



# TLC Grapevine

July 2024

[www.trinitybemidji.org](http://www.trinitybemidji.org)

A Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church, Bemidji, Minnesota (218) 444-4441

### Worship Services

9:00 am, Sunday

**There are no Wednesday Services during vacancy**

**Sunday School (Sept - May)**

10:30 am - 11:30 am



[trinity3@paulbunyan.net](mailto:trinity3@paulbunyan.net)

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## **God’s design for sexuality: Starting the conversation**

*May 3, 2024 / Reporter / By Stacey Eising*

Cohabitation. Homosexuality. Pornography. Transgenderism.

The church is often silent about these issues or speaks of them as if they are “out there” — but as they increasingly permeate every corner of society, they also affect our brothers and sisters in Christ.

When God’s design is rejected, the whole community suffers. Often, suffering parents or struggling individuals are too afraid to speak up about these issues within their church communities, afraid of awkwardness or shame. In this silence, many Christians are bearing burdens alone — burdens that are extremely heavy to bear.

At its 2019 and 2023 conventions, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) passed resolutions calling on the church to “address sexual orientation and gender identity issues” — to start intentional conversations, and to enable LCMS pastors, church workers and laypeople, through resources and support, to carry on these conversations within their congregations.

On April 15–16, the Created Male and Female: In His Image Conference was held at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis. It was one of the first of a series of conferences to be led around the country by the LCMS Recognized Service Organization DOXOLOGY, funded by a grant from the LCMS Office of National Mission (ONM). The ONM will cover 10 conferences in 2024 and 10 more in 2025.

The conference’s two days of sessions were led by the Rev. David C. Fleming, DOXOLOGY’s executive director for Spiritual Care; Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke, DOXOLOGY’s executive director for Christian Counsel; and the Rev. Matthew Wurm, senior pastor of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, S.D.

Tailoring the content for three different “tracks” — clergy, laypeople, and educators and other church workers — the sessions were oriented around four major topics: pastoral care for cohabitating couples, support for families of children who identify as transgender, tactics for navigating difficult conversations and conflict, and Christian worldview and sexuality.

### **A light in the darkness**

Wurm, who started a support group in his congregation for members dealing with these issues in their families, spoke on pastoral responses to cohabitation and transgenderism. His talks included:

The need for pastoral discernment when responding to cohabitating couples, rather than a one-size-fits-all “ultimatum strategy” or “relational strategy.”

The importance of presenting a positive vision of the goodness of marriage to cohabitating couples, rather than simply condemning their sin. “Light a candle in the midst of the darkness,” said Wurm. “It will draw people to it.”

The increasing warnings children are receiving on social media not to speak to pastors about their gender identity — and the subsequent importance of equipping laypeople and teachers to respond to these questions with God’s truth.

The opportunity to create places in our churches both to support members who are dealing with these issues in their families, and to include those who are coming out of the LGBTQ+ community. “Those people who desire this chaste, faithful life — how can we plug them in to our church communities?”

Fleming’s talks focused on the Christian response to the culture’s view of sexuality. His points included:



- A reminder of Satan’s constant attacks on the church — making Christians ashamed of God’s truth, turning us against one another in anger, oppressing our consciences and leading us to despair — and the protection and cleansing that comes through Christ’s forgiveness.
- The need to emphasize the value and sacredness of the body in a culture that demeans and degrades it. Our bodies are not our own but belong to the Lord and are temples of the Holy Spirit. Through Christ, God sees us as we will be, “without spot or wrinkle.” This hope is there for all who repent.
- The importance of emphasizing the beauty of marriage and explaining how it is designed and given by God — while also upholding the value and purpose of the celibate single life. “Our society is billowing darkness. It’s all around us. How do we repel the darkness? The only way is to hold up the light. And nobody else is going to do that but the church and Christians — nobody else is going to hold up the light of the beauty of God in His Word and in the saving work of Christ but us. That’s our job, our beautiful confession,” said Fleming.
- Yahnke’s talks focused on practical strategies for having difficult conversations. Her points included:
- Statistics that show the rising fear and difficulty of conversation in general in our culture, due to the mistrust people have of one another, and the fear of strong negative reactions from others.
- The importance for Christians (especially pastors) of coming together and seeking advice from one another about areas of uncertainty.
- How misunderstanding and division can spread through parishes “like wildfire,” and the importance of addressing conflict in the congregation immediately and with love.
- The value of patience and long-term trusting relationships when it comes to difficult conversations about sexuality and gender identity. “Be prepared for many conversations with that person. Give up the notion that you’re going to change them. It is the Holy Spirit who does that. Our prayer should be: What might I say that can be useful to them in this moment?”
- The importance of reminding ourselves that the struggling person is not the enemy, but is “a person for whom Christ died.”

#### **‘Immensely helpful’**

The conference drew a variety of attendees, especially pastors seeking to better address these topics within their congregations, and laypeople with children or close family members struggling with these issues.

“It’s been immensely helpful, both personally and for my involvement in the church,” said Delores Desemone, a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Harvester, Mo. Desemone has a family member who came out as homosexual at age 15, nearly two decades ago. Desemone has been looking for answers about how to address the situation as a Lutheran ever since. Recently, she and her husband have started a support group at their church for families that have children struggling with transgenderism or homosexuality.

“There are so many. And many people with much more painful stories than ours,” said Desemone. “We have lots of grandparents that are coming to [our support group] that are just painfully watching their grandchildren go through this, as their parents have made bad decisions.”

“My experience has been wonderful here,” said Terri Schmitt, a pastor’s wife who also has a family member who struggles with one of the issues addressed at the conference. “I love the respect here, the love of the Word of God held as holy and true, and the tools they are providing us to go about our lives and honor Him.”

“We face so many of these issues, and they’re generally not spoken of in the way we need to speak of them,” said Terri’s husband, the Rev. David Schmitt, who serves as assistant pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Park Hills, Mo. “Many people find shame in these situations when they arise, so they don’t speak of them. There is a lot of fear, especially since it’s so easy to take a Law-based response to these matters.”

“One of the really encouraging things about this conference is how Gospel-focused it’s been,” continued Rev. Schmitt. “We can forget that these folks are children of God who still need to be reached out to, still need to be counseled and brought back to repentance, ... the Lord’s Supper, ... the church [and] God’s arms. I think we’re too quick to say, ‘No, don’t do that,’ and too slow to say, ‘Come and receive forgiveness.’”

“I was confronted with these issues in New York, and then I moved to Arkansas, thinking it wouldn’t be so bad, and [I] found out it’s really bad there too. So, it’s everywhere. And the church is struggling to respond to that,” said the Rev. Dr. Leroy Leach, a retired pastor and former Concordia College New York professor who currently resides in Conway, Ark. “The sessions have been very helpful,” continued Leach. “The ... Synod is being proactive in helping people understand how to address this with the love and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The focus is on the grace and forgiveness and love of the Gospel.”

More of these Created Male and Female conferences will be scheduled soon in districts across the LCMS.

“We give thanks to God for our partnership with DOXOLOGY and their dedication and work to bring these conferences to the LCMS,” said the Rev. Dan Galchutt, executive director of the LCMS Office of National Mission.

*To see more resources that have been created to address issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, visit [lcmslife.org/created-male-and-female](http://lcmslife.org/created-male-and-female).*

## MONTHLY GROUP MEETINGS

- ❖ **Ladies Aid**  
Ladies Aid does not meet in July.
- ❖ **Trinity Afternoon Guild**  
The Afternoon Guild does not meet in July.
- ❖ **Men of Trinity**  
Will meet on Monday, July 1st at 6:30 pm at the Church.
- ❖ **Hannah Circle**  
Does Not Meet in June, July, or August.
- ❖ **Active Christian Fellowship**  
ACF will meet on Monday, July 8th at 6:30 pm.
- ❖ **Altar Circle**  
Will meet on Monday, July 15th at 1:00 pm.
- ❖ **Eunice Circle**  
Does Not Meet in June, July, or August.
- ❖ **Christian Singles**  
The Christian Singles will meet for lunch on Sunday, July 14th.
- ❖ **Happy Quilters**  
The "Happy Quilters" meet on the 3rd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 9:00am at the church.



### CHURCH OFFICERS

President: Randy Yarbrough - 218-766-0695  
 Council Secretary: Paul Borslien - 218-289-2866  
 Financial Secretary - Becky Theis - 218-368-6916  
 Treasurer: Scott Kurtzweg - 218-556-2892

### ELDERS

If your last name begins with:

A - C  
 D - H  
 I - M  
 N - R  
 S  
 T - Z

Then you Elder is:

Steve Krueger - 218-751-3794  
 Scott Wilson - 701-238-7557  
 Ben Lang - 218-444-7689  
 Ron Oelrich - 218-766-4656  
 Eric Lee - 218-966-1023  
 Paul Borslien - 218-289-2866

### CHURCH BOARDS

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Dave Krueger - 218-766-5053  
 Carlos Moreno - 218-444-2888  
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# DISTRICT NEWS



Hello!

I'd like to introduce myself.....my name is Paula Menzel and I am your new Minnesota North District Coordinator for the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 19-23, 2025.



Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

The theme for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering is "ENDURE" and is centered around Hebrews 12;1-3.

We are presently in the pre planning phases of the Gathering and my job as District Coordinator is to serve as a liaison between LCMS Youth Ministry, the district office, and congregations for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering.

You can find information about the Gathering at the website: [www.lcmsgathering.com](http://www.lcmsgathering.com)  
Stay informed about pre-Gathering planning resources and other announcements while connecting with Gathering planners and other leaders on the Gathering's Facebook, Instagram and X accounts.

## A note from the Texas District:

There is a great opportunity available here in Texas for a retired pastor! Do you have any pastors looking for a seasonal serving opportunity? Perhaps seeking warmer climes in winter?

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Zapata, TX is a small, low maintenance ministry in a great community for retirees. They need a pastor to serve them roughly October through Easter.

Contact Diana in the District Office - [diana.ruopp@mnnlcms.org](mailto:diana.ruopp@mnnlcms.org) - if you'd like more information.



My Savior Lives Northland will move from KBJR 6 to My 9 or 6.3 from Memorial Day to Labor Day. This is due to NBC programming sports during our slot during the summer. You can also watch us on Vimeo, YouTube, Facebook at MSL Northland or on our website [www.mslnorthland.com](http://www.mslnorthland.com)

## Ministry Moments

SIGN UP FOR MINISTRY MOMENTS



Ministry Moments, from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), are helpful emails containing videos and tips that will help your ministry move forward, according to God's will.



VISIT [LCEF.ORG/MINISTRY-MOMENTS](http://LCEF.ORG/MINISTRY-MOMENTS) TO SUBSCRIBE TODAY!



## 2024 WORKSHOPS

APRIL 25-27 | SANDY, UT

**Principles of Biblical Interpretation for Everyone**  
DR. JAMES W. VOELZ  
Graduate Professor of Evangelical Theology

JUNE 3-5 | VALPARAISO, IN

**Psalm, Prophecy, Songs, Prayers: Exploring the Mystery and Beauty of the Psalms**  
DR. TIMOTHY SALESKA  
Professor of Evangelical Theology

JUNE 3-5 | SALINA, KS

**The Beginnings of Genesis and the Genesis of Beginnings**  
REV. BILL LANGGRAF  
Pastor, Pilgrim Lutheran Church/Saint John Lutheran Church, Channah/Drexel, MO

JUNE 4-8 | MONTEREY, CA

**That'll Preach**  
DR. DALE A. MEYER  
President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Practical Theology

JUNE 10-12 | MENTOR, OH

**Faith Formation in a Nominally and Post-Christian World**  
DR. ADAM FILIPK  
Guest Instructor, Concordia Seminary and Adjunct Professor, Concordia University, Saint Paul, Minn.

JUNE 17-19 | TONAWANDA, NY

**The Communal Shape of the Christian Life: Preaching From, In and Toward Community in an Age of Individualism**  
DR. PETER HAFZIGER  
Associate Professor of Practical Theology

JUNE 24-26 | BOURBONNAIS, IL

**An Introduction to the Early Church**  
DR. JOEL SLOMSKY  
Professor of Historical Theology

JULY 8-10 | HAYS, KS

**What Does It Mean to be Lutheran in America? Discard in the LCMS in the 1960s and 1970s**  
DR. GERHARD BODE  
Professor of Historical Theology

JULY 8-10 | YORK, NE

**Decoding the Apocalypse: Study of the Book of Revelation**  
DR. DAVID PETER  
Professor of Practical Theology

JULY 8-10 | SANTA FE, NM

**What Can Eighth Century BC Prophets Teach the 21st Century?**  
DR. KEVIN GOLDEN  
Associate Professor of Evangelical Theology

JULY 15-17 | WEST FARO, ND

**In the Beginning: Studies in Genesis**  
DR. REED LESSING  
Professor of Theology and Ministry, Concordia University, Saint Paul, Minn.

JULY 29-31 | SPRINGFIELD, MO

**It Stands Written: The New Testament Appropriation of the Old Testament**  
DR. KEVIN GOLDEN  
Associate Professor of Evangelical Theology

AUG. 6-7 | DUBLIN, OH

**Luther's Soul Care Theology for the 21st Century**  
DR. RICHARD MARRS  
Senior Professor of Practical Theology

**COST: \$150**  
Learn more about each workshop and register at [cal.edu/workshop-series](http://cal.edu/workshop-series)  
Registration deadline is two weeks before each workshop.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CONTINUING EDUCATION  
[ce@cls.edu](mailto:ce@cls.edu) 314-505-7286



# I . C . Y . M . I .

( IN . CASE . YOU . MISSED . IT . )

## CHURCH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP



*Family Devotion/Bible Study with Pastor Uhrinak.*



*We also celebrated all the Dads present with a 'Father's Day' cake.*



*After Bible Study we all enjoyed a picnic at the church pavilion.*



*Games were played, followed with having ice cream.*



# Bemidji Area Church Musicians Recital At Trinity



*The Bronze Bell Choir Opened the Recital*



*Rod Wentzel*



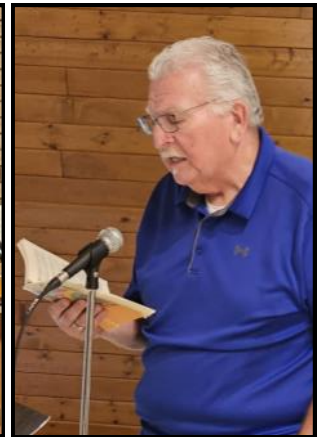
*Bradley Olson*



*Dennis Frederikson*



*Susan Krueger*



*Paul Maatz*



*Guy Wold and John Egeland*



*Deon Wentzel and Genise Schuette*



*Debbie Nordick and Jana Grim*



*Everyone enjoyed a great lunch of sloppy joes after the recital*





Why do stars appear to twinkle? Try this experiment to find out!

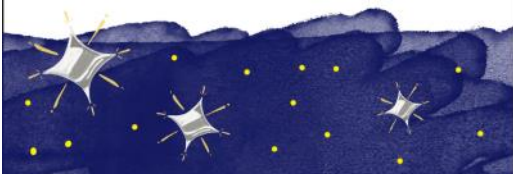
**What you need:**

- Aluminum foil
- Large glass bowl
- Water
- Flashlight



**What you do:**

1. Crumple the foil into a ball. Carefully unfold it and lay it flat on the ground.
2. Fill the bowl with water and place it on the foil.
3. Turn off the lights and make the room as dark as possible. Shine the flashlight about 1 foot from the water's undisturbed surface. Light will reflect onto the foil.
4. Then tap your finger on the water's surface. As the water moves, what happens to the light on the foil?
5. This flickering simulates scintillation, which happens when starlight enters Earth's atmosphere. As light passes through layers of gas and water, it refracts and appears to twinkle.



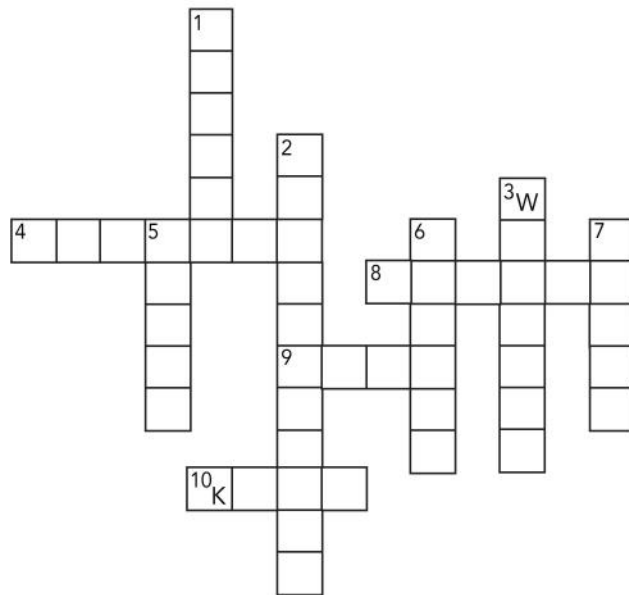
# Activity Page



## THE WONDER OF STARS

The heavens display evidence of God's great power.  
What else does the Bible say about the sky?

Directions: Use the clues and Bible references (all NIV) to complete the crossword.



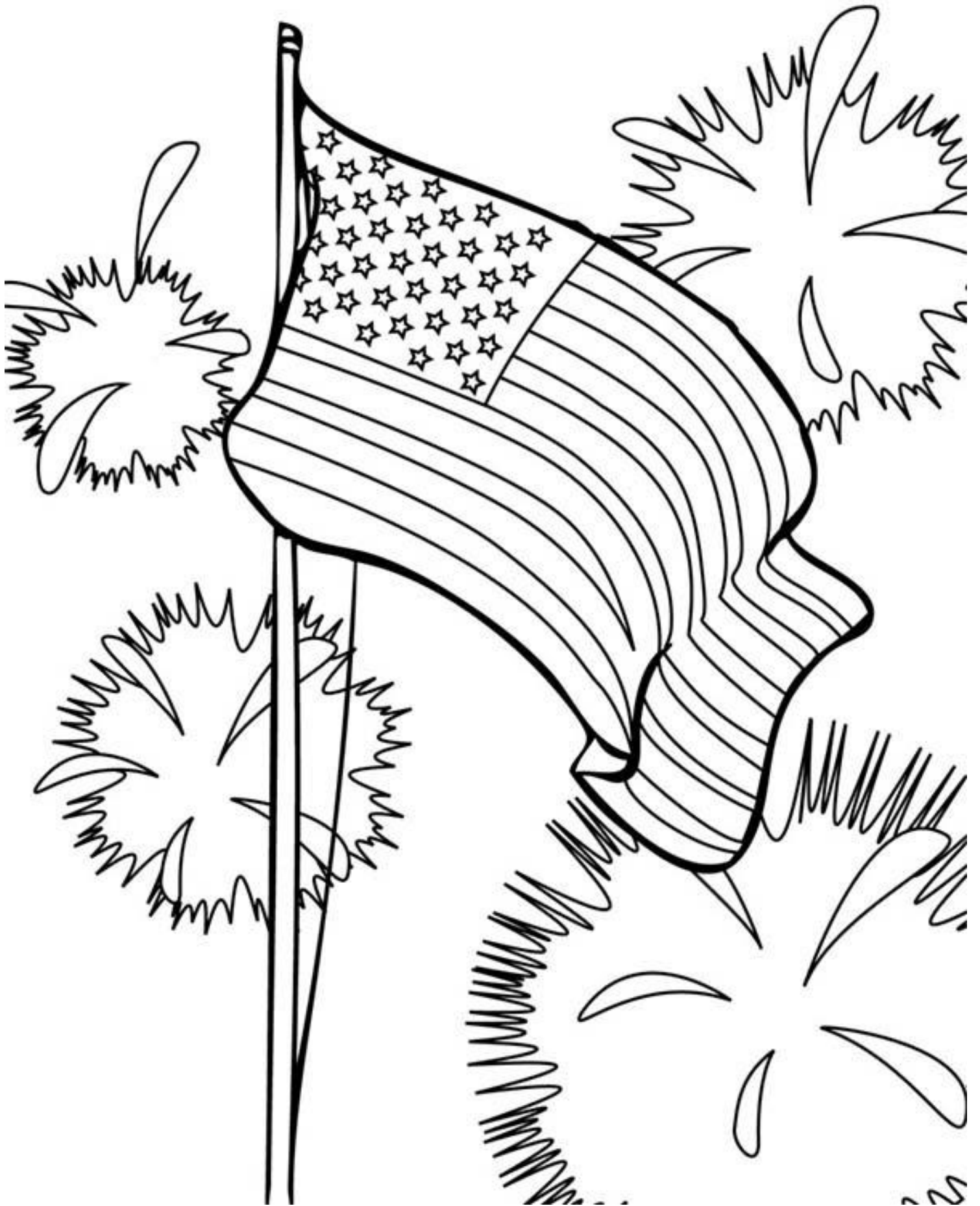
**DOWN**

1. The sun, moon and stars do this to God. (Psalm 148:3)
2. God made these as numerous as the stars. (Genesis 26:4)
3. Don't do this to the stars and sky. (Deuteronomy 4:19)
5. What do the heavens declare? (Psalm 19:1)
6. The moon and the stars do this at night. (Psalm 136:9)
7. When we're pure, we do this like the stars. (Philippians 2:15)

**ACROSS**

4. The heavens are the work of these. (Psalm 8:3)
8. On what day did God create the stars? (Genesis 1:14-19)
9. God calls each star by this. (Isaiah 40:26)
10. A star announced the arrival of him. (Matthew 2:2)

Answers: DOWN: 1. praise, 2. descendants, 3. worship, 5. glory, 6. govern, 7. shine, 8. fourth, 9. name, 10. king





# News & Announcements



**All Church Offices  
will be closed  
July 4th & 5th  
For the Independence  
Day holiday**



**CHURCH  
FAMILY  
FELLOWSHIP**  
Sunday, July 21, 2024

10:30 - 11:30 Bible Study  
11:30 - 1:30 Potluck Lunch followed by Indoor Games in the Fellowship Hall



A California ministry family is coming to Bemidji for an event in July and still needs housing for a father and daughter from July 13-16. If you are willing to help host them, or have ideas, please contact Scot Myhr directly at 412-215-8699, or SMYhr@PSmail.net.

**The Portals of Prayer for  
July - September 2024  
are in the basket on the table  
in back of the sanctuary.**



**TRINITY PARKING LOT RENEWAL  
The Parking Lot renewal is complete and looks great!**

You can still contribute to this worthwhile project. Our Goal is to raise \$12,140.00 and to date we have received \$5,190.00 toward our goal! Thank you.

You can help with a donation of any size, or fund a Parking spot for \$110.00. Please remember to designate your donations for "Trinity Parking Lot".



**ATTENTION SERVERS!** The Youth group is looking for a group/family that is willing to take over one more serving slot for our coffee hour. The last slot we are wanting to fill is Sunday, November (10th). If you are able to take on this Sunday, please contact the church office. *Thank you*

## Lutheran Island Camp UPCOMING EVENTS



### LIC Summer Registration is OPEN!

Our registration is completely online on our website. If you have questions about registering, you can contact the office at 218-583-2905.

**ALL program descriptions are also on our website.**

### Parent Portal

Everything you need for your child's time at camp is in the Parent Portal!

- Informational Letters
- Packing List
- Health and Photo Release Forms
- Schedules

Please note this is NOT the registration page. The Parent Portal is for parents who have already registered. In order to register, please go to our Summer Registration page. .

### August 3

#### Quilt Auction

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is back! The Live Quilt Auction will begin at 8:30am with the opportunity to view the quilts. The bidding will begin at 10:00am. Meal tickets will be available for purchase. More information will be available in the coming months.

The Online Quilt Auction will begin after the Live Auction is complete. More details will be available in the coming months.

### August 9-11

#### LWML Retreat

Bring your daughters! Bring your friends! We gather together as sisters in Christ to learn more about Christ our Savior and sharing His love for us with others. The keynote speaker for this retreat is Pati Kachel. She is a Christian Story Teller and will join us to share personal faith stories and sing her gentle songs as she shares practical insights of timeless truths in the third chapter of Ecclesiastes. More information & registration information at [www.islandcamp.org/schedule](http://www.islandcamp.org/schedule).

# RUNNING the RACE

## SUMMER Reading Plan

**Life – and exercise – move at different paces for different people.**

Some enjoy leisurely walks, strolls or rolls, while others speed-walk, jog or even sprint. Some people have a 26.2 sticker on their vehicle, indicating they've run a marathon, while others boast of running a half-marathon (13.1) or no marathon (0.0)!

Thankfully, you don't have to be an athlete of any kind to run the Christian "race." The Bible uses running metaphors, however, to encourage followers of Jesus to train, focus, persevere and attain the heavenly prize. Use this Summer Reading Plan to strengthen your faith and your relationship with Jesus. Complete one square each day or every other day, and you'll journey through significant chunks of the New Testament this summer. Feel free to invite a friend or family member to join you as a "running partner"!



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### Mile 1 Read Philippians 1

Re-read verse 6 and consider how your faith journey is a work in progress.

### Mile 3 Read Philippians 3

Look back at verses 13 and 14, and brainstorm a list of ways to keep your eyes on the heavenly "prize."

### Mile 5 Read Colossians 1

Re-read verse 11. Name three specific ways God gives you strength and endurance.

### Mile 7 Read Colossians 3

Look back at verses 23 and 24. What keeps you running for God, not for other people or for personal accolades?

### Mile 9 Read 1 Timothy 1

Doodle about how God's law keeps you from wandering away from him.

### Mile 11 Read 1 Timothy 3

What aspects of staying "above reproach" are most challenging for you as a follower of Jesus?

### Mile 13 Read 1 Timothy 5

Anonymously perform a kind deed for someone in your family or community.

### Mile 15 Read 2 Timothy 1

Describe specific ways your life reveals a spirit of power, a spirit of love and a spirit of self-discipline.

### Mile 17 Read 2 Timothy 3

Add a daily Bible-reading time to your spiritual training regimen.

### Mile 19 Read James 1

Look back at verse 12. Reflect on how God has kept his promises to you. How does that help you during times of trial?

### Mile 21 Read James 3

Re-read verses 17 and 18. Pray for godly wisdom as you continue your faith journey.

### Mile 23 Read James 5

After re-reading verse 19, think of ways to reach out to people who have wandered away from God.

### Mile 25 Read John 20:1-18

Consider how the good news of Jesus' resurrection gives you reasons to run and share the Gospel message.

### ➔ Mile 2 Read Philippians 2

Re-read verse 5 and pray to have the same attitude as Jesus.

### Mile 4 Read Philippians 4

Write verse 13 on a sticky note and place it where you'll see it daily.

### Mile 6 Read Colossians 2

Review verses 6 and 7, make a gratitude list and say a prayer of thanks to God.

### Mile 8 Read Colossians 4

Write a note or letter to someone who needs spiritual encouragement.

### Mile 10 Read 1 Timothy 2

Re-read verses 5 and 6. Offer praise to Jesus for being our mediator and ransom — and for running the race perfectly for us.

### Mile 12 Read 1 Timothy 4

As you exercise, ponder verse 8 and brainstorm ways to build your spiritual muscles.

### Mile 14 Read 1 Timothy 6

Review verses 11 and 12. In what ways might faith be viewed as a fight? To whom have you made bold profession of your faith?

### Mile 16 Read 2 Timothy 2

Re-read verse 5. The next time you participate in or watch a sporting event, compare the value of God's "victor's crown" to earthly achievements.

### Mile 18 Read 2 Timothy 4

Memorize verse 7. Think about people you know who have already "finished the race." How can their example strengthen you?

### Mile 20 Read James 2

Put your faith into action today by meeting someone's needs.

### Mile 22 Read James 4

Review verse 8. Confess your sins to God and ask him to come near you.

### Mile 24 Read Luke 15:11-32

When have you run away from God? What brought you back? When have you seen proof of God running toward you (see verse 20, as well as James 4:8)?

### ➔ Mile 26 Read 1 John 1

Re-read verse 7. Write "Walk in the Light" on a sticky note, and place it by a lamp or light switch.

**Mile 26.2 Read Revelation 2:10** Praise God aloud: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

# JULY STEWARDSHIP

## *The Rewards of Godliness*

It's no secret that you can't bribe your way into heaven. No amount of good works will impress God enough to open heaven's door for their sake. "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) and the person who "keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it" (James 2:10). Rather, salvation is "the free gift of God ... in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:23).

So, your good works won't earn you the reward of heaven. But does that mean that there are no rewards at all? Consider what the Small Catechism says in the "Close of the Commandments":

### **What does God say about all these commandments?**

He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Ex. 20:5-6)

### **What does this mean?**

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands. (SC II)

God promises to bless you in keeping His commandments. What might these blessings be? Well, consider what Paul says about keeping the Fourth Commandment: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land'" (Eph. 6:1-3).

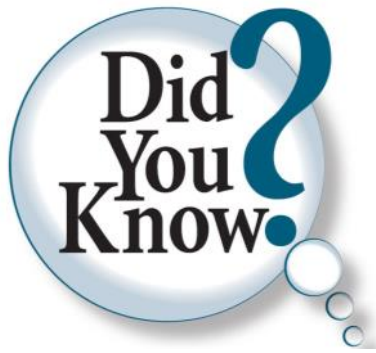
And think about what your life would be like if you went around stealing (breaking the Seventh Commandment), telling lies about people (breaking the Eighth Commandment), and generally being cruel to those around you (breaking all the commandments!). That is obviously not a blessed way to live. In fact, you'd be miserable living that way.

And Jesus says more about what is in store for those who make sacrifices for His sake: "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life'" (Matt. 19:28-29).

So don't grow impatient in doing good. Follow the Lord who has freely given you everlasting life.



| <u>Monthly Receipts/Expenses</u>       | <u>May 2024</u>    |
|--|--------------------|
| General Fund Receipts                  | \$25,681.79        |
| PS/CC Receipts                         | \$13,659.90        |
| Interest Receipts                      | \$47.18            |
| (Transfer to Money Market) Adjustments |                    |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                  | <b>\$39,388.87</b> |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES</b>         | <b>\$42,108.71</b> |
|  | <b>Monthly +/-</b> |
| <b>OVERAGE/SHORTAGE</b>                | <b>-\$2,719.84</b> |



# YOU CAN NOW GIVE YOUR TITHE OR OFFERING ONLINE?!

It's Easy, just follow these steps...

1. Visit Trinity's Website at [www.trinitybemidji.org](http://www.trinitybemidji.org).
2. Click on "Donate" at the top right of the Home Page.
3. On the next page, Click the Donate button and you will be directed to our PayPal page.
4. From here, you can either donate with your existing PayPal account OR if you don't have an account you can donate with your Credit Card.
5. Then just complete using your information and submit.

If you have any questions about the process, please call the church office.

## The Benefits Of Online Giving

### STEWARDSHIP

You have the option of giving a one time gift, or having your tithe post monthly.

### CONVENIENT

You can continue to support Trinity even if you are away on vacation or gone for the winter.

### FLEXIBILITY

You can give to the General Fund or choose to give to a specific Ministry of the church.

If you would like help in learning how make your donation or tithe to Trinity online, just stop in to the office, we are happy to help.



# JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1 Jack Naastad  
Tom & Arlene Smith (68)  
Matt & Jenny Haas (18)

2 Ethan Larson

3 Clyde & Laverne Bell (71)

10 LaVaye Dressen

11 Bob and Shirley Sherman (25)

12 Diane Hanson, Darrell Schoff  
Tonja Stranger

13 Kris Lee

15 David Krueger

16 Dean Christensen  
Dick & Linda Claypool (13)

18 Sarah Lundeen  
Rod & Bonnie Wentzel (43)

20 Ellie Manecke  
Eric & Shannon Lee (5)

21 Colleen Ferdig, Sheri Lee

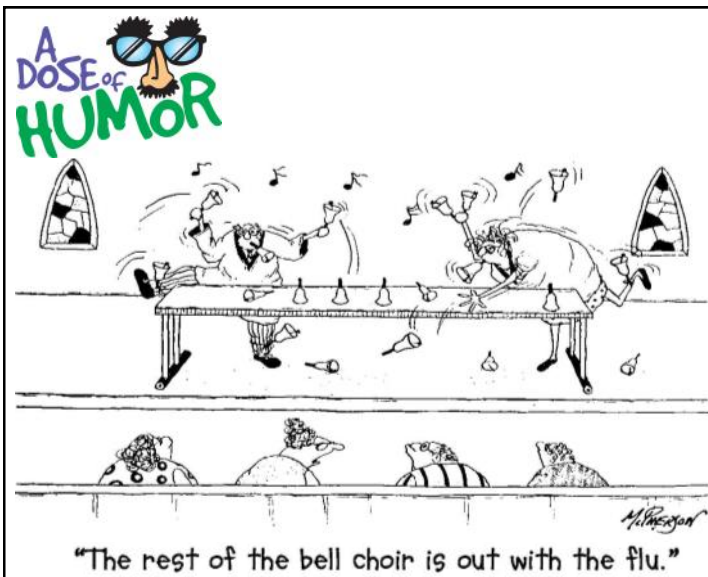
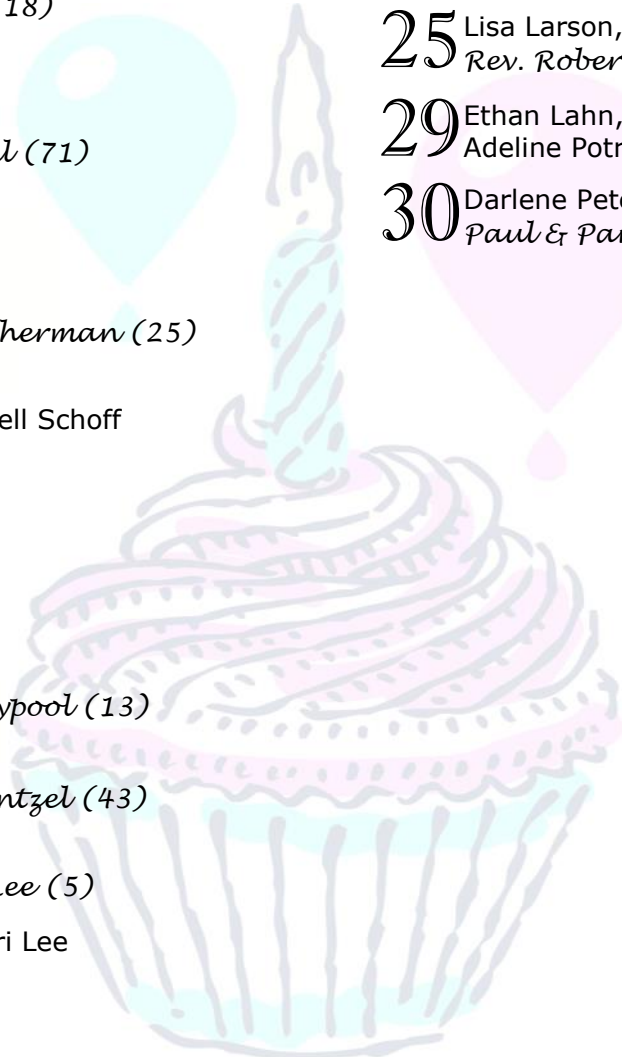
22 Shirley Sherman

23 Marianna Lee

25 Lisa Larson, Marv Roxstrom  
Rev. Robert & Deon Wentzel (44)

29 Ethan Lahn, Sydney Kurtzweg, Ron Oelrich,  
Adeline Potratz

30 Darlene Peterson  
Paul & Pamela Maatz (47)



## ALTAR FLOWER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



Please sign up to tend the Altar Flowers. We still need volunteers for 2024!



## ADDRESS/PHONE

If your address and/or phone number changes, please let the church office know, so your information will be correct in the church database. Thank you!



**\*extra\*extra\***  
**LARGE PRINT EDITION AVAILABLE**

LARGE PRINT bulletins are available for those that have difficulty with the regular bulletin. If you would benefit from having one of these bulletins, please ask an usher for a copy.

If you are interested in being a Greeter or an Usher, please speak with one of the Elders.



**WHEN YOU LEAVE GOD'S HOUSE**, please turn out ALL the lights (except in the office hallway) and please check that ALL the entrance doors are LOCKED, even if you didn't unlock them.

### Greeting Cards Available!



Individual Cards are \$1.00 each. Boxed cards are priced on bottom. Checks are preferred. Please make your checks out to Trinity Ladies Aid and put your payment in the container provided. Thank you.

Check out the "RESOURCE TABLE" in the Fellowship Hall for FREE Books, Periodicals, Devotionals, and More.



Portals of Prayer are in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.



The season after Pentecost begins with Holy Trinity Sunday and continues through the last Sunday of the church year in ALTAR CIRCLE November. The paraments are green, the color of life, refreshment and regeneration. Throughout this season, the focus is on the Lord's teaching and how it is applied in the life of the Church.



A "Gluten Free" option is available for communion. If you would like to take advantage of this option, please speak with Pastor or Elders.

### BEMIDJI AREA FOOD SHELF

Trinity, along with United Methodist Church volunteer the 3rd Monday of each month at the Food Shelf. The first shift is from 9am-12pm and the second shift is from 12-3:30pm. Both shifts need 6-7 volunteers.



The Food Shelf would not function without all the volunteers who give of their time. Thank you for all you do to help the Food Shelf run smoothly. ~June Roxstrom

Check out our website.  
[www.trinitybemidji.org](http://www.trinitybemidji.org)




Please check the covered bulletin boards in the Church Entrance Hall for posted Letters, Community Events, Concerts, Meals, Fundraisers, local activities and news.

## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - JULY

- |                      |                |               |                       |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Deuteronomy 32:1-4 | 9 Psalm 35     | 17 Psalm 43   | 25 Psalm 51           |
| 1 Samuel 28-31       | 2 Samuel 22-24 | 1 Kings 21-22 | 2 Kings 23-25         |
| 2 Psalm 28           | 10 Psalm 36    | 18 Psalm 44   | 26 Psalm 52           |
| 2 Samuel 1-3         | 1 Kings 1-2    | 2 Kings 1-3   | 1 Chronicles 1-5      |
| 3 Psalm 29           | 11 Psalm 37    | 19 Psalm 45   | 27 Psalm 53           |
| 2 Samuel 4-6         | 1 Kings 3-6    | 2 Kings 4-6   | 1 Chronicles 6-10     |
| 4 Psalm 30           | 12 Psalm 38    | 20 Psalm 46   | 28 Psalm 54           |
| 2 Samuel 7-9         | 1 Kings 7-8    | 2 Kings 7-9   | 1 Chronicles 11-15    |
| 5 Psalm 31           | 13 Psalm 39    | 21 Psalm 47   | 29 Psalm 55           |
| 2 Samuel 10-12       | 1 Kings 9-11   | 2 Kings 10-12 | 1 Chronicles 16-20    |
| 6 Psalm 32           | 14 Psalm 40    | 22 Psalm 48   | 30 Psalm 56           |
| 2 Samuel 13-15       | 1 Kings 12-14  | 2 Kings 13-15 | 1 Chronicles 21-25    |
| 7 Psalm 33           | 15 Psalm 41    | 23 Psalm 49   | 31 Deuteronomy 32:1-4 |
| 2 Samuel 16-18       | 1 Kings 15-17  | 2 Kings 16-18 | 1 Chronicles 26-29    |
| 8 Psalm 34           | 16 Psalm 42    | 24 Psalm 50   |                       |
| 2 Samuel 19-21       | 1 Kings 18-20  | 2 Kings 19-22 |                       |

# July 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church - 444-4441

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday  | Friday    | Saturday  |
|---|---|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|
|    | <b>1</b><br>6:30 PM Men of Trinity              | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>  |   | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>7</b><br>9:00 AM Worship w/Communion<br>10:30 AM Bible Study<br><br><i>Altar Circle Serves</i>   | <b>8</b><br>6:30 PM Active Christian Fellowship | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b><br>5:30 PM Board of Elders  | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> |
| <b>14</b><br>9:00 AM Worship w/Communion<br>10:30 AM Bible Study<br>11:30 AM Christian Singles<br><br><i>ACF Serves</i>   | <b>15</b><br>1:00 PM Altar Circle               | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b><br>9:00 AM "Happy Quilters"<br>6:00 PM Church Boards<br>7:00 PM Church Council  | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> |
| <b>21</b><br>9:00 AM Worship w/Communion<br><br><div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <b>CHURCH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP</b><br/> <b>10:30am - 1:30pm</b><br/> <b>Bible Study, Potluck and Indoor Games</b> </div><br><i>Men Serve</i> | <b>22</b>                                       | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b><br>9:00 AM "Happy Quilters"   | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> |
| <b>28</b><br>9:00 AM Worship w/Communion<br>10:30 AM Bible Study<br><br><i>Evening Guild Serves</i>   | <b>29</b>                                       | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b> | <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px;"> <p>"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!"<br/>           Psalm 33:12</p> </div> |           |           |