

Tribune—July 2026

GIVE THANKS TO THE
LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD!
HIS FAITHFUL LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER.

PSALM 106:1

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

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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:	tbd
Secretary:	Bruce Williams
Treasurer:	Dave Mizell
	Rich Allen
	Steve Korris
	Ann Tollefson
	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



"As Christians we do not live in ourselves but in Christ and the neighbor through love."

¹³For you were called to freedom, brother and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

— Galatians 5:13-14

It seems fitting that in a month where we are celebrating the 250th anniversary of our country's founding and freedom is the main buzzword that we should talk some about what freedom looks like for us as Christians. Now understand I am not looking to conflate the two things. Our freedom as Christians is not the same as the freedom that we proclaim as citizens of the United States of America. But the freedom that we have in Christ should, most certainly, affect how we live as citizens in this world.

Our country's freedom is summed up in the Declaration of Independence as the unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Obviously, there is a lot more to it than a simple phrase, or even one whole well-written document, can define. But the idea is that in this country we have the right and opportunity to work for our own good. To live our lives to the fullest, and not to be constrained unduly.

This is very different from what we hear about our freedom as Christians from both Paul and, later, Martin Luther. According to them, and many other theologians, a Christian is free, by the grace of God, from all things that bind them. In baptism, we renounce sin, death, the devil, and all the forces that defy God. And through baptism we are connected to Christ's death and resurrection and brought into a new life that releases us from all those forces. So

our freedom is not a societal or physical one, but a spiritual freedom.

But Paul reminds us (and the churches in Galatia) that our freedom in Christ is not to be taken as a token to live in excess or without regard for those around us. Just because we are free and given new life in Christ does not mean that we can do whatever we please. Instead, we should use our freedom to love those around us as we have been loved by God.

And this is where I see the crossover of the freedom we have as Christians into the world around us. My new life in Christ means that I use the freedom I have, as a Christian and as a citizen, to actively love my neighbor. Luther says that I am free in Christ, and I am a servant to my neighbor. And we know that our neighbors are not just the people closest to us geographically, but we are all neighbors. My freedom is bound together with my neighbor. While my neighbors suffer I am not truly free. While my neighbors are oppressed and live in fear I am not free. Until my neighbors are free I am not free.

At the end of his 1520 treatise On the Freedom of a Christian Martin Luther says "In conclusion, as Christians we do not live in ourselves but in Christ and the neighbor. Otherwise, we are not Christian. As Christians we live in Christ through faith and in our neighbor through love."

May this month where we celebrate freedom be one where we do not condemn our neighbors to poverty, incarceration, and dehumanization for our own gain, comfort, or complacency. Rather may we use our freedom to love our neighbors and work for their good that we all might be free together.

Christ's blessings,
Pastor Carrie McElfresh

Member Announcements

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Health Concerns:

Chara Helton-Rodenhaus

Mary Ann Kohring

Lorraine McDougall

Gene Pool

Gayle Woolf

Amanda Berry: niece of Rick Berry

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

Gail Helton: Chara Helton-Rodenhaus' Mother

Sue Hemingway: Rich Allen's sister

Dustin Hodgson: Holly Graham's son

Carolyn Muessmann: friend of Cindy Donnell-Foster

Sue Murphy: Rich Allen's sister-in-law

Nancy Breningmeyer: Cindy

Donnell-Foster's aunt (Godmother)

Deaconess Jean Warren: Cindy Donnell-Foster's deaconess-sister

General prayers:

Zach Dillard: Rick and Colleen Berry's son

Karen Mahacek: Rich Allen's friend

For Those Serving in the Military:

Matt Brenner: nephew of Bob and Barb

Tuckett

Living with Cancer:

Ken Berry: brother of Rick Berry

Matthew Berry: Rick Berry's son

Jan Bishop

Rory Gargus: Cindy Donnell Foster's cousin

Raelle Jackson

Kathy Lenau: Shirley Mees' stepdaughter

Jennie Lien: Shirley Mees' friend

Jeane Moora: friend of Kymberly Blaksley

Cheryl Tribout: friend of Holly Graham

Charlie Weniger: brother of Sue Sullivan

Jake Widmann: friend of Rich Allen

Grieving:

Family and friends of Nanette Chatham, Brenda's sister-in-law who died peacefully 6/22.

Family and friends of Bob Deters: father of Cindy Donnell-Foster's brother-in-law who died 6/21.

Family and friends of David Wise, Mike Wise's cousin, who died June 6/30.



1	Krystal Beckner
1	Susan Burk
1	Chara Helton-Rodenhaus
2	Bella Neisius
4	Ina Gunkel
9	Audrey Kelly
9	Erin Kelly
15	Ian McElfresh
23	Emma Sills
23	Herbert Schmidt
24	Sharyle Wilhelm
27	Craig Pettibone
28	Teddy Koepke
30	Nance Frost

TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN— NEED A PRAYER?

Chara Helton-Rodenhaus is the volunteer facilitator of 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!



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

1	Jeffrey & Krystal Beckner (31st)
3	Mark & Christine Stellner (44th)
11	Steve & Maggie Heinze (11th)
25	Kevin & Terrie Karcher (39th)

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 frequent 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.

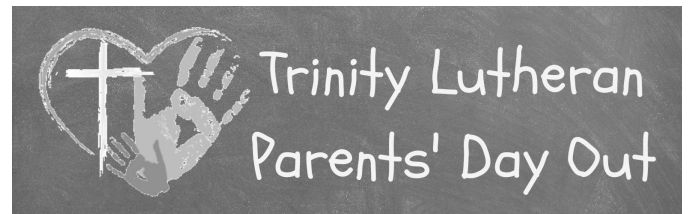


Like us on Facebook!

- 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 – July 8 & 22 at 11:30 a.m.

Please join us for the Ladies' Salad Lunch on July 11 at 12:00 noon in the upstairs lounge. After lunch Sue Sullivan will present a program called "Brain Hemisphericity: How Your Brain Defines Who You Are". Find out if you're left-brain or right-brain and what that means. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board next to the kitchen in the lounge. It should be a fun afternoon.



**REGULAR SCHOOL IS CURRENTLY
ON SUMMER BREAK.**

SUMMER SCHEDULE:

**JULY 6–10, 8:30 a–12:30 P
SUMMER CAMP**

**JULY 20–24, 8:30 a–12:30 P
SUMMER CAMP**

**AUGUST 3–7, 8:30 a–12:30 P
SUMMER CAMP**

**AUGUST 17–21, 8:30 a–12:30 P
SUMMER CAMP**

**AUGUST 27, 10:30 a–11:30 a
OPEN HOUSE**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 8:15 a–2:00 P
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

Our Trinity Garden is in full bloom!

Thank you to all of our volunteers and gardeners that have donated much time and effort to making our garden spring to life. Please go have a look at the raised garden if you haven't already.



A special thank you to Kevin Karcher, Bruce and Janet Williams, Priscilla Ward and Griffin King, and all of the volunteers who helped in any capacity throughout the process.

"I want to thank everyone at Trinity for the many cards and well wishes during my recovery. My cast will still be on for a couple more weeks. I hope to see you all soon."

*Heartfelt thanks,
Mary Ann Kohring*

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Trinity's Council 2026-2027

President: Kris Miller

Vice President: tbd

Secretary: Bruce Williams

Rich Allen

Bob Tuckett

Welcome incoming Council members. . .

Steve Korris

Ann Tollefson

Outgoing Council members...Thank you for serving on Trinity's council for the last two years:

Kevin Karcher

Sue Sullivan

*Thank
you!*

Attention: Church Members, High School Students & Families

The St. Louis County Election Board is looking for people to serve as Election Judges and Student Election Judges for the August 4th Primary Election.

Working as a St. Louis County Election Judge involves managing polling places to help fellow citizens exercise their right to vote in a fair and orderly manner. Judges are paid for their work.

Student Election Judges can earn money or service hours. By participating in the Election Board's Student Program, students can enhance college applications, fulfill service requirements for school organizations, build their resume, and learn the importance of civic duty.

For more information, contact JIM McHUGH at the Election Board. (314) 615-1858 jmchugh@stlouiscountymo.gov



**Please mark your calendars for a
Special Congregational Meeting:**

Sunday, July 19

11:45 a.m.

(following worship service)

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Report for May 2026

- Receipts for May totaled \$23.4K, which included \$1,100 given to support the Property Reserve Fund. Receipts to the General Fund YTD total \$113.3K, plus \$1,600 given to the Property Reserve. YTD our receipts total \$114.9K.
- Spending from the General Fund totaled \$20.6K and spending from the Property Reserve Fund totaled 2.6K in May. YTD our expenses total \$118K.
- Net, for May we had a surplus of \$185. YTD we have a deficit of \$3,130.
- In May, PDO had receipts of \$25.3K and expenses of \$16.3K. Of these receipts, \$8.6K for summer camps and next year's registration fees. PDO had a big surplus this month of \$9K, which leads to a surplus YTD of \$15.4K.
- The Garden project received \$900 in May and has balance of \$1,325.
- The Trinity Angel's Fund had an expense of \$245 in May, leading to a negative balance of \$52.

CASH FLOW SUMMARY

INCOME

	<u>5/31/2026</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Direct Giving	\$ 14,604.60	\$ 74,599.26
Other Receipts	7,664.47	38,679.71
Sub-Total General Fund	22,269.07	113,278.97
Property Reserve Income	1,100.00	1,600.00
Total Income	\$ 23,369.07	\$ 114,878.97

EXPENSES

General Fund Spending	20,611.15	111,355.29
Property Reserve Expense	2,574.78	6,654.24
Total Expenses	\$ 23,185.93	\$ 118,009.53

NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) \$ 185.14 \$ (3,130.56)

ACCOUNT BALANCES

	<u>04/30/26</u>	<u>05/31/26</u>
General Fund	\$177,463.17	\$183,296.29
Foundation Acct	\$180,956.98	\$177,480.44
Youth Restr Acct	\$ 7,712.75	\$ 7,712.75

RESERVE and RESTRICTED FUNDS

	<u>Fund</u>	<u>04/30/2026</u>	<u>05/31/2026</u>
Reserve	Operating Reserve	\$ 28,062.21	\$ 28,062.21
	Property Reserve	7,687.32	6,212.54
	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	79.17	79.17
	Holy Trinity Reserve	12,740.00	12,740.00
Restricted	Seminary Education	34,923.74	34,923.74
	All Other Restricted	2,072.47	2,627.67
	Total Funds	\$ 116,993.07	\$ 116,073.49



Respectfully submitted, Dave Mizell,

Treasurer 06/03/2026

Call to order – Kris

Members present – Pastor Carrie, Kris Miller, Bob Tuckett, Dave Mizell, Kevin Karcher, Bruce Williams

Members absent – Sue Sullivan, Rich Allen

Opening Prayer – Pastor Carrie

Council notes from the April meeting were presented – Approved

Pastor's report – Approved

- Carrie continues to meet with members via personal visits, email, text and phone calls
- Adult Bible Study continues
- Building policy is still needed.
- Currently, there are 40 churches in our Synod looking for Pastors, very small number of students in Seminary. This will likely change current Church models for Pastoral care.
- Trinity will host a Synod event on 27 June, lunch to be provided
- Some new summer events are being planned for our worship activities

Old Business

- How does Trinity grow its faith? Proposal to seek out members willing to discuss their personal experiences and how it affected their life and faith. Sharing positive and negative experiences could strengthen our congregational bonds. These stories could be shared by speaking during service or thru written descriptions of personal experiences. Target window would be in July during Pentecost.
- Need to begin collecting school supplies for Meachem Park early.
- Pictorial Directory is complete and ready for distribution.

Ministry Area reports

- Property – new lights for downstairs corridor to be installed, emergency lights need to be repaired
- Education – Sunday school and Confirmation classes continue. Last day of Sunday School will be 17 May.
- Worship and Music – some choir practice has been held
- Fellowship – End of school year recognition and picnic being planned for 17 May.
- Outreach – Council sending birthdays cards to all members
- PDO – Will have several camps this summer
- Personnel – nothing to report
- Comments from the Congregation

Treasurer's report – Report Accepted

	Apr YTD	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Direct Giving	\$14,749.10	\$59,994.66	\$53,568.36
Other Receipts	\$8,294.83	\$31,015.24	\$31,270.00
Total Op Revenues	\$23,243.93	\$91,509.90	\$84,838.36
Spending	\$20,678.33	\$94,821.60	\$91,409.24
Surplus (Deficit)	\$2,565.60	\$(3,311.70)	\$(6,570.88)

- Receipts for April totaled \$23,000. YTD receipts for the year are \$91,500. Spending totaled \$27,000 and we had no property reserve expenses. YTD expenses total \$94,800.
- Money has been received to clean carpets in the Lounge area. Estimates are being sought.
- The garden project received \$225 in April.

New Business

- Need 2-3 new candidates for Council and 1 new candidate for Foundation Committee. The Congregational meeting is scheduled for 28 June.

Calendar Items

- Sunday, 17 May – End of school year celebration and picnic
- Rally Day scheduled for 13 Sep.

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

- 8 Jun
- 13 Jul
- 10 Aug
- 14 Sep

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Williams



Drive Up Communion: **August 2**

11:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Upcoming dates:

August 16 and 30

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/3729612269662104/>



Trinity Lutheran Church
820 Lockett Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

