TRINITY TIDINGS

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November 2026

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How is it with your soul? I have a spiritual brother who asks me that question on a routine basis. It always pulls me up short. I need to get still inside and breathe deeply before I can answer the question.

How is it with your soul? Life is hard. Some of us are grieving. Some of us are struggling with emotional, physical, and financial challenges. Pain is debilitating whether physical or in our hearts. Sometimes, the promises of Jesus feel so far away.

Horatio Stafford, a Chicago lawyer, wrote the words to the hymn "It is Well With my Soul" in 1871. He had sent his wife and four daughters ahead to England for a vacation, planning to follow after finishing business. There was a shipwreck and Horatio received a telegram from his wife saying, "Saved alone." Immediately, Horatio found passage to England to be with his wife.

At the place where his daughters were lost, Horatio penned the words:

"When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll—
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Paul writes to the Philippians from a Roman jail awaiting his ultimate execution.

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice. (Phil 4: 1)

How is it possible to rejoice when sorrows roll out of control? Preparation! Just as we train muscles in the gym, we deepen our relationship with God on a daily basis so trust becomes a habit. Then, when life spirals out of control we have reserves on which to draw when life gets tough.

How is it with your soul? We are poised to begin the holiday season rat race. Life will get even more chaotic and overwhelming. Take daily time for spiritual practice so God has a chance to get to you, heart and soul. Then, when life starts collapsing around you, you will be able to hear the Holy Spirit's whisper. No matter what, remember God loves you!

Blessings on your journey,
Pastor Barb

Friends in Christ. I will be retiring from full time ministry on December 31, 2026. I treasure the time we have spent in ministry together. I have spoken with the synod. The office is currently working hard to provide another interim in case a settled pastor is not in place by December. I will miss you! Know you will be in my prayers. God bless you!
- Pastor Barb

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Music Notes

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

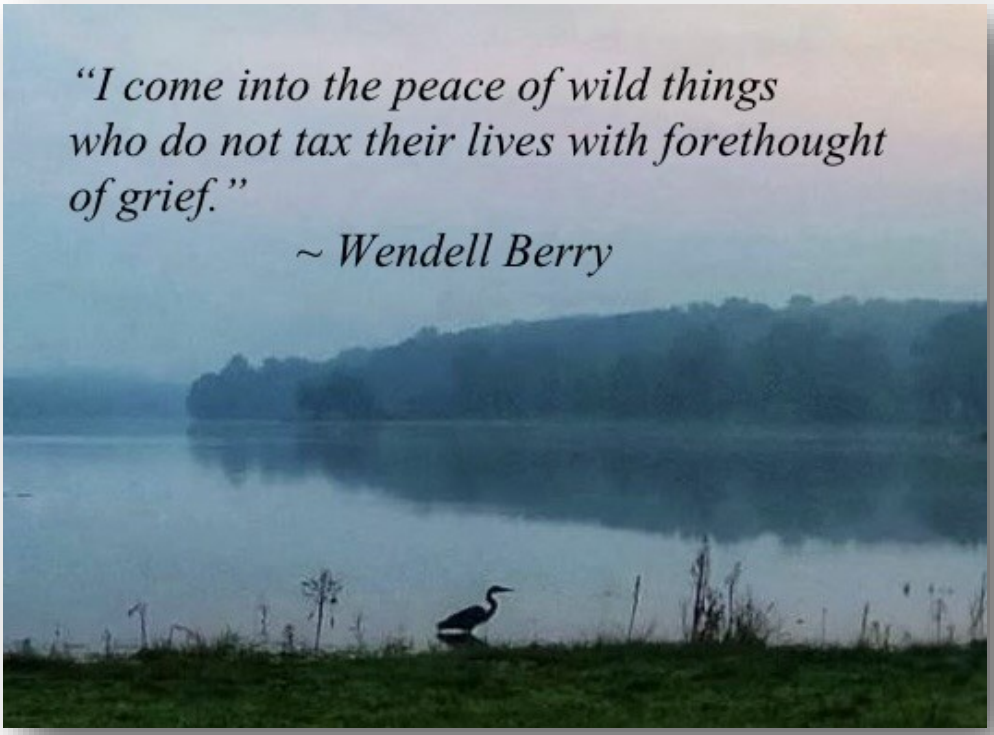
Wendell Berry (1934 - 2026)

American novelist, poet, farmer, and conservationist Wendell Berry entered into the great communion of saints on August 31, 2026. His eloquent, authentic writing about care for creation endeared him to farm and land advocates and even theological circles like the SALT Project and others. Years ago, I bookmarked his poem "*The Peace of Wild Things"* for its comforting tone and beautiful depictions of nature. Berry describes gnawing anxiety about the future that's universal to us all. And he finds relief from worldly dread by "observing the unconcerned grace of nature."

As Easter people, we find "relief from worldly dread" in the knowledge and assurance of God's love for us and the life, death and resurrection of God's only son, Jesus Christ. On All Saints Sunday, we name our cherished departed, light candles, and join in prayer for the gift of their memory and the hope of life everlasting:

Turning eyes now to their shining mem'ry,
to their faithful past,
saints be now the truth divining:
death be now but never last.
~ ACS 1030

- Melissa Jacoby, Minister of Music



Worship

FIRST SUNDAY KIDS CHURCH -

Jesus is Fishing for Disciples

This year we are focusing on the stories of the 12 Disciples. Each month we will be learning about 1, 2, or more of the twelve. We are also focusing on the Armor of God.

In October we learned about two brothers, Simon Peter and Andrew, and in November we will learn about the other two brothers, James and John. Please see our bulletin board by the Pastor's office to see what they learned and are going to learn. With special help from Melissa, they will be learning a new song about the Armor of God. They will be learning a new verse each month, and just may sing it to you!

If you would like to see Jesus's new disciples, check out His fishing net on the bulletin board by the Children's Sunday Room! We hope to be adding more!

If you know of anyone whose kids might enjoy the program, take a moment and invite them! Help us spread the word!

Amy and Ja'net

All Saints' Sunday is on November 1 this year. Join us during the 8 and 10:15 am services as we remember those who passed in the last year and light candles in their memory.

Advent

Join us for mid-week Advent services at 12 noon and 7 pm, beginning on Wednesday, December 9. On Wednesday, December 23 the mid-week Advent service will be at noon only.

Advent begins November 29. What is Advent? The word Advent comes from the Latin "adventus" which means coming. That's the reason we use blue for the altar during Advent. Blue is a waiting color. Who's coming? Jesus! But **Advent is more than a simple countdown for Christmas.** We do remember Jesus' birthday but even more we expect and wait to see Jesus both in our lives today and at the end of time. To help focus our waiting we pray using the Advent wreath. Each Sunday of Advent we prayerfully light a candle with the final lighting of the Christ candle on Christmas Eve. The hustle and bustle of the holiday season can feel overwhelming. Isn't it wonderful that we have the season of Advent to slow us down to focus on what really matters? Jesus! Take time to mindfully celebrate Advent this year. Your relationship with Jesus will become deeper as a result.

Council News & Updates

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
November 22

Following the 10:15 service (approximately 11:15), in the Sanctuary.

Approval of the 2027 spending plan and election of council members.

Church Council Highlights

- While summer months usually have lean giving, Trinity's finances are still in the black.
- A survey will be sent out to church members regarding the scheduling of the Christmas Eve service(s).
- The Confirmation Program Requirements are going to be reviewed and updated.
- Over 1000 items were donated to the Blessing Box thanks to the Women at the Well 250 Anniversary Challenge.
- Pastor Barb's contract is up in October, but she will stay until the end of December.
- Pastor Barb will retire at the end of December.
- The Council will present the proposed 2027 budget at the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting in November.
- Trinity's updated Constitution will be presented at the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting for approval.

⇒ Trinity's updated Constitution:
https://trinityonmain.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/constitution_2026.pdf

⇒ Trinity's Bylaws:
https://trinityonmain.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/bylaws_2026.pdf

⇨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:

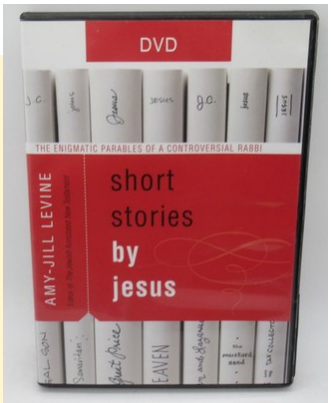
-Email address
-Cell Phone/Home Phone
-Mailing Address

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

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

Christian Education Opportunities



Snax n Study - Fall Updates

Snax n Study began its fall schedule on Sunday, September 20, with a series called "Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi." This is a six-week series based on materials (video and written) by Amy-Jill Levine, now a Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace in Connecticut. She "takes you back in time and explains how original audiences understood Jesus' parables. Her interpretations show how the parables still challenge and provoke contemporary readers 2000 years later." Parables include the Good Samaritan, the Mustard Seed, and the Widow and the Judge.

We will meet weekly through November 8. There is a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall for volunteers to facilitate the discussion and to provide the "snax."

On Sunday, November 15, Koen Thomas will make a presentation about his week at Leadership Training Camp this summer at Camp Nawakwa! "Over 60 youth, counselors, and staff met at Camp Nawakwa for our synod's annual Leadership Training Camp. Participants spent a week in intentional community learning more about their faith, what it means to be a servant leader, and forming relationships that will last a lifetime." Koen, we are excited to hear about your week!

We hope you will join us sometime! If you have any questions, please reach out!

- Stacey Zeller

Bible Study

Our mid-week Bible study meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. We will continue with a study of the smaller letters (1Peter through Jude). Come join us as we study these unfamiliar letters and consider the transformation in love to which we're called.
Plan to join us if you can, and bring a friend!

Men's Breakfast

continues the fourth Thursday of each month, 8 am at C.C.s Family Restaurant on Main Street, Mechanicsburg. The next breakfast is scheduled for October 22.

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/

Women at the Well

The Well is everywhere the women gather together to hear the Word, learn & grow, support & share, and, pray & love together.

Our goal is to develop ourselves to be servants in the capacity that the Lord asks us to be. As servants, we are constantly growing in all areas of our lives while sharing experiences, old and new knowledge, caring and sharing, and building long lasting friendships!

We are a very diverse group and we offer many different opportunities for the women at Trinity and our community. We are open to new ideas and activities. We also provide family activities.

We generally meet various Tuesday nights, have independent home activities, and other days/ weekends/nights for other activities. Currently we have the three main groups:

WATW Book- Bible Related Study - we meet every other Tuesday night from 6 to 7:30 pm. We are finishing up our current read, The Ultimate Gift by Jim Stovel. We will continue through the beginning of November and then take a holiday break. We will restart in January with our new choice book, The Woman at the Well, by Jill Eileen Smith. We would be happy to have you join us. We start with prayer, new things happening, and the reading topic. Then, there is a big possibility that we are still chatting & laughing! After all, We are girls and We are having FUN!

WATW Needle Night - We meet every other Tuesday night (opposite the above) from 6 to 7:30 pm. We do knitting, crocheting, and any other style of yarn creation. Whether you want to work on a personal project, make an item for the Clothing Closet, or just want to chat & learn how to knit or crochet - you are welcome! As above, we start with prayer, see what others are making, and then we are needleling, talking, and, of course, laughing!

WATW Stitch'en Servants - this group of women love to create and sew at home. We have various times of the year that we make projects for special interest groups and the congregation. These ladies have made numerous special animal blankets for Speranza Animal Shelter and pocket prayer patches for the congregation and clothing closet. We are open to new ideas to serve our congregation and community.

WATW also provide community projects and special interest activities include providing cookies to our shut-ins during the Christmas holiday, Card making for various Holidays, going to theater & musical events, painting class, Movie night, AED classes, Informational Seminars, & competitions to support community groups within our church, like the Blessing Box! We are always open to more ideas for fun things to do!

If you would like to join us, please let Amy or Ja'net know.

Be sure to check our website and Facebook page to see what other special activities we have coming up!

PLEASE NOTE:
The Women At the Well are getting ready to make cookies for our shut-ins. If you have any tin or plastic cookie containers that you aren't using, please donate them to us to use by November 20th. Please put them in Ja'net or Amy's mailbox or on the food donation table.

Women at the Well, cont'd...

Youth Update - Alive 2026 at Camp Nawawka Highlihghts

Middle school students, youth leaders and pastors gathered for Alive 2026, a retreat to learn what it means to be in tune with God's rhythm. There was worship, music, fellowship, games, prayer, and reflection. And LOTS of good food and fun, too.

Koen was one of a number of older teen helpers (Leadership Training alumni) who assisted with the retreat.

Photo credits: Lower Susquehanna Synod Office for Children, Youth and Family Ministry and Koen's family]

Campers, LT helpers, youth leaders, pastors, and retreat organizers at Alive 2026 at Camp Nawakwa.

Koen arrived at Zinn-Tozer Lodge to serve as an LT teen helper.

Extraordinary Nawakwa quilt on display in the foyer at Zinn-Tozer Lodge.

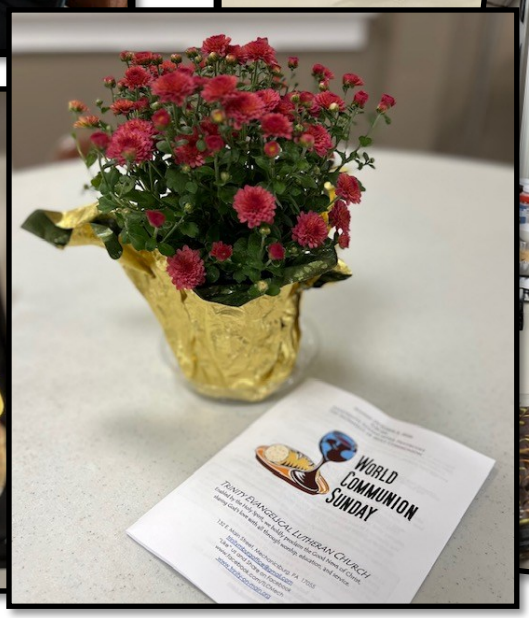
Being in tune with God's rhythm.

Blessing of the Animals

Pastor Barb blessed the animals on Sunday afternoon, October 4, in our annual observance of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi… It is so wonderful to see everyone with their beloved pets...

World Communion Sunday Church Potluck Highlights

On World Communion Sunday, October 4, we rejoiced and remembered our oneness in the body of Christ and our global interconnectedness across other cultures and denominations. After the combined 9:30 am worship service, we shared a delicious potluck meal in the fellowship hall.



Streets of Treats Highlights

What a TREAT it was to participate in Mechanicsburg's Streets of Treats on Saturday, October 17. We had close to 900 people stop by, and handed out lots of goodies! Thank you to all of our volunteers for helping it all run smoothly and making the day as much fun as it was!

More Streets of Treats ...

See you next year with more treats!

(Treats made possible through a Thrivent grant obtained by John and Leslie Hocker.)

Community Outreach

Blessing Box Needs:

Your support for Trinity's "Blessing Box Ministry" is a blessing to our community. In 2026 we have received 3089 donated items. You are Amazing!

Blessing Box Needs:

Canned Spam or Chicken
Canned Pasta
Canned Vegetables and Beans
Spaghetti Sauce
Beef Stew
Cereal
Jelly
Pop Tarts
Macaroni & Cheese
Canned Tomatoes
Fruit Cups and Fruit Snacks
Stuffing
As the weather changes, please, no glass containers. The jars may break with the colder temperatures. Thank you.

As our weather changes, please, no glass jars. We do not want the jars to break due to the temperature or possibly dropping it on the ground. Thank you for your continued support!

- Carol Anderson

Green Beans for NHM

Thank you to all for your donations of green beans for New Hope Ministries' Thanksgiving food drive. We met our goal once again, and your donations are so very much appreciated!

"All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need." – Acts 2:44-45

Happy 6th Anniversary to Trinity's Clothing Closet

Can you believe it has been six years since we first came together in September 2020? What started as a simple idea has grown into a beautiful community, all thanks to your dedication, presence, and support.

Thank you to everyone who has walked alongside us, shared their time, and made this group such a special place to be. Here is to many more years of growing, learning and sharing together!

We are now collecting clean and gently used adult winter clothing and coats. Everyone is welcome to join in the fellowship of helping those in need. Grab some coffee and stop by any second Saturday of the month (except January) between 9 to 11 a.m. and check it out. ~Heather

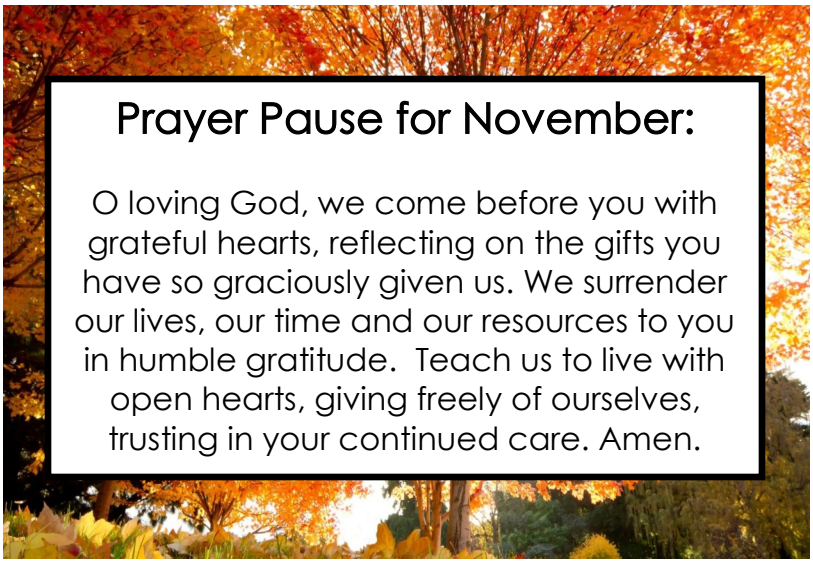
Birthdays, Etc.

11/3	Bob Lamason
11/5	Kevin Kramer
11/7	Deanna Walton
11/12	Robinette Butts
11/12	Anthony Moats
11/21	Aubrey Hartman
11/22	Tom Hocker
11/23	Eric Hocker
11/24	Jon Hartman
11/27	Rachel Wise
11/30	Cortney Thomsen

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

TIDINGS DEADLINE:

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



Prayer Pause for November:

O loving God, we come before you with grateful hearts, reflecting on the gifts you have so graciously given us. We surrender our lives, our time and our resources to you in humble gratitude. Teach us to live with open hearts, giving freely of ourselves, trusting in your continued care. 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
www.facebook.com/TLCMech
https://trinity-on-main.org/

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West Shore Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 22, 2026 - 6 p.m.
Trindle Spring Lutheran Church
14 State Road, Mechanicsburg PA 17050

Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations to be distributed to our community through New Hope Ministries.

A time of fellowship will follow the service.

Sponsored by Mechanicsburg Area Council of Churches, Temple Beth Shalom, B&H Islamic Center, and representatives from Messiah University.

Christmas Blessing Express

Sponsored by New Hope Ministries

Trinity Church is once again participating in Christmas Blessing Express, to help families struggling during Christmas.

It's Easy!

1. Pick an Ornament from the tree inside the front door… Walmart & Target gift cards are welcome & encouraged!

2. Shop for the corresponding gift item…

3. Bring the item to church and place it under the tree!

Deadline for bringing in unwrapped gifts is Monday, November 30.

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

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **All Saints' Day** 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax 'n Study 9 am Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship with Music 10:15 am, First Sunday Kids	2 6:30 pm Community Dinner Planning mtg @ McBic	3 6 pm Women at the Well Needle Night	4 7:30 pm, Bible Study	5 7 pm Church Council	6	7
8 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax 'n Study 9 am Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship with Music 11:30 am Worship & Music Mtg	9	10 6 pm Women at the Well Book Study	11 6:15 pm, Choir 6:50 pm, Bells 7:30 pm, Bible Study	12	13 4 pm, Set up for Trinity's Clothing Closet	14 9 am, Trinity's Closet-on-Main 1 pm Women at the Well Thanksgiving & Christmas Card Making
15 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am, Snax n Study 9 am, Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship with Music	16	17 6 pm Women at the Well Needle Night	18 7:30 pm Bible Study	19	20	21 10 am Women at the Well Cookie Exchange
22 **Christ the King** 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 9 am,Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship with Music 6 pm Interfaith Thnks Service	23	24 6 pm Women at the Well Book Study	25 7:30 pm Bible Study	26 **Thanksgiving Day** Church office closed	27	28
29 **Advent 1** 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 9 am, Confirmation 10:15 am Worship with Music	30 NHM Christmas Blessing Express items due					