

Tribune – Oct 2026

*“There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity
under the heavens.”*

Ecclesiastes 3:1



Our Mission:

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

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

820Lockett 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: Bob Tuckett
Vice President: Bruce Williams
Secretary: Kris Miller
Treasurer: Dave Mizell
Rich Allen
Steve Korris
Ann Tollefson

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



“Returning to our roots this Reformation Sunday”

At the end of October we always celebrate a special day for the Lutheran church. Historically, we considered the Protestant Reformation to begin on October 31, 1517 with the nailing of the 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church. Martin Luther wanted to have a conversation among the academics and the leaders in the church about practices that concerned him. There were ways the scriptures were being interpreted that were not in line with what Luther understood when he studied the scriptures. There were activities sanctioned by the Church to raise funds that were preying on the faith of believers in ways that seemed detrimental. And in Luther's estimation, the Church had lost its way and needed to be called back to rightness.

This is the history that we celebrate each year. That a man of faith, who was by no means perfect, was willing to stand up to people in power and ask questions and challenge assumptions when things didn't fit with his understanding of the gospel. And it is safe to say that he was well-versed in what the gospel had to say as he was the first to translate the New Testament from its Latin Vulgate into the German vernacular.

But it was not just his education or studies that called Luther into seeking to see the church return to its calling. It was his connection within the community where he lived. When he saw how the sales of indulgences affected the faithful poor around him he grew livid. The idea that the church would sell salvation to the poor to build great cathedrals when God offered grace freely in Christ was blasphemy in his eyes.

The church today may not be selling indulgences, but we too have a fight for the truth told in the gospel. There are those in power who would use the name of Jesus, and bits of scripture taken out of context, to try and sell their own brand of faith. But in their hands the gospel becomes something less than good news. It looks like exclusion and hierarchy, there are insiders and outsiders, and grace is nowhere to be found. It echoes with language of power and control and it builds up empire while trampling on those it considers unworthy. In reality, the rise of Christian nationalism in our time is as destructive to true Christian faith as the selling of indulgences ever was to the Catholic church in the 16th century.

Luther was concerned that the least among us were being taken for every cent to build a cathedral. I am worried that the least among us are being oppressed, abducted, incarcerated and bled for all they are worth to build up the power, prestige and bank accounts of the most affluent among us. And those in power do it all with a bible in their hands, and false prayers on their lips. And they call it God's will.

And it looks nothing like the Jesus I see or hear in the scriptures.

This year, for Reformation, I pray we return to our roots. To be a people worthy of the names of Martin Luther and Jesus Christ. I pray that we, like so many before us, we would speak truth to those in power. That we would call for the care and love of our neighbors. That we would live out the gospel of God's love freely given to all who come to believe. That we would welcome the prostitutes and tax collectors, the outcasts and the poor. That rather than seeking to be first, or to gain more power, or lord our greatness over others that we would take up the cross and follow Jesus. May the church be always reforming. May it grow to look more like the Kingdom of Heaven, and less like an empire of the world.

Christ's blessings,
Pastor Carrie McElfresh

Member Announcements

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Health Concerns:

Chara Helton-Rodenhaus
 Terrie Karcher
 Lorraine McDougall
 Gene Pool
 Gayle Woolf
 Amanda Berry: niece of Rick Berry
 Christian Casey: Gene and Cristina Rotter's son
 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: Cindy Donnell-Foster's friend
 Sue Murphy: Rich Allen's sister-in-law
 Nancy Breningmeyer: Cindy Donnell-Foster's aunt (Godmother)
 Deaconess Cherryll Hoffman: Cindy Donnell-Foster's deaconess sister

For Those Serving in the Military:

Matt Brenner: nephew of Bob and Barb Tuckett
 Tyler Coslow: Jerry and Beckie Roth's grandson

Living with Cancer:

Ken Berry: Rick Berry's brother
 Matthew Berry: Rick Berry's son
 Jan Bishop
 Mel Hahs
 Susan Hermann: Bob and Bob Tuckett's daughter
 Kathy Lenau: Shirley Mees' stepdaughter
 Kristin Marusic: Fred and Susan Burk's friends' daughter
 Jeana Moora: Kymberly Blaksley's friend
 Cheryl Tribout: Holly Graham's friend
 Charlie Weniger: Sue Sullivan's brother
 Jake Widmann: Rich Allen's friend

October Birthdays

10/2 Dorothy Kaiser
 10/2 Denise Quello
 10/4 Bill Shafer
 10/6 Jason Miller
 10/7 Bruce Williams
 10/11 David Plufka
 10/11 Sandy Vollmer
 10/17 Devon Quello
 10/30 David Miller
 10/31 Marie Plufka

October Anniversaries

10/6 Steve and Kris Sneeringer (52nd)
 10/7 Chris and Addie Harrelson (10th)
 10/7 Steven and Kirsten Houg (9th)
 10/7 Kyle and Dana (Quello) Immekus (3rd)
 10/9 Roger and Alberta Ottwell
 10/10 Gene and Nina Pool (62nd)
 10/10 Adam and Kristen Wenzel (11th)
 10/13 Wayne and Julie Viers (14th)
 10/18 Stephen and Shala Parisi (19th)

General prayers:

Zach Dillard: Rick and Colleen Berry's son
 Karen Mahacek: Rich Allen's friend

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!



Member's new address: Georgia Sippel
 Sunrise of Des Peres
 13460 Manchester Rd, Rm. 230
 Des Peres, MO 63131

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
- keep up-to-date with the goings-on at Trinity
- and more!

Be sure and like us:

[www.Facebook.comTrinityKirkwood](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityKirkwood)

W E L C A N E W S

Katie's Crew

Wednesdays, Oct. 14 & 28, 11:30 a.m.

Lydia Circle Quilters

Fridays, Oct 2, 26 & 30, 10:00 a.m.

Packing Day for Lutheran World Relief has been changed to Sunday, Oct. 11 after worship.

We will place the quilts on the pews on Oct. 11 after the Redemption service, then pack the quilts and kits immediately after church. This year we will do the packing and storing upstairs.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE TRAYS

Once again we will be making cookie trays so be looking through your cookie recipes. We ask that every woman make 3 dozen cookies.

More details to follow.



October Updates from TLC Parents' Day Out!

It is going to be an exciting October at TLC Parents' Day Out as our classrooms explore a packed month of fun learning themes! Throughout the month, our children will learn about life on the farm, practice fire safety skills during Fire Safety Week, explore the solar system in outer space, and enjoy festive pumpkin activities.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming special events:

- Fire Drill: Thursday, Oct. 8
- Trunk or Treat: Saturday, Oct. 17 from 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM (don't forget to RSVP!)
- Class Celebrations & Costume March: Thursday, Oct. 29 & Friday, Oct. 30

Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes on Thursday, Oct. 29 and Friday, Oct. 30 for our annual Halloween march upstairs to trick-or-treat with Miss Brenda! Also, please stop by to give a warm welcome to our new staff members, Miss Marissa and Miss Cindy.

With Gratitude,
Erika Duenwald,
Director





NEW MEMBER SUNDAY



Reformation Sunday, October 25

**If you are considering joining Trinity,
we welcome you!**

Please reach out to Pastor Carrie at:

- 
- in person
 - email:
prcarrie@gmail.com
 - tel: (314) 635-8588

TRUNK OR TREAT

Come and Join Us!

Saturday, October 17

2:30–4:00 pm

**Trinity Lutheran Church
820 Lockett Rd, Kirkwood**



Sign up sheets are on the bulletin in the lounge. You may sign up to:

- host a trunk - donate candy - bring children

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Report for August 2026

- Receipts for August totaled \$32.3K, which included \$4,325 given to Property Reserve for the A/C replacement. YTD Receipts to the General Fund total \$184.5K, plus \$6.1K given to the Property Reserve. YTD our combined receipts total \$190.6K.
- Spending from the General Fund totaled \$22.3K. We made a \$9.9K down payment on the A/C replacement. Our August spending from Property Reserve totaled \$12.3K which included the \$9.9K for A/C and another \$2.4K for other mechanical repairs. YTD our expenses total \$201.3K.
- Net, for August we had a deficit of \$2,246. YTD we have a deficit of \$10,714.
- Comparison to 2026 Budget. Our total giving and other income to the General Fund exceeds our budget by \$15,961. Our spending from the General Fund is over-budget by only \$136 which is less than 0.1% for the year. These figures do NOT include money for the roof or A/C.
- PDO had receipts of \$1,950 and expenses of \$10,136. PDO had a deficit for the month of \$8,185. PDO's operating surplus YTD is \$683.
- The Roof Replacement Fund received \$11,482 during August. We paid \$25,140 in August.

CASH FLOW SUMMARY

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>8/31/2026</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Direct Giving	\$ 16,390.65	\$ 124,700.80
Other Receipts	11,594.45	59,795.86
Sub-Total General Fund	27,985.10	184,496.66
Property Reserve Income	4,325.00	6,125.00
Total Income	\$ 32,310.10	\$ 190,621.66
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
General Fund Spending	22,266.23	181,222.80
Property Reserve Expense	12,290.71	20,113.26
Total Expenses	\$ 34,556.94	\$ 201,336.06
NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	\$ (2,246.84)	\$ (10,714.40)

ACCOUNT BALANCES

	<u>07/31/26</u>	<u>08/31/26</u>
General Fund	\$201,537.24	\$172,641.99
Foundation Acct	\$191,177.05	\$191,201.14
Youth Acct	\$ 7,712.75	\$ 6,572.75

RESERVE and RESTRICTED FUNDS

	<u>Fund</u>	<u>07/31/2026</u>	<u>08/31/2026</u>
Reserve	Operating Reserve	\$ 28,062.21	\$ 28,062.21
	Property Reserve	5,242.23	(2,723.48)
	Williams Bequest Patrick	11,959.24	11,959.24
	Bequest	10,000.00	10,000.00
	Pastor Reserve	7,613.20	7,613.20
	Thrivent Choice Dollars	165.17	165.17
	Holy Trinity Reserve	12,740.00	12,740.00
Restricted	Roof Replacement Fund	39,050.00	25,392.00
	Seminary Education	38,201.48	38,201.48
	All Other Restricted	2,977.67	3,002.67
Total Funds		\$ 156,011.20	\$ 134,412.49

Respectfully submitted, Dave Mizell,
Treasurer 09/07/2026

Council Notes
Monday, 10 Aug 2026

- ❖ Call to order – Kris
- ❖ Members present – Pastor Carrie, Ann Tollefson, Steve Korris, Bob Tuckett, Bruce Williams
- ❖ Members absent – Rich Allen, Kris Miller, Dave Mizell
- ❖ Opening Prayer – Pastor Carrie
- ❖ Council notes from the July 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.
- 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. Will try to encourage discussions at the table during Rally Day, to attempt to share faith stories.
- New chairs are needed for Pastor and Brenda, approximately \$300 for two, approved.
- Student exchange program is seeking host families, contacted Carrie to see if any members would be interested.
- Copier lease is up in October, will need to renew.
- United Lutheran Seminary is offering Council 101 Lessons on line, presented thru Zoom meetings. An opportunity for council members and congregation as well. Classes to be held once a month from Jan thru June 2027.

❖ Treasurer's report – **Report Accepted**

	July YTD	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Direct Giving	\$14,229.03	\$108,310.15	\$93,568.38
Other Receipts	\$2,732.56	\$48,201.41	\$54,118.00
Total Op Revenues	\$16,961.59	\$158,311.56	\$147,686.38
Spending	\$20,970.87	\$158,956.57	\$159,705.17
Surplus (Deficit)	\$(5,179.59)	\$(10,323.28)	\$(12,018.79)

- Receipts for June totaled \$16,900. Redemption check was not deposited in time for the monthly summary. YTD receipts for the year are \$156,500 plus \$1800 to the property reserve. Spending totaled \$20,900 and \$1,200 coming from property reserve funds. YTD expenses total \$168,600.
- July had a net deficit of \$5,180. YTD deficit is \$10,323.
- PDO had receipts of \$8,400 and expenses of \$10,000. PDO's operating surplus YTD is \$8,900.
- The Roof Replacement fund was created in July and received \$39,050 by month-end.

❖ Old Business

- Garden update – parts for the irrigation system have been purchased, to be installed TBD.

❖ Ministry Area reports

- Property – roof replacement to begin Wednesday, 12 August, dependent on weather. A/C unit for sanctuary needs replacement, one of three units that cool the sanctuary. Special congregational meeting to be held to request authorization. We need new church keys made, running out of spares.
- Education – Rally Day has been moved to 20 Sep, Shala Parisi, Janet Williams and Addie Harrelson are teaching again, working on school year syllabus.
- Worship and Music – choir has not been practicing during the summer.
- Fellowship – next event will be Brenda's service recognition luncheon.
- Outreach – Will be working with Helping Hands in September at Sunday Service on 13 September at St. Thomas Holy Spirit.
-
- PDO – has their last camp next week. Becoming difficult to sign up 4–5-year-olds due to competition from public school districts. May need to shift resources to handle more younger children. Dave Mizell put together the latest business plan for PDO.
- Personnel – nothing to report

- ❖ Comments from the Congregation
Request to ask Redemption to relocate their baptismal pool away from entrance stairs by bell tower.

❖ New Business

- Special Congregation Meeting on 16 August to seek authorization to replace A/C unit and condensers.

❖ Calendar Items

- Rally Day scheduled for 20 Sep
- Semi-Annual Meeting scheduled for 6 Dec

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

- o 14 Sep
- o 12 Oct
- o 9 Nov
- o 14 Dec

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Williams



Drive Up Communion: October 18

11:45a.m.

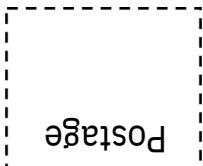
Upcoming dates:

November 8 and 22

December 13

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: Canva



October
Trinity Lutheran Church
820 Lockett Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122