



TLC Grapevine

August 2024

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

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Close, closed, close[d] Communion: Three words, one meaning

June 27, 2024 / Reporter / By Matthew Harrison

There are three simple but main points to closed Communion:

- 1) Concern that the recipients know “what they seek” and “why they come” (Luther’s Large Catechism, “Of the Sacrament of the Altar”), and therefore receive Christ’s body and blood for their benefit (forgiveness), not harm (1 Cor. 11).
- 2) The New Testament requires unity in doctrine and doctrinal practice (1 Cor. 1:10, etc.).
- 3) There are exceptional cases that require pastoral discretion.

Not too long ago, a pastor told me a humorous story about his “theological interview” as he was about to finish seminary training in the mid-1980s. This was done before the faculty certified a student for a call to a parish. One professor asked him, “What is closed Communion?” The pastor told me that, after that, “the three profs argued among themselves for the rest of the time.”

The Rev. Dr. F.A.O. Pieper (professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis [CSL], 1878–1931; CSL president, 1887–1931; president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1899–1911) wrote the main theological, doctrinal textbook used since the 1920s and even today in our seminaries. He wrote in German about closed Communion but added English to be very clear in the American context.

“Die apostolische Kirche praktiziert nicht ‘open’ sondern ‘closed’ communion,” Pieper wrote, which means, “The apostolic church practiced not ‘open’ but ‘closed’ Communion.” By the time the text was published in English in the mid-1950s, the editor had changed the word “closed” to “close,” evidently thinking that the word “close” was a gentler way to express the practice.

The term “closed” had come from the ancient church practice of the deacon crying out, “The doors, the doors,” which were closed to the unbaptized and those undergoing instruction before being admitted to Communion. “Close” came particularly from Baptist sources, albeit depicting another truth: that there is a closeness in belief among those who commune.

The New Testament and Lutheran view is derived from the word *koinonia*, or “communion,” which means having something in common. In this case, we Christians share Christ and His gifts — gifts that make us one in Him. Where Christ and His teaching are rejected, there is no communion. We Lutherans firmly believe, though, that there are millions upon millions of Christians who believe — sometimes against the public teaching of their own church bodies — that Jesus died for their sins, and that they trust in Him by faith alone for eternal life.

As the Synod faced challenges that grew out of the American context, the move to English, and the rise of historical criticism, our theological terminology underwent various influences, nuances and changes. A certain mythology of meaning was ascribed to terms like “closed Communion” and “close Communion,” and a term was invented to try to speak into the confusion: “close(d) Communion.” In some minds “closed” meant communing only members of one’s own congregation, while “close” meant communing only the baptized (including other denominations), or perhaps those who agree on the “real presence.” Neither the Bible, the Lutheran Confessions or any resolutions of the LCMS support these ideas.

In fact, the Synod in convention has spoken very clearly to this issue on many occasions, including in 2023, when it adopted Res. 5-09 (“To Review Guidance on Admission to the Lord’s Supper”) by 88.9%. Included in the resolution is a resolved stating that the words “close,” “closed” and “close(d)” all mean the same thing, despite

the accretions of attributed meaning. The Synod's public confession on this matter has remained the same from its first president, the Rev. Dr. C.F.W. Walther, to Dr. Pieper, to today.

For the forgiveness of sins

Allow me to elaborate three brief points upon which our public doctrine and practice are based.

First, I think we all agree with Paul's clear words:

“Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself” (1 Cor. 11:27–29).

None of us wants a person to take the Sacrament to his detriment. That's why so many Communion statements make as clear as possible that we believe that the very body and blood of Christ — the same body and blood that hung on the cross — is actually present in the Sacrament. “It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink” (Luther's Small Catechism, “The Sacrament of the Altar”). We believe and teach exactly what Jesus says: “This is my body. ... This is my blood.” All this “for the forgiveness of sins.”

May Christians who belong to another denomination (which may even publicly reject these very cardinal truths about the Sacrament), but who recognize their need for forgiveness, believe that Christ died for their sins and believe His words “Take, eat, this is my body” receive the Sacrament at our altars to their benefit? Yes.

Second, there is more behind the practice. The New Testament rejects participation in false teaching over and over again. It also demands unity of believers in the truth and separation from false teaching and erring fellowships. This is hard for us. We are American individualists. No church or pastor is going to tell me what's what in my personal relationship with Jesus!

While each communicant has the personal accountability of repenting and believing what the Lord gives (His body and blood) for forgiveness, pastors have a responsibility too. St. Paul calls pastors “stewards of the mysteries of God” (1 Cor. 4:1). Luther put Hebrews 13:17 in the catechism: “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” And the Preface to our *Book of Concord* very clearly states that we believe there are Christians outside the Lutheran church who may not have come to agreement with us on all doctrinal points. The Augsburg Confession states that sacraments are “marks of profession among men.”

Third, there are cases of pastoral discretion. All of our Synod resolutions on the subject grant this. Life throws all kinds of strange, unique and interesting situations at us. Pastors make judgment calls for the spiritual benefit of persons involved.

A few years back a friend of my wife shared that her lapsed Roman Catholic husband was given only weeks to live. I visited him. He was in bad shape. I spoke very pointedly to him about his spiritual condition. He received and believed the Gospel when I told him what Luther told his friend, “Christ dwells only in sinners.” I added, “You'd better be one.”

He confessed his sins, and I absolved him. I asked him if he believed what he had been taught as a Catholic, that the bread and wine are the body and blood. He said yes. I asked if he believed Jesus when He said, “Take, eat. ... Take, drink. ... Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” He said yes. I communed him. Guess what? He then proceeded to get better! I began taking him through the catechism, the senior pastor finished up, and he was confirmed before dying a year or so later. Thanks be to God.

The Apology of the Augsburg Confession (XI 66) says that our pastors are “good men” who will know what to do in such situations. Our pastors *are* good men. Bulletin statements that teach the truth about what the Sacrament is and why we take it are very good.

But inviting all who believe such statements, without regard to their church membership or lack thereof, is not pastoral discretion. At a minimum, such statements should add, “Please speak to the pastor” (or perhaps a trained elder) before communing, or maybe, “If you would like to speak with the pastor, please call the church office during the week.” Inviting people to come to the rail, cross arms and receive a blessing is a fine, welcoming alternative. It's what we do at my parish. Ironically, not communing everyone is a great way to initiate spiritual conversations with individuals, conversations that often lead to a catechism class. In this day and age, many are looking for churches that stand for something. That includes at the Communion rail.

Further reading

- Commission on Theology and Church Relations. *Admission to the Lord's Supper: Basics of Biblical and Confessional Teaching*. St. Louis: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1999.
- Commission on Theology and Church Relations. *Guidelines for Congregational, District, and Synodical Communion Statements*. St. Louis: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 2014.
- Commission on Theology and Church Relations. *The Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper*. St. Louis: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1983.
- Matthew C. Harrison and John T. Pless, eds. *Closed Communion? Admission to the Lord's Supper in Biblical Lutheran Perspective*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2017.

MONTHLY GROUP MEETINGS

- ❖ **Ladies Aid**
Will join the Afternoon Guild for a joint summer picnic at 12:00 pm on Thursday, August 1st.
- ❖ **Trinity Afternoon Guild**
Will join the Ladies Aid for a joint summer picnic at 12:00 pm on Thursday, August 1st.
- ❖ **Men of Trinity**
Will meet on Monday, August 5th at 6:30 pm at the Church.
- ❖ **Active Christian Fellowship**
ACF will meet on Monday, August 12th at Birch haven at the usual time of 6:30 pm.
Please come to the front entry on Norton Ave and you will be let in.
- ❖ **Hannah Circle**
Does Not Meet in June, July, or August.
- ❖ **Altar Circle**
Will meet on Monday, August 19th 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, August 11th.
- ❖ **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

TRUSTEES

Dave Krueger - 218-766-5053
 Carlos Moreno - 218-444-2888
 Mark Tisler - 701-640-3447

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Lenay Tieman - 218-444-1412
 David/Susan Krueger - 218-444-9583
 Bonnie Wentzel - 218-751-6119

BOARD OF MISSIONS

Steve Krueger - 218-751-3794
 Mary Krueger - 218-751-3794
 Wayne Tieman - 218-760-1099

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 Vacancy
 Vacancy

YOUTH BOARD

Allison Chandler - 218-766-4830
 Susan Krueger - 218-444-9583
 Dede Kubitz - 218-280-8526

SCHOOL BOARD

Allison Chandler - 218-766-4830
 Wentdy Potratz - 218-556-8432
 Marie Borslien - 218-556-7538

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
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 - 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

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 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

Poetry, 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 FARGO, 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
Registration deadline is two weeks before each workshop.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CONTINUING EDUCATION
ce@cls.edu 314-505-7286



I . C . Y . M . I .

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

CHURCH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Sunday July 21, 2024 we had another Family Fun Day. After the Divine Sunday service we gathered in the fellowship hall for a Bible Study with Pastor Carnicom. We then enjoyed a potluck noon meal. After ice cream had been served, the games commenced. A fun Sunday. The next Family Fun Day will be August 18, 2024. A picnic noon meal will be served at the church's pavilion.



REMEMBER: The next Family Fun Day is August 18, 2024. A picnic noon meal will be served at the church's pavilion.

ACF PONTOON RIDE & DINNER

On July 17, 2024, the Active Christian Fellowship had a pontoon ride on Lake Bemidji with the "Lets Go Fishing" organization. The weather and water were perfect for the ride. Afterwards the 7 pontooners met up with other Trinity members at Ruttger's for a good meal and fun fellowship. We hope more join us next year!



BIRTHDAY PARTY AT THE LEE'S

June 30, 2024 a group of congregation members gathered at Eric & Shannon Lee's house to celebrate Eric's birthday with a fun afternoon of food, fellowship and games. Thanks Eric and Shannon for the great day!





You don't have to visit the beach to make a sandcastle. Make fluffy "moon sand" to build fun structures.

What you need:

- Large bowl
- Wooden spoon
- 8 cups flour
- 1 cup baby oil



What you do:

1. Measure flour into the large bowl. Add baby oil.
2. Mix thoroughly until all the oil is combined and the texture is consistent. If needed, use your hands to knead the mixture.
3. The sand is ready when it sticks together to form a ball when pressed in your hands.
4. Use sand toys and molds to create a sandcastle. Store sand in an airtight container for up to two weeks.



Activity Page



BY THE SEASHORE

The sea and its creatures are evidence of God's intention and purpose in creation.

Directions: Unscramble the words. Then copy the circled letters in order below to complete Psalm 104:24-25, NIV.



DASN
LHSELS
USN
ESEDAIS
BHECA
LALUBMER
WRTEA
FRUS
VWSEA



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How many are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you made them ____;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the __ __ __, vast and spacious,
teeming with _____ beyond number —
living things both large and small.

Psalm 104:24-25, NIV



News & Announcements



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Semi-Annual
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, August 25th
After the Service
All members are
requested to attend.

**TLC PRESCHOOL
“BACK-TO-SCHOOL”
NIGHT**
Wednesday, August 28th
At 5:00 PM

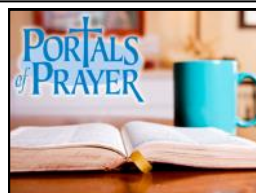


Trinity Lutheran and Immanuel Lutheran in Cass Lake have maintained a faith-based Lutherans for Life booth at the Beltrami County Fair in past years. The Beltrami County Fair will be August 7-11th.

Volunteers from Trinity are needed at the Lutherans for Life booth from 12:00 Noon - 9:00 pm Thursday-Friday-Saturday of the Fair. Please volunteer for a three hour shift if you are able. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

The Missions Board, (Steve & Mary Krueger, Wayne Tieman).

**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 \$6,960.00 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.

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.

September 13-15 Parent Child Horse Camp

This is offered to campers in 3rd-6th grade and their parents. Campers and parents will learn the basics of ground safety as well as how to steer and ride their horses at a walk. Friday evening, campers and parents will enjoy s'mores after campfire. Saturday, campers and parents will spend the day at the ranch, which includes a fun horse related craft and riding out on the trails. No prior horse experience is required. Weight limit of 180lbs.

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!"

AUGUST STEWARDSHIP

Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift” (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul’s exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church’s response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God’s mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul’s call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians’ joy filled Jerusalem’s need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God’s generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord’s. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn’t. Stewardship is easy because it is God’s work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

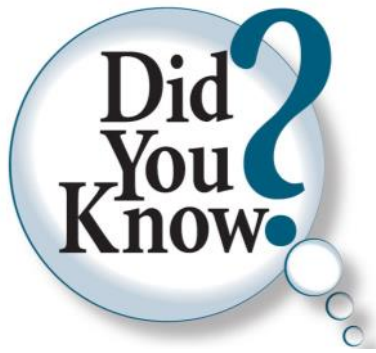
But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It’s a place where God’s mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God’s mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor’s need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!



<u>Monthly Receipts/Expenses</u>	<u>June 2024</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$25,835.76
PS/CC Receipts	\$3,897.77
Interest Receipts	\$45.30
(Transfer to Money Market) Adjustments	_____
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$29,778.83
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$29,926.68
OVERAGE/SHORTAGE	Monthly +/- -\$147.85



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.
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.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1 Phyllis Brauneis

2 Tom Bock

3 Jennifer Porter

5 Danielle Reiersen

6 Jesse & Anna Manecke (19)

8 Ellen Anderson
Michael & Marie Porter (57)

9 Mataya Carter, Isaac Chandler
Chris Peske, Janet Wilson

10 Abby Foss
Sharon Thiemecke

11 Debbie Reiersen
Nate & Sarah Lundeen (23)

14 Larry Eichstadt

15 Kermit & Judy Anderson (65)

16 Lisa Teigland

17 Louis & Leah Blocker (21)

18 Yolanda Manecke
Mike & Sarah Lohse (23)

19 Kathy Kippley, Eva Farmer
Wayne & Lenay Tieman (52)

20 Sheridan Ellis
Bill & Pat Cloose (19)

21 Garret Binkley, Ginny Kurtzweg

25 Mike & Kris Wavrin (45)

26 Lenay Tieman
Jerry & Lisa Larson (29)

29 Dennis & Denise Henkemeyer (20)
Davey & Christine Mills (27)

30 Dennis Bowman, Arlene Lee



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




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 - AUGUST

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1 Habakkuk 3:2-19 | 9 Psalm 64 | 17 Psalm 72 | 25 Psalm 80 |
| 2 Chronicles 1-3 | 2 Chronicles 25-27 | Nehemiah 7-9 | Job 10-12 |
| 2 Psalm 57 | 10 Psalm 65 | 18 Psalm 73 | 26 Psalm 81 |
| 2 Chronicles 4-6 | 2 Chronicles 28-30 | Nehemiah 10-13 | Job 13-15 |
| 3 Psalm 58 | 11 Psalm 66 | 19 Psalm 74 | 27 Psalm 82 |
| 2 Chronicles 7-9 | 2 Chronicles 31-33 | Esther 1-3 | Job 16-18 |
| 4 Psalm 59 | 12 Psalm 67 | 20 Psalm 75 | 28 Psalm 83 |
| 2 Chronicles 10-12 | 2 Chronicles 34-36 | Esther 4-6 | Job 19-21 |
| 5 Psalm 60 | 13 Psalm 68 | 21 Psalm 76 | 29 Psalm 84 |
| 2 Chronicles 13-15 | Ezra 1-5 | Esther 7-10 | Job 22-24 |
| 6 Psalm 61 | 14 Psalm 69 | 22 Psalm 77 | 30 Psalm 85 |
| 2 Chronicles 16-18 | Ezra 6-10 | Job 1-3 | Job 25-27 |
| 7 Psalm 62 | 15 Psalm 70 | 23 Psalm 78 | 31 Habakkuk 3:2-19 |
| 2 Chronicles 19-21 | Nehemiah 1-3 | Job 4-6 | Job 28-30 |
| 8 Psalm 63 | 16 Psalm 71 | 24 Psalm 79 | |
| 2 Chronicles 22-24 | Nehemiah 4-6 | Job 7-9 | |

August 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church - 444-4441

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 5px;"> <p>Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. - 1 Peter 4:10-11</p> </div>				<p>1</p> <p>5:30 PM Board of Elders</p> <div style="border: 1px solid purple; padding: 2px;"> <p>Joint Ladies Aid & Afternoon Guild Picnic 12:00 pm</p> </div>	2	3
<p>4</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study</p> <p><i>Ladies Aid Serves</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 PM Men of Trinity</p>	6	7	8	9	10
<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Christian Singles</p> <p><i>Youth Groups Serve</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 PM Active Christian Fellowship</p>	13	14	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 AM "Happy Quilters"</p>	16	17
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study</p> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px;"> <p>CHURCH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP 10:30am - 1:30pm Bible Study followed by a Picnic at the Outdoor Pavilion</p> </div> <p><i>Men Serve</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:00 PM Altar Circle</p>	20	21	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 AM "Happy Quilters"</p>	23	24
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship w/Communion</p>  <p>SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING</p> <p><i>Evening Guild Serves</i></p>	26	27	<p>28</p> <div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 2px;"> <p>TLC Preschool "Back to School Night" 5:30 PM</p> </div>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 AM "Happy Quilters"</p>	30	31