



# Trinity Together

## Trinity Lutheran Church

357 West Main Street  
Kutztown, Pennsylvania 19530

**September 2023**

<b>Transitional Pastor:</b> The Rev. Dr. Dennis Ritter	484-529-7801	<a href="mailto:dsritter@ptd.net">dsritter@ptd.net</a>
<b>Director of Youth &amp; Family Ministry:</b> Seth Noggle	570-529-2325	<a href="mailto:Seth.noggle@gmail.com">Seth.noggle@gmail.com</a>
<b>Editor/Administrative Assistant:</b> Diane Spohn	610-683-3450	<a href="mailto:office@trinitykutztown.com">office@trinitykutztown.com</a>
<b>Director of Music:</b> Bruce Rohrbach	610-683-9496	<a href="mailto:brhrbch@hometownnu.com">brhrbch@hometownnu.com</a>
<b>Tech &amp; Media Specialist:</b> Brandon Wood	484-629-9332	<a href="mailto:bwood2016@gmail.com">bwood2016@gmail.com</a>
<b>Financial Secretary:</b> Mike Sailsbery	412-849-5255	<a href="mailto:finsectrinity@hotmail.com">finsectrinity@hotmail.com</a>
<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 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 after worship beginning September 24<sup>th</sup>

## 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,

Next year will mark forty years since I earned my Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew Theological School in Madison, NJ. My field of study was stewardship. It wasn't by accident that I chose to concentrate on stewardship. The very beginning of my ministry in 1977 made it clear that if I didn't pay attention to this important area of congregational life and my life it would be at my own peril and that of my congregation's. So, it has been that everywhere I have been blessed to serve, including my years as the CEO/Executive Director of Lutheran Congregational Services, I have sought to help the congregation's members or agency's supporters become healthier stewards of God's many graces.

As I enter the latter years of my earthly life I have started to think more and more about legacy things, namely what has my life meant and how will I/it be remembered. A recent article I read on this matter suggested that a good spiritual and stewardship practice is to write your own obituary. The author of the article went on to say, "I've learned that knowing what you want people to say about you at the end of life is a good way to guide how you live today." While it might sound morbid, it makes sense, doesn't it? If you want people to think well of you and to understand what was important in your life, then young or old you need to live out what you say you believe.

Early in my learning regarding the importance of stewardship for my ministry I was given the following definition of stewardship. "Stewardship is everything you do after you say I believe." In other words, after we confess faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, everything we do after that – how we use our money, love our family, the work we do, the ways in which we serve our community, etc. – are all expressions of our stewardship of the gifts God has entrusted to us.

I end with this question. Does your life reflect what you say you value? If you are unsure, perhaps engaging in writing your own obituary, like the author did of the article I just read, and reading it regularly could be a helpful exercise to get your life on track to being the life you want to live and most importantly, God desires you to live.

Blessings and Peace,

*Pastor Ritter*

## ***Meeting and Vote Scheduled for Sunday, September 17...***

Following worship on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September our congregation will hold a meeting to decide if Trinity will ask Seth Noggle to become our "Vicar and Lead Minister" in 2024. If the vote is a positive one, Pr. Ritter and Seth will begin to transition into their new roles during the remaining 3 months of 2023 and a search process will be put in place and conducted to identify an additional, part-time (20-24 hrs./wk.), ministry position to assist Seth in his work with our educational, youth, young adult and campus ministries. The goal will be to have a person identified and ready to start by January 1, 2024.

A second and final Q & A session about this matter will be held on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> following worship.

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



## Schedule & Volunteers

### ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Sep. 3 9:30 AM Alicia Wood  
Sep. 10 9:30 AM **OPEN\***  
Sep. 17 9:30 AM **OPEN\***  
Sep. 24 9:30 AM Amy Pfeiler-Wunder

### LAY READERS:

Sep. 3 9:30 AM Alicia Wood  
Sep. 10 9:30 AM **OPEN\***  
Sep. 17 9:30 AM **OPEN\***  
Sep. 24 9:30 AM Amy Pfeiler-Wunder

### ACOLYTES:

Sep. 3 9:30 AM Liam Miller  
Sep. 10 9:30 AM Isaac Jedwab  
Sep. 17 9:30 AM Liam Miller  
Sep. 24 9:30 AM Isaac Jedwab

### USHERS/GREETERS:

Sep. 3 9:30 AM Donna Keglovits and TBD  
Sep. 10 9:30 AM Alicia Wood and Kellen  
Cunningham  
Sep. 17 9:30 AM Pauline and Kurt Rohrbach  
Sep. 24 9:30 AM Neuenschwander Family

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Tina Billig and Nancy and Charles Plushanski

**FLOWER CHAIRPERSON:** Darlene Dietrich

**ALTAR COMMITTEE:** Nancy Hildenbrand

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Sep. 4 Labor Day  
Sep. 10 Grandparents Day  
Sep. 23 First day of Autumn



### Committee Meeting Dates...

Worship Life Tuesday, Sep. 5, at 7 p.m.  
Strategic Plan Team Tuesday, Sep. 12, at 9 a.m.  
Church Council Tuesday, Sep. 12, at 7 p.m.

### From the Church Office...

Deadline for articles for the October newsletter is Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Office Hours Beginning September 5<sup>th</sup> are Tuesday through Friday 8 AM to 2 PM.**

### From the Finance Committee...

Approved 2023 Budget -- \$339,983  
Unrestricted income through July \$152,027  
Expenditures through July \$173,542  
Balance through July \$ (21,515)  
Average monthly offering \$ 19,497

### Christian Education...

#### Rally Day

This year's Rally Day at Trinity will be September 24<sup>th</sup>! We are so excited to see our Trinity kids back in our faith growing programs. All Sunday Schools for youth will start after Church from 10:45-11:45AM. That includes Good News Club which is for grades Pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade and our Journey to Adulthood/Confirmation Class which starts in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and traditionally goes to 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade depending on when the students enter in. If you have a child or grandchild, we would love to see them at Trinity on September 24<sup>th</sup>!

#### Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class welcomes you to join us in enjoying "God's Law is Love," a program that invites us to bridge the gap between Old Testament law and New Testament love. We will explore the struggle in New Testament texts with the significance of Mosaic law for those who trust in and love Jesus Christ. Jesus shows us how compassion is always essential when interpreting the

law. First, we will look at Luke and John to see Jesus' roots in in the justice and love of God; and compassion versus rigorous application of law. Second, we will see in Paul's epistles to Romans and Galatians the justification by faith, and how the law tells us what to do but not how to do it. Third, we consider in Acts, Corinthians, Romans and Colossians, the fulfillment of law in the commandment to love, and the revelation of God in Christ. Rev. Phil Ruge-Jones, an ELCA pastor in Wisconsin who recounts the gospel of Mark from memory, will help us understand how the expansion of the good news causes us to rethink our relationship to the law. 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. **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.



## VBS was Monumental!

Once again Trinity and St. Paul UCC joined together to provide a joy filled opportunity for Christian learning and fellowship from July 30 – August 3. This year Trinity was the host site for this MONUMENTAL undertaking. In case you haven't figured it out by now the theme for this year's VBS was . . . **MONUMENTAL**. We hosted approximately 40 children in grades K-6. While the theme was **MONUMENTAL**, the Bible stories focused on portions of the Joseph cycle from the book of *Genesis*, chapters 37-50.

Thank you to everyone who helped to create a wonderful week of learning for the children who attended!

Here are a few pictures from the week. Enjoy!





## 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.

### September 3<sup>rd</sup>: Messy Sunday (rescheduled)

All Ages

Time: 4:30-7:00 PM

Location: 319 Bowers Road, Bowers

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

### September 10<sup>th</sup>: St. John's

Primary Youth Group (Grades 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>)

Time: 4:30-6:00PM

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

Time: 6:00-8:00PM

### September 17<sup>th</sup>: Service Project to Maiden creek Assisted Living

Time: 3:30-5:00 PM

Where: 105 Dries Rd, Reading, PA 19605

Who: All ages and parents are welcome!

THIS WILL NEED AN RSVP SO WE KNOW HOW MANY DRIVERS ARE NEEDED

What: We'll need drivers to help bring the students to Maiden creek. We'll do activities with the residents who live there.

### Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>: Dungeons and Dragon's Night at Trinity

Time: 6:00-8:30PM

Who: All Ages

### September 24<sup>th</sup>: St. John's

Primary Youth Group (Grades 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>)

Time: 4:30-6:00PM

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

Time: 6:00-8:00PM

## Kutztown University BSW Intern to Begin Soon...

Last spring Pastor Ritter and Seth interviewed a candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Social Work who needs to gain experience in the general field of social work through serving a year-long internship with an agency or organization. We are pleased to announce that Julia Morton will soon begin her BSW internship with Trinity later this month. We will be creating a learning agreement with her and the University. She will be working at Trinity about 15 hours per week during the 2023 fall and 2024 spring semesters. Once she has settled in, we will invite her to attend worship to formally and informally welcome her into our faith community.

## 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.

## Upcoming Events...

### God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> is *God's Work, Our Hands Sunday*. Following the Q & A session that is scheduled that day, everyone is invited to a potluck luncheon in the fellowship hall. After enjoying lunch together there will be an opportunity to engage in harvesting potatoes (the Potato Project), or other options which will be provided. Mark your calendars and plan to join with your fellow ELCA Lutherans in work to strengthen our community and beyond. There is a sign-up sheet on the office door.

## Organ Concert – Save the Date!

There will be an organ concert at Trinity on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 PM.

Rudy Lucente, Assistant Organist at the Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia, will be the guest organist. He also appears regularly at Longwood Gardens, The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia, and Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. As a recitalist, Rudy is known for his “family friendly” presentations. Mr. Lucente’s presence is being underwritten by the Allen Organ Company located in Macungie, PA.

A time of fellowship and light refreshments will follow the concert and will provide an opportunity to meet and greet Mr. Lucente.

## Kutztown Kitchen

The next Kutztown Kitchen community meal will be on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30-5:00 p.m. It will be takeout or delivery only this month. For questions or to request delivery, please call Ann Towne at 484-239-5314 or the church office.

## Flower Sponsors...

The following dates are available for flower sponsors:

September 3 and 17      October 22  
December 31

We also need monthly flower chairpersons for the months of 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 for Supporting Our Youth and Young Adults...

Trinity, St. John and the Lutheran Centre are joining together to send 12 youth, 9 young adults and 2 adults to the 2024 ELCA Youth and Young Adult Gatherings in New Orleans, LA. The Youth Gathering and Young Adult Gathering are scheduled to take place July 16-20, 2024. We are excited to have so many of our youth and young adults committed to attending these faith shaping events. We also give thanks for the support that members of Trinity have given to help defray the costs for each participant. Over the summer several successful fundraisers were held. Here is a summary.

- The youth and young adults participated in the Kutztown Kruizz event on July 29<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by Kutztown Strong. They hosted a hot dog, soft ice cream and bottled water stand. Their efforts netted \$396.00. **A special thank you to everyone who donated items for the stand, including the soft ice cream machine and mix!**
- A hoagie sale on August 12<sup>th</sup> netted \$1,037.37. Seven youth and 8 young & older adults helped to make the sandwiches. **Thank you Darlene for organizing and coordinating this event. Thrivent provided a \$250 Action Team grant to help purchase the ingredients for the sandwiches.**
- Finally, the proceeds from the duck race held in conjunction with Trinity’s Bowers Park worship and picnic on August 27<sup>th</sup> raised \$354.00. Again thank you to everyone who purchased a duck in support of our youth. The race was won by Lisa Finke with duck #51.

Future fundraising opportunities are being planned. Keep your eyes open for them. In addition, if you would like to make a special gift to support our youth and young adults attending the gatherings in New Orleans, you can do so by cash, check or an online (Vanco) gift. Checks should be made payable to “Trinity” and all contributions should be clearly marked for 2024 Youth & Young Adult Gathering.

## **Rejoicing Spirits Ecumenical Community Ministry...**

The next Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County service is at 3:00 pm on Sunday, September 3, 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)

## **How You Can Help...**

### **Fall Attic Outlet**

Time to clean out your closets? Think of the Fall Attic Outlet! Dates are: Friday, October 13, 6-8:00 PM; Saturday, October 14, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM; Friday, October 20, 6-8:00 PM; and Saturday, October 21, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. Help is needed to set up and also on the sale days and to pack up. Clothing especially is appreciated, as well as household items and shoes. Please no furniture, TV's or computers. Any questions, please call Darlene Dietrich at 610-683-7975.

### **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.

## **Friend Inc. Volunteers Needed**

Friend, Inc. is expanding the space for the pantry and will need extra volunteers. Some jobs include:

- Returning shopping carts from outside. This frees up parking spaces sooner so new people can park.
- Handing out pet food during check-in. Mostly a seated position in a temperature-controlled space. Bags of food are in carts, so lifting is minimal.
- Handing out backpacks and school supplies (August pantries only).
- Using their new computer program to sign households in. Requires some basic computer skills and a friendly personality.

They have pantry 5 times a month, 3 mornings, 1 afternoon and 1 evening. You may do one day a month or all 5 or anything in between. Please contact [cathy@friendinc.org](mailto:cathy@friendinc.org) or call 610-683-7791 if interested.

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

Dear Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for helping make Relay For Life successful. Together, we honor all people living with cancer and remember loved ones lost. We are able to take action against this terrible disease because of support from donors like you.

Warm regards,  
William L. Dahut, MD, Chief Scientific Officer  
American Cancer Society

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your gift given to your synod, received by Lutheran Disaster Response in May 2023.... Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

I thank God for your generous hearts.  
In Christ,  
Amanda White, Director, Congregational Generosity

## Happy Birthday to Paul Lilienthal who turned 100 on August 25<sup>th</sup>!!



### Community Events...

#### Camp Edmar Pollinator Gardens

You are invited to get ready to dig some holes and get your hands dirty. The Environmental Sustainability Team for Rotary International clubs in our area will soon begin a pollinator garden at Camp Edmar. The Camp is located on Boy Scout Road in Greenwich Township. Rotary's local District 7430 has adopted the principles of Operation Pollination that recognize the importance of the pollination done by insects for our food supply and the survival of those insects.

The garden will be planted in two phases: heartier plants will go in on September 23, 2023. We will plant perennials in April 2024. Rotarians invite you to join us and Camp Edmar volunteers to plant in September and April, and following each planting for maintenance.

This pilot pollinator project is being funded through a District Grant. It supports the beekeeping activity already undertaken by Camp Edmar. This project, when successful, will be the model for other pollinator gardens located in the other 4 counties comprising District 7430.

#### The Chosen

The Saint Barnabas Center of Kutztown, 234 E. Main Street, will be hosting a Watch Party and Discussion Group for "The Chosen." New viewers or fans are welcome! The group will meet Sundays at 6:30 PM on September 10 and 24, October 15 and 29, November 5 and 19, and December 3.

#### Blood Drive

The Miller-Keystone Blood Center is holding a local blood drive on Sunday, October 1st, 2023 at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville, 16 Fleetwood Road, Fleetwood PA 19522. The blood drive will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 8AM - 2PM. To register, simply go to [https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/85624](https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/85624) and schedule a time. If you prefer, you may simply call the Miller-Keystone Blood Center at 800 - B - A - DONOR (800-223-6667). There are 42 total slots available. Together, we can fill all those slots.

#### St. Luke's Good Grief Workshops

St. Luke's offers 90-minute virtual workshops to provide you 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. You will be asked to download the Microsoft Teams app on your smart phone or computer. Offerings in September are:

- Thursday, 9/7/2023, from 1-2:30 PM
- Wednesday, 9/27/2023, from 6-7:30 PM

#### 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.

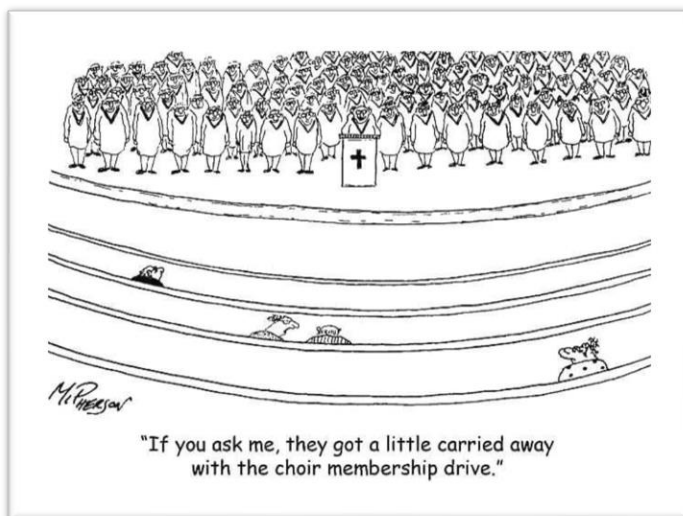
## Volunteer Reading Tutors needed for Ready.Set.READ! Program

Help make a difference in a child's life! Volunteers are needed to tutor 2nd grade students that need extra support with reading at Kutztown Elementary School on Thursdays from 3:30 – 4:30 PM during the 2023-2024 school year. No previous teaching experience is required. This opportunity is for anyone interested in volunteering weekly for one hour. Current background clearances are required and training is provided. Please contact Darby Wiekrykas at United Way 610-685-4574 or [darbyw@uwberks.org](mailto:darbyw@uwberks.org).



*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#/>



**Summer Fellowship After Worship!**





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	1 7:00pm AA Meeting	2
3 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 Messy Sunday - All Ages 7:00pm SA Meeting	4 Office Closed - Happy Labor Day!	5 7:00pm Worship Life Committee Meeting	6 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb	7 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting	8 7:00pm AA Meeting	9
10 "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Q&A for Future Staffing 11:30am Potluck Luncheon (after meeting) 1:00pm Potato Project Harvest - Becker's St. Peters (or other options) 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at St. John's 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at St. John's 7:00pm SA Meeting	11 Office Closed 7:30pm Kutztown Community Choir Rehearsal	12 9:00am Strategic Plan Oversight Team 7:00pm Council Meeting	13 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	14 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting	15 7:00pm AA Meeting	16
17 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) - New Members 10:45am Congregational Meeting 3:30pm Youth Group Service Project at Maiden Creek Place - All Ages 7:00pm SA Meeting	18 Office Closed 7:30pm Kutztown Community Choir Rehearsal	19 October Newsletter Articles Due 6:00pm Youth Group Dungeons and Dragons Night at Trinity - All Ages	20 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	21 8:00am Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Replica Opening Ceremony - Lower Kutztown Park 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22 7:00pm AA Meeting	23
24 Rally Day 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 10:45am Good News Club 3:00pm Organ Concert by Rudy Lucente 4:30pm Kutztown Kitchen Community Meal - Takeout or Delivery Only 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at St. John's 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at St. John's 7:00pm SA Meeting	25 Office Closed 7:30pm Kutztown Community Choir Rehearsal	26	27 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	28 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29 7:00pm AA Meeting	30

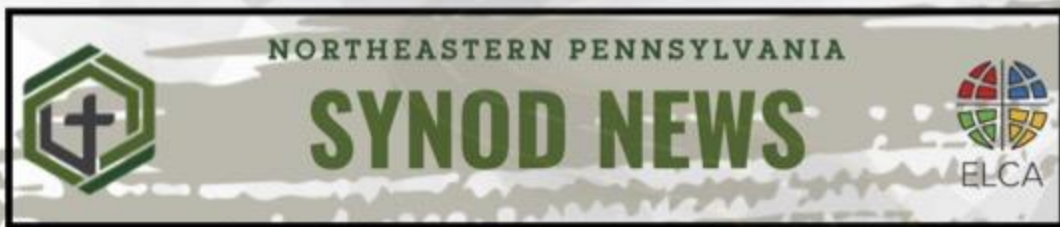


# September

## BIRTHDAYS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Kirin Esser Denise Scheidt Karise Mace
3 Colin Pape	4 Jack Schearer Madelyn Scheidt	5	6	7	8	9 Alexandra Matz Kristiana Buschan Dan Woodland Andrew Neuenschwander
10 Scott Scheidt Dexter Sullivan	11 Benjamin Johnson	12 Allison Scheidt	13 Kirby Loeb	14 Sherry Wentzel	15 Janet Yost Evie Mace	16 Emily Finke
17	18	19 Dan Raudenbush	20 Landyn Keglovits	21 Benjamin Miller	22 Michael Barron	23 Steve Fenstermacher
24 Rachel Towne Melanie Wessner	25	26 Rodney Fisher	27 Jonathan Dundore Darlene Moyer	28 Will Gottlund Alena Schwoyer Rowan Fluck	29 Terry Lieb	30 Mary Louise Dundore Jesse Plushanski Annabel Pfeiler- Wunder





## THE THREE ROADS TO VITALITY

As we gather together in the embrace of faith and fellowship throughout the synod (from assemblies, worship, ordinations, anniversaries, and to other synod-wide events) we are reminded of the powerful journey we are on as a Church with a capital C. Our commitment to Christ's teachings has allowed us to evolve beyond mere existence and instead embrace life abundantly. Throughout our synod over the past few years, we've been celebrating three key phrases that define our thriving communities: Growing Young, Stronger Together, and Going Beyond Death to Life.

### **Growing Young**

Embracing life is not limited to any particular age group; it is a concept that transcends generations. We are proud to be a church that nurtures an intergenerational atmosphere, where the wisdom of our elders and the enthusiasm of our youth combine to create a vibrant and dynamic community.

In the teachings of Jesus, we find the encouragement to become like children, embracing a childlike faith that is open, eager, and receptive to God's grace. Our thriving churches have taken this message to heart, fostering an environment that allows every member, regardless of age, to experience spiritual growth and development, to participate in leadership roles, and exude the various elements of the growing young wheel. In doing so, we not only remain young at heart but also enrich each other's lives by sharing diverse perspectives and experiences.

### **Stronger Together**

In unity, we discover strength. Our churches embody the spirit of togetherness, recognizing that we are bound by a shared faith and a common purpose. When we face challenges or trials, we do so as a united body, drawing support from one another, and standing firmly rooted in God's love.

As the Apostle Paul once wrote, "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ, we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." (Romans 12:4-5, NIV). This unity allows us to overcome obstacles, reach out to those in need, and fulfill our mission to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

## Going Beyond Death to Life

In a world that often fixates on the inevitability of death, our church communities boldly choose to focus on the promise of resurrection and life. We are reminded of the words of Jesus when he said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." (John 11:25, NIV). This powerful message resonates within our hearts, filling us with hope and joy.

As a Church and as individual churches, we understand that life is not confined to this earthly existence alone. Our spiritual journey extends beyond the boundaries of mortality, and we find solace in knowing that a greater, eternal life awaits us. By embracing this profound truth, we are empowered to live with purpose, spreading love, compassion, and the Gospel to all corners of the world.

As we continue to journey together as a church that goes beyond death to life, grows young, and stands stronger together, let us celebrate the joy of living in God's grace. We invite you to participate actively and fully in our synod's diverse ministries, outreach programs, and spiritual growth opportunities, as they allow us to deepen our understanding of God's love and make a lasting impact in the lives of others. Remember, the limitations of this world do not define us but rather by the boundless life that Christ offers us. Let us carry this message of hope and transformation into our communities, touching lives, and inspiring others to embrace the abundant life that comes through knowing and following Jesus.

May God bless each one of you abundantly, and may our churches continue to be a beacon of light, love, and life in a world that desperately needs it.

The Reverend Lauren Wolfe Blatt  
Director of Communication and Events, NEPS  
Pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church, Laureldale  
Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Reading



GROWING YOUNG



GAINING STRENGTH



BEYOND DEATH TO LIFE