

TRINITY TIDINGS

A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

May 2023

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*Personally, as my struggle reveals, I don't often "feel" like a beloved child of God.
But I know that that is my most primal identity
and I know that I must choose it above and beyond my hesitations.*
Henri Nouwen

*How great is the love that God has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!*
1 John 3:1

Dear Members of the Trinity Family,

One of my very favorite parts of serving as one of your pastors is the opportunity to distribute communion to our community of faith during weekly worship. It is incredibly meaningful to look each of you in the eye and offer the words, "This is the body of Christ given for you." The gift of communion is personal, not private. The benefit of forgiveness, grace, love, and strength is for every one of you...no exceptions. As part of this communion ritual I find significance, deep meaning, and joy in the deliberate practice of calling you each by name and reminding you that you are God's beloved child. When the Assisting Minister says these words to me, I am humbled and blessed, encouraged and strengthened by the reminder that on both my good days and my bad days, I remain God's beloved child.

The world and our lives are often chaotic. Our schedules are overfull. There is far more that needs to be done than any of us can possibly accomplish. We often feel less than when we cannot check off every item from our to-do list. I am finding that we need the weekly reminder that we are not what others think of us. We are not even what we think of ourselves when those thoughts are negative and demeaning. We are not what we do. We are not what we possess. Every single one of us is a full, honored, indispensable member of the human family. Each of us was known and loved before we were conceived and molded in our mother's womb. In times when you feel less than, when the challenges of this life feel heavy, burdensome, and overwhelming, remember to remain true to the truth of who you really are. You are God's beloved, precious child. Look in the mirror and claim your true identity. As a spiritual practice, make it a habit to look in the mirror each morning, to trace the baptismal cross on your forehead, and find meaning in your identity as God's beloved child.

Peace, love, and joy,



Pastor Susan Crowell

COUNCIL NOTES

At their meeting in April, the Congregation Council...

---learned that expenses for March were \$9,041 below projections;

---learned from the Executive Committee that documents have been completed to convert Trinity's current bank account to an IntraFi account managed by South State Bank in order to fully FDIC insure Trinity's financial resources;

---learned from the Executive Committee that Pastor Parham will be away for the month of May for sabbatical; and

---received a progress report from the 429 Task Group.

GIVING TO TRINITY



Trinity is grateful for all the prayers, contributions, and displays of support from members, friends, and guests. Financial contributions can be placed in the offering plates during worship, mailed to the church, or given electronically by going to trinitylutheran.ws, by scanning the QR code, or texting TLCGIVE to 73256.



NURSERY FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

A nursery is available during the 10:00 am worship service on Sunday morning, whether the congregation is worshipping in the Sanctuary or the Gym. Practices and protocols follow all DHEC recommendations for daycare centers. All staff and volunteers must be fully vaccinated. A copy of the updated guidelines can be obtained through the Church Office. The age requirements for children in the nursery are flexible and fluid during this time of transition.



MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 7
Worship at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary
Refreshments and Fellowship to follow on the front lawn

Sunday, May 14
Worship at 10:00 am in the Gym
Reception for High School Graduates in the back corner of the Gym

Sunday, May 21
Worship at 10:00 am in the Gym
Refreshments and Fellowship to follow in the back corner of the Gym

Pentecost Sunday, May 28
Worship at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary
Refreshments and fellowship to follow on the front lawn

SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The South Carolina Synod of the ELCA will gather for assembly in Columbia, SC on Thursday through Saturday, June 8 - 10, 2023 at the Marriott under the theme *I See Jesus*. Lutherans across the state will gather for worship, plenary sessions, discussion, and learning using as a guide and focus the words of Luke 24:32 that say *Were not our hearts burning within us?* Voting members from Trinity for this year's assembly include Melissa Kolb, Richard Moose, Lani Wise, Deacon Amy Brown, Pastor Jim Parham, Patrick Preacher, and Angie McCormack.



FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation for Adults

On Sunday mornings, adults are invited to come together for coffee, fellowship, and study at 9:00 am in Rooms 12 and 13 of the Activities Building. The class is being Zoomed live. In April and May, Penny Bostain is leading the class in a Bible study called *At Table With Jesus: Guests, Hosts and the Heavenly Banquet*.

On Sunday, June 4 a summer session of Faith Formation will begin. This will be an intergenerational class, meeting in the Multipurpose Room at 9:00 am. It will begin with a light, pick up breakfast and coffee. All ages are encouraged to come and explore our *Journey Together*.

SABBATICAL LEAVE FOR PASTOR PARHAM

Pastor Parham will be away from Trinity for the month of May for sabbatical. Musical needs for worship and choir rehearsals will be covered by several exceptional musical leaders. Please hold Pastor Parham in your thoughts and prayers as he steps away and enjoys these weeks of rest from the demands of ministry.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Adult Choir will rehearse Wednesdays, May 3, 10, and 17 in the Choir Room on the second floor of the Pence Building at 7:00 pm. The last rehearsal before summer break will be on May 17.

Handbell Choir will rehearse on Wednesdays, May 3 and 10 at 6:00 pm in the Handbell Rehearsal Room on the second floor of the Pence Building. The Handbell Choir will play in worship on Sunday, May 14.

With the Adult Choir and Handbell Choir on break, summertime worship offers weekly opportunities for individuals and small groups to support our worship with music.

If interested in singing or sharing instrumental skills in worship this summer, please contact Pastor Parham via e-mail at jcparham@trinitylutheran.ws or at 242-5702.

HONORING TRINITY'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Trinity will recognize the 2023 high school graduates at worship on Sunday, May 14 at the 10:00 am service in the Gym. A reception in their honor will be held immediately following the service. Please join the Trinity family in congratulating the following seniors:

Caroline Brightwell, Roger Brown, Paige Geiger, Paul Glass, Bethany Hybl, Cole McCaskill, Adaline McCormack, Ava McNeice, and Anna Kay Robinson.



CONGREGATIONAL BOOK DISCUSSION

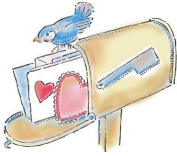
Are you feeling tired? Exhausted? Weary? Do you long for rest? If living a restful life sounds appealing to you, then read *Rest is Resistance* by Tricia Hersey and plan to gather with Pastor Crowell at Trinity in Rooms 12 and 13 on Monday, May 8 from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm to discuss this book. The group is limited to 12 participants. Please reach out to Pastor Crowell at sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws to register for this gathering.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is set for Sunday evening, June 25 through Thursday evening, June 29, 2023. This year Bible School will be held in the evenings, and will begin with a child friendly meal. The evening begins at 5:30 pm with dinner, and pick up will be between 8:00 and 8:30 pm. The theme is *Operation Restoration: Mending God's World*. Participants will explore the themes of feed, heal, forgive, pray, and rest. Registration information will be available soon.



TLC4TLC



TLC4TLC is for anyone who would like to write notes and cards for members who are ill, grieving, or unable to attend worship, as well as for those who are celebrating joys. If you would like to participate in this group please contact Debbie Farstad at debvars@att.net.

PRAYER GROUP

The Trinity Prayer Group will be praying from home during the month of May. If you have a prayer request please complete a prayer card during Sunday worship or email a request to Terry Morgan at tfmorgan101@gmail.com or Merry Mulcahy at marmulcahy@icloud.com. The group is currently reviewing Trinity's prayer ministry with hopes to increase its support of all the ministries of Trinity as well as individual prayer requests from our congregation. Please check for updates on the prayer ministry here in the *Tidings*.



SPECIAL CHILDREN'S WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Because children are so very honored and valued in the life we share together at Trinity and because it is important that children have the opportunity to engage with scripture and worship in a way that is fun and age-appropriate for them, Trinity is trying something new! During the month of May Trinity is experimenting with a new practice of providing time during Sunday morning worship -- beginning after the children's sermon and extending through the Sharing of the Peace -- for children to leave the worship space with adult leaders (who have been Child Protection Policy trained) to participate in interactive activities, stories, games, and crafts related to the scripture texts for the day. Children may choose to participate in these special activities or remain in the worship space with their families during this time. This experiment will be evaluated over the coming weeks. Congregational comments are encouraged and may be shared with Deacon Amy Brown at arbrown@trinitylutheran.ws or with Pastor Susan Crowell at sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Family Game Night

On Sunday, May 21 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm Youth and Children Ministries will host a family/congregation game night. Following a potluck dinner, participants of all ages will play Bingo, Family Feud, and more! All are invited to attend this fun and interactive night! A main course and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. For more information, please contact Angie McCormack at ahmccormack@trinitylutheran.ws or 864-630-4026. To register, please call the Church Office. It's going to be a fun evening! Please make plans to attend.



On Sunday, May 7, youth in middle and high school are invited to stay after worship for lunch, group building games, and an interactive Bible study. Pick up time will be 1:30 pm.

GREENVILLE ORGANIZED FOR ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP

The inaugural **Nehemiah Action**, March 28 was attended by over 1,500 Greenville residents (including 178 Trinity members and friends)! This was a resounding demonstration of people power, seeking accountability from our elected officials! The elected officials in attendance included the Greenville Mayor, Knox White, the majority of City Council and three members of County Council.

Mental Health: Over 46,000 people contacted the 988 mental health emergency line in South Carolina in 2022 and nearly half of those individuals were put on hold and then transferred to another state because of a lack of funding to staff the call center. We asked Chairman Bruce Bannister, Chair of the State House Ways and Means Committee, to support appropriations of \$3,900,000 from existing budget surplus to fund the line.

Housing: 30,000 households in Greenville County are one paycheck away from homelessness because they cannot afford the cost of their home. Rents in Greenville nearly doubled between 2021 and 2022 and we have the 9th highest eviction rate in the entire country. We asked Mayor White and City Council to commit to creating new dedicated revenue streams to accomplish a goal of \$10,000,000 annually to the Greenville Housing Fund. We asked the same of Greenville County Council. The Mayor and all City Councilors present made this commitment.

The Housing and Mental Health Committees have both had successful follow up meetings with public officials since the Nehemiah Action. We are well on the way to being able to give a great report at the Celebration on Thursday, May 16 and to be able to truly celebrate the change that has occurred because of the people power Trinity and 17 other congregations worked to build.

Please plan to attend the Celebration hosted at Trinity at 6:30 pm on Thursday, May 16 in the Gym. Appetizers and refreshments will be served.

MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	1	2 10:30 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
	5:30 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE	
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 7 9:00 FAITH FORMATION 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY AND LIVE-STREAM WITH REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW 11:30 YOUTH BIBLE STUDY	8 6:30 CONGREGATIONAL BOOK DISCUSSION	9
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 14 9:00 FAITH FORMATION 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE GYM AND LIVE-STREAM RECEPTION FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 1:30 CONGREGATION COUNCIL	15	16 6:30 GOAL CELEBRATION
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 21 9:00 FAITH FORMATION 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE GYM AND LIVE-STREAM WITH REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW 11:30 OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH 11:30 WORSHIP COMMITTEE 5:00 - 7:00 FAMILY GAME NIGHT	22 5:00 OUTREACH COMMITTEE	23
DAY OF PENTECOST 28 9:00 FAITH FORMATION 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY AND LIVE-STREAM WITH REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW	29 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	30

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>6:00 HANDBELL CHOIR 7:00 ADULT CHOIR</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>6:30 QUEER-LED WORSHIP IN THE GYM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>6:30 AM MEN'S REFLECTION GROUP</p> <p>6:00 HANDBELL CHOIR 7:00 ADULT CHOIR</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>6:00 LOVE WINS FELLOWSHIP GROUP</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>7:00 ADULT CHOIR</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>6:30 PRE-PRIDE LGBTQIA+ GATHERING</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>12:30 NOURISHING NEIGHBORS</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>6:30 LOVE WINS FELLOWSHIP GROUP BOOK DISCUSSION</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">31</p>			

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

Trinity's monthly Nourishing Neighbors events continue to be an important source of fresh produce, pantry items, and toilet paper for our neighbors at Towers East. The Trinity Food Pantry is being depleted each month as we are serving more neighbors. In an effort to keep the pantry full, Trinity will host a food drive on the second Sunday of each month throughout 2023. Please consider making regular contributions. You are encouraged to bring your donations to worship. A volunteer will be stationed at the Red Canopy Door from 9:30-10:00 am on the second Sunday of each month to assist in unloading donations. Upcoming dates are May 14, June 11, and July 9. The following items are most needed: dried beans (16 oz), peanut butter (16 oz), cereal, canned fruit, rice (2 lb bag), pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat, canned vegetables, individually packaged snack items, and toilet paper. If you are interested in volunteering to collect items during the Sunday Food Drives, please contact Patrick Preacher at pdp preacher@trinitylutheran.ws



BOOK GROUP

The Trinity Book Group is open to all readers and meets on the third Thursday evening in the Church Parlor every other month to discuss books of all genres. The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 15, at 7:00 pm when the group will discuss *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn. Other upcoming selections include;

August 17, 7:00 pm - *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
October 19, 7:00 pm - *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict
December 21, 7:00 pm - *These Precious Days* by Ann Patchett



This is a very casual group, and new participants are welcome at any time. Email Deacon Amy Brown at arbrown@trinitylutheran.ws for more information.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

In an effort to stay connected, please consider extending birthday greetings to the following members. If you would like the church to know your birthdate please contact the Church Office to submit this information through Realm.

Emily Bennett - May 18
Penny Bostain- May 31
David Crigler - May 22
Tracy Dean-McElhinny - May 14
Tom DiAntonio - May 14
Janie Dillard - May 25
Richard Farstad - May 16
Jaime Fivecoat - May 6
Karen Fivecoat - May 25
Camille Glymph - May 2
Jo Glymph - May 2
Laurie Horsfall - May 17
Bethany Hybl - May 10
Silas Kolb - May 9
Wayne Landreth - May 29
Julianna Larsen - May 12
Trinity Larsen - May 12

Riley Mann - May 6
Jenna Mast - May 14
Vanessa Mazzoli - May 4
Julia McElhinny - May 20
Casey Moon - May 6
Jennifer Moorefield - May 23
Bill Musselwhite - May 5
Robert Newsome - May 7
Pam Reichard - May 8
Anna Kay Robinson - May 2
Tyler Sherwood - May 16
Ryan Spearman - May 6
Chris Wannemacher - May 21
Bill Weeks - May 7
Jamie Wesley - May 13
Andy Westbrook - May 27
Adyson Woodward - May 10



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Women's Bible Study



and Fellowship Group

The Women's Bible Study Group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. The group usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month. All women of the church are invited to attend on May 2 at 10:30 am in Rooms 12 and 13. The group is discussing chapter one of the book *Falling Upward: Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr. If you need a copy of the book or have any other questions, please contact Terry Morgan at tfmorgan101@gmail.com for additional information.

MEN'S REFLECTION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Men's Fellowship

A Reflection and Fellowship Group for men is meeting on the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 am to 7:30 am in the Church Parlor. Calvin Harmon is leading and facilitating this group with the intent of providing a brave, safe space for mutual sharing and encouragement. The morning includes a light breakfast as well as time for devotions and prayer. Meeting dates include May 10 and June 14.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST PINS

NEW Reconciling in Christ Pins. Reconciling Works makes new RIC pins featuring the inclusive flags colors (rainbow + pink, white, blue, brown, black). Many have asked about this new version, as these pins are meaningful ways to show support and love during worship. Trinity will be placing an order for these pins in May, just in time for Pride Month. If you'd like a new pin, please contact Patrick Preacher or the Church Office by May 19. The cost for each pin is \$10.00. These pins are metal with magnetic backing.



NOURISHING NEIGHBORS

Trinity will host our neighbors at Towers East for Nourishing Neighbors, a monthly event held on the front lawn that includes a bagged lunch, fresh produce, pantry staples, and fellowship on Wednesday, May 24 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. Other upcoming dates are June 28 and July 19. This is an opportunity to build relationships with our neighbors, make friends, and get to know each other in a relaxed and fun environment. Volunteers pack produce bags, prepare lunches, or serve on the front lawn. Questions may be directed to Anne Harmon at annerharmon1956@gmail.com or Patrick Preacher at pdp preacher@trinitylutheran.ws.

Trinity is looking forward to partnering with the youth of First Baptist Greenville for Nourishing Neighbors on Wednesday, June 28. The youth of Trinity and First Baptist will come together for a day of service providing produce, lunch, and pantry items while fellowshiping with our neighbors. A light lunch will be served to the youth following Nourishing Neighbors to allow time for relationship building. Trinity is proud to partner with another progressive congregation within the Greenville community!

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

Out to Lunch Bunch is open to all Trinity adults who want to enjoy fellowship and eat lunch together after worship once a month. On Sunday, May 21 the group will meet at noon at City Range Steakhouse Grill at 615 Haywood Road, Greenville. Contact Deacon Amy Brown at arbrown@trinitylutheran.ws to receive email reminders for this group.



LOVE WINS FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Love Wins is a wonderful discussion group that meets once a month for a social event and once a month for a book or podcast discussion. The social event will be held on Thursday, May 11 at 6:00 pm at Gather Greenville, 126 Augusta Street, Greenville.

On Thursday, May 25, the group will meet at 6:30 pm to discuss the book, *Mad Honey*, by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finny Boylan. The location will be announced soon.



For more information or to be added to the group, contact Angie McCormack at 864-630-4016 or ahmccormack@trinitylutheran.ws

QUEER AND JUSTICE MINISTRY



Queer-led Worship: Taize Around the Cross, this Thursday, May 4 at 6:30 pm in the Gym. New queer leaders are always welcome. Please email Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws if you are interested. This service will be live-steamed.

Queer-led Worship in June is excited to celebrate Pride! Please join us for June's worship service on June 1 at 6:30 pm in the Gym. Following worship, participants will gather on the front lawn for a blessing of Trinity's Pride Display and a celebratory picnic dinner! This will be a fun evening to kickoff Pride Month that shouldn't be missed!



Pre-Pride LGBTQIA+ Gathering. Pride month can get hectic and even overwhelming for members of the queer community. Before jumping into the busy month of June, members of the LGBTQIA+ community are invited to gather on Thursday evening, May 18 at 6:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room for an evening of affirmations and activities. A meal will be served. Cost for the event is \$12.00 per person. Please RSVP to the Church Office or by contacting Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws

Pridefest. Pridefest 2023 is June 10 at First Baptist Church, Greenville. Many may remember Trinity hosting this event last Summer in the Activities Building. Trinity is planning to host again next summer, but in the meantime Trinity is eager to support this year's event at First Baptist. This event is unique in that it is geared specifically toward LGBTQIA+ youth and allies in the upstate. Trinity is looking forward to meeting so many of God's beloved LGBTQIA+ youth and families at this event. If interested in volunteering at Trinity's table for Pridefest, please contact Patrick Preacher.

June Pride Worship Service. For the second year, Trinity's Pride Month Worship will be a featured event for Upstate Black Pride Festival Week. Worship will take place on Thursday, June 22 at 6:15 pm in the Gym. Trinity is working with Upstate Pride and other local congregations to make this service an ecumenical evening of worship alongside Greenville's other affirming congregations and organizations.

Upstate Pride's Black Pride Festival and March. Trinity is looking forward to being part of Upstate Pride's Black Pride Festival and March again! This year's main event is Saturday, June 24 on South Main Street in Greenville. We will have a table set up and will be giving away fun and affirming swag as we have in the past. This has always been an extraordinary event which gives us a unique opportunity to share God's message of love for the queer community to a very large number of people in one day. Without fail, we encounter tears of joy from people surprised to see a church at Pride. Trinity is blessed to be that church! If you are interested in volunteering at Trinity's table for the festival, please contact Patrick Preacher.

WITHIN THE TRINITY FAMILY . . .

DEATHS

the mother of Pastor Crowell
Talmadge Holmes on April 16

HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Allan Downen - Discharged
Suzy Hybl - 514, Saint Francis Downtown
Bill Weeks - Discharged

ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL

	4/2	4/9	4/16	4/23
Sundays				
Online devices	301	384	250	253
In Person	<u>181</u>	<u>321</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>135</u>
	482	705	379	388

Maundy Thursday - 69 in person, 344 online devices

Good Friday - 61 in person, 234 online devices

OFFERING SUMMARY FOR APRIL

DOES NOT INCLUDE OFFERING FROM APRIL 30

	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Needed for Budget	\$ 95,378	\$ 381,511
Given to Budget	<u>\$ 99,154</u>	<u>\$ 462,946</u>
Difference	\$ 3,776	\$ 81,435
Given to World Hunger	\$ 755	\$ 12,660

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Greenville, SC 29601-2090

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID PERMIT #378
GREENVILLE, SC

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