



The Desert Voice

Trinity Lutheran Church

LCMS

September 2026



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Today some theologians and church members insist that if the Christian Church is to be effective, its message needs to undergo a radical reinterpretation and/or adjustment to accommodate present circumstances. This issue focuses on the authority and clarity of God's Word, the Bible, in matters of faith and Christian life.

Ever since Satan strategically suggested and successfully convinced Adam and Eve that God's Word is unclear, ("Did God really say..." Genesis 3:1), many others have been fooled as well. They believe and teach that God's Word is vague and therefore must be subject comprehensive transformations of meaning.

Rather than literal and straight forward acceptance of God's Word, this demonic viewpoint asks, "Can anyone really know what or why God says the things He says?" Such rebellion against God's clear command has littered history with the tragic wreckage of sin, death and the tyranny of the devil's schemes.

A literal and clear reading of God's Word is needed today. There we discover the solution for sin and overcoming of death through forgiveness supplied to all sinners through the shed blood and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God's word clearly says to every sinner, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matthew 4:17). Such clarity is necessary in our day. It is, however, offensive to those who reject God's assertion

that individual sinners are the focus of His love in Christ.

Departing from God's clear Word, some theologians insist that God does not concern Himself with individual sin, but desires instead the equal distribution of social, economic and environment justice that will lead to an egalitarian reality for all in this present life (Liberation Theology). This departure from God's Word places group or societal redemption over the need for personal salvation. It has captured the popular imagination of many churches and statesmen around the world.

By contrast St Paul, by God's inspiration, warned the Thessalonians against fictionalizing God's Word:

"In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry." (2 Thessalonians 4:1-5)

Continued on pg. 4

The Desert Voice

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All articles are to be in the
church office by the **15th** of
the month. Editor reserves
the right to edit for content
and space. The **October**
Desert Voice will be assem-
bled on Friday, Sept. 25.

**PLEASE COME TO
HELP!**

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For Health

Andy Schlange,
Larry & Gaylene Burkett,
Terri Cuesta,
Diana Kenyon
(**Ramona Haugen's**
Daughter),
Frank
(**husband of Sharlene Kay**),
Jim Scheuer
(**husband of Ellen Scheuer**),
Melissa Parsons
(**mother of Phyllis Hafliger's**
great grandson),
Loretta Eide,
Kate Memmen
(**hospice**)
Francisco Ruiz,
Carolyn Sundberg,
Russ Lambeth

Cancer Treatments

Michelle Ungaro
(**sister of Renee Young**),
Andy
(**friend of Rocky and Renee**
Young)
Israel
(**son of Francisco and Eunice**
Ruiz)

Rev. Glenn Smith
(**Pastor Smith's Brother**)

For Healing

Dan Schmelzer,
Livy Anderson
(**Kevin & Donna Anderson's**
granddaughter),



TLC Bible Study Schedule

Wednesdays @ 10am Grief Share (Sept. 9-Nov. 18)

Thursdays @ 6pm Women's Bible Study Fellowship Ctr.

Thursdays @ 7pm Bible Study on Zoom

Fridays @ 10am DOA (Daughters Of the Almighty)

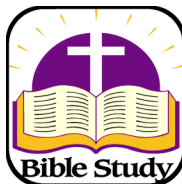
Living Way Bible Study (Sept.—May)

2nd Saturday of the month @ 8am Men's Bible Breakfast
Fellowship Center (Sept.—May)

We invite you to join us each week for a Zoom, Bible study,
Thursdays @ 7pm.

A link is sent to your email with the clickable link and pass
code which enables you to enter the Zoom class

**Please contact Pastor Smith if you are interested in joining
an online Bible study.**



Pastor Smith @ 760 485-5171
or
Email: Revs455@verizon.net



Thoughts...

Why do we gather for worship, Bible study and fellowship?

Because we gain hope and strength by sharing our faith. Nothing replaces the comfort that comes from praying together, discussing scripture in small groups.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I among them. Matthew 18:20



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Adult Bible Class

8:30am

Divine Worship

10:00 am

Jr. Confirmation Class &
Children's Sunday School

Young Adult/Adult Bible Study

Resumes September 13 @ 11:30 am

Zoom Bible Study



It's time to resume the Zoom Bible study. Join us Thursdays where Pastor Smith picks up where he left off with the study in Genesis. The first session will be Thursday, **September 3 @ 7pm**. Just email Pastor and he will send you the link for the Zoom study.

All are welcome!



Check Out the TLC Library

Are you interested in studying one of the books of the Bible? We have studies on Matthew, Mark, Luke, the Epistles, the Psalms. We also have daily devotion books, general reading non-fiction religious books, plus all the fiction books.

Come check out our TLC Library located in the Fellowship Center east hallway. We have a plethora of books and puzzles. You might be surprised what you find!





M.A.S.S. NEWS September 2026

Men Assisting Seminary Students

Leo Veatch

I finally have one name at this time who will be attending the seminary in September. There may be some additional prospects in December of this year, as there will be men graduating and wishing to go to the seminary in the fall. They would need to wait until September 2027.

The one student we are looking at is Leo Veatch. I have been in contact with Leo and he sounds like a very serious young man.

He is married and his wife will be continuing her college education. She plans on working part-time so that they may have sufficient income for him to stay in the seminary. We pray that the Lord will provide. The number one reason for students discontinuing seminary is the lack of funds.

We had two men graduate and are now LCMS pastors so we need to replace those two. The MASS board feels we should pick up Leo now and a second one later on early next year.

In Christ,

Russ Campbell



Men's Bible Breakfast Saturday. Sept. 12 @ 8:00am

All men of TLC and friends are invited to a hot breakfast cooked by two of our faithful servants and a Bible Study led by Pastor Smith. Breakfast starts promptly at 8:00am followed by Bible study concluding at 9:30am.

Also, if you would like to help cook on a given Saturday please let Bobbi Smith know. She and Renee Young could always use help!

Sign up at the information table as you exit the sanctuary.

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

1 Thess. 5:11

Pastor's Article Continued here...

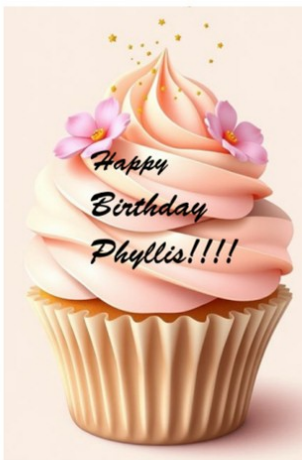
God's Word and His desire that every sinner be saved has not changed. Our proclamation of that Word must not be compromised in these critical times.

Pastor Robert Smith 



Celebrated Al Zutz!

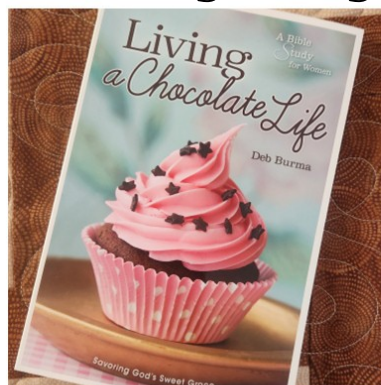
100 years!



Happy Birthday Phyllis!



TLC Ladies!



September Birthdays

2	Karen Miller
6	Wanda Lahn
12	Constance Van Ye Lentz
15	Connie Marmont
16	Nathan Johnson
17	Karen Johnson
19	Russ Campbell
19	Jeremy Dewell
21	Andy Schlange
	*Winter Visitor



Greeters September 2026

September 6 & 20

Ramon Haugen, Wanda Lahn
Donna Ellerbusch

September 13

Bob & Irene Wirtenberger

September 27

Debra Johnson



TLC Ushers Schedule September 2026

September 6 & 20

Russ Campbell & Jerry Ellerbusch

September 13

Jim Ducatte & Bob Wirtenberger

September 27

Paul League & Bob Wirtenberger



Altar Guild September 2026

September 6

Renee Young & Ramona Haugen
Annie Giles & Maggie Negron

September 13

Beverly Ducatte & Alice Musashi
Irene/ Bob Wirtenberger

September 20

Sharlene Kay/Cynthia Berke
Beverly Ducatte

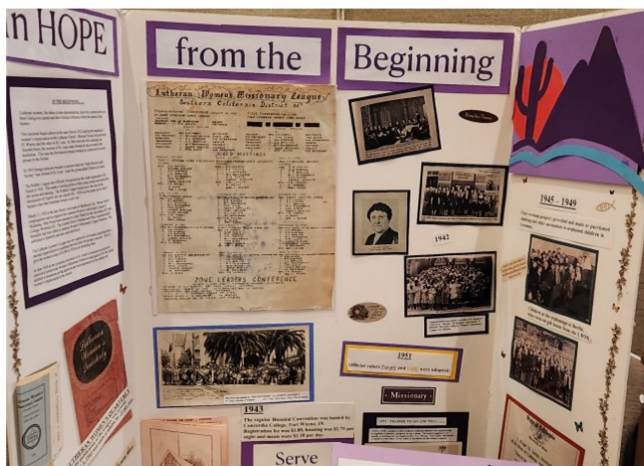
September 27

Ali Young
Beverly Ducatte

*If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please
Contact the church office: 760 347-3971
Or Trinity81500@verizon.net*



LWML District Convention





L W M L

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Even though we have not been active during the summer months with monthly meetings that doesn't mean we weren't working behind the scenes to get ready for the coming season! Starting in September, please join us for our monthly luncheons complete with interesting speakers. We work hard to have marvelous food and speakers. Every woman at Trinity is good for membership in our group and we would LOVE to see more of you this coming season!!

Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 10:30am will be our first luncheon and speaker featuring Sandy Culley doing a presentation of the Lord's Prayer. Be sure and put the date on your calendars!

In Christ,
Kris Chamberlain, LWML VP



Choir Begins!

Join the TLC Choir! All Welcome

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, **September 9** in the Fellowship Center @ **6pm**. Please consider trying us out! We have fun and no experience is necessary. We all just love "making a joyful noise"!

So, come on out and see if this is for you!



Ladies' Night Out

All ladies are invited to part in our monthly ladies' night out which resumes this month after our summer break. We gather in the Fellowship Center for a night of food, fun and fellowship!

This is a great way to get to know your sister's of Trinity and to introduce others to the family of Trinity.

Sign up at the information table on any Sunday and mark your calendars for Friday, **September 18 @ 6pm**.

Suggested \$10 Freewill Offering
At the door!



Ladies' Weekly Bible Studies

Ladies, whether you have never read the Bible or read it all the time, we would love to have you join us for one or both of our weekly Bible studies.

Bobbi Smith leads a study on **Thursdays @ 6pm** and Phyllis Hafliger leads a study on **Fridays @ 10am**. Both of these studies are held in the Fellowship Center.

Come and join us!

LWML Fall Rally
Sat. Oct. 3, 2025
hosted by
Grace Lutheran Church



Haragewen Kinde
Main Speaker
Ethiopian Missionary

Bible Study by Rev. Paul Miller
Registration @ 9:30am
\$10

Continental breakfast and lunch included
1000 W. Wilson St. Banning, CA



Beginning Wednesday, September 9 @ 10am in the Fellowship Center, Trinity will be offering a new program in helping to navigate grief.

No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful, confusing process. A Grief Share group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 11-week support group program, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

At each weekly meeting, you will view a video featuring respected counselors, pastors, and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics, plus you'll hear relatable personal stories of grief. After that is a small-group discussion to allow people time to talk, share support, and personally apply what they learned on the video. Everyone will receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating their personal grieving process.

Topics include how to manage grief-related emotions such as loneliness, anxiety, sadness, anger, and regret; how to cope with the changes in your life and relationships; and how to recognize what's normal in grief and what to do if you feel stuck or hopeless.

Grief Share group participants have repeatedly shared that they feel comforted and encouraged by being in a place where people truly understand what they're going through. And they feel a sense of relief when they're given guidance and tips on how to deal with the daily challenges.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. No matter how long it's been, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling.

If you have experienced the death of a family member or friend, you are invited to attend. For more details, and to find and register for a group, visit griefshare.org/find. Or contact Pastor Smith @ 760 485-5171 and/or revs455@gmail.com

Sunday School

We have had a good long summer break and it is now time to resume our Sunday morning classes, September 13. Each Sunday the children once again will gather in the Fellowship Center for refreshments and the Sunday School opening after the 10am Divine worship. Following the opening the older children will gather in the main Bible study room for Jr. Confirmation class and the younger students will remain in the SS room for the Bible lesson. A Young Adult/Adult Bible study will be offered at this time as well.

We will continue the "Bring Your Bible" to church program, receiving a raffle ticket for each Sunday they bring their Bibles. In the spring we will once again raffle off a beautiful quilt drawing from the BYB tickets.

Please keep your TLC Families in your prayers as we start this new SS season!

Jr. Confirmation

Students will gather with Pastor Smith in the Bible study room in the Fellowship Center each Sunday following the 10am Divine service beginning, September 13.

This is the final year of instruction for this group of students who began their journey through the teachings of the Bible and Luther's Catechism. In the spring we will have the exciting event of confirmation and we ask that you continue to keep our your students in your daily prayers.

Hallelujah

Summer is almost over. It won't be long until all our friends are back. The work of the congregation went on in a limited manner all summer. Now we need to change to full manpower.

We all have gifts given to us by God. Examine yourself to find your gift and then offer it to the proper person in charge of that task.

Altar Set Up: Beverly Ducatte

Secretarial work and Choir: Bobbi Smith

General Clean Up: Monthly

There are several groups resuming activities this month:

Men's Bible Breakfast, Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Pastor's Zoom Bible Study, Choir, Ladies' Thursday Evening Bible study, Phyllis' Hafliger's Ladies' Friday morning Bible study and Trinity Crafters Group.

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16b

The Church Council

The Daughter's of the Almighty Bible Study meets every Friday morning in the Fellowship Center @ 10am. We are usually finished by 11am. The lessons are from the LWML Quarterly and are single topic studies. You can drop in anytime.





TLC Beach Trip

Hello
SUMMER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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6 8:30 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship(C)	7 Pastor & Bobbi's Day of Rest	8 	9 10:00 AM Grief Share 6:00 PM Choir Practice 	10 10:30 AM LWML Luncheon 6:00 PM Ladies' Bible Study Fellowship Center 7:00 PM Genesis Bible Study Zoom	11 10:00 AM DOA Women's Bible Study 	12 8:00 AM Men's Bible Breakfast 																																																																																											
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Trinity Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
Pacific Southwest District

Stamp

Robert E. Smith, Pastor
Cell Phone: 760-485-5171
Church Office Phone: 760-347-3971
Mail: P.O. Box 1586
Indio, CA 92202

Trinity Lutheran Church



Indio, California

Sunday Schedule

Adult Bible Class
8:30am

Divine Worship
10:00am

Sunday School
&
Jr. Confirmation
11:30am



Truth



A person says "I have my truth and you have yours". Are there different truths? I looked up the definition of truth. Basically, it is the opposite of falsehood.

The modern definition is to conduct oneself confidently in whatever identity or belief you espouse. Thus, if you identify as a cat, that is your truth.

The Christian definition of truth is that which is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory and being God. Truth is theological.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation...Psalm 25:5a

The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. Psalm 143:18

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17

Our relationship with God and how we view Scripture is determined by whether or not we

accept that God is truth. As Missouri Synod Lutherans, we accept the Bible and the Word of God, written by men, inspired by God.

...when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation...Ephesians 1:13

The whole truth is the reality of God's Word. We need to be examples of that truth, showing the world what real truth is.

I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6

