

TRINITY'S LINK

Vol. 42, No. 8 / August 2026

Church phone
573-782-4631

Church email:
trinityrussmo@
gmail.com

Council President:
Roger Jungmeyer

Roger's cell:
573-690-4293

Roger's Landline:
573-635-7744

Cathy's cell:
573-353-4557

Trinity's Website
www.trinityrussmo.com.

+++++

In this issue:

Council Meeting
Minutes (7/14)

School Supply
Giveaway

Blessing Box
Ministry

Sunday School
Begins (9/13)

Pie Making Plans

Carried and Called to Follow



Jesus the Good Shepherd is one of Christianity's most endearing images. Scenes of Jesus holding a small lamb bring comfort during times of trouble, reminding us of God's tender care when we are weak or hurting. In those moments, we are grateful to be carried.

Yet this image also points to a deeper truth. The Shepherd's role is not only to carry the lamb, but to lead the flock. When we

are restored and strengthened, we are called to rise, to walk and to follow where He leads.

God meets us in our need with compassion, but He also calls us forward with purpose. The same hands that lift us up also guide us on the path ahead.

There is a time to be carried, and there is a time to follow.



Council Meeting Minutes—July 14, 2026

Members present: Ken Bishop, Sheila Thomas, Roger Jungmeyer, Jennifer Dampf, Jerome Rockelman and Travis Koestner.

The meeting began at 6:31 pm.

Roger Jungmeyer called the meeting to order

The Council reviewed the June meeting minutes and June special meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the June minutes by Ken Bishop; second by Jerome Rockelman, motion carried.

The Council reviewed the June financial reports. Travis Koestner made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented, second by Ken Bishop, motion carried.

Budget and Finance- Jennifer Dampf

- Jennifer reported on the church's finances and all bills are paid

Parish Education Committee- Jennifer Dampf

- Plans for Sunday School to start in September.
- Jennifer Dampf will talk with Pastor Viles about First Communion Class
- Confirmation- Roger Jungmeyer received info from the Synod about confirmation class by zoom meetings conducted by the synod and those classes would be from September 3-April 15th with orientation being August 13 & 20 and be in the lower part of the hall.
- Ken Bishop made a motion to purchase Bibles for the kids that need one and Sheila Thomas seconded the motion, motion carried. The Bibles will be presented on September 13th
- Ken Bishop made a motion to allow Parish Ed to put a food pantry box on the church grounds close to the sidewalk toward the school so kids can grab some food after school that need it, Travis Koestner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Evangelism- Sheila Thomas

- Had a meeting on 7/13/26 and discussed the school supply giveaway which will be held on August 2nd and members of Trinity are encouraged to donate Expo markers and Clorox wipes. God's Work Our Hands day will be September 27th so let any member of evangelism know if you need any work done.

Music and Worship- Ken Bishop

- Talked about our services and how we can improve and enhance them.
- All songs and videos need to be sent to Cathy Kliethermes aka church secretary before anyone adds them to a service so she can verify we have the copyright to use that specific song or video as the copyright has to be listed in the bulletin even though we aren't recording or streaming them.
- Songs for October were selected along with videos for communion and sending.

Property- Jerome Rockelman

- Jeff Gordon removed and installed new floor tile next to the kitchen restroom
- Installed new igniters on the imperial kitchen range burners
- Removed limbs from wind storm
- Dana installed locks on water hydrant and turned off water on the pavilion hydrant.

Vitality Committee- Travis Koesnter

- They will be meeting on July 20th

Old Business:

- Jerome Rockelman will get the new dusk to dawn light installed at the pavilion on the south side asap
- Church workday has been tabled

New Business:

- The semi-annual meeting will be held July 19th after the worship service
- The new formatted bulletin will be used starting July 19th
- The council will be reviewing committees in October or November
- Roger Jungmeyer said it was time for the servicing/tuning of the organ by Quimby. Jennifer Dampf made a motion to do the service/tuning and a second by Sheila Thomas. Motion carried
- Roger Jungmeyer asked the council about starting the meeting at 6:00p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m. and all were in favor. The August council meeting will start at 6:00 p.m.

The next Council Meeting will be August 11, 2026 at 6:00pm. A motion was made by Jennifer Dampf to adjourn the meeting; second by Jerome Rockelman, motion carried.

The meeting ended at 8:07 pm.

Respectively submitted:

Ken Bishop

Secretary _____ President _____

Blessing Box Ministry

Trinity will soon be installing a Blessing Box near the memorial bench on our church property to provide food and basic necessities for anyone in need, especially local students and families.

Throughout August, God's Kids will be collecting non-perishable donations to help stock the Blessing Box and keep extra supplies on hand. Donations may be placed on the church windowsills.

Suggested items include individually packaged snacks, shelf-stable meals, canned goods with pop-top lids, fruit cups, oatmeal, macaroni and cheese cups, bottled water, juice boxes, and travel-size hygiene items.

Thank you for helping us share Christ's love with our community!



SUNFLOWER — The sunflower, a symbol of faithfulness and devotion, represents a life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him.

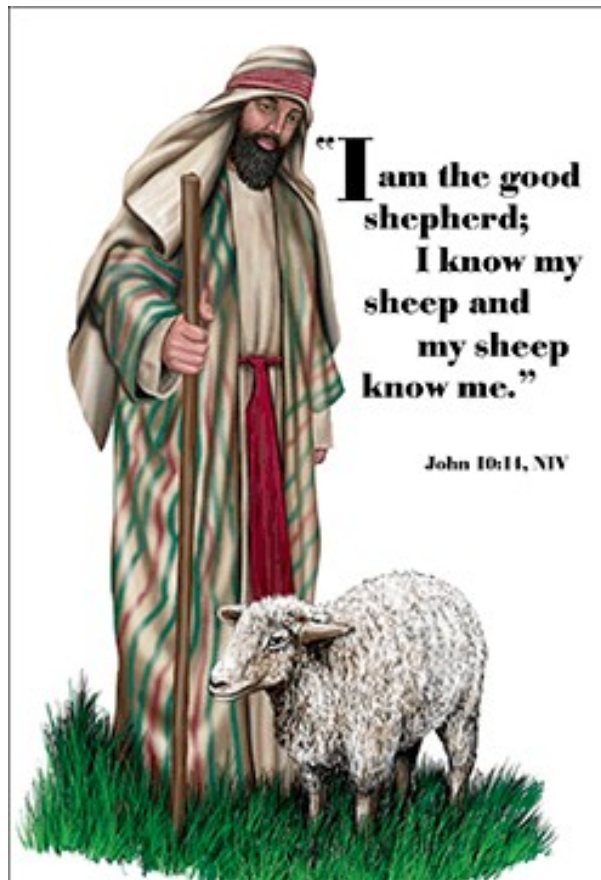


Its bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of God's presence, while its steady growth points to a life rooted in faith. The many seeds of the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual fruitfulness.

In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily and to reflect His light in all we do.

Baptismal Birthdays for August

- 2 Decklan Shannon
- 2 Keaton Shikles
- 6 Eugene Moll
- 8 Kelly Kirchner
- 10 Garrett Geiger
- 10 Cameron Jenkins
- 10 Owen Miles
- 14 Lyric Johnson
- 15 Amy Sheehan
- 15 John Schmoeger
- 16 Ellery Adamski
- 16 Adelyn Volkart
- 16 Emry Volkart
- 17 Adalyn Wood
- 18 Briggs Wyatt Geiger
- 18 Sarah Koestner
- 23 Kathi Bishop
- 29 Baylee Watts



Birthdays for August

- 1 Chantz Fisher
- 1 Haley Smith
- 2 Renee Daniel
- 3 Kathi Bishop
- 6 Christina Wood
- 7 Kris Kirchner
- 7 Alberta Koestner
- 9 Reta Casten
- 9 Corbin Johnson
- 10 Shirley Jungmeyer
- 11 Joey Wyss
- 13 Monroe Paul Payne
- 15 Tom Wise
- 16 Cynthia Kleese
- 16 Gary Mueller
- 18 Della Mae Haslag
- 18 Joseph Meili
- 23 Travis Kempker
- 23 Rachel Verslues
- 26 Koen Michael Keck
- 27 Lee Penberthy
- 28 Becky Wise



The School Supply Giveaway event is scheduled for August 2. This is to provide supplies for families that can't afford them. Trinity members are requested to donate

Expo markers and Clorox wipes or any similar brand. Please bring your donations to church any Sunday until August 2nd. Thank you.

Ingredients for true success

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

—George Washington Carver

Food Bank

The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri was at Trinity's parking lot on Tuesday, July 14. Volunteers experienced a typical hot July afternoon with their only relief being the welcomed shade of the nearby pine tree. There were 120 families served totaling 352 persons during the distribution. There were twenty-two volunteers present with five of this number representing Trinity. Items distributed were: mushrooms, milk, kiwi, raspberries, chips, watermelon, popcorn, tomatoes, pineapple and lunch meat. In addition, the Russellville United Methodist Church distributed sacks filled with various items for kids; and the Rocky Mount Food Bank provided assorted fruits, vegetables and assorted baked items. The August Food Bank will be at Trinity's parking lot on Tuesday, August 11, 1-3. Thank you volunteers for your continued dedication!

Do you have a spiritual, physical, or mental prayer request? Trinity's Prayer Chain is here to support you. To begin a prayer request or to be added to the prayer chain to receive text messages or phone calls, please contact Kathy Koestner (573-690-0956) or Connie Harrison (573-680-9465). We invite you to stay connected as we support one another through prayer.

Report on Churchwide Women's Organization

Triennial Gathering July 16-19, 2026 at the Iowa Event Center, Des Moines. The theme I am Worthy focused on Psalm 139:14. Our logo design was a fragmented heart of white on a deep pink background and a cross of gold emerging, repairing/healing the brokenness. W-ELCA Director of Communications and intergenerational programs Elizabeth McBride; graphic designer, won an award of excellence at the 2026 Region Communicators Council Convention for her creativity with logo. Voting members representing all of the synods took care of business via zoon in the days preceding gathering. There were 5 memorials –1) Diversity, equity and inclusion 2) Calling for peace and unity 3) Calling for the safety and protection of our children 4) Suicide and mental health issues in youth/young adults Dignity and accessibility for all. Resolution 1) End racism by participating in study sessions 2) Participation in truth and healing movement. Financial points were scholarships including for seminary. Global funds supported raising up healthy women and girls grants with hospitals in Tanzania, South Sudan, Liberia and India's high schools, institutes of higher learning in India, Africa and Mexico. Katie's funds helped with women's leadership, supplying items for a community coat closet, mission travel, social justice training and suicide prevention/mental health training. In kind and financial gifts to Lutheran World Relief are 90,000 quilts; 45,000 + school kits; 20,000 + personal care/hygiene kits; 12,000 + baby care kits; 1,500 + fabric /sewing kits; Additionally, \$185,000 was given to support ELCA ministries by W-ELCA.

Early afternoon July 16, a blanket exercise was lead by Vance Blackfox (Cherokee—Oaks, OK) Director, Ecumenical and Tribal Relations.

Opening worship began at 4 PM with SE Iowa Synod Bishop Amy Current and Pastor Minna Bothwell of Des Moines. There was a litany, the hymn #641, "All are Welcome," the Kyrie from Setting 10, prayers, much music by praise bands, scripture from Ezekiel 37:1-10, Psalm 139:1-18. and communion. A reception followed the service. There was a late night Bold Café.

July 17 began with a Bible study by Rev. Sara Olson Smith. She pointed out the July GATHER Bible study, that each person is more than one thing—what you do—where they are—what are likes and dislikes. Her study focused on Eve being a helper for Adam, equal partners. A keynote speaker was Elysa Salinas-Lazarski compares life to the 4 seasons. Spring—a foretaste of growth, teenage friend/buddy. Summer—beginning adult recognize need to be kind to self, pressures of motherhood, family. Autumn—changes in health, caretakers of parents, mental anxiety, talk therapy, medication, accept love, tenderness and kindness, recognize changes. Winter—cozy, find contentment, change careers, older but feeling younger, loneliness, health concerns. 70% with dementia are not helped.

I attended a workshop “Exploring the Bible and Artwork in Faithful Languages for God.” The twin parables of one lost sheep and woman who lost a coin were compared. Eyes are usually on shepherd, disregard woman. Jesus breaks rules—who is acceptable. We need to affirm “I am Worthy”. Center on what we believe, redeemed by grace, by faith trusting God’s promise. Scripture needs to provoke images. Older artwork of infants, very popular. No words needed. A short video of art works was show.

Other speakers were representing Global Refuge which partners with LWR and LIRS—Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services since 1939. Long term missions are in Guatemala, Mexico and Honduras. Caseworkers are in 9 countries. They provide immediate help and also train Bible study church leaders provide special litanies, bulletin inserts and speak to local churches. A video of Mosaic’s work was shown. They were founded 113 with Lutheran roots and offer many resources for developmental challenged individuals. Information was shared about adults serving kids—human trafficking.

Bible Study began the day, Saturday with Pastor Sara Olson Smith sharing her time in Africa, Then GATHER study Abide in God/vine and Zacchaeus . Rev. Martha Ambarangu brought attention to bold women of the Bible.

50% offering to CWO-W-ELCA where needed most, 25% LWR, 25% Des Moines area food bank.

Several international guests were introduced. Women had been invited to create a banner or quilt using logo colors prior to gathering. Everyone could vote on a favorite. Our Osage Conference was represented by a quilter from Camdenton, Cyndy Dixon, receiving 1st place. A panel of judges chose differently.

Our own Central States Synod Bishop attended gathering and had a brief question/answer sharing especially for us.

Rev. Dr. Susan Rose had a workshop regarding women as pastors and leadership roles. How women are treated compared to men—a video with male pastors questions and inappropriate comments, negatively affecting the hiring of women or getting promotions, salary standards. Know the Synod guidelines and constitution and local. Be bold, support women in ministry 1) Respect 2) Advocate 3) Pay her 4) Protect her time. A perfect gift for a seminary graduate is a “stole”. Some pastors who retire donate in this way.

A workshop on story telling by Dr. Kelly Sherman Conroy, relayed a song written by a hospitalized church member. Community is a spiritual practice. Hold on to truth. She had a personal story of ICE following her. She realized the danger and tried to call friends who didn’t answer. She got on a public chat. Said emergency situation was happening. They advised keep driving, don’t stop, don’t let ICE (3 vehicles) to isolate her. In minutes help from group appeared honking, driving in way of ICE and situation dissolved. She was able to get home safe. Friends called, came, prayed—God listened, he spoke. He is your personal God—you are precious.

Closing worship had music led by praise band “Elevation Worship.” Scripture was read in Spanish and English. ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry addressed the group reminded us of Martin Luther and catechism. Rev. Lucille “CaCee” Mills preached.

Next Triennial will be at Louisville, Kentucky in 2029.

Beth Rockelman

Women of the ELCA Quarterly Meeting

July 19, 2026

The Women of the ELCA met on Sunday, July 19, 2026 after the church service. Becky Wise had an opening devotion entitled "Swarming Bees". President Anna Wise called the business meeting to order. The minutes of the April 19, 2026 quarterly meeting were read and approved. Kathy Koestner read the treasurer's report as of June 30, 2026 showing a balance of \$7,288.78 in the checking account, \$2,480.78 in the savings account and \$5,520.45 in the CD. The treasurer's report was approved. Thank you notes were received and read from Lutheran World Relief, Russellville-Lohman Fire Auxiliary, Oaks Indian Mission and Women of the ELCA Raising Healthy Women/Girls for donations. Thank you notes were shared from the Margaret Malzner family for funeral dinner and the Mid-Missouri Spring Gathering Planning Board for hosting the Spring Gathering.

The Special Projects committee reported the stainless-steel freezer and commercial mixer will be delivered by September 1. The kitchen supplies and paper products need to be checked and restocked.

There was no report from the Mission Action Committee.

The Spring Cluster meeting that Trinity hosted on April 25, 2026 was attended well with 35-40 people attending and had positive feedback from attendees.

The meeting continued with new business. The Fall Cluster meeting will be in September at Christ and Trinity, Sedalia, Missouri.

Mary Gordon reported on the upcoming pie fundraiser. Miscellaneous items have already been purchased and the apples and other supplies have been ordered. The apples will be delivered October 8 or 9 and there will be 3 work days to assemble the pies for pickup. Information will be shared to include donation items in upcoming church newsletter.

The meeting continued with the election of officers. Motion was approved to elect Anna Wise for president, Denise Ortals for secretary and Becky Hayden for mission action coordinator.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and all prayed the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be November 1, 2026. There were five members present.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Ortals, Secretary

Why Me?

When we're faced with unexpected hardship, our first impulse is often to ask, "Why me, O God? Why me?"

Yet when a blessing comes our way, we receive it with gratitude and rarely ask the same question: "Why me, O God? Why me?"

Worship Servers

	August 2 Outside	August 9 Inside	August 16 Inside	August 23 Inside	August 30 Inside
Council Member	Sheila Thomas Jennifer Dampf	Jennifer Dampf	Ken Bishop	Travis Koestner	Sheila Thomas
Greeter	Cody & Brooke Koestner Family	Kent & Cheyenne Shikles Family	Ryan & Kim Otto Family & Christine & Abel Clark Family	Brandon & Mollie Keck Family	Cory & Beth Volkart Family
Lay Reader	Brooke Koestner	Christina Wood	Lee Henry Penberthy	Gidget Koestner	Kim Otto
Acolyte	Acolyte Volunteer	Adalyn Wood	Jocie Mertens	Acolyte Volunteer	Brooklyn Wood
Children's Sermon	Tami Kirchner	Connie Harrison	Tami Kirchner	Jennifer Dampf	Becky Hayden
Offering Assistants	Cody & Brooke Koestner Family	Kent & Cheyenne Shikles Family	Ryan & Kim Otto Family & Christine & Abel Clark Family	Brandon & Mollie Keck Family	Cory & Beth Volkart Family
Communion Assistant	Jessica Keeran	Christina Wood	Denise Ortvals	Kathi Bishop	Kim Otto
Video	Dana Frisby	Lyle & Dana Jobe	Kathy Koestner & Denise Ortvals	Dana Frisby	Jack Hayden
Piano	Judy Crocker	Judy Crocker	Judy Crocker	Judy Crocker	Becky Hayden

Pie time is coming! The women's organization is getting organized for the fresh apple pie fundraiser. Mary Gordon and Becky Hayden are co-chairing the event. In September, order forms will be handed out for everyone to get orders from family, friends and co-workers. This year we will also be able to take online orders. The pies will cost \$10.00 a piece or 6 pies for \$50.00. Payment will be due when the unbaked pies are picked up. They will be asking for donations of salt, 4-lb bags of flour, 1-lb boxes Blue Bonnet Margarine (only this brand for consistency) and cash. Donations can be placed anytime now in the food serving area of the hall and margarine in the kitchen refrigerator. There will be 3 work dates in October to assemble the pies and they'll need everyone's help. Watch for more information to come.



USE OF HALL/HALL RENTAL - Please be reminded that if you want to use the hall for an event, please let Cathy know. Please do not just put the date on the calendar--leave a note for Cathy so she knows whether it's a church event or a private rental; and if private rental the appropriate forms need to be filled out.

August 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 P-9 AM- Outdoor Worship School Supply Giveaway	3	4 P/H-5 PM-Yoga	5	6 P/H-6 PM- Men's Bible Study	7	8
9 C-9 AM- Indoor Worship	10	11 P/L-1-3 PM- Food Bank P/H-5-PM-Yoga P/O-5:30 PM- Music & Worship P/H-6:00 PM- Church Council	12	13	14	15
16 C-9 AM- Indoor Worship	17	18 P/H-5 PM- Yoga	19 P/H-11:30 AM- Retreads	20 P/H-6 PM Trinity's Sisters Study Group Newsletter Article Deadline	21	22
23 C-9 AM- Indoor Worship	24	25 P/H-5 PM-Yoga	26	27	28	29
30 Indoor Worship Time to be announced	31		C=Church, P/H=Parish Hall, P=Pavilion, P/O=Parish Office, P/L=Parking Lot			

Sunday School Classes Begin

Sunday School Classes will begin on Sunday, September 13th at 8:15. We will all meet together in the upstairs open room for a song and offering, then divide into classes. Dismissal will be at 8:55. Sundays when we have Pastor Viles, SS will be from 9:15-9:55.

On the Sunday, we have Pastor Viles, the Parish Education Committee will also hand out Bibles during church to the kindergarten - third graders and middle-high school kids.

Special Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting held July 2, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Roger Jungmeyer, Jennifer Dampf, Sheila Thomas, Jerome Rockelman, Becky Hayden, Travis Koestner and Ken Bishop. Music and Worship Committee members present were Tami Kirchner, Connie Harrison, Judy Crocker, and Cathy Kliethermes.

A special meeting was called by Church Council to discuss worship service changes and ideas. Music and Worship members were invited to attend the meeting and join in the discussion.

Connie Harrison opened the meeting with a prayer.

First item of discussion was the placement of videos in our church service. Connie provided the group with a welcome message that is appropriate for our bulletins and video service.

Ken Bishop made a motion to use a video as the sending hymn, to provide a "Welcome to Worship" screen as the first screen of the video shared on the internet and to print a welcome message in our bulletins. Jennifer seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Second item of discussion was the use of hymnals during the church service, and ways to simplify the power point and bulletin production. Ken Bishop made a motion to use our hymnals instead of printing the words on the power point or in the bulletin whenever possible. Jennifer seconded the motion; motion carried.

Roger Jungmeyer presented a new style of bulletin to the group and it was discussed. Jennifer made a motion to implement the new style of bulletin for our services. Travis seconded the motion; motion carried.

Third item of discussion was the use of a video during communion. The group agreed that a quiet video with less distraction would be appropriate. Jennifer made a motion to use one video per month during communion and to be played at a pleasant volume. Becky seconded the motion; motion carried.

Fourth item of discussion was the Sunday after VBS. Sheila made a motion to provide donut holes and left over cookies for the families of VBS and the members of Trinity after church July 12, 2026. Travis seconded the motion; motion carried.

Ken Bishop made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Travis, motion carried.

The meeting ended at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Hayden.