS Mowing will be responsible for mowing and for snow removal.
- The repair to the stained glass window will be done this month.
- The replacement of the floor covering in the office area has been successfully completed.

Board of Faith Formation—Deacon Koren Deacon reported

- Plans for the potluck after the services on Rally Sunday are being made.
- Upcoming dates:
 - ◇ July 4 & 5 Journey to Generosity (Stewardship Themed Worship)
 - ◇ July 12–15 VBS: Passing on the Light. Stories of Faith We Share
 - ◇ July 30 Miracle Treat Day
 - ◇ August 16 Blessing of the Backpacks
 - ◇ August 19 or 26 Confirmation Starts with Parent Meeting

- ◇ September 13 Rally Sunday with Potluck (Sponsored by BFF)

TEAM BUILDING

Council members shared their impressions of Bishop Constanze Hagmaier's State of the Synod address from the recent synod assembly.

OLD BUSINESS

God's Work, Our Hands is scheduled for September 20 at the Bethel Home. President Virginia Lemme will contact Wade and Jennifer Briggs about serving as chairmen for coordinating this event.

NEW BUSINESS

- Beth and Scott Delzer are moving to Beresford, and Beth has resigned her position on the Trinity Foundation Commission. Motion by Past president Kurt Christiansen, seconded by Darrel Presuhn, to accept her resignation with regret and appoint Jennifer Briggs to the vacant position on the Commission. Motion carried.
- President Virginia Lemme invited all the members of the Council and their families to a brunch at her home after church on Sunday, August 23.
- The position of Deacon of Mission and Evangelism is vacant following the resignation of Kevin Streff. Brenda Soper has volunteered to serve in this position. Motion by President Virginia Lemme, seconded by Treasurer Dick Ellis, to appoint Brenda Soper to serve as the Deacon of Mission and Evangelism until the next annual meeting. Motion carried. Kevin Streff will continue to work on the website with the goal of debuting the new site on Rally Sunday.
- Pastor Steven Lindley drew the members' attention to the Mission Moment schedule on the meeting agenda.
- The next meeting of the Church Council will be Tuesday July 21—one week later than usual to avoid a conflict with Vacation Bible School.

The meeting closed with the Council members praying the Lord's prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Past president Kurt Christiansen. Motion seconded by Karen Giles. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Sabbe, secretary

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>Holy Communion on the 1st & 4th Sundays</p> <p>Home Communion on the 4th Sunday</p>		
<p>05</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stewardship Day • 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 	<p>06</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor's Visitation Week 	<p>07</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor's Visitation Week • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall
<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor's Visitation Week • 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–8:00PM Vacation Bible School 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00PM–8:00PM Vacation Bible School 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–8:00PM Vacation Bible School
<p>19</p> <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 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30AM–11:00AM Mary Circle : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 12:00PM–1:00PM Finance Meeting : Zoom • 7:00PM–9:00PM Council Meeting : Fellowship Hall
<p>26</p> <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 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall

2026

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall 	03 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office Closed 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study 	04 <i>Independence Day</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stewardship Day 5:00PM–6:00PM Fellowship Potluck Meal : Fellowship Hall 6:00PM–7:00PM Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion : Fellowship Hall
08 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor's Visitation Week 	09 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor's Visitation Week 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor's Visitation Week 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor's Visitation Week
15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00PM–8:00PM Vacation Bible School 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall 6:30PM–7:30PM Scouts Pre-Summer Camp Meeting : Fellowship Hall 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study 	18
22	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study 	25
29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study 	

Deacon's Article

Continued from page 1

through ordinary hands, ordinary tools, ordinary conversations, ordinary congregations, ordinary bread and wine, ordinary water and word, ordinary courage and ordinary people like us, God is still poking holes in the darkness.

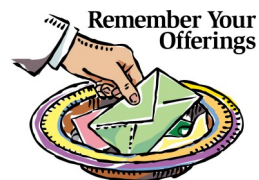
- The agenda also featured two panel discussions. One focused on the programs implemented through the Lilly Grant awards the Synod has received: Rural Ministry, the Pasque Online Learning Community, and the Holy Playground Ministry; the other on the work of the Associates to the Bishop.
- Director for Evangelical Mission Rev. Jonathan Vehar also introduced the Assembly to the Synod's new narrative budget document, and Rev. Ann Rosendale, Senior Pastor at Augustana University, led the Assembly in a Bible Study demonstrating storytelling techniques from Augustana's Sacred Discoveries Initiative.
- Throughout the assembly, Dakota Road Music provided music leadership. Dakota Road Music has become known nationally for their stirring original music that is being sung in congregations across the U.S. and beyond. They craft powerful stories of life and faith woven in colorful musical styles ranging from acoustic ballads to rocking anthems. Their songs of faith and love, hurts, and hopes are shaped by a passion for justice and a vision for the church, the neighborhood, and the whole world to be peace-filled, welcoming places. The band members are Hans Peterson, Karol Baer, Scott Jibben, Al Berven and Larry Olson.
- Actions taken by the Synod Assembly include:
 - ◊ Election of new South Dakota Synod Council Members and approval of synod committee members.
 - ◊ Approval of new compensation and guidelines for rostered and lay staff.
 - ◊ The 2027 Mission Plan for the South Dakota Synod was adopted.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2027 Synod Assembly, to be held on **June 4–5, 2027**, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Rapid City.



Worship Schedule

Summer Worship Schedule
 May 24–September 6
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m.



Financial Response as of 5/31/2026

Offering is \$20,799.10 below the mission plan.
 The year-to-date statistics are:

General Offering (YTD)	\$155,625.00
Total Expenses (YTD)	\$186,671.05

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

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

Recent Memorials

In Memory of Barb Feige
Grant Graff

In Memory of Doug Merager
Carol and Gerald Petri
Nyla Sonen
Gene and Marilyn Hexom
Dennis and Nancy Rook
Mary Lingbeck



Join us on our Journey to Generosity!

This summer, as a faith community, we are being intentional and mindful of the ways we are already being generous with the gifts God has given us – the great works God is doing through us. You are invited to stop by our Journey to Generosity display in the narthex and take a blank footprint or two with you. When you notice yourself or someone in your family being generous, write it down, bring it back to Trinity, and we will add it to our path of generous footprints. You are encouraged to take these along with you when you go camping, to ballgames, or on vacation. Have fun!

Come to Church this Sunday



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

Membership Information

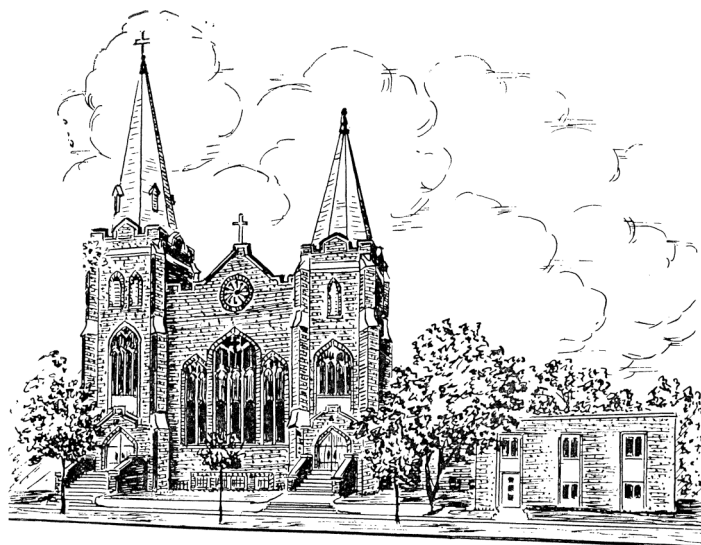
Is your info. up-to-date?

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

July: Peace—Karen Kalvig and Jessica Johnson
August: Patience—Cassandra and Kyle Brunick
September: Kindness—Diane Plack and Cheryl Iverson





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 July Mission of the Month is Delta Dental–Madison United Way. Delta Dental is a mobile dental truck that provides free dental services to children. Coming to Madison this summer – August 10–14th. *Gifts may be designated on offering envelopes/checks to Mission of the Month Fund. The Jingle Change collection on July 12 also supports the Mission of the Month.*

Congregational Information

Deaths: Kim Verhey on May 21

Douglas Merager on June 10

Baptisms: Mabel Hanson on June 28

Weddings: Abigail Morse and Bruce Van DeStroet on June 27

Food Pantry

The Lake County Food Pantry mission of the month for July is shampoo. 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