

PENTECOST 2019

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness; not health, but healing; not being but becoming; not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it; the process is not yet finished, but it is going on; this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified. --Martin Luther

As we enter into the fall of the year...a new year begins in our public school systems, children are gathered for Sunday School, and folks who have been away many weekends in the summer are (hopefully!) back in their pews. We return to what we call the “normal” schedule. It is a fitting time to talk about how we “grow in righteousness” – as individual disciples and as a community in Christ.

St. Paul uses this “growing” analogy in Colossians 2:6-7: “Therefore, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, *rooted and built up in Him established in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*”

First, in our Baptism, we are “planted” in a community in Christ – a congregation. At every Baptism, we ask parents and sponsors to bring their children to worship and the table of Grace; to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures; to teach them the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer...our early growth takes place in the home and IF parents fulfill their promises, in the church community as well. The Church helps by providing opportunities through worship, children’s messages, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and family events. God gives the growth!



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Somerset PA
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
918 Tayman Avenue
Somerset, PA 15501
(Address Service Requested)

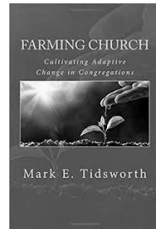
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Chapel morning service time changes on
Sunday, September 1 from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m.
Healing service with communion
is now at 1:00 p.m. on Sundays, September 8,
October 6, and November 3.

PENTECOST 2019

We grow in righteousness as we become more deeply rooted in God's Word and Promises, as we begin to put those teachings into our daily practice. We grow in faith as we learn to take responsibility for our own growth in faith, by daily prayer and devotions, as we attend Confirmation and learn the deeper truths about faith and doubt, sin and forgiveness, self-giving love and thankfulness.

This summer, I have been using a book by Mark Tidsworth, for my own prayer, study, and as a tool to think about our life together as Church. Farming Church: Cultivating Adaptive Change in Congregations suggests that God's people grow in an environment that is cultivated for growth in Faith. Just as a farmer or gardener must pay attention to key characteristics in the environment, before planting, so too...God's People can cultivate a good growing environment for growth in Faith!



Some of the key cultivation characteristics are: Faith, Trust, Vision, Leadership, Urgency, Discovery, and Alignment. Every congregation, just like every plot of ground, has characteristics that are unique: history, experiences, obstacles, challenges, and joys.

As we move into the fall of a new school year, and approach planning for the future, keep your congregation in prayer. Pray for and support our leadership, by showing up, by volunteering where there is a need, offer to help where you are gifted, and give generously with Thanksgiving! If you think we are "missing something" in our cultivation of Faith – speak to me, or another member of our Leadership. God gives us everything we need to grow in faith and love... Let's grow together!

Faithfully yours,
Pastor Linda McElroy Thomas

FROM OUR CHILD CARE

Our summer here at Trinity Child Care was filled with fun and learning. This summer we focused on Bible stories with the kids. The teachers read them stories, and did activities, crafts, and games that went along with each story. The children have enjoyed our 'Muddy Mondays' and 'Water Wednesdays.' The children have done a great job learning all about God's love. We are looking forward to performing our 'End of Summer Celebration' for all the parents. Each classroom will sing and dance to a different Bible song, helping to showcase our program on **Thursday, August 22** at 4:30 p.m.

The children have enjoyed the outdoor chapel lessons with Pastor Linda and have been working in the garden with Pastor Bill.



I would like to give a big thank you to all the members that came out and helped with the wood chips on the playground. That was a huge project that took a lot of effort and time. It looks wonderful, and we have passed inspection with flying colors. The children have enjoyed the playground greatly.

The school year is coming fast upon us, and we are looking forward to the changes it brings. We have 58 students enrolled in our program and a staff of 15. Our classrooms are filled with children ready to learn and play. If you are looking to help our program, please let me know. We are always looking for different donations, volunteers, or those who are interested in helping with upcoming fundraisers. We will be having both a soup/bread sale (Friday, September 20) and a spaghetti dinner (Saturday, November 16). Anyone who would be willing to help cook would be greatly appreciated. Thanks for all the support you provide our Child Care.

--Jody Jurgevich, Child Care Director

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY BAPTISM

July 14 *Ellie Grace Sanner*
 July 14 *Maddox Hugh Sanner*

MEMBERS REMOVED BY DEATH

July 16 *Daniel Medford Jones*
 July 27 **William Handley*



MEMBERS REMOVED BY TRANSFER

June 28 *Linda Marie Himes* transferred to St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church; Ligonier, Pennsylvania. Linda will remain an Associate Member at Trinity.
 June 28 *Claire Elizabeth (Centi) Guzman* and baptized son, *Luis Robert Guzman* transferred to St. Andrew Lutheran Church; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

*Not a member

CONGRATULATIONS



CONGRATULATIONS to William and Leah (Zufall) Howell upon the birth of their daughter, *Lily Grace Howell*, born **Saturday, June 22** in Florida. Proud grandparents are Stephen and Claire Zufall!

COUNCIL, FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND ENDOWMENT

FUND MEMBERS will meet with Rev. Joshua Rinas on **Sunday, September 29** after 10:00 worship. A light lunch will be provided followed by a class presented by Pastor Rinas ending about 2:00 p.m.

ADULT EDUCATION

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL meets in the Fellowship Hall or Adult III **each Sunday** at 8:45 a.m. Jim Baker will share an **Overview of the Finances of the Congregation** for the first half of the year. He will also give us updates on the Child Care and the Geothermal loan payments on **Sunday, August 25.**

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY group meets at 10:30 a.m. **each Monday** in Adult III across from Trinity's Office, finishing their study around noon. Join with them for study of the upcoming Sunday texts and good discussions!



TRINITY'S MEN'S GROUP meets **every Tuesday** at 9:00 a.m. at McDonald's near the Turnpike entrance. We welcome all men that would like to join us for this coffee fellowship.



MARYS AND MARTHAS Bible study group for women of all ages meets on **Wednesdays, September 4 and 18; October 2 and 16** in Trinity's Parlor beginning at 7:00 p.m. The group uses the ELCA women's magazine, Gather. (Current issue extra copies are in the Chapel Kiosk, Trinity's Office, and Narthex information desk.) Join with us when you can for study and fellowship!

LOVING JESUS STUDY GROUP will meet on **Thursday, September 12** in Adult III at 11:00 a.m. (Attendees usually bring along a lunch.) They will discuss On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous by Ocean Vuong. Please let Trinity's Office know (445-5446) if you want to join us on **Thursdays, October 3, November 7, or December 5** for our study group.

ADULT EDUCATION (CONT'D)

TABLE TALK! will be held at 6:30 p.m. on **Monday, September 23** at the Italian Oven in Somerset at 6:30 p.m. Join us for an appetizer, meal, or beverage and good conversation. See YouTube clips on ELCA Churchwide Assembly.



GRIEF GROUP BEGINS

GRIEF GROUP MINISTRY: There is no timetable for grief—no one way to grieve—we ALL do it differently. Sessions are being held for those who have experienced the death of a loved one from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Adult III classroom at Trinity. **The group begins on Tuesday, August 20 and meets every Tuesday through September 24.** Those experiencing grief are invited to come for study and support.

BACKPACKS BLESSING

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: During worship on **Sunday, August 25** students of all ages (preschoolers, too!) are encouraged to bring their backpacks and come forward to receive a back-to-school/learning blessing! Let Trinity's Office know if your child or grandchild will be joining us for this special event by calling 445-5446.



**BUDGETS DUE TO TRINITY'S OFFICE BY
FRIDAY, AUGUST 30**

2019 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY - MILWAUKEE AUGUST 5-10, 2019

Our denomination, the ELCA, holds a churchwide assembly triennially - to worship, vote on matters of governance and policy, and be church together for the sake of the world. This past week's churchwide assembly was full of important votes and actions including:

- Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was reelected for a second six-year term on the first ballot.
- A declaration of apology to our siblings of African descent, which was received by the African Descent Lutheran Association with thanks and a call for accountability and living into the words shared.
- Approved resolution declaring the ELCA is a "sanctuary church body," encouraging participation in the ELCA AMMPARO initiative for migrant children, discernment of care for our immigrant neighbors in our context, and the promise of forthcoming resources for this work.
- Approved support for the World Council of Church's *Thursdays in Black*, awareness movement for a world without rape and violence.
- Voted to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance, in honor and remembrance of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9.
- Approved a declaration for inter-religious commitment, reaffirming ecumenical and interfaith partnerships.
- Approved the recommendations from a strategic taskforce which has been studying how to work toward authentic diversity in our church.
- Approved memorials: affirming but not "endorsing" the Poor People's Campaign, care for immigrants and refugees, and other statements.
- Adopted a new social statement, "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: a Lutheran Call to Action," and its implementing resolutions.
- Deacon Sue Rothmeyer was elected Churchwide Secretary, a full-time position which acts as executive administrator and leader on all constitutional matters and interpretation.
- Constitutional change for Deacons (rostered ministers of word and service) to be ordained, from the previous practice of consecration.
- Celebrated the milestones of 50 years of women's ordination, 40 years since the first woman of color was ordained, and 10 years since full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ clergy.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

You may recognize this statement from Luther's Catechism...it is appropriate to ask that question today, as well. Our Churchwide Assembly makes decisions on resolutions, approves budgets, and affirms relationships in our ministry with the wider church and engagement with the issues of this world. Some of the affirmations and statements will need to be further explored and explained. The decision to Affirm that the ELCA is a Sanctuary Church is in keeping with our long history of being a denomination that came with immigrants, to the American shores, searching for new opportunity and freedoms. But what does it mean to be a Sanctuary Church? These are some things you should know:

†The scriptures time and again challenge the people of God to welcome the stranger and alien in their land. To be a people of hospitality and welcome, knowing that "once we were not a people, but now we are God's own people" by the grace of God through Jesus Christ. This is a Biblical principle.

†The majority of members of ELCA congregations, with the notable exceptions of first nations peoples and those whose ancestors were brought here as slaves against their will, can trace their roots to immigrants who sought a new life, here. In the wake of WWII, when 1 in 6 refugees in the world were Lutherans, Lutherans in the United States started Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) www.lirs.org. Lutherans have worked with immigrants and refugees, from our earliest expressions of church and community... and it is a way in which we practice our faith in the world today.

†In 2016 the ELCA Churchwide Assembly committed to walking alongside Central American children and families fleeing their communities by passing the AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities). Through the AMMPARO Strategy, we support organizations and faith communities that work with deported migrants in Central America and advocate for a humane treatment of immigrants in Mexico. In

this way we support and improve the lives in individuals in their home countries so they do not need to make the dangerous journey north.

†By stating it is a sanctuary denomination, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly is publicly declaring we walk alongside immigrants and refugees as a matter of faith. Our governing body declared that when we preach on Sunday that Jesus told us to welcome the vulnerable, the stranger, the children - we will use our hands and voices to make sure it happens.

†The Churchwide action in no way obligates the property or resources of any congregation or church institution. Each synod, congregation, and agency will discern what being a sanctuary church means for them, in their setting. Some of our churches are already actively involved in providing help to immigrants and refugees. Trinity is engaged in this work in several ways -- this is an affirmation of our ministry.

†Sanctuary work can take a number of forms, which many of our congregations are already doing. The most important is that we are willing to have the challenging conversations about immigration policy in a way that leads to advocacy for bi-partisan action by our leadership to resolve the Refugee Crisis.

†Being a sanctuary denomination means that as a church, we want to be public and vocal about this work and the need for humane reform to our immigration system. Welcoming people IS political - because it is about *people*. But it is not a partisan issue, it is a matter of faith – putting our professed faith in Jesus, who crossed boundaries to embrace those who suffer - into action. ***Join us for conversation in the Adult Sunday Class at 8:45 a.m. Class is held in Adult III OR in the Fellowship Hall.***

(My thanks to Bishop Gronberg; much of this is from his blog.)
--Pastor Linda

SO WELL SAID!

From Fred Abraham

We occasionally hear someone assert the United States is a Christian Nation. Unfortunately for them that is not only inaccurate but specifically prohibited by the first amendment to the Constitution: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” However, it is probably true we are a nation of Christians. In 2015, 75% of adult Americans identified themselves as Christians, by far the majority religion. Nonetheless, Christianity is not the official religion. We don’t have one.

Given the large majority of Americans who claim to follow the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, it seems puzzling so many non-Christian acts are committed and even condoned. Take the situation at our southern border: 45,000 immigrant children have been separated from their families in the last 6 months. Held in detention centers under deplorable conditions, these children will be scarred for life. Some have even died.

This is a catastrophe of our own making. There are any number of things we could do to improve the situation, but we have failed miserably both as a nation and as individuals. How can professed Christians accept what is going on?

I heard an excellent sermon by a church pastor pointing out there is nothing, nothing at all in Christian teachings that justifies what we are doing. Where is the Christian outrage he asked? He was not being politically partisan but religiously partisan. Shouldn’t we expect Christians to stand and fight for the saving of these children?



It was refreshing to hear such strong words from the pulpit, and they need to be said. Clerics of all faiths, but especially those of the majority religion, have a responsibility to provide leadership not only on immigration issues but on those issues that define what our country should be and how believers should act. I am not talking about taking sides in the bitter political struggle we are currently undergoing. Rather, it is the obligation of all Christian leaders to make clear what is right and what is wrong about what our country is doing and what individuals and Christians should be doing about it.

There is a danger in assuming this role. Congregation members may be offended, openly critical, and ultimately leave the church. That is certainly unfortunate but that may be the price to pay for this kind of much needed leadership. I think far too many clerics have remained silent or muted on what is happening in our society out of fear of personal criticism. That is certainly understandable. Nobody wants to feel like a failure at their calling or possibly even lose a job.

Nonetheless, I call upon all clerics but especially those of the Christian faith in our nation of Christians, to stand up and speak for the poor, underprivileged, and downtrodden among us. They should urge their followers to live and practice their professed beliefs. Is there a personal risk in doing this? Of course. But, I know of one person in history who did this successfully at great personal sacrifice. Shouldn’t we try to continue his courageous acts?



Fred Abraham

BIBLES DISTRIBUTED

Bibles will be dedicated and distributed to children in Kindergarten through Grade 8 on **Sunday, September 29** at 10:00 a.m. worship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF 2019-2020

Trinity's first day back for Children's Sunday School will join the Adult Class in the Fellowship Hall at 8:45 a.m. on **Sunday, September 8** for a God's Work--Our Hands project (see page 16 for more details).

We are so appreciative of the following Teachers/Leaders who support and teach our Sunday School:

Toddlers-4 Years Old	Meagan Richter Sandy Griffith
Kindergarten-Grade 2	Kelley Thompson Allison Walter
Grades 3 through 6	Cathy Wheeler
Confirmation (Grades 7 and Older)	Deb Stewart, Kathy Mitchell, Pastor Linda McElroy Thomas
Adult Class	Frank Kyle, Kathy Mitchell, George Kaufman, Nicholas Carroll, Robert Thomas, Pastor Linda, and others
Co-Superintendents	Meagan Richter Cathy Wheeler

CHURCHWIDE WITH FLOR

*Do not be afraid. I am with you.
I will help you.*

*I have called you by name. You are
my beloved child.*

*Come as you are and know
that I am God.*

*I will never leave you or
forsake you. - God*

What a pleasure and privilege to have attended the Churchwide Assembly as a representative of our Allegheny Synod. I must admit that at first I was a little nervous taking on this responsibility. But there comes a time when you cannot keep dodging the Holy Spirit!!

I witnessed great, profound preaching and a call to radical love was in the air. We could not deny that the Holy Spirit was present. From dialogue, to amendments, to resolutions, and even "on the spot" apologies were witnessed. God is on the move!!

What does a radical welcome look like for those who are "religious wanderers"? - Those who are searching for God. We as Lutherans are called to welcome those who are searching, in the name of Christ. Do we have enough Love to make a radical welcome *genuine*?

In Acts 8:26-39, Philip meets an Ethiopian Eunuch. This man is an icon for how radical God's Love can be. He is of another race, culture, and sexual identity. Philip made space for the Ethiopian to lead the conversation about the Messiah as well as Baptism. Who can dictate who God will use to

challenge the boundaries of our tradition? Christians tend to draw circles around ourselves and God removes them. Lutherans are called by Christ to be examples of his radical welcome. We are received by grace and by grace we receive our neighbors - *it is not negotiable but fundamental!*

I grew up as a religious wanderer...my family of origin had moved from church to church, looking for a welcome. At 17, thanks be to God, I was welcomed by the people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! Since that time, I have been welcomed here at Trinity – and I have been given space to grow, through Marys and Marthas, Table Talk, Monday Morning Bible Study, and through Bridges of Hope – our Hispanic outreach, which has expanded our community.

Let's not second guess our witness! **Thank you** for taking a risk for the Gospel! With every barrier that is broken down, we can use what is left to build a stronger church where all are welcome!

When we sing the hymn with the refrain, "Here I Am, Lord" – God challenges us to step out of our comfort zones and turn to those who are waiting for God's radical love and our radical welcome.



This experience was heartfelt and life changing for me. As we walk with Christ together, I hope we can be loving enough to each other to say "No" when it's needed (to racism, sexism, etc.) and "Yes" when the Holy Spirit calls us!

Thank you God for making me part of this big family!
Flor Hernandez

GOD'S WORK--OUR HANDS

Sunday, September 8, 2019

Since 2013, thousands of ELCA congregations have participated in this dedicated day of service, gathering to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people. The event has quickly become an anticipated way to be "church together."

Joint Sunday School Event - September 8
Meet at 8:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

TOGETHER, God's children of all ages will be putting together **School Kits for Lutheran World Relief!** We don't know where these kits will go – it may be anywhere in the world, as there are more people living in poverty and refugee camps than ever before! Between wars in Syria, Nigeria, Somalia, and Sudan, and Refugees from famines, floods, and climate change...the need is great, in many places. Children are the most vulnerable during this time, and may live in poverty or camps for a very long time. One thing that makes a difference, is to attend school, to concentrate on writing skills, artwork, and learning. The School Kits we create will go to make a big difference, in places where opportunities are few and encouragement is needed desperately.

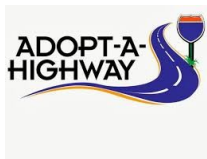
Thank you to Shelby Rhodes for sewing many of the bags and the Community Vacation Bible School for collecting the school kit items. We hope to create 50 bags! We invite anyone who can cut material, sew on a machine, or thread some rope, to help make more bags before September 8. Call Trinity's Office if you can help create the bags (445-5446).

BE SURE to wear your God's Work--Our Hands, Give Generously, or our Trinity T-Shirt! All ages are welcome! We will sing and pray, watch a video, and make School Kits for God's children!

God's work.
Our hands.

GOD'S WORK--OUR HANDS (CONT'D)

HIGHWAY CLEAN UP



If you are willing to clean up the highway along Route 281 South, **please sign up** in the Narthex or the Chapel on **Sunday, September 8**. We will call you to schedule the clean up if we get enough volunteers.

POTATO PICKING

Potato Picking is also an excellent choice for God's Work--Our Hands. The 13th annual Potato Picking Project will be held on **Saturday, September 14** at Laurel Vista Farm; 1665 Coxes Creek Road; Somerset near the village of Edie, which is near Sipesville. Mr. Ken Soldano has donated his time, equipment, and 1/2 acre of his land.



Anyone needing directions please call Becky Minnich (445-7660) or email her at jbmin60@gmail.com

Picking will begin at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed to pick the potatoes, help get them into the bagging area, tie the bags, and load them onto trucks from each of the 9 Food Pantries of Somerset County, who are the beneficiaries of the potatoes for their client families back in their own communities.

If possible, volunteers should bring buckets that have their name on to be used in the field.

Lunch and water will be provided and a restroom is available. If rainy on the 14th, please call Becky Minnich at (814) 279-2091 (cell) to make sure the event will be held.

SOUP/BREAD SALE

Meagan Richter is teaming up with Trinity's Child Care to have a Soup/Bread Sale on **Friday, September 20**. Cost per quart of soup is \$6.50. Homemade bread loaves are \$4.50 each. Please fill out and return this form to Trinity's Office or put it in the offering plate to reserve your order.

I will purchase the following soup for \$6.50 each:

- _____ Quarts Chicken Noodle Soup
- _____ Quarts Ham and Potato Soup
- _____ Quarts Vegetable Beef Soup
- _____ Quarts Vegetarian Soup



I will purchase the following bread for \$4.50 each:

- _____ Loaf/Loaves of Homemade Bread

\$_____ Total of My Order
(Please Make Checks Payable to Trinity)

I can help by:

- _____ Cooking Chicken/Cutting it for soup
- _____ Cooking Beef/Cutting it for soup
- _____ Cooking Ham/Cutting it for soup
- _____ Donating Soup Items - Call Meagan (442-7391)
- _____ Other _____

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

ALLEGHENY SYNOD WOMEN

ATTENTION ALL WOMEN of the Allegheny Synod: You are invited to spend a day to reenergize your body, mind, and spiritual life **Saturday, September 28** at The Altoona Grand Hotel in Altoona from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



“Day of Renewal: Refresh, Relax, Re-charge” is the theme of the day filled with a variety of exciting activities that may

include crafts, massage, exercise, make up, and fashion. Pastor Sue Winger will speak on Spiritual Refreshment.

Let Trinity's Office know (445-5446) if you are interested in attending, and we will see that you get a registration form. Cost is \$8.00 and includes lunch. Deadline to register is Friday, September 6. Several members of Marys and Marthas will be going. Let's carpool!

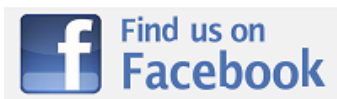
HOW TO CONTACT US

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
918 Tayman Avenue
Somerset, PA 15501

(814) 445-5446 (814) 445-3316 (Fax)

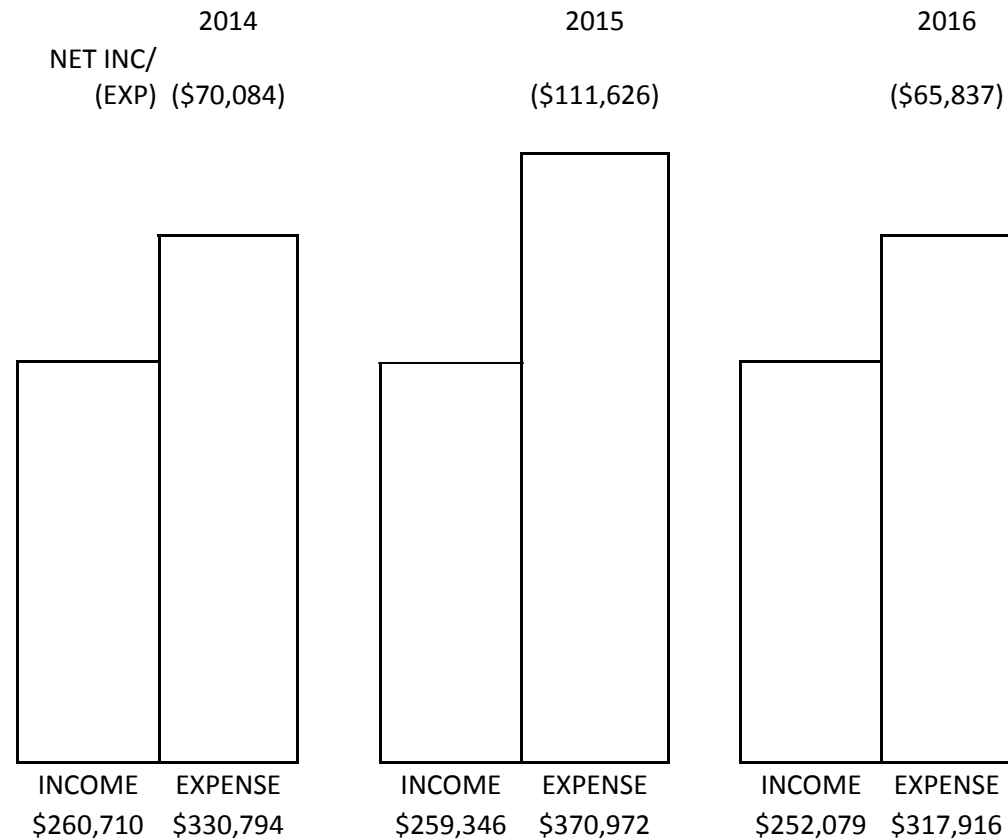
Email: trinluth918@verizon.net

Website: www.trinitysomerset.org



www.facebook.com/TrinitySomerset

RECAP OF INCOME & EXPENSES



As in the past, 5 of 6 years income is substantially behind expense

**Income in 2019 reflects use of savings and designated gifts to the

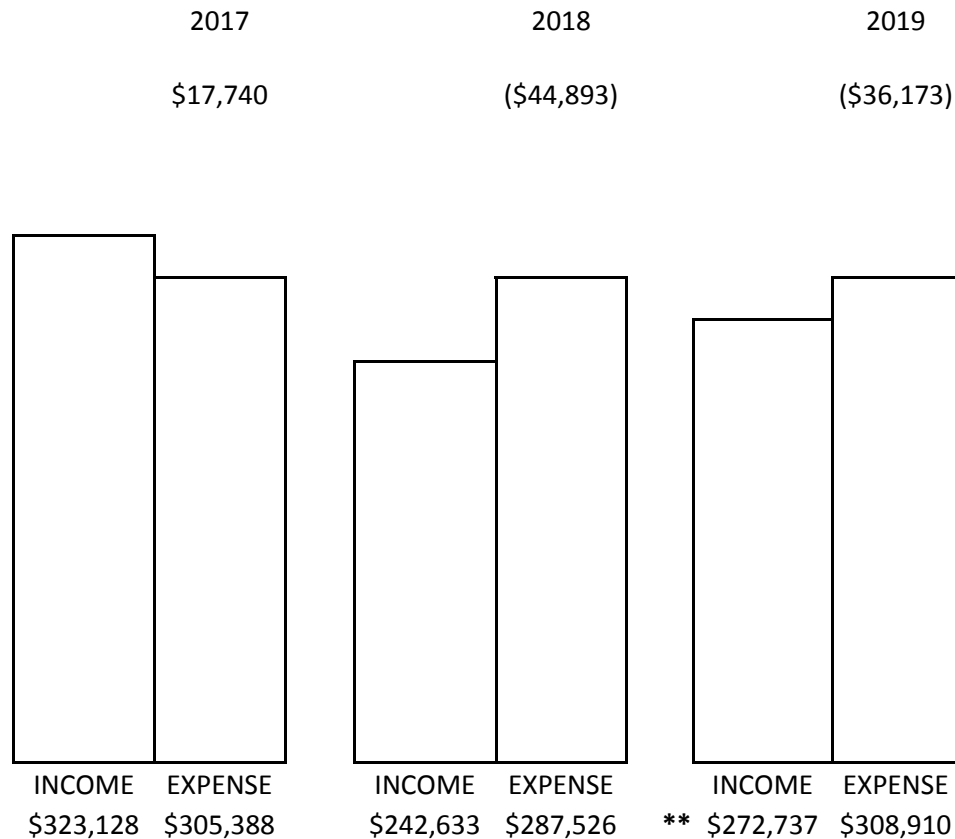
The Child Care continues to do well although their cash flow has been

Please join us on Sunday, August 25th for an update on our financial

This report does not include income/expenses from Geothermal.

16-Aug-19

JAN 1 - JUNE 30, 2014 - 2019



for the first half of the year.

the amount of +\$25,938 for the first half of the year.

een (\$970)/month for the first half.

cial position during the Sunday School hour.

VIEW FROM THE LOFT

Being the Purple Church

We all know that our country is divided. We base our beliefs on what others tell us and try our best to fit ourselves within two extreme ideologies, each equally guilty of telling us there is only room for us to belong if we prescribe to their position completely. In my own lifetime, I remember a time when it was not assumed a person held a certain belief simply by being blue or red, but now it is almost a guarantee. The ELCA has put out a podcast called "The Three Sides," emphasizing that to every argument there are two sides...and then there is God's side, the third side. As a church, we are called to BE that third side. We are called to reject the rest of our country's trend of fitting our religion into red or blue; we are called to be the purple church. The question, of course, is how in the world can we be purple? How can we be purple, especially when sometimes scripture points us in a way one side or the other may not like?

In my view this leads us back to an essential element of Lutheranism that seems lost in all the noise of the world. It is a distinctly Lutheran gift given to us in the Small Catechism. This came to my attention as I was reading a recent Augsburg Fortress publication called, by heart. The book is an amazing resource that recounts the history of the Small Catechism and provides it with beautiful new pictures and illustrations. As I was rereading the Small Catechism, Luther's description of the 8th commandment jumped out at me:

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.



What Is This? or What Does This Mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.

Wow! Read that again: we are to “*interpret everything they do in the best possible light.*” Imagine that! I literally cannot think of this occurring in our world today. Everyone is so convinced that they are right and feel that the motives of others, the intent, is no longer relevant. This statement of Luther’s is such an incredible treasure of love, and we have squandered it. We have failed to do it amongst ourselves let alone in the outside world. For me this is the essential missing piece we need to be the purple church, and the amazing thing is, God is so gracious that we already have it.

Let us pray together. Sing together. With one voice. When some are disillusioned by scripture readings and where they lead us, we can model to the world what it’s like to interpret each other in the best possible light. Of course, this is not news. Jesus tells us to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves, and of course, this includes interpreting each other in the best possible light, just as we wish for others to see our good intentions. I once heard a Pastor describe our theology as buried treasure - that we already have been given everything we need, but we hoard it when we need to spend it. Instead of writing each other off as too different in opinion or politics, we need to look at the intent. If we all do this to each other there really is no risk. Love is scary only when it’s one sided, but as I already pointed out, there is a third side, God’s side, and THAT side will always choose love.

Nicholas Carroll, Director of Music

CHAPEL MORNING SERVICE TIME CHANGE

BEGINNING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, the weekly Sunday morning Chapel service with communion will change starting times from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. This came about from requests of several families and the subsequent decision for start time change by the Worship Committee with the Council’s approval.



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Healing Service with Communion 1:00 p.m. Chapel
Sundays, September 8, October 6, and November 3**

Each month, this service is offered for Anointing and for Prayers for Healing, in the Chapel at 1:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month (**note new time**). Occasionally, there may be changes in the date (for Monday holidays) and may even change the location (as we do in the winter months.)

We are committed to having a monthly healing service – so please make note of this! Attend when you can, but in particular, ***invite a friend who needs a healing word, a special prayer, or would like anointing.*** A welcome at worship is one way we care for others in Christ! The Healing Service order is brief, it is spoken, and held in the intimate space of the Chapel. It is ideal for those undergoing cancer treatments, those recovering from surgeries, and for those who are grieving. Join us!

TLC CHOIR

I am writing to personally invite you to join the TLC Choir at Trinity. I am always looking for new voices, and I believe you would be an excellent addition. The first TLC Choir Rehearsal for the fall season is **Sunday, September 22** at 11:15 a.m. in the Nave. The TLC Choir is a low commitment choir that still offers a great deal of spiritual reward. This year the choir will be performing pieces I wrote specifically to match the lectionary readings:

September 29 – God of the Oppressed

October 27 – Run the Race

November 24 – May You Be Made Strong

December 24 - Miracle in the Air

Help me make this music come to life!

Nicholas Carroll, Director of Music



**Trinity's Office and
Child Care will be Closed
Monday, September 2**

COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE

COMMITTEE REPORTS for the Annual Congregational Meeting are due into Trinity's Office by **Monday, September 30.**



NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS

New Confirmation Class set to begin in September!

First, Parents and youth will meet with Confirmation Teachers to go over program, schedule, expectations, etc. This is the time for parents and youth to have input into the planning! (A letter is in the mail to parents this week.) Next, we begin with **God's Work--Our Hands Service Project on September 8**, in the Fellowship Hall, where the Confirmation students record their first service hours. **Confirmation Classes begin on Sunday, September 15** in Luther's Lounge at 8:45 a.m. Added bonus is that we can participate in the Conference Confirmation Program!

Laurel Highlands Conference Confirmation Event Scheduled for October 4-5, 2019

Friday night, October 4, beginning with a Corn Maze Event at Faranda Farm, our kick-off event is intended to help us get to know each other and build community spirit. An overnight at Casebeer Lutheran Church will follow, and Saturday morning, October 5 will focus on our Identity - as young people - and as People of God.

Allegheny Synod Youth Event MAKING IT MINE November 22-24, 2019 State College

Young people (Grades 6 through 12) are going to gather at the Days Inn in State College for a Synodwide Youth Event. If you are interested in seeing our young people attend, speak to Pastor Linda as soon as you can! Early registration (cheaper) is due soon...and we would be looking for parents or other qualified adults to chaperone.

OCTOBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLANKET SUNDAY will be **Sunday, October 6**. Everyone is encouraged to make a donation towards blankets for the Lutheran World Relief or bring your new or gently used blankets to Trinity's Office by **Friday, October 25**.



CONGRATULATIONS to Ted and Billye Kyle on celebrating their 67th Wedding Anniversary on **Wednesday, October 9**. May God bless them with his loving touch and keep them strong. If you would like to send them a card, please send it to: 1228 Dar-Ed Drive; Somerset, PA 15501.

2019 CONCERT PLANS

Friday, October 25 - 7:00 p.m.

All Hallow's Eve Organ Concert

-Attendees are invited to wear costumes and will receive some treats at the end. Featuring short readings and Halloween organ music. **Octoberfest Celebration Meal at 6:00 p.m.** before the concert. Costumes are welcome!



Sunday, November 17 - 1:30 p.m.

Disney for Advanced Piano

-Children friendly event. Focused on raising money for the Food Pantry Toy Drive.



Sunday, December 8 - 1:30 p.m.

Christmas Piano Recital

- Featuring Nicholas' piano students and a performance by Nicholas Carroll at the end.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Dear Trinity Members,

It is Trinity's time to donate baked goods for the Meals on Wheels Program. The dates this year will be the weeks of October 21-25 and October 28 to November 1. The desserts need to be delivered to the basement of **Calvary United Methodist Church** at 235 West Church Street **between 6:30 and 8:30 a.m.** on the date you sign up. I would be glad to pick it up for you if you are unable to deliver it yourself. Please call me a day or two ahead of time. Note: You may also deliver your desserts a day or two ahead of time if that works better for you, from 6:30 a.m. to Noon. **Please use the rear entrance to deliver desserts.**

Trinity will again purchase pies for Tuesday, October 22 which will cost around \$100 for that day.

The sign up sheet for desserts is available Sundays on the back pew of the Chapel for the 8:00 service and on the table in the Narthex for the 10:00 service OR simply complete the form below and put it in the offering plate. Monetary donations can be given to me in a brown pew envelope marked "MOW," or dropped off at Trinity's Office. **All checks should be made payable to "Trinity."** Your support is a blessing to many people! Please call me at 445-7660 with any questions you may have. *Becky Minnich*

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NAME _____ PHONE _____

Please indicate below how many of each you wish to donate – (total # needed is in parentheses):

9 x 13 CAKES OR BUNDT CAKES (20) LARGE ANGEL FOOD CAKES (24)

(NO NUTS, ICING, OR CHOCOLATE) _____ Thursday, October 24 (12)

(Prefer: Banana, Applesauce, or Box) _____ Thursday, October 31 (12)

_____ Monday, October 21 (10)

_____ Monday, October 28 (10)

MUFFINS OR CUPCAKES (30 Doz)

(NO CORN MUFFINS; NO NUTS, CHOCOLATE, OR ICING)

COOKIES (20 DOZEN)

_____ Tuesday, October 29 (20 Doz)

(Purchasing Pies for Tues, October 22)

_____ Friday, October 25 (15 Doz)

_____ Friday, November 1 (15 Doz)

LARGE LOAF QUICK BREADS (30 Loaves)

(NO NUTS OR CHOCOLATE)

(Prefer: Raisin, Apple, Zucchini, or Banana)

_____ Wednesday, October 23 (15)

_____ Wednesday, October 30 (15)



____ *I/We prefer to **donate money**. (It takes approximately \$35 for desserts for one day OR \$175 for a week.) All donations are appreciated.*

HOLY COMMUNION CLASS

Holy Communion Class will be offered for elementary school children on **Sundays, October 6, 13, 20, and 27** at 8:45 a.m. during the Sunday School hour.

Holy Communion Celebration will be on Reformation **Sunday, October 27** at the 10:00 worship service.

PANCAKE PROJECT 2019

You are invited to once again join with other folks in our Laurel Highlands Conference working together to raise funds for Sequanota camperships for youth. Last year we - 30 volunteers - served pancakes and sausage dinners to over 2,000 people raising \$1200.00 during the **Springs Folk Festival**. All of the funds were given to Sequanota.



Your help is needed this year on Thursday, Friday, and/or Saturday, **October 3-5**. Use the sign up sheet on the Chapel pew, in the Fellowship Hall, Narthex, or Trinity's Office to choose your day and time. Deadline to sign up is *Monday, September 23*. All ages (elementary youth through senior citizens) can help! There are standing, sitting, and "walking" jobs for all ages. Plus you get free entry to the festival and a free meal for helping!

Taking on this project will mean another \$1200.00 for Sequanota camperships for kids! Please sign up!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

TRINITY'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will follow the 10:00 a.m. worship service (around 11:15 a.m.) on **Sunday, November 10**. We will elect five Council Members, vote on the 2019 Proposed Budget, and approve the 2018 Annual Report. Congregational Meeting Reports and Annual Reports will be in the Narthex, Chapel kiosk, and Fellowship Hall by Sunday, October 13. Please bring these copies back with you on November 10 for the meeting. Please attend as a quorum is needed at the meeting!



OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE IS:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS



DON'T FORGET to turn your clocks back one hour on **Saturday, November 2**. Daylight Saving Time ends on November 3 which is All Saints' Sunday.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ON ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 we will commemorate all of those at Trinity who died in the past year at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 10:00 a.m. in the Nave. There will be a Healing Service with Communion at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Trinity's members have the opportunity to present other names for commemoration as well. Please fill out the form and place it in the offering plate or return it to Trinity's Office by **Tuesday, October 29** to include additional loved ones' names.

In our commemoration prayers on All Saints' Sunday, please include the following person(s):

SERVICES HONORING VETERANS will be on **Sunday, November 10** at both services. Please call Trinity's Office (445-5446) with the name of your living veteran and branch served if it is not listed on pages 32-33.



Christ the King Services on Sunday, November 24 with Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. (Chapel) and 10:00 a.m. (Nave). This day offers all an opportunity to prepare for the Advent Season.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT IS DECEMBER 1!

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS NOVEMBER 10, 2019

WE WILL HONOR OUR VETERANS on **Sunday, November 10** at both services. Please call Trinity's Office (445-5446) with the name of your living veteran and branch served if it is not listed or it is incorrect:



Robert Armstrong	Army
Stephanie R. Barnett	Army
William G. Barnhart, Jr.	Air Force
Timothy J. Bence	Army
Arnold N. Benford	Navy
I. Frederick Brubaker	Army
William R. Carroll	Army
John M. Cascio	Navy
John R. Dick	Marines Corp
Eugene E. Fike II	Army
Ellsworth E. Flyte	Coast Guard
C. Gregory Frantz	Air Force
Clarence S. Greig	Army
Jack Hess	Marines Corp
Robert C. Holt, Sr.	Army
Randy L. Hoover	Army
Jack A. Illar	Navy
Peter C. Jacobson	Air Force
William D. Johnston, Jr.	Army
Joseph W. Kennick, Jr.	Marines Corp
James G. Knepper, Sr.	Army

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS NOVEMBER 10, 2019 (CONTINUED)

James Franklin Kyle, Sr.	Air Force
Theodore F. Kyle	Navy
Philip Lantz	Army
Sarah Lantz	Army
William R. Lloyd, Jr.	Navy
Larry L. Mazer	Army
John E. McNaul	Navy
Jack E. Mosholder	National Guard
David E. Nicholson, Sr.	Navy
Garry L. Pryce	Army
Bruce E. Rhodes	Navy
Craig M. Rosman	Army
John S. Ross	Army
Kimberly J. Ross	Army
Kenneth E. Saylor	Army and Korean War
Luther J. Shaulis, Jr.	Air Force
Larry H. Stahl	Air Force
George P. Stein, II	Army
Aaron R. Swanson	Navy
Amanda L. Swanson	Navy
Kenneth L. Walker	Army
Nathan P. Weimer	National Guard
Gregory M. Widmann	Marines Corp
Zachary D. Zufall	Army



CARE AND SHARE SOUP

CARE AND SHARE COMMITTEE SOUP MAKING DAY for our Trinity members who are 80 years and older, and those homebound members who are in their homes, will be held on **Thursday, November 7**. Chicken noodle soup will be made so volunteers are needed for cooking chicken, chopping vegetables, filling the containers, and delivering the soup. Please contact Becky Minnich at 445-7660 or see her at worship if you can help in any way.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

A reminder to all college/technical students and/or their parents...Trinity's Office needs your new school address and e-mail to keep in touch with you while you are away. Please call Trinity's Office at 445-5446 or send by e-mail to: trinluth918@verizon.net

ONLINE GIVING

ONLINE GIVING DONATIONS can be made by going to our website at www.trinitysomerset.org and clicking on "Give" to make a donation. Under comments you



can designate your gift for a special purpose if desired or just donate to the General Fund (our greatest need).

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Shirley Adams | 16 Mark Persun |
| Elliott Dick | Robert A. Christner |
| Kimberly Ross | Judith Gnagey-Davis |
| Dennis Sprock | Shelby Rhodes |
| 2 Kelly McNaul | Marcia Sloan |
| 4 Betty Johnston | 18 Roger Bailey |
| Laurie Noll | Nicholas Carroll |
| 5 Michael Friedhofer | Suzanne Huls |
| Jill Shockey | 19 Donald Albright |
| 7 Amy Carroll | Shirley Gower |
| Joseph Carroll | Zachary Zufall |
| Harold Knupp | 20 Karen Kerlin |
| Elizabeth Morocco | 21 Frances Crouse |
| Cathy Wheeler | Ruby Miller |
| 8 Carlee Glessner | 22 Colby Crouse |
| Riley Ross | Mary Frantz |
| 9 Spencer Svonavec | Robert Spangler |
| 10 Linda Himes | 23 Michael Mitchell |
| Janet Shockey | Kim Rauch |
| Mitchell Householder | Heather Stoy |
| 11 James Baker | 24 Patricia Taylor |
| Michael Meyers | 25 James Knepper, Jr. |
| Sara Barndt | David Nicholson, Jr. |
| 12 Douglas Hoehn | Michael Kyle |
| 14 Jonathan Harrold | Tasia Mostoller |
| 15 Zachary Matheny | 26 Michelle McDonald |
| Lisa Peck | Scott Mayer |
| | Will Brant |
| | 27 Jason Zimmerman |
| | 28 John M. Cascio |
| | Linda Weible |
| | 29 Sarah Barnett |
| | Anna Brocht |
| | Christopher Lloyd |
| | 30 Goldie Ohler |

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 George Stein II | 24 Robert S. Harrold |
| Tammy Walker | Angela Svonavec |
| 2 David Griffith | 25 Deacon Anderson |
| 3 Susan Menser | Mary Brubaker |
| 4 Edna McNelly | 26 Mark Spochart |
| 6 Theodore Kyle | 27 Tyler Zimmerman |
| Bonnie Swintosky | 30 Carlton Jacobson |
| Krystal Younkin | Seth Walker |
| 7 Luke Miller | William Lloyd, Jr. |
| Karen Long-Walat | Leah Hoffer |
| 8 Lois Jean Bittner | Luke Matheny |
| 10 Anna Carroll | Alexandra Mitchell |
| Carl Metzgar | 31 Hazel Kinsinger |
| Meagan Richter | Beverley Rose |
| 11 Pamela Marek | |
| Maia Spochart | |
| 12 Jo Ann Balsley | |
| Jonathan Davies | |
| 13 Ryan Bower | |
| Meagan Christner | |
| Trevor Shaffer | |
| 14 Jane Dively | |
| Brittany Pizer | |
| 16 Donald Fetterolf | |
| Patricia Woy | |
| 17 Robert Boose | |
| JoRene Lightfoot | |
| Stephen Zufall | |
| 18 Kay Albright | |
| Jean Walker | |



BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER



- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Jennifer Prete | |
| 2 G. Edward Bowersox | |
| Michael Fetterolf | |
| 3 Brittany Mills | 16 Samantha Crouse |
| 8 Doris Rayman | Dennis Maranowski, Jr. |
| Samuel Emswiler | Kathryn Maranowski |
| 9 James Walters | 17 John J. Cascio |
| 10 Eric Mostoller, Jr. | Adam McNaul |
| 11 Tammy Engleka | 21 Alice Fritz |
| Samantha Huls | James Stoy |
| Barbara Kennick | 22 Jane Zimmerman |
| William Maranowski | 25 Earl Wahl, Jr. |
| Alisa Murphy | 26 William Carroll |
| Vicki Stafford | Thomas Johnston |
| Grace Richter | Gregory Opp, Jr. |
| 14 Karen Frantz | 27 Linda Fetterolf |
| Paul Lenhart | McKenna Shaffer |
| Molly Metzgar | Cheryl Spangler |
| 15 Kristi Brant | Amanda Swanson |
| Michael Opp | 29 Gail Lambert |
| R. Inez Kyle | Brandy Mills |
| | Janet Swank |
| | 30 Heather Marek |
| | Hope Miller |

CONGRATULATIONS!

TRINITY MEMBERS HAVING SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS (80 YEARS AND OLDER)

- | |
|------------------------------|
| Harold Knupp—September 7 |
| Shelby Rhodes—September 16 |
| Shirley Gower—September 19 |
| Ruby Miller—September 21 |
| Patricia Taylor—September 24 |
| Anna Brocht—September 29 |
| Goldie Ohler—September 30 |
| Edna McNelly—October 4 |
| Theodore Kyle—October 6 |
| Patricia Woy—October 16 |
| JoRene Lightfoot—October 17 |
| Jean Walker—October 18 |
| Hazel Kinsinger—October 31 |
| Beverley Rose—October 31 |
| Doris Rayman—November 8 |
| Alice Fritz—November 21 |
| Janet Swank—November 29 |

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR 2019 COUNCIL NOMINATIONS on the form below. Nominees must be active voting members of Trinity. A voting member is a confirmed member who has communed and contributed of record in the current or preceding year. An election will be held at the Annual Congregational Meeting. This is a three-year term and begins on January 1. Council usually meets on the fourth Thursday of every month, and duties include meeting with at least one Committee per month. The following Council members will each finish a three-year term in December: Doug Hoehn, Melanie Miller, and Deb Stewart. Kathy Triebe and Angie Miller each completed a year or less term. We thank them all for their service! Current Council members will contact all persons nominated.



COUNCIL NOMINEES

Please provide the names of those whom you think have the gifts that we need on the Congregational Council:

Thank you for your input. Please prayerfully consider our request if you are asked to serve!

DEADLINE FOR NAMES:
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENT 2019 REGISTRATION FORM

(Fill out one form per child and return to Trinity's Office)

Name _____ Birthday _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Email _____

Mom's Name _____ Cell () _____

Dad's Name _____ Cell () _____

Food Allergies _____

2019 School Grade Completed _____ Age as of 9/1/19 _____

I _____ do/do not give permission to Trinity Lutheran Church to photograph, record audio and video record of my child _____. I understand that photos, audio, and video recordings of my child may be posted in public view in the facility, may be used on the website, on social media, and may be used for publicity purposes if you give permission.

**THE FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY
SCHOOL IS SEPTEMBER 8 AT
8:45 A.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
(SEE PAGE 16 FOR MORE DETAILS)**