

TRINITY TIDINGS



132 E. Main St. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

717-766-2662

trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com

Jeremiah 17:7-8b

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. . . it's leaves will stay green. . . it does not stop bearing fruit.

Those of us who are trying to keep flowers and vegetables healthy these days know the value of enough water so that they will thrive.

It is that way with our spiritual lives. Taking care to nourish our souls well is critical for a healthy, strong, resilient faith with deep roots in the Lord. Most of us know this, but we can get distracted with stuff that gets in the way, and before long, our faith can begin to feel dry and even dull. Growing faith requires attention.

This past year, we have had the joy of watching Kolton Kramer and Koen Thomas grow in their faith. What a joy. I will never forget the day Kolton asked to talk with me confidentially. I wondered what the topic might be, and we set a time to meet. "So, Kolton, why did you want to meet today?" "I want to grow deeper in my faith," he said. This was joyful music to a pastor's ears!

Kolton began the confirmation process. Kolton and Koen began to meet with me each Sunday morning. Many of us watched them grow in the faith as they studied scripture, the small catechism, served among us, assisted in worship, and explored what it means to be an active member of Trinity Church. They have been like trees being planted by water sending out their thirsty roots by the stream. This past Pentecost Sunday, I was honored to confirm Kolton in the faith, to baptize his father, and we all received Jill and Kevin as members at Trinity.

I often think back on Kolton's statement many months ago – "I want to grow deeper in my faith." It seems simple enough. Those who want the same already have the key: weekly worship, study of the Word, prayer, and service to others. Thanks be to God for this amazing gift.

Check out the June 22nd video to hear from Koen and Kolton and let us rejoice together in what God is doing in their lives.

<https://youtu.be/HIESLSOX20k?si=MUOBIBSTnE3Pnc0m>

Blessings of deep faith to you in Christ Jesus our Lord,
Pastor Karen

July 2025



TRINITY
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ON MAIN
"Sharing God's Love"™



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Music Notes

*"Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day."
~ Psalm 96:1-2*

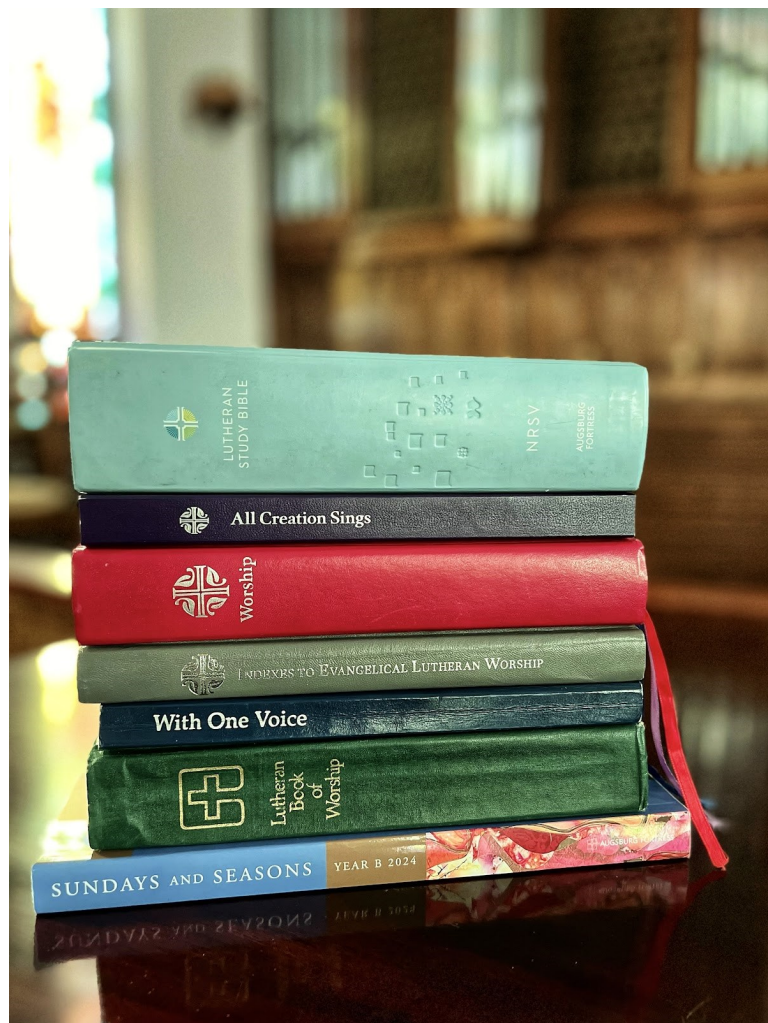
Summer Sounds: Hymn Sing On-the-Spot

I'm always amazed at the abundance and variety of songs and styles in our hymnals and worship resources. Congregational singing is central to our worship and we all have our very cherished hymns whose lyrics and melodies comprise the soundtrack for some of our core memories: of moments in our faith; specific sanctuaries and services; family, friends, pastors, and fellow worshipers with whom we have shared sacred occasions.

In July and August, please feel welcome to request some of your favorite hymns during the prelude at 10:15 worship. We will take up to three requests each Sunday and sing one verse/refrain of each hymn you name.

"The church hymn is not, like its brother the folk song, the property of merely a certain period of life...it belongs to the whole congregation, to all periods of life." (Reu, Johann Michael.

Catechetics: Or, Theory and Practise of Religious Instruction. Originally published 1918.)



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

Volunteer with us!
There are many volunteer opportunities available. Please give us a call, or visit our website to see how you can be a part of our ministry!

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/>

Worship



FIRST SUNDAY KIDS

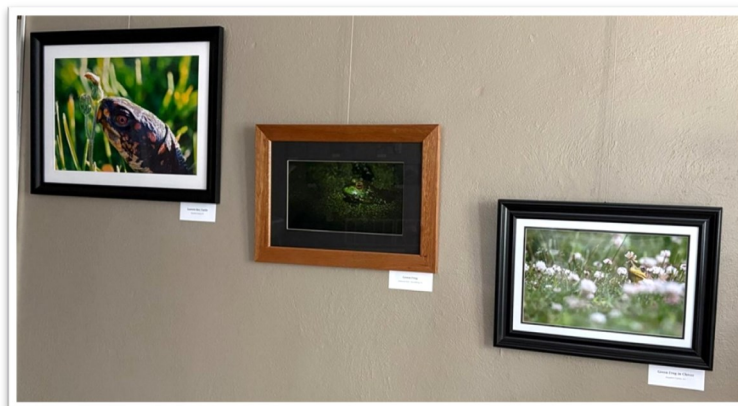
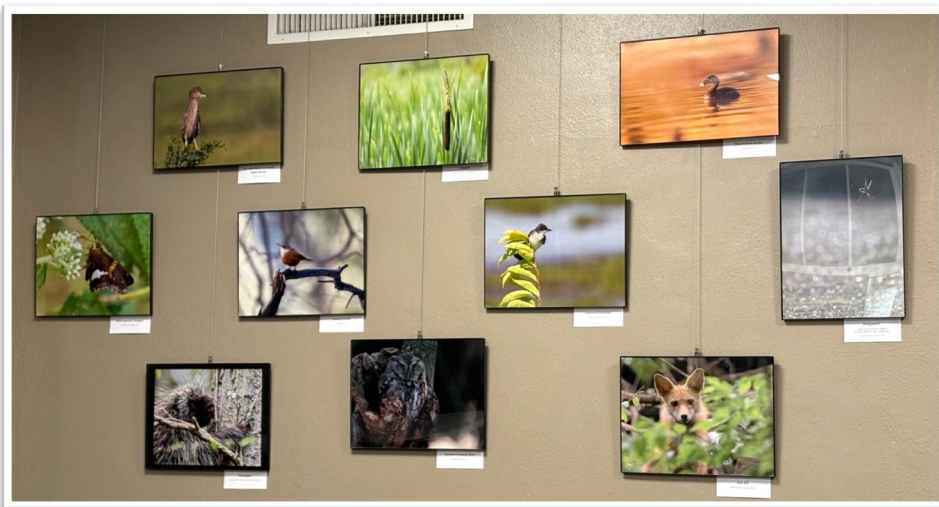
Our families are important to us at Trinity and it has been exciting for us to offer First Sunday Kids this past year. I am especially grateful to Ja'net Gochenauer and Amy Boya for their leadership.

Over the summer months, First Sunday Kids will continue during 10:15 worship with an adjusted format. A children's message will be included as part of worship each month, followed by a Bible story time, coloring sheets, and singing in the family room with several adult volunteers. All adults who work with children have safe church clearances.

- Pastor Karen Durbin

Wine & Cheese Art Exhibit Opening

Join us on July 26, 3-5 pm for a Wine and Cheese Opening of the Nature Photography of Eric Durbin. Eric is the son of Pastor Karen and David Durbin. He writes that "highlighting the interconnectedness, interdependence, fragility and beauty of God's creation in all its different forms, is my worship song." You can also meet the photographer before and after the Greater Harrisburg Concert Band concert on Friday, July 18.



Worship cont'd...

Baptism

On Sunday, June 15, we were blessed to celebrate with Makayla Miller and her family, as her daughter, Paisley received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Paisley is the granddaughter of Aaron and Tonya Warner.

Jesus said,

***"Let the little children come to me,
and do not hinder them, for the
kingdom of heaven
belongs to such as these."***

Matthew 19:14



Synod Assembly 2025

...by Stacey Zeller

From June 5 through June 7, 2025, Pastor Karen, Koen Thomas, Tim Zielonis, and I represented Trinity at this year's Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly. It was held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in York, which meant some early morning departure times for us, but that did allow for good conversation in the car going to and from!

This was a special year, as we were electing a new bishop. Bishop James Dunlop has served for 12 years and has decided to retire, so we had the opportunity to read some excellent bios and consider some very gifted and skilled people for the position. The energy in the room was palpable as people thought about the future and discerned how we can best move forward in a very challenging time in our country and in the world. The three recipients of the most votes, through each of five ballots, were, in our opinion, very well qualified and would have each done a great job in their own way.

Ultimately, the assembly elected Rev. Stephen Herr, currently serving as pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gettysburg, as bishop for the next six years. We are excited to welcome him into this role and to work with him in the years to come!

Although there are challenges that we as individual people of faith, as individual churches, and as the Lutheran church as a whole are facing in the current social climate, there was definitely a sense of optimism and opportunity regarding the work that we currently do and that we *will* do moving forward. It's incredibly energizing to be in a room full of people (and I'm talking around 500 people!) who are bubbling with enthusiasm and energy for doing God's work in the world!

This is a special time in our synod and in the life of the Lutheran church... let us embrace the many opportunities that we have to make a difference in the world!

Synod Assembly Voting Members

The Lower Susquehanna Synod held its annual assembly at St. Matthew Lutheran (York) on June 5, 6, & 7.

Trinity voting members pictured here (left to right): Tim Zielonis (layperson, male), Pastor Karen Durbin (rostered leader), Koen Thomas (layperson, youth), and Stacey Zeller (layperson, female).



Women at the Well

The Women at the Well recently had a crafty community project. On June 17th several ladies and one little girl joined us to make decorative spiritual rocks for Jubilee Day. Rocks were painted or plain and we used paints and markers to decorate appropriately 130 rocks in a few fun filled hours! Even though it rained, and we were not able to walk around town, we came up with another idea. Thank you Debbie and Melissa for placing the rocks in different places around the church with a sign inviting Jubileers to take one or a few and place them around town or keep it for themselves. Thank you to all the ladies who helped spread the Word in a fun and beautiful way!



Rocks before



Rocks after

Christian Education Opportunities

The **Wired** WORD

An Adult Curriculum

THE WIRED WORD FOR SUMMER

Join us each week as we dig deeply into God's Word and consider what certain passages mean for us in relation to particular current events. Pastor will be using the online resource called, The Wired Word for Summer Bible Study, Snax n Study, and our summer sermon texts. SUMMER BIBLE STUDY will be held each Thursday from June 26 – July 31 at 6:30 pm.

SNAX N STUDY returns on July 6 through August 24 at 9 am. Please feel free to sign up to share a simple breakfast snack at 8:45 am and stay for scripture and conversation. A sign up sheet will be posted on the West entrance bulletin board for those who would like to bring food.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

continues the fourth Thursday of each month, 8 am at C.C.s family Restaurant on Main Street.



Have you noticed the spruced up parking lot?

It has been resealed and restriped, and looks great! Thank you to the Property Committee for arranging for the upgrade, and for the continued maintenance of Trinity Church, both inside and out.

You guys do a fantastic job!



Property Committee

Many thanks to the property crew - Tim Zielonis, Jim Lynch, Charlie Wise, Alice Metka, Koen Thomas and Mike Hartman - for getting the grounds in order on our May 24 church workday. Together they mulched the flower beds, trimmed the hedges, and cleaned up the parking lot. Your time and help was very much appreciated! Here are "before" and "after" pictures of the hedges...



Welcome New Members!

Welcome Kramer Family! ...by Stacey Zeller

By now, most of us have met, and adore, the Kramer family... Kevin, Jill, and their son Kolton. Trinity members Bonnie and Alan Williamson brought them to church as friends and guests, and on Sunday, June 8, Kolton was confirmed, Kevin was baptized, and they all became members of Trinity!

Kevin has worked for Remco for 14 years as a salesperson for commercial refrigeration, serving small independent grocery stores throughout PA. He enjoys spending time with his family, catching up with long-time friends, and trying new restaurants. Kevin has a genuine love of music and enjoys participating in an occasional Karaoke song or two. He has recently begun taking guitar lessons and is enjoying sharing that time with Kolton.

Jill works for the law firm of Latsha Davis & Marshall. She began working for "LDM" 21 years ago as the billing clerk, and now, after all of those years, she is the office administrator. Jill enjoys spending time with her family, especially planning large gatherings at her home for her extended family and friends. She also enjoys attending craft fairs and local festivals.

Kolton will be attending Cumberland Valley High School as a 10th grader this fall, primarily taking honors classes. He enjoys playing basketball, guitar, and video games with his friends, and he has a great love for the outdoors. Kolton has been focused on his faith journey and growing within this church, and he looks forward to expanding his faith experience into the world, the broader church, and the Christian community as a whole.

I remember the first time I met the Kramers. We had a particularly large volume of donations for our Clothing Closet one month, and we needed to have a "sorting party" ahead of time to get through all of the clothes

(a wonderful problem to have!). The Kramers came with the Williamsons and dove right in to the work, and the socializing, just as if they'd been here all along! Since that day, they've been part of our regular team of volunteers, and they are a joy to work with!

We have had the pleasure of watching Kolton grow in his faith. He approached Pastor Karen last year, on his own and unprompted, to ask if he could be confirmed. Throughout his time in the confirmation program, his thirst for knowledge, the maturity of his questions, and his willingness to go above and beyond have been impressive and humbling. It has been a privilege for us to walk alongside him in his journey thus far!

If, by chance, you have not had the opportunity to meet the Kramers, you will be blessed by the encounter, whenever that day comes! Welcome to the Trinity family, Kevin, Jill, and Kolton!



Harrisburg Area Confirmation Camp at Nawakwa 2025

Around 200 of us students (grades 6 through 12) PLUS older teen and college age counselors, camp staff and clergy from congregations in the Lower Susquehanna Synod gathered for a week of fellowship, learning, worship, prayer, recreation, activities, and listening and looking for God.

There were some rainy weather challenges at the start of our week that affected our itinerary a bit, especially campfire time in the evenings. But we worked around it. And we didn't let a little rain dampen our spirits! **AT ALL.** For example, one of the very stunning traditions is the first evening's worship when everyone lights candles around the baptismal candle with a reminder that we are all children of God.

There is worship with Holy Communion every day at camp. We sing hymns and praise songs, read scripture and listen to sermons and reflections, commune together and pray. There are key camp-wide topics each day: freedom from sin; community in Christ; the power of water; reconciliation; and sainthood. (You can see photos from camp on each of these themes on the Instagram page: *imagesteam*.)

We also divvy up into smaller groups by age. Two years ago, I was in the Saints track, with emphasis on the sacrament of baptism and what it means to be a saint. This year, Kolton and I were in the God's Gifted People track where we learned about our spiritual gifts and how to use them AND how to recognize spiritual gifts in others.

Pastor Kevin Stout and Pastor Cindy Brommer were the main leaders for our track along with a few laypeople and our counselors. Besides discerning our gifts, we did stations of the cross (the Lutheran camp version), a challenging ropes course (30 feet up off the ground!), and helping refurbish and maintain the prayer labyrinth (2025 marks its 25th year at Camp Nawakwa).

There was free time and fun each day, too. We played GaGa ball (like dodgeball), ultimate frisbee, there was pool time and swimming, photography and crafts, socializing and just hanging out.

Thank you to Pastor Karen for making a special visit to see Kolton and

me on Thursday. And thanks, too, for Kolton going to camp - it made this year the best one I've been to yet!

- Koen Thomas



**The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania**
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

Community Outreach

Concert on the Lawn

The Greater Harrisburg Concert Band will be holding a concert on our lawn, Friday evening, July 18, 7 pm. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be indoors. Free hot dogs, chips, and water, will be available beginning at 6 pm. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, and invite your friends and family. Make sure to check out our new art exhibit, the nature photography of Eric Durbin before and after the concert.

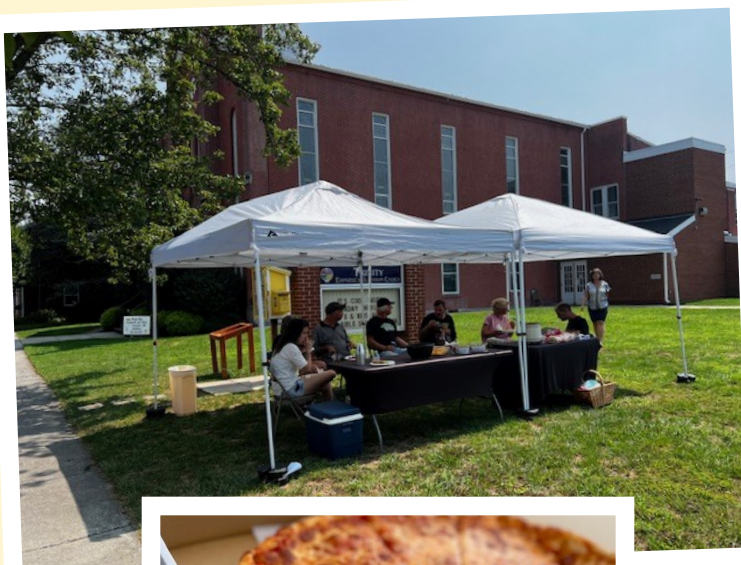
FREE CONCERT ON THE LAWN
GREATER HARRISBURG CONCERT BAND
FRIDAY, JULY 18, 7 PM



Thursday Lunch on the Lawn

Trinity's staff is once again sponsoring "Thursday Lunch on the Lawn", happening July 10 – August 7.

We are looking for some folks to help support this ministry by providing a food item or providing some funding along the way. Enjoy Thursday Lunch on the Lawn with your staff and neighbors. These lunches are a great way to share God's love with others, build relationships with a simple lunch, conversation, and to pray together. Please let Pastor Karen, Melissa Jacoby, or Debbie Schue know of your interest in being involved. You may also sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board if you would like to contribute food items. Thank you in advance and plan to attend if you are available!



Community Outreach

Blessing Box Update

"Trinity's Market on Main" is open for business! If you have excess produce from your vegetable garden and would like to share with our community neighbors you are welcome to place it on the outside stand beside the Blessing Box.



Blessing Box Needs:

Canned Pasta
Cereal
Spaghetti Sauce
Tomato Sauce
Baked Beans
Kidney Beans
Macaroni and Cheese
Pasta and Rice Pouches (Knorr's)
Hamburger Helper
Single serving Fruit Snacks
Single serving Peanut Butter or Cheese Crackers

Thank you for your support in helping our community!

 **FREE** 
Adult Clothing
Saturday, July 12
9-11am



Trinity's Closet on Main
132 E. Main St.
Mechanicsburg, PA

Mechanicsburg Area Churches invite you to...



**COMMUNITY
DINNER**

Our next community meal will be held on September 28, at Trinity. Mechanicsburg churches join together seasonally to offer these meals. These meals are a great opportunity to gather with neighbors to share good food, friendship, and prayer.

Need to Update Your Info?

Help us to stay up-to-date by providing the church office with any new information for your household such as:

- Email address
- Cell Phone/Home Phone
- Mailing Address

Current information for our young adult members is especially helpful as they go out into the world!



Are you looking for a way that you can serve at Trinity Church?

If you are, please consider signing up to help during the worship services. We can always use Greeters, Assisting Ministers and Lectors. If you feel you would like to help in one of these areas, please contact the church office or let Pastor Karen know!

Birthdays, Etc.

JULY

7/2	Colin Reisinger
7/8	Kay Miller
7/14	Natalie Aldinger
7/15	Deb Warner
7/17	Preston Warner
7/23	Kevin Roy
7/26	Alan Williamson
7/29	Verlyn Hays
7/29	Russel Umholtz
7/29	Jonah Wagenheim
7/30	Mike Hartman

Is your birthday missing?
Please let us know
so we can update
our database!

Church Council Highlights

- Kolton Kramer will be confirmed on June 8 at the early service; his parents, Jill and Kevin, will be received as new members at that time.
- Eric Durbin's photo art exhibit is being displayed in the Fellowship Hall.
- Karen Schmick has resigned as the Fellowship Committee chairperson.
- A property clean-up day is scheduled for May 24.
- The parking lots will be resealed and repainted starting May 28; with additional handicap spots being considered.

**"And God made two great lights;
the greater light to rule the day, and
the lesser light to rule the night..."**
Genesis 1:16

JUST A REMINDER... If you are on Facebook, remember to check out our page and like and share. We post regularly, especially when there are lots of things going on! Please help us get the word out about the good things happening at Trinity, and share the good news and worship opportunities. This is a great forum for us to keep in touch.

Remember to like us and Share us!
<https://www.facebook.com/TLCMech>



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

Email: pastorkjd@gmail.com

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. Please email or submit your written items to the church office by that date. Thank you!

FREE CONCERT ON THE LAWN GREATER HARRISBURG CONCERT BAND

Bring your
friends
& family!

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 7 PM



TRINITY
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ON MAIN
"Sharing God's Love"

132 East Main St. Mechanicsburg

FREE
Hot Dogs &
Ice Cream



Bring your
own chair
or blanket



Trinity Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg presents

A Wine & Cheese Art Exhibit Opening

A journey into nature...

Featuring the photography of local artist, Eric Durbin

Saturday, July 26 3-5 pm

All are invited! Come enjoy refreshments and browse through this stunning photographic display, on exhibit in the fellowship hall. Eric will be in attendance to answer questions about his work.



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Kaitlynn's Newsletter

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA | JAN-JUNE 2025



Featured: the new Bishop John Rojas, Bishop Vice-President Consuelo Preciado, and the new National Administrative Committee.

ORDINATION, BISHOP ELECTION, AND AMMPARO

The first half of 2025 has flown by! And it has been a busy few months here in Colombia, so I want to share some of the highlights with you all. First, on a personal note, I began the year with my final approval interview. In the ordination process (or the process of becoming a pastor) of the ELCA, the final step is a comprehensive evaluation/interview, during which they determine whether to approve you for ordination or not. **And... I was approved!** Next comes the part of "first call" or my first official job as a pastor, and hopefully, I will have more updates on this in the coming months.

Regarding my work in Colombia... I am still accompanying the congregation, Solo Por Fe, and the True Vine Project (see photos below). I support them with weekly devotionals, pastoral care, visits, and worship on Sundays. I am also supporting the IELCO (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Colombia) with the construction of a Gender Justice Policy.

Next update... The IELCO had its General Assembly in March. The General Assembly is held every 5 years, and there are elections for Bishop, Bishop Vice-president, and the National Administrative Committee. Pastor John Rojas was elected as Bishop, and Pastor Consuelo Preciado was elected as Bishop Vice-President (she is the 2nd female elected as Bishop Vice-President in the IELCO). The assembly was accompanied by the ELCA, the Lutheran World Federation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission, and the Church of Sweden.

Finally, the executive committee of AMMPARO of the ELCA visited Colombia at the beginning of the year. In short, AMMPARO is the ELCA's Migrant Ministry; it's the ELCA's strategy to Accompany Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities. With all the things happening in regards to immigration in the United States, the repercussions are felt worldwide, and I was grateful for the accompaniment of this team at the beginning of the year. Being able to learn from them and to share with them was a beautiful exchange, and it was a testament to how powerful we can be if we all work together as one body of Christ.



Featured above: the AMMPARO Executive Team and leaders from the IELCO learning from an immigration studies professor.

Kaitlynn's Newsletter

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA



Featured in the above photo (from left to right): Photo taken at Iglesia San Lucas with Yuliana (daughter of Pastor), Helena (President of the Iglesia San Lucas), Katie, and Pastor Maria Elena.

MAIN STORY

I want to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Kaitlynn Larson, and I am accompanying the Iglesia Evangelica Luterana de Colombia (IELCO).

A little background about me - I was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, with my two older brothers. My mother, two brothers, and three nephews all still live in Omaha. I was raised as an ELCA Lutheran. I even served as the president of the Lutheran Youth Organization of Nebraska in high school. I always found comfort in the church as it provided me with a safe and supportive community. I believe the church is one of the most beautiful spaces for people from all different walks of life to grow together.

I went to Nebraska Wesleyan University, where I studied Global Studies and Spanish. I studied abroad in Cordoba, Argentina, and Montevideo, Uruguay. After graduation, I spent a few years working in local congregations in Nebraska doing children, youth, and family ministry. I transitioned to community organizing in 2016, where I worked doing immigration rights, workers' rights, get-out-the-vote campaigns, and leadership development. After many conversations and many cups of coffee with the people I was organizing with, I realized that certain beliefs and theologies were keeping them powerless. It became clear that I was being called to pursue the path of ordination. I graduated with a Master of Divinity in 2021 from Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. I am in the process of ordination with the Nebraska Synod. The IELCO and ELCA are supporting my call process, and I was able to do my internship at a local congregation here in Bogota.

In my free time, I love running; I am one of those half-marathon people. I also really enjoy reading, especially poetry, and learning new things or exploring new places.



Back-to-School Daze Craze for New Hope Ministries

**Donation deadline:
Sunday, July 27!**

**Help us provide school supplies
for children in our community!**

**Shopping lists of needed
supplies are on the table
inside the front door.**

New HOPE Ministries
Sharing Christ's love by meeting human needs

BACK TO SCHOOL

Most needed items: ★

- binders (1" and 2")
- backpacks
- calculators (including scientific ones)
- colored pencils
- crayons and markers
- dry erase markers
- erasers and pencil sharpeners
- folders
- glue sticks and bottles
- highlighters
- index cards
- lunch boxes
- notebook paper
- notebooks
- pencils and pens
- pencil cases (zipper pouches) ★
- Post-it notes (square)
- rulers
- scissors
- Sharpies
- tissues (individual packs)

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 6:30 pm Bible Study	4	5
6 8 am Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship First Sunday Kids	7	8 6:30 pm Women at the Well Book Study	9	10 12 pm, Lunch on the Lawn 6:30 pm Bible Study	11 4 pm, Set up for Trinity's Clothing Closet	12 9 am, Trinity's Closet-on-Main
13 8 am Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship	14	15	16	17 12 pm, Lunch on the Lawn 6:30 pm Bible Study	18 5:30 pm, Art Exhibit open 7 pm, Greater Hbg Concert Band 8:30 pm, Art Exhibit open	19 10 am visitation 11 am Funeral Service - Kerry Jumper
20 8 am Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship	21 6:30 pm Community Dinner Meeting	22 6:30 pm Women at the Well Book Study	23	24 8 am, Men's Breakfast 12 pm, Lunch on the Lawn 6:30 pm Bible Study	25	26 3 pm, Wine & Cheese Art Exhibit Opening
27 8 am Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship	28	29	30	31 12 pm, Lunch on the Lawn 6:30 pm Bible Study		