

Tidings of Trinity



July 2026

A Message from Pastor Joseph McCalley



A Potpourri: the Sermon and Lutheran Music

At last, we've reached the half-way point of the worship service and the culmination of the Service of the Word: the sermon. Time to settle into the comfy pews, or at least take a little break from the up and down. Before the sermon we usually sing a hymn. This hymn, called the hymn of the day, the sermon hymn, or *Hauptlied* (chief song in German) usually emphasizes the main themes in the gospel reading, or the text the pastor has studied in preparation for the sermon. Like other hymns it is a song of praise, but it is chiefly praise for the Word just heard in the readings. It is fitting for this hymn, and the sermon that follows, to especially emphasize the readings and the themes of the liturgical date.

In order to tie together and help teach the Propers of the Day (the Introit, the Collect of the Day, the readings) Martin Luther desired to have the congregation sing its faith so individual Christians learn to speak the doctrines. Music also helps with memory! So important is music as a vehicle for learning the Christian faith that Luther said, "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music." Through the centuries, Lutheran musicians have sought to make congregational singing and music both instructive and beautiful. For example, the Lutheran chorale, singing a hymn in four parts, has been adopted in many different Christian traditions. Church musicians desired this arrangement to be beautiful and a rich teaching of God's truth.

Scripture, and the Lord Himself tells us the necessity of learning well the Word of God. Before His Ascension, Jesus instructed His disciples to teach everything He commanded (Matthew 28:20). To accomplish this command, the Lord gives to his church the apostles, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers (Ephesians 3:11) for the purpose of teaching Scripture, that is, everything He commanded. St. Paul instructs the Colossians to let the word of Christ dwell in them-in richness and abundance. This is granted by the teaching and admonishing one another along with singing psalms and hymns (Colossians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 14:26-31). Scripture itself even contains sermons. By some counts, the Book of Acts has 19 separate sermons! Some reasonably suggest the books of Hebrews and 1 Peter are actually sermons. Christians desire not only to hear the word of God, but for it to be faithfully interpreted and taught for the building up those who are gathered to hear that word. This comes through the Holy Ministry, the pastor, who is trained for this very purpose, and has been examined by the church as a faithful teacher of the word. After all, souls are at stake! The form of the sermon has changed through the centuries, but the purpose remains the same: for people to grow in the grace and knowledge of God's saving work in Christ Jesus as given in the Scripture.

Martin Luther strongly pushed for the return of faithful, solid preaching in worship. A large problem leading up to the Reformation was a neglect of God's word in church services, leading to false teaching that endangered people's souls and abuses in the church. In 1523, Luther complains loudly (as he does with most things) that people were hearing all sorts of fables, lies, myths, and legends in church. He said the word of God had been silenced. If the medieval church (or any preacher today) was not teaching in agreement with God's word, we see the possibility for unbiblical ceremonies, customs like indulgences, and even storytelling(!) to become the requirement for salvation. Take a look on YouTube and you can

find any type of terrible false preaching under the sun. True preaching is teaching about the living God and the forgiveness offered in Christ to those who hear and listen. Without Christ-centered preaching, how would people rightly understand their salvation and the Christian life? When Luther visited some of the churches in Saxony in 1526-1528 to do “check-ups” on the pastors, he was deeply shocked and disturbed about how little Scripture and doctrine they knew. These visitations spurred him to write the *Small and Large Catechisms* so pastors would have a very basic, yet truthful way to instruct their people about what the Bible teaches and the Christian life. Above all, Luther desired the pastors to be faithful to Christ’s command: to feed his sheep so they would be preserved in the Christian life and made ready to inherit everlasting life when death came. The return of the sermon to the Sunday service is a major accomplishment of the Reformation.

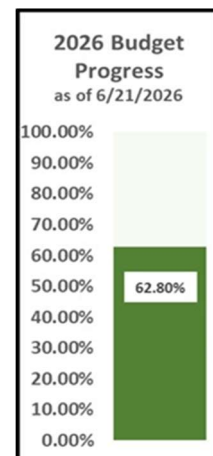
Taken together, Lutheran preaching and hymns really are something to boast about. We have been incredibly blessed by God in our church through the historical Lutheran confessions and our seminaries to teach and sing the wonderful works of God as revealed in his Word. Lutheran preaching always proclaims Christ-crucified and our hymns spur our throats to shout the hope that fills us. If our rigorous doctrine can be poetic, Lutheran hymns fit the bill. The great Billy Graham said of the first Lutheran Hour preacher Dr. Walter A Maier (1930-1950), “the greatest combination of preacher and scholar that American has produced in his century.” We are reminded of Johann Sebastian Bach, too. Not only is he held as one of the greatest composers of all time, but he was a staunchly-devoted Lutheran. His music consistently proclaims Christ for the forgiveness of sins and nearly always did he dedicate his work *Soli Deo Gloria*-to the glory of God! This is easily seen from his personal Bible—which is held at our seminary’s library in Saint Louis.

By faithfully teaching God’s Word in the sermon and singing hymns of praise the Holy Spirit is at work through the hearing of the word. He prepares the hearers, his own dear children, you, to faithfully receive what comes next in the service: Christ’s body and blood in the Lord’s Supper.

June Attendance and Offerings

The 2026 budget calls for donations of \$2,246 per week. For the first 25 weeks of the year, the budget receipts should be \$56,165.75. Donations were \$73,360.32 This is 14.72% more than what is needed or \$17,194.57 over for the year. Thank you to all who continue to give so generously.

Date	Attendees	Collections	Bible Study
5/31	67	\$2,240.30	15
6/7	68	\$4,149.00	13
6/14	61	\$1,881.00	16
6/21	65	\$4,803.00	15



Children’s Ministry Matters

SUMMER BREAK

There will be **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL IN JUNE AND JULY!** We will return to Sunday School on the first Sunday in August.

Trinity Lutheran Council News

“As each has a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” - 1 Peter 4:10

The council met on June 11th @ 10:30 am with a total of 7 members present. With so many traveling and graduations it is hard to get everyone to a meeting on the same day and time.

The trustees reported that 12 people were at the spring outdoor clean-up. Thank you to all who volunteered. All was accomplished in 1 ½ hours. As it gets hotter the lawn sprinklers are being checked. Removal of some of the lawn is also being **researched**. This will save water, as well as possible lower landscaping costs.

The July Jamboree is coming up on Saturday, July 11. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Can you donate 1 hour of your time to help man the booth? Please check times available. The Jamboree is one of the biggest festivals here in Cedar. What a great opportunity to get our churches information out.

An update to our audio system is being **researched**. Most exciting we will be getting a new copier soon. This will be a major update to what we are currently using. Folding and stapling are just two of the updated features.

We are still in need of an alternate organist. SUU as well as the local music store have our information. If someone knows of someone, please let us know.

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 9th @10:30. If you see anything that needs to be looked into, please don’t hesitate to talk to a council member or Elder.

- Stacie Hehn, Recording Secretary

Lutheran Woman’s Missionary League - Cedar City, UT - Esther Circle

There is no scheduled meeting for the LWML this summer. That doesn’t mean we aren’t busy.

July 5th will be our annual 4th of July BBQ. Hamburgers, Hot dogs, Brauts and buns will be provided by the church. This year we will also celebrate Americans Potluck- the 250th year of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. We are hoping to have an amazing party after church. Please check the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

July 11th is the July Jamboree. We will have a booth and will need members to help man the booth. Repeating myself- there is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

Aug 15th We will put on what’s become our annual YFH and LWML fund raiser. “Not Your Grandma’s Bingo”. Tickets will be \$15.00 each. This is such a fun event, we always have a full house. See Diane Molnar for tickets. Guess What??? There is **NO** sign-up sheet for this event.

There will be **NO** potluck in July.

- Stacie Hehn, LWML chair

Services Available Online



Trinity Lutheran Church services are streamed live on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/@trinitylutheranchurch4605>

The Utah Food Bank -- www.utahfoodbank.org/programs/mobile-pantry

The Utah Food Bank is delivers food packages to the parking lot of the LDS Church at 520 S. 1100 West and in Enoch at the LDS chapel at 451 E. Midvalley Road.

This food is for anyone in need. The only question will be how many are in the family. The Cedar delivery will be on the **1st Friday from 10:30-11:30** and in Enoch on each **3rd Friday from 10:30-11:30**, according to their current online calendar.

Bible Class Announcement

Pastor will continue a topical Bible study: *Ars Moriendi: Dying Well in Christ* in the month of July.

"Pattern of Sound Words", a basic introduction to the Bible and Christianity leading to communicant membership, will begin on **Tuesday, June 30 at 6-7:15pm** in the Fellowship Hall. The course will meet weekly for about 15 weeks. This is a membership class, but all who would like a review of the Small Catechism are welcome to attend. Invite your friends!

Choir Practice - resumes Sat, 7/11/2026



Please mark your calendars and save the dates for the following upcoming events here at Trinity:

July 5th – Our nations 250th birthday. We will be celebrating our nation's birthday along with our annual Forth of July Bar-B-Que cookout after Sunday's service. We are planning outdoor games and fun!

July 11th – Cedar City July Jamboree. We will be having a vendor booth at the event to promote our church in our community.

August 15th – Not Your Grandma's Bingo. We will be having our annual bingo fundraiser to benefit our LWML and Youth Futures.

September 19th – Trinity's 50th Anniversary Celecbration. We will be celebrating our church's 50th Anniversary with a picnic/cookout along with many fun games and other activities.

We will need volunteers for all of these events. So plan now to help any way you can! Please ask someone how you can help.

Quilts of Valor



Linda Norman was presented with a Quilt of Valor earlier this month. Thank you for your service, Linda!

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. A Quilt of Valor is a quality, handmade quilt that is machined or hand quilted. It is awarded to a service member or veteran who has been touched by War. The quilt says "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation." Visit their website to learn about the important work they are doing: www.qovf.org.



Patriotic Program Announcement



CAIFA

CEDAR AREA INTERFAITH ALLIANCE

presents

a *Sacred* celebration
of *America* 250



Friday, July 3rd 2026 • 7:00 pm
Christ the King Catholic Church
690 S. Cove Dr. Cedar City

Keynote speaker & musical performances.

Free Admission

Help support the Utah Food Bank by
bringing a **canned food donation.**



UTAH
FOOD
BANK



Ice Cream Social following the program.

