TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 1909
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

TIDINGS

OCTOBER 2026

VOLUME 78 ISSUE 10

TLC at the Wild Goose Festival

Dear Beloved Trinity Community,

I have been carrying this quote attributed to Rumi with me lately. I love the simplicity of it. It reminds me that faith is not ultimately about having all the answers or getting everything right. Faith is about being present to one another along the way.

In the miniseries Ripple (a recent favorite of mine), there is a beautiful reflection about what church can be. The pastor in this episode says: It's about the love and joy we find in each other. Faith...this community...means lifting each other up. That's what it is all about. Not rituals, not traditions, not tenets of the faith. Just simply lifting each other up.

These words describe what I believe deeply about our life together at Trinity. It's less about confessing certain tenets of the faith, agreeing to all the finer points of Lutheranism, or following a predetermined set of beliefs. Our life together is defined by how we love each other, how we love the guest among us, how we love our neighbors who, at times, seem so different from us. Our faith is best expressed when we notice someone who is hurting, celebrate someone who is flourishing, make room for someone who feels alone, and remind one another that no one has to walk this road by themselves.

We are on the journey together. And it is rarely easy. There are always obstacles, challenges, and burdens. Every day, we carry both grief and gratitude. We grieve what has been lost, what has changed, what we cannot fix, and the people who are no longer with us. And, at the very same time, we give thanks for the people who remain, for the new ones who are yet to find their way to us, for unexpected moments of grace, for laughter around a table, for music, for friendship, for the courage to begin again. This is what it means to be the beloved community: We hold each other through it all.

We don't walk alone. We walk together. And along the way, we keep lifting one another up – until, someday, in God's good time, we arrive safely home. I give thanks for the gift of walking this journey with each of you.

With love and fierce hope,

Susan

Pastor Susan Crowell

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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COUNCIL AND BUSINESS

Council Notes

At the September meeting of the Congregation Council, the council...

- received a Treasurer's Report from Mike Boliek noting that expenses for August were $7,889 less than projected;
- approved the 2025 audit as presented; and
- appointed Jess Bigby, Jaime Fivecoat, Deirdre Hixson, Richard Moose (chair), and Carl Witherspoon to serve on the Nominating Committee to lift up leaders to potentially serve on Congregation Council.

Church Office Hours

Monday | Church Office Closed
Tuesday — Friday | 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Our pastors are away from ministry responsibilities observing Sabbath on the following days each week:

Pastor Crowell – Tuesday
Pastor Parham – Friday
Pastor Preacher – Tuesday

Attendance for September

Sundays	9/6	9/13	9/20
Online Devices	89	116	94
On Campus	93	134	113
TOTAL	182	250	207

Queer-Led Worship: Online Devices 192; On Campus 19

Offering Summary for August

Giving	August 2026	YTD
Needed for Budget	$100,857	$806,856
Given to Budget	$79,102	$758,643
Difference	($21,755)	($48,213)
Given to World Hunger	$107	$11,124

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

Foundation Grants

The Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation is receiving grant applications from **September 1** to **October 15.** The purpose of the foundation is to enhance the outreach ministry of the congregation by making grants to community human service agencies to which the congregation relates, institutions and agencies of the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA, and members of the congregation who attend an ELCA seminary or church-related educational, leadership, or service event. Grant applications may be obtained by calling the Church Office at 864-242-5702 or emailing Kay Cook at kmcook@trinitylutheran.ws.

TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH 1909

Our Shared Calling

We are a diverse faith community proclaiming the inclusive gospel of Christ by practicing love through hospitality, justice, and belonging.

Core Commitments

Relevant Worship
Radical Welcome
Queer Affirmation
Authentic Community
Justice and Advocacy
Faithful Giving
Spaces of Belonging

WORSHIP AND FAITH EXPLORATION

Adult Faith Exploration

Adults meet each Sunday at 9:00 am in Rooms 12 and 13 to engage in lively discussion around matters of faith and the current reality in which we live. Topics and discussion leaders change frequently. Please reach out to Pastor Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws with questions or to volunteer to lead.

New Members Joining

Trinity will receive new members on **Sunday, October 4** during worship at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary. If interested in becoming a part of this beloved community, please reach out to Pastor Crowell at sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws.

Rediscovering the Reformation

Are you new to Lutheranism and wondering what all the joy is about this month? Or maybe you are a lifelong Lutheran looking for more ways to bask in Reformation glory?! Join Pastor Preacher for a one-hour session to learn more about the history of the Protestant Reformation and the key role Lutherans played in that historic moment. The class will take place on **Thursday, October 22** at 6:00 pm in Rooms 12 and 13. Please contact Pastor Preacher to sign-up at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws Reserve your space now!

October Worship Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 at 6:30 pm | Sanctuary
Queer-led Worship
Fellowship, popcorn, and sodas to follow on the front lawn

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 at 10:00 am | Sanctuary
Worship | *Alive with Possibility* Celebration Worship and Presentation of 2027 Commitments
The Rev. Dexter Brecht – Guest Preacher
Receiving of New Members
Celebration Lunch in the Gym

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 at 10:00 am | Gym
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Refreshments and fellowship in the back corner of the Gym

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 at 10:00 am | Sanctuary
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism for
Hannah Elise Thompson
Refreshments and fellowship on the front lawn

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 at 10:00 am | Sanctuary
Worship | Reformation Sunday
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism for
Daniel John Wessinger
Refreshments and fellowship on the front lawn

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Youth Ministry

On Sunday, October 25, Trinity Youth will gather following worship to walk downtown for lunch and to participate in a scavenger hunt. Pick-up will be at 1:30 pm in the upper church parking lot.

Family Fall Festival - Thursday, October 29, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

All are invited for an evening of fall fun, a hot dog dinner, games, fellowship, and activities for the entire family on Thursday, October 29 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on the front lawn. Wear your costume and bring your family and friends!

Children's Worship Opportunity

The children in Trinity's worship are a gift to this community — found in the pews, in the Gym worship space, or in the Pray and Play Area. While kids learn by watching the adults they admire, they also need room to move, ask questions, and explore. That's what Children's Worship Opportunity offers: with adults trained in our Child Protection Policy, kids dig into the week's stories through play, sight, sound, and taste. Lessons are prepared in advance, so leading is easy. Are you interested in supporting this ministry? Reach out to Pastor Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws.

Nursery for Sunday Worship

A nursery hosted by a member of the Trinity staff along with 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. Reach out to the Church Office is interested if caring for Trinity's youngest members on Sunday mornings.

Music Moments for Children with Pastor Parham

Children aged three to fifth grade and a parent or caregiver are invited to gather with Pastor Parham following worship in the Choir Room for twenty minutes of music-making on Sunday, October 11. Children will sing together, experiment with Trinity's vast collection of percussion instruments, and enjoy creating music as a group. Questions may be directed to Pastor Parham at jcparham@trinitylutheran.ws.

Pray and Play Area in the Gym

The Pray and Play area continues to grow and thrive. Depending upon the Sunday, there have been as many as ten 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.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Adult Choir

Adult Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:15 pm in the Choir Room on the second floor of the Pence Building. Everyone with a love of singing is invited to join this community of musical mission partners. There are no auditions. New singers are invited to schedule an orientation meeting with Pastor Parham prior to their first rehearsal.

Share Instrumental Gifts

Do you play an instrument? Are you interested in playing during worship? Opportunities to use your gifts in this way are available.

Save the Date - Christmas Pagaent

Trinity's annual interactive, intergenerational Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 13 at 10:00 am in the Gym. An orchestra of Trinity members and friends comes together each year for this musical opportunity.

Handbell Choir

Handbell Choir rehearsals continue on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the Handbell Rehearsal Room on the second floor of the Pence Building. A few spaces for new ringers are available.

Reach out to Pastor Parham at jcparham@trinitylutheran.ws if interested in participating in any of these musical opportunities.

THE TRINITY FAMILY

October 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.

Kathleen Anderson – October 25
Ann Berlam – October 30
Mattison Bigby – October 12
Connie Blackstone – October 19
Randy Brown – October 27
Charlie Castle – October 16
Christopher Clark – October 14
Matt Cobb – October 25
Everly Curd – October 8
Kyle Davis – October 2
Del Harewood – October 26
Chris Lawrence – October 8
Drake McFadyen – October 7
Heidie Miller – October 25
Thatcher Moose – October 28
Mary Mueller – October 29
Merry Mulcahy – October 3
Dean Nix – October 13
John Otten – October 10
David Potts – October 18
Jeff Rehm – October 1
Donna Robinson – October 5
Harper Roth – October 20
Sheryl Schirmer – October 3
Tony Smithman – October 24
Chris Sorensen – October 20
Alora Stipp – October 5
Lexi Thomas-Harewood – October 19
Keith Thompson – October 8
Benjamin Wessinger – October 29
Terry Willis – October 28

Within the Trinity Family

Membership Changes:
Mary Brown to St. Michael Lutheran Church, Greenville, SC

Upcoming Events at TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 1909

11/22 COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING LUNCH
Sunday, November 22 following worship

12/4 CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AND ORNAMENT EXCHANGE
Friday, December 4 at 6:30 pm, at the home of Stoppy Stoppenhagen

12/13 CHRISTMAS PAGAENT
Sunday, December 13 at 10:00 am, followed by brunch

12/24 CHRSTMAS EVE SERVICES
Thursday, December 24 at 3:00 pm and 5:30 pm

OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 6:30 pm | Queer-Led Worship	**2** Pastor Parham - Sabbath	**3**
4 **Alive with Possibility Celebration Sunday** 9:00 am | Faith Exploration for Adults 10:00 am | Worship in the Sanctuary and Live-stream and presentation of 2027 Commitments 11:30 am | Celebration Lunch 12:30 pm | Mercy and Justice Team Meeting	**5** 6:00 pm | Fiber Arts Group 6:30 pm | Candlelight Yoga in the Gym	**6** Pastor Crowell -Sabbath Pastor Preacher -Sabbath	**7** 1:00 - 3:00 pm | Game Day 2:00 pm | Worship Team Meeting 6:00 pm | Handbell Choir 7:00 pm | Adult Choir	**8**	**9** Pastor Parham - Sabbath	**10**
11 **Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost** 9:00 am | Faith Exploration for Adults 9:30 am | Second Sunday Food Drive 10:00 am | Worship in the Gym and Live-stream Refreshments and Fellowship to follow 11:30 am | Music Moments for Children	**12**	**13** Pastor Crowell -Sabbath Pastor Preacher -Sabbath	**14** 7:00 am | Men's Reflection Group 1:00 - 3:00 pm | Game Day 6:00 pm | Handbell Choir 7:00 pm | Adult Choir	**15** 6:30 pm | Love Wins Group 9:00 am - 3:30 pm | Pastoral and Program Staff Development Event	**16** Pastor Parham - Sabbath	**17** 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Pridefest HOWL-o-Ween
18 **Twenty-first 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 pm | History Reading Group 11:30 am | Out to Lunch Bunch 1:30 pm | Congregation Council	**19** 6:30 pm | Candlelight Yoga in the Gym	**20** Pastor Crowell -Sabbath Pastor Preacher -Sabbath	**21** 11:30 am | The Welcome Table 1:00 - 3:00 pm | Game Day 6:00 pm | Handbell Choir 7:00 pm | Adult Choir	**22** 10:00 am | Book Discussion of *Yesteryear* 6:00 pm | Rediscovering Reformation	**23** Pastor Parham - Sabbath	**24** 10:30 am | Installation of Bishop Wade Roof Saint Stephen's Lutheran Church Lexington, SC
25 **Reformation Sunday** 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 | Trinity Youth	**26**	**27** Pastor Crowell -Sabbath Pastor Preacher -Sabbath	**28** 1:00 - 3:00 pm | Game Day 6:00 pm | Sustaining Ministry Team 6:00 pm | Handbell Choir 7:00 pm | Adult Choir	**29** 5:30 pm | Family Fall Festival	**30** Pastor Parham - Sabbath	**31**

GROUPS AND COMMUNITY LIFE

History Reading Group

The History Reading Group will meet on **Sunday, October 18** following worship in the Parlor to discuss *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America* by Stacy Schiff. A video link will be available. Contact Don Todd at either 803-517-8129 or dktodd47@gmail.com or Bob Schirmer at 419-348-6508 or rwschirmer@gmail.com with questions.

Game Day Group

A new and expanded Game Day Group meets on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Mahjong will still be played and new mahjong players and learners will still be welcomed. Other card games and board games will also be included in this fun afternoon of fellowship, laughter, and community building that meets in the Parlor/Assembly Room. If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to Lani Ludian at 864-419-9574 or Suzanne Rudisill at 864-905-4119.

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. David Potts and Gene Lynch lead and facilitate this group with the intent of providing a brave, safe space for mutual sharing and encouragement. For more information, contact David Potts at 864-423-0069 or davepotts311@gmail.com. The morning includes a light breakfast, devotion, and prayer. Upcoming dates include **October 14** and **November 9.**

Love Wins Fellowship Group

Love Wins will gather for some social time on Thursday, October 15 at 6:30 pm. The group will meet at Group Therapy for indoor putt-putt and fellowship. Group Therapy is located at 320 Falls Street, Suite G, Greenville. More information about Group Therapy is available at http://www.grouptherapy.fun. Join us for this great opportunity for fun and fellowship. For more information or to sign up, contact Angie McCormack at *ahmccormack@trinitylutheran.ws*.

Book Discussion Group

Please join Pastor Crowell for a discussion of the book *Yesteryear* by Caro Claire Burkeon **Thursday, October 22** 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. The group will also gather on **Thursday, December 10** at 10:00 am to discuss *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd.

Fiber Arts Group

During these anxious times, research shows that being in community and having social support produces significant positive effects to mental and emotional well-being. Those who enjoy (or want to learn) crochet, knitting, cross-stitch, sewing, latch hooking, or some other fiber-based craft are invited to come together for a time of crafting and community on Monday, October 5 at 6:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room. Participants should bring supplies. Those who are interested in learning a craft, but do not have supplies, are welcome too. Contact Jenn Jordan at 314-605-2605 with questions.

Candlelight Yoga

Feeling weary, anxious, or stressed by the demands of life? Join Pastor Crowell and yoga teacher Jill McBurney for a gentle, relaxing, candlelight yoga experience in the Gym on Mondays, October 5 and October 19, at 6:30 pm. Yoga newcomers and all bodies and abilities are welcome. Bring a mat, pillow, and blanket; a few extra mats will be available. Participants may also enjoy the session from a chair. Childcare will be provided. Come stretch, breathe deeply, rest in the glow of candlelight, and enjoy an hour of restoration. Questions? Contact Pastor Crowell at sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws.

Out to Lunch Bunch

Looking to build relationships at Trinity? Join the Out to Lunch Bunch after worship on Sunday, October 18 for lunch at Gather Greenville, located at 126 Augusta Street, Greenville. To reserve a space, please text Angie McCormack at 864-630-4026

Calling All Crafters

Come gather at Trinity for a fun and relaxed evening of collaging, crafting, and good conversation! Whether you are a seasoned artist or haven't touched a glue stick since elementary school, everyone (and every age!) is welcome. No materials required but if you do have magazines, paper scraps, or even fun bits of ribbon to share, feel free to bring them. Everything else will be provided. The group will gather in Rooms 12 and 13 on **Wednesday, October 14** at 6:30 pm. Reach out to Drake McFadyen at 828-719-9955 or dmcfadyen@trinitylutheran.ws with questions or to register.

Board Game Night

Ready for a little friendly competition? Come gather with Trinity friends to enjoy some classics like Uno and Jenga as well as games like Catan for the more strategic-minded players. Bring a favorite game or just bring yourself as the group gathers in the Parlor at 6:30 pm on **Tuesday, October 20**. Reach out to Drake McFadyen at 828-719-9955 or dmcfadyen@trinitylutheran.ws for more information or to register.

CARE, JUSTICE, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Welcome Table

This monthly meal will be held on **Wednesday, October 21** at 11:30 am in the Multipurpose Room. With help from Project Host Soup Kitchen, guests enjoy a hot protein-based casserole along with healthy sides, bread, and dessert. New volunteers, especially in the kitchen, are always needed. Please reach out to Pastor Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws with interest in serving. There will be no Welcome Table in November as we will celebrate Thanksgiving with our neighbors on Sunday, November 22.

Trinity Food Pantry

As the Pantry grows to serve more people, the new space across from the elevators on the first floor of the Pence Building allows guests to "shop" for what they need during Welcome Table Distribution, rather than receiving a prepacked bag — with room for a wider selection of items. Keep the donations coming! To help organize, collect donations on Second Sundays, or assist guests while they shop, contact Volunteer Pantry Coordinator Valerie Foote-Patrick at valeriefoote@msn.com. The Pantry is available to members of the Trinity community as well. Please reach out to a Pastor if you could you some extra food.

Let's Host a Period Party!

In Collaboration with the Period Project, a Women's Hygiene Product Collection will take place throughout the month of October. Items of need include tampons, pads, individually wrapped liners, individually wrapped personal hygiene wipes, and gallon and quart size zip top bags. These donations may be dropped off on Sunday morning or in the Church Office throughout the month. A Packing Party will take place later in the year. Please contact Kerrie Seymour at kerrie.seymour@gmail.com with questions.

Pridefest Howl-O-Ween

Trinity is proud to be participating again in the Pridefest Howl-O-Ween. Join us on **Saturday, October 17** from 5:00 to 8:00 pm for a festive evening of vendors, face painting, drag queen performances, and food trucks. To volunteer or for more information, contact Angie McCormack at ahmccormack@trinitylutheran.ws.

Queer-led Worship

Looking for a calming, candlelit space to breathe, sing, and pray? Join us for a quiet, affirming evening of worship — a time to rest in God's welcome, wherever you are on your journey. October's service will be held on Thursday, October 1 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary, with an online option for those joining from home. New Queer worship leaders are always welcome, as are allies who'd like to serve in supporting roles. To learn more, contact Pastor Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws.

We are celebrating six years of Queer-led Worship at Trinity this year! Please mark your calendars for this exciting milestone. Worship will take place on **Thursday, November 5** at 6:30 pm in the Gym followed by a celebratory community meal. Please contact Pastor Preacher to assist with the meal and celebration.

Second Sunday Food Drive

Pantry items will be collected on **Sunday, October 11** at the Red Canopy Door from 9:30 am to 10:00 am. Items may also be brought to the Church Office during the week. Rising food costs impact everyone, but Trinity's downtown neighbors really feel the pinch. Items of most need include:

- Cereal (especially Honey Nut Cheerios)
- Cooking oil
- Cream of Chicken or Mushroom Soup*
- Various canned soups
- Canned beets*
- Canned Spinach*
- Chicken or Tuna Helper
- Chicken broth
- Single serve meals (mac n cheese, cereal cups, ramen, etc.)
- Small bags of granulated sugar or Stevia
- Canned milk*
- Jelly
- Toilet Paper
- Paper towels
- Gallon-sized Ziploc style bags

Currently, the Pantry is well-stocked with rice, beans, canned corn, and green beans. Reusable shopping bags are a welcome donation as the Pantry begins inviting guests to shop for items of their choice. Contact Valerie Foote-Patrick, Volunteer Pantry Coordinator at valeriefoote@msn.comw with questions.

OUR BELOVED TRINITY FAMILY

Queer-Led Worship and a Tribute to Dolly

Candlelight Yoga

OUR BELOVED TRINITY FAMILY

Join us next year at the Wild Goose Festival! Harmony, NC | Labor Day Weekend, 2027

Pastor Preacher with Skye McColman

Pastor Crowell with John Pavlovitz

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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.