

TRINITY TIDINGS



132 E. Main St. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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trinityburgoffice@gmail.com

Renewal

Several years ago, before the “great pause” AKA Covid, Church Council read and discussed the book “Anatomy of a Revived Church,” by Thom S. Rainer. One of the most important things Rainer stressed was the critical role of prayer in churches who were being renewed.

In response, we committed ourselves to prayer. Groups of us began to gather to pray at the front after each worship service. We began the “Trinity Prayer Pause.” People committed to “take a pause” each day at noon to pray for our church. Many signed up for a daily text message as a reminder to pray.

As we continued to pray, the work of the Spirit was becoming more visible among us. The size of our email prayer team grew. Each church meeting began with prayer. And often now, more of you have become comfortable praying out loud with others. We are noticing the signs of Spirit renewal all around us.

This past year, we watched two of our confirmands grow spiritually and affirm their faith on May 19. In June, four families bought their little ones to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and on August 4, an additional young woman was baptized. If that is not enough joy for you, six people became members that same day. This past week, a woman who stopped in to see the art show said to me, “What is going on at Trinity? Is there something in the water?”

This summer, I met for lunch and conversation with a group of parents to talk about how we can support them in their desire to raise their children in the Christian faith. Initially, these families decided to begin meeting in homes for pot-luck suppers to get to know one another better. They also committed to being in worship together with their children on the first Sunday of each month. Before the sermon, the children will move to our new “family room” area for Bible stories, singing, and a craft.

You may be noticing other signs of renewal. Our pool of volunteers that continues to grow for Christian education, worship assistants, and outreach ministries. One woman mentioned the amazing generosity of folks in donating food for New Hope and the Blessing Box, clothing for the Clothing Closet, and those loaded and overflowing tables of donations of school supplies and green beans for New Hope.

Signs of Spirit renewal are all around us. Watch for them and tell someone about it!

Thank you for praying! God is faithful and the work of the Spirit is amazing.

Pastor Karen Durbin

October 2024



TRINITY
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ON MAIN
“Sharing God’s Love”™



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Music Notes

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

~ Ephesians 3:20-21

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days... (ELW 705)*

For a long time, our son wanted a dog. And for various reasons, we (his parents) said no. One of my reasons for saying no? Though 30 years had elapsed since my (only) childhood family dog had passed (yes, count them: THIRTY!), I *still* wasn't sure that any dog could be as beloved as the pet of my memory.

But our son was excited about getting a dog NOW.

Could I wrest myself from that wistful attachment to the past?

We as "*the church*" sometimes do the same: assume that nothing now or in the future could ever match - and certainly ever exceed! - our recollections of the past.

But what about these days we're living NOW?

God's will *shall be done* here in the world, no matter our expectations or comparisons to yesterday, and will be accomplished *beyond* anything we can ask or imagine.

[Excerpt] Prayer from the Deaconess Community:

*You, who can do far more than we can ever ask or imagine,
Teach us to trust in Your care and surrender our expectations.
Help us release our need for control,
And rest in the assurance that Your love will guide us through every uncertainty.
May we find peace in letting go, knowing that Your love is sufficient.
In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.*



(A puppy who needed a home came to live at our house this summer.)

Christian Education Opportunities



Snax n Study:

Regular Snax n Study classes continue throughout September and October.

Each Sunday, "Snax" begin at 8:45 am followed by a study. Watch the bulletin board at the west entrance for the changing schedule. There will be topics from "Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith" by Adam Hamilton such as: "Is there a God?" "Is Heaven Real?" "When Prayers Go Unanswered, or "Why do the Innocents Suffer?"

LUNCH AND CONVERSATION

Pastor Karen met with several families with young children for lunch and conversation over the summer to talk about and brain storm their ideas about how we can assist them in raising their children in the faith. The first two ideas are for these families to begin getting together for a pot-luck or game night. For most families, it can be frustrating to come to worship and discover they are the only family with young children in the sanctuary on a particular week. "Critical mass is important, and so, the second idea is a commitment for families to make sure they prioritize

10:15 worship on the first Sunday of each month. They will sit together at the front. Before the sermon, they will come to the front for a song, and then leave for a time of teaching, singing and crafts. The children will come back to the sanctuary during the offertory music for communion.

Please hold us in prayer as we seek to be faithful, try new paradigms, and figure some things out together.

Pastor Karen

Bible Study will resume October 2 on Wednesday evenings, at 7:15 pm, following Handbell rehearsal. All are welcome to join us as we dig into the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday.



Pop-Up Lunches on the Lawn

We had a fabulous time of food and fellowship with our neighbors for pop-up lunches on the lawn this summer. These were typically on Thursdays. A sign would go up in the morning "Pop-up Lunch Today at noon," and folks would watch for Melissa's pop-up tent. It was wonderful to get to know neighbors who came regularly, and some who came from time to time. See pictures [here](https://trinity-on-main.org/summer-2024-events/)
<https://trinity-on-main.org/summer-2024-events/>

SYNOD NEWS

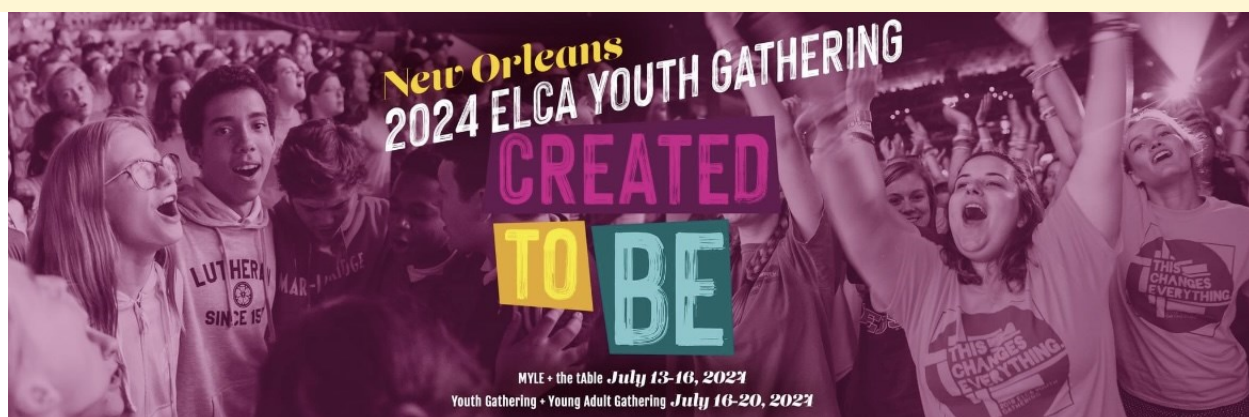
The Lower Susquehanna Synod has an on-line newsletter that provides information about what is going on around the SYNOD! Just go to the LSS website: <http://www.lss-elca.org/>

ELCA Youth Gathering

In July, I had the privilege to attend the 2024 church-wide youth gathering along with 16,000 other teens, young adults, pastors, leaders and chaperones from across the US and Canada. Besides experiencing my first flights in an airplane and traveling to New Orleans (and being away from home for over a week!), I saw the sights, rode trolleys around the city, ate local cuisine (alligator po' boy, beignets and lots of gumbo!) and grew in my faith through worship, devotions, learning, fellowship and service.

Thank you *SO MUCH* to Trinity on Main for this memorable opportunity.

Koen Thomas



The theme of this year's gathering.

Our group comprised of St. Peter
(off Rt. 114, Mechanicsburg),
St. Mark (Union Deposit, Harrisburg) and
Trinity on Main.
Plus The Reverend Dana Blouch-Hanson,
Assistant to the Bishop.
And Kellen Michalowski, Youth Director
(who was behind the lens and snapped
this photo).



What's Happening!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

continues the fourth Thursday of each month, 8 am at C.C.s Kitchen on Main Street, Mechanicsburg. Join our men on September 26 and October 24.

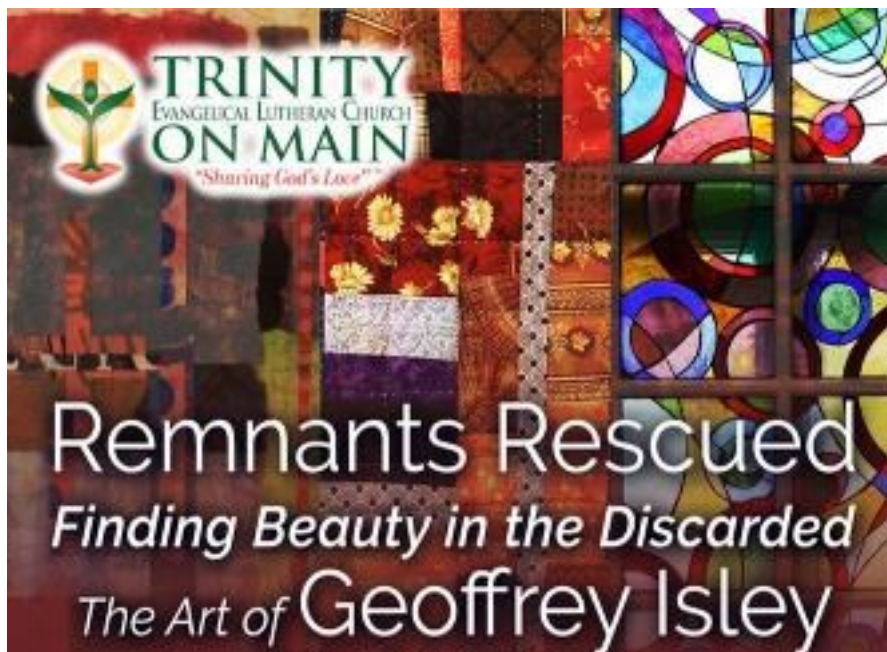
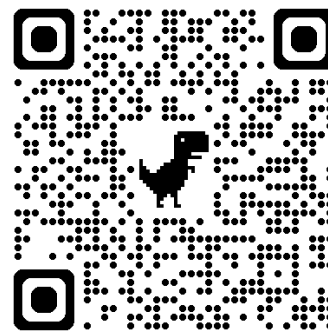


Annual Outdoor Worship & Picnic, August 18

It was damp and rainy for our outdoor worship service on Sunday, August 18, but that was no problem! We just moved it inside and had a great time of worship, good food, and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who supplied us with their musical talents that morning and made the day even more special!

Remnants Rescued

Our summer art show, "Remnants Rescued, Finding Beauty in the Discarded" by local artist Geoffrey Isley continues through September. Many have commented on this wonderful addition to Fellowship Hall and the downstairs hallway. If you have not seen the show yet, you still have time to take in these final weeks.



What's Coming Up?

Blessing of the Animals

September 29 at 2 pm

Bring your pets to our Annual Blessing of the Animals. This event is scheduled to coincide with the Feast of St. Francis, typically held close to October 4. St Francis is the patron saint of animals and the environment in the Catholic Church. He is remembered for his generosity to the poor and remembered for his love for animals and nature.

Gather with us on the west lawn with your pets for a short liturgy, blessing, and a prayer card to take home. If it is difficult for your pet to attend, bring a photo along for your blessing. This year, if it is possible for you, bring along a donation of new or gently used pet blanket or pet food for us to donate to a local animal shelter. Do you have a favorite one to suggest?



October 6 at 5 pm

Our next community meal will be held on the lawn at Trinity, Sunday, October 6, at 5 pm. You are welcome to attend and/or help. Watch for a sign-up link in our Friday emails closer to the event. Seven churches from Mechanicsburg work together to offer these meals seasonally for our downtown neighbors. In October, we will have a supper of soup in bread bowls, seasonal desserts, and apple cider. This is a great time of food, fellowship, and connection!



Community Meal

Mechanicsburg Streets of Treats

will be on Saturday, October 19, 10 am to 2 pm. This is always a fun event for all. Let us know if you can help out for all or part of the day! (And don't forget to wear a costume.)



Reformation Homecoming 2024

All are invited to be with us for Reformation Homecoming 2024, on Sunday, October 27. Join us for worship at 8 am or 10:15 am and for our annual Reformation Potluck following 10:15 worship. We want to be sure to send out invitations to all our members and regular attendees, as well as those who have been connected to Trinity in the past, whether a child, sibling, neighbor or friend.

Some folks may have moved away or now attend another church, and some are still in the area but are not coming regularly. If you know someone whose contact information may need updating, please send their name and address to the church office, trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com. We would like to have these names and addresses as soon as possible so the Reformation flyers can be sent out to everyone. Thank you!

Community Outreach

Blessing Box Update

Have you noticed the freshly painted Blessing Box? Many thanks to Alice Metka for updating the look of the Blessing Box!

As we transition to Fall and cooler temperatures it is requested that donated items not be in glass jars. We do not want to take the chance of the glass breaking.

Thank you for your continued support as we help our neighbors.

Blessing Box Needs:

Cereal
Oatmeal
Peanut Butter
Canned Meats - Spam, Tuna, Chicken
Hamburg and/or Tuna Helper
Knorr's Noodle and/or Rice Pouches
Spaghetti and Pasta Sauce in plastic jars
Canned Pasta
Macaroni and Cheese
Canned Vegetables - Corn, Peas, Mixed Veggies
Canned Beans - Kidney and/or Baked Beans
Thank you,
Carol



 **FREE** 
Adult Clothing
Saturday, Oct. 12
9-11am
 
Trinity's Closet on Main
132 E. Main St.
Mechanicsburg, PA

At our August clothing closet we had 34 visitors & handed out 238 items. We are now collecting clean & gently used fall/winter clothing and will recycle any summer clothing after our September closet. Thank you to all who have shared their time and talent with our friends less fortunate than we are.

- Heather Zielonis



GALATIANS 6:9 KJV

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**Green
Beans
for
NHM!**

We are again this year collecting cans of green beans for New Hope Ministries, to be distributed to local families for Thanksgiving. Bring what you can by Sunday, September 29 and place them on the table inside the front door. We met last year's goal of 200 cans, so let's see if we can get to this years goal of

205!!



Community Outreach

Kickstarting the School Year with Supplies and Smiles!

We are thrilled to reflect on another successful back-to-school event across all our Centers! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated items and volunteered their time to ensure our kids received a fantastic start to their school year. Your support has made a world of difference.

Back-to-school supplies are more than just pencils and notebooks; they are the keys to unlocking each child's potential. For many families facing financial difficulties, the cost of these supplies can be a significant hurdle. By providing these essential tools, we are empowering every child to embrace learning with confidence and enthusiasm. Our events include games, face painting, and delicious treats, making it a joyful and memorable occasion for all. Together, we've set the stage for a wonderful school year filled with opportunities and hope. **Here's to a fantastic start, and to the incredible community that makes it all possible!**



Driver Safety



Tuesday, April 9
9:15 - 1:15

This event will be held
at Trinity Church.

Tuesday & Wednesday,
April 16 and 17
9:15 - 1:15

NOTE: This is a 2-day,
8-hour course for those
taking it for the first time.

Contact the office to
sign up. Cost for the
class is \$20 for AARP
members and \$25 for
non-members.

SYNOD NEWS

The Lower Susquehanna Synod
has an on-line newsletter that
provides information about what is
going on around the SYNOD! Just
go to the LSS website:
<http://www.lss-elca.org/>



Need help? If you or
someone you know
needs help with food or
dealing with a
financial crisis, please
contact us.
(717) 432-2087 or
www.nhm-pa.org

Mechanicsburg Area Churches invite you to...

COMMUNITY DINNER



**Sunday, October 6th
at 5:00pm**

Dinner and music - free of charge!

**Join us on the lawn at
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
132 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg**

Birthdays, Etc.



9/3 Jim Pensyl
 9/3 Ryan Sechrist
 9/8 Andrew Sheaffer
 9/11 Katherine Williams
 9/13 Dennis Burkhard
 9/18 Megan Aldinger
 9/21 Denise Burkhard
 9/25 Cindy Wise
 9/29 Tyler Hoffman



10/1 Deb George
 10/1 Richard Roy
 10/9 Carol Anderson
 10/11 Chris Sabatini
 10/17 David Durbin
 10/17 Donna Jo Peterson
 10/18 Phil Warner
 10/20 John Wise
 10/23 Heather Zielonis
 10/24 David George
 10/25 Susan Hamilton
 10/25 Joanna Lynch
 10/25 Aaron Sieber
 10/25 Jan Walton
 10/29 Miranda Lynch
 10/29 Elizabeth Stone
 10/30 Mary Louise Smith
 10/31 Linda Humes
 10/31 Sharon Umholtz



Deepest Sympathy to Ron Eckerd and family on the passing of Sue on September 18. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this difficult time.

Church Council Highlights

- ♦ The annual outdoor worship service (10:15 am) and church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 18, 2024, on Trinity's west lawn. The 8:00 am service will be held in the sanctuary.
- ♦ To all Committee Chairs: Updated information for the 2025 spending plan should be submitted to Harold Miller by September 22, 2024.
- ♦ Mark your calendars now and plan to join us on Reformation Sunday, October 27, for worship and a potluck lunch following the 10:15 am service! More details to come.

Office Contact Info

Church & Staff Office Hours

Mon. – Thurs. 9 AM – 2 PM

(other hours as needed)

Phone: 717-766-2662

trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/TLCMech

<https://trinity-on-main.org/>

Pastor Contact Info

Pastor Karen Durbin

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Minister of Music Contact Info

Melissa Jacoby

Email: trinitymburgmusic@gmail.com

Parish Administrator Contact Info

Debbie Schue

Email: trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com

TIDINGS DEADLINE:

JUST A REMINDER that the deadline for newsletter items is the 10th of each month for the following issue.

Have a good month!

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:30 pm Bells Choir 715 pm Choir	3	4 5 pm Wedding Rehearsal	5 3 pm Wedding
6 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship 5 pm Community Dinner	7	8	9 6:30 pm Bells Choir 715 pm Choir	10 7 pm Church Council	11 4 pm Set up for Trinity's Closet on Main	12 9-11 am Clothing Closet
13 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship	14	15	16 6:30 pm Bells Choir 715 pm Choir	17 11 am Staff Mtg	18	19 10 am Streets of Treats
20 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am, Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship with Music 11:30 am Bridging the Gap Meeting	21 6 pm NHM Christmas Party Planning Mtg	22 9:15 AARP Driver Refresher Course (4-hour)	23 9:15 AARP Driver Refresher Course (Pt 1 of 8-hour) 6:30 pm Bells Choir 715 pm Choir	24 8 am, Men's Breakfast 9:15 AARP Driver Refresher Course (Part 2 of 8-hour)	25	26
27 Reformation Sunday 8 am Spoken Worship 10:15 am Worship with Music 11:30 am Reformation Potluck	28	29	30 6:30 pm Bells Choir 715 pm Choir	31		