



TRINITY HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 2025

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

Family in Christ,

"You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, all of your soul and all of your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as well as you love yourself." Matthew 22:37-39

These brief verses show us in a capsule what the entirety of our faith is to be about. But somehow, no matter how much we claim to be people of faith, and no matter how much we claim to believe in God and in Jesus and in the Holy Spirit, we just don't do loving God and our neighbor very well. It is the struggle with the little bit of sin that yet has claim on us. It is so hard for us to put our love of God first in our lives, and it is equally difficult to love our neighbors as well as we love ourselves. That is the real clinker in these verses. Jesus not only tells us that we must love God above everything and everyone in our lives, but then he hits us with having to love those around us, not just love them, but he qualifies it by saying we have to love them as well as we love ourselves. We have a great deal of trouble with this. We always we feel we need the best things in life. The nicest car, house, and all of the extras, and maybe we are willing to help others out, but "beggars can't be choosers" as the old saying goes, and "they" should be happy and satisfied with what we give them.

If we don't settle for second best, then why should anybody else? Why should they be forced to eat hamburgers while we eat roast beef? Why should their children settle for generic cheap sneakers when all of the kids are wearing expensive name brand ones? Some folks may be poor by choice, and for others it is due to the circumstances of their life. We do not always know which one is which though. Do we know for sure? Of course not. The commandment of Christ is to love them as well as we love ourselves. But do we love them that well?

Sometimes we also get into the mind game of designating for ourselves just who is and who is not our "neighbor." For Jesus this is quite clear. Our neighbor isn't just our buddy next door. Our neighbor lives in the next town, the next state, the next country. It is all the people around us. The rich and the poor alike, the person of color and the Caucasian as well, male and female, Jew, Arab and Gentile, tall and short, straight, gay and transgendered. All people are our neighbors and as such are not excluded from this text. God is the God of inclusion and God accepts all people, including me and you.

As you go through the days and weeks ahead, look around you and be aware of those around you, and remember that in Christ we are all the same. He died for all people and not just us. He accepts all people, not just us. Look around you at those in need. See in them the command of Christ and love them as well as you love yourself. All of them. Every single one of them. That's the gospel.

*In His Name,
Pastor Denise*



2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
				Scout Mtg 7:30PM	AA 7PM	
6 Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 9:15 AM	7 AA 7PM	8 Operations 7PM	9 Council 7PM	10	11 AA 7PM	12
13 Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 9:15 AM	14 AA 7PM	15	16	17	18 Pack Mtg 5PM AA 7PM	19
20 Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 9:15 AM	21 AA 7PM	22	23	24	25 AA 7PM	26
27 Outdoor Worship 10:15 Church Picnic Following Worship	28 AA 7PM	29	30	31		

July Worship Assistants

	JULY 6	JULY 13	JULY 20	JULY 27
Assisting Minister	Scott Valentine	Charlie Ford	Ella Swart	Scott Valentine
Communion Assistants	Sue Wunderlich Wendy Hall	Wendy Hall Mary Thomas	Kevin Dagliano Darrell Swart	Donna Wolfe Wendy Hall
Communion Cups	Josie Thomas	Josie Thomas	Josie Thomas	Josie Thomas
Greeters	Sally Funk	Alice Marsh	Norra Swart	Shirley Freeman
Ushers	Donna Wolfe	Alice Marsh	Norra Swart	Alan Shank
Singer				
IT Ministry	IT Team	IT Team	IT Team	IT Team
Communion Preparers	Donna Wolfe Sue Wunderlich	Alice Marsh	Charlie and Beth Ford	Donna Wolfe Sue Wunderlich



ANNUAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND CHURCH PICNIC

The Annual Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic will be held rain or shine on Sunday, July 27 at the Antrim Township Park Pavilion. Worship begins at 10:15 AM. A delicious Picnic Lunch will follow worship. We have invited members of ELC and Salem to join us. Hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks and paper products will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

There will be games and BINGO following lunch. Please bring a wrapped BINGO prize.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Lobby for those who plan to attend. Please let us know by July 15 if you plan to attend.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning Sunday, June 15, Trinity's Worship Service will begin at 9:15 AM each Sunday. There will be no Sunday School over the summer. The regular worship time of 10:15 AM will return the Sunday after Labor Day, September 7.



OLD HOME WEEK WORSHIP

This is Sandra's personal invitation to you, your family and friends to attend one or both of the Old Home Week Community Worship services to be held Sunday, August 3, at 4:00 PM and 6:45 PM in the Greencastle Antrim High School Shockey Family Center for the Performing Arts (formerly the Auditorium). No Old Home Week badge or ticket needed. This is a musical community worship event featuring a 90-voice choir (Matt Cessna, Hannah Ruffner-Ford, Ivan and Sandra Wingert included), full orchestra and creative and visual arts. This event is a powerful, dynamic, moving collection of a wide variety of musical styles. Limited reserved handicap/ senior citizen parking will be available in front of the high school.



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Barbara Grane at the Greencastle Food Pantry is asking for our help to stock the shelves. To help us focus our efforts, each week we'll assign a food item. 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 6 Peanut Butter
- July 13 Canned pasta like Chef-Boy-R-Dee
- July 20 Pasta salad mixes
- July 27 Brownie mixes

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*.



The Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly was held at St. Matthew, York on June 5, 6 and 7. Trinity's voting members were Pastor Denise, Alice Marsh and Beth Ford. Some of the items acted on at the Assembly were:

- Elected the Rev. Stephen Herr, Christ, Gettysburg as the new Synod bishop on the 5th ballot.
- Beth Ford, a member of Trinity, was elected to her first term on Synod Council.
- New members of Synod Council, Conference Deans and Secretaries were installed. The new Dean of the Chambersburg Conference is the Rev. Christopher Fry, Pastor of St. Luke, Chambersburg.
- The Synod Voting Members to the ELCA Assembly were blessed. A new Presiding Bishop will be elected.
- A delegation from the Konde Diocese in Tanzania visited the Synod, including the first two women ordained in the Diocese.
- Deacon David Hope-Tringali is the synod Missionary to Guatemala.
- The Synod collected \$69,000 to aid in the building of a hospital in the Konde Diocese. Mbeya Hospital will open June 28.

REV. STEPHEN HERR CALLED AS BISHOP OF LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD



On June 7, 2025, the Rev. Stephen Robert Herr was called to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Bishop-elect Rev. Herr currently serves as pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Ordained on July 2, 1994, Pastor Herr has served in parish, campus, and synodical leadership for more than three decades.

His leadership within the ELCA includes service on the ELCA Church Council, Executive Committee, and Legal and Constitutional Review Committee (chair), as well as the Future Directions Task Force and Synod Councils in both the Lower Susquehanna and South-western Pennsylvania Synods. Locally, he has served as Dean and Secretary of the Gettysburg Conference and continues to support outdoor ministry through the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania.

Pastor Herr is also deeply engaged in the Gettysburg community through ecumenical leadership, the arts, education, and historical preservation. He has served on the boards of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Gettysburg Community Theatre, and the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, where he is president emeritus. He has also coached youth basketball at both Blairsville and Gettysburg Area High Schools. Please join us in giving thanks for Bishop-elect Herr and lifting him in prayer as he prepares to lead our synod.

The Installation Service of Bishop-elect Herr will be held on Saturday, October 25 at St. Matthew, Hanover.



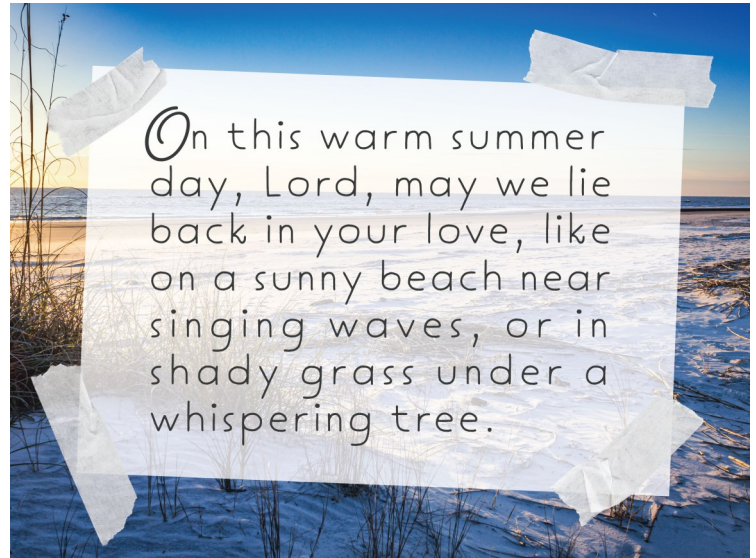
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Members of the Congregational Council for 2025 are:

Darrell Swart - President
Matt Cessna - Vice-President
Beth Ford - Secretary
Wendy Hall
Sue Snyder
Mary Thomas
Don Swart
Ella Swart (Youth Representative)

Non-Voting Members:

Pam Arnold - Financial Secretary
Carol Swart - Treasurer



On this warm summer day, Lord, may we lie back in your love, like on a sunny beach near singing waves, or in shady grass under a whispering tree.