



Monthly Monitor

May 2025

Knowing and Finding Blessings

Our world can be a confusing place. We are constantly inundated with mixed messages. One message that seems to be consistent wherever you look in our country is that possessions=happiness. Our commercially driven culture is constantly in pursuit of bigger, better, newer, faster. We also pursue security for the future all with the notion that if I can just reach this one last financial goal or grab that one new shiny toy, I will finally feel fulfilled; I will feel like I have arrived.

One of the main issues with these kind of pursuits is that we may shove others out of the way to get what we want. I mean, think about it: how many times have you heard the news story on Black Friday of someone getting seriously hurt or injured as they attempt to grab hold of that special thing on sale (usually a giant TV) that is going to change their life? If you are like me, you have heard this story too many times. The more we pursue this type of fulfillment, the more we become curved in on ourselves. We navel-gaze. We ask questions like, "What is the next thing I want? What would make me happy? How can I get this? How can I get that? Boy, that would sure make my life easier, wouldn't it? Our culture promotes this. And the more self-absorbed we become, the less important other people become to us.

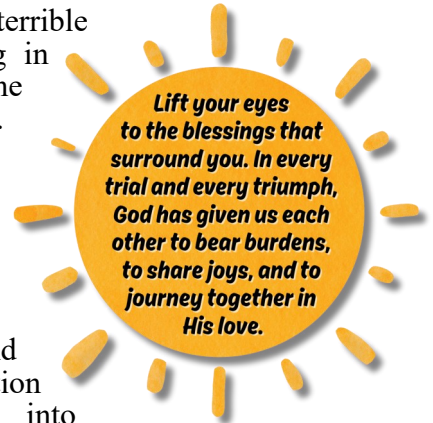


So then, we come to the terrible irony that some are facing in our region this spring. The loss of those possessions. For the self-absorbed and self-serving, this type of loss can mean the loss in spring storms and power outages is of anything and everything that matters to them. When facing this kind of loss, our natural inclination is to be driven further into ourselves and our broken condition.

We lose sight of anything and everything that isn't about "me". It is in that moment, that we must seek to stop the ever-plummeting spiral downward, into ourselves, into despair. And the first step to put the brakes on our descent is to change our gaze. We must look up. We must look out. And as we do, we will see, as so many have here in the northern part of the lower peninsula, that there are helpful hands fully extended, waiting to grab hold and lift us up. And this is the irony: That in the middle of ice storms, tornadoes and natural disasters; in the midst of the loss of so much, so much can be gained.

A lesson to be learned is that happiness is not to be found in the accumulation of stuff that is here today and can be tossed away tomorrow. Happiness and fulfillment are to be found in relationship. Other people in our lives are the true blessing. As we have all too often shoved others out of the way to get to what we *want*; those who we have shoved out of the way may be exactly what we *need*. So what about you? Where has your gaze been fixed lately? Have the experiences that you have been thru afforded you a new opportunity to change your gaze and see where the real, lasting blessings in your life can actually be found? God created each of us to be in a relationship. Relationship with Him and with each other. And God works in mysterious ways. Now is a perfect time to look up and look out. Look and see the blessings all around you. God has given us each other to help us get through together when times are tough and to celebrate together when times are joyful. But the key is *together*. So, friends, let's continue this journey together, knowing that the Lord has given us *each other* for just such a time as this.

-Pastor Kaiser





Stewardship Corner

Time • Talent • Treasure

Called to Serve Others

Throughout all four Gospels, we read how the life of Jesus was one of total service and sacrifice. Jesus declared, *“even as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many”* (Matthew 20:28). Jesus continually served the hungry, handicapped, sick, and homeless. His loving and servant heart was seen in all that He said and did. Following His example during the three years He spent on earth, we realize that our purpose, too, is to serve. He lived for His heavenly Father and for others. Just as Jesus served His Father, we exist to serve Him. Being conformed into the image of Christ we will take on the role of servants as He did.

The concept of serving rather than being served is not a natural one. We, by nature, prefer to be “number one.” We’re too wrapped up in ourselves even to notice the needs of others. Jerry White, in his book *Honesty, Morality, and Conscience*, writes,

Christians are to be servants of both God and people, but most of us approach business, work, and life in general with the attitude of what I can get rather than what I can give. Serving God receives a favorable response but serving people, especially those who cannot repay us, has no visible benefit or glory from anyone except God.



A life of service is contrary to what our society promotes. We are told that we should aspire to fame, power, and wealth. Servants receive no glory, spotlight, or fame, but a meaningful relationship with Christ is not possible if we put ourselves first and seek only the goals that are important to the world that we live in. Living a life of service, we give of ourselves without striving for financial rewards or glory. Unlike the praise we receive from God, worldly praise has no lasting value. Along with the Apostle Paul we say that we are *“not to please man, but to please God Who tests our hearts”* (1 Thessalonians 2:4).

Handle with Care

We have all received fragile items in boxes that are marked “Handle with Care.” In some ways, the gifts we receive as stewards from God should be marked with the words “Handle with Care.” Shouldn’t we handle our blessings such as abilities, money, time, physical health, and relationships with utmost care? In essence, we are handling with care the blessings He entrusts to us when we are faithful and responsible with them. Realizing all of life is a gift helps us to receive with gratitude and to handle our blessings with care and thankfulness.





Trinity Lutheran School

The Classroom Chronicles

May-2025

As we enter the beautiful month of May—a season of renewal, reflection, and growth—I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your continued prayers, support, and partnership in the mission of our school - your school.

It has been a year filled with both blessings and challenges, and through it all, we have witnessed God's faithfulness in powerful ways. Our students are not only growing in knowledge but also in their understanding of God's love and purpose for their lives. What a gift it is to help nurture young minds and hearts in Christ! It has been a joy to witness the faith formation of our 8th grade confirmands as they each share their Faith Statements with us during worship.

This month, we celebrate the faith journey milestone of Confirmation, in addition we celebrate Mother's Day, teacher & staff appreciation, and the approaching end of the academic year. These are reminders of the many hands and hearts that shape our children's lives—parents, teachers, volunteers, and of course, you, our church family. Your prayers, encouragement, and generosity allow us to continue this sacred work of Christian education.

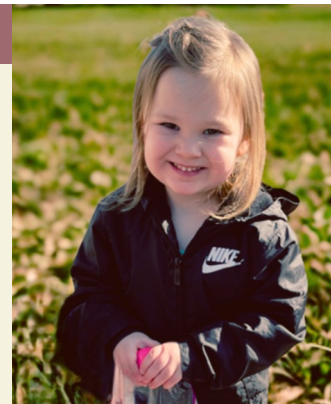
As we look ahead to summer and begin preparations for the next school year, I humbly ask for your continued prayers for our staff, students, and their families. We pray that God will continue to bless our school with wisdom, safety, and a spirit of joy in learning and serving.

On behalf of our faculty and students, thank you for walking with us in faith. May this season bring you peace, joy, and a renewed sense of God's presence in your life.

With gratitude and blessings,
Mrs. Karen Friebe
Principal

ENDURANCE

Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. Revelation 14:12



Egg-cited for the hunt!

Announcements



TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

WE'RE HIRING

GSRP PRESCHOOL AIDE

Come join our team! We are looking for an energetic, loving preschool aide to work with students ages 4-5 years old.

REQUIREMENTS :

- Must have Child Development Associates or working towards one
- Must be 18 years of age or older & some experience working with kids.
- Must be available Monday-Friday 7:45am-3:30pm. Starting In August, 2025.

INTERESTED?

Contact Director Rebecca Setula at rsteffey@trinitymonitor.org
OR call 989-662-4891



LifeClinic

Baby Bottle Campaign

Celebrate the Mothers and Fathers in your life by Changing Lives!

Follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Pick up a bottle on Sunday, May 11, 2025.
2. Fill it with coins, cash, or a check.
3. Return it to your church by Sunday, June 15, 2025.

The Baby Bottle Campaign fundraiser benefits the life-affirming work of LifeClinic Community Resources. Your contributions will help provide free and confidential services such as pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, STI screening and treatment, parenting education classes, options education, and resilience support.

Thank you for your participation!

4818 N. Saginaw Road
Midland, MI 48640
(989) 835-1500

2360 Midland Road
Bay City, MI 48706
(989) 922-5433

4364 State Street
Saginaw, MI 48603
(989) 754-0091

www.LifeClinic.org

Trinity Is Looking



For a long-term substitute teacher for Mrs. Setula's maternity leave! Come work with preschool children, 4-5 years of age for the beginning of the school year!

We are looking for someone who...

- has, or is working toward a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education
- is 18 years of age or older
- Experience working with children
- Has availability Monday-Friday 7:30am-3:30pm starting in August & continuing until November (Tentatively)



Join Us & Send your resume to:

rsteffey@trinitymonitor.org
OR call 989-662-4891 for more information!



Open Enrollment for PreK - 8th Grade

Are you looking for a quality Christian education for your child?

Trinity Lutheran School offers
a Christ-centered Education
PreK - 8th Grade

Preschool Options

Traditional Preschool &
FREE Preschool for 4 year olds*

Quality Academics

Kindergarten - 8th Grade

Competitive Tuition Rates

Financial Assistance Available*
*for qualifying families

TRINITY MONITOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



Call Today @ 989.662.4891 or scan the QR code to set up your personal tour!

Announcements



ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB
CLEAN UP DAY JOIN US!
SATURDAY, MAY 3
9:00am

THE ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP OF THE GROVE IS SLATED FOR SATURDAY, MAY 3 AT 9:00AM. WE HAVE SEVERAL PROJECTS THAT WE'D LIKE TO TACKLE, SO BRING YOUR RAKES AND GLOVES AND JOIN THE FUN!



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
 20 E. SALZBURG RD-BAY CITY

CHICKEN BBQ

MAY 18, 2025
11:00AM-1:00PM

1/2 CHICKEN-BAKED BEANS-SQUASH
 COLE SLAW-ROLL-DRINKS-DESSERT
\$15.00

SPONSORED BY: TRINITY MONITOR'S ATHLETIC CLUB

SAVE THE DATE!

42nd ANNUAL
PIG ROAST & CHICKEN BBQ WEEKEND



AUGUST 22-24, 2025

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAY & SATURDAY
 OUTDOOR WORSHIP
 CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT & MORE!

Trinity Lutheran Church 20 E. Salzburg Rd. Bay City
 Sponsored by the Trinity Monitor Athletic Booster Club

BINGO

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 16TH
6PM - 8PM
ADULTS \$25
KIDS \$5

TRINITY MONITOR GYM



Adult cards pre-sale (at a discount of \$5).
 Cards go on sale in the school office starting May 4.

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE
 (HOT DOGS, PRETZELS, PIZZA, POPCORN, CANDY)
 No cash prizes

FUNDRAISER FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS TO GO TO NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING IN NEW ORLEANS



Join us for **Worship on Wednesdays (WOW)** at **6:00pm**. We begin this next season of WOW on **April 30**.

The WOW services will follow Sunday's scripture readings and sermon. So if you're gone for the weekend and missed out on worship, join us on Wednesday evening!

BINGO



AMAZON WISHLIST

We are collecting donations for prizes for our Family Bingo fundraiser for our high school youth to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

Announcements

LWML/FRIENDSHIP GUILD

The ladies of the LWML/Friendship Guild would like to thank the congregation for their support of our fleece blanket project. With the help of Thrivent Gift Cards and donations from several members we were able to purchase enough fabric to complete 42 blankets. These blankets will be blessed today and then will be distributed to Orphan Grain Train and the cancer treatment center and dialysis center in Bay City. Thank you for your willingness to help with this project. Please come up after the service if you would like a closer look at the blankets.



A note to the congregation from the National Lutheran Women's Missionary League and the LWML/Friendship Guild here at Trinity. PRAISE GOD! Through his grace and your faithful support we have reached our Mission Goal of \$2,350,000.00 for the 2023-2025 biennium. The coins that jingle and the bills that fold that are dropped into the Mite Box have been joined with the donated Mites from all the other LCMS churches to meet this goal. Please talk to any LWML member or attend our next meeting if you would like to know more about the various Mission Grants. The Mission Grants are local as well as world wide. To God be the glory!

MEN OF MUSIC



Please join us for an evening of exceptional music at the Men of Music concert directed by Grace Marra. The concert will be on May 13 at 7:00 pm at the Memorial Presbyterian Church.

The event is a benefit concert for the Toni and Trish House for the Care of the terminally ill and all proceeds from the freewill offering will go directly to the organization. For more information, please call (989)662-6400. Don't miss this great opportunity to enjoy a great evening of music while supporting a worthy cause.



Valley Lutheran HIGH SCHOOL

The Annual Meeting of the Valley Lutheran High School Association will take place on Wednesday, May 21st at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Resource Center at VLHS. Congregational representatives will be present for the meeting, but any Association congregation member may attend should they wish.

VLHS Fine Arts Department proudly presents "The Play That Goes Wrong" (High School Edition), May 1-2-3, 7:00 pm at Valley Lutheran. This 1920s whodunit has everything you never wanted in a show—an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines)! Tickets will be available at the door or in the school office beginning April 30. \$5/student, \$7/adult, \$24/family.

The VLHS Music Department Spring Concert will be held Sunday, May 18 at 4 p.m. at St. Lorenz Worship & Event Center. All are invited!

Students in Kindergarten through 4th Grade are invited to a STEM Event on Saturday, May 10 from 2:30-4:00 at VLHS. Stop by Room 208 to explore various science demonstrations and activities! (Plan to enter through the East doors at the end of the 'in' driveway.) RSVPs are appreciated at www.vlhs.com/STEMevent.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Auburn-Williams Lions Club is sponsoring the 1st Auburn Community Pancake Breakfast, Saturday, May 3rd, in the Grace Lutheran Gym, 303 Ruth St., Auburn. Come and taste delicious pancakes, sausage, and breakfast fixings from 9 am to Noon. Pay at the door: Adults \$7, Children ages 6-11, \$5. Until supplies last. This coincides with the Auburn Area Treasure Hunt, May 1-3 from 10 am-5 pm. Maps for the AATH can be found at JoJo's Refresh Stop or awlions.org. April 28. Happy warm weather and treasure hunting!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The City-Wide Essexville Rummage Sale is coming Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17. Pilgrim's Women's Guild (1705 Nebobish) will be hosting a Concession Area as well as a Bake Sale both days. In addition, they will be renting out tables for people who would like to sell their items in our parking lot (\$15 for one day or \$25 for both days). For further details, please contact either June at 989.225.4060 or Clarice at 989.284.4039.



Greeters	1st Service	2nd Service
4th	Carl & Pam Pfundt	Dave & Karen Friebe
11th	Lyle & Mary Beth Kloha	Jessica Jeske
18th	Bob & Barb Friebe	Eileen Loesel & Rosemary Hoff
25th	Mary Ann Korman & Bernieda Kernstock	Cheryl Trudell

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Prayer Chain: Nancy Klaus 280-4913	Ushers: 3 & 1	Elders: Brian Berkobien Paul Reinsch	Altar Guild: Janice Feinauer Sandra Arnold	1 5:00pm Elders 6:00pm Church Council	2	3 9:00am Spring Cleanup
4 8:30 & 10:30am Communion 9:40 am Bible Study & Sunday School Confirmation 10:30 <i>Mite Box Sunday</i>	5 7:00pm Voter's Meeting	6	7 8:15am Chapel 6:00pm Worship On Wednesdays w/Communion	8	9	10 10:00am Friendship Guild
11 8:30 & 10:30am Worship 9:40am Bible Study & Sunday School <i>Mother's Day</i>	12	13 7:00pm Athletic Club	14 8:15am Chapel 6:00pm Worship On Wednesdays	15	16 6-8pm BINGO Fundraiser for The GATE	17
18 8:30 & 10:30am Communion 9:40am Bible Study & Sunday School 11:00pm Chicken BBQ 2:00-4:00pm The GATE	19 6:00pm Board of Christian Education	20 9:00am Piecemakers	21 8:15am Chapel 6:00pm Worship On Wednesdays w/Communion	22	23 <i>No School Office Closed</i>	24
25 8:30 & 10:30am Worship 9:40am Bible Study <i>No Sunday School</i>	26 <i>No School Office Closed</i> <i>Memorial Day</i>	27	28 8:15am Chapel 6:00pm Worship On Wednesdays	29	30	31

May



May 1 Barbara Friebe
Richard Kernstock
Sienna Kleinert
Kenzie Pomaville
Gary Walter

May 3 Debra Dambro
Carter Helmreich
Theodore McGuire
Donald Mueller

May 4 Jason Gaiser
Andrew Walter

May 6 Bob Balwinski
Kevin Kunderinger
Henry Pfundt
Mariah Scheuerlein

May 7 Lois Kaiser
Virginia Kaiser
Erica Loesel

May 8 Abbigail Behmlander
Diane Feinauer

May 9 Piper Arocha
Shaynie Feinauer
Richard Jezowski

May 10 Kayleen Etienne

May 11 Amy Gaiser
Katie LaFramboise

May 12 Owen Kunderinger

May 13 Stephen Burk
Tomi-Jo Sinke
Rachel Walter

May 14 Madison Fiebke

May 15 Kelsea Noonan
Robby Samborn

May 16 Kimberly Boyle

May 17 Brenda Vogel
Jacob Cieslinski

May 18 *Alaina Burk*
Jacey Rezmer

May 19 Riley Helmreich
Leif Lehmann
Lisa Mrozinski

May 21 Charlie Shaw

May 22 Breann Fry
Barbara Rechsteiner

May 23 Paisley Brabaw
Justin Herbolsheimer
Kirt Kowalski
Zoey Jo Moreau

May 24 Josiah Anthor
Kristi Wegener

May 25 Thomas Kernstock

May 26 Addisyn Kotewa
Adam Wuerfel

May 28 Sydney Helmreich
Arlene Kernstock
Carolyn Nuffer
Bryce Kipfmiller

May 29 McKenzie Kernstock
Everly June Reszke

May 30 Judah Kaiser
Lincoln Sheppard

May 31 Nora Krueger
Kerri Wegener

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!