



# Trinity Together

## Trinity Lutheran Church

357 West Main Street  
Kutztown, Pennsylvania 19530

July/August 2022

**Transitional Pastor:** The Rev. Dr. Dennis Ritter  
**Director of Youth & Family Ministry:** Seth Noggle  
**Editor/Administrative Assistant:** Diane Spohn  
**Director of Music:** Bruce Rohrbach  
**Tech & Media Specialist:** Brandon Wood  
**Financial Secretary:** Mike Sailsbery  
**Giving Bookkeeper:** Lisa Finke

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### 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 – 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 at 8:30 AM (on summer hiatus)

## 2022 Church Council Members

Jeff Collier	Property
Joseph Jedwab	Christian Education
Mary Neuenschwander	Personnel
Dan Raudenbush	Treasurer, Finance and Stewardship
Kurt Rohrbach	Vice President, Endowment
Michael Sailsbery	Financial Secretary
Ann Towne	President, Mission/Service and Fellowship
Jean Wagner	Worship Life
Alicia Wood	Secretary, Witness/Communication

## ***From the Pastor...***

Dear Fellow Disciples,

As many of you know stewardship is an important aspect of my ministry and my personal life. It has been that way since the earliest days of my ordination when I was invited to a conference for pastors in those days that focused upon the subject from both a pastoral and a personal perspective. That seminar so impacted my life that when I decided to earn my Doctor of Ministry degree I chose to focus upon Christian stewardship.

From the opening chapter of *Genesis* through the whole of the Bible God constantly reminds us that as his children we are to steward/take care of, not only the magnificent creation God has entrusted to us, but also our personal lives in such a way that we give honor and glory to God. Now I don't want to give anyone a false impression, I have not always been a good caretaker and have had some things to learn regarding what it means to be a good steward. In fact, I continue to learn almost daily what it means to be a good steward of my time, the possessions that I have and the world in which we live and will bequeath to our children and beyond.

Early in this journey a colleague of mind reminded me of the breadth and depth of stewardship when he gave me this definition. He said, "Stewardship is everything after you say, 'I believe.'" I continue to learn how true that is. How might your life be different if you lived it with a stewardship focus? What would you have to change to become a better caretaker of all that God has given to you? They are questions with which I have lived most of my 71 years, and they have helped me, I believe, to be more Christ centered and God focused and that has not been a bad thing.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Ritter*

## ***From the Director of Youth and Family Ministries...***

Hello Trinity members!

I wanted to inform you all that the Church council has kindly given me an 8 week sabbatical to take time to rest and recharge from the fruitful ministry here at Trinity Kutztown. Alongside of the 8 weeks sabbatical I am also taking 2 weeks of vacation so I will be gone for 10 weeks altogether. I will be starting my sabbatical on Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and returning to Trinity on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. If there are any emergencies while I'm gone please call the Trinity office or Pastor Ritter. I look forward to the break, but also look forward to seeing you all once I return.

Peace,

*Seth Noggle*



## Schedule & Volunteers

### ASSISTING MINISTERS:

July 10	9:30 AM	Kurt Rohrbach
July 17	9:30 AM	Joseph Jedwab
July 24	9:30 AM	Joe Piscitelli
July 31	9:30 AM	Debbie Ziegler

### LAY READERS:

July 10	9:30 AM	Kurt Rohrbach
July 17	9:30 AM	Alice Kutz
July 24	9:30 AM	Joe Piscitelli
July 31	9:30 AM	Debbie Ziegler

### ACOLYTES:

July 10	9:30 AM	Liam Miller
July 17	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
July 24	9:30 AM	Liam Miller
July 31	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab

### USHERS/GREETERS:

July 10	9:30 AM	Joseph & Nargiza Jedwab
July 17	9:30 AM	Neuenschwander family
July 24	9:30 AM	Ed & April Rakowiecki
July 31	9:30 AM	Alice Kutz & Donna Keglovits

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

**FLOWER CHAIRPERSON:** Darlene Dietrich

**ALTAR COMMITTEE:** Marsha Hoyer

### IMPORTANT DATES:

July 3	Folk Festival Service – 10:30 a.m. Main Stage
July 4	<b>No service at church</b> Independence Day



## Schedule & Volunteers

### ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Aug. 7	9:30 AM	Michele Zimmerman
Aug. 14	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood
Aug. 21	10:00 AM	Kurt Rohrbach
Aug. 28	9:30 AM	Joe Piscitelli

### LAY READERS:

Aug. 7	9:30 AM	Michele Zimmerman
Aug. 14	9:30 AM	Alice Kutz
Aug. 21	10:00 AM	Kurt Rohrbach
Aug. 28	9:30 AM	Joe Piscitelli

### ACOLYTES:

Aug. 7	9:30 AM	Liam Miller
Aug. 14	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
Aug. 21	10:00 AM	Not scheduled-Bowers
Aug. 28	9:30 AM	Liam Miller

### USHERS/GREETERS:

Aug. 7	9:30 AM	Pauline & Kurt Rohrbach
Aug. 14	9:30 AM	Linda Geiring & TBD
Aug. 21	10:00 AM	Rita & Alan Robertson
Aug. 28	9:30 AM	Donna Keglovits & Tom Kulp

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Steve Finke and Melanie Wessner

**FLOWER CHAIRPERSON:** Nancy Plushanski

**ALTAR COMMITTEE:** Melanie Wessner

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Aug. 1-5	Vacation Bible School – 6-8:30 p.m. St. Paul's UCC
Aug. 21	Worship Service at Bowers Park & Picnic - 10:00 a.m.



## **Committee Meeting Dates...**

### **Meeting Dates for July**

Hymn Selection Committee July 23 at 8:30 AM

### **Meeting Dates for August**

Church Council Picnic Aug. 9

Worship Life Committee Aug. 10 at 7:00 PM

## **From the Church Office...**

The church office hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The office is closed on Mondays.

Deadline for articles for the September newsletter is Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Upcoming Worship Opportunities..**

### **Folk Festival Worship July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Our congregation along with St. Paul UCC and the Topton-Bowers Parish will be hosting the worship service at the Kutztown Folk Festival on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 AM on the Main Stage. There will be no worship service that morning at Trinity. Our director of music, Bruce Rohrbach, and the Berks Tubadors will provide the music leadership that day. Pastor Ritter is scheduled to preach and all marked offerings will be forwarded to their respective congregations.

### **Worship & Picnic in Bowers Park**

Trinity's annual worship and picnic in Bowers Park is scheduled for Sunday, August 21. **Worship will begin at 10 AM that morning.** We will be celebrating the return to the classroom for the fall. Students are asked to bring their backpacks for a blessing of the backpacks and teachers – Sunday School, private, public and college level – are asked to bring something related to the subject that they teach. We will have a special rite of blessing for them as well. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated as usual.

**Our annual congregational picnic will follow the service.** More details will follow in the weekly e-news and the Sunday bulletin.

Mark your calendar now and be sure to join your fellow disciples of Christ on the 21<sup>st</sup> in Bowers Park. **In the event of inclement weather, all events will be held at 357 W. Main St., Trinity Lutheran Church.** Watch for further updates!

## **Capital Campaign...**



### **STARTING A NEW CHAPTER**

Our **Starting A New Chapter** Capital Campaign is drawing to a close. As of June 16<sup>th</sup>, commitments of \$152,500 over 3 years has been received. This means that we will be able to repay the loan from our Endowment Fund in a timely fashion and that we are well on the way to make our building more accessible to individuals with limited mobility.

If you have not yet returned your commitment card, you still can do so. Our total goal, so that we can accomplish making Trinity more accessible to those who have mobility limitations, is approximately \$220,000. Your support will enable us to reach that goal and start a new chapter in the life of our congregation.

## **Christian Education...**

### **Adult Sunday School**

The Adult Sunday School Class welcomes you to join us in enjoying "Partners in a New Creation," a program that invites us to imagine God's vision for the earth and our lives. How can we work in partnership with God's new creation? First, we will look at brokenness in our world. Second, we will see how Christ brings abundant life and healing to sick systems and structures of death. Third, we will examine Revelation's images of hope and new creation through God. Rev. Barbara Rossing, who teaches at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and Ann Hafften, a communications specialist for Lutheran agencies, will help us imagine God's future dawning on earth and how we can trust and live in that

vision. Please join us Sundays at 8:00 am in the Parlor for discussion, coffee and fellowship.

## Bible Study

Bible Study is on Thursdays at 10:00 AM. 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.

## Devotionals

New devotional books for July-September are now available to pick up in the back of the church or on the outside cart.

## From the Finance Committee...

Approved 2022 Budget -- \$323,495

Unrestricted income through May	\$113,449
Expenditures through May	\$117,522
Balance through May	\$( 4,073)
Average monthly offering	\$ 19,172

\* ( ) will indicate a deficit

## Potato Project Supported

Our recent Jingle Offering endeavor raised over \$500 for the Potato Project. At its recent meeting, the Congregation Council voted to augment that amount and to remit a total of \$1,000 to the project.

## Sponsors needed...

### Altar Flowers

There are several Sundays in 2022 that do not have altar flower sponsors. The dates still available are:

July 17	July 31
September 4	September 18
September 25	October 9
October 16	November 20

If you are interested in sponsoring the flowers for any of these dates please contact Darlene Dietrich at 610-683-7975 or the church office at 610-683-3450.

## Upcoming Events...

### Kutztown Kitchen

Mark July 24<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the next meal! More details to follow in the weekly newsletter and bulletin. For questions or to request a ride or delivery, please call 610-683-3450 or 484-239-5314.

### Vacation Bible School



Come hop aboard the Rocky Railway Express for VBS fun this summer! Our St. Paul's/Trinity Combined VBS Program is back in its normal format and will run August 1-5 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at St. Paul's UCC (Kutztown). Please plan to register your children and grandchildren (ages 2 thru 6th grade) as soon as possible (for planning purposes) but no later than July 1 (*see registration form in this newsletter or in the back of the church*). We are also looking for adult and older youth helpers. Please contact Louise Moyer at [LouiseMoyer13@gmail.com](mailto:LouiseMoyer13@gmail.com) or 610-641-0507 if interested in helping or with questions.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following additional graduates who were omitted in the June newsletter –

**Nicole Angelisanti** – Graduated from Kutztown High School as Salutatorian and will attend University of California, Berkeley.

**Trevor Shurr** – Graduated from Lehigh County Community College with an Associate Degree in Music and Sound Production

## Thank You!!!

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you so much for my graduation gift and card! I would also like to thank you for the multiple care packages I have gotten over my 4 years at Slippery Rock! There were many late nights during finals week, and the goodies and coffee gift cards were a great help!

With love,

Emily Bubbenmoyer

Dear Trinity Family...

I wanted to thank you all for the luncheon and roast on Celebration Sunday in May. It was fun to see everyone! Times like this, when we can all get together and have a good time, are always the best! Also, thank you for the gifts. I will get plenty of crafting time in during my retirement and these gifts will go to good use. I think the best part of this retirement is that I'm not leaving and I will still get to see all of you! Thank you again for thinking of me and have a great summer!

Lisa Finke

Dear Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for helping make Relay For Life successful. Together, we honor all cancer survivors and remember loved ones lost. We are able to take action against this terrible disease because of your support.

Warm regards,

William G. Cance, MD

Chief Medical and Scientific Officer

American Cancer Society

*(Trinity sponsored two purple signs for Relay for Life)*

## How You Can Help...

### Summer Fellowship Opportunities

Last Summer as life began to return to a post-COVID normal, thanks to the initiative of Deb and Mike Sailsbery we had a number of post-worship outdoor refreshment and fellowship opportunities. We are looking forward to similar experiences this year. Here is what you are asked to do.

There is a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board. Simply place your name by a Sunday date and plan to bring some cool liquid refreshment and simple finger snacks that day. We will gather on the lawn by the parlor entrance of the building when the weather is warm and sunny. If the weather is too hot or a bit inclement we can gather in the parlor. A canopy is available to provide some shade.

It is important for us to gather and fellowship with one another as we seek to build and rebuild our relationships.

### Kutztown Kitchen

This is our ministry that seeks to live out Christ's teaching to "Feed my sheep," providing home-cooked meals once a month for all who ask. We need helpers for shopping, cooking, packing up, and delivering meals. If you are part of a family or organization that would like to contribute to this ministry, please call or email Ann Towne (484-239-5314, [aepriester@gmail.com](mailto:aepriester@gmail.com)). All remaining months this year are open.

### Student Food Pantry at KU

Thank you to everyone who has contributed time, groceries, and cash donations to this ministry. The pantry will continue on throughout the spring semester and your help would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to contribute food items, please see the list below...

<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.

## **What's Oasis?**

Oasis is a non-profit after-school program that's based out of Bethel Nazarene Church found just off of Noble Street behind the Kutztown Middle School. This program has been running for around 7 years and provides a safe and fun place for kids to attend after school.

How can I help?

We're hoping to get some more Trinity people out at this program to build relationships with the youth of Kutztown. The program runs every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3-5:00 p.m. It's only a 2-hour commitment, and it can make a lifetime of change for some of these kids.

You can also make a monetary donation that would go to help buying more games, tech, and food for the youth while at Oasis.

If you're interested, please contact Seth Noggle or the church office.

## **Items of Interest...**

### **St. Paul's UCC Speaker – Hometown Heroes, Their Stories**

St. Paul's UCC Young at Heart Senior Group is hosting Jody Reidenhour to speak about her project to collect veterans' stories and her own story. It will be on Wednesday, July 20, at 10:00 AM at St. Paul's. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board; they will be serving food and would like to have a count of the number of people planning to attend.

### **Charitable Gift Annuities**

If you are 70 years of age or older a charitable annuity might be a good option for you.

**What is a charitable gift annuity?** A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a contract under which a 501(c)(3) qualified public charity, i.e., Trinity, Friend, Inc. in return for an irrevocable transfer of cash or other property, agrees to pay the annuitant(s) a lifetime income. The maximum number of annuitants is two, and payments can be made to them jointly or successively. The amount is fixed and will never fluctuate or adjust for inflation, but it is

also guaranteed. To learn more about this gifting mechanism and to see if it is right for you, you can talk to any qualified investment advisor or to a Thrivent Financial agent.

### **Volunteer Opportunity**

Welcome Summer! Think about getting out to help a neighbor in need. Consider volunteering for SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice. Make friendly visits to hospice clients, supportive phone calls to grieving families, or sew memory bears. For more information please call Cathy Sweeney, Volunteer Coordinator at 570-599-5390.

### **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.

### **Historic Dreibelbis Farm**

On Saturday, August 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society will host their annual Farm Festival at the Historic Dreibelbis Farm in Virginville. There will be demonstrations of life on the farm, the expanded nature trail will be open, a hayride and old-time games for children, and talks on local archaeology, Native American storytelling and local history. There will be special music and food available. There is no admission charge to the festival with only a nominal parking charge. There is an entrance fee for tours of the main house. Will be held rain or shine. GPS address is 356 Hard Hill Road, Hamburg. Visit [www.dreibelbisfarm.org](http://www.dreibelbisfarm.org) or contact Mark Dreibelbis at 610-488-7896.

### **Thrivent Shredding Event**

On Saturday, August 27, from 9 a.m.-12 noon at the Thrivent Greystone Office, 102 Tomahawk Drive, Kutztown, bring up to 5 file boxes of *paper only* documents for secure shredding. They will also be collecting donations for the Brandywine Heights School District "Backpack Buddies" program. See flyer on bulletin board for donation item requests.

June 5<sup>th</sup> Graduate Recognition Pictures







# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022: "ROCKY RAILWAY"

August 1-5 (Monday-Friday) from 6:00-8:30 p.m.  
at St. Paul's U.C.C. (Kutztown)

The St. Paul's/Trinity Combined VBS Program is back for another fun summer in-person program: "Rocky Railway" (Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through), which has been in the making for the past 2 years! Please plan to preregister as soon as possible (but preferably no later than July 1) by completing the attached form or contacting Louise Moyer at 610-641-0507 or [LouiseMoyer13@gmail.com](mailto:LouiseMoyer13@gmail.com). Children from age 2 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 hop on the train & join the Rocky Railway fun!

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## ROCKY RAILWAY VBS at St. Paul's UCC (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

July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 6:00pm Middle/High School Youth Group - Trinity	<b>27</b> Office Closed	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 11:30am Staff Meeting	<b>30</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 10:30am Folk Festival Worship Service - Main Stage (No service at Trinity)	<b>4</b> Office Closed	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: In-person & Zoom, No Communion today	<b>11</b> Office Closed Seth's sabbatical begins today	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom)	<b>18</b> Office Closed	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:30am Hymn Selection Committee
<b>24</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom)	<b>25</b> Office Closed	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom)	<b>1</b> Office Closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom)	<b>1</b> Office Closed 6:00pm - 8:30pm Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's UCC	<b>2</b> 6:00pm - 8:30pm Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's UCC	<b>3</b> 6:00pm - 8:30pm Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's UCC	<b>4</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm - 8:30pm Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's UCC 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 6:00pm - 8:30pm Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's UCC	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom)	<b>8</b> Office Closed	<b>9</b> Church Council Picnic	<b>10</b> 7:00pm Worship Life Committee Meeting	<b>11</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom)	<b>15</b> Office Closed	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship and Picnic: Bowers Park	<b>22</b> Office Closed	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom)	<b>29</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>



# JULY

## Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Dave Owen	2
3 Keely Shea Ryan Scheidt Cynthia Ritter-Lussier Beth Stump Connie Garland	4 David Esser Krysta Frantz Jessica Hottenstein Lisa Foreback	5 Michelle Kelchner	6 Richard Pape	7	8 Lori Heffner Andrew Schlegel Greg Yerger Alexander Garcia	9 Kay Fritz Carl Ziegler
10	11 Dennis Ritter Sophia Bogert	12	13 Joshua Beck Vincent Reffie	14	15 Robert Gehringer	16 Taylor Greenawalt
17 RC Storch	18 Jean Ziegler	19	20 Deborah Smith-Craine	21	22 Louisa Esser Avery Ziegler	23
24	25	26 Doug Wunder	27 Keith Lichtenwalner	28 Joe Piscitelli	29 Emily Yost	30 Emily Wentzel
31 Sam Kulp Olivia Zehl						



# AUGUST

## Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Tom Touhsaent Evan DeVall	2 Brandon Wood	3	4 Elena Graff	5 Seth Gottlund Corey Graff	6 Sierra Yerger Klaus Buschan
7	8 Kacey Garland	9 Kim Dundore	10 Ann Towne	11 Leonard Dietrich Jordan Loeb	12 Linda Geiring Nancy Klock	13 Libby Rohrbach Keegan Kramer Jessica Miller
14 Jeni Touhsaent Seth Noggle	15 Fred Collier Bill Collier	16 Jerome Lutz Louise Schlegel	17 Marissa Steinmetz	18 Larry Youse	19	20
21	22 Jennifer Lando	23 Kennedy Miller	24 Darlene Dietrich Karen Hobaugh Christine Storch	25 Paul Lilienthal Shirley Youse Ashley Wentzel Kathy Buschan	26 Kassidy Miller	27 Joanne Lopic Kris Tuerk Suzie Ligammari
28 Ellen Long	29	30 Naomi Owen	31 Hannah Fritz			

# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

## *Stronger Together*

*"I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me." (John 10:14)*

*"I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home." (Mark 2:11)*

Jesus speaks: we hear his voice, and we follow. Even when we are made able to hear, by mechanical means. Even when we are blessed to move, using new and inspiring inventions. These are no less miracles than the healing of the one born blind (John 9), or the person on the mat who's unable to walk (Mark 2). Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network is a partner in ministry with us, bringing technology, compassion and faith together – by the work of the Holy Spirit – in ways that put life in motion and love in action, for God's children of all ages – especially youth. They truly make us: **STRONGER TOGETHER.**

**+ Bishop Christopher deForest**



Watching your child take his or her first steps is one of the most exciting moments in a parent's life. But what if your child has a disability and those steps don't come so easily, or at all? Through the years, parents faced with this dilemma have come to Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network looking for help and finding it. One of the rehabilitation technology stars in Good Shepherd Pediatrics' toolbox is the Trexo Plus. This innovative, wearable robotic gait trainer helps children with spasticity and mobility challenges walk, perhaps for the first time. Thanks to our generous supporters, including the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Good Shepherd has acquired a total of six Trexo devices in small, medium, and large sizes for children as young as 1 through their teen years. This makes Good Shepherd the only pediatric rehabilitation provider in the U.S. to offer all three sizes for both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation settings. Children who benefit from using the life-changing technology are diagnosed with cerebral palsy, pediatric stroke, spinal cord injury, gait disorders, or other mobility problems.

The device's brightly colored legs allow children to walk hands-free safely, correctly, and consistently, all under the watchful eye of trained Good Shepherd staff. Trexo is one piece in an array of technology used by Good Shepherd Pediatrics and supported by the Assistive and Rehabilitative Technology Fund.

NEPA Synod can be proud of the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network. Because of you, children will be given the opportunity to exercise their brains and muscles in a new way, gaining confidence along with mobility. Good Shepherd provides therapies and residential options unique in the US. Thank you for your faithful, generous, and consistent giving to Mission Support! It makes a difference as we endeavor to live out that mission.

For more information, visit [GoodShepherdPediatrics.org](http://GoodShepherdPediatrics.org).

Story Contributor: Kimberly Stolarik, Interim Administrative Director, Development  
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## SYNOD ASSEMBLY REWIND

### WHAT HAPPENED AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY?!?



**The Reverend Kimberly Vaughn**, Senior Director, Christian Community and Leadership Mission for the **ELCA** was the churchwide representative to our synod assembly. Rev. Vaughn enlivened the assembly with her words and brought greetings from the wider church. This representation reminds us that we are a church in three expressions: congregations, synods, and churchwide. These expressions work together to gather God's people and mobilize them to love and serve the world through mission and outreach.

This year's assembly was once again held virtually. We're getting "good" at holding virtual assemblies, but we simply cannot wait to gather in person. Next year, we'll be gathering at **Kalahari** in the Poconos, and we'll be wondering about how our synod and congregations are **going beyond death to life**. This is the "third lane" in our synod focus. Remember we've been talking about lane one, "**Growing young**" and lane two, this year's theme, "**Gaining Strength/Stronger Together**" These vital signs help us understand who we are as God's people and how we might best show up in our contexts.

This year some great **resolutions** were brought before the assembly. Some of these resolutions will be considered and acted upon by the **synod council**. The synod council is an important body within the synod. If you'd like to read the resolutions visit [godslove.org/assembly](http://godslove.org/assembly) in addition to resolutions you can view all the great videos from the assembly where churches and other groups showed their faith in action through ministries that highlighted our theme of being stronger together, growing young videos that look at fun scenarios to help individuals and congregations understand what it means to grow young, greetings from our ministry partners, and EVERY plenary is available for your viewing pleasure.

We had such an engaging time wondering what God was up to in our midst, especially in places where we're working together for the sake of God's Kingdom, here and now!