

# The New Trinity Times

- TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL -

MAY 2025

Lombard, Illinois



## GRADUATION

by Ariana Mehrazar

Graduation is something most people will experience in their lives. However, how did graduation come to be? Well, graduation ceremonies are dated back to the twelfth century from the first universities in Europe. The word graduation comes from the Latin word "gradus," which means "step."

[continued on page 2]

## Congratulations Graduates! Presenting Trinity Lutheran School Class of 2025



Class of 2025:  
[left to right]  
Angelina Iverson,  
Kellen Pilny, and  
Sophia Garcia  
are set to  
graduate on  
**Thursday, May  
22, at 7 p.m.**

## Moving On: The Next Chapter by Addison Meredith

Every year 8th graders everywhere move on and go to the next chapter of their lives; they go off to high school. The grades every young student dreams of. Everyone is so excited until the time comes to say goodbye. (This author has already cried two times at the thought of her friends Soph and Angelina leaving.) I can say for certain the 8th graders have taught me so much and have honestly shaped me as a person. I have learned a lot from every single one of them. I will miss seeing some of my best friends almost every day, and will never recover from losing them (I'm not being over dramatic).

[continued on page 2]

- May 22: Graduation, 7 p.m.
- May 23: Last Day, Closing Chapel, 8:30 a.m., Early Dismissal, 11:30 a.m.
- June 2-6: Vacation Bible School, 9:15-11:30 a.m.
- June 2: Summer Camp begins
- August 6: School Registration Night
- August 19: First Day of School, 8:15 a.m., Early Dismissal, 11:30 a.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## GRADUATION *[continued from page 1]*

I asked the graduates about their next steps:

**Q: What do you plan on for your future?**

**Angelina:** "I want to be a pediatrician."

**Kellen:** "I don't know."

**Sophia:** "I don't know."

**Q: What was the hardest subject for you and why?**

**Angelina:** "None of them, really."

**Kellen:** "Spanish, because I don't know it and I came here halfway through the year."

**Sophia:** "Reading because I don't like to read."

**Q: What is something you'll miss about middle school?**

**Angelina:** "The teachers and the smaller classes."

**Kellen:** "Recess."

**Sophia:** "I don't know."

When you graduate, you will have an amazing experience. And when the time comes, you'll be able to help other people with the experience you gained from learning in school.



## Moving On *[continued from page 1]*

A few questions for our graduates...



**What are you going to miss the most about Trinity, and why?**

**Sophia:** Being able to lay on the floor and sit on my desk because it's comfortable. In high school, I will be judged.

**Angelina:** The small classes and my friends, because in small classes you can learn better - and I enjoy spending time with my friends.

**Kellen:** Recess, because you don't get recess in high school.

**What are you most looking forward to in high school, and why?**

**Sophia:** The sports because there are more and they are more competitive.

**Angelina:** Being a student during football games, and big classes because it is such a fun experience.

**Kellen:** Big classes because they are better.

**What high school are you going to?**

**Sophia:** Willowbrook

**Angelina:** Willowbrook

**Kellen:** Willowbrook

**What are you not going to miss about Trinity, and why?**

**Sophia:** Bobby, John, and most of the fifth graders because they are annoying (*she says in love!*).

**Angelina:** Nothing.

**Kellen:** Having to bring my own lunch, because it is easier to buy it.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

**Sophia:** A pro soccer player.

**Angelina:** A pediatrician.

**Kellen:** I don't know.

**What is your favorite Trinity memory?**

**Sophia:** When Mr. DeWitt shaved his head. [*For a student charity challenge.*]

**Angelina:** Getting to Mr. B's classroom and when Mr. DeWitt shaved his head

**Kellen:** When we went the St. Louis arch.

**Which classmate will you miss the most, and why?**

**Sophia:** Addison, because I will see everyone else but not you.

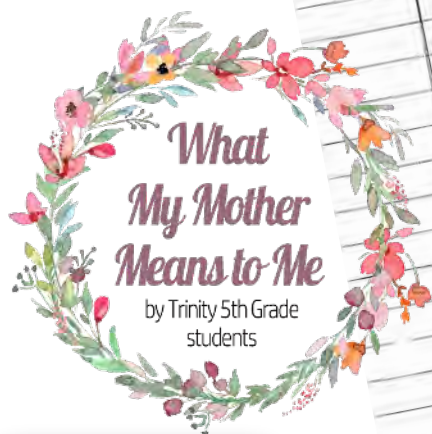
**Angelina:** Addison and Soph, because y'all are my best friends.

**Kellen:** Arian, he matches my energy.

*[continued on page 4]*



We hope that you  
had a wonderful  
Mothers Day...



## What My Mother Means to Me

A definition of a mother is caring, supportive, and providing. Some mothers don't have children, but are as supportive as real mothers. My mother is caring because she reminds me to do my homework. Also, she cares for me when sick. My mother is always there for me. For example, she goes to my tournaments and cheers for me. My mother also provides me with things like food, a home, clothes, water, and entertainment. I'm grateful for my mother because she brings me to my important activities. My mother is the best mother in the world. I could have no one else in the world.



**Juliana Rivera**



**Chloe Doolin**

## What My Mother Means to Me

My mother loves me, I love my mother. My mother is kind to me and she's kind to all when I was little she felt she takes care of me when I sick. My mother is not like most, she has us saying like I told you to love her very much.

**Trinity Lutheran School 5th grade students participated in an essay contest by American Mothers, Inc. They did a great job - and we even had a state winner. Congrats!**

**Bobby Hawn**



## What My Mom Means to Me

My Mom is the coolest you will ever meet. She let's me go to see my best friends a lot. She is super nice and I would not have any other mom than her. She helps when something's wrong, she helps when I am sick, she even spends time with me when she has time. I have a lot of fun with her and I have so much fun, I wish I could have more. I am the luckiest kid alive and I will be even more lucky from this day forward. I have a lot of fun with her and she comforts me completely in almost under a minute. I love you MOM!

## Moving On *[continued from page 2]*

**What class are you looking forward to most in high school?**

**Sophia:** AP Human Geography

**Angelina:** Human Growth and Child Development

**Kellen:** Math

**Where do you think you might go after high school, and what job do you want?**

**Sophia:** I hope college and job, National Women's Soccer League Placer.

**Angelina:** i want to go to a college and I want to have a job throughout high school and after high school I will be studying to be a pediatrician.

**Kellen:** I'm not sure, but I hope to go to college.

**What extracurricular activities will you do in high school?**

**Sophia:** Soccer, football, and bowling, and I want to join some clubs.

**Angelina:** i want to participate in volleyball and track, and join some clubs.

**Kellen:** I don't know, yet.

**What scares you the most about high school, and why?**

**Sophia:** Umm, getting lost because I might miss a class.

**Angelina:** Probably going from a small number of people in a class to a lot of people - and getting lost.

**Kellen:** How big it is, the distance between classes, and how many people there are, because it might be difficult sharing classes with a lot of students.

**Do you think you will graduate from high school?**

**Sophia, Angelina, and Kellen:** Yes.

**Who is your favorite seventh grader, whom you will miss the most, and why?**

**Sophia:** Addison, because she is the best.

**Angelina:** Addison, because she is the best.

**Kellen:** Addison, because I know her the best. *[Yes, Addison is the interviewer - no pressure.]*

**What is something you want the future graduates to know? Some advice?**

**Sophia:** Don't procrastinate, it does not help at all. And always know your memory work!

**Angelina:** Don't be afraid of what's coming next and do your work.

**Kellen:** Don't be scared of high school.

**What's a skill that makes you unique, but that you probably won't show to people in high school?**

**Sophia:** I don't know, oh, I can move some weird thing with my throat.

**Angelina:** I don't know.

**Kellen:** I'll come back to that one.

**What has been your favorite extracurricular activity at Trinity, and why is it your favorite?**

**Sophia:** Volleyball, because the first year I was on the team we took 3rd place in a big tournament.

**Angelina:** Volleyball, because I enjoy it.

**Kellen:** Track, because that was the only one I participated in.

**What teacher will you miss the most, and what about them will you miss?**

**Sophia:** I'll say Mr. B, Miss Kraegle, and Mr. A. They are nice.

**Angelina:** Mr. B, because he is a fun teacher and I like his teaching style.

**Kellen:** Mr. B, and he's the GOAT.\* He's really chill and nice to his students.

**Who is your dream celeb partner?**

**Sophia:** Soccer stars Pedri Gonzales and Pablo Gavi, singer Billie Eilish, actors Chris Evans (in *Captain America: The First Avenger*), and Drew Starkey.

**Angelina:** Actors Louis Partridge, Drew Starkey, and Hayden Christensen.

**Kellen:** Actress Megan Fox

*\*Greatest Of All Time*



Top to bottom:  
Sophia,  
Angelina,  
Kellen.



# Springfield to St. Louis

by Kellen Pilny, Ariana Mehrazar, Angelina Iverson, Addison Meredith, Sophia Garcia, Ava Harrison and Damian Gomez



Trinity's 7th and 8th grade class trip started well, with the group hitting the road at 8:30 a.m. on a Wednesday. The field trip was planned to last through Friday of that week. We started this journey smoothly, with an hour or so of straight driving, before hitting our first checkpoint. It was a simple pit stop, where we played on swings, a seesaw, and crossed a bridge down near a river.



Once we wrapped up our little break, we drove another couple of hours until we reached Springfield. It was here we took our first tour. We visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and we got to see a replica of Abraham Lincoln's log cabin, experience his lifestyle, and learn about his upbringing.



The museum showcased many things, including slavery during that time, how news was shared, details about his wife - Mary Todd Lincoln, and many other small things about Lincoln's life that aren't always played up in the history books.

When we finished the tour through Lincoln's life, we experienced a unique hologram display - unfortunately, no cameras were allowed for that.

Even looking back on it now, I still don't know how they made the holograms look so real. The show had perfectly displayed how Lincoln's life played out, and how important his history was. After this, we grabbed a bite to eat for lunch, and we were off to the Old State Capitol.

The Old State Capitol wasn't too far away from the museum, but it was massive. We took a picture on the steps, then entered. From there we were guided on our tour by an older lady who explained many things about the Old State Capitol to us. Our docent (tour guide) told us that the stairs, chairs, and other things about the building were the same as it was while in use. Sadly, a lot of things had to be remade, but were incredibly accurate reproductions.



# Springfield *[continued from page 5]*

From there we went to the peanut gallery, which although the name is misleading, actually were the seats to a theater, or an area where courts were discussed. The term "all quiet in the peanut gallery" actually meant that you couldn't talk in those rows, and could do really nothing but eat peanuts (or something like that).



LINCOLN HOME

After we toured the Old State Capitol building, where Abraham Lincoln actually went, we walked to the current Illinois State Capitol building, which had many different things and was much bigger than the Old State Capitol. Opened in 1888, It was a LOT taller than the old one. There were paintings about American history, statues of Presidents, and an art gallery featuring the work of talented artists in grades K-12.



STATE CAPITOL

After the new State Capitol building, we went to a little tourist stop, where all the girls got bonnets, and two of the boys purchased Abraham Lincoln "stovepipe" style top hats. Our next stop was Lincoln's house, and the surrounding neighborhood. Everything in the Lincoln home was a replica. A fun fact about that house - it's kitchen was the same size of the entire house that Lincoln was born and raised in.

It was at Lincoln's home where we were educated about his skill as a wrestler. Lincoln would often wrestle his children and hang out. His wife really took care of five children, not four! Originally, the Lincoln's house was a single story, but after having children, he ended up building it up to make it two stories. The surrounding neighborhood was roughly the same. The houses were differently decorated, but all similarly small.

After this, we went to the Golden Corral and called it a day. The next day, we went to St. Louis, Missouri, where we visited the St. Louis Zoo, and rode the train for a while - looping around the zoo, taking a break, and seeing all the exhibits there. Once we were finished with the zoo, we went to Missouri's iconic Gateway Arch on the shores of the Mississippi River.

The Gateway Arch has been around a long time, and has stood strong since it was built in 1965. The tram-style elevator has several "cars" - each supporting around five people, and every couple seconds it would click to stay level, as it climbed the tilted structure. The angle was continually "messing up" the orientation of the elevator, causing the rickety adjustments. Upon reaching the top, we were 630 feet in the air. We could see for miles and miles and could also see how far above ground we were.



The St. Louis Zoo



ANIMALS AGLOW





# Springfield *[continued from page 6]*

Once we were back to the ground, we went downhill to the Mississippi River—where Soph and Jacob poked a dead rat floating in the river. We ate again at a Golden Corral, checked out a giant ketchup bottle (in Collinsville, Illinois), then went to bed. Our final day of the trip would greet us in the morning.

We arose as the last day began,. We got breakfast and headed out at 8 a.m. We went to a gift shop, where Kellen bought a cross whistle necklace for \$10 and it broke in an hour. Back in Springfield, we visited Oak Ridge Cemetery, home of the Lincoln Tomb. We viewed World War I, World War II, Korean War memorials, learning where our military came from in Illinois and where they defended America around the globe.



Finally, we went to Lincoln's New Salem, where we were shown how many things worked back in the day. We learned how people lived, how water was retrieved, and how Christianity was taught back in the day. There was actually a Bible that was originally from the 1800s, and Pastor Steve Wagner got to hold it and look through it.

Once we wrapped it up, we were on our way home. This trip lasted three days total, and we got to experience and learn many new things.

The hotel pool was fun, and we played swimming games, such as mermaids, races, going in the hot tub and then jumping in the pool to shock ourselves, and getting on our friends' shoulders and pushing the others in. We also enjoyed jumping in at the same time.

Everyone had different parts of the trip they enjoyed the most:



- Kellen and Angelina - The Gateway Arch
- Ariana - New Illinois State Capitol Building
- Sophia - World War II Memorial at Oak Ridge Cemetery
- Addison and Ava - The pool
- Damian - The hotel



The whole trip gave us all so many memories, and new experiences that none of us will ever forget. Thank you to our teachers, and all the parents who drove us, and kept us safe and happy!



# The Fine Arts Festival and Alice In Oz

by Abby Pilny, Ava Harrison, Chloe Doolin, John Doerries, and Bobby Hawn

Trinity's Fine Arts Festival had some very exciting things happening! First of all, what was the Fine Arts Festival? It was an event showcasing both the visual arts, includes paintings and drawings. But not only did we have visual art, we also featured performing arts. This is where people are the art. We delivered singing, acting, and musical performance. Trinity's piano students performed a mini-recital, younger children sang, and the 5th through 8th grade students presented a play - a musical - at our Fine Arts Festival!

The musical, **Alice in Oz**, was about Alice from **Alice in Wonderland** finding herself stuck in the land of Oz from **The Wizard Of Oz**. The show features characters from both of the classic stories. But everyone mistakes Alice for Dorothy. We have renamed some characters, such as TweedleDee and TweedleDum have been become three dimwits known as Tweedle, Dee, and Doubt (we don't want someone to be called Dum, now do we?). There also was the Marching Hare who fulfilled the role of the traditional White Rabbit. Our Kittycat replaced the Cheshire Cat and there is a set of playing Cards that ran about helping characters throughout the show. We had an amazing cast and some serious direction to help with the show.

The cast featured:

The Cards: *Sophia Garcia* as the 5 of Spades, *Arian Gomez* as the 2 of Clubs, *Juliana Rivera* as the Queen of Hearts, and *Damian Gomez* as the Jack of Diamonds

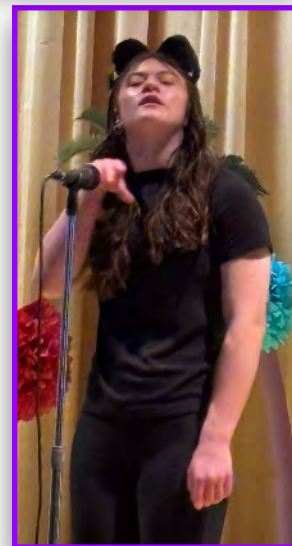
The Troublesome Dimwits: *John Doerries* as Tweedle, *Bobby Hawn* as Dee, and *Joshua Camiola* as Doubt

The Supporting Characters: *Addison Meredith* as the Mad Hatter, *Angelina Iverson* as the Marching Hare, and *Abby Pilny* as the Kittycat

The Key Characters: *Kellen Pilny* and the Wizard of Oz, *Chloe Doolin* as the Wicked Witch of the West, and *Ariana Mehrazar* as Alice (not Dorothy!)

Behind the scenes Magic was performed by *Ava Harrison*.

Thanks to Mr. *Barenklau* for directing, *Miss Rose* for the music and songs, *Ms. Shirer* for piano accompaniment, and *Mrs. Niehaus* for sets, props, and costumes.





In January 2024, Trinity Lutheran School applied for a grant to convert and underutilized room into a Creator/Maker Space or STEAM lab. Trinity did not receive the grant. With some help and encouragement, one Trinity parent sprung into action, and Trinity's new STEAM lab will be ready to open this fall for the 2025-2026 school year. We asked Mr. Kevin Tully about the project.



**Q. What are some of the things that you did to convert this big room full of junk into Trinity's new STEAM lab set to welcome classes in the fall?**

A: The first thing we did was to empty all the junk and items that were no longer wanted from the room. This was done by a group of volunteers into a large 20' dumpster. Secondly, everything that was left in the room that might be used for the new STEAM Lab was moved to the middle to make room for painting the walls. Next was removing everything from the walls that was screwed in (picture hangers and old chalk board, etc) and all the holes were filled, along with cracks in the plaster covering. That was then sanded flush, and anything that needed a second coat of spackle and a second sanding was done. Next was taping all the moldings and windows, and the heater covers. Then 3 coats of primer were rolled onto the walls. A special primer was used that is formulated to cover stains and bright colors. Then three coats of yellow paint was applied. This portion of the process was likely a cumulative time of about 60 hours.

**Q. Who else helped and with what?**

A: To be fair, I don't remember all the volunteers' names that helped empty the room that day. Pastor Steve and several of the elders were there, and Bea (Kevin's wife) helped. As far as the painting and all, Bea helped me tape, but I did all the filling and sanding, priming and painting.

**Q. While you did a lot of physical work, you also started soliciting supplies. How did you decide what was needed?**

A: I was a professional fabricator, and am currently a professional scale modeler. And Gunnarr (Kevin's son) and I are heavily interested in science and scale modeling. Bea is a crafter. We all put our heads together and thought up decorations, science and engineering supplies, art supplies - it came naturally. Bea is a Math teacher. So that helped. Fabricating and scale modeling both involve lots of physics, math,



engineering, and art. We have some science experiment books, and we looked to those too for what would be needed to build things. I've took applied physics at university, so I thought back to that too. I'm sure there are a thousand more things we need to have in the lab to make learning fun, but I think we have a good start. The supplies and equipment in the lab will grow organically from the kids wanting to learn something that we need supplies to do, and from the input of the teachers. The school already has a ton of science supplies as well, they're just in a store room. Where I think it's easy to forget about them. Over the summer, Mr. B and I will be moving

all that stuff from the store room into the lab where it's out in the open and will be more of an inspiration.

**Q. How was participation? Did you get a lot of response?**

A: We had an overwhelming response to the supply wish list. A lot of items poured in, and there were donations as well from the congregation, the model train club Gunnarr and I belong to, and even my relatives and friends from the car world across the country. As well, the Tully family made several large donations to the lab.

## STEAM LAB *[continued from page 9]*

**Q. What are some of the featured materials and equipment that you've managed to acquire for the lab?**

A: We have a ton of microscopes that are meant for the younger grades like 3-4, and more sophisticated versions for the older grades. A new 3D filament printer, two die cutters, several electricity learning stations, a good start on a STEAM based library, an kit to learn how plastic injection molding works for making toys and other household items, a lot of informational posters to help learn how the world, science and engineering work, an overhead projection system, four brand new Apple iMacs computer for learning CAD and 3D printing, LEGOs, engineering model kits, and a bunch more.



**Q. Tell us about the 3D printer... What is it and what can students do with it?**

A: We have a Bambu Labs P1S printer. It's of the FDM type (Fused Deposition Modeling). It's a fancy way of saying it prints with filament (like plastic string) that is driven through a hot end where it's heated up and pushed through a nozzle, and deposited in layers to form an object. We can make just about anything the students can dream up. The only limits are skills and engineering. And we'll be teaching that.

**Q. And while I understand that teachers will be taking classes to the lab, you have some experience with this kind of equipment?**

A. I do. As part of my business, I have what's known as a printer farm. I have 13 SLA Printers (they use a liquid resin and UV light to make objects), and 3 FDM printers. I use them on a daily basis. They are running probably 300 days out of the year, almost 24 hours a day.

**Q. Have you considered running an extracurricular STEAM club?**

A: Yes. Mr. B and Pastor and I have talked about that. For sure we'll have a Model Railroading club where the members will build a modular layout, building one module each year (a module is 2' x 4', and can be joined to other modules), with the theme of the module selected by the group. They'll learn wood working, electrical and electronics, art, research, fine motor skills, engineering, and now to work as a team. We'll likely also teach CAD that way, as I'm not a formal teacher.

**Q. What motivated you to do the work you did on this project and what are you most excited about seeing as it comes to fruition?**

A: God called me to help the school grow. We need to match the things the public schools have to attract families to stay at Trinity, and most schools by now have some form of Maker Space. The room was there, a good size, and worked well for the need. Years ago we had shop classes, separate science rooms, and even computer labs. Most schools got rid of shop class, and I think kids need to learn how things are made, how to use their imaginations to make what they don't have, and learn how the world works from an engineering, science and physics perspective. Tomorrow's world will be one of trips to Mars and conquering gravity and inventing new things. SpaceX has shown us that if you have a willing mind and two hands, you can do anything. I want the kids to have that mindset. The art portion is VERY MUCH needed as well. The art today is terrible compared to what was considered art 50 years ago. Nothing grates my teeth more than hearing a child say, "I can't do that." YES THEY CAN. They just need the skill sets and the mindset to realize anything is possible. Things are "Un-Possible," NOT impossible.

Un-Possible means whatever it is just hasn't been discovered or invented yet. So, when God calls you, you do what he's asked of you.



## What Mr. Baerenklau Says About the Steam Lab

by John Doerries, Bobby Hawn, and Joshua Camiola

**Q. Are you excited for the STEAM lab next year?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Is it going to be a class or a club?** A. Both.

**Q. What will it be used for?**

A. It will be used for science.

**Q. Who is going to teach STEAM next year?**

A. Science teachers will teach it.

**Q. When will the STEAM lab start being used?**

A. Next school year.

**Q. What types of assignments will be given?**

A. Activities, not assignments.

**Q. What classes will be able to participate in STEAM?**

A. All teachers will be able to take their students there, there will be supervision.

**Q. Can it be used for non class activities?** A. Yes.

**Q. Will there be grades for the STEAM lab?**

A. When STEAM is used for a class there will be grades.

**Q. Will the activities be adjusted by difficulty by grade or will all ages have the same assignments?**

A. The activities will be age appropriate.

## Trinity Students Featured in Creative Writing Journal

Caesura is a publication of Concordia University Chicago that celebrates the creative writing of young Lutherans. Students from Trinity's Journalism class submitted work. Congratulations to Trinity students **Abby Pilny, Addison Meredith, Angelina Iverson, Arian Gomez, Ariana Mehrazar, Ava Harrison, Bobby Hawn, Chloe Doolin, Damian Gomez, Juliana Rivera, Sophia Garcia**, each of whom had pieces featured in Caesura 2025. You can request a copy via Trinity's office, on view and download the issue here: <https://tinyurl.com/CUC-CAESURA-2025>.

## STEAM LAB

*[continued from page 10]*

**Q. What else would you like to tell us about the STEAM lab that we have not thought to ask about?**

A: It's a place to make learning FUN. I would like anyone who uses it to respect the space and each other while in there. NO IDEA is dumb or foolish. It's about LEARNING how the world that God gave us works. And about where things come from and how they're made. Once the creativity spark is struck, I hope the students' desire to learn about the subjects the lab is there to teach becomes a roaring blaze in their minds. I absolutely LOVE learning new things, and I hope the lab can inspire generations of students to become makers and inventors.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. CAD is short for Computer-Aided Design.

## Our Own Matilda

Walther Christian Academy invites you to the school musical, **MATILDA**, starring **Trinity Class of 2023 graduate Alexandra Harris**. Performances

are at Walther on Friday and Sunday, June 6 and 7, at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, June 8, a 2:30 p.m. preceded at 1:30 p.m. by a special Cake with Matilda reception. Walther is at 900 Chicago Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160, 708.344.0404, walther.com.



## 2025 Trinity Chargers Track Season *by Angelina Iverson*

This track season on the Trinity Chargers Track Team we had nine participants. Including our two graduating team captains, Angelina Iverson and Sophia Garcia. The captains, Addison Meredith, parents, and especially the Coach have put a lot of effort into making this season a success. Even though Coach Meredith was not here for the season, we still will admire his great effort while working on deployment.

This year we had three total track meets and a lot of practices. At each practice the participants worked hard trying out their running, jumping, and throwing skills.

The Trinity Chargers competed at

- The Willowbrook Warrior Invitational
- The St. John/Lombard Invitational
- Concordia University Chicago Lutheran Grade School Meet



Trinity Lutheran  
Church & School

LOMBARD

FREE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 2 to 6, 2025

9:15 - 11:30 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran's **FREE**

**Vacation Bible School** program is open to children from three-years-old to those entering 5th grade. Current Trinity families, friends, and community members welcome.

To register, visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/TrinityVBS2025>

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

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## We Appreciate Our Trinity Teachers! *by Juliana Rivera*

Teacher Appreciation Week means a week-long event dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the hard work and dedication of teachers. It also is an annual event held during the first full week of May in the United States to recognize the contributions of teachers and staff.

Teacher Appreciation Week at Trinity started with Chalk It Up on Sunday, where students used sidewalk chalk to illustrate their appreciation for teachers with greetings at the entryways.

- On Monday, it was Cinco De Mayo. Let's "taco" about how great teachers are. The teachers enjoyed tacos, churros, rice, beans and sauce.
- Tuesday was a day for "poppin by to say thank you" to teachers, who were served popcorn with all kinds of fun toppings served in the teacher lounge.
- On Wednesday, "Thanks for Everything you do ROUND here!" saw circular treats of bagels with cream cheese and a fruit salad.
- Thursday was "chip chip hooray" day. Parents brought in chocolate chip cookies and other desserts.
- "Orange you glad it's Friday" on the final day of the week, when teachers were treated to orange things...like oranges.

The teacher and staff seem really happy, and the decorated treat table was adorable. And as our appreciation need not be limited to one week, again we say, "Thank you teachers for everything."



Honorable Mention - Illinois Lutherans for Life Essay Contest 2025

### Everyone Deserves a Life *by Angelina Iverson*

God has fearfully and wonderfully made everything and everyone. He wants everyone to be loved and have a chance at life. God believes that every person is valuable no matter what they look like or what their future is. With God, every child and person are wanted and desired unique individuals, and we should feel the same. Everyone is valuable and precious not because of their talents, but because they are human and created by God.

Each year since 2021 the leading cause of deaths was abortions. In 2021 there were 42.6 million deaths caused by abortion, in 2022 there were 44 million, in 2023 there were about 44 million as well, and in 2024 the number was raised to about 33 million more deaths than the past years, with 73 million deaths that year caused by abortions. There have been 65,464,760 babies killed in abortions since Roe v. Wade in 1973.

But not only does having an abortion kill an unborn baby, it can cause emotional damage to the mother. After having an abortion, women have a 33 percent higher risk of getting breast cancer and have a 154 percent higher risk for committing suicide. The guilt stays with them throughout their lives and causes these sufferings.

There is always another option instead of aborting a baby. There are couples willing to love the baby and give the baby a home. A baby is a gift and blessing from God, not a burden or a curse.

Always remember that every life is a sacred gift from God. Each human He puts on this Earth serves a purpose. Like it says in Psalm 139:13-14, "For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well."

By supporting mothers who are in difficult situations, we seek to honor the sacredness of life and God's divine plan for all people.

# Meet Miss Sara by Arian Gomez

## Q. Why did you come to work at Trinity?

A. To work in the before and after care program. I also help in the library

## Q. When did you come here?

A. I went to school at Trinity from kindergarten through 8th grade. I graduated in 2017, and started working here this school year.

## Q. What's your favorite food?

A. Chicken tenders.

## Q. What's your favorite sports team?

A. The New York Yankees and the Chicago Cubs.

## Q. What's your favorite song?

A. *Bells in Santa Fe* by Halsey.

## Q. What grade do you teach?

A. In before and after care we have all grades.

## Q. What's your dream vacation?

A. Going to Florida with my family.

## Q. What's your favorite animal?

A. Hedgehogs.

## Q. What's your favorite Bible verse?

A. Psalm 91:4 - "He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge."

## Q. Coffee or tea?

A. Neither.

## Q. Morning or night?

A. I'm more of a night person.

## Q. Do you like coming here in the morning at whatever time you come here?

A. Yes, I like coming here in the morning.

## Q. What time do you usually wake up in the morning?

A. During the week I usually wake up at 6 a.m. On the weekends and days off I usually wake up around 10 - 10:30 a.m.

## Q. Do you play video games?

A. I do.

## Q. What's your favorite video game?

A. My favorite video game is *Minecraft*.

## Q. What's your favorite color?

A. Purple

**Arian: Thank you Miss Sara, for the time to interview you.** Miss Sara: You're welcome.



*Miss Sara Myers works in Trinity's Extended Care program.*

*Miss Sara is also Miss Robertson's cousin, and her mother and aunt volunteer in Trinity's library.*



# MAY 4TH AND THE STAR WARS ANNIVERSARY

by John Doerries, Joshua Camiola, and Bobby Hawn



May 4th is a fun day because it represents Star Wars' fun phrase, "May the force be with you." But instead of force, we say, "May the fourth be with you." We change the phrase from force to fourth because it sounds funny and well, a new fun day to have.

Star Wars' first movie also started in the month of May too, so Star Wars day is both the film franchise's anniversary and a pun.

Star Wars is a engaging movie series and something that makes it even more fun is its villains. From Darth Maul, to Darth Vader, to Darth Sidious, and even Kylo Ren, these bad guys put some fun into the franchise. And with it we have some silly characters from the Jedi Order too. Consider Yoda, Anakin, Obi Wan, Luke, and Leia. Some of these characters bring lines that even end up as fun memes, such as, "Hello There." This line was brought to us by the amazing Obi Wan, played by Alec Guinness in the time of Darth Vader and played by Ewan McGregor in the time of Emperor Palpatine, also known as Darth Sidious. The one who actually said the line, though, is Ewan McGregor. Yoda is a very old species known as "Yoda Species". He helped Luke Skywalker by being the beginner of his training until Obi Wan Kenobi took over the training. But sadly he died at the age of 900 years old. That's 900 in Yoda Species years, but in human years he was 90 years old. His most famous line was, "Do or do not. There is no try."

Star Wars has featured some amazing weapons named lightsabers. Lightsabers are powered by kyber crystals, and each has its own color. The color of the kyber crystal determines the color of the lightsaber. The common Jedi lightsabers are green and blue, while the common Sith lightsaber is red. There are also some other colors like purple for Jedi, also yellow for Jedi, black for Mandalorians, which we'll get to later, white for incomplete Padawans, and orange which is for Jedi.

Now the Mandalorians are kind of like Jedi, and they have a strange relationship with the force. The Mandalorians are mainly known because of THE Mandalorian, who is a bounty hunter with an unusual connection with Grogu, who is also known as Baby Yoda. Baby Yoda is really cute. There are also other Mandalorians. Ones that we know of are Boba Fett and Jango Fett.

Lastly, there are a large number of cool characters to help and attack our fun characters. We have the B1 Battle Droids who eventually stop being used after Order 66. During Order 66, the clone troopers, who were once the Jedi's friends, got a command to turn on the Jedi, becoming storm troopers. There also was a set of clone troopers called the Bad Batch, who helped the Jedi but did things really differently, including having crazy looking suits. They are actually amazing to see. There is also a Star Wars show called Clone Wars.

Hopefully, you can now see why we love Star Wars so much. I hope that love has spread from us to you. If you haven't already, watch the movies and shows, we think you would love them too.





# Colors!

*by Chloe Doolin*

Some wonder where colors came from,  
that's why I am here.

There is going to be a recipe for **crayons!**

Someone must have made colors, but  
who? God made them. And not just the  
colors in the rainbow. He gave us those  
and so many more.

Let's start this colorful journey with colored pencils. Originally the companies that made them were Faber-Castell and Caran d'Ache. How they made them is quite fascinating. The core of most colored pencils is made of wax and coloring pigments. They are ground and mixed and glued into wooden grooves which then are sandwiched together. The pencils are then coated with varnish to enhance their appearance and durability.

Everyone loves a new box of crayons, but have you ever made your own?

One classic recipe requires you to...

1. Gently melt carnauba wax and cocoa butter or tallow in a double boiler.
2. Once melted, whisk your pigment (coloring agent) of choice into the hot wax.
3. Quickly pour the melted crayon mixture into a heatproof mold.
4. Let cool completely before removing, about 20-25 minutes.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 to make other colors as desired!

These crayon making supplies are readily available at craft stores and online. So have fun and color your world!

## Congratulations to Trinity's Young Poets

This year, Trinity's Journalism class entered multiple poetry contests. One event was presented by Expressive Education. As part of the Young Poets program, each student submitted a haiku poem. Haiku poetry is one of the most creative poetry forms. It was first developed in Japan in the sixteenth century. A haiku is composed of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables. Typically this imagery-rich poem reflects on some aspect of nature. Each of the students had a haiku accepted for publication. Earlier in the year, multiple students had work accepted for publication by Appelley Publishing.





# Candy Cane Snails

by Ava Harrison

A Candy Cane Snail, otherwise known as *liguus virgineus* is a very fascinating mollusk. type of snail. These beautiful snails are not just fun to look at, but interesting to learn about.

## Where Candy Cane Snails are found...

You can find these creatures on and around the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. They also have been introduced in southern Florida, making them a non-native species there. Candy Cane Snails are also arboreal, meaning they primarily live in trees, on the branches.

## The status of Candy Cane Snails...

The Candy Cane Snail is listed as "near threatened." This is a result of over-collection and habitat loss.

## What Candy Cane Snails eat...

Candy Cane Snails feed on fungi, algae, and lichen. Newly hatched snails may start with leaf-growing lichens, gradually progressing to twigs and small branches before settling on bark-growing lichens. They scrape these foods off the smooth bark of trees where they live.

## The unique appearance of Candy Cane Snails...

Candy Cane Snails are distinctive for their brightly colored, spiraling shells. They have a conical shape with a white or creamy-white background, with vibrant stripes of various colors like brown, black, pink, green, purple, or light yellow. These stripes are a key feature, giving the snail its name, due to the resemblance to the brightly striped candy.

Candy Cane Snails get their vibrant color and distinctive banding patterns from pigment glands in their mantle called chromatophores. These chromatophores produce the pigments that create the stripes and patterns on their shells.





**As part of the Journalism class curriculum, students in grades 5 through 8 learned about Opinion-Editorials and Letters to the Editor. They wrote their own, featured here.**

*NOTE: The opinions expressed here are the students' own and may not be construed as endorsement by Trinity Lutheran School.*

## Why Students Shouldn't Have Homework *by Abby Pilny*



Students have a lot of homework. Teachers tell us to be active after sitting all day at school. Well, because of homework,

we don't have time for that. We get home and start homework. But I have no time to even try to finish it before our sports. Then, when we get home late at night, we are forced to work on it. When we stay up late doing homework, we get really tired. When we get tired, we cannot focus on it during school. Yes, we have time to work on it in class, but not enough. If we are given work to do, we shouldn't be expected to do it for homework when we already have things to do after school. Maybe you should be giving homework to the children who don't do extra things after school. The ones who just sit around and play video games. Those students are the ones who should be getting piles of homework because they do nothing else. Plus, it refreshes their brain and is much better than sitting in front of a screen. And no, I'm not saying that I don't either, but that's not what I do every day after school and all day on the weekend. I may have a little time on the weekends but not really on school days since I have so much homework and time doing sports. So in this case I really think homework should be banned.

**Dear Editor,**

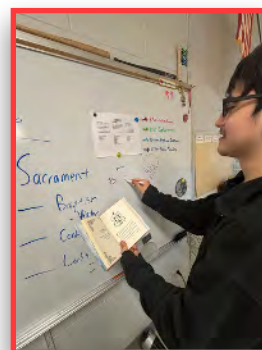
I'd like to publish a new story regarding why school is important for students. Students rely on education for their career. Each and every student needs a job to make money, live, and buy **essential** needs. Students need a job to provide for family. Jobs are important for not only these reasons, but also because it gives people experience—experience, **knowledge** you can share with others and help **them** grow.

The main thing that school provides is knowledge—in math, history, English and more—and there is no such thing as too much knowledge. Knowledge, again, is a necessity to pursue any career, no matter what. Even if the career you're interested in doesn't have, for example, history, it's still important to know about the things that happened in the past. However, math is usually needed in every career, whether you're working at a grocery store or being a doctor.

School also helps students develop socialization skills. With people around one student, that student is bound to make friends. Socialization is a big part of being in school, too. Having good communication helps in normal conversations, like chatting about your day or ordering food from the drive-thru.

**From,**

*Ariana Michelle Mehrazar*





WE  
HAVE  
OPINIONS

## Why School Breaks Should be Longer

by Ava Harrison

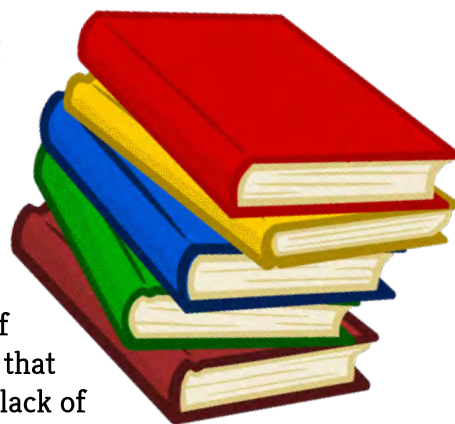
School breaks should be longer. Children need longer breaks to be more productive, focused, and to reduce stress. Short breaks don't provide enough time for them to recuperate, they don't give enough time to relax and give their brains a sufficient amount of time to rest. Most children do not get enough sleep on school days and a lot of brain activity during the day leaves many students tired and without the energy to do homework. Yet they stay up late to finish that homework and become even more sleep-deprived. Longer breaks allow them to get more sleep and have more energy, which will allow them to be more focused in school. Without focus, students don't learn much. Not learning much leads to bad grades and increased academic struggle. Children who are tired on a single day and miss a critical lesson, they fall behind on the next lesson, heading into a downward academic spiral. Less stress would be a benefit of longer breaks. Too much stress is bad for a child. It makes homework and learning nearly impossible. If we had longer breaks from class, these problems would be less prolonged and therefore less harmful. In conclusion, schools should have longer breaks.



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### Dear Public Library of Villa Park,

Residents of Villa Park have noticed that there is a lack of books on topics that they enjoy. The lack of books can cause a dearth of people visiting the library. As much as the residents want more books, they don't want the library to leave.



I understand that getting more books and keeping them in supply can be costly. But the library could set up a donation box or host fundraisers to generate the necessary money. I believe that the homeowners would love to volunteer to assist the library and help this cause. These fundraisers would help to keep the library that everyone loves up and running and the residents would get to read the books that they enjoy. Setting this up will make both the library and the residents of Villa Park happy.

In conclusion, I hope you take my ideas into consideration so we can enhance the library's collection. By executing these ideas and motivating homeowners to volunteer, we can guarantee that the Villa Park Public Library can remain as a flourishing public environment for enjoyment and learning. We can work together to make our library the best that it can be, filled with the books that our town deserves.

Sincerely,

Angelina Iverson

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## Why We Should be a Moneyless Society

by Juliana Rivera



We should have no money because if everything was free, there would be no arguing and people would be happy.

If everything was free, you could have anything you wanted and you would be able to get it really fast without paying. Get things all over the world free.

No arguing: people would be nice to each other. There would be no conflict. No one would be poor. If everything was free, no one would be unable to not afford something.

In short, if people aren't poor, and have their needs met for free, they would be happy - and there would be not no conflict, no arguing.

This is why we should have a moneyless world. [However, money CAN be fun.]

## Why I Disagree with President Trump

by Bobby Hawn

I think that President Trump is not an effective President. Clearly half of the United States thought he would be a good President, but I am here to prove you wrong. There are so many reasons why I believe that he shouldn't be our national leader. One reason is the tariff changes he instituted. If they had just stayed the same for just a few more months, the Nintendo Switch 2 would be able to come to America. This is really infuriating because I have been very excited about it and now I have to wait longer. Another reason is that that he is letting the non-elected Elon Musk act with the power of the President, even though he is not the President. And after Musk's gesture that some labeled a Nazi-like salute, I am even more aggravated at the President for giving Musk have any power or control. Lastly, if President Trump is already rich, why does he need presidential power? He has almost anything he wants, and he could buy more than ten PlayStation5s and still have plenty of money. If people had not voted for him, we would have have the first female United States President in history.



## TO MASK OR NOT TO MASK

by Addison Meredith



Masks helped people during Covid. Many people believe that wearing masks was not an efficient way to keep Covid-19 from spreading, but I think that they did in fact help. People believe that when you have a cold, that face masks will keep the germs away. But if you have Covid it did not seem to help. I believe that the reason why Covid kept spreading was because people were using masks incorrectly, and they got

together with people they knew without wearing masks, they thought that getting a cold was inevitable, and therefore Covid was similarly perceived. They thought that it would be impossible to not get Covid. Just as the idea that even if you get a flu shot, you still might get the flu. Covid spread through respiratory droplets and particles released when an affected person breathes, talks, coughs, or sneezes. A mask will keep those particles from disbursing to others and affecting more people. The argument that masks did not help is completely foolish, and I believe that people were only upset because political figures stated that masks helped, and they had to wear masks. Getting Covid was truly inevitable, with people refusing to wear masks, but these small steps such as masks and maintaining six feet of separation did actually help deter the spread.



**WE  
HAVE  
OPINIONS**

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## **Guns: Know the Laws** *by John Doerries*

Guns can be dangerous, but the danger can depend on how a person intends to use them. Before purchasing a gun you should think about your intention. Are you using it to go hunting? You need a hunting license for that. When you get a gun, you need to know that the law could limit a person to how many guns you can have and what type of guns you can legally possess. Regulations of sales could include background checks for ANY gun purchase, require a permit to own any legal guns, and impose waiting periods before a gun can be transported to you. Did you know that many countries require individuals to undergo safety training and obtain a license before they can possess or purchase any weapons or firearms. A background check will see that you may or may not have a criminal history, and if you have a criminal history you can not own any type of firearm. In Illinois AK or AR .50 caliber rifles and machine guns are BANNED. And any automatic fire guns like a machine gun, short barreled shotguns and short barreled rifles are also BANNED. And AR-15 are banned in California, Hawaii, Maryland, and New Jersey. Knowing the law helps you to be a responsible gun owner.

## **Gun Control Has Its Issues** *by Kellen Pilny*

People say that gun control sounds good, but has its issues. One of these issues would be that the Second Amendment protects the right to bear arms. Also, gun control laws give too much power to the government and may cause government tyranny.

In my opinion, I think that gun control is a bad thing. It goes against the right to bear arms, and takes away part of the freedom that Americans have. I think that the problem is selling the guns to the wrong people, and not looking into their background enough and instead just selling them guns. The people who sell guns do not look into it enough.

People get fatally shot in schools, stores, and other public places because of guns being sold to the wrong people. Also, one registered person can buy many guns, and illegally sell them to other people. They do these things often, and nobody bats an eye and the person who sold them illegally gets in no trouble.

Arms dealers need to do better a better job of making sure they're selling guns to the right people, and that they're not being illegally distributed without permit. There should definitely be checkups on the person who bought them, and more accountability for the guns that they bought.



## **GUN SAFETY**

*by Arian Gomez*

Gun safety is very important, because if you don't know how to operate a gun you might shoot yourself. Or God forbid, shoot someone else by accident. Gun safety should also be practiced with Airsoft guns, BB guns, rifles and sub-machine guns. .

You must be 18 years old to own a rifle or shotgun. And you have to be 21 to own a handgun. Before you get a gun I believe you should take lessons in gun safety and consider a Concealed Carry License.

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## Keep Women's Sports Female

by Sophia Garcia

Biological men should not be in women's sports, according to *Inside Higher Ed*, which wrote, "Allowing biologically male athletes on female teams will continue a practice of unfair sex-based disadvantage for women." Men have receive body altering surgery and taken medicine to try to be female, however, that still doesn't change their DNA. Men are still biologically fitter then woman and stronger.

Such as in swimming, men have larger ribs and therefore more lung capacity, and over time they will have more muscles on their chest and back. In volleyball, men are most likely able to jump higher because they are able to accumulate muscles faster and easier and will likely have more arm muscle which can be a large advantage. In soccer, men are able to run faster, they can have more leg muscle and they are usually taller.

Instead of having biological men in women's sports, because they think or claim that they are women, those who will to accommodate them could create a separate sports league for athletes who claim to be "trans," or non-binary. Otherwise these competitors must compete with their correct, biological gender.

By not permitting biological men to compete in women's sports, we are keeping women safe in THEIR own sports and keeping competition fair by not allowing men to break women's records.



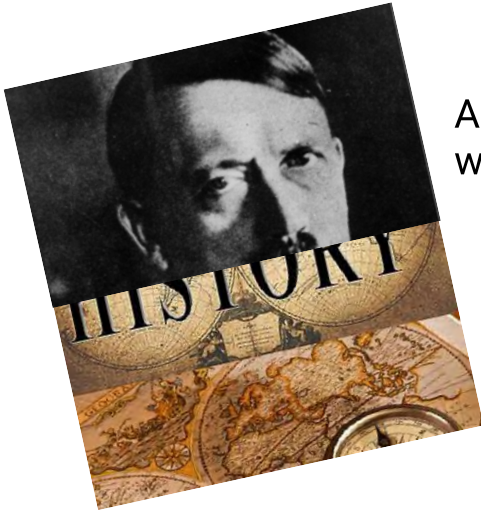
## A Review: Alice in OZ

by Joshua Camiola

I liked *Alice in OZ* because I played in it, but I really liked everybody coordinating well together for a great production. I loved the play and everyone's charaters, but I did not like it when I had to sing in front of *everybody*. That's actually the part I enjoyed - and feared - the most. My favorite character was... the Mad Hatter! Addison played the role was, and she made the Mad Hatter really funny. And it was a great experience, including all of the students in fifth through eighth grade. Overall, I thought it was a really good time! I hope you did too. AMEN







## Adolf Hitler *by Damian Gomez*

Adolf Hitler is known as an evil man all over the world but why was he evil? Well I will tell you about Hitler and his story. Hitler was born on April 20, 1935. Hitler spent most of his childhood in Linz, the capital of Upper Austria, Hitler took up political work in Munich in May–June 1919. As an army political agent, he joined the small German Workers Party in Munich September 1919. In 1920 he was put in charge of the party's propaganda and left the

army to devote himself to improving his position within the party, which in that year was renamed the National-Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei. Hitler was principally, and alone, responsible for starting World War II. His guilt for the implementation of the Holocaust—that is, the shift of German policy from the expulsion to the extermination of Jews, including eventually Jews of all of Europe and of European Russia, is also obvious. Now Hitler didn't invent killing the jew in the first place, but Hitler swore to kill the Jews and that's why he's a horrible person.

## *A Short Story: Zoey* *by Chloe Doolin*

So the little girl named Zoey went missing on 8-3-14 (this is not real). She was last seen at the zoo in Brookfield, Illinois, when they went to see the hippos. She was a four-year-old Irish Japanese girl with a birthmark on her chin. Please call this number if you see her, 123-456-7890.

Zoey was not found yet but her fingerprints were on a tablet. The cops found and opened the tablet to see she tried to call 9-1-1 and her parents, but there was and is no signal. So Zoey was there with her kidnapper and alone.

It is now two years later and there has been no no sign of Zoey but the police said there was still hope. But her parents didn't think so. Zoey was now six and supposedly dead. Well they didn't know that for sure.

If she was still out there somewhere, Zoey was now seven. Amazing, Zoey has been found. She has been adopted by new parents. What? She have been loved by her adoptive parents and they saw the story of her original parents, celebrities now, and knew they had to reunited them with their long lost daughter.

This story is fiction.



# Summer Word Search



|           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| SUMMER    | G A R D E N Y S M B M T O L S |
| SUNSHINE  | N I A R M E L E S E E R W O U |
| SWIM      | U C I N C I P E A S I A M S N |
| BOAT      | L M L I N O I T A C A V R P S |
| CAMP      | P O P S I C L E Q L D E K I H |
| HIKE      | U I P E C A M P I O O L F C I |
| GARDEN    | Y T N S R E T L M D N T R E N |
| PLAY      | P W N S O E P A T G N E D X E |
| BEACH     | A U G R I A D Y B O A Y A T E |
| JULY      | R L J U L Y G R S A S O U P A |
| AUGUST    | K E F G L C E A T H I R G A S |
| PARK      | B A L Y P A E N O C R E U R D |
| PICNIC    | S H O R T S O O H A E H S H R |
| POPSICLE  | U Y P E M N O S A E S S T D E |
| ICE CREAM | C H E T A M C L Y B G M R E S |
| SHORTS    | X L A O V Z R C O J B R I N S |
| DRESS     | F O S E M A E R C E C I O W L |
| TRAVEL    | B L O S S U M M E R W B M O S |
| VACATION  |                               |
| SEASON    |                               |



**The New Trinity Times** is a monthly newsletter produced by the 5th through 8th grade students of Trinity Lutheran School in Lombard, Illinois. The 2024-2025 staff members are: Addison, Abigail, Angelina, Arian, Ariana, Ava, Bobby, Chloe, Damian, John, Joshua, Juliana, Kellen, and Sophia, under the direction of Mrs. Lori Solyom, journalism teacher.