



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 10

October 2025

OCTOBER PASTOR'S CORNER...



A MONTH OF PRAYER

Change is in the air. We celebrated a time of equal daylight and nighttime hours on Monday, September 22.

Once in awhile you can step outside and smell that rain is coming. I had that experience just the other day, and by evening we had a deluge of rain.

Those who live on the West coast of the United States may awaken and feel the shake of an earthquake. They know from experience that others may follow. The local authorities respond to this disaster as needed.

How do we respond to tragic evil events across our state and our country? Minnesota has been in the national limelight for a senseless shooting at a Catholic school in Minneapolis. Our country mourned the loss of Charlie Kirk on Sunday, September 21.

It does not matter our political leanings, taking the life of another human being is still sinful and wrong. An opponent of Abraham Lincoln took his life in 1865—160 years ago. Others took the lives of James A. Garfield (1881), William McKinley (1901), and John F. Kennedy (1963). Other important people in the 1960's faced a similar fate, Robert F. Kennedy (1968) and Martin Luther King (1968).

The 1960's were a time of unrest in the land both politically and spiritually. So how do we respond to this latest unrest in our land? We stand ready to minister, as we always have, to the ones looking for answers to life's questions. We worship the God of the universe who created us and sustains us. We draw them to the cross and the hope of salvation despite the wickedness in the world that surrounds us.

We show them the God who loves them and cares for them by offering His Son Jesus as a sacrifice for their sin. We share that despite sin

in the world Jesus arose to new life. He promises that same gift of grace to all who believe in His name. God can forgive the errant sins of a person if they turn to Him before death, no matter how great or small in our eyes.

Let us have a month of prayer. Let us get on our knees asking God for a spiritual revival in our land. Young and old alike have been distracted over the years living life to the fullest. When life comes up short in their eyes, we have the answers. It's not by harsh words but by the love of Jesus.

Paul directs Timothy with this Bible verse, but it is good for us to consider. **"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching" (2 Tim. 4:2).**

We can't control the weather in Minnesota. By experience we do know what's coming. We have learned to get prepared and ready for the next season. God has put us strategically in this place and at this time to share the gospel of Jesus.

A great song written years ago says it all. *"What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of. What the world needs now is love, sweet love. No, not just for some but for everyone."* *

The love of God surpasses any and all rulers, kings, and evil acts of man. For, He is timeless and knows the heart of man. **"But showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments" (Exodus 20:6).**

If God is for love, then we also need to be a people of love who pray for our enemies that they might turn to Jesus in these unsettling times. In the end, the mission of God **"desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4).**

Be in prayer and be ready to share your faith, not in harshness or judgment, but in love and mercy. Amen.

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* "What the World Needs Now Is Love"
1965 song with lyrics by Hal David, Burt F. Bacharach

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FROM YOUR LLB CHAIR...**GRATITUDE AND INVITATION! YOUR GIFTS KEEP US GOING****SERVING TRINITY & FLS**

- Rev. Peter Gueldner,
Intentional Interim
Pastor
- Rev. Hal Rex Longshore,
Visitation Pastor
- Rev. Gatluk, Reat,
Sudanese Evang. Lutheran
Mission Church
- Noel Handberg,
Financial Coordinator
- Nancy Simonson,
Family Ministry
- Dustin Grund,
Property Manager
- Jennifer Kingland,
Office Manager
- Bill & Mary Jewison,
Custodians
- Chrysteena Saehler,
FLS Administrator/Principal
- Alexia Cates,
FLS Administrative
Secretary

As we continue to grow in faith and fellowship, we want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who took the time to fill out our Time and Talent Survey. Your responses are already helping us match gifts to needs, strengthen our ministries, and plan for the seasons ahead with clarity and purpose.

If you haven't yet had a chance to complete the survey, we encourage you to do so. It's not too late—and your input truly matters. Whether you have a few hours a month or a specific skill to share, your willingness to serve helps keep our church vibrant, welcoming, and responsive to the needs of our community.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our congregation. From Sunday morning greeters to committee members, musicians, gardeners,

and behind-the-scenes helpers—each role contributes to the spiritual and operational life of our church. Without your time and talents, we simply couldn't do what we do.

So thank you—for showing up, for stepping in, and for saying yes. And if you're still discerning where you might fit, the survey is a great place to start. Together, we build a church that reflects the love and generosity of Christ.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and commitment to our Church.

Mitch M.
LLB Chair

If you have a topic for me to address or a comment, please email me.

Bible in a Year—October

October 1 – Zechariah 10, 11, 12; Psalm 126; Luke 14
 October 2 – Zechariah 13, 14; Psalm 147, 134; Luke 15
 October 3 – Ezra 5, 6; Psalm 138; Luke 16
 October 4 – Esther 1, 2; Psalm 150; Luke 17
 October 5 – Esther 3, 4, 5, 6; Luke 18
 October 6 – Esther 7, 8, 9, 10; Luke 19
 October 7 – Ezra 7, 8; Luke 20
 October 8 – Ezra 9, 10; Psalm 131; Luke 21
 October 9 – Nehemiah 1, 2; Psalm 133; Luke 22
 October 10 – Nehemiah 3, 4; Luke 23
 October 11 – Nehemiah 5, 6; Psalm 146; Luke 24
 October 12 – Nehemiah 7, 8; Acts 1
 October 13 – Nehemiah 9, 10; Acts 2
 October 14 – Nehemiah 11, 12; Psalm 1; Acts 3
 October 15 – Nehemiah 13; Malachi 1, 2; Acts 4
 October 16 – Malachi 3, 4; Psalm 148; Acts 5

October 17 – Job 1, 2; Acts 6, 7
 October 18 – Job 3, 4; Acts 8, 9
 October 19 – Job 5; Psalm 108; Acts 10, 11
 October 20 – Job 6, 7, 8; Acts 12
 October 21 – Job 9, 10; Acts 13, 14
 October 22 – Job 11, 12; Acts 15, 16
 October 23 – Job 13, 14; Acts 17, 18
 October 24 – Job 15; Acts 19, 20
 October 25 – Job 16; Acts 21, 22, 23
 October 26 – Job 17; Acts 24, 25, 26
 October 27 – Job 18; Psalm 114; Acts 27, 28
 October 28 – Job 19; Mark 1, 2
 October 29 – Job 20; Mark 3, 4
 October 30 – Job 21; Mark 5, 6
 October 31 – Job 22; Mark 7, 8

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School started September 14. Registration is still open for children ages 3 through grade 4. Come to the music room at 9:15 a.m. and we will greet you! Children get engaged in the Bible story presentations, music and classroom activities led by teachers. For more information, contact Nancy Simonson. Students in grades 5-6 participate in learning Bible stories in preparation for confirmation. They meet in the conference room. There is also a youth Bible study at 9:20 -10:15 in the youth room next to the nursery. All youth grade 7 and up are welcome. Dan and Chrysteena lead the class.

We thank God for our willing teachers and helpers:

Age 3-5: Mari, Jackie
 Puppet/helpers: Nick
 Grades 1-2: Courtney / Cameron, Sandy
 Grades 3-4: Nura, Erin
 Grades 5-6: Carol
 Grades 7 and up: Dan and Chrysteena
 Music: Kellsey, Nancy
 Story Presenters: Carol, Nancy
 Assistant: Tammy

There is an adult Bible study for parents in the nursery during the Sunday School hour. Come and get to know other parents and share your struggles and learn from the Bible.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

October 12 –**Take It Home Event – 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the gym.** Parents and children will learn how to incorporate service projects into family activities in response to Jesus' love for us. Families will have an opportunity to participate in various service projects in the gym.

October is pastor appreciation month. Don't forget to say thank you to our pastor and other church workers.



Future Date: Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box packing event – November 16. All congregational members are welcome to join in the packing. We would also welcome supplies. The Sunday School children's offering money goes to purchase limited supplies.

GRANDPARENTS

In previous months, we viewed several videos about how important it is to invest in our grandchildren throughout the entire length of our lives.

Our Grandparent group met on September 23 to view a video from Grand Monday Nights. Our next meeting will be on October 28 at 7 p.m. We will view a session on Raising Gender-Confident Kids (Part 1) – The Role of Hope and Meaningful Conversations.

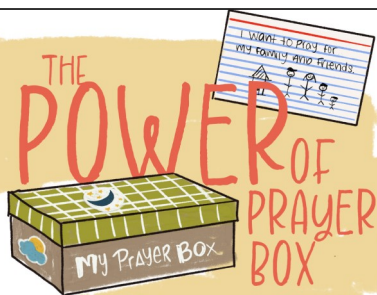
Dr. Kathy Koch, coauthor of the book *Raising Gender-Confident Kids*, talks about hope and other postures we must have when thinking about this complex idea of gender insecurity. This is a topic important to parents and grandparents. All are welcome.

Bethlehem Inn is back! Our actors are excited to perform again this year. We are in need of 3 actors. If you have a talent in this area, please contact Nancy Simonson. Reserve the dates – December 5 & 6 – in the Fellowship Hall for an evening of fun! This year we are encouraging you to bring a friend from the community.

TOUCH-A-TRACTOR

Touch-a-Tractor event was held on September 14. Families enjoyed a corn maze, buying pumpkins and touching various tractors and farm equipment, and Kona Ice was there when things got hot! About 60 people attend this event on a hot day.

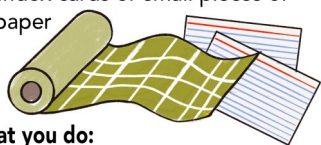




Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

What you need:

- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper



What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby. When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

—Colossians 4:2, NIV



JESUS TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of the places. Can you find the names on the list?

Words can go left to right, up, down or diagonal—so look carefully in all directions!

BETHANY	EPHRAIM	MOUNT OF OLIVES
BETHLEHEM	GALILEE	NAZARETH
BETHSAIDA	JERICHO	PEREA
CAESAREA PHILIPPI	JERUSALEM	SAMARIA
CANA	JORDAN RIVER	SIDON
CAPERNAUM	JUDEA	TYRE
DECAPOLIS	MAGDALA	WILDERNESS
EGYPT		

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

FLS Monthly



Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 2

- No School

Friday, October 3

- No School

Thursday, October 9

- FLS BoD Meeting @ Trinity (6:00 PM)

Saturday, October 11

- FLS Volleyball Tournament

Sunday, October 12

- FLS Sunday @ Trinity (8:00AM)

Wednesday, October 15

- Parent Drive Day

Thursday, October 16

- Parent Drive Day
- P/T Conferences (3:30-8)

Friday, October 17

- No School
- P/T Conferences (8:00-12)

Wednesday, October 29

- Reformation Chapel @ 10:30

Friday, October 31

- Marty Party
- End of 1st Quarter

Wildcat Wow!

School Contact

(507) 334-7982

flsoffice@flsweb.org

Reflections on October

We are pleased to have welcomed 143 students this year, who are filling our halls, and it is such a joy to see our school community growing. Students have been excited to reconnect with friends from last year while also building new friendships. It feels good to be back into a steady rhythm again.

When I think about our mission at FLS, I'm often reminded of Jesus' parable of the mustard seed. Every day, our teachers faithfully plant seeds of faith in the hearts of our students, and it is incredible to watch them take root and grow.

Looking ahead, October will be full of exciting events at FLS:

- Our girls' volleyball tournament will take place on Saturday, October 11.
- On Sunday, October 12, FLS students will sing during the 8:00 AM service at Trinity.
- On Tuesday, October 29, students will join Trinity for our annual Reformation chapel service at 10:30 AM.
- On Friday, October 31, we'll celebrate our Marty Party with games and activities highlighting Martin Luther and the Reformation.

If you'd like to volunteer for any of these events, please contact Chrysteena Saehler at administrator@flsweb.org.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for Christian education at FLS.

God's Blessings,
Chrysteena Saehler
FLS Administrator

School Mission Statment

To empower and equip all students for Christian Discipleship and Academic Success in serving others for Christ and His church.

OCTOBER J.O.Y. GROUP**♪ I've got the J.O.Y. down in my heart ♪**

Here's a thought, if you're a good sport,
Come to the **JOY event**, show your support.

Save your back from putting on fireplace logs;

Instead, learn about **Can Do Canine – service dogs**.

Tuesday, October 21, at 1 p.m. it is the time,

To gather in the **Fellowship Hall** for a showing that's mighty fine.

After hearing about the program, here's advice, or a friendly tip,

We'll have a **freewill offering**, coffee, desserts, and fellowship.

So plan to come, **sign up**, I think you know where;

A time we will have, I'm quite certain, more than fair.

One more thing, if you'd like to share,

Please **bring a dessert to pass** for those who'll be there.

**HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE SALE**

Saturday, November 22, 2025

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault
Auditorium

Trinity's fourth annual Holiday Boutique Sale is planned for Saturday, November 22, 2025, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the FLS/Trinity Auditorium.

There will be a wide variety of items for sale—Christmas items, baked goods, wood and metal works, quilts, porch pots, jewelry, homemade soaps and creams, and much more.

Our Youth will provide a yummy lunch, snacks and treats for purchase!

Be sure to join us! Questions: contact Nancy B.

**Reformation
Chapel &
Luncheon**

**October 29
10:30am**

You are invited to a special Reformation Chapel Service & Lunch for seniors on Wednesday, October 29, 10:30 a.m. at Trinity.

Holy Communion will be offered following the student dismissal. Luncheon will be served in the Fellowship Hall after the service.

Reservations are required for the lunch by Wednesday, October 22. For reservations, sign up at the information center or contact the church office. If you need a ride or if you have any questions, call the office at 507-331-6579.

GAME NIGHT

October 18 at 6:30 p.m. all are invited to the Fellowship Hall for Family Game Night. Come to play games, enjoy good fellowship, and share in some yummy treats.

This is for people of all ages, but not a drop-off event. You can just gather the kids, grandkids, neighbors, or whoever you want to bring and head on over.

Games are provided, but feel free to bring a favorite as well. You can also bring a snack to share if you want, but don't let it stop you from coming if you don't.



AUGUST PASTORS' REPORT

Each month a Pastoral Report is prepared in the Church Office. Classes, meetings, appointments, worship services, visitations and communions are tracked and reported by each pastor. In each month's newsletter we will be including the most recent form on file (August 2025).

	Home Visits	Hospital or Jail	Office Visits	Pro-spect Calls	Shut Ins/ Others Com-muned Privately	Shut Ins/ Others Visited- No Communion	NH Worship Attended	NH Worship Com-muned	Worship Services	Classes Taught	Mtgs. Attend
Interim Pastor	0	0	~	0	0	0	44	35	17	8	12
Guest/Visitation Pastors	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	3	1	~
Lay Members	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	~

Baptisms: 0

Confirmed: 0

Weddings: 0

Transfer In: 0

Transfers Out: 1 Anna M.

Released/Removed: 0

Profession of Faith/Affirmation of Baptism: 0

Deaths/Funerals: 0

Notes: Rev. Dr. Utech – 3 services and 1 Sunday Bible Study

Official Acts:



Rev. Gatluk Reat August Report:
Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Mission Church

Attendance

Week 1 - 40; Week 2 - 35; Week 3 - 45;
Week 4 – 36

Worship Services conducted in
Nuer & English in person and online.

Happy October Birthday!

Special Greetings to Trinity's Octogenarian and Nonagenarian members with October birthdays. We ask that you remember our fellow members in your prayers and help brighten their day with a card or visit.



Omitted from web version for privacy reasons. Please contact Jennie in the church office or pick up a printed copy of the newsletter for a list of this month's birthdays.

NUMBERING OUR DAYS



To fix what they call a disorganized date-tracking system, professors Steve Hanke and Dick Henry have developed a "permanent calendar."

On it, January 1 is always a Monday, so holidays and birthdays occur on the same day every year. The 364-day calendar eliminates leap years, time zones, Halloween and every Friday the 13th. Instead of leap days, "every five or six years, we'll have an extra week at the end [of December] when you can party," says Henry. Because the permanent cal-

endar is predictable, it reportedly would save money and time. Yet despite almost two decades of work, the idea hasn't taken off.

However we track our lives, we do well to remember this prayer: "Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. ... Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:1, 12 NIV).

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WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."



This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals, But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

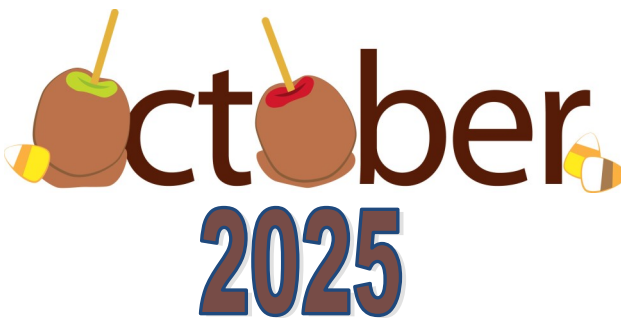
IFYOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL!

B.I.B.L.E. simply means; Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

Original source unknown

CALL VOTERS' MTG.

**Please be sure to attend the Call Voters' Mtg. on
Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 7:00 p.m. in the
Sanctuary.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:30 FLS Chapel 9:00 Quilting 2:30 New Perspective -c 4:00 Pleasant View Estates -c 5:30 Confirmation (at Peace) 6:00 Handbells 6:00 Connection 7:00 Choir	2 10:00 Prayer Group (Marilyn Steele's)	3 8:00 Men's Bible Study 8:00 Pie-making for Gala	4 5:30 Worship Service
5 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Confirmation Class 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Connection -c 1-2:00 Circuit Forum (Fellowship Hall) <u>LWML Sunday</u>	6 8:00 Pie-makers 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 3:15-5 FLS Pic Day 6:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 2nd Century Mtg. (Conference Rm)	7 8:30 Staff Mtg. 2-2:45 FLS (FH) 2:30-4:00 Violin Lessons 4:15 Community Cathedral Café	8 8:30 FLS Chapel 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Mill City -c 5:30 Confirmation (at Peace) 6:00 Handbells 6:00 Connection 7:00 Call Voters' Mtg.	9 10:00 Prayer Group (Marilyn Steele's) 2:00 Human Care 3:15-5 FLS Practice 5:45 AHG Troop Mtg. 6:00 FLS Brd. Mtg. (Trinity) 7:30 Card Club (N. Boldt's)	10 8:00 Men's Bible Study 3:15-5 FLS Practice <u>Set Up for Tournament</u>	11 5:30 Worship Service -c <u>FLS Volleyball Tournament</u>
Pastors Conference, Trinity, Waconia →						
12 8:00 Worship -c (FLS Sunday at Trinity) 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Take-It-Home Event 9:15 Confirmation Class 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Connection	13 8:00 Pie-makers 3:15-5 FLS Practice 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 6:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Trumps' Bible Study (<i>off site</i>)	14 8:30 Staff Mtg. 2-2:45 FLS (FH) 2:30-4:00 Violin Lessons 3:15-5 FLS Practice 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 6:30 LLB Mtg.	15 8:30 FLS Chapel 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Milestone -c 3:30 Faribault Senior Living -c 5:30 Confirmation (at Peace) 6:00 Handbells 6:00 Connection <u>Parent Drive Day</u>	16 10:00 Prayer Group (Marilyn Steele's) 1:00 Women In Mission 3:15-5 FLS Practice 3:30-8:00 Parent/Teacher Conf. 5:45 AHG Fall Badge Party Presentations <u>Parent Drive Day</u>	17 8:00 Men's Bible Study 8-12:00 Parent/Teacher Conf. <u>FLS No School</u>	18 9-12:00 AHG (FH & Gym) 5:30 Worship Service 6:30 Game Night (Fellowship H)
19 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Confirmation Class 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Connection -c	20 8:00 Pie-makers 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 6:30 Women's Bible Study	21 8:30 Staff Mtg. 1:00 J.O.Y. Group (Fellowship Hall) 2:30-4:00 Violin Lessons 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 4:30 Volleyball Games 6:30 Elders' Mtg.	22 8:30 FLS Chapel 9:00 Quilting 5:30 Confirmation (at Peace) 6:00 Handbells 6:00 Connection 7:00 Choir	23 10:00 Prayer Group (Marilyn Steele's) 5:45 AHG Troop Mtg. (FH, MR, Gym, N YR)	24 8:00 Men's Bible Study <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	25 5:30 Worship Service -c
26 8:00 Worship -c 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Confirmation Class 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Connection <u>Reformation Sunday</u>	27 8:00 Pie-makers 3:15-5 FLS Practice 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 6:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Trumps' Bible Study (<i>off site</i>)	28 8:30 Staff Mtg. 2-2:45 FLS (FH) 2:30-4:00 Violin Lessons 4:30 Volleyball Games 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 6:30 Property Brd 7:00 Grandparenting Night	29 10:30 Reformation Chapel & Lunch 5:30 Confirmation (at Peace) 6:00 Handbells 6:00 Connection 7:00 Choir	30 10:00 Prayer Group (Marilyn Steele's) 6:30 AHG Leaders' Mtg.	31 8:00 Men's Bible Study <u>Marty Party</u>	

LAY LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 2025

Trinity Lutheran Church
Lay Leadership Board Minutes
6:30 PM, Tuesday September 9, 2025

Attendance: Pastor Gueldner, Mitch M., Barb B., Penny R., Brian F., Carl V.,
Dan S., and Deb M. Chrysteena Saehler was a guest.

Opening devotion and prayer led by Pastor Gueldner

Faribault Lutheran School Report:

Registration for 2025-26 school year is currently at 143. Students from Trinity and Peace make up 25 % of the student body. No church affiliation 15 %. The remainder are from other LCMS or some other Lutheran church. Golf tournament will be Sept 21. Faribault Rotary gifted \$2,500 for our Social Emotional Curriculum. Parent drive day is Friday, September 26.

FOC report:

August expenses exceeded income by \$10,235.47. We are short of our 2025 expenses to date by \$55,324.32. The general fund balance is down to just over \$60,000. \$22,500 has been raised for the new screen replacement. Bids are coming in lower so there may be some funds left over.

Family Ministry:

Sunday school registration took place on Rally Sunday with two new families. New curriculum has been ordered. 5th and 6th grade will not be in regular Sunday school this year. They will be doing confirmation bible study during that time. September 14 there will be a touch-a-tractor event.

Pastor Guelder Report:

Pastor Odom will be doing our confirmation program for 7th and 8th grade along with Peace and his own in Morristown. Our program will be at Peace on Wednesdays at 5:30 or attend his program on Sundays at noon.

Call Committee:

The district has sent us 19 names to consider for a senior pastor There was an initial call meeting and there will be a 2nd meeting on September 13. Plans are to have a call meeting as soon as possible so as not to get into the holiday season.

Rally Sunday/Time and Talent:

Time and Talent sheets were handed out Sunday. There is a place to return them at the information enter. The names will be given to appropriate group for contact.

Building Study Committee:

Mike Y. has volunteered to lead the flooring committee. Penny R. will be the contact person from the LLB. The sound system will be looked at after the flooring is installed.

Nominating Committee:

There will be a voters meeting on Sept. 29 to elect FLS members since we are down 2 from Trinity. Brian motioned and Deb 2nd to nominate Dan S. as convention delegate. Motion passed.

Calendar items:

Audit of church records will be September 11.
Next LLB meeting: Tuesday, October 14.

Mitch adjourned meeting /Pastor closed with prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Barb B.-LLB secretary



WORK AND KEEP

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15).

Genesis chapters one and two are familiar to us. We know them best as the Creation Account. Chapter one is where we hear the familiar, “let there be...and there was” directives. Chapter two gives us the account of Adam (the man) being formed from the “Adamah” (the dust) and becoming a living being when he receives the breath of life in his nostrils. Because of this, it would be quite easy to simply lump these two chapters into the category of creation accounts.

But do not be too hasty in this! While these two chapters do faithfully relate to us the account of creation, they also give us the creation of the “office” of steward. The man, created in the image of God in Genesis 1 and formed from the dust in Genesis 2, is created for a distinct purpose. He is created to be a steward of the perfect and beautiful creation that the Lord has made! In fact, this is THE reason that man was made. He — and we — were created in the image of God to be stewards of God’s creation.

This purpose is spelled out in verse 15 of Genesis 2. The steward has one job, with two purposes. ...

The first purpose of the job of steward is to work. The steward is the caretaker of the Garden. Being a steward is work! Before the fall into sin, this was not an onerous task. But it was an active thing.

Imagine being a farmer in the Garden of Eden! Work would be only harvest. No plowing. No planting. No cultivating. No weeding. The perfect garden that the Lord had made would simply produce automatically to provide for man, woman, and all living beings!

But there is a second task in verse fifteen. The word “keep” is not just a synonym for work. This second task is related to defending. This garden, holy by virtue of its being called into existence by a holy God, needed to be

defended. Here is where the vocation of steward becomes priestly. The steward was to defend the perfect and holy garden from that which was unholy. Later in the Old Testament, this was the task of the priests in the tabernacle and temple. They were to defend with their lives the Holy of Holies. This too is the labor of stewardship. It is a labor that calls the steward to be willing to put the garden before life!

Stewardship was always work. It only got burdensome after the original steward, Adam, failed to defend the garden from the alien word of the serpent. But this was not a failure of harvest. It was a failure to defend the garden! As a result, all work that followed that failure became burdensome.

The steward failed but was never fired. That is why we have such an issue with stewardship to this day. We continue to live out a pre-fall vocation in a fallen world as failed stewards. That is why we in the church need to be reminded of our vocational call to be stewards. We so easily forget that this world is not ours to do with as we please. Nothing is ours. We are but stewards entrusted with managing the creation for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor.

It is a daunting task. But it is the one to which we have been called. We cannot do it on our own. Apart from the grace of God shared with us through Jesus, we would be burdened to the point of temporal and eternal death. But the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel! This Gospel connects us to the fertile garden of Christ’s Work on our behalf. Now we are stewards of that grace! The Holy Spirit works this in and through us today and every day. This is the work of the church. It is also the work of the individual steward. The Lord has placed us in the “garden” with the same twofold purpose: work and keep! Enjoy your labor. For in the Lord, our labor is never in vain!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

IN LOVING
Memory

MEMORIAL

IN MEMORY OF RICH KOOYER:

Undesignated Memorials

\$20 by Linda Kooyer

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Weekly Service Schedule - Saturday, 5:30pm
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THE BEST GIFT FOR YOUR PASTOR

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—a time to recognize and encourage those who faithfully shepherd our churches. But if you've ever asked a pastor how to show your gratitude, the answer probably isn't a plaque or applause. More often than not, it's simple: "Pray for me."

Even the Apostle Paul didn't ask for much personally, except for the prayers of fellow believers. In his letter to the Romans, he wrote: "Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company" (Romans 15:30–32, NASB).

This October—and every month—encourage your pastor by offering your prayers, support, and kind words. Ministry can be demanding, but knowing the church is lifting them up makes all the difference.



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