



# Trinity Together

Trinity Lutheran Church

357 West Main Street  
Kutztown, Pennsylvania 19530

July/August 2023

<b>Transitional Pastor:</b> The Rev. Dr. Dennis Ritter	484-529-7801	<a href="mailto:dsritter@ptd.net">dsritter@ptd.net</a>
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<b>Giving Bookkeeper:</b> Lisa Finke	610-349-2325	<a href="mailto:lmfinke@msn.com">lmfinke@msn.com</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 9:00 AM – 3:00 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 on summer break

## 2023 Church Council Members

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

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

Dear Fellow Disciples in Christ,

I pray that this article and newsletter find you well and preparing for a summer that will afford some time to relax and be renewed physically, mentally and spiritually. Susan and I have just returned from a wonderful trip to the Southwest portion of our country (California, Nevada, Arizona and Utah). We saw so many amazing sites. Feel free to ask us when you see us. We even have pictures 😊! However, that's not what I want to talk with you about in this letter.

The focus of this letter is the liturgy, that thing we experience every Sunday when we gather at Trinity to worship God. I begin with a simple question. What is the liturgy?

Merriam-Webster defines it as “a rite or body of rites prescribed for public worship.” If we look back to its original roots in the ancient Greek, we learn that it stems from the Greek word “leitourgia” which literally means “work of the people”. I like that definition because worship is our work as the people of God in which we lift our praise and thanksgiving to God for all that they have done and continue to do for us and the whole creation.

To be sure there are other styles of worship in the contemporary church scene, but I find that the interactive nature of our Lutheran worship helps me to feel like I have encountered God and been a part of a community that is in dialogue with God – both speaking and listening. Having attended churches that are non-liturgical, which I have done, I have departed feeling like I've been entertained, maybe heard God's word but really haven't worshiped God and been an active part of a faith community at worship.

The prayers, spoken or sung responses, times of silence for reflection, hymns of different varieties, idioms and time periods, the Scripture lessons being read, the preaching on one or more of the texts that were read and of course the celebration of the Eucharist (Holy Communion) serve to connect me to our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer in a way that doesn't happen when there is no liturgy – no prescribed rite to lead us to a fuller experience of God within me and around me.

On a recent Saturday morning back in the winter, nearly 30 members of our congregation gathered to think about worship and liturgy here at Trinity. What we heard was much like what I just shared. The liturgy is a means to connect with each other and with God. For some it is a healing experience. For others a challenging one. All noted that liturgy enables different folks to have different reactions to what has transpired, even in the same liturgy, and that different parts of the liturgy affect us differently at different times often dependent upon what we are experiencing in life at that time.

I hope this effort to talk about something that is near and dear to me is helpful for you as together we grow in our appreciation of God's presence and work in and through each of us.

Blessings and Peace,

*Pastor Ritter*

\* OPEN DATES: Please call the church office or go to: <https://bit.ly/TrinityWorshipLeaderSchedule> to sign up.



## Schedule & Volunteers

### ASSISTING MINISTERS:

July 2	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood
July 9	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Folk Festival Service</b>
July 16	9:30 AM	<b>OPEN*</b>
July 23	9:30 AM	Michele Zimmerman
July 30	9:30 AM	<b>OPEN*</b>

### LAY READERS:

July 2	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood
July 9	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Folk Festival Service</b>
July 16	9:30 AM	<b>OPEN*</b>
July 23	9:30 AM	Michele Zimmerman
July 30	9:30 AM	<b>OPEN*</b>

### ACOLYTES:

July 2	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
July 9	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Folk Festival Service</b>
July 16	9:30 AM	Liam Miller
July 23	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
July 30	9:30 AM	Liam Miller

### USHERS/GREETERS:

July 2	9:30 AM	To be determined
July 9	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Bob Hobaugh and Alan Robertson (Folk Festival)
July 16	9:30 AM	The Jeremy Miller family
July 23	9:30 AM	Donna Keglovits and Rita Robertson
July 30	9:30 AM	Karen Raudenbush and Sally Schoffstall

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Alan and Rita Robertson and Donna Keglovits

**FLOWER CHAIRPERSON:** Darlene Dietrich

**ALTAR COMMITTEE:** Marsha Hoyer

### IMPORTANT DATES:

July 4	Independence Day
July 9	Folk Festival Worship Service at <b>9:00 AM</b>



## Schedule & Volunteers

### ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Aug. 6	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood
Aug. 13	9:30 AM	<b>OPEN*</b>
Aug. 20	9:30 AM	<b>OPEN*</b>
Aug. 27	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Susan Mangold (Bowers Park)

### LAY READERS:

Aug. 6	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood
Aug. 13	9:30 AM	<b>OPEN*</b>
Aug. 20	9:30 AM	Alice Kutz
Aug. 27	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Susan Mangold (Bowers Park)

### ACOLYTES:

Aug. 6	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
Aug. 13	9:30 AM	Liam Miller
Aug. 20	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
Aug. 27	10:00 AM	(Bowers Park)

### USHERS/GREETERS:

Aug. 6	9:30 AM	April and Ed Rakowiecki
Aug. 13	9:30 AM	Soni Diaz and Tom Kulp
Aug. 20	9:30 AM	The Jedwab family
Aug. 27	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Molly and Dan Dubbs (Bowers)

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Michele Zimmerman and Linda Geiring

**FLOWER CHAIRPERSON:** Nancy Plushanski

**ALTAR COMMITTEE:** Melanie Wessner

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Aug. 27	Worship and Picnic - Bowers Park at 10 AM.
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## **Committee Meeting Dates...**

Church Council Tuesday, July 11 at 7 p.m.  
Worship Life Tuesday, July 25, at 7 p.m.  
Hymn Selection Saturday, July 29, at 8:30 a.m.

Church Council Tuesday, Aug. 8, at 6 p.m. (meeting and picnic – Raudenbush farm))

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

Deadline for articles for the September newsletter is Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Please note:** To email the church office, please use the address: [office@trinitykutztown.com](mailto:office@trinitykutztown.com)

## **From the Finance Committee...**

Approved 2023 Budget -- \$339,983

Unrestricted income through May	\$105,852
Expenditures through May	\$130,171
Balance through May	\$ (24,319)
Average monthly offering	\$ 20,182

## **Christian Education...**

### **Adult Sunday School**

The Adult Sunday School Class welcomes you to join us in enjoying “The Righteous Reign of God,” a program that invites us to understand God’s power in our lives. We will explore the theme of kingdom in historic and modern times. First, we consider Old Testament references to God as king over all the earth: a powerful and peaceful reign, a servant king and God’s appointed king. Second, we will explore Jesus’ kingdom teachings in Matthew. Third, we will explore the implications of life under God’s authority, God at work in us, and Christ as the exulted ruler. Rev. Catherine Malotsky, an ELCA pastor and teacher, will help us use intellectual, emotional and spiritual tools to investigate nuanced and faith-inspiring ways of understanding God’s power in our lives. 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 for those in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, is on a summer break – see you in the Fall!

### **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. We also need adult and older youth helpers! Please see Seth for more information or questions.

There will be two Jingle Offerings to assist with the cost of VBS – July 16<sup>th</sup> and July 23<sup>rd</sup>.



### **Devotionals**

New devotional booklets are available for July-August-September on the table in the rear of the sanctuary.

## Youth News...

### Hoagie and Ham Sandwich Sale

The Youth Group is having another sandwich sale on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Sandwiches are \$6 each. Orders have to be in the church office by July 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in mid-July.

Sandwiches can be picked up between 9:30 and 10:30 AM. This sale is for the Youth Conference in New Orleans next year. Any questions call Darlene Dietrich at 610-683-7975 or Seth Noggle at 570-529-2325.

### Youth Group Schedule

Youth Group will not meet during the month of July. We will resume in August with the below schedule:

#### Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> – at St. John's

Primary Youth Group (K-6<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

#### Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> No scheduled Youth Group

#### Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> – at Trinity

Primary Youth Group (K-6<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

#### Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> – Messy Sunday

All Ages

Time: 4:30-7:00 PM

Location: TBD

Friends and parents are welcome to this event! You will get messy so bring clothes that you don't mind getting gross.

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.

## Interested in Joining Trinity...

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of our congregation, please contact Pr. Ritter or Seth as soon as possible so that we can prepare to welcome you or them appropriately. We are planning to receive new members on Sunday, September 17 during our 9:30 AM worship.

## Graduates...

Congratulations to the following young people who graduated this spring:

**Brody Graff** – Graduated from Marywood University with a Physician Assistant Degree

**Colin Pape** – Graduated from Fleetwood High School

**Ramsi Ross** – Graduated from Kutztown University with a B.S. in Business Management and a minor in Social Media. She plans to continue working as a hairstylist/manager at La Amarah.

**Rachel Towne** – Graduated from New York University, Graduate Acting Program with a Master of Fine Arts Degree. She plans on a career in theater and teaching.

**Ashley Wentzel** – Graduated from Alvernia University

## Upcoming Events...

### Folk Festival Worship, July 9<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, we will be moving our worship to the Kutztown Fairgrounds main stage as part of the 2023 Folk Festival. **Worship will begin at 9 AM that morning** and will recall the history of our Lutheran ancestors who initially settled in this area. Invite friends and family to join you for a day at the Folk Festival and an opportunity to journey back in time. Seth will be our preacher and Pr. Ritter will serve as the liturgist.

**There likely will not be any livestreaming that week, and Trinity's sanctuary will be quiet.**

## Kutztown Kitchen

The next Kutztown Kitchen community meal will be on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 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. The August meal will be in conjunction with the picnic at Bowers Park.

## Service & Picnic in the Bowers Park

This fun-filled annual event will be held on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 AM for the service, and the picnic will be held following the service (approximately 11:15 AM). As always it will be held at Bowers Park. This year we will be celebrating some milestone birthdays in the congregation so we hope you will be able to join us. Also, we will be bringing back the duck race and all proceeds will be used to help fund everyone attending the Youth & Young Adult Gathering next year! Paper products and drinks will be provided as well as cupcakes and ice cream for the birthday celebration. We are asking everyone attending to bring a dish to share (entrée or side) and a lawn chair or blanket so you are comfortable during the service. A sign-up sheet will be on the office door so you can let us know how many in your family will be attending. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Finke at 610-349-2325 or the church office. We are looking forward to a great day and hope you will be able to join us!

## Flower Sponsors...

The following dates are available for flower sponsors:

July 30                      September 3 and 17  
August 27 (Bowers)      October 8 and 22  
December 31

We also need monthly flower chairpersons for the months of 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.

## How You Can Help...

### Summer Fellowship Opportunities

We would like to once again this summer have light refreshments after the worship service. If you can bring some cool liquid refreshment and simple finger snacks anytime over the summer, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board.

### 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...

<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.

## Rejoicing    Spirits    Ecumenical Community Ministry...

The next two Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County services are at 3:00 pm on Sunday, July 2, 2023, and Sunday, August 6, 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](mailto:charf1sh@verizon.net), 610-223-9822) or Erin Webb ([emwebb05@aol.com](mailto:emwebb05@aol.com), 610-894-9949)

## **Bear Creek Camp...**

There's still time to join the fun at Bear Creek Camp for Summer 2023!

Youth Overnight Camp:

*Registration Open Online!*

Session Four: July 9th-14th

Session Five: July 16th-21st

Session Six: July 23rd-28th

Session Seven: July 30th - August 4th

Session Eight: August 6th-11th

## **ELCA Young Adult Vocational Fellowship...**

The ELCA Young Adult Vocational Fellowship is a one-year discernment experience at the intersection of vocation, faith community building, and professional development. Young adults will explore employment that is meaningful, empowering, and reflects the values of their faith. The fellows will work at an ELCA partner organization for 9-12 months, gaining professional experience that is unique to each site. While similar to an internship or gap-year program involving vocational experience, this fellowship will offer a full-time salary and benefits. For more information, please go to:

<https://www.elca.church/vocational-fellowship>

## **Community Events...**

### **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](mailto:office@stpaulskutztown.org)

### **Free Senior Luncheon**

The first Friday of each month, the St. Barnabas Center at 234 E. Main Street, Kutztown, will be hosting a free senior luncheon 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.

## **Kutztown Kruizz**

On July 29<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 5:00, come out for the Kutztown Kruizz on Main Street – cars, music, food and kids activities. Proceeds benefit Kutztown Strong.



## **Concert Series in the Kutztown Park Band Shell**

The upcoming concerts in the 2023 Concert Series held in the Kutztown Park are:

July 5: KU Summer Music Festival at 7 PM

July 8: TimeWhys at 7 PM

July 15: Frog Holler at 7 PM

July 22: Swing Fever Bank at 7 PM

July 29: The Fabulous Greaseband at 6 PM

Aug. 3: KASD Summer Bank at 7 PM

Aug. 6: Kutztown Day Concerts:

Zeptones at 12 PM

Flamin' Dick & The Hot Rods at 6 PM

Aug. 12: The Dave Mell Band at 7 PM

Aug. 13: Kutztown Pipe Band & Celtic Session at 4 PM

Aug. 19: The Ringgold Band at 7 M

Sept. 16: Buccaneer Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps at 6 PM



*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. There is a need for many volunteers during the time *The Wall That Heals* will be in Kutztown. Sign up online at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0945a4ab28a4fac25-thewall2#/>

## Animate Faith

Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville is hosting Animate Faith, a faith conversation, on three Thursdays in July: July 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>, offered twice each day at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. in person or via Zoom. Animate Faith is a series by SparkHouse, a subsidiary of Augsburg Fortress. The sessions are:

- July 6<sup>th</sup>: God - Faith is a Quest
- July 13<sup>th</sup>: Jesus - The Revolution of Love
- July 27<sup>th</sup>: Religion - Spirituality is Not Enough

If interested, you can simply attend in person on the designated day/time at the church at 16 Fleetwood Road, Fleetwood, or call 610-682-7664 or email [christ@christmertz.org](mailto:christ@christmertz.org) to receive the Zoom link or for more information.

## ELCA World Hunger...

Tatiane, now 24 years old and a mother of one, remembers eating primarily rice and beans as a child in her rural Kilombola community in southern Brazil. Rice and beans are staples for the Kilombola, but Tatiane and her family didn't have much variety beyond those foods. As Tatiane shared, "We didn't know what lettuce was."

Tatiane and those living in Kilombola communities are descendants of Afro-Brazilian enslaved people who fled cities and farms to live together and start new communities during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. As a result, they have remained largely isolated from the rest of Brazilian society. They have struggled against inequality and neglect for centuries, often lacking such basic needs as running water, sanitation and health services.

A Brazilian partner of ELCA World Hunger helps Kilombola people claim their legal rights to basic public services by incorporating their communities as towns. This step empowers families to access schools for their children and the transportation needed to get there. This work, made possible in part by your generosity, doesn't stop there.

The trust built from these initial efforts enables ELCA World Hunger to further support the Kilombola as they build sustainable livelihoods and a healthier future for their communities. For Tatiane this meant agricultural training and a space for selling her surplus crops at the local market.

Much of the food grown in Tatiane's garden feeds fellow Kilombola families, increasing healthy options for the whole community. Having access to a diverse diet with many nutrient-rich options is a key step toward food security and long-term well-being.

ELCA World Hunger partners accompany communities such as the Kilombola all over the world. Thank you for your faithful partnership in this work.





2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>25</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 4:00pm Primary Youth Group at Trinity 4:30pm Kutztown Kitchen Community Meal 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at Trinity 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Orchestra Rehearsal (Folk Festival music)	<b>28</b> 2:00pm Bible Study-Rita Lieb	<b>29</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>30</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 3:00pm Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service at St. Paul's UCC 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>3</b> Office Closed	<b>4</b> Office Closed - Happy Independence Day!	<b>5</b> 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb	<b>6</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Orchestra Rehearsal (Folk Festival music) 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School <b>9:00am Worship: Folk Festival Main Stage</b> 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>10</b> Office Closed	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>12</b> 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb	<b>13</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>14</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>17</b> Office Closed	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb	<b>20</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>21</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>24</b> Office Closed	<b>25</b> 7:00pm Worship Life Committee Meeting	<b>26</b> 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb	<b>27</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>28</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>29</b> 8:30am Hymn Selection
<b>30</b> Hoagie and Ham Sandwich orders due! 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 4:30pm Kutztown Kitchen Community Meal 6:00pm Vacation Bible School at Trinity 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>31</b> Office Closed 6:00pm Vacation Bible School at Trinity	<b>1</b> 6:00pm Vacation Bible School at Trinity	<b>2</b> 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb 6:00pm Vacation Bible School at Trinity	<b>3</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Vacation Bible School at Trinity 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>4</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>5</b>



2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> Hoagie and Ham Sandwich orders due! 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 4:30pm Kutztown Kitchen Community Meal 6:00pm Vacation Bible School at Trinity 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>31</b> Office Closed 6:00pm Vacation Bible School at Trinity	<b>1</b> 6:00pm Vacation Bible School at Trinity	<b>2</b> 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb 6:00pm Vacation Bible School at Trinity	<b>3</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Vacation Bible School at Trinity 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>4</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 3:00pm Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service at St. Paul's UCC 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at St. John's 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at St. John's 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>7</b> Office Closed	<b>8</b> 6:00pm Church Council Picnic and Meeting – Raudenbush farm	<b>9</b> 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb	<b>10</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>11</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>12</b> 9:30am Hoagie and Ham Sandwich Pick-Up
<b>13</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>14</b> Office Closed	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb	<b>17</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>18</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at Trinity 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at Trinity 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>21</b> Office Closed	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb	<b>24</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service and Picnic; Kutztown Kitchen - Bowers Park 4:30pm Youth Group Messy Sunday - All Ages, Location TBD 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>28</b> Office Closed	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb	<b>31</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>1</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>2</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
16 Taylor Greenawalt	17 RC Storch	18 Molly Dubbs 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 Christopher Schomaker Emily Yost
30 Mason Ewing Emily Wentzel	31 Haley Herbert Sam Kulp Olivia Zehl					



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Tom Touhsaent Evan DeVall Susan Krause	2 Brandon Wood	3	4 Elena Graff	5 Seth Gottlund Corey Graff
6 Sierra Yerger	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 Suzanne Barron Seth Noggle Jeni Touhsaent	15 Fred Collier Bill Collier	16 Jerome Lutz Louise Schlegel	17 Marissa Steinmetz	18 Larry Youse	
20	21	22 Jennifer Lando	23 Kennedy Miller	24 Darlene Dietrich Karen Hobough Christine Storch	25 Paul Lilienthal Shirley Youse Ashley Wentzel	26 Kassidy Miller
27 Joanne Lopic Kris Tuerk Suzie Ligammari	28 Ellen Long	29	30 Naomi Owen	31 Hannah Fritz		



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

# SYNOD NEWS



## OF NORTHERN STITCHES, CONTAINER SHIPS, PORT CHAPLAINS AND SEAFARERS: A JOURNEY OF HOPE THRU SIH

BY PASTOR SUSAN TJORNEHOJ, SIH BOARD MEMBER AND SUSTAINER, CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BEMIDJI, MN

It is a Thursday morning at Calvary Lutheran Church in Bemidji, MN. Canada is just 107 miles away. The winter morning is brisk, 7 degrees, with a stiff breeze out of the north. This means it feels like way too many degrees below zero. For the 8 to 10 women who are here, cold temps, icy winds, even blowing snow can't keep them home. The call to serve others through the art and craft of quilting is too compelling. Colors surround them, blues and greens, browns and oranges, reds, yellows, floral and stripe, squares and scraps, piecing together discarded fabric into warmth which becomes shawls and tents, blankets, a wedding dress, maybe even a death wrap for those fleeing war or the ravages of climate change. But here in the north, it is simply the joy of community and service.

Today I imagine the journey the quilts will take, from the cold north to a warehouse, into a container bound for a need somewhere in the world. Ukraine or Lebanon? Mali or Burkina Faso? I imagine them loaded onto a train or truck on its way to a port, part of the *Seafarers International House (SIH)* network. Baltimore? Newark? *Seafarers International House (SIH)*, the ELCA seafarers' ministry, has been that intersection where quilters from Bemidji, connect to a port chaplain, a seafarer, a dock worker loading up a container ship bound for somewhere across the Atlantic, through the Panama Canal, to places known and unknown.



For 150 years, hospitality and the welcome of strangers, support for seafarers and newcomers and refugees and immigrants, asylum seekers, this ministry has been a tapestry, a quilt, a piecing together of connection, support and a wayside rest. Perhaps some of the ancestors of these quilting women were assisted by SIH as they disembarked at Battery Park or Ellis Island, bound for a new home in a new land.

This is what interests me on a cold Thursday morning, how the stitches of these women, intersect with a dock worker, a seafarer, a port chaplain, an asylum seeker. This is why I continue to financially support this ministry and serve on its board with great joy, imagining and underwriting the hope, the intersections of strangers around the globe, all uniquely made possible through SIH. 🇺🇸



The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod met in assembly from June 1-3, 2023 at Kalahari Resort in the Poconos. We gathered around Word and Sacrament, Song, Service, friendship, and food. We prayed together, worshipped together, and conducted the business of Christ's church for the first time, in-person, in three years!

In our time together we adopted changes to our constitution from the ELCA, elected a new Secretary, Rev. Ken Melber Jr, elected a new Vice President, Nancy Reichelt, and we adopted three new resolutions concerning money management in congregations, chaplaincy at Diakon home, and land acknowledgment concerning first peoples'. These can be found on the Synod website at [www.godslove.org/assembly23](http://www.godslove.org/assembly23)

