



TRINITY HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2021

*The monthly newsletter of
Trinity Lutheran Church
Greencastle, PA*

Dear Family,

How is it with your soul?

We've spent an inordinate amount of time after Pentecost in the "green season" of the church. Green reminds us of plants growing in the summer: leaves on the trees, plants in the garden, lawns requiring weekly mowing. Even as we move into October with the leaves changing color for fall and the temperatures plummeting at night, we in the church are still in the "green season." We'll remain here until the Sunday after Thanksgiving when we'll begin a new church year with Advent.

So, after many months of the "green season," it makes sense to stop and take stock. How is it with your soul?

We've been walking together through the gospel of Mark with a bit of John thrown into the mix. Jesus has been both comforting and challenging. Which are you most in need of at this time in your journey?

Some of us in our Trinity family have been struggling with major health issues, financial challenges, grieving a death in the family, caring for aging parents, major life changes with moving, children leaving, retirement. We're concerned about the Covid pandemic. The numbers of cases are climbing, and our medical consultants and the news continue to report hospitals full to capacity. For some of us our souls are hurting needing to know God walks with us in our pain, fear, and uncertainty

For some of us, when things are going well, it's easy to slip into complacency. There are some disturbing statistics that state fully half of the people in our faith families live essentially as functional agnostics. That means we say we believe in God, but we don't live as if God matters.

Throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus is clear that God loves us. We are showered with God's grace – God's unconditional love and forgiveness – as a gift. We need do nothing to earn it. Yet, at some point, we have to open the gift in order to receive its benefits. Making intentional time for God in prayer, silent meditation, worship, and devotion gives God a chance to bring peace to a troubled soul and transformation, inspiration, and direction to a complacent soul.

I invite you to join me on Thursdays on Facebook Live for some discussion about the benefits and practical suggestions for spiritual practice. If you aren't on Facebook, look for them on the first page of the website. Spiritual practice puts us in a position where God can "get" to us. God softens our souls and gives us what we need whether comfort or challenge. How is it with YOUR soul?

Blessings on your journey!

Pastor Barb



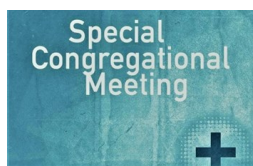


OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Sunday School 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live</i> 10 AM Cong Mtg Pet Blessing 2PM	4 AA 7PM	5 Young Adult Zoom 7PM	6 Bible Study 11 AM <i>Worship & Music</i> 7PM	7 Prayer 6PM	8 AA 7PM	9
10 Sunday School 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live</i> 10 AM Fellowship	11 AA 7PM	12 Young Adult Zoom 7PM <i>Finance 7PM</i>	13 Bible Study 11 AM <i>Council 7PM</i>	14 Prayer 6PM	15 AA 7PM	16
17 Sunday School 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live</i> 10 AM	18 AA 7PM	19 Young Adult Zoom 7PM	20 Bible Study 11 AM	21 Prayer 6PM	22 AA 7PM	23
24 Sunday School 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live</i> 10 AM Fellowship	25 AA 7PM	26 Young Adult Zoom 7PM	27 Bible Study 11 AM	28 Prayer 6PM	29 AA 7PM	30 R3 Workshop 9AM
31 <i>Reformation</i> Sunday School 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live</i> 10 AM						

October Worship Assistants

	OCTOBER 3	OCTOBER 10	OCTOBER 17	OCTOBER 24	OCTOBER 31
Assisting Minister	Scott Valentine	Don Swart	Dave Wolfe	Scott Valentine	Don Swart
Ushers	Charlie Ford	Darrell Swart	Donna Wolfe	Donna Wolfe	Al Shank
Singer	Matt Cessna	Scott Valentine	Ella Swart	Matt Cessna	Dave Besecker
IT Ministry	Darrell Swart	IT Team	IT Team	Beth Ford	Beth Ford
Communion Preparers	Sue Wunderlich	Charlie & Beth Ford	Bud & Donna Wolfe	Don & Carol Swart	Sue Wunderlich



MEETING OCTOBER 3

A special Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, October 3.

Items on the agenda include:

- Sharing a congregational blessing
- Vote on a large expenditure for heat/AC equipment replacement.

The Zoom information will be sent via email. Call the office if you would like to join the meeting, can't gather in person, and don't zoom. We will phone you and place you on speaker.



Reformation Sunday, October 31st, is the day we remember Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses (ideas) on the Wittenburg Church door. It's a day the Holy

Spirit breathed reform into the church. That day we also reflect on our personal spiritual transformations. **Wear red!** It's the color of the Holy Spirit.



PET BLESSING IN THE PRAYER GARDEN Sunday, October 3 2PM



Bring your pets or a picture if your pet doesn't travel well.

Animals will be individually blessed as part of the service.

A memorial for pets who have died will be part of the service.

Horses, dogs, and cats have already sent an RSVP. Come join in the fun!

NOTE: If it is raining at noon, the pet blessing will be postponed until next Sunday, October 10.



In light of surging Covid numbers and to protect our children and the most vulnerable among us, Council, with the recommendation of our medical

consultants, has made the decision to return to masks and social distancing when gathering in person regardless of vaccination status. These changes became effective Sunday, Sept 26.



PLEASE PRAY WITH US

Each Thursday evening a group gathers on Zoom for pray for our congregation. Please call the office for the zoom information if you feel called to participate with the group. Otherwise, set your alarm on your phone to pray from wherever you are. That way we are praying together as a family.



I am grateful for prayers and volunteers as I had to miss two Sundays in September due to illness! Special thanks to Scott Valentine for making personnel scheduling changes and changes to the Media Shout screens as well as singing two weeks in a row! Special thanks to Matt Cessna for playing two services, the first one with very little notice! Special thanks to James Thomas for manning Media Shout Sunday mornings when others who were scheduled could not! And special thanks to God for restoring my health!

Just more to sing about! I will close with hints to look for some special things for Reformation Sunday, Oct. 31 as Dave Besecker plans to be our musical guest.



WILL YOU SERVE?

Council Members are needed for a three-year term to replace the council members who have

completed their terms. Please consider if God is calling you to this important ministry at Trinity. Meetings are monthly on the second Wednesday. Meetings are hybrid meaning we meet in the conference room or on Zoom. **Without disciples willing to participate, our ministry at Trinity will suffer.** Please call the office or notify Darrell Swart, Council President, of your

OCTOBER FOOD COLLECTION ITEMS

Each month we assign items needed by the Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry. Please bring them along to worship or drop them off at the church. Items needed in October are:

- October 3 - Cereal
- October 10 - Potato or rice mixes
- October 17 - Canned soup
- October 24 - Toilet paper
- October 31 - Canned fruit or applesauce



FELLOWSHIP TIME RETURNS!

Fellowship time is now the second and fourth Sunday of each month following worship. Plan to stay after the service and enjoy conversation, snacks and getting reacquainted!



ROMAN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Romans Bible Study continues to meet on Zoom and in person on Wednesdays at 11. The group is noticing that the conversations are rich

and making a difference in our lives. Join us in discovering more about who God is and who we are as followers of Jesus. For Zoom information email the office (tlcsecoffice@gmail.com) or the pastor (revbarb.barry@gmail.com).

MIDWEEK DEVOTIONS

The midweek devotions over the next few Thursdays (except when on vacation) will deal with spiritual practice. How do we open our heart spaces so God's love can transform us from the inside out? Join Pastor Barb either on Facebook or the bottom of the home page of the website on Thursdays. The devotion is posted by 5PM.



Please like and share the Facebook Worship Service and Midweek Devotions which appear each week. If you aren't already following Trinity's Facebook page, please take a minute to open the page and click *follow*.

EVEN IF YOU ARE ATTENDING SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY, please take time to visit the worship videos and write something in the comments about how the service inspires you. Our mission is to share Christ in word and deed. This is an easy way for Trinity to share the Gospel with those beyond our doors. People are hungering for God.



THE R3 TEAM CONTINUES RENEWAL FOCUS

We spent the summer exploring our 4 principles. Now, we put them together to create ministry that makes God smile.

- **October 2 at 2PM** - Trinity will be hosting a community animal blessing.
- **November** - Trinity will adopt a family in need of help with Christmas dinner and gifts. Stay tuned for details
- Please continue to share your God moments with the Congregation. Call the office or comment on Facebook each week sharing Where you've seen God.

Principles

Using the information from conversations with the congregation about our assets, wows and needs, the renewal team discerned these principles for Trinity moving forward. We will use these principles as lens through which to evaluate ministry opportunities moving forward.

- ♦ Passionate about God
- ♦ Feeding the hungry physically, emotionally and spiritually
- ♦ Open, welcoming and friendly
- ♦ Courage to creatively use our gifts in the Community.

Priorities

The renewal team also identified these current priorities for ministry for Trinity

- ♦ Internal: Renew and deepen our connection with each other in the family
- ♦ External: Renew and deepen our connection with our neighbors in the community and continue working with the Food Pantry.

**Trinity Highlights
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Trinity Lutheran Church
1186 Jason Drive, Greencastle, PA 17225**

**Rev. Barbara Barry, Pastor
Office Phone: 717-597-9348
Office Email: tlcsecoffice@gmail.com**



God has blessed Trinity with an abundance. Many of our family give time, talent and supplies behind the scenes so our work as the people of God can happen. Each month we will take some time to say thank you. You are

appreciated! If you know of someone who should be on this list, call the office.

- The members of our Trinity family who faithfully support the ministry of Trinity with their tithes stopping by the office, mailing in their donations or using Simply Giving or the on-line Give button on the website.
- Charlie Ford, Don Swart, Darrell Swart and TruPrecision Lawn Care mowed and trimmed the lawn
- The members of our Trinity family who generously donated supplies to the Animal Shelter
- Scott Valentine who faithfully creates the screens for worship each week.
- Screen Team: Scott Valentine, James Thomas, Ivan Wingert take turns running the screen.
- Sound and Camera Team: Tom Sidoli, Darrell Swart, Beth Ford and Ella Swart who ensure our worship presence on-line each week.
- Donna and Bud Wolfe, Marie and Gaither Dean: Organize the fellowship hour 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month
- Matt Cessna: Played keyboard while Sandra Wingert was sick
- James Thomas: Stepped in as Adult Forum Substitute Teacher
- Bud and Donna Wolfe: Removed the dead refrigerator from the kitchen and arranged to have it recycled.
- Anonymous donation for tuning the organ before the concert in August.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

OCTOBER SPECIAL APPEAL

October is Lutheran World Relief Ingathering Month in the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of the Lutherans throughout the world. It serves people around the world who are living in poverty. It not only provides items like quilts, school kits and personal care kits but it also works to lift people out of poverty by helping them to learn new ways of earning a living. Worldwide, Lutheran World Relief is known and respected not only for showing up where needed, but for staying there even after the news reports fade away. Please mark your envelope for "Special Appeal".



YOUTH CORNER

students, who should still be on their holiday break, to attend. For more information contact Rachelle Gehr or Dave Wolfe.

Winterfest's theme, *"Beloved, Be Loved, Be Love"* will address how we are welcomed as beloved children of God, equipped in a community that loves us, and sent out to share the love of Christ with others! What a powerful and transformative message for a time when our young people are weighed down with self-doubt and insecurities about who they are and whether they matter in this world, coupled by our country and our culture being torn apart by hatred and division. Come help us begin spreading healing and hope.

- The Young Adults continue to meet via Zoom for devotions on Tuesdays at 7PM. Anyone interested in joining the devotion time should contact Rachelle Gehr.
- The ELCA Youth Gathering is scheduled for July 24 – July 28 in Minneapolis, MN. Any youth interested in attending please contact Rachelle Gehr or Dave Wolfe. After much prayer and conversation, Youth Gathering leadership have decided to require full COVID-19 vaccination or proof of a negative test result (likely 72 hours before arrival) to attend the 2022 Gathering.



The Confirmation Class volunteered at the Antietam Humane Society on September 11



WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

The Renewal Team continues to invite our family to notice God active in our lives. The more we notice God in our lives; the more we'll see God as the anchor on which we stand both personally and as a family of faith. **Send us your God moments and we will share them next week in the Parish News.** Here are some ways our congregation saw God this week:

- When the doctor told me my Covid test was negative.
- I saw God in the faces of the ladies who work hard to feed our students at school.
- Saw God with all the people that came to my friend's husband's viewing and funeral this past week.
- Josie's butterfly (caterpillar)!

GREENCASTLE-ANTRIM CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Greencastle-Antrim Christian Women's Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, October 26 from 9:30 to 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall of Evangelical Lutheran Church, 130 N. Washington Street, Greencastle. The Rev. Dr. Robert Cook, Interim Pastor at Greencastle Presbyterian Church will speak about *A Greencastle-Antrim African American Social Reformer and His Lasting Legacy*. Rev. Dr. Matthew Anderson impacted many in his lifetime and he continues to do so today.

A HARVEST OF SUFFICIENCY, CONTENTMENT, AND GENEROSITY

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God. –Leviticus 19:9-10

“What I earn is mine, ALL mine, to do with what I want.” That’s the message our culture tells us again and again. Yet the Leviticus 19:9-10 clearly tells us that the “mine, all mine” attitude existed some 2,500 years ago as well. It’s hard-wired into us.

Our sinful human nature leads us to claim all we can for ourselves, which is why for thousands of years and up to the present God has called faithful people to live a better way. In this passage, “the Lord your God” instructs farmers and vintners to harvest only once, and not to the very edges of their land, and to leave the remnants of the harvest to the poor and the foreigner – people on the margins scavenging for their daily bread.

The teaching encourages landowners to find sufficiency in their first harvest, to be content that their needs are met, and then be generous with what is left over. Today, Leviticus 19:9-10 challenges us whose “harvests” of income are more than sufficient to satisfy our immediate needs. Do we *have* to take it all? What can we give for the needy?

In this traditional season of harvest, what blessings can you count from the last year? (Take a few minutes to prayerfully consider this, and make a list). Does your harvest more than adequately meet your needs?

Now prayerfully consider how much you can generously “leave” for the needy? Consider this in making a year-end contribution to your congregation, or in determining a pledge for 2022.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.