

Trinity Tidings

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

Volume 374, Issue 466

July 2026

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Pastor's Message:

“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” (Matthew 22:21)

This is Jesus’ answer to a question that was posed to Him concerning paying taxes to the Roman Empire. What is fascinating, and critically important, about Jesus’ statement, is that those who questioned Him assumed that it was an “either-or” proposition – either one is obedient to the government, or one remains faithful to God. Jesus’ response to them, affirming both one’s duty to God and one’s duty to the government (Caesar), has served as guidance for faithful Christians ever since.

Martin Luther also spent quite a bit of time during the Reformation affirming this teaching of Jesus. When faced with those who believed that God desired Christians to have absolute control of the government in all places, and those who believed that Christian faithfulness meant completely abandoning civil government and civil society, Luther pointed back to the teachings of Jesus and emphasized the duties of the Christian

Continue on page 3/Message

Official Acts

Funeral: David Marler on June 5



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
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Youth Leader: Lisa Luebke

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 Wiggernhorn

School Choir Director: Andrew Wiggernhorn

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>

**Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting
June 2, 2026**

Present: Pastor Hojnacki, Ken Fehr, Mark Liefer, Kathy Nagel, Dean Schoenbeck, Brenda Brewer, Roger Liefer, Darrell Salger, Cliff Harms, Michael Koester, Tim Luebke, Danny Salger, Eric Rohlfing, and Jonathan Mehring.

Opening: Chairman Ken Fehr called the meeting to order. Pastor led us in prayer.

School Board Report: Jonathan reported that they are interviewing a candidate for the 3rd-4th grade teacher. The hiring committee will plan to meet with this applicant this week. He also reported that Trinity was well represented at the State Lutheran Track Meet and should be very proud of them. A number of them had personal best records, Kelton Schnepel, Micah Satler, Leah Satler, and the girls relay team and Emily Mehring made the podium. The school board reviewed the staff handbook. They have someone interested to work the after-school program next year. The lunch fees will be raised slightly for next year. A registration day will be held in July.

Secretary Report: The minutes have been sent out. With no questions or corrections, a motion was made and moved to accept the secretary report.

Treasurer's Report: Dean reported he had to borrow \$10,000 this month to cover cost. So our current loan balance is \$16,395 (Dieterich Bank LOC) and \$15,288 (Liefer LOC). The picnic had a profit of \$7,750 with approximately 320 dinners served. The school activity fund gave a donation of \$16,000 to the church to help pay for school expenses. Last month it was decided to replace the sidewalks in front of school with some of this money. But all the labor was donated by the trustees and Adam Schnaus and the concrete was donated in memory of Glennon and Elaine Goetting by Steve & Linda Koester & Roger's Redi-Mix. So the activity fund money will be used to cover the HVAC bill of \$13,000, and any other school repair projects. In regards to the tornado damage, we received \$106,325 from the insurance company, \$10,000 from an LCMS disaster grant, and \$1,340 from the flower committee, for a total of \$117,665. Middendorf's bill is \$113,727 and equipment rental is \$2,454 totaling \$116,181 so this is covered. Middendorf's bill did not cover the interior work which when done we should get another \$10,776 from the insurance and the rest will need to be paid for by church remodel as originally planned. The Johanning \$200,000 CD matured and earned \$33,495. This was designated for the remodel project. One more CD, the Dannenberg CD will renew for 3 months. A motion was made and moved to accept the treasurers report.

Pastors Report: Pastor reported that only 23 attended the Ascension Day service. In official acts we had a transfer out of Krista Wandro and Aria Allen to Trinity Lutheran in Springfield, IL. This coming Sunday will be the first service held in the school gym. The services will continue to be recorded and put on YouTube. Pastor reported that David Marler passed away and his funeral will be at the funeral home.

Elder's Report: The subject of the WHCO broadcast was brought up again. There has been no response from the congregation that anyone listens to this broadcast. With the cost of the broadcast, the cost of the new software to edit, and the hours each week to prepare that file, a motion was made and moved to stop the WHCO broadcast of our church services. We may

Continue on page 3/Church Council

Church Council:

consider running an ad on WHCO informing people that our services can be found on YouTube.

Trustee’s Report: There has been a problem with getting our water samples but Eric is following up on that and will try to get that resolved.

Redecorating: Tim Luebkekmann thanked everyone for the help on Sunday, moving all the pews and everything out of church to the school so the redecorating project can begin. Wicks Organ will be here June 9 to take the pipes off the organ and take to their facility to clean and paint. The painting company arrived today with scaffolding. When they have finished doing all the repairs needed, they will put paint color samples on the wall. Then the congregation will come in to the church to look at the colors and decide what they want. This will probably be done following a Sunday morning service. With all the wood we have in church, they are suggesting a cream, or neutral colors. The approximate cost of the painting will be \$175,000 depending on how much detailing will be done. An approximate cost for flooring is \$40,000, which will not be finalized until we decide on the church color. A question was asked about refinishing the pews since they are out. Tim said he can check into that, but just wasn’t sure if we will have enough funds to cover that. We will have additional cost of replacing the south door and the materials to extend the chancel area.

A motion was made and moved to adjourn the meeting. Pastor led us in the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Nagel, Secretary

Message:

in both the physical and spiritual realms. Luther called it “the Two Kingdoms,” God’s reign on earth through civil authorities, and God’s reign over the Church through the preaching of His Word.

We, as Christians, belong to both Kingdoms; we are members of the Church as the children of God, and we are part of the State as citizens, with both of those vocations having their own unique rights and duties. On the 250th anniversary of our country, we give thanks to God for His abundant blessings and pray His continued care for His people in body and soul.

The 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is scheduled for July 18–23, 2026, in Phoenix, Arizona.

“The national convention of the Synod shall afford an opportunity for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information. It is the principal legislative assembly, which amends the Constitution and Bylaws, considers and takes action on reports and overtures, and handles appropriate appeals. It establishes general positions and policies of the Synod, provides overall program direction and priorities, and evaluates all such positions, programs, policies, directions, and priorities in order to provide responsible service for and on behalf of its members.” (Bylaw 3.1.1)

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Message:

The official delegates to the Convention from our Circuit are Rev. Lyle Buettner (New Athens) and Mr. Larry Erdmann (Prairie). Please feel free to speak with our delegates about any questions or concerns you might have regarding Convention business.

More information, including reports, resolutions, and candidates for election, can be found at www.lcms.org/convention/national

 NOTE: Pastor Hojnacki will be on vacation July 1-10. Rev. Randy Fischer will be the guest preacher on July 5. If you have an emergency and are in need of pastoral care, please contact one of the elders, and they can arrange care for you. You may also contact the office at St. John, Red Bud, for assistance.



Preamble to the United States Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution>

July Birthdays*

July Anniversaries*

July 2

Devin Burmester
Elaine Cunningham
Kelly Hahn
Brayden Seiber
Kyle Wandro
Shawn Woods

July 3

Evie Bonnett

July 4

Geneva Barbeau
Preston Krack

July 5

Dirk Stamm
Phyllis Wood

July 6

Jared Heck

July 7

Nancy Richards

July 8

Julie Heck

July 9

Jared Piel

July 10

Jay Gonstal

July 11

Eva Kinney
Roger Liefer
Elijah Sattler

July 13

Hailey Harbaugh
Emma Salger
David Seemann

July 14

Scott Nagel
Kurt Wandro

July 15

Teresa Guebert
Douglas Mehring

July 17

Miranda Hesch
Debra Roberts

July 21

Eric Rohlfing

July 22

Carrigan Salger

July 23

Kobe Brosch

July 24

Brenda Brewer
Curt Everding
Daniel Kloepper
Warren Lucht
Paul Voges

July 25

Riley McKnight
Joel Roberts

July 27

Norah Jeffers

July 28

Kaliana Brunkhorst
Annika Herriman
Harryson Rohlfing
Rebecca Shepard

July 29

Ross Wendt

July 31

Tracy Burmester
Kavid Koester
Richard Mehring
Faye Piel
Aidan Schoenbeck

July 1

Glenn & Tamil Pautler
Eric & Sarah Piel
Chris & Hilary Sternberg

July 4

Joy & David Bauer
Todd & Hollie Burmester

July 7

Eric & Katie Bowlin
Robert & Jean Voges

July 15

Chris & Katie Compton

July 17

Kevin & Jenny Voss

July 19

Keith & Tracy Burmester

July 20

Michael & Heather Juelfs

July 21

Jenna & Kensey Andrews

July 23

Justin & Stephanie Kadlec
Danny & Cheryl Salger

July 26

Kevin & Kerry Lucht
Tim & Lisa Luebke

July 27

Ronald & Phyllis Wood

**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!*

Trinity Lutheran BOCE meeting May 27, 2026

Present: Pastor, Dr Booth, Jonathan Mehring, Charlotte Schnepel, Cheri Lange, Stephanie Stamm, Tim Schrader

Minutes from last month were approved – motion made by Tim, second by Stephanie

Finance report was reviewed & approved – motion made by Cheri, second by Tim

Sunday School report – Finished up on 5/10 – presented perfect attendance awards, will resume Sunday School on 9/13

Administrator's report:

There is someone interested in the after-school care position. Will check to see what days will be needed and do a background check/interview.

Voted to increase lunch to \$4/meal, milk to 0.45 cents, ala carte items \$1.75 to adjust to raising costs – motion passed by majority vote

Discussed metal bench and if they could be removed – will bring up to the trustees

Adding Spanish classes for 7/8 grade for the next school year. May look at adding sign language in the future. Also going to get a 3D printer for school and Mrs. O'Hara has agreed to take on this project. Looking into grants to cover the cost.

Registration days will be announced during the summer

Old Business:

Lutheran State Track meet – came home with very good results from Kelton, Micah, Leah, Emily, Addie, also relay team had a PR – school should be proud of they way they carried themselves at the track meet and over the whole weekend

School play went well. Attendance was light for the play and for the picnic overall. Next year we need to communicate the date/time of the play to the congregation.

Tuition tracking through Teacher Ease – Joyce has taken this over and will be ready for next year

Reviewing faculty/staff handbook and student handbook for upcoming school year. Will review and bring for approval at June meeting. Not much needs to be changed as it was edited last year.

New Business:

Form a hiring committee for teacher position: Pastor, Dr Booth, Chairman, 1 elder, 1 teacher, 1 member, anyone from BOCE can also be on committee – Pastor will bring up at next church council meeting

BOCE self-evaluation

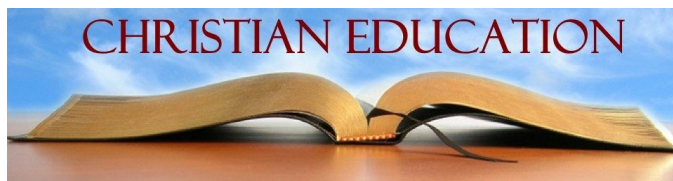
Review and update the 5 year plan

Formally review MAP test scores at July meeting

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Next BOCE meeting is June 23rd at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Cheri Lange



Trinity Lutheran BOCE Meeting 6/23/2026 7:00 pm

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

Minutes from last month were approved

Sunday School Report- There is nothing new to report. Sunday School will resume on September 13th.

Finance report was reviewed and approved

Administrator's Report – Robin:

Map testing- Overall, students achieved great testing scores. Most were above the 80th percentile. Dr. Booth signed the contract and paid for the Spanish curriculum. The 3D printer and all supplies came in and will be set up soon. Dr. Booth is planning to publish a colored ad to show these great new opportunities and programs Trinity is offering. During registration days, we had 3 new families show up to register their children.

Old Business

3rd/4th grade teacher update-We have hired a teacher, and she signed the contract today, has all paperwork done, and fingerprints done. She has great energy, and we believe she will be a great addition to the school.

Handbook review-Everyone looked over the handbook, and no revisions were recommended at this time.

Registration packet review-It was thoroughly reviewed last year, and everything was updated. No changes are needed. Several people commented that the registration packet is much more organized and user-friendly than previous years.

New Business

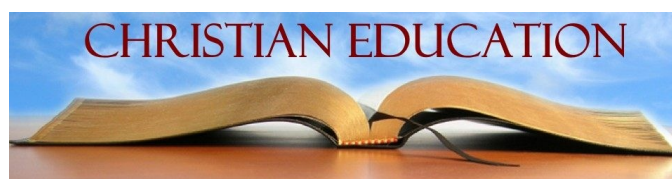
Reviewed statement of philosophy-No changes were recommended. The adoption date will be updated and included in the handbook.

Open house-It is scheduled for Sunday, August 9th at 6:00 pm. The board discussed incorporating a Blessing of the Backpacks and inviting families to attend church and breakfast that morning. Teachers and staff will discuss the idea further and finalize the details.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Next BOCE meeting is Tuesday July 21 at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Charlotte Schnepel



**WITH THE LORD BEGIN YOUR TASK (LSB Hymn 869)
Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026**



**May 31,
2026**

**First floor
pews were
removed
from Trinity
Lutheran
Church**



Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026



May 31, 2026

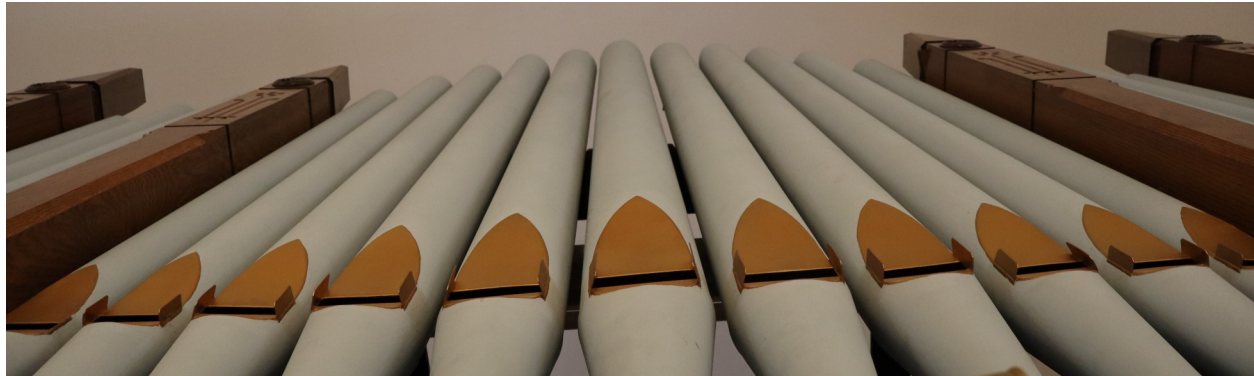
First floor pews were removed and taken to be stored in Trinity Lutheran School's gym.



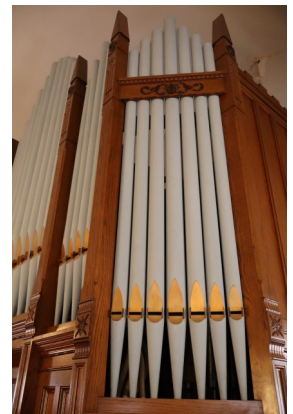
Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026

June 2, 2026

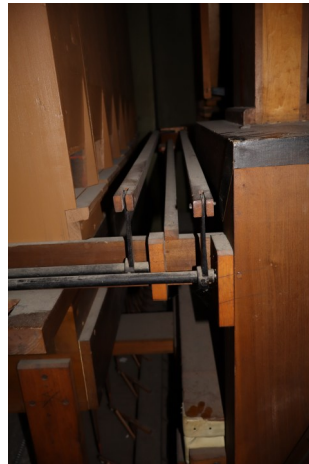
Wick's Organ Company removed organ pipes. They took many pipes with them to refurbish and the remaining pipes are stored in the school's Kindergarten room.



Top, left, and right:
Three before pictures of some of the organ's visible pipes.



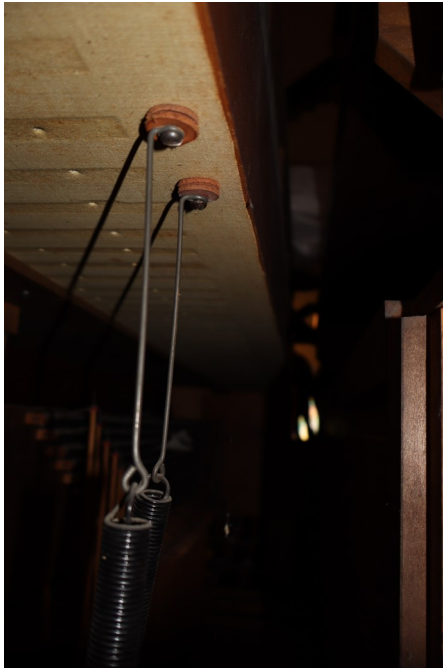
Below:
Pipes removed. Organ's internal components revealed.



Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026

June 2, 2026

Below left and right: Internal organ components.



Above, left, and right:
A Wick's Organ Company worker climbed into the organ cavity, disconnected pipes, and handed them down to Grace's waiting hands.

Below:
The chimes located deep & high. Beautiful sounds when Dean plays organ chimes.



Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026



June 7, 2026

Above:

Trinity school's gym was set up to temporarily conduct services during the renovation.

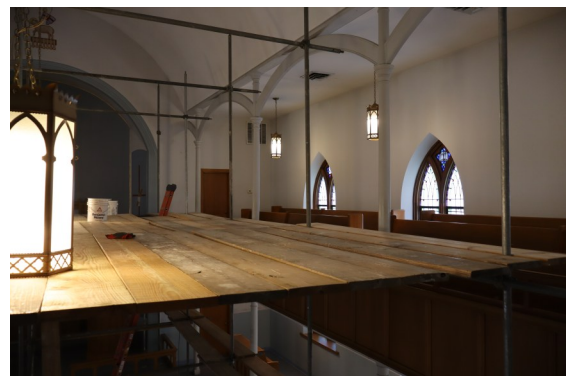
Below and right:

Pew cushions and pads are stacked in the gym.



Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026

June 7, 2026
Scaffolding built this past week.



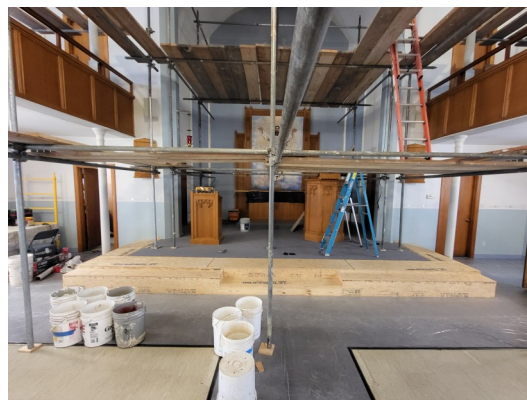
Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026

June 14, 2026

Additional scaffolding built...now above the lights.



**Below center, below left, and below right:
Altar area extension framed.**



Renovation of Trinity Lutheran Church 2026

June 21, 2026

Work continues. A great deal of priming has been done. Good bye blue.



Anna (Widows') Group

The trip to Kimmswick, MO, originally scheduled for June, has been rescheduled to a date to be determined (but before school starts).

All widows are welcome to join us.

If you would like to be added to our list, please contact Janice Cowell (618-340-1394) or Cheryl Sauerhage (217-313-6397).



Thank You...

Memorials to Trinity Church & School were received in memory of David Marler.

Newsletter Deadline:

Please submit items for the **August 2026** issue of Trinity Tidings **by July 21**...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)

Unable to open/use .heic and/or .heif files

Hard copies accepted.

Altar Guild Schedule

July 5: Louis & Grace
July 11: Sheryl & Faye
July 12: Amy & Nicole

Acolyte Schedule

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

Usher Schedule (for the week of...)

July 5: Matt Piel
July 12: Michael Koester
July 19: Daryl Whelan
July 26: Dean Schoenbeck

August 2: Roger Liefer
August 9: Doug Stamm
August 16: Tim Luebkemann
August 23: Youth Group
August 30: Jeff Mehring



DISTASTER RESPONSE NEARBY

Bryce Cramer, SID Assistant District Disaster Response coordinator, has been in Central Illinois since Saturday (June 20, 2026). Mr. Cramer took lots of blankets that had been made by our own Trinity Quilters. The person in the black t-shirt (below) used a walker to get around. A super nice gentleman, he sat on his covered deck to watch the work crew work.

Thank you Mr. Cramer and Mary Hamilton for sharing these pictures.



Youth Group's Mission Trip to Hendersonville, NC

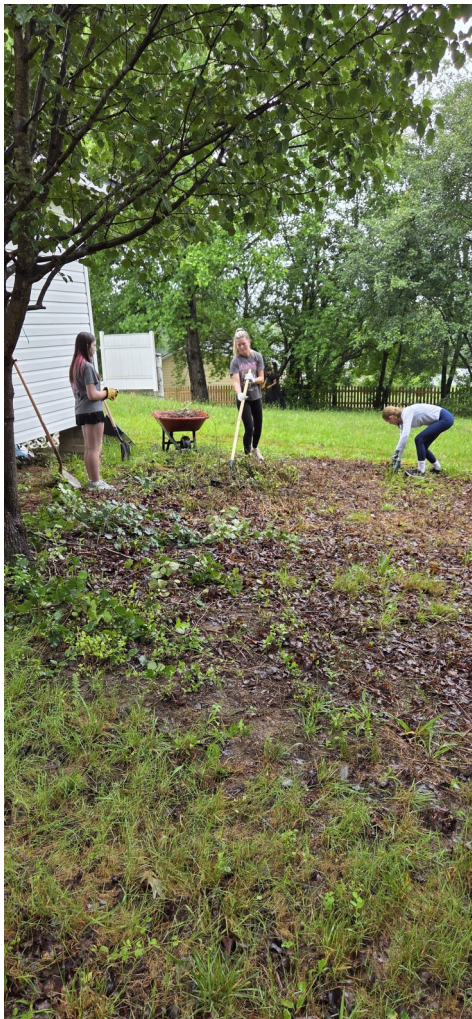
Trinity Youth Group took a mission trip to Hendersonville, NC to help with some hurricane Helene cleanup and to help some families in need.

The group cleaned up an elderly couple's yard by trimming the trees, picking up sticks, weeding around the fence and cleaning up brush. They also helped with some tree removal in the woods behind Mt. Pisgah church. The people of Mt. Pisgah church have been helping so many families with clean up from the hurricane that they haven't been able to clean up their own property. The youth also pulled weeds and trimmed trees around the church.

The group took some time out of their work schedule to visit a shut-in whose home was damaged by trees falling on her roof from the hurricane. Ms. Marie has had to use buckets to catch rain water since 2024. They took her a pizza and a few gifts for her house. Ms. Marie was so happy to visit with the youth and was very appreciative of the pizza, gifts and money.

The youth group kids also chose to purchase some items that were on the wish list tree at church for the preschool.

With the door collection from Trinity church members the youth group bought gift cards for the members of Mt. Pisgah to use in continuing the clean up in their community.



Working at Ms. Debbie and Bill's house.

Before and after pictures.

The group worked hard.



Youth Group's Mission Trip to Hendersonville, NC (cont.)



Top: Manning the trimmer.
Right: Team work to roll the stump!
Below: Organizing the items we bought for the preschool classes and a lunch break.



Youth Group's Mission Trip to Hendersonville, NC (cont.)



June 21, 2026

Below: Presentation by the Youth Group after Sunday's service.



Trinity Lutheran Church and School
May 2026

GENERAL FUND

Balance May 1		6,754.63
INCOME:		
Dieterich LOC	10,000.00	
Donations	400.00	
Fidelity, Pershing, Ed Jones, Schwab	4,000.00	
General Fund Envelopes	23,122.00	
General Fund Plate Offering	693.00	
LCMS Disaster Grant (use for insurance deductible on church repairs)	10,000.00	
Mission Donation from other sources (use for Trinity payroll)	400.00	
Mission Envelopes	95.00	
Missions - Plate	156.00	
Picnic	10,928.00	
Tech Fee	160.00	
Thrivent	753.00	
Trinity School Activity Fund (use for school building expenses)	16,000.00	
Tuition / Registration	9,684.99	
Total Income		86,391.99
EXPENSES:		
AW SVCS (water testing service)	100.00	
Brotherhood Mutual (church and school insurance monthly premium)	1,433.58	
Cotton's Inc	136.86	
Concordia Publishing House (Lutheran Witness, POP)	502.34	
Culligan water treatment	24.00	
Dieterich ACH Fee (payroll)	9.90	
Dieterich LOC payment	200.00	
Employee self retirement savings	127.15	
Federal Withholding & SS	6,364.38	
FNBO (picnic credit card)	462.26	
Guest Pastors	304.40	
Health Equity (insurance deductibles)	127.33	
Health Equity fee	13.20	
IL Dept of Revenue	1,543.86	
Illinois Secure Choice	174.88	
Monthly benefits/life,disab/retire	9,058.68	
Picnic Starting Cash	1,300.00	
Prime Cutting LLC (grass mowing)	2,400.00	
Salaries	26,543.42	
Schenks (picnic)	1,078.36	
Transfer LCMS Disaster Fund Grant to Building Fund	10,000.00	
Transfer to Trinity checking to reimburse for supplies	532.04	
Transfer to Trinity checking to reimburse Tech Fee	160.00	
Transfer Trinity Activity Fund donation to Building Fund	16,000.00	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - Church	304.17	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - Parsonage	123.03	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - School	652.31	
WHCO - broadcast	120.00	
Total Expenses		79,796.15
Balance May 31		13,350.47
Dieterich LOC Balance		16,395.79
Liefer LOC Balance		15,288.01
Total Loans		31,683.80

Trinity Lutheran Church and School
May 2026

BUILDING FUND

Balance May 1			9,703.86
INCOME:			
Building Fund		6,494.80	
Cash out Church remodel CD #3		14,690.13	
Insurance Check for Church Repairs		106,325.39	
Interest		4.30	
LCMS Disaster Grant		10,000.00	
Trinity Activity Fund Donation		16,000.00	
Total Income			153,514.62
EXPENSES:			
Matt Fehr (reimburse for Parsonage sump pump replacement)		174.66	
Xfer from Church remodel fund to LCEF Organ fund to reimburse loan		9,011.00	
Total Expenses			9,185.66
Balance May 31			154,032.82
Allocated Funds			
School Memorials		914.86	
Painting Door Fund		865.00	
Cemetery Fund		1,983.95	
Church Remodel		8,482.49	
CD#4=233,495.79 CD#6=6007.91			
Total Allocated Funds without CD's			12,246.30
Total Allocated Funds in CD's	2 CD's Church Remodel	239,503.70	
Non Allocated Funds	(Building Fund general use)		141,786.52

MISSIONS

Mission Commitment			15,000.00
Envelope Offering		95.00	
Plate Collection		156.00	
Total Offering		251.00	
Trinity School Payroll		251.00	1,803.82
Southern Illinois District		0.00	6,785.44
Total Offering to Date			8,589.26
Balance of Commitment			6,410.74



Dean Schoenbeck, Treasurer

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:30 p.m. Quilting <i>Pastor's Vacation July 1-10</i>	2 -----	3 -----	4 <i>Independence Day</i> ----->
5 9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm. <i>Pastor's Vacation July 1-10</i>	6 <i>Meeting Room Closed – cleaning</i> -----	7 7:00 p.m. Elders 7:30 p.m. Church Council -----	8 -----	9 -----	10 -----> ----->	11 -----
12 9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm.	13	14	15 12:30 p.m. Quilting	16	17	18
19 9:00 a.m. Divine Service <i>LCMS Convention Phoenix, AZ</i>	20 -----	21 7:00 p.m. BOCE -----	22 12:30 p.m. Quilting -----	23 ----->	24	25
26 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	27 <i>School Building Closed – cleaning</i> -----	28 -----	29 -----	30 -----	31 ----->	

From the Kinney Family

On May 2, 2026 we attended Concordia University Mequon Baccalaureate Ceremony that honored Mason by presenting us with his Lutheran teaching certificate. Additionally, they had a bench placed in his memory, on campus facing Lake Michigan. While we were there they held a bench dedication ceremony.

Thank you, Kinney Family, for sharing this very, very special event with us! Blessings...

