

TRINITY TRIBUTE

"We believe there is no person or created thing which is outside the active love and grace of God shown so clearly in Jesus Christ. And through the active love and grace of God, we, as a body of Christ, are called to invite, welcome, and care for all."

Trinity Lutheran Church-ELCA Cook, Minnesota
trinitycook.org info@trinitycook.org

August
2026



August Star Word Prompt: Who have you shared your star word with? What have you shared? Have they given you any outside insight how you interact with your star word?

The July Community Meal went very well. Leigh Zika, Lindy Wilenius and crew prepared 130 drive-thru meals, and served 5 dine-in meals for a total of 135 meals.

A HUGE thank you to Bruce Garbisch and son, Andrew, for harvesting, sorting, trimming, washing, spinning and draining all of the lettuce used, and also for printing out labels for each container indicating that the lettuce was locally grown and carefully washed and sorted.



L to R: Leigh Zika, Laurie Chilcote, Barb Schmidt, Ashley Skorseth, Lindy Wilenius, Bruce Garbisch, Andrew Garbisch, Noble Garbisch.

As always, a big thank you to everyone who continues to make this monthly meal a priority for our ministry at TLC.

Special shout-out to July's "delivery kids"
-- Audrey, Clem,
Noble & Vera.



Welcome Deacon-Elect Taryn Montgomery!

Bishop-Elect Taryn Montgomery (she/her) is excited to serve as the next bishop of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod! In this role, Bishop-Elect Taryn will serve as the "pastor to the synod" - providing spiritual, administrative, and organizational leadership. Constitutionally, her primary responsibility is "for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the synod and its congregations." She will preside over ordinations, accompany congregations through times of conflict (and times of celebration!), and support leaders as they discern God's next most faithful step. Previously, she served as the Synod Minister for Discipleship and Christian Community in the NEMN Synod.

"I am eager to see what new thing God has in store for the Northeastern Minnesota Synod. How Jesus will show up in us, as we show up for each other and our neighbor. I look forward to collaboration, creativity, and connectedness. Because God's going to do what God's going to do, with us or without us - so we might as well hop on board and see where The Way takes us."



The Installation of Bishop Taryn Montgomery is Saturday, September 12, 2:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, Duluth. Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry of the ELCA will preside.

A free summer chamber concert on *Monday, August 17*, will be presented by the Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute (NLCMI) beginning at 7:00 pm. This will be the ninth year performing for the Cook area here at Trinity.

It is always an very enjoyable experience, with time at the end of the event for conversation with the performers.



This is a free concert but donations are always accepted. (More information, pg. 4)

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

August 20, 2026

Served Drive-Thru or Eat-In
4:00 - 5:30 pm (or until gone)

August's Menu Includes: Zup's Brats,
Sides, Chips and a Cookie.

August is a 5-Sunday month - and you know
what that means...

We will be collecting a Noisy Offering
during worship on *Sunday, August 30*,
so keep saving those coins!

(Please NO foreign coins; they cannot be deposited into our account.)





The Many Faces of Deacon Kari

Whether preparing for Sunday worship, *The Well*, Bible Quest, confirmation, visitations, council meetings, Care Center visits, end-of-life services, or anything and most everything in between, Deacon Kari has been a Godsend to us at Trinity. She has tried faithfully to fulfill the duties presented to her and to the best of her abilities. She has made this current transition time as fluid as possible and she has done it with care and love. And usually with a touch of humor when possible.



Thank you and here's to You!

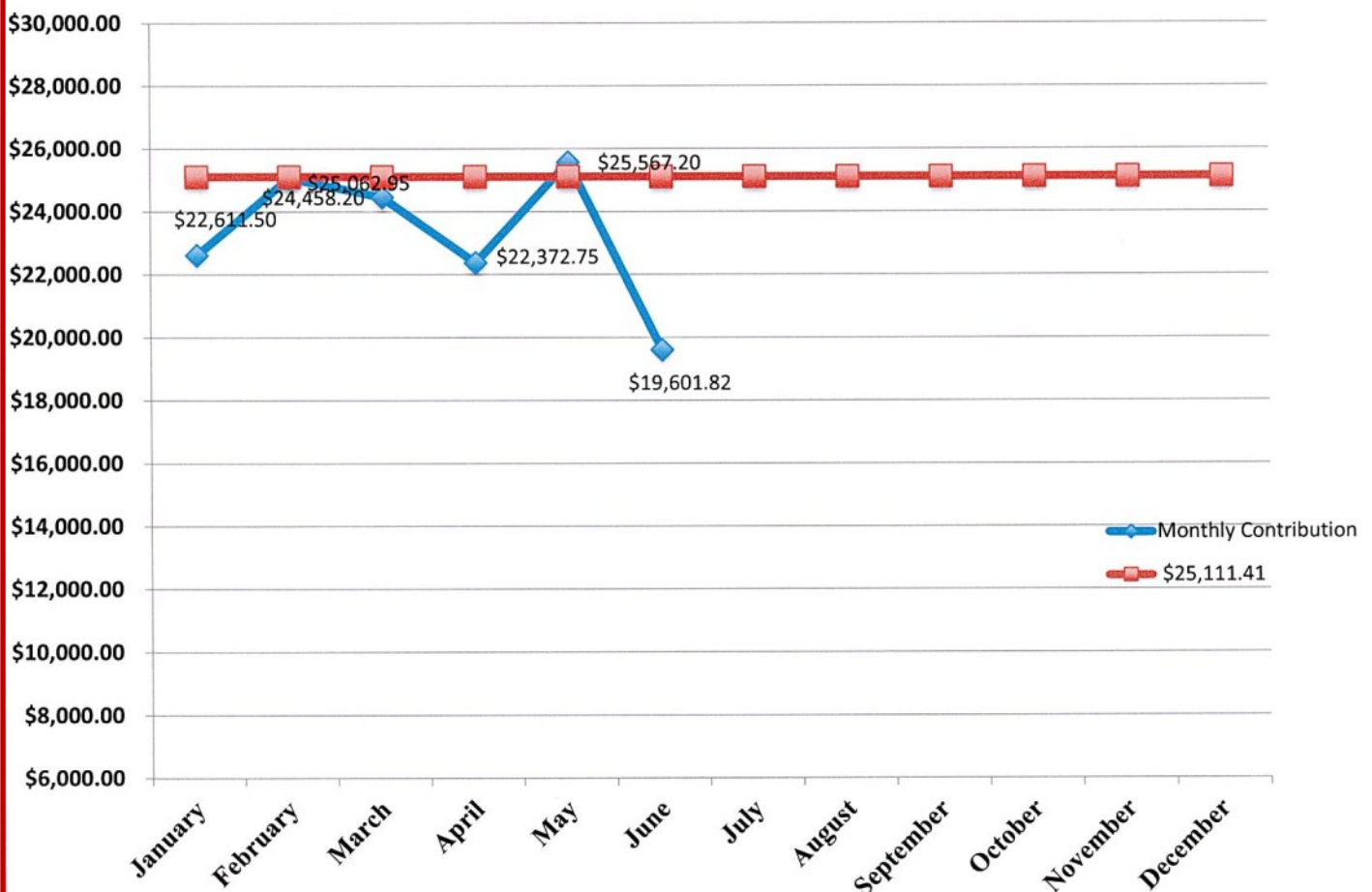
Oh...and
Happy Birthday
on August 12!



Because Deacon Kari has so much on her plate this month, there was no free time for her to put together a newsletter article -- so, I received permission to "help" her .

Giving in Grace

2026 General Fund Offerings June 30, 2026



Trinity Lutheran Church - Giving in Grace - Financial Report

General Fund

Budget Receipts	6/30/2026	\$19,601.82
Budget Expenditures		\$15,820.77
Checkbook Balance		\$5,056.33

2026 Budget = \$301,336.92

Offerings Needed

Monthly = \$25,111.41
Sunday = \$5,794.94

<u>Income</u>	<u>June Receipts</u>	<u>Monthly Anticipated Budget</u>	<u>YTD Received</u>	<u>Anticipated YTD Budget</u>
Envelope Offering	\$ 18,630.20		\$ 131,506.75	
Loose Offering	\$ 731.62		\$ 7,402.67	
Church usage	\$ 240.00		\$ 765.00	
Total Regular Income	\$ 19,601.82	25,111.41 **	\$ 139,674.42	\$ 150,668.46

Mission Support

	<u>June paid</u>		<u>YTD Paid</u>	
NE Synod	\$ 635.00	\$ 635.00	\$ 3,810.00	\$ 3,810.00
VLM	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 486.00	\$ 486.00
Total Mission Support	\$ 716.00	\$ 716.00	\$ 4,296.00	\$ 4,296.00

Expenses

Education	\$	375.01	\$	989.85	\$	2,250.06
Wellness Ministry	\$	12.50	\$		\$	75.00
Stewardship	\$	89.15	\$	125.00	\$	750.00
Mental Health & Wellness	\$	41.67	\$	104.46	\$	250.02
Social Outreach Ministry	\$	419.98	\$	1,141.93	\$	1,000.02
Worship	\$	534.32	\$	4,881.62	\$	4,998.96
Church Operations	\$	6,105.37	\$	60,960.19	\$	57,202.74
Pastoral Salary & Bene	\$	4,512.59	\$		\$	49,645.02
Congreg Care Minister Sal & Bene	\$	7,855.95	\$	47,135.66	\$	27,075.54
Misc & Moving Expenses	\$	100.00	\$	353.21	\$	2,875.02
Total Expenses	\$	15,820.77	\$	120,423.03	\$	150,418.38

<u>June</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Jun 7	105
14-Jun	88
21-Jun	71
28-Jun	79

Receipts for the month BELOW budget by \$5,509.59. Receipts, are BELOW budget for the year \$10,994.04.
Expenses are BELOW budget for the month by \$9,290.64. Expenses are BELOW budget for the year \$30,245.43.

Memorials received this month in memory of:

Gary Carlson

Given by:

anonymous

Regular offerings keep Trinity going;
Thank You for continued support.
Whether worshipping in person or online, TLC ministries and missions are dependent on faithful giving.
If you would like to set up regular electronic payments contact Sue for more information at 218-666-5965 or email sue@trinitycook.org.

GIFTS	Received	Submitted-YTD
Noisy Offering		\$591.03
Cook Food Shelf		
Social Outreach Ministry	\$121.00	\$736.50
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		
Salvation Army		
Lenten Offerings		\$1,258.41
Mental Health and Wellness		\$2,695.00
Cook Lions Club-flood relief		
Camperships	\$1,000.00	\$6,231.41

VancoMobile link



transferred to camperships

Submitted by Sue Carstens. Bkkp

**Chamber Music Society of Minnesota Presents:
Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute Concert
Monday, August 17 -- 7:00 pm**

The NLCMI is an annual summer institute for gifted young musicians of college and high school age who, along with internationally acclaimed faculty, participate in eleven days of intense chamber music studies held at Camp Vermilion.

This year 34 outstanding young artists; many from our region, but also this year from California, Utah, Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota will perform works by Bargiel, Bartok, Brahms, Bruch, Dittersdorf, Dvorak, Harbison, Hoffmeister, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Pleyel, Shaw, Schulhoff, Schubert, Shostakovich, and Vivaldi. At the conclusion of the concert all participants, along with faculty, play together in a full string orchestra.

The NLCMI faculty are: Young-Nam Kim, violin and founding Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota and the NLCMI; Leslie Shank, former assistant concertmaster of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra; Daniel Orsen, violist of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra; Sally Chisholm, viola and faculty member of the University of Wisconsin in Madison; and Alice Yoo, cello and Co-Artistic Director of the Denver Chamber Music Festival.

The Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute is the premiere educational wing of the *Chamber Music Society of Minnesota*; Young-Nam Kim and Ariana Kim, Co-Artistic Directors.



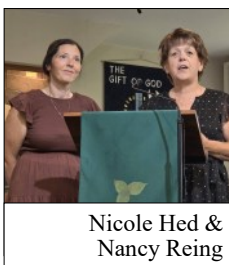
Pop Up Choir, including visiting family members of Trinity.



(l to r): Diane Pascuzzi, Brenda Tibbetts, Bruce Garbisch, Ron Maki, Dan Folkvord

Summer is always a busy time and a great time for the “regular” musical groups of Trinity (choir, bells) to take some time off to rest, relax and rejuvenate for the coming seasons. This year has been no exception.

In addition to Pop Up Choirs sprinkled throughout this time, there have been numerous special performances by some of our own members as well as visitors. Ranging from piano duets or trios, brass & wind instrumentals, and vocal selections, all have been well done and appreciated by listeners.



Nicole Hed & Nancy Reing



Pictured (l to r): Janis Aune, Greg Aune, Ingrid Aune

The Nyckelharpa

Trinity was treated to some very special “special” music on Sunday, July 5, when a few of the Greg Aune family shared their talents, including a Swedish instrument that many in the congregation may not have seen or heard of previously.

The nyckelharpa has been played in Sweden for hundreds of years, possibly as early as the 1300’s. This more recent chromatic version has 16 strings four of which are played with a short bow in the right hand. The remaining 12 strings are under strings which vibrate sympathetically, giving the nyckelharpa its unique big sound. There are 37 keys in 3 rows which are played with the left hand. Each key has a tangent attached to it which touches the string when the key is pushed to change the pitch of the string.

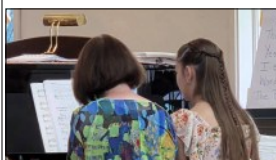
If you missed the performance that day, it can be found on the Trinity Lutheran Church of Cook *YouTube* channel.



Bruce Anderson

Kudos to Music Director, Bailey Conger, for continued efforts to share the talent available in the Cook community and those here at Trinity. And a big thank you to all the talented musicians who have (or will share) their gifts.

Worship services are livestreamed and all are available on the Trinity *YouTube* channel and *Facebook* page as well as the website at trinitycook.org for just a short time afterwards.



Bailey Conger & Lily Reing



Julie Horihan & Bruce Garbisch

Update from Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry



Dear Friends of Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry,

Greetings and peace to you.

For generations, Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry has been a place where lives have been changed. Children have discovered faith around a campfire. Young adults have discerned God's call while paddling the Boundary Waters. Families have found renewal together. Congregations have gathered for worship, retreat, and fellowship. Thousands of people have experienced God's presence in the beauty of God's Great Northwoods because of this ministry.

Those stories matter. They are worth celebrating, and they are worth preserving. Today, however, I am writing to you with both honesty and hope, to deliver a difficult reality.

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry is facing one of the most significant challenges in its history. While this reality has not developed overnight, we have reached a point where immediate action is necessary if we are to preserve and strengthen this ministry for the future.

This situation was not created by one event or one decision. Rather, it is the result of many factors—some within our control and many that have affected outdoor ministries across the country.

For many years, Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry has relied on donations to provide approximately 55–60% of our annual operating budget, while only 40–45% has come through program and user revenue. Nationally, healthy outdoor ministries have historically generated closer to 65–70% of their operating revenue through camp programs, retreats, and guest use, with charitable support providing the remaining 30–35%. Even those organizations are now facing many of the same headwinds we are experiencing.

Our earned revenue has steadily declined. Just over a decade ago, Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion together generated more than \$500,000 annually in user revenue. In 2024, that total had fallen to approximately \$171,000.

At the same time, our donors have been extraordinarily generous. Their support has sustained this ministry through difficult years and culminated in the remarkable achievement of retiring the ministry's mortgage in 2023—an accomplishment that significantly strengthened our financial position.

We remain deeply grateful for that generosity. Yet charitable giving has also declined over time, with donor support totaling approximately \$162,000 in 2024—roughly one-quarter of what was received in 2020.

Our member congregations have likewise continued to support this ministry while navigating significant challenges of their own. Congregational giving totaled approximately \$50,000 in 2024, about 66% of what the per confirmed member agreements should generate today and much less than a decade ago. We recognize the realities congregations face today and share those challenges with you.

We share all of this only to acknowledge the financial realities before us honestly.

Beyond finances, the world around us has changed. Congregational membership has declined, reducing the number of children and youth who have traditionally attended camp. The COVID-19 pandemic changed how many families think about overnight experiences for their children, affecting participation at camps across the country. Recruiting experienced executive leadership for outdoor ministry has become increasingly difficult, a challenge we have experienced firsthand during previous leadership searches.

Throughout the last few years, your Board of Directors has worked tirelessly to respond. We have pursued innovative partnerships, implemented staffing and program changes, secured revenue through conservation land easements, reduced expenses, and explored numerous strategies to stabilize the organization. These efforts have bought valuable time and accomplished important things.

But they have not solved the underlying challenge.

Perhaps the hardest realization for all of us is this: much of our work has focused on trying to return Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry to what it once was. Yet the world in which this ministry now serves is different than it was ten or even five years ago. Faithfully stewarding this ministry will require us not simply to recreate the past, but to discern what God is calling Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry to become in the future.

With that understanding, your Board has begun an Emergency Discernment and Sustainability Process.

Over the coming months, we will take several important steps.

First, the Board has already begun considering and implementing temporary actions necessary to preserve the ministry's financial stability. You've seen the reduction and realignment of summer that was required to provide a safe and impactful experience amidst our current place. But additionally, these may include reducing operations, restructuring staffing, or making other difficult but temporary decisions that allow us to continue honoring our existing commitments while creating space for long-term planning.

Next, within 60 days, we will invite congregations, donors, campers, volunteers, retreat guests, and other ministry partners to participate in a series of listening sessions. These gatherings will not be voting meetings. Rather, they will provide an opportunity for us to honestly share the ministry's current realities, answer questions, hear your perspectives, and gather your feedback through a ministry-wide survey.

Following those conversations, the Board will gather for an intensive planning retreat to evaluate what we have learned and begin developing recommendations for the ministry's future.

Throughout this process, we are committed to communicating regularly. At least once each month, we will provide updates so that our constituents understand where we are, what decisions have been made, and what comes next.

Finally, later this fall, we anticipate calling a special meeting of the membership, as permitted under Article V, Section C of our bylaws, should formal membership action be required.

We know these conversations will not be easy. They involve difficult decisions and uncertain outcomes. Yet we also believe they are necessary, and we believe they are faithful.

Scripture reminds us that "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of self-discipline." Those words speak to us today. We move forward not out of fear, but with courage, honesty, and trust that God continues to work through this ministry and through the people who love it.

Today, we ask three things of you.

First, pray—for wisdom for your Board of Directors, for our staff, for those who will help shape these conversations, and for the future of this ministry.

Second, participate. Attend a listening session. Complete the survey when it is available. Ask questions. Share your ideas. Your voice matters, and we need to hear it.

Finally, if you are able, continue supporting Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry financially. Every gift during this season helps preserve the ministry while we undertake this important work together.

Thank you for your love for Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry, for your patience, your prayers, and your partnership. The path ahead may not be easy, but we believe God is not finished with this ministry.

Together, with honesty, humility, and faith, we will seek the future to which God is calling us.

In Christ,

Ryan Jagim
Chair, Board of Directors
Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry



Greetings from the Mental Health & Wellness Team!

We hope everyone is having a wonderful summer.

Last fall, the Wellness Team gathered to discuss how we could support the health and well-being of our fellow Christians and community members. We decided to focus our efforts on four pillars of health: emotional, spiritual, physical, and intellectual.

Over the past few months, we explored spiritual health and well-being through *Tribute* articles and a forum on chair yoga, breathing and mindfulness, and Americanized Tai Chi. We also highlighted intellectual health through *Tribute* articles and a forum that encouraged meaningful discussion about curiosity, learning, growth, and sharing our talents with one another.

Our next pillar of health will focus on physical health. We will continue blood pressure screenings on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Over the next few months, please watch for poster presentations on a variety of physical health topics, including:

Rest and sleep -- Matthew 11:28-30:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Guarding yourself from negative influences -- Proverbs 17:22:

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."

Going outside and soaking up some sun -- Ecclesiastes 11:7:

"Light is sweet, and it pleases the eyes to see the sun."

We will also host a forum with a guest speaker on tick-borne disease. The date and time will be announced soon.

Stay well,

The Mental Health and Wellness Team: Deacon Kari Olson, Lauren Simensen, Kathy Leppert, and Vickie Lange



Trinity's Call Committee has no update at this time.

Nick Nicklow, Call
Committee Chairman of
Communications



Reconciling In Christ (RIC)

Those attending worship the last few weeks may have noticed Greeters prior to the start of the service on Sunday mornings. Trinity's RIC team has decided to bring back a very simple, but profound ministry; a smile, a handshake, a "welcome", a "good morning". A ministry that says, "I see you and I'm glad you are here."

The team is promoting an opportunity for all of the Trinity family to help us show visitors and attendees that *all* are welcome here.

It can be as simple as "where is the worship space, is there an elevator, is there coffee & fellowship time, or where is the restroom?"

Sign-up sheets are available on the table in the Fellowship Hall. It can be one person, or a couple; young people, families, or long-time members. Whatever is comfortable for you can make a difference for them.

Questions may be directed to the RIC team:

Dn. Kari, Jenifer Moberg, David Moberg,
Julie Aune, Steve Maki, Vicki
Lupica, Bruce Garbisch, Larry
Lange and Vickie Lange

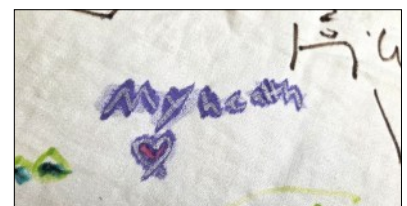
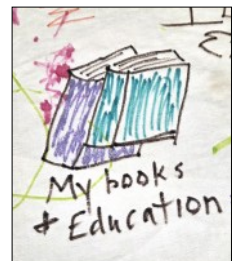


Just a few of the prized possessions mentioned by YOU, encouraged by the Generosity Team last month. Everyone was asked to write the name of something, or draw a picture (or both) of anything that was cherished to let us know what they consider a prized possession.



Thank you to all who shared some thoughts...there is still room at the table.

GENEROUS
TOGETHER



Experience Community. Experience Giving.

Blessings & Prayers



<u><i>Birthdays</i></u>		
	24	Augie Carstens
3	Nancy Lindbeck	Betty Tuuri
4	Carrie Carstens	25 Amy Pearson
6	Lori Gordon	28 Griffin Franks
11	Dale Johnson	Tom Kinler
12	Dn. Kari Olson	Julie Lesemann
13	Lisa Ojanen	29 Addie Holter

		<u><i>Anniversaries</i></u>
	Nathan Palm	
14	Marilyn Jenkins	11 Dave & Jeanne O'Melia
17	Lorene Enzmann	13 Leo & Lindy Wilenius
18	Norma Thomas	17 Jason & Cindy Palm
20	Brenda Tibbetts	John & Wendy Jordan
21	Jevon Garcia	22 Deb & Lori Gordon
	Luke Pretti	25 Diane & Dave Culbert
22	Pam Carlson	28 Joel & Kerrisa Anderson
23	Ryann Lee	31 Nick Smith & Mackenzie Reing

Prayers for those needing healing and comfort:

Gary Groves, Ryann Lee, Steve Amundson, Mary & Jeffrey Thomas, Shirley Cheney, Hope Simpson, Augie Carstens, Claire Stachovich, Tracy Rusinyak, Betty Tuuri, Marilyn Jenkins, Roni Sarazine, Walter Putney, Bruce & Judy Anderson.

The family & friends of Paul Joelson as they continue to mourn his death on July 17, 2026.

Patti Naughton & family as they remember and celebrate Mike on Saturday, August 29.

All those still affected by the wildfires in Superior National Forest, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Canada and throughout our nations.

For healing, strength and understanding for our nation, community, and those elsewhere who are feeling confusion, disruption, anger and insecurity; those facing medical testing, life challenges, and difficult situations; those serving in the armed forces; and those seeking Jesus Christ in their lives.



Scripture Readings *August 2026*

August 2

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 9

11th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 16

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56: 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

August 23

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 30

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Just Reminder from WELCA:

The *Gather Bible Study* group **is not meeting** during the summer months. They will resume on September 9, at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Norma Thomas for more information.



Patti Naughton and family will host a Celebration of Life for Mike, who passed away on March 26, on Saturday, August 29, at 1:00 pm. at Trinity.

Please be sure to check the table in the Fellowship Hall for monthly coffee list updates and volunteer opportunities.

Let Leigh, Lindy or the office know when kitchen supplies are running low on any items needed for Sunday coffee...napkins, paper plates, coffee, coffee filters, Kool-Aid, etc., so it can be restocked.



For more information or to volunteer, please call or text: Leigh Zika (218-780-1769) or Lindy Wilenius (218-780-4644) or the office at 218-666-5965.

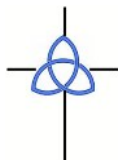
AUGUST SUNDAY COFFEE *SERVERS*

8/2/26	Suzie & Darren Holter
	Arlene Jersha, Jim Aune
8/9/26	Reany & Steve Lindberg
	Judy McGlynn
8/16/26	Lacey & Cody Bixby
	Lois & Bruce Garbisch
8/23/26	Jane Kujala
	Sonja & Dale Foss
8/30/26	Nancy & Dan Reing
	Ivette Rein & Family

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY COFFEE *SERVERS*

9/6/26	Judy Posch
	Barb & Mark Schmidt
9/13/26	Nancy & Roger Lindbeck
	Bob Walker
9/20/26	Steve & Laure Maki
	Diane & Mark Pascuzzi
9/27/26	Patti Naughton
	Gerry Ruuska

Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA
P O Box 1196
231 Second Street SE
Cook, MN 55723



TRINITY
TRIBUTE



August
2026

Trinity Lutheran Church Information

Congregational Care: Dn. Kari Olson
Music Director: Bailey Conger
Financial Manager/Bookkeeper: Sue Carstens
Secretary: Beth Sprouls



Sunday Worship 9:30 am

(Holy Communion Most Sundays)

Livestream Available on
Facebook & YouTube

Office Hours

Mondays by appointment
Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Phone: 218-666-5965
Email: info@trinitycook.org

Website: www.trinitycook.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/TLC.Cook.MN
YouTube: www.youtube.com
(Trinity Lutheran Church of Cook)

The Trinity Tribute newsletter is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of church programs and to report news about the Trinity Lutheran Church community.