

Trinity Tribune: August 2026

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Paola, Kansas

“Confirmation and Education”

This month ten youth will be confirmed in our church, and Rally Day will remind us of another year of Sunday School for our children. The importance of the Christian education of our youth has been central to Lutherans for five centuries, going all the way back to Martin Luther himself.

It may surprise you, then, that Martin Luther rarely speaks about schools when he exhorts children to be educated. Nor does he mention pastors teaching children. He exhorts *parents*, and more specifically *fathers*, to teach their children the faith. The heading before each chief part of the catechism reads this: “As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household.” Here are just a few other quotes from Luther:

“Let every one know therefore, that it is his duty, on peril of losing the divine favor, to bring up his children above all things in the fear and knowledge of God.” (Large Catechism, Fourth Commandment, par. 173)

“The greatest care and diligence should be exercised to bring up children in the fear of God and in the knowledge of His Word. ... Alas! it is evident that parents are, for the most part, sadly negligent in this matter. They do not know how to bring up their children.” (LW 45:347–351)

The reason Luther speaks to parents first is twofold. First, parents ought to love their children, seek their physical and spiritual good, and know them best. Parents are given to children to raise them in both body and soul. Second, in Luther’s time schooling was limited to the wealthy and upper-middle class. Only those with wealth could pay for someone else to educate their children. But Luther’s Reformation brought education to the lowest levels of society. He wanted *everyone* to be able to read so that they could understand the Bible. If they could not read, they could at least memorize the Small Catechism. That booklet, published in 1529, served as a primer for the Christian faith. Everyone could learn it, know it, and pass it on to their children, whether they were rich or poor, well educated or not.

The task of educating Germany fell in the lap of Philip Melancthon, one of Luther’s closest friends. To this day he is known as the *Praeceptor Germaniae*, the Educator of Germany, due to his sweeping reforms of schools and universities. He invented the model of dividing students into specific grade levels and learning groups based on individual ability.

Melancthon’s reforms grew out of Luther’s desire that every child receive an education, even if it was the most basic. Was this contrary to Luther’s exhortation for parents to ensure their child be educated? Not necessarily. Even when children are

taught in schools, parents ought to know what they are being taught. Parents ought to care about the education their children receive and supplement it when necessary. Our public schools do not teach the Bible or the Catechism. Christian parents have a duty to ensure that their children know the faith.

For many Lutherans, parochial schools have filled this need. The Bible and the Catechism were central to generations of children, and other knowledge flowed out from God’s two “books” of Scripture and Nature. Yet this did not absolve parents of laxity. Even when children are taught in a Lutheran school, it remains the duty of parents to check on their children’s education and pass on the faith.

Sunday School was not originally a Lutheran practice (it was started in England to serve children who worked long hours in factories during the week). Nonetheless, it is an almost necessary form of education now, whereby your children can learn the basics of the Bible. But it is not sufficient. It is one day a week. Parents, you see your children every day. Teachers in school see them five days a week. What little that you can do in addition Sunday School will bring great returns. Even if it is prayer before bed, reading Bible stories from story books, or explaining God in the best way that you can—all of it is good and necessary.

Catechism class likewise serves your child by teaching the “logic” of faith. I understand the sacrifice that parents make to bring their children to catechism class. I understand that many things (sports, dance, chores, etc.) demand time from you and your children. But sometimes it is better to slow down with the activities, focus on what is most important, and ensure that your child knows the basics of the faith.

While we thank God for Sunday School teachers and Catechism classes, the duty that God has placed on parents has not changed. God exhorts parents to “**teach [these words] diligently to your children**” (Deut 6:7). He says, “**Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children**” (Deut 4:9). The Proverbs direct children to their parents and parents to their children: “**Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching**” (1:8–9) and “**Train up a child in the way he should go**” (Prov 22:6). These exhortations to pass on the faith to your children are not merely mine or Martin Luther’s, but God’s. We would be wise to heed them and put them into practice.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Woelmer



Birthdays

August 1 Linda Giager
August 1 Nancy Golubski
August 1 Justin Shay
August 2 Zack Hutchison
August 2 Russell Prothe
August 3 Jeron Hermann
August 5 Kelly Kaiser
August 5 Halle Schlegel
August 6 Jeremiah Ordonez
August 8 Jeff Garrison
August 8 Melissa Mondry
August 8 Trevor Fleming
August 8 Kurt Golubski
August 9 Chris Tesar
August 10 Hailey Jones
August 10 Tabytha Ritch
August 11 Angela Parks
August 12 Janet Schneider
August 13 Cindy Karrow
August 14 Jeremiah Brandt
August 15 Alicia Brandt
August 15 Joan Fehling
August 15 Derek Johns
August 15 Jeff Menefee
August 16 Shaun Ferrell
August 16 Shaylan Gibson
August 16 Mike Oberheide
August 16 Ellie Reyelts
August 16 Jace Allen
August 17 Tony Thompson
August 17 Bailey Vaughn
August 18 Kaley Debrick
August 18 Cathy Warring
August 20 Angela Carwile
August 20 Enora Coppenbarger
August 21 Alaric Bogle
August 22 Gayle Plummer
August 23 Ryan Boyer
August 24 Kelly Gerken
August 24 Kathryn Rakoski
August 25 Derik Vaughn
August 26 Brooke Yarborough
August 27 Cale Elkinton
August 27 Bryson Garrison
August 27 Beth Prothe

August 28 Courtney McHenry
August 30 Barb Brandt
August 30 Hailey Raines
August 30 Quentin Chilson
August 31 Jamie Ennett
August 31 Quentin Garrison
August 31 August Meyer
August 31 Sylvia Roeser

Anniversaries

August 5 Jeff and Karen Garrison (20)
August 5 Dennis and Debra Karina (54)
August 6 Bill and Ashley Dillenbeck (10)
August 15 Mitch and Jennifer Plummer (6)
August 16 Doug and Judy Parks (46)
August 16 Luke and Abigail Lee (1)
August 17 Curtis and Lucy Kettler (41)
August 18 Greg and Karen Windler (53)
August 25 Mike and April England (37)

COFFEE HOUR

Everyone is invited to stay for Coffee Hour in the Gathering Room following worship. Our thanks to those that provide snacks each Sunday. The signup sheet to provide snacks for Coffee Hour in 2026 is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Consider signing up to honor birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS: “Wisdom Literature”

What is “Wisdom”? Our next series of books will be the Wisdom Literature books of the Bible: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. Come to hear what wisdom is and how we can learn from her regarding faith and life. Join the Adult Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays in the Heritage Room to learn more!

“LOOKING AHEAD” BIBLE STUDY

We meet on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 am in the Heritage Room. Join us to study the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday service, so you can get a “sneak peek” of what you will hear on Sunday.

COMMUNION CHANGES

We will be celebrating the confirmation of ten youth on August 9th, so Pastor and the Elders decided to shift our celebration of Holy Communion from the 1st and 3rd Sundays to the 2nd and 4th Sundays of August (9th and 23rd). We want to have the confirmands receive Communion after they are confirmed. August is also a month with five Sundays in it, so this will still result in roughly every-other-Sunday Communion.

NURSING HOME SERVICES

You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents this month. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length at each home. This month, we are scheduled for Sunday, **August 2nd and 23rd**. On August 2nd, we will begin at 1:30 pm at Country Club Estates, and then go to Homestead around 2:15 for the second service. On August 23rd, we will begin at 1:30 pm at North Point, and then go to Medicalodges around 2:15 for the second service. The residents really enjoy these services, especially singing their favorite hymns. It's great to have church members there to greet the residents and sing along. We have a few members who help but we could use your help too!

BIEROCK MAKING

Our Bierocks are so popular that we sell out of them every year, and we are going to try to make more than our usual to meet the demand. We are planning to begin the first week of August. We will meet on Tuesdays to make the filling and then we will meet on Thursdays to combine that filling with bread to form the Bierocks. We will plan to start at 9:00 am. The dates will be:

Tuesday, August 4th and Thursday, August 6th
Tuesday August 11th and Thursday, August 13th
Tuesday, August 18th and Thursday, August 20th

RALLY DAY

Rally Day will be August 23rd! The kids will be invited to come to the front of church to recognize their new Sunday School classes. Some of them will receive new Bibles to encourage them in learning the Bible and reading Bible stories!

In addition, the Sunday School kids are invited to stay after church that day to eat lunch and watch the animated *Young David* movie, produced by Angel Studies. It'll be a lot of fun!

VOTERS MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Windler, followed with prayer by Pastor Woelmer. Roll was answered by 23 members; there were no new member requests. Financial reports by the home treasurer and mission treasurer were given. Pastor Woelmer's Q2 2026 report was given. Elders reported that Pastor Woelmer is finished with the vacancy at First Lutheran. Trustees report included elevator inspection was completed, elevator phase converter timer has been bypassed, deck at parsonage has been repaired, plan to review janitorial compensation, and north teacherage door repair is ongoing. Reports were heard from the Endowment, Board of Education, Youth, and Blocktoberfest committees. Old business items included church website upgrade, and approval to move forward with west parking lot concrete surfacing. New business items included Concordia Plan review, and approval to upgrade church copy machine through GFI Digital. Reminder was given to designate Thrivent Choice dollars, to update memorials list, to channel historian items to appropriate place, to check bulletin board for any correspondence, on-line giving remains active on web page, and to review Lutheran Witness subscription list in office. Voters were reminded that the church will be locked in accordance with upcoming August 4 elections.

BLOCKTOBERFEST SEPTEMBER 19

Ach du lieber! It's almost time for our thirteenth annual Blocktoberfest! Held at the Shelter House on Saturday, September 19, from 11:00 to 6:00, this year's Blocktoberfest will again feature lots of free fun activities and delicious food. Keep an eye (or ear) out for Heartland Revival, playing from 11:00 – 12:30!

And, on Sunday, September 20, we will also hold our annual "Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service" in the Shelter House at our regular worship time of 10:00 a.m.

We look forward to another wunderbar year celebrating our German heritage—and having fun!

KANSAS LUTHERAN SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, provides essential scholarships for K–12 students attending Lutheran schools in the LCMS Kansas District. As an approved Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) under the Kansas Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program, KLSSF enables donors to support Christ-centered education while receiving a 75% Kansas state income tax credit on eligible contributions. Your gift can directly transform a child's educational journey. Visit www.klssf.org to donate and learn more. Join us in expanding access to Lutheran education and strengthening its mission across Kansas.



SHELTER HOUSE ONLINE RESERVATIONS

As we are now in the summer months, a reminder that we have an online reservation system for the Trinity Lutheran School Memorial Shelter House. It automatically shows which dates and times are open, up to one year in advance, and it is easy to make your reservations online.

Go to trinitylutheranblock.youcanbook.me, or our church website when it is up and ready. You will also find there the rules for Shelter House usage. If you do not have access to a computer to make your reservation, you can simply call or speak to Greg Windler or Pastor Woelmer, and they will make the reservation for you.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you have a Thrivent account (or know someone else who does), don't forget to periodically check the account for Thrivent Choice Dollars; you are able to donate them to church or to various charities of your choice. If someone you know is not able to check online easily, feel free to help them see what might be sitting in their account, ready to be designated!

AUBURN PHARMACY CAPS

Please save your Auburn Pharmacy caps; Trinity earns 25 cents for every specially marked cap collected from AuBURN Pharmacy and submitted! There are 4 submission periods per year with an opportunity to earn up to \$2500 per period! There is a box in the gathering room for collection.

News from the Clausing Family

Sabbatical!

LCMS International Mission offers its missionaries the opportunity to take a sabbatical after every seven years of service on the field. My family and I have been in Africa for over ten years, and from now through late fall, I'm happy to be taking advantage of this opportunity. During my sabbatical I'll send out a newsletter every three months instead of every month. In other words, after this June newsletter, the next newsletter you'll receive will be a mid-sabbatical newsletter in September. Then our regular monthly newsletters will resume in December. Don't be concerned when you don't hear from us in July, August, October, or November; I'm just on sabbatical!

TRIP TO BRANSON

The youth group is heading to Branson from November 13-15 to watch the Sight & Sound Christmas special. If you would like to come, you're invited! A sign-up is in the back for the separate AirBnb house (you won't be in the same house as the youth); the cost will be about \$150 for the two nights, not including the show. Please see Michelle for any further details!

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership at Trinity or in learning more about the faith, we have already started a class on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. It's not too late to come! Please speak with Pastor if you or anyone else is interested.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to be added to a texting group for getting prayer requests, please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Room, or speak with Pastor or Susan Schmitt.



LUTHERAN LINKS

LCMS: www.lcms.org

LCMS Kansas District: www.kslcms.org

Lutherans for Life: www.lutheransforlife.org

The Lutheran Hour: www.lutheranhour.org

Issues, Etc. (Talk Radio): www.issuesetc.org

KFUO Radio: www.kfuo.org

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