

Tribune—August 2026

BUT YOU, LORD,
are a SHIELD around
ME, MY GLORY, THE
ONE WHO LIFTS MY
HEAD HIGH.

PSALM 3:3

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
Sunday School on summer break

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:	Bob Tuckett
Vice President:	Bruce Williams
Secretary:	Kris Miller
Treasurer:	Dave Mizell
	Rich Allen
	Steve Korris
	Ann Tollefson

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



The Long Green Season

When we started working on the plans to renovate the garden area of the property my youngest child, Colin, was very excited to see that there was a pumpkin patch included in the plans. For years, Colin had been begging me to plant watermelons and pumpkins in our yard at home. It got to the point that one year he managed to get a few pumpkin seeds and planted them along the driveway of our Kirkwood home. Needless to say, that vine did not end up producing any actual pumpkins.

But now that there is a patch at the church Colin was initially excited to plant all the watermelon and pumpkins he could. Until he read the back of the package and saw how many days it would take for the vines to produce something. When the watermelons are 80 days to harvest, and the pumpkins are 110 days to harvest... then cultivating these large melons and pumpkins becomes boring instead of exciting.

While I bemoan the fact that my children are growing up in a time when instantaneous results are the expectation it brings me great joy to show them what patience can produce. While not all growing things take a long time, when we give growing things the time they need the results are much better (and usually tastier).

You will often hear me joking about the “long, green season” of the church year during the summer months and into the fall. The season after Pentecost or “ordinary time” as it is sometimes called is the longest part of the church year. From Pentecost Sunday (usually end of May or early June) until Advent (end of November or beginning of December),

we sit in a time characterized by Jesus’ teachings in the gospels and green in the paraments. And it may seem like an endless time without a lot of direction, but I am growing to appreciate it more and more.

In this long, green season we hear from Jesus about what it means to be a disciple, what the kingdom of heaven is like, and see evidence of that kingdom come near. All these things together help us to learn and grow in our own faith. We are not like the beans that will sprout up quickly. We are a lot more like the pumpkins that are going to take a lot of time to really grow.

Sometimes it means that our growth is not easily seen, but maybe we are just deepening our roots. Sometimes it means there are setbacks when we struggle with our faith like the birds and the bunnies that nibble on the not yet ripened fruits. There may be times when we are overwhelmed by rain or underfed by the soil or scorched by the hot summer sun. But we spend the greatest part of the church year in the growing season. Long and green, learning what it means to believe in a God who won’t give up on us.

May you have patience with yourself and with others as we all grow together in our faith.

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

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 Jennie Lien, Shirley Mees' friend and neighbor.



- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Will Miller |
| 2 | Roger Ottwell |
| 3 | Alan Frost |
| 3 | Sheba Haner |
| 8 | Vivian Harrelson |
| 14 | Hannah McElfresh |
| 15 | Fred Burk |
| 18 | Susan McFarland |
| 19 | Henry Heinze |
| 20 | Dana Quello-Immekus |
| 21 | David Quello |
| 22 | Marjorie Ehlers |
| 22 | Bob Tuckett |
| 29 | Drew Bullerdick |
| 29 | Shirley Quello |

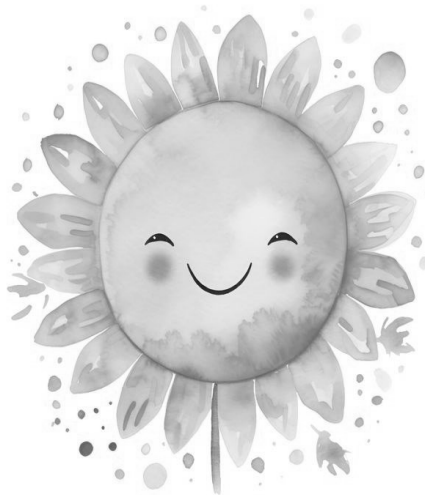
TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN— NEED A PRAYER?

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!



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 10 | Kelly & Donna Faust (35th) |
| 21 | Alan & Nance Frost (55th) |
| 26 | Rick & Kay Poropat (37th) |
| 28 | Paul & Sheba Haner (50th) |

What's Going on at Trinity?



Sunday

Worship Schedule

10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
10:45 a.m.	Sunday School (resumes 9/20)
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 – Aug. 12 & 26 at 11:30 a.m.

Lydia Circle Quilters – Aug. 7 & 21 at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 26, we blessed the quilts created by the Lydia Circle quilters. They will then go on to "Foster Together" and "MO Network". Thank you ladies for your beautiful work.

July 16-19: Gaye Mizell attended the 13th Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA. It was a wonderful conference with over 1000 women from all over the United States. The theme was "I Am Worthy" based on Psalm 139 "for I am fearfully and wonderfully made". I attended workshops, worship services, a first attendee breakfast and Plenaries with many good speakers. Many Synods gave out freebies. Central States Synod gave out prayer pebbles with the Triennial logo on them. I came home with many items in my bag. There were many exhibitors including seminaries, Lutheran World Relief, Thrivent, AMMPARO, Mosaic and many more. On Saturday I went for the 5K run, walk, roll for "Raising Healthy Women and Girls". Yes, I finished it. I have a medal to prove it. For our Sunday worship service Bishop Curry presided. In general I made a lot of new sisters and I feel worthy indeed.



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

**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**

Member News

Dear Trinity friends,

I want to thank everyone at Trinity for the many prayers, cards and well wishes.

I am feeling a lot better and hope to be back at Trinity soon. I know all the prayers played a huge part in my recovery.

Heartfelt thanks & God's blessings,

Jan Bishop

*Thank
you!*



15TH
Anniversary

We will be celebrating
Brenda's 15th Anniversary
of being the world's best
Office Administrator.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

Luncheon after worship in Fellowship Hall



GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Join us for an outdoor worship at
St Thomas Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
on Sunday, September 13 at 10:00 am.
After worship, join with our siblings in Christ
as we work together to bring God's love
into the world in tangible ways.

There will be service activities available for all ages and abilities.
Join us for making kits, writing letters, tying quilts, and other such activities.
details will be available in coming weeks.



Help keep the sanctuary cool...
Join us for a
Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, August 16 at 11:45 am

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Report for June 2026

- Receipts for June totaled \$26.5K, which included \$200 given to support the Property Reserve Fund. Receipts to the General Fund YTD total \$139.5K, plus \$1,800 given to the Property Reserve. YTD our receipts total \$141.3K.
- Spending from the General Fund totaled \$26.6K and spending from the Property Reserve Fund totaled \$1.9K in June. Our biggest expense was a quarterly property and liability insurance premium (\$4,574). YTD our expenses total \$146.5K.
- Net, for June we had a deficit of \$2,015. YTD we have a deficit of \$5,144.
- In June, PDO had receipts of \$4.4K and expenses of \$9.4K. This pattern was expected, since parents had been pre-paying for summer camps over the past four months and camp expenses started in June. PDO had a deficit for the month of \$5K. PDO's operating surplus YTD is \$10.4K.
- The Garden project received \$100 in June and has balance of \$1,425.
- The Trinity Angel's Fund had an expense of \$245 in May, and still has a negative balance of \$52.

CASH FLOW SUMMARY		
<u>INCOME</u>		
	<u>6/30/2026</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Direct Giving	\$ 19,481.86	\$ 94,081.12
Other Receipts	6,789.14	45,468.85
Sub-Total General Fund	26,271.00	139,549.97
Property Reserve Income	200.00	1,800.00
Total Income	\$ 26,471.00	\$ 141,349.97
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
General Fund Spending	26,630.41	137,985.70
Property Reserve Expense	1,855.72	8,507.96
Total Expenses	\$ 28,486.13	\$ 146,493.66
NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	\$ (2,015.13)	\$ (5,143.69)

ACCOUNT BALANCES

	<u>05/31/26</u>	<u>06/30/26</u>
General Fund	\$183,296.29	\$171,652.48
Foundation Acct	\$177,480.44	\$177,053.38
Youth Acct	\$ 7,712.75	\$ 7,712.75



RESERVE and RESTRICTED FUNDS

	<u>Fund</u>	<u>05/31/2026</u>	<u>06/30/2026</u>
Reserve	Operating Reserve	\$ 28,062.21	\$ 28,062.21
	Property Reserve	6,212.54	4,556.82
	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	2,627.67	2,827.67
	Total Funds	\$ 116,073.49	\$ 114,617.77

Respectfully submitted, Dave Mizell,
Treasurer 07/12/2026

Council Notes
Monday, 9 June. 2026

Call to order – Kris Miller

Members present – Pastor Carrie, Kris Miller, Sue Sullivan, Dave Mizell, Kevin Karcher, Bruce Williams

Members absent – Bob Tuckett, Rich Allen

Opening Prayer – Pastor Carrie

Council notes from the May 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
- Grow in Faith: we are starting with the idea of congregational members telling the story of their faith, looking for volunteers to share their personal stories of faith and wonder.
- There will be an ELCA Gathering event on 13 Sep, we will need to move Rally Day to 20 Sep (TBD).
- Carrie will be out of town 9-12 July.

Old Business

- Carpet to be cleaned in the lounge area around last week of June
- Need to begin collecting school supplies for Meachem Park early.

Ministry Area reports

- **Property** – lighted sign in front needs repair, parts on order. Kevin to look into installing a handrail along the front sidewalk by mailbox. Garden is growing but still have a few items to complete.
- **Education** – Sunday school may need to start a week later due to ELCA Gathering event. Confirmation group looking to start the next years program with an overnight retreat to a local camp. More on this as details get worked.
- **Worship and Music** – some choir practice has been held.
- **Fellowship** – no summer events planned.
- **Outreach** – Council sending birthdays cards to all members. Will be working with Helping Hands in September.

- **PDO** – Will have several camps this summer, 2 each month in June, July and August.
- **Personnel** – personnel policy needs review. Committee needs to schedule a meeting with new members.

	May YTD	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Direct Giving	\$14,604.60	\$74,599.26	\$66,901.70
Other Receipts	\$7,664.47	\$38,679.71	\$39,086.00
Total Op Revenues	\$23,369.07	\$114,878.97	\$105,987.70
Spending	\$23,185.93	\$118,009.53	\$113,072.55
Surplus (Deficit)	\$185.14	\$(3,130.56)	\$(7,084.85)

Comments from the Congregation

Treasurer's report – Report Accepted

- Receipts for May totaled \$23,400. YTD receipts for the year are \$114,900. Spending totaled \$23,200 with \$2,600 coming from property reserve funds. YTD expenses total \$118,000.
- Money has been received to clean carpets in the Lounge area. Woodards Rug cleaning submitted an acceptable bid.
- The garden project received \$900 in May.
- The Trinity Angels Fund had an expense of \$245 in May, leaving a negative balance of \$52.

New Business

- Need 2-3 new candidates for Council and 1 new candidate for Foundation Committee. The Congregational meeting is scheduled for 28 June. Agenda is developed and will include new candidates for Council and Foundation Committee as well as draft resolution for roof replacement.

Calendar Items

- Special Congregational meeting will need to be scheduled for 19 July to discuss roof repair resolution (second review).
- Rally Day currently scheduled for 13 Sep, but will need to move to 20 Sep.

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

13 Jul
10 Aug
14 Sep
12 Oct

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Williams



Drive Up Communion:

August 16

12:00 p.m.

Time change this Sunday only

Upcoming dates:

August 30

Back to normal times: **11:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m.**

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/857935797767600941/>



Trinity Lutheran Church
820 Lockett Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

