

## FALL 2023

Newsletter

of

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran  
Church

918 Tayman Avenue  
Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501

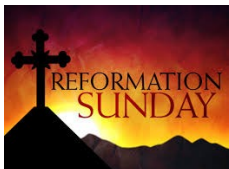
*Together in Jesus Christ our  
mission is to serve  
faithfully,  
boldly, and joyfully.*

YOU ARE MORE  
THAN WELCOME.  
YOU ARE INVITED!

**Weekly in-person Worship  
with Holy Communion  
on Sundays in the Sanctuary**

8:00 a.m. Spoken Liturgy  
10:00 a.m. Music and Hymns  
5:00 p.m. Spoken Liturgy with  
Holy Communion  
in the Chapel **each** Sunday  
5:45 p.m. Prayers for Healing  
and Laying on of hands in the  
Chapel **each** Sunday

**REFORMATION SUNDAY  
with Confirmation  
October 29**



Pastor Ruth Kocha Jensen  
[pastorjensen.trinity@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjensen.trinity@gmail.com)  
(814) 525-5085

Vicar Regina Holliday  
[reggieart123@yahoo.com](mailto:reggieart123@yahoo.com)  
(202) 441-9664

Director of Music  
Nicholas Carroll  
[carrollpiano@yahoo.com](mailto:carrollpiano@yahoo.com)

Child Care and Learning Center  
Director  
Jody Jurgeovich  
[trinitylutheranchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:trinitylutheranchildcare@gmail.com)

Office Manager  
Ann Voytish  
[trinluth918@verizon.net](mailto:trinluth918@verizon.net)

Sexton  
Douglas Fanale

Part-time Sexton  
Frank Kyle

### How to Contact Us:

Phone (814) 445-5446

Child Care (814) 445-5436

Church Email:  
[trinluth918@verizon.net](mailto:trinluth918@verizon.net)

Website:  
[www.trinitysomerset.org](http://www.trinitysomerset.org)

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/trinitysomerset](https://www.facebook.com/trinitysomerset)

## FALL 2023

Volume 24, Issue 4—August 3, 2023

### WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH *"The perfect church ... for those who aren't!"*



*St. Paul writes: Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

*But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.*

2 Corinthians 4:1, 5-7

Have you ever said, "**Give me a break! I'm only human?**" Or seen the bumper sticker that reads, "**I'm not perfect, just forgiven?**" Often when we make these types of statements, we're feeling a little defensive. It's almost as if we expect nothing less than perfection from ourselves—and we think that God does, too.

We all, at one time or another, have stood on our soapbox and proceeded to state our case about why we are the way we are. We feel like we are caught up in the endless cycle of the "I can't help it's" -- that is, until the Holy Spirit gently reminds us that we are (after all) a **work in progress**.

St. Paul tells us that "we have this treasure (*God's mercy, God's light in our darkness, Jesus Christ!*) in clay jars, so

that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.” Clay is mud. When dried, clay becomes brittle and is easily broken. And now this: We are no more than lumps of clay, formed into human beings, created in the likeness of God. We become brittle. We crack. We are not perfect.

Just like the not-so-perfect piece of pottery, the Potter uses us as God's creations despite our imperfections. Sometimes, unfortunately, we have to be placed back on the potter's wheel to be remolded. This is not always a fun process but it is necessary in order to smooth out some of the flaws that God says must go! In even more serious times, God will actually break us and begin the process all over again. All because He's after something within us that will ultimately produce a vessel of honor for His glory (*Jeremiah 18:4*).

Just so you know you are in good company, here are some of the more famous "cracked pots" found in the Bible:

<b>Noah was a Drunk</b>	<b>Samson was a Womanizer</b>
<b>Elijah was Suicidal</b>	<b>Moses had a Self-esteem problem</b>
<b>Peter was a Coward</b>	<b>David was an Adulterer/Murderer</b>
<b>Jacob was a Deceiver</b>	<b>Rahab was a Prostitute</b>

We may find ourselves falling on our faces. But just like these heroes and heroines of the faith, God has promised to be our treasure while in these earthen vessels. Thanks be to God! We have the Divine Trinity dwelling in breakable containers – us! The "Complete One" lives in the "Incomplete ones." What a divine paradox!

We are God's works-in-progress, who are called, gathered, enlightened, sanctified, and sent to proclaim the good news to all the earth. The good news is this: That God comes to us and lives in us, not because we are perfect, but because we're not. We need God completely. We need God always.

Thanks be to God!

*Pastor Ruth*

## VIEW FROM THE LOFT: THREADS

People Want to Be Heard and  
They Also Want to Do Better



Some of you may have heard of the new social media app Threads, a text-based feed app where users can type their random thoughts into posts (called threads) and look at other's posts. Much like its competitor, Twitter, the app allows you to like and share posts. Unlike most other social media, Threads does not show other people what you have liked or shared, and it does not allow for DM (direct messaging). This means a lot of protection from harassment and shaming.

Threads almost instantly became the fastest downloaded app in history, reaching over 70 million users in two days. Many of the people who joined Threads are abandoning Twitter, which has become a very toxic and moderation free place since Elon Musk took over. The instant popularity of Threads tells us that humans, who often get a bad rap, really do want to be kinder. I, who never really used Twitter personally, decided to join Threads and found my feed was filled with tons of strangers across the world all posting the same types of things: "This place is so peaceful." "Hurray for moderation of hate speech!" "Let's keep this place nice and safe this time guys!"

As an early adopter of the platform, I have watched how it evolved as so many new people have joined and communities have been formed. I have yet to see the platform become filled with widespread toxic comments. Though there are certainly some, it is far less than any other social media I have used. Is this because of something new and special that Threads is doing? I think it has a lot more to do with human nature, and the mass desire of millions of people to do better—to start again.

Social media often gets criticized by media, pundits, psychologists, and older generations, but the reality is that social media does a great deal of good in the lives of many people. Social media is here to stay, and the endless negativity directed at it has not served to make it develop into a better and friendlier place. Perhaps instead of criticizing and bemoaning the existence of social media, we should all work together to make it better.

As a Christian millennial who has stuck with the church, unlike a vast majority of my peers, I find on Threads and other social media, so many people sharing their horror stories and hurts of how churches have broken their hearts, ostracized them, mentally abused, and sometimes physically abused them. I am very intentional about trying to represent to these people that there does exist Christian religion that allows doubts, questions, and embraces them as their whole selves. It is such a powerful and moving experience to see someone say, "Oh my God I didn't know Christians like this existed...I need to become a Lutheran." Or "Thank you, I thought I'd never feel ok again, but really as much as I am bitter towards church, I still want to know Jesus and believe what he really taught." These are things I have personally been told on one of my posts.

As Christians we cannot disregard the importance of social media. We must be there. We must be present. We must try and heal the very real wounds so many have suffered at the hands of the church. The ELCA has truly been the blessing in my life that kept me in the church. More than anything else is this statement, which I often refer people I talk to online to, which is on the homepage of the elca.org: This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our



faith, **we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities, and all.** Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world. (emphasis added).

The fact that our tradition, which is rooted in Luther's spirit of reforming, allows QUESTIONS, is literally earth-moving to those who did not have the benefit of that space to be themselves in their church. This is our gift to share. We must do so. We need to embrace this gift and guard ourselves from simply telling people "what is what." I leave you with my Threads post that garnered those previous comments, and many "likes" from strangers:

"All Christian living comes down to one choice, do we admit that we sin and need to be sorry and repent, or do we say we are right and everyone else is wrong. That is fundamentalism."

May we do our part,  
Nicholas Carroll, Director of Music

## RECITAL

Nicholas Carroll will be part of the First Lutheran Church in Johnstown Recital series on **Tuesday, October 24** at noon. He will be playing pieces from his album, Prayers for Piano. All are welcome to attend!



# MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

## MEMBERS REMOVED BY DEATH:

July 5, 2023      Anna (Drabish) Brocht  
 July 20, 2023      Goldie W. (Beegle) Beals

## PASTORAL ACT—GRAVESIDE SERVICE:

July 7, 2023      Freeman Ray Weible

## MEMBERS RECEIVED BY AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM:

June 25, 2023      Pamela George  
 June 25, 2023      Glen Paul Appleby and Jamie Appleby and their baptized daughters, Avery Katharine Appleby and Kinley Elaine Appleby  
 June 25, 2023      David Robert Custer and Jennifer Lee (Griffith) Custer and baptized son, Trevor Custer

# SAVE THE DATE!!!

In Vicar Regina's final month as an intern, she will host a Fall-Themed Painting Workshop in Trinity's Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. on **Saturday, October 7, 2023**. This workshop will be a fundraiser for Trinity's Child Care. Suggested donation for participation is \$20.00 per artist. All ages of children and adults are welcome to attend. Coffee, tea, and cookies will be served. Please spread the word about this opportunity to create a painting while supporting this wonderful Child Care educational program.

## Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Sunday,  
August 6  
Tenth Sunday  
after Pentecost



Isaiah 55:1-5    Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21  
 Romans 9:1-5  
 Matthew 14:13-21  
*Christ feeding five thousand*

Sunday,  
August 13  
Eleventh Sunday  
after Pentecost



1 Kings 19:9-18  
 Psalm 85:8-13  
 Romans 10:5-15  
 Matthew 14:22-33  
*Jesus walking on the sea*

Sunday,  
August 20  
Twelfth Sunday  
after Pentecost



Isaiah 56:1, 6-8    Psalm 67  
 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
 Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28  
*The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter*

Sunday,  
August 27  
Thirteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost



Isaiah 51:1-6  
 Psalm 138  
 Romans 12:1-8  
 Matthew 16:13-20  
*The profession of Peter's faith*

Sunday,  
September 3  
Fourteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost



Jeremiah 15:15-21  
 Psalm 26:1-8  
 Romans 12:9-21  
 Matthew 16:21-28  
*The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter*

Sunday,  
September 10  
Fifteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost



Ezekiel 33:7-11    Psalm 119:33-40  
 Romans 13:8-14  
 Matthew 18:15-20  
*Reconciliation in the community of faith*

Sunday,  
September 17  
Sixteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost



Genesis 50:15-21  
 Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13  
 Romans 14:1-12  
 Matthew 18:21-35  
*A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith*

## A FEW WORDS FROM THE VICAR

During the week of July 2-7, I was blessed to teach the art-infused Bible study at Camp Sequanota. Two Trinity children were campers that week, and I was happy to help out on behalf of Trinity. It rained a great deal that week, so we were rarely able to go outside. On the first day during Bible study, we looked out the windows of the dining hall at the beauty of God's creation. We talked about all the colors we could see at each window. When we got to the window that overlooked the parking lot, we discussed the handicap accessible spaces. The children noticed the paint was fading away. We discussed it and decided it would be more welcoming if it were repainted. On Friday it did not rain! That day we painted the stripes in the parking lot as a mini service project. It was wonderful to do service together and worship together throughout the week.

Blessings, Vicar Regina Holliday



## MINISTRIES FOR ALL

**MEN'S GROUP** meets **every Tuesday** at the Turnpike McDonald's at 9:00 a.m. All men are welcome to join us.

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** gathers on the 2nd Tuesday (**August 8**) and 4th Tuesday (**August 22**) each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. This year's Bible study is based on the Ten Commandments and is led by Pastor Ruth and makes use of resources from the *GATHER* magazine. Hands-on service projects are also part of each month's activities. Drop in!

**WEEKLY ADULT BIBLE STUDY** focuses on the upcoming Sunday worship texts and meets each **Wednesday afternoon** from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. This year Vicar Regina is the leader. All are welcome.

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

During worship on **Sunday, August 27**, students and grandchildren of all ages (preschoolers, too) are encouraged to bring their backpacks and come forward to receive a back-to-school/learning blessing!

Blessing  
of the  
Backpacks





## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS MAY/JUNE 2023

- ⇒ Approval for a complete Industrial Appraisal of Trinity's buildings and contents for insurance purposes at a cost of \$2,500.
- ⇒ A Property Work Party will be formed to remove the bridge in the woods on the trail and then rebuild it.
- ⇒ Discussed Homecoming **Sunday, September 17** with a large tent in Trinity's front yard to participate in the outside service at 10:00 a.m. and sit and listen to the musical groups throughout the afternoon.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS



**SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY, September 10** at 8:45 a.m. Children will join Pastor Ruth for opening time in the Chapel followed by classroom instruction in the Educational Building! Post-Confirmation students and Adults will meet in the

Fellowship Hall for class at 8:45 a.m.

**CONFIRMATION STUDENTS** will meet in the Conference and Youth Rooms at 8:45 a.m. each week beginning **Sunday, September 10.**

## SUMMER SUPPER CHURCH

**Every Wednesday through August 30**

in the Pavilion

Supper at 6:00 p.m.

Worship at the Picnic Tables at 6:30 p.m.

If inclement weather, Supper Church is held in the Fellowship Hall.

Please check (✓) any date(s) that you can help in any capacity. If you can cook, put on table paper/drinks, clean up the meals, or will attend any of these weeks, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at Trinity's Office (445-5446). Family friendly! Food options are your choice as the cook, or we can make suggestions:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

DATE	SET UP/ DRINKS	CLEAN UP	COOK THE MEAL	# OF ADULTS/ CHILDREN COMING
August 2	B Swanson	DP Jacobsn	JP Illar	A ____ C ____
August 9	N Crowe	N Crowe	K Mitchell	A ____ C ____
August 16		GS Ziegler	ML Miller	A ____ C ____
August 23		All Help	S Bailey	A ____ C ____
August 30	B Swanson	All Help	A Voytish	A ____ C ____

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 9**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**PASTOR RUTH** would like to have volunteers in Trinity's Office while I am on vacation. If you can help, there will be a form in the Narthex you may sign to volunteer or call Trinity's Office (814) 445-5446 or fill out the form below and return it to Trinity's Office:

Thursday, September 7

8:30-10:30 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_

10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Friday, September 8

8:30-10:30 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_

10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Monday, September 11

8:30-10:30 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_

10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday, September 12

8:30-10:30 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_

10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday, September 13

8:30-10:30 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_

10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday, September 14

8:30-10:30 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_

10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Friday, September 15

8:30-10:30 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_

10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Duties: Greet visitors who come to Trinity's Office  
Answer telephones  
No typing needed!

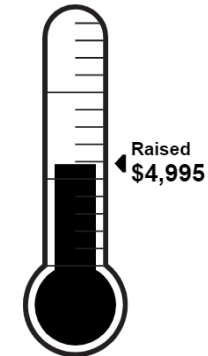
## CHILD CARE SUPER GOAL

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MEMBERS' DONATIONS TO  
TRINITY'S CHILD CARE  
2022 ACTUAL DONATIONS: \$9,131

TLC MEMBERS' DONATIONS TO  
TRINITY'S CHILD CARE AS OF JUNE 30, 2023  
We have reached 46% of our goal  
**2023 SUPER GOAL: \$12,000**

Fundraising Goal

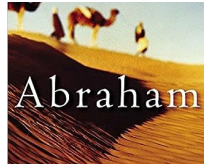
**\$12,000**



**TRINITY'S OFFICE AND CHILD CARE  
WILL BE CLOSED ON  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 FOR THE HOLIDAY!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BOOK GROUP** will meet on **Thursday, August 10** at 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. They are discussing the book, Abraham by Bruce Feiler.



**TLC CHOIR REHEARSALS** will begin **Sunday, September 24** after 10:00 a.m. worship in the Sanctuary.

**WITTENBERG BELLS REHEARSALS** will begin **Sunday, September 24** from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

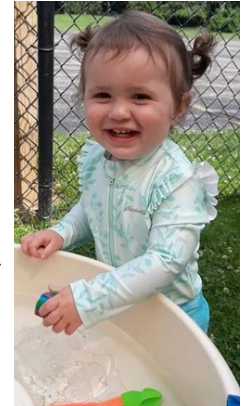
**COMMITTEE REPORTS** for the Annual Congregational Meeting are due in Trinity's Office by **Friday, September 29**.

**AS THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR APPROACHES**, a reminder to all college/technical students and/or their parents, Trinity's Office needs your student's school address, e-mail, and cell phone number to send out church mailings. Please call Trinity's Office at 445-5446 or e-mail them to [trinluth918@verizon.net](mailto:trinluth918@verizon.net)



## CHILD CARE NEWS

Summer time brings lots of fun here at Trinity Lutheran Child Care and Learning Center. All ages have enjoyed being outside in the nice weather. On hot days you will find our kids splashing in water tables and running through the sprinklers. Or you may find them down in the woods building shelters and looking for items to add to their treasures. The infants and toddlers have enjoyed getting out under the new shades added into the back of the fenced in area. You may also find them outside with Vicar Regina at the outdoor Chapel.



To celebrate the end of summer here at Trinity, we will have our annual "End of Summer Celebration." This is where



each room will take a turn on stage to perform for all of our families. Some of the older kids like to showcase their talents, and it is a fun time for all kids to celebrate all we have done this summer. It is also a way that we prepare our children to move into their new classrooms. With the kids returning to school, we move our children into new

classrooms. This provides a chance for each family to take their child/children into their new rooms and explore. We look forward to hosting all of our families here in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, August 15 at 4:30 p.m. for our celebration.

Our Child Care Program is looking for church members interested in getting involved. You can become part of our Child Care Committee team; you could volunteer to help organize and clean toys; or you could become part of the staff and work with the children. If you are interested in learning more about our program, please reach out to Jody Jurgeevich, the Director at (814) 445-5436.





## AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		<b>1</b> 9:00a-10:00a Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike) 9:00a-noon Sacred Art Camp (Fellowship Hall)	<b>2</b> 8:00a-10:45a Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 9:00a-noon Sacred Art Camp (Fellowship Hall) 1:00p-2:30p Bible Study (Conference Room) 6:00p-7:00p Supper Church/Healing (Pavilion)
<b>6</b> 10th Sunday after Pentecost 8:00a-8:45a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 10:00a-11:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 5:00p-6:00p Worship Service W/ Communion/ Healing 5:45p (Chapel)	<b>7</b> 10:00a-10:30a Child Care (Chapel)	<b>8</b> 9:00a-10:00a Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike) 1:00p-2:30p Women's Fellowship (Conference Room) 6:00p-7:30p Property Committee (Conference Room)	<b>9</b> 8:00a-10:45a Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 9:00a-noon Sacred Art Camp (Fellowship Hall) 1:00p-2:30p Bible Study (Conference Room) 6:00p-7:00p Supper Church/Healing (Pavilion)
<b>13</b> 11th Sunday after Pentecost 8:00a-8:45a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 10:00a-11:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 5:00p-6:00p Worship Service W/ Communion/ Healing 5:45p (Chapel)	<b>14</b> 10:00a-10:30a Child Care (Chapel)	<b>15</b> 9:00a-10:00a Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike) 4:30p End of Summer Celebration Child Care (Fellowship Hall)	<b>16</b> 8:00a-10:45a Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 9:00a-noon Sacred Art Camp (Fellowship Hall) 1:00p-2:30p Bible Study (Conference Room) 6:00p-7:00p Supper Church/Healing (Pavilion)
<b>20</b> 12th Sunday after Pentecost 8:00a-8:45a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 10:00a-11:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 3:30p Internship Committee (Conference Room) 5:00p-6:00p Worship Service W/ Communion/ Healing 5:45p (Chapel)	<b>21</b> 10:00a-10:30a Child Care (Chapel)	<b>22</b> 9:00a-10:00a Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike) 1:00p-2:30p Women's Fellowship (Conference Room)	<b>23</b> 8:00a-10:45a Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 9:00a-noon Sacred Art Camp (Fellowship Hall) 1:00p-2:30p Bible Study (Conference Room) 6:00p-7:00p Supper Church/Healing (Pavilion)
<b>27</b> 13th Sunday after Pentecost Backpack Blessing—all services 8:00a-8:45a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 10:00a-11:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 5:00p-6:00p Worship Service W/ Communion/ Healing 5:45p (Chapel)	<b>28</b> 10:00a-10:30a Child Care (Chapel)	<b>29</b> 9:00a-10:00a Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike)	<b>30</b> 8:00a-10:45a Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 9:00a-noon Sacred Art Camp (Fellowship Hall) 1:00p-2:30p Bible Study (Conference Room) 6:00p-7:00p Supper Church/Healing (Pavilion)

ST 2023

ay	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
P (Adult III) red Art Camp le Study (om) mmer Dinner hip 6:30pm	<b>3</b> 9:00a-noon Sacred Art Camp (Fellowship Hall)	<b>4</b> 9:00a-noon Sacred Art Camp (Fellowship Hall)	<b>5</b>
P (Adult III) le Study (om) mmer Dinner hip 6:30pm	<b>10</b> 11:30a-1:00p Book Group/Bring Your Lunch (Conference Room) 1:00p-2:00p Worship Committee (Conference Room)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
P (Adult III) le Study (om) mmer Dinner hip 6:30pm	<b>17</b> 6:00p-7:30p Finance Committee (Conference Room)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
P (Adult III) le Study (om) mmer Dinner hip 6:30pm	<b>24</b> 6:00p-8:00p Council (Parlor)	<b>25</b> Deadline: Budgets Due to Trinity's Office	<b>26</b>
P (Adult III) le Study (om) mmer Dinner hip 6:30pm	<b>31</b>		

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## TRINITY MEMBERS HAVING SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS (80 YEARS AND OLDER)



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS JUNE 25, 2023



Pamela George



David, Jennifer, Trevor, and Collin Custer



Jamie, Kinley, Avery, and Glen Appleby

## BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER



- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Shirley Adams         | 16 Marcia Sloan      |
| 2 Elliott Dick          | Mark Persun          |
| 3 Kelly McNaul          | Shelby Rhodes        |
| 4 Calvin Oehling        | 18 Nicholas Carroll  |
| Betty Sue Johnston      | Roger Bailey         |
| 5 Michael Friedhofer    | Suzanne Huls         |
| Jill Shockey            | 19 Donald Albright   |
| 7 Amy Carroll           | Zachary Zufall       |
| Joseph Carroll          | 21 Ruby Miller       |
| Harold Knupp            | 22 Robert Spangler   |
| Elizabeth Morocco       | 23 Michael Mitchell  |
| Cathy Wheeler           | Heather Stoy         |
| 10 Mitchell Householder | 25 Tasia Mostoller   |
| Janet Shockey           | James Knepper, Jr.   |
| 11 James Baker          | David Nicholson, Jr. |
| Sally Barndt            | Michael Kyle         |
| 12 Douglas Hoehn        | 26 Will Brant        |
| 15 Lisa Peck            | Scott Mayer          |
|                         | 28 Linda Weible      |
|                         | John M. Cascio       |
|                         | 29 Christopher Lloyd |
|                         | 30 Goldie Ohler      |



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 George Stein II   | 24 Robert S. Harrold |
| 2 David Griffith    | Adam Gibson          |
| 6 Bonnie Swintosky  | 25 Mary Brubaker     |
| 7 Luke Miller       | 27 Tyler Zimmerman   |
| Karen Long-Walat    | 30 Carlton Jacobson  |
| 10 Anna Carroll     | Seth Walker          |
| Meagan Richter      | William Lloyd, Jr.   |
| 12 Jo Ann Balsley   | Leah Hoffer          |
| 13 Trevor Shaffer   | Alexandra Mitchell   |
| 14 Brittany Pizer   | 31 Hazel Kinsinger   |
| 16 Donald Fetterolf | Beverley Rose        |
| Patricia Woy        |                      |
| 17 Robert Boose     |                      |
| Stephen Zufall      |                      |
| 18 Kay Albright     |                      |



## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

- 8:00 a.m. Indoor Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship under the Big Tent  
on the Front Lawn
- 11:30 a.m. Congregation Cook-Out Picnic Lunch
- 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Afternoon Activities
- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Under the Tent: | Guest Music Performances  |
| Church Lawns:   | Cornhole Tournament,<br>Kids Carnival and Games,<br>Croquet, Volleyball, Soccer |
| Pavilion:       | Table Games<br>White Elephant Bingo   |
- 5:00 p.m. Closing Worship under the Big Tent
- ... All at NO COST to attendees!*

*Will you serve on the planning team?  
Talk with Pastor Ruth (814) 525-5085 or  
Vicar Regina Holliday (202) 441-9664*

# UNBIND

## unbind (verb). to release from restraints.

August 1, 2023

Pastor Ruth

Thank you to the Trinity Council, congregation, and church staff for encouraging and supporting my participation in the 2023 ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering in Phoenix, Arizona, July 17-20. Each day of the event focused on a one-word theme: Remembering – Reclaiming – Rekindling – Reviving. The themes were approached from a multi-layered reality, including the rostered leaders lived reality, the ministry of the local congregation, the synod's mission and vision, as well as that of the national church.

Bishop Kevin Strickland of the Southeastern Synod (160 congregations across Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee) preached on John 11:1-44 at closing worship:

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble



**LAZARUS RAISED**

because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them."

<sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

**Jesus the Resurrection and the Life** <sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

**Jesus Weeps** <sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."



<sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

**Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life** <sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

At the end of his sermon, Bishop Strickland asked:  
**"What tomb is Jesus calling the ELCA to come out of?  
 What does your congregation need to be unbound  
 from?"**

Our church council responded to these questions at their July meeting. How would YOU answer these questions?

**"We are not only called to be unbound  
 but to do the unbinding  
 of those seeking new life."**

## SACRED ART CAMP







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## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Family Hospice (Formerly In Touch Hospice) is pleased to offer four free support group sessions at 1474 North Center



Avenue in Somerset. Please join us to share your feelings with others, who are grieving a loved one's death. This group will meet every **Tuesday** from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. starting on **September 19** and ending on October 10, 2023. This group will be facilitated by Duane Riddle, Hospice Spiritual Counselor. You must be 18 years of age or older to participate. Please call Pastor Riddle at (814) 289-1153 for further information.

## ALLEGHENY SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023**

**DAY OF RENEWAL**  
**"Refresh, Relax, Recharge!"**  
**Altoona Grand Hotel**  
**9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**Registration Forms in Narthex**  
**Deadline: Wednesday, August 16**

SAVE THE DATES

SAVE THE DATES

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023**

**ALLEGHENY SYNODICAL**  
**WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION**  
**33RD ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
**Newry Lutheran Church**



## MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING

### What's on Your Mind? Let's Talk About it!

Walk-in Mental Health Screening: 10:00 a.m. to noon at  
245 West Race Street, Somerset (814) 443-4891

Somerset County Mental Health is offering free, walk-in, mental health screenings the **first Friday** of every month through 2023. Children and adults are welcome. The screener will be limited to 30 minutes and address depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, and substance abuse. Screenings will be completed by Somerset Outpatient Clinic.

#### 2023 Walk-In Dates:

**August 4th | September 1st | October 6th |  
November 3rd | December 1st**



#### CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Psychiatric Services | Outpatient Counseling | Enhanced Outpatient  
Case Management | Crisis Intervention | Psychiatric Rehabilitation |  
On-site Pharmacy

Crisis Line: 1-866-611-6467

The mental health screening is not a full psychological evaluation and a clinical diagnosis will not be made.



## HORNER LUTHERAN CHURCH

**KIDS' CLUB** at Horner Lutheran Church is held **Tuesdays** 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. with Games, Crafts, Bible Study, and Snacks. Pre-K to 6th grade are welcome to join us. There is no charge to participate in the program.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY:** Horner Lutheran Church, 415 Horner Church Road, one mile off 219 at the Stoystown exit, offers a Celebrate Recovery meeting on **Saturdays** from 4:30-5:30 p.m. This meeting provides an environment for adults affected by hurts, hang-ups, and habits. At Celebrate Recovery, people will hear about the healing power of Jesus Christ through eight recovery principles. These biblical principles centered on Christ help us to grow and free us from our addictive, dysfunctional, and compulsive behaviors, drawing us together into a stronger relationship with God and others.

**"OFF" STREET FAIR AND CAR CRUISE** sponsored by Boswell Area Churches invite you on **Saturday, August 5** at

201 Hower Avenue in Boswell at the Fireman's Grove, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free kids activities and music. Food sale proceeds support local charitable causes. All classes of cars, trucks, and motorcycles are welcome. Sponsoring Churches are:

All Saints Catholic, St. Andrews Lutheran, New Beginnings Outreach Center, Hopewell Methodist, Boswell Church of God, New Life Church of the Nazarene, Gateway Ministries, and Horner Lutheran.



We don't know everything or have all the answers. We are not perfect. We're a group of people called together by the Holy Spirit to praise God, know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and reach out to serve the world in Jesus' name and for his sake.

### **Are you thinking about joining Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church?**

From the first time you attended worship at Trinity, we already considered you a member of our church family. Why? Because as a child of God, you are our brother or sister!



By joining Trinity, you are making a commitment to take on responsibilities that, when taken seriously, can provide us with a new outlook on life and opportunities for discipleship.

According to the covenant God made with us in holy baptism, we all are:

- To live among God's faithful people,
- To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper,
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed;
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and
- To strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

In addition, members of Trinity are expected to support the work of this congregation, the Allegheny Synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) through regular contributions of our time, abilities, and money (offerings).

New members are scheduled to be received into the congregation on **Sunday, September 10** at the worship service of their choice (8 am, 10 am, or 5 pm). A get-together for new members will be held during the summer to offer folks an opportunity to get to know one another better and learn about new and continuing ministry initiatives at Trinity.

For more information, please contact with Pastor Ruth ([pastorjensen.trinity@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjensen.trinity@gmail.com); 814-525-5085), who will be glad to meet with you as you make your decision to join the Trinity church family.

## **CAMP SEQUANOTA**

### ***Golf Benefit Tournament Monday, August 21, 2023***

***Cost: A donation of \$125 per person  
or \$500 per foursome***

All golfers regardless of age or skill ability are invited to play in the annual golf benefit. The benefit will take place at the Summit Country Club on Cresson Mountain just off Route 22. Registration is from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. Shotgun Tee-off is at 10:00 a.m. (rain or shine), and dinner and cash bar begins at 4:00 p.m. Your donation includes 18 holes of golf, a cart, refreshments, and dinner. Please consider taking a day to connect with a few friends outdoors and make a difference in the lives of all Sequanota campers.

To register: Call the Camp Office (814) 629-6627 or email [contact@sequanota.com](mailto:contact@sequanota.com) with the names of the golfers on your team. (If needed, we can find you a team.) The golf donation can be made during registration on the day of the tournament.

### ***Trail Clean Up Saturday/Sunday, September 16-17***

"Into the forest I go to lose my mind and find my soul." John Muir  
***Cost: Choose the weekend lodging tier that's right for you.***

***Tier 1: \$50/cabin; Tier 2: \$100/cabin;***

***Tier 3: \$150/cabin***

***Meal package - Saturday breakfast,  
supper, and Sunday breakfast: \$25***

***Saturday lunch only: free***

Come and help maintain camp's 20+ hiking trails and enjoy a day in the woods. Everyone is welcome to make a weekend of it just to rest and renew your spirit. We will play board games after dinner on Saturday and worship together on Sunday morning. Nothing else is planned. There will be lots of chain saws needed for this project. Reserve a cabin for the full weekend, one night, or just come on Saturday.

## SEQUANOTA (CONTINUED)

***IGNITE - Fall Youth Retreat  
Saturday/Sunday  
September 30—October 1  
Cost: \$50 (Grades 2nd - 8th)***

Reconnect with camp friends for an overnight retreat at Camp. Sequanota looks different in the fall. Come check it out! The retreat is for Grades 2-8. Invite a friend along for the weekend. Scholarships available. All are welcome!

Register online through the parent dashboard or call/email the Camp Office with your group details (814) 629-6627 or [contact@sequanota.com](mailto:contact@sequanota.com)

## THANK YOU

My many thanks to everyone who sent cards, phoned, and visited. Special thanks to the Care and Share Committee for the delicious soup and flowers they delivered to us. It was so appreciated!

Thank you Trinity Family,  
Janet Shockey



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

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**PAID**  
Somerset, Pennsylvania  
Permit No. 149

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17  
HOMECOMING

(See page 24 for details)



# FALL 2023