

TRINITY'S LINK

Trinity Lutheran Church
Russellville, Missouri

Vol. 42, No. 9 / September 2026

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When the Road Gets Rough



It had been a long trip home, and the weary traveler still had miles to go. So when a sign appeared reading, "Rough Road Ahead – 4 miles," he braced himself.

Rough was an understatement. The lanes narrowed, the shoulder disappeared, and traffic slowed to a crawl. Drivers carefully weaved around potholes and construction equipment, inching forward one stretch at a time. But just as the sign promised, after four difficult miles, the road opened up and smoothed out again.

Jesus offers a similar kind of clarity about life. In John 16:33 (NIV), He says, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Notice He doesn't say we might face trouble. It is part of the journey. There will be stretches that feel slow, uncertain and hard.

Notice that Jesus didn't say we "might" have trouble. Sooner or later, problems will come. The road will get rough. But Jesus has already defeated everything the world can throw our way. We just have to keep moving, fueled by hope.

The promise is just as certain as the warning sign. The rough road does not last forever, and it does not have the final say. Christ has already gone before us, and smoother ground is ahead.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2026

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

The meeting began at 6:04 pm.

Roger Jungmeyer called the meeting to order.

The Council reviewed the July meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the July minutes by Jennifer Dampf; second by Travis Koestner, motion carried.

The Council reviewed the July financial reports. Jerome Rockelman made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented, second by Travis Koestner, motion carried.

Budget and Finance- Jennifer Dampf

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

Parish Education Committee- Jennifer Dampf

- During the month of August the youth will be collecting non-perishable items to put in the new Blessing Box that Cory Volkart is making for the west entrance. Plans are to bless the Blessing Box on September 27.
- Sunday School will begin on Sunday September 13th at 8:15. They will have an opening song and then divide into three groups- 2-5 year olds, K-4 and 5-high. If anyone would like to help teach or assist, this is a rotation of members to aid the workload. Kim Otto found a curriculum that will guide through each week and so much of the prep time is completed.
- September 13th will present Bibles to our K-3rd graders and possibly middle school.
- Confirmation classes will be starting soon
- Children's sermon assistants- if anyone else is able to assist in the rotation, please let Jennifer Dampf or Becky Hayden know. Looking for someone for Labor day Sunday.

Evangelism- Sheila Thomas

- Will have a birthday reception for Reta Casten on August 16th
- The back to school event was held at Trinity and was well attended

Music and Worship- Ken Bishop

- Committee met before the council meeting and discussed worship services
- The pianist will play through the hymn one time before the congregation will sing
- Decided to purchase more battery candles instead of using the wax candles for Christmas eve.
- Selected songs and videos for November
- Next meeting will be October 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Property- Jerome Rockelman

- Dana and Jerome installed the dusk to dawn security light on the south side of the pavilion

- Sprayed for weeds around Church property and along Rt. C

Vitality Committee- Travis Koesnter

- Discussed the Get to Know Us card for visitors
- Discussed doing Trunk or Treat
- Discussed Yoga and mustard seed ministry

Old Business:

- Work Day will be scheduled soon and the property guys will make a list of what needs to be taken care of and will also be cleaning out the garage as it has collected a bunch of stuff.

New Business:

- Repairs are being made on the walls at the parish hall- patch spots and then paint
- Discussed re-framing the confirmation class photos so they will all be in the same size frames.
- PTO will be using Trinity parking lot for a soda truck for Homecoming
- Banana boxes will be stored in the old school house to be used when we start making pies
- The council also discussed different ways to enhance our worship services

The next Council Meeting will be September 15 ,2026 at 6:00pm. A motion was made by Travis Koestner to adjourn the meeting; second by Jennifer Dampf, motion carried.

The meeting ended at 7:46 pm.

Respectively submitted:

Ken Bishop

Secretary _____ President _____

Celebrate Labor Day

Labor Day, first celebrated in 1882, provides a day of rest for working Americans, showing their importance to the country's well-being.

Christians see work as a gift and command from God. Adam was put in the Garden to "till it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15, NRSV). Even Jesus chose workers to help carry out his mission.

Rest is just as significant as work. God commanded us to rest one day each week (Exodus 20:10). The Sabbath is a time for worship, family activities, renewal and recuperation.

Labor Day is a reminder to be grateful for the creativity, ingenuity, minds and muscle power of countless workers – all gifts of God. That's worth setting aside a day to appreciate.

Food Bank

The Food Bank visit to Trinity's parking lot for August 11 was cancelled because of the extreme heat index forecast for the day. Hopefully, weather permitting, the next Food Bank visit to Trinity will be on Tuesday, September 8, 1-3 PM.

Prayer Chain Requests

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.

Sunday School

Most of us can remember a Sunday school teacher who made a lasting difference in our lives. Sometimes the simplest lessons become the ones we carry with us the longest. One man recalled his high school Sunday school teacher, a businessman named Mr. Homan, who shared this advice with the boys in his class: "Don't ever go anywhere you would not want your mother or sister to go. Don't ever do anything you would not want your mother or sister to do."



Years later, the man reflected on those words and said, "That advice has served me well. I have always remembered it."

God often uses faithful teachers to plant seeds of wisdom, character, and integrity in young hearts. Their influence may not always be seen right away, but the lessons they share can guide lives for years to come.

Never underestimate the power of a few thoughtful words spoken with love and conviction.

Trinity 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.

Christian Symbol



BREAD - One of the oldest and most familiar foods, bread carries deep meaning throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, God provided manna, or "bread from heaven," to sustain His people in the wilderness. In the New Testament, Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35), pointing to himself as the true source of spiritual nourishment. Bread also holds a central place in the Lord's Supper, where it represents Christ's body, given for us. Simple and sustaining, bread has become a lasting symbol of God's provision, Christ's presence, and the shared fellowship of believers.

September Baptismal Birthdays

2–Bailey Elliott	10–Grayson Douglas Voss	13–Ada James Keeran
3–Jessica Keeran	10–Hudson Neil Voss	14–Rachel Verslues
6–Michael Strobel	10–Morgan Lynn Voss	19–Peggy Bungart
8–Christina Wood	12–Roy Allen Goldammer	20–Rebecca Wise
10–Collin Kate Shikles	12–Harley Koestner	24–Tim Koestner

September Birthdays

5–Lori Shikles	14–Beth Volkart	26–Dan Linhardt
7–Janet Ortvals	15–Madisen Boyer	26–Gladys Moll
9–Dana Jobe	18–Debbie Brandt	27–Ryan Rutledge
9–Halie Payne	18–August Haslag	28–Bobby Bertucci
11–Arlene Sauer	18–Henry Haslag	28–Carla Sternberg
12–Jennifer Dampf	20–Kyle Branch	29–Miranda Hill
12–Brenda King	22–Dustin Hill	
13–Clayton Harrison	24–Kailee Rowles	
14–Tim Koestner	24–Brandon VanHooser	

*Whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Colossians 3:23

Pie Making Fundraiser

Pie time is upon us! The women are getting organized to start taking orders for the fresh apple pie fundraiser. Order forms will be available August 30 in the church entry. This year individuals have the option to place online orders using a QR code, which takes them indirectly to an order form. The pies will cost \$10.00 each or 6 pies for \$50.00. Payment will be due when the unbaked pies are picked up (cash, check or Venmo). We are still in need of 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. They need everyone's help and will be creating the work schedules soon. Watch for more information to come.

Thank you for supporting Mid-MO Bible Camp! A card containing names is on the bulletin board.

Worship Servers for September

	September 6 Outdoor	September 13 Indoor	September 20 Indoor	September 27 Indoor
Council Member	Jerome Rockelman Travis Koestner	Roger Jungmeyer	Jennifer Dampf	Becky Hayden & Clay Hayden
Greeter	Garrett & Mikala Geiger Family	Ryan & Kim Otto Family & Christine & Abel Clark Family	Ryan & Meghan Ortbals Family	Clayton & Elizabeth Miles Family
Acolyte	Acolyte Volunteer	Acolyte Volunteer	Adalyn Wood	Jocie Mertens
Lay Reader	Brooke Koestner	Mollie Keck	Anna Wise	Gidget Koestner
Children's Sermon	Jennifer Dampf	Connie Harrison	Jennifer Dampf	Becky Hayden
Offering Assistants	Garrett & Mikala Geiger Family	Ryan & Kim Otto Family & Christine & Abel Clark Family	Ryan & Meghan Ortbals Family	Clayton & Elizabeth Miles Family
Communion Assistant	Jessica Keeran	Tami Kirchner	Anna Wise	Travis Koestner
Video	Dana Frisby	Lyle & Dana Jobe	Kathy Koestner & Denise Ortvals	Jack Hayden
Piano	Judy Crocker	Judy Crocker	Judy Crocker	Becky Hayden

Prayer of Remembrance for Patriots Day

PATRIOT DAY



O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter through every storm, and our eternal home:

We come before You remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Though many years have passed, the sorrow of that day still lingers in the hearts of families, friends and a grieving nation. Lord, comfort those who continue to carry loss. Grant peace to the brokenhearted, strength to the weary and light to those walking through seasons of grief. Let Your presence bring hope where memories still ache.

Teach us to care for one another with compassion and courage. Help us to be a people who offer kindness to the hurting, encouragement to the discouraged and justice to those who suffer. Stir our hearts to live with mercy, humility and love for our neighbors.

Forgive us when our words are greater than our actions. May we strive each day to reflect the values of faith, unity and grace that honor You and strengthen our communities. Thank You, Lord, for Your constant care and unfailing mercy. Even in tragedy, You remain our refuge and our hope.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

September 2026 Calendar

C = Church, **P/H** = Parish Hall, **P** = Pavilion, **P/O** = Parish Office, **P/L** = Parking Lot

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 P/H-5 PM -Yoga	2	3 PH-5:45 PM - Young Women's Bible Study P/H-6PM -Men's Bible Study	4	5
6 P-9 AM -Outdoor Worship	7 Labor Day	8 P/L-1-3 PM - Food Bank P/H-5 PM - Yoga	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12
13 C-9 AM -Indoor Worship P/H-8:15-8:55 AM Sunday School	14	15 P/H-5 PM - Yoga P/H-6 PM -Church Council	16 P/H-11:30 AM - Retreads	17 P/H-5:45 PM - Young Women's Bible Study P/H-6 PM -Trinity's Sisters Study Group	18	19
20 C-10:00 AM - Indoor Worship P/H-9:15-9:55 AM-Sunday School	21	22 P/H-5 PM - Yoga Newsletter Article Deadline First Day of Autumn	23	24	25	26
27 C-9 AM -Indoor Worship P/H-8:15-8:55 AM-Sunday School God's Work Our Hands	28	29 P/H-5PM - Yoga	30			

Please Note

Please do not place recycling materials in the garage. Papers, cardboard, cans and bottles may become a potential fire hazard and also attract various critters.