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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What is a Lutheran?

July 21, 2023 / Reporter / By Matthew C Harrison

In June, Thrivent — a fraternal benefit society born of a merger of two Lutheran organizations — exhorted its Instagram followers, with a rainbow heart, to "Celebrate Pride Month." Many folks who own Thrivent products have asked us for alternatives for life insurance and investments. I especially feel for the many faithful LCMS people who serve or have served as Thrivent agents whose consciences are burdened. I think of J.A.O. Preus I (father of former LCMS President Rev. Dr. J.A.O. "Jack" Preus II), who founded Lutheran Brotherhood. I think of the Lutherans (like my family) who served so well in these institutions for so long, and all the charitable dollars to worthy causes.

In other news, a congregation in Minnesota bearing the name "Lutheran" — though not one with which we are in fellowship — has gone viral for its use of the so-called "Sparkle Creed" at a Pride Sunday service in June. Again, our voicemails and inboxes lit up with those concerned that the Synod needed to issue a statement about this "creed," which includes phrases such as "I believe in the non-binary God whose pronouns are plural. I believe in Jesus Christ, their son, who wore a fabulous tunic and had two dads."

These are shocking developments, but not unexpected. Thrivent long ago shed "for Lutherans" from its name, and more recently dropped "for Christians." In 2014, it stopped allowing Thrivent Choice donations to be directed to pro-life organizations (taking what they called a neutral position on the matter of abortion). And the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has advocated for LGBTQ+ issues for decades. I pray for the many Christians in the ELCA. Thank God the dictum of the ancient church — "The ears of the hearers are more holy than the hearts of the priests" — remains true. God grant to all of us wretched sinners repentance and faith in Christ. By the way, I only mention the ELCA here because the national media, in its reporting on the "Sparkle Creed," indiscriminately lumped all Lutherans together.

While once faithful church bodies in Australia and Japan have slipped away from historic, confessional Lutheran doctrine and practice, other churches — particularly in Africa, but also elsewhere — are throwing off their entanglements with the heterodox Lutheran World Federation and seeking LCMS pastors and professors to catechize them in more faithful doctrine and practice. This vital international role of our seminaries is often overlooked. We have more requests from around the world than we can meet.

This all raises the question: What is a Lutheran? Thrivent used to be "for Lutherans." And as we can see, a church with "Lutheran" in its name can have its members confess, "I believe in the non-binary God whose pronouns are plural."

Being a Lutheran does not mean being like Luther or believing everything he taught. Though God magnificently used the blessed reformer to restore the Gospel to its proper place in the church, we don't confess everything Luther taught.

Being Lutheran is also not heritage or history. Churches descended from the Reformation are not necessarily Lutheran. And being Lutheran does not mean reinterpreting glorious and thoroughly biblical Lutheran words like "grace" to mean "tolerance," or "vocation" to mean "service."

Being Lutheran does mean subscribing to the specific teachings of the Lutheran Confessions because they accord with the doctrine revealed in Holy Scripture. You all know this confession, which is most simply put in Luther's Small Catechism. The catechism sets forth the great basics of the faith: the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and the Lord's Supper.

At the core of the catechism are these words: "I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death."

This — the doctrine of justification, on which the church stands or falls — is what it means to be Lutheran. Everything else flows from it. Original sin and the preaching of the Law (apart from Christ, all of us are "lost and condemned persons") are about justification. Because we know that God justifies sinners, we aren't afraid of man's sinful condition, nor do our sins terrify and oppress us. God reckons us righteous, by grace, for Christ's sake.

Baptism — even infant Baptism — is about justification because the font is one of the places God does His justifying work, apart from any participation of our own. The Office of the Keys is about justification because the pastor's absolving words are God's justifying work. The Lord's Supper is about justification because God gathers His saints around His altar to feed them with the price paid for their justification: the very body and blood of Jesus. Even the authority of the Bible is tied to justification. Jesus says the Bible testifies about Him (John 5), and those who believe in Jesus listen to Him. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).

If a church body rejects God's Law, it cannot call sinners to repentance. It loses the fullness of justification and ceases to be truly Lutheran. That's why we must always proclaim Law and Gospel. If a congregation rejects the church's historic creeds in favor of something made up to fit the sexual mores of the culture, it rejects justification, since Christ suffered on the cross to pay for man's sins, not to permit and celebrate them.

If that's what a Lutheran is, must one be a Lutheran to be saved? No. As the doctrine of justification rightly teaches, God saves people solely out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, through simple faith in Jesus as their Savior. Wherever His Word is preached — even if imperfectly — there is hope for sinners to be saved by the working of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3).

One pastor I know is fond of telling his parishioners that there are no Lutheran insomniacs, at least when it comes to eternal life. No Lutheran should stay awake at night worrying about his salvation. If justification is God's work alone (which it is), and if He works through tangible means (which He does), then a Christian can remind himself that he is baptized by God and go happily to sleep.

The point of being Lutheran is comfort, not pride. God intends His people to have full and complete confidence that they are His because of His perfect work. This is justification. This is why I am a Lutheran. This joyful confidence is the baptismal birthright of every Christian. And it's why we won't confess the Sparkle Creed with the "church of what's happening now."

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



MEMBERS OF TRINITY,

Please continue to support the Bemidji Area Food shelf. You can drop off your donations to the box in the Social Hall.

You can also make a cash donation. Please make your check out to Bemidji Food Shelf and put in June Roxstrom's mailbox and she will bring it to the Food Shelf.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the food shelf, or need more information, please contact June Roxstrom at 333-1495.



Ladies Aid

Will join the Afternoon Guild for a joint summer picnic at 12:30 pm on Tuesday, August 1st.

Men of Trinity

Will meet on Monday, August 7th at 7:00 pm at the Church.

* Trinity Afternoon Guild

Will join the Ladies Aid for a joint summer picnic at 12:30 pm on Tuesday, August 1st.

❖ M.O.P.S.

Will Meet on Tuesday, August 8th at 6:30 pm at the Church.

* Hannah Circle

Does not meet in June, July or August.

❖ Active Christian Fellowship

Will meet on Monday, August 14th for a Pontoon ride and meeting. Time to be determined.

❖ Altar Circle

Will Meet on Monday, August 21st at 1:00 pm at the church.

Eunice Circle

Does not meet in June, July or August.

Christian Singles

The Christian Singles will meet at 11:30 am on Sunday, August 27th at the church.

Here is your chance to buy a quilt from the "Happy Quilters" group!

Rarely do the "Happy Quilters" allow their quilts to be sold. Rather, they make these quilts to support Missions.

Now, for a limited time you can buy any quilt of your choice for \$75.00.

The proceeds from the sale will go to buy batting and supplies to continue their Mission work. If you would like to buy a quilt, you can give your \$75.00 donation to

one of the quilters or drop it off at the church office and take

home one of these beautiful quilts **TODAY!**





DISTRICT NEWS





On September 23rd, Trinity in New York Mills will host the Each 1 Reach 1: Generation to Generation evangelism workshop presented by Rev. Roger Paavola.

Rev. Paavola serves as the Mid-South District President and has deep roots in Northern Minnesota.

For more information contact Trinity at trinity1892@nymtrinity.org or 218-385-2450



Bible Translation Sunday breaks down barriers to involvement in global missions. Materials include recommendations for service elements, a story-rich sermon and engaging children's message, adult Bible study, PowerPoint slides and graphics, bulletins, and more. New this year is a partnership with Lutheran Service Builder. Congregations are invited to celebrate their partnership in God's mission. Register and download the event toolkit at

www.lbt.org/bts.

LWML Retreat

- Aug. 11-13
- Lutheran Island Camp, Henning

The theme is "Balancing Act Amid Life's Challenges." The Bible verse is from 1 Cor. 10:31:



Whatever you do, do it all for the Glory of God.

Balancing life's challenges will be our focus in Bible study. The study is very fitting for women of all ages.

The speakers for the retreat are Deb Vinkemeier and Katie Koplin. Deb Vinkemeier lives in Bigfork with her husband. She is very much involved in LWML, and recently served as president of the LWML Minnesota South District. Katie is contributor at 1517.org and co-hosts "Freely Given," a podcast about the freedom that comes with dependence on Christ. She lives in Elbow Lake with her husband and four children. She also writes devotionals and inspiriting articles on her website: lovedinspiteofself.com.

More retrea information can be at *lwmlmnn.org*. Go to "Events" and select "District Retreat" from the drop-down menu.

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Name				
Address				
Phone				
Email				
Special needs				
Roommates				
Special Needs				
Bringing a "first-timer"?	Who?			
Under 18 First tin	ner?			
√ Check	Before Aug. 1	After Aug. 1		
Friday-Sunday	\$150	\$160 \$110		
Friday-Saturday	\$100			
Saturday Only	\$80	\$90		
Housing preference:	Cabin	Retreat Center		
The Registration dea	adline is Aug.	4		
There is an additiona No refunds after Aug.		te registration.		
Make check payable t	o: LWML MN	North District		
Send registration with 12651 110th St, Hoffr	n check to: Val	erie Johnson,		

I.C.Y.M.I.

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

CHURCH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP



I.C.Y.M.I.

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

MORE CHURCH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP



Amouncements

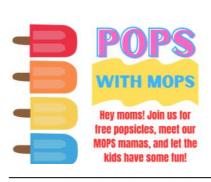


Semi-Annual
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, August 13th
After the Service
All members are
requested to attend.



Some of Trinity's groups have stopped their ongoing fundraisers. Please note the following fundraisers that are no longer in effect:

- Lutheran Island Camp is no longer collecting Campbell's Soup Labels.
- The Youth Groups are no longer collecting proof of purchase (bar codes) for the Our Family Brand at Lueken's Village Foods.
- The Afternoon Guild is no longer collecting Pop Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.
- TLC Preschool is no longer collecting ink cartridges or small electronics for recycling.



TUESDAY
AUGUST 8TH 6:30
TRINITY LUTHERAN
123 29TH ST NE. BEMIDJI



TLC PRESCHOOL "BACK-TO-SCHOOL" NIGHT

Wednesday, August 23rd At 5:00 PM



Lutheran Island Camp UPCOMING EVENTS



AUGUST 5

Quilt Auction

Mark your calendars for the Annual Quilt Auction! Come out to the Island for a day of fun and bidding on the beautiful quilts that get donated to camp. Food will be available for purchase. The Quilt Auction is our largest fundraiser each year! If you'd like to donate a quilt, please go to the "Donate" page to download the form.

AUGUST 9 - 10

New Church Worker Orientation

Lutheran Island Camp is pleased to be hosting the orientation for the new workers of the MN North District! More information to come.

AUGUST 11 - 13 LWML Retreat

This is a retreat for all LWML members of the MN North District! LIC hosts the ladies of the LWML for a weekend of fun and fellowship. Stay tuned for more details! Registration will open later this summer.

<u>Thrivent Financial® Choice Dollars must be</u> <u>directed every year</u>. Trinity has 2 areas that Choice Dollars can be directed:

1. Trinity Lutheran Church

2. TLC Preschool/Growing Tree Childcare

All Choice Dollars directed to Trinity Lutheran Church go into the General Fund. *Please contact Financial Secretary if you have questions.*



All Choice Dollars directed to TLC Preschool and/or to Growing Tree Childcare go into their Scholarship Fund. *Please contact a member of the School Board if you have questions.*

To direct your Choice Dollars, go online to Thrivent.com and log in (you'll need your Member ID to register), or call 1-800-847-4836 and state "Thrivent Choice" (you'll need your Member ID). Please contact your Thrivent representative with any questions.

Our Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via the FREE mobile app today.

To view the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "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*.



Use simple ingredients and your imagination to bake these fluffy, cloud-like treats.

What you need:

- 3 egg whites
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- Mixer
- 2 Tbsp. powdered sugar
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- Parchment paper

What you do:

- 1. Preheat oven to 300°. In a mixing bowl, combine egg whites and vanilla. Whisk eggs with mixer at medium speed until frothy.
- 2. While whisking, gradually add sugar and cornstarch. Keep whisking at high speed until stiff peaks form.
- 3. Spoon mixture onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Create fun shapes.
- 4. Bake 20 minutes. Cool and enjoy!

Activity Page



Creator of the stars

The stars and sky testify to God's amazing power and creativity.

Directions: Use the clues and Bible passages to fill in the blanks. Then transfer the circled letters (in order) to the spaces below to complete a verse of praise.

God determines this and calls each star by name. (Psalm 147:4)
The heavens are the work of God's what? (Psalm 8:3)
What does God bring out one by one? (Isaiah 40:26)
God made two great lights to do this. (Genesis 1:16)
God promised Abraham this would be like the stars. (Genesis 15:5)
The sun, moon and stars have this. (1 Corinthians 15:41)
The lights in the sky serve as what? (Genesis 1:14)

Answer: number, fingers, host, govern, offspring, splendor, signs; The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1, NIV

The heave s declare the lory f od;

the ski_s __roc__aim the wo__k of his ha__ds.

PSALM 19:1, NIV



AUGUST STEWARDSHIP

Define Your Life by How You Give

Winston Churchill reportedly said that "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord's life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God's Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us cit-izens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and mak-ing a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relation-ships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our fo-cus from asking the question, "How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others," to asking the question, "What have they done for me lately?" We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we do not become less; rather, we have more and be-come more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewar
 LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship





Monthly Receipts/Expenses **June 2023**

General Fund Receipts \$21,693.83 PS/CC Receipts \$6,063.00 \$29.51 Interest Receipts Adjustments **TOTAL RECEIPTS**

\$27,786.34

TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES \$28,227.50

Monthly +/-

- \$441.16 **OVERAGE/SHORTAGE**



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. Fill out the form on the Donation Page and click "DONATE" when you are finished.
- 4. You will now be directed to our PayPal page. Once there, you can either Log In to your existing PayPal account <u>OR</u> if you don't have an account just click "Continue" under the heading "Don't Have A PayPal Account?
- 5. From here you just complete using your credit or debit card information and submit.

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

Danielle Reierson

6 Jesse & Anna Manecke (18)

Sellen Anderson Michael & Marie Porter (56)

Mataya Carter, Isaac Chandler Chris Peske, Janet Wilson

10Abby Foss Sharon Thiemecke

11 Debbie Reierson Nate & Sarah Lundeen (22)

14 Larry Eichstadt, Winnie Walter

15 Kermit & Judy Anderson (64)

16 Lisa Teigland

17 Louis & Leah Blocker (20)

18 Yolanda Manecke, Ruby Walter Mike & Sarah Lohse (22)

19 Kathy Kippley, Eva Farmer Wayne & Lenay Tieman (51)

20 Sheridan Ellis Bill & Pat Cloose (18)

21 Garret Binkley, Ginny Kurtzweg

25 Mike & Kris Warrin (44)

26 Lenay Tieman Jerry & Lisa Larson (28)

29 Dennis & Denise Henkemeyer (19)
Davey & Christine Mills (26)

3 Dennis Bowman, Arlene Lee





ALTAR FLOWER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



Please sign up to tend the Altar Flowers. We still need volunteers for 2023!



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!





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.



after Pentecost The season 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, speak with Pastor or Elders.

BEMIDJI AREA FOOD SHELF

Trinity, along with United Methodist Church volunteer the 1st Monday of each month at the Food Shelf. The first shift is from9am-12pm and the second shift is from 12-3:30pm. Both Food Shelf shifts need 6-7 volunteers.



Update on the Food Shelf in the last year.

- 1. Persons served up 40%
- 2. Homes served up 30%
- 3. Food costs up 20%.

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 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
- 2 Chronicles 1-3 2 Psalm 57
- 2 Chronicles 4-6
- 3 Psalm 58 2 Chronicles 7-9
- 4 Psalm 59 2 Chronicles 10-12
- 5 Psalm 60
- 2 Chronicles 13-15 6 Psalm 61
- 2 Chronicles 16-18
- 7 Psalm 62
- 2 Chronicles 19-21
- 8 Psalm 63 2 Chronicles 22-24

- 9 Psalm 64 2 Chronicles 25-27
- 10 Psalm 65
 - 2 Chronicles 28-30
- 11 Psalm 66 2 Chronicles 31-33
- 12 Psalm 67 2 Chronicles 34-36
- 13 Psalm 68 Ezra 1-5
- 14 Psalm 69 Ezra 6-10
- 15 Psalm 70 Nehemiah 1-3
- 16 Psalm 71 Nehemiah 4-6

- 17 Psalm 72 Nehemiah 7-9
- 18 Psalm 73 Nehemiah 10-13
- 19 Psalm 74 Esther 1-3
- 20 Psalm 75 Esther 4-6
- 21 Psalm 76 Esther 7-10
- 22 Psalm 77 Job 1-3
- 23 Psalm 78 Job 4-6
- 24 Psalm 79 Job 7-9

- 25 Psalm 80 Job 10-12
- 26 Psalm 81 Job 13-15
- 27 Psalm 82 Job 16-18
- 28 Psalm 83 Job 19-21
- 29 Psalm 84 Job 22-24
- 30 Psalm 85 Job 25-27
- 31 Habakkuk 3:2-19 Job 28-30

August 2023

Trinity Lutheran Church - 444-4441

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUG		1 12:30 PM Afternoon Guild & Ladies Aid Picnic	2	3 5:30 PM Board of Elders	4	5
6 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study	7 7:00 PM Men of Trinity	8 6:30 PM M.O.P.S.	9	10	11	12
9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Semi-Annual Meeting CONGRECATIONAL MEETING Youth Groups Serve	14 5:00 PM Active Christian Fellowship	15	4:00 PM Acolyte Training	9:00 AM "Happy Quilters"	18	19
9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study	21 1:00 PM Altar Circle	22	TLC Preschool "Back to School Night" 5:30 PM	9:00 AM "Happy Quilters"	25	26
9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Christian Singles	28	29	30	31		