

# Trinity Tidings

## Pastor's Pen

SEPTEMBER 2019

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

God's Text  
Readings for  
September

Dine to  
Donate at Red  
Robin

ADC Class

LWML National  
Convention  
Report (contd.)

Festival of  
Nativities

Rally Day 2019

Stewardship  
Corner



\*\*Much of the following article is taken from a very useful devotional resource entitled, "Forgiven to Forgive" and is available for your family or personal devotions in the Church office or through Ambassadors of Reconciliation which you can find alone with numerous other helpful resources online at [www.aorhope.org](http://www.aorhope.org)

Mark 9:34

*"But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest."*

One thing I love about Scripture is that God doesn't sanitize the image of his followers. Bible heroes like Abraham, David, Paul, and others have their sinful natures exposed. And in today's reading, the disciples are seen arrogantly arguing about who is the greatest. Since God loved and forgave all these and still used them in service to Him, I can trust that He won't turn away from me even when my sinful pride is exposed.

Pride causes conflict and gets in the way of reconciliation. We can see this so clearly as we read in 1 Samuel the growing conflict Saul has with David. Pride, and fear of losing his own status, drives Saul to horrible extremes. I know too, when my heart is clouded by pride, I can't see clearly – no matter how wise I believe I am at the time. Pride keeps me from recognizing how I hurt others. Instead, I focus on how much greater my hurt is than yours. My pride and pain stop me from taking the log out of my eye. I don't forgive because I only see my pain. It's all about ME.

In contrast, Jesus came in humility to serve me. He lowered Himself to take on my sins, including my pride. He suffered and died for my sake, setting aside His glory for my shame. He put my needs ahead of His own. *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"* (Mark 10:45).

The one who serve me calls me to servanthood. Because of His love, I can look beyond my own pain and seek to heal others in forgiveness.

Where might forgiveness and reconciliation be helpful for you? Where are you finding conflict arise, and your pride and personal justification growing? Where you begin to see it – give it to the LORD! God forgives you in Christ! Since you are forgiven, God gives you new eyes to see not your hurt, but the pain of others.

How might you live in Jesus in the conflict?

If you are reading 1 Samuel, you can see how David responds often to Saul.

The Lord be with you, and send us that same Spirit.

*Pastor Hinz*

## God's Text

September 1

Monday	2 Samuel 1:1-2:32
Tuesday	2 Samuel 3:1-4:12
Wednesday	2 Samuel 5:1-25
Thursday	2 Samuel 6:1-23
Friday	2 Samuel 7:1-29
Saturday	2 Samuel 8:1-10:19

September 8

Monday	2 Samuel 11:1-12:31
Tuesday	2 Samuel 13:1-14:24
Wednesday	2 Samuel 14:25-16:23
Thursday	2 Samuel 17:1-18:33
Friday	2 Samuel 19:1-20:26
Saturday	2 Samuel 21:1-22:51

September 15

Monday	2 Samuel 23:1-39
Tuesday	2 Samuel 24:1-25
Wednesday	1 Kings 1:1-2:46
Thursday	1 Kings 3:1-4:34
Friday	1 Kings 5:1-7:51
Saturday	1 Kings 8:1-66

September 22

Monday	1 Kings 9:1-10:29
Tuesday	1 Kings 11:1-43
Wednesday	1 Kings 12:1-33
Thursday	1 Kings 13:1-14:31
Friday	1 Kings 15:1-16:34
Saturday	1 Kings 17:1-18:46

September 29

Monday	1 Kings 19:1-21
Tuesday	1 Kings 20:1-43
Wednesday	1 Kings 21:1-22:53
Thursday	2 Kings 1:1-2:25
Friday	2 Kings 3:1-4:44
Saturday	2 Kings 5:1-27

## Adult Discipleship Class ("ADC") – 9:15 A.M. on Sundays

beginning **September 15**

The fall session of Adult Discipleship Class (ADC), formerly known as "New Member Class (NMC)," begins on Sunday, September 15 at 9:15 A.M. It meets in the large classroom just off the fellowship hall. Led by Pastor Beck, the course explores basic Christian/Lutheran teaching from the Bible. You will discover that God has good news for you!

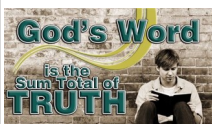
A major change from NMC to ADC is in the focus on the participants. This course is for:

- Those who are **curious to learn** about the Christian faith (no obligation to join);
- Those who want to take the step to **become members** of Trinity Lutheran Church;
- Those **members of Trinity** Lutheran Church who want a refresher course in basic Christian doctrine so that they may better express their faith to others;
- Those members who want to be involved in helping to **assimilate new people** into the life of the congregation.

This mix of people can provide lively dialogue. In the process, people connect to one another in Christ. **Don't be afraid** to come because:

- ⇒ No one is required to read out loud (but you can if you want);
- ⇒ No one is "put on the spot" (except the pastor and he is ok with that);
- ⇒ Questions are welcomed and there are no dumb questions (there's a likelihood that someone else is wondering too – so be a friend and ask it for them, too).

Pre-registering through the church office is appreciated so that enough materials are available for all participants at the first class. Any questions, contact Pastor Beck.



## September Memory Verse:

This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.  
2 Samuel 22:31

## *The Discipline of Going to Church*

Going to church can become routine. I know it, because I grew up going to every Sunday, even when on vacation, and Wednesdays during Advent and Lent. (disclaimer: My father was a pastor. But neither he or my mother went to church simply because he was a pastor.) My brother and I never had to ask, "Are we going to church today?" It was not a choice my parents gave me. It was something we did. It was of our regular routine even when we were on vacation!

Don't get me wrong. I know full well the dangers of making worship overly routine. I have experienced 1 stretches of dryness where I was "going through the motions". This can be dangerous to spiritual health. Traditionalism can become legalism. We can be satisfied with doing outwardly what we are supposed to do while avoiding spiritual introspection and growth.

Perhaps you have heard it said, "you shouldn't just go to church to go to church." But I invite you to reconsider the discipline of merely going to church. The discipline of going to church every week is in itself an act of worship, of sacrifice. You're saying to yourself and to the world that assembling with the people of God, that the story of Christianity, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus matters so much that you're willing to build the pattern of your life around it.

I'm thankful that my father and mother made us go to church every week, and it didn't end at confirmation. Faithfulness to Christ means faithfulness as a member of the local body of Christ – no "me and Jesus alone are just fine." By going to church every week we present our bodies as a "living sacrifice" by getting up, dressing up, and going to church. When Christians practice weekly worship, it is a witness to others -- we "vote" to make our appointment with God (and His family) a priority by committing ourselves to church.

Every week a pastor wonders who will show up. There are those who consider church a nice and viable option on Sunday and there are those who consider it a priority. I have doubts about those who say they "enjoy church once and a while." I feel sorrow for those who boast that they can be Christians without going to church.

To be sure, faithful attendance is not all there is. We come to worship God "*in spirit and in truth*". We come to be served by the Lord himself as we hear the Word of God and receive His gifts in the Lord's Supper. We come to encourage and serve our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. It is the very discipline of going to church that sets the stage for those things to happen, for God to work powerfully in our hearts.

You see, going to church is not about "obeying rules and regulations." It is about "relationships" with the Lord and his people. Spiritual disciplines (such as attending church with fellow believers) bring us closer to Christ, whose power can change us.

Should you go to church when you don't want to? Yes! Why? You will build into your life a habit, a discipline that puts you in the place where God works, in the midst of His church. On those days, who knows, but that you may hear a life-changing message you otherwise would have missed!

So, it's a good idea to make a commitment to be in church every week. You'll be surprised at how this discipline will be a benefit to your life.

*Pastor Beck*

Notes from  
Our  
Associate  
Pastor



## The Ark Encounter and The Creation Museum

by Earl and Linda Kothman

Recently we went on a tour to visit Noah's Ark and the Creation Museum located in Kentucky. Earl and I wanted to share our joy in seeing these two places earlier this summer and to invite you to consider travelling there if you are looking for a great place to visit!!

**The Ark Encounter** is a one-of-a-kind, historically-themed attraction. It is entertaining, educational, and immersive way to view historical events centered on Noah's Ark as recorded in the Bible. The Ark is an authentic and accurate 510-foot long, 85-foot wide engineering marvel built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. It is situated in beautiful Grant County in Williamstown, Kentucky, halfway between Cincinnati and Lexington right off I-75. It is the largest timber-frame structure in the world.



On this massive 51-foot high Ark, you will tour three decks filled with scores of world-class exhibit bays that will allow you to experience what Noah's life may have been like. I think my biggest surprise was the living quarters for Noah's entire family were really quite comfortable. There was even a total herbal kitchen and they grew their own garden vegetables on board - using compost waste from the animals. You'll learn how Noah might have cared for all the animals and the Ark was big enough to fit them all on board. It is an amazing discovery of how everything was stored, including food for the animals.

As our tour bus delivered us there, we walked to the Ark, and a huge burst of thunder and rain fell from the sky, literally! We were soaked when we entered. The greeter at the entrance said "how do you like our special effects?" I thought that was pretty clever. It really was an actual downfall, but looking ahead at the Ark, we knew we had a way out.

Just 45 miles away, is **the Creation Museum** located in Petersburg, KY. Do not miss this if you are in that area. More information can be found at [ArkEncounter.com](http://ArkEncounter.com) or [CreationMuseum.org](http://CreationMuseum.org).

### Pastors Conference – “in the Beginning God...”

Pastor Hinz and Pastor Beck are attending the Fall Minnesota North District Pastors' Conference on Sunday evening through Tuesday afternoon, September 8-10, at Lutheran Island Camp. The conference theme is “In the Beginning God...” with Dr. Joel Heck as presenter and preacher. Dr. Joel D. Heck teaches courses in Old Testament, New Testament, the Reformation and the life and writings of C. S. Lewis at Concordia University Texas. He has also served as a pastor, high school teacher, author, and conference speaker. He and Dr. Gary Locklair co-founded the Society of Creation ([www.SocietyofCreation.org](http://www.SocietyofCreation.org)) in 2011.



**Hospitalized – is it a secret?** Our pastors are happy to visit and provide spiritual care when you or family members are hospitalized, but they can only do so if they know. Current HIPAA regulations do not allow hospitals to share this information without **your** specific request (release of information). Please inform our pastors through the church office, 320-252-3670, when you are admitted (or in advance if your hospitalization is scheduled).

If you desire to have a prayer request included at worship, please inform the pastors or church office. If you do not want information shared beyond the pastors, that will be honored as well. If you request prayers in worship for others, please obtain their permission first.

## LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – September 2019

What is a steward? Most people will say a steward is a manager.

That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner's property on the owner's behalf.

We are God's stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him: "For we brought nothing into this world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1 Tim. 6:7)

Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner.

This is not only because He created all things; He is also the Redeemer. He has redeemed – that is, purchased – and won all things. Therefore, it all belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege.

Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage his possessions on His behalf here on earth.

And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

But what a responsibility! "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required" (Luke 12:48b).

We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what He desires and wills for His property.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God?

We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will is for all of His gifts. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing we have that doesn't belong to Him.

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

God informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – managers and custodians – are to manage His property.

And that is stewardship. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us.

As St. Paul said, "Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness" (Rom. 6:13).

So, let's dive into God's Word, and listen to what He desires from His stewards.

### Opportunities to Volunteer

**Nursery Workers Needed:** Call, email or text Emily Mooney: 320-291-3240, [jans1303@hotmail.com](mailto:jans1303@hotmail.com).

**Volunteers needed:** Looking for occasional substitute counters, on Monday mornings. Contact Kim Reberg @ 248-2676.

**Attention ushers and Potential ushers:** We need to meet. This Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm, in the fellowship hall. Plan to attend! We will revisit our duties and will cover newly implemented items.



## Worship and Music Notes

### The Singing Assembly

I've always liked the phrase "Dance like no one can see you" – and I suppose one could say the same about singing. The phrase implies a complete letting go of inhibition, with the fear of what it might sound or look like to others not a part of the mix. Would that all of us could be that way even when others can see and hear us! Watching a soloist let go, however, is fun – and many of us might even feel a bit of envy. Singing in worship is different – because we don't do it solo. When singing collectively we can let go so much more, and we do because we are not subject to judgment. This is what I love about congregational singing. Anyone can come and be a part of the assembly, singer and non-singer alike, sing out, and sing like "no one is watching or hearing." It's a huge release of energy, meaningfulness, and a complete "letting go." Here's something to consider about our singing: because we have such a vast repertoire of hymnody, we may sing a new or unfamiliar hymn. Sometimes this involves being able to read music which is not an ability that everyone has. In these cases, it's the responsibility of those who read music to step up to the plate and help "a little more" – to carry those in the learning stages. For those of you who know this and accept the challenge to provide the help, on behalf of our assemblies and on behalf of those of us who plan what possibilities are for singing – thank you.

Have you considered the importance of singing to your well-being? Some would call it a mere activity - I would call it a human necessity. Babies must sing to get the lungs started outside the womb. Maybe we could think of our assembly song as the singing that enables our lungs to breathe and serve outside the womb of the nave. Science comes out with more and more evidence of the health and wholeness benefits of the act of singing - what that kind of breathing, vibrating, and cooperative vibrating with an assembly can do for our body chemistry and even vascular health. How can you help your neighbor in this need? By letting go and singing when we gather. Nothing empowers participation in this increasingly rare public act than doing so with a group - and feeling like if one were to let go and sing, it would not be a solo. The impact and power of expression through this act is a huge gift - to God, to each other, and to the world. (excerpts from *The Olive Branch*, articles by David Cherwien)

A little trivia...if you were to count all the hymns in our hymnal with the word "sing" in it, you would find 194. Twenty-two include "sing" in the title.

In conclusion, Psalm 47:6 sums it up quite nicely:

***Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!***

Daniel Reineke, Traditional Music Director , (320)248-7367 [dreineke@trinitysr.org](mailto:dreineke@trinitysr.org)



***Creative Crafts with a Mission will be hosting a Fund Raiser on Sunday, September 22nd. All funds go toward purchasing items for and assembling memory boxes for parents who have lost their baby. Boxes are given to local hospital to aid grieving parents. Your consideration and generosity would be greatly appreciated.***

## 2019 LWML Convention

"A Mountain Top Experience" (*cont'd from August*) The music was fabulous! The song leader was Pastor Dien Ashley Taylor from The Bronx, New York. He played a grand piano located on the stage and was a wonderful accompanist with a beautiful voice to lead us in song. He always had a big smile and you could tell he was having fun. You can see some of his songs and other convention proceedings on the website through live streaming. We even had a guest musician, President Harrison with his banjo who led us in a Hank William's song which he said didn't make into the last Lutheran Hymnal, "I Saw the Light."

Donna Pyle was our Bible study leader. She led us in a study on the convention verse titled "Tell the Story of His Glory." She is the author of 4 DVD Bible studies and 5 books.

Besides singing to break up the proceedings of the convention we had a humorous interrupter, Jan Struck, who posed as a volunteer for the convention who talked with her friend by cell phone about what was going on. She said she thought the convention goers were here to gamble because when asked if they were enjoying themselves they answered, "You betcha!"

We heard various mission speakers who were recipients of past grants who told of how the money raised supported God's work throughout the world. The money truly has helped a lot of people and spread the Gospel to many hungry to hear it.

There was a Mission in Motion Pledge Walk early Saturday morning. It was begun with a missionary sounding the shofar and an enthusiastic dixieland band called Excelsior Band leading the way. Over 848 walkers followed who had raised \$59,612 which will go toward the mission projects. Thank you!

We were also treated to entertainment in the evenings. A sand artist used his hands to "paint" pictures in sand depicting Bible accounts. We also heard a choir from the University of Mobile called "Voices of Mobile" who beautifully sang religious songs.

Sandy Machula

### Bouja—September 29

We will be joined by residents from Good Shepherd. General serving will begin after our Good Shepherd friends have gotten their lunch. Containers will be available for purchase at noon for a free will offering.



Watch for sign up sheets to help cut vegetables on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 1pm. Your help is appreciated.

**For further information:** As the confirmation process develops and our summer worship time is under review, (and any other things that may have risen up that are unclear at this time), we would ask for your patience and continued investment and promise to diligently inform you as we are able. These things are in process. We, however, remember, that we are in it together. Thank you for your patient and prayerful support, your willingness to put the best construction on things, and your important godly feedback.

# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Name	Bday
Rose Dohrmann	9/2
Betty Winczewski	9/3
Sandra Braun	9/4
Les Fread	9/4
Paul Cloeter	9/6
Kaylie Freborg	9/6
Lynette Truenow	9/6
Bethany Ramler	9/7
Carson Reichel	9/7
Lynn Schlueter	9/7
Caleb Petersen	9/8
Misty Sauer	9/8
Jayden Brower	9/9
Fred Kjorlien	9/9
Ashley Woitalla	9/9
Judy Beck	9/10
Benjamin Behrendt	9/10
Aiden Clark	9/10
Ashton Clark	9/10
Glenn Ireland	9/10
Randy Mousky	9/10
Kathleen Ness	9/10
Evora Sorokie	9/10
Klaire Zimmer	9/10
Liam Nelson	9/11
Whitley Reginek	9/11
Allan Schlueter	9/11
Ron Becher	9/12
Rachael Felchle	9/12
Chloe Stockinger	9/12
Carol Behrendt	9/13
Madelyn Friedrichs	9/13
Owen Hansen	9/13
Callie Knafla	9/13
Kelly Zwick	9/13
Kyle Dusing	9/14
Blake MacKenzie	9/14
Maria Voigt	9/14
Brielle Andvik	9/15
Brady Behrendt	9/15

Jody Miland	9/15
Stacy Volkers	9/15
Robert Wainright	9/15
Thomas Elgin	9/16
Aperngo Omot	9/16
Brady Schultz	9/16
Cathryn Bjorklund	9/17
Sophia Hackett	9/17
Ayers Putnam	9/17
Nathan Rucks	9/17
Ali Murphy	9/18
David Petersen	9/18
Molly Johnson	9/19
Jon Roesch	9/19
Todd Buttweiler	9/20
Rhonda Holzheimer	9/20
Rob Keck	9/20
Jill Lindquist	9/20
Emily Lockridge	9/20
Joseph Meierhofer	9/20
Brady Willman	9/20
Mindy Woitalla	9/21
Bonnie Meemken	9/22
Ariet Oman	9/22
Bob Terpstra	9/22
Jameson Weide	9/22
Amelia Clark	9/23
Michelle Peacock	9/23
Loren Tvrdik	9/23
Thomas Wainright	9/23
Elaine Dollar	9/24
John Gerads	9/24
Sue Henkemeyer	9/24
Jaime Huinker	9/24
Sharon Wolfgram	9/24
Sullivan Lass	9/25
Mason Molitor	9/25
Trinity Parsons	9/25
Jody Cooper	9/26
Tim Tvrdik	9/26
Ryan Benoit	9/27


MacKenzie Felchle	9/27
Ryan Neils	9/27
Linda Clark	9/28
Terry Kurash	9/28
Kyle Riehm	9/28
Andrew Tvrdik	9/28
Jamie Weappa	9/28
Corey Willman	9/29
Scott Abraham	9/30
Brandon Gerchy	9/30



## LSST—What is it?

Are you interested in becoming a part of a Light, Sound and Screen Team? The LSST is to support the worship experience of the congregation by overseeing the technical elements of the Sunday and Seasonal Worship Services. If you are interested in want to expand your talents to Trinity, please contact Justin Hackett 320-249-3813.



September 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:00am Worship (HC) Z1 12:00pm Anyuak Worship	<b>2</b> LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Friends in Harmony (W) 5:30pm Playhouse Training	<b>4</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study @ GS 5:30pm Playhouse Training 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>5</b> 9:00am Sewing & Crafts 6:00pm Worship Team (W)	<b>6</b> 9:00am Parish Workers 6:00pm Narcot- ics Anon.	<b>7</b> 9:00am Altar Guild
<b>8</b> Rally Day 8:00am Worship Z2 10:30am Worship Z3 (HC) 12:00pm Anyuak Worship 3:15pm Creative Crafts  <b>FALL PASTORS CONFER- ENCE AT LIC</b>	<b>9</b> 6:00pm Bev's CC (CM)  <b>FALL PSTORS CONFER- ENCE AT LIC</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00pm Friends in Harmony (W)  <b>FALL PASTORS CONFERENCE AT LIC</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study @ GS 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir 6:45pm Celebration Ringers	<b>12</b> 1:00pm LWML 6:00pm Worship Team (W) 6:30pm Brownie Mtg. (Lcl)	<b>13</b> 9:00am Parish Workers 6:00pm Narcot- ics Anon.	<b>14</b> 9:00am Altar Guild
<b>15</b> 8:00am Worship (HC) Z4 9:15am S. S. 9:15am Bible Class/ADC Class 10:30am Worship Z5 12:00pm Anyuak Worship 4:00pm 4H Meeting (Lcl)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Friends in Harmony (W)	<b>18</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study @ GS GS Trip to New Ulm 6:00pm Confirmation Orienta- tion Meeting (FH) 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir 6:45pm Celebration Ringers	<b>19</b> 9:00am Sewing & Crafts 5:00pm Lay Ministry Mtg. 6:00pm Worship Team (W) 6:30pm Leadership Team Mtg. (Lcf)  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00am Parish Workers 6:00pm Narcot- ics Anon.	<b>21</b> 9:00am Altar Guild
<b>22</b> Gabriel's Box Door Offering 8:00am Worship Z1 9:15am Bible Class/SS/ ADC Class 10:30am Worship (HC) Z2 12:00pm Anyuak Worship 3:15pm Creative Crafts	<b>23</b> 6:00pm Bev's CC (CM) 5-9pm Dine to Donate at Red Robin <b>9:00am Parish Workers NL</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00pm Friends in Harmony (W)	<b>25</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study @ GS 9:00am Festival of Nativities 6:00pm Celebration Ringers	<b>26</b> 6:00pm Worship Team 6:30pm Brownie Mtg. (Lcl)	<b>27</b> 9:00am Parish Workers 5:00pm Private Event 6:00pm Narcot- ics Anon.	<b>28</b> 9:00am Altar Guild 1:00pm Bouja Prep
<b>29</b> 8:00am Worship Z3 9:15am Bible Class/SS/ ADC Class 10:30am Worship Z4 12:00pm Anyuak Worship 12:00noon Bouja	<b>30</b>		<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Room Reservation Key</b>	W=Worship Space	Scl=Small Class Room	M=Music Room	Lcf=Large Conf Room	CM=Care Ministry	
O=Overflow Room	F=Fellowship Hall	Lcl=Large Class Room	Y=Youth Room	Scf=Small Conf Room	K=Kitchen	
CDC=Child Develop- ment. Center						

## Festival of Nativities at Trinity on Friday, December 6th and Saturday, December 7th

Our Festival of Nativities Committee is busy planning for the Christmas celebration of our Savior's birth. On Rally Sunday, September 8th we will have a display including photos from last year.



If you have a nativity scene that would be available for display, there is a sign up sheet in the church office. This year we also need three artificial trees for the display also -- at least 5 feet tall.

Last year 350-400 guests were welcomed to Trinity and viewed the nativities, enjoyed the beautiful Christmas music and refreshments. In addition approximately 50 children visited the children's area and made a Christmas craft that they were able to take home. Won't you join us this year in sharing the true meaning of Christmas with Sauk Rapids and the surrounding communities? Stop by our table on Sunday and we'll answer any questions you might have. We'd love to have you join us in preparing for this event and sharing Trinity's warm hospitality!

### DINE TO DONATE:

Join us on September 23rd  
At Red Robin in St. Cloud



From 5 to 9pm 20% goes to POP!

### LWML

**We will meet on Thursday, September 12th at 1:00pm in the Fellowship hall. All the ladies of the congregation are invited to join us!**



We need your  
correct contact  
information!

Send us your email, cell phone  
and correct address.  
[office@trinitysr.org](mailto:office@trinitysr.org)

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## Pieces of Autumn

As we journey through the seasons it appears the shades of summer are quickly coming to a close. Within a short time the echoes of outdoor laughter will be growing faint and become distant. Once crowded beaches will become quiet and still while a chill is in the air. The bleachers will become empty where once a noisy crowd was chanting. Bats and gloves will again become untouched. Balls no longer glide across the field or fly above the court as fall begins pushing its way in.

Before long the pieces of autumn will begin to ever so gracefully float from their mighty trees toward the ground. In some ways I feel a sense of sadness and loss of all the things given up, stilled and quieted until the signs of spring return. Yet autumn is one of God's most beautiful seasons that I look to with much anticipation. For to me, the Lord puts forth His wondrous paint brush. With a gentle wave of his hand and whisper of His breath the world is alive with color and beauty everywhere. Pieces of autumn painted ever so beautifully and brightly yet all within His plan.

It also becomes somewhat amazing to me as I consider "the tree". How each massive one somehow knows at just the right time how to prepare itself for the quiet slumber of winter. Patient slumber as it awaits the awakening of spring. I marvel at the Creator in His detail and completeness in even the smallest of things. How content His creation as it complies.

As I consider my journey of faith through the seasons of life I find myself greatly humbled as I consider "the tree", its purpose, and its wait upon God. Every day I pass by an abundance of trees that go totally unnoticed. Yet there they are standing strong, tall and silent. They quietly do just what the Creator intended for them to do. They start out small and slight. God showers them with exactly what they need. He provides the rain and sun so they and their root system grow strong. He gives them the ability to naturally weather the seasons. Their branches are always and forever stretched upward in praise and their task is to flourish. God sends wind among its branches and a chorus of rustling and waving begin as its song of praise. His hand supporting it, its leaves no doubt have all been numbered.

Oh that I could have the simple trusting faith of a tree. The pieces of autumn remind me once again just how wonderfully each of us are made. I too start small and slight, yet God provides all that I need for body and soul. So why is it that I struggle with doubt instead of just trusting that God will always provide at just the right time? Why are my arms not stretched to the skies in praise more regularly? Why do I struggle to be content in any and all situations? Whether I am in sunshine or severe storm.

I find myself entering my own personal season of autumn. Like the tree the years have passed. Trees have circles. Each circle marks another year past and adds more strength to weather life's storms. So I have found in my journey of faith. With each passing year and each storm that has been weathered God gifts me the strength and wisdom to trust. To trust more and more like the tree that God will provide come what may. That in Him and because of Him I can stand firm and in praise just as He designed me to be. While the seasons keep moving on I reflect and my admiration for the tree keeps growing. It quietly and confidently waits for all it need and especially spring. I too quietly and confidently wait for His eternal spring.

So I say my last goodbyes to summer. Thankfully appreciate this time and color of autumn. Yet throughout all my seasons there is God's unfailing care and forever and always the promise of spring through Christ Jesus my Lord!

*Anonymous*

**Fall Rally Day - It's a Big Day at TLC!** It's time to rally as TLC gears up for fall education programs resume! "All Aboard" on **Sunday, October 8, is Rally Day!** Bring your family and invite some friends to participate! Sunday morning schedule shifts to **two worship services** at 8:00 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 am (contemporary). The message in both services will be a **chancel drama**, "If I'm the Last, You're in Trouble" - it's a light-hearted drama through some heavy topics: sin and guilt, redemption and resurrection, works and grace, identity and vocation. Installation of our education staff and teachers will be included both services.

Between services take a stroll through the table displays and hands on activities at the **Mission Fair** where organizations, boards and committees want you to learn about what's happening at TLC and how you can be involved. Of course, there's **picnic food** and **lawn games** for all to enjoy, so stick around and get acquainted with some new friends. If you want to help there's a sign up sheet for desserts on the kiosk. If you want to volunteer to help with events, reach out to Lisa Hejhal at 320-989-0433 or [lhejhal@charter.net](mailto:lhejhal@charter.net).

The next Sunday, **September 15**, Sunday School, Bible Class, and Adult Discipleship Class start in the 9:15-10:15 a.m. hour.

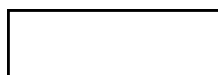
**Confirmation Orientation** for parents and students is **Wednesday, October 11**, at 6:00 p.m.

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

2163 Mayhew Lake Rd NE  
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## Trinity Lutheran Church

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### Office Staff

Pastor David Hinz  
 Pastor John Beck  
 Pastor John Bakou

### Additional Contact Information

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