



# Monthly Monitor

October 2025

## Rest in Jesus

I don't know about you, but for me, the last couple weeks have been heavy. While I certainly have had plenty to do with the beginning of the school year, a couple weddings, several baptisms, and a handful of funerals, I have nevertheless found my thoughts wandering more and more to the condition of the world and the state of our great country. It feels as though we are very much broken and divided.

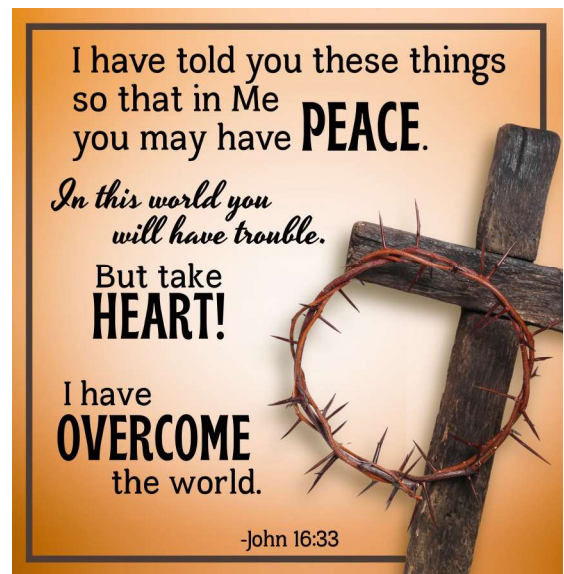
On September 10<sup>th</sup>, there was another school shooting. This time it was back in Colorado. A high school student walked into school one day and opened fire, critically injuring two classmates and then taking his own life. The shooter's weapon and tactical gear that he possessed were covered in neo-nazi slogans and symbols.

On the very same day, September 10<sup>th</sup>, popular conservative Christian speaker Charlie Kirk was assassinated at a college event in Utah where he was scheduled to speak to and debate people with differing social and political points of view. On the shooter's shell casings, were written far-left antifa slogans and references.

Deadly attacks on the innocent from radical madmen on both ends of the political spectrum. On the same day, the eve of September 11<sup>th</sup>; which is a date that, in itself, carries its own infamy in the history of our country. Heavy, heavy stuff.

All that being said, it is clear that people from all walks of life and viewpoints in our culture are searching. They are searching for acceptance, purpose and direction.

There is a giant void in the center of our human existence that only a relationship with Jesus can fill. But, unfortunately, we as a culture have been quite adept at offering counterfeit things to fill that void. And it seems that the traditional cultural counterfeits: money, possessions, sex, power, and fame are more and more including identity claims, which stand in opposition to objective reality, and violence. It seems like the rationale is that if I can hurt or harm those who oppose me idealistically, this will somehow make a difference.



Like I said, heavy, heavy stuff. Dark stuff. In John 16, Jesus warns His disciples of times like this. Before He was arrested, Jesus says: "Behold, an hour is coming, and has *already* come, for you to be scattered, each to his own *home*, and to leave Me alone; and *yet* I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Yes, there will be trouble and much darkness in the world. But Jesus gives us THE thing, really THE ONLY thing to fill the void. Himself. Jesus says "*in Me* you may have peace." Peace and purpose, acceptance and direction can be found in this broken and dark world in the death and resurrection of our

-Continued

# TRINITY MONITOR

LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 20 E. SALZBURG RD BAY CITY, MI 48706 (989)662-6093/(989)662-4891



Lord Jesus Christ. And truly, only in Christ and His promise of restoration and renewal in the New Creation to come can we have true peace.

Saint Augustine once famously said, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." Though he said it some 1600 years ago, I truly think Augustine's words could not be more profound that when applied to the struggles of our day and age.

In Christ alone we find peace, In Christ alone we find rest. So when we face heavy and dark stuff, and there certainly will be more to come, it would behoove us to listen to the voice of Jesus when He says, "take courage". This is exactly what we must do. Take heart, take courage and let the brokenness and darkness of this world that so often descends upon us remind you at this is NOT all there is for us. God has so so much in store for us in the life to come. But until that day arrives, know that Jesus has got this. He has already overcome sin, death and the power of the devil. He has already won the victory. The worst this world can do to us does not compare to the best that God has in store for us.

In the meantime, we pray each day for the strength to carry on in our time here on earth and seek to serve the lost and searching by pointing them to Jesus. Over and over we will do this as a congregation and as individual until one day when the whole world finds it's rest in HIM.



## Stewardship Corner

### Time • Talent • Treasure

October 2025

### Is God Calling You Foolish?



In the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21), Jesus taught a lesson about the importance of acknowledging God's ownership of our possessions and the damaging effects of being greedy for more. In the parable, Jesus told about a successful farmer who had so much excess grain that he decided to tear down his existing barns to build bigger ones so he would have a place to store it. His sin was not in protecting his investment by building bigger barns. He sinned in his failure to acknowledge God as the provider and owner of all that he had, his indifference to those in need around him, and his greed for more. Because he placed his trust in himself and his possessions instead of God, Jesus called him a "fool." His life was centered only on himself.

The Rich Fool never discovered the real meaning of life. Jesus said, "*For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?*" (Mark 8:36). The Rich Fool saw his wealth as his own and didn't acknowledge God. He lost all his wealth, which was the focus of his life, and forfeited his soul as well.

In our own lives, are we building bigger barns so that God is calling us fools? Our "barns" may not store grain; they might hold our luxury cars, the mansions we live in, the retirement accounts we're funding. Regardless of what it is we hold dear, if we fail to acknowledge that God is the owner and in control of our lives and if worldly pursuits have become overly important, the label of "fool" is applicable to us. We may not be as rich as the Rich Fool, but we can still be fools.



# Trinity Lutheran School

## The Classroom Chronicles

October 2025

### Let's Make a Joyful Noise 2025-26

Sing praises to the Lord  
with the lyre, with the lyre  
and the sound of melody!

-PSALM 98:5

As we embrace the beauty of fall and the blessings of October, the students and staff of Trinity Lutheran School want to extend our deepest gratitude to you, our church family. Your unwavering support, both through your prayers and your generous financial contributions, is a true blessing to our school.

I hope many of you were able to celebrate Christian Education Sunday with us in September. Our school staff and faculty were installed for this upcoming school year and all students in grades 1 - 8 blessed us through song in sharing our special Hymn of the Year and month of September "Let us Make a Joyful Noise". Our PTO also hosted the School Carnival and so much fun was had by all the children (and I'm sure some parents too). This was a wonderful opportunity for families to connect and reconnect. Thank you, PTO, for your tireless work and dedication to our students and school.

The upcoming month of October will be busy - as usual - for our school. We start the month with Parent Teacher Conferences and then move on to tournament weekend for Soccer and "A" Volleyball (volleyball is combined with Bethlehem, Saginaw this year). After tournaments, our PTO is hosting a "Trunk or Treat" on Friday, October 17th. Be sure to watch for information to join in the fun and trunk decorating competition. Shortly after Trunk or Treat the work for Harvest Dinner will start which is always an exciting (and delicious) time for our church and school families.

Accreditation committees are starting to form. If you would like to be a part of this team we would love to have you. The specific areas of focus are: Purpose, Relationships, Leadership, Professional Personnel, Teaching and Learning, Student Services, Facilities and Finances. Each area (or Standard) has 1 or more teacher and board of education member leading the committee. We are looking for congregation members and school parents to help us complete this in-depth self-study of our school to achieve the renewal of our National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) status. If you are interested in serving or finding out more, please reach out to me by calling the school office, stopping in or sending me a message at [kfriebe@trinitymonitor.org](mailto:kfriebe@trinitymonitor.org).

Thank you for being such an essential part of our school community. We pray that God blesses you abundantly for your kindness and generosity.

In His service,  
Mrs. Karen Friebe

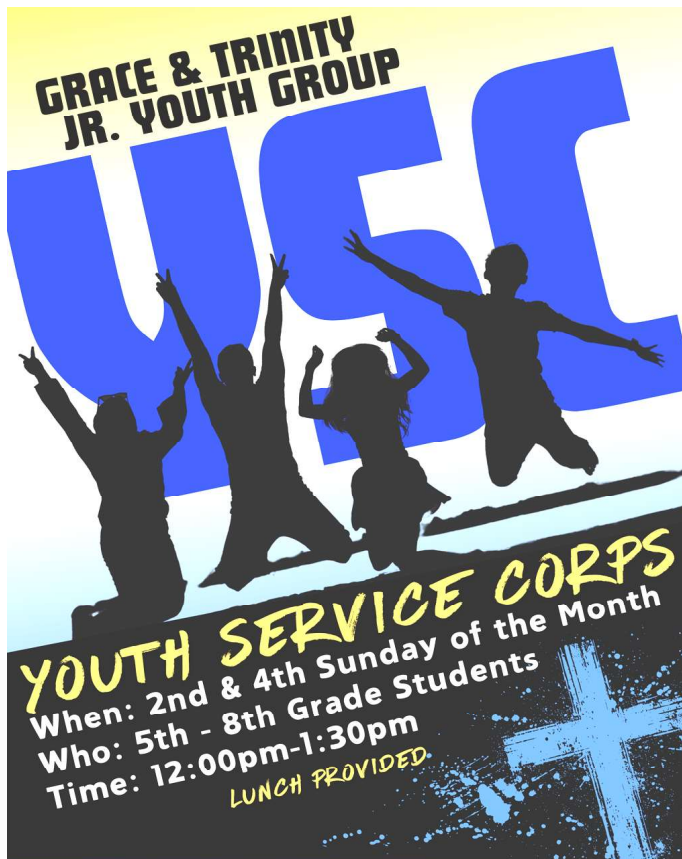
### Seeking Prayer Angels for our Trinity Classes

Please pick a class that you would like to connect with. Prayers are our greatest need, but you can also connect by talking with the class, sharing your favorite bible verse, showing them how to do something you love to do (baking, writing, fishing, games, etc.) We need congregation members to help us in making this Church - School Connection. Thank you in advance for considering this important opportunity. Please contact the school office if you are interested in *connecting*.



## Announcements

**GRACE & TRINITY  
JR. YOUTH GROUP**



**WEL**

**YOUTH SERVICE CORPS**  
When: 2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month  
Who: 5th - 8th Grade Students  
Time: 12:00pm-1:30pm  
*LUNCH PROVIDED*

@GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH-AUBURN

Grace And Trinity Engage  
AT



**THE GATE**  
High School Youth Group



**Join us at "The GATE"**  
Who: All High School Youth  
Time: 12:15pm-1:30pm  
When: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month  
Where: Trinity Lutheran School-Cafeteria  
Call or Text Kate Kaiser 712.242.8072  
**Lunch Provided**



DINE-IN  
OR  
TAKE-OUT

# HARVEST DINNER & BAKE SALE

SUNDAY-OCTOBER 26, 2025

11:30AM-1:30PM

ALL DINNERS INCLUDE  
PORK SAUSAGE-ROAST BEEF-SQUASH  
MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY-SAUERKRAUT  
GLAZED CARROTS-DESSERT-ROLL



PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT  
AUBURN AREA FOOD BANK-CHURCH BOILER PROJECT

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

# TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 17TH  
5:30-7:30PM



SCAN THE QR  
CODE TO ENTER  
A TRUNK OR  
DONATE CANDY



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE - GAMES & ACTIVITIES  
CONTEST FOR BEST TRUNK

### **WELLSPRING LUTHERAN SERVICES**

Gift cards for Bay County Foster Children serviced by the Bay City Wellspring office, to help purchase Christmas gifts, will be collected again this year. We are collection \$30 Walmart Gift cards and/or \$30 checks made out to Wellspring Lutheran Child and Family Services. These gift cards and/or checks may be dropped off at the Wellspring office at 6019 Westside Saginaw Rd. in Bay City or The Economy Center at 408 Columbus Ave. in Bay City by November 12, 2025. Any Questions call Kathie Colone @ 989-671-9650.

The Wellspring Child & Family Auxiliary will be having a meeting on Monday, October 6, 2025. The meeting will be at Grace Lutheran Church in Auburn and will begin at 6:00pm.

### **IN HIS IMAGE DOXOLOGY**

**November 1, 2025  
8:00am-4:00pm  
St. John Amelith**

Scan here to register



We are hosting a seminar with Doxology presenting "Navigating Christian Sexuality in a Post-Christian Culture. With the legal redefinition of marriage, the confusion regarding gender, and rapidly changing sexual mores in society, biblical educators, pastors, singles, couples, and parents are looking for guidance in articulating and promoting a positive view of the Christian vision for marriage and sexuality. Please visit our website to register and save your seat. The conference will be featuring speakers Rev. David Fleming and Dr. Beverly Yahnke from Doxology. To register scan the QR code, go to [www.amelith.org](http://www.amelith.org), see the event on Facebook or call Deb Hutter 989-316-8322.

### **SMORGASBORD & COUNTRY STORE**

Zion Lutheran Church of Auburn will be hosting its annual Smorgasbord Dinner and Country Store on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The meal is take out-only and the cost is \$15 each. It includes pork sausage, ¼ chicken, sauerkraut, dressing, German potato salad, mashed potatoes and gravy, baked beans, squash, coleslaw, and pie. The Country Store will feature Christmas items, sweethearts, plants, homegrown produce, candy, baked goods, and handcrafted items.



# Valley Lutheran HIGH SCHOOL

### **Calling grade school volleyball fans!**

Grade School Night at Charger Volleyball is Wednesday, October 8 at Valley Lutheran and you're invited! Approximate start time for varsity is 6:30 or come earlier for more volleyball fun! Students - wear a shirt representing your grade school for free student admission to the game. (Other tickets can be purchased online ahead of time at [www.vlhs.com/tickets](http://www.vlhs.com/tickets) or at the door for \$7.) Check in to the Admissions table between 5:00 and 6:30 for a free gift! We'll see you there!

### **Come take a Peek at Valley!**

A firm foundation. Life preparation. And a place to belong. Come take a peek at Valley on Tuesday, October 21 beginning at 6:00 pm. Whether you're planning ahead for your child's future, or high school is right around the corner - this night is for you! Let us know you're coming and choose an arrival time at [www.vlhs.com/takeapeek](http://www.vlhs.com/takeapeek).

### **Fruit Sale Begins Soon**

The Valley Lutheran Booster Club Fruit Sale kicks off on October 1! The following fruit is available:

Florida Indian River Naval Oranges

Florida Pink Grapefruit

Mixed Navel Oranges/Pink Grapefruit

Florida Mandarin Oranges

Citrus Delight (all 3)

The sale continues until November 7. Fruit can be ordered from Valley students or online at [www.vlhs.com/fruitsale](http://www.vlhs.com/fruitsale) (online ordering begins Oct. 1). Orders should be picked up at VLHS on Saturday, December 6.

### **Job Posting: Food Service Assistant**

Valley Lutheran High School is seeking a food service assistant in the kitchen on an occasional or substitute basis. The ideal candidate is someone who values the Valley Lutheran mission (Preparing students for life with Christ as our foundation!) and our students, and someone with some food service experience. Any potential hours would be between 6:30 am and 1:00 pm on weekdays. Contact Valley Lutheran High School Executive Director Al Kaul for more information at 989-790-1676 or [akaul@vlhs.com](mailto:akaul@vlhs.com)