

Entering The New Covenant

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Last month, I wrote about the Sabbath. The Sabbath still exists for us today in Christianity, but it is a first-day Sabbath that is celebrated on Sunday, the first day of the week. The Sabbath was one of three eternal signs between God and His people (Exodus 31:17). While some may object that this was only for the Jewish people, it is clear from Galatians that Christians are now God's chosen Israel. It is true that many of the Old Testament ceremonies, sacrifices, and more have passed away and been fulfilled in Christ. Unlike those other laws, observing the Sabbath day was a statute "forever." Yet keeping the Sabbath Day holy was not the only sign of God to be kept forever. There are actually three "forever signs." This month, I want to talk about another one of those forever signs, the sign of circumcision.

Now, hold up for a minute. Before we start thinking about the act of circumcision, let's first understand God's command concerning this sign. First, this sign came long before the Law of Moses was ever given and was to be for all children of Abraham. In Genesis 17:9-10 God commands Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant you, and your offspring after you throughout your generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you. Every male among you shall be circumcised...." Secondly, this covenantal sign was for adults and their household, especially their children, "He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant." Genesis 17:12-14. Third, as we see from the end of the last passage, this sign was not just a sign; it was the very entrance into God's covenant; it brought about God's promises to His people that they were His and He was theirs.

So, put down the knife for a minute. In Christ, while these eternal signs are still eternal, they do look different. Just as the Sabbath is no longer a seventh-day Sabbath but a first-day Sabbath, circumcision is no longer a physical cutting away but a spiritual dying to self in Holy Baptism. In fact, Paul and the rest of the early church radically preached against physical circumcision on numerous occasions (Acts 15, Rom. 2-6, 1 Cor. 7, Gal. 2-4 and 5:6, Eph. 2, Col. 2:11, 3:11, Titus 1:10). But remember, circumcision was the everlasting sign of the covenant, so what is that sign for us in the New Testament age? It is our baptism that we enter the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

IN THIS ISSUE

	page
Pastor's Letter	1-2
Birthday and Anniversary	3
Officers and Board Members	4
Upcoming Events	5
<i>Announcements</i>	
General	6-10
Community Resources	11-12
Concordia	12-13
Trinity	13-16



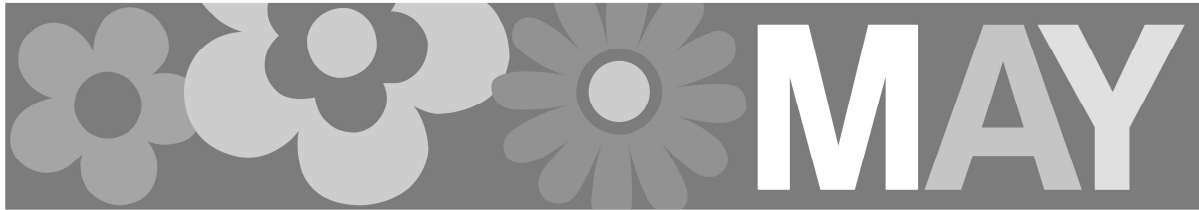
In the Old Testament, females were not circumcised but were brought into the reality of circumcision through washing (a baptism) (Lev. 12, 15; Numb. 31:18,23 with Deut. 21:10-14). This is why it would have made complete sense for Paul and the other Apostles to see and understand that Baptism could bring about a covenantal relationship with God and that Baptism could be a spiritual circumcision, not just for men but for women also (Col. 2:11-12). Paul reminds us that we are not aliens from God, that is people outside the covenant, but we have been brought near to God (Eph. 2:12) and we are made citizens of God's kingdom and members of God's household (Eph. 2:19). How? Through Jesus and Baptism into Him (Rom. 6:1-5).

What happened in our baptism? We became God's people through a circumcision not made by hands (Colossians 2:11-12). No knives are needed in Jesus. But now we, in Baptism, have become Israel (Gal. 6:16, Rom 9:6-9), become a holy nation of priests (1 Pet. 2:9; Titus 2:14), and become children of Abraham (Gal. 3:7, 29). All through Jesus. And it doesn't matter if you are male or female. All are brought to a covenant relationship with God in their Baptism. This is a promise for all households, too! Just like in the days of Abraham when children were circumcised on the eighth day of their life, our children can also enter the New Covenant (Testament is the same word) in their Baptism. When baptized and believing parents bring their children to God in Holy Baptism, they bring their kids into the same relationship they have with God. Peter tells us that this promise was for the whole household on Pentecost when he preached, "Repent and be baptized every one of you, for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, and your children..." (Acts 2:38-39).

What a glorious wonder! God calls even the little children of our families to himself, and, as Peter preached on Pentecost, we even receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit. This is why Peter can later preach, "Baptism now saves you." (1 Pet. 3:21). For all who are in Christ and believe in His Name will be saved.

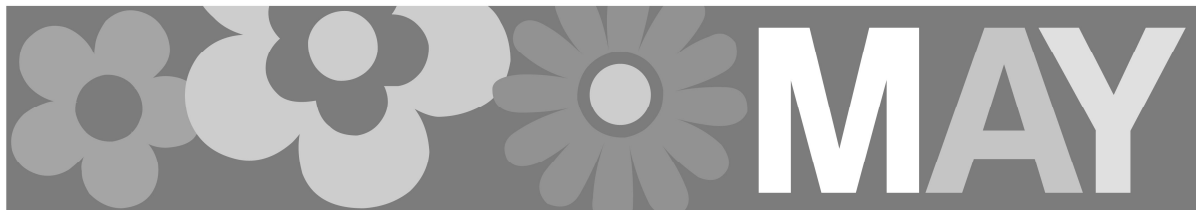
Now, whenever I mention the saving power of Baptism and Baptism as the entry point into God's family, someone always gets antsy and says, "Well, you don't need to be baptized to be saved!" Yes and no. It is true that some people die before they are able to go to the fount and be baptized. Sin has really made a mess of the world. In the Old Testament, there were at least four times when infants were talked about as being saved even though some didn't make it to the day of circumcision (Ps. 22:9-10, 2 Sam. 12:15-23, Jer. 1:4, Lk. 1:41, 44). In Psalm 22, Jeremiah 1:4, and Luke 1:41 and 44, we see God work even in the lives of infants. In 2 Samuel, we see that David trusted that, even though his child died, he was in God's hands. But, in every one of these cases, the household never denied the sign of circumcision. None of them would have said, "Ah! You don't need to do what God commanded us to do." The same is true in Baptism. Life is messy, and death sometimes happens before we can come to baptism or bring our households to baptism. Faith saves. As long as faith trusts in the things God gives us and not in our own understanding, there is hope in the life to come. Faith trusts in Baptism as well because it is what God has given us; it doesn't make the excuse, "Ah! I don't need to do what God commands."

So, rejoice, my brothers and sisters in Christ! God's promises are for you and your children!
In our New Covenant Joy!
Pastor Jacobsen



Birthdays

Karlyne Ackerman	May 3rd	Roger Puck	May 15th
Kelly Ahrenstorff	May 3rd	Angela Meyer	May 17th
Cheryl Harlow	May 5th	Sharlene Engel	May 17th
Bret Sohn	May 8th	Rudy Voss	May 18th
Morris Beck	May 9th	Terry Kazemba	May 19th
Matthew Stone	May 9th	Jennifer Majerus	May 19th
Gary Schuett	May 9th	Charles Untiedt	May 20th
Augustus Pohlman	May 10th	Missy Gembler	May 22nd
Karen Zinn	May 11th	Crystal Gilmore	May 22nd
Hadley Wax	May 11th	Lisa Dean	May 23rd
Ashley Grussing	May 12th	Kim Ihnen	May 23rd
Duane Kazemba	May 13th	Tricia Voss	May 28th
Pam Grussing	May 14th	Katherin Ihnen	May 29th
Jacob Ihnen	May 14th	Sandy Consoer	May 31st
Connie Hauenstein	May 14th	Steve Lende	May 31st
Beverly Stahly	May 15th	Brady Meyer	May 31st
Parker Fischer	May 15th		



Anniversaries

Richard & Ranae Reimers	May 7th	Kevin & Kathy Zinn	May 23rd
Karla & Brad Brinkman	May 18th	Pastor & Sarah Jacobsen	May 24th
Jeff & Shannon Stone	May 22nd	Dan & Julie Reimers	May 31st

Trinity Officers/Boards

Chairman: Doug Pohlman
Vice Chairman: Adam Wolff
Secretary: Janet Majerus
Treasurer: Wanda Untiedt
Trustee: Bruce Ihnen
Elders: Don Majerus
Finance: Dennis Voehl
Dan Reimers

Ushers: Dale Knips
Chad Ihnen
Adam Wolff
Rod Voss
Wade Wacker

Stewardship: Don Majerus
Doug Pohlman

LWML President: Vicki Place
Vice President: Karlyne Ackerman
Secretary: Jeanne Ponto
Treasurer: Wanda Untiedt
Delegates: Jeanne Ponto

Nominating Comm.: Lisa Dean
Shirley Finnern

Education Super: Vicki Place
Youth Group: Brian Gilmore &
Pastor

Cradle Roll: Janet Majerus
Organist: Shirley Finnern
Custodian: Deanne Stowe

Concordia Officers/Boards

President: Robert Brons
Vice President: Dave Stahly
Secretary: Denny Stahly
Treasurer: Russell & Dolly Meier
Trustee: Joel Gaudian
Todd Thoms
Carol Rowe

Elders: Robert Brons
Russell Meier
Dennis Stahly

Finance Secretary: Carol Rowe
Dennis Stahly

Head Ushers: Gerald Weerts
Stewardship: Russell Meier
Dolly Meier
Carol Rowe

LWML President: Dolly Meier
Vice President: *(help wanted)*
Secretary: Jean Gillespie
Treasurer: Sherry Thoms

SS Staff: Brian Gilmore
(help wanted)
Connie Brons, Music

Cradle Roll: Dolly Meier

Youth Group: Brian Gilmore &
Pastor

Church Secretary: Amanda Money
Organist: Shirley Finnern
Custodians: Kelly Morgan



Upcoming Events and Announcements

Sunday School News: May 12th will be the last day of Sunday School at Trinity. May 19th will be the last day of Sunday School at Concordia.

Trinity LWML April Meetings: Trinity LWML meetings will be Monday May 20th at 1pm and 6pm.

Concordia LWML April Meetings: Concordia LWML meeting will be Thursday May 9th at 2pm.

Prayer Service Invite: The LWML of The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Windom, MN invite you to join us in our annual Prayer Service on Saturday May 4, 2024. The theme is "Grace, Mercy, Peace." The Service will begin at 9:30am followed by brunch and a time of fellowship. Please call or email Julie at the church office by April 26th, 507-831-3522, lcoos@windommnet.com, to make your reservation. We look forward to having many of you join us for this service.

Red Cross Bloodmobile: at Round Lake will be on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at the American Legion, with appointments from 1 PM - 6 PM. For more information or to make an appointment to donate, call 507-945-8122 or sign up online at redcrossblood.org

Calendar deadline: The deadline for the June calendar will be Wednesday, May 22nd. Thank you!



General Announcements

Items for sale: Trinity LWML has cards for sale including birthday, get-well, and sympathy. Cards can be purchased individually for \$0.60 apiece or by the box. The amount is written on the box.

LWML Mites: We will now have the LWML Mite box sitting in the back in the narthex and we welcome all members including Sunday school students to bring your loose change on any Sunday and place in the can. We thank you for all your help.

Concordia & Trinity group messages: to receive messages via text, text @c83311 to 81010. Or to receive messages via email: send an emails to c83311@mail.remind.com. The Remind tool is a free, safe, and simple messaging tool that helps us share important updates, reminders, and information with everyone at one time. All personal information is kept private. No one else can see your phone number nor will you see theirs. Contact Amanda in the office if you have any questions or need assistance.

LifeDate: Each quarter a new edition will be placed in your bulletin boxes. This is coming to our congregation with only the shipping costs. So if you would no longer like to receive this publication please contact the church office.

Lutheran Public Radio: *Sacred Music For The World* you can listen to the best of the Church's music 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org. You'll hear hymns like "Thy Strong Word," "The Church's One Foundation," "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart," "God's Own Child I Gladly Say It," "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" and more. You can also listen on mobile devices like an iPhone, iPad and an Android phone. *Issues, Etc.* is a ten-hour weekly syndicated radio talk show and podcast. The program features expert guests, expansive topics, while extolling Christ. The program is hosted by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Jeff Schwarz.

ConnectPlus: LCEF is now offering an investment option called ConnectPlus. Please www.lcef.org or call (800)843-5233.

Thrivent Choice: Remember to enroll as Thrivent members your Choice Dollars. Trinity & Concordia Lutheran Church is eligible to receive Choice Dollars. Please consider us a your choice. To learn more about Thrivent Choice, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent choice" when prompted.

Electronic Newsletters: If you are interested in receiving the monthly newsletter electronically please send me an e-mail making the request.

Newsletters and Bulletins: Both can be found on our web pages: www.trinitysv.com or www.concordialp.com. If you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail only OR if you would like to view the body of the newsletter on-line but would like a printed calendar please contact the church office. Thank you!

What is this in the pew? They are folders that help to explain the Divine Service and how to apply it in your daily life. This will serve to guide any guests that might attend, but also the growth of God's people in how we greet Him as He comes to us. Feel free to take them for personal use or to share and others will be ordered as needed.

Electronic Ipad Organ Program: Please let the church office or Denny Stahly know if you are interested in learning how to run the ipad for when we do not have an organist.

Lutheran Ladies: Have you scrolled through your podcasts, searching for one that catches your ear – a place you can escape to with inviting conversations, laughter, and fellowship with your Lutheran sisters? Look no further! Join Sarah, Erin, Rachel, and Bri on the sofa in the Lutheran Ladies Lounge, a podcast oasis for you, dear sisters, to sit, rest your feet, and stay a while. And on the way out, we'll check your lipstick. The Lutheran Ladies Lounge is produced by KFUE Radio and available wherever you get your podcasts. Sign up for the Lutheran Ladies' Lounge monthly e-newsletter on Mailchimp at eepurl.com/gjya5P, and email the Ladies at lutheranladies@kfuo.org.

In-Person Bible Study: Our evening class is at Trinity Lutheran Church at 6:30 PM on Tuesdays and our morning class is at Concordia Lutheran Church at 9:00 AM on Wednesdays. The class is the same at both locations. Online morning devotions is still held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 9AM. We'll continue the pattern of evening and morning studies on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings, interest permitting. Hope to see you there!

Thrivent Choice: Remember to enroll as Thrivent members your Choice Dollars. Trinity & Concordia Lutheran Church is eligible to receive Choice Dollars. Please consider us a your choice. To learn more about Thrivent Choice, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent choice" when prompted.

What is this in the pew? They are folders that help to explain the Divine Service and how to apply it in your daily life. This will serve to guide any guests that might attend, but also the growth of God's people in how we greet Him as He comes to us. Feel free to take them for personal use or to share and others will be ordered as needed.

Portal of Prayer: Audio Listen to recordings of each day's Bible readings, devotion, and prayer. Devotions + Prayers Applicable, easy-to-read meditations and prayers. Over 2500 Devotions Read seven years of *Portals of Prayer* devotions. Search, Save, and Share Search past devotions by keyword, save your favorites, and share prayers. Download on the app store or get it on google play.

Updates Needed: We would like to have an up-to-date listing for all our members. If you have moved, gotten married, had a child, changed your phone number, cell phone, and/or e-mail address we would like to know so that our records can be accurate. Please let the church office know. Thank you!

Christian TV Show: Main Street Living is now being broadcast on KCAU Sioux City, KDLT Sioux Falls, WFTC Channel 29 aka "Fox 9 Plus" and MyTV. Air time on both channels is Sunday at 10 am. The first 30 minutes are premastered episodes of the popular "This is the Life" series that was very popular in the 70's and 80's. The second half of the program is a modified Lutheran worship service that features a different Pastor each week, from the station's broadcast area. It features many aspects of church worship; with an Invocation, confession and absolution, The Apostles Creed, the week's Scripture readings, and a sermon. Hymns are sung by area church choirs. It's a wonderful evangelistic ministry that shares the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ with the unchurched and shut-in. It is also great to utilize on Sundays you are unable to attend worship online at www.mainstreetliving.com. Watch your bulletins for weekly program info.

Lutheran Hour Ministry Upcoming Events:

May 5 airing This is the Life – "Break Up" – A divorced couple struggles with direction in their lives after meeting again. Worship Service – Rev. David Viggers of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Odebolt, IA, delivers the message "Jesus Prepares the Way" based on John 14:1-14. Additional information is available on the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com.

May 12 airing This is the Life – “Alibi” – A father tries to reconnect with his estranged son after the death of his mother. Worship Service – Rev. Pedro Lopez of Amigos en Cristo in Denison, IA, delivers the message “My Co-Worker in the Mission” based on John 14:15-21. Additional information is available on the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com.

May 19 airing This is the Life – “No Place to Hide” – A pastor, who has to face the death of his wife, cannot find comfort. Worship Service – Rev. Klaus Raab of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hinton, IA, delivers the message “We Are One in Christ” based on John 17. Additional information is available on the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com.

May 26 airing This is the Life - “The Main Event” – A boxer who is hit by a car becomes embittered until he meets a cheerful 8-year-old girl. Worship Service - Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, President of the North Wisconsin District LCMS, presents a Pentecost Sunday message. For more information visit: www.mainstreetliving.com

Lutheran Hour Ministry can now be found on these applications. A podcast subscription; subscribe at lhm.org/podcasts; A mobile app for Android devices and iPhones; visit lhm.org/apps for more information; Amazon Alexa, a voice-activated assistant to play media programming; Spotify, an on-demand media streaming service; iHeartRadio, a free broadcast & internet radio platform; and SiriusXM Satellite Radio’s Family Talk Channel 131 at 10 a.m. EST every Sunday.



On-line Devotions: You may join on-line daily devotions on Facebook – we now have a home-base page on YouTube as well. Now all videos of Worship Services, Devotional studies and other events are now accessible from a common playlist. For fast access, click on “YouTube Home Page” in the “Links” Section <https://tinyurl.com/TLCACLC>

One Year Bible Study: Are you interested in reading the Bible through from Genesis to Revelation? Join us online for study of the Bible in a Year. You read a little from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs for each day of the year while receiving daily reflections from Pastor Jacobsen designed to get you to think through your readings. Simply send Pastor an email if you wish to sign up.

Birthdays and Anniversaries: If you would like your birthday or anniversary printed in *The Lutheran Witness* to commemorate a birthday of 90 years of more or an anniversary of 50 years or more please contact the church office two months in advance, so that notification can be sent to the district office.

Families Needed: Lutheran Family Service is looking for additional families to be a part of our adoption program as we are serving a higher number of birth mothers looking to place for adoption. Newborn Infant Adoption Program Details: • Lutheran Family Service will travel anywhere in the state of Iowa, North and Central Illinois (2.5 hr radius of East Moline), and Eastern Nebraska (3 hr radius of Omaha) to provide adoption services. • Couples must be male/female married for at least 3 years • Couples must be active in a Christian congregation • Program is fee-based Lutheran Family Service: • Creating family through adoption for nearly 120 years • Fully licensed child-placing agency • Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS Church following all LCMS biblical principles • Free pregnancy counseling program. For more information, contact Lutheran Family Service at 515-251-4900 or info@lutheranfamilyservices.org.

May 2024 Activities at Lakefield Senior Dining:

Lakefield Meal Site...serving in-house meals. Call 662-6714 to reserve.
Getting some new menu items...come in & try them!
Bingo.....will begin again in the Fall
GAME DAY!!! will begin again in the Fall
Lakefield Meal Site will have 1/2 price DAYS for all picked-up, in-house & home delivered meals in 2024
Foot care clinic call for appt. 662-6714
Lakefield Birthday Party TBD
Pop-up Meals TBD
Cards...
Second Tuesday Pinochle
Third Wednesday 500
Last Wednesday Pinochle
All Bingo, games and cards begin at 12:30PM
Always looking for more card players!!! Refreshers & lessons available
Call Marless(662-5254) for card details and to schedule playing.



MN Relay: If you or a family member living in MN needs help hearing when answering the phone there is help available at no cost to you. Please contact the consumer relations office (800)657-3775, e-mail: mn.relay@state.mn.us or visit mn.gov for more information. There is also a brochure in the narthex.

Dickinson County Hunger Coalition: Has information on all food pantries available to residents in Dickinson County - individuals enter the office and choose their own groceries with assistance from UDMO Staff and volunteers. This includes choices of canned and boxed goods, assorted frozen meats, fresh vegetables, breads, baked goods and more. For more information visit: dickinsoncountyhunger.com/where-s-the-food

Atlas of Lakes Area: Companions and Advocates on the Road of Life. Atlas strives to be an advocate for those in need as they deal with life's relational, physical, emotional, financial, and/or spiritual struggles. We strive to love unconditionally in each mentoring relationship. Offering encouragement, hope, and support for anything you may be facing in life. In addition to support, we offer qualified referrals for addictions, relational, employment challenges, housing challenges, transportation hurdles, health issues, financial difficulties, emotional afflictions, and spiritual barriers. For more information visit: lakesatlas.com

Mental Health Info:

Trinity: Jackson County Mental Health Crisis, Phone: 1-800-642-1525

<http://www.co.jackson.mn.us>

Concordia: Plains Area Mental Health Phone: 1-800-325-1192

<https://plainsareamentalhealth.org>

Long Distance Counseling: Lutheran Family Service, Phone: 515-573-3138

Confidential, Convenient, Secure, HIPAA compliant, Christ-centered

<https://lutheranfamilyservice.org>

Elderbridge Agency on Aging: We are an Area Agency on Aging in North Central, Northwest, and Central Iowa, currently serving a 29-county region. We provide information, guidance, and assistance in finding services for you, your spouse, parent, relative, or friend. We strive to enable older Iowans to live with dignity, well-being, and independence. For more information visit: elderbridge.org/

Announcements For Concordia

Concordia LWML April Meetings: Concordia LWML meeting will be Thursday May 9th at 2pm.

Graduation Sunday: Join us Sunday May 12th as we recognize the high school graduate students here at Concordia. A time of fellowship with cupcakes will follow service.

Sunday School News: May 19th will be the last day of Sunday School at Concordia.

LWML Convention: at Camp Okoboji is June 13-15 2024. Ingatherings are: Orphan Grain Train collecting bath towels, new underwear for men colored, new underwear or bras for women and new underwear for children. Ioway collecting Hospice kits for Global Health Ministries this includes regular size bath towel, washcloth, bath sized unscented soap, toothbrush, pick-style comb, larger size nail clipper, band-aids, jar or tube of petroleum jelly 4 ounces, heavy-duty household gloves medium size. IDW Hispanic Congregations Cross Embroidered Baptism Napkins, Spanish Bibles & Notebooks(hardcover, 8 x 5, 100 pages). More detailed information on the LWML web site.

Camp Okoboji News

May 3-5: Volunteer Weekend: Join Camp Okoboji as we prepare for summer. Enjoy a time of fellowship and fun as you blend your time and talents with others to assist Camp. Room and board provided for volunteers!! Please contact the office, (712) 337-3325, for lodging arrangements and sign up to help.

May 5: Omelet Brunch: Join us from 9:30 to 1:00 for good fellowship and an omelet breakfast!! Free will offering to support the ministry of Camp Okoboji.

June 1: Camp Okoboji Auxiliary Quilt Auction: The Quilt Auction is the major fundraiser of the Auxiliary. All proceeds are used to support camp with this year's proceeds designated to Family Ministry Cabin improvements. Lunch starting at 11:00AM and auction starts at 12:30PM

Summer Cooks: We are still seeking additional part-time cooks for the summer season. Please continue to share the employment opportunity for summer cooks. Interested persons may direct inquiries to myself or Kellie at Camp, (712) 337-3325.

Announcements For Trinity

Confirmation Sunday: May 5th will be confirmation Sunday with a reception to follow.

Sunday School News: May 12th will be the last day of Sunday School at Trinity.

Graduation Sunday: Join us Sunday May 19th as we recognize the high school graduate students here at Trinity. A time of fellowship with cupcakes will follow service.

Trinity LWML May Meetings: will be Monday May 20th at 1pm and 6pm.

Trinity LWML Mission for May: 2023–2025 Mission Grant No. 11, LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION FINISH THE JOB, Ministry in Mission, Haiti | \$85,000. Ministry in Mission is working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti to complete repairs to churches that were damaged by an earthquake in 2021. The \$85,000 LWML Mission Grant will allow the Lutheran church in Haiti to purchase the final items needed so their members can worship in a safe structure. Natural and manmade disasters test the Haitians, but the love of God gives them strength and confidence. To learn more, visit www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-11

Gifts from the Heart: LWML Minnesota South District Convention in Mankato will be June 20-22 in Mankato. At each convention, LWML members and groups share God's blessing with others through Gifts from the Heart (GFTH). Orphan Grain Train has been chosen as the recipient of GFTH for this year's MNS Convention. Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that ships donated food, clothing, medical supplies, and other items of need to people in 71 countries worldwide.

Following is the list of GFTH items Trinity LWML is collecting as our contribution:

- * New or gently used, clean shoes - all sizes child through adult
- * New or gently used, clean socks - all sizes child through adult
- * Quilts, blankets, or comforters - any sizes
- * Cash donation to pay for shipping. The average cost to ship a box of donated goods is \$11; the average cost to sponsor a full shipping container overseas is \$9,000.

There is a container in the narthex to place your donation. Thank you for your generosity in helping the LWML.

December 10, 2023 Voters Meeting Minutes

Doug called the meeting to order. Attending the meeting were Bruce Ihnen, Pastor Jacobsen, Don Majerus, Janet Majerus, Doug Pohlman, Sue Pohlman, Jeanne Ponto, Verlon Ponto, Wanda Untiedt, Rod Voss, and Adam Wolff.

Pastor's Report:

- Thiessen family are new members at Trinity
- At the elder meeting they discussed moving confirmation to 4th and 5th grades. Then youth group 6, 7 and 8. At this point this is a discussion.
- Christmas services: Christmas Eve 5pm Concordia Carols and Lessons
Christmas Eve 7:00pm Trinity Candle Light service with the choir singing
Christmas Day 9:00am Concordia
- December 25 pastor will be leaving on vacation and will not be here for December 31 services.
- Brian and Pastor are putting together another chili cookoff. They are looking at February at the Community Center. They also are interested in putting together a youth outing this summer at the creation museum.

Treasurers Report:

3rd Quarter 7-1-2023 to 9-30-2023

Beginning Balance: \$233,381.46

Receipts: \$83,008.32

Disbursements: \$85,092.66

Ending Balance: \$231,297.12

- We have been adding to the medical account trying to get back to \$5000.00. Wanda has been adding to the account each month.

Motion by Bruce and 2nd by Adam to approve third quarter financial report.

Motion Approved

Secretary's Report:

Motion by Adam and Second by Don to approve the minutes from August 6.

Motion approved.

Elders Report:

Two funerals since the last meeting, Vernon Walsh and John Garms.

Transfer in of Kristi Thiessen from Spirit Lake. Motion by Wanda and 2nd by Verlon. Motion approved.

Old Business:

The joint service at Camp Okoboji was very successful. Motion by Rod and Second by Adam to make a \$500 donation to the camp. Motion Approved.

We will discontinue purchasing from CPH the creative worship due to Pastor's recommendation. From that we are getting as we gather. We will continue to get the kids bulletin from CPH. Motion by Bruce and second by Rod. Motion passed.

Currently our copies/printer has the maintenance fee with A & B Business . We will bill Concordia appropriately as they are not using theirs and dropped the maintenance contract.

Wanda asked about the Microsoft updates. We have to table the discussion as Wanda needs to check with Amanda and Pastor first what is actually needed. We discussed the signs on Hwy #86. Pastor indicated there were some issues with funerals as people are having trouble finding the church. Cost would be \$2000 per sign for a total of \$4000. We will not need to maintain the signs ourselves. Motion by Bruce and second by Don to put up the signs. Motion passed.

We discussed the digital sign. We have a bid from EyeKandy to hang a 3ft x 8 ft high resolution sign on the church. The bid is \$14,500.00 . The sign would be hardwired into the office. There is some memorial money dedicated to the sign. Motion by Rod and Second by Bruce to purchase. However, we need to run this by Pastor to make sure this is what he wants first.

We discussed that Wanda had checked into a credit card for Pastor. What was decided that he will just charge using his own card and that we would continue to reimburse as we do now.

New Business:

A custodian was hired at \$250 a month. She is working 10 hours a month. This is a professional cleaning business. Motion by Verlon and second by Don to ratify the hiring. Motion approved.

The furnaces need to be replaced. We received two bids. The first bid is from Dylan Hanson. \$11,360.54. The second bid was from Schwabach for \$11,550.00. Motion by Rod and second from Adam to accept the bid from Dylan Hanson Motion passed.

We discussed Pastor's salary. He is definitely on the low end according to the district guidelines. Motion by Verlon and second by Rod to increase the salary by \$12,000.00 to \$76,000.00. Motion carried. Next step is this will go to the Duel Parish meeting and Concordia for approval.

The elevator was inspected in November and did not pass inspection due the phone not working. We will need to get it fixed in the next 60 days or the license will be revoked. Doug will be contacting Premier Lifts Products to get this done. Hohenstein Septic cleaned out parsonage septic tank.

Motion by Verlon to adjourn and second by Rod to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Majerus
Secretary