

News of the Son

Trinity Lutheran Church — Columbia, MO



Unity and Blessing: Finding Hope in Psalm 133

In a world fractured by division, where relationships strain under conflict or isolation, Psalm 133 offers a vision of hope: “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!” (Psalm 133:1). This psalm paints a picture of harmony, likening it to precious oil flowing down Aaron’s beard or dew refreshing Mount Hermon (Psalm 133:2-3). Yet, the law confronts us here: our human brokenness often shatters unity. We sin against one another with harsh words, pride, or neglect, falling short of the love God commands.

But the Gospel shines brighter, offering comfort. True unity isn’t something we manufacture; it’s a gift from God, who reconciles us through Jesus Christ. On the cross, Christ bore our divisions, our failures, and our guilt, restoring us to God and one another. Through His resurrection, He pours out life eternal, a promise sealed in baptism, where we are united with Him, and in the Lord’s Supper, where His body and blood bind us as one family. As Psalm 133:3 declares, the Lord “has commanded the blessing, life forevermore,” a blessing fulfilled in Christ’s victory over death.

This hope transforms our perspective. Even when relationships falter or communities fracture, God’s grace is at work, drawing us toward reconciliation. The oil of His Spirit anoints us, softening hardened hearts; the dew of His mercy refreshes our weary souls. We’re called to live in this unity, forgiving as we’ve been forgiven, loving as Christ loves us. Though the law exposes our shortcomings, the Gospel assures us that God’s blessing isn’t earned but freely given.

As you navigate strained relationships or a divided world, let Psalm 133 remind you: God is your source of unity and peace. His love, poured out through Christ, heals and restores. Trust in His promise of life forevermore, and find comfort in knowing that He is knitting His people together, now and for eternity, under His boundless grace.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Brian K. Thieme

Psalm 133

When Brothers Dwell in Unity

*Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!*

*It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!*

*It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!*

*For there the LORD has commanded the blessing,
life forevermore.*

October
2025

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Knowing Christ's Love
Seeking His Will
Spreading His Word

YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday at 9:30am in the Youth Room

Lead by Pastor McCalley

UPCOMING *Events*

Be sure to check the Weekly Bulletin
for upcoming events.

The Board of Youth would like to extend an open invitation to all congregation members...if your heart is so inclined to help with youth activities or you have a special talent you'd like to share with/teach the youth, please don't hesitate to contact a Board Member. Members are...

Jenny Brame, Jacque Eckhoff & Lisa Mefrakis



JOIN US IN CONTINUING THE CELEBRATION OF TRINITY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY!



APPLE WINE FESTIVAL
Saturday, October 4, 2025
Trinity Upper Parking Lot
12:00 - 6:00pm

Open-House Event featuring...
*For-Purchase Food & Drink
*Children's Area
*Live Music
*Biergarten

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER PLEASE CONTACT:

Jacque Eckhoff at jacque711@hotmail.com or 573-289-0273.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 26, 2025

3:00—5:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

2201 W. Rollins Rd.—West Parking Lot*

If you would like to volunteer or reserve a spot for your car or game, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

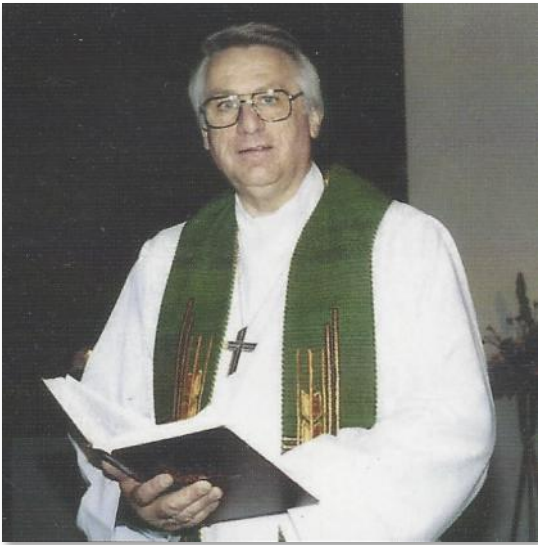
For those who want to donate, there is a large box for candy and a small box for non-edible items in the Narthex. Please avoid donating treats with imagery of witches, demons, etc.

** If inclement weather, activities will be in the gymnasium.*



Pastoral Biographies

A Publication of the History Committee of Trinity Lutheran Church



Rev. Kenneth J. Gerike
1982-2018

The Reverend Kenneth John Gerike was born February 25, 1949, in St. Louis, MO, to Rev. Ernest Luther and Vera (Roschke) Gerike. His father, who was also the son of a Lutheran pastor, served St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in University City, MO, for twelve years until he accepted a call in 1961 to Trinity Lutheran Church, Bloomington, IL. He served there until retiring in 1985 (Bloomington Pantagraph, 1996.11.07, p. 43). Rev. Kenneth attended Concordia College High School in Milwaukee. He then attended college at Concordia College, Milwaukee and Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts in 1971. He continued his education at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, serving as vicar in Whittier, California from 1973 to 1974, and graduated in 1975 with a Master of Divinity degree (TLC Installation bulletin, 1982.04.18). He married Darlene Dobberstein in Bloomington, IN, in 1973. He was ordained in June, 1975 with his father officiating at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bloomington, IL. Later that month he was installed at St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville, IN. Preacher for the service in Bloomington was

Rev. Kenneth's uncle, Rev. Victor Gerike, who had been an associate pastor at that church before moving to Trinity Lutheran Church in Evansville, IN (Bloomington Pantagraph, 1975.06.13 p. 5). Rev. Victor's obituary lists four sons including Rev. Henry Victor Gerike of St. Louis (involved with music at the St. Louis seminary for many years, including the Lutheran Service Book). Rev. Victor's four brothers were Rev. Ernest (father of our Rev. Kenneth), Rev. Gerhardt Johannes Carl Gerike of Fredericktown, MO (Bloomington Pantagraph, 1996.09.18, p. 52), Louis, and Theodore (who, along with his wife Ruth, Matthew Gerike remembers, were part of the Laborers for Christ group that worked at Trinity in 1997-1999 during the building of the Multipurpose Facility).

Pastor Kenneth and Darlene had two children while in Kendallville (Kristin and Matthew) and welcomed two more (Rachel and Andrew) after arriving in Columbia. Darlene graduated from Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, IL in 1972. She taught in Lutheran elementary schools in Indiana, California, Illinois, and St. Louis before they moved to Columbia. At TLC she continued to teach, play the organ, and direct the Handbell choir (Columbia Daily Tribune [CDT], 2007.03.27 p.11). While in Kendallville Rev. Gerike had served as a member of the Board of Youth Ministry with the LCMS's Indiana District, Regional Facilitator for the Boards of Parish Education, and as pastoral advisor with the Kendallville zone of the LWML (CDT 1982.04.17 page 9).

The president of the Missouri District, Rev. Paul Spitz, helped the Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia field candidates to fill the vacancy left by Rev. Priess's departure in February 1981. Six calls were extended to other pastors prior to Pastor Gerike's acceptance of the call in February 1982. He was installed on April 18, 1982, by

Rev. Walter Strickert and the sermon was delivered by his father, Rev. Ernest Gerike. In 1983, a Columbia Daily Tribune article titled, "A legacy's different faces" (CDT 1983.11.13 p25, 26), discussed the differences between Lutheran churches in the city. The conservative Trinity Lutheran, observing "closed communion," and Campus Lutheran of the LCMS were contrasted with the "ultraconservative" Grace Lutheran (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran), the more "moderate" St. Andrews (then members of the Lutheran Church of America), and the unaffiliated Calvary Lutheran, which had formed around Rev. Swanson when he was dismissed from Trinity in March 1977. Rev. Gerike was quoted in the article, saying "This congregation is very much opposed to anything that has the aroma of the charismatic movement."

Rev. Gerike began his ministry in Columbia by visiting the parents of recent baptisms and those

interested in joining the church. The “gentle giant” towered over the children to whom he gave sermonettes at the Child Learning Center (founded as an independent corporation in 1980). TLC would take ownership of TLCLC in 1983. A building committee was appointed in 1982 with the intention of increasing the space for Christian education. Plans to build both an education/office wing as well as a multipurpose/gym wing were constrained by a lack of funds. The former wing was completed in 1986, but the latter was not built until 1999.

The November 1982 Assembly of Voters (AOV) meeting minutes describe a “heated and interminable discussion on the issue of girls [in the seventh and eighth grade confirmation classes] participating” as acolytes, which the congregation voted to allow in 1983. Rev. Gerike, who was regularly consulted by local newspapers for his opinion on religious topics, commented in a 1992 article covering local Catholic parishes allowing female altar servers that “a shortage of boys forced [Trinity Lutheran] church's hand in allowing girls to participate” (Columbia Missourian, 1992.03.20 p.7). The December 1985 monthly newsletter included a detailed article on “Women Suffrage in the Church” and concluded with the 1969 resolution from an LCMS convention which stated, in part, that “Scripture does not prohibit women from exercising the franchise in congregational or synodical assemblies.” The TLC Constitution and By-laws Committee received approval from the AOV to delete gender from voting member qualifications in 1983 which was finally achieved in the 1987 revisions of the constitution and by-laws.

In Rev. Gerike's early years at TLC, the pastor's report (recorded in the Board of Directors and AOV minutes) listed congregant transfers in, transfers out, profession of faith, baptisms and confirmations. Over the years, these reports began to include more detailed descriptions of his involvement with confirmation classes, Bible studies, TLCLC, Adult Information Class, Missouri District Meetings, and visits to shut-ins. An additional church worker to help serve the congregation was approved in 1986, and in May 1987, Mr. Rod Becher was commissioned as the second Director of Christian Education (DCE) in TLC history (the first was Rev. Alvin Lange in 1980). He became the administrative director of TLCLC but only stayed one year. The congregation decided to

call an ordained clergyman for the youth, and this role was expanded to assist Rev. Gerike with preaching and to serve as liturgist/celebrant when not preaching, as well as providing pastoral care, overseeing Christian education, and leading other efforts.. A special AOV meeting in July 1988 led to a call that was accepted by Candidate Carl Rockrohr, who was ordained and installed in February 1990. After only two years at Trinity, Rev. Rockrohr accepted a call to serve an LCMS World Mission in Ghana, West Africa in 1992. Candidate Brian Thieme was then ordained and installed in August 1993 and has since contributed to a remarkably stable pastoral leadership at Trinity Lutheran.

Note should be made of Rev. Gerike's long service to the Missouri District. He served many years on the District's Board of Youth, helping put on high school retreats and programs. When the District Convention was held in Columbia in 1997, Trinity youth, as well as those from surrounding churches (he was serving as a vacancy pastor at Emmanuel Boonville) were enlisted to help with the election process and run notes. Eventually, he became convention manager and then Secretary of the Missouri District. His son, Matt, guesses he probably gave 25 years of service to the district in addition to helping out neighboring congregations as a vacancy pastor.

A Church Growth Task Force was approved in March 1989 to assess the feasibility of an LCMS mission church in Columbia. Due to an expectation of success, the “Great Commission Church Planters Kit” was purchased from the LCMS. “This Phone's For You,” a telemarketing system, was used to reach out and assemble a mailing list. After much time and hard work, Alive in Christ began meeting in April 1992 (Columbia Missourian 1992.01.31 p.7) and held Charter Sunday in November 1992.

Another mission church with a connection to TLC was located in Ashland. A Mission Action Advisory Group (MAAG) composed of pastors and laymen from Jefferson City and Columbia began organizing in 1999 and culminated in Family of Christ Lutheran being chartered as a congregation of the LCMS in 2009.

Not all the projects started during Rev. Gerike's tenure enjoyed success. In 1983, a Feasibility of a Day School Committee began a slow process that would eventually lead to Good Shepherd Lutheran School's (GSLS) formation through the combined efforts of TLC and Campus Lutheran in 2000. Initial classes (grades 1-3) were held in TLC in 2002, with plans to build a new facility and the purchase of

land on Ridgemont. Kindergarten was transferred from TLCLC in 2003, and additional years were gradually added up to eighth grade by 2009. The school attendance peaked in 2009 and then slowly receded until its closure in 2018.

A set of handbells had been donated in 1983 and were used intermittently at first. In 1988, Rev. Gerike suggested that his wife, Darlene, “do something with the bells”, so he agreed to be with the two youngest children one night a week while she led a children’s bell choir. The adult bell choir followed the next year, and the designations eventually changed to beginners and advanced. Darlene also played in the Columbia

Handbell Ensemble. From the early 1990’s Darlene was the music and religion teacher at TLCLC, then moved to teach at GSLS. Darlene was diagnosed with leukemia in 2000 and fought through several relapses before she “was called to her heavenly home Monday, March 26, 2007”. Matt writes, “Pastor, Darlene, and family were grateful for the outpouring of Christian love and support of the congregation, especially during

this time, including things such as yard care and painting the house so Pastor could stay with Darlene at the hospital in St. Louis”. She had a funeral service in Columbia with Rev. Brian Thieme and Rev. Ray Mirly (President of the Missouri District) officiating and a funeral in Omro, Wisconsin, before burial in the Omro Cemetery.

Rev. Andrew Gerike, their son, graduated from Concordia-Fort Wayne in June 2014 with a Master of Divinity. After completing a Master of Sacred Theology (also in Fort Wayne) he was ordained and installed at Calvary Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE in July 2015.

Rev. Gerike faithfully served the congregation and preached the gospel. His attendance at BOD and AOV meetings provided a calming influence and his ability to understand multiple viewpoints encouraged consensus. He promoted the TLC care of a stretch of Stadium Road and the Trunk or Treat program. He also enjoyed playing the carillons for the neighborhood. After more than 35 years at Trinity and 42 years in the ministry, Rev. Gerike announced in the October 2017 AOV that his retirement would be effective in August 2019. The November 2017 newsletter had a letter to the congregation explaining his timeline and its rationale. “This timeline is, as is the case in all things, operating under the good and gracious will of God. Hence, I say, *Deo volente*, that is, ‘God willing’”. His January 2018 BOD Senior Pastor’s Report had the usual list of activities but it would be his last. Rev. Thieme, in the February 2018 monthly newsletter, after opening with St. Luke’s account of Simeon in the temple, sorrowfully stated that Rev. Gerike had unexpectedly suffered a stroke and “was called by the Lord January 28, 2018 to be with his Jesus in eternity”. The Lector at his funeral was Rev. William Marler, First Vice-President of the District, the Liturgist was Rev. Thieme, the Preacher was Rev. Lee Hagan, President of the District, and the organist was his cousin, Rev. Henry Gerike.

Rev. Kenneth Gerike is buried next to his wife, Darlene, at the Omro Cemetery in Omro, Wisconsin.

Authored by Dr. Nick Couper with help from Matt Gerike and the editorial assistance of Ryan and Ethan Mott and Pastor McCalley

In 2024, Trinity elected to support the education and training of men for the Office of the Holy Ministry in Europe. Owing to a weakening confession in some of the seminaries in Europe, confessional Lutheran men have opted to receive their training in smaller programs and are in need of financial assistance. This month, it is a pleasure to introduce you to Markus Busenius, a German student and dear friend of Pastor McCalley. Markus was an exchange student at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana from 2019-2020. The first part of his biography (part 2 is coming in November) details the plight of Christians who desire to hear and learn the Word of God in its truth and purity.

SELF-INTRODUCTION OF MARKUS BUSENIUS, PART 1

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Today I would like to introduce myself to you and explain a little bit about the pastoral formation and theological education I experienced in Germany at the seminary of the “Selbstständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche” (SELK) and why I decided for an alternate route to the Office of Holy Ministry.

My name is Markus Busenius and was born on March, 14th of 1991 in the city of Paderborn, North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany. In the summer of June, 18th 1991 I was baptized. In 1994 my mother left the state church together with a circle of people. They were forced by the President of the Westphalian state church to leave the church because of their public skepticism towards the new pastor and his unionistic tendencies. Therefore, I grew up and was catechized not in a Lutheran congregation, but in a pietistic Russian-German congregation that claimed to be Lutheran.

But they were not Lutheran, but rather very Evangelical-pietist. They permitted doctrines and teachings that were not Biblical nor Lutheran to be preached and this caused for me a crisis of faith at the age of 22. At the age of 13 I experienced something like a conversion after which according to the preaching of some Brethren one should not have any struggle with sin and least of all fall into gross and obvious sin. Yet, even though I was supposedly converted I experienced the struggle with personal sin and even the fall into sin. Therefore, I first began to doubt my conversion, followed by the thought of being not elected by God for salvation and instead the fear of being only prepared by God for eternal condemnation.

This crisis became so severe that I interpreted the diverging understanding of the certain doctrines of scriptures from that of the Brethren as a sure sign from God that he surely has given me over to a false spirit and thereby prepared me only for eternal condemnation. In the moment when I was on the verge of giving up on God, my faith, and Christianity, my cousin came to me and made me aware of some different evangelical yet pietistic preachers on the internet, which we listened together and afterwards discussed. I noticed that these preachers understood those certain doctrines in the same way that I did. In the discussion with my cousin, I found out that He also understood these doctrines of scriptures as I did and that he too had a problem with the Brethren’s preaching.

But this experience also enkindled in me an interest in the different historic confessions. So, I began to inform myself through the internet about the different historic churches and their confessions and found out that doctrinally only the confessions of the Lutheran church had a common ground with my understanding of the Holy Scriptures. To me it became clear, that I want to be a Lutheran. According to my understanding only the Lutheran confessions were the correct summary and expression of the Bible’s teaching. Of course, that led to discussions between me and the Brethren and finally me accusing the Brethren congregation for misusing the name Lutheran while not being doctrinally Lutheran nor willing to become Lutheran. I even argued that they should get rid of the “Lutheran” in their name, especially if they do not really want to be Lutheran but instead keep their man-made traditions and even permit false doctrine to be preached in their congregation. For me it was clear I could not continue in this congregation if they were unwilling to become Lutheran.

So, I began to look for a confessional Lutheran church. Since I knew the history of the state churches very well, I knew that the evangelical state churches were not an option for me, because of the forced union since the 19th century of churches with a reformed confession and a Lutheran confession into unified church bodies. Another problem for me with the state churches was also the propagation of unbiblical teachings and taking a stand for unmoral, unnatural, and unethical positions. Closest to the Lutheran doctrines and blessed with having kept the liturgical tradition of the catholic church according to my understanding was the Roman Church. I visited the Roman cathedral in Paderborn and fell in deeper love with the liturgy.

Through the internet I somehow found the Selbstständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (SELK) and watched the ordination of our current bishop. For me it was like a sign from heaven. There was still an independent Lutheran church that even was as liturgical as the Roman Church. I began to look for the next service of the SELK in Paderborn and visited it. At that point in my life, I also was not sure what I should do or study after my abitur. The thought to study theology as an option arose in the summer 2015, when I found the biblical and Lutheran doctrine as a solution to my faith crises. However, when I visited the SELK for the first time it seemed to me impossible to apply for the study of theology at the seminary of the SELK, because the application date for the upcoming semester was well passed and the language courses were about to begin in a week. But following the advice of the Pastor after our short talk to give it a chance, I wrote an e-mail to the secretary of the seminary with a request for an apartment and included an entire application. The application was accepted and an apartment could be made available for me. I informed my mother about my final decision to begin with my theological studies in Oberursel in about a week. Even though I explained to her that the seminary belongs to an independent Evangelical Lutheran Church, she still was skeptical about my decision to study theology because of the fear that I would fall away from faith.

In the first year of my studies at Oberursel, I became aware of some tensions between the professors and faculty on the one side and the students on the other. But I rather trusted the professors, since they were teachers of Scriptures and theology and members, in my eyes, of a faithful, confessional Lutheran church; my fellow students and I were only students of theology. I still believed that the professors were faithful Christians and Lutheran. However, already in the first exegetical classes I became skeptical of the methods we were taught by our professors. They only taught us the methodological canon of higher critical exegesis and we were required to use this kind of exegesis in our papers. On our critique and skepticism of the method they replied that it would be the only objective and scientific way of doing biblical exegesis and therefore the only valid and acceptable at the seminary. Furthermore, they claimed that it would be the only possible kind of biblical exegesis to not misuse, misunderstand, and misinterpret the holy scriptures.

During the following years my skepticism towards the Professors grew and I became even more critical and unhappy about their way of teaching us theology and how they dealt with the Scriptures, with the doctrines of the church, and even more I became angry how they replied to the requests and concerns of the students. Two years of theological studies in Leipzig and especially one year of sound theological education at the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne were necessary to become aware of the real problem and the depth of the issues that were going on at the seminary in Oberursel. The Covid-19 Crisis was necessary for me and some other students to find out that the problems we had with our professors at the seminary in Oberursel were prevailing in the entire SELK and lurking even amongst the so called "conservative" pastors and the bishop himself! The real problem in our eyes and real reason for the fact that almost all of our professors in Oberursel held a theological and doctrinal differing position from ours on certain topics, was unfaithfulness to the Word of God and unbelief in the Holy Scriptures! Covid-19 acted as a catalyst to finally acknowledge that our assumptions and fears were right. During Covid-19 they became obvious through several discussions with conservative pastors, the bishop, and our professors. Covid-19 forced us, a group of students, to break our silence and to practice open critique.

The fight of the Professors for the use of the higher critical method as the only possible way of doing exegesis was only a symptom of their unbelief in the Holy Scriptures. The willingness by most of the SELK pastors to follow all the rules set forth by the government during the Covid-19 crisis, and even to change practices in the divine service that were considerably set in stone in SELK congregations, by most pastors without any critique or skepticism, was in our eyes the result of unbelief and unfaithfulness to the Word of God and Holy Scriptures. In the same years we also learned that even the willingness among the so-called "conservatives" to make compromises to the liberals on the matter of the role of women in the church to conduct publicly certain functions of the Holy Office of the Ministry in a service setting of a congregation, and to introduce the office of "pastoralreferentinnen" in the church was the result of unbelief and unfaithfulness to the Word of God and the Holy Scriptures. We just compared the patterns of arguments with which certain decisions were justified and changes during Covid-19 were implemented in the church with the patterns of argumentation that were brought forth by the "conservatives" to defend the compromises they were willing to make in the case of the role of women in church and in society or with which they justified and defended their disregard of the rule of the Order of Creation in the secular realm.

— Look for part 2 in next month's newsletter! —

SERVE AND ENCOURAGE

Ladies Fun Night at the Thieme's

- Fourth Thursday: October 23 @ 6:30 pm
- If interested in attending, please RSVP to Sarah Thieme at 573-999-7746

Hello Ladies! Please come to the Ladies Night Fun Fourth Thursday at the Thieme's! We will have fun studying God's Word, getting to know each other, and having some laughs. It will be the fourth Thursday of every month starting at 6:30 pm. always at the Thieme house.

We will be studying how maybe we put our hope in our abilities or circumstances, clinging to things that make us feel in control. The truth is that all those things can be stripped away, and when they are, we realize we never had control in the first place. God asks us to put our trust in Him and place our hope in Him. Our only hope lies in the giver of gifts. Hope sustains us as we rest in God's hands. As we journey through life, Jesus provides hope as a precious gift, equipping us to rely on His love and strength.

LWML NEWS

Mary Martha Guild

- Wednesday, October 8 @ 9:30 am
- Fellowship Hall
- October Ingathering: Packaged goodies for Trunk or Treat

Vesper Guild

- Tuesday, October 14 @ 5:30 pm
- Church Library

Nut Sales—Order Now!

- September 21-October 13

The Mary Martha Guild is now taking orders for nuts. We are offering an assortment of plain and chocolate-covered nuts, pretzels, raisins, and gummies. Order forms are available in the Narthex. Please place your orders and payments in the box located in the Narthex. The profits from our nut sales are used to sponsor various missions that Mary Martha chooses.

Vesper Guild Craft Fair

- Saturday, October 18 from 8:00 am—2:00 pm
- Sundays & Mondays, October 19-20 and 26-27 between services

Mark your calendar! The annual Vesper Guild Craft Fair, previously held in November, is now scheduled for October.

Hello, fellow crafters! If you wish to contribute craft items for the fair, please add your name and craft to the chart on the LWML bulletin board to aid in planning space. All crafts must be at Trinity by noon on Wednesday, October 15. Thank you for sharing your crafts!

2025 Trinity Lutheran Church Officers and Board Members	
President Larry McCoig	Board of Evangelism James Roberts Patti Haubein Dianne Mirtz
Secretary Debbie Antel	Board of Social Ministry Emily Derendinger Jessica Kespohl Travis Vellema
Treasurer Warren Harms	Board of Stewardship and Finance Jensen Duenckel Jon Berendzen Mary Frerking Richard Mangold Karen Niederjohn <i>vacant</i>
Financial Secretary Keith Davis	Board of TLC Endowment Fund Rob Hall Pat Hansen Chuck Murphy
Board of Christian Ed. Connie Coil Hillari Roberts Kimberly Walker	Board of Trustees John Frerking Aaron Bedsworth Jordan Duenckel
Board of Early Childhood Ed. Dan Watts Tom Myers Terri Shank Kylie Sterling Jordan Bedsworth	Board of Youth Jenny Brame Jacque Eckhoff Lisa Mefrakis
Board of Elders David Attebery Benjamin Asbeck Ron Barrett Mike Brame Jim Cherrington Ron Dickes Carey Smith	

September 9, 2025 Board of Directors (draft meeting minutes)

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was held in the Fellowship Hall on September 9, 2025, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The following board members attended: Larry McCoig (President), Pastor Thieme, Annette Kiehne, Warren Harms, Keith Davis, David Attebery, John Frerking, Connie Coil, Kimberly Walker, Dan Watts, James Roberts, Emily Derendinger, Karen Niederjohn, Jacque Eckhoff, Robert Hall, and Debbie Antel (Secretary).

President McCoig called the meeting to order. Pastor Thieme opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer. Robert Hall made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; seconded and approved.

Keith Davis, Financial Secretary, presented the report of operating income through August 31. Regular envelopes year-to-date actual collections are \$445,297.02. Loose plate year-to-date collections are \$38,027.78. Building Fund year-to-date collections are \$89,841.36. Other year-to-date collections are \$92,640.72.

The motion to receive the Financial Secretary's report was seconded and approved.

Warren Harms, Treasurer, presented the finance year 2025 reports ending August 31 and answered questions.

The motion to receive the Treasurer's reports was seconded and approved.

The consent agenda includes the minutes from the August 12, 2025 regular meeting, Pastor Thieme's report, and the following board reports: Trustees, Christian Education, Evangelism, and Youth.

David Attebery made a motion to approve the consent agenda; seconded and approved.

Old Business

Sunday School Classrooms: President McCoig announced the Board of Christian Education and the Board of Early Childhood Education met recently but no decision was made. The Board of Elders has been asked to participate, and a meeting date is pending.

NEW BUSINESS – NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 11, 17, and 21 *Witnessing with Word & Prayer* classes

AOV meeting – September 14, 2025; potluck at 11:45 a.m.; meeting at 12:30 p.m.

BOD meeting – October 14, 2025; 6:30 p.m. Writ-

ten reports from all boards (see Bylaws 7.1.7) are due to Debbie Antel, Congregation Secretary, and Heather Asbeck, Church Administrator, by 4:00 p.m. October 8.

Budget Committee Meeting – October 21, 2025; 6:30 p.m.

John Frerking, Trustee, requested that board members assist in communicating to the congregation that thermostats should remain set at 72 degrees.

Dan Watts made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded and approved.

Attendees sang Hymn #649, *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Debbie Antel, Secretary

September 14, 2025 Assembly of Voters (draft meeting minutes)

The regular meeting of the Assembly of Voters was held in the Fellowship Hall on September 14, 2025, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Forty people signed the attendance sheet. President Larry McCoig and Secretary Debbie Antel were in attendance.

President McCoig welcomed attendees, called the meeting to order, and confirmed a quorum was present. Pastor Thieme gave an Opening Devotion.

President McCoig asked for any first-time attendees. Kathy Campbell and Ethan Mott were welcomed as first-time attendees. Mary Frerking made motions to receive them; seconded and approved.

Robert Hall made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded and approved.

Dan Watts made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2025 meeting; seconded and approved.

Pastors' reports are included in the agenda packet. The second pages of their reports were mistakenly swapped in the packet. There was no discussion or action.

A list of membership changes reported since the February 2025 regular AOV meeting is included in the packet. President McCoig requested a motion to receive the listing and place it on record. John Frerking so moved; seconded and approved.

Keith Davis presented the Financial Secretary's Report of operating income through August 31, 2025. The motion to receive the Financial Secretary's report was seconded and approved.

Warren Harms, Treasurer, presented the finance year 2025 reports ending August 31 and answered

questions. He encouraged members to call him any time on spending questions and Keith Davis about receipts. The motion to receive the Treasurer's reports was seconded and approved.

Board, Ad Hoc Committee, and Auxiliary Organization Reports included in the agenda packet are: Trustees, Christian Education, Early Childhood Education – TLCLC Director, Evangelism, Social Ministry, Youth, Paraments, Vestments, and Select Chancel Furniture Committee (aka Worship Upgrades), Ministry Expansion Campaign (including a project flyer made available today), and Life Team. A Transportation Committee annual report is not included in the packet.

Old Business

Nominations to fill vacant board positions: Jordan Bedsworth was nominated to serve a three-year term on the Board of Early Childhood Education. The motion by the Nominating Committee was seconded and approved. A vacancy remains on the Board of Stewardship and Finance.

2023 Financial Review Committee Report: A typewritten report submitted by Gary Kespohl was made available today with the agenda packet. President McCoig announced a response will be given at the December AOV meeting. He requested a motion to receive the review report. Dan Watts so moved; seconded and approved.

President McCoig asked for volunteers to serve on the 2024 Financial Review Committee and to please contact him or a member of the Executive Committee.

New Business

Lay Delegate: Pastor Thieme explained the process for electing delegates to the Circuit Forum being held October 5 and the National Convention being held July 2026 in Phoenix, Arizona, and requested any volunteers to serve as Lay Delegate. Larry McCoig volunteered. John Frerking made a motion to nominate Larry McCoig for Lay Delegate, then asked for a second to the motion and discussion. The motion was seconded, and there was no discussion. John Frerking called for a vote, and the motion to approve Larry McCoig as Lay Delegate was approved.

Door Security System Proposal: Doug McDowell, on behalf of the Church Property Security and Church Community Security Committee, presented the Plan of Action and motion for the Assembly of Voters to approve of the Tiger Security door security system proposal (\$21,505 + \$65 monthly recurring services - detailed proposal is included on pages 33-34 of the agenda packet), with additions as needed to cover the specific needs of all doors determined by the committee and trustees to be necessary, using previously identified available funds of \$47,805, with work

to be completed in 2025 or in 2026. The effectiveness of the system will be reviewed within six months of the "go live" date.

Doug noted that the Board of Directors approved the motion in August.

The motion was seconded and after discussion President McCoig called for a vote by paper ballot.

A yes/no paper vote was conducted and ballots were tabulated.

The motion was approved 33-6.

Announcements

September 17 and 21: *Witnessing with Word & Prayer* classes

October 14, 2025; 6:30 p.m.: BOD meeting

October 21, 2025; 6:30 p.m.: Budget Committee meeting

November 16, 2025: AOV meeting (agenda: candidates and budget for 2026). Potluck at 11:45 a.m.; meeting at 12:30 p.m.

December 14, 2025: AOV meeting

Potluck at 11:45 a.m.; meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Any historical documents stored at your home, please make them available to the History

Subcommittee for archiving and/or copying

Adjournment

Robert Hall made a motion to adjourn; seconded and approved. Pastor Thieme led the attendees in singing The Doxology. The meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Debbie Antel

Secretary

SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America & the Caribbean: missionaryMAC



August/September
2025

News from Volunteer Coordinator Erin Mackenzie | missionaryMAC.blogspot.com | [f erin.mackenzie5](https://www.facebook.com/erin.mackenzie5)

(If you received a hard copy of this and would like to help me be green and save on postage, please email erin.mackenzie@lcms.org.)

One of the Rev. Dr. Larry Rast's PowerPoint slides at early August's regional missionary conference detailed the % growth of our denomination over its first century or so. In the face of what often appears to be an aging and declining church body today, may we be encouraged by God's faithfulness to our forebearers and secure in the knowledge that "Built on the Rock the Church shall stand / Even when steeples are falling" (LSB 645).

1847-1850: 58%
1850-1860: 343% (!!!)
1860-1870: 154%
1870-1880-90%
1880-1890: 32%
1890-1900: 39%
1900-1910: 20%
1910-1920: 14%
1920-1930: 15%
1930-1940: 24%
1940-1950: 29%
1950-1960: 65%



LAC missionaries + OIM staff

Levitical Life

Early on in my missionary journey, I remember glomming onto the fact that during Israel's wilderness wandering, the Levites, set apart for certain duties in the tabernacle, received no inheritance. Instead, they lived in a smattering of cities from within other tribes' allotments and ate from a dedicated portion of select offerings (c.f. Nu 18, Dt 18, Jsh 13). I saw an obvious parallel with missionary life: LCMS missionaries leave behind homes and families for alien lands, yet God uses His Church (you!) to sustain them.

Reading 2 Chronicles 35 recently, the Levites surfaced again; I was struck by their unique role, even centuries later. King Josiah—one of the good guys—was in power, and the people were prepping to keep the Passover. Everyone was running with the tasks in his or her lane: priests, singers, gatekeepers. Blessedly, "they did not need to depart from their service, for their brothers the Levites prepared for them" (v 15).

Yes, the Levites, delegated generations previously for a particular service role, were executing it to a T...which enabled *others* to do the same.

The parallel holds up. I bear a "solemn appointment" as a Career Missionary to Spread the Gospel, Plant Lutheran Churches, and Show Mercy, and God has raised up a network of individuals and congregations to ensure I'm able to do so without lacking daily bread. My vocation as Volunteer Coordinator transpires behind the scenes. I double and triple check volunteers' flight times, jingle sets of keys that would rival any janitor, and get up early to buy fresh corn tortillas for breakfast tacos so the priests, singers, and gatekeepers—pastors, deaconesses, and teachers—can preach, teach, and administer the Sacraments. Those on the front lines don't need to "depart from their service" when volunteers are on the ground because I have spreadsheets on spreadsheets tracking minutiae. What's more, my colleagues can carry out THEIR vocations all the more boldly and freely knowing that the sending Church is behind them. Fifteen or 20 times a year, that means literally! I'll make sure there's a van, a bunk bed, and some potable water waiting.

**Making
Disciples
for Life** 



Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for recent facility improvements at Dios es Grande (Panama), Amigos de Cristo (DR), and Christ (Belize).
2. Thanksgiving for the outpouring of love & support Josh & I received upon our engagement.
3. For the Naumann family as they mourn the death of Rev. Dr. Jonathan's mother.
4. For the 3 participants in a weeklong Spanish language intensive, that God might use their newfound abilities for the expansion of His kingdom.
5. That God would pave the way to a new worship space for Iglesia Luterana Pueblo Nuevo (DR).

Twenty...That's Something!

Even as the LAC region celebrates 125 years under the banner of **Remember | Repent | Rejoice**, the DRLM (Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission) celebrates 20. On August 27, 2005, Danelle Putnam and the Rev. Walter Reis Jr. (pictured) were installed as the first two boots on the ground. Danelle, now a deaconess married to the Rev. Carlos Schumann, had been hand-picked to explore how disability ministry might intersect with church planting. A generation later, the DRLM has grown to encompass five congregations, a Lutheran school, a group home, and a seminary—all marked by inclusivity. Members nationwide will join both veteran and first-time US guests for a celebratory Divine service, *sancocho* lunch, and DRLM history presentation in Palmar Arriba during the September FORO. Thanks be to God for His providence in raising up the foundations of a national church. May He grant us and those who will succeed us perseverance in the decades to come as we follow His leading and trust His perfect timing.



Some of my favorite photos of [Josh](#) & I, engaged 8/19: (L to R) Sunset on our hotel's rooftop terrace during the March FORO; Easter 2025; the BEFORE pic from the killer "El Mogote" hike in Jarabacoa.

Quote of the Month

"The most effective way to do it, is to do it."

—Amelia Earhart

To support the LCMS through me, you may give a tax-deductible gift...

- **online**, securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/mackenzie;
- by **phone**: 1-888-930-4438 (donor care rep) or text **LCMSMACKENZIE** to 41-444;
- by **sending a check** (with "Mackenzie/Latin America" on the memo line) to:
 - ⇒ LCMS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861; or
 - ⇒ Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034.



October

Birthdays & Anniversaries



1
Susan Sendelweck

3
Judy Grant
Tobi McCool
Don Scharlott
Adam Schaumburg

4
Theresa Greer
Mila Garren

5
Dana Rakers

6
Joe Brame
Jensen Duenckel
Hayden Fick
Amanda Stine

7
Nicholas Cook

8
David Cherrington
Gabriella McCord

10
Lori Dickes
Sierra Grimm
Nathan Ousley
Susan Reynolds

11
Joette Patrick
Melissa Remer-Phifer
Matthew Schuster

12
Cana Provost

13
Adrienne Martin
Marilyn Simmons

14
Chelsea Browner
Mary Raisch
Zach Schulte

15
Mike Antel
Donna Pfeiffer

16
Barb Barrett

17
Brynn Bedsworth
Buck Katt
Marli Yoder

18
Michelle Gastler
Mason Reaser

19
Marley Escamilla
Dianne Jeide

20
Olivia Bailey
Michelle Meyers

21
Theodore Mefrakis

22
Paul Walz

23
Ron Barrett
Abby Berendzen
Izzy Berendzen
Sue Ellen Morris

24
Jayce Earnhart

26
Jeff Dickes
Marvin Koop

27
Kaleb Burns
Kathy Campbell
Sarah Thieme

28
Susan Malson

29
Jessica Murphy

30
Pete Easterhaus
Myra McCoig
Matt Moyer

Aaron & Jordan Bedsworth October 1, 2022
Lucas & Lisa Stockhorst October 5, 2013
Dennis & Carol Weinhold October 13, 1984
Richard & Judy Grant October 16, 1982
John & Mary Frerking October 16, 1999
David & Suzanne Hart October 17, 1978
Randy & Keri Thoroughman October 20, 2006
Patrick & Melissa Fitzgerald October 20, 2012
Brandon & Melissa Remer-Phifer October 20, 2018
Carlos & Barbara Sanchez October 21, 1995
Travis & Karen Provost October 22, 2011
Brian & Sarah Thieme October 25, 1997
Richard & Tammy Mangold October 26, 2002

Upcoming meetings & deadlines:

- ♦ Board of Directors reports & agenda items are due **Wednesday, October 8, 2025.**
- ♦ The Board of Directors will meet **Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.
- ♦ The next Assembly of Voters meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 16 at 12:30 pm, with a potluck lunch preceding the meeting at 11:45 am.**
- ♦ Weekly bulletin announcements need to be submitted by **Wednesday** each week.
- ♦ Monthly newsletter entries should be received by the **20th of each month.**

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 8a Divine Service 930a Sun. School 1030a Divine Serv 6p JCC	29 9a Bible Study 6p Divine Service	30 545p Pickleball	1 9a LC Chapel 630p Lutheranism 101	2 7a Men's Bible Study 9a LC Chapel 11a Communion @ Lenoir 545p Pickleball 630p Handbells	3 Festival Setup Pastors' Day Off	4 12-6p Apple Wine Fest
5 LWML Sunday 8a Divine Service 930a Sun. School 1030a Divine Serv 6p JCC 6p Choir Practice	6 9a Bible Study 6p Divine Service	7 530p BoECE 545p Pickleball 6p Stephen Min.	8 9a LC Chapel 930 Mary Martha 6p BOCE 630p Lutheranism 101	9 7a Men's Bible Study 9a LC Chapel 545p Pickleball 630p Handbells	10 Pastors' Day Off	11
12 8a Divine Service 930a Sun. School 1030a Divine Serv 6p JCC 6p Choir Practice	13 6p Divine Service	14 1230 Worship Upgrades 530 Vesper Guild 545p Pickleball 630 BOD	15 9a LC Chapel 530p Life Team 630p Lutheranism 101	16 7a Men's Bible Study 9a LC Chapel 11a Communion @ Lenoir 545p Pickleball 6p Evangelism 630p Handbells	17 Pastors' Day Off	18 8-2 Vesper Guild Craft Fair
MO District Pastors' Conference			Heather — vacation attempt #2			
19 8a Divine Service Vesper Guild Craft Fair 930a Sun. School 1030a Divine Serv Youth Lunch + Midway Golf & Games 6p JCC	20 9a Bible Study 6p Divine Service Vesper Guild Craft Fair	21 545p Pickleball 630p Budget Committee	22 9a LC Chapel 630p Lutheranism 101	23 7a Men's Bible Study 9a LC Chapel 545p Pickleball 6p Elders 630p Handbells 630p Ladies Fun Nite @ Thieme's	24 Pastors' Day Off	25
26 Reformation Sunday 8a Divine Service Craft Fair 930a Sun. School 1030a Divine Serv 3p Trunk or Treat 6p JCC 6p Choir Practice	27 9a Bible Study 530p Trustees 6p Divine Service Vesper Guild Craft Fair	28 545p Pickleball	29 9a LC Chapel 630p Lutheranism 101	30 7a Men's Bible Study 9a LC Chapel 545p Pickleball 630p Handbells	31 Reformation Day Pastor's Day Off	1
Pastor McCalley in Germany						

Trinity Lutheran Church
2201 Rollins Road
Columbia, MO 65203-1433

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Rev. Brian Thieme, Pastor
Rev. Joseph McCalley, Pastor

Divine Service:

Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Monday 6:00 p.m.

Bible Study & Sunday School:

Sunday 9:15 a.m.

phone: 573-445-2112

fax: 573-445-4078

email: church@trinity-lcms.org

website: trinity-lcms.org

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