

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Book of Concord

Part 4:The Smalcald Articles I

Dear Friends in Christ,

Given all that was involved in the adoption of *The Smalcald Articles*, this is going to have to take more than one article to cover. This article will cover the history. and the next one will cover the contents.

Calling for a Council

The Church has struggled with conflicts and disputes for its entire existence. From the very beginning the way devised to deal with such controversy was to bring everyone together and talk things through. The goal of these Church councils, was examining and expounding upon the work and Word of God, finding resolution of the issue, and working toward reconciliation with one another. These "Church councils," as they came to be called, got their start during the early days of the Church's formation.

The very first Church council, known as "The Council of Jerusalem" is recorded in Acts Chapter 15. You might recall that the primary argument there concerned whether one must be circumcised according to the Law of Moses in order to be circumcised. This council produced a letter which declared the resolution of the issue and instructed the greater Church. Another couple of famous councils – Nicea (AD325) and Constantinople (AD318) – produced what we know today as The Nicene Creed as a result of the church's work to deal with the controversy of "Arianism" (the belief that Jesus was not true God) and restore proper Christian teaching to the Church.

Given the conflict born of The Reformation, even The Reformers themselves recognized that there was need for a Church council to work through the controversy and come to resolution with those whom they opposed. In 1520, Luther wrote his famous, *Letter to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation* where he called for just such a council. Emperor Charles V agreed with this request and was hopeful that such a council could solve the dispute which was causing his reign and empire no small headache.

The Reformers hoped that a council would give their concerns a fairer hearing than they had thus far received from papal representatives. To everyone's joy, in 1536 the newly installed Pope, Paul III, issued a formal decree for a council to be held in Mantua (in Italy) in the following year.

Some Lutheran princes (including Luther's own prince, Frederick the Wise) did not want to attend on the grounds that their attendance would legitimize the illicit authority over the Church claimed by The Pope. These concerns proved valid when Paul III issued a "Papal Bull" declaring the purpose of the council: "the utter extirpation of the poisonous, pestilential Lutheran heresy."

Seeing clearly that Mantua was going to be less a free, open council, and more like what was attempted by the papists in Augsburg, Frederick insisted that The Reformers prepare themselves by drafting a detailed document that would thoroughly address all of the issues at stake. It was critical that all of The German Reformers be united in their confession and able to articulate the same in clear and direct terms.

Near the end of 1536, Luther was directed to take charge of writing this new confession of faith, and was asked to present the same at a meeting of The Reformers in Smalcald, Germany in February of 1537. During the writing, Luther became gravely ill and was convinced that he was near death. Despite this, he pressed on in writing as he thought this to be his last opportunity to confess the faith he knew to be Christian. Given this, he poured every last effort he could muster into what would come to be known as *The Smalcald Articles*. Given the circumstances, despite Luther living almost another ten years, they came to be oft regarded as Luther's last will and testament (he himself would later call them this).

The meeting at Smalcald took place on February 8, 1537. Given that here they were preparing to defend themselves against a papacy who sought to destroy their pure and biblical confession of faith, only those who subscribed publicly to the Augsburg Confession were allowed to attend. Even Henry VIII (who wanted to attend but refused to agree with the AC) was not permitted. Those who joined together for this meeting were members in what was called *The Smalcaldic League*.

Even though the document that Luther had produced had been examined and edited (though only slightly) by theologians at Wittenberg, the assumption by Frederick the Wise that everyone would readily accept and adopt this confession of faith proved ill-founded. Things quickly fell apart for the unity of The Reformers, and for a variety of problematic reasons. There was dispute concerning whether or not, should the Pope come to accept their confession, they could accept papal authority for the sake of order by human rite only (and not by divine right). Some felt that the wording was too strong and asserted that they should simply present *The Augsburg Confession* along with *The Apology* and be content with that.

Perhaps of greatest concern was that Philip Melanchthon (among the most influential laymen present) had become sympathetic to those in Southern Germany who had been influenced by another reformation happening in Switzerland under the leadership of Ulrich Zwingli (who held that Baptism was not regenerative, and that Christ was not truly

present in The Eucharist). Melanchthon was so worried for their support that he had become open to compromise. He was even willing to water down the strong and firm wording of the *Augsburg Confession* and its *Apology* which were themselves deeply rooted in the truth of Scripture. (Later, after Luther's death, this would lead to further turmoil when Melanchthon would produce an altered and watered-down version of *The Augustana*.) Perhaps the most critical problem was Luther's absence from the gathering. His terrible illness prevented him from being present and defending his writing to the others, helping them to see clearly the nature of the controversy they faced.

In the end, Melanchthon convinced the others to set aside Luther's document.

Luther felt dejected in the wake of Smalcald, but he never abandoned the confession he had written. Instead he made a few more revisions, and in 1538 had them published as a last will and testament. In his own words, "In case I should die before there would be a council (as I fully expect and hope). For those scoundrels who run away from the light and avoid the day are taking pains to delay and prevent the council. If I do die, those who are alive and those who come after me will have my testimony and confession (in addition to the one I have issued previously). I have remained in this confession up to now, and by God's grace, I will remain in it." (Luther's Preface to *The Smalcald Articles*)

In fact, Luther was prophetic and The Council of Mantua never happened. Eventually a council did meet. It took place beginning in 1545 (not long before Luther's death) in Trent, Italy. It met at various times over the course of 18 years, and at no point were <u>any</u> of The Reformers invited. The Council of Trent solidified the teachings of what would eventually come to be called "The Roman Catholic Church." The documents produced as a result of Trent are known as *The Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent*. They are to the papists what the Book of Concord is for Lutherans. And their primary emphasis was an emphatic rejection of everything stood for in *The Augsburg Confession* and its *Apology*.

GENERAL OFFERING

Fiscal Year 2025

(as of 7/27/25)

FY Total Actual \$547,068.04 Bal Budget \$552,218.31 Diff. (\$5,150.27)

2025 Budgeted Offering: \$925,000 Needed for a Balanced Budget: \$957,178.41

The Smalcald Articles Live; Thanks to "The Second Martin"

Fast-forward to 1577. Luther has been dead over 30 years. A new document, The Formula of Concord (covered in a later article), is completed and adopted. But this only after much discussion and revision in which a man named Martin Chemnitz played a critical role. Chemnitz had eleven years earlier completed an important work entitled Examination of the Council of Trent, which to this day remains the most thorough and biblical refutation of Roman Catholic theology ever written. By this time, and thanks to the influence of Chemnitz and others like him. Luther's Smalcald Articles had become adopted as part of the formal confession of faith held by the churches of The Reformation. Also, thanks to many of these same men, by this time the compromising doctrinal position of Philip Melanchthon (along with others who had come to follow him) had been thoroughly exposed and rejected.

In 1580, when *The Book of Concord* is formally assembled and adopted, *The Smalcald Articles* become an integral part of the whole. The next article will cover the contents of this document.

In Christ,

Pastor Powell



Sunday, August 3

after 9:30am service in the Old Gym

Potluck meal with fried chicken.
Bring a Dish to Share!

A table will be available for gifts and cards.

SUMMER WORSHIP

May 25 - Aug 17

SATURDAY SUNDAY 6:00pm 9:30 am

BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday at 8:30 am



REGULAR WORSHIP

Resumes Aug 24

SATURDAY SUNDAY 6:00pm 8:00 am 10:30am

& SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday at 9:30 am



FALL DINNER KICKOFF

It is time once again to save the date for the Fall Dinner. The event will take place on **November 23**, 2025, from 11:00am to 6:00pm.

After a subcommittee met and reviewed historical records, it was unanimously decided to move the date back to November, avoiding conflict with other October church dinners. Additionally, the committee decided it was necessary to serve dinner guests for longer hours to meet their needs.

The Church Quilt Group is quilting a quilt for the auction at 1:00. There will also be fabulously decorated cakes and pies from our talented kids & adults and other auction items donated by gifted parishioners.

Announcements will be in the newsletter and bulletin as this annual event is being planned.



Baptisms

RHETT BICE, son of Daniel and Megan Bice, was baptized into Christ on Sunday, July 13, 2025.

<u>Wøddings</u>

SARAH JOHNSON, daughter of Stephen and Kim Johnson, and ETHAN HYDE were united in marriage on Saturay, July 12.

TRUSTEE WORK DAYS

The Board of Trustees will be hosting another work day on <u>Saturday</u>, <u>August 2</u>. Work days are a great opportunity to help with projects and small improvements needed in the church and school! Sign up to help at signup.com/go/TLCTrustees. (Sign up is not required but helpful for planning projects.)

MEN'S CLUB

Mark your calendars!!!! The Men's Club of Trinity Church will be enjoying a night of Christian Fellowship and Gamesmanship on **Tuesday, August 12**. This night has been set aside for food, fun, conversation, and simply uniting old with new members of the club. One of the highlights of the evening's event will be our second annual Cornhole Tournament.

Please note that all current and new members are welcome to attend. The evening's social activities start at 5:30 pm, with dinner served at 6:00 pm. All activities will be taking place at the BBQ Pits on the west side of the Church and school properties.

If anyone is interested in joining the Men's Club or has any questions about the August 12 event, they can contact Jay Wunderlich or Michael Doggett.

HAPPY DRIFTERS

We are expecting it to be hot in August, so we have decided to have Game Day in the cool Fellowship Hall **Thursday**, **August 14 at 1:00**. Bring your favorite game to share with all. If you haven't joined this church group now would be a good time. We have gone on lots of fun and exciting outings this summer, don't miss the fellowship with other church members.

NOW HIRING - CHURCH SECRETARY

The church office is seeking an individual to fill the role of **Full Time Church Office Secretary**. This is a permanent position and will begin full time when our current Office Manager goes on maternity leave (late September).

Duties include receiving visitors, answering phone calls, preparing bulletins, preparing correspondence, data entry, maintaining membership records, and managing facility schedules.

Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled and may be submitted to Trinity Lutheran Church at 803 Swifts Hwy, Jefferson City, MO 65109 or churchoffice@trinityjc.org.

TRINITY MUSIC ENSEMBLES

The Trinity Choir and Handbell ensembles are excited to start a new year of music-making and serving in Trinity services. We would love to have you join us this upcoming year. We are looking for new members, aged fifteen and older. No experience needed. Only a willingness to sing or ring. For those with no music experience and are interested in either ensemble, we will help you learn the basics and get you started. We are in special need of Tenors and Basses in the choir, and strong handbell ringers who want to ring the large, heavy bells.

We are also looking for handbell ringers who are willing to be substitutes for our regular members throughout the year. This includes ringing for two to three weeks before a scheduled Sunday when a member is unable to participate. Previous experience is recommended to be a substitute.

Practices will begin the week after Labor Day, beginning on September 3rd and 4th. **Handbell** practices are on Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm in the music room. **Choir** practices are on Thursdays from 7:00-8:00pm in the music room.

If you have young children and would like help with childcare, please let us know. We will work with you to receive support while participating in a Trinity ensemble.

Groups sing or ring approximately once a month, with more responsibilities during the Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter seasons. If you are unable to sing/ring for a part of the year, that's OK! Please come participate when you are able. We are flexible with scheduling.

If you would like more information about any of the above, please reach out to Kevin Zorena @kzorena@trinityjc.org.

WEEKLY EMAILS

If you are not receiving Pastor Powell's weekly emails, it is likely that your email provider is filtering the emails. There are a couple things you can do.

- 1. Check your spam folder to make sure it is not going there.
- 2. Download the new church app. All weekend updates are also posted in the app! tithely.app.link/trinity-jc

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY UNDER DEVELOPMENT

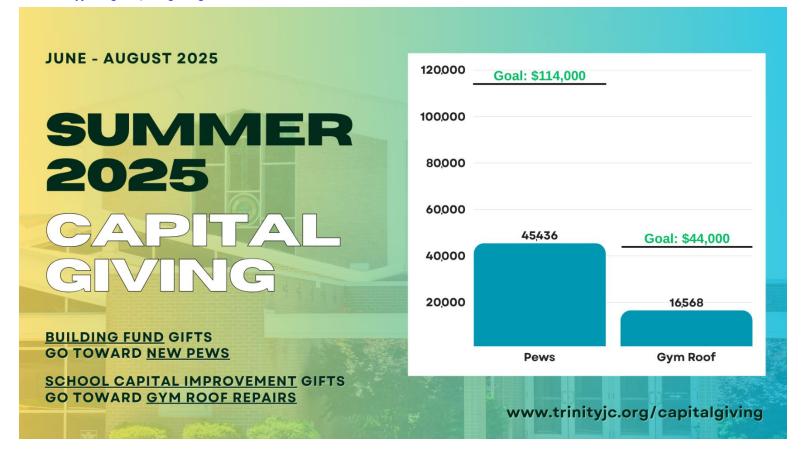
Volunteers of Trinity Church and School are hard at work developing a new church membership directory. This directory will include new updated individual and family pictures with general contact information that will be used to create a new directory. Pictures for this directory will be completed in-house which will greatly reduce the overall cost of this project and eliminate the high-pressure sales of a photo package. If you have a current photo of yourself or your family readily available, please consider forwarding this to the church to be included in the church directory. Church committee pictures are also being sought for this document. A time and place will be announced soon when your photograph can be taken by a volunteer. A finished directory will be completed and ready by the end of this calendar year. Questions? Contact Janell Bernskoetter or Jared Kesel.

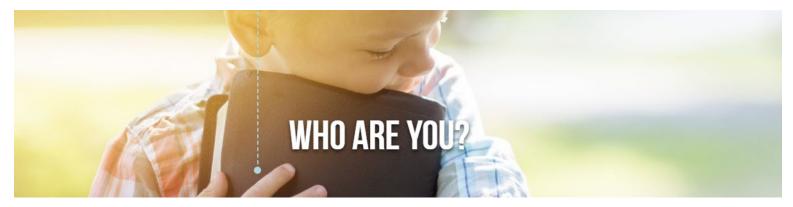


Summer Capital Giving Campaign

Thank you to everyone who has generously given to the summer capital giving campaign so far. The fundraising efforts will continue into August. We have currently raised nearly 40% of our goals. By designating gifts as "Building Fund" or "School Capital Improvements," you can help to maintain and improve the space God has richly blessed us with.

See trinityic.org/capitalgiving for more information.





by Diane Albers President of Lutherans For Life

"Who are you? Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh! I really want to know!" ("Who Are You?" The Who, 1978) Are you singing it with me? In today's world, people are apt to tell you more than you want to know about themselves—or tell you what they think you want to know! Just look on social media!

So, what's your story? What defines you as a person? Is it your job? Your power or your wealth? Is it your high school (that's a St. Louis thing!) or which Concordia you attended? In 1517's Bible Study in One Year, Chad Bird tells us in his discussion of Revelation 1 that God gives us our identity: kings and queens and royal priests. Revelation 1 describes Christ as a royal priest and that's our identity, too, because we are in Christ. We are royal since Adam and Eve ruled the garden and priests since Jesus stood there in John's vision in His royal robes. How then should we live?

"I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord" (Psalm 118:17).

This is the mission of LFL: Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. Because we are royal priests, we need to be proclaiming the Gospel message that Christ died and rose again to pay for the sins of all—"recounting the deeds of the Lord." Nothing else really matters because nothing else will really make a difference. Without a proper understanding of the Law and the Gospel, abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, human trafficking, stealing, lying, etc. can be completely acceptable.

Our task is to make sure that our fellow Lutherans and our neighbors know how much God loves us just as we are. Look at this fingerprint. God made each of us unique. There is no one else just like you. God knew you before you were born (Jeremiah 1:5). He knitted you together in your mother's womb. You were fearfully and wonderfully made, and God had a plan for your life even before you took a breath in this sinful, beautiful world that He created for you (Psalm 139: 13-16). Even with all our sins, and even our rejection of Him, God is patiently

loving us and calling us back to Him through the Holy Spirit. That's your story, friends. Go out in your God-given identity as a king or a queen and a priest. Don't go in fear and trembling, because when He calls you, he'll be with you!

"Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say" (Exodus 4:12).

2025 Lutherans For Life National Conference





Save the Date! Join Us in 2025!

September 24-26, 2025 Great Wolf Lodge • Colorado Springs, Colorado

Get equipped to deal with life issues with Gospel-motivated speakers at the Great Wolf Lodge in Colorado Springs for this three-day national event! The sweeping views of Pike's Peak in the conference center will inspire us as we hear testimonials from courageous For Life speakers. This family-friend venue offers the largest indoor water park in Colorado, along with dozens of engaging activities for children of all ages.

Registration includes access to all conference sessions and breakfast and dinners at the conference hotel. *Note: Lunches and afternoons will be on your own to explore the area!*

Registration Fees

- Early Bird Adult (through July 15, 2025): \$100
- Adult (July 16, 2025, and after): \$150
- Students and Youth, 13 years old through college-age: \$25
- Children, 12 years old and under: FREE





lutheransforlife.org/conferences



DAY OF GRACE

This year Day of Grace will be hosted here at Trinity on **Saturday**, **August 9**th, **2025**! Day of Grace is a service event that provides free backpacks and school supplies to students in our community who are struggling with financial hardship. Last year, we were able by God's grace to provide 200 backpacks. **This year**, our goal is to provide 250+ backpacks. Each backpack costs approximately \$45. We ask for your help to make this year's event a success. **There are a few ways that you may contribute**.

- 1. We ask for your prayerful support of our event's success.
- **2.** You may choose to offer **your time** in support of the event. Volunteers for organizing supplies and packing backpacks on Friday evening, August 8th, as well as assisting in set up, distributing backpacks, and take down the day of the event would be much appreciated. For interest in volunteering, please contact Emma Homfeldt via phone, text, or email at (573) 821-6776 or elhomfeldt@gmail.com.
- **3.** Monetary donations would also be greatly appreciated. A collection box can be found on the table in the narthex, and checks can be made out to Trinity Lutheran Church with the memo line reading "Day of Grace."

If you have need of backpacks and/or school supplies, we would love to help! For backpacks/school supplies requests, please contact Emma Homfeldt via phone, text, or email at (573) 821-6776 or elhomfeldt@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support in making this year's Day of Grace a success! By God's grace may we be of service to those in our community and in doing so point others to Jesus. To God be the glory!



Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! To those of you who are new to Trinity, we especially welcome you and hope that this information will answer any questions you may have regarding the upcoming school year! We praise God for His blessings on our school and we pray for His continued blessings during the 2025-2026 school year.

The faculty and staff are excited to begin the new school year and look forward to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with our students. Our theme for the 2025-2026 school year is "Got Fruit?" and is based on Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

Currently we have 250 students enrolled in PK-8th grade. Please join us in welcoming several new members to our staff this year. **Mrs. Emma Meisel** will be teaching 1st grade, **Mr. Austin Meisel** will be teaching middle school science, **Miss Alexis Burrow** will be teaching middle school math, and **Mrs. Michelle Kutscher** is our new kitchen manager.

TEACHER GRADE ASSIGNMENTS:

PreKindergarten:

Mrs. Candice Frates & Mrs. Lisa Powell Kindergarten:

Miss Michelle Doelling & Mrs. Adele Esselman 1st Grade:

Mrs. Andrea Petree & Mrs. Emma Meisel 2nd Grade:

Miss Jill Perkins

3rd Grade:

Mrs. Candy Robinett & Mrs. Tasha Kollmeyer 4th Grade:

Mrs. Paige Bleidistel & Ms. Judith Mellecke 5th Grade:

Mrs. Annie Ziegelbein & Ms. Jylian Lake 6th Grade:

Mrs. Leslie Brunner & Miss Alexis Burrow 7th Grade:

Miss Miriam Wolf & Mrs. Dawn Kesel 8th Grade:

Mrs. Samantha Sprengel & Mr. Austin Meisel

PE:

Mr. Ryan Dubberke
Art (grades K-3):
Mrs. Katy Grothoff
Art (grades 4-6):
Mrs. Julie Kuhlmann
Band:

Mr. Kevin Zorena Technology:

Mrs. Kristina Hughes Classroom Aid:

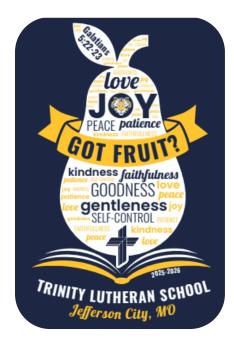
Mrs. Cindy Hardin Classroom Aid/Librarian:

Mrs. Breanne Gibson Student Interventions:

Mrs. Leslie Brunner School Office Manager:

Mrs. Jennifer Farris
Principal:

Mr. Jonathan Sprengel



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

A school-wide family Back to School Night will be held **Monday**, **August 11**, **from 4:00P.M.- 8:00P.M.** to allow parents and students to meet with their teachers and bring school supplies for placement in student desks. Families will be asked to sign up for a designated time. More information will be coming out soon regarding Back to School Night.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Classes will begin on **Wednesday**, **August 13** with an opening chapel service and early school dismissal for all students in PreK-Grade 8 at 11:30 A.M. We welcome and encourage all parents, family, and friends to join us at any chapel service during the year. Chapel is held on Wednesdays beginning at 8:15 A.M. in the church.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

As we look forward to the 2025-2026 school year, Trinity is seeking Christ-centered individuals to assist with the Trinity **After School Care Program**. After School Care is from 3:15-5:30 Monday through Friday. Scheduling is flexible in regards to the length of time per day and the number of days per week depending on the individual's schedule.

Resumes will be accepted until the positions are filled and may be submitted to Trinity Lutheran School at 812 Stadium Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65109. For more information, please contact Jonathan Sprengel, Principal, at 573-636-7807 or jsprengel@trinityjc.org or After School Care Director, Rachel Olivander at rachelelyse89@msn.com.







I can do all things through him who gives me strength
-Philippians 4:13

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

ENDURE LCMS YG 2025 New Orleans has come to a close and God blessed Trinity with a group of 27 youth and leaders that attended. We spent the week digging in to God's story and that we must consider "Him who endured" the cross for us. Jesus is the one whose faithful endurance is our only hope for enduring life in this sin-wrecked creation. The Youth and the Youth Leaders thank you for making this experience possible.



COLLEGE YOUTH FLOAT TRIP - AUGUST 8

We will meet in the church parking lot at 8am. We hope to be on the water by 10am at Riverfront Campground.

DAY OF GRACE

Trinity's Day of Grace will be Saturday, August 9. We are excited to work together as a church and share His grace that He so freely gives to us! Please watch the bulletin and emails for more details.

BACK TO SCHOOL RUSHED??

It is that time of year when families are running around buying school supplies and school clothes in anticipation of the first day of school. We want to kick off the new school year with an Amazing Race for the Junior and Senior Youth on Sunday, August 17. We will meet in the Youth Room at regular meeting times for instructions. Shortly after, your team will be sent on their mission. Bring your cameras and be ready to have some fun!

YOUTH GROUP OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

As you hit the books, let's kick back and enjoy a nostalgic "back to school" movie night. Families can join us on Saturday, August 23 for an incredible outdoor movie at the Youth Room Parking lot area!! Snacks and Games after Saturday night church service with movie starting around 8:30pm.

Word for Today

"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

Scripture Snacks

"Taste and see that the Lord is good."

~ Romans 8:25

"He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist."

~ John 13:4

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart."

~ Psalm 9:1

August Calendar

8	College Youth Float Trip
9	Day of Grace
17	Jr Youth (6:30pm) Sr Youth (7:15pm)
23	Outdoor Movie Night

Meal Train Link

www.mealtrain.com/trains/711nwm

Contact for More Information

Angie Brenner

Director of Christian Education abrenner@trinityjc.org

MEN'S CLUB SAT SEP 20 SERVING 10:00 AM





Chris in the Classroom

Family Night
Mon, Aug 4, 7 PM

Resilience building games! Fun for the whole family!

at Calvary Lutheran High School Auditorium





National Youth Speaker

CALVARY COMMITMENT

Trinity is one of 6 association churches that own Calvary Lutheran High School. Together with Trinity, Calvary provides the opportunity for a PreK-12 Lutheran school experience in mid-Missouri. Along with the other co-owner congregations, Trinity has committed to supporting Calvary financially with \$15 per communicant member per year. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this support with your offering envelope designated to Calvary or through online giving. Thank you for your support of Lutheran education!

Trinity members enrolled at Calvary:

Luke Angerer, Ema Berger, Corbyn Bess, Willow Boos, Kendall Brooks, Luke Brunner, Lena Cline, William Cluver, Kaitlin Collins, Naomee Doelling, Colin Fehr, Bella Frates, Drew Hardin, Elijah Helmig, Chloe Hobratschk, Nathen House, Arielle Kleindienst, Hannah Kollmeyer, Bennington McBaine, Connor McPeak, Kolby Morris, Gavin Pennington, Gabriela Petree, Elliott Powell, Parker Roettgen, Trey Ruediger, Henry Salmons, Jack Schnitzler, Maxwell Schnitzler, Chase Scott, Alayna Sprengel, Petra Sutcliffe, Sydney Volmert, Katie Wachter

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ı	9a Work Day 6p DIVINE SERVICE 7p Game Night (Social) FH					
3 Pentecost 4 8:30a Bible Study 9:30a DIVINE SERVICE 11a Powell Reception	4 8a Quilters 6:30p Evening Guild L	5	6 9:30a Lectionary L	7	8 College Youth Float Trip	9 10a Day of Grace 6p DIVINE SERVICE
10 Pentecost 5 8:30a Bible Study 9:30a DIVINE SERVICE	11 8a Quilters	12 1:30p Women's Aux FH 6p Men's Club L	13 8:15a CHAPEL 9:30a Lectionary L	14 1p Happy Drifters FH	15 7p Game Night (Singles) FH	16 6p DIVINE SERVICE
17 Pentecost 6 8:30a Bible Study 9:30a DIVINE SERVICE 6:30p Jr Youth YR 7:15p Sr Youth YR	18 8a Quilters	19 6:30p Board Meetings	20 8:15a CHAPEL 9:30a Lectionary L 11:30a Widow Support Group L	21	Newsletter Deadline	23 6p DIVINE SERVICE 830p Outdoor Movie Night
24 Pentecost 7 8:00a/10:30a DIVINE SERVICE 9:30a Bible Study	25 8a Quilters	26 6:30p Council Meeting L	27 8:15a CHAPEL 9:30a Lectionary L	28	29	30

31 8:00a/10:30a **DIVINE SERVICE** 9:30a Bible Study

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

Week of August 3, 2025

Colossians 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Week of August 10, 2025

1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Week of August 17, 2025

Mark 12:30-31

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.

Week of August 24, 2025

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Week of August 31, 2025

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you;

be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you,

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

"If I should neglect prayer but a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith."

-Martin Luther

Daily Devotions:

www.lhm.org/dailydevotions www.lwml.org/todays-mustard-seed-devotion www.higherthings.org/content/content-reflections

Weekly Devotions:

mo.lcms.org/tag/encourage

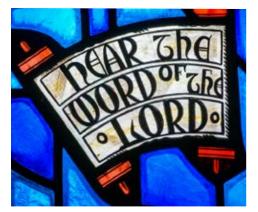
Family Devotions:

www.lcms.org/family-devotions-calendar

Other Resources:

www.lcms.org/prayforus

www.lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

CHURCH WORKERS — AUGUST 1-15

Pastors; deaconesses; Lutheran school teachers; directors of Christian education, Christian outreach and family life ministry; parish musicians. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is blessed with many faithful church workers who assist and lead people in participating in the fulfillment of the Great Commission, while building up the Body of Christ.

Remember God's work through the Synod's church workers as you pray:

- **1.** with thanksgiving for the many dedicated church workers in the LCMS, who share in our joys and sorrows. Ask the Lord to comfort and defend them from every assault of the devil.
- **2.** for the Synod's pastors, that they would hold fast to the Word of God and find strength to continue preaching God's truth in an increasingly anti-Christian culture.
- **3.** for the Synod's deaconesses. Pray that they would be equipped with all things needful to love and serve people in every situation.

- **4.** that God would bless the work of directors of Christian education, as they develop educational ministries for children, youth, adults and families.
- **5.** for the Synod's directors of Christian outreach, that God would guide their efforts to support a congregation's or organization's outreach and evangelism work.
- **6.** for directors of family life ministry. Ask that God would guide their vital work to strengthen the families in our congregations.
- **7.** for teachers and administrators in Lutheran schools, that they would model Christ-like behavior

for students and incorporate the Gospel message into each and every day.

- **8.** for directors of parish music, that they would find joy and satisfaction in their work of enhancing the worship life of the church.
- **9.** for the Synod's commissioned lay ministers, who work under a pastor's guidance to support a church's efforts in evangelism, Christian education, parish administration and other areas that are God-pleasing.
- **10.** for missionaries, who leave home and family to work in faraway lands. Ask God to give them strength, wisdom and protection as they do His work.
- **11.** for those involved in Specialized Pastoral Ministry, who serve the ill, imprisoned, aging, troubled and isolated. Give thanks for their service to people in the midst of tragedy or crisis.

- **12.** for military chaplains, who put themselves in harm's way to minister to members of our armed forces. Ask God to keep them safe as they share Christ's love with our servicemen and women.
- **13.** for the health and wellbeing of all church workers, that they would utilize opportunities for rest and renewal.
- **14.** with thanksgiving for every person who volunteers in a congregation as an elder, an usher, a Sunday school teacher or in another capacity. Praise God that He calls His people to support full-time church workers in a variety of ways.
- **15.** with thankful hearts for the blessings God gives to His people through full-time church workers. These faithful men and women care for us, pray for us and teach us the Word of God.

AUGUST Pray For Us Calendar

THE CHURCH — AUGUST 16-31

"The Church is the congregation of saints [Psalm 149:1] in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered. For the true unity of the Church it is enough to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments" (Augsburg Confession VII).

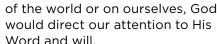
Remember God's work through the Church as you pray:

- **16.** with thanksgiving to God for raising up voices in every age and generation as He continues to call people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 17. that God would raise up in our own time faithful pastors and church workers who will preach Jesus Christ crucified and risen, for the edification of His people and for the sake of those not yet of the faith.
- **18.** with thanksgiving that God does His bidding through unworthy and unlikely people. Pray that He would keep us from thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought and keep us focused on the proclamation of the Gospel.
- **19.** that God would give us faith so that we may not fear in times of trouble nor fall away in times of prosperity.
- **20.** for the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above to be given to us, so that

God's Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edification of Christ's holy people.

- **21.** that the Church would work together in God-pleasing unity and that their joint efforts would further God's kingdom.
- **22.** for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.; and other institutions that prepare servants for the Church, that they would properly prepare men and women to serve God and His Church.
- **23.** with thanksgiving for every person and organization that supports the work of the Church. The prayers and financial support of God's people enable the Gospel to be shared at home and around the world.
- **24.** for young people, that the Lord would lead them to serve Him and bless His people.
- **25.** *for us,* that when we are tempted to focus on the things





- **26.** with thanksgiving that God continues to strengthen us through His Word and Sacraments.
- **27.** with thankful hearts to God for sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and rise again so that we might have the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life.
- **28.** that we would joyfully study the Sacred Scriptures as a light to our path and gratefully make







use of the Lutheran Confessions to help us understand and apply the Scriptures.

- **29.** with thanksgiving for shepherds in the Church's history and pastors today, whom God uses to guide His flock.
- **30.** that God would keep all Christians from being led astray by false teachings, and instead bring them to a deeper knowledge of Him.
- **31.** that we all would be given a trust in the saving Gospel and a great passion to spread its joy with others in our lives.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.



PRAY Rev. Eric and Johanna Stinnett Theological Educator Serving the Lord in the Ethiopia



Rev. Eric and Johanna Stinnett serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Ethiopia. Eric teaches at Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This seminary is dedicated to training faithful Lutheran pastors and other church workers to serve in Ethiopia.

Eric was born in Great Falls, Mont. He earned a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the University of Montana,

Missoula. He received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. Prior to becoming a missionary, Eric worked as a hospital clinical staff pharmacist and as a triple parish pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Stanford, Mont., Our Savior Lutheran Church, Denton, Mont., and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lewistown, Mont. In his free time, Eric enjoys woodworking, reading and bow hunting.

Johanna was born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. She earned bachelor's degrees in biology and nursing from the University of Windsor and is a registered nurse. Before heading to Ethiopia, Johanna served as an obstetrics nurse at Hutzel Women's Hospital, Detroit, and with Benefis Health Systems, Great Falls, Mont. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, reading, playing the piano, being an organist and teaching choir. Eric and Johanna have four beautiful children — Rachael, Naomi, Luke and Levi — who join them on the mission field.

Pray for Eric, Johanna and their children as they serve in Ethiopia. Pray God gives their entire family strength and peace as they continue to adjust to life overseas, learning the culture and the language. Pray for

the church in Ethiopia and for the students attending Mekane Yesus Seminary. Ask God to give Eric His wisdom and guidance as he teaches these students and helps them prepare to become faithful Lutheran pastors, lay evangelists and other professional church workers. Let us give thanks to God that Eric, Johanna and their family have answered the call to serve His people in Ethiopia.

BIRTHDAYS: Eric – April 12, Johanna – Feb. 15, Rachael – Feb. 22, Naomi – Aug. 27, Luke – May 9, Levi – Aug. 9

ANNIVERSARY: May 29 **HOME DISTRICT**: Montana

Pray daily for Eric and Johanna – and how you can support and tell others about their ministry. Visit lcms.org/stinnett

Learn about LCMS international work at international.lcms.org

Support an international worker. Call 888-930-4438

Ethiopia