



# TLC Grapevine

May 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

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## LCMS pastor ministers in wake of Bourbon Street tragedy

April 4, 2025 / Reporter / By Cheryl Magness

In the early morning hours of Jan. 1, at least 14 people were killed and more than two dozen injured when a man in a pickup truck drove into a crowd that had gathered on Bourbon Street in New Orleans to celebrate the arrival of a new year. After exchanging fire with police officers, the driver died at the scene.

The Rev. Kenneth DeSoto, an LCMS pastor who serves as a Specialized Care chaplain for the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD), was on vacation a few hours away at the time, but returned home as soon as he heard the news. When he arrived at the scene, "the FBI, ATF, state police ... everyone was there." He spent time walking around, listening to people who needed someone to talk to, offering hugs and "just being present."

"You're there to be a support ... to say, 'You're not alone,'" DeSoto says. "If they don't want to talk, that's fine. I'm not there to make them talk or ask what happened. ... I'm only there to walk by their side in a non-threatening way. If they need suggestions for next steps or for helpful resources, I can offer those too."

DeSoto, in addition to being certified by the Association of Professional Chaplains, has been ecclesiastically endorsed by LCMS Specialized Spiritual Care Ministry, which seeks to support those who bring Gospel care and comfort to individuals in specialized settings such as hospitals, prisons, and police and fire departments. A chaplain who has been ecclesiastically endorsed by the LCMS is one who has met certain theological and ministerial standards. As explained by the Rev. Dr. Brian Heller, manager of Specialized Spiritual Care Ministry, "Ecclesiastical endorsement helps church workers be confident in their identity as a Lutheran church worker serving in a non-Lutheran context. It also helps connect them with LCMS Specialized Care so we can reach out to them, provide them with resources and get recommendations from them about how we can support them."

DeSoto has served as a full-time chaplain for the NOPD for six years. He previously served for 10 years in New Mexico as a volunteer chaplain for the Rio Rancho Sheriff's Department. He currently also serves as pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church, New Orleans. He says his congregation understands that if he receives an emergency call during a service — something that has happened — "I've got to go."

### Love for neighbor

On Jan. 2, DeSoto returned to Bourbon Street as it reopened under the watchful eyes of a heavy police presence. That evening, in a group comprising both police officers and civilians, he was asked to pray. He says such opportunities are an honor.

"It [chaplaincy work] is about finding the sacredness in a situation. ... I meet people time and again who are having the worst days of their life. It's a privilege to do that."

DeSoto notes that when he meets people in such situations, he is not doing so as their pastor. They aren't members of his congregation, Lutherans or even Christians. But they are people to whom "I can show God's mercy and love, and hopefully, a seed is planted."

DeSoto encourages other Lutheran pastors to consider becoming Specialized Care chaplains: "The church needs people to do this work." At the same time, he acknowledges that police chaplaincy may not be for everyone. "Every time we respond to a situation, we are invited into someone's crisis. You can't be a person who is swept away. You have to have boundaries and be capable of leaving things behind."

In his role with the NOPD, he is not only involved in emergency situations such as the Bourbon Street incident but also in assisting with community outreach or participating in CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) debriefings with the NOPD and surrounding

law enforcement agencies after a crisis occurs. He also helps as a part of the Officer Assistance Program by teaching stress management segments during officer in-service classes. “Officers sometimes have an attitude of ‘I don’t need help,’ but they do,” he says. DeSoto has also sometimes gone on ride-alongs with police officers. “My job is to stay out of the way and not cause the officer any additional concerns.”

At its core, DeSoto says, chaplaincy is about love of neighbor. “Jesus said, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your soul, and love your neighbor as yourself’ (Matt. 22:37–39). [Being a chaplain] means listening sometimes, backing off other times, but loving my neighbor at all times. Lutheran pastors make great chaplains because they have been trained to listen and to think clearly. There are many different kinds of chaplains. We need them all.”

*Reporter Online is the Web version of Reporter, the official newspaper of  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Content is prepared by LCMS Communications.*

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## Thank *you,* moms

**“For Mom” by Tim Pauls**

*Reprinted from The Lutheran Witness, May 10, 2018*

This is for you, Mom, because motherhood isn’t easy.

Motherhood is a holy office. It has God’s blessing, plus a lot of sacrificial labor.

After all, you’re the one who takes care of the kids as only the mother can. You gave birth to them in the first place, and you’ve been feeding them from the start. You’ve had the constant task of cleaning them up, whether they’ve wandered off in their Sunday best and rolled in the nearest muck, or projected something foul from the inside to the outside. You’ve taught them how to walk, how to talk and how not to use bad words. You’ve been all about training and discipline, about making sure they make good use of their waking hours and that they rest well. Whenever you can, you serve them the best food possible.

It’s a calling that doesn’t end. Even when the kids are all grown up, you still pray for them boldly and faithfully.

And with all that, you go under-appreciated a lot. If you kids are like most, they probably take all you do for granted — except maybe for a springtime Sunday and a birthday celebration (if they remember). And in the meantime, while you’re doing your best to raise them, you never seem to run out of people trying to tell you how to do it better.

I’m fairly certain that someone will take offense at what I’ve said above. Some will convince themselves that I believe that raising children (toxic diapers and all) is solely the mother’s job, to be done while the father is busy playing golf. Others may read this and think that I believe that all fathers are irresponsible jerks who won’t lift a finger to raise their children because they’re too busy playing golf.

Neither is true. I’ve written what I’ve written for two reasons. The first is that this week, we’re celebrating Mother’s Day, not Father’s Day.

The second is that — (surprise!) — perhaps I’m not only talking about motherhood in the earthly sense of the word. Maybe, just maybe, I’ve also been writing about the Church, the Bride of Christ, “the mother of us all” (Gal. 4:26; 2 John 1).

There’s a reason why the work of moms and the work of the church have so many parallels — and why Martin Luther, in his Large Catechism, calls the church “the mother that conceives and bears every Christian through God’s Word” (LC 2:42). See, since the office of “wife” is given by God to illustrate the Church in Her relationship to Christ (Ephesians 5:22-24, 31-32); and since, most properly, it is wives who bear children and are mothers; then the office of “mother” is given to illustrate the church as well. A mom’s sacrificial love for her child thus reminds us of the Church’s care for sinners, and the Church’s care for sinners displays a maternal love that is both tender and firm.

The work mothers do in raising children is indispensable. On Mother’s Day especially, we acknowledge the truth of it. In addition, however, we as Christians also recognize that moms by their very labors are given the privilege of illustrating the love that Christ shows us through his bride, the Church. This reality adds even greater honor to the vocation of motherhood.

Thanks for all your service, moms. Thanks for your love for your kids and your gentle reminder of the Church. God grant you every good gift in your blessed, demanding calling.

And Happy Mother’s Day.

*Tim Pauls serves as the pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boise, Idaho*

## The Sign at Cana



In our lives our Lord Jesus desires to bless us, and we can trace His good will back to the Garden of Eden where He created man to live in a state of perfection. There, at His creation He established marriage, the home and blessed man with children even after man fell into sin. Jesus, therefore, remains the Originator, Perfector and tireless Friend of marriage and the home, but likewise is the ardent enemy of home-destroyers.

To this point, the topic of home and family have been under severe attack in our culture where there's a wanton, reckless denial of the home being built upon His divine union of man and woman in marriage. People foolishly have forgotten that as our Creator He is an enemy of those who subvert His order of creation for marriage, home, and children. Too many have forgotten this; "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.... Lo, children are a heritage from the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward...." (Ps. 126)

The Christian home accordingly is built on His Word, faith in Him, and loyalty to His Kingdom. Indeed, the Christian home is a place for our Saviors blessings as the sign of Cana reminds us!

The wedding at Cana records the first sign Jesus did during His public ministry (John 2:1-11 ESV). And since this took place at a marriage celebration it points to Jesus' love for husbands, wives, and children.

So, let's take a look at it. Jesus was an honored guest and Mary was among the wedding party. Jesus arrived with His disciples and all seemed well until Mary tells Jesus, "They have no wine." To which Jesus responded in what appears a rude way, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." That is, until we understand He was reminding her that He would only act upon His heavenly Fathers' timing, and that moment had not arrived. In other words, "As the Christ, I will take care of this, just as I will handle the sins of the world on My cross according to My Father's timing."

So, Jesus at the right moment called for some large pots to be filled with water and then turned it into wine, the best wine as the head waiter confessed. From this heavenly sign, then, we find that in the humblest home to the grandest palace Jesus desires to bless our lives, but more so offers us something greater, the forgiveness of our sin and the gift of eternal life.

Clearly, Jesus desires to give us the very best, for making water into wine is a simple thing for Him. It's simple because the sign of Cana reveals the great truth that He is God who has power over life, death, His creation, and certainly over our eternal destinies as this verse reveals, "This, the first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And His disciples believed in him." Jesus changed the water into wine that we might believe He is our Savior God who He has the power to redeem us from our sin which He surely did when He shed His blood on the cross.

Thus, we can conclude from the sign at Cana that Jesus our Savior and Friend wants to be found in our homes, and in our lives. He wants us to believe in Him and trust that He desires to bless us with all His goodness.

But, if you chose to live life apart from Him, if you reject Him, His Word and His commands, if you prefer your own ways rather than living according to His divine will, then, you will find that it's not Jesus who denies you His blessings, but you who refuse to receive those He so graciously wishes to bestow upon you.

~ God's blessings! Rev. Les Uhrinak

# Group Meetings



- ❖ **Ladies Guild**  
Ladies Guild will meet on Thursday, May 1st at 1:30 pm at the Church.
- ❖ **Men of Trinity**  
Will meet on Monday, May 5th at 5:30 pm at the Church.
- ❖ **Hannah Circle**  
Will meet on Thursday, May 8th at 1:30 pm.
- ❖ **Altar Circle**  
Will meet on Monday, May 19th at 1:00 pm at the Church.
- ❖ **Eunice Circle**  
Will meet on Tuesday, May 20th at 9:30 am.
- ❖ **Christian Singles**  
The Christian Singles will meet for lunch on Sunday, May 18th.
- ❖ **Happy Quilters**  
The "Happy Quilters" meet on the 3rd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 9:00am at the church.

# Leadership



## CHURCH OFFICERS

President: Randy Yarbrough - 218-766-0695  
 Council Secretary: Amy Koebke - 218-586-3319  
 Financial Secretary - Becky Theis - 218-368-6916  
 Treasurer: Rodney Olson - 218-689-2508

## 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 - 218-556-5802  
 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 . )

## **Congratulations Ethan Frank on your Confirmation!**



Ethan is 16 years old and lives in Bemidji with his parents, Cliff and Julie and his sister, Grace. Being an animal lover he has 3 dogs – 2 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and 1 French bulldog. He also owns a quarter horse and enjoys western pleasure competition as a member of 4-H in addition to trail riding with his family. Ethan and his horse, Enzo, are in training for team roping and will be participating in rodeos this summer. He attends Bemidji High School and is finishing the last couple months of 10th grade. Ethan excels in his schooling with his favorite subject being math. While attending high school he is also taking college courses with his main goal to be in engineering. He enjoys being outdoors and is game for anything, biking, hiking, etc. The sport he currently enjoys is tennis. He is musically talented. With jazz and rock being his favorite music, it is only fitting that he plays the saxophone in the high school jazz band. He is also a pianist. He has no fear of learning a new instrument. Perhaps a trumpet is next? In his spare time, he is volunteering at the Science Center.

### Confirmation Bible Verse:

"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." -Ephesians 2:8-9

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## **And the Winner Is.....**



### **Lynette Perrault** was the big winner of the Active Christian Fellowship Quilt Raffle!

Tickets for the King Size Handmade Quilt went on Sale in January for \$5.00 each and the drawing was held on Palm Sunday. The raffle raised nearly \$1,000.00!

The proceeds from the raffle will be used to replace the Cross Planter in front of the Church as well as other landscape planting projects.

The beautiful handmade quilt with a value of \$350.00 was a collaboration of several people including: Inger Benson who donated the Fabric, Phyllis Brauneis who put together the Quilt, Carol Sorensen who donated money for Quilting and Deb Quinn who did the Quilting.

*Congratulations*

# The Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt



HAPPY EASTER!



JOIN US FOR  
**Sunday School**

And Youth  
Bible study!  
Sunday Mornings  
10:30-11:30am

# Activity Page



Make these sweet sandwiches for a Mother's Day tea party.

### What you need:

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 6-10 strawberries, washed and sliced
- 6 slices of white bread
- Cellophane
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. With an electric mixer, whip the cream cheese in a bowl until fluffy.
2. Add cream, powdered sugar, and lemon juice. Continue whipping on high speed until mixture is stiff.
3. On each slice of bread, spread a layer of the mixture. Then arrange some sliced strawberries on top.
4. Place the sandwiches together, with filling on the inside.
5. Wrap tightly in cellophane. Chill for two hours so the filling sets.
6. Trim off crusts with a serrated knife. Cut sandwiches in squares or triangles. Serve and enjoy!



## A NOBLE EXAMPLE

Proverbs 31 describes a God-honoring woman. How are the women in your life like her? How can you follow their example?

Directions: Use the word bank to complete all the Bible verses. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Proverbs 31:30, NIV.



### WORD BANK

bread, household, women, laugh, children, clothed, speaks, husband, tongue



She is \_\_\_\_\_ with strength and dignity; she can \_\_\_\_\_ at the days to come.

She \_\_\_\_\_ with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her \_\_\_\_\_.

She watches over the affairs of her \_\_\_\_\_ and does not eat the \_\_\_\_\_ of idleness.

Her \_\_\_\_\_ arise and call her blessed; her \_\_\_\_\_ also, and he praises her:

"Many \_\_\_\_\_ do noble things, but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:25-29, NIV

Charm is \_\_\_\_\_eptive, and be \_\_\_\_\_ty is fl \_\_\_\_\_eting; but a woma \_\_\_\_\_ w \_\_\_\_\_o f \_\_\_\_\_rs the Lo \_\_\_\_\_d is to be prais \_\_\_\_\_d.

Proverbs 31:30, NIV

Answers: clothed, laugh, speaks, tongue, household, bread, children, husband, women; Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30, NIV



Color and cut out the bookmark!

My mom is the best because:

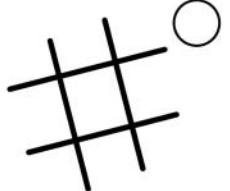
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



TIC TAC TOE

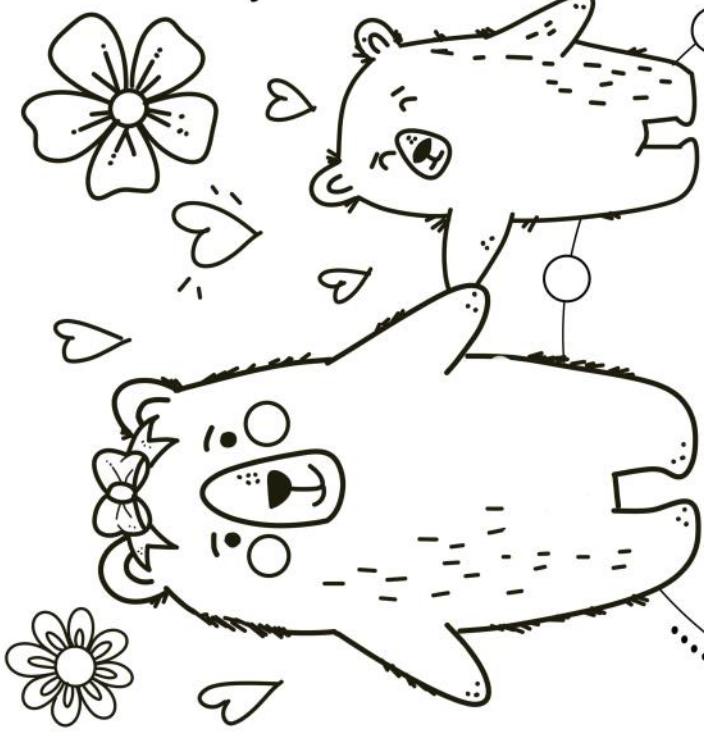


MY Mommy IS THE BEST LOVE...

WORD SEARCH

- SPECIAL FUN MOTHER BEST
- LOVE GENEROUS KIND FRIEND

A Y L O V E I B M P  
 S P G I A A W E U A  
 P E U R L R F M W R  
 E F G E N E R O U S  
 C U K D U M I T H K  
 I N W J P V E H K I  
 A C Q O S C N E P N  
 L B E S T A D R Q D



My mom's name is \_\_\_\_\_

Her favorite color is \_\_\_\_\_

Her favorite food is \_\_\_\_\_



Finish the garden for your mom!



# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

## Why do we worship on Sunday?

Do you remember on what day Jesus rose from the dead? On what day did Jesus appear to His disciples on the road to Emmaus? If you guessed Sunday, you are right! The Early Church gathered on Sunday because it directed our attention to Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Many other miraculous events in the early Christian Church, such as Pentecost, happened on Sunday.



## When did Christians begin gathering together for worship on Sundays?

We know from the Bible that during Paul's lifetime Christians met on Sunday to hear God's Word and celebrate Holy Communion (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2). Though Christians in different regions of the world sometimes worshipped on different days, by A.D. 325 most Christians worshipped on Sunday because they considered it "the Lord's Day." Wow, what a great tradition we share with our Christian ancestors!



**Parents:** In the Early Church, Christians used different terms for their day of worship such as "First Day" or "Eighth Day." The label "the Lord's Day" stands out as the most significant title chosen by the Church. Direct your children to the significance in having a particular day set aside for receiving God's wonderful gifts through Word and Sacrament.



# News & Announcements



Congratulations Graduates! May 4th, four graduates will receive their Graduation Quilts from the quilting ladies!

**Della Branham's** quilt was made by Kathy Berg.

**Annabelle Haas'** quilt was made by Linda Wold.

**Shelby Kubitz's** quilt was made by Dottie Liapis.

**Ellie Manecke's** quilt was made by Phyllis Brauneis.

In the Fellowship Hall following the Service, The A.C.F. will serve Egg Bake and Graduation Cake as the Graduates receive their quilts!



## ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN MONDAY JUNE 2nd

IT'S COMING...Monday, June 2nd is our spring pick up date for the Orphan Grain Train. Time to get your items together! Orphan Grain Train is a mission event to help needy people overseas and here at home. We will accept good clean used clothing any size from infant to adults as well as bedding, quilts, shoes. Volunteers are needed to help pack boxes on Monday Morning. If you have any questions, or can help pack boxes, please contact Bev Haman at 218-766-3533. Thank you!

**TLC PRESCHOOL & GROWING TREE LEARNING CENTER**

**GRADUATION SPRING CONCERT**  
MAY 14 AT 5:30 PM

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**  
MAY 16TH

**LAST DAY OF GROWING TREE**  
MAY 23RD



**Church Offices will be CLOSED**  
**On Monday May 26th in Observance of Memorial Day.**

## Lutheran Island Camp UPCOMING EVENTS



### Summer Registration

**Registration is open for Summer 2025!**

A couple tips for registration:

Our registration software is Campwise. You will need an account. If you don't remember your login, please **DO NOT** make another account. Instead contact our registrar, Dianne, at 218.583.2905.

Horse Camp usually fills up quickly. The earlier you register, the better chance your child has of getting in. Otherwise, there is a waitlist.

### May 3

#### Spring Clean Up

Join us at Lutheran Island Camp for Spring Clean-Up! Help us get ready for an incredible summer camp season as we tackle projects big and small. Come for a day or the weekend—many hands make light work! We ask that you contact us to sign up as lunch will be provided. Call 218/583-2905.

### June 7

#### ERC Dedication and Open House

Join us for the dedication and open house of the newly remodeled ERC at Lutheran Island Camp! Celebrate this exciting milestone with us, enjoy light snacks, and take a tour of the updated space. We can't wait to share it with you!

#### 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.

# DISTRICT NEWS



## ENDURE MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT EVENT



Monday, July 21st  
5:00—8:00 pm  
\$80 per person

**Includes:**

- Explore Mardi Gras World and enjoy the artistry of the parade floats!
- Dinner next door with a Southern menu at a Southern mansion!
- MN North District T-shirt!
- Fellowship with MN North Attendees, CSP Representatives and more!



Registration Information  
will be available soon!



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

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

<https://ministrysafe.com/lcms>



Life in Christ Lutheran Church, Grand Marias, MN, is excited to announce plans for a new building, with construction starting in spring 2025. The project aims to create a welcoming space for biblically based worship and fellowship while meeting the growing needs of the congregation.

"This new building is an exciting step for our church community," said Pastor Watt of Life in Christ Lutheran Church. "It's a space designed to bring life in Christ to all who enter, built with faith, teamwork, and a shared vision of God's mission."

To learn more or support the project, visit <https://licgm.org/buildingplan>.

Life in Christ Lutheran Church strives to reflect the love and grace of God, in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in everything we do. We invite you to come and worship with us.



## ENCOURAGEMENT IN OUR CALLINGS

AUGUST 10 - 12, 2025

Register Today!  
Attendees by June 30th  
Breakout Leaders by May 30th  
Exhibitors by June 30th



**Keynote Speakers**  
Rev. Dr. Ryan Peterson  
Rev. Dr. Kris Morris  
Rev. Dr. Jeff Leininger

Frankenmuth,  
Michigan  
[bph@stlorenz.org](mailto:bph@stlorenz.org)



### Nominate music students for LSM 2025



[LSMacademy.org/nominate](https://LSMacademy.org/nominate)

LAST CALL for LSM 2025! Enrollment for this summer is over 80% full, but there's still time for young musicians to apply, and for you to [nominate students](#). Lutheran Summer Music is the nation's premier faith-based music academy for high school musicians. Students come together from around the country for a joyful summer of music-making through large ensembles (band, choir, orchestra), chamber music, private lessons, elective classes (conducting, composition, jazz, musical theatre, handbells, pipe organ) and use their musical gifts in performance, and in worship.

LSM 2025 | Valparaiso University, IN | June 22-July 20 | Grades 8-12  
Learn more: [LSMacademy.org/program](https://LSMacademy.org/program)

**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.

# 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).

# MAY STEWARDSHIP

## Stewardship in the Body of Christ?

Baseball season is upon us. The southern images of spring training give way to the pageantry of Opening Day. On that day, the hopes and dreams of every major league team, player and fan focus on doing whatever it takes to get to the Fall Classic, the World Series. Baseball is a secular way that so many of us confess that hope “springs” eternal.

With all of this in mind, baseball can also teach us a new perspective about stewardship. Think about the game itself. Baseball is a team sport. The home team faces off against the visitors. Yet while it is a team game, there are repetitive, individual confrontations that take place within the game. The baseball game cannot start without the individual pitcher against the hitter. Once the batted ball is in play, the battle is between the ability of the fielder against the speed of the baserunner. Once there is a runner on base, an attempt to steal a base pits the runner against the catcher. A base hit into the outfield pits the outfielder against a runner trying to score.

Baseball is a team game with many smaller units at play. Without all those smaller units working together and achieving their tasks, the team will lose.

Romans 12 puts our stewardship of the Gospel in a similar setting. The church is certainly described as a team, if you will.

Verse 3: *“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”* This is where the Body of Christ is really seen as a team. No one member of the baseball team can win the game by themselves. In the same way, no one part of the Body of Christ can accomplish stewardship of the Gospel alone. The pastor cannot. The congregational chair cannot. The lead soprano in the choir cannot. But each of these individuals have been added to the local congregation to be built into a team that can win the victory with Jesus.

Verses 4–5: *“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”* In baseball, the pitcher pitches. The catcher catches. The hitter hits. When a pitcher attempts to hit, the result is usually not very pretty. Catchers often do not excel at running the bases. The hitter usually does not do well when they are sent to the mound to pitch. Every member of the Body of Christ has a unique set of abilities and functions. Not everyone preaches. Not everyone leads. Not everyone sings well. Yet when the congregation assembles together as a team, it can succeed in ways unattainable by the individual.

Verses 6–8: *“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”* Each member of the team has a role to play. Abilities and opportunities are entrusted to the individual members of the Body of Christ to be used for the ultimate purpose of stewarding the Gospel for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor. The one preaching is no more or less important than the others. The one serving or the one teaching, the leader or the merciful one — all are equally important in the faithful stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to the Body of Christ. All this stewardship is for the sake of the other!

A baseball team can have five All-Star pitchers but cannot win if the hitters do not hit. The best lineup in the league will struggle if the pitchers cannot get anyone on the other team out. Pitchers need the defense behind them to play well. Coaches need to lead well. When they all work together, you have a winning baseball team. When the Body of Christ has all its members faithfully stewarding the unique individual talents that have been entrusted to them, the victory goes to Jesus! This is the goal of faithful stewardship! It is all about Jesus!



<u>Monthly Receipts/Expenses</u>	<u>March 2025</u>		
General Fund Receipts	\$28,056.11		
PS/CC Receipts	\$19,031.88		
Interest Receipts	\$261.73		
(Transfer to Money Market) Adjustments			
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$47,349.72</b>		
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$47,970.15</b>		
	<b>Monthly +/-</b>	<b>Year to Date +/-</b>	
<b>OVERAGE/SHORTAGE</b>	<b>(-\$620.43)</b>	<b>(-31,740.29)</b>	



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

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

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

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

## The Benefits Of Online Giving

### STEWARDSHIP

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

### CONVENIENT

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

### FLEXIBILITY

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

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



# MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2 Deon Wentzel, Mark Thompson

3 Heather Ellis

5 Lila Bruun  
*Brian & Tania Kuhrke (24)*

7 David & Audrey Arndt (59)

8 Jeff Korbel, Rebecca Theis  
*Dennis & Sharen Bowman (54)*

9 Paul Maatz

10 Clarine Speck

11 Sara Porter

13 Brian Kuhrke, Lois Reierson

14 Beverly Garton

16 Ty Lundeen, Steven Woodke

17 Mark Teigland

18 Cole Koebke

20 Jolene Lundin  
*Taylor & Christina Severson (2)*

21 Tailor Lang, Bonnie Wentzel

26 Amber Korbel, Nash Kubitz

27 Roger Smith

28 Andrew Manecke  
*Jeremiah & Andrea Freye (20)*

29 Shelby Kubitz, Jerry Larson  
Darla Yarbrough

31 Jim & Linda Erickson (50)



## ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED!!



Sign up to sponsor the Altar Flowers for a Sunday. Cost is \$30. If you are interested, contact the Church Office.



## 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

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

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 - MAY

1 1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Titus, Philemon  
2 Psalm 121  
Hebrews 1-4  
3 Psalm 122  
Hebrews 5-7  
4 Psalm 123  
Hebrews 8-10  
5 Psalm 124  
Hebrews 11-13  
6 Psalm 125  
James 1-3  
7 Psalm 126  
James 4-5  
8 Psalm 127  
1 Peter 1-2

9 Psalm 128  
1 Peter 3-5  
10 Psalm 129  
2 Peter  
11 Psalm 130  
1 John 1-3  
12 Psalm 131  
1 John 4-5  
13 Psalm 132  
2 John, 3 John,  
Jude  
14 Psalm 133  
John 1-2  
15 Psalm 134  
John 3-4  
16 Psalm 135  
John 5-6

17 Psalm 136  
John 7-8  
18 Psalm 137  
John 9-10  
19 Psalm 138  
John 11-12  
20 Psalm 139  
John 13-14  
21 Psalm 140  
John 15-16  
22 Psalm 141  
John 17-18  
23 Psalm 142  
John 19  
24 Psalm 143  
John 20-21

25 Psalm 144  
Acts 1-2  
26 Psalm 145  
Acts 3-4  
27 Psalm 146  
Acts 5-6  
28 Psalm 147  
Acts 7-8  
29 Psalm 148  
Acts 9-10  
30 Psalm 149  
Acts 11-12  
31 1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Acts 13-14



# May 2025

Trinity Lutheran Church - 444-4441

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;">She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.                      She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.                      She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.                      Her children arise and call her blessed; ~Proverbs 31:25-28a</p>				1 1:30 PM Ladies Guild	2	3
				4 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:00 AM Graduation Quilt Presentation 10:30 AM Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30 AM Sunday School <i>ACF Serves</i>	5 5:30 PM Men of Trinity	6 6:00 PM Bells
11 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30 AM Sunday School  <i>Youth Groups Serve</i>	12	13 6:00 PM Bells	14 4:00 PM 6th Grade Confirmation 4:15 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 6:30 PM Choir <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><b>TLC Preschool Graduation &amp; Spring Concert 5:30 PM</b></div>	15 9:00 AM "Happy Quilters" 6:00 PM Church Boards 7:00 PM Church Council	16 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><b>Last Day of Preschool</b></div>	17  <b>ARMED FORCES DAY</b>
18 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Christian Singles <i>Men Serve</i>	19 1:00 PM Altar Circle	20 9:30 AM Eunice Circle 6:00 PM Bells	21 4:15 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 6:30 PM Choir	22	23 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><b>Last Day of Growing Tree Learning Center</b></div>	24
25 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study/Sunday School <i>Ladies Guild Serves</i>	26  <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><b>Offices Closed</b></div>	27	28 4:15 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 6:30 PM Choir	29	30	31