



**GOD BLESS
AMERICA**

THE TRINITARIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Pastor Warren Graff, Vacancy Pastor

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Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM
Divine Service 10:15 AM



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BOARD OF ELDERS

During the board of directors meeting on June 18th comments were made about the wonderful support of the congregation members during our time of pastoral vacancy! Eliane Graff commented to Sandy and I, after the service on June 21st, that Pastor Graff and she were pleased to serve such a “strong congregation” during the vacancy. I applaud all of you!

Our adult Sunday Catechism class recently learned about the fifth commandment. “*Thou shalt not kill.*” In his book, Luther’s LARGE CATECHISM A Contemporary Translation With Study Questions, F. Samuel Janzow states: “God’s real meaning in this commandment is that we should allow no one to come to any harm, but should show kindness and love to everyone ...” My prayer is that we, as members of Trinity, will continue to do so to each other and especially to our new pastor.

God has blessed us with a relatively short vacancy period. We can show our thanks and praises to Him by being patient, kind, tolerant and welcoming to Pastor Simon.

Bob Klose, Elder

EDUCATION

The Education Committee met on Sunday, June 14th after church service. Six people were in attendance.

Old Business

1. Vacation Bible School (VBS) was tentatively scheduled for the week of July 13-17, 2026. Since (Pastor) Simon’s Ordination and Installation is scheduled for July 12th, it was decided that VBS would be cancelled for this year because of timing and fairness to our new pastor. We asked Abby Anderson if she would be able to lead four Summer Youth Activity days in July in place of VBS, and she agreed. The activity days will be held on Tuesday, July 14th and Thursday, July 16th : and Tues., July 21st and Thurs. July 23rd. They will be from 1:00-3:00 pm and include a bible lesson, games, crafts and snacks.

New Business

1. The first topic discussed was when Youth Sunday School would stop for the summer and when it would resume in the fall. Sunday, June 28th will be the last

day for Sunday School this summer and it will start again around August 16th for the new school year. More information will be put out at the end of July.

2. It was brought up that we should look into buying Arch books to go with the Thanksgiving Baskets and also be given with the Christmas gifts from the gift tree for the local school children. It will be discussed at the next Education Committee meeting.
3. There was no other new business to discuss, so the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Your Friend in Christ,
Susan Kelly, Director of Education

LWML RUMMAGE SALE

We are collecting rummage for our annual Rummage Sale. Please place your rummage in the center Sunday School Room, the other two rooms are used for Children's Sunday School Classes. The East Shed is also available for storage of rummage. The shed key is available through Jan Thede during office hours 575-437-1482 or call Nora Sotak 575-439-7524, or Norbert Sanchez 575-921-2239.

PASTOR ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Pastor Simon's Pastor Ordination and Installation has been set for Sunday, July 12, 2026 at 4:00 pm followed by a dinner will follow in the Great Room.

PASTOR PANTRY

The church would also like to help our new Pastor with a few pantry items to get started in his new home when he arrives. All donations are welcome and can be placed in the Mission Box marked "Pastor Pantry".

DOLPHINS



Because dolphins often swim alongside ships, they've been used to symbolize Christ's presence, guiding people through earthly life and into eternal life. Although they're mammals, dolphins have been depicted as the fish that swallowed Jonah. Jesus compared his three days inside the tomb to Jonah's three days inside the fish, so dolphins also came to symbolize resurrection.

MY COUNTRY, 'TIS OF THEE

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord....Psalm 33:12

This patriotic hymn was written by Samuel Francis Smith, a native Bostonian, born on October 12, 1808. After attending Boston Latin School, he enrolled in Harvard, then attended Andover Seminary. While there, Samuel became fascinated by the work of Adoniram Judson, America's first missionary, and he developed a lifelong passion for world evangelism.

It was also during Samuel's first year at Andover that hymn publisher, Lowell Mason, sought his help. Mason had a stack of German songs and materials needing translation. Learning that Samuel was proficient in German, he recruited the young student to translate them.

On a cold February afternoon, about a half hour before sunset, Samuel sat in his sparsely furnished room, pouring over the materials. He was struck by the words of "Gott segne Sachsenland" (God Bless Our Saxon Land), set to the tune we know as "America" (used in Great Britain for "God Save The Queen").

"I instantly felt the impulse to write a patriotic hymn of my own adapted to this tune," Samuel later said. "Picking up a scrap of paper which lay near me, I wrote at once, probably within half an hour, the hymn, 'America' as it is now known."

A friend, William Jenks, took a copy to the pastor of Boston's Park Street Congregational Church. There 'America' was first sung by the Juvenile Choir at a Sunday School Rally, on July 4, 1831.

In the years that followed, Samuel Francis Smith grew into a powerful Baptist preacher, pastor, college professor, hymnist, linguist, writer, and missionary advocate. He traveled the world in support of evangelism, and he rejoiced when his son became a missionary to Rangoon. Samuel lived to ripe old age and remained active till the end. He died suddenly in his late eighties at the Boston train station enroute to a preaching appointment.

But he has always been most revered for the patriotic hymn he wrote as a 23-year-old student. As his friend and Harvard classmate, Oliver Wendell Holmes, put it at a class reunion:

*And there's a nice youngster of excellent pith,---
Fate tried to conceal him by naming him Smith;
But he shouted a song for the brave and the free,---
Just read on his medal, "My Country, of thee!"*

--Then Sings My Soul, Book 1, By Robert J. Morgan



Trinity's Stewardship Ministry

“in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God...this is your spiritual act of worship.” (Romans 12:1)

This will be the 7th month Stewardship articles have been in the Trinitarian and weekly bulletins. Why the consistency and so often?

1. Christian Stewardship is Biblical. It is an on-going spiritual journey from baptism until Jesus calls us to His heavenly home.
2. Scripture helps all believers grow stronger in their faith and in a closer relationship with Jesus. It helps us use our God-given gifts to proclaim and support the missions and ministry of God’s church and in service to others.
3. Unfortunately, according to repeated readings from LCMS resources, many Lutheran churches use stewardship only in connection with the annual church budget. Consider the following questions: Is Christian Stewardship a parttime or a fulltime way of life in Christ? Is being a disciple of Jesus an occasional activity or discipleship our vocation in the home, church, workplace, society and neighborhood?

It is important to remember that Stewardship is Law, not Gospel, Luther’s catechism tells us God uses His Law in three different ways: as a “curb”, a “mirror”, and as a “guide.” Stewardship comes under the 3rd use of the Law: a guide to “direct our thoughts, words and deeds as Christians in God pleasing ways.” It admonishes the hearer and reader to live in new obedience.

The new obedience must always be grounded in what God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit. It is God’s Gospel and grace in action as He trains, teaches and disciplines us.

The apostle Paul often used the 3rd use of God’s Law to encourage the believing justified Christian to live a godly life. In Romans 12 he tells us to give our bodies as living sacrifices to the Lord, our response to God’s mercy and grace—connecting every day life in God’s Word, worship and service. This is what God calls us to be. God’s grace is always at work giving us forgiveness and free salvation. His grace also retrains our desire and redirects the course of our lives toward God’s purpose.

What a gracious God we have!

In Jesus Name,
Lola Ableidinger, Stewardship Chair

EFFECTIVE OUTREACH – PART 4

In parts 1 through 3 we learned that effective outreach begins by intentionally creating connections with non-churched people. Once the connection is created, we then need to nurture those connections by creating ways to have continuing contact, “other than worship services & traditional Bible studies” so that we can begin to nurture and build *real* relationships.

Part 4 is where we begin to “encourage non-churched people to participate in the Word and Sacrament ministry of the congregation”.

“Word and Sacrament ministry refers to the various ways in which congregations share the good gifts of God given to us in His Word and through His Sacraments.”

For this part of the Outreach process, we are encouraged to remember 2 things.

1. “The first, and most important, is the understanding that disciples are made by the Holy Spirit working through the Means of Grace (i.e., through the Word and the Sacraments).”
2. The second is that we need to offer ways for non-churched people (that *they* find interesting and appealing) “to enter into the Word and Sacrament ministry of our congregation”.

The article points out that while we may see our church as a congregation of faith, caring friends, and a refuge of hope, the non-churched (more especially so in these days of societal division) see it as a place of judgement & intolerance filled with strangers that have strange practices and beliefs. This could cause a fear of attending worship services or traditional Bible studies in our non-churched connections.

Rev. DRM. Mark Wood points out that it is up to us to “provide ways into the Word and Sacrament ministry of our congregation that ease their fears and keep them from being intimidated.” We need to find appropriate and appealing ways to bring them into our Word and Sacrament ministry. He notes that to find an “appealing” way to reach the non-churched we need to consider their point of view, while keeping in mind that “appropriate” doesn’t mean changing our service or adding a contemporary service. Non-churched people don’t stay away because of how we worship, they stay away because we do worship. They don’t and can’t call on the name of one they don’t know. “Changing that perspective in order to encourage non-churched people

to join us in hearing God's word isn't complicated or difficult. It centers on a question that we need to answer honestly:

Do we care enough about the non-churched people in our community to stretch ourselves to bring the Gospel to them in creative ways?"

Effective Outreach "calls for us to step back and look at what we're doing with fresh eyes." It requires us to manage the tension between "what has been handed down to us" and the "ever-changing context of the world around us".

"But mostly it is purposefully working to offer God's good gifts in creative ways that engage people who don't know the love, joy, and peace of Jesus."

JULY 2026 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

July 5 Dick Dommers
July 12 Bob Klose
July 19 Matt Clark
July 26 Bob Klose

SERMON

July 5 Bob Klose
July 12 Dick Dommers

LITURGIST

July 5 Dick Dommers
July 12 Bob Klose

TELLERS

July 5 Dick Dommers & Merry Zumwalt
July 12 Nora Sotak & Linde Van Cleave
July 19 Lola Ableidinger &
Cheryl Sandenaw
July 26 Susan Kelly & Sandy Klose

HOSTS

July 5 Bob & Jan Thede
July 12 Merry Zumwalt & Irvin Torres
July 19 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
July 26 Robert & Stacy Johnson

SOUND TECH

July 5 Jim Kline
July 12 Vicki Leonard
July 19 Sheri Cortez
July 26 Matt Anderson

JULY ALTAR COMMITTEE

Stacy Johnson
Sandy Krueger

USHERS

July 5 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer
Larry & Bev Van Duyn
July 12 Susan Kelly, Norbert Sanchez
Glen & Christine Schlehuser
July 19 Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson
Bob and Tammy Thede
July 26 Cameron Maltz, Gerald Moore
Irvin Torres, Cody Zumwalt

JULY ATTENDANCE

Diane Kline

MUSIC

Michael Cortez

JULY FLOWERS

July 5 Goldie Gressman
Cheryl Sandenaw
July 12 Bob & Jan Thede
July 19 Belinda & Allen Burmeister
Bob & Jan Thede
July 26 Dick & Cheryl Richey

INDEPENDENCE DAY



As we celebrate Independence Day, we thank God for the blessings of freedom—and the hope we have in Christ, who sets us truly free. “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” —John 8:36

