



AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER



In This Issue

August Events	1
Read Through the Bible	2
From Our President & Pastor ..	3
Stay in Touch	4
Main Street Living	5
LCMS District News	5
News from the Center	6
Calendar	

Contact

Rev. Jens Jenson, Vacancy Pastor
605-682-0455 (mobile)
redemarmour@unitelsd.com

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.stpaulplankinton.com
605-942-7364

Elders Justin Everson
Curt Guindon
Mike Tuschen

President Justin Everson

LWML President ... Marlene Johnson

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.trinitywhitelake.com
facebook.com/trinitywhitelake
605-249-2333

Elders David Bogenhagen
Dan Guericke
Scott Meier

President Dean Suelflow

LWML Presidents Diana Kieffer
Hope Circle
Brianna Bogenhagen
Ruth Circle

Upcoming Joint Divine Worship Service Schedule

Sunday, August 6, 2023 — 5 p.m. at St. Paul's
Sunday, August 13, 2023 — 5 p.m. at Trinity, Pastor Sailer
Sunday, August 20, 2023 — 5 p.m. at St. Paul's, Pastor Loeslie
Sunday, August 27, 2023 — 5 p.m. at Trinity
Sunday, September 3, 2023 — 5 p.m. at St. Paul's
Sunday, September 10, 2023 — 5 p.m. at Trinity, Pastor Grimmer

Pastor Jenson's schedule: Vacation August 7–23, 2023. **Off duty** September 4–15, 2023. Pastor Loeslie (Immanuel, Dimock) will be on call for emergencies during those weeks. Pastor Loeslie's cell: 605-630-1896.

Christian Education

No Bible Class, Confirmation Class, nor Sunday School during the summer months. Trinity's Release-Time will resume Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 2:15 p.m.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LWML Trinity Joint Annual Meeting Wed. Sept. 6, 5:30 p.m. Ruth hosts.
LWML St. Paul's Dorcas Circle – No meeting in August.

LWML Trinity Ruth Circle is hosting a White Lake Community **Blood Drive** **August 16, 2023, 1–5:45 p.m.** at the White Lake United Methodist Church. Contact Karen Meier for more information, 605-680-1889.

Serving the Lord's Church in AUGUST

TRINITY

Elder David Bogenhagen
Ushers Ben Bogenhagen
Ron Steffen
Acolyte Brant Bogenhagen
Altar Janice Thiry

ST. PAUL'S

Elder Curt Guindon
Ushers Marv Jira
Larry Gerlach
Acolyte Jacey Kemp
Altar Cathy Albrecht
Greeters 8-6 Carol Schaeffer
8-20 Larry & Jean Gerlach

Serving the Lord's Church in SEPTEMBER

TRINITY

Elder Scott Meier
Ushers Ron Steffen
Dan Meier
Acolyte Taelyn Clark
Altar Barb Gilbertz

ST. PAUL'S

Elder Mike Tuschen
Ushers Curt Guindon
Merlyn Haak
Acolyte Jenna Haak
Altar Cathy Albrecht
Greeters 9-3 Billie Madsen
9-17 Lennis & Sandy Titze

Scripture Readings

Aug. 6 Isaiah 55:1–5; Romans 9:1–5; Matthew 14:13–21
Aug. 13 Job 38:4–18; Romans 10:5–17; Matthew 14:22–33
Aug. 20 Isaiah 56:1, 6–8; Romans 11:1/2a, 13-15, 28-32; Matt. 15:21-28
Aug. 27 Isaiah 51:1–6; Romans 11:33–12:8; Matthew 16:13–20
Sept. 3 Jeremiah 15:15–21; Romans 12:9–21; Matthew 16:21–28

The **September 2023 newsletter** will be available either August 27 or September 3, 2023. Articles are due Thursday, August 24, 2023.

Please send newsletter and bulletin items to Nancy Bogenhagen at trinitywlsd@gmail.com. **Weekly bulletin deadline is Thursday noon.**

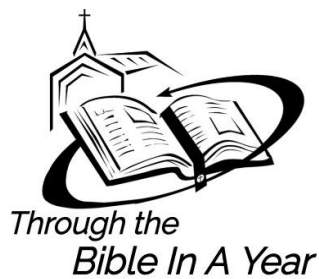
Please email me if you prefer your newsletter emailed to you. Thank you!



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

Many Christians have considered challenging themselves to read through the Bible in one year. Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is offering you that very opportunity! The Gospel Outreach Committee has created a monthly reading plan to

On Your Mark! Get Set! Open Your Bibles!



AUGUST 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 2 Kings 12–13 Micah 3 1 Corinthians 16	2 2 Kings 14 Micah 4:1–5:1 2 Cor. 1:1–2:4	3 2 Kings 15–16 Micah 5:2–15 2 Cor. 2:5–3:18	4 2 Kings 17 Micah 6 2 Cor. 4:1–5:10	5 2 Kings 18 Micah 7 2 Cor. 5:11–6:13
	6 2 Kings 19 Nahum 1 2 Cor. 6:14–7:16	7 2 Kings 20–21 Nahum 2 2 Corinthians 8	8 2 Kings 22:1–23:35 Nahum 3 2 Corinthians 9	9 2 Kings 23:36–24:20 Habakkuk 1 2 Corinthians	10 2 Kings 25 Habakkuk 2 2 Corinthians 11	11 1 Chronicles 1–2 Habakkuk 3 2 Corinthians
13 1 Chronicles 5–6 Zephaniah 2 John 1:1–18	14 1 Chronicles 7–8 Zephaniah 3 John 1:19–34	15 1 Chronicles 9 Haggai 1–2 John 1:35–51	16 1 Chronicles 10–11 Zechariah 1 John 2	17 1 Chronicles 12 Zechariah 2 John 3:1–21	18 1 Chronicles 13–14 Zechariah 3 John 3:22–36	19 1 Chronicles 15:1–16:6 Zechariah 4 John 4:1–26
20 1 Chronicles 16:7–43 Zechariah 5 John 4:27–42	21 1 Chronicles 17 Zechariah 6 John 4:43–54	22 1 Chronicles 18–19 Zechariah 7 John 5:1–18	23 1 Chronicles 20:1–22:1 Zechariah 8 John 5:19–47	24 1 Chronicles 22:2–23:32 Zechariah 9 John 6:1–21	25 1 Chronicles 24 Zechariah 10 John 6:22–59	26 1 Chronicles 25–26 Zechariah 11 John 6:60–71
27 1 Chronicles 27–28 Zechariah 12 John 7:1–24	28 1 Chronicles 29 Zechariah 13 John 7:25–52	29 2 Chronicles 1:1–2:16 Zechariah 14 John 8:1–20	30 2 Chronicles 2:17–5:1 Malachi 1:1–2:9	31 2 Chronicles 5:2–14 Malachi 2:10–16		

*In the beginning was the Word, and Word was with God,
and the Word was God (John 1:1).*

What is a Lutheran?

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison

In June, Thrivent — a fraternal benefit society born of a merger of two Lutheran organizations — exhorted its Instagram followers, with a rainbow heart, to “Celebrate Pride Month.” Many folks who own Thrivent products have asked us for alternatives for life insurance and investments. I especially feel for the many faithful LCMS people who serve or have served as Thrivent agents whose consciences are burdened. I think of J.A.O. Preus I (father of former LCMS President Rev. Dr. J.A.O. “Jack” Preus II), who founded Lutheran Brotherhood. I think of the Lutherans (like my family) who served so well in these institutions for so long, and all the charitable dollars to worthy causes.

In other news, a congregation in Minnesota bearing the name “Lutheran” — though not one with which we are in fellowship — has gone viral for its use of the so-called “Sparkle Creed” at a Pride Sunday service in June. Again, our voicemails and inboxes lit up with those concerned that the Synod needed to issue a statement about this “creed,” which includes phrases such as “I believe in the non-binary God whose pronouns are plural. I believe in Jesus Christ, their son, who wore a fabulous tunic and had two dads.”

These are shocking developments, but not unexpected. Thrivent long ago shed “for Lutherans” from its name, and more recently dropped “for Christians.” In 2014, it stopped allowing Thrivent Choice donations to be directed to pro-life organizations (taking what they called a neutral position on the matter of abortion). And the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has advocated for LGBTQ+ issues for decades. I pray for the many Christians in the ELCA. Thank God the dictum of the ancient church — “The ears of the hearers are more holy than the hearts of the priests” — remains true. God grant to all of us wretched sinners repentance and faith in Christ. By the way, I only mention the ELCA here because the national media, in its reporting on the “Sparkle Creed,” indiscriminately lumped all Lutherans together.

While once faithful church bodies in Australia and Japan have slipped away from historic, confessional Lutheran doctrine and practice, other churches — particularly in Africa, but also elsewhere — are throwing off their entanglements

with the heterodox Lutheran World Federation and seeking LCMS pastors and professors to catechize them in more faithful doctrine and practice. This vital international role of our seminaries is often overlooked. We have more requests from around the world than we can meet.

This all raises the question: **What is a Lutheran?** Thrivent used to be “for Lutherans.” And as we can see, a church with “Lutheran” in its name can have its members confess, “I believe in the non-binary God whose pronouns are plural.”

Being a Lutheran does not mean being like Luther or believing everything he taught. Though God magnificently used the blessed reformer to restore the Gospel to its proper place in the church, we don’t confess everything Luther taught. Being Lutheran is also not heritage or history. Churches descended from the Reformation are not necessarily Lutheran. And being Lutheran does not mean reinterpreting glorious and thoroughly biblical Lutheran words like “grace” to mean “tolerance,” or “vocation” to mean “service.”

Being Lutheran does mean subscribing to the specific teachings of the Lutheran Confessions because they accord with the doctrine revealed in Holy Scripture. You all know this confession, which is most simply put in Luther’s Small Catechism. The catechism sets forth the great basics of the faith: the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, Baptism, Confession, and the Lord’s Supper.

At the core of the catechism are these words: “I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.”

This — the doctrine of justification, on which the church stands or falls — is what it means to be Lutheran. Everything else flows from it. Original sin and the preaching of the Law (apart from Christ, all of us are “lost and condemned persons”) are about justification. Because we know that God justifies sinners, we aren’t afraid of man’s sinful condition,

Concerns About Thrivent

nor do our sins terrify and oppress us. God reckons us righteous, by grace, for Christ's sake.

Baptism — even infant Baptism — is about justification because the font is one of the places God does His justifying work, apart from any participation of our own. The Office of the Keys is about justification because the pastor's absolving words are God's justifying work. The Lord's Supper is about justification because God gathers His saints around His altar to feed them with the price paid for their justification: the very body and blood of Jesus. Even the authority of the Bible is tied to justification. Jesus says the Bible testifies about Him (John 5), and those who believe in Jesus listen to Him. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).

If a church body rejects God's Law, it cannot call sinners to repentance. It loses the fullness of justification and ceases to be truly Lutheran. That's why we must always proclaim Law and Gospel. If a congregation rejects the church's historic creeds in favor of something made up to fit the sexual mores of the culture, it rejects justification, since Christ suffered on the cross to pay for man's sins, not to permit and celebrate them.

If that's what a Lutheran is, must one be a Lutheran to be saved? No. As the doctrine of justification rightly teaches, God saves people solely out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, through simple faith in Jesus as their Savior. Wherever His Word is preached — even if imperfectly — there is hope for sinners to be saved by the working of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3).

One pastor I know is fond of telling his parishioners that there are no Lutheran insomniacs, at least when it comes to eternal life. No Lutheran should stay awake at night worrying about his salvation. If justification is God's work alone (which it is), and if He works through tangible means (which He does), then a Christian can remind himself that he is baptized by God and go happily to sleep.

The point of being Lutheran is comfort, not pride. God intends His people to have full and complete confidence that they are His because of His perfect work. This is justification. This is why I am a Lutheran. This joyful confidence is the baptismal birthright of every Christian. And it's why we won't confess the Sparkle Creed with the "church of what's happening now."

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison
July 21, 2023

This is something Christians are rightly concerned about because we love Jesus and His Word. His Word is truth. His Word blesses and prospers us. His Word absolves sin and grants everlasting life. Going against His Word will always result in harm and eventually eternal death. By promoting pride month and taking a neutral stance on abortion Thrivent is standing opposed to Christ. Though many LCMS members use Thrivent and it was born of Lutheran organizations, Thrivent has no affiliation with the Lutheran Church anymore.

In Christ,
Pastor Jenson

STAY IN TOUCH

Pastor Jens Jenson

Vacancy Pastor
605-682-0455 (mobile)
[redeemarmour@unitelsd.com](mailto:redemarmour@unitelsd.com)

Websites

www.stpaulplankinton.com
www.trinitywhitelake.com

Links for the bulletin, printed service, and for the YouTube recording are updated weekly under the Services tab!

Email

trinitywlsd@gmail.com

- Submit newsletter and bulletin articles.
- Update a prayer request.
- Request a digital copy of the newsletter.

Social Media

facebook.com/trinitywhitelake

Recordings of Divine Services

Available on the **YouTube** channel,
Trinity White Lake.



MAIN STREET LIVING AUGUST 2023

All programs are interpreted and closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. For more information visit: www.mainstreetliving.com

Broadcast on KDLT (NBC) channels 5.1 / 46.1

August 6, 2023

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 Koester, pastor at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Huron, presents a message titled "A Trail of Breadcrumbs." The sermon is based on Matthew 14:13–21.

August 13, 2023

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. Dr. Dale Sattgast, SD District President Emeritus, presents a message titled "Why Do You Doubt?" The sermon is based on Matthew 14:22–33.

August 20, 2023

10 a.m. "The Cup" — The dilemma a trucker must face when a good friend dies trying to protect him.

10:30 a.m. — Rev. Marcus Ring, pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Gregory, presents a message titled "Proven." The sermon is based on Matthew 15:21–28.

August 27, 2023

10 a.m. "Stranger at the Door" — Having given up a baby for adoption 22 years before, a man shows up on her steps saying he is looking for his mother.

10:30 a.m. — Rev. David Otten, pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Gettysburg and Christ Lutheran Church in Lebanon, presents a message titled "Thinking Too Much of Yourself." The sermon is based on Romans 12:3.

LCMS SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT NEWS

Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, SD, is hosting a golf tournament August 13, 2023 to help raise funds for their building project. Shotgun start at 1 p.m. If anyone is interested in golfing or perhaps sponsoring a hole please contact events@zionmitchell.org. For more information, visit zionmitchell.org/news-events.

(NE) District Youth Gathering — Kearney 2023. High school students in grades 9–12 and their adult leaders are invited to join other LCMS youth at the 2023 LCMS District Youth Gathering—Kearney. Friends of youth group members are invited and encouraged to attend, too! The gathering will include an offsite servant event component, giving all participants the opportunity to honor God through service to others in the Kearney community. Find more information visit <https://ndlcms.org/dyg/>.

INTERESTED IN A GREAT SERVICE PROJECT? Consider volunteering at Blessed Emmanuel during the 2023 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally!

The many volunteers who have helped during previous years can attest to the wonderful fellowship we experience with our fellow LCMS members as well as the many visitors who attend breakfasts and suppers. We serve about 2,000 meals during the rally. That's 2,000 opportunities to witness!

And we are greatly rewarded when we receive letters, weeks and months after the rally has ended, telling us that after seeing the joyful volunteerism we have during rally, they have been motivated to volunteer more at their home church.

BREAKFAST 6 a.m. – 12 p.m. daily from Saturday, August 5th–Saturday August 12th
6 a.m.–12 p.m.—breakfast prep and cooking (4 people)
7 a.m.–12 p.m.—serving (13 people)
12 p.m. until done—clean-up (2 people)
DINNER 4–8 p.m. daily from Monday, August 7th – Friday, August 11th
4–8 p.m.—set-up/serve/clean-up (6 people)

Please call Blessed Emmanuel at 605-423-5870 if you would like more information.



WORD FROM THE CENTER – July 31, 2023

Welcome to “Word from The Center” MONDAY, a devotional word from the Center of our faith, Jesus Christ, with reflections from His Word. I’m Gregory Seltz. Today’s verses are Romans 8:38–39, where the Bible says ³⁷*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* ³⁸*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,* ³⁹*neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord*

CHRIST’S CONQUERING CONFIDENCE FOR YOU!

Confidence makes a big difference in our performance, especially when the pressure is on. Some say that ability isn’t enough if one isn’t confident as well. ... when it counts most, courageous confidence is often the difference between winning and losing; the abundance or absence of confidence determines the outcome. Confidence in your abilities, strength, and talents can also make a big difference in how well you deal with the issues that you are facing today.

But this text speaks of something infinitely greater than your confidently executed finest efforts. ***Romans 8:37 speaks of a confidence that you can have “in all things,” even when you feel overwhelmed, beaten down, or without hope*** (see verses 35-36). This text speaks of a confidence born of the fact that Jesus has fought for you and conquered all the things that stand against you. (see verse 34). He is also inviting you to receive His blood-bought victory as a gift which instills you with confidence to face whatever is before you at the moment. Throughout this chapter, the Apostle Paul is constantly reminding us that in ALL THINGS God is “for us” in Jesus Christ (see verses 31-32). ***Even at the moments of our greatest challenges, even amidst our greatest despair, nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ.*** Yes, all things do indeed work together for good for those who love Him (verse 28).






I call that “Christ’s conquering confidence.” It gives those who trust in Him the courage to face all things with the assurance that He will have the last say in our lives. And when Jesus has the last say, that is a very good thing indeed. Let me share with you a little exercise that I find helpful when I feel overwhelmed by things. At those times when I lack confidence, I voice out loud my confidence in my Savior Jesus. I remind myself that His victory is

already my victory (1 Corinthians 15:57), and His perseverance is already mine as well. I still remember the sermon which challenged me to do this exercise. Pastor Roger Robinson, my partner in ministry at Immanuel Lutheran, Brandon, FL reminded us that, because of Jesus’ cross and resurrection, no matter what troubles we might be facing, be they our struggles, griefs, or pains, all of them are TEMPORARY, fleeting inconveniences compared to our ultimate blessings in Christ. That exercise wasn’t wishful thinking or merely an academic exercise for him. Roger had various physical infirmities that made each day a real challenge. But that boldness to look at ongoing pain as something temporary and fleeting made him the joy-filled, pastoral presence in our lives that all of us remember to this day.

Exercise that confidence in Christ today. When we face things from Christ’s viewpoint and recall His conquering work on our behalf, our problems shrink in comparison, and our courage and capacity to engage them grows exponentially. Romans 8 reminds us that Jesus is more than a “wing man” watching our backs. He is the resurrected Savior of the world and He is with us always. Faith in Christ grants us His “conquering confidence” for life. Martin Luther said such “faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.”[1] Indeed, he did, and we can too in those Reformation proclamations of salvation by Grace Alone, through Faith Alone, in Christ Alone!

PRAYER Dear Lord, give us more than mere confidence in ourselves and our own abilities. Give us the confidence that comes through faith in all that You have done for us that we might receive Christ’s “conquering confidence” to face the challenges of life each day until we see You face to face. AMEN.

August 2023

SUN		MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 6:30 p.m. TR Ruth Circle 	3	4	5
		6  Tenth Sunday Pentecost 5 p.m. at St. Paul's Joint Divine Service	7	8	9	10	11
13  Eleventh Sunday Pentecost 5 p.m. at Trinity Joint Divine Service Rev. Scott Sailer	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20  Twelfth Sunday Pentecost 5 p.m. at St. Paul's Joint Divine Service Rev. Ryan Loeslie	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27  Thirteenth Sunday Pentecost 5 p.m. at Trinity Joint Divine Service	28	29	30	31	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Pastor Jenson's Vacation July 7-23 </div>		