



TRINITY HIGHLIGHTS

July 2024

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

Dear Family in Christ,

Back in 2008, we went on a vacation that was a bit of an adventure for me. We spent a few days in Ithaca, NY, for a Horn family reunion. I had never been to Ithaca before, but Martin attended Cornell University there. His grandfather, William Melchior Horn was campus pastor at Cornell for many years, beginning in 1917. His grandmother, Marguerite Jacobs Horn raised their 8 children there. 2008 was the 100th anniversary of their marriage. It was also the time that had been set apart to lay to rest the remains of his much beloved uncle, Rev. Dr. Henry E. Horn and his wife Catherine.

Family is important to us. This is why most of our vacations are spent with family. While my own family is relatively small, it is interesting to be among my extended Horn family, as Martin has 40 plus first cousins.

While we all enjoy being with our own families and while we are all family centered people, as Christians we are a part of the greater family of God. We are God's family. He created us and claimed us as his own. When all hopelessness came into the world through sin and we were doomed, God sent his son, Jesus Christ into the world to save us, and to give us life eternal with him, and give us hope.

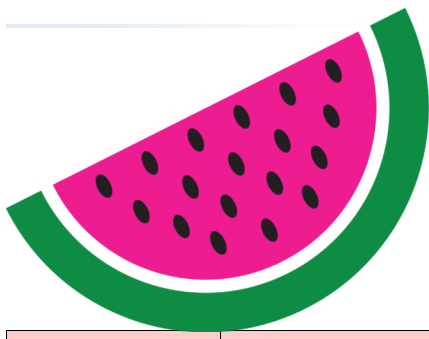
A church can only be a family, God's family, when we treat one another with respect and love. It cannot be a place of constant second guessing, nagging and complaining. At times the temptation is to micromanage, or constantly be on someone's case to get a task completed. Micromanagement causes tension and ill will as well as mistrust. When we act as the family of God, we work for the best interest of all, not just some. We must respect one another for who we are as God's children. God will ultimately be the judge of us all, not one another.

In light of all of this, we are charged by the gospel of Jesus Christ, and as a family of believers, to care for one another and to provide care for one another. This means looking out for those most at risk in our society, the young, the ill, the elderly.

I am proud of our Trinity family and how well we care for one another. I am proud of our kindness and resolve to truly live out our faith in Jesus Christ. May we continue to live out our faith, caring for one another and for our community.

In Christ,

Pastor Denise



JULY

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Shared Ministry 6PM AA - 7PM	2	3 Worship & Music 7PM	4	5 AA - 7PM	6
7 Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10:15 AM	8 AA - 7PM	9	10 Scout Plan Mtg 6PM Council Mtg 7PM	11	12 AA - 7PM	13
14 Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10:15 AM	15 AA - 7PM	16	17	18	19 AA - 7PM	20
21 Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10:15 AM	22 AA - 7PM	23	24 Bible & Brew 6:30 PM	25	26 AA - 7PM	27
28 Outdoor Worship and Picnic 10:15 AM Antrim Park	29 AA - 7PM	30	31			

July Worship Assistants

	JULY 7	JULY 14	JULY 21	JULY 28
Assisting Minister	Dave Wolfe	Charlie Ford	Dave Wolfe	TLC Worship and Picnic
Communion Assistants	Donna Wolfe Sue Wunderlich	Robin Witmer-Kline Wendy Hall	Mary Thomas Darrell Swart	Picnic
Communion Cups	Josie Thomas	Josie Thomas	Josie Thomas	Josie Thomas
Greeters	Alan Shank	Alice Marsh	Sally Funk	Picnic
Ushers	Alice Marsh	Darrell Swart	Donna Wolfe	Alan Shank
Singer	Phyllis McCullough	Hannah Ruffner	The Choir	Picnic
IT Ministry	IT Team	IT Team		IT Team
Communion Preparers	Donna Wolfe Sue Wunderlich	Charlie and Beth Ford	Alice Marsh	Picnic



ANNUAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND CHURCH PICNIC

The Annual Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 28 at the Antrim Township Park Pavilion. Worship which will include a Hymn Sing begins at 10:15 AM.

A delicious Picnic Lunch will follow. We have invited members of ELC to join us. Fried Chicken, Drinks, Ice Cream and Paper Products will be provided. Please bring a Salad, Vegetable or Casserole to share. A free-will offering will be collected to cover the cost of the chicken and ice cream.

There will be Bingo with prizes and special games and activities for the kids.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Lobby. Please sign-up so we can order the correct amount of chicken!



Food Pantry Needs

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

"As our numbers continue to increase, we continue to be thankful for your continued support. You are truly a blessing to us

and those in our community who need food."
Please bring the assigned item when you come to worship to place in the box in the Narthex or to the church on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings.

- July 7 - Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo
- July 14 - Toilet Paper
- July 21 - Cereal
- July 28 - Brownie Mixes



SAVE THE DATE!

An end of summer S'mores Party will be held in the parking lot on August 20 at 6:30 PM. More information will be included in the August newsletter.



MUSIC NOTES

There is plenty to look forward to musically in July! The service on July 7 will include some special patriotic music in commemoration of July 4. On July 21, Josie Thomas will provide the *Call to Worship* on her violin and the choir will be singing. As always the invitation is open to any singer to arrive at 9:15 AM for choir warm up. July 28 is Trinity's Outdoor Worship and Picnic at the large pavilion at Antrim Park. Come prepared to call out your favorite hymn title during the 10:15 AM service and Dave Wolfe on guitar and me singing will try to lead the group in singing it.



BIBLE AND BREW

The next Bible and Brew meeting will be held at the Liberty Tavern and Grill at Parks Casino in Shippensburg. The topic for discussion will be *"Risking it All"*. We will meet at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, July 24th. Please contact Rachelle Gehr or Dave Wolfe if you have any questions..

JULY SPECIAL APPEAL

The Special Appeal for July is designated for our companion congregation, Ukukwe Congregation. The Ukukwe congregation is part of the Konde Diocese of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The Konde Diocese is the sister synod of our Lower Susquehanna Synod. If you desire to make a monetary donation, please mark your envelope for *Special Appeal*.

SHARED MINISTRY TEAM

The councils of Trinity and Evangelical Lutheran churches met on Wednesday June 19th and named a Shared Ministry Team that will begin to meet and discuss activities which we can get together on and get to know one another more. These would be both activities and ministry opportunities that we can share in. The team includes: Tina Bitner, Darrell Miller, Connie Overcash, Robin Witmer Cline, Don Swart and Mary Thomas. Watch for more news from this team.



TLC and ELC Joint Council June 2024

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Members of the Congregational Council for 2024 were elected at the Congregational Meeting in December 2023.

Members for 2024 are:

- Darrell Swart - President
- Matt Cessna - Vice President
- Beth Ford - Secretary
- Wendy Hall
- Sue Snyder
- Mary Thomas
- Robin Witmer-Kline



Non-Voting Members:

- Pam Arnold - Financial Secretary
- Carol Swart - Treasurer

HELP NEEDED !

We need two lay voting members for the 2025 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly which will meet in June. A new Synod Bishop will be elected at that Assembly. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. If you have questions, please speak with Pastor Denise.





Meeting in assembly on May 31 and June 1, 2024, the Lower Susquehanna Synod took the following actions.

- ◆ Re-elected Jennifer R. Lau as synod vice president for a second term.
 - ◆ Established slates of nominees for the Synod Council, ELCA Church Council, and voting members to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
 - ◆ Received report of the 2023 Generosity Appeal and thanks from Hope Academy and Tree 4 Hope for the support from the 2023 Generosity Appeal.
 - ◆ Adopted the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget of \$2,606,708.28.
 - ◆ Adopted the 2025 minimum salary guidelines for Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service.
 - ◆ Launched the 2024 Generosity Appeal to benefit the construction of the new hospital in Mbeya, Konde Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.
 - ◆ Elected as voting members to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly: Moses Kavishe, Jade Lesisko, Nicholas G. Keilholtz, Zachary M. Fetter, the Rev. Elizabeth Peter Eckman, the Rev. Drahomir Oslík, Andrea L. Oslíková, Molly A. Wirick, Randy Tyson, R. Jack Hinkle, Rebecca A. Brewster, Kay A. Hinkle, the Rev. Molly K. Haggerty, Deacon April E. Trout, and the Rev. Stephen R. Herr.
 - ◆ Welcomed Jennie Wolf Smith from GSB Fundraising and received her presentation on our synod's stewardship initiative, Building a Culture of Generosity.
 - ◆ Received updates from this synod's Mission Committee regarding the bishop election process that will unfold over the next year, including a call to prayer and schedule of listening sessions.
 - ◆ Amended and adopted a resolution submitted by the Synod Council promoting LGBTQIA+ cultural competency in the Lower Susquehanna Synod.
 - ◆ Recognized the Rev. Richard E. T. Jorgensen Jr. for his 35th anniversary of ordination and his ministry in this Church.
 - ◆ Received worship offering of \$7,513.25 in support of the 2024 Generosity Appeal.
 - ◆ Registered: 444 voting members, of which 251 were lay voting members and 193 were rostered ministers.
- Gratitude is due to everyone who gathered for the assembly, and to the many people who helped make the assembly happen. We look forward to gathering together again on June 5, 6, and 7, 2025, in St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, York, Pennsylvania.

WE ARE ALSO CITIZENS

June 14, 2024



The airwaves are filled with contentious political discourse. And, as we get closer to the November election, it will undoubtedly get louder and coarser. Each side seeks to catch the other with questions that aren't designed for clarity and dialogue but to further its own agenda. Martin Luther's explanation of the Eighth Commandment in the Small Catechism—"We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. *Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light*"—is barely visible in the rearview mirror.

But the "gotcha" question isn't a modern invention. "Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ... Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar (the emperor) or not?" ([Matthew 22:15-17](#)). We know the answer. Jesus told them: "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" ([21](#)).

This passage has been used to inform the relationship between the institutions of the state and the community of faith. In this relationship the authority of the state is real and respected—but limited. God's authority is acknowledged as ultimate and deserving of ultimate devotion and obedience, yet it doesn't necessitate withdrawal from or opposition to participation in civic life and its responsibilities. We Lutherans call this the doctrine of two kingdoms, and we understand that the church and the state, the spiritual and the temporal, are *both* established by God and are *both* part of God's twofold rule. Both church and state are good gifts from God.

Lutherans have been accused of congenital quietism. Our understanding of God's twofold rule and even the story about paying taxes in Matthew have been used to discourage participation in civic life. However, active participation in public life has been part of the Lutheran movement from its beginning. Lutherans don't withdraw from public life. In fact, the [ELCA's constitution](#) pledges us to "work with civil authorities in areas of mutual endeavor, maintaining institutional separation of church and state in a relation of functional interaction."

I have been voting for 51 years. I can't think of an election cycle more fraught and divisive than this one. People all across the political spectrum claim that life as we know it is on the line. It's not possible to agree to disagree—one must decide and put a stake in the ground. There is the potential for violence.

But division and violence don't have to be our inevitable future. On Nov. 5, no matter the outcome, we will still be here together. Our church, our people, our congregations will still be here and will witness that unity doesn't mean uniformity; that what binds us together is new life in Christ; that the church—and our country—are bigger than our "tribe"; and that baptism proves that water is thicker than blood.

This is not "both side-ism." Based on Scripture and the [Confessions](#) and forged through prayer, there are principles that aren't debatable: love, community, sacrifice for the common good, to name a few. Instead, we are free and forgiven in Christ so that even when we disagree on deeply held convictions, we can still see the other as someone for whom Christ died.

Something that is missed when reading the story of Jesus and taxes is what he reveals about God and the world God so loves. We focus on Caesar. If Caesar's image and title are imprinted on a base metal coin, a humanly created, literal graven image, where is God's image to be found? Human creatures—the living beings whom God created in God's own image, into whom God breathed the breath of life—are bearers of God's image in the world.

Dear church, our citizenship is ultimately in heaven. But we are also citizens of this country—this flawed, fractious, unequal, imperfect union. In U.S. political history, people have yearned and given their lives for what they had hoped for—democratic life for the sake of the flourishing of all. One of the ways we serve our neighbor is to participate in civic life. Can we see Election Day as a unifying event when the whole country goes to the polls?

Vote.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
ELCA Presiding Bishop