

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

<u>Worship Services</u> 9:00 am, Sunday There are no Wednesday Services during vacancy <u>Sunday School (Sept - May)</u> 10:30 am - 11:30 am



trinity3@paulbunyan.net

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Saving souls: Christ's work, not ours

March 5, 2024 / Reporter / By Rev. Matthew Harrison

The Synod does a lot of research to know what works. For instance, Concordia Publishing House just published a fantastic new book by the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, LCMS Youth Ministry director, and DCE Julianna Shults, Youth Ministry program manager. The book is Seven Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry, and it's the culmination of extensive research, surveys and interviews designed to find out what works in youth ministry and what has the highest likelihood of retaining youth in a faithful Lutheran congregation. Go to cph.org to buy your own copy! You'll be surprised at what we've found.

In other news, the Synod is embarking on a significant church-planting initiative. Here, as with Youth Ministry, we've spent years studying the data to know what practices (always under the Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions) have yielded and continue to promise the best results in church planting. These are just two examples of the thoughtful, informed and long-term preparation behind the work your Synod is doing. There are many more I could offer from the LCMS Office of International Mission, Mission Advancement, Communications and the Office of Pastoral Education.

We want to be good stewards of the resources you've entrusted to us to do the work you've asked us to do. It's a matter of trying to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves," as Jesus says (Matt. 10:16). But for all our research, we must confess that nothing we do makes anyone a Christian. By God's grace, we might clear out the junk in front of the door, but the work of saving souls is Christ's.

In fact, more often than not, the Lord does His work of converting sinners quite in spite of us. I recently heard LCMS Eastern District President Rev. John Pingel preach about how the times he spends, hour upon hour, with a person or family who needs Christ often seem to result in nothing, while a moment with a passing acquaintance or a chance incident happens to bring a person to church.

Who of us could have imagined an LCMS church plant in Rome? Your LCMS missionary in Rome, the Rev. Tyler McMiller, reports that people are hungry for the comforting, pure Gospel preserved in the Lutheran Confessions. Read about how a handful of young men stumbled across the LCMS via the internet, one thing led to another, and now we have a confessional Lutheran church plant just a couple of miles from the seat of Roman Catholicism. Even in Rome, when people find out what they can expect to receive from our Lutheran pulpits and Lutheran altars, they seek us out.

It is like how Luther describes why we should go to confession: "If this were explained in detail and if the need that ought to move and lead us to make confession were pointed out, then one would need little urging or coercion. For everyone's conscience would so drive and disturb him that he would be glad to do what a poor miserable beggar does when he hears that a rich gift of money or clothing is being handed out at a certain place. So as not to miss it, he would run there as fast as he can and would need no bailiff to beat and drive him on. For those who really desire to be true Christians, to be rid of their sins, and to have a cheerful conscience already possess the true hunger and thirst. They reach for the bread, just as Psalm 42:1 says of a hunted deer burning in the heat with thirst, 'As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for You, O God.' In other words, as a deer with anxious and trembling eagerness strains toward a fresh, flowing stream, so I yearn anxiously and tremblingly for God's Word, Absolution, the Sacrament, and so forth" (Brief Exhortation to Confession, 23, 32–33).

No amount of research or planning can save anyone. God will save all of His elect. This is the wonderful comfort of the Doctrine of Election. If a year from now we discovered that all our supposed best practices, based on the best research and statistics, were completely wrong, it would not change the number of God's elect by a single one. All His elect will be saved. We simply cannot mess up His good and perfect work.

"We know that out of pure grace, without any merit of our own, we have been elected in Christ to eternal life. No one can pluck us out of His hand [John 10:29]. He has not only promised this gracious election with mere words, but has also certified it with an oath and sealed it in the holy Sacraments. We can call these to mind in our most severe temptations and take comfort in them, and with them we can quench the fiery darts of the devil [Ephesians 6:16]" (FC Ep XI, 13).

God's elect will be saved, to be sure, but God wills to save His people through His blessed Word spoken through poor miserable sinners like us, and it is our deepest privilege to participate in His mysterious work of electing — of saving — sinners. People all over the world are seeking out The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for our clear confession of the Word of God. They want what we have. They long for the blessed Gospel of the free forgiveness of sins, without any work or merit on our part. There are more requests from sister church bodies and emerging church bodies all over the world than we can manage. We have requests for over 200 more missionaries worldwide. There is a worldwide hunger for the clarity of the Gospel. The harvest is ripe, indeed!

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



Go First! Ministry Conference April 19 - 20, 2024

Concordia Academy 2400 Dale Street Roseville, MN

In thanks for all the continued support of TLC Preschool & Growing Tree Learning Center, and with the help of some

amazing donors, the School Board would like to fund this weekend filled with ministry, outreach, and stewardship for those who might be interested in attending. Our hope is that you return filled with ideas, energy and knowledge to share! Your Hotel, Mileage, and Meals will be covered by TLC Preschool & Growing Tree Learning Center. The conference is free & so is the fun! There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for those who are interested in attending the Conference. The School Board will reach out to you to help get you registered! Thank you for your continued support! *~The TLC School Board*

I.C.Y.M.I.



Doctor Seuss Week at TLC Preschool/Childcare

























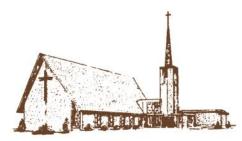
Our Church Directory is Online! View our church directory online or via the FREE mobile app today.

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*.



NOTICE: There will be a Congregational Meeting following the Worship service on April 7th. The Call Committee will present their candidate for lead Pastor and the CONGREGATIONAL Congregation will vote on issuing a call.

All voting members are encouraged to attend.



All Church Offices including **TLC Preschool/Childcare will be** closed April 1st for **Easter Monday**

Women's Weekend at Lutheran Island Camp



Redeeming the Imagination: A Topical Bible Study. Enjoy a relaxing weekend (April 26th-28th) on the Island, and explore wonder, beauty, creativity, and worship with speaker Stacy Lung. Activities include a

shopping outing to downtown Perham, pickleball, and a spa party! Register today at islandcamp.org or call 218-583-2905. Lodging \$140, commuter \$90. Call Linda Domke, 605-461-9375, if you're interested in attending and carpooling to the Women's Retreat.



ATTENTION SERVERS! The Youth group is looking for a group/family that is willing to take over serving on some Sundays for our coffee whour. The slots we are wanting to fill are the 2nd Sundays in July (14th), September (8th), and November (10th). If you are able to take on these Sundays, please contact the church office. Thank you



The NEW Portals of Prayer for April - June 2024 are in the basket In the back of the Sanctuary.



Go First! Ministry Conference

April 19 - 20, 2024 Concordia Academy 2400 Dale Street Roseville, MN

There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for those who are interested in attending the Conference. The School Board will cover travel expenses to attend the Conference.

Lutheran Island Camp **UPCOMING EVENTS**



APRIL 17-21 Quilt & Crafting Retreat

Join us in the spring for a lovely week of quilting and crafting on the Island! Food, lodging, and evening devotions are provided by the LIC staff. To register visit the website or call the office at 218-583-2905.

APRIL 26-28 Women's Weekend

Ladies, join us for our Women's Weekend! The weekend includes a keynote speaker, small group discussions, church on Sunday and Island activities all with your sisters in Christ. We will announce more details, including the schedule and speaker, in the coming months.

May 11 Spring Work Day

It's time to gear up for our busy summer season and we need YOUR help! Join us on May 11th from 8a-2p to clean up the Island and prepare for the summer. Projects include cleaning cabins, cleaning vehicles, splitting wood for campfires, setting up volleyball, soccer and archery nets, cleaning trails, processing shoes, and mulching trails. As always, lunch will be provided. Lodging is available for those coming from long distances. Please let us know you're coming by giving us a call at 218-583-2905.

June 7

Volunteer Donor Appreciation Dinner

If you are a volunteer or donor to Lutheran Island Camp, you are invited to a dinner in honor of YOU! Please RSVP before May 24th.

The doors will open at 4:30pm and dinner will be served at 5pm. A time of worship around the campfire will follow the meal. For questions, or help RSVPing, call us at 218-583-2905.

Summer Registration is OPEN!

Our registration is completely online on our website. If people have questions about registering, they can contact the office at 218-583-2905. ALL program descriptions are also be on our website.



✤ Ladies Aid

Ladies Aid will meet on Thursday, April 4th at 1:30 pm at the Church.

Trinity Afternoon Guild

The Afternoon Guild will meet on Tuesday, April 9th at 1:30 pm at the Church.

Men of Trinity

Will meet on Monday, April 1st at 6:30 pm at the Church.

✤ Hannah Circle

Will meet on Thursday, April 11th at 1:30 pm.

Active Christian Fellowship ACF will meet on Monday, April 8th at 6:30 pm.

* Altar Circle

Will meet on Monday, April 15th at 1:00 pm.

✤ Eunice Circle

Will meet on Tuesday, April 16th at 9:30 am.

Christian Singles

The Christian Singles will meet for lunch on Sunday, April 14th.

Happy Quilters

The "Happy Quilters" meet on the 3rd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 9:00am at the church.



The "Happy Quilters"

In March, the Happy Quilters took time out to celebrate Dottie Liapis' birthday at Raphael's restaurant.

The quilters are getting ready for the Orphan Grain Train to come in April.

Although the date for the Orphan Grain Train has not yet been set, watch for information in upcoming bulletins. At the present time, we have 17 quilts to give away.

All ladies of the church are invited to join us the 3rd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.



Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.

What you need:

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help

What you do:

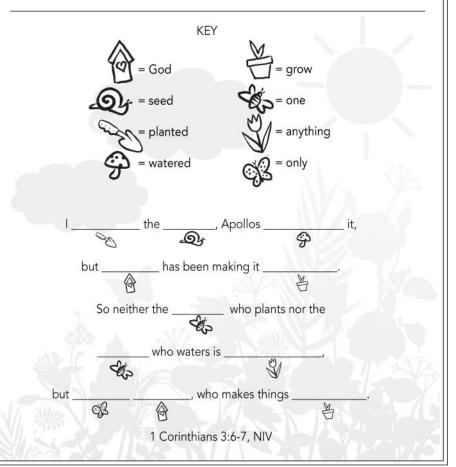
- Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
- 2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
- 3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
- 4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
- Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
- 6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!





Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.



Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, one, anything, only, God, grow



SCHOOL CLOSINGS

March 28-April I

Easter Break



<u>Bible Verse of</u> the Month:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not parish but have eternal life"

-John 3:16

Growing Tree Learning Center & TLC Preschool

Learning Center and Preschool News

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2024-2025

Preschool Registration forms are now available for all children attending the center. Please see Danielle in the office for forms and/or questions.

He is Risen

<u>UPCOMING</u>

APRIL 2024

SPRING TICKET FUNDRAISER

The Preschool will be having a Spring Ticket Fundraiser running From April to May. More Details to come!

All proceeds help TLC Preschool and Growing Tree Learning Center!

SPRING WEATHER

Please make sure your child has the appropriate clothing for the ever changing Spring weather.

SICK POLICY

Please remember that if your child has a fever they are allowed back to the center only once their fever is below 100 degrees for 24 hours with no medication. Also if your child has 2 episodes of diarrhea in one hour they need to be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to the center. You can refer to our policy handbook for more information regarding our sick policy. Thank you for helping to keep our center healthy this season!

DISTRICT NEWS





April Stewardship

Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have every bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a "title search." Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you'll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, "That's mine: I had it first."

You can't understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor's possessions are his: you don't have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God's leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship





Monthly Receipts/Expenses	February 2024	
General Fund Receipts	\$22,125.21	
PS/CC Receipts	\$17,754.77	
Interest Receipts	\$30.09	
(Transfer to Money Market) Adjustments		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$39,910.07	
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$41,701.65	
	Monthly +/-	

OVERAGE/SHORTAGE (-\$1,791.58)

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

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

- 1. Visit Trinity's Website at <u>www.trinitybemidji.org</u>.
- 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.



April Birthdays and Anniversaries at Trinity Lutheran Church

Cheryl Moreno	$17^{\scriptscriptstyle Madelyn}$ Haas
2 Andy Branham	$18^{_{Paul Manecke}}$
3 Matt Puro John & Ann Egeland (59)	20 Tom & Julie Bock (50) Tom & LaVaye Dressen (33)
4 Jo Plinke	23Sophia Eichstadt
5 John Dressen	24 Braden Branham, Nicholas Lee
6 Ingie Benson	25 Della Branham, Kaylan Ellis Betty Nelson
8 William Haugse	26 Vern & Sandy Holzhueter (44)
9 Susan Anderson Marv & June Roxstrom (64)	28 Carol Ames
1 Naomi Blocker	29Bradley Olson
13 Jeremiah Freye, Brandi Lahn, Amelia Lohse	
14 Charlie Benson III	
16 ^{Shannon Lee}	This
	Month's Martin Anniversaries Birthdays







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.



Easter Sunday is followed by six more Sundays of the Easter season, according to our church calendar, and the paraments remain white.

ALTAR CIRCLE remain white.

Ascension Day is the 40th day after Easter Sunday and commemorates the day when the risen Lord ascends into heaven. Pentecost concludes the Easter season.



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 <u>3rd Monday of</u> <u>each month</u> at the Food Shelf. The first shift is from 9am-12pm and the



first shift is from 9am-12pm and the Bemidji second shift is from 12-3:30pm. Both Food Shelf 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 - APRIL

- 1 Isaiah 25:1-9 Romans 1-3
- 2 Psalm 114 Romans 4-6
- 3 Psalm 115 Romans 7-9
- 4 Psalm 116 Romans 10-13
- 5 Psalm 117 Romans 14-16
- 6 Psalm 118 1 Corinthians 1-3
- 7 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 4-6
- 8 Psalm 119:9-16 1 Corinthians 7-9

- 9 Psalm 119:17-24 1 Corinthians 10-11
- 10 Psalm 119:25-32
- 1 Corinthians 12-14 11 Psalm 119:33-40
- 1 Corinthians 15-16 12 Psalm 119:41-48 2 Corinthians 1-4 13 Psalm 119:49-56
- 2 Corinthians 5-7 14 Psalm 119:57-64
- 2 Corinthians 8-10 15 Psalm 119:65-72
- 2 Corinthians 11-13 16 Psalm 119:73-80
- Galatians 1-3

- 17 Psalm 119:81-88 Galatians 4-6
- 18 Psalm 119:89-96 Ephesians 1-3
- 19 Psalm 119:97-104 Ephesians 4-6
- 20 Psalm 119:105-112 Philippians 1-2
- 21 Psalm 119:113-120 Philippians 3-4
- 22 Psalm 119:121-128 Colossians 1-2
- 23 Psalm 119:129-136 Colossians 3-4
- 24 Psalm 119:137-144 1 Thessalonians 1-3

- 25 Psalm 119:145-152 1 Thessalonians 4-5
- 26 Psalm 119:153-160 2 Thessalonians 1-3 27 Psalm 119:161-168
- 1 Timothy 1-3
- 28 Psalm 119:169-176 1 Timothy 4-6
- 29 Psalm 120 2 Timothy 1-2
- 30 Isaiah 25:1-9
 - 2 Timothy 3-4

April 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church - 444-4441

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
He is RISEN	1 6:30 PM Men of	2 1:30 PM Trinity Afternoon Guild 6:00 PM Bell Choir	3 CONFIRMATION CLASSES	4 1:30 PM Ladies Aid 5:30 PM Board of Elders	5	6
7 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School	8 6:30 PM Active Christian Fellowship	9 6:00 PM Bell Choir	10 4:15 PM 7th Grade Confirmation 4:30 PM 6th Grade Confirmation	11 1:30 PM Hannah Circle	12	13
14 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Christian Singles	15 1:00 PM Altar Circle	16 9:30 AM Eunice Circle 6:00 PM Bell Choir	17 4:15 PM 7th Grade Confirmation 4:30 PM 6th Grade Confirmation	18 9:00 AM "Happy Quilters" 6:00 PM Church Boards 7:00 PM Church Council	19	20
Youth Groups Serve 21 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School Men Serve	22	23 6:00 PM Bell Choir LWML Spring Zone Rally	24 4:15 PM 7th Grade Confirmation 4:30 PM 6th Grade Confirmation	25 9:00 AM "Happy Quilters"	26	27
28 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School	29	30 6:00 PM Bell Choir	He is Risen Endeed!			