



Monthly Monitor

August 2025

Don't Worry, It's All Done

Believe it or not, the summer is almost over. It is the time of year for students and teachers to transition back into school, rekindle old relationship and begin the education process once again. Coming from a teacher family and being married to a teacher, I am quite sensitive to this transition this time of year. It always has made things around the house a little crazy at the beginning of August. One little habit that I developed each year while the rest of the house went crazy was to look back on my summer and remember all of those great plans that I had made and see what was completed and what never got finished. For example, some of the personal goals I had this summer were to finish our basement remodel, repaint and repair the deck, rewire the lampposts down our lane and to get in at least a couple trips fishing. Of those goals, thus far, I have only accomplished most of the most difficult one: Remodel the basement. I guess I also got some fishing in as well, but I still have a bit of a ways to go at home to get all of my summer goals completed before Labor Day. What about you? Have you ever found yourself in my situation? Have you ever found yourself out of time with just too much left to do?

The Bible says in Proverbs 13:4, "The Sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied." With this in mind, we must remain diligent, that is, focused on our goals, both spiritual and physical, in order to accomplish them. Philippians 3:13-14 urges us to forget the past and



strain for what is ahead, and to press on toward the goal in which God has called each of us heavenward.

If you are feeling stressed because your summer and maybe even your life seems to be passing by so fast and nothing seems to be getting done, I want to encourage you to take heart. In this life, Christ has accomplished all that is necessary for us *already*. He lived the perfect life, died the perfect death and showed His power over sin and the grave by rising from the dead three days later. By faith, we now share in this victory and share in Jesus' accomplishment. This means, that by faith, though we may not be perfect, we can still accomplish much. This is what Paul means when he talks about forgetting what is in the past a straining for what is ahead. Through Christ, we can forget about all of our past failures and simply put our focus on Him. Then, in His power and by his grace, we will find in Christ Jesus we can accomplish much in service to Him as we fulfill our goals for the future. You see, by faith in Christ, you are *already* a success. And God promises to continue to be with you as you strive to accomplish even more each and every day.

Blessings to you in the days ahead.

-Pastor Kaiser

**TRINITY
MONITOR**



Stewardship Corner

Time • Talent • Treasure

August 2025

Go and Bear Fruit


Fruit trees are one of the many wonders of God's creation. To see the beauty of the tree and its fruit, to enjoy its taste, and to realize that it all came from a tiny seed is beyond our comprehension. An apple seed is planted in the ground, and, with water and sun as nourishment, miraculously a seedling surfaces that develops into a fruit tree. After a period of time, the apple tree fulfills its mission by bearing apples.

We, as Christians, are like that apple tree. We, too, have been fed and nourished by God so we can bear fruit. *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide..."* (John 15:16). Jesus tells us *"I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5). The life and power of any plant is found in its vine. The vine uses the branches to produce its fruit. The branch is simply a growth of the vine, produced by it and appointed to bear fruit. The branch exists only because the vine makes it possible.

Fruit characterizes the life of the Christian steward. When we stay connected to Jesus, we are told that we *"will bear much fruit."* Christ has given us the task of ministering to the needs of others and spreading the Gospel. As we stay connected to Him through His Word and Sacraments, we discover God's perfect will for us, and we are empowered to please Him by bearing fruit (Colossians 1:9-10). God has created us to bear fruit (Ephesians 2:10), but only through Christ is it possible for us to do so.

"If we live by the Spirit," Paul exhorted, *"let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another"* (Galatians 5:25-26). As children of God, we have this fruit because His Spirit lives in us, not as a result of our own efforts. We do cease to bear fruit when we give in to our sinful natures, becoming, in Paul's words, *"Conceited, provoking one another."* We are to *"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness"* (Ephesians 5:11a), but are to *"Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord"* (Ephesians 5:8b-10).

Go and bear fruit!

 I am the vine,
you are the branches.
He who abides in Me, and in him,
Bears much fruit;
for without Me,
you can do nothing.

John 15:5



Stewardship Corner

Just before Jesus' ascension into heaven, He instructed His disciples: *"Go therefore and make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus commanded His disciples along with us to go spread the life-saving Gospel throughout all nations. God's love overflowing from within us provides the motivation and power to share the life-saving Gospel with all people. He works through us to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).



Trinity Lutheran School

The Classroom Chronicles

August 2025

As summer continues to speed by, we want to take a moment to thank you for your continued prayers, support, and partnership in ministry. Your commitment to Lutheran education makes a lasting impact on the lives of our students and families.

Highlights from this Summer:

- **Welcome** to Mrs. Susan Thiel as our new 1st grade teacher. Yes, she is related to Pastor Thiel - she is his wife! Mrs. Thiel comes to us synodically trained with over a decade of teaching experience and is sure to be a lovely addition to our Trinity school family!
- **School & Grounds Improvements:** Mr. Mrozinski and his crew have been working hard to get our school in tip-top shape. Classrooms have been deep cleaned and are beginning to come back together getting ready for teachers and students! In the coming week we will turn our direction to grounds with playground mulch, shrub care, and some fun changes and additions to our “outside” spaces.
- **Preparing for the Fall:** Teachers and staff are already preparing classrooms and curriculum for the upcoming school year, focused on growing in academic excellence and faith formation. The LCMS theme for this school year is “Make a Joyful Noise” based on Psalm 98:4 “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!” We will begin our “back to school” meetings at the Best Practices - Heartland Conference in Frankenmuth, August 11th -12th.

As we look ahead to the 2025–2026 school year, we remain grounded in our mission:

**"To prepare students for the future
by equipping them with spiritual strength,
establishing a foundation of academic achievement,
and creating Christian leaders."**

Thank you for walking with us in this mission. Your prayers, encouragement, and generosity continue to bless our school community. We look forward to another year of learning and growing together in Christ!

In His Service,
Mrs. Karen Friebe

Let's Make a Joyful Noise 2025-26

Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
The LORD has made known his
salvation; he has revealed his
righteousness in the sight of the
nations. He has remembered his
steadfast love and faithfulness to
the house of Israel. All the ends of
the earth have seen the salvation
of our God. Make a joyful noise to
the LORD, all the earth; break
forth into joyous song and sing
praises! Sing praises to the LORD
with the lyre, with the lyre and the
sound of melody! 6 With trumpets
and the sound of the horn make a
joyful noise before the King, the
LORD! Let the sea roar, and all
that fills it; the world and those
who dwell in it! Let the rivers clap
their hands; let the hills sing for joy
together before the LORD, for he
comes to judge the earth. He will
judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

-PSALM 98:4



*Let Us Make a Joyful Noise Text: Copyright © 2024
Jeffrey E. Burkart All rights reserved. Tune: Public
domain. WEIL ICH JESU SCHÄFLEIN BIN 778 877*

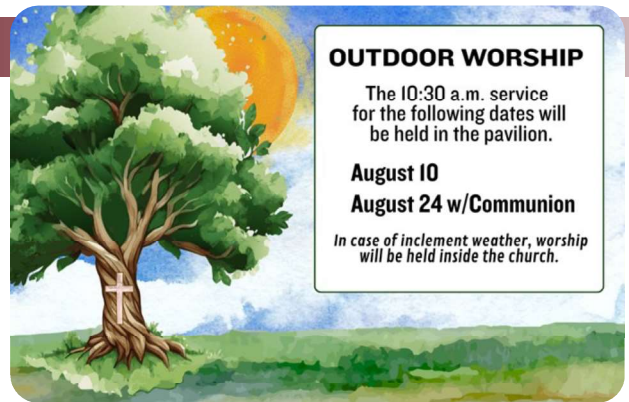
Announcements

To facilitate the convenient donating of goods to the Orphan Grain Train, a barrel has been placed inside our Trinity School hallway for new or gently used clothing only, such as:

- Clothing-Infant, Children's, Women's, and Men's
- Shoes- Clean and Wearable
- Underwear- New Only
- Socks-Gently Used or New



Relief for Human Need Worldwide



OUTDOOR WORSHIP

The 10:30 a.m. service for the following dates will be held in the pavilion.

August 10

August 24 w/Communion

In case of inclement weather, worship will be held inside the church.



MISSED CHURCH ON SUNDAY?

No worries! We've got you covered! Join us for WOW! (Worship On Wednesdays) at 6:00 PM, for an uplifting evening of praise, following our Creative Worship format, featuring the same scripture readings and sermon from Sunday's service.

WANT TO BE PART OF THE EXPERIENCE?

WOW is looking for volunteers! If you would like to contribute, we'd love to have you join in. Whether it's reading Scripture, leading songs, or playing an instrument, there's a place for you. Scan the QR code to sign up!



MUSIC BINDERS AVAILABLE!

If you know ahead of time that you will be attending WOW and would like a binder of music to follow along with the score, let Deadra know by Monday of that week and she'll have one prepared for you.

PLEASE NOTE!
NO WOW SERVICE
ON AUGUST 6TH.

42nd Annual

★ PIG ROAST & CHICKEN BBQ ★



AUGUST 22-24, 2025

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
20 E. Salzburg Rd. Bay City

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22nd

Kick off the weekend with

**SIX
WHISKEY**

6:00-10:00PM
CAFE TRINITY
5:00-10:00PM

Cafe Trinity

Hot Dogs, Brats, Burgers, Nachos, Pulled Pork, Fries, & More!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23rd

Chicken BBQ

1/2 Chicken, Baked Beans, Corn, Dessert & Roll

11:00am-3:00pm

\$15/Meal

CAFE TRINITY
11:00AM-10:00PM
CORNHOLE
5:00PM

LIVE MUSIC
6:00-10:00PM



★ **SUNDAY, AUGUST 24th** ★

Pig Roast

Roasted Pork, Baked Potato, Squash, Cole Slaw, Dessert & Roll

12:00-3:00pm

\$17/Meal

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

10:30AM



CAFE TRINITY
12:00-3:00PM

BLOOPERBALL TOURNAMENT

all weekend!

- DOUBLE ELIMINATION
- \$150/TEAM
- PLAYER MUST BE 14 OR OLDER
- TEAMS MAY BE CO-ED

FOR MORE INFORMATION
TEXT KYLE AT
989.239.8035



Sponsored by the Trinity Monitor Athletic Booster Club



We made it to convention despite some stormy weather in Chicago and delayed flights. It was 1:30 AM when we got to our hotel. Up early for registration and the start of a long but wonderful day. Jan as a delegate had a meeting and then was onto choir practice. We spent time working on servant projects. While walking in the exhibit hall we were able to have a few minutes rest on the pink sofa at The Lutheran Ladies Lounge / KFUD Christian radio booth. Shortly after that, we had to go to the Michigan District caucus meeting. Followed by the Opening Divine Service with Holy Communion at 7:00 PM with over 4000 people attending. All those voices singing and praising God together was so awesome and inspiring.

The second day opened with the procession of District Flags. Then onto Bible Study and the third business session. We voted on bylaw changes and updates. We heard budget reports including the update on the Mission Grant Budget, which now is set at \$2.6 million. We learned which grants were selected to be supported by the LWML in the 2025-2027 biennium. We heard the keynote speaker Rev Kris Whitney as well as Mites in Action speakers. Then in the evening, we attended a Bible study with our "favorite" author, Donna Snow. If you participated in the Bible study we did here at Trinity on the Book of Esther, she was the author of that study. It was a great day!



Mites are collected the first Sunday of the month. A box will be in the back of the church. Contributions will be sent to the district LWML/ Districts retain 75% of the mite offering to fund district mission grants and 25% is sent to the national LWML to fund national mission grants.

2025 LWML Convention



Lutheran Women in Mission 41ST BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Omaha, Nebraska
June 26-29, 2025





August-2025

Greeters	1st Service	2nd Service
3	Pam & Carl Pfundt	Michelle Steffey
10	Lyle & Mary Beth Kloha	Kurt & Laurie Arnold
17	Bob & Nina Hooper	Karrie Wood
24	Larry & Judy Miller	Cheryl Trudell
31	Bob & Barb Friebe	Eileen Loesel & Rosemary Hoff

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Prayer Chain: Nancy Klaus 280-4913	Ushers: 4 & 2	Elders: Brian Berkobien Paul Reinsch	Altar Guild: Mary Beth Kloha		1 <div>Pastor on Vacation →</div>	2
3 8:30 & 10:30am Communion	4	5	6 No Worship On Wednesday	7	8	9
<div>Pastor on Vacation →</div> Mite Box Sunday						
10 8:30am Worship 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship	11	12 7:00pm Athletic Club	13 6:00pm Worship	14	15	16
		Jr. High Youth Gathering-Frankenmuth				
17 8:30 & 10:30am Communion	18 6:00pm Board of Christian Education	19 9:00am Piecemakers	20 6:00pm Worship w/Communion	21	22 5:00 p.m. Concession Stand Opens 6:00-10:00pm Live Music	23 Chicken BBQ 11:00am-3:00pm 6:00-10:00pm Live Music
24 8:30am Worship 10:30am Outdoor Worship/ Communion Blessing of the Backpacks Pig Roast 12:00-3:00pm	25 1st Day of School 1/2 Day Chapel 8:30am	26	27 6:00pm Worship	28	29 No School Office Closed	30
31 8:30 & 10:30am Communion						



August

August 1	Rob Samborn
August 2	Tim Walter
August 3	Kathryn Shaffer
August 4	John Burk Jr. Maryann Leahy <i>Amelia-Zoe Rytlewski</i>
August 5	Diane MacDonald <i>Lana Szeszulski</i>
August 6	Beulah Bauer Paul Pfundt
August 7	<i>Abel VanBlarcom</i>
August 8	Harvey Feinauer Rebecca Fick Landon Kotewa
August 9	<i>Camila Arocha</i>
August 10	Arthur Klawuhn Olivia Kowalski
August 11	Melissa Heinz <i>Baylee Fick</i>
August 12	Scott Loesel Kelly Shaw
August 13	<i>Claire Feinauer</i> <i>Ella Srebinski</i>
August 14	Chelsea Fields Steven Rivet
August 15	Jeremiah Arnold
August 16	<i>Harrison Derocher</i>
August 17	Evan Feinauer Tina Wilhelm <i>Marley Messing</i> <i>Malachi Messing</i> Tim Schnell

August 18

August 19

August 20

August 21

August 22

August 23

August 24

August 25

August 26

August 27

August 28

August 29

August 30

August 31

Jason Gasta

Nicole Reinig

Faye Hamel

Ian Harris

Michael Kernstock

Andrew Pnacek

Jerry Habedank

Tim Fournier

Tyler Day

Amy Srebinski

Harold Feinauer

Deagan LaFramboise

Matthew Burk

Westley Gaiser

Pastor Kaiser

Wayne Helmreich

Janice Nielson

Kenneth Przygocki

Shirley Arnold

Ethan Bannerman

Evelyn Bannerman

Kellie Gaiser

Kevin Ruff

Seth Srebinski

Marcia Hupfer

Braelynn Helmreich



Congratulations, VL Class of 2025!



"He who created you, who gave you being, who made you, and loves you, has a plan and a purpose for your creation." proclaimed **Mr. Doug Guenther**, this year's commencement speaker. Life Sciences Teacher, Theology Teacher, and Varsity Soccer Coach, Mr. Guenther, known to many in the VLHS community simply as "G", was chosen by the class of 2025 to deliver their commencement address.



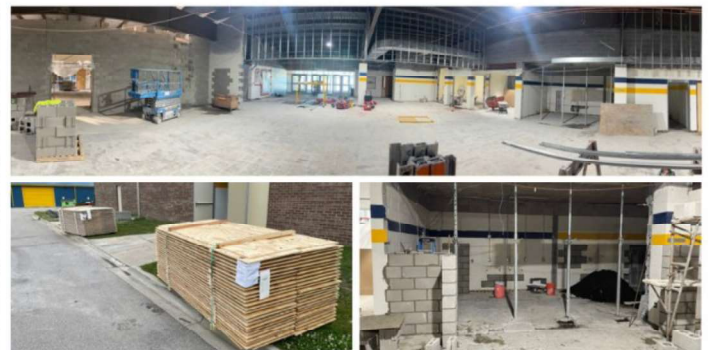
In his speech, Mr. Guenther centered on the school year's theme, derived from Revelation 4:11: "Created for a Purpose". Mr. Guenther reminded graduates and all those in attendance that their true purpose isn't defined by a career, but by following Christ.

His remarks sent graduates off with the encouragement to trust God's guidance even when the path of this new season is uncertain or challenging.

(continued on back)



WELCOME. GATHER. WORSHIP. INITIATIVE: PROGRESS REPORT

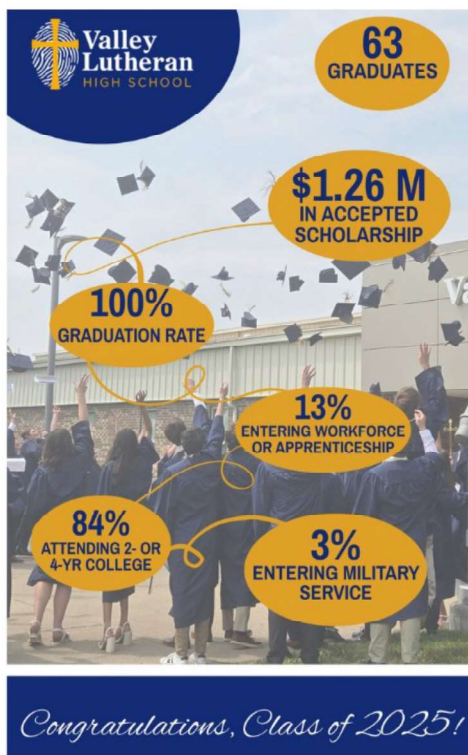


Exciting progress is underway as part of Valley Lutheran's Welcome. Gather. Worship. Initiative! These upgrades reflect our strategic commitment to educational excellence and are focused on transforming some of our most-used spaces.

Highlights from recent construction: *(pictured above, L to R, top to bottom)*

- New plumbing is being installed for relocated and improved bathroom facilities.
- The cafeteria is opening up with a stunning panoramic transformation in progress.
- Wood delivery signals the start of our new gym floor installation—great things ahead for athletics and events!
- Interior walls are coming down to make way for a relocated school store and concessions area for better access and flow.

Thank you for your support and prayers as these exciting changes come to life!



Spring Athletic Recognitions

Recognitions from the spring sports season are rolling in!

Congratulations to Charger student-athletes receiving Conference, District, Regional, and State recognitions.

Check out the current list by scanning the QR code to the right or visit www.vlhs.com/spring25awards.



Well done Chargers!



Note: This list will continue to be updated as honors are announced.

SAVE THE DATE!



VL HOMECOMING WEEK

COMING SEPT 22-27 2025



VL Signing Day

Valley Lutheran is proud to announce our Class of 2025 graduates who have committed to continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level.

To properly mark this occasion Valley Lutheran held a special Signing Day this spring.

Student athletes, along with invited family, former and future coaches, and friends gathered to commemorate,



celebrate, and honor their commitments.

We commend these students for their excellence, effort, and dedication as they move to the next level!



VALLEY LUTHERAN CLASS OF 2025 COLLEGE ATHLETES

TYLER BELT

BASEBALL @ DELTA COLLEGE



MCKENZIE DERUSHA

TRACK & FIELD @ SVSU



TREYTON FLOOD

BASEBALL @ ALMA COLLEGE



GRACE HALL

SOCCER @ DELTA COLLEGE



Congratulations *cont. from front*



His message was followed by speeches from the 7 Valedictorians of the VLHS Class of 2025: **Abigail Burhop, Brayden Girard, Noah Hecht, Katie Henry, Murphy Linehan, Katrina Podeszwa, and Brady Smith.**

Continuing the connection with the year's theme, each valedictorian's remarks focused on a unique purpose for which we were created.

In families and in careers, in the

vocation of friend and of life-long student, in leadership and in service, they encouraged their fellow classmates to fulfill the various roles for which God has created them. And, ultimately, to remember the most important purpose, the one that underlies and outlasts all the others - simply being His, a child of God.

The Commencement Service culminated many celebratory events over the last weeks of the school year. Another significant event was the Senior Banquet where many Seniors were recognized. Visit www.vlhs.com/25awards or scan the QR code for the story.

