

TIDINGS



**Seek first the kin-dom of God.
—Matthew 6:33a**

Trinity's voting members at South Carolina's Synod Assembly, June 2026.

Dear Beloved Trinity Community,

Summer has a way of changing our perspective and encouraging us to pause, reflect, and reevaluate our lives. The longer days and altered routines of July often create opportunities to notice things we miss during the busier seasons of the year. In this slower season, Jesus invites us to step away from the need to accomplish and accumulate and to step into the practice of stillness, of simply being.

During this season of reflection, rest, and renewal I am meditating on the difference between striving and seeking. Striving comes naturally to me. Striving is characterized by effort toward achieving a goal. Striving can sometimes become the attempt to prove one's worth and value. Striving asks questions such as: Am I doing enough? Am I faithful enough? Am I getting it right?

Seeking, by contrast, is rooted less in achievement and more in openness. Seeking is the posture of a pilgrim, rather than a competitor. Seeking acknowledges that faith is not a destination we achieve, but rather a relationship we enter into more deeply. Seeking asks different questions: Where is God at work in my life? Where is the Spirit leading me? How can I better use my time, energy, and money to support the things that really matter to me? The difference between striving and seeking ultimately comes down to where we locate God's presence. Striving often assumes that God waits at the finish line, rewarding those who work hard enough to arrive. Seeking trusts that God is already walking beside us – is already present in our questions, our communities, our acts of compassion, and even in our uncertainties.

I have spent a lifetime striving to achieve. While I am still motivated toward achievement, I am currently settling into a posture of seeking. During the month of July, will you let go of the constant need to accomplish, and lean into the spiritual practice of seeking? Will you open your heart and mind to the gift of presence...being present with God, with this community, and with the people that bring joy and meaning so that, at least for a season, you become a seeker rather than a striver?

With love and fierce hope,

Pastor Susan Crowell

In this Issue

- 1 Letter from Pastor Crowell
- 2 Council and Business
- 3 Worship and Faith Exploration
- 4 Children, Youth, and Families
- 5 The Trinity Family
- 5 Music Ministry
- 6 Calendar of Events
- 8 Groups and Community Life
- 9 Care, Justice, and Community Support
- 10 Photos of Our Beloved Trinity Family
- 12 Church Staff



COUNCIL AND BUSINESS

Strategic Plan Update

On Sunday, June 7, a document entitled **Our Next Faithful Steps: Priorities and Pathways for this new Season of Ministry** was presented to the congregation during lunch following worship.

The document identified **Our Shared Calling** in this way:

Trinity is a faith community proclaiming the inclusive gospel of Christ by practicing love through hospitality, justice, and belonging.

Core commitments for our shared life in beloved community were also shared and include:

- ✠ Relevant worship
- ✠ Queer affirmation
- ✠ Radical welcome
- ✠ Faithful giving
- ✠ Authentic community
- ✠ Spaces of belonging
- ✠ Justice and advocacy

The Eight Missional Pathways include:

- ✠ Engaging and Meaningful Worship
- ✠ Welcome and Hospitality
- ✠ Community, Connection, and Belonging
- ✠ Justice, Mercy, and Advocacy
- ✠ Sustaining Beloved Community
- ✠ Faith Exploration
- ✠ Communications and Technology
- ✠ Organizational Alignment

For a copy of the complete strategic plan, please reach out to Frank Griffin, Interim Office Manager, at tfgriffin@trinitylutheran.ws.

To express a desire to offer your time and talent to one of the eight Missional Pathways, please reach out to Pastor Crowell at sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws to indicate your pathway preference.

New Office Schedule JUNE AND JULY

Our beloved Office Manager, Kay Cook, will be away for some weeks this summer recovering and healing from a planned surgery. During her absence, Frank Griffin is serving as Trinity's Interim Office Manager. The temporary office schedule beginning on June 10 and extending through the end of July is as follows:

Monday – Church Office Closed
Tuesday – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Wednesday - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Thursday - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Friday – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

This alternative schedule in no way affects staff working hours. It simply notes when the Church Office will be staffed to answer calls and welcome guests. In case of a pastoral crisis, please call the Church Office at 864-242-5702 and leave a message for Pastor Preacher, Pastor Parham, or Pastor Crowell.

Offering Summary for May

Giving	May 2026	YTD
Needed for Budget	\$100,857	\$504,285
Given to Budget	\$170,251	\$540,661
Difference	\$69,394	\$36,376
Given to World Hunger	\$10,082	\$10,853

The offering totals reflected below include the total amount of offering received in May. The June total income will be included in the August Tidings.

Attendance for June

Sundays	6/7	6/14	6/21	6/28
Online Devices	578	594	332	158
On Campus	113	113	92	120
TOTAL	691	707	424	278

OTHER SERVICES

Queer-Led Worship, June 4 | 46 on campus
 535 online devices

Pride Worship Service, June 24 | 138 on campus
 355 online devices

WORSHIP AND FAITH EXPLORATION

Adult Faith Exploration

Adult Faith Exploration continues its summer series called *Together by Grace: The Psalms*. Each week in July will feature a new topic from this series. Class begins at 9:00 am in Rooms 12 and 13. Please contact Pastor Preacher with any questions about Adult Faith Exploration classes or ways to participate in leading future sessions.

- **July 5:** Refuge in the Psalms
- **July 12:** Anger in the Psalms
- **July 19:** Creation in the Psalms
- **July 26:** The Psalms of Praise



Summer Giving

As the beloved community at Trinity continues to reach out to the margins, the challenge of financially sustaining this mission and ministry becomes more difficult. As the challenge of supporting ministry increases, the need for this ministry of inclusion, radical hospitality, and belonging becomes even more important. As the summer brings time away, will you continue to support this ministry with your financial resources? If you are finding fulfillment, meaning, and belonging in this community, will you begin making a monthly gift to support this ministry? Thank you for helping Trinity continue to be a beacon of love and light in Greenville and beyond.

Please mark your calendars for the annual Sustaining Ministry kick-off event on Friday, September 18 at 6:30 pm in the Activities Building. The evening will include a Las Vegas Games Night, activities for children and youth, as well as food and fellowship.

July Worship Schedule

SUNDAY, JULY 5 at 10:00 am | Gym

Worship | Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Refreshments and fellowship followed by Sunday Fun Day lunch and Bingo in the Multipurpose Room

SUNDAY, JULY 12 at 10:00 am | Sanctuary

Worship | Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Refreshments and fellowship on the front lawn

SUNDAY, JULY 19 at 10:00 am | Gym

Worship | Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Refreshments and fellowship in the back corner of the Gym

SUNDAY, JULY 26 at 10:00 am | Sanctuary

Worship | Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Refreshments and fellowship on the front lawn



CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Trinity Youth

Trinity Youth will gather at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, July 22 to work on a service project. The group will then walk downtown for ice cream. Pickup will be at 3:00 pm.

Trinity Children

Trinity Children will gather on Sunday, July 19 following worship. The group will enjoy lunch, activities, and outdoor games. Adult volunteers are needed to help with lunch and activities. Contact Angie McCormack for more information or to get involved.

Pray and Play Area

The Pray and Play area in the Gym continues to grow and thrive. Depending upon the Sunday, there have been as many as 10 children gathered in that area enjoying being at church as they play, pray in their own ways, and dance to Trinity's songs of praise. This area is a visible sign of Trinity's love for family and children as it clearly conveys children are welcome in worship and care has gone into ensuring they have a place to enjoy worshipping God in their own ways. This area will be formally blessed in worship in the Fall.

Nursery for Sunday Worship

A nursery hosted by a member of the Trinity staff, Beth Oswald, as well as a small group of rotating adult volunteers who have been trained in Trinity's Child Protection Policy is available each Sunday morning beginning at 9:45 am to care for infants and toddlers who would prefer enjoying play time instead of attending 10:00 am worship. The nursery is located on the first floor of the Pence Building. Please reach out to a greeter or usher if assistance is needed.

Children's Worship Opportunity

Children's Worship Opportunity is central to the mission of introducing Trinity's young children to the stories of faith. New adult volunteers are always needed. Leaders must be Child Protection Policy approved (completed through the Church Office). Lesson plans are prepared in advance for those leading. This means leaders simply get to have fun with a group of boisterous and fun children who are excited and curious about faith. Those interested in becoming a part of this ministry should contact Pastor Preacher via text to be added to the sign-up list.



THE TRINITY FAMILY

Within the Trinity Family

Hospitalized in the past month include:

Luther Boliek	James "Mo" Craig
Janie Dillard	Kay Cook
Jean Nelson	Ben McCormack
Dean Nix	

Deaths

The beloved Trinity Community extends love, care, and compassion to the family of Roger Brown (husband of David Foster) at his death.

Celebrations

Keith and Elizabeth Thompson at the birth of their daughter, Hannah Elise, on April 29.

Matthew and Grace Wessinger at the birth of their son and Benjamin's brother, Daniel John, on June 3.

David Londono and Jeff Waddell at their marriage on May 2.

July 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.

Al Banister – July 27

Lynn Brown – July 28

Lane Crouch – July 1

Cindy Davis – July 25

Lura Godfrey – July 21

Frank Griffin – July 3

Jax Jordan – July 9

Darlene Kleckley – July 7

Henry Lampson – July 22

Karine Lawrence – July 2

James Long – July 13

Grayson Preacher – July 29

Bonnie Whitworth – July 12

Layten Woodward – July 25

Carolyn Wyatt – July 19

MUSIC MINISTRY

Adult Choir

Adult Choir will not rehearse during the months of June and July. Rehearsals and singing in worship will resume in mid-August.

Martin Luther called music the "Servant of the Gospel," so our mission is to offer music that invites our minds, bodies, emotions, and imaginations to experience more fully God's rich, inspiring, and often challenging word. Everyone with a love of singing is invited to join this community of musical mission partners. There are no auditions, but new singers are invited to schedule an orientation meeting with Pastor Parham prior to their first rehearsal. At that meeting new participants will be assigned a numbered folder for choir music, a hymnal, a robe for when worship is in the Sanctuary, and take a brief tour of rehearsal spaces, the Sanctuary balcony, and the Gym. If interested, please e-mail Pastor Parham at the address below with any questions.

Handbell Choir

Handbell Choir will not rehearse during June, July, and August.

Ringling handbells is a unique and especially satisfying kind of precisely coordinated human community. The group is, in effect, a single percussion instrument with many hands, hearts, and minds. For more information, please contact Pastor Parham at jcparham@trinitylutheran.ws.

Share Instrumental Gifts

The beloved Trinity community benefits from the talents of our congregational instrumentalists throughout the year. If new to the community and feel drawn to share instrumental gifts in worship, please contact Pastor Parham at jcparham@trinitylutheran.ws.



JULY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<p>5 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Faith Exploration for Adults 10:00 am Worship in the Gym and Live-stream Refreshments and Fellowship to follow 11:30 am Sunday Fun Day</p>	<p>6 6:30 pm Fiber Arts Group</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>12 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Faith Exploration for Adults 9:30 am Second Sunday Food Drive 10:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary and Live-stream Refreshments and Fellowship to follow 11:30 am Out to Lunch Bunch</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>19 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Faith Exploration for Adults 10:00 am Worship in the Gym and Live-stream Refreshments and Fellowship to follow 11:30 am Trinity Children 11:30 am History Reading Group</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>26 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Faith Exploration for Adults 10:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary and Live-stream Refreshments and Fellowship to follow 11:30 am Crafting for a Cause</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
1		2		3 Church Office Closed Independence Day Holiday		4	
8 7:00 am Men's Reflection and Fellowship Group		9		10 10:00 am Mahjong Group		11	
15		16 6:30 pm Love Wins Group		17 10:00 am Mahjong Group		18	
22 1:30 pm Trinity Youth Service Project		23		24 10:00 am Mahjong Group		25	
29 11:30 am The Welcome Table		30		31 10:00 am Mahjong Group			



GROUPS AND COMMUNITY LIFE

History Reading Group

Please join Trinity Lutheran Church History Readers on **Sunday, July 19** after worship in the Parlor to discuss *1776* by David McCullough. Contact Bob Schirmer at rwschirmer@gmail.com, 419-348-6508 or Don Todd at dk todd47@gmail.com, 803-517-8129 with questions.

Friday Mahjong Group

A group gathers each **Friday morning** at 10:00 am in the Assembly Room to spend time together and play Mahjong. It's a non-competitive group with folks willing to teach others to play the game. Questions may be directed via text to Lani Ludian at 864-419-9574.

Out to Lunch Bunch

Trinity's Out to Lunch Bunch is open to all adults who would like to enjoy fellowship and a meal together after worship. The group will gather on **Sunday, July 12**, following worship at Lewis BBQ, 214 Rutherford Street, Greenville. Please reach out to Angie McCormack at 864-630-4026 to reserve your space for lunch.

Men's Reflection and Fellowship Group

A Reflection and Fellowship Group for men meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00 am to 8:00 am in the Parlor. Calvin Harmon leads and facilitates 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. Upcoming dates include **July 8** and **August 12**.

Fiber Arts Group

During these anxiety producing times, research shows being in community and having social support produces significant positive effects to mental and emotional well-being. Along that "thread," a Fiber Arts Group formed at Trinity to simply make space for being together while creating and keeping hands busy. Those who enjoy (or want to learn) crochet, knitting, cross-stitch, sewing, latch hooking, or some other fiber-based craft not listed here are invited to come together for a time of crafting and community. Really, all crafts that travel well are welcome! Attendees should bring supplies to craft. Those who are interested in learning a craft but do not have supplies are welcome too. Someone will be happy to share and teach! The group will meet on **Monday, July 6** at 6:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room. Contact Jenn Jordan at 314-605-2605 with questions.

Love Wins Fellowship Group

Love Wins will gather on **July 16** at 6:30 pm to discuss the book *Secrets Well Kept* by Lynn Ames. The Group will meet in the Parlor, located inside the Red Canopy Door. Contact Angie McCormack with any questions or for more information.

Book Discussion Group

Please join Pastor Crowell for a discussion of the book *Kin* by Tayari Jones on **Thursday, August 6** at 10:00 am in Rooms 12 and 13 of the Activities Building. Anyone who loves reading and discussing books and is eager to make connections and build community is encouraged to attend. Reach out to Pastor Crowell at sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws with questions or to register for the event.

Summer Sunday Fun Days

In Celebration of the Beloved Community at Trinity, please join us for this series of Sunday Fun Days!

July 5 & August 2

Lunch will be served after worship on these Sundays followed by a fun activity for all!



All are invited to Sunday Fun Day on **Sunday, July 5** for Summer Bingo. Following worship, lunch will be served in the Multipurpose Room and will include hamburgers, hot dogs, and other summer favorites. Bingo will follow lunch, and prizes will be summer-themed. To sign up to help with the event, contact Angie McCormack at 864-630-4026.

CARE, JUSTICE, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Support Group for Women in Challenging Relationships

This group, led by Jerry Wesley, Trinity's Coordinator for Mental Health Wellness, is a safe, judgment-free space where participants can share with others who understand, find encouragement, practical ideas, and hope, and build genuine connections with women walking a similar path. The group meets several times a month on **Sundays from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm** on the first floor of the Education Building. Reach out to Jerry Wesley at jrwesley@trinitylutheran.ws for more information and meeting dates. Childcare is provided.

Fostering Great Ideas

Fostering Great Ideas is one of the many organizations Trinity supports. This organization became inclusive of Queer employees and families several years ago and the CEO, David White, approached Trinity for guidance. They have a unique role in the lives of foster children and families. Relying on volunteers, Fostering Great Ideas pairs foster children with a mentor and/or a tutor to help support them throughout the difficult changes they are navigating. The program received over 80 new requests for mentors and tutors recently. More information may be found www.fgi4kids.org. Interested in learning more or volunteering? Contact David White at david.white@fgi4kids.org.

Praying for Possibilities

Praying for Possibilities is a program at Trinity dedicated to praying for the ministries of the congregation. Members and friends of the congregation are invited to sign up for a specific week during the year when they are encouraged to pray through the written prayers one time during the course of the assigned week. This ministry requires a small commitment of time with the possibility of tremendous blessing.

July Prayer Volunteers

July 5 – 11 | Mary Beth Ridenhour

July 12 – 18 | Lani Wise

July 19 – 25 | Maggie Downen

July 26 – August 1 | Vicki Rubenstein

Trinity Food Pantry

The Second Sunday Food Drive will take place **Sunday, July 12** from 9:30-10:00 am. Please drop off items at the Red Canopy Door. This collection bolsters the Trinity Food Pantry which supports our downtown neighbors at The Welcome Table as well as for emergency distribution as needed. Items of most need include: canned meat, 16 oz jars of peanut butter, toilet paper, canned fruit, pasta sauce, 2 lb bags of rice, 16 oz bags of dry beans, canned veggies, canned soups, and boxed cereal. Please contact Pastor Preacher via text with any questions at 864-483-2590.

Queer-led Worship

Queer-led worship takes a rest in July after Queer leaders enjoyed a fruitful month of Pride ministry in June. Worship resumes **Thursday, August 6** at 6:30 pm in the Gym. New Queer leaders are always welcome. Please contact Pastor Preacher if you are interested in leading. Allies may also reach out to volunteer to greet, pop popcorn, or support the service in other ways.

The Welcome Table

The Welcome Table monthly meal continues to feed Trinity's downtown neighbors a hot meal thanks to the gracious support of Project Host Soup Kitchen. Fresh produce purchased from Francis Produce is distributed along with the generous pantry donations given each month by the Trinity community. June's meal will take place **Wednesday, July 29** at 11:30 am in the Multipurpose Room. Everyone is welcome to come enjoy a hot lunch and good fellowship. Anyone interested in participating actively in this ministry should contact Pastor Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws.



PASTOR PREACHER'S ORDINATION - May 24



PRIDEFEST - June 6





TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

421 N. Main St. | Greenville, SC 29601

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

Church Staff

Susan J. Crowell

Senior Pastor
sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws

James C. Parham, III

Pastor for Worship and Music
jcparham@trinitylutheran.ws

Patrick D. Preacher

Pastor for Queer Ministry and Belonging
pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws

Angie H. McCormack

Youth and Children's Ministry
Coordinator
ahmccormack@trinitylutheran.ws

Jerry R. Wesley

Coordinator for Mental HealthWellness
jrwesley@trinitylutheran.ws

Kay M. Cook

Office Manager
kmcook@trinitylutheran.ws

Henry W. Wilcox

Accountant and Digital Media Manager
hwwilcox@trinitylutheran.ws

Karen M. Craig

Administrative Assistant
kmcraig@trinitylutheran.ws

Roy L. Cook

Facility Manager
rlcook@trinitylutheran.ws

Beth C. Oswald

Nursery Attendant

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.

