

St. Paul's Lutheran
Church
Plankinton, SD

SEPTEMBER 2026

NEWSLETTER

Trinity Lutheran
Church
White Lake, SD

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Contact

Rev. Don McKillop, Vacancy Pastor
605-840-0554 (mobile)
prdomc5897@yahoo.com

* OFFICE HOURS *

St. Paul's, Tuesdays, 9–11:30 a.m.
Trinity, Wednesdays, 9–11:30 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
109 W State St., Plankinton SD 57368
www.stpaulplankinton.com
605-942-7364

Elders Curt Guindon
Mike Tuschen

President Rodney Weber

LWML President ... Marlene Johnson

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
304 S Johnston St., White Lake SD 57383
www.trinitywhitelake.com
facebook.com/trinitywhitelake
605-249-2333

Elders David Bogenhagen
Ben Bogenhagen
Scott Meier

President Dan Guericke

LWML Presidents Diana Kieffer
Hope Circle
Brianna Bogenhagen
Ruth Circle



St. Paul's Lutheran Church and
Trinity Lutheran Church are
members of the South Dakota
District of The Lutheran
Church—Missouri Synod.

GATHERED TO GROW



Dear Members of Trinity and St. Paul's,

In Acts 15, leaders of the New Testament church gathered together in Jerusalem to discuss an important question: "How does God save the Gentiles from sin and death?" They also discussed other issues such as: "Are Gentile believers required to obey ceremonial laws of Moses? Must Gentile believers abstain from food sacrificed to idols?"

In a similar way, on July 18–23, 2026, thousands of Lutherans of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from around the United States and the world gathered in Phoenix, Arizona, for the 69th Regular Convention of the LCMS. Representing our Mitchell Circuit were layman delegate Sherm Fuerniss, from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Dimock, and pastoral delegate, Rev. Dan Grimmer, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Mitchell. Some important topics that were discussed were: strengthening our ties with the Lutheran Church in both Bolivia and Australia; defending the unborn, including human embryos created during in vitro fertilization; and enhancing the Synod's relationship with its seminaries, colleges, and universities. Convention delegates discussed what the Bible says on these and many other topics, seeking to apply God's wisdom to the life of the church.

Even before the convention Dr. Matthew C. Harrison was elected to a sixth term as Synod President. Many other elections were held at convention to fill offices in the synod as the synod continues to be blessed with faithful leaders. For a more complete description of all that happened at the convention, you can visit lcms.org/convention/national.

In Acts 15, after much helpful discussion, God enabled the church leaders gathered in Jerusalem to put His wisdom into practice. Please pray for similar results to come from the convention in Phoenix. Pray that many might come to know the Savior as the Word is spread through the work of the LCMS.

Pastor McKillop



Christian Education Kicks off in September

Adult Bible class at Trinity: Wednesdays, September 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 5:30 p.m.

We will be studying the books of Colossians and Philemon.

7th and 8th grade Catechism class at Trinity: September 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 6:30 p.m.

7th and 8th grade Catechism class at St. Paul's: September 14 and 28 at 7 p.m.

Sunday School at St. Paul's begins September 20 at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday School at Trinity begins September 16 at 5:30 p.m.

Release-Time at Trinity begins September 9 at 2:15 p.m.

Serving the Lord during September 2026

Trinity

Elder Ben Bogenhagen
Ushers Ron Steffen
Dan Guericke
Acolyte Dayton Simpson
Altar Barb Gilbertz

St. Paul's

Elder Mike Tuschen
Ushers Curt Guindon
Merlyn Haak
Acolyte Mason DeGeest
Altar Cathy Albrecht
Greeters Sept. 6 Dan & Tina Gerlach
Sept. 13 Peg Hoffman
Sept. 20 Kieth & Cathy Albrecht
Sept. 27 Curt & Kathy Guindon

Scripture Readings for Sundays in September

Sept. 6 Ezekiel 33:7–9; Romans 13:1–10; Matthew 18:1–20

Sept. 13 Genesis 50:15–21; Romans 14:1–12; Matthew 18:21–35

Sept. 20 Isaiah 55:6–9; Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30; Matthew 20:1–16

Sept. 27 Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32; Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18; Matthew 21:23–27

Ultrasound Fund Collection

Trinity Lutherans for Life will be gathering a **free-will offering September 13, 2026**. This offering will go to the Southeastern LFL Chapter's **Ultrasound Fund** which supports the Alpha Center's limited ultrasound service. This fund maintains the donations previously received for Bike for Life.

Mitchell Circuit Forum

The Mitchell Circuit will convene for a **Circuit Forum** on Sunday, **September 13, 2026, at Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell**. We will begin with supper at 6 p.m. Synodical convention delegates Pr. Daniel Grimmer and Mr. Sherm Fuerniss will give a report on the LCMS Convention which took place in July in Phoenix. Each circuit congregation is invited to send a lay representative along with its pastor. We look forward to a good evening of fellowship and conversation.

Newsletter

The **October newsletter** will be available on/after September 27, 2026. Please submit news/articles to the parish secretary at trinitywlsd@gmail.com by Thursday, September 24, 2026. If you would prefer an emailed digital newsletter instead of a printed copy, please contact Nancy at the same email address. *Thank you!*



MAIN STREET LIVING September 2026

All programs are interpreted and closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.
www.mainstreetliving.com

Broadcast on KDLT (NBC) channels 5.1 / 46.1

September 6, 2026

10 a.m. "The Selling Price" A father and son face the issue of ethics, and how it relates to God's law.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Mike Grieve, pastor at Zion & Redeemer Lutheran Churches in Gwinner, ND, presents a message titled "The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven". The sermon is based on Matthew 18:1-20.

September 13, 2026

10 a.m. "No Laughing Matter" A woman must learn to deal with her past in order to help someone else in her present.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Kevin Moore, pastor at Messiah & Redeemer Lutheran Church in Redfield & Doland, presents a message titled "Forgiving Isn't Just Forgetting". The sermon is based on Genesis 50:15-21.

September 20, 2026

10 a.m. "My Husband, My Sorrow" A man and woman must deal with whether they should consummate an adulterous affair.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Jeff Kasmerski, Admission counselor at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, presents a message to start the academic year.

September 27, 2026

10 a.m. "The Cup" A man has to deal with the death of a young boy with a terminal illness.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Jacob Smith, pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, SD, presents a message titled "Is God Unjust?". The sermon is based on Ezekiel 18:25.



September 2026

Bev Miller, TR	Sept. 4
Rachel Thompson, TR	Sept. 6
Karen Pfitzer, TR	Sept. 9
Malcolm Janis, TR	Sept. 9
Kyle Everson, TR	Sept. 12
Jayna Doering, TR	Sept. 13
Dawn Fredericksen, TR	Sept. 14
Jay & Terri Thompson, TR	Sept. 16
Kendra Will, SP	Sept. 17
Dan Meier, TR	Sept. 17
Michelle Contreras, TR	Sept. 19
Marcella Thompson (100), TR	Sept. 20
Marv Jira (90), SP	Sept. 20
David Markhardt, TR	Sept. 20
Ann Harless, SP	Sept. 22
Addisyn Everson, SP	Sept. 24
Isabelle Albrecht, SP	Sept. 27
David & Nancy Bogenhagen, TR ..	Sept. 30
Jeremy & Lori Haak, SP	Sept. 30



LWML TRINITY Annual Joint Meeting

Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 2 p.m.

LWML Prayer Service, **"P.R.A.Y.E.R. — Praise, Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement, Rejoice"** will precede the business meeting. We will conclude with a dessert luncheon. All are welcome!

LWML SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

Christian Life Workshop 1

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Memorial Lutheran Church
5000 Western Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

"Ruth" — presented by Rev. Nabil Nour
Registration: 9 to 10 a.m.
Workshop: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Morning offering for mites.
Noon free-will donation to help cover lunch expenses.

LWML SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

Christian Life Workshop 2

Saturday, October 3, 2026

St. Paul Lutheran Church
846 North 7th Street
Spearfish, SD 57783

"Apologetics in Evangelism" (1 Peter 3:15) —
presented by Rev. Nabil Nour
Registration: 9 to 10 a.m.
Workshop: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
LWML Zone Meeting: 2 p.m.
Closing: 3 p.m.
Morning offering for mites.
Noon free-will donation to help cover lunch expenses.

LWML MITCHELL ZONE Fall Rally

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, SD, 1–4 p.m.

"The Sermon on the Mount" presented by Rev. Ryan Loeslie.

Gifts from the Heart will be cash donations for Brian Joachim, Immanuel, Dimock, 1st year seminary student at Ft. Wayne, IN. A trailer will be available at the Rally to collect gifts for Orphan Grain Train.

LCMS SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT CALL INFORMATION

PENDING CALLS

Daniel Grimmer, Zion, Mitchell, to Good Shepherd, Sherman IL, 8/1 **Jens Jenson**, Redeemer Armour, to Trinity Bridgeton, MO, 7/19. **Oliver LaMie**, St. Peters Dorsey, IL to Bethlehem Milbank/St. John Revillo, 08/07. **Kyle Lewis**, St. Martin Winona, MN to Mt. Calvary Brookings, 8/6. **Gordon Naumann**, St. John Hazleton, PA to Trinity Blunt; Holy Cross Onida; Immanuel Harrold, 8/12. **Jacob Smith**, St. Paul's Aberdeen to St. John Austin MN, 8/4

ACCEPTED

Kurt Laskowski, First English Centerville

and Zion Hurley to St. Paul International Falls MN and Fort Frances, Ontario, 7/30.

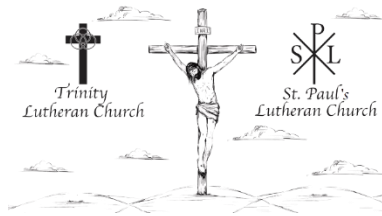
Michael Kumm, Holy Cross Dakota Dunes and Faith Pierre (vacancy), to Concordia Seminary, St Louis, MO, 8/16

DECLINED

Adam DeGroot, Calvary Rio Rancho NM to Peace Rapid City, 7/26. **Jon Ellingsworth**, St. John Waverly IA to Mt. Calvary Huron, 8/15. **Daniel Grimmer**, Zion Mitchell to Our Redeemer Eau Claire, WI, 7/27. **Aaron Koch**, Mt. Zion Greenfield WI to Peace Rapid City, Aug. 16.

VACANCIES

Trinity, Blunt/Immanuel, Harrold, Holy Cross, Onida
Mt. Calvary, Brookings (associate pastor)
St. Peter, Wentworth
St. Paul's, Plankinton/Trinity, White Lake
Mt. Calvary, Huron
Peace, Rapid City
Emanuel, Sisseton/Zion, Waubay
Mt. Olive, Watertown
Trinity, Corona/Our Savior, Wilmont
St. John, Revillo/Bethlehem, Milbank
First, Wall/Emmanuel, Creighton
Concordia, Cresbard/Immanuel, Wecota
Faith, Pierre



JOINT INFORMATIONAL MEETING

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Plankinton and Trinity Lutheran Church, White Lake
August 27, 2026

A joint informational meeting between St. Paul's Lutheran, Plankinton, and Trinity Lutheran, White Lake, was held at St. Paul's Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 7 p.m. Ten members from St. Paul's, eight members from Trinity, LCMS South Dakota District President Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher, Mitchell Circuit Visitor Rev. Ryan Loeslie, and Rev. Don McKillop were present.

LCMS South Dakota District President Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher led the discussion. He opened with a reading of the Beatitudes from Matthew 5. This reading helps us see God working in and through the church. The reading was followed with prayer.

President Sturzenbecher outlined the conversation for this meeting.

1. Look at the past of our two congregations and share highlights.
 2. Look at where we are now.
 3. Look at a plan going forward.
1. Thoughts shared included having full pews, getting along, positive memories of Sunday School, and longevity of members.
 2. Thoughts shared included being devoted but small; stronger in recent years due to a good pastor and stable leadership; active LWML groups; and having a solid and steady core.
 3. Looking forward at this time would be a good thing due to our aging pastor and a shortage of pastors throughout the synod.
 - Pastor McKillop shared that he is willing to continue serving our dual parish vacancy as long as he is able and/or until we call a younger pastor.
 - According to our District Salary Guidelines, the expense of calling a full-time minister from a seminary now would total around \$85,000 a year.
 - We could look at having conversations with area congregations about forming a tri- or quad-parish or about sharing a pastor with a larger community (like Zion Mitchell).
 - The number of seminary graduates in 2026 hit an all-time low, but numbers are looking up in the coming years.
 - One concern is getting new graduates interested in coming to rural areas, as most sem. students are from urban areas. The LCMS Placement program is looking at getting more vicars in rural congregations to help them see the benefits of the rural demographic.
 - Having our own parsonage is an awesome asset.

The general consensus was to continue with Pastor McKillop at this time, and that the dual parish leadership come together to discuss a plan going forward of having conversations with area congregations. Circuit Visitor Loeslie and eventually District President Sturzenbecher would be involved with this process.

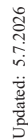
Pastor Loeslie closed with prayer and President Sturzenbecher with the benediction.

Parish Secretary,
Nancy Bogenhagen

South Dakota District

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Congregations / Parishes / Circuits



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 TR LWML Annual Joint Meeting 2 p.m.	2 TR LWML at The Puppet Place, Huron	3	4	5
6  Fifteenth Sunday Pentecost Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's	7	8 SP Dorcas 2 p.m.	9 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. Joint Bible Class @TR 5:30 p.m. TR Ctchsm 6:30 p.m.	10	11	12
13  Sixteenth Sunday Pentecost Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's	14 SP Catechism 7 p.m.	15	16 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. Joint Bible Class @TR TR Wed. School 5:30 p.m. TR Ctchsm 6:30 p.m.	17	18	19
20  Seventeenth Sunday Pentecost Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's <i>Rev. David Ellis</i>	21	22	23 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. Joint Bible Class @TR TR Wed. School 5:30 p.m. TR Ctchsm 6:30 p.m.	24	25	26 LWML SD Christian Life Workshop, Memorial Lutheran, Sioux Falls 10-3
27  Eighteenth Sunday Pentecost Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's	28 SP Catechism 7 p.m.	29	30 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. Joint Bible Class @TR TR Wed. School 5:30 p.m. TR Ctchsm 6:30 p.m.	Upcoming Events LWML South Dakota Christian Life Workshop October 3, 2026, St. Paul Lutheran, Spearfish LWML Mitchell Zone Fall Rally October 4, 2026, Zion Mitchell LCMS South Dakota District Pastors Conference October 12-14, 2026, Zion Rapid City		