

Trinity Tidings

A monthly newsletter for family and friends of historic Trinity Lutheran Church-Prairie, Illinois

Volume 374, Issue 467

August 2026

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Pastor's Message:

"They acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on earth" (Hebrews 11:13).

One of the recurring themes of the Bible is the temporary nature of life on earth. Mortal life is quite short, compared to the eternity of God. Although this earthly life may be all that we have ever known, it is very little compared to the eternal life which God has prepared for His people. For this reason, God's people in the Bible often refer to themselves as travelers, strangers, exiles, pilgrims, and sojourners – not permanent residents in this place but just passing through this life looking forward to the life of the world to come.

I've been thinking about this quite a bit the past few months, as we gather for worship in the school gym while the renovations to the church building continue. Even as we gather as God's people to hear the Word of God, pray, sing, and give our offerings as we have always done, there is a definite feeling that we are not home, that this setting cannot be permanent. It is in many ways reminiscent of the Old Testament tabernacle, the place of worship which was essentially a tent that the Israelites could carry with them from place to place as they traveled. It was only after many years in the Promised Land that the temple was constructed.

Continue on page 5/Message



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

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

Trinity Workers

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

Church Music Director: Sarah Koester

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

Youth Leader: Lisa Luebkekmann

Trinity Tidings Editor: Maureen Liefer

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

Teachers: Cassie O'Hara, Andrea Sattler,
Angie Trask, Andrew Wiggenghorn

School Choir Director: Andrew Wiggenghorn

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

Visit Trinity Lutheran Church & School on the Web <http://www.trinityredbud.com>

Special Voters Meeting June 28, 2026

A special meeting was called to order by Chairman Ken Fehr, following the Sunday morning church service. 56 members were present. The meeting was in regards to re-finishing the pews. There was a suggestion that while they are all out of the church for the church painting, it might be a good time to do that also.

The redecorating committee got two quotes. The first quote was a company from Wisconsin who would pick them up, refinish them, and return them for \$42,000. But it would be September or October before they could do them. The second quote was from a company in North Carolina, they also would pick up and return them. They could start fairly soon but their quote was \$56,000.

A question was asked if there would be extra money left in our remodeling fund. Ken mentioned that currently the plan is to repair and paint the whole interior of the church, replace the flooring and replacing the south door. The amount of money in the remodeling fund probably won't quite cover all of this. So, we will have a debt.

A comment was made that most pews aren't in that bad of shape.

After brief discussion, Chairman Fehr asked for a show of hands who would be in favor of going forward with re-finishing the pews. There was no one in favor of this. So, the pews will not be re-finished.

The congregation was also invited to a meeting tomorrow evening at the church to see paint samples on the walls and decide what color to go with.

The meeting was adjourned.

Kathy Nagel, Secretary

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting July 7, 2026

Present: Ken Fehr, Mark Liefer, Kathy Nagel, Roger Liefer, Darrell Salger, and Tim Luebkekmann.

Opening: Chairman Ken Fehr called the meeting to order. He led us in an opening prayer.

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 was unable to attend but sent the report. He had to borrow \$20,000 from our Dieterich LOC. But the Lord blessed us with a good deposit at month end so the extra money will carry over to July. Our current debt is \$36,221 at Dieterich and \$15,325 from Liefer LOC. In the building fund, we received a check from Brotherhood Insurance for storm damage.

Continue on page 3/Church Council

Church Council:

We also cashed out the Johanning CD for \$233,797, which is designated for the remodeling project. Expenses are coming in for the remodeling project. Autenrieb, the painting company, is submitting bills every two weeks. This month's bill was \$27,000. Jason Kadlec has volunteered his time to build and extend the chancel floor/kneeling area. Thank you, Jason! Neals Heating & Cooling replaced an air conditioner above the kindergarten room at a cost of \$12,250. Mission offerings this month were good.

Pastor's Report: Pastor and Heather are on vacation this week. Pastor sent his report. Attendance is comparable to past summer services in church. He appreciates everyone's patience and cooperation with the unusual and uncomfortable situation in the gym. We are still recording and posting services to YouTube while in the gym. We are no longer broadcasting on WHCO. Pastor added a brief message to the June recordings noting that services will no longer be on the radio but can be found on YouTube. In official acts, there was one funeral, David Marler on June 5. When the redecoration is complete, a special Service of Rededication will be held. The national LCMS Convention will be held July 18-23. The delegates from our circuit are Rev. Lyle Buettner from New Athens and Larry Erdmann from Trinity. Rev. Matthew Harrison has been reelected to another term as Synod President. Pastor is planning another New Member class in the fall; he received some interest. If anyone else would be interested, please contact Pastor.

Trustee's Report: No report

Elder's Report: Nothing to report.

Redecoration Committee: Tim reported everything is going well with the painting. Every Monday the committee meets with the painter to view the progress and make any decisions. Wicks Organ has found that the organ pipes had some very unique and beautiful stenciling under the paint, and wanted to know if we wanted to restore that. Tim asked what that would cost, but hasn't heard yet.

A letter was received from Cheryl Sauerhage asking for approval to have a door offering this Sunday. She, along with several other members from the LWML SID, are going on a mission trip to Kenya, Africa. They are taking many supplies with them to help these needy people. The door offering will be taken to help buy insurance for these children. It cost \$50 per child, which is more than a year's income for most of these families. The approval for a door offering was granted.

It was noted that a teacher has been hired for the 3rd – 4th grade.

A motion was made and moved to adjourn. Ken led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Nagel, Secretary

August Birthdays***August 1**

Austin Dillow
Randall Voss

August 3

Joseph Barbeau
Briggs Burmester
Sue Guebert
Corbin Lange

August 4

Derek Trask

August 6

Genelle Thomas

August 7

Grayson Wandro

August 8

Marian Groetecke

August 9

Elaine Byer
Wayne Kruse
Tina Nagel
Kenneth Salger

August 11

Ryan Luebke
Waylon Schoenbeck

August 12

Katie Bowlin
Carolyn Voss

August 13

Adam Matzenbacher

August 14

Edna DesRoches
Dustin Esker

August 18

Mark Liefer
Travis Pour

August 19

Travis Everding

August 20

Kaisley Brunkhorst

August 21

Denise Heller
Marilyn Liefer

August 22

Kenneth Nagel
Glenn Pautler
Hailey Voss
Kerry Wandro
Gary Woods

August 23

Martha Mehring

August 24

John Woods

August 25

Keith Kinzel
Nichole Matzenbacher
Logan Voss

August 26

Gayle Juelfs

August 27

Khloe DuFrenne

August 28

Grayson Bonnett
Keniv Byer
Richard Langrehr
Jason Salger

August 30

Dillon Dannenberg
Brogan DuFrenne
Jane Rohlfing
Aimie eiber
Jamie Salger

August 31

Jordan Buch
Kristen Johnson
Jeff Mehring
David Salger
Dennis Salger

August Anniversaries***August 1**

Brian & Monique Mehring

August 3

Michael & Sarah Koester

August 4

Louis & Sheryl Rehmer
Greg & Julie Stellhorn
Richard & Beverly Stellhorn

August 5

Joel & Debra Roberts

August 6

Aaron & Cheri Lange

August 11

Jason & Kayla Buch

August 12

Melvin & Pearl Guebert

August 19

Adam & Eva Buch
Dirk & Amanda Stamm

August 20

Wayne & Sandra Ruhmann

August 21

Edward & Amy Hesch

August 23

Jesse & Rachel Krebs

August 24

Austin & Brie Dillow

August 26

Kurt & Larissa Wandro

August 27

Kolan & Kristen Schoenbeck

August 28

Bryan & Julie Heck

August 29

Karl & Marilyn Langrehr

August 31

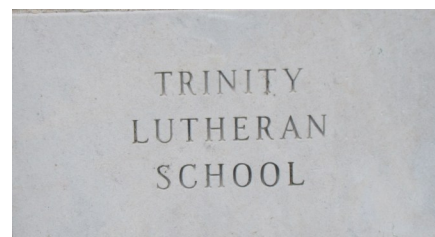
Dennis & Shelly Salger

Trinity Lutheran School

Dr. Robin Booth, Principal

Mission Statement:

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



**August 11, 2026
First Day**

**May God bless your
school year!**

Saturday, July 11, 2026 Local history in the making!

There was a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome the new Don Welge Memorial Bridge to our area. It replaces the old bridge that connects Chester, IL & Perryville, MO.

Info from North County News (July 16, 2026)



Message:

Of course, even the temple was temporary, serving its purpose as the house of God on earth for a few hundred years until Christ came, but even it no longer stands. Even when the work in our church is complete and the doors are reopened, we remember that this house of God also is temporary, here for us during our time on earth in this place, but it too will pass away when Christ comes again (if not before).

The worship services that we enjoy on earth are meant to remind us of the fleeting nature of this life, and point us to the eternal reality of heaven. Just as the tabernacle and the temple of old prepared the people for Christ to come in the flesh, so too does our church prepare us for Christ to come again and take us home to Himself in heaven, where we will sing the praise of God in His presence forever. Until then, the journey continues...

Trinity Lutheran BOCE Meeting 7/21/2026 7:00 p.m.

Present: Pastor Hojnacki, Dr. Booth, Jonathan Mehring, Charlotte Schnepel, Stephanie Stamm, and Tim Schrader.

Minutes from last month were approved

Sunday School Report: Sunday School will resume on September 13th. Pastor will put a note in the church bulletin asking for Sunday School teachers.

Finance report was reviewed and approved

Administrator's Report – Robin:

There are 31 students registered so far. We had another family reach out yesterday showing interest in bringing their child here. The 3D printer is all set up and ready to go. Spanish curriculum is ready, and it will be an online live class that will be taught to the students 1x weekly.

Old Business

Green Folders: Folders should be good, and prices are updated. Joyce has done a great job getting those organized and ready.

Finalize back-to-school night/morning & get info out to parents: With church service being in the gym this summer, and the concern of it being a bit chaotic with the transition, we decided to keep the open house in the evening. It will be 6:00pm on August 9th.

School marketing plan: Robin has been putting them in all the local papers.

New Business

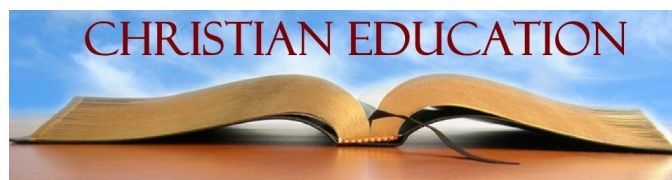
Technology review-We got 10 new Chromebooks. Dr. Booth still has to check with a couple of teachers on their Promethean boards, but she thinks all of them are working well.

Girls' basketball tournament & school play: Girls' basketball tournament is Dec. 4th/5th and school play is Dec. 13th at 6:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Next BOCE meeting is Tuesday August 25th at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Charlotte Schnepel



thrivent®

CHOICE DOLLARS



The way it WAS:

You had to have certain kinds
of policies to get Choice Dollars

Choice Dollars were given to
you quarterly

Had till March 31st of the next
calendar year to direct your
Choice Dollars

The way it is NOW:

Now everybody that has a
Thrivent policy gets Choice
Dollars

Choice Dollars are given to
all at one time = mid-April

Now have until December 31st
of each calendar year

This will mean more Choice Dollars to be given to favorite charities – like our Church. If you have never received Choice Dollars, YOU HAVE SOME NOW. Go to: thrivent.com/thriventchoice to read more about the program and to direct your Choice Dollars to your favorite charity.

Thank You...

A donation was received in honor of Mark & Vicky Cowell's 50th wedding anniversary from Mark & Maureen Liefer. The Cowell couple requested no gifts; however, if invited friends and family insisted on giving a gift, that the gift be a donation to a church of the friends/family's choice in lieu of personal gifts to the couple.



Thank You...

Prairie Peelers

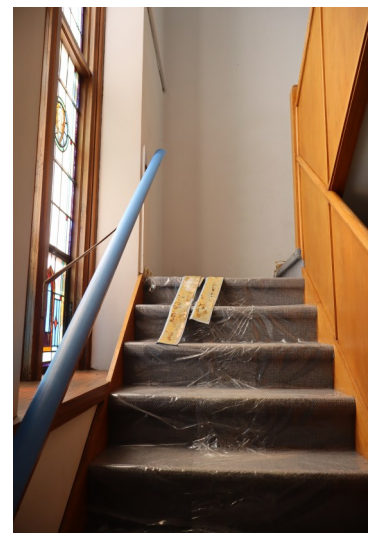
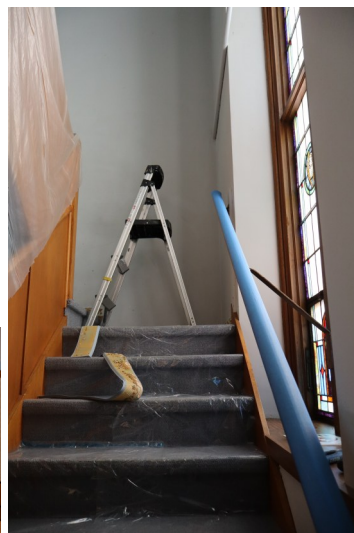
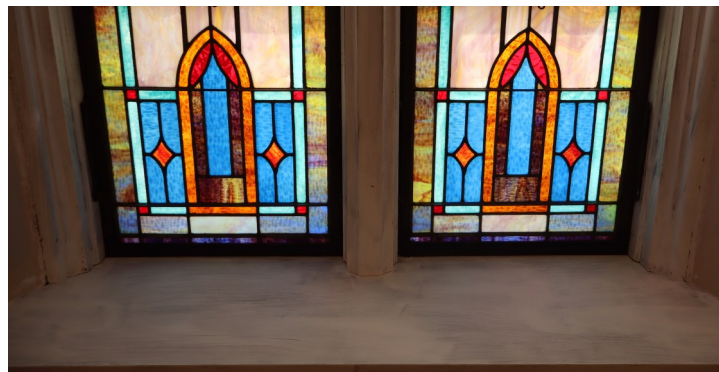
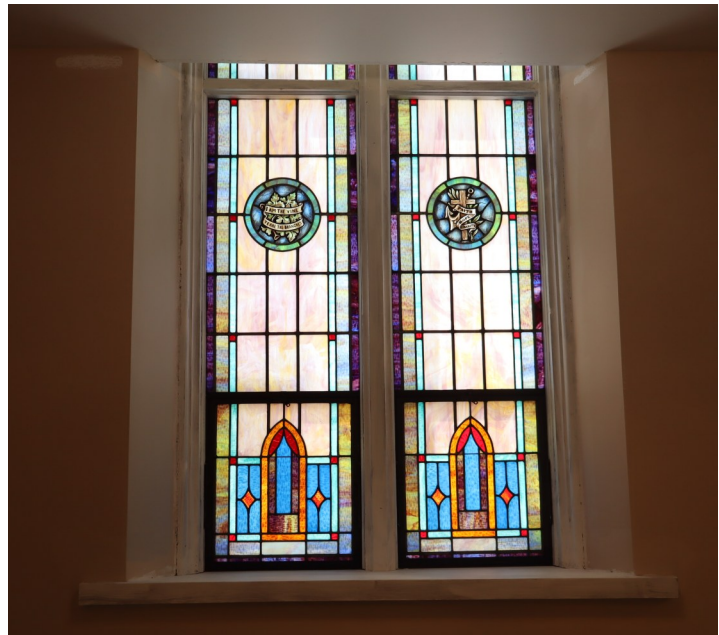
Thanks to everyone for your help this year. It was good to see our regular Prairie Peelers AND some new peelers — 33 volunteers!
Many thanks to IGA for their generous donation for ingredients!
And thank you to Thrivent for additional grant \$.

A total of \$1,008 was received from the Red Bud Fire Department for 300 pounds of potato salad!!
The money was given to the redecorating project.
Thank you, Denise Heller!



Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026 With the Lord continue the task.

June 28, 2026



Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026

June 29, 2026

Paint color selection.

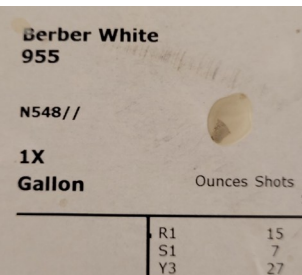
The congregation was invited to attend a color-selection meeting on Monday evening. Four colors were painted on two walls.

In addition, three color finishes were displayed for the organ pipes.

Voting was done with paper ballots.



Andrew Autenrieb was present at the meeting to answer questions. Meeting attendees selected Berber White (Benjamin Moore) paint and pale gold for the organ pipes



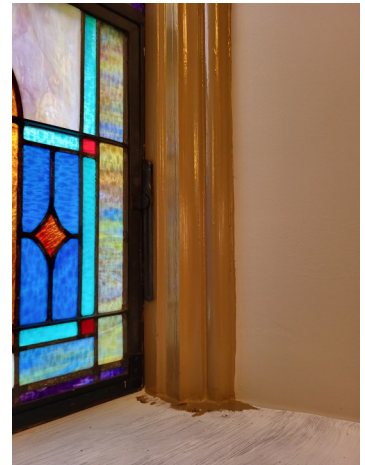
Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026

July 5, 2026
Progress...



Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026

July 19, 2026



Memorial
candle
was
moved
and
remains
lit.





Thank You...

A special thanks to Shawn Woods for
checking and cleaning the church's
ceiling fans!!
They look good...

(Note the organ chimes in the left
background.)

How brave!

Newsletter Deadline:

Please submit items for the **September 2026** issue of Trinity Tidings
by August 22...articles, information, recognitions, pictures, etc.

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

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

Note: *Items submitted after the deadline date may not be included in the issue.*

Thank you!

Maureen Liefer

mmliefer@htc.net

618-615-3091 (cell/text), 282-2072 (home)

Hard copies accepted.

Altar Guild Schedule

August 2: Rosalyn & Sharon

August 8: Jane & Margaret

August 9: Lexi, Brie, & Emily

Acolyte Schedule

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

Usher Schedule (for the week of...)

August 2: Roger Liefer

August 9: Doug Stamm

August 16: Tim Luebke

August 23: Youth Group

August 30: Jeff Mehring

September 6: Matt Piel

September 13: Michael Koester

September 20: Daryl Whelan

September 27: Dean Schoenbeck

Trinity Lutheran Church and School
June 2026

GENERAL FUND

Balance June 1 **13,350.47**

INCOME:

CD Interest	959.49	
Dieterich LOC	20,000.00	
Donations	215.00	
Fidelity, Pershing, Ed Jones, Schwab	1,000.00	
General Fund Envelopes	36,375.00	
General Fund Plate Offering	1,277.00	
Memorials	445.00	
Mission Envelopes	2,100.00	
Missions - Plate	155.00	
Registration	50.00	
Thrivent Charity Grant	919.00	
Total Income		63,495.49

EXPENSES

AW SVCS (water testing service)	100.00	
Brotherhood Mutual (church and school insurance monthly premium)	1,433.58	
Brotherhood Mutual (workmans comp insurance quarterly premium)	724.99	
Concordia Publishing House (LW and bulletins)	305.83	
Cotton's Inc	22.14	
Culligan Water Treatment	87.00	
Dieterich ACH Fee (payroll)	9.30	
Dieterich LOC payment	200.00	
Employee self retirement savings	381.45	
Federal Withholding & SS	6,251.77	
Harland Clarke (checks)	53.62	
Health Equity (Insurance Deductibles)	270.13	
Health Equity Fee	13.20	
IL Dept of Revenue	1,503.53	
Illinois Secure Choice	142.34	
Missions Southern IL District	1,838.34	
Monthly benefits/life,disab/retire	9,058.68	
North County News (picnic add)	99.75	
Picnic	272.61	
Prime Cutting LLC (grass mowing)	3,000.00	
Salaries	25,793.78	
SID Pastors Conference Fee	150.00	
Supplies	99.93	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - Church	302.70	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - Parsonage	266.04	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - School	723.48	
WHCO - broadcast	150.00	
Total Expenses		53,254.19

Balance June 30 **23,591.77**

Dieterich LOC Balance	36,221.48
Liefer LOC Balance	15,325.71
Total Loans	51,547.19

Trinity Lutheran Church and School
June 2026

BUILDING FUND

Balance June 1 **154,032.82**

INCOME:

Building Fund	50.00	
Potato Salad Redecorating Fund	1,008.00	
Brotherhood Insurance check for storm damage	30,001.81	
Johanning Remodel Fund CD cash out	233,797.04	
Interest	10.01	
Total Income		264,866.86

EXPENSES:

M & R Construction Inc (church storm repair)	113,727.20	
Kolan Schoenbeck (equipment rental church storm repair)	2,454.40	
Dieterich wire fee (Johanning CD funds wire to bank)	10.00	
Autenrieb (church storm repair painting, partial payment)	27,000.00	
Neals Heating & Cooling (School RTU replacement)	12,250.00	
Jason Kadlec(reimburse for wood and supplies,expand Alter floor area)	419.72	
Total Expenses		155,861.32

Balance June 30 **263,038.36**

Allocated Funds:

School Memorials	914.86	
Painting Door Fund	865.00	
Cemetery Fund	1,983.95	
Church Remodel	242,857.81	
CD#6=6007.91		

Total Allocated Funds without CD's **246,621.62**

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

Non Allocated Funds (Building Fund general use) **16,416.74**

MISSIONS

Mission Commitment **15,000.00**

Envelope Offering	2,100.00	
Plate Collection	155.00	
Total Offering	2,255.00	

Trinity School Payroll	416.66	2,220.48
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Southern Illinois District	1,838.34	8,623.78
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Total Offering to Date **10,844.26**

Balance of Commitment **4,155.74**

Dean Schoenbeck, Treasurer

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm.	3	4 7:00 p.m. Elders 7:30 p.m. Church Council	5 12:30 p.m. Quilting	6	7	1 8
9 9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm. 6:00 p.m. School Open House	10	11 7:45 a.m. First Day of School	12 12:30 p.m. Quilting	13	14	15
16 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	17	18	19 12:30 p.m. Quilting	20	21	22
23 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	24	25 7:00 p.m. BOCE	26 12:30 p.m. Quilting	27	28	29
30 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	31					