

TRINITY TRIBUTE

June 2026
Newsletter

"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



June Star Word Prompt: Now that we're halfway through, revisit the initial thoughts, impressions, and prayers you first had with your star word. How have they changed? How have you grown?

Congratulations, North Woods Seniors!

Trinity celebrated four graduating seniors on Sunday, May 24, with a blessing, quilts and even cake! Each student was presented with their own beautiful quilt made by Trinity's quilting group.



Pictured (l to r): Sophie Lappi, Izzy Pascuzzi, Dn. Kari Olson, Brittin Lappi and Jevon Garcia.

Trinity's Community Food Pantry has MOVED!

Because the Cook Public Library returned home in early May, the free pantry has been relocated to outside the back door to be more accessible for users.

Special thanks to Tom Hed for supplying the storage cabinet and to



the Council for assisting in the move/restocking following their monthly meeting.

**Take what you need;
leave what you can.**

Keeping Minnesota Beautiful

A good crew was busy cleaning Trinity's section of Highway 53 the morning of May 13. The two-mile stretch north of Cook is a busy traffic area, especially this time of year, and we appreciate all those dedicated to keeping Trinity's section cleaned. Thanks to Duane Gustafson for his part in organizing the volunteers. Big Thanks to All!



Pictured (l to r): Tom Soderberg, Ron Maki, Duane Gustafson, Jennifer Kinler, Nick Nicklow, Dale Johnson, Bruce Garbisch, Dale Foss, Judy Posch, Margaret Nicklow, Laure Maki & Steve Maki.

A Great Day in God's Great North Woods!

A group of youth and adult volunteers from Trinity spent the morning of May 16 on-site cleaning the Chapel at Camp Vermilion for Spring Work Day.



Pictured (l to r): Lindy Wilenius, Vicki Lupica, Libby Glass, Dn. Kari Olson, Clem O'Brien, Audrey Bryson, Vera Bryson, Josey Pascuzzi, Charlie Holter, Jim Aune, Bruce Garbisch, Dale Johnson. Not pictured: Mark Page.
(more photos, pg. 6)

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

June 25, 2026

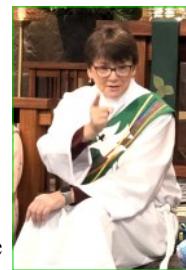
Served Drive-Thru or Eat-In
4:00 - 5:30 pm (or until gone)

June's Menu: Tacos with Lettuce and Cheese, Spanish Rice and a Cookie.



The Christian church year is divided into liturgical seasons, and I find that I enjoy the rhythm of the church seasons as much as I enjoy the rhythm of the seasons of the earth. As the school year winds down, we start to get into summer mode as we enter the Season after Pentecost. This long green season starts right after Pentecost Sunday and lasts until Advent.

Deacon Kari



As I spent time outside this weekend, I couldn't help but notice all of the different shades of green popping up around me. And I thought, "Ahhh...we are entering the green season!" A season of growth and faith as we do our best to live out our lives as followers of Christ. A season of growth as we practice following the life and teachings of Jesus.

Blessing the Ordinary
by Jan Richardson

Let these words
lay themselves
like a blessing
upon your head,
your shoulders
as if,
like hands,
they could pass on
to you
what you most need
for this day
as if they could
anoint you
not merely for
the path ahead

but for this
ordinary moment
that opens itself
to you—
opens itself
like another hand
that unfurls itself,
that reaches out
to gather up
these words
in the bowl
of its palm.
You may think
this blessing
lives within
these words

but I tell you
it lives
in the opening
and in the reaching;
it lives
in the ache
where this blessing
begins;
it lives
in the hollow
made by the place
where the hands
of this blessing
meet.

As we begin this long green season, I share with you this blessing from Jan Richardson.



**Bible
Quest**



Deacon Kari presented the Bible Quest "Kindness Quilt" to Jennifer Kinler and her daughters, Zoey & Savannah, during the final BQ gathering of the year. Jennifer has been a dedicated volunteer all year and her hard work has been much appreciated. The family will be missed.



A final puzzle session before the fall...a hit with the kids (big & small) during Sunday morning fellowship time, too.

BLITZ CAMP IS COMING TO TRINITY!

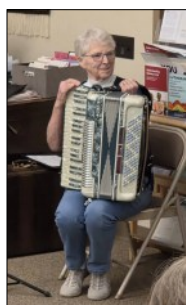
When: Tuesday, June 9
Time: 9 am-3 pm
Who: Ages Pre-K thru 5th grade
Where: Trinity, Cook



This one-day event will be led by the Northeastern Minnesota Synod's Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) youth who are participating in leadership camp at Camp Vermilion.

Lunch and snacks will be provided by Trinity volunteers; if you or someone you know would be interested in helping, please let Dn. Kari or the office know.

This will be a fun, activity-packed one day camp. Arrangements can be made if you are will be unable to pick your child(ren) up at 3 pm. Contact Deacon Kari for more information and registration forms. Forms are also available in the Fellowship Hall.



Norma Thomas, accordion queen.



Trinity Lutheran Church - Giving in Grace - Financial Report

General Fund

Budget Receipts	\$22,372.75
Budget Expenditures	\$22,883.43
Checkbook Balance	\$5,296.92

2026 Budget = \$301,336.92

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

<u>Income</u>	<u>April Receipts</u>	<u>Monthly Anticipated Budget</u>	<u>YTD Received</u>	<u>Anticipated YTD Budget</u>
Envelope Offering	\$ 21,361.70		\$ 88,096.35	
Loose Offering	\$ 711.05		\$ 5,884.05	
Church usage	\$ 300.00		\$ 525.00	
Total Regular Income	\$ 22,372.75	25,111.41 **	\$ 94,505.40	\$ 301,336.92

<u>Mission Support</u>	<u>April paid</u>		<u>YTD Paid</u>	
NE Synod	\$ 635.00	\$ 635.00	\$ 2,540.00	\$ 2,540.00
VLM	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 324.00	\$ 324.00
Total Mission Support	\$ 716.00	\$ 716.00	\$ 2,864.00	\$ 2,864.00

<u>Expenses</u>				
Education		\$ 375.01	\$ 614.70	\$ 1,500.04
Wellness Ministry		\$ 12.50		\$ 50.00
Stewardship	\$ 95.97	\$ 125.00	\$ 380.94	\$ 500.00
Mental Health & Wellness		\$ 41.67	\$ 104.46	\$ 166.68
Social Outreach Ministry		\$ 166.67	\$ 157.97	\$ 666.68
Worship	\$ 50.00	\$ 833.16	\$ 3,640.97	\$ 3,332.64
Church Operations	\$ 13,065.92	\$ 9,575.46	\$ 46,441.35	\$ 38,135.16
Pastoral Salary & Bene		\$ 4,512.59		\$ 33,096.68
Congreg Care Minister Sal & Bene	\$ 7,855.94	\$ 8,274.17	\$ 31,423.75	\$ 18,050.36
Misc & Moving Expenses	\$ 93.28	\$ 479.17	\$ 107.21	\$ 1,916.68
Total Expenses	\$ 22,883.43	\$ 25,111.40	\$ 85,735.35	\$ 100,278.92

<u>March</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Apr 5	111
12-Apr	77
19-Apr	80
26-Apr	75

Receipts for the month BELOW budget by \$2,738.66. Receipts, are BELOW budget for the year \$35,940.24
Expenses are BELOW budget for the month by \$2,227.98. Expenses are BELOW budget for the year \$14,710.39.

Memorials received this month in memory of:

Given by:

Gary Carlson

Leo & Lindy Wi enius

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	\$345.41	\$345.41
Cook Food Shelf		
Social Outreach Ministry	\$219.00	\$516.50
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		
Salvation Army		
Lenten Offerings		
Mental Health and Wellness		\$2,695.00
Cook Lions Club-flood relief		
Camperships		



Submitted by Sue Carstens. Bkkp

The Rest Area has been reclaimed: Crystal Whitney and Kristi Sopoci, Cook Public Library staff, have been able to return to the renovated library building.



It has been a pleasure and a treat to be able to provide space during the eight-plus months they were here. Please be sure to check out both “new” locations!

SMILE! The New Church Directory is Happening!

Remember Pictures Sessions are:

- Sunday, June 7, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Monday, June 8, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 9, 4 -7 p.m.

Connie Stone Photography will again be doing the photo sessions.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact: Julie Horihan
612-801-0196 or
julie@jvhcomms.com

We hope to distribute the finished product in August.

Summer Music at TLC



It is that time of the year when regular choir and bell practices have taken a hiatus for the summer. That means I am on the lookout for any one person or group who would like to share their musical talents with us at Trinity this summer.

We are so blessed to have a great ensemble of musicians to share their wealth of talent and knowledge. If you have visiting friends or family who you think would be willing and able to contribute, please do ask them. Nobody has to have a claim to fame, just a sincere desire to sing praises for Christ during our worship on Sunday mornings.

If Dolly Parton or Willy Nelson show up or the Gatlin Brothers, we will take them as well!

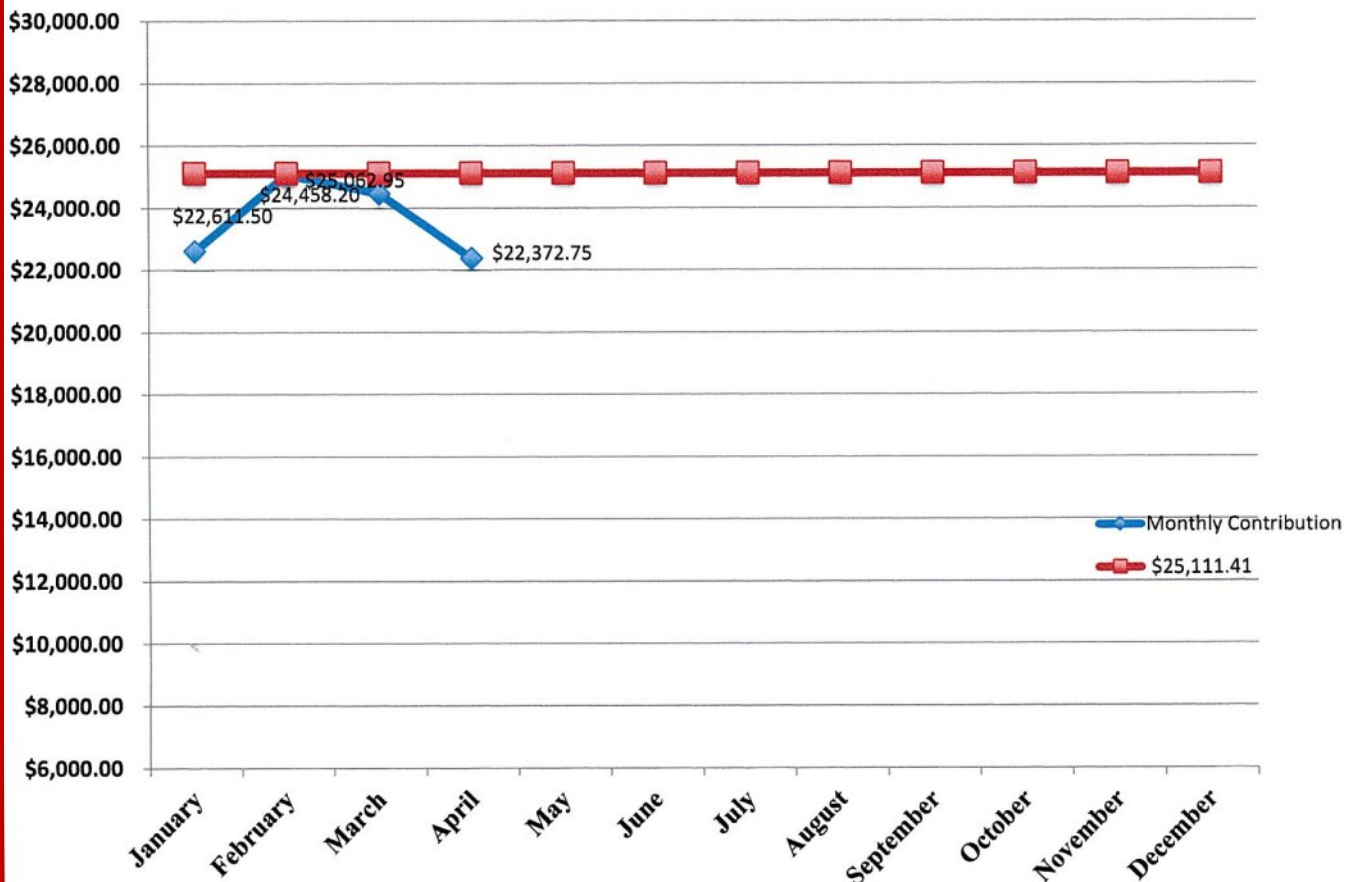
Please let me, Bailey Conger, know at 780-4337 or the staff at Trinity. Also, watch for Pop-Up choirs here and there throughout the summer! All are invited to “Pop-Up” to sing and I will try to announce it at least a week ahead!



May the summer be a good one for you and your family!

Giving in Grace

2026 General Fund Offerings April 30, 2026





(l to r): Audrey Bryson, Libby Glass, Charlie Holter, Josey Pascuzzi, Vera Bryson, Clem O'Brien
Jim Aune, squirrel hero.

Camp Work Day is a time to help staff prepare the Camp Vermilion site for the summer camping season. Thanks to a great group from the Trinity family who spent a Saturday morning this year working hard, followed by lunch for those who wished to stay.



And the Clean Cabin Award goes to: Clem O'Brien and Bruce Garbisch for going above (below) & beyond.



Cleaning included the outside, also. Thanks to Mark Page and Vicki Lupica for their dedication to leaf removal.



Plotting for Pollinators

"Insects are the little things that run the world; life as we know it depends on the insects."
E. O. Wilson, entomologist

Pollinators are endangered by the loss of natural habitat. Harmful chemicals and massive conversion of land to development are decimating the pollinator population.



**They need us.
And we need them.**

These tiny, apparently powerless and often overlooked creatures are vital participants in the web of Creation!

Humanity's survival depends on the biodiversity that also enables pollinators to flourish, and this biodiversity continues to be eroded.

Pollinators are also models for us of the gospel paradox that God's power is shown in 'weakness'. By caring for them, we pollinate an alternative way of being human for the sake of life!

Some Science about Protecting Pollinators

- Biologists estimate that one million species face extinction, including 40% of our plants. And 2/3 of the world's wildlife has vanished.
- Insects are a source of food to many fish, birds and other insects. Many of them also pollinate a great many plants, and so are critical for seed and fruit development. About one third of our diet depends on pollination, including many fruits, nuts and vegetables.
- 90% of the insects which support our local food webs can only flourish and develop on plants with which they share an evolutionary history. They cannot survive without specific native plants and some plants are dependent on certain insects for pollination also.



Pollinator Sunday is June 7, 2026



Did you know...?

...that the NE MN Synod became a Pollinator Synod in 2023, dedicated to pollinating the care of creation and establishing pollinator friendly habitat in every congregation?

...that each little reestablished plot of native wildflowers, or shrubs, or native trees, can become a small nutritional and nesting refuge for bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and flies which require them for their survival and reproduction? Think of each pollinator plot as a little ark, an oasis of hope and survival for our beleaguered invertebrate friends.

...that there are 49 NE MN Synod congregations who have decided to become Pollinator Sanctuaries, joining the synod's Pollinator Plot by establishing their own pollinator plots with native habitat and chemical free gardening?

...no congregation is too large or too small, too urban or too rural, to have a pollinator plot?

...that the Pollinator Plot Steering Committee offers support and guidance through workshops, on-line Share and Learn events, and a monthly column in Green Blades Rising?

...that the Pollinator Plot is one of the initiatives supported by our synod's EcoFaith Network Partner Congregations?



Call Committee June Update

Pastoral Applicants Needed!!!

The Call Committee is anxiously awaiting applicants for our offered Pastor position.

Trinity Lutheran Church - A list of our offerings



* Deacon Kari

We have an awesome Deacon that will one day (hopefully soon) become a great assistant to a full time Pastor. Deacon Kari knows who we are as a congregation. She has gone above and beyond in leading us through challenging times and we are fortunate that God has sent her to us.

* Our Congregation

Wow!! What a great Congregation we are!!

A welcoming, caring congregation of volunteers that leads by "doing" and not just "existing".

A congregation that helps our neighbors, supports one another, and cares about protecting our environment.

* Examples of helping our neighbors include:

Hosting monthly Community Meals, Bible Quest, Prayer Shawl Ministries, making quilts that are distributed to people in need world-wide and hosting the Cook Public Library during flood renovation to name a few.

* Examples of supporting one another include:

Bible Study, Confirmation Class, The Well, Mental Health and Wellness, Physical Wellness, Blue Christmas Service, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School programs to name a few

* Examples of how we protect and care for our Environment include:

Participants of the ELCA EcoFaith Network, attending the EcoFaith Summit, and garbage pickup along Hwy 53.

* A Beautifully Renovated Parsonage

From beginning to nearing the end, an extended group of talented individuals has made this overdue renovation a reality. Operating within a strict budget, the group has made this home an up-to-date, welcoming space for our future Pastor. This offering is something that we all should be proud of.

The above list of offerings is only a small portion of what our Congregation offers a new Pastor. We know that we are a welcoming, caring congregation energized by "doing" and not just "existing".

The Call committee continues to be in contact with Deacon Susan from the Synod, who is working to ensure the highest likelihood of connecting us with the right pastor. Your thoughts and continued prayers are appreciated during this time.

Nick Nicklow

Call committee member who drew the shortest straw

(Dock is not level, but the boat starts) 😊



The Blessings of Bible Quest -- and ALL our dedicated volunteers who continue to share their gifts to work with Deacon Kari. They make it all possible. And they are much appreciated! It was a busy year -- now, take a break for the summer. See YOU in the fall!

Generosity Project Session 3

On Sunday, June 21, the Generosity Team will lead an activity during Fellowship time that focuses on how the practice of generosity begins in the home with the support of all generations and a community of faith.

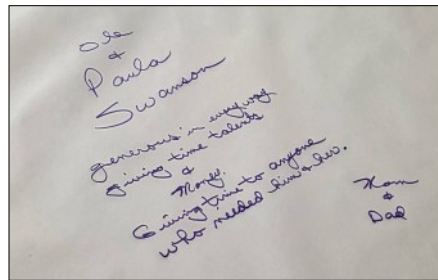
Focus: Acts 2:41-47

*“On that day about three thousand believed his message and were baptized. They spent their time **Learning** from the apostles, and they were like **family** to each other. They also **broke bread** and **prayed together**. Everyone was **amazed** by the many miracles and **wonders** that the apostles worked. All the Lord's followers often **met together**, and they **shared everything** they had. They would **sell their property and possessions** and **give the money to whoever was in need**. Day after day they **met together in the temple**. They **broke bread together in different homes** and **shared their food** happily and freely, while **praising God**. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group Others who were being saved.”*

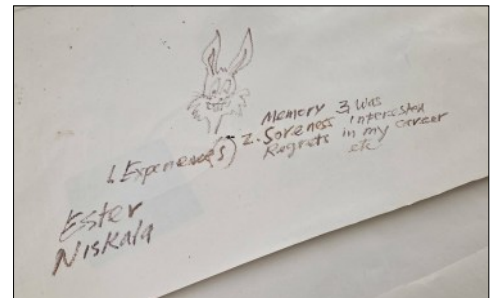
When we connect, share, grow, and pray together we inspire future acts of generosity.

Thank you from the Generosity Team:

Deacon Kari Olson, Elizabeth Storm, Steve Maki, Laure Maki, Jane Kujala and Crystal Whitney



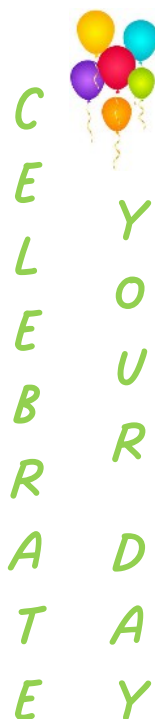
On Sunday, May 17, the Generosity Team lead a second session during fellowship time that focused on activities that helps us see how God uses the gifts and generosity of people of every age to accomplish the impossible.



Experience Community. Experience Giving.

Anniversaries

- 4 Cork & Lynn Conner
Bill & Erin Bryson
- 7 Jesse & April Glass
- 9 Dave & Dawn Reing
- 10 Shannon & Bobbi Halverson
- 13 Marvin & Peggy Pearson
- 18 Randy & Jeani Swenson
- 19 Dale & Julie Horihan
Greg & Julie Aune
- 24 Glenn & Sharon Aune
Ron & Mickey Maki
- 25 John & Claire Zwieg
- 27 Greg & Jeanie Wilson



Prayers for those needing healing and comfort:

Claire Stachovich, Tracy Rusinyak,
Bill Peterson, Betty Tuuri, Marilyn
Jenkins, Roni Sarazine, Walter Putney,
Marla Kahn, Bruce & Judy Anderson.



Collette Kowalski and family as they continue to celebrate the life of Rev. Art Dale, who passed away on May 1.

Family and friends of Craig Haberman, who passed away on May 3.

The Call Committee as they await applications from prospective candidates who will fit Trinity's needs.

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.

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

For more information or to volunteer, please call or text:

Leigh Zika (218-780-1769) or
Lindy Wilenius (218-780-4644)
or contact the office at 218-666-5965

Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Holton Scholler | 12 Taeley Simpson |
| 3 Teagan Simpson | 14 Judy Posch |
| 4 Elizabeth Storm | 16 Joyce Fromel |
| 5 Charlie Holter | 17 Bill Tibbetts |
| Darren Holter | 20 Lauren Simensen |
| 6 Sue Gustafson | Mark Schmidt |
| 7 Mark Pascuzzi | 21 Ken Fuchs |
| Connie Stone | 22 Sharon Aune |
| 8 Shannon Halverson | 27 Sawyer Glass |
| 9 Patti Naughton | 30 Lauren Arvila |
| 11 Libby Glass | Julie Horihan |



The *Gather* Bible Study women Will Not Meet during the summer. They will resume September 9, at 9:30 am.



**Scripture Readings
June 2026**

June 7

2nd Sunday of Pentecost
Hosea 5:15-6:6
Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 14

3rd Sunday of Pentecost
Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8 [9-23]

June 21

4th Sunday of Pentecost
Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

June 28

5th Sunday of Pentecost
Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

PLEASE REMEMBER:

All food & beverage containers need to be rinsed **BEFORE** added to the recycling bins. And **NO** waxed cardboard, please.

JUNE SUNDAY COFFEE SERVERS

- 6/7/26 Greg Wilson
Vickie & Larry Lange
- 6/14/26 Sue & Augie Carstens
Beth Sprouls
- 6/21/26 Vicki Lupica & Mark Page
Suzie & Darren Holter
- 6/28/26 Brenda & Bill Tibbetts
Amanda & Tony Pascuzzi

JULY SUNDAY COFFEE SERVERS

- 7/5/26 Jeani & Randy Swenson
Tom Soderberg
- 7/12/26 Mickey & Ron Maki
Julie & Greg Aune
- 7/19/26 Nicole & Tom Hed
Caroline Roesch & Sully
- 7/26/26 Lorene & Mike Enzmann
Peggy & Marvin Pearson

Sunday

Monday





Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Well WILL NOT MEET	2 Bible Study 9:30 am	3	4	5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	6 
7 Pollinator Sunday Worship 9:30 am w/communion Photo Sessions 11-4 AA, Al-Anon 6:30pm	8 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Well WILL NOT MEET Photo Sessions 10-2	9 Bible Study 9:30 am BLITZ Day Camp 9 am - 2 pm Photo Sessions 4-7	10 WELCA 9:30 am	11	12 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	13 Retirement Celebration for Bishop Amy Zion/Grand Rapids 1:30 pm
14 Worship 9:30am w/communion BP Screenings 10:45 AA, Al-Anon 6:30pm	15 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Well 9:30 am	16 Bible Study 9:30 am	17 	18	19 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 Father's Day Worship 9:30 am w/communion AA, Al-Anon 6:30pm	22 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Well 9:30 am	23 Bible Study 9:30 am	24	25 Community Meal 4:00 - 5:30 pm Newsletter Deadline NOON	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 Worship 9:30 am w/communion Council Meeting 11:00am BP Screenings 10:45 AA, Al-Anon 6:30pm	29 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Well 9:30 am	30 Bible Study 9:30 am	31			

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



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.