



# Trinity Together

## Trinity Lutheran Church

357 West Main Street  
Kutztown, Pennsylvania 19530

May 2024

Vicar Seth Noggle, Lead Minister	570-529-2325	<a href="mailto:vicar@trinitykutztown.com">vicar@trinitykutztown.com</a>
The Rev. Dr. Dennis Ritter, Visitation Pastor	484-529-7801	<a href="mailto:visitationpastor@trinitykutztown.com">visitationpastor@trinitykutztown.com</a>
Vacant – TBD, Director of Youth & Family Ministry		
Bruce Rohrbach, Director of Music	610-360-8968	<a href="mailto:music@trinitykutztown.com">music@trinitykutztown.com</a>
Brandon Wood, Tech & Media Specialist	484-629-9332	<a href="mailto:technology@trinitykutztown.com">technology@trinitykutztown.com</a>
Mike Sailsbery, Financial Secretary	412-849-5255	<a href="mailto:finsectrinity@hotmail.com">finsectrinity@hotmail.com</a>
Lisa Finke, Giving Bookkeeper	610-349-2325	<a href="mailto:lmfinke@msn.com">lmfinke@msn.com</a>
Diane Spohn, Administrative Assistant	610-683-3450	<a href="mailto:office@trinitykutztown.com">office@trinitykutztown.com</a>
Julia Morton, BSW Intern	484-374-0031	<a href="mailto:jmort196@live.kutztown.edu">jmort196@live.kutztown.edu</a>

### 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 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Phone: 610-683-3450

Website: [www.trinitykutztown.com](http://www.trinitykutztown.com)

Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Adult Sunday School at 8:00 AM

Good News Club and Journey to Adulthood/Confirmation after worship

## 2024 Church Council Members

Jeff Collier

Molly Dubbs

Randy Heffner

Joseph Jedwab

Karise Mace

Jessica Miller

Ed Rakowiecki

Ann Towne

Alicia Wood

Property

Worship Life

Endowment

Learning

Stewardship

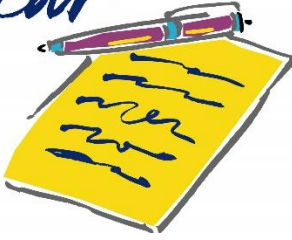
Treasurer, Finance

Vice President, Personnel

Secretary, Mission/Service

President, Fellowship

# From the Vicar



Hello Trinity Members!

We're entering the summer months and nearing the end of the school year and it makes me think about all the things our students have done this year. I've been thinking about how blessed Trinity is to have such amazing young people as part of our congregation. My wife and I just attended the high school choral/band concert and the talent that our students have is truly awe inspiring. We are so honored as a community to have such a talented music program at Kutztown, and teachers who invest so much time and energy. This year we had students win Regionals for Odyssey of the Mind and then go on to place at the States competition. We had another student win 1<sup>st</sup> place at States for National History Day for the Junior Group Documentary. We have students who are doing incredible at their sports like softball, soccer, baseball, and tennis. Students this year have won art awards and had their art displayed at the school for various art shows. I'm sure that I'm missing some things, but hopefully I'll be given some grace for that.

Needless to say, we have a lot of talented students. And I encourage our congregation to continue to take time and get to know these individuals. My life has been made so much better by getting to know these young people and learn from them. A good community is all about mutuality. It's not just us teaching the young people, but us allowing ourselves to learn from them. Our community is made stronger when we open ourselves up to getting to know people different from us. That includes people who are different ages than us! I don't think I'm the only one who's noticed the vibrant life in our church recently, and I know a lot of that comes from having so many ages of people spending time together on a Sunday. May we continue to live this out.

Peace,

Vicar Seth Noggle

## Schedule & Volunteers



### ASSISTING MINISTERS:

May 5	9:30 AM	<b>OPEN*</b>
May 12	9:30 AM	<b>OPEN*</b>
May 19	9:30 AM	<b>OPEN*</b>
May 26	9:30 AM	Dan Raudenbush

### LAY READERS:

May 5	9:30 AM	<b>OPEN*</b>
May 12	9:30 AM	Alice Kutz
May 19	9:30 AM	<b>OPEN*</b>
May 26	9:30 AM	Dan Raudenbush

### ACOLYTES:

May 5	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
May 12	9:30 AM	Liam Miller
May 19	9:30 AM	Elijah Miller
May 26	9:30 AM	Liam Miller

### USHERS/GREETERS:

May 5	9:30 AM	Sue and Jeff Collier
May 12	9:30 AM	Karen Raudenbush and Sally Schoffstall
May 19	9:30 AM	Becca Gilligan and Lee Shannon
May 26	9:30 AM	Pauline and Kurt Rohrbach

**\*Please call the church office if you can fill any of these openings or sign up at:**  
<https://bit.ly/TrinityWorshipLeaderSchedule>

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Steve Fink, Melanie Wessner

**FLOWER CHAIRPERSON:** Melanie Wessner

**ALTAR COMMITTEE:** Susan Ritter, Debbie Ziegler

## Committee Meeting Dates...

Worship Life	Tuesday, May 7, at 7 p.m.
Hymn Selection	Saturday, May 11, at 9 a.m.
Church Council	Tuesday, May 14, at 7 p.m.
Stewardship	Tuesday, May 21, at 7 p.m.

## Special Days in May...

May 9	Ascension of the Lord
May 12	Mother's Day
May 19	Day of Pentecost
May 27	Memorial Day

## Christian Education...

### Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class welcomes you to join us in enjoying "Examining Our Faith", a series of readings that invites us to remember God's unfaltering presence and invites us to turn the challenges of life into opportunities for nurturing a vibrant faith. But what does it mean to nurture a vibrant faith? We find the answer in the book of Jude where he appeals to us to stand strong for the faith that was once entrusted to the saints. First Peter offers comfort amid struggle, and urges us to defend our faith with humility, gentleness, and reverence. Each lesson offers us the opportunity to examine our faith in God with examples we can relate to our daily lives in inspiring ways. We will follow Rev, Amy Linderman Allen, ELCA pastor, and author of *For Theirs is the Kingdom: Inclusion and Participation of Children in the Gospel according to Luke*. Rev. Allen will help us embrace our call to examine our faith. Please join us Sundays at 8:00 AM in the parlor for discussion, coffee, and fellowship.

### Good News Club/Journey to Adulthood

The Good News Club for grades Pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade and Journey to Adulthood/Confirmation Class starting in 6<sup>th</sup> grade meet after Church from 10:45-11:45AM.

### Bible Study

Bible Study is on Thursdays at 10 AM. **They are led by either Vicar Seth Noggle or Pr. Ritter and are based on the upcoming Sunday's scripture reading(s).** You can join the Bible study group in-person or on Zoom. Here's the Zoom link to click:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84530518506> To dial in by phone, call 1 301-715-8592 and use Meeting ID number: 845 3051 8506. No other password is needed.

## Vacation Bible School

The St. Paul's/Trinity combined VBS is back for another fun summer program: "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light" as we explore Jesus' light with an out-of-this world outer space theme. It will be held Monday thru Friday, July 29 to August 2, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Please preregister as soon as possible (but no later than July 7) by completing the form attached or available in the rear of the church or contacting Alicia Wood at 610-334-0733 or [akhornberger624@gmail.com](mailto:akhornberger624@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 blast off with us!

## Upcoming Worship Opportunities...

### New Members

Trinity will be receiving new members on Sunday, May 5, 2024, at its 9:30 AM worship. If you or someone you know is interested in joining Trinity, please contact Vicar Seth Noggle or Pr. Dennis Ritter as soon as possible so that you or they can be prepared to join that day.

### Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service

The next Rejoicing Spirits worship service will be on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 PM at St. Paul's UCC. The theme is: God Made the World, and Presiding Pastor is Susan Lishman. There will be a craft, snacks and fellowship following the service. "Rejoicing Spirits" is held monthly on the first Sunday of the month and is a worship and fellowship gathering for intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals held at St. Paul UCC (47 S. Whiteoak St.). Anyone is invited to attend. If you know of someone who is intellectually and developmentally disabled, let them know about this special, no shushing worship and fellowship opportunity to freely express their joy and love of God. For more information, please contact: Charlene Fisher ([charf1sh@verizon.net](mailto:charf1sh@verizon.net), 610-223-9822) or Erin Webb ([emwebb05@aol.com](mailto:emwebb05@aol.com), 610-894-9949).

## Bell Choir Concert

Please plan to attend worship early on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Trinity's Bell Choir will offer a 30-minute concert prior to the start of worship. Concert will start at 9:00 a.m.

## Graduates Recognition

On Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, we will honor anyone who has graduated from high school, college, a graduate program or a trade school since July 2023. **Graduates, please submit your major/field of study, awards, accomplishments and future plans to the church office by May 10<sup>th</sup>.** We hope you are able to join us at the 9:30 AM church service on June 9<sup>th</sup> so we can wish you Godspeed in your future endeavors.

## From the Finance Committee...

Approved 2024 Budget --	\$312,710
Unrestricted income through Mar.	\$ 68,731
Expenditures through Mar.	\$ 82,590
Balance through Mar.	\$(13,859)
Average monthly offering	\$ 19,601

## New Staff Email Addressed...

Please note these new email addresses to use for staff members:

Vicar Seth Noggle: [vicar@trinitykutztown.com](mailto:vicar@trinitykutztown.com)  
Pr. Dennis Ritter: [visitation@trinitykutztown.com](mailto:visitation@trinitykutztown.com)  
Bruce Rohrbach: [music@trinitykutztown.com](mailto:music@trinitykutztown.com)  
Brandon Wood: [technology@trinitykutztown.com](mailto:technology@trinitykutztown.com)

## How You Can Help...

### Upcoming Hymn

On Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, we will be doing a hymn/anthem entitled "We Believe." We ask anyone interested in singing on the choir or playing in the orchestra to contact Bruce now for music. Here is a link to listen to it on YouTube: [https://youtu.be/yavaBYEyAG8?si=7cUTngr1Z28\\_3cr](https://youtu.be/yavaBYEyAG8?si=7cUTngr1Z28_3cr)

## 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, here is a list of suggested items:

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

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.

## The Christmas Shoppe

Louise DeVall will be organizing The Christmas Shoppe this year and invites anyone with new items appropriate for Christmas gifts to drop them off at the church any time throughout the year. Please mark items for The Christmas Shoppe.

## Upcoming Events...

### Kutztown Kitchen

The next Kutztown Kitchen community meal will be on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. For questions or to request delivery, please call Ann Towne at 484-239-5314 or the church office.

### Ping Pong Club

A ping pong club for all ages is meeting downstairs on Friday afternoons at 4:30 p.m. Please talk to Isaac Jedwab if you are interested or have any questions.

## Flag Retirement Box...

Trinity is a designated collection point for ready to be retired flags, sponsored by the Scouts of Kutztown. If you have a flag to be retired, please place it in the labeled wooden box across from the office.

## Spring Care Packages...

Our Trinity youth enrolled in higher education programs have finished their studies for this school year. Trinity's Mission Committee mailed out 30 Study Gift Cards to aid studying on the long nights. We also mailed out three care packages to our military in honor of Armed Forces Day. **Many, many thanks** to all those who contributed toward these gift cards.

Rita Robertson and Lisa Finke

### This is the list of students and their colleges and universities:

Vianna "V" Brydon – KU  
Emily Bubbenmoyer – Cedar Crest College  
Sarah Bubbenmoyer – Penn State  
Beau deForest - KU  
Soni Diaz – KU  
Akshaya Gone - KU  
Brody Graff – Moravian University  
Elena Graff – KU  
Jacob Graff – Lehigh County Community College  
Wesley Griggs - KU  
Melody Inostroza – KU  
Anuhya Santhi SuRay Kokkeragadda - KU  
Owen Kulp – University of Pittsburgh  
Evelyn Mace – Dickinson College  
Julia Mace – Hofstra University  
Meredith Mace – Bloomsburg University  
Liz Mora - KU  
Julia Morton - KU  
Hannah Nicholson – West Chest University  
Alex Overholtzer - KU  
Dr. Anna Owen – Medical Resident, Forbes Hospital  
Colin Pape – Moravian University  
Srujana Simha Parvatham - KU  
Gabe Plotnikov - KU  
Natalie Reitzes - KU  
Abby Ryan – Piedmont College  
Scott Sanders – West Chester University  
Brett Vagiello - KU  
Jonathan Weinrich – KU  
Dr. Patrick Wise – Medical Residency, Sacramento, CA

### Our Military for Armed Forces Day:

Keefe DePue  
John Julian  
Kristiana Buschan Emmanuel



## **Thank You Notes...**

Trinity Lutheran,

I wanted to write this email in regards to being sent a care package with a gift card in it in the mail. This was something that truly brightened my day and seeing that money is VERY hard to get right now it was so nice to get something that I can finally be able to spend. I had an amazing day thanks to my Dunkin' run and I want to thank you all so much. This message will help me make it through finals week so again I cannot thank you all enough.

Thanks and God Bless,

Colin Pape

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your support in our work! It is such a blessing to see God's faithful promise to care for the poor and those in need, in action, through the support from generous partners like you! Your kindness has a profound impact that will echo through generations to come. Thank you for being a faithful partner in fighting homelessness. We look forward to your next clothing drive for the Mission and LightHouse! May you be blessed by blessing others!

Thank you,

Diane Schenk

Director of Hope Thrift Distributors

Hope Rescue Mission

## **Youth Group Schedule...**

My E-mail is [seth.noggle@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>: St. John's**

Primary Youth Group (Grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>)

Time: 4:30-6:00 PM

Secondary Youth Group (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

**Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>: Trinity  
Dungeons and Dragons Night**

Who: All Ages

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

**Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>: Trinity**

Primary Youth Group (Grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>)

Time: 4:30-6:00 PM

Secondary Youth Group (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

**Friday-Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> LOCK-IN at Trinity**

Time: 6:00 PM – 10:00 AM

Who: 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

We'll be having an all-nighter at Trinity. We'll have karaoke, games, and food. We'll need a couple of adult volunteers who are willing to stay for the night. Friends are welcome!

**Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>: St. John's**

Secondary Youth Group (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

**Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>: Trinity  
Dungeons and Dragons Night**

Who: All Ages

Time: 6:00-8:30 PM

**Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>: No Scheduled Youth Group**

KUTZTOWN KITCHEN (FREE MEAL IN TRINITY'S BASEMENT)

TIME: 4:30-6:00PM

Youth and their families are welcome to come to Trinity for a free meal, but there will be no youth group that evening.

## **Community Events/Volunteer Opportunities...**

### **Kutztown Strong**

Kutztown Strong is looking for volunteers to help with the Kutztown Elementary School Carnival being held at Renninger's Farmers Market from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Kutztown Strong will have a table with their own fun game and will also run one of the assigned games at the carnival. This is a rain or shine event since the area is covered. Volunteers for the carnival would be needed from 4:45-8:00. If you can't stay for the entire event, please join them for part of the event and see all the smiles. For more information, contact Sue Collier, President, at [kutztownstrong@gmail.com](mailto:kutztownstrong@gmail.com)

## Berks Encore

Berks Encore is in need of volunteers. The organization has expressed a need for folks to deliver Meals On Wheels, but you can also volunteer to help at the Fleetwood Center, be part of a Friendly Visitor Program, help with Grocery Shopping for folks who need assistance, or help with Medical counseling. If any of this may be a fit for you, check the link: <https://berksencore.org/get-involved> to get explanations and see a volunteer video. To help more specifically with Meals On Wheels, call (610)374-3185, ext. 225 to speak with Michelle Goodheart about the program and how to volunteer.

## Free Senior Luncheon

St. Barnabas Center at 234 East Main Street, Kutztown hosts a free senior luncheon on the first Friday of the month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## 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. Please call 610-683-5820 for more information.

## 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 at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. For more information please call the church office at 610-683-3393.

## Theology With a Twist

The next Theology With a Twist will be on Tuesday, **May 7<sup>th</sup>**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Kutztown Tavern. The topic will be "Spiritual Motivation." One of our biggest challenges as people of faith is helping one another grow and change. The Rev. Jack Abel, Corporate Director of Spiritual Care for Caron Treatment Centers in Wernersville, will be joining us this month and leading a presentation and discussion that brings thoughtful reflection on the Motivational Interviewing treatment method as it applies to our spiritual lives.

## Kutztown Folk Music Society

The final concert in the 2023-2024 Kutztown Folk Music Society series will be on Friday, **May 10<sup>th</sup>**, featuring the Wiren Violins – not just one but TWO fiddle champions in the same band! With them is a husband with a great booming Celtic tenor voice, rhythm guitar, and extra vocalist. Celebrating Celtic and Folk music of all kinds. What a way to end the season! Concerts are held at St. Paul's UCC, Kutztown, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. There is a \$9 donation for the concert; \$7 for seniors, military and students; free for children 12 and under.

## St. Luke's Grief Support

St. Luke's offers 90-minute virtual Good Grief Workshops to provide a better understanding of what grief is, how it may affect a person 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.

- Thursday, **5/9/2024**, 1-2:30 PM
- Wednesday, **5/22/24**, 6-7:30 PM

## Kutztown Community Choir Spring Choral Concert

The Kutztown Community Choir will present their annual Spring concert on Sunday, **May 19**, at 7:00 PM, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main St., Kutztown. "Hope springs eternal..." so the poets attest. Spring offers the hope of renewal and starting fresh, a season that reminds us that change and new growth are possible! The pieces to be performed in our spring concert echo that longing and hope. Selections across genres are represented, including ***The Road Home, Be a Light, Hope for the World, Music in the Air***, a moving arrangement of ***MLK*** and a medley of Beatles love songs. It is *our* hope that the program will leave the audience feeling both uplifted and hopeful. Please join us as we welcome the return of spring and summer with an evening of fellowship, fun, and fine music!

## Bear Creek Camp

On **May 4<sup>th</sup>**, Bear Creek Camp is having a Play & Work Day. From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. there will be things to do to prepare the camp for the summer. Then at 11 a.m. the play day begins! The rec hall and nature center will be open and there will be hiking/exploring and main camp tours. Free lunch for everyone at 12:00 followed by a Q&A time about summer camp at 1:00 p.m. From 1:00 to 3:00 there will be a guided hike on the Lenape Trail and boating, and the camp store and rec hall will be open. See their website for more information. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required.

## Women in Zion

Zion's Union Church Maxatawny, 329 Church Road, Kutztown is hosting a women's retreat on **May 11<sup>th</sup>** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon entitled "The Many Hats That Women Wear," with The Rev. Lori Esslinger as leader. The cost is \$10 per person and a continental breakfast is included. As sisters in Christ, we face many of the same issues. Come and spend a few hours getting to know how alike we all are. To register or for questions, please call Linda at 484.553.1981.

## Memorial Day Parade

The American Legion invites everyone to attend the annual Memorial Day Parade on **May 27<sup>th</sup>**. The parade forms on the Kutztown Fairgrounds and departs at 8 a.m. for the Fairview Cemetery. From there, the parade continues to Hope Cemetery where Dr. Kenneth Hawkinson will give the address.



## WHERE DID LWR QUILTS & KITS GO IN 2023?

**551,700**

**QUILTS & KITS**

**IN 14 COUNTRIES**



**194,983**  
QUILTS



**190,043**  
SCHOOL KITS



**123,920**  
PERSONAL CARE KITS



**35,490**  
BABY CARE KITS



**7,264**  
FABRIC KITS





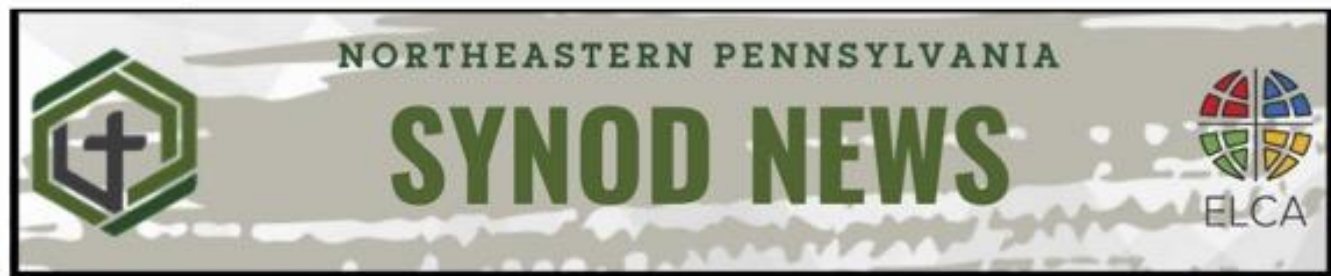
# MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	2 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	3 1:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 7:00pm AA Meeting	4
5 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Good News Club and Journey to Adulthood/Confirmation 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at St. John's 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at St. John's 7:00pm SA Meeting	6 Office Closed 7:00pm Kutztown Community Choir	7 7:00pm Worship Life Team Meeting	8 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	9 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm All Ages Youth Group - Dungeons & Dragons at Trinity 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10 1:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 7:00pm AA Meeting	11 9:00am Hymn Selection Committee
12 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Good News Club and Journey to Adulthood/Confirmation 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at Trinity 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at Trinity 7:00pm SA Meeting	13 Office Closed 7:00pm Kutztown Community Choir	14 7:00pm Council Meeting	15 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	16 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting	17 1:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 6:00pm Youth Group Lock-In at Trinity 7:00pm AA Meeting	18 10:00am Youth Group Lock-In Ends
19 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Good News Club and Journey to Adulthood/Confirmation 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at St. John's 7:00pm Kutztown Community Choir Concert at Trinity 7:00pm SA Meeting	20 Office Closed	21 6:00pm All Ages Youth Group - Dungeons & Dragons at Trinity 7:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting	22 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	23 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Orchestra Rehearsal 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	24 1:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 7:00pm AA Meeting	25
26 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Good News Club and Journey to Adulthood/Confirmation 4:30pm Kutztown Kitchen Community Meal 7:00pm SA Meeting	27 Office Closed	28	29 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	30 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	31 1:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 7:00pm AA Meeting	1



## MAY BIRTHDAYS 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Stephen Esser Justin Tuerk Brenda Loeb	2	3 Samuel Esser	4 William Ziegler
5 Megan Hoffman Ed Rakowiecki	6	7	8 Mary Shurr David Neuenschwander	9	10 Joyce Esser Lisbeth Mora	11 Steve Fisher
12	13 Jill Fenstermacher	14	15	16 Leslie Jensen	17 Austin Fritz Douglas Demchyk	18
19	20 Nathaniel Robertson Mya Yorro	21	22 Susan Collier Valarie Kutz	23 Diane Piscitelli LeRoy Kutz	24 Frank Lyter	25
26 Karin Hoffman	27 Jennifer Esser Gavin Hottenstein	28 Russell Smith	29 Melissa Horvath	30 Dan Dubbs	31 Ross Adam	



# WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER

2024



## TOP STORY

### STORYTELLING ENGAGEMENT



#### Experiments in Ministry

A story from the Central States Synod

**As you read this story, what connects with you?  
What experiments are occurring in your synod and congregation?**

How often have you heard folks in congregations lament that they just don't have the resources or learning opportunities they need to be strong leaders and vital congregations? The [Central States Synod](#) wondered how it could help address those needs and make access easy. That led to the beginning of the [Ministry Lab](#). The synod envisions the lab as a place to ask questions, learn, work with different "tools" or resources, and experiment to see what works. A lab is not just a depository for resources; it's an active place where one can gather and engage with others.

When visiting congregations, attending conferences or meeting partners, staff and leaders in the Central States Synod diligently listen to folks to identify common needs and areas of growth so that they can equip and support ministry. The goal of the Ministry Lab is to provide ***"resources and tools so that we may live out God's purpose, united with Christ, as we walk the way of Jesus."***



The lab has three areas of focus: *good order*, meaning leadership, policies, building use, stewardship and meeting protocol; *means of grace*, including biblical interpretation, worship, communication and welcoming; and *living faith*, such as community engagement, social statements, collaboration and technology. Since the Ministry Lab began in fall 2023, it has offered opportunities focused on Scripture interpretation, ideas for worship and preaching during Advent, and leadership development. People learn through active engagement, not passive observation, so the Learning Lab is always lively. Some opportunities are "one and done" whereas others consist of multiple sessions.

Moving forward, the Ministry Lab is excited to offer an open conversation with the Rev. Susan Candea, bishop of the Central States Synod, about the upcoming ELCA social statement *Civic Life and Faith*, a Collaboration Lab in May and a Communications Lab in the fall. Anyone anywhere can check out and learn from the Central States Synod Ministry Lab. [See what's available now!](#)



Remember that a portion of offerings given to Central States congregations becomes Mission Support for the synod and allows staff and leaders to address congregations' needs and interests through the Ministry Lab, today and into the future.





# BEAR CREEK CAMP

Join us for **May Play Day**  
and **Family Work Day**

**MAY PLAY DAY & WORK DAY**  
Saturday, May 4th

**9:00 am - Work Day Begins**  
**11:00 am - May Play Day Begins**  
 Rec hall open (foosball, ping pong, etc.)  
 Nature center open  
 Hiking/exploring  
 Main camp tour

**12:00 pm - Free Lunch for All!**

**1:00 pm - Gathering in the Courtyard**  
 Q&A about BCC Summer Camp

**1:00 - 3:00 pm - Activities Continued**  
 Guided hike on Lenape Trail  
 Camp store open  
 Rec hall open  
 Boating

Join us for an open house day at BCC, Saturday, **May 4th from 11am-3pm!** Explore camp, meet staff, boat, hike, craft, and fellowship with our camp community. Cookout lunch is available to all and there is no cost.

Prior to May Play Day, starting at 9:00am, everyone is invited to help with projects around camp as we prepare for summer. All skill levels are welcome and lunch is provided.

Registration for both May Play Day and Family Work Day is available at the link below. Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required.

