



Trinity Together

Trinity Lutheran Church

357 West Main Street
Kutztown, Pennsylvania 19530

May 2023

Transitional Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Dennis Ritter	484-529-7801	dsritter@ptd.net
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Giving Bookkeeper: Lisa Finke	610-349-2325	lmfinke@msn.com

Mission Statement:

“The mission of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is to equip God’s people to do God’s work and bring good news to hungry people.”

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday through Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Phone: 610-683-3450

Website: www.trinitykutztown.com

Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Adult Sunday School at 8:00 AM

Good News Club at 10:45 AM (after worship service)

2023 Church Council Members

Jeff Collier	Property
Joseph Jedwab	Christian Education
Jessica Miller	Treasurer, Finance and Stewardship
Mary Neuenschwander	Personnel
Ed Rakowiecki	Vice President, Personnel
Dan Raudenbush	President, Endowment
Ann Towne	Mission/Service
Jean Wagner	Worship Life
Alicia Wood	Secretary, Fellowship

From the Pastor...

Dear Fellow Disciples,

Many years ago I heard Donald Barnhouse, TV commentator, teacher and Presbyterian minister, speak at a Lutheran church in Allentown about evangelism. Among the many things that he said that evening was this:

If a new restaurant opens in a community news will spread about its service, price and the quality of its food quickly; yet a church can be having a far more significant impact upon the community and hardly a word is spoken even by its own members.

Being an evangelist isn't as difficult as you and I make it out to be. It isn't about saying the right words so much as it is about inviting others in to share the joy that we experience in living our lives in the presence of the risen Christ. In *John 1:46b*, we learn that being an evangelist can be as simple as saying, "Come and see."

So often we miss out on opportunities to share the joy that we know in Christ with others where we work, in our community, at school, among our friends or even in our family.

In my time with you as your interim pastor, I have found Trinity to be what I always believed it to be, an open and compassionate community of faith. In a world where judgment is often swift and unkindly made, that is something to be celebrated and shared, and you are the ones to do so.

Many of the new faces that have joined our fellowship in recent months are already sharing their gifts in and through Trinity, enriching our communal life and ministries. We need to continue to invite others to join our community and to encourage those who have been a part of the community for some time to become more connected and involved in the good things that God is causing to spring up in our midst.

Don't let Trinity be the best kept secret. Spread the word far and wide, "God is alive and at work in Trinity! Come and see!"

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ritter



Schedule & Volunteers

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

May 7	9:30 AM	Christopher Schomaker
May 14	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood
May 21	9:30 AM	Dan Raudenbush
May 28	9:30 AM	OPEN*

LAY READERS:

May 7	9:30 AM	Alice Kutz
May 14	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood
May 21	9:30 AM	Dan Raudenbush
May 28	9:30 AM	OPEN*

* Please go to this link or call the office to sign up:
<https://bit.ly/TrinityWorshipLeaderSchedule>

ACOLYTES:

May 7	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
May 14	9:30 AM	Liam Miller
May 21	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
May 28	9:30 AM	Liam Miller

USHERS/GREETERS:

May 7	9:30 AM	Karen Raudenbush and Sally Schoffstall
May 14	9:30 AM	Nargiza and Joseph Jedwab
May 21	9:30 AM	Pauline and Kurt Rohrbach
May 28	9:30 AM	Donna Keglovits and Denise Scheidt

MONEY COUNTERS: Bob Hobaugh, Kurt Rohrbach, and Jean Ziegler

FLOWER CHAIRPERSON: Melanie Wessner

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Debbie Ziegler and Susan Ritter

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 4	National Day of Prayer
May 14	Mother's Day
May 18	Ascension of the Lord
May 28	Day of Pentecost
May 29	Memorial Day

Committee Meeting Dates...

Worship Life	Tuesday, May 2, at 7 p.m.
Church Council	Tuesday, May 9, at 7 p.m.

From the Church Office...

Deadline for articles for the June newsletter is Tuesday, May 16th.

Please note: To email the church office, please use the address: office@trinitykutztown.com

From the Finance Committee...

Approved 2023 Budget -- \$339,983	
Unrestricted income through Mar.	\$ 64,446
Expenditures through Mar.	\$ 84,702
Balance through Mar.	\$(20,256)
Average monthly offering	\$ 20,511

Christian Education...

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class welcomes you to join us in enjoying "Jesus Calls Us," a program that invites us to see how we might respond when Jesus Christ asks us to follow. We just completed a quarterly session about how we might share the light of Christ in a broken world. Now we will explore the theme of call in biblical and modern times. We will look at stories of how we can see beyond our preconceived notions of salvation; how disciples responded to Jesus following the resurrection; and how we, like the disciples, can respond to Jesus' call. We sing in hymn 696, "Jesus calls us o'er the tumult...Christian, follow me." Rev. Mary C. Lindberg, an ELCA pastor and author, will guide us to see how we can follow that call in the tumult of the modern age. Please join us Sundays at 8:00 am in the Parlor for discussion, coffee and fellowship.

Good News Club!

The Good News Club, our Sunday School Ministry, meets on Sunday mornings after the worship service and is for those in Kindergarten through 5th Grade. GNC will take a break for the summer beginning May 28th.

Bible Study

Bible Study is on Thursdays at 10:00 AM. **They are led by either Pr. Ritter or Seth Noggle and are based on the upcoming Sunday's scripture reading(s).** You can join the Bible study group in-person or on Zoom. To join the group electronically use the Zoom platform. Here's the Zoom link to click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84530518506> To dial-in by phone, call this number: 1 301-715-8592. Then, when you are prompted, enter this Meeting ID number: 845 3051 8506. No other password is needed.

"Monumental" Vacation Bible School

The combined Trinity and St. Paul's UCC VBS, "Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness," will be held at Trinity July 30 to August 3 from 6-8:30 p.m. Registration forms are located in the back of the church and in this newsletter as well. We also need adult and older youth helpers! Please see Seth for more information or questions.

Upcoming Events...

Special Worship Opportunities in May

MAY 7 – We will be celebrating Church Music Sunday. We will be hosting members of the KU Trombone group. In addition, Trinity's instrumental group will also perform, playing along on two hymns and accompanying our choir for its anthem. We also plan to receive new members at worship that morning.

MAY 14 – We will honor the women of our congregation on **Mother's Day**. Also that day our worship will be a celebration of creation as we feature the spring materials from the **Of Land and Seasons** liturgy we introduced last year at the Bower's Park service.

MAY 21 – We will lift up an important ministry of the congregation to our homebound and institutionalized members with the commissioning and recommissioning of Trinity's Lay Eucharist Ministers.

MAY 28 – This day our worship will remember all of those who died in service to this nation while in the armed forces. In addition, we will celebrate the birth of the Church as we remember God's sending of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Trinity's bell choir will ring that day and we will dedicate the new bells that were recently purchased to add to the upper and lower ranges of our current bells. Following its performance, the old bells will be sent back to the Schulmerich company for a much needed refurbishment while the choir is on hiatus through the summer months.

As you can see, we at Trinity have much to look forward to as we gather for worship in May. **Why not invite a friend to join you?** See you at worship!

Kutztown Kitchen

The next Kutztown Kitchen community meal will be on Sunday, May 28, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. For questions or to request a ride or delivery, please call Ann Towne at 484-239-5314 or the church office.

Graduates Recognition

On Sunday, June 4th, we will honor anyone who has graduated from high school, college, a graduate program or a trade school since July 2022. Graduates, please submit your major/field of study, awards, accomplishments and future plans to the church office. We hope you are able to join us at the 9:30 AM church service on June 4th so we can wish you Godspeed in your future endeavors.

Help With Vanco Giving...

If you are currently doing your giving to Trinity online and require any assistance updating your account or would like to set up a new account for online giving, please contact Lisa Finke at 610-349-2325.

Rejoicing Spirits Ecumenical Community Ministry...

The next Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County service is at 3:00 pm, Sunday, May 7, 2023, at St. Paul's UCC, 47 S. Whiteoak Street, Kutztown, PA 19530. All are welcome at this no-shush worship that enriches the lives of all people, especially those with disabilities. We meet the first Sunday of every month, at 3:00 pm at St. Paul's UCC, Kutztown. For more information, contact: Charlene Fisher (charf1sh@verizon.net, 610-223-9822) or Erin Webb (emwebb05@aol.com, 610-894-9949)

Youth News...

May Schedule for our Youth Groups

My E-mail is seth.noggle@gmail.com if you would like to E-mail me and ask to be on the youth group list. That's the best way to be updated on Youth Group activities.

May 7th – at Trinity

Primary Youth Group (K-6th)

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Secondary Youth Group (8th-12th)

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

May 14th No scheduled Youth Group Happy Mother's Day!

May 21st – at St. John's

Primary Youth Group (K-6th)

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Secondary Youth Group (8th-12th)

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

May 28th No scheduled Youth Group Happy Memorial Day Weekend!

How You Can Help...

Geraniums for Pentecost

We will be ordering geraniums for Pentecost on May 28th from Countryside Farm and Greenhouse. The price is \$3.40 per plant and the deadline to order is **Sunday, May 7th**. Please fill out the form included with the newsletter or located in the back of the church.

Fundraiser for Youth Group Gathering

The youth will be having a sandwich sale fundraiser to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2024. They will be making hoagies and ham sandwiches on Saturday, May 20th. The hoagies will have three types of meat, and the ham sandwiches will have a quarter pound of ham on a 5-inch roll. The cost is \$6 each and **orders are due by May 10th**. Pick-up will be at Trinity in the all-purpose room from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. There is an order form on the bulletin board or call the church office to order.

Student Food Pantry at KU

Thank you to everyone who has contributed time, groceries, and cash donations to this ministry. If you would like to contribute food items, please see the list below...

Peanut Butter	Juice
Miscellaneous Snacks	Crackers
Knorr Side Dish Packets	Cereal
Instant Potato Packets	Breakfast Bars
Toiletries	Mac 'n Cheese
Soup	Tuna
Canned Fruits & Veggies	Pasta

There is a box outside of the Parlor for the items you are donating. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the church office.

Capital Campaign Update...

During the month of April, through your faithful and generous giving to Trinity's **Starting a New Chapter** capital campaign, we were able to meet our first goal of the campaign which was to repay the Endowment loan that we used to purchase our new organ in a timely fashion. Now your continued support of the campaign will enable Trinity

to move on to its second goal of the campaign, which is to make our building more hospitable to individuals with mobility issues. Together we can continue to grow our welcome to all of God's children.

Whether you have made a commitment to **Starting a New Chapter** or not you can make a gift(s) to the campaign online through Trinity's giving portal on its website or by placing your gift in the offering plate. Be sure to clearly mark your gift for **Starting a New Chapter**.

Thank you for your support in this undertaking. Together in the Holy Spirit all things are possible!

Flower Sponsors...

The following dates are available for flower sponsors:

May 21 and 28	August 27 (Bowers)
June 4 and 18	September 3 and 17
July 30	October 8 and 22
	December 31

We also need monthly flower chairpersons for the months of June, July, September, October, and November.

To sponsor flowers or volunteer to be flower chairperson for a month, please call Darlene Dietrich at 610-683-7975, sign up on the flower chart on the bulletin board, or call the church office at 610-683-3450.

Thank You Notes...

Thank you to everyone who helped to set up and work at the sale. Attic Outlet raised \$803.85 for the Helping Hand fund and gave 42 bags free to Friend clients. We are collecting clothing for the fall sale. We are always in need of children's clothing. No furniture and no electronics or stuffed toys. Items can be put in the back room aside of the kitchen.

Darlene Dietrich

Thank you so much for redoing our bathroom for Ron. It has been a huge help and we can't thank you enough. It

means so much that the church members took their own personal time to do this. We are so blessed.

Update: Ron's mobility has become more difficult since we saw you. He can slightly get around in the house with some help, but otherwise things are not the best. We continue to take each day as it comes. Please continue with your prayers, they mean so much.

Love,

Tedra, Ron, Austin

ELCA Truth & Healing Movement...

Our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), will begin a work of reconciliation with the Indigenous people of North America entitled the TRUTH AND HEALING MOVEMENT. It is a work that was begun at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly when it passed a resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery. To learn more about this doctrine you can go to doctrineofdiscovery.org. This action of the Churchwide Assembly was followed up by the Church Council's adoption of the Declaration of the ELCA to American and Alaska Native People that recommitted our church to the work of reconciliation. You can read the Declaration by going to [https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Declaration to American Indian Alaska Native.pdf? ga=2.192782570.1102251468.1682094454-35773537.1674674719](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Declaration%20to%20American%20Indian%20Alaska%20Native.pdf?ga=2.192782570.1102251468.1682094454-35773537.1674674719).

The ELCA's TRUTH & HEALING MOVEMENT is an opportunity for this church to increase our understanding of our colonizing impacts on Indigenous people in the past and present. Between now and Advent, there will be opportunities to learn, raise awareness and engage in other ways to impact hearts and lives across this church. We believe that the truth of the past and current impacts of western colonization, and our knowing and embracing it, is the first step toward healing for all of us so that we might continue to live more fully into being the whole people of God.

While the TRUTH AND HEALING MOVEMENT may be new to many of us, it is not new to our Indigenous relatives. Trinity will conduct study opportunities as interest, staffing and materials are available. Watch for them through the coming months. We understand this work to be an opportunity to live more fully into Trinity being a Reconciling in Christ congregation.



Community Events...

Theology With a Twist

Theology With a Twist meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Kutztown Tavern. On May 4, 2023, the topic will be "Golden Years?" What the Old Testament and Contemporary Society say about the value of Senior Adults, featuring speaker The Rev. Dr. Deborah Appler. Join us as she leads a presentation and discussion about the reverence and challenges of aging in the Old Testament, the modern politics of aging, struggles with elder care, and the joyous possibilities of our older years.

Young At Heart Seniors

Young at Heart Seniors meets every third Wednesday of the month at St. Paul's UCC, 47 South Whiteoak Street, Kutztown. For more information, call Barbara at 610-683-3393 or via email at office@stpaulskutztown.org

Better With Age

The Kutztown Community Library hosts Better With Age the third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at the library, located at 70 Bieber Alley, Kutztown. The next session will be May 19th.

Community Dinner

St. Paul's UCC invites everyone to a community dinner for a time of fellowship on Wednesday, May 3, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. The menu is ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, lettuce with bacon dressing, roll, beverage and dessert. A freewill offering will be accepted. To place a take-out order, call 610-683-3393.

The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center, is coming to Kutztown on September 21 through September 24, 2023 at the Timothy Breidegam Baseball Field located in Kutztown Park and will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public. *The Wall That Heals* honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

Kutztown Folk Music Society

The last concert for the 2022-2023 Season of the Kutztown Folk Music Society is Friday, May 19: East Side Dave, otherwise known as Dave Kline. He hosts a nationally syndicated radio show and interviewed many famous people such as Dolly Parton; is a columnist for the Reading Eagle; is Main Stage Manager/Performer at the Kutztown Folk Festival; and is a prolific recording artist.

Performances are held at St. Paul's UCC, 47 S. Whiteoak Street, Kutztown. Please park and enter at the rear of the church at the alley. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and performance begins at 7:30 p.m. There is a \$9 donation for adults, \$7 for seniors (62 and older), students and veterans/active duty military; children 12 and under free.

Kutztown Community Choir Concert

The Kutztown Community Choir will present their annual Spring concert on Sunday, May 21 at 7:00 PM, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main St., Kutztown.

The pieces to be performed span the gamut of musical genres with selections of spiritual, folk, popular music, and Broadway hits represented. Included in our program is a moving arrangement of the spiritual *Witness*, a haunting madrigal *Weep, O Mine Eyes*, selections from the Broadway hit musical *Wicked*. And from the 2002 Grammy winning album, the medley from *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* is great fun for both choir and audience.

Please join us as we welcome the return of spring and summer with an evening of fellowship, fun, and fine music!

Safe Berks Walk

On Saturday, June 17, from 9-11 a.m. Safe Berks is having a Walk for No More domestic violence. You can start a team, join a team, or participate as an individual fundraiser. If you register by June 1st you will receive a free T-shirt. For additional information, email walk@safeberks.org, call 610.373.1206 ext. 115 or visit www.SafeBerks.org/WalkForNOMORE

Women of the ELCA Convention

The 33rd Annual Convention of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be on June 24, 2023 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Breinigsville. There is information in the church office if anyone is interested in attending.

Lord's Prayer Sessions

Pastor Kim Adamson will lead the second session in the exploration of The Lord's Prayer on Saturday, April 29th, from 10-10:45 a.m. at The St. Barnabas Center of Kutztown, 234 E. Main Street. This session will focus on The Kingdom of God. The third and final session will be on Saturday, May 6th, from 10-10:45 a.m. at St. Barnabas. The topic on May 6 will be Forgiveness. Call 484-648-2814 for more information or to get the Zoom link.

Good Grief Workshops

St. Luke's Hospice offers 90-minute workshops virtually twice a month to provide people with a better understanding of what grief is, how it may affect you emotionally, physically, spiritually and psychologically, coping strategies and ways to reconcile the loss. For more information and to receive an invitation to join the meeting, call 484-526-2499. May workshops are:

- Thursday, May 11, 1-2:30 PM
- Wednesday, May 23, 6-7:30 PM

Lutheran World Relief Update...

How Your Generosity is Reaching our Neighbors in Turkey
Thanks to the generosity of congregations and compassionate Lutherans working together, your love was on the ground in Turkey and providing hope for our neighbors almost immediately after the devastating earthquakes.

You are delivering necessities including tents, tarps, winter clothing and solar lights. The first shipment from Lutheran World Relief arrived in Turkey in February. We are also coordinating with partners to distribute ready-to-eat food and hot meals, sleeping bags, sleeping mats and winter clothing, and are working to ship LWR Quilts, Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits.

Members of our Humanitarian Action team deployed to Turkey within days of the earthquakes to support response operations, and are coordinating with local organizations, UN agencies and other international humanitarian organizations to ensure aid is delivered effectively, without duplication, and meeting most urgent needs.

- 11,000+ aftershocks
- 530,000+ people forced to evacuate homes
- 73,000+ buildings collapsed or severely damaged
- 1.9 million+ people in temporary shelter
- 20 million+ people in Turkey affected

Geraniums for Pentecost

Pentecost is May 28th this year, and we will be ordering red geraniums from Countryside Farm and Greenhouse to decorate the church. Plants are wrapped in foil and cost \$3.40 each. Forms are also available at the back of the church. If interested in purchasing flowers, please complete a form and put in an envelope marked "Pentecost Geraniums" which are available at the back of the sanctuary. The envelopes can then be placed in the offering plate or returned to the church office. Please indicate if you would like to take your flowers home or have them planted in Trinity's gardens. **The deadline for ordering flowers is Sunday, May 7th.**

Name: _____

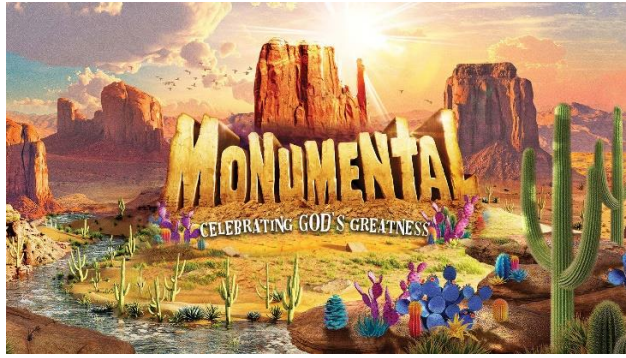
Number of plants: _____ @\$3.40 each

Total: _____

Circle one: Take Home

 Plant at Trinity

Message to be printed in bulletin:



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023:
"MONUMENTAL"

July 30-Aug. 3 (Sunday-Thursday) 6:00-8:30 p.m.
at Trinity Lutheran Church (Kutztown)

The Trinity/St. Paul's Combined VBS Program is back for another fun summer in-person program: "Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness" as we wander through the desert landscape of the southwestern United States. Please plan to preregister as soon as possible by completing the attached form or contacting Seth Noggle at 570-529-2325 or seth.noggle@gmail.com or Louise Moyer at 610-641-0507 or LouiseMoyer13@gmail.com. Children from preschool thru Grade 6 will have a blast! We are also looking for adult and older youth helpers. There is no charge for the program. Come and celebrate God's Greatness with us! _____

"MONUMENTAL" VBS at Trinity (Kutztown)

Child's Name: _____ **Child's Age & Grade Next Yr:** ____/____

Parent's Name: _____ **Parent's Phone:** _____

Emergency Contact Phone Number (during VBS): _____

Parent's Email Address: _____

I am willing to help by:

- Station Leader Rotating with Classes Set-Up Decorations
 Station Helper Registration/Check-In



2023

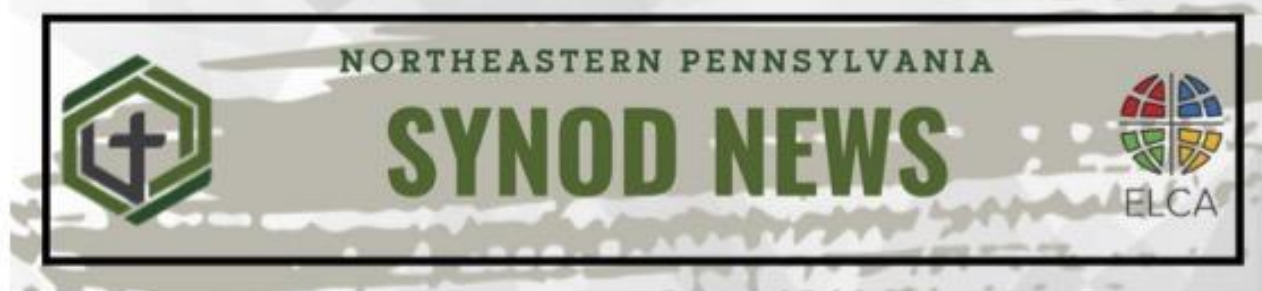
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 10:45am Good News Club 7:00pm SA Meeting	1 Office Closed 7:30pm Kutztown Community Choir Rehearsal	2 7:00pm Worship Life Committee Meeting	3 2:00pm BS/Bible Study-Rita Lieb 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	4 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5 7:00pm AA Meeting	6
7 Music Sunday 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Good News Club 3:00pm Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service at St. Paul's UCC 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at Trinity 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at Trinity 7:00pm SA Meeting	8 Office Closed 7:30pm Kutztown Community Choir Rehearsal	9 7:00pm Council Meeting	10 Deadline for Hoagie and Ham Sandwich Orders to Benefit Youth attending ELCA Youth Gathering 2024 2:00pm BS/Bible Study-Rita Lieb 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	11 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12 7:00pm AA Meeting	13
14 Mother's Day 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 10:45am Good News Club 7:00pm SA Meeting	15 Office Closed 7:30pm Kutztown Community Choir Rehearsal	16 June Newsletter Article Submission Deadline	17 2:00pm BS/Bible Study-Rita Lieb 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	18 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19 7:00pm AA Meeting	20 9:30am Hoagie and Ham Sandwich Pick-Up
21 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Good News Club 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at St. John's 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at St. John's 7:00pm Kutztown Community Choir Concert at Trinity 7:00pm SA Meeting	22 Office Closed	23	24 2:00pm BS/Bible Study-Rita Lieb 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	25 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	26 7:00pm AA Meeting	27
28 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 4:30pm Kutztown Kitchen Community Meal 7:00pm SA Meeting	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31 2:00pm BS/Bible Study-Rita Lieb	1 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2 7:00pm AA Meeting	3



MAY

Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Stephen Esser Justin Tuerk Brenda Loeb	2	3 Samuel Esser Elaina Reffie	4 Clark Kramer William Ziegler	5 Megan Hoffman Ed Rakowiecki	
7	8 Mary Shurr	9	10 Joyce Esser	11 Steve Fisher	12	13 Jill Fenstermacher
14	15	16 Logan Yerger Leslie Jensen Douglas Miller	17 Austin Fritz Douglas Demchyk Julia Zehl	18	19	20 Nathaniel Robertson
21	22 Susan Collier Valarie Kutz	23 Diane Piscitelli LeRoy Kutz	24	25	26 Karin Hoffman	27 Jennifer Esser Gavin Hottenstein Michael Reffie III
28 Russell Smith Ryan Angelisanti Becky Wagner	29 Melissa Horvath	30	31 Elaine Miller Ross Adam			



Wednesday may be a slump day for some, but at the La Crosse LuMin Lutheran Campus it's all about grace through free cookie Wednesday. Want a cookie? Take a cookie! They just give out cookies to make folks' day better – no strings attached. As he's giving out the cookies, it's not unusual for Pastor Ben Morris to be asked, "Where do the cookies come from?" The answer is Lutheran grandmas up in the bluffs and hills made them with real butter and real love. Each week congregations throughout the La Crosse Area Synod drop off 500 cookies to be given away. Pastor Ben says, "It's like manna in the wilderness; there always seems to be enough," and these cookies taste better.

LuMin La Crosse is a place to gather in worship, connect to study, grab a cup of coffee, share a family-style meal, sit in prayer, make bread for the women's shelter, take walks together, and explore places afar in service to others. They advocate for others, share space with multicultural student groups, proudly display the pride flag, and mostly reconnect with humanity and each other. Oh, and give out cookies! Like all ELCA LuMin campus ministry sites across our synods, this ministry happens because congregations share food – yes, cookies – and also through Mission Support that is shared with our synods and churchwide organization to support these vital, transformative, grace-filled ministries with students. Mission Support is just one way campus ministry is funded, so learn more, and pray for local campus ministry by checking out luminelca.org/.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?



**JUNE 1-3 2023 AT
KALAHARI RESORT**

www.godslove.org. We have also set aside more than 90 minutes in the agenda to address resolutions and motions at this meeting – more than any meeting before – with additional time we can make available as needed. **Come as Voting Member from your congregation and make your voice heard.**

The Ministry Share Faire. Over 20 ministry teams and partners are scheduled to be present with interactive displays and lots of opportunities to share ideas and make connections. In addition – you will have a planned area where you can meet other voting members with similar interests and struggles, to work on solutions to common problems and build new networks of support.

The Important Elections, Deliberations, and Voting. At this Assembly meeting, we will be nominating and voting for our Synod's next Secretary and Vice President. The office of Secretary can be filled by a lay person or rostered minister (clergy). The office of Vice President chairs our Synod Council and is the highest office in a synod for a layperson to hold. Find out more about these elections and offices at our Synod website

The Inspiring Worship and Music. Our talented worship team has been 6 months in the planning for all elements of worship and music at this event – with more in store for this Assembly than ever. Music will be led by the celebrated group "Chasing Daylight," with added highlights from David Scherer (known nationally as "AGAPE"). Also featured will be works of art, dance, poetry, lights and colors, and sights, and sounds to move and uplift from floor to ceiling!

The Speakers, Preachers & Presenters. **Never before have we been able to offer such an impressive line-up** for learning and bringing back ideas and inspirations for you and your congregations: A wide range of hands-on workshops led by local and churchwide experts.

- Joe Davis and David Scherer – nationally acclaimed speakers, recording artists and educators; and featured performers at ELCA Youth Gatherings. They plan to power up our workshops AND main sessions (AKA plenaries) – getting us on our feet, interacting, and understanding better some of the biggest challenges we face today: including engaging with young people; finding new energy in worship and ministry; and having conversations around tough topics, especially racism. T
- Bishop Michael Girlinghouse – author of the new book: *Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past*. Drawing on more than 30 years of research and experience – Bishop Girlinghouse will show us how we and our congregations can work through our collective grief without forgetting or devaluing our past. He will offer a practical, step-by-step process for engaging and embracing God's future for each congregation.
- AND SO MUCH MORE!