

THE JUNE 2026

TRINITY TRIBUNE



The monthly newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church & Preschool of Fergus Falls, MN

Dear friends in Christ,

Do you ever get the sense that God is trying to give you something, but maybe in the moment you don't quite want it? Our family (or at least I) have been living through that experience the last month or so. The gift that God is trying to give is patience, and I maybe haven't wanted it.

We've been looking forward with joyful anticipation for months for the arrival of our fifth child, and as May arrived, we knew the days were drawing short. You never know when a baby will be born, and so we thought, "maybe the baby will come early." One of our children was born 12 days early. But no, that was not to be the case. Fair enough. There was a little lack of clarity about due dates, with two different potential dates. The first day came, and we thought, "perhaps today will be the day." Again, no baby. The second due date came and went, and still no birth. The next day comes – nothing yet. The next day comes and...well, I can't tell you, because I am writing this at 9:36 in the morning on that second date, and all I can tell you, nothing yet.

Amid it all, it is hard to be patient. Between anticipation and the extent to which you must plan ahead and around an event like a birth, it fills one's life with upheaval and uncertainty. Yet, the event calls for nothing but patience. Things will happen when they happen. There is not much you can do to change that (unless medically warranted for some reason). So, it is a lesson in patience taught by experience, yet in the moment, I don't know that I want the gift God is giving.

And to be clear, patience is a gift from God. We don't come by it naturally. This can be observed by the number of times a child might ask "are we there yet" when taking a car ride. That patience is a gift from God can be seen in Galatians 5:22, where it is listed as a gift of the Holy Spirit. Patience, then, is given to us and worked in us as God is making us holy, changing us from how we are by nature to how we will be as His children into eternity.

Patience is good for us because that process is not like the flipping of a switch. While God completes His justifying work in us immediately when He gives us the gift of faith in Christ, that new life we are given works itself out in us over time as we march toward eternity. There are things along that march that we must endure that also are not consistent with our eternal future, suffering and pain. To an extent, we wait to *see* what we will be (1 John 3:2). What we *see* right now can, at times, discourage us in waiting. The days/years get long, and impatience can lead us to stray; perhaps even to ultimately forsake this great salvation. Patience is good because it helps us to endure the wait, resting confidently in the promises of God and the grace of Christ even if and as the world around us goes mad.

We need patience. God, by His grace, gives it. I am writing this as a reminder to myself, and sharing it as a reminder for everyone else, to embrace and give thanks for this gift, even as it comes in ways we may not enjoy, that God in Christ by His Holy Spirit is working in us.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Lieske



On April 28th and 29th, the two LCMS seminaries, Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, held their annual Call Day services, where the concluding students from each seminary are assigned to the first parishes they will serve. The seminary student Trinity

supported last year, Matthew Kinne, received a call to serve Concordia Lutheran Church in Red Wing, MN. Son of our own congregation Kyle Sorkness received a call to serve as pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Marshall, MN. Congratulations to pastors-elect Matthew and Kyle! God bless you in your service to His church.



Congregational Catechism Review

Each week, a portion of Luther's Small Catechism has been appointed for congregational focus. You are encouraged, as you are able, to meditate on this section of the catechism throughout the week and to commit it to memory.

June 7 - The First Petition

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

June 14 - The Fifth Petition

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

June 21 - The First Article

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.
This is most certainly true.

June 28 - The Eighth Commandment

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.



On Sunday, May 3rd Tucker Schneeberger, Austin Longoria, Izabella Goerd-Olson, Analicia Longoria, Anastasia Lieske, and Kourtney Olson made public confession of the faith in the Rite of Confirmation. We give thanks to God that these young saints have been catechized and have grown in faith in Christ, and we look forward to walking together with them in faith throughout their lives. God bless you, confirmands!



**WEDNESDAY
JUNE 17, 2026**

TRINITY VBS

9AM-4:30PM

LUNCH FOR CHILDREN AND VOLUNTEERS AGES 3-12 SCAN TO REGISTER



Scan or go to <https://vbsmate.com/events/TrinityFergusFallsVBS/32320>

Invite your friends and neighbors!



This year's VBS will look a little different. We are having one full day of VBS on June 17th from 9 am to 4:30 pm. Lunch and snacks will be provided. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for volunteers. Contact Rachael Larson if you have any questions.



Enrollment is open now for the Trinity Preschool 2026-27 school year!

Mission Statement: Trinity Lutheran School seeks to nurture children in their relationship with Jesus Christ while providing a strong academic foundation.

There are half-day and full-day options for 3-4 year-olds and 5 year-old Pre-Kindergarteners.

Please help to spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors about our amazing Preschool! For more information, stop by the office for a packet, check out the Preschool website: www.preschoolattrinity.org, or email info@preschoolattrinity.org There is also a Preschool at Trinity page on Facebook.



Dear Trinity Lutheran Church Family,

As I reflect on the past four years at Trinity Lutheran, my heart is filled with gratitude. Thank you so much for the love, encouragement, prayers, and support that you have shown me during my time teaching at Trinity Preschool.

Serving the Lord alongside this congregation has been such a blessing, and I have truly loved every moment of my time here. Watching the preschool children learn, grow, worship, and discover God's love has brought me so much joy.

As I have continued learning more about early childhood education, I have deeply appreciated the freedom and trust you have given me to try new ideas, create meaningful experiences, and help children learn through play, exploration, music, nature, and faith. Your support has allowed our preschool ministry to flourish in so many wonderful ways. God's Word reminds us:

"Let all that you do be done in love." – 1 Corinthians 16:14

And also:

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." – Proverbs 22:6

I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to have served the Lord at Trinity and to have been part of such a caring church family.

As our family begins a new chapter, I would truly love to keep in touch with you. Please feel free to connect with me through Facebook, email, text, or by writing.

Email: stacyalarsen@gmail.com Phone Number: (507) 430-9644

Mailing Address: 82 Grace Ln, Uniontown, MO 63783

Thank you again for the many memories, friendships, and blessings that I will always carry with me. Trinity Lutheran Church will always hold a special place in my heart.

May God continue to richly bless Trinity Lutheran Church and Preschool.

With gratitude and love, **Mrs. Stacy A. Larsen**

GOD'S PEOPLE PRAY

Ongoing Concern: June Knopp, Jeff Johnson, Kyle Norman, Norm & Donna Schoening, Linda Schmidt, Bev Hess, Jerry Pribbernow, Janet Maack, Brian Fitzner, Jeremy Elshaug, Elaine Culp, Ned Stueve, Gene True, Jennifer Wood (Jerald & Tami Gerhardson's daughter), Jon Jastram (Phyllis Jastram's son), Dylan Maack (Bob & Janet Maack's grandson), Robin Roberts (Austin & Elaine Culp's daughter), Stephen Hauser (David Hauser's brother), Micah Sebek (Bobbie Adam's grandson), James Hohenstein (Karl Hohenstein's brother) Kate Matter (prior pre-school parent), Bridget Jackson (June Knopp's granddaughter), Jasmin Torvinen (great-granddaughter of Pastor & Ginny Lange), Brett Pixton (friend of Calvin & Helen Johansen), Eldon Anhorn (brother of Shirley Pribbernow), Nicole Reseburg (granddaughter of Barb Peloquin), Dora O'Brien (friend of Calvin & Helen Johansen), Steve Langland (Gary Schmidt's friend), James Retzlaff (Tina Eberle's dad), Veronica Schnoor, Ione Geistfeld (Sue Heidorn's mom), Carol Frost (friend of Jeff & Brenda Johnson), Richard Schlicker (Dave Schlicker's brother, T.K. Flynn (Adrienne Bolland's great-nephew)

Homebound: Gary Froehlich, Dick Anderson, Marlys Lueders, Ron Schulz, Lorraine Drews, Beverly Hess, Marilyn A. Boese, Norm & Donna Schoening,

Expectant Mothers: Michele Lieske and Rachael Larson

Military: Callen Mouritsen, MN National Guard; Lt. Col. Dennis Gerold, U.S.A.F. Reserves (Lori & Leon Dawkins' son-in-law), Tech Sargent Isaac Christopher, U.S.A.F., Andrews Air Force Base, Washington D.C. (Donna Christopher's grandson); Lt. Col. George Hauser, DDS U.S. Army, Ft. Bliss, El Paso, TX; (David & Mary Hauser's son); Gabe Erlandson, MN National Guard, (Ken & Toni Erlandson's son); Lt. Col. Joe Dinsmore, MD MN National Guard (Al & Marcie Koennicke's grandson)

Missionaries: Rev. Dan & Joan Jastram, Japan; Deaconess Kim Buelmann, Germany (TIM Missionary); Delano & Linda Meyer, Africa; Jacque Breman, Africa; Ashley Lehr, Puerto Rico



June 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Regular office hours For June, July & August will be Tues. Wed. Thurs. 8:30-4:00</p>	1	2 8 am Men's Bible Study 7 pm Trustees Meeting	3 1 pm Lydia Circle	4 12:00 Crafters 12:30 Quilters 6:00 Outreach Board 6:30 Evening Circle	5	6 9-1:00 Crafters at the Farmer's Market
7 9am Divine Service 10:45 Bible Study - Pastor & Jo Ann Deterding 11:30 Elders Mtg. Mites Sunday	8	9 8 am Men's Bible Study 12:30 School Board	10	11 12:00 Crafters 12:30 Quilters	12	13 9-1:00 Crafters at the Farmer's Market 6:00 Summerfest Parade - Preschool
14 9 am Divine Service 10:45 Bible Study - Meet Patrik Tostenson	15 1:30 Communion Service	16 8 am Men's Bible Study 9-2 - Foot Care Clinic 6:00 Church Council <u>Church office closed</u>	17 9:00-4:30 VBS! Tropical Trek 	18 12:00 Crafters 12:30 Quilters 3:00 Broen Home	19	20 8 am Men's Network 9-1:00 Crafters at the Farmer's Market Newsletter items due
21 9:00 Divine Service 10:45 Bible Study Panama mission trip presentation	22	23 8 am Men's Bible Study	24	25 12:00 Crafters 12:30 Quilters	26	27 9-1:00 Crafters at the Farmer's Market Funeral Service for Lois Fitzner
28 9:00 Divine Service 10:45 Bible Study - Food Shelf Sunday	29	30 8 am Men's Bible Study		On-Call Pastor Phone Number (218) 321-0993	A live, up-to-date calendar is available on our church website: www.trinityff.org Trinity Website	

JUNE CELEBRATIONS!

Birthdays

June 1 Lori Dawkins
 June 5 Emily Erlandson
 June 5 Ethel Mindermann
 June 6 Leon Dawkins
 June 6 Sue Heidorn
 June 7 Arnold Bolland
 June 9 Jon Drews
 June 9 Bruce Kolle
 June 10 Merritt Sjolie
 June 11 Jane Miller
 June 13 Jakob Ness
 June 13 Donald Reiter
 June 15 Kendall Mouritsen
 June 18 Karma Schneeberger
 June 21 Johnny Longoria
 June 21 Jackson Schneeberger
 June 22 Larry Stein
 June 29 Lizabeth Schoening

Anniversaries

June 2 Tim & Sandy King
 June 2 Bruce & Gail Kolie
 June 4 Schan & Shari Sorkness
 June 9 Melanie & Johnny Longoria
 June 14 Norman & Donna Schoening
 June 16 Joe & Kristi Auck
 June 21 Leon & Lori Dawkins
 June 22 Vern & Laural Floen
 June 29 Myron & Nadine Drevlow
 June 29 Bonnie & Kirby Norman
 June 30 Chuck & Graciela Kretchman

Baptismal Birthdays

June Jay Olson
 June 1 Vern Floen
 June 1 Sam Lieske
 June 1 Adrian Longoria
 June 4 Rachael Larson
 June 5 Marilyn Boese
 June 10 Gail Kolle
 June 12 Jerry Schmidt
 June 12 Christopher Beighley
 June 14 Emily Erlandson
 June 17 Adrienne Bolland
 June 19 Faith Bremmer
 June 19 Jaelynn Schneeberger
 June 20 Roger Lange
 June 21 Arnold Bolland
 June 26 Blaine Rasmussen



SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Greeters for June

June 7
 Donna U. & Renee Goff
June 14
 David & Esther Schlicker
June 21
 Dale & Sharlene Schmidt
June 28
 Cal & Helen Johansen

Elders for June

June 7
 Gary Schmidt
June 14
 David Hauser
June 21
 Ross Eberle
June 28
 Aaron Schultz

Ushers for June

June 7
 Gary Schmidt, Cal Mouritsen,
 Dennis Gerald, David
 Schneeberger
June 14
 Asher & Anna Mort, Wayne
 Schoening
June 21
 Jonathon & Annie Roehl,
 Eric & Karma Schneeberger
June 28
 Rodney, Dale & Jerry Schmidt



Altar Guild for June

June 7
 Esther Schlicker & Sharlene
 Schmidt
June 14
 David Hauser
June 21
 Margie Rasmussen &
 Sue Shroeder
June 28
 Sharlene Schmidt &
 Tami Gerhardson

Acolytes for June

June 7
 Tucker & Ainsley
June 14
 Ana & Samuel
June 21
 Jackson & Ella
June 28
 Adrian & Jordyn

“MSL North” Programs for June 2026

HAVE YOU been watching the "This Is The Life" programs along with the MSL Divine Services each Sunday? As our LCMS President Matthew Harrison states during his introduction of these programs, "Though they were recorded in the 1960's and 70's, the subject matter is still very relevant!" I personally look forward to watching each week's episode - and often find my emotions welling up as the story line develops. These critically acclaimed dramas still do a wonderful job of "bringing Christ to the nations"!

June 7: **Rev. William Aufdenkamp**, Christ Lutheran Church, Elbow Lake, MN, presents the message: **“At Table with Jesus”** based on Matthew 9:10. This Is the Life program: **“No Place to Hide”** - A pastor, who has to face the death of his wife, cannot find comfort.

June 14: **Rev. Robert Hill**, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Wimbledon, ND, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Kensal, ND, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Pettibone, ND, and Redemer, Woodworth, ND, presents the message: **“If You Love Me”** based on John 14:15-21. This Is the Life program: **“Dead End”** - Because of frustration with his life, a man turns to drinking and another woman.

June 21: **Rev. Dylan Meyer**, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo, ND, presents the message: **“By No Means!”** based on Romans 6:12-23. This Is the Life program: **“The Main Event”** - A boxer who is hit by a car becomes embittered until he meets a cheerful 8-year-old girl.

June 28: Rev. Clark Jahnke, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo, ND, presents the message: **“Knowing God's Will For Certain”** based on Jeremiah 28:5-9. This Is the Life program: **“The Prisoners”** - An elderly woman is attacked and terrorized by a teenage gang.

“MAIN STREET LIVING” is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North and North Dakota Districts of our LCMS, along with a 30-minute Lutheran Hour program (normally **“This Is the Life,”** along with occasional church-season specials).

Programs are broadcast starting at 9:00am Central time on the following FOX stations: Fargo-Moorhead: KVRN Channel 15.1 or 10:00 on WDAY XTRA Channel 6.3
 MSLN programs are also archived for one year and can be viewed at any time on www.mainstreetliving.com then click on “(Fargo)”.

Meet the Trinity Family

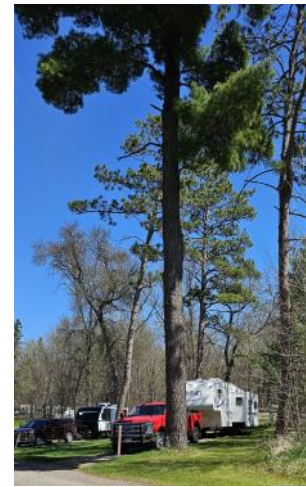
Steve and Carolyn Brutlag



Steve and Carolyn moved to Underwood, Minnesota in 2019 from St. Louis, Missouri. They had vacationed in the area for many years with their kids and extended family, since Steve's dad was from the area (Henning), and after retirement returned to the New York Mills area. Steve's parents were both Lutheran school teachers in Michigan (the thumb - Michiganders know) and that is where he and his sister grew up. Carolyn grew up in the suburbs of St. Louis with her parents, 3 older siblings and a twin sister.

After a 4-year stint in the U.S. Air Force and a bit of traveling around the country, by God's grace Steve ended up in St. Louis for what he hoped would be a temporary job. (St. Louis was somewhere he was NEVER going to live!) There, he decided to join Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church, which happened to be the life-long church of Carolyn. He also decided to join the Singles' Bible Study that met on Sunday evenings. Carolyn had decided earlier to join that study -- NOT to meet a guy. And the rest, as they say..... Not long after marriage, Steve started taking Carolyn camping, which she had never done before. Within three years, he had her camping in the Boundary Waters of northern Minnesota.

The family has enjoyed camping trips over the years, the biggest of which was a 7-week trip in the summer of 2009, trekking around the western half of the U.S. If you have a couple hours to spare sometime and want to hear about it, just ask one of us. Steve has instilled a love of hunting and fishing in Joel, and Carolyn and Sarah sometimes enjoy fishing.



The kids attended Lutheran schools in the St. Louis area. Sarah is now a Lutheran school teacher in Austin, Texas and is getting married this summer. Joel works in accounting at MidwayUSA in Columbia, Missouri.

So that initial job did end up to be temporary, but St. Louis did not, until 30 years later. Steve was informed by a relative of a job working for Otter Tail County, similar to IT work that he was doing in the St. Louis area. In 2019, much earlier than Carolyn expected, they packed up and moved to Minnesota. It became very obvious that God was orchestrating this move. Steve's mom had died in 2014, and after our move up here, Steve's dad began requiring more and more care. He went to the Lord in 2024 just after turning 90.

In the spring of this year, both Steve and Carolyn decided to switch careers to Retirement! We intend to explore Minnesota and beyond in our camper, and visit with our kids more often, beginning with the wedding this summer in Texas.

We feel blessed to have been led to the Fergus Falls area, and particularly to Trinity Lutheran Church. Carolyn was praying to find a good church and good friends, and we found both in the same place!



Trinity Preschool

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church Family,

The month of May has been such a joyful and beautiful way to end our preschool year at Trinity! We have been blessed with gorgeous weather and many special activities that helped us celebrate God's goodness and love.

One highlight of the month was enjoying special music with Lori and Leon Dawkins. The children loved listening, singing along, and praising God through music together. *"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!" – Psalm 100:1*

We also had a wonderful day at Lutheran Island Camp. The children enjoyed spending time outdoors, learning more about Jesus, singing songs, exploring nature, and making special memories together. We are so thankful for the opportunity to experience God's beautiful creation. *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." – Psalm 24:1*

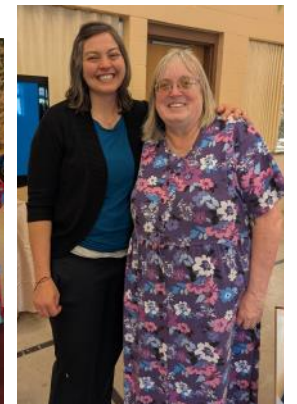


Another special event was our closing program, where the preschoolers shared songs and smiles with family and friends. It was such a blessing to celebrate all they have learned and how much they have grown throughout the year.

To wrap up the school year, we enjoyed a fun last day of school party filled with laughter, friendship, and excitement for summer.

We thank God for the beautiful weather and for His many blessings throughout this school year. Thank you, Trinity Lutheran Church, for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support of our preschool ministry. We are grateful for the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with these precious children each and every day.

Blessings, Trinity Preschool



Trinity Homeschool Co-op in May

May was a short month for co-op. We had our end of year program on May 2nd and our final day of co-op was May 5th.



Our end of year program went very well. Thank you to the Trinity members who supported our students by attending. The students were excited and enjoyed sharing what they learned this year. We enjoyed all sorts of music from our students as well

as presentations on the different field trips and speakers our co-op enjoyed. Each family also was given a table to display some of the things they worked on at home. It was neat to see all the projects the students shared with us.



Our last meeting was to discuss next year. We will be switching to twice a month instead of weekly. Sylvia will continue to be our music teacher each week. Following music class, depending on the week, we will have either a field trip, guest speaker, or art projects.



We have a few special events as well as play time for the kids. For next year's schedule and registration information, visit our website, linked at the top of Trinity's website.

Thank you all for your amazing support this year.

This co-op is a blessing to many families who want to raise their families with a Biblical worldview all day long.

Special thanks to:

Leon Dawkins who has accompanied us throughout the year with his musical talents, playing guitar for chapel each week as well as our Christmas caroling back in December.

Pastor Lieske who lead us in chapel each week and visited with the families as well as delivered our Christmas and Valentine's gifts to the homebound for us.

The Board of Christian Ed for making our music classes possible.

Trinity Endowment Fund for providing some of our art supplies.

Trinity for allow us to use the church and classroom space.

Tenia Norman, **Jeremy Elshaug**, Francesca Bakken, Sueann Wilson, and **Cal & Helen Johansen** for leading our art projects

Each of the **businesses** that hosted us for a field trip: Ringdahl EMS, Fergus Falls Fire Department, Fergus Falls Livestock Auction Market, Fergus Falls Public Library

Each of the speakers that met with us this year: Bobbie Emerine, Stephanie Schmidt, **Lt. Col Dennis Gerold**, Stacy Lung, **Leon Dawkins**, **Pastor Lieske**, John's Heating & Air Conditioning, Embrace Birth Care (birth center)

If you know anyone who would like to join the Homeschool Co-op in this, please contact Michele Lieske: MicheleLieske@gmail.com or direct them to our website, linked at the top of Trinity's website or scan this QR code.



+ CHURCH & PRESCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION +

Church Website	www.trinityff.org
Preschool Website	www.preschoolattrinity.org
On-Call Pastor Number	(218) 321-0993
Rev. Christopher Lieske, Pastor	(cell) (612) 554-5411 pastorl@trinityff.org
Church Office /JoAnn Orpen	(218) 736-4869 secretary@trinityff.org
Preschool at Trinity	(cell) (218)770-2032 info@preschoolattrinity.org
Church Office Hours	Tues-Thurs 8:30-4:00
Church Office E-mail	info@trinityff.org
Cemetery Sexton Cal Johansen	(218) 671-0383

JUNE SERVICE PLANS

June 7 — Divine Service 1

The First Sunday After Trinity

Hymns 851, 768, 543, 741, 706, 919

June 21 — Divine Service 1

The Third Sunday After Trinity

Hymns 915, 608, 609, 707, 641, 814

June 14 — Divine Service 1

The Second Sunday After Trinity

Hymns 912, 510, 653, 570, 622, 700

June 28 — Divine Service 1

The Fourth Sunday After Trinity

Hymns 732, 696, 627, 932, 845, 878

SERVING THE LORD AND YOU

Trinity Congregational Officers

<i>Chairman</i>	Schan Sorkness
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Jon Schoening
<i>Treasurer</i>	Cindy Schmidt
<i>Secretary</i>	Linda Schmidt
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Sandy King

Board Contact Persons

<i>Elders</i>	Wayne Goerd
<i>Christian Ed.</i>	Esther Schlicker
<i>Trustees</i>	Margie Rasmussen
<i>Stewardship</i>	Larry Stein
<i>Outreach</i>	Dave Schneeberger
<i>School</i>	Dave Schlicker