



# TLC Grapevine

March 2025

[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)

**IN THIS ISSUE**

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| LCMS Article            | 1  |
| From the Pastor         | 3  |
| Group Meetings          | 4  |
| Church Leadership Team  | 4  |
| “In Case You Missed It” | 5  |
| Sunday School           | 6  |
| Kids in Divine Service  | 6  |
| Kids Activity Page      | 7  |
| Coloring Page           | 8  |
| News & Announcements    | 9  |
| Lutheran Island Camp    | 9  |
| District News           | 10 |
| TLC Preschool News      | 11 |
| Online Directory        | 12 |
| Stewardship             | 13 |
| Our Stewardship Report  | 13 |
| Online Giving           | 14 |
| Birthdays/Anniversaries | 15 |
| F.Y.I.                  | 16 |
| Bible in a Year         | 16 |
| Monthly Calendar        | 17 |

**A letter from President Harrison about LIRS and LCMS RSOs**

February 6, 2025 / By President Matthew Harrison, LCMS

Dear Saints of the LCMS,  
Grace and peace in Jesus!

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:15–23)

As many of you are aware, General Mike Flynn (retired) publicly took to task Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and several other Lutheran social ministry agencies for receiving large federal grants for work with immigrants. That got the attention of Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). I was surprised at the dollar amounts involved. The post on X accused LIRS and the other agencies bearing the name Lutheran of “money laundering.” I am writing to provide you with some facts about this complex and confusing situation.

The LCMS is a law-abiding and patriotic church body. We don’t invite or support illegal immigration. We don’t say much to or about the government. We don’t have government contracts. Not one. We leave issues of government to our 1.8 million members and 5,700 active pastors, who act in the civil realm according to their Christian consciences as good citizens. We have spoken as a body to certain issues. The Bible and reason teach us that the unborn have the God-given right to life (Luke 1:39–45). The government has no right to infringe upon religious freedom, including the free exercise of religion. “Thoughts are tax free!” said Martin Luther. All our people are trained from Sunday school and catechism class, and every Sunday sermon, to be good citizens and advocate for just laws, punishment for evildoers and mercy for those in need. Specific views on the details of how the government is involved in this are left to the individual as a citizen.

The LCMS uses legal means to fight for First Amendment rights when those rights are under attack. We have suffered formal legal action and much more as we have watched as DEI philosophy (formally rejected by our church body along with white supremacy) has pervaded nearly every aspect of government activity, even as the U.S. government has burgeoned beyond all ethical and rational propriety, in effect stealing the future from our children. We’ve been inundated with government attacks on those First Amendment rights. This subjects us to anxiety in the workplace, fear and lack of promotion in the military, and constant attacks at public schools and universities for merely following the Bible and sound reason on matters of sex. Our children are subjected to coercion at public schools. Millions of fellow Lutheran saints around the globe are chagrined at U.S. embassies and programs preoccupied with LGBTQ issues in their many different countries, as this program has been carried out globally.

Continued on Next Page ➡

The LCMS loves all people. We believe “the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). We are sinners loved by Christ. And Christ bids us, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 19:19). When our congregations, pastors and people come into contact with individuals who are not legally in the U.S., particularly when such individuals find themselves in our churches, we welcome them. We tell them about Jesus’ forgiveness. We also always urge and often assist them in doing the right thing, that is, becoming legal residents. The LCMS is officially pro-immigrant. Our church was founded by German immigrants.

The LCMS is no longer part of LIRS. At its inception, LIRS assisted with the resettlement of many Europeans suffering the devastation of WWII. We still have many people in our church who were children in the late 1940s and early 1950s, who were resettled in the U.S. by LIRS in partnership with our local congregations. They are eternally grateful. That partnership happened again in a remarkable way in the 1970s with many southeast Asians in the wake of the Vietnam War. LIRS was at one time officially related to a number of American Lutheran church bodies, with specific board positions reserved for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and LCMS representatives. As the ELCA wandered away from the clear biblical teachings on sexual morality, this and other intersections of the ELCA and the LCMS (such as Lutheran Disaster Response, institutional chaplaincy, military chaplaincy, Lutheran World Relief and so on) became ever more challenging. As LIRS secularized, it hired a non-Christian, Hindu person to serve as president and CEO. The agency reorganized to become fully independent of its former partner church bodies. This diminished Lutheran identity is reflected in its new name, Global Refuge. For the past five years, the LCMS has provided no funding to LIRS and has provided no official representation on the board.

The post-WWII push within the LCMS toward one Lutheran church body in America that precipitated the disastrous events of the Concordia Seminary Walkout in 1974 brought the LCMS into the Lutheran Council USA, and into various cooperative agencies. Lutheran World Relief likewise became and remains a rebranded independent entity apart from the LCMS. Like LIRS, it does charitable work as a government contractor. There is no specifically Christian content, no sharing of the blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins.

More than a decade ago, I was part of an LCMS delegation that attended what would be our last Committee on Lutheran Cooperation meeting at the ELCA headquarters in Chicago. The ELCA bishop prayed, avoiding “Father” and “Son” in his prayer. I told him that we would no longer meet. Among other things, including the ELCA’s teachings and statements on sexuality, I told him, “I’m no longer sure we are praying to the same God.” It is difficult enough to carry out what we call “cooperation in externals” (for instance, doing mercy work together without church fellowship for the benefit of people in need) when we no longer agree on what the Gospel is. It is impossible when we can’t even agree on what the Law is.

The LCMS grants special status to certain agencies as Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs). Like LIRS, we have no ownership of, governing authority over or hand in the financial management of such agencies. They are independently audited. Some of the organizations on the list circulated by Flynn for public scrutiny are LCMS RSOs and at the same time retain affiliation with the ELCA. Because of the public uproar over Flynn’s post, many of our LCMS people are asking for a review of these RSOs. Rightly so. We are following up on these concerns. To maintain RSO status in the LCMS, an agency must agree to “[respect] and ... not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Synod.” In short, our RSOs are not to give themselves over to ELCA doctrine and practice.

Let me just note (and this is NOT an official position of the LCMS): I’m personally pleased with DOGE. The federal government is bloated beyond all rational limits. It can’t fund its activities without accumulating debt. And it’s failing in its basic tasks. Christians believe the government should protect its citizens, maintain just laws, prosper marriage and family, and punish criminals. I think the government is failing across the board. The bigger government becomes, the more it meddles in what should not be its business at all, such as promoting faddish, unscientific philosophies of sex and family to the detriment of those who in good conscience cannot agree — and never will agree no matter the coercion.

I’m sure that General Flynn meant well with his muckraking, but he misses the mark in two ways. First, though I do not agree philosophically with every operational aspect of LIRS, if there is something legally amiss, the blame falls squarely upon the federal government. LIRS — and even our own LCMS RSOs — simply does what the government asks and pays for them to do.

During his first term, President Trump and the First Lady visited one of the LCMS RSOs currently under scrutiny. The president wanted to ensure that the institution would be a place to deliver outstanding care to unaccompanied minors. That agency has been quietly doing this work since that visit. They take the work with profound seriousness and love. They did not and do not deserve the broad brush of disdain brought upon them.

Second, our immigration laws are a mess. I can safely say our LCMS people are all for removing criminal bad actors from this country. Caesar “beareth not the sword in vain” says St. Paul (Rom. 13:4). There are indeed millions who have broken federal immigration law. That is wrong. It is also true that millions have been enticed and encouraged to enter illegally into this country by contradictory American voices at all levels: federal, state and local. I cannot but be sympathetic to their plight. At the same time, a well-regulated border, sound immigration policy, and welcoming space for persecuted refugees are all fundamental parts of a God-pleasing answer to the question: Who will contribute to this marvelous and blessed American experiment? Blessings to you all.

In Christ,

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison

President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, St. Louis

## Lent a Time of Joy



The fall of man into sin through Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden sets the stage for Lent. Why? Because in the fall we learn why Jesus came to die on Calvary's cross to redeem us from our sin.

For most the fall is pictured in Adam and Eve biting an apple, but in reality the Bible never mentions an apple only that fruit hung from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and that it was not to be eaten. To do so God said was a sin ultimately leading to His just wrath and condemnation. So when Adam and Eve bit the fruit they and all mankind became recipients of God's judgment of death. This being so, we all need Christ's redeeming blood to wash away our sin and save us from eternal death.

To all who believe in Jesus as their Savior from sin, therefore, Lent is a time of joy even though our thoughts are typically turned toward somber repentance. It is joyful because in somber repentance we reflect on God's gift of faith in His Son Jesus who assures us that we have forgiveness and eternal life in the face of all the devastating effects of sin that that one bite of the forbidden fruit has inflicted upon us.

Consider, then, how just one bite of that fruit has caused so much woe. Consider also that our continued sinning is the source of all our troubles.

So what was so alluring to Eve about the fruit in the first place? Of course, the serpent told her she would be like God knowing good and evil which is what the serpent continues to tempt us to believe. And if we believe we are like God as the serpent subtly suggests, then, we no longer need God as our Savior.

Consequently, the account of the fall reveals that the root of all sin is to believe we are as good as God even when Jesus reminds us that "There is none good but One, that is, God." (Matthew 19:17 KJV) Jesus spoke these words to a young man who believed he had earned the right to go to heaven through his own goodness and so did not need God's forgiveness for his sin.

But thank God, we who are deceived by sin have a forgiving Savior who came to point out that we are sinful and need forgiveness, and then, invites us to repent of our sin which essentially means to trust that only Jesus can free us from our sin.

Where, then, does Jesus start telling us about this? In the creation story where He says He shaped us out of the dust of the earth to be the crown of His creation, made in His spiritual image, giving us both bodily and eternal life. And, then, how Adam and Eve fell because they wanted their way and not God's way.

Jesus also points to the world as evidence of this and how we believe we are wiser than He who spoke creation into existence by His Word as we go about trying to turn His order for creation on its head.

So in the end, we are indeed envious of God all the while despising His will as we continually strive to usurp His authority as Adam and Eve tried to do. And all because that first pride-filled bite brought sin into the world with its endless list of every form of sinful immorality, idolatry, war, disease, you name it.

Nevertheless, God being forgiving by nature did not wipe us out. But rather determined He would redeem us. So He promised to send His Son Jesus as our Savior who would shed His holy precious blood on His cross to redeem us from our sin. He vowed He would not leave us to His wrath but would provide our salvation through Jesus as the Apostle John writes, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:16-17 KJV)

Therefore, during Lent, we who believe in Jesus joyfully repent of our sins while striving to turn from them, all the while rejoicing in what Jesus has done by dying on the cross for the remission of them in the full assurance that our destiny does not end in death and damnation, but in an eternity in heaven with our blessed Savior, Jesus.

Have a joy filled Lent - Pastor Uhrinak

# Group Meetings



- ❖ **Ladies Guild**  
Ladies Guild will meet on Thursday, March 6th at 1:30 pm at the Church.
- ❖ **Men of Trinity**  
Will meet on Monday, March 3rd at 5:30 pm at the Church.
- ❖ **Active Christian Fellowship**  
The Active Christian Fellowship will meet on Monday, March 10th at 6:30 pm.
- ❖ **Hannah Circle**  
Will meet on Thursday, March 13th at 1:30 pm.
- ❖ **Altar Circle**  
Will not meet in January, February or March.
- ❖ **Eunice Circle**  
Will meet on Tuesday, March 18th at 9:30 am.
- ❖ **Christian Singles**  
The Christian Singles will meet for lunch on Sunday, March 9th.
- ❖ **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: Amy Koebke - 218-586-3319  
 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:**

Rod Wentzel - 218-751-6119  
 Scott Wilson - 701-238-7557  
 Mike Lohse - 218-556-7540  
 VACANCY  
 Eric Lee - 218-966-1023  
 Kevin Ellis - 218-987-2752

## CHURCH BOARDS

### TRUSTEES

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

### BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

David/Susan Krueger - 218-444-9583  
 Bonnie Wentzel - 218-751-6119  
 Larry Eichstadt - 218-751-0659

### BOARD OF MISSIONS

Mary Krueger - 218-751-3794  
 VACANCY  
 Steve Krueger - 218-751-3794

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sheridan Ellis - 218-368-8317  
 VACANCY  
 Ben Lang - 218-340-3672

### YOUTH BOARD

Susan Krueger - 218-444-9583  
 Dede Kubitz - 218-280-8526  
 VACANCY

### SCHOOL BOARD

Leah Blocker - 507-317-8138  
 Bev Haman - 224-2147  
 Susan Kruger, 444-9583



# I . C . Y . M . I .

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

## Trinity Welcomes New Members!



On Sunday, February 2nd Trinity received 9 new members to our Trinity Family.

We welcomed:

Greg & Katie Malbraaten

Ian & Rachel Vander Hoeven

Emily Aschnewitz

Chandler Ross

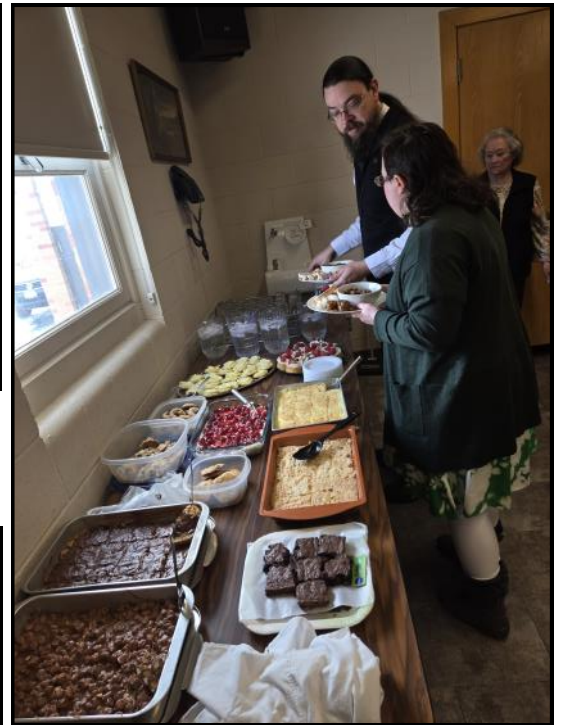
Evan, Theresa, and Sarah Hartshorn

*Pictured from Left to Right: Ian Vander Hoeven, Sarah Hartshorn, Evan Hartshorn, Theresa Hartshorn, Greg Malbraaten, Katie Malbraaten, Chandler Ross, and Emily Aschnewitz.*

**The Worship Service was followed by a New Member Welcome Potluck!**



**There was plenty of great food and a wonderful time of Fellowship to welcome our new friends!**





## The Sunday School made Valentine Cards for the Shut-ins



+ + +  
KIDS IN THE  
DIVINE SERVICE  
+ + +

### Why do we celebrate Lent for 40 days?

Don't forget what Lent is all about! It is a time when we are reminded of what Jesus gave up for us, and a time when we look forward to and prepare for His death and resurrection!



We celebrate Lent for six weeks, or 40 days, as we remember Christ's temptation in the wilderness in the Gospel of Matthew. There **Jesus was without food** for 40 days.



We remember the temptation of **the Israelites in the desert** after the Lord had delivered them from Egypt. This lasted 40 years.



Finally, we can remember the story of **Noah and his family**. After 40 days and 40 nights of rain, the Lord delivered them as He promised.

During these 40 days of Lent, we remember God's faithfulness to His people and how His faithfulness is complete in Jesus, our Savior. Jesus remains faithful to us, always being where He promises to be: in His Word and Sacraments. Wow! What a Savior!

sweet  
soil



This snack's layers mimic properties of our planet's crust.



**What you need:**

- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup nut butter (divided)
- ½ cup chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Silicone mini baking cups

**What you do:**

1. Combine the oats and ⅓ cup of the nut butter. Mix until oats stick together.
2. Place 2 teaspoons of oat mixture in each baking cup. Press with a spoon. Freeze for 10 minutes.
3. Spread remaining nut butter atop the cups. Freeze for 10 more minutes.
4. Microwave the chocolate chips 30 seconds. Stir and keep heating for 30-second intervals until melted.
5. Spread melted chocolate atop the cups. Freeze until chocolate is firm.
6. Remove from the molds and enjoy! Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.



# Activity Page



## FROM WORD TO WORLD

Words are important! God spoke and created all things.  
What does the psalmist declare about creation?

*Directions: Using the word clues, unscramble the letters to complete Psalm 102:25, NIV.*

- |                                      |             |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| A preposition                        | NI          | ---   |
| An article                           | HTE         | ---   |
| Genesis means this                   | NINBGEIGN   | ----- |
| A second-person pronoun              | OUY         | ---   |
| Past tense of <i>to lay</i>          | IDAL        | ----  |
| An article                           | HET         | ---   |
| A plural noun meaning <i>base</i>    | SODTAINFONU | ----- |
| A preposition showing possession     | FO          | ---   |
| An article                           | TEH         | ---   |
| A concrete noun meaning <i>world</i> | HRTEA       | ----- |



Psalm 102:25, NIV

Answer: In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth. (Psalm 102:25, NIV)



Be  
Kind





# News & Announcements

## Wednesdays in Lent - March 5th - April 9th

Worship Service

Pastor Les Uhrinak at 6:30 pm

## Maundy Thursday, April 17th

Worship Service

Pastor Les Uhrinak at 6:30 pm

## Good Friday, April 18th

Worship Service

Pastor Les Uhrinak at 6:30 pm

## Easter, March 20th

Worship Service with Holy Communion

Pastor Les Uhrinak at 9:00 am



If your family or group would like to provide one of the Lenten Suppers, please sign up on the Calendar in the hallway by the offices, or speak with Marty in the Church office.



Join us at 5:30 pm  
Wednesdays during Lent

### March 5

ACF

### March 12

Volunteers Needed

### March 19

Volunteers Needed

### March 26

Volunteers Needed

### April 2

Volunteers Needed

### April 9

Volunteers Needed



**The NEW Portals of Prayer for January - March are in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.**

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!

## Lutheran Island Camp UPCOMING EVENTS



**Feb 7-8, Mar 14-15**

### **Confirmation Weekends**

Confirmation Weekends are led by Program Director Olivia, with the exception of the Confirmation Instruction time. To register your group, contact Dianne at [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org).

### **April 2-6**

### **Quilt & Craft Retreat**

\$160/2 nights

\$200/3 nights

\$240/4 nights

\$280/5 nights

Join us on the Island for a relaxing retreat full of quilting and crafts! Food and lodging is provided. Please bring your own bedding and toiletries. This year, due to the ERC renovations, the Quilt & Craft Retreat will look a little different. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for a letter from Program Director Olivia outlining these changes.

For any questions, please contact Olivia at [licprogram@islandcamp.org](mailto:licprogram@islandcamp.org).

### **What you can do:**

- Volunteer for our biannual spring and fall work days
- Sign up and volunteer for a time to serve the island
- Help fund projects for the improvement of camp
- Pray for the ministry of Lutheran Island Camp

Prayers are powerful! It is the prayers of our faithful supporters that make the ministry of Lutheran Island Camp fruitful.

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." - 1 John 5:14

# DISTRICT NEWS

## Mercy: Love Throughout Life

MARCH 14-15, 2025

Visit  
<https://calendar.lcms.org/events>  
 For more information

**GOD'S MISSION Here**



### Prayers Needed Southern California Wildfires

As a result of a very significant Santa Ana wind event, several devastating wildfires have been burning in multiple areas in Southern California. Thousands of homes and other structures have burned, and unfortunately there have been fatalities and injuries.

Several of our PSD congregations and schools are in or near the fire areas, with some having to evacuate. As of this point, we are not aware of property damage to churches and schools but have been told some members and student families have lost their homes. We will provide more details to our district as we receive them. Please be in prayer for our brothers and sisters affected by these terrible fires.

To help visit: <https://www.psd-lcms.org/disaster-response>



**THE GOSPEL SHOWS THE FATHER'S GRACE**

February 28–March 1 | A+D 2025

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
 1300 Beltline Road, Collinsville, IL 62234

This conference is for both laity and pastors. Come join us for good theology, fellowship, and maybe even a little fun.

**Speakers:** Rev. Ben Ball; Rev. Dr. Jon Bruus; Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger; Rev. Dr. Gifford Grobsten; Rev. Andrew Prens; Rev. William Weedon; and, Rev. Andy Wright

**Preachers:** Pr. Andrew Packer; Pr. Joshua Scheer; and, Pr. David Ramirez

To learn more about the conference and register go to <https://yourgrandfatherschurch.org/>.

Minnesota  
**STATE BIBLE BOWL 2025**

Life of David  
 (1 Sam. 16-1 Kings 2);  
 Saturday, April 5  
 @ Concordia University.

**Ministry Safe**

the LCMS has partnered with **MinistrySafe** to provide access to their child protection training and resources.

**LEARN MORE >>** <https://ministrysafe.com/lcms>

**LCMS LUTHERANS YESTERDAY. TODAY. ALWAYS.**

**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**  
 > where investments build ministry

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.





MARCH 2025

# Learning Center and Preschool News

## Weird & Wacky Science Night 2025!





# Our Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via the

To view the directory online, go to [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](http://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com) and follow the prompts under “Sign In” or “Create a login now.” Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for “**Instant Church Directory**” to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

## Need help or have questions?



**Trinity Lutheran Church**

123 29th Street NE, Bemidji

**Please contact the church office**

**444-4441**

Our Church Directory is powered by [Instant Church Directory](http://InstantChurchDirectory.com).

# MARCH STEWARDSHIP

## *“God’s Instruments, God’s Stewards”*

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)*

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn’t stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

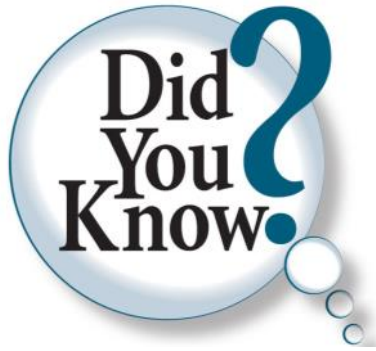
As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren’t random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God’s greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God’s grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God’s Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!



| <u>Monthly Receipts/Expenses</u>       | <u>January 2025</u>   |                    |                         |                |              |
|--|---|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| General Fund Receipts                  | \$18,561.88   |                    |                         |                |              |
| PS/CC Receipts                         | \$10,653.75   |                    |                         |                |              |
| Interest Receipts                      | \$41.68   |                    |                         |                |              |
| (Transfer to Money Market) Adjustments |   |                    |                         |                |              |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                  | <b>\$29,257.31</b>  |                    |                         |                |              |
|  |   |                    |                         |                |              |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES</b>         | <b>\$45,360.07</b>  |                    |                         |                |              |
|  |   |                    |                         |                |              |
| <b>OVERAGE/SHORTAGE</b>                | <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black;"><b>Monthly +/-</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black;"><b>Year to Date +/-</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black;">(-\$16,102.76)</td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black;">(-16,102.76)</td> </tr> </table> | <b>Monthly +/-</b> | <b>Year to Date +/-</b> | (-\$16,102.76) | (-16,102.76) |
| <b>Monthly +/-</b>                     | <b>Year to Date +/-</b>   |                    |                         |                |              |
| (-\$16,102.76)                         | (-16,102.76)  |                    |                         |                |              |



# 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.





# MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2 Tony Richer

3 Carlos Moreno  
Sharen Bowman

4 Kris Wavrin

7 Rev. Daniel Domke  
*Tim & Tammy Freye (41)*

9 Kathleen Malbraaten

11 *Dennis & Cheryl Frederikson (53)*

12 Tim Freye, Samantha Krueger

13 Amelia Freye

16 Jeanette Lund, Ardie Meacham  
Madison Molitor

17 Christina Severson

18 Ruby Eggebraaten, Don Hanson,  
Dottie Liapis  
*Richard and Lynette Perrault (30)*

19 *Carlos & Cheryl Moreno (14)*

20 Sarah Branham, Jill Korbel

22 Talaine Olafson

29 Jocelyn Kurtzweg, Phyllis Payne  
*Mark & Lisa Teigland (17)*



## ALTAR FLOWER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



Please sign up to sponsor the Altar Flowers for 2025!



## 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 Guild 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.**



### ALTAR CIRCLE

The time of Easter begins with the season of Lent. The purple paraments symbolize sorrow and repentance. Lent offers us an opportunity for penitential reflection and renewal of faith and life. It prepares us for the glorious good news of Easter.

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



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





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

## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - MARCH

- |                 |                   |                   |                  |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 Isaiah 64:1-9 | 9 Psalm 92        | 17 Psalm 100      | 25 Psalm 108     |
| Numbers 16-18   | Deuteronomy 4-6   | Deuteronomy 28-30 | Luke 12-13       |
| 2 Psalm 85      | 10 Psalm 93       | 18 Psalm 101      | 26 Psalm 109     |
| Numbers 19-21   | Deuteronomy 7-9   | Deuteronomy 31-34 | Luke 14-15       |
| 3 Psalm 86      | 11 Psalm 94       | 19 Psalm 102      | 27 Psalm 110     |
| Numbers 22-24   | Deuteronomy 10-12 | Luke 1            | Luke 16-17       |
| 4 Psalm 87      | 12 Psalm 95       | 20 Psalm 103      | 28 Psalm 111     |
| Numbers 25-27   | Deuteronomy 13-15 | Luke 2-3          | Luke 18-19       |
| 5 Psalm 88      | 13 Psalm 96       | 21 Psalm 104      | 29 Psalm 112     |
| Numbers 28-30   | Deuteronomy 16-18 | Luke 4-5          | Luke 20-21       |
| 6 Psalm 89      | 14 Psalm 97       | 22 Psalm 105      | 30 Psalm 113     |
| Numbers 31-33   | Deuteronomy 19-21 | Luke 6-7          | Luke 22          |
| 7 Psalm 90      | 15 Psalm 98       | 23 Psalm 106      | 31 Isaiah 64:1-9 |
| Numbers 34-36   | Deuteronomy 22-24 | Luke 8-9          | Luke 23-24       |
| 8 Psalm 91      | 16 Psalm 99       | 24 Psalm 107      |                  |
| Deuteronomy 1-3 | Deuteronomy 25-27 | Luke 10-11        |                  |

# March 2025

Trinity Lutheran Church - 444-4441

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday                                      | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|--|--------|----------|
| <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>"Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."<br/>           Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. ~Joel 2:12-13</p> </div> |   |  |   |  |        | 1        |
| 2<br>9:00 AM Worship w/Communion<br>10:30 AM Bible Study<br>10:30 AM Sunday School<br><i>ACF Serves</i>   | 3<br>5:30 PM Men of Trinity   | 4<br>6:00 PM Bells                           | 5<br>4:00 PM 6th Grade Confirmation<br>4:15 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation<br>5:30 PM Lenten Meal<br>6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Worship | 6<br>1:30 PM Ladies Guild<br>5:30 PM Board of Elders   | 7      | 8        |
| 9<br>9:00 AM Worship w/Communion<br>10:30 AM Bible Study<br>10:30 AM Sunday School<br>11:30 AM Christian Singles<br><i>Youth Groups Serve</i>   | 10<br>6:30 PM Active Christian Fellowship   | 11<br>6:00 PM Bells                          | 12<br>4:00 PM 6th Grade Confirmation<br>4:15 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation<br>5:30 PM Lenten Meal<br>6:30 PM Lenten Worship       | 13<br>1:30 PM Hannah Circle  | 14     | 15       |
| 16<br>9:00 AM Worship w/Communion<br>10:30 AM Bible Study<br>10:30 AM Sunday School<br><i>Men Serve</i>   | 17<br> | 18<br>9:30 AM Eunice Circle<br>6:00 PM Bells | 19<br>4:00 PM 6th Grade Confirmation<br>4:15 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation<br>5:30 PM Lenten Meal<br>6:30 PM Lenten Worship       | 20<br>9:00 AM "Happy Quilters"<br>6:00 PM Church Boards<br>7:00 PM Church Council<br> | 21     | 22       |
| 23<br>9:00 AM Worship w/Communion<br>10:30 AM Bible Study<br>10:30 AM Sunday School<br><i>Ladies Guild Serves</i>   | 24  | 25<br>6:00 PM Bells                          | 26<br>4:00 PM 6th Grade Confirmation<br>4:15 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation<br>5:30 PM Lenten Meal<br>6:30 PM Lenten Worship       | 27<br>9:00 AM "Happy Quilters"   | 28     | 29       |
| 30<br>9:00 AM Worship w/Communion<br>10:30 AM Bible Study<br>10:30 AM Sunday School<br><i>Altar Circle</i>  | 31  |  |   |  |        |          |