

# TRINITY TIDINGS



132 E. Main St. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

717-766-2662

trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com

Dear Trinity friends,

By now, most of you have heard that I will be retiring as your pastor at the end of September. This is a time of transition for me—and for you. As I respond to God's call into retirement, you are being called to imagine a fresh future with a new leader.

Transitions like these are sacred opportunities to celebrate and give thanks for what God has done among us over the past 8½ years. We have welcomed new people into our congregation, baptized infants and adults, and confirmed youth. We have nurtured the gifts of many who stepped into leadership roles in Christian Education, Outreach, and Worship. We have said goodbye to faithful staff and welcomed new staff into our shared ministry.

Through it all, we remember that God is always doing a new thing. Any transition can be challenging—this one will be that for me too. But it is also a time for newness and growth. Let us remember God's goodness to us, grieve the losses we feel, and then boldly turn our faces to welcome the future God has for us.

Join me in praying for the new pastor God is already preparing to bring to Trinity. Imagine what new ministry God is calling you to discover. And pray for Spirit-led wisdom and enthusiasm for your church council and call committee in the days ahead.

Do not hold onto fear, for God walks beside you now and into the future.

Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth;  
Shall you not know it?  
I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.  
(Isaiah 43:19, NKJV)

Blessings in Christ,  
Pastor Karen Durbin

**September 2025**



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



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## Music Notes

*Day by day, the Lord is ever near me,  
Granting loving mercies for each hour,  
And my care He gladly bears, and cheers me  
With His counsel pure and holy pow'r.*

For our staff meetings, we rotate each time who will offer a short devotional. August was my turn and I shared *"Day by Day"* (ELW 790), a traditional yet *not-as-familiar* hymn among old favorites. Its comforting lyrics simply resonate, as recent months for me have been a season of funerals, including beloved Trinity members, a friendly neighbor across Main St. from the church, and then a close friend from high school.

Each verse imparts consolation and encouragement and, in particular, the end of verse 2: *"He assures that in all joy or sorrow, 'As thy days, thy strength shall be.'"*

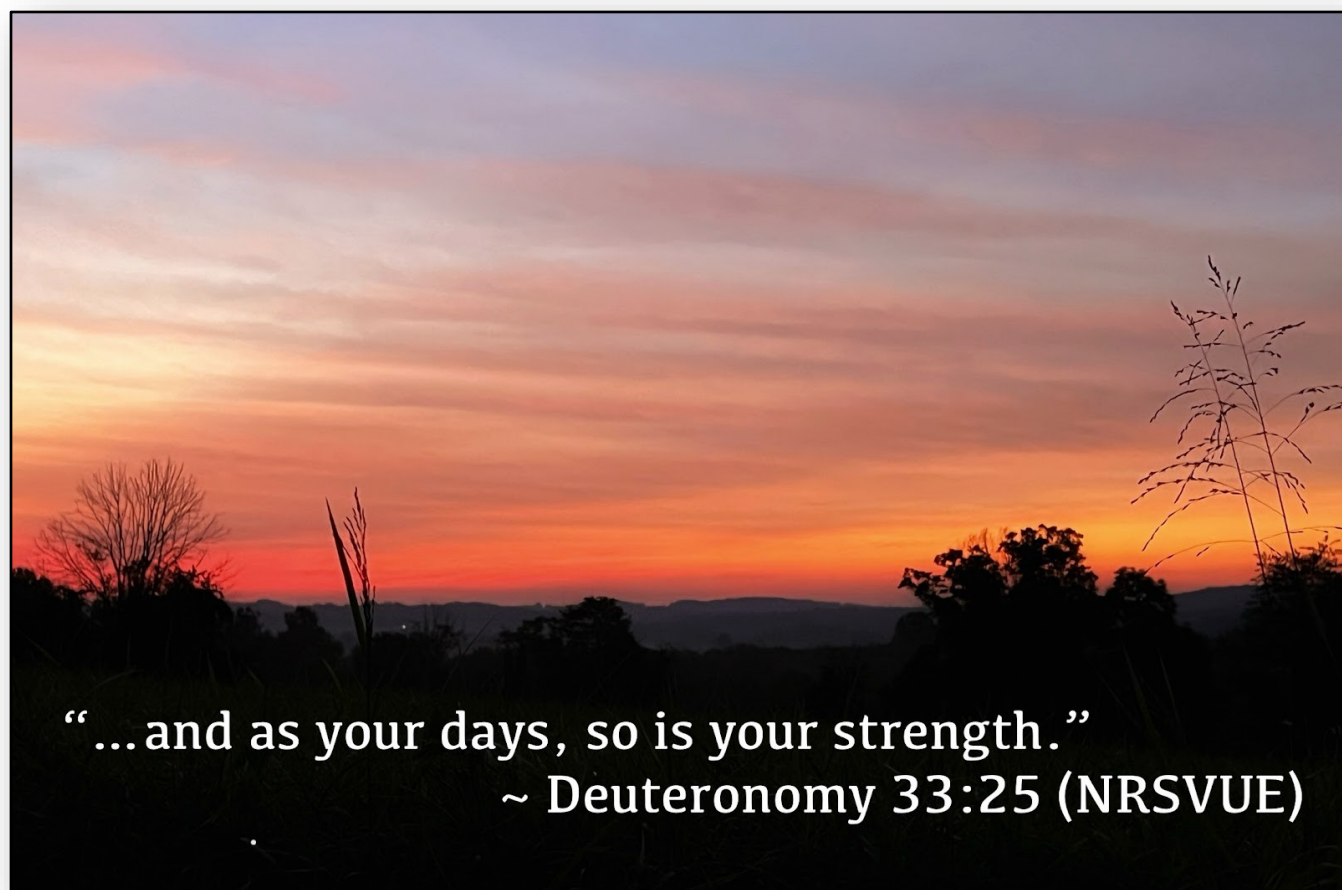
With some additional reading, I discovered it's from Deuteronomy 33:25 ["...and as your days, so is your strength." (NRSVUE)] where Moses offered blessings to the tribes of Israel, a la a benediction or sending.

Did I know that - later in that same staff meeting - Pastor Karen would announce she is retiring? Not at all! But those lyrics - in *this* moment, too - endure for both Pastor and all of us here at Trinity:

*I'll not fear for what may come tomorrow,  
Though the path ahead I cannot see.  
He assures that in all joy or sorrow,  
'As thy days, thy strength shall be.'*

~ Day By Day (v. 2, ELW 790)

- Melissa Jacoby, Minister of Music



**"...and as your days, so is your strength."  
~ Deuteronomy 33:25 (NRSVUE)**

## Worship



### FIRST SUNDAY KIDS

It's almost that time of the year when leaves start turning colors, kids go back to school, and for Amy and Ja'net to start back with First Sunday Kids during 10:15 worship on the first Sundays of each month. Amy and Ja'net are excited to start the year. This year's theme is "A year of Jesus' Miracles!" The kid's bulletin board will be changing to reflect the themes and to present new pictures of the kids and their new experiences with the Miracles.

For September, we would love to start with all our children. We know that most of the children have been learning the Lord's Prayer this summer with actions! We would like to review this with all the children and then in October, present this new way of remembering the Lord's Prayer to the congregation during the second service. Below is a monthly list from September through December of those Amazing Miracles that the children will be learning and experiencing!

September – Turning Wine into Water

October – Jarius's Daughter

November – Feeding of the 5,000 and our community project

December – Calming of the Waves

Please continue to keep our younger believers in your prayers as we start our new learning year of Miracles. All adults who work with children have safe church clearances. Please take time this summer to join us – invite a neighbor's children or family members!

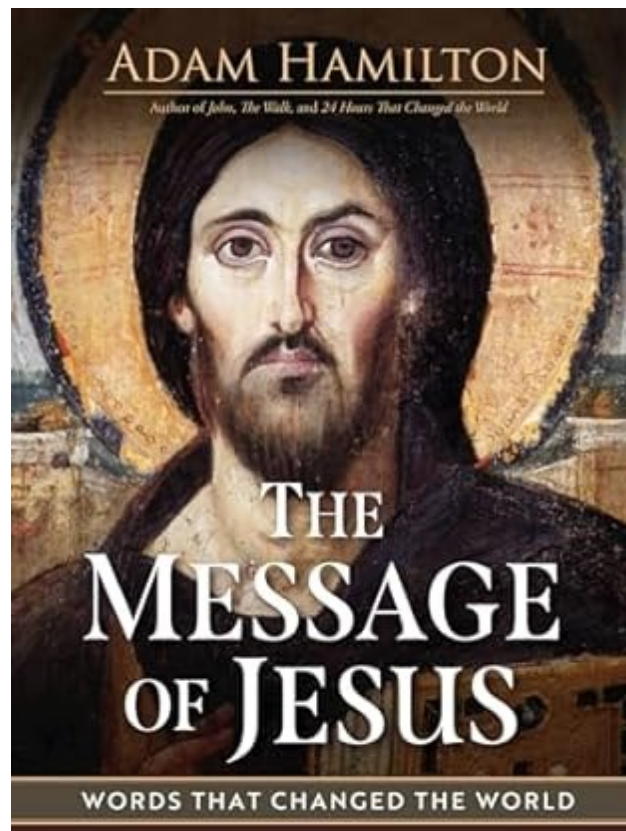
Ja'net and Amy

### Snax 'n Study

#### THE MESSAGE OF JESUS: WORDS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

At Snax n Study through September 28, David Durbin is leading us in a six-week series by Adam Hamilton called, "The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World." Other than a few of Jesus' messages, how much do we really know? In this series, pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. We will explore Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the "I am" sayings in John, and more. Join us each week!

Please note: class will not be held on September 28, the day of our outdoor worship and picnic.





## Worship, cont'd



**September 28**

Join us for our annual outdoor worship and church picnic. 8 am worship will be inside. 10:15 worship will be on the lawn. Bring a lawn chair, family, and a friend. Sit under the shade of a large tent. The church picnic will be on our west lawn. It is always a wonderful way to wrap up the summer. BBQ, rolls, ice cream, toppings, and place settings will be provided. Please bring along a dessert or side dish to share!



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

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



**Bells and Choir  
rehearsals begin**

**Wednesday, September 10**

**Bells at 6:30**

**Choir at 7:15**

## Women at the Well

Our summer session with our new book "Mothers & Daughters of the Bible speak" has been very interesting, informative, thought-provoking and educational for all of us. Yes, we still have our giggles and wiggles while remembering our younger days, and we are enjoying and are amazed at what these mothers and daughters have lived through, accomplished, and passed on to their children! From being questionable in our minds to thus far being the "Queen Mother" of a nation. If you would like to join us, we still have more chapters to go through.

At the end of October, we will be wrapping up our current book and moving into a new women's study book. We will continue to meet every other Tuesday night at 6:30 pm. Information coming soon.

October 7 and every other Tuesday at 6:30 pm, we will begin our Needle Night. If you like to knit, crochet, needlepoint, etc., bring a project that you are working on, or just come to learn a technique. It is a time to gather together and enjoy each other's company. We would also like to see if you are interested in doing a community project for our clothing closet guests for the winter. Please come with ideas.

Lastly, we will be offering another card designing class for the holidays. Amy and Patsy heard your past ideas and have been working on this new class. More details to come on the exact date and time.



she is clothed with  
**STRENGTH**

and

**DIGNITY**

*And she Laughs*

**WITHOUT FEAR**

of the

*Future.*

-Proverbs 31:25





## Worship, Cont'd...

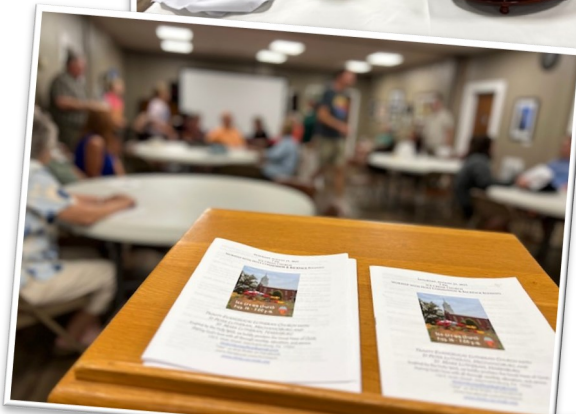
### Ice Cream Church

Trinity on Main hosted "Ice Cream Church" as a thank-you to St. Peter (Mechanicsburg) and St. Mark (Harrisburg) for the youth events they provide that our Trinity teens attend.

There was scripture, prayer, a reflection, singing, and Holy Communion. Students of all ages received backpack tags and a blessing, surrounded by hands, hearts and the Holy Spirit.

Following the benediction, we shared the peace and lined up for delicious hand-cranked ice cream. Daryl and Ja'net Gochenauer provided homemade ice cream. Two flavors: homemade vanilla and peach (with peaches from the Gochenauers' own trees) And toppings like sprinkles, chocolate syrup, crushed Oreos and maraschino cherries, courtesy of Debbie Schue and Jill and Kevin Kramer.

Messages of faith, hope and love for the start of new things this school year!





## Women at the Well Movie Night

### Women at the Well - All Girls Movie Night

Trinity's women's group, Women at the Well, held an all-girls movie night on Friday, August 16, with a viewing of the classic, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. A lot of laughter and snacks were shared, and a good time was had by all! ALL women are welcome to attend our Women at the Well events. Look for details on upcoming activities in the Tidings newsletter and plan to join us!





## Property Committee



## Sanctuary Repair

Finally! The water damage above the choir loft in the sanctuary has been repaired. A BIG thank you to Jesse Pownell and his company for taking on this project. It looks so much better!



## Youth News

Trinity youth are invited to join the Youth Group at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Mechanicsburg for all of their youth activities. Kellen Michalowski is the Director of Youth Ministry there.

Here is some information about **Alive 2025** that Trinity youth are encouraged to attend:

Alive, the Synod-wide middle school youth retreat, is September 26-28, 2025 at Camp Nawakwa. It is open to all those entering 6th-8th grades in the fall. Congregations from across our synod gather with their adult advisors and peers for a weekend that includes large and small group gatherings with singing, theme-centered videos and stories, and games. This year's theme is "Better Together". Alive is a great opportunity for our middle schoolers to be a part of a larger Community in Christ for the first time.

Wondering more about Alive? Let Charlie Roberts, the Synod's director of youth ministry, and another familiar face, tell you more about the event in the 2025 Alive video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJ5qiCO7Rv8>, Or visit the Alive website to learn more: <https://www.lss-elca.org/alive/>

If you would like to attend Alive 2025, the cost per participant is \$142. The church will cover half of that, so the cost for families is just \$71! If that is too much, just pay what you can, no questions asked! We never want someone to miss an event because of cost!

Let Pastor Karen know if you want to sign up by sending us your youth's Name, Gender, & Shirt Size, along with your own email and phone number. Families will be responsible for transportation to/from Alive Friday evening and Sunday Morning! Registration is 5:00pm-7:15pm Friday evening. The last event Sunday morning is Worship, starting at 11am at Upper Temple at Nawakwa. Families are welcome and encouraged to join us for this worship service! A packing list will be sent out to those who sign up.



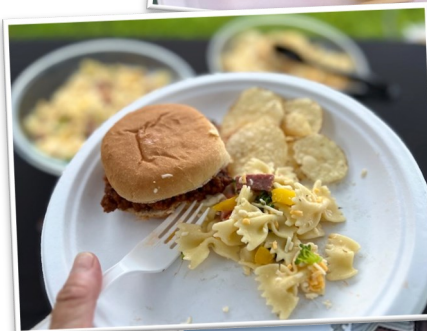
## Community Outreach

### Summer Lunch on the Lawn

We had such an amazing time at our Lunches on the Lawn, from July 10 - August 7. We were blessed to be able to serve some delicious meals to our neighbors and friends, including sub sandwiches, barbecue (thank you, Charlie!), Fiesta Chicken and walking tacos. For our final lunch, we had Italian-themed fare – stuffed shells and crazy lasagna. Of course, each meal included side dishes and desserts.

Thank you to everyone who provided meals or donated to this wonderful ministry! We had 15-20 people join us each week. In addition to the yummy food, we enjoyed getting the chance to reconnect with some neighbors whom we haven't seen for awhile. We also had the opportunity to meet and chat with some new friends and give prayer and support for those in need.

We hope you will join us for next year's Lunch on the Lawn!





## Community Outreach

### Blessing Box Update

The Bridging the Gap Ministries continues collecting non-perishable food items to support our "Blessing Box" food pantry. Donations should be placed on the table under the coat rack outside of fellowship hall. Through the month of August over 1500 items have been donated.

#### Blessing Box Needs:

Cereal  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Potatoes - any kind  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Canned Tomatoes  
Canned Meats  
Hamburg Helper  
Canned Vegetables - any kind  
Canned Beans  
Baked Beans  
Canned Fruit  
Rice or Pasta Pouches - Knorr's  
Beef Stew



"Trinity's Market on Main" is open for all that would like to share your excess produce. You are welcome to place donations on the stand outside beside the Blessing Box.

Thank you for supporting our mission in helping our community.

Mechanicsburg Area Churches invite you to...



## COMMUNITY DINNER

Our next community meal will be held September 28, at Trinity Mechanicsburg at 5 pm. We are glad to be able to join other Mechanicsburg Churches seasonally to offer these meals. They are a great opportunity to gather with neighbors to share good food, friendship, and prayer.

 **FREE**   
**Adult Clothing**  
**Saturday, Sept. 13**  
**9-11am**



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

### A Heartfelt Thank You for Your Contributions to the Clothing Closet:

#### The Power of Giving and Why Personal Care Items Matter

When we speak of basic necessities, clothing and food often come to mind. Yet, personal care items—like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, and shaving supplies—are just as essential to an individual's well-being. For many, access to these items is not a given. The difference that a bar of soap or a tube of toothpaste makes in someone's life goes far beyond cleanliness; it reaches deeply into a person's sense of self-worth, comfort, and ability to participate fully in daily life. At our June Clothing Closet your contributions allowed us to provide these essential items to countless neighbors who may be experiencing challenging times.

The generosity of our congregation is a testament to the strength and compassion of our church community. Every personal care item donated represents a gesture of solidarity—a reassuring reminder that no one is alone. Your selflessness has brightened days, restored confidence, and reminded our neighbors that they are valued. From all of us at the Clothing Closet, and most importantly, from those whose lives you have touched—thank you.

If you have any questions, or for more information please contact Heather Zielonis.

*The Clothing Closet is collecting clean, gently used adult fall and winter clothing for October. Family and friends can donate items like jeans, sweatpants, t-shirts, sweatshirts, sneakers, and other casual wear to the church.*



# Community Outreach



**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](http://www.nhm-pa.org)

**Faith, hope, and love** come together every day at New Hope Ministries. Our neighbors face challenges like hunger, homelessness, and unemployment, and this past year alone, we served over 29,000 people in need.

With your help, we can continue to meet growing needs this fall. Together, we provide food, housing assistance, job training, and compassionate care that helps families move from crisis to stability while **sharing the love of Christ**.

Your generosity means **meals on tables, families finding safe housing, and opportunities for healing and success**. You can make a difference by giving a financial gift, donating an unneeded vehicle, volunteering, or keeping us in prayer.

**Thank you for walking with us in this work!** Your generosity helps us meet real needs, build hope through hardship, and share the love of Christ with perseverance, character, and the lasting HOPE that does not disappoint.

## 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!

## 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/>



## Stephen Herr Called as Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod



On June 7, 2025, the Rev. Stephen Robert Herr was called to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Herr currently serves as pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gettysburg, PA. Ordained on July 2, 1994, Pastor Herr has served in parish, campus, and synodical leadership for more than three decades.

His leadership within the ELCA includes service on the ELCA Church council, Executive committee, and Legal and Constitutional Review Committee (chair), as well as the Future Directions Task Force and Synod Councils in both the Lower Susquehanna and Southwestern PA Synods. Locally, he has served as Dean and Secretary of the Gettysburg Conference and continues to support outdoor ministry through the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA.

Pastor Herr is also deeply engaged in the Gettysburg community through ecumenical leadership, the arts, education, and historical preservation. He has served on the boards of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Gettysburg Community Theatre, and the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, where he is president emeritus. He has also coached youth basketball at both Blairsville and Gettysburg Area High Schools.

Please join us in giving thanks for Bishop-elect Herr and lifting him in prayer as he prepares to lead our synod.



## Birthdays, Etc.



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

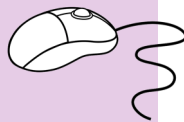
**Is your  
birthday  
missing?  
Please let us  
know so we  
can update our  
database!**

*Thank  
you!*

to Jim Lynch and Charlie Wise, who have faithfully mowed the church's lawn this season. Your hard work is very much appreciated!!

**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>



### **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!

## Church Council Highlights

- Pastor Karen has announced she is retiring. Her last Sunday will be September 28.
- Trinity will have an outdoor worship service and church picnic on September 28.
- Jill Kramer is now the new chair of Fellowship.
- Offering envelopes for 2026 have been ordered.
- The Child Protection Policy/Approved Adult List is being reviewed and updated.
- The Nominating Committee is starting to look for members to serve on council.
- The council is looking for members to serve on the Audit Committee.

## Prayer Pause for September

Blessed are you, O God, King of the universe.  
Guide and direct your people at Trinity to be  
faithful disciples. We pray in your holy name.  
Amen.



## Office Contact Info

**Church & Staff Office Hours**  
Mon. – Thurs. 9 AM – 2 PM  
(other hours as needed)

Phone: 717-766-2662

[trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com](mailto:trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/TLCMech](https://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

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### **Parish Administrator Contact Info**

Debbie Schue

Email: [trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com](mailto:trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com)

# SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Church office closed for holiday	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Pastor away - Rev. Martha Boyd available for pastoral Emergencies, 717-440-1177.						
<b>7</b> 8 am Worship <a href="#">8:45 am Snax n Study</a> 10:15 am Worship <a href="#">First Sunday Kids</a> 11:45 am, Christian Ed Mtg	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  12 pm, Staff Meeting	<b>10</b>  Debbie off  6:30 Bells Rehearsal 7:15 Choir	<b>11</b>  7 pm Church Council	<b>12</b>  4 pm, Set up for Trinity's Clothing Closet	<b>13</b>  <a href="#">9 am, Trinity's Closet-on-Main</a>
<b>14</b> 8 am Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  6:30 Bells Rehearsal 7:15 Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8 am Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship 11:45 am Outreach Mtg	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  6:30 Bells Rehearsal 7:15 Choir	<b>25</b>  <a href="#">8 am, Men's Breakfast</a>  Debbie off	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8 am, Indoor Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study <a href="#">10:15 am Outdoor Worship &amp; Picnic</a>  <a href="#">5 pm, Community Dinner</a>  Pastor Karen's last Sunday	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  6:30 Bells Rehearsal 7:15 Choir			