

May 2026



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sharing the story of Jesus Christ so all may experience God's Love

We Value ~ Empowerment * Generosity * Identity in Jesus * Relationships * Worship Experience

IN THIS ISSUE

- Trinity Scholarship
- Milestones and More in May
- Welcome New Member
- "Grow Day" at All Peoples Church

From Pastor Denise

May is always an exciting time at Trinity as we anticipate Music Sunday and Affirmation of Baptism. This year we will have all of that on May 17 as we celebrate our congregation's gifts of music and our youth being confirmed: Max Barbian, Zoe Crogan and Kayden Paul. Our youth will help lead worship and our musical groups and musicians will provide lots of great music. Please join us for worship

on May 17 as we celebrate the gifts God has blessed us with here at Trinity.

I'd also like to update you on my upcoming sabbatical which is fast approaching. I will be on sabbatical beginning June 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026. I am so grateful for this opportunity to step back from daily parish ministry and focus on a couple of important parts of our life together. As part of my sabbatical I will be visiting congregations within our Greater Milwaukee Synod who are RIC (Reconciling in Christ) congregations. These congregations have gone through the RIC process and have voted to be open and affirming to the LGBTQIA+ community and to people of color. Trinity has a team exploring this process and as part of that exploration I will visit 5-6 congregations, worship with them and have some conversation about how their process went – what were the joys, surprises and challenges.

One thing that may or may not happen during my sabbatical is the Bishop's synod trip of solidarity and accompaniment to visit the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. My daughter, Aliliywa and I, along with 13 others from the synod are hoping to go. This trip was postponed from this past March to June 23-July 2. I'm not holding out a lot of hope that this will happen, but praying things will change and we might be able to go.

Another part of my sabbatical will be attending the Conference for Worship, Theology and the Arts at St. Olaf College at the end of July. This year's conference theme is "Nourishing Vocation: Every Time, Every Age, Every Place." I will be attending workshops on Intergenerational worship, the meaning of Christian Symbols and what they communicate, and also what inclusive worship looks like across age, ability, neurodiversity, race, and gender.

In addition to these focused study topics, I will be doing a bit of traveling with my family as we attend a friend's wedding, visit family in other parts of the country and enjoy some time in a cabin on Lake Michigan. Time for rest and renewal.

While I am on sabbatical, a supply pastor will be covering worship leadership, pastoral care, and Bible Study. Please stay tuned for an introduction in the June Tidings. The Mutual Ministry Team is also looking into some partnership events that can happen over the summer. And all the usual will be taking place as well – Vacation Bible School will be in July, the mini-golf event and Sundaes on Sunday will be happening, the backpack project will be happening, and much more.

I am grateful to the Endowment Fund Board and the Greater Milwaukee Synod for providing financial support for the congregation during this time. I am grateful to you, Trinity, for having a sabbatical policy that allows your pastor to take dedicated time for rest and study. I am grateful for all the teams and lay leaders who faithfully lead you in all aspects of ministry.

I will be back on September 1, 2026 and look forward to continuing our ministry together.

God's Peace be with you all, Pastor Denise

From Our President

Hello Trinity,

As we welcome the month of May, I am filled with gratitude for each of you and for the many ways our congregation continues to reflect God's love in the world. The beauty of blooming flowers and the warmth of longer days remind us that God is always bringing forth new life, even after seasons of waiting.

In every blossom and budding tree, we are given a glimpse of hope—hope that rises, renews, and reassures us that God is at work among us. In the life of our church, I see that same hope alive in your kindness, your service, and your willingness to walk alongside one another in faith.

This season also invites us into a spirit of openness and wonder. As the poet Walt Whitman encouraged, we are called to approach one another with curiosity rather than judgment—seeking first to understand, to listen, and to love more deeply. In doing so, we reflect the grace that God so freely gives to each of us.

As a faith community, we hold fast to the promise that God's love is for all people—without exception. We are called not only to believe this, but to live it out each day: to welcome one another, to extend grace freely, and to share compassion with all, no matter who they are or how they choose to love.

It is a blessing to serve as your church president and to witness the many ways you embody Christ's love. Together, we continue to grow—rooted in grace, reaching toward the light, and blooming with faith and hope.

Scripture for Reflection:

"See what great love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are." — 1 John 3:1

May this truth guide and sustain you in the days ahead. May hope blossom in your life this month, and may God's peace surround you always.

With gratitude and springtime blessings,
Jason



In Our Thoughts and Prayers and Recently Hospitalized

Cindy Felicki, David Hahn, Paul Sevald, Greg Buck, Gail English, Bruce Peacock, Kathryn Swanson, Sandy House, Kerry Kirchoff

Altar Flowers for May

May 3	Cheryl Parkinson; **
May 10	** , **
May 17	** , **
May 24	Cheryl Parkinson; **
May 31	Phyllis Bruneau; **

The bouquets are \$25 each. Please sign up on Signup Genius [tinyurl.com/TrinityFlowers](https://www.tinyurl.com/TrinityFlowers) or contact the church office. You can also sign up on the board outside the church office. (**) means nobody has signed up. You may pick up your flowers or call to arrange delivery

New Member Spotlight

Welcome Chris Cotter and Tatiana & Ethan Concepcion!

The Cotter/Concepcion family joins Trinity with a story rooted in faith, resilience, and love. After the loss of Chris's husband in 2010 and her daughter Heather in 2018, Chris became guardian to her grandchildren, Tatiana and Ethan. Alongside her son Aaron and daughter-in-law Kia, the family has faithfully supported and raised the children together.

With God's help, they have not only endured these losses but have continued to grow and thrive. They look forward to becoming part of the Trinity family and sharing in the life and ministry of the congregation.



Readings for May 2026

Additional Reading: Many of our lessons in the seasons after Easter come from the Book of Acts. Reading this book will give you a lot of stories of how the early church formed and shared the story of Jesus.

Any scripture lessons that skip verses are another good place to read what's left out. For example, on May 3 Psalm 31 skips some verses. Read the whole Psalm to get the context.

May 2/3, 2026 – Fifth Sunday of Easter – Family First Worship

Scripture: Proverbs 4:10-18; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 9/10, 2026 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 16/17, 2026 – Seventh Sunday of Easter – Music Sunday – Affirmation of Baptism – Youth Sunday - Sunday School Milestone - Scholarships

Scripture: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

May 23/24, 2026 – Day of Pentecost

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23

May 30/31, 2026 – Holy Trinity Sunday – Hymn Sing

Scripture: Genesis 1:1–2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

OPEN CONVERSATIONS

with Pastor Denise

4th Wednesday of the Month

Wednesday, May 27

from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at

Hillside Coffee House

237 E Ryan Rd

Oak Creek

Congregational Vote On Prayground June 7 Following Worship

The Trinity council is calling a congregational meeting on June 7, 2026 following worship to vote on whether to implementing a prayground in the sanctuary. This meeting will be in person and on Zoom. Our constitution does not allow for absentee or proxy voting. The proposal is to place a prayground on the right side of the sanctuary as you face the chancel. Documents with more details will be sent out to the congregation before the meeting.

“Grow Day” at All Peoples



Trinity tours All Peoples Garden back in 2021.

Every year, our partner congregation of All Peoples Gathering has a day when people can volunteer to come and help get their community garden and orchards ready for the season. Some of you have seen the garden and learned about the huge impact fresh produce has on the people who come to the Isaiah Food Pantry. On May 16 and 17 there are three opportunities to join others in getting the garden ready for the season. Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. or 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday, May 17 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Pastor Denise will join whoever signs up to help. Sign up in the narthex, via the long sheet or by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/GrowDayAllPeoples>

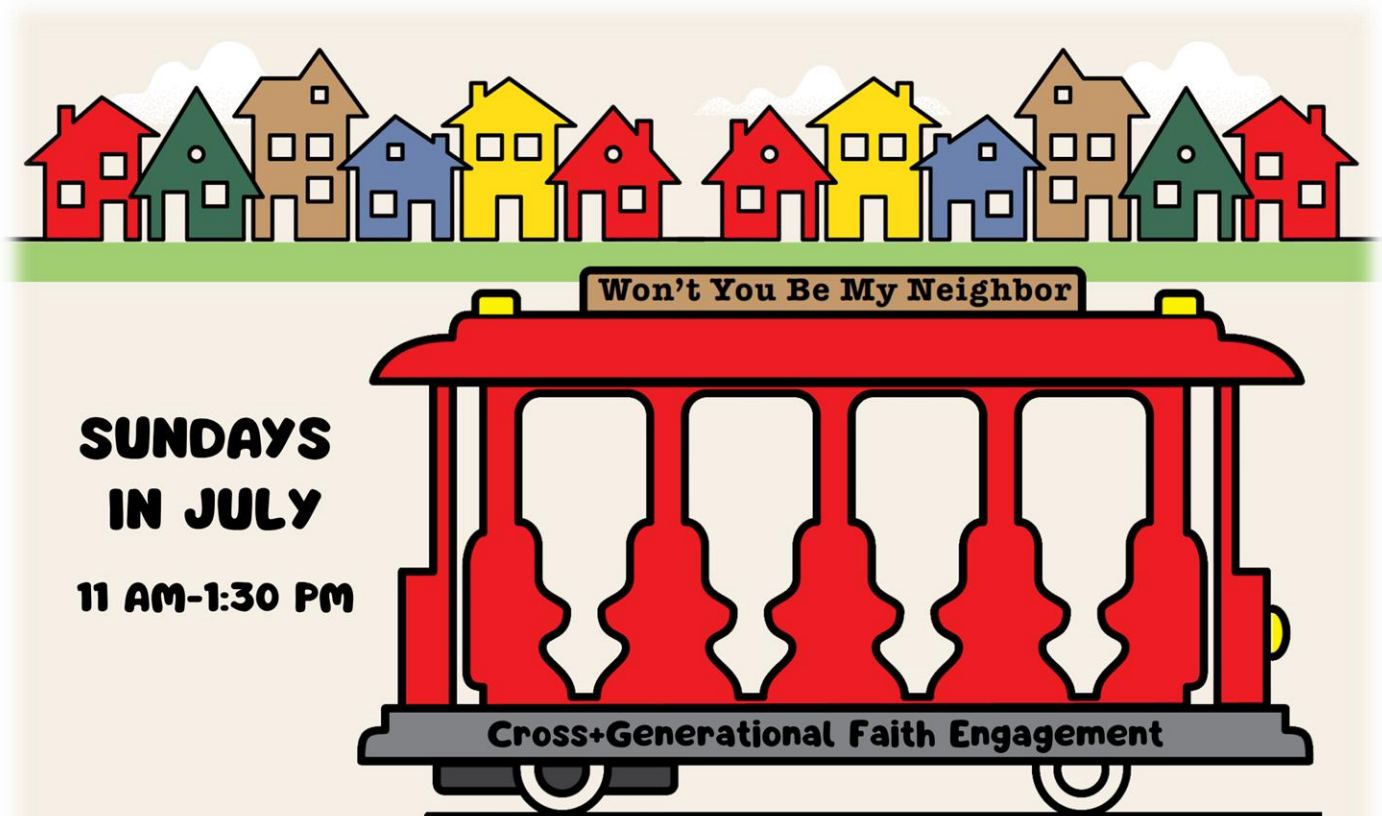
Cross+Generational Mini Golf Outing



We're excited to head back to **Mulligan's Mini Golf** this year on **Sunday, June 7!** Join us at **noon** for a fun afternoon of laughs, friendly competition, and great fellowship. It's always a wonderful time to connect with everyone—we hope to see you there! Sign up by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/TLCMiniGolf>

Youth and Family News

Submitted by Ray Bergwin and Alyssa Olson



All ages are invited to Trinity's summer faith formation sessions (VBS) as we practice loving our neighbors

Trinity Lutheran 2507 5th Ave South Milwaukee
youthtlcsm@gmail.com



Trinity Scholarships

Please consider donating to Trinity Lutheran Church's Scholarship Fund. Every year, your contributions help deserving Trinity scholars pursue their educational goals. Indicate your intention by marking "Scholarship Fund" on your designated giving envelope, or selecting "scholarship" from the drop-down menu in the Tithe.ly electronic giving app.

Our scholarship application is available online on our website or in a printed copy in the forms rack outside the church office. We encourage students to apply and are happy to attend school scholarship presentation ceremonies as requested. Scholarships will be awarded on May 17 during worship as we celebrate educational milestones.

Milestones and More in May

For the first time, we're combining several annual traditions into one amazing day on **May 17**. First, during Sunday School, we'll celebrate our education volunteers and students in our final class of the school year. Then, join us for a very special worship service that combines Youth-Led Worship, Music Sunday, and Affirmation of Baptism! River of Life Milestones will begin with the recognition of our graduating class, the presentation of scholarships, and the sharing of educational milestones at every age and stage. After worship, our final GIANT cinnamon roll sale of the school year will fill the narthex.

If you are interested in helping bake or sell rolls or have any questions about this big day, reach out to Alyssa at youthtlcsm@gmail.com.



Summer Fun at Lutherdale

Looking for something fun to do this summer?

From kid and family camps to bus trips and quilt auction, our local Lutheran outdoor ministry center has it all! Check out Lutherdale.org to find out more.

"Camperships" are available if the cost of camp is inaccessible. Please reach out to Alyssa at youthtlcsm@gmail.com with questions.



Save the dates for the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering! June 28-July 2, 2027

any other.

The Youth Gathering is a unique faith formation experience. Every three years, thousands of ELCA teens from across the country converge on one city for a week of worship, service, and fellowship unlike

Teens must be in 8th-12th grade in fall 2026 to attend the Youth Gathering.

For those aged 18-35, the national Young Adult Gathering will take place simultaneously. There are also pre-events for youth with disabilities and youth of color to gather in the community before the large event. Our tentative plan is to take the train, with potential for a fun extra stop along the way!

Learn more at <https://www.elca.org/gathering-2027/about-what-is-the-gathering> and stay tuned for informational meetings and registration this fall.

We'll need adults to help lead, plan, and fundraise. In the coming months, please prayerfully consider if you might be feeling called to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime faith experience.

Highlights from the April 2026 Council Meeting

- Pastor Denise led devotions from Luke 24.
- March minutes and reports were approved.
- It was noted from Pastor's report that a team of people will need to be organized to plan God's Work Our Hands on September 13, 2026.
- Executive Team and the Mutual Ministry chair will meet with the sabbatical supply pastor in April to finalize areas of coverage and a contract.
- Council set Sunday, June 7, 2026 as the date for a congregational meeting, both in-person and on zoom, to vote by written ballot on whether or not to implement a playground in the sanctuary on the right side. An information document will be sent out in the Tidings and via Flocknote.
- The Property Team has been contacted about putting together a budget and more information about possibly removing the Communion rail from the chancel. The council will have further discussion next month.

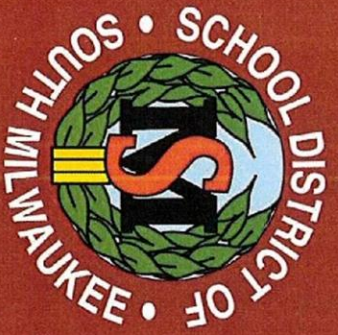
Trinity Honored for Seven-Year Partnership with Lakeview Elementary School

Trinity was recognized by the South Milwaukee School Board on Wednesday, April 15, at its regular board meeting. Trinity was honored for the partnership we have shared with Lakeview Elementary School for the past seven years. We were recognized for our Reading Buddies program and for the many collections we have organized over the years, providing school supplies, books, backpacks, snow pants, and much more.

Our Reading Buddies this year are Ray Bergwin, Ruth Clauser, Leah Deen-Sandoval, Alice Demlow, Denise Herr, Teri Junge, Barb Kendall, Shirley Komasa, Pastor Denise Mbise, and Sue Zylka. Bob and Linda Iversen have also been instrumental in the partnership by organizing collections and making deliveries.

It was an honor to have our Bishop, Paul Erickson, join us for this recognition. Thank you to Aaron Johnson for attending and taking pictures.

Many thanks to everyone who has participated in this partnership over the years. It is one of the many ways we share the story of Jesus Christ so all may experience God's love. This partnership has made a meaningful impact on the students and families of Lakeview. It is always wonderful to meet students out in the community and have them connect with you because of this partnership. Trinity is becoming known in the community as a congregation that builds relationships and works to make a positive impact. Way to go, Trinity!



2025-26 SCHOOL BOARD

- SOPHIA WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT
- ANGIE DEFORD
VICE PRESIDENT
- PATRICK HINTZ
CLERK
- ANDY SIMMONS
TREASURER
- NATHAN JUROWSKI
MEMBER
- BRIAN GENDUSO
MEMBER
- STEVE HANSEN
MEMBER

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION



Trinity Lutheran Church

School District of South Milwaukee

Sophi Williams

SOPHIA WILLIAMS
President

Angie Deford

ANGIE DEFORD
Vice President

The School District of South Milwaukee acts with a relentless commitment to remove barriers and care for all students so they feel accepted and will learn without exception.





Holy Week Festival





Sunrise Easter Worship



Financial Update for March

Submitted by David Hahn

Financial Update for March: We had an average March kind of month. We almost broke even but had to add a small amount to our increasing deficit.

1. Net income -\$689; Year-to-date -\$8,617.
2. Lent gifts of \$1,280.
3. Had five weekends of gifting.
4. Compared to last year, operating income is down \$8,000, and expense are about the same.

We do want to recognize, and thank, the many Trinity givers who help keep our ministries active. Every gift matters!

Project Uplift: Balance of \$27,598; income of \$303; expense of \$1,060 for boiler pump repair.

Impact Report:

Endowment Fund Grants

- \$44 Music purchase
- \$10 Godly Play

Thrivent Action Team Grants

- Guest House
- Sunday School teachers'/seniors' appreciation event

Cinnamon roll sales for youth: \$265





May 2026

2507 5th Ave.
 South Milwaukee, WI 53172
 Phone: 414-762-6626
 Email: officetlcsm@gmail.com
 Web Site: WWW.TLCSM.ORG

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>26</p> <p>8:45 Sunday School for Elementary</p> <p>9:30 Worship in person and online with Soul Purpose</p> <p>10:30 Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting in person</p> <p>10:30 Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting in person</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30- 1:30 Office Open</p> <p>2:00-6:30 3rd Year Confirmation Retreat</p> <p>6:30 Confirmation</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:30 Staff Meeting in person</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30- 1:30 Office Open</p> <p>10:30 Adult Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 Bell Ensemble Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>May 1</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Human Concerns Weekend</p> <p>5:00 Worship in person</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Human Concerns Weekend</p> <p>8:45 Sunday School for Elementary</p> <p>9:30 Family First Worship in person and online</p> <p>10:30 Education & Youth Ministry Team Meeting in person</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30- 1:30 Office Open</p> <p>6:30 Confirmation</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 Lutheran World Relief Quilting</p> <p>10:30 Property Ministry Team Meeting in person</p> <p>7:00 Executive Committee Meeting on Zoom</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30-1:30 Office Open</p> <p>10:30 Adult Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 Bell Ensemble Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Scholarship Applications Due</p> <p>5:00 Worship in person</p>
<p>10</p> <p>8:45 Sunday School for Elementary</p> <p>9:30 Worship in person and online</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30- 1:30 Office Open</p> <p>5:30 Scholarship Committee Meeting in person</p> <p>6:30 Confirmation</p> <p>7:00 Finance Ministry Team Meeting on Zoom</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Tidings Articles Due</p> <p>7:00 Council Meeting on Zoom</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30- 1:30 Office Open</p> <p>10:30 Adult Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 Bell Ensemble Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:00 Saturday Stitchers</p> <p>5:00 Worship in person</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Music Sunday</p> <p>8:45 Sunday School for Elementary with celebration of education volunteers and students</p> <p>9:30 Worship in person and online with Education Milestones, Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation and Soul Purpose</p> <p>10:30 Cinnamon Roll Sale</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30- 1:30 Office Open</p> <p>6:30 Confirmation for 6th & 7th grade</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 Lutheran World Relief Quilting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 Thrivent Member Group Meeting on Zoom</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30- 1:30 Office Open</p> <p>10:30 Adult Bible Study</p> <p>5:00 Community Meal at United Church of Christ South Milwaukee</p> <p>6:30 TLC Musicians Dinner</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:00 Worship in person</p>
<p>24</p> <p>No Sunday School for Elementary— Summer Break Starts</p> <p>9:30 Worship in person and online</p> <p>10:30 Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting in person</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Memorial Day Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30-11:30 Open Conversations with Pastor Denise at Hillside Coffee House in Oak Creek</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30- 1:30 Office Open</p> <p>No Adult Bible Study— Summer Schedule Begins</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly</p> <p>7:00 Synod Assembly Worship in Brookfield</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly</p> <p>5:00 Hymn Sing</p> <p>Worship in person</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9:30 Hymn Sing Worship in person and online</p> <p>10:30 Volunteer Recognition Brunch</p> <p>6:00 RIC Team Meeting on Zoom</p>	<p>June 1</p> <p>Pastors Sabbatical Begins</p> <p>8:30- 1:30 Office Open</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 Lutheran World Relief Quilting</p> <p>10:30 Property Ministry Team Meeting in person</p> <p>7:00 Executive Committee Meeting on Zoom</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30-1:30 Office Open</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Human Concerns Weekend</p> <p>5:00 Worship in person</p>



Collaboration

God Has Called Us to Work Together

2026 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly

Friday Evening Events - Open to the Public!

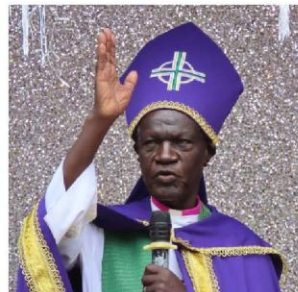
Friday, May 29, 2026

@ Brookfield Conference Center

5:15 pm Keynote Dinner (\$50/Ticket)

(Dinner is already included for registered Assembly participants.)

7 pm Worship (FREE + No Registration Required)



Keynote Speaker: Tia Richardson

Companion Synod Guests:

Bishop Elias Kitoi Nasari, Meru

Bishop Guadalupe Cortéz, El Salvador






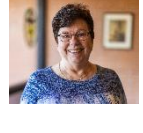

Pastor Christian Chavarria, El Salvador

Learn More + Buy Dinner Tickets:



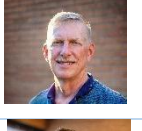
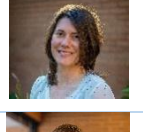
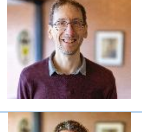


tinyurl.com/GMSAssembly2026



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION STAFF

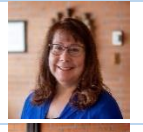
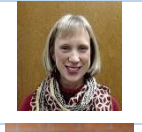


	Rev Denise M.H. Mbise Pastor 262-930-8267 tlcsmpastor@gmail.com		Nicole Ferrell Communications & Office Manager officetlcs@gmail.com
	Lisa Maxfield Music Director choirtlcs@sbcglobal.net		Kari Pink Pianist/Organist karijanderson@hotmail.com
	Karel Suchy Saturday Keyboardist karel@studio1259.biz		Alyssa Olson Youth, Family & Education Director youthtlcs@gmail.com
COUNCIL OFFICERS			
	Jason Woodbury * Council President Jasonwoodbury@outlook.com		Vacant Council Vice President
	Sue Zylka* Council Secretary suezylka@gmail.com		David Hahn Council Treasurer tlcsmtreasurer@gmail.com

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS & COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

	Eileen Kelley Caring/Outreach Ministry Team kellyblackmon2@gmail.com		Joanna Miller * Cross Generational Ministry Team joaronmiller@yahoo.com
	Mike Radtke Finance Ministry Team radtke22@hotmail.com		Steve Mueller Property Ministry Team swm755@gmail.com
	Patty Rosek-Johnson Stewardship Ministry Team patty.rosekjohnson@gmail.com		Jim Lembke * jalembke@gmail.com
	Josh Hiatt * hiatt.josh@gmail.com		Darcy McDaniel * cfiatp2020@charter.net

* denotes Council member

CHURCH TEAMS AND COMMITTEES

	Sandy Mueller Mutual Ministry Team drsandymueller@gmail.com		Sarah Brooks Communications Team scbrooks5@gmail.com
	David Hahn Thrivent Member Group djhahn610@gmail.com		Aron Miller Endowment Committee aronmiller0675@gmail.com



May 2026 TIDINGS

For more information about our congregation, please visit our website at www.tlcsm.org.



Contact Us
Trinity Lutheran Church
2507 5th Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

414-762-6626

tlcsmpastor@gmail.com

officetlcsm@gmail.com

www.tlcsm.org

www.facebook.com/tlcsm

In person worship at 5:00 p.m. Saturday

In person and livestream worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School 3-year-olds – 8th grade at 8:45 a.m.

(Labor Day – Memorial Day)

Church Office Hours: Monday & Thursday 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2507 5th Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172