



TLC Grapevine

August 2026

www.trinitybemidji.org

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

Worship Service

9:00 am, Sunday
6:30 pm, Wednesday
(During Lent & Advent)

Sunday School (Sept - May)

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Weekly Bible Study

Wednesday 1 - 4 pm

Sunday 10:30 am

Confirmation (Sept - May)

Wednesday 4:15 pm



trinity3@paulbunyan.net

In this Issue

LCMS Article	1
Group Meetings	3
Church Leadership Team	3
From The Pastor	4
Kids Activity Page	5
Our Church Family	6
News & Announcements	9
Lutheran Island Camp	9
Stewardship	10
Our Stewardship Report	10
Birthdays/Anniversaries	11
F.Y.I.	12
Bible in a Year	12
Monthly Calendar	13



For the good of the church: Pfotenhauer's

100-year-old convention address

July 18, 2026 / Reporter / By Roy S. Askins

Exactly 100 years ago, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) was gathered in convention at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Louis. In many ways, the gathering differed dramatically from the 2026 convention. For example, the president's address was given in German and translated into English.

In other ways, however, things haven't changed much. Both 100 years ago and today, the church is concerned about seminary and undergraduate enrollment and about ensuring that LCMS congregations receive the best trained pastors and teachers possible.

To illustrate how the LCMS has changed — and also how it has stayed the same over the last 100 years — Reporter offers interested readers this historic address from then-Synod President Rev. Friedrich Pfotenhauer, who served as LCMS president from 1911–1935.

In the address, found on Pages 6–7 of the 1926 Proceedings, Pfotenhauer articulates how God has so ordered — and continues to order — all of creation for the good of His church.

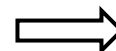
And though the work of convention might seem boring, the work undertaken by the convention ensures miracles continue to happen: Sinners forgiven; saints made and renewed in the blood of Christ. The church is, indeed, God's masterpiece.

Read Pfotenhauer's timeless message.

Under the words of Ps. 143, 5: "I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Thy works; I muse on the work of Thy hands," Luther once wrote in the Bible of a friend: "The holy Christian Church is the foremost work of God, for the sake of which all things were created and in which great miracles occur daily, such as forgiving sins, taking away death, and giving righteousness and eternal life." These words of the great Reformer are well suited to awaken in us a great earnestness and a holy enthusiasm for the synodical business which will have our attention during these days.

Luther makes this statement: "The Christian Church is the foremost work of God." It is true that the work of creation and preservation is unspeakably great, praiseworthy, and glorious and that it continually incites us to proclaim the omnipotence, wisdom, and goodness of our God. But the Church is a still more glorious work. It is, in fact, God's masterpiece. Luther mentions two reasons why this is so; the first is that all things were made for the sake of the Church. It is to the Church that the world owes its existence. If God had not decided to build a Church for Himself on earth, the world would have gone to pieces after the Fall. Seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, go on because the Church needs these things. They are, as it were, the scaffolding of the structure He is erecting.

Continued on Next Page



As the world itself exists for the sake of the Church, so the happenings in the world, all events, both great and small, bear the same relation to the Church. The rising and passing of the great world-kingdoms took place in the interest of the Church. The changing of the boundaries between nations, as after the World War, the migration of peoples and individuals, as in the last century to America and in America, happened for the sake of the Church. Severe visitations and judgments, such as war and bloodshed, famine and pestilence, are sent by God for the sake of the Church.

My brethren, if we fully understand from the above that all happenings in the world bear the same relation to the Church and are of importance solely because of this, our present gathering certainly appears to be an event of the highest importance, because it is directly and immediately connected with the building of the Church. During these days, we are serving the great cause of building the Church of Christ. Let us bear this in mind and therefore request God the Holy Ghost in continual prayer to be with us, to lead and guide our discussions, so that, by God's grace, we may be found worthy of assuming the great task before us.

In the second place, the Church is the foremost work of God because, as Luther says, in it great miracles occur daily, such as forgiving sins, taking away death, and giving righteousness and eternal life. Surely those were great miracles — feeding five thousand men, besides women and children, with five loaves of bread, giving sight to the blind, enabling the lame to walk, and raising the dead. But these miracles are greater and more glorious — relieving a lost and condemned creature of his burden of sin and making of him a blessed child of God.

We are met here in these days to do the greater works of which the Savior speaks when He says: "I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works that these shall he do." We wish to deliberate on the weal and woe of our educational institutions, on how we may extend our missions, etc., and we would assist our congregations to hallow God's name by pure doctrine and godly practice



Group Meetings

❖ Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild will gather for their Picnic Potluck on Thursday, August 6th at 12:00 pm at the picnic area. Please bring your own plates & utensils. In case of inclement weather, the picnic will be indoors.

❖ Men of Trinity

Will meet on Monday, August 3rd & August 17th at 5:30 pm at the Church.

❖ Hannah Circle

Does not meet in June, July, or August.

❖ Altar Circle

Will meet on Monday August 17th at 1:00 pm at the Church.

❖ Eunice Circle

Does not meet in June, July, or August.

❖ Christian Singles

The Christian Singles will meet for lunch on Sunday, August 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: Rodney Olson - 218-689-2508

ELDERS

Rod Wentzel - 218-751-6119
 Scott Wilson - 701-238-7557
 Mike Lohse - 218-556-5802
 Eric Lee - 218-966-1023
 Kevin Ellis - 218-508-1487

CHURCH BOARDS

TRUSTEES

Mark Tisler - 701-640-3447
 Dave Krueger - 218-766-5053
 James Quint - 218-556-4406

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Bonnie Wentzel - 218-751-6119
 Larry Eichstadt - 218-751-0659
 Heather Ellis - 218-766-3079

BOARD OF MISSIONS

VACANCY
 Steve Krueger - 218-751-3794
 Margaret Richer - 218-333-3607

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ben Lang - 218-340-3672
 Janet Wilson - 218-533-3019

YOUTH BOARD

Dede Kubitz - 218-280-8526
 VACANCY
 Katie Lang - 605-484-1459

God vs. History and Culture



As a pastor my flock expects me to keep watch on what affects their spiritual health. Do you expect the same?

Have you asked, for instance, why so many today believe God's Word should be reinterpreted to fit our culture's desires? Have you asked why it's seen as being so plastic man has the right to stretch it into whatever shape he wants?

If not, here's an example to provoke your thoughts. In June of 2015 the Supreme Court voted in favor of same-sex marriage. The justices gave this reason: History proves marriage may be interpreted apart from God's Word, and so as our culture mandates, we are setting a new course of action.

Culture now, not God's Word, determines what marriage is. This is a noteworthy change that our state Supreme Court has also adopted when in the '70s they cited Genesis as their legal foundation to uphold the estate of marriage being between one man and one woman.

These decisions, we might say, are at the tip of the cultural iceberg that express how man rejects the wisdom of God in favor of his sinful desires.

Sadly enough, this is taking place close to home when church bodies criticize God's Word based on history and cultural mores. Here's an example from a commentary on Isaiah published by Fortress Press where this statement is made about the author's work: "There is simply no better historical-critical commentary on Isaiah.

It's true; the author's work epitomizes the wholesale criticism of God's Word used to rewrite truth. In this case, he claims the virgin birth of Christ did not take place as Isaiah prophesied. He writes, "The crucial line in Is. 7:14 should be rendered, 'Look, the young woman {not "virgin"} is pregnant and will soon bear a son, and she will name him Immanuel.' One is dealing here with a traditional announcement of the birth of a child promised to particular individuals. Nothing, however, in the Hebrew text suggests that the conception lay in the future."

"Precisely who this woman was is a subject of debate, but two suggestions seem most probable. Either Isaiah was referring to the wife of Ahaz or to his own wife."

"If one is correct in identifying the young woman in Isaiah 7:14 as Isaiah's wife who was pregnant with her second child, in what does the sign actually consist? It does not consist in a miraculous birth."

As Christians, we are going to see more and more of this type of criticism of God's Word, which holds God's truth up for debate, but then favors man's criticism of it. We will see it used by our courts to deny God's authority, and we will see it used by those who call themselves Christian to undermine fundamental Christian truths such as the incarnation of Jesus' virgin birth.

The question is, do you accept such things or do you reject interpretations like that of the author who also believes that the Old Testament stories are myths? Will you reject the claims of so many that St. Paul's Epistles that provide Jesus rich doctrines for the church must be readjusted to fit our cultural context when they are Christ's words, not simply St. Paul's?

As a pastor, I believe my concern is legitimate when man criticizes Scripture in relation to our culture since it spells danger for the faithful. Especially, when it teaches that God's truth is no longer absolute, and that sin is no longer to be considered sin, and thus repentance before Christ is no longer needed in the face of sin, which is not seen as our real trouble in relation to our heavenly Father and His incarnate Son Jesus who He sent to be our Savior.

Of course, pitting God's Word against man's desires is nothing new. Jesus foresaw this when He told the disciples His Holy Spirit was coming; "And when the Helper comes, he will convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment."

As Christians, let's not forget that the Holy Spirit comes to us through the Word to convict us of our sin so that we might cling to the righteousness of Jesus our Savior. So I fear for folks when the historical-critical line of thinking is adopted that denies the Holy Spirit's work to convict us of our sin but rather argues this lie: If we love we can sin without consequence, we can cohabitate outside of marriage, we can live out any sinful desire as long as we love.

This is how man is deceived when he criticizes God's Word and then teaches all we have to do is love and this will make us acceptable to God.

But no matter what man does the Holy Spirit's work remains timeless and changeless as He convicts men of their sin in order to reveal the righteous Christ who defeated sin, death and the devil for them.

For this is Christ's purpose in history as He graciously teaches, repent, be forgiven and sin no more.

~ God's blessings! Rev. Les Uhrinak

Activity Page

Make a postcard puzzle

Summer is full of little moments that remind us that God is guiding each step. Like a puzzle, he brings every piece together in his time.

What you need:

- A postcard or printed picture
- Scissors
- Pencil (optional, for guiding your cuts)
- Envelope or small bag (for storing pieces)

What you do:

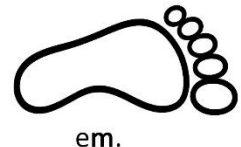
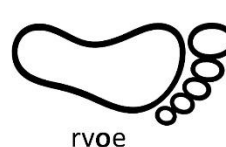
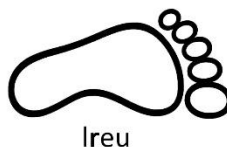
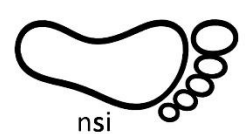
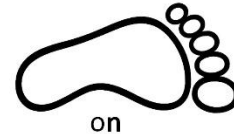
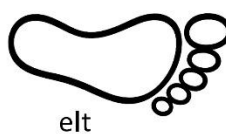
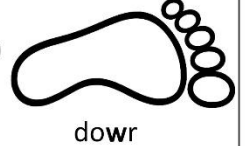
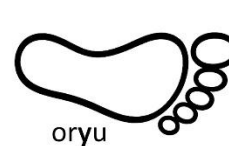
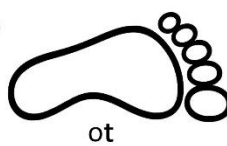
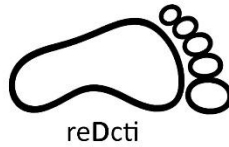
1. Flip your postcard over and lightly draw puzzle shapes or cut freely.
2. Cut the postcard into a mix of big and small pieces.
3. Mix up the pieces and try to put the picture back together.
4. Store the pieces in an envelope so you can use it again later.



Footsteps with God

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed footprints in the sand? The poem *Footprints in the Sand* reminds us that God is always with us.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprints to see what Psalm 119:133 (NIV) says about our steps. (Hint: the bold letters show the first letter of each word.)



Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

Our Church Family

Ladies Salad Luncheon

On June 27th a Ladies Salad Luncheon was held to honor the Ladies in our Congregation that are 90 years and older and the contribution that they have made to the life of our Church! The 60+ attendees sang hymns, shared stories, and reminisced over a wonderful luncheon. During the meal, the ladies were treated to special music provided by Clara & Will Lohse.

(More pictures are shared on the following page)



*(Back Row) Darlene Peterson, De Larson, Darlene Lind, Laverne Bell, Dottie Liapis, Deaconess Beverly
(Front Row) Jo Plinke, Ardie Meacham, Clarine Speck, Carol Sorensen, Lois Reiersen*





A Special Thank you to Sarah Lohse for making the corsages, and to Dede Kubitz, Christina Severson, and Katie Lang for helping to make our Luncheon run so smoothly! Thank you also to Scott Wilson, Randy Yarbrough, and Mike and Will Lohse for helping out! All of you helped to make this day so special! The prize winners (Pictured below) each receiving one of the plants were June Roxstrom, Shannon Lee, Heather Ellis, Raven Woodbury, and Caitlin Good.



Church Family Fellowship

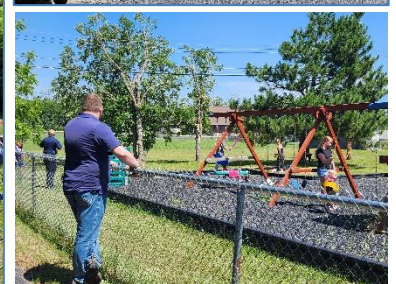
After divine church service on July 19th - July Family Fun Day started out by celebrating Pastor Uhrinak's birthday. We all enjoyed cake, then sang Happy Birthday and presented him a greeting card with a gift card from L & M Fleet. Pastor then led us in a Bible Study for the entire family.



After our Bible Study we all gathered at the picnic pavilion where President Randy grilled hotdogs and hamburgers. We also had baked beans, coleslaw and chips.



It was a beautiful day to gather together. It was warm, but a nice breeze to cool us off. The children had a good time playing games. Our youngest Adelaide was totally chilled laying out on the picnic table. A card game was even started up by Beverly and her sister Sherry.



News & Announcements



Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, August 16th after the Service.
The Elders will present 3 candidates for a congregational vote to extend a Call.
All members are requested to attend.



Updates to the Prayer Chain
The NEW EMAIL for the Prayer Chain is:
TLCPrayerChain@yahoo.com
To contact the Prayer Chain by phone, you can call Heather Ellis at 218-766-3079.

The Portals of Prayer for
July – September 2026
Are available in the Basket
In the back of the Sanctuary.



Greeting Cards for Sale!



The Ladies Guild has refreshed the selection of Greeting cards for sale in the Narthex. Please come and take a look. Single cards and boxes are priced as marked. Check or Cash. You can leave the payment in the container provided. Make checks payable to Trinity Ladies Guild.



The Council requests that everyone help in God's House by:
Cleaning up after yourselves;
Turning off ALL lights (except the office hallway), Locking ALL the doors before leaving the church on Sundays and anytime that you have used the building. Thank you!

CHURCH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, August 30, 2026

10:30 - 11:30 Bible Study
11:30 - 1:30 Lunch followed by Fun, Games, & Crafts!

Lutheran Island Camp Upcoming Events



Summer Registration

Registration is open for Summer 2026 beginning January 2! You can check out our Summer Registration page to view all of our programs. 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.!

Parent Portal

Everything you need for your child's time at camp is in the Parent Portal! (www.islandcamp.org/parent-portal)
Informational Letters, Packing List, Health/Photo Release Forms, Schedules

August 7-9, 2026

LWML Retreat

Friday-Sunday: \$180

Saturday-Sunday: \$130

Saturday Only: \$110

Island Our retreat speaker will be Christina Walther, from Northern Minnesota. She is deeply passionate about guiding individuals to connect with Christ at every stage and walk of life. Her goal is that her faith and resilience inspire those around her as she embraces life's journey with hope and gratitude. She utilizes a blend of speaking and sharing of her original music—inspired by scripture, and resonates with the message she shares. The heart of her story revolves around her journey and her endurance through grief. She refers to her journey as “Turning my Why into Wonder”. She quickly has moved beyond asking “why” and instead embraced a sense of wonder about what God had in store for us. His ways are truly amazing.

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 citizens 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 making a living have on us. 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 relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers and with the Lord. It shifts our focus 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, nor do we become less; rather, we have more and become 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).



Monthly Receipts/Expenses

June 2026

General Fund Deposits \$24,938.25

Interest Receipts \$229.69

Adjustments

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$ 25,167.94

TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES \$32,413.52

Monthly +/-

OVERAGE/SHORTAGE (- \$ 7,245.58)

August Birthdays and Anniversaries at Trinity Lutheran Church

1	Phyllis Brauneis	19	Kathy Kippley, Eva Farmer
2	Tom Bock	20	Sheridan Ellis Bill & Pat Cloose (21)
5	Kathy Berg	23	Ronda Sanders Peter & Hope Chen (4)
8	Michael & Marie Porter (59)	25	Mike & Kris Wavrin (47)
9	Janet Wilson	26	Lenay Tieman Jerry & Lisa Larson (31)
12	Briella Freye	30	Dennis Bowman
14	Larry Eichstadt	31	Paul Karsnia
15	Kermit & Judy Anderson (67)		
17	Oakley McClellan-Bowley Louis & Leah Blocker (13)		
18	Yolanda Manecke Mike & Sarah Lohse (25)		



Altar Flower Volunteers 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 you address and/or phone number changes, please let the church office know so your information will be correct in the church database.
Thank you



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.

Portals of Prayer are in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.



Check out our website:
TrinityBemidji.org



ALTAR GUILD

The season after Pentecost begins with Holy Trinity Sunday and continues through the last Sunday of the church year in November. The paraments are green, the color of life, refreshment and regeneration. Throughout this season, the focus is on the Lord's teaching and how it is applied in the life of the Church.



A "Gluten Free" option is available for communion. If you would like to take advantage of this option, please speak with Pastor or Elders.

BEMIDJI AREA FOOD SHELF

Trinity, along with United Methodist Church volunteers the 3rd Monday of each month at the Food Shelf. Nine people are needed from 12:00pm – 3:30pm. The Food Shelf would not function without all of the volunteers that give of their time. Thank you for all you do to help make the Food Shelf run smoothly. ~ June Roxstrom



Please check the covered bulletin boards in the Entrance Hall for Letters, Events, Concerts, Meals, Fundraisers, Local Activities and News. Calendars and community resources are on the bulletin boards in the hallway.

Read Through The Bible In A Year - August

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray." Matthew 18:11-13 (ESV)						1
2 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study <i>ACF Serves</i>	3 5:30 PM Men of Trinity	4	5 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bible Study	6 5:30 PM Board of Elders	7	8
9 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Christian Singles <i>Youth Groups Serve</i>	10	11	12 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Semi-Annual Voter's Meeting <i>Men Serve</i>	17 1:00 PM Altar Circle 5:30 PM Men of Trinity	18	19 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bible Study	20 9:00 AM "Happy Quilters" 6:00 PM Church Boards 7:00 PM Church Council	21	22
23 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study <i>Ladies Guild Serves</i>	24	25	26 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bible Study	27 9:00 AM "Happy Quilters"	28	29
30 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion Church Family Fellowship 10:30 am Bible Study 11:30 am Lunch followed by Fun, Games, & Crafts <i>Altar Circle</i>	31	"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep." John 10:14-15 (ESV)				