



Monthly Monitor

September 2026

September Shift

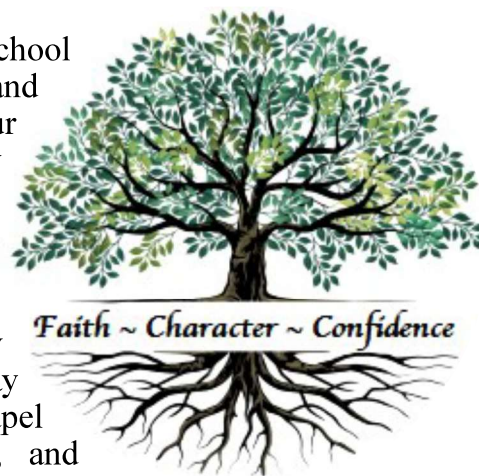
September arrives in the Saginaw Valley with a kind of gentle clarity. The fields begin to turn. The evenings cool. The hum of tractors grows steady again. And across our township and region, you can feel the shift—summer is giving way to a new season of purpose and promise.

For our Trinity Monitor Church and School, that promise comes into focus as we begin another school year. After a full and joyful summer, our teachers, staff, and families are stepping into the year with excitement, energy, and a shared theme that will guide us: “Rooted in Christ,” based on Colossians 2:6–7.

Paul writes, *“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith...”* What a gift this passage is for our children, our families, and our entire congregation. In a world that changes quickly, Christ remains steady. In a culture full of distractions, His Word nourishes. In every season—whether joyful or challenging—He anchors us, grows us, and strengthens us.



Our prayer for this school year is simple and profound: that our students would grow deep. Deep in faith. Deep in character. Deep in the confidence that comes from knowing they belong to Jesus. May every lesson, chapel service, conversation, and moment of Christian community help root them more firmly in Him.



Before the school year began, we celebrated one of our most beloved traditions: the 43rd Annual Pig Roast Weekend. Held the weekend before school starts, it has become a joyful marker of the season—a time to reconnect, welcome new families, enjoy good food, and celebrate the fellowship God gives His people as we support our ministry here at Monitor. It is one of those events that reminds us how blessed we are to be part of a congregation and school that truly feels like family.

And then, as the first days of school settle in, we come to Labor Day weekend—a pause, a breath, a moment to give thanks. We remember the gift of work, the dignity and purpose God gives to our vocations, and the rest He provides for body and soul. It is a fitting way to begin a new year: grateful for the work God has given us, and grateful for the rest He promises in Christ.

As we step into September, may God bless Trinity, Monitor with joy in the season ahead. May He strengthen our school, our teachers, our students, our families and our church. And may He continue to root us—deeply, joyfully, and securely—in Christ our Lord.

-Pastor Kaiser



Stewardship Corner

Time • Talents • Treasures

September

God's Instrument

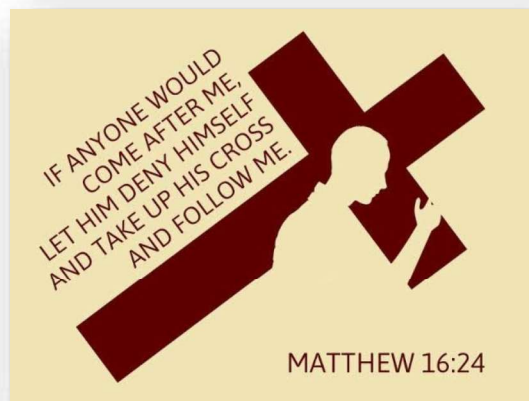
Not many sermons which we hear in childhood are clearly remembered in later life. One which I heard as a boy, however, made such a deep impression upon me that I have never forgotten it. It centered upon an interpretation of Psalm 92:3, an exhortation to praise God *"upon an instrument of ten strings."* Upon becoming a theological student I discovered that my pastor had been guilty of "forced exegesis." Nor could he lay any claim to originality, for I have encountered the same line of thought in various other settings. Yet this quaint interpretation which was evidently quite popular a half-century ago carries a stewardship message which is permanently valid.

"What is this instrument of ten strings?" asked the preacher. And he answered, "It is you. You have two eyes to see what God has done. You have two ears to hear God's Word. You have two hands to do God's work. You have two feet to walk God's way. You have one tongue to speak God's truth. You have one heart to give God. Add them up and you see that you are an instrument of ten strings to be used to praise God."

This is doubtless faulty exegesis of the psalm but it comes close to what Paul had in mind when he said, *"Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God"* (Romans 12:1). And it is the secret of the liberal giving by the Macedonians who *"first gave themselves to the Lord"* (2 Corinthians 8:5).

A Christian is God's instrument and his whole life is a psalm of thanksgiving to God.

(T. A. Kantonen)



Bearing the Cross

"That's my cross to bear," some sighing, self-pitying soul laments. What is it that we identify as a cross? Is it poor health? A hard-to-get-along-with in-law? An unfeeling employer? An unpleasant situation of some kind?

What was the cross of Christ? It was the instrument His enemies used to kill Him. It symbolized the lowest degree of humiliation possible. Yet the writer to the Hebrews urges, *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame..."* (Hebrews 12:2).

Through His death in our place, Christ exalted the cross. We look to the cross, not with shame, but with humble joy, for there our Savior took the punishment that is ours. There He won eternal life for us. There He won the victory over sin, death, and Satan.

"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me," Jesus declared (Matthew 16:24). The Christian steward taking up his cross is ridiculed by the world, just as his Savior was. The world hated Christ, and the world will hate His followers (John 15:18-19). Still we stewards, filled with His Spirit, equipped with His gifts, and renewed in our minds, joyfully take up the cross He gives us.

The cross, rather than being an agent of death, frees us – frees us to serve, to give, to sacrifice willingly and freely. Like our Savior on Whom we fix our eyes, we endure any hardship or discomfort for the joy that lies before us as we surrender our wills to the perfect will of our Father in Heaven.





Trinity Lutheran School

The Classroom Chronicles

September 2026

It is hard to believe we are already prepared to open our doors for another school year. Our hearts are filled with immense gratitude for this congregation. Trinity Lutheran School is a direct reflection of your unwavering faith, generosity, and commitment to Christian education. Because of your faithful prayers and financial support, we are able to welcome our students into a safe, nurturing environment where they can grow academically and deepen their walk with Christ.

This year, our school theme is **"Rooted in Christ,"** inspired by Colossians 2:6-7:

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

How Your Support Makes a Difference

- **Spiritual Growth:** You enable us to keep God's Word at the center of every classroom, morning devotion, and weekly chapel, grounding our students in truth.
- **Academic & Facility Care:** Your gifts help maintain safe facilities, update learning materials, and provide our dedicated teachers with the resources they need to lead effectively.
- **Accessible Ministry:** Your generosity directly funds scholarship opportunities, ensuring that families seeking a Christ-centered education for their children can find a home here regardless of financial barriers.

How You Can Join Us in Prayer This Year

- **For Our Students:** That they remain deeply rooted in Christ, growing in faith, wisdom, and Christian character.
- **For Our Teachers & Staff:** For energy, patience, and joy as they pour themselves into their ministry each day.
- **For Our Families:** That our school community remains a source of encouragement, connection, and spiritual strength for every home represented.

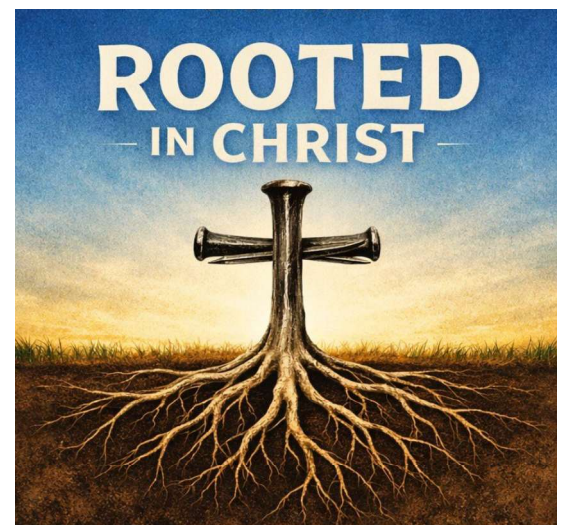
We invite you to keep our students, faculty, and staff in your daily prayers as we launch into this new academic year. Thank you for walking alongside us, investing in the next generation, and serving as the foundation of this vital ministry.

Once again we are inviting congregation members to be a Prayer Angel for a specific class. If you would like more information on what a Prayer Angel is and how you can participate please call the school office.

With sincere gratitude in Christ,

Karen Friebe

Principal, Trinity Lutheran School





This is the TEAM of individuals that work together to keep your school running like a fine oiled machine. Each and every person would greatly appreciate your prayers of support.

Principal

Mrs. Karen Friebe

School Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Amy Samborn

Pastor

Rev. Seth Kaiser-7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Class

Church Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Lisa Mrozinski

Middle School Teachers

Mrs. Judy Jean-7th/8th homeroom

& Science, Math, STEM, Life Skills

Mr. Brendan Harrison-6th homeroom

& Faith Formation, Social Studies, Math, News Media

Mrs. Suzanne Tomaszewsky-5th homeroom

& Faith Formation, ELA, Handbells

Elementary School

Mrs. Sarah Earle-4th Grade Teacher

Ms. Catherine Hutter*-3rd Grade Teacher

Mrs. Kelli Dent-2nd Grade Teacher

Mrs. Susan Thiel-1st Grade Teacher

Mrs. Karrie Estes-Kindergarten Teacher

Early Childhood

Mrs. Rebecca Setula-E.C. Director & GSRP (4 year olds)
Preschool Teacher

Mrs. Shawn Cook*-3 year old Preschool Teacher

Shared Time Teachers - Carrollton Public Schools

Miss Elizabeth Ahrens-Art

Mrs. Brandilyn Gatz-Physical Education

Mrs. Melissa Yagiela-Music

Mrs. Rebecca Sugden-VLHS Elementary Band

Mrs. Melissa Messing-GSRP Classroom Assistant

Miss Lainie Armstrong-Preschool Aide

Miss Emma Samborn*-Preschool Aide, Extended Care

Custodian, Technology Director, Security Director

Mr. John Mrozinski

Hot Lunch Program Director

Mrs. Yvonne Tennant

Extended Care

Mrs. Anne Wegener-Before School

Mr. Dale Fish-Before School

Miss Savanna Sylvester-After school

Miss Jayden Jezowski-After school

Athletic Directors

Mrs. Nicole Marter

Mrs. Karen Friebe

School Finances

Mr. Royce Wegener

**new this year*



Board of Christian Education

Mrs. Katie Wohlfeil,

Mrs. Patsy Weiss

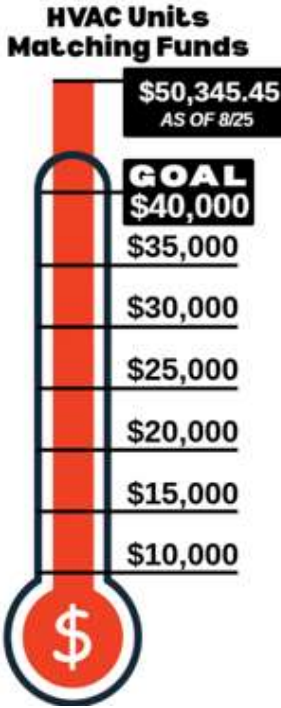
Mrs. Gretchen Anderson

Mrs. Courtney Feinauer

Mrs. Amy Srebinski

Mrs. Kate Kaiser

HVAC UPDATE



How Someone Becomes a Voting Member

- Being a **confirmed, communicant member**
- Being **18 years old or older**
- Being in **good standing** (regular worship, not under discipline)
- Being **formally accepted** into the voters' assembly by signing the constitution



Why Voting Membership Matters

Voting membership is how the congregation:

- Exercises its **God-given responsibility** for doctrine, practice, and mission
- Ensures decisions are made **by the people**
- Maintains **accountability and transparency**
- Preserves the LCMS principle that **the congregation is the basic unit of the church's authority**

PUBLIC SCHOOL CONFIRMATION 2026-2027

Confirmation Classes for the 7th & 8th grade public school students of Trinity Lutheran Church will begin in September 16th in the church basement at 4:45pm and continue through April. If your child will be participating in the confirmation classes, or if you have any questions regarding confirmation, please contact Pastor Kaiser or call the church office at (989)662-6093.

Life Clinic-Baby Bottle Campaign

Thank you to the members of Trinity Lutheran Church for your participation in the Baby Bottle Campaign. Your donation of \$1056.07 will help to eliminate barriers, restore hope, and empower the choice for life.



News from VLHS

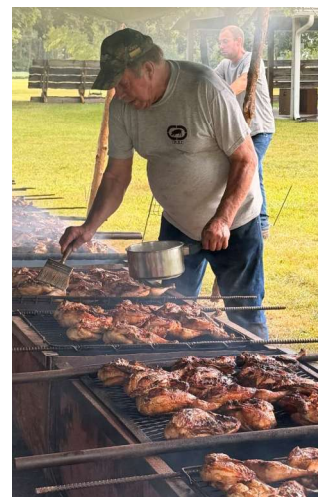
Welcome to a new school year from Valley Lutheran! We are excited to begin another year serving the students and families of the Great Lakes Bay Region in preparing students for life with Christ as our foundation. Our theme is "Forward in Faith", drawing from the words of Moses in Deuteronomy 31:8, "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." May we boldly walk forward this year, knowing God goes before us and beside us, and will never leave us. What do we have to fear? May God bless your upcoming year in Him!

Homecoming at Valley Lutheran is coming up September 21-26! Mark your calendars now to be part of the festivities! Look for detailed information to come.

Save the Date for the VLHS Parent Organization Mum Sale! Coming Friday, September 11 beginning at 1 pm in the VL parking lot.

2026 PIG ROAST & CHICKEN BBQ WEEKEND

**Totals will be listed in
the October Monitor*



SEPTEMBER 2026

	1st Service	2nd Service
	Greeters	Greeters
6th	Terri Scheuerlein, Agnes & Aurora	Virgil & Lugene McGuire
13th	Bob & Nina Hooper	Cheryl Trudell
20th	Larry & Judy Miller	Michelle Steffey
27th	Pam & Carl Pfundt	Kerrie Wood



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Prayer Chain Nancy Klaus 280-4913		1	2 6:00pm Outdoor Worship w/Communion	3	4 <i>No School Office Closed</i>	5
6 8:30 & 10:30am Communion <i>Mite Box Sunday</i>	7 <i>No School Office Closed</i> <i>Labor Day</i>	8 5:00pm Elders 6:00pm Church Council Friendship Guild 7:00pm Athletic Club	9 6:00pm Outdoor Worship w/Communion	10	11 <i>Patriot Day</i>	12
13 8:30 & 10:30am Worship 9:40am Bible Study Sunday School	14 7:00pm Voter's Meeting	15 9:00am Piecemakers	16 4:45pm Public School Confirmation 6:00pm Worship 7:00pm Bible Study	17	18	19
20 8:30 & 10:30am Communion 10:30am Dedication of Teachers & Staff 9:40am Bible Study Sunday School <i>Christian Education Sunday</i>	21 6:00pm Board of Christian Education	22 <i>First Day of Autumn</i>	23 8:15am Chapel 4:45pm Public School Confirmation 6:00pm Worship w/ Communion 7:00pm Bible Study	24	25 <i>No School Office Closed</i> <i>Teacher PD Day</i>	26
27 8:30 & 10:30am Worship 9:40am Bible Study Sunday School	28	29	30 4:45pm Public School Confirmation 6:00pm Worship 7:00pm Bible Study	Elders Jason Gasta Marty Bublitz	Ushers 3 & 2	Altar Guild Shirley Mosher Barb Friebe



SEPTEMBER



September 1	Curtis Fiebke <i>Harrison Rytlewski</i>	September 15	Paul Reinsch
	Daniel Wilhelm	September 16	Jacob Earle
September 2	Logan Kipfmiller		Leah Mindykowski
	Logan Kowalski	September 17	Cheryl Finn
September 3	Mitchell Kernstock		<i>Chloe Brabaw</i>
	Chase Jezowski		<i>Jaxson Garvey</i>
	<i>Meredith Heinz</i>	September 19	Tim Schnell
September 4	Zachary Hupfer	September 20	Rachel Fleming
	Terry Weiss		Laurie Arnold
September 5	<i>Myra Wood</i>	September 21	Jeffery Derocher
September 6	David Friebe		Austin Morris
	Harry Gaiser Jr.	September 22	<i>Cameron Feinauer</i>
	Barbara Jezowski		Wayne Walter
September 8	Greg Schmidt	September 24	<i>Charlotte Gibbs</i>
	Betty Walter		George LaBerge
	<i>Delaney Srebinski</i>		Jazmyne Behnke
September 9	Cynthia Atwood	September 25	Mary Beth Kloha
	Justin Armstrong		Danielle VanBlarcom
	Barb Hart		Troy Hupfer
September 10	<i>Joshua Srebinski</i>	September 27	Pamela Pfundt
September 11	Kyle Peil		Neva Spires
	Matthew Shaffer		David Arnold
September 12	Kailey Gaiser		Bodhi Avery-Gangadharan
	Nicole Rivard		Jordan Bannerman
	<i>Ella Sinke</i>	September 28	Daniel Hurley
September 13	Neil Kaminski		Wayne Smith
September 14	<i>Madilyn Zerby</i>	September 30	Robert Kernstock
			Holly Kotewa
			Abby Kuch
			Amy Kunder

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!