

Tribune—November 2025

Our Mission:

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

A season of Faith and Generosity.

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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: i_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:

Tuesday—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



Faith & Generosity in 2025

Normally each fall we have an annual pledge drive where we ask you to tell us your plan for the coming year's donations to Trinity. Then with those numbers, historical numbers from other revenue sources, and a bit of hope we create a budget plan for the coming year. However, this year we did not work in that normal order.

In December, we will be asking the congregation to vote on a proposed budget that is not out of line for what our congregation can do, but that is not based on returned pledges and historical data. Instead, we want to ask you to vision with us about what we could do as a congregation and then commit to supporting the mission of Trinity.

This does not mean that we won't ask you to pledge. In fact, pledge cards will be mailed out shortly to ask for your intended support. I pray that as you consider your offering pledge to Trinity it is a time of prayer and discernment for you. Each year I am heartened by the incredible generosity this congregation shows. Your contributions continue to enable us to carry out our mission, support our community, and grow in faith together.

For the past several years we have faced financial challenges. Along with many other congregations we recognize concerns about the age of many of our members, the longevity of our ministry, and overall trends in decreased giving and activity in the church. These things can make life in the church seem rather bleak. Despite this, our commitment to our mission remains unwavering, and we are determined to continue making a positive impact in our community and in the world.

In 2025 our revenue budget has:

1. Increased giving in 2025. Offerings are estimated to be \$162,000 which is up 6 percent from 2024!
2. Revenue from other sources.
 - a. PDO Overhead, which covers insurance, utilities and other support costs was increased to \$35,400.
 - b. The interest we earn on funds in the bank is expected to be about \$4,000.
 - c. Building use is expected to bring \$61,400. The majority of which comes from our rental agreement with Redemption Church.

- 3) **Our total estimated Revenues in 2025 are budgeted to be \$263,640 versus total estimated expenses of \$272,650, which would normally mean we have a deficit. But your generosity over the last 9 months shows that we are currently working with a surplus in our budget of more than \$11,000!**

Your generous donations are more important than ever. With your continued and increased support our annual budget for 2026 will enable us to:

- Maintain our church facilities and ensure they are welcoming and safe for all.
- Increase our support our outreach programs that provide assistance to those in need within our community.
- Fund our educational and spiritual growth programs for all ages.
- Continue our worship services and special events that bring us together in faith and fellowship.

We understand that times are challenging for many, and we are grateful for any support you can provide. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant difference. Together, we can overcome these challenges and continue to be a beacon of hope and love in our community.

Please:

1. Consider increasing your donation by 2-5% over last year to help offset the increased cost of doing ministry and account for increased costs for salaries, benefits, building upkeep, heating, cooling, etc.
2. Return your pledge card, even if you haven't previously. Your offered pledge helps us to better understand the commitment and engagement of each family.

Thank you for your unwavering faith and generosity. May God bless you and your family abundantly.

Pastor Carrie McElfresh

Member Announcements

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Health Concerns:

Carol Heyde
 Craig Pettibone
 Gayle Woolf
 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
 Jeff Fred: cousin-in-law of Cindy Donnell-Foster
 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

For Those Serving in the Military:

Matt Brenner: nephew of Bob and Barb Tuckett

General prayers:

Zach Dillard

Grieving:

Family, friends, and members of Trinity on the recent deaths of:
 Curtis Ballenger, November 5
 Jim Savage, October 15
 Nancy Pardieck, September 30
 Dennis Dobbs

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:

Mary Ann Strayer: Pr. Carrie's grandmother

TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN— NEED A PRAYER?

Chara Helton-Rodenhaus has graciously volunteered to facilitate Trinity's prayer chain.

The prayer chain is separate from our Sunday's spoken/printed prayer list and is private...your prayer requests will only be shared with those prayer warriors who are members of this chain.

Contact Chara directly with your private prayer requests:
clhelton1@aol.com

If you want to participate as a member of the prayer chain, please contact us.
 \We welcome you!



2 Jim Heyde
 4 Jaxson Sanders
 5 Michael Wise
 6 Steven Houg
 7 Naya Sanders
 12 Kristen Wenzel
 14 Donna Savage
 17 Jeffrey Beckner
 17 Alberta Ottwell
 19 Christopher Kelly
 19 Julie Viers
 20 Colin McElfresh
 23 Allie Beckner
 25 Deborah Hagemann
 30 Matthew Eagon

November Anniversaries

2 Fred & Susan Burk (57th)
 14 Char & Charles Morris (55th)
 15 Lou & Kathy Malnassy (45th)
 20 Heather Morris & Thomas Judge (15th)
 25 Bill & Sue Sullivan (60th)
 29 Pr. Carrie & Dan McElfresh (17th)



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.

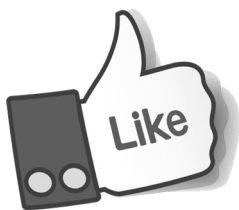
Outdoor Enthusiasts:

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

WELCA NEWS

Katie's Crew meets November 12 at 11:30 a.m. in the lounge and quilting room.

What a beautiful sight with all the quilts on the pews. Thank you to all the people who helped fold them & put them in the quilting room after the Sunday worship service.

On Oct. 11 four women & Dave Mizell packed 36 school kits, 60 quilts & 5 baby care kits in 22 boxes in preparation to take them to Hazelwood on Oct. 18.

Thankoffering will be collected on Sunday, Nov. 16 during the worship service. All the money goes to Churchwide WELCA to be used for education & missions.

Start searching those cookie recipes. We will again be making cookie trays on Dec. 20. We ask that all the women at Trinity bring 3 dozen cookies by that date. If there are any men who like to bake, we'll accept their cookies too.



Cookies due: Friday, 12/19

Cookie tray assembly: Sat., 12/ 20

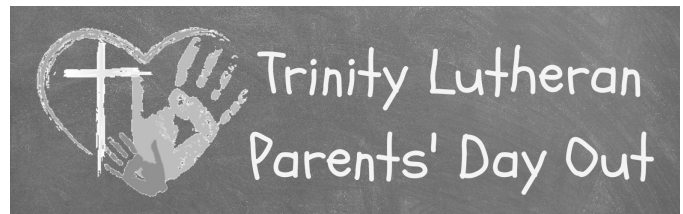
Cookie tray pickup: Sunday, 12/21

Mark your calendars women of Trinity!

WELCA Christmas Party

Sunday, December 7, 2:00 p.m.

More details to come!



Happy November, TLC!

PDO Certainly has a lot to be thankful for and to keep us busy this month! We have our regularly scheduled Thanksgiving festivities, and units on Bears and Hibernation, Manners, and Nutrition planned for the coming weeks!

During our manner's week, we will discuss all things NICE! Students will be reviewing good choices and bad choices, ways to be a better friend and, of course, practicing lots of 'pleases and thank yous!' We will also spend A LOT of time discussing the importance of hand washing, catching our coughs/sneezes and saying, "excuse me!"

Nutrition week will be an exploration of the different food groups. We will work to build a basic understanding of healthy vs. unhealthy food choices and the importance of moderation. Our older classes will also take some class time to sample a few new foods to broaden those growing palates.

Leading up to the celebration of Thanksgiving, we will spend a few days discussing Native Americans, including culture, art, some very basic history, and the meeting of the Pilgrims leading to the First Thanksgiving. Monday and Tuesday before break will be Thanksgiving celebration days! Children will participate in fun games (pin the tail on the turkey anyone?) and enjoy a pumpkin-y treat. Staff and students will also take time to reflect upon what it means to be thankful and share who and for what we are most thankful.

Also, in the spirit of giving, Trinity Lutheran Parents' Day Out will be collecting non-perishable food items, toiletries, feminine care and adult care products, diapers, and infant care products for KirkCare.

All the staff at PDO wish the members a wonderful Thanksgiving!

With Gratitude,
Erika Duenwald, Director

**Please help support
LuMin St. Louis
(Lutheran Campus Ministry)**

Trinity is collecting non-perishable items to help stock LuMin's pantry and better meet the needs of their students. The items being collected can be found on the feathers of this adorable turkey located on a window in our lounge. (Thank you Kris Miller!)

The requested items are listed below. Any other non-perishable items that you would like to donate will be taken to the Kirk Care Food Pantry here in Kirkwood:

- seltzer/capri sun juice pouches
- granola bars
- Grab & Go (Uncrustables/Hot Pockets/Burritos/Breakfast sandwiches)
- cheese/fruit snacks (like at Costco)
- Goldfish/chips/pretzels
- a sweet snack
- ice cream sandwiches (48 max)
- a bag of Cuties (mandarin or tangerine oranges)
- Liquid IV or other hydration/energy mix packets

**Please have your items to Trinity
no later than Sunday, November 30th.**

Thank you for your support. Every bit helps!

**Memorial Service
Curtis Ballenger**

Date: Sat., November 15
Location: Trinity
Schedule: 1:00 p.m. Visitation
2:00 p.m. Service
3:00 p.m. Luncheon

**Memorial Service
for Ron Bishop**

Date: Saturday, December 6
Location: Mason Pointe
Schedule: 11:00 a.m. Service
12:00 p.m. Luncheon

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, November 9—The Bridge Fair Trade Market

A.M. In the upstairs lounge

Sunday, November 16—WELCA Thankoffering

Collection during worship service



Sunday, November 23—Hanging of the Greens

Following worship service

Thursday, November 27 & Friday, November 28—Thanksgiving

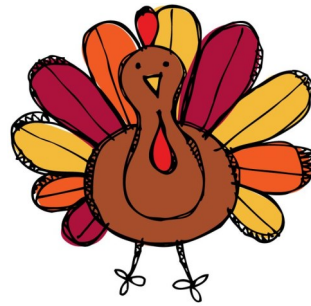
Church offices and PDO closed

Sunday, November 30—First Advent

LuMin Turkey Items collection due

Saturday, December 6

2:00 p.m. Cookies and Crafts with Santa



Sunday, December 7—Second Advent

11:45 a.m. Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

2:00 p.m. WELCA Christmas party

Sunday, December 14—Third Advent

Sunday, December 21 – Fourth Advent

A.M. WELCA Cookie Trays pick-up



Wednesday, December 24—Christmas Eve



Candlelight service (times tbd)

Thursday, December 25—Friday, January 1

Church offices and PDO closed

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Report for September 2025

CASH FLOW SUMMARY

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Direct Giving	\$ 16,376.50	\$ 137,457.86	\$ 121,500.00
Other Receipts	\$ 7,158.65	\$ 72,734.45	\$ 75,781.00
Tot Op Revenues	\$ 23,535.15	\$210,192.31	\$197,281.00
Spending	\$ 25,721.97	\$198,650.99	\$205,305.15
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$ 2,186.82)	\$ 11,541.32	(\$ 8,024.15)

ACCOUNT BALANCES

	<u>08/31/25</u>	<u>09/30/25</u>
General Fund	\$170,059.08	\$154,412.84
Foundation Acct	\$172,678.22	\$171,478.97
Youth Restr Acct	\$ 8,175.57	\$ 7,957.67

TREASURER'S DISCUSSION

- Receipts for September totaled \$23.5K, which was over our monthly budget by about \$1.4K. YTD our receipts total \$210.2K which is about \$12.9K over-budget.
- Spending totaled \$25.7K and was under our monthly budget by about \$0.6K. We paid the quarterly property and liability insurance premium in September for the new policy term, which was \$4,577 (an increase of about 18%). YTD Spending totals \$198.7K which is about \$6.6K under-budget.
- Net, for September we had a deficit of \$2,187. YTD we have a surplus of \$11,541.
- In September, PDO had receipts of \$14,114 and expenses of \$18,719. PDO had a deficit in September of \$4.6K. YTD, the PDO operating account has a deficit of \$8,525. PDO was starting the new school year in September and cash-flow for the year is still ramping up. We will re-assess PDO's financial situation at the end of October.
- The Pastor's Discretionary Fund was used for a special situation in September, and an appeal was issued. At the end of September, the PDF has a negative balance of (\$1,984.85). Support to replenish the fund was abundant in the first week of October.
- The status of Reserve and Restricted funds is shown below.

RESERVE and RESTRICTED FUNDS

		<u>08/31/2025</u>	<u>09/30/2025</u>
Reserve	Operating Reserve	\$ 28,062.21	\$ 28,062.21
	Property Reserve	15,312.51	15,002.69
	Williams Bequest	13,814.96	13,814.96
	Patrick Bequest	10,000.00	10,000.00
	Pastor Reserve	7,613.20	7,613.20
	Thrivent Choice Dollars	856.59	856.59
	Holy Trinity Reserve	12,740.00	12,740.00
Restricted	Seminary Education	32,642.24	32,642.24
	All Other Restricted	3,066.26	437.85
	Total Funds	\$ 124,107.97	\$ 120,313.15

Respectfully submitted, Dave Mizell, Treasurer
10/12/2025



Council Notes
Monday, 8 September 2025

Call to order – Kris

Members present – Pastor Carrie, Kris Ehlers, Rich Allen, Kevin Karcher, Dave Mizell, Bruce Williams, Susan Sullivan via Zoom

Members absent – Bob Tuckett

Opening Prayer – Pastor Carrie

Approval of notes from the August meeting –
Approved

Pastor's report – Approved

- Carrie continues to meet with members via personal visits, email, text and phone calls
- Pastor Carrie has suggested that Council look at the work being performed in NE Pennsylvania to see how that program may fit in the St. Louis area
- PDO began their new school year and Carrie spent time with the staff prior to the start to help set expectations
- Conversations have begun to set up discussions for the next contract with Redemption
- Adult Bible Study continues
- Confirmation begins again with the group of congregations in the area (5)

Ministry Area reports

- Property – Trail cam has been installed to keep on eye on the property, A/C leak has been fixed, some lights have been repaired
- Education – Carrie to send email to Sunday School families about the program
- Worship & Music – no update
- Fellowship – Rally Day luncheon served 45, 2 quilts were tied, 5 health kits completed
- Outreach – we have a Trick or Trunk event on Saturday, 11 October and an Octoberfest on Sunday, 19 October. St. Thomas Holy Spirit has been invited to join us. Sign-ups are posted, emails have gone out
- PDO – First week went well. There is a request for 2 locking cabinets and a new laptop

Treasurer's report – Dave Mizell – Reports Accepted

	Aug YTD	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Direct Giving	\$13,447.90	\$121,081.36	\$108,000.00
Other Receipts	\$6,411.91	\$65,575.80	\$67,161.00
Total Op Revenues	\$19,859.81	\$186,657.16	\$175,161.00
Spending	\$20,048.17	\$172,929.02	\$178,967.80
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$188.36)	\$13,728.14	(\$3,806.80)

Lynn Keene is now assisting Dave with budget work. We will also be adding Lynn and Bruce Williams as signature authorities on Trinity checking accounts

Old Business

- Pictorial directory – Bruce to organize a new directory, pictures to be collected/taken during October so that directory can be completed by November.
- Quilt – being rehung in the lounge
- Redemption – discussion to begin soon with committee
- Vegetable garden – Kevin working on timeline of activities
- Playground surveillance – Kevin installed trail cam
- Prayer chain – still in need of a leader
- Church wide Service Project – collecting donations for Lumin this month

New Business

Calendar Items

- Saturday, 11 October – Trunk or Treat
- Sunday, 19 October – Octoberfest, Food, Live band, BYOB
- Sunday, 23 November – Hanging of the Greens
- Saturday, 6 December – Cookies with Santa
- Sunday, 4 Jan – Un-hanging of the Greens

Council meeting schedule – Second Monday of the month at 4:00

- 8 Sep
- 14 Oct
- 10 Nov
- 8 Dec
- Annual Congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, 7 Dec.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Williams

Special Topic – Council met with Ruth, Council President of St Thomas Holy Spirit to discuss the idea of the two Councils meeting and investigating projects or events that could be worked together. Trinity council agreed to meeting with St Thomas Holy Spirit on Monday, 13 Sep at St Thomas Holy Spirit.



Drive Up Communion:

November 9

11:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Upcoming dates:

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://wallpapercave.com/basic-thanksgiving-wallpapers>



Trinity Lutheran Church
820 Lockett Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Postage