

Deacon's Discourse

There's Room at the Table

As we approach Thanksgiving, many of us begin thinking about the people who will gather around our tables. We plan meals, make room for guests, and look forward to spending time together. But I wonder: What does it look like to make room for one another at Trinity?

Sometimes, we think about welcoming visitors, and that's important! But what about the people who are already here? The parent trying to keep up with their very active children during worship. The widow who may return to a quiet home after church. The person who faithfully comes each week but always sits alone. The person who seems to have everything together but might be longing for someone to notice them.

Romans 15:7 reminds us, *"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."* What if hospitality begins with simply noticing? Sitting beside someone. Offering a helping hand. Learning a name. Asking how someone is doing and taking time to listen to the answer. Inviting someone to join you for coffee or sit with you at a church gathering.

We don't have to do something extraordinary. Sometimes, the smallest gestures remind someone that they are seen, valued, and loved.

As we gather around our Thanksgiving tables, may we remember that God's table is bigger than we can imagine. There is room for all of us, just as we are. And at Trinity, we have the opportunity to help one another experience that welcome—not just from God, but from each other.

A November Challenge: Let's Make a Little More Room!

This November, let's look for small ways to help others feel they belong.

- **Sit together.** Look for someone you don't usually sit with or invite someone to join you.
- **Notice.** Offer a smile, a helping hand, or an encouraging word to someone who might need it.
- **Connect.** Invite someone to join you for coffee or take time to learn something new about a person you see at church every week.

No grand gestures required. Just small ways of sharing God's love with one another.

Who might need you to make a little room for them this month?

Deacon Koren



Unapproved October Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2026
7:30 p.m.

President Virginia Lemme called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Council members recited Trinity's mission statement.

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, Karen Giles—Board of Deacons, Marisa Nussbaum—Board of Faith Formation designee

Non-voting members present: Dave Ellens

Voting members absent: Vice president Jeremiah Schneider

President Virginia Lemme gave a devotion based on Isaiah 35. The prophet writes about the path prepared for followers. The prophesy is fulfilled in Jesus who is the way, and who leads and guides us on our way home to Him.

Pastor Steven Lindley opened the meeting with prayer.

Motion by Darrel Presuhn to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Treasurer Dick Ellis. Motion carried.

Motion by Treasurer Dick Ellis to accept the minutes of the September 9, 2026, meeting as printed. Seconded by Past president Kurt Christiansen. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Dick Ellis presented the Financial Report. An additional \$10,000 is needed to cover the September bills payable in October. He suggested that \$4,000 be taken from the savings of the Board of Faith Formation; \$4,000 be taken from the savings of the Board of Deacons; and \$2,000 be taken from the Cornerstone account to cover the shortfall. Past president Kurt Christiansen made a motion to adopt the proposal. Seconded by President Virginia Lemme. In the discussion that followed, the Council was reminded that the general offering through September is

\$48,000 less than the amount anticipated in the 2026 Mission Plan. Income of \$140,000 will be needed in the next three months. Also, question was raised about the legality of moving designated funds. The motion failed. Motion by Past president Kurt Christiansen, seconded by Darrel Presuhn, to take \$10,000 from the Hanneman Endowment Fund to cover September bills payable October. The question of moving designated funds will be addressed at the next meeting. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Pastor Steven Lindley submitted a written report. He added the following:

- The new website looks good, but much of the information used by the developers is very generic, and it would require a lot of work to personalize the site. The platform for the new website is Word-Press. Deacon Koren Lindley and Karen Giles may know a local contact who is willing to help.
- Mission Moments will be discontinued.

Deacon Koren Lindley submitted a written report. She added the following:

- The Board of Faith Formation had discussed Trinity's welcoming atmosphere or lack thereof. Positive and negative examples were given. They plan to continue to work on this, but encouraged everyone to give each other grace in any situation.

President Virginia Lemme reported

- A thank you note was received from the Bethel Home for the work and fellowship provided through God's Work, Our Hands. A thank note was received from Pastor Steven Lindley and Deacon Koren Lindley for the gift during Clergy Appreciation Month.
- The maintenance manager's position is open. Interested persons are encouraged to fill out an application.
- President Virginia Lemme reported on the meeting of the committee considering the placement of the American and Christian flags. The Council discussed the report and voted, 5 to 4, in favor of leaving the flags in the narthex.

Board of Faith Formation—Deacon Koren Lindley reported

- In addition to the items in her report, Alicia Entringer has resigned from the Board of Faith Formation.

Unapproved October Council Meeting Minutes

Board of Deacons—Karen Giles reported

- Regular activities continue as usual.
- She asked for suggestions for an activity or organization that will be designated to receive the offerings from the Lenten soup suppers.
- She is organizing a meeting of the Home Care Team with Pastor Steven Lindley attending.
- They are looking at updating the Prayer List policy.
- The Jingle Change collected in September totaled \$368.21. It will be donated to the local Kid's Backpack Project.

Board of Trustees—Darrel Presuhn reported

- Dave Ellens emailed the following proposal for building insurance: "The Board of Trustees is recommending that the Church Council approve moving Trinity's insurance to Lightwell Insurance Agency, with Brotherhood Mutual, as the primary insurance company."

Proposed coverage and cost:

Property, liability, auto, umbrella workers' comp,
and cyber \$22,326.27

Wind /Hail deductible buy-down
to \$5,000 \$3,270.00

TOTAL ANNUAL PREMIUM \$25,596.27

The proposal was unanimously approved by the Council.

- JS Mowing LLC has been retained for snow removal.
- There has been no communication from Riddles Glass regarding the doors that leak—the handicapped, the playground, and the north doors.
- There has been no communication from the Window Shop regarding the warranty on the window in the sacristy.

OLD BUSINESS

- President Virginia Lemme, Vice president Jeremiah Schneider, Past president Kurt Christiansen, and Treasurer Dick Ellis will meet to review the requests for inclusion in the 2027 Mission Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dave Ellens introduced a challenge to Trinity to build the church of tomorrow by investing today. The challenge he stated is that an aging congregation, fewer young families, building costs and financial pressure raise an important question about our future. Cutting expenses and drawing on reserves may buy time. Neither alone builds

the next generation of Trinity. The Council endorsed the concept presented, and encouraged him to continue to develop his idea. He will investigate grant funding and discuss possible donors with President Virginia Lemme.

- The committee reviewing Trinity's policies presented the following new and/or revised policies: Building Use, Volunteer Committee, Cybersecurity, General Evacuation, Suspected Abuse, Severe Weather. Motion by Karen Giles, seconded by Past president Kurt Christiansen, to approve the policies presented and to consider a Photo Release policy and form. Motion carried.
- A generous donation has provided the Celebrate inserts for the last two years. A decision on whether or not to continue providing the inserts was tabled pending more information on price.
- Pastor Steven Lindley brought forward the possibility of sabbaticals for rostered clergy. Sabbaticals are an option usually offered every five to six years. President Virginia Lemme will check with the South Dakota Synod for additional information and policies on how to proceed. This topic will be revisited at the November meeting.
- The Council discussed how the terms of office for Board members might be revised to provide an opportunity for more continuity through less turnover every year. President Virginia Lemme will contact Danny Brown for options on how to proceed.
- Motion by Past president Kurt Christiansen, seconded by Darrel Presuhn, to approve renewing Katie Nelson's contract at a cost of \$900.66 per month. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Treasurer Dick Ellis. Seconded by Kurt Christiansen. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Council praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Sabbe, secretary



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
01 <i>All Saints Day</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 9:45AM–10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Fireside Room, Sunday School Rooms • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM ; Board of Faith Formation Meeting : Church Office • 12:15PM–1:00PM <i>Angels Aware!</i> Rehearsal : Fellowship Hall 	02 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00PM–8:00PM Scouts Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall 	03 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00AM–9:00AM Board of Trustees Meeting : Fireside Room • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM–8:00PM Nominating Committee Meeting : Conference Room
08 <i>Stewardship Day</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jingle Change • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 9:45AM–10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Fireside Room, Sunday School Rooms • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM • 3:00PM–5:00PM OCC Packing Party : Fellowship Hall 	09 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00PM–8:00PM Scouts Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall 	10 <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 • 7:00PM–9:00PM Council Meeting : Fellowship Hall
15 <i>Foundation Sunday</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 9:45AM–10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Fireside Room, Sunday School Rooms • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor's Visitation Week • 7:00PM–8:00PM Scouts Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor's Visitation Week • 9:30AM–11:00AM Mary Circle : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office
22 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor's Visitation Week • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 9:45AM–10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Fireside Room, Sunday School Rooms • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:00AM–5:00PM Organ Tuning : Sanctuary • 7:00PM–8:00PM Scouts Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:00PM Community Choir Rehearsal : Sanctuary
29 <i>Advent 1</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30AM–10:30AM Hanging of the Greens Worship : Sanctuary • No Sunday School • 10:30AM–11:30AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00PM–8:00PM Scouts Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall 	

2026

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
04 • 4:30PM–5:15PM Epiphany Bell Choir Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:30PM–6:15PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM–8:15PM Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM–8:00PM Youth Group : Youth Room	05 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall	06 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	07 <i>Stewardship Day</i> • 5:00PM–6:00PM Fellowship Potluck Meal : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion : Fellowship Hall
11 • 4:30PM–5:15PM Epiphany Bell Choir Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:30PM–6:15PM 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	12 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall	13 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	14
18 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 10:00AM–1:00PM DSU Tabling • 4:30PM–5:15PM Epiphany Bell Choir Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 5:30PM–6:15PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room • 7:00PM–8:00PM Youth Group : Youth Room • 7:00PM–8:15PM Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall	19 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:30PM Scouts Pack Meeting : Fellowship Hall	20 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	21 • Pastor's Visitation Week • 9:00AM–10:30AM Children's Choir Rehearsal for Thanksgiving Eve : Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary
25 • No Preschool • 4:30PM–5:15PM Epiphany Bell Choir Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:30PM–5:45PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 6:00PM–7:00PM Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship : Sanctuary • 7:00PM–8:00PM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall	26 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> • No Preschool • Office Closed	27 • No Preschool • Office Closed • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	28
Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays Home Communion on the 3rd Sunday			



NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

Recent Memorials

In Memory of Tim Schut

Jennifer, Makayla, Katelyn, and Alyssa Schut

In Memory of Gayla Anderson

Joan Merager

Save the date for 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 together about our foundation's lasting impact. Save the date: Sunday, November 15, 2026.



Thank you to Wade & Jennifer Briggs, Jon & Mary Hunter, Susan Williams, and Ron & Roberta Janke for serving Home Communion in October.



Financial Response as of 9/30/2026

Offering is \$48,343.48 below the mission plan.

The year-to-date statistics are:

General Offering (YTD)	\$231,210.60
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Total Expenses (YTD)	\$319,103.20
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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

November: Faithfulness—Tonia Meadows and Gayle Maberry

December: Gentleness—Linda Nighbert

January: Self-Control—Mary Hutchinson

Care Team

Trinity's Care Team shares Christ's love through caring visits, listening and prayer. Would you like to serve on the Care Team, welcome a visit from a Care Team member, or have Holy Communion brought to you at home? Please contact the church office to volunteer, request a visit or arrange home communion. We would love to connect with you!



Operation Christmas Child Box Packing!!!

ALL AGES
WELCOME

Sunday, November 8
3 pm

Trinity Fellowship Hall





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 November Mission of the Month is Angel Tree, Valiant Living. Valiant Living provides Christmas presents for residents through Trinity Church. Monies will be used to purchase a gift/gifts for an angel. *Gifts may be designated on offering envelopes/checks to Mission of the Month Fund. The Jingle Change collection on November 8 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: Daryl Molskness on October 3
Baptisms: Scottie Brunick on October 11
Weddings: none

Food Pantry

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

SEE YOU IN CHURCH