



# Trinity Lutheran Newsletter

October 2023

## MISSION STATEMENT:

**Baptized believers *sent* into God’s world to *share* God’s love and grace.**

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**This Month at TLC**

Upcoming Events:

- Oct 1 Companion Synod Sunday
- Oct 8 Council Meeting After Worship
- Oct 29 Confirmation/Reformation Sunday

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**We Pray ....**

For those battling cancer: Doug Dahlke-continuing treatment; Brad Pautsch-cancer has returned.

We pray for Hayes Richards – Nick & Liz Wahlberg’s nephew, born at 30 weeks, doing well in the NICU; Susan Christiansen–fell and broke her ankle, had surgery; Steven Benedix- losing weight but not sure why; Diane Riediger; Presley Johnston; Ed Kunkel (Barb’s son)-still dealing with problems; Kelly Martin; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of COVID-19, extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

**Hymn of the Month:**

#1042 May This Church Be Like a Tree  
Verse 3

May this church be like a tree, O God, that thrives where you have planted; ay it stand to show the way, your way of loving and self giving, offering shade, and fruit for sharing, giving up its wood for burning. May this living church that names you be a tree of life eternal. Tree ever growing by living water, running eternal, flowing from God.

## From the Pastor.....

As I see the leaves turning colors and observe the changes in the fields—many of them almost ready to be harvested—it becomes more and more obvious that Fall is much more than a season of the year marked on the calendar. Fall is the time when we prepare for nature to take time to rest. I remember someone once telling me that the plants, trees, flowers, and other living things don't die when they fade from our sight. Instead they are merely resting and preparing to be renewed. This means that they are still alive—they are refueling for when the time comes for them to be actively involved in creation—providing food, beauty, and the many other tasks God designed them to do.

God also designed people for a variety of tasks. God created us to be diligent in our worship of God's world and of our roles in that creation. We are each called to specific areas and are given tools to live out our calls. It is not that one person has a more important call; just as the flower doesn't have a more important role in God's creation than a tree. Both are created for a purpose—just as each of us are created with different purposes. IN living out our calls we live out a variety of ways in which we live in God's design for each of us. Whether you are searching for where or for what you are called—be certain that God has a plan for you. There is no one whose call is higher than another. God's design is that we grow in our closeness to God. God's greatest delight is that we continue to develop a stronger connection to God. We develop that closer connection by being aware of God's presence in our lives. How does this happen? By digging more deeply into God's Word (Scriptures), connecting with God through prayer and praise, by learning how God works in our lives—through exposure to Christian music, literature, and rejoicing when we gather with our Christian brothers and sisters in worship and Bible study. Most of all, it is God's greatest desire that we develop a deep and abiding love for God and for all of creation through prayer—formal and informal. Prayer is a time when we are blessed to experience conversation with God—conversation like we have with a close friend.

As the seasons change there is one thing in life that remains the same... God's love for all creation. As a part of creation, it is my prayer that we see God's presence in one another and give God praise and thanks for the gifts each person brings as they live out their God given call.

Blessings on each of you today and every day. I keep you all in my prayers and ask that you remember me in yours.

Pastor Jane

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# We Celebrate!

## October Birthdays

- 1—Ashley Martin  
Abby Orlando  
Steve McElrath
- 2—Doug Deming  
Marcia Kuehl  
Mike Orlando  
Everett Ruhrer
- 5—Randi Weaver
- 6—Randy Beaver
- 7—Mason Kamienski  
Mishelle Powell  
Natalie Stamm  
Chad Brockhaus
- 9—Kaylie Coulter  
Ethan Thompson
- 10—Christian Krueger
- 11—Lois Kloewer
- 13—Bret Hayworth
- 14—Noah Corbin  
Gail Ploen
- 15—Matt Rogers
- 16—Lux Wahlberg
- 17—Roger Christiansen  
Steve Ploen
- 18—Patrick Coulter  
Cody Molland
- 20—Michael Allner
- 22—Arlene Bernhardt
- 23—Andy Beaver  
Kim Mitchell
- 25—Stefani Lindgren
- 26—Kari Bappe
- 28—Sydney Gilles
- 29—Jessica Way



## October Anniversaries

- 8—Shane & Kim Mitchell
- 12—Denny & Dawn Bain  
Andy & Jamie Beaver
- 13—Jacob & Mary Hagan
- 20—Mike & Jodie Hannah
- 29—Nick & Liz Wahlberg

## We Appreciate and Thank You!!

Our thanks to:

- All September worship assistants.
- Ruth Chartier & Jacob Martin for sharing their talents on the organ with us

## We Serve TLC in October

Organist: Ruth Chartier & Jacob Martin

Altar Guild: Janna Brandt & Jan Stroman

Scripture Reader: Ann Hopp

Offertory Accountants: Dave & Patti Christiansen

Tech Assistants: Casey & Jill Stratton

## Undie Sunday

As part of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, the Western Iowa Synod churches took part in Undie Sunday. Throughout the month of September, Trinity Lutheran has been collecting new underwear to be donated to the warming shelter. In total, we collected 131 pairs of underwear.



## God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

After worship on September 10, members of the congregation gathered in the basement as part of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. Lutheran World Response kits were put together, quilts were tied, and tie blankets were made. Thanks to all who took part.



## Baptism of Millie Mae Christiansen

Millie Mae Christiansen, daughter of Paityn Hagberg & Kyler Christiansen was baptized during worship on Sunday, September 24. Her sponsors are Cody Christiansen, Colin Christiansen, Kylie Vander Feen, and Shelby Schwans. Millie Mae, we welcome you to the family of God!

# TLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 6, 2023

## Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes—August

**Date:** Sunday, August 6, 2023

**Present:** Blake Stratton, Pastor Jane Johnston, Lynn Morgan, Gloria Healy, Denny Bain, Susan Christiansen, Gail Ploen, Roger Christiansen, Nick Wahlberg and Rebecca Brockhaus

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:14 AM by President Blake Stratton.

**Opening Prayer / Devotion:** Pastor Jane shared a devotion and prayer from Christ in Our Home.

**Pastor's Report:** Attended confirmation camp 1 day instead of 2 due to weather. Researching confirmation curriculum. Confirmation classes will continue to be held on Wednesday evening. Vacation day requested for August 20.

### Announce:

Call committee update – no new candidates; briefly discussed idea of sharing a pastor with a SC congregation  
Synod / ELCA updates – the 3 Iowa Bishops rode in RAGBRAI with a mission to raise funds for World Hunger; they raised over \$63,000.  
Need to secure pulpit supply for August 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Discuss/Follow-Up:

Church building / Parsonage Items:

Insurance on roof – Received check from Brotherhood Mutual for \$21,345.09. Received estimate for steel roof from Walker Brothers for about \$76,000. We have about \$23,500 between the insurance proceeds and designated funds so we would need to raise or get a loan for the remaining \$52,500 if congregation approves this action.

Parsonage list – plan to power wash and stain deck as weather permits

Bell wiring – no new updates

\$1,027.70 left for stained glass repairs; additional cost will be covered by the Memorial fund; expecting work to be done August 7

Treasurer software & laptop – laptop is in, WIATEL is loading software, cost for laptop is \$1000

CCLI License renewal – license is usually used to print music, we are currently not using

Constitution – no new updates

New Carpet in the Sunday School Wing – need to get a few quotes for commercial squares – no new updates

Membership list update – working on best way to approach this along with a draft letter

Archival Process – starting to get more organized, in the process of cleaning up records; located old blueprints and researching how best to conserve them

Confirmation requirements – Pr. Jane researching curriculums and plans to meet with those that have conducted confirmation classes in the past

Fall rummage set for September 8 & 9; set up is September 7 – help needed for set-up especially, please see sign-up sheet on usher's table

Church inventory – insurance provider recommends having a record of church's personal property; discussed creating a list of property along with a video of church spaces

God's Work Our Hands – set for September 10 – we are currently collecting items for LWR kits – see list of items on the usher's table

**Decide:**

Minutes - Motion made by Denny Bain to approve the July Council Meeting Minutes with correction to amount of the laptop from \$900 to \$1000; seconded by Roger Christiansen. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Discussed how to best utilize the current cash balance while we plan for the replacement of the church roof. Investigate current CD rates and terms. Motion made by Roger Christiansen to approve the July Treasurer's report as printed; seconded by Denny Bain. The motion passed unanimously.

CCLI License - Motion made by Roger Christiansen to not renew the CCLI license at this time; seconded by Denny Bain. The motion passed unanimously.

Roof fundraising – Motion made by Susan Christiansen to begin fundraising for church roof replacement; seconded by Nick Wahlberg. The motion passed unanimously. *(Please note: A formal vote at a legally called congregational meeting will still need to be held before any final decisions are made or contracts signed. The state of the roof is undeniable though and any funds designated will go towards the replacement costs as approved by the congregation.)*

September Council Meeting set for Wednesday, September 13 at 6:00 PM

**Adjourn:**

Motion made by Nick Wahlberg to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Denny Bain. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:11 AM.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Brockhaus, secretary pro tem