TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Family Matters

AUGUST 2026

A Message from Your Pastor...

Greetings and blessings to my brothers and sisters in Christ,

And Samuel said to all Israel, *"Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you. And now, behold, the king walks before you, and I am old and gray; and behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my youth until this day. Here I am; testify against me before the Lord and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you." They said, "You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man's hand." 1 Samuel 12:1-4*

Samuel was the last Judge of Israel, the prophet of God, and the man who anointed the first two kings of Israel. After Saul, the first king, was established Samuel said farewell to the people he had led. The days of Samuel were days of peace. He took over from Eli, his mentor, who failed to check his wicked sons who took bribes. The nation was defeated until Samuel led the people back to God and God saved them. As Samuel passes on the mantle of leadership he reflects back on his ministry.

He asks the people if he has taken advantage of his position. Did he take their animals, their money, or perverted justice? Not in any way. He was an honest man. This is in contrast to the sons of the previous leader Eli, and also his own sons as well. Samuel was a good man in a time when, as it says in the book of Judges, *"Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."* What a blessing to have honesty in an unholy time.

Samuel understood that he was not part of this world, but longed for a city built by God. His goal was not to see how wealthy, famous, or comfortable he could be. His leadership was about being the servant of the people and not the other way around. We all hope to be led by a Samuel type leader, but sometimes I think there is a lack of people willing to lead like Samuel.

We should lift up and support those who lead well. We encourage leaders to seek the best interest of others. We should also, when the opportunity arises, lead selflessly for others.

Jesus spoke this way as well. *"...whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:26-28*

Let us pray that we may serve others. May God use us. At the end of earthly service may we be as blameless as Samuel. May we recognize that the great ones are the ones who serve.

God's Richest Blessings to you all,

Pastor David Mews

Loved by Christ to Live for Christ

School NEWS

Kyle Barth (and family)
Principal of
Trinity Lutheran School

WHERE GOD LEADS

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

I think we are blind to the many ways God is at work in our lives. We find comfort in routine, but, if we're lucky, God occasionally breaks us out of that comfort zone with opportunity. The opportunity to serve Him. The Holy Spirit is always present, working on our hearts, we just have to open our eyes and see the calling He has for us.

The surrealness of being a resident of Billings, MT and principal at Trinity Lutheran School has yet to wear off. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the call committee and members of Trinity Lutheran Church for their faithful commitment to the call process. It has quickly become apparent that Christ is at the center of this community. I am humbled and excited by the opportunity to serve as principal at Trinity. This school has been led by a fantastic staff who work extremely hard to provide a transformational Christ-centered education to their students and I can't wait to serve alongside them.

I want to thank the many people that have helped make this an easy transition for our family. So many of you have made us feel welcome to Billings and Trinity. Your generosity and kindness have given my wife Kelsey and I absolute confidence in the path that God has laid before us. Saying goodbye to our family and friends was not easy. In fact, it was far more difficult than we anticipated. But we trust in the plan God has for us, even if it feels overwhelming or takes us 1,200 miles outside of our comfort zone.

Kelsey has already begun working at her new job at Kinetic Marketing & Creative, and our 5 children have quickly settled in. Oliver, 12, Isaiah, 10, Ezra, 8, and Audrey, 6, are all excitedly waiting to meet their classmates, teachers, and become part of the Trinity school community. Abram, 1, brings so much joy and happiness to our home and will be starting daycare soon. We can't wait to explore Montana and to get to know all of you!

Youth NEWS

Cameron Heiliger
Director of Youth and
Parish Education

LOVED BY CHRIST TO LIVE FOR CHRIST

At Trinity, "We value Christ-like relationships where we love one another by spending time with, caring for, and sharing God's forgiveness with one another." This is just one of seven core values we adopted in January 2025 along with our mission statement, ***"Loved by Christ to Live for Christ."*** As God's people, we know we are called to gather together for Worship and for Bible study (and, indeed, these two activities also appear amongst the core values), but outside of those corporate activities, we are also called to live life together. Just look at the description of the early church in Acts chapter 2; *"And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread together in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,"* (Acts 2:48)

Did you notice the "and" in the verse above? From the very beginning of the church, God's people have shown the importance of not only worshipping and learning together, but also of building relationships with one another through fellowship and life together. As we begin the transition into another school year this month, I encourage you to take a look at the church calendar and consider the many opportunities available to grow in relationship to each other, and in so doing, to grow in relationship to the One who draws us all together and who is constantly drawing us closer to Himself; God, our Father, through Christ, His Son. There are a number of opportunities this month for youth and families listed here - specifically our **Youth Ministry Kick-Off on Wednesday, August 19 at 5:11pm** at TYM Square and our **evening at Oasis on Sunday, August 23 from 5:00-8:30pm.** I hope to see you there as we continue to strive together to share the love of Christ with one another by building up Christ-like relationships amongst all believers.

Muddy
Cluster
Mission
2026

August Monthly Calendar 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CHURCH: 406-245-3984 **SCHOOL: 406-656-1021** **WEBSITE: www.trinitybillings.org**		**Trinity Worship Services on Community 7** 8am Sundays & 5pm Tuesdays				**1** **5pm** Worship with Communion
2 *MITE BOX SUNDAY* **8 & 10:30am** Worship **9:30am Summer** Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes	**3**	**4** **6am** Men's Bible Study @ TYM **9am** Quilting	**5** **2pm** Kitchen Guild Mtg.	**6** **10:30am** Bible Study	**7**	**8** **2pm** Caregivers Group @ TYM **5pm** Worship
9 **8 & 10:30am** Worship w/Communion **9:30am** Summer Sunday School & Bible Classes	**10** **4pm** Fellowship Mtg.	**11** **6am** Men's Bible Study @ TYM **9am** Quilting	**12** **9am** TYM Disc Golf, Donuts & Devos	**13** ***TLS Staff Planning*** **10:30am** Bible Study	**14**	**15** **5pm** Worship with Communion
16 **8 & 10:30am** Worship **9:30am** Summer Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes *Cake Reception for Jackie Ingold's Retirement* **2pm** Wedding	**17** **5:30pm** All Boards Meeting @ TLS **6:30pm** LWML Meeting **7pm** Council Mtg @ TLS	**18** **6am** Men's Bible Study @ TYM **8:30am -10:30am *TLS Registration*** **9am** Quilting **5-7pm *TLS Registration***	**19** **1pm** Wrinkled Righteous Game Day **5:11pm** Youth Ministry Kick-off @ TYM	**20** **10:30am** Bible Study **7pm** Elders Mtg.	**21**	**22** **5pm** Worship
23 **8 & 10:30am** Worship w/Communion *8:00am Consecration of School Staff & Installation of Mr. Kyle Barth* **9:30am** Summer Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes **5pm** Trinity Night @ Oasis	**24**	**25** **6am** Men's Bible Study @ TYM **9am** Quilting ***First Day of School At TLS*** **8:30am** Chapel at TLS	**26** **5:11pm** Grades 7-12 Youth Group @ TYM	**27** **10:30am** Bible Study	**28**	**29** **7am** Men's Ministry Breakfast & Mtg. **5pm** Worship
30 **8 & 10:30am** Worship **9:30am** Summer Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes **5pm** Yellowstone Valley Lutherans for Life BUNCO FUNdraiser @ Christ the King Lutheran Church	**31**	***ELDERS:*** Saturday: Neal Wagenman 8am: Tom Koeppel 10:30am: Ted Loomans		***ALTAR DUTY:*** Rietta Malsom, Cyndy Opsal & Carrie Schmidt ***ACOLYTES:*** As Scheduled		

Financial REPORT

June 2026 Finances	
Income	117,208
Expenses	244,110
Net Margin	***-126,902***

2025-2026 Finances		
	YTD - Actual	***Target***
Offerings	932,451	959,085
Total Income	2,712,919	2,839,406
Total Expenses	2,765,479	2,865,771
Net Margin	***-52,560***	***-26,365***

FUNERALS

A Funeral Service for ***Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht*** was held on July 2, 2026 with Rev. Robert Lane officiating. The recording of the service is on our church YouTube channel if you were unable to attend.

Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML NEWS

Meeting: Monday, August 17 at 6:30pm

Opening Devotion and Meeting Hostesses: Kitchen Guild

Program: Bible Study from *"Chosen"* – Lesson 6, pages 177-201

INSTALLATION OF MR. KYLE BARTH ON AUGUST 23

We will be having the installation of Mr. Kyle Barth as Principal during the **8:00am service on Sunday, August 23rd.** We will also be consecrating our Trinity Lutheran School staff at this service as well. We thank God for sending workers into the harvest field, and for those whom He has called to serve in ministry at Trinity.

YELLOWSTONE VALLEY LUTHERANS FOR LIFE CH. #331 BBQ & BUNCO FUNDRAISER

Please make plans to join us on **Sunday, August 30 from 5:00-7:30pm** at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Billings for our annual FUNdraiser. Food, fellowship, laughter and prizes are provided at this multi-generational event. We simply collect a free-will offering that helps us spread God's love of the gift of life with others. Questions? Contact Angie at yvlfl331@gmail.com

Special Events

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
Caregivers Group @ 2pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16
Cake Reception for
Jackie Ingold @ 9:30am

MONDAY, AUGUST 17
All Boards Meeting @ 5:30pm at TLS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18
Trinity School Registration

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19
Wrinkled Righteous Game Day @ 1pm
Youth Ministry Kick-Off @ 5:11pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23
Consecration of School Staff and
Installation of Kyle Barth @ 8am
Trinity Night @ Oasis @ 5pm

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25
First Day of School at Trinity

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
YVLFL BUNCO FUNdraiser @ 5pm
at Christ the King

TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
537 Grand Avenue
Billings, MT 59101

News

Loved by Christ to Live for Christ