



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Just checking in with you again on where we are in the Call process. As you may recall, at our Call meeting on July 12 we placed a Call to Pastor Paul Hammes in Wayne, Nebraska. In early August we received word from Pastor Hammes that he has declined our Call.

As of today (August 25) we are still being served by Vacancy Pastor Michael Manz from Newton. That will end after services on August 29 & 30. On the 30th we will hold our second Call meeting to select a candidate from the new list supplied us by District President Saunders. My prayer is that we are successful this time.

I have been in contact with Pastor Vanderbilt from Mt. Calvary in Indianola and Pastor Johnson from Holy Cross in Carlisle. Pastor Vanderbilt indicated that he would not be able to serve as our vacancy pastor, but would be willing to assist us with visiting our shut-ins and with hospital visits in the Des Moines area.

So for now, I have reached out to pastors in Iowa District West and have lined up guest pastors for September 6 – Rev. David Splett from Ames, for September 13 – Rev. Jeff Siegel from Carlisle, and for September 20 – Rev. Mark Heilman from Ames.

The Elders will meet with IDE Vice-President Pastor Joel Koepp after the Call meeting to discuss our vacancy situation further. As I learn more I will try to keep everyone updated.

Your Brother in Christ,
Lary Willoughby

Special Dates for September 2026

- Labor Day, *September 7*
- Patriot Day, *September 11*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 13*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *September 15-October 15*
- First Day of Autumn, *September 22*



SERVING IN SEPTEMBER

Elder: Paul Haselhuhn

Altar Guild: Angela Essick,

Michele Gilchrist,

Wendy Peffers

Ushers: Randy Emal, Jerry Roby



ALTAR FLOWERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept. 6: Jan Solberg in loving memory of her nephew T.J. Houdek (5/5/93 – 7/17/16)

Sept. 13: Bill Caughey in honor of the birthdays of his children Chris & Katie

Sept. 20: Steve Boles in loving memory of his wife, Terri, on what would have been their 38th anniversary on September 17

Sept. 27: David Thomas & Katie Snow in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary on September 26



RALLY DAY!

Rally Day – September 13 – marks the return to regular Sunday school classes for all ages! Classes for children in preschool through Jr. High are held in the basement, and a class for adults & high schoolers is held in the fellowship hall. All classes begin at 9:15am. A Rally Day luncheon will be held following the 10:30am worship service, serving hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, chips & drinks. Please join us as we kick-off a new year of Christian Education!

It's criminal to take anything in life for granted.

—Anna Quindlen



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|-------------------|------------------|
| 1) Olivia McKay | 10) Bev Hammann |
| Donna Schrader | 14) Rita Antolik |
| 2) Emma Tabbert | 16) Jon Kreutner |
| 3) Noelle Roby | LouAnn Perkins |
| 6) Dan Just | 18) Eric Bell |
| 7) Ethan Tabbert | 24) Molly Devin |
| 8) Carsyn Kingery | Vonnie Struecker |

September Anniversaries

- 1) Neil & Sarah Willoughby '07
- 6) Rodger & Lisa Dop '74
- 10) Justin & Madison Devin '22
- 14) Nick & Jamie Haselhuhn '24
- 15) Jerry & Christina Roby '01
- 20) John & Carolyn Greatbatch '80
- 21) Alex & Brittany Willoughby '19
- 22) Randy & Sheryl Chambers '73
- 22) Jeremy & Sierra Harvey '12
- 22) Paul & Deb Haselhuhn '90
- 23) Warren & Sandy Winkel '61
- 26) David Thomas & Katie Snow '86



ADULT SOCIAL

The Adult Social for September will be held at Casa Grande Mexican restaurant, 110 E. Main on Sunday, September 20 following the worship service. A sign-up sheet will be posted so we can give the restaurant an idea of how many to expect. Please join us for a time of great food, fun and fellowship with our Trinity family!

When a man is wrapped up in himself, he makes a very small package. —John Ruskin

THIS & THAT

SATURDAY EVENING services have been discontinued until further notice due to the vacancy. Everyone is encouraged to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30am.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES: Pella Bible Study will be held on September 14 & 28 at 10:30am at 1108 Washington Street. Mid-week Bible Study is held each Wednesday at 10:00am in the fellowship hall. Join us for one of these study opportunities as we read and discuss the Scripture readings for the upcoming weekend!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We are in need of volunteers to help with the Sunday livestream of our services. Volunteers will be trained. If interested, please contact Henry Picard or Julian Bacon.

STREAMING OF the Sunday morning Divine Service can be viewed on our website ~ trinityknoxville.org; follow the link on the church's Facebook page; or on our YouTube channel.

ON THE FIRST Sunday of each month, drop your spare change into the large LWML Mite Box on the piano. Thank you!

TRINITY'S QUILTING group meets each Wednesday morning from 7-10am. Everyone is welcome to join – no sewing skills required!

COOKING FOR A CAUSE, First United Methodist Church's free sit- down meal, is held the first and last Wednesdays of each month, serving from 5:00-6:30pm. Upcoming menus: September 2 – Goulash, vegetable, rolls & drink; September 30 – Chicken Alfredo, garlic bread, lettuce salad, cookie & drink. Everyone is welcome! Note: Trinity members will be helping with the meal on September 30 – a sign-up sheet is posted for anyone interested in volunteering a few hours!



SUPPORT TRINITY WITH ZEFFY: Scan the QR code or visit <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/weekly-offering-3> to securely contribute to the Sunday offering or designated funds. This electronic method is completely optional, and all contributions will be automatically credited to your year-end statements. For questions about online giving, contact the church office or Financial Secretary Lauren Gangel.

SCHOOL KITS

Trinity LWML's School Supply Drive is in the final stretch! In October we will assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief. Items most needed are: 70-count spiral notebooks (no loose-leaf paper); rulers, pencil sharpeners, black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink), boxes of 16 or 24 crayons, and sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bags. Thank you for your generous donations!





FALL SCHEDULE

Worship Schedule: Due to the vacancy, Saturday evening services are cancelled until further notice. All Trinity members & friends are encouraged to attend our Sunday service at 10:30am.

Trinity Altar Guild will resume their monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 1 at 10:00am. This month's hostesses are Angela Essick, Michele Gilchrist, and Wendy Peffers. If you are interested in serving the Lord by being a member of the Altar Guild, please contact Deb Lefler or just come to a meeting. (You do not need to attend meetings to be a member.)

Sunday school classes for all ages will begin on Rally Day, Sunday, September 13. The adult class will meet in the fellowship hall. Classes for ages 2 & up will be held in the downstairs classrooms.

Trinity Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 9 at 5:00pm. We are always looking for more voices (we especially need more men!) so if you've ever thought about joining the choir ~ now is the perfect time ~ no tryouts necessary!

Trinity LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) will meet on Wednesday, September 9 at 6:00pm, with hostesses April Verwers and Peggy White. Peggy Wagner will present the program. All ladies of the congregation are cordially invited to join the LWML.

Trinity's Elders will meet at 7:00pm on Wednesday, September 9.

OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE

2026 weekly budget amount: \$4,920.40

July 25 & 26:	\$ 4,632.00
August 1 & 2:	\$ 5,863.00
August 8 & 9:	\$ 3,107.00
August 15 & 16:	\$ 4,757.00
August 22 & 23:	\$ 2,732.00
Offerings via Zeffy:	\$ 850.00
Church Mutual refund:	\$ 16.00
Lawn Mowing:	<u>\$ 650.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$22,607.00

5-week budget amount: \$ 24,602.00

Budget shortfall this month \$1,995.00

Budget shortfall year-to-date \$13,219.23

Non-Budget: Donation to Youth Group \$400.00

Donation for playground \$500.00



WITH OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

WITH OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS: We remember in our prayers: Mothers bearing children; the well-being of homes & families; military families; Tammy Adreon had knee replacement surgery on July 31; Makayla Bell has been hospitalized in Iowa City; Baby Levi Wagner is now home from the NICU; Paul Jensen (Katie Snow's son-in-law), Ray Jenkins, Brian Kreutner, Marky Davis, Margaret Niece, Cathy Miller (Joyce Provenzano's cousin), Tom Davey, Brian Perkins, Doyle Schrader, Ted Snow, Mary Meyer, Bob Caswell, Jane Caswell, Marylou Nolte, Lois Mick, Rodger Dop, Brennon Nolte, Diane Jensen, Karen Schwanebeck, Bryson & Willow Lefler, Richard Lienemann, and David Kline. *Please let us know of any changes to our prayer list!*

THANK YOU TO Pastor Michael Manz for serving us well these past three months, and to the congregation of Our Savior, Newton for sharing him with us!

BACK-TO-BACK CHAMPS! Congratulations to Head Coach Luke Adreon, player Brody Adreon, and the entire Pleasantville Trojan Baseball team for winning the Class 2A State Championship for the second year in a row! Congratulations also to Luke for being named 2A Coach of the Year by the Iowa Baseball and West Central Activities Conference.

THANK YOU very much for the prayers, cards, and well-wishes through my surgery and recovery. They are so greatly appreciated! *Tammie Adreon*

THANK YOU to everyone who made our July 27 blood drive a great success! Special thanks to LouAnn Perkins for all the food, Brooklynn Lundeen, Deb Lefler & Cindy Todd for helping at the refreshment table, and to Roger Todd & Tom Lundeen for helping to clean up afterwards.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who donated items, helped with set-up and tear-down, worked and/or shopped at the LWML rummage sale. Due to your generosity our sale was a \$2,103 success! This will help fund the local and global mission work of Trinity LWML. Special thanks to The Well for picking up the leftover items and to Roger Todd and Lary & Kathy Willoughby for helping to load the truck.

HEARTFELT THANKS TO those who delivered Meals on Wheels the week of August 17-20: Gary & RaeLynn Langebartels, April Verwers, Holt & Blythe Link, Cherol Hamler, Jayde & Jude Kreimeyer, Roger & Cindy Todd and Easton VanDalen.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Trinity members are volunteering to help with the free community meal at the Methodist Church on Wednesday, September 30, serving from 5:00-6:30pm. The menu that evening is chicken alfredo, garlic bread, salad, cookie & drink. If you would like to help, volunteers are needed to help the Methodist women cook & prepare the meal from 1:00-4:30pm; and also to help serve and clean up from 4:00-7:00pm. A sign-up sheet is posted. If you have any questions, please see Karen Schwanebeck for details. If you are unable to help, remember that everyone in our area is welcome to come and enjoy some good food and great fellowship with others in our community! Thanks in advance for your participation!



COMMUNITY DINNER

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING

The Quarterly Voters meeting was called to order by President Lary Willoughby at 11:38am on Sunday, July 26. The meeting opened with the Lord's Prayer. Minutes of the April 2026 meeting and the July 12 Call meeting were read and approved. Attendance for the 2nd Quarter of 2026 was 96 per week.

Financial Report: April reported that weekly offerings are down this summer and that several members are donating online via Zeffy. All financial reports were approved.

Outreach/Community Concerns: The next blood drive is July 27.

Stewardship: Zeffy is being used for online offerings.

Elders: Pastor Manz continues to fill in as our vacancy pastor. Pastor Hammes is prayerfully considering the Call received from us. He has mentioned that he would like to come for a visit soon.

Trustees: Curt reports that the gas line repair has been completed. * There have been concerns about the temperature of the sanctuary on Saturday evenings due to the new glass on the west side letting in more light and heat this summer. We will look at ideas to resolve this issue. * A banner rack has been built in the loft area for better organization and storage of the banners.

Education: Karen reports that Deb Lefler has decided to retire from teaching Sunday school after over 30 years of teaching at Trinity. A preschool Sunday school teacher is needed for this fall. Sunday school will resume on September 13.

Old Business: Lauren & Matt presented two options for a new playground from Rainbow, using State Fair pricing. It was voted to purchase the larger set, which includes installation. Several members will take care of preparing ground cover. Money from the memorial funds will be used to purchase the playground, which should be installed this fall.

New Business: Billy suggested that we consider making a paid position for an online media manager to be in charge of social media accounts, YouTube channel, website and live-streaming. * Karen suggested having a group of members volunteer at the Methodist Church's free meal in the future. * The next voters meeting will be held following the worship service on October 25.

Pastor's Report: 2nd Quarter: Funeral – Sue Boyer; Confirmation – Karsten Roby; Wedding – Cory Snakenberg & Sarah Herz; Transfer-in – Joy Rustad; Transfer-out – Rev. Joel & Stacy Picard.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jessica Bacon

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL – BREAD: One of the oldest and most familiar foods, bread carries deep meaning throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, God provided manna, or "bread from heaven," to sustain His people in the wilderness. In the New Testament, Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35), pointing to himself as the true source of spiritual nourishment. Bread also holds a central place in the Lord's Supper, where it represents Christ's body, given for us. Simple and sustaining, bread has become a lasting symbol of God's provision, Christ's presence, and the shared fellowship of believers.



THE LUTHERAN HOUR

“The Lutheran Hour” can be heard on radio station WHO, am1040, each Sunday morning at 7:30am. Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler will present all four messages in September.



September 6: “Come and See” John 1:46

The Book of Nature can open your mind to the possibility that God is real. The Book of Scripture, the Bible, goes further, like a friend who’s been there.

September 13: “Forgiveness Is a Non-Negotiable” Matthew 6:12

In God’s family, forgiveness is non-negotiable. It’s not up for debate because forgiveness is what makes us who we are.

September 20: “High Bar to Clay Jar” Matthew 20:16

In Jesus, we don’t need to compare ourselves to anyone else. Instead, we are free to better appreciate them.

September 27: “Teachable” Matthew 21:31

To be a disciple is to be a learner. Jesus loves you enough to make you teachable.

A nutty explanation

A young pastor tried to comfort a widow as they stood looking at her husband’s body in a casket.

“I know this is very hard for you,” he said. “But we Christians have hope. The body is only a husk. It is only the shell. It is what we see. But the nut that was in the shell has already gone to heaven.”



A Prayer for Joy and Laughter

Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the wit to see a joke
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk. —Anonymous

I have learned that plotting revenge only allows the people who hurt you to hurt you longer.
—Anonymous

Faith and works are like the light and heat of a candle; they cannot be separated.
—Joseph Beaumont

Prayer of Remembrance for Patriots Day

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter through every storm, and our eternal home:

We come before You remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Though many years have passed, the sorrow of that day still lingers in the hearts of families, friends and a grieving nation.

Lord, comfort those who continue to carry loss. Grant peace to the brokenhearted, strength to the weary and light to those walking through seasons of grief. Let Your presence bring hope where memories still ache.

Teach us to care for one another with compassion and courage. Help us to be a people who offer kindness to the hurting, encouragement to the discouraged and justice to those who suffer. Stir our hearts to live with mercy, humility and love for our neighbors.

Forgive us when our words are greater than our actions. May we strive each day to reflect the values of faith, unity and grace that honor You and strengthen our communities.

Thank You, Lord, for Your constant care and unfailing mercy. Even in tragedy, You remain our refuge and our hope. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



A Prayer for Parents

Heavenly Father,

Make me a better parent. Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they say and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting or contradicting them. Help me be as courteous to them as I would have them be to me.



Forbid that I should ever laugh at their mistakes, or resort to shame or ridicule when they displease me. May I never punish them for my own selfish satisfaction or to show my power. Let me not tempt my children to lie or steal. Guide me, hour by hour, that I may demonstrate in all I say and do that honesty leads to happiness.

Reduce, I pray, the harshness in me. When I am out of sorts, help me, Lord, to hold my tongue.

May I ever be mindful that my children are still children, and help me not expect from them the judgment of adults. Let me not rob them of opportunities to grow, to serve themselves and to make decisions. Grant me the wisdom to allow what is good and the courage to deny what may harm them.

Make me fair, just and kind. And fit me, Lord, to be loved, respected and imitated by my children. Amen.

*" 'I must do something' always solves more problems than
'Something must be done.' "*

Creativity is so delicate a flower, that praise tends to make it bloom, while discouragement often nips it in the bud. Any of us will [have] more and better ideas if our efforts are truly appreciated.

—Alexander Osborn



Our Mind's Storehouse

Benjamin Weir, a missionary in the Middle East, was taken captive by terrorists and held in solitary confinement. Blindfolded and cut off from the outside world, he endured deep isolation with no one to speak to and no sense of where he was.

What could he do? In many ways, all he had was a beating heart and a mind still free to think. To endure the long days, he began drawing from what was stored within him. After his release, he reflected, "I called up my memory bank, things that were stored in my mind."

He recalled Scripture passages he had learned years before. He remembered lines from William Shakespeare, the words of hymns and songs, and the faces of those he loved. He reflected on his work, his family and the steady grace of God throughout his life.

Looking back, he said, "Whatever is in your mind is what you have to draw on."

That truth lingers. What we place in our minds today shapes what we will lean on tomorrow. It invites a simple but important question: What are we storing away? May we fill our thoughts with what is true, pure and life-giving, with the story of Christ and the hope of His saving grace.

Wisdom Beyond the Game

Basketball coach Phil Jackson, the son of a pastor, became well known not only for winning championships but also for encouraging his players to grow off the court. An avid reader, Jackson often assigned books to players that he believed would challenge and inspire them both personally and professionally.



Over the years, his teams won multiple NBA championships under his unique leadership style. Yet even great coaches have difficult seasons. During one struggling year, former NBA star Charles Barkley jokingly remarked about Jackson's reading assignments, "He needs to give that team a Bible. Only God can help them."



Thank God for Teachers

It is sometimes said that public school teachers do not teach values. Yet every day, countless teachers quietly model compassion, patience, integrity and kindness through the way they care for their students.

Many teachers go far beyond lesson plans and classrooms. They spend their own money on school supplies, workbooks, clothing, snacks and special needs for children who may otherwise go without. They encourage struggling students, celebrate small victories and offer steady support to children facing difficult circumstances at home.

Teachers also work with students from many different backgrounds and abilities. Some patiently help children learn English, while others devote extra time and care to students with learning, emotional or social challenges. In a world where many children face poverty, abuse, loneliness, neglect or uncertainty, a caring teacher can become a source of hope, stability and encouragement.

Many educators also serve faithfully in churches and communities, living out their faith through daily acts of love and service. Their influence often reaches far beyond what grades or test scores can measure.

As a church family, let us remember to pray for teachers, encourage them in their calling and thank God for the important difference they make in the lives of children every day.

Lessons That Last

Most of us can remember a Sunday school teacher who made a lasting difference in our lives. Sometimes the simplest lessons become the ones we carry with us the longest.

One man recalled his high school Sunday school teacher, a businessman named Mr. Homan, who shared this advice with the boys in his class: "Don't ever go anywhere you would not want your mother or sister to go. Don't ever do anything you would not want your mother or sister to do."

Years later, the man reflected on those words and said, "That advice has served me well. I have always remembered it."

God often uses faithful teachers to plant seeds of wisdom, character and integrity in young hearts. Their influence may not always be seen right away, but the lessons they share can guide lives for years to come. Never underestimate the power of a few thoughtful words spoken with love and conviction.



When the Road Gets Rough

It had been a long trip home, and the weary traveler still had miles to go. So when a sign appeared reading, "Rough Road Ahead — 4 miles," he braced himself.

Rough was an understatement. The lanes narrowed, the shoulder disappeared, and traffic slowed to a crawl. Drivers carefully weaved around potholes and construction equipment, inching forward one stretch at a time. But just as the sign promised, after four difficult miles, the road opened up and smoothed out again.

Jesus offers a similar kind of clarity about life. In John 16:33 (NIV), He says, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Notice He doesn't say we might face trouble. It is part of the journey. There will be stretches that feel slow, uncertain and hard.

Jesus didn't say we "might" have trouble. Sooner or later, problems will come. The road will get rough. But Jesus has already defeated everything the world can throw our way. We just have to keep moving, fueled by hope.

The promise is just as certain as the warning sign. The rough road does not last forever, and it does not have the final say. Christ has already gone before us, and smoother ground is ahead.

Rest for the Soul

Studies show many Americans don't get enough sleep, and the effects can take a toll on both body and mind. Whether it's a packed schedule or restless nights, a lack of rest makes it harder to think clearly, stay focused and care for our overall well-being. Over time, that constant fatigue begins to wear us down



Our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. When we rush from one task to the next without pausing to spend time with God, we can feel just as drained. We need consistent, quiet moments with Him to stay grounded, encouraged and strong in our faith.

Even Jesus made space for this kind of rest. Luke 5:16 tells us that He often withdrew to quiet places to pray. If He needed that time with the Father, how much more do we? When we step away from the noise and listen for God's voice, we find the renewal our souls have been longing for.