



# Monthly Monitor

June/July 2025

## God Gets Us Through

In and around the Kaiser house, the summer has often been a time to get some much-needed projects checked off our to-do list. Last summer we painted the exterior of our house (22 gallons of paint!!) and this year, I plan to put the finishing touches on the basement, then get back outside and work on the deck with some lighting changes in the front yard. Should make for a busy summer.

One of my most memorable summer projects happened a few years back when I took on a retaining wall project. Talk about labor-intensive!! There is nothing like shoveling dirt, lifting wall blocks and hauling buckets of gravel to get the blood pumping and the sweat rolling.



It was during this process that I came to a startling conclusion: I am older than I used to be!! I found that objects I could lift and move with ease 10 years ago, now put up quite a fight. I had aches in joints that I had never had before and found that ice packs were much more necessary to soothe my aching back each night. The entire experience reminded me of those famous words from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 40:30-31, “Even youths shall faint and be weary, and

young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

The process of aging makes us all reevaluate as we go along. As our bodies wear out over time, it points us to a harsh reality. We need help. We can't do what we used to do. We have to think about it more. We have to pace ourselves. And the hurts and aches are more pronounced and linger longer. Our physical condition begins to reflect more and more our spiritual condition. Helpless,

hopeless, broken and in pain. It becomes clearer as we suffer: We need Jesus!

When we are young, we think we can accomplish anything. But Isaiah reminds us that even the young wear out and fall exhausted. Perhaps as we age, one of the benefits is that we realize that we need God sooner and more often than we did when we were young.

In the past, I know I didn't pray during my projects like I did when I was building that retaining wall. I don't think I felt that I had to before, but that retaining wall changed some things. ;- ) I was praying all the time! “God, give me the strength to lift 10 more blocks, 5 more blocks, one more block before I finish.” “God please just keep the pain in my hands and back manageable.” “God, even a little breeze would be so wonderful right now!” And as I prayed about my issues, something remarkable happened; I started thinking and praying for others in need in my family, congregation and community. I started giving God thanks for His awesome gifts: Our wonderful home, agreeable weather, our beautiful group of believers at our church and His continued work in the world. And I thanked Jesus for His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. God used my pains and discomforts to draw me closer to Him and to pray for others.

Sooner than expected, that retaining wall was built; completed from top to bottom. But this time around it was clearer to me than ever, “The Lord got me through!” No matter what I am facing, this will always be the case! God will get me through. I guess if it takes a few more aches and pains and a few more days of recuperation to open my eyes to God's blessings, then so be it. Getting older may not be for wimps, but for us Christians we know that we don't age alone. God is with us each day, blessing us with all we need to carry on. Whether we realize it or not, God will get us through. To Him be the Glory!

**IF**  
**God**  
**BRINGS YOU**  
**TO IT, HE WILL**  
**BRING YOU**  
**THROUGH IT!**

Blessed Summer to Each of You,  
Pastor Kaiser

**TRINITY**  
**MONITOR**



# Stewardship Corner

## Time • Talent • Treasure

June/July-2025



### Checking on our Job as Stewards

A young boy walks into a small drug store and asks the druggist, "Could I use the telephone?"

The druggist replies, "You certainly can," and shows him where the telephone is. The boy calls a grocery store and asks the man who answers the phone, "Is your grocery store looking for someone to stock the shelves?" The man says, "No, we already have a stock boy." The boy inquires, "If he isn't doing a good job, maybe you need to get someone who will do a better job." The man replies, "No, we are pleased with the work the boy is doing," so the boy hung up the telephone.

The druggist hears the conversation and says to the boy, "I'm sorry you didn't get the job." The boy says, "I don't need a job, because I am the stock boy. I was checking to see what they thought of my work."

What if we could call God to ask about the job we are doing as His stewards? If it were possible to call, what kind of response would you expect to hear? Would God see you as a person who acknowledges all that you have as having been given to you by Him and yourself as a manager, not an owner? Would God tell you that you are using your time, talents, and money in ways that please Him? Would God commend you for feeding the hungry, for sheltering the homeless, for giving generously to those in need? Would God be pleased with what you are giving to His Church? Would God tell you, "*Well done, good and faithful steward*" (Matthew 25:23)?

Unfortunately, we all fall well short of God's standards, but, because of what Christ did for us on the cross, we are forgiven for all the times that we have failed to be faithful stewards. With God's grace given to us through His Son, we can be molded and transformed into God-pleasing stewards. In Christ, we can be stewards who do God's work well.

### Testing your Knowledge of Scripture

Do you know who in Scripture gave some land for the work of the Lord?

If you said Barnabas, you were right. In Acts 4:36-37 we read, "*Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.*"



In the early church, there were no needy people because no one claimed that any of his possessions were his own. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, they shared with one another. Those with plenty gave to those in need. Barnabas willingly gave the land he owned for the work of the apostles.

With God's help, you, too, can give freely and generously of the blessings God has entrusted to you.



# Trinity Lutheran School

## The Classroom Chronicles

June/July-2025

### *Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

As we close out another school year at Trinity Lutheran School, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt thanks for your faithful support, encouragement, and prayers throughout this academic journey.

This year has been filled with many blessings and growth opportunities for our students, faculty, and families. Through it all, we have seen the goodness of God and the power of His presence guiding us each step of the way. From classroom learning and chapel services to service projects and spiritual formation, the impact of Christ-centered education has been evident.

We would like to share with you some important news from our school community. At the close of this school year, we will be saying farewell to two member of our teaching staff.

Miss Megan Gallagher has accepted a call to be the 3rd grade teacher at St. Paul, Frankenlust. For nearly a decade Miss Gallagher has been sharing the love of Jesus with students here at Trinity. We pray for God's continued blessings and guidance as she begins this new chapter of ministry.

We also share that Mrs. Becky Houghteling is retiring from her full time teaching position in 3rd grade. We are so thankful for the 4 years Mrs. Houghteling spent teaching at Trinity - after retiring from her previous teaching position. We give thanks to God for the time Mrs. Houghteling has spent with us and for the gifts she has shared so generously. What a blessing she has been to our Trinity ministry and our community as a whole.



Mrs. Jeans 7th & 8th grade class trip to Washington DC.



2025 Track and Field Team



Olivia, Ahnuh, Alaina, Alex, Luke & Carson

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2025



Music Festival Participants:  
Thank you for using your musical talents to praise our loving God.

## The Classroom Chronicles –continued

As summer begins and we prepare for the year ahead, we invite you to continue walking with us in prayer for our students and staff. We are excited about the future and trust that God will continue to work mightily through this ministry.

We could not do this without you. Your support—whether through prayer, volunteering, financial gifts, or simply sharing words of encouragement—has helped sustain our mission and ministry. Because of your partnership, students at Trinity are growing in wisdom, character, and faith, equipped to shine the light of Christ in their homes, churches, and communities.

Thank you for being an essential part of what God is doing here at Trinity. We are grateful for your love and investment in the next generation of Christian leaders.

With sincere gratitude,

In Christ,  
Mrs. Karen Friebe



*Congratulations!*

**Alaina Gushow**  
2025 Valedictorian

Alaina will be giving her Valedictory Address to the congregation on Graduation Sunday which is Sunday, June 8th during the 10:30 service.



### *It is time for our **ACCREDITATION renewal.***

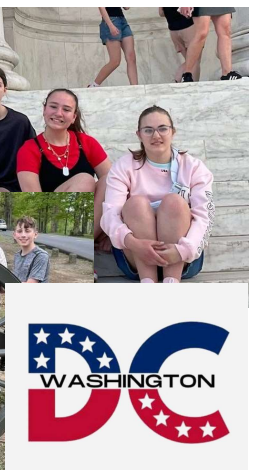
We are looking for congregation members to join our self-study team. Our accreditation team will be separated into seven focus areas (see the graphic below). This is an excellent opportunity to objectively evaluate our school and ministry. We would love for you to be a part of the evaluation process. Please contact the school office if you are interested in being a part of this extremely important and valuable process.

### *What is **Evidence Based Accreditation?***

Evidence Based Accreditation (EBA) is objective rather than subjective in nature. It requires that schools identify evidence and practices pertaining to each indicator. The significance of the evidence and its impact results in a high indicator rating by the school. Through this, the EBA process removes the subjective nature of what a school hopes to become and requires realistic objective evaluation of the current school and their present strengths and accomplishments.

### **NLSA Self Study Focus Areas**

Purpose  
Relationships  
Governance  
Professional Personnel  
Student Services  
Teaching and Learning  
Facilities



## Announcements



### RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

On June 8 we will be giving special recognition to the members of Trinity who graduate from high school or college this year. This recognition will take place during the 10:30 a.m. service. Please wear your cap and gown as well as any medals, stoles, or cords you may have received. Meet in the church basement by 10:15 a.m. Recognition for the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade graduates of Trinity Lutheran School will also take place during this service.



### **MISSED CHURCH ON SUNDAY?**

No worries! We've got you covered! Join us for WOW! (Worship On Wednesdays) at 6:00 PM, for an uplifting evening of praise, following our Creative Worship format, featuring the same scripture readings and sermon from Sunday's service.

### **WANT TO BE PART OF THE EXPERIENCE?**

WOW is looking for volunteers! If you would like to contribute, we'd love to have you join in. Whether it's reading Scripture, leading songs, or playing an instrument, there's a place for you. Scan the QR code to sign up!



### **SPECIAL WOW SERVICE**

Celebrate Independence Day with us on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00 pm as we thank the Lord for not only for the freedom we have in Christ, but also for American independence.



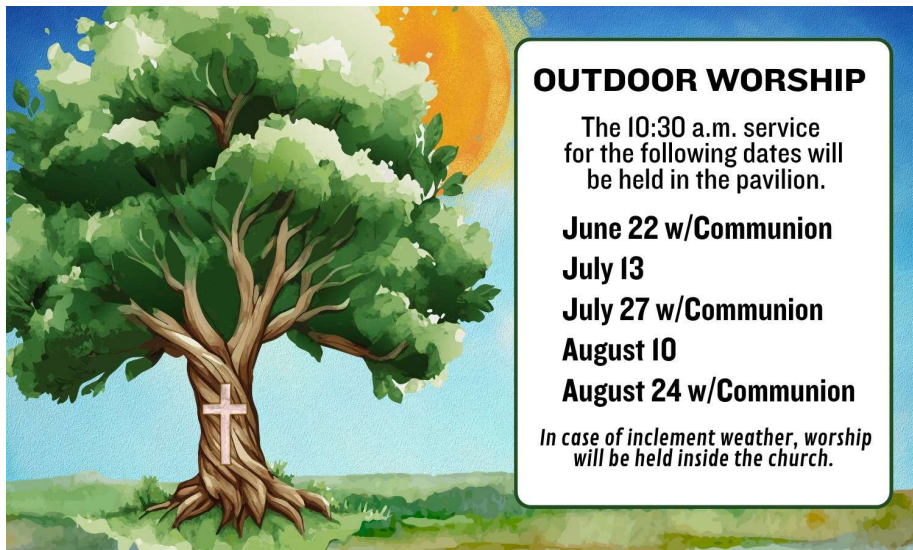
### **PLEASE NOTE!**

There will be no WOW service on the following dates:

June 18

July 23

August 6



### **OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

The 10:30 a.m. service for the following dates will be held in the pavilion.

**June 22 w/Communion**

**July 13**

**July 27 w/Communion**

**August 10**

**August 24 w/Communion**

*In case of inclement weather, worship will be held inside the church.*



### CHURCH DIRECTORY

If you had your picture taken for the Church Directory, you will be able to pick up your copy beginning Sunday, June 1, at the back of the church. A limited number of extra copies will be available for purchase for \$10 in the office beginning Monday, June 9. If you would like a copy, please call the church office.



SAVE THE DATE!

**42<sup>nd</sup> 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

## Blooper Ball Tournament

- Register your team today!
- Double Elimination
- Entry Fee \$150/Team
- Players must be at least 14 years old
- Teams may be Co-Ed



*For more information or to register a team, text Kyle at 989.239.8035*

## Weekend Events!

### Friday

Blooperball Games, Concessions,  
and Live Music!

### Saturday

Blooperball Games, Concessions,  
Chicken BBQ, Cornhole Tournament,  
and Live Music!

### Sunday

Outdoor Worship, Pig Roast, Concessions,  
and Championship Games!

*Bring your families and enjoy  
our celebration!*

You are invited to celebrate the Valley Lutheran Class of 2025 on June 8, 2025! Join us in-person for the 2:00 Commencement Service at Sargent Stadium at VLHS or attend via livestream at [www.vlhs.com/graduationlive](http://www.vlhs.com/graduationlive). Information about seating, parking, and more is available at [www.vlhs.com/graduation](http://www.vlhs.com/graduation). (Note: This location is weather permitting, the alternate location is Peace Lutheran School gym, Saginaw).

The Valley Lutheran Softball Program invites 6th-9th grade girls to a FREE softball clinic on July 15 and 16 from 10 am - noon at the VLHS softball field. Sign up to attend at [www.vlhs.com/softballclinic](http://www.vlhs.com/softballclinic). Attendees should plan to arrive 15 minutes ahead of time each day.

Registration continues for Valley Lutheran Youth Football and Youth Cheerleading for the fall. The 5-6th grade football team is full but spots remain on the 3-4th and 7-8th grade teams and on the cheer squad. Head to [www.vlhs.com/youthsports](http://www.vlhs.com/youthsports) to learn about these programs and get signed up!



*It's always a great time when Mr. Kyle Dewees visits Trinity!*

## MEALS FOR SARAH EARLE & FAMILY

Sarah Earle, our 4th grade teacher, is undergoing major surgery and will be unable to do many things for several weeks. We've organized a Meal Train to help her and her family. You can sign up with this link (or by using the QR code): <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/mv42w6> At the moment we have three weeks of meal dates. More may be added later as needed. Thank you for helping your fellow sister in Christ and her family!



### 2025 Wild Game Dinner Auction

#### Purposes of the WGDA Committee:

- Philippians 2:4 – “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”
  - **To Assist Trinity Lutheran Church/School with Mission and Ministry**
- Matthew 28:19-20 – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”
  - **To Share the Gospel**
- Genesis 1:28 – “And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
  - **To be Caretakers of God’s Creation**

**2025 PROFIT = \$48,546.27**

#### 2025 Allocations:

- \$27,000 to pay off the Playground
- \$15,000 towards the Church Boiler Project – just let us know when you need the down payment.
- \$700 to The Gate for the Endure Youth Gathering - \$350 was directly raised at the Event and we are matching it for the \$700 total.
- \$500 to MUCC (Michigan United Conservation Clubs) – for a Gold Sponsorship at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mike Avery Outdoors Charity Golf Outing. Proceeds will benefit the Michigan Out-of-Doors Youth Camp

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Wild Game Dinner 2026  
Saturday, March 7th**

#### *del Rey Promotions Presents:*

##### Josh Wilson in Concert

With Special Guest Steve Lampi

Wednesday June 18, 2025

Gates Open at 5:00

Concert Starts at 6:00

Bring Your Own Chairs

Tickets \$10.00 at gate

Online tickets at: [event.attendstar.com](https://event.attendstar.com)

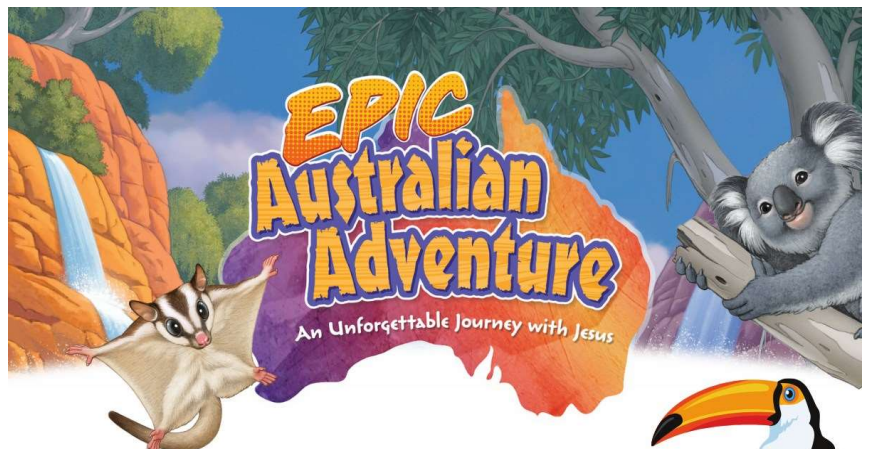
Auburn Cornfest Tent

US-10 at 9 Mile Road Exit

435 S. Auburn Road

Auburn, MI 48611

More Information: 989 662-6050



#### **Vacation Bible School is coming to Trinity!**

**July 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> 2025  
5:30-8:00 pm**

We're going on an epic adventure through Australia, and you're invited! Jesus, who tells us "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6) will be our guide as we encounter amazing animals, lush landscapes, stunning sea life, and wondrous wilderness. With awesome planning tools, both physical and digital, VBS has truly been brought back to full force.



**Scan the QR code to register.**



Thank you to **ExxonMobil** for the **Educational Alliance Grant!** Special thanks to **Dore Corporation** for nominating Trinity Monitor!