



TRINITY TIDINGS

A monthly newsletter for family & friends of
historic Trinity Lutheran Church–Red Bud
(Prairie), IL

Volume 374 Issue 468
September 2026



Table of Contents

- 1 Pastor's Message
- 2 Church Council Minutes
- 4 School
- 5 B&As
- 6 Newsletter Due Date
- 6 Altar Guild Schedule
- 6 Acolyte Schedule
- 6 Usher Schedule
- 6 Editor's Note
- 7-10 Mission Trip–Kenya
- 10 Thank You
- 11-14 Church Renovation
- 15 LCMS Conv Report
- 16-17 Treasurer Report
- 18 Calendar



Trinity Lutheran Church
10235 S. Prairie Road
Red Bud, IL 62278

Trinity Lutheran School
10247 S. Prairie Road
Red Bud, IL 62278

<http://www.trinityredbud.com>

Pastor's Message:

"As for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed." (2 Timothy 3:14)

Special Events Upcoming:

On Sunday, September 13, we return to our regular Sunday schedule. The Sunday service time returns to 10:00 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class begin at 9:00 a.m. in the school classrooms. The school children will also be singing during the service that Sunday.

The Sunday morning and Wednesday morning Adult Bible Classes will be studying the books of 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, known as the Pastoral Epistles. The apostle Paul writes to Timothy and Titus, young pastors of the church, concerning the importance of maintaining the true faith and proclaiming the faith to the congregations in their care. These books include advice and encouragement for both preachers and hearers of the Word of God. The Wednesday morning class resumes on September 2.

Continue on page 3: Message

Trinity Workers

Pastor: Rev. Scott Hojnacki
Phone: 618-282-2882
E-Mail: trinitypastor@htc.net

Principal/Teacher: Dr. Robin Booth
School Phone: 618-282-2881
E-Mail: office@trinityredbud.com

Church Secretary:
Office: 618-282-2882
E-Mail: church@trinityredbud.com
FAX: 618-282-4045

Teachers: Cassie O'Hara, Andrea Sattler,
April Thrift, Angie Trask, and
Andrew Wiggernhorn

Church Music Director: Sarah Koester **School Choir Director:** Andrew Wiggernhorn

Youth Leaders: Lisa Luebkeemann
Dana Hahn, Grace Koester, and
Andrea Sattler

School Secretary: Joyce Stehl
School Phone: 618-282-2881
E-Mail: jstehl@trinityredbud.com

Trinity Tidings Editor: Maureen Liefer

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting
August 4, 2026

Present: Pastor Hojnacki, Mark Liefer, Kathy Nagel, Dean Schoenbeck, Branda Brewer, Roger Liefer, Darrell Salger, Michael Koester, Larry Erdmann, Tim Luebkekmann, and Eric Rohlfing.

Opening: Vice Chairman Mark Liefer called the meeting to order. Pastor led us in a short devotion with a reading from Colossians 2; v.6,7. This is the base of this year's school theme "Rooted in Christ".

Secretary's Report: The prior minutes were sent out to the board, with no corrections, a motion was made, seconded and moved to accept the secretary's report.

Treasurer's Report: Dean presented the Treasurer's report. With no unordinary expenses in the general fund, expenses exceeded income by \$14,000. Dean had to borrow another \$9,000 from Dieterich LOC. So now our loan balance has exceeded \$60,000. In the building fund, Dean noted that we finally have received all the insurance money from the tornado damage we had to the roof. So, the insurance paid \$138,781.60 and an LCMS Disaster Grant paid the \$10,000 deductible. Completely covered! Thanks be to God! The insurance also covered the interior damage so part of the painting project is now covered by the insurance. The total to date paid out on the remodeling project is \$62,215.17 with a balance of \$196,133.17 left in the redecorating fund. It is the time of year to renew our employee health plan. With the current plan that we have the price has increased \$6,585.60. There is another plan with a cheaper premium but higher deductibles. It was decided to table this until next meeting and have everyone study these different proposals.

School Board: Pastor reported that school starts Aug 11. Current enrollment is similar to last year, not final numbers yet. The synod wide theme for this year is "Rooted in Christ". April Thrift has been hired for the 3rd and 4th grade. All other staff has remained the same. An Open House will be Sunday evening, August 9 for families to come in and prepare for the school year.

Pastor's Report: Church services are continuing in the school gym. 90 was the average Sunday attendance for June. Services will continue in the gym into September. With school beginning, some minor rearranging of chairs will need to be done each week. There were no official acts or membership changes. September 13, services will go back to 10:00 with Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:00. Adult and Public-School confirmation classes will begin sometime in September, no date confirmed yet. Looking ahead, there should be 6 – 8th grade confirmands in the spring, with confirmation on Palm Sunday, March 21. Easter is March 28.

Trustee's Report: Eric brought up the mandated water testing again. This expense has increased excessively and Eric is still trying to find other solutions.

Continue on page 3/Council

Council:

Elder's Report: Darrell reported that repairs will be made to the Elder's room at Church. The ceiling has received water damage from the leaking furnace upstairs. Cabinets will be removed, ceiling repaired and replastered, and then paint the room and put cabinets back up.

Redecoration Committee: Tim reported that the painting is going well. The flooring is ordered and the 60% down payment of \$26,088.45 is paid. The south and east church doors will be replaced with new commercial doors. The south door will have the same stained glass as it currently has. Denise Heller is lining up crews to work on cleaning up the pews. With generous donations, three families have designated money and covered the cost to have the pipe organs restored to the original beauty. A large thank you to the following families: A donation was received from Geneva Barbeau in loving memory of her parents and grandparents, Orville & Ellen Buch, Paul & Edna Buch and Ernst & Ella Kloepper. Memorial monies received in memory of Vernon and Jane Lucht. In memory of Matt Dannenberg given by Amy, Dalton and Dillon. The exact colors haven't been decided yet but it will enhance all the original stenciling that was originally on the pipes.

The meeting was adjourned. Pastor led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Nagel, Secretary

Message:



On Sunday, September 20, the President of the Southern Illinois District of the LCMS, Rev. Heath R. Curtis, will be joining us for worship and preaching the sermon during the service. He will also be making a presentation during the Bible Class hour about cultural and demographic change, the four problems this raises for every Christian church in America, and how to faithfully respond in our congregation. Everyone in the church is encouraged to come and hear this engaging and informative presentation!



When renovations are complete and we are able to return to the church building, there will be a special Service of Rededication to mark the occasion (date to be determined). We anticipate services in the gym continuing throughout the month of September.



Trinity Lutheran School Dr. Robin Booth, Principal

trinityhoofprints@gmail.com

Mission Statement:

To aid parents and the church by providing Christian education to nurture children in mind, body, and spirit.

Future Dates

October 4: Pork sausage dinner
October 7: Rummage sale item collection begins
October 23-25: Rummage sale

September 7: Labor Day/No school
September 10: Picture retakes
September 11: Progress reports go home
September 11: School improvement day—early dismissal at 11:20 a.m.
September 13: Students sing during the 10 o'clock service in the school gym



Eva Buch (center pic, left) is the after care teacher.

Originally from Host Springs, AR, she went on to attend the Goldfarb School of Nursing and Southwestern Illinois College. She holds an associate of arts degree and a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

Previously, Buch taught at the Beck School of Nursing. She currently resides in Red Bud with her husband Adam Buch, and their children Axel and Aurelia.

Info from *North County News* August 13, 2026—page 3A

WELCOME!!



April Thrift (center pic, right) will be the third and fourth grade teacher, as well as the school's art teacher.

Originally from Water Valley, MS, she went on to earn a bachelors degree in psychology from University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) in 2011. She then got a masters in human services counseling from Liberty University in 2014 and a teacher certification from University of West Florida in 2025.

Previously, Thrift has worked as a substitute in St. Clair County schools since 2018, as a paraprofessional and substitute at St. Libory and completed her student teaching at ROE 45 Red Brick Safe School.

She currently resides in New Athens. She has six children, two dogs and two cats.

Info from *North County News* August 13, 2026—page 3A



Picture taken from <https://www.facebook.com/trinityredbud> August 16, 2026

Welcome to the 2026-2027 School Year

L-R: April Thrift, Cassie O'Hara, Angie Trask, Rachel Salger, Dr. Robin Booth, Andrea Sattler, Heather Hojnacki, Drew Wiggernhorn, and Rev. Scott Hojnacki.

SEPTEMBER 2026 BIRTHDAYS* AND *ANNIVERSARIES**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>Cody & Kathy Frederick</i>	2 Jeffrey Kadlec <i>Greg & Dana Hahn Tyler & Rebeka Hern</i>	3 Sarah Craft Keith Juelfs Ashley Murphy <i>Mark & Maureen Liefer</i>	4 Trista Guebert Jackson Salger <i>Warren & Susan Lucht</i>	5 Logan Murphy <i>Don & Carol Crabill</i>
6 Charles Byer Kevin Salger Mark Wilkening <i>Marlin & Jeanne Stamm</i>	7 Any Wilkening <i>Roger & Marilyn Liefer Robert & Kathleen Nagel John & Makenzie Woods</i>	8 Zachary Gonstal	9 Mabel Schoenbeck <i>Nathan & Bethany Kinney</i>	10	11 Sarah Buch Matthew Fehr Candice Shepard Julie Stellhorn	12 Lane Kern <i>Carl & Winifred Rehmer Joe & Aimie Seiber Randall & Carolyn Voss</i>
13	14 Meghan Heck <i>Ken & Julie Fehr</i>	15 Maggie Roy	16	17 Klarc Schnepel Daryl Whelan <i>Jason & Nicki Kadlec Stanley & Janel Voss</i>	18	19 Mindy Hanna Cindy Schnepel <i>Joel & Courtney Bonnett</i>
20 Linda Boente	21 Sophie Fehr Dean Schoenbeck	22 Katie Compton Margaret Luebkmann	23 Justin Salger Stanley Voss <i>Richard & Barbara Mehring</i>	24 <i>Mike & Judy Pour</i>	25 Hilary Sternberg	26 Emma Everding Judy Pour
27 Penelope Krack Charlotte Schoenbeck	28 Catherine Burmester Nichole Rohlfing Billy Walter James Wandro	29 Trenton Guebert Cole Heller Derek McKnight <i>Ralph & Millie Nagel Billie & Hannah Walter</i>	30 Orville Heller			

*If there are any edits, corrections, deletions, or additions to these lists, please notify Pastor Hojnacki so the church's membership computer program can be updated. Thank you!

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit items for the October issue of Trinity Tidings by September 22...
articles, information, recognitions, pictures, etc.

I try to reply to all messages, voicemails, and texts to confirm receipt.

If you do not receive my reply within a day or two, please contact me again.

Note: Items submitted after the deadline may not be included in the issue. Thank you!

Maureen Liefer

mmliefer@htc.net

618-615-3091 (cell/test)

Hard copies will be accepted.

Altar Guild Schedule

September 6: Carol & Betty

September 12: Pearl & Cindy

September 13: Cathy & Michelle

Acolyte Schedule

September: *No acolytes while church services are conducted in the school gym.*

Usher Schedule (for the week of...)

September 6: Matt Piel

September 13: Michael Koester

September 20: Daryl Whelan

September 27: Dean Schoenbeck

Usher Schedule (for the week of...)

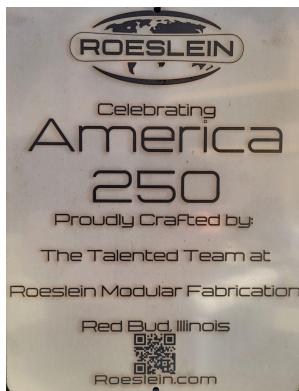
October 4: Roger Liefer

October 11: Doug Stamm

October 18: Tim Luebke

October 25: Youth Group

Editor's Notes: According to the MicroSoft Store Assistant, Microsoft Publisher (the program that Jane Lucht used and I have been using to create Trinity Tidings) is going away. Microsoft says: *"Microsoft Publisher reaches end of life in October 2026. After October 1, 2026, Publisher will no longer be included in Microsoft 365 and subscribers won't be able to open or edit Publisher files in the app. Perpetual (one-time purchase) versions can still be installed and used after that date, but they won't receive support or updates."* I decided to try Google Slides and started using this new program with this month's edition (September, 2026) of *Trinity Tidings*. As with any new adventure, there is a learning curve. Please be patient with me and forgive my errors as I navigate this new challenge. Thank you! Maureen



A Mission Trip To Kenya, Africa

By Cheryl Sauerhage

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. (Eph. 1:16)

Thank you does not adequately express the gratitude Adam and Cheryl Sauerhage can possibly relay to the members of Trinity for your generosity toward the community at Point of Grace Academy (POGA) in Kisumu, Kenya. A door offering of \$434 was collected to help with medical insurance and expenses at POGA. Another \$66 was added to the collection to allow for easy exchange into Kenya shillings. Many thanks also to the Sow and Grow ladies for their donations, and to Rosalyn Thies for making 55 pillowcase dresses.

During the 4 days of medical clinics several patients were recipients of your generous donations. The most interesting part was that when one patient was identified as being in need, the insurance covered not just that person, but the family living in the house as well. We witnessed a woman cry tears of joy at receiving insurance; she had a wound on her leg which had not healed in 16 years. An HIV positive mother brought her 2-week-old baby who required medical attention; we were able to provide insurance for the baby, mom, and the toddler at home.

Cheryl and Adam traveled to POGA with 6 others from the Southern Illinois and Florida-Georgia LWML Districts, from July 17-29, 2026. On their first day in Kisumu, the volunteers toured the POGA campus in the morning and unpacked donations in the afternoon. This included organizing Thrivent shirts and pillowcase dresses by size. Later in the week they were able to distribute the pillowcase dresses.

The medical clinics were free for the community and the POGA students (who were just finishing school and getting ready for winter break when we arrived). Cheryl evaluated aches and pains, working closely with the PA students, and distributed many canes. Adam was able to use his camp counselor skills and work with the POGA pastor and the students on bible studies and sing songs. He also enjoyed time in fellowship and getting to spend time chatting with the kids about life in America.

On Sunday we were able to attend Divine Worship with Holy Communion at POGA. It was truly a moving experience to realize that as Christians around the world we are connected by the love of Christ. Before leaving Kenya, we were able to go on a safari, go to an elephant sanctuary, and feed giraffes.

Anyone can serve as a missionary: our group consisted of 2 pharmacists, a farmer, a physical therapist, a camp counselor, a retired DCE, a pastor, and an accountant, and we met 3 PA students from Seattle while at POGA. Our travels were organized through Medical Mission Teams, which organizes several LWML and medical trips during the year. We thank God for safe travels, your donations and prayers, and the opportunity to serve His people in Kenya.



Right: Entrance sign at the POGA gate.

A Mission Trip To Kenya, Africa continued



Above left: A special meal for the POGA students.



Above right: The PP1 (Pre-School 4) Class.

Below left: Adam leading a bible study for the older students.

Below right: The girls modeling their pillowcase dresses.



Below: At the Shredwick elephant sanctuary.

Below: A rhino by the side of the road during our safari.



A Mission Trip To Kenya, Africa continued



Above left: Modeling our custom-made outfits, along with our seamstress.



Above right: The bubbles were a big hit with the children.

Below left: Mary came to the clinic for a pink cane. She threw her walking stick in the bushes after she got her cane.

Below right: Margaret upon learning she will have insurance for the next year to get treatment for her leg wound.



A Mission Trip To Kenya, Africa continued

Post trip updates:

On August 21, Cheryl received a text from her group coordinator who is back in Kenya with another group. The coordinator wrote that they have been able to provide insurance for five more patients this week! That brings the total to nine patients/families provided with insurance, all from the door offering from Trinity.

And on August 22, one of the patients who received insurance, a boy with cerebral palsy who needed occupational therapy, was able to receive a referral for occupational therapy at the hospital.

His momma was very happy. Praise God!!



A donation was received for restoring the organ pipes back to the original engravings from Geneva Barbeau in loving memory of her parents and grandparents:

Orville & Ellen Buch
Paul & Edna Buch
Ernst & Ella Kloepper

Additional donations were received towards the Organ Pipe Restoration Fund from:

Tim & Lisa Luebkekmann in memory of Josh Heller

Vernon & Jane Lucht memorials

Matthew Dannenberg memorials

In honor of Richard Mehring's 90th Birthday from Geraldine Eggerding and Ed & Bonnie Piel.

With gratitude!

Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026

August 2, 2026

Work continues...



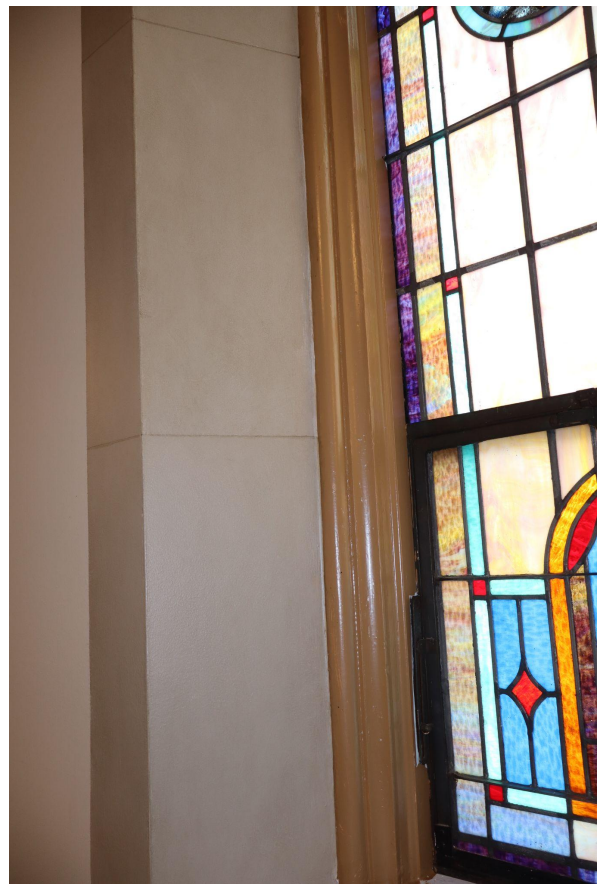
Working on balcony wood face.



Working on the wall around the symbols on either side of the altar.



Working around the door and windows.



Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026

August 9, 2026

Work continues...



Defining the beam on the ceiling as we walk into the sanctuary.



Beginning work on the columns.



Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026

August 10, 2026

Cleaning the pews...that included removing old gum from the underside!



August 16, 2026

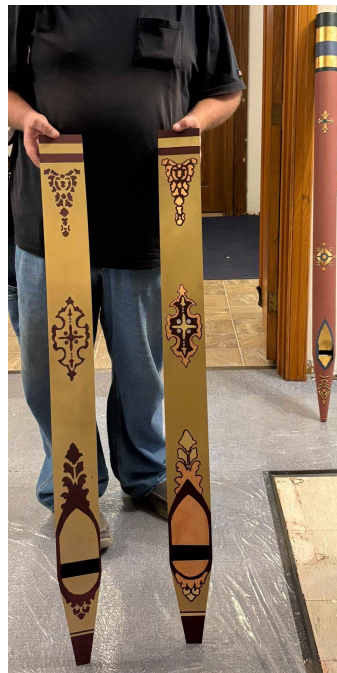
Work continues...



Left & below:
Product delivered this past week.

Right center:
Top of one pillar.

Far right center & below far right:
Color added to the symbols on either side of the altar.



Week of August 16

Immediate right:

Decisions were made regarding the revealed etching on the organ pipes. The left pipe was chosen.

Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026
August 23, 2026
Work continues...



Left & Right:
Changes to the symbols on either side of the altar.

Below:
Definition around the stained glass in front, above the altar.



Above left, above center, & right:
Balcony pillars with marble appearance.



Above:
The mobile work station. 14

Convention of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Report

By Larry L. Erdmann

Christ Is Risen INDEED (based on 1 Corinthians 15:20-22).

This was the theme of the 69th Convention of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, that was held in Phoenix, Arizona, July 18-23, 2026.

I would like to thank the congregations of Circuit 10 of the Southern Illinois District for giving me the opportunity to represent them at the convention.

Joys: The opening service was spectacular. From the Word to the children's choir from all over the synod to celebrating the Lord's Supper with a thousand Lutherans. Hearing beautiful music and many voices singing praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ so loud that you could not hear your own but was blended with all the others!

Sometimes I feel that we are on an island in the world of believing the truth of God's Word, but I found out we are in direct fellowship with 43 other Lutheran church bodies in the world, and some were present at the Convention and were recognized. I got to meet and speak with the incoming bishop of Norway/Iceland.

We met President Harrison at his reception and watched him play the banjo Wednesday night. I met many people I didn't know and some people I had not seen in a long time and people that lived around relatives.

Action Taken: You can find all the resolutions at www.lcms.org/convention/national/publications#todaysbusiness

We passed a resolution allowing churches from other countries that practice what we believe but whose church body has gone the way of the world, to join the closest district in the United States. Example: a church in Japan will be able to join the Northwest District.

We turned down an attempt to change the way that we elect the president. There was a resolution to change it back to electing the president at the convention. The reason being how ugly it got on the internet and how low the percentage of Congregations that actually voted. The opposition to the change argued that pastors need to teach their congregations about the 8th Commandment and the District Presidents need to instruct their congregations on voting in the election.

We passed a resolution that gives thanks to God for the steadfast faith of martyred brothers and sisters in Christ and encourages parish pastors to prepare their congregation to stay faithful

In conclusion, this was a wonderful experience. I had heard of bad things that went on at these conventions and there were times that we have seen how sin is in the human race, but most of the time resolutions were debated with Christian love and respect. President Harrison even thanked the delegates on the Christian way the convention business was conducted.

Thank you for letting me represent you.

Trinity Lutheran Church and School
July 2026

GENERAL FUND

Balance July 1		23,591.77
INCOME:		
Chair donation	50.00	
Dieterich LOC	9,000.00	
Donations	300.00	
Fidelity, Pershing, Ed Jones, Schwab	1,636.38	
General Fund Envelopes	21,711.00	
General Fund Plate Offering	620.00	
Mission Envelopes	75.00	
Missions - Plate	181.00	
Reimbursement for some of Heathers pay	1,856.74	
Thrivent Grant	130.00	
Tuition	1,220.00	
Total Income		36,780.12
EXPENSES:		
Brotherhood Mutual (church and school insurance monthly premium)	1,433.58	
Carrol Pest Solutions	180.00	
CPH (Lutheran Witness)	85.84	
Culligan	38.00	
Dieterich ACH Fee (payroll)	9.20	
Employee self retirement savings	254.30	
Federal Withholding & SS	5,872.90	
Health Equity Fee	13.20	
IGA	45.00	
IL Dept of Revenue	1,401.38	
Illinois Secure Choice	259.32	
Insurance Deductibles	586.05	
Monthly benefits/life,disab/retire	9,058.68	
Osborne Office Eq. (copier lease)	90.95	
Prime Cutting LLC (grass mowing)	2,400.00	
Randy Fischer (guest pastor and mileage)	185.55	
Salaries	24,544.53	
So IL Radio -WHCO	120.00	
Teklab Inc (water testing)	1,750.80	
TLS (reinburse for supplies)	147.26	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - Church	514.82	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - Parsonage	395.15	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - School	1,040.34	
Total Expenses		50,426.85
Balance July 31		9,945.04
Dieterich LOC Balance		45,221.48
Liefer LOC Balance		15,364.76
Total Loans		60,586.24

Trinity Lutheran Church and School
July 2026

BUILDING FUND

Balance July 1 **263,038.36**

INCOME:

Building Fund	50.00	
Brotherhood Insurance check for storm damage	2,454.40	
Interest	17.05	
Total Income		2,521.45

EXPENSES:

Autenrieb (church storm repair painting, final payment)	5,600.00	
Autenrieb (church remodel painting)	24,400.00	
Neal's Htg. & Clg. (school A/C)	185.00	
Neal & Sons Flooring (church remodel flooring, 60% payment)	26,088.45	
Total Expenses		56,273.45

Balance July 31 **209,286.36**

Allocated Funds:

School Memorials	914.86	
Painting Door Fund	865.00	
Cemetery Fund	1,983.95	
Church Remodel	192,369.36	
CD#6=6007.91		

Total Allocated Funds without CD's **196,133.17**

Total Allocated Funds in CD's 1 CD Church Remodel **6,007.91**

Non Allocated Funds (Building Fund general use) **13,153.19**

Total storm damage repair cost=148,781.60 (Insurance paid 138,781.60, LCMS Disaster Grant paid 10,000.00)

Total paid for church remodel to date=50,908.17

Total paid for organ remodel to date=11,307.00

MISSIONS

Mission Commitment **15,000.00**

Envelope Offering	75.00	
Plate Collection	181.00	
Total Offering	256.00	

Trinity School Payroll	256.00	2,476.48
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Southern Illinois District	0.00	8,623.78
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Total Offering to Date **11,100.26**

Balance of Commitment **3,899.74**

Dean Schoenbeck, Treasurer

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 p.m. Elders 7:30 p.m. Church Council	2 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 12:30 p.m. Quilting	3	4	5
6 9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm.	7 <i>No School Labor Day</i>	8 7:00 p.m. Sow N Grow	9 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 12:30 p.m. Quilting	10	11 SID LWML Convention @Edwardsville	12 SID LWML Convention @Edwardsville
13 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Adult Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm. 7:00 p.m. Youth Conf. Class	14	15	16 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 12:30 p.m. Quilting	17	18	19
20 <i>DP Visit</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School DP Presentation 10:00 a.m. Divine Service 7:00 p.m. Youth Conf. Class	21	22 7:00 p.m. BOCE	23 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 12:30 p.m. Quilting	24	25	26
27 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Adult Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Divine Service 7:00 p.m. Youth Conf. Class	28	29	30 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 12:30 p.m. Quilting			