

Tribune - September 2025

Our Mission:

Gathering to receive God's grace
and to grow in faith and service.

JESUS ANSWERED THEM BY
SAYING, "MY TEACHING IS
NOT MY OWN, BUT HIS WHO
SENT ME

JOHN 7:16

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Drive Up Communion Schedule

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

820 Lockett Road
Kirkwood, Missouri 63122

office: (314) 822-8244
fax: (314) 822-9290
email: TLCKirkwood@gmail.com

Website: www.trinitykirkwood.org
Facebook: www.Facebook.com/TrinityKirkwood
YouTube: youtube.com/@trinitylutheranchurchkirkwood

A congregation of the ELCA
(elca.org)

Sunday Schedule

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday Adult Bible Study

10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Pastor

Carrie McElfresh
tel: 314-635-8588
em: prcarrie@gmail.com

Administrator

Brenda Chatham
tel: 314-822-8244
em: TLCKirkwood@gmail.com

Worship Music

Shari Telaar
tel: 314-488-1067
em: stelaar@comcast.net

Organist

Cindy Donnell-Foster
tel: 314-822-8244
em: l_pray_2@yahoo.com

Parents' Day Out Director

Erika Duenwald
tel: 314-808-3850
em: trinitylutheranpdo@gmail.com

Council Members

President:	Kris Miller
Vice President:	Kevin Karcher
Secretary:	Bruce Williams
Treasurer:	Dave Mizell
	Rich Allen
	Sue Sullivan
	Bob Tuckett

Main Office Hours:

Monday—Thurs: 9 a.m.—5 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Pastor Carrie's Office Hours:

Monday:	10 a.m.—1 p.m.
Tuesday:	Noon—2 p.m.
Wednesday:	11 a.m.—2 p.m.
Thursday:	by appointment
Friday:	Sabbath
Sunday:	by appointment



Who are you?

“Who are you?”

This seems a relatively simple question. Only three words. It is a question that we might answer with our name or our profession. Depending on the scenario it might also involve responding with our relationship to another individual. But whenever I hear or see this question I am reminded of the Disney adaptation of Alice in Wonderland and the conversation between Alice and the Blue Caterpillar.

When asked “who are you?” by the Blue Caterpillar, Alice’s response is so interesting. She says, “I hardly know sir, I’ve changed so many times since this morning you see.” While it might seem that this answer lacks self-awareness I believe it shows us the opposite. Alice is aware that nothing is truly as she believed it was before this morning, and therefore she knows that she too is different. And rather than claiming to be who she was before her adventure began she wrestles with the everchanging world around her and its profound effect on her person.

This question has come up recently in council meetings, not for us individually, but self-reflectively and corporately as a church. Who are we?

It is not a simple question to answer. Not only because it entails understanding the dynamics between all of us who are a part of the church, but also because it must take into account the

world around us and the vast changes that have been happening and continue to happen around us. We are not a church in a vacuum that is unaffected by cultural or political changes. We are not frozen in time and ageless. We are a dynamic community that is (in good Lutheran-speak) always being made new.

So there is no easy answer to the question. Just as our community changes and grows constantly, we have to continue to ask the question “who are we?” and grow into the new understanding of ourselves. But even as we are being made new, we know that there are core traits of our congregation. We are a community who gathers to worship and receive God’s grace. We are a people of faith who seek to serve others as we follow the way of Jesus.

How we embody these intrinsic attributes in the world around us will continue to evolve. As we move into a new year of programs and activities I would like us to consider again the question, “who are we?” How have we changed and grown in the last year? What is new about our community? How will we continue to engage our faith in the world around us? And what can our church do to continue to be a vital congregation in the world today?

Christ’s blessings,
Pastor Carrie

Member Announcements

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Health Concerns:

Carol Heyde

Nancy Pardieck

Craig Pettibone

Gayle Woolf

Peter Van Eenam

Beth Deters: Cindy Donnell-Foster's sister

Bill and Shirley Donnell: Cindy Donnell

Foster's father and stepmother

Nancy Donnell: Cindy Donnell-Foster's

mother

Tom Donnell: Cindy Donnell-Foster's uncle

Gail Helton: Chara Helton-Rodenhaus'

mother

Gerhard Kraus: Elizabeth Beckman's

brother-in-law

Susan Ludwig: cousin of Terrie Karcher

Tom and Regina Owens: friends of Cindy

Donnell-Foster's mother

Dan and Jana Royer

General prayers:

Zach Dillard

For Those Serving in the Military:

Matt Brenner: nephew of Bob and Barb

Tuckett

Living with Cancer:

Krystal Beckner

Matthew Berry

Nanette Chatham: Brenda Chatham's sister-in-law

Rory Gargus: Cindy Donnell Foster's cousin

Raelle Jackson

Jeane Moora: friend of Kymberly Blaksley

Cheryl Tribout: friend of Holly Graham

Hospice care:

Ron Bishop

Mary Ann Strayer: Pr. Carrie's grandmother



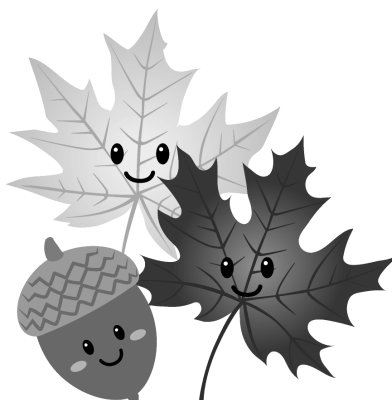
- 2 Kristiana Schmidt
- 2 Shari Telaar
- 8 Cameron Beckner
- 13 Christopher Berry
- 14 Zachary Beckner
- 15 Rich Allen
- 15 Steve Parisi
- 19 Colleen Berry
- 20 Alf Larson
- 21 Tyson Sanders
- 21 Melissa Sills
- 23 Jerry Roth
- 25 Elizabeth Beckman
- 25 Lynn Keene
- 29 Luke Stephens

TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN

We are looking for someone who would like to be the main contact/coordinator for this confidential prayer chain.

Please contact the church office if you would like to assume this meaningful role.

(TLCKirkwood@gmail.com)



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September Anniversaries

- 9/18 Ted & Cheryl Chumley (32nd)
- 9/29 Kymberly Blaksley and Kevin Miller (26th)

What's Going on at Trinity?



Sunday Worship Schedule

10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
10:45 a.m.	Sunday School
11:45 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship

Adult Bible Study

**Wednesdays via Zoom
10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.**

No need to prepare anything before you come, just join us at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom any Wednesday you are available.

Email the church office
at TLCKirkwood@gmail.com
for the Zoom sign-in link.



Sunday worship assistants: Assisting Ministers, Lectors, Ushers/Greeters. For more information contact TLCKirkwood@gmail.com.

Outdoor Enthusiasts:

Our green areas are in constant need of weeding, trimming, beautifying.

Property needs: assist with maintenance needs that arise at Trinity. For more Information, please contact Bob Tuckett.

Technical: website, computer, Audio Visual assistance.

Additionally: Sunday Coffee Hour servers, voices for the choir, fellowship and seasonal events planners/do-ers, main office coverage.



Like us on Facebook!

- receive Sunday's Gospel reading
- access Sunday morning worship on YouTube
- keep up-to-date with the goings-on at Trinity
- and more!

Be sure and like us:
www.Facebook.comTrinityKirkwood

W E L C A N E W S



Katie's Crew meets: Wednesdays, September 10 and 24 at 11:30 am starting in the upstairs lounge.

32 book bags filled with school supplies from the congregation were blessed on Sunday, August 17.

Katie's Crew is still in need of sheets (full size or larger). We use them as backing for our quilts.

Hello and happy back to school, TLC!

We are so excited to be back at PDO and hope everyone had an amazing summer break! There are lots of fun things planned this year. We are kicking off the school year with our "back to school" unit. The children will be learning about what it means to be a good friend and student. They will also be participating in a lot of "get to know you activities" and "all about me" projects.

WELCOME
Back to school



The rest of the month we will be focusing on our "Down on the Farm" and "Autumn Fun" units.

PDO staff is very excited to be in their new and improved classrooms. We had some class switch up's over the summer. Please feel free to stop by to take a peek at our new, improved, and updated classrooms.

With gratitude,
Erika Duenwald, Director





TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



OKTOBERFEST Lunch



GAMES - FOOD - LIVE MUSIC

OCT 19 - 11:45 AM



MORE DETAILS TO COME!





Sign up sheet to participate,
or to donate candy, is on the
bulletin board in the lounge.
Or scan the QR Code to sign
up.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Report for July 2025

CASH FLOW SUMMARY

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Direct Giving	\$ 14,270.89	\$ 107,633.46	\$ 94,500.00
Other Receipts	\$ 7,080.20	\$ 59,163.89	\$ 59,041.00
Tot Op Revenues	\$ 21,351.09	\$166,797.35	\$153,541.00
Spending	\$ 20,375.35	\$152,880.85	\$157,721.45
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 975.74	\$ 13,916.50	(\$ 4,180.45)

ACCOUNT BALANCES

	<u>06/30/25</u>	<u>07/30/25</u>
General Fund	\$198,898.46	\$185,497.97
Foundation Acct	\$165,900.47	\$172,288.71
Youth Restr Acct	\$ 8,175.57	\$ 8,175.57

TREASURER'S DISCUSSION

- Receipts for July totaled \$21.3K, which were under our monthly budget by about \$300. YTD our receipts total \$166.8K which is about \$13.2K over budget.
- Spending totaled \$20.4K and was under our monthly budget by about \$1.1K. YTD Spending totals \$152.9K which is about \$4.8K under budget.
- Net, for July we had a surplus of \$975. YTD we have a surplus of \$13,916.
- In July, PDO had receipts of \$1,257 and expenses of \$8,401. PDO held two summer camps and paid for salaries and expenses in July, but most of the camp registrations had been paid for in previous months. PDO had a deficit in July of \$7,144. YTD, the PDO operating account has a surplus of \$5,976. This is sufficient to cover the cost of the one remaining camp in August.
- In July, the Quilter's Leaders decided to transfer the funds from the Quilter's Reserve Fund established last month into their own separate checking account at Great Southern Bank. That fund will no longer appear as a Reserve Fund in the list below.
- Both the Trinity Foundation (see above) and the Seminary Education Fund (see below) have funds deposited in the ELCA's Pooled Investment Trust. Both Funds saw good appreciation in their investments during the second quarter 2025.

RESERVE and RESTRICTED FUNDS

		<u>06/30/2025</u>	<u>07/31/2025</u>
Reserve	Operating Reserve	\$ 28,062.21	\$ 28,062.21
	Property Reserve	17,291.69	16,391.69
	Williams Bequest	13,814.96	13,814.96
	Patrick Bequest	10,000.00	10,000.00
	Pastor Reserve	7,613.20	7,613.20
	Holy Trinity Reserve	12,740.00	12,740.00
Restricted	Seminary Education	31,338.28	32,642.24
	All Other Restricted	3,952.85	3,727.85
	Total Funds	\$ 124,813.19	\$ 124,992.15

Respectfully submitted, Dave Mizell, Treasurer
08/11/2025

Council Notes July 14, 2025

Gathering to receive God's grace and to grow in faith and service.

Call to order - Kris

Opening Prayer - Pastor

Introduction of members

Election of Council Officers

- ◆ President - Kris Ehlers
- ◆ Vice-President - Kevin Karcher
- ◆ Secretary - Bruce Williams

Approval of notes from the June meeting - Found in the Shared Google Drive folder - **Approved**

Pastor's Report - Approved

- ◆ Pastor Jill and Pastor have been having conversations about where we all go from here; what would it look like if two pastors and four PMAs ran four congregations. This would not be a merger of congregations but a merger of leadership. (St. Mark's, Trinity, St. Thomas, and Christ) How does ministry look in the future?

Ministry Area Reports

Property

- ◆ July 2 - graffiti to parking lot, painted over July 9 - Pastor painted over the graffiti.
- ◆ Stump & pole have been removed

Education

- ◆ Need to put together a small group to figure out where we go from here.
- ◆ Thank you to those that have led Sunday School for many years. We appreciate all your dedication and love of our children.
- ◆ Bruce, Pastor, Kris and a couple others will meet by email next week and go from there to figure out Rally Day.

Worship & Music - no update

Fellowship - no update

Outreach - no update

PDO

- ◆ Has completed three of their five summer camps
- ◆ The PDO Business plan is in progress. Council will need to approve in August.

Treasurer's Report - Dave – **May & June Reports Accepted**

CASH FLOW SUMMARY

	May YTD	Actual YTD	Budget
Direct Giving	\$16,669.51	\$93,362.57	\$81,000.00
Other Receipts	\$8,674.06	\$52,083.69	\$50,922.00
Total Op Revenues	\$25,343.57	\$145,446.26	\$131,922.00
Spending	\$26,198.11	\$132,505.50	\$136,223.10
Surplus (Deficit)	\$(854.54)	\$12,940.76	\$(4,301.10)

We have received three Reserve Funds: Patrick family and two from Holy Trinity.

Comments from the Congregation.

Old Business

- ◆ Informal pictorial directory
 - ⇒ Bruce will reach out to Paul and figure out a schedule of weeks to take pictures on Sundays.
- ◆ Quilt
 - ⇒ Curtains have been hung
 - ⇒ Looking at new places to hang the quilt. We need 16 bricks to hang.
 - ⇒ Kris will call the ladies of the congregation together to discuss choices.
- ◆ Redemption's Service
 - ⇒ Need to put together a small group to begin the process of re-newing the Redemption rental contract. (Pastor, Dave, Kevin and one or two more)
- ◆ Vegetable Garden
 - ⇒ About half the garden beds have been spoken for.
 - ⇒ Announce on the next couple Sundays a reminder about the garden and see if anyone else is interested.
- ◆ Post Removal
 - ⇒ Stump and post have both been removed
- ◆ Playground Surveillance
 - ⇒ Kevin will take care of this in the next week.
- ◆ Prayer Chain
 - ⇒ Still need a leader
- ◆ Hymnal Purchase - update
 - ⇒ 25 hymnals have been paid for/requested so far
- ◆ Churchwide Service Project - tabled

New Business

- ◆ Leadership expectations & conduct
 - ⇒ If members come to us about a problem/disappointment with something or someone, please direct them to the person this should be directed to.

Calendar Items

- ◆ August 5-11: Pastor Carrie on vacation
- ◆ August 17: Blessing of Backpacks
- ◆ September 7: Rally Day (potluck?)
- ◆ September 19-21: Pastor Carrie on vacation

Next Meeting -

- ◆ Monday, August 18, 10 am



Drive Up Communion:

September 14

11:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Upcoming dates:

September 28

October 12 & October 26

November 9 & November 16

December 14

If you are planning to participate in the Drive Up Communion, please call or email the church office no later than the Thursday before.

Front cover artwork: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/155303888280057282/>



Trinity Lutheran Church
820 Lockett Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

