

SEPTEMBER 2025

AMBASSADOR

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH LISBON
NEWSLETTER

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Office-701-683-5841
Hours: M-T 8:00am- 4:00pm
F 8:00am-12:00 pm

Pastor Louis Cell 714-782-4646
Pastor Ella Cell 309-339-5749

Shining Christ's Light

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine... We call ourselves here at Trinity "the light on the hill." And with the program year about to start—Sunday School, Confirmation, Choir, Small Groups—the light will be shining bright. (Literally, because there will be much more busyness in the church building, especially in the evenings and the days getting shorter, our lights will be on!)

This past June your council met for a retreat to think about who we are as a congregation and what God is calling us to be and do. One of the big take-aways from our meeting was realizing that we were missing a key word in our "the light on the hill" moniker. We're not just any light on the hill, we are Christ's light on the hill. We also discussed how are we best shining Christ's light?

Put it under a bushel- No! I'm gonna let it shine... as the children's song reminds us, how are we positioning ourselves to best shine Christ's light? We had a discussion around church size and accompanying church organizational structure. We came to the conclusion that we are right in between a pastoral-size congregation and a program-size congregation. And there is a difference between the functioning of those sizes. And your council has decided that we are a program-size church. We have a phenomenal Sunday School program (many thanks to Steph Johnson who puts her heart and soul into kid's ministry) and we see our congregation growing into the future. We have partnered with Standing Rock and now with the Crossroads Parish of Marion, Litchville and LaMoure. We have the potential to shine Christ's light far and wide.

But this means shifting our approach to day-to-day operations and functioning, so that we can ensure Christ's light is shining unimpeded. Are we approaching this like a big church or a small church? is a question that your office staff, executive committee and council keep asking. In smaller churches, an office administrator might come in once or twice a week to check voicemail and compose and print bulletins. As part of a larger church, support staff roles are expanded to include strategic planning and leadership. Work gets taken home. Staff are empowered to make decisions in their ministry areas. Leaning into a program-size, big church model will require us to shift how our council and staff function.

Growth requires change, and things get messy once in a while, but the whole reason we are here is because of Christ. And Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He gives us his grace and mercy, and we are able to show ourselves and others grace and mercy as a result. His light does not go out! Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine...

Pastor Ella



Continuing the Conversation Over the summer, Trinity's council leadership has been engaging in thoughtful conversation around our mission and vision. As I like to share with congregation; Vision is where we are going, and mission is how we get there. These conversations are not just about strategic planning – they're about discerning how God is calling us to serve. The question for all of you, especially as we head into the programmatic year is this – How can Trinity be a place where faith is deepened and strengthened, lives are transformed, and ministry is multiplied? You are an important voice in this conversation. Whether through prayer, feedback, or participation in ministry, your voice matters. Together, we are shaping a future rooted in Christ and responsive to the needs of our congregation and community. -Pastor Louis

Beyond the Desk: The Role of Our Office Manager

At Trinity, our office manager is far more than a secretary. This role is central to our ministry's effectiveness – coordinating communication, managing logistics, supporting pastoral staff and key volunteers, and often serving as the first point of contact for members and visitors alike. Most of the day-to-day operations at Trinity are coordinated under the care of our Office Manager – an important ministry that Jenn Jordan has been called to lead.

As we seek to increase our total capacity for ministry, we recognize that leadership comes in many forms. Our Office Manager is a strategic partner in this work, helping Trinity run smoothly and faithfully. We give thanks to God for the servants who have served in this role, as well as the servant God has called to fulfill that role right now. Let's continue to affirm and support this vital role as part of our shared mission. - Pastor Louis

Exciting News! We're Saving Big—Thanks to YOU!
Because of your amazing response in updating contact information and communication preferences, the church will save over \$1,000 each year—just in postage costs! Your efforts are making a real difference in how we steward our resources—thank you!

But we're not done yet!

We still need everyone's most up-to-date info.

✓ **Haven't updated yours yet?**

📱 **Scan the QR code**

📝 **Fill out a form at church**

☎ **Or call the church office**

Let's keep the momentum going—every update counts!



August 11th Council Meeting Highlights

Stewardship- An Education CD totaling \$1,822.23 was approved to be divided among S.S, VBS, Confirmation, and Youth programs.

Worship- Preparations are underway for the Backpack Blessing service happening in August.

Property- The parking lot project was completed earlier than expected and has been fully paid for.

Youth- Confirmation begins on Wednesday, September 10th with a parent meeting.

Education

- Vacation Bible School was a success with 32 youth helpers and 45–50 children attending.
- The Post-Youth Lock-In also went well.
- Next focus: Rally Sunday on September 14th.

Evangelism

- Planning underway for the Fair Parade on the 23rd.
- Preparations also in progress for Rally Sunday on September 14th.
- Approved \$250 to support a community need – sponsoring a children's movie at the Historic Scenic Theater as part of the Ty & Katelyn Michel fundraiser.

Other Updates

- The Refresh Committee will begin small updates to the Narthex.
- The Standing Rock contract remains unchanged and will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting.
- The Head Start and South Valley contracts have been updated and reviewed.
- A written procedure policy for providing rides to church was presented.
- Harvest Fest is scheduled for October 12th, with proceeds allocated to Narthex improvements.
- Discussion was held on council endorsement and potential sponsorship of Jenn Jordan's participation in the Rural Leadership of North Dakota program through NDSU Extension—still under consideration.
- Brief discussion on new nominations for upcoming council openings.

* FULL COUNCIL MINUTES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AT THE OFFICE *

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

Generosity in Action This month, we celebrate the many ways Trinity members have stepped up in faith and generosity.

Red Willow Bible Camp Support: Thanks to your contributions, we were able to send several youths to camp this summer, deepening their faith and building lifelong friendships. Your gifts made this possible. Additionally, for those who supported RWBC in their annual Quilt Auction, we're happy to share that they were able to exceed their goal of raising \$35,000.00

Community Care through Film: In response to a serious car accident involving members of our congregation and community, Trinity's Evangelism team hosted a movie screening fundraiser. The event raised funds to help cover medical and other expenses for the Michels' family – reminding us of the power of community, compassion, and creativity.

Thank you to all who attended, donated, and for the ongoing prayers.

STEWARDSHIP IS MORE THAN FINANCIAL GIVING – IT'S ABOUT LIVING GENEROUSLY IN EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE. LET'S CONTINUE TO BE A CONGREGATION THAT GIVES BOLDLY, LOVES DEEPLY, AND TRUSTS IN GOD'S ABUNDANCE.

1ST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL SEPT 14TH!

3RD GRADERS GET THEIR BIBLES DURING WORSHIP @ 9

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER INSTALLATION @ 9

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH LISBON

SUNDAY SCHOOL
PRE K- 6th GRADE
10:00 am

STARTING SEPT 14TH

ALL KIDS NEED TO BE REGISTERED
\$20 SUGGESTED DONATION PER FAMILY

CONTACT
STEPH JOHNSON
701-308-0882
OR THE OFFICE
701-683-5841
WITH ANY QUESTIONS!



SCAN ME OR
CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER!

FALL KICK OFF 2025

Trinity Lutheran Church Lisbon
Sunday September 14, 2025

Worship
9:00 am- 10:00 am
All are welcome

Sunday School
10:00 am- 11:00 am
Pre k- 6th Grade- Registration Required

Donut Worry Be Happy Hour
10:00am-11:00am
Sandy's donuts, iced coffee bar,
Q&A with Pastor Louis and door prizes.
Parents, siblings, babies - all are welcome!

Family, Food & Fun
11:00am- Noon
FREE PICNIC AND ACTIVITIES
BOUNCY HOUSE, BARREL TRAIN, FACE PAINTING

WELCA
RUMMAGE SALE
SEPTEMBER 18th
9am-6pm!

Donations can be dropped off starting
Sept 14th at Noon through 17th until 4:00pm

Please pick up your bar pans and
dishes from the church kitchen
before the WELCA Rummage Sale on
Sept 18.

If they're still here, they'll be put up
for free will offering during the sale!



Trinity held a backpack blessing and a prayer walk around the schools, offering support and prayers for a safe, successful, and fulfilling school year ahead.



Thank you to our parade crew for spreading the word about Sunday School at the Ransom County Fair Parade. Trinity is a barrel of fun!

2026 Youth Mission Trip Announcement!

We're excited to share that a group of our high school seniors—veterans of past mission trips—will be helping lead our Summer 2026 Youth Mission Trip!

Niagara Falls, July 19–25, 2026.

If you're in 8th–12th grade and interested in joining us, come to our informational meeting on Sunday, September 7 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity to learn more and ask questions—don't miss it!

Confirmation

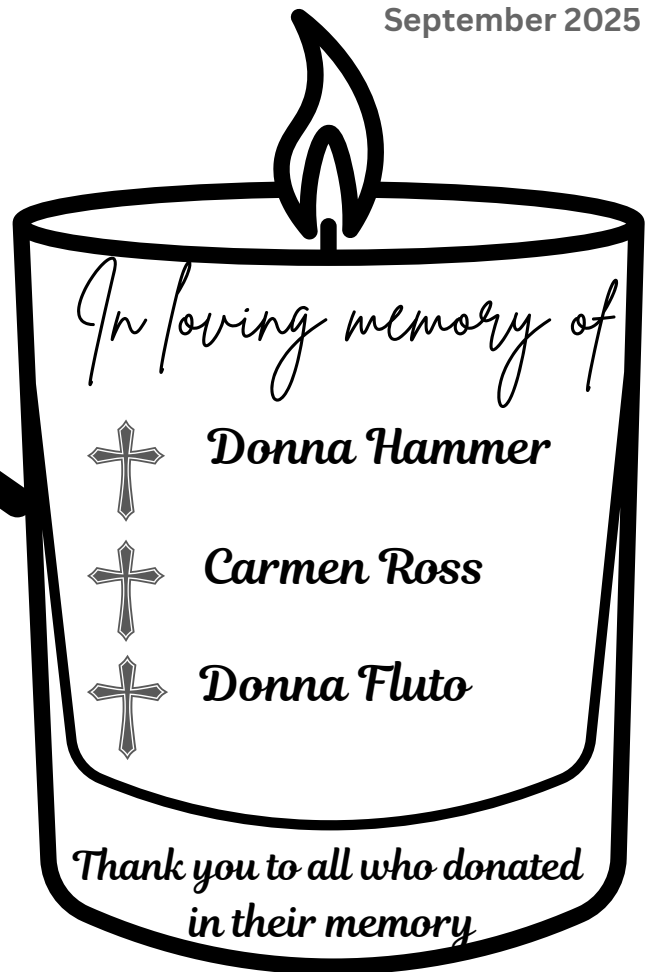
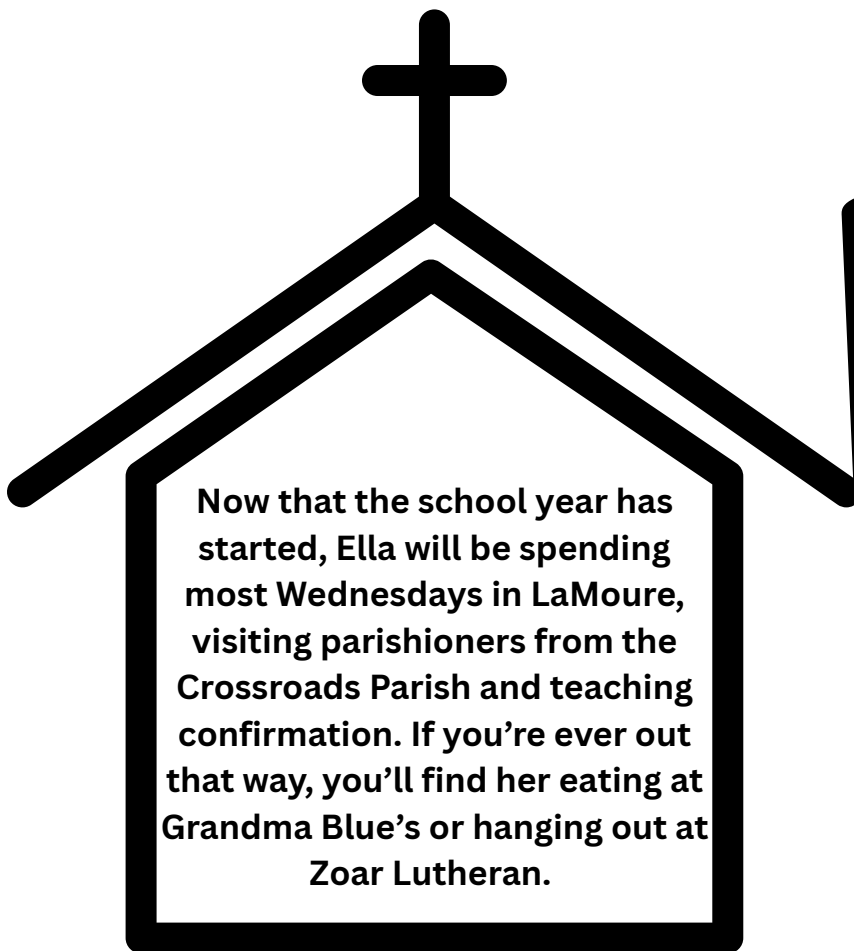
Our Confirmation program year is about to start up again. Parents and students

7th & 8th grade will meet on September 10th at 6:00 pm.

9th graders and their families will meet at 7:00 pm.

Lessons start Sept 17th.

Confirmation meets from 6:00 – 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Students are required to have their Bibles, notebook, folder, and writing utensil with them each week.



Ministry Partnership Moment:

Trinity is proud to be part of a six-point parish, and this month we highlight the beauty and strength of our ministry partnership. In a time where rural congregations face unique challenges, and with the lack of pastoral candidates to fill the vacant calls of our sister congregations, collaboration and cooperation is key.

Together, we share resources, support one another's events, and lift the mission of Gospel proclamation in communities that might otherwise feel isolated. Whether it's pulpit supply, shared programming, shared youth ministry, or mutual encouragement, our partnership is a testament to the Body of Christ working together in service for our communities.

VBS WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

All the kids had a good time playing games and learning about Jesus and his disciple Peter. Those who came to church during August saw the window art and footprints the kids made. We couldn't have done it without all our volunteers and youth helpers.



Youth Lock-in

They played games, ate LOTS of food, did a candle-lit prayer in the sanctuary, and had popcorn and movies.



On August 10 our 7th graders and their families gathered at the pool for a time of remembering their baptisms and looking forward to the start of confirmation.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Why We Need You:

- Help grow and support our church family.
- Keep our ministries, events, and services running strong.
- Share care, compassion, and Christ's love with our community.
- Lighten the load for our leaders and teams.
- Bring your unique gifts into God's work.

Why You'll Love Volunteering:

- Live out your faith in action.
- Make a real impact in people's lives.
- Build deeper connections with others.
- Discover new strengths and grow spiritually.
- Use your God-given talents for a greater purpose.

There's a place for YOU here.

Whether it's greeting, teaching, tech, music, hospitality, or behind the scenes – **we need you!**

Stretch & Support Your Soul Returns to TLC!

Mondays at TLC fellowship hall starting Sept 15th

- 5pm to 5:30pm fellowship & opening devotion
- 5:30 to 6:30pm Stretch & Support your Soul to Christian music a time for reflection & breathing
- 6:30 to 7pm closing prayer & fellowship.

Bring a bottle of H2O, hand towel, comfortable clothing & shoes, a set of light weights, AND a willing spirit! All are welcome! Questions? Contact your host Connie Radcliffe or the church office!

JOIN THE NEW COUNCIL

☀ CHANGE IS HERE. BE PART OF IT. ☀

Shining Christ's Light through council Leadership
New voices are rising. Fresh ideas are being heard. Real change is happening — and you have the opportunity to be part of something bigger than yourself.

If you've ever said,

☞ "I wish the church would..."

☞ "Why don't we try...?"

☞ "Someone needs to step up..."

That someone might be you.

In this new season for our church it's now a table for visionaries, servants, and builders of the future.



We're looking for:

People with passion and purpose

People who are ready to listen, learn, and lead

People who believe the church should meet the moment we're living in

Contact a council member, a pastor or the church office if you would like to be nominated for 2026!

	MON 9/01 Office Closed	TUES 9/02 2nd 1:00 pm WELCA 1:30 Vet's Home	WED 9/03 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 9:30 am Parkside 10:30 am Chapel CHI 1:30 pm Beverly Anne	THUR 9/04	FRI 9/05	SAT 9/06 Lautt & Elijah Wedding @ TLC
SUN 9/07 9:00 am Worship/HC/ Gregor Baptism - Pr. Louis 11:00 am Standing Rock – Pr. Louis 6:00 pm Youth Mission Trip Meeting 7:00 pm S.S Teacher Orientation	MON 9/08 Pastors at Fair Hills Fall Theological 8:00 pm AA	TUES 9/09 Pastors at Fair Hills Fall Theological	WED 9/10 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Confirmation Meeting 7-8th graders 7:00 pm Confirmation Meeting 9th grade 8:00 pm Council meeting	THUR 9/11	FRI 9/12	SAT 9/13
SUN 9/14 9:00 am Worship/ 3rd Grade Bibles/ S.S. teacher Installation 10:00 am Sunday School Starts 10:00 am Iced coffee and Donuts 11:00 am Food, Family and Fun Fall Kick Off	MON 9/15 5:30-7 Stretch & support your soul 8:00 pm AA	TUES 9/16	WED 9/17 9:30am Women's Bible Study 6:00 –7:00 pm Confirmation 7th & 8th grade 6:30 – 7:30 pm Confirmation 9th grade	THUR 9/18 WELCA RUMMAGE SALE 9:00 am- 6:00 pm	FRI 9/19	SAT 9/20
SUN 9/21 9:00 am Worship/HC - Pr. Ella 11:00 am Standing Rock – Pr. Ella	MON 9/22 5:30-7 Stretch & support your soul 8:00 pm AA	TUES 9/23	WED 9/24 9:30am Women's Bible Study 6:00 –7:00 pm Confirmation 7th & 8th grade	THUR 9/25	FRI 9/26	SAT 9/27
SUN 9/28 9:00 am Worship - Pr. Louis	MON 9/29 <u>5:30-7 Stretch & support your soul</u> <u>8:00 pm AA</u>	TUES 9/30				10