



Trinity Lutheran Church

Proclaiming, Teaching and Living the Gospel of Christ!

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:30am

*Holy Communion is
celebrated weekly on
Saturday & Sunday*

Summer Sunday School
will run
Through July 26th
Sundays at 9:30am

Sat. Adult Bible Study 4:00pm
Sun. Adult Bible Study 9:45am

A Prayer For our Nation

Dear Jesus,

*You are King of kings and
Lord of lords. Please rule
over our nation for the
good of all its citizens and
of Your church, which You
have established. Grant
Your wisdom to all in
authority on the local,
state, and federal levels
that their governance
would please You. Move
Your Holy Spirit
throughout this nation. In
Your name I pray.*

Amen.



Concordia Publishing House
Portals of Prayer
April-June, 2026
Page 115

July 2026 - Newsletter

Thank you for helping with VBS 2026

Special thanks to our VBS Co-Directors & Board of Education Crew: Heather Meredith & Lynne Noffke, Heather Thurston, and Emma Kruse, thank you for all your work planning and directing VBS 2026. We all have been blessed through your service!



From The VBS Directors & The Board of Education: Heartfelt thanks to all that helped in any way with VBS 2026. We had a lot of fun on our *Tropical Trek*! Student attendance each day was: Monday 68; Tuesday 66; Wednesday 74; Thursday 71; Friday 75. VBS Mission offerings of \$1,225.00 will be given to the *Trek & Tell* mission of Concordia Gospel Outreach which provides Christian books to children all over the world! Also, many cans of food were collected for the Herscher Council of Churches food baskets. ***The children were challenged and met the donation goal, resulting in Pastor Brown and Mr. Caleb receiving a pie in their faces and coloring their hair/beards red for Pastor and blue for Caleb!!!*** Thank you to the children, families, congregation and friends for your generosity and your support of these missions and ministries. May the Lord bless them with your gifts.

Summer Sunday School—Help Needed

Class will continue on Sunday mornings at 9:30am through July 26th in the 1st-2nd grade classroom.

Volunteer teachers are still needed. Please contact Heather Thurston if you would be willing to lead Sunday School one Sunday in July. Thank you!

Voters' Meeting



Our Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held Sunday, July 19th at 11:00am. Lunch will be served at 10:45am. Nominations for January 2027-December 2029 officer positions will be open at this meeting.

255 E. Third Street, P.O. Box 414 Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2262

Web site: trinitylutheranherscher.org Email: trinityherl@comcast.net

Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/trinityherscher

First Article Gifts

The second part of the explanation of the first article of the Creed declares that God “also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.” We will often refer to these as “first article gifts” - the stuff that God gives to us, the things we use for our lives, and the people we relate to in our lives.



The discussion of first article gifts often comes up every year around Thanksgiving with a good reminder to be thankful, to be filled with gratitude. And we should! We should remember every day how richly blessed we are.

We need to be on guard against the spirits of envy and greed that are lurking around our society today that constantly tell everyone to never be happy or content with anything that they have.

However, we also ought to remember the wonder of this. Your stuff isn't just mere stuff. It isn't just random things that happened to end up in your life. God Almighty, Creator of all things, has so created, established, and run His creation so that you can in fact receive the stuff that you have from Him. These are gifts He has given to you for you to use for yourself and for the good of the neighbors God has also given you.

This ties into the mystery of Stewardship – that God places very real parts of His creation under our care. That God entrusts to us the very serious responsibility of being stewards of His creation. I'm a husband and a father – God has placed the lives of three other people into my care – that's profound. But it rolls out with all the rest of these first article gifts. My house (which happens to actually be the congregation's house in my case), my shoes, the food I get to prepare and share – these all things God entrusts me with, that He out of His love and generosity provides.

So next Tuesday, when the drudgery of life comes in, and you're doing some chore or task that you've done hundreds of times before, pause. Have a sense of wonder. This is a gift God has given you, whether it's dinner to prepare, a carpet to vacuum, a diaper to change, a field to work, some bit of paperwork to fill out. God has richly provided for you, and you have things to do – a purpose, a place, tasks that actually serve other creatures that God loves, and He loves them through you.

We live enmeshed in a wondrous weave of first article gifts, our own place in this tapestry of God's miraculous creation. Don't let sin (via boredom, disdain, or envy) rob of you of the joy and wonder that is yours. This is the day that not only has God made but that He has given to you – rejoice and be glad in it!

- *Pastor Brown*

Christian Education Schedule

Summer Sunday School will be held through July 26th Sundays at 9:30am. Meet in the classroom.

High School Bible Study will resume in September.

Sunday Adult Bible Study is held Sundays at approximately 9:45am after Sunday worship. We are currently studying the *book of Galatians*.

Saturday Adult Bible Study is held Saturdays at 4:00pm before the worship service. We are studying the *book of Philemon*.

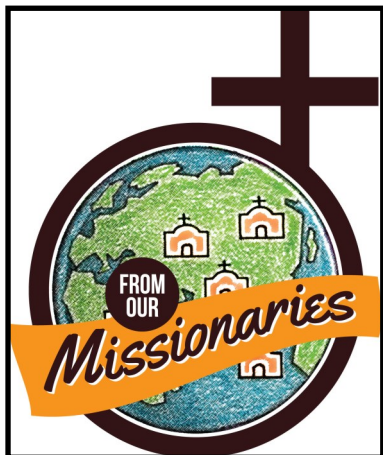
Facebook Live devotions are held online most weeks, Monday through Thursday at 8:00am.

Confirmation Class will be forming and starting up in September. Contact Pastor with any questions.

Be in the Word!
It's a great place to be!
All are welcome.

Missionaries

Please continue to pray for our missionaries Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump and their family as they continue to share God's love and spread His Word in Africa.



Weekly Bulletin Deadline

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office each **Wednesday by noon**. Thank you!

Monthly Newsletter Deadline

Articles, announcements and information for the August newsletter are due **Wednesday, July 22nd by 9:00am**. Thank you!



Pastoral Care Contacts

Pastor Brown often roams around in his duties, but he will be happy to meet with you. Please call, text or email to set up a time.

Pastor's Email: pastorbrown.trinity@comcast.net
Pastor's Cell phone (call or text): 815-953-9995
Pastor's Office phone: 815-426-2262 x102

Diane Hart will continue to be in the office as often as needed. Phone messages and email are checked multiple times daily.

Diane's Email: trinityherl@comcast.net
Diane's Office phone: 815-426-2262 x101
Diane's Cell phone (call or text): 708-307-2710

Parish Hall Rental/ Property Check-Out List

The Parish Hall may be rented to Trinity members for various functions. Please contact Diane in the office to schedule, remit rental fee, and obtain a copy of the guidelines. **Reminder, the kitchen, tables and chairs should be left clean and floors swept. Restrooms should be checked for tidiness.**

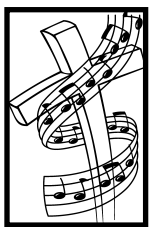
Also, any property borrowed (old tables, kitchen items, etc.) need to be signed out on the check-out sheet in the church office. Please note, per the Church Council, the white tables and chairs may not leave the church property. **Also, all items used are to be returned clean and stored appropriately.**

Villas at Herscher Services

Worship services are planned for Villas at Herscher Mondays, July 13th & 27th at 3:00pm.



Kantor's Korner



Choir rehearsals will resume in September.

Enjoy your summer!

-- Caleb Dehning



Christ Lutheran High School Buckley, IL Annual Fundraiser Auction

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
22nd
ANNUAL KNIGHT FOR
CHRIST
BENEFIT AUCTION
Saturday
AUGUST 22, 2026
FORD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
329 E. 3RD STREET
MELVIN, IL

RESERVATIONS ARE
\$50
RSVP REQUIRED

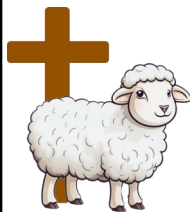
The Silent Auction begins promptly at 4:00pm.
Dinner, consisting of strolling food stations, will
be from 4:00-6:00pm followed by the live
auction.

Visit our website at
www.christlutheranbuckley.com



like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/CLHSKnightforChrist/

Little Lambs Preschool



Last month I attended the Illinois Lutheran School Administrators Conference. By the end of the first day, it was clear that Trinity is a special place when it comes to our school. Much of the conference dealt with struggles Lutheran schools face, and, well... most of them did not apply to us. It's true that some of what makes us special is that our preschool is small and part-time. We simply do not find ourselves wrapped up in the same amount of red tape other schools must handle. Another factor is that we are in an under-served area, with more preschoolers than there are spots available at our local schools. However, there is much, much more to this. One presenter mentioned three main issues for early childhood, with the attendees in major agreement: 1) pastoral engagement; 2) church engagement and support; and 3) community engagement. How does a school build these relationships?

The first issue did not apply for obvious reasons. Pastor Brown is great at engaging the kids in chapel, making the Bible lesson interesting, and being a familiar face to our students. Supporting the preschool was important to him from the moment he accepted the call to Trinity; our pastor believes that the Holy Spirit is indeed present and active at Lutheran preschools, and he treats it with due importance. So that was one big struggle we could cross off our list.

Next, church engagement. The speaker (a pastor) mentioned that it was important that a church view their school as a mission, not just a way to grow the church or as something that exists separately. Again, I was pleased to reflect that God has blessed Little Lambs with a supporting founding church that truly treats it as a mission. Trinity provides funding when needed, makes space for us and tends it well, and is interested in our projects and events. We receive wonderful donations like books, pumpkins, and school supplies. Our space is not only in good repair, but beautiful (if you've never seen the classroom mural Kevin Kruse and his family painted, I'd be happy to show you)! Church members help out at events and support our fundraisers, and I love to pass on all the compliments on our projects on the bulletin board. This isn't a church who said, "If most of these kids go to church somewhere else, what's the point?" This is a church who said, "It's important that the children of our community are educated, and that they know God's love and hear His Word."

And finally, there's our community. Our students get to visit our fire department, trick-or-treat at a local bank, and see our local veterinarian's practice. We even tried the post office (thank you, Misty!), but we realized that was more field trips than we could handle. Parents speak well of us to others; teachers at the school district are willing to send their own children here. Our community knows Little Lambs, both through the children who attend and through the members of our congregation. I can now say with even more confidence that this is not the case for many Lutheran schools.

Thank you for being such a loving, supportive congregation. Thank you for caring about what we do and finding ways to help us keep doing it. Thank you for being there for us not only in our times of need, but at work and baseball games and everywhere else you go. God has blessed Little Lambs many times over. My one request right now is that you say a prayer for the many Lutheran schools who are struggling, whatever the reason. God knows their need and how best to address it.

— Mrs. Brown

Raise Right Gift/Shopping Card Program

Trinity's Gift/Shopping Card Program through Raise Right—This program is available year-round.

All orders will be placed on Mondays, allowing for delivery usually by Thursday of the same week (online orders will be submitted with the paper orders). New customers please contact Diane Hart in the office for the enrollment code or with any questions. Go to raiseright.com for more information or ask for a printed list of vendors if you prefer.

Thank you for supporting Little Lambs Preschool simply by shopping!



RaiseRight

Simply the right way to fundraise

Trinity Sewing/Quilting Group

Trinity Sewing and Quilting Group will meet Tuesday, July 7th. Come when you can between 10:30am and 3:30pm. We continue to use Thrivent cards to purchase batting and fabric for quilt backs. Around 135 quilts are packed in boxes with about twenty more to tie. We can still use flat sheets for the backs.

We continue to make port pillows for Phil's Friends and sent more than 200 last month. Many included patriotic designs for the late-June box shipment.

Board of Education

The July meeting will be held Sunday, July 12th at 10:30am. Please contact Lynne Noffke with any questions.

Church Council

The Church Council will meet Tuesday, July 14th at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Hannah Circle

We will not be meeting in July or August. Thanks for your support throughout the year for our collections and fundraisers. Enjoy your summer!

July Card Care: Barbara Schwark

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will not meet during the month of July.

Herscher Council of Churches

Herscher Christian Church will distribute food boxes from the IL Food Bank on Tuesday, July 14, beginning at 10:00am.

Our quarterly meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 28th at Herscher Christian Church at 6:00pm.

LWML

The Fall workshop for Zone 18 will be held October 3rd at St. Paul Lutheran School Bourbonnais. LWML Northern District Convention will be held September 18th and 19th at Christ Lutheran Church and School Yorkville. We can send two delegates from our church. More details to follow. 42nd Biennial National Convention will be held July 8-11, 2027.

LWR School Bags



Trinity will be filling school bags with supplies for LWR School bags. School bags were purchased with Thrivent funds. We are asking the congregation to help fill the bags. We were able to purchase some supplies in bulk. Listed below are the items to fill a bag. A tub will be available for your donations.

- 4 70 sheets notebooks wide or college ruled
- 1 30-centimeter ruler/one side inches
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 pair blunt scissors
- 5 ink pens (black or blue, no gel)
- 5 pencils (not sharpened)
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 2-inch eraser

If you do not want to fill a complete bag, cash donations are appreciated and we will buy additional items in bulk. Items we do not have on hand are 70 notebook sheets wide or college (4 per bag), crayons 24 crayons, blunt scissors. Most sales are in July. By the time school starts sales are off. You may give your donation to Connie Tranos or any member of Martha Circle or in an envelope in the collection plate addressed Martha Circle school supplies. Thank you in advance. Every dollar helps no donation is too small. We thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Connie Tranos at 815-735-9592.

Trini-Teens

Watch the upcoming bulletins for the next Trini-Teens project/event.



Member Birthdays



- 01 Carl Schaumburg
- 02 Megan Kersten
- 03 Cory Evans
- 04 Carol Jensen
- 05 Brett Harrod, Wanda Janssen,
Shawn Zirkle
- 06 Alyxandria Rink
- 07 Violetta Donovan
- 08 Chelsea Starasinich, Jade Warmbir
- 09 Debbie Dodds, Brian Witheft
- 10 Libby Gross, Madison Moritz
- 11 Jacob Fortado
- 12 Caleb Dehning, Austin Yeast
- 13 Jerry Jackson, Abigale Johnston,
Dolores Warmbir
- 14 Taylor Gaus, Noah Whitesell
- 15 Jill Van Voorst
- 16 Darian Berns, Leah Grace, Ann Hendrix,
Ryan Kruse, Emily Lynch
- 17 Blaine Dodds
- 18 Celia Brown, Cole Meredith, Duane Sharper
- 19 Susanne Starasinich
- 20 Anita Gordon, JoAnn Dickman
- 23 Brian Berger, Kennedi Huston
- 24 AJ Shepard
- 26 Rachel Grace
- 27 Norma Bell
- 28 Matthew Jensen
- 29 Jack Peters
- 30 Kelsey Fansler, Emma Van Voorst
- 31 Jolene Kwiatkowski

Please notify Diane in the church office if there are any errors or omissions. Thank you!

A Birthday Prayer

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who gives us days to celebrate our birth. You have imparted Your breath that we might live before You. You call us to number our days and count the blessings we've received so that we are mindful of where we come from and where we are going. Bless this coming year, and strengthen me to serve You joyfully with all my heart. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Concordia Publishing House
Portals of Prayer
July-Sep., 2026
pg. 111

Trinity Lutheran Church

May 31, 2026

Financial Summary

General

Beg. Balance	\$19,621.00
Revenues	48,045.14
Expenses	32,498.50
Ending Balance	\$35,167.84

Mission Fund

Beg. Balance	\$10,225.00
Revenues	1,675.00
Expenses	0.00
Ending Balance	\$11,900.00

Little Lambs Preschool

Beg. Balance	\$ 6,475.69
Revenues	3,115.00
Expenses	5,131.08
Ending Balance	\$ 4,459.61

Complete financial reports are reported at Quarterly Voters' Meetings held usually on the third Sundays of January, April, July and October.

Please contact Diane in the church office if you need to pick up your offering envelopes, have them issued, or wish to be removed from the offering envelope list.



Treasurer's Report

Online Giving

There are numerous ways to access online giving. Type in this secure link:

<https://onrealm.org/TrinityLutheran76917/give/now>

No login is required. The link also is found on our website at trinitylutheranherscher.org and the Universal Church Photo Directory App. You may also scan this QR code, or text

"TRINITYHERSCHER" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

(This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply. Privacy Policy - <https://help.acst.com/en/trust-center/policies/privacy-policy> Terms of Service - <https://help.acst.com/en/trust-center/policies/terms-of-service>)



If you have questions relating to Online Giving for Trinity, please feel free to contact Diane in the church office.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter article – July, 2026

Go ... Sell All You Have?

Originally published July 2023



“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, “No!” But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn’t excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock. This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the Means of Grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What’s more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don’t let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

Serving Our Lord This Month — July 2026

Elder/Communion Assistant

July 04*	Dan Shute
July 05*	Stan Schwark
July 11*	Jerry Brutlag
July 12*	Dan Shute
July 18*	Chris Knobloch
July 19*	John Varvel
July 25*	Mike Bruner
July 26*	Jeremy Thurston

*Denotes Holy Communion Served

USHERS

THIS MONTH

Usher Captains

Van Swark (Sat.)

Bill Orr (Sun.)

Usher Team

Adam Crane; Kevin Peterson;
Cameron Schwark
Al Janssen; Chip Thurston;
Deb Weerts; Kim Weerts



Paula Kruse
&
Pam Peterson

Altar Flowers

July 04/05	Ruth Kruse asking God to bless our country
July 11/12	<i>Available</i>
July 18/19	Jane & Carl Schaumburg on the occasion of Cole Meredith's 11th birthday
July 25/26	Eric & Heather Meredith on the occasion of their 14th anniversary



Trinity— July 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	2 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	3	4 <i>Communion</i> Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
Pastor vacation through July 5th						
5 <i>Communion</i> Worship 8:30am Summer Sunday School 9:30am Adult Bible 9:45am	6	7 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Quilt Tying/ Sewing Group 10:30am-3:30pm	8 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	9 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	10	11 <i>Communion</i> Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
12 <i>Communion</i> Worship 8:30am Summer Sunday School 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Board of Ed meeting 10:30am	13 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Worship Service @ Villas 3:00pm	14 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Council 7:00pm	15 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	16 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	17	18 <i>Communion</i> Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
19 <i>Communion</i> Worship 8:30am Summer Sunday School 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am 10:45am Lunch 11:00am Voters' Meeting	20 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	21 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	22 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am August Newsletter Deadline 9:00am	23 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	24	25 <i>Communion</i> Worship 5:00pm
26 <i>Communion</i> Worship 8:30am Summer Sunday School 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am	27 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Worship Service @ Villas 3:00pm	28 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Herscher Council of Churches 6:00pm @ Herscher Christian Church	29 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	30 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	31	

**Deadlines for printing: Bulletin announcement deadline-Wednesdays 12:00pm
August Newsletter deadline-Wednesday, July 22nd by 9:00am**