

---

# The Newsletter, September 2018



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Valley View, Pennsylvania*

---

## Pastor's Letter

*Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and his Son Jesus Christ. Amen.*

I used to dread this time of year when I was a kid, largely because it meant returning to school. Returning to school meant the end of a largely carefree summer and days spent at the Frackville Pool. Returning to school meant returning to social interactions that, as a kid, made me nervous and uncomfortable.

I compare that to this time of year now. I am excited. I want to get back into the rhythm of things. I am excited for the start of our youth group year, which will start in late September. I am excited to talk about God with our community's children and hear what is on their mind. I am excited to dive back into the Gospels, as the week after Labor Day, we will resume our Bible Study with the beginning of a study on Mark. I am excited to begin teaching confirmation class again.

Most of all, I am excited to see you. I am excited to see you in the pews and I am excited to bring the Word of God to life in my sermons.

My hope and prayer is that you share this excitement. We have such vibrant ministry going on at this point and time and it is wonderful!

For example, just this past Sunday someone came to the church building. I saw them hanging around in the narthex as I came down the aisle at the end of the service. When I was done greeting everyone in worship, I spoke to them. They were new to the area, now living in Lykens, and had no idea where anything was in the community. They had no gas in their car and they were searching for a church that was open in the hopes that they could get some help. Thanks to our Miles to Mend gas cards, they were able to go on their way with a tank full of gas. I believe wholeheartedly that God puts us in places to do good, and we were able to do that on that Sunday.

Another example is our membership growth. By the time September is done, we will have added nine new members to our numbers. That is the largest group at one time in a long, long time for our congregation. My hope and prayer is that you receive them graciously and give them time to find who they are in the midst of this congregation. I see in each of them great gifts and wonderful things they can add to our cumulative voice.

As he always is, God is up to something at Trinity Lutheran Church. Come and see!

Peace,  
Pastor Brian

## TRINITY... SERVING, TEACHING, AND PROCLAIMING

### August Highlights



**Welcome to Our Newest Member:** Say hello to Kelly and Ayla Huss! Kelly and Ayla were both baptized at the creek at Valley View Park on August 19 and officially became a part of the Trinity family in August 26 at our Contemporary Service! You can find Kelly working at the Tri-Valley Library, and Ayla just started kindergarten at Hegins-Hubley Elementary School. Welcome!

**Day Camp Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>:** Our Annual Day Camp Sunday worship service and picnic were held on August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Hegins Park. Pastor Brian led the worship service, Pastor Mark preached the children's sermon, and Camp Director Katie Bowman presented the Day Camp part of the service. Three counselors staffed the camp – Director Katie Bowman, Lizzie Otto, and Micah Ulicny, and there were 21 campers almost every week. Katie talked about Bible lessons taught and trips taken. Campers sang songs they learned this summer and were given the opportunity to say what they liked best about camp. We were happy to see 15 campers join us for worship and the picnic. Following the worship service we enjoyed a covered dish lunch together with the Day Camp Board providing the hot dogs and hamburgers. A big thanks to all who attended and especially for the Day Camp Staff and Board for a great summer and for making Day Camp possible.

**Agape Community Meal:** At our August 8<sup>th</sup> Agape Community meal we served 78 people a delicious meal of pulled chicken/buns, potato salad, carrots/celery/dip, and ice cream/ toppings and enjoyed a pleasant and very warm evening of fellowship. Thanks to all who attended and who helped set up, prepare, serve, and clean up. If you'd be interested in helping with serving or clean up, we'd love to have you. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary or the church office at 570-682-9373.

**First Day Fresh Impressions:** 20 students picked up clothing from the First Day Fresh Impressions free school shopping event held at the church on August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it possible.

**Rick Kline Memorial Softball Tournament:** Softball Team- along with Friedens and St. James, we once again fielded a team this year at the Rock Kline Memorial Slow Pitch Softball Tournament! Team Feisty went 1-2, securing its first ever win in the "Just for Fun" bracket. Thanks to Travis Snyder for designing and making our uniforms, and to Ken Klinger for funding them!

**Sunday Morning Early Service:** August 26<sup>th</sup> was our last 7:45 AM early service for the summer. The plan is to resume the early service in 2019 around Memorial Day and continue to the end of August.

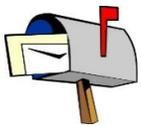
**Movie Night:** Following the Saturday evening worship service on August 18<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed watching the movie "I Can Only Imagine" in the Sanctuary with a brief discussion afterward. Our new screen and video system made it possible to host this type of event. We will do it again. We filled three requests for assistance in regards to the fee to participate in school activities at Tri Valley Jr./Sr. High School. We also fulfilled one emergency request for gas that you see reflected in the Pastor's Letter. We continue to await requests for travel assistance for medical issues and participation fees for school activities, so please continue to spread the word about this program!

**Building a Future with Hope:** In August, Trinity made a \$1,500 contribution to the Brethren Housing Association (BHA) from donations made by our members. See the "Mail Box" section for thank you notes from BHA. Here is some additional information from BHA...According to the 2018 Homeless Point in Time Survey conducted by the Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness, there are 445 men,

women, and children experiencing homelessness in the City of Harrisburg and Dauphin County. BHA is part of the solution to this homelessness crisis. Our “housing first” model of care means that a family will first have a safe place to live before they begin working on the issues that contributed to their homelessness. We are blessed to walk alongside the moms in our Transitions program as they are working through the challenges they face on their way to a new life. We also love when we are able to celebrate their successes. One of our Transitions program graduates, who moved out in January into a beautiful 5-bedroom home with her 3 kids, stopped by recently to let us know that she had been offered a full-time supervisor job at an upscale hotel. We are so proud of her and all she has accomplished on her journey so far. We are grateful for your support to continue our vision of building a future with hope for the families we serve. Now in our 29<sup>th</sup> year of service, we continue to help families bridge the gap between homelessness and hope through our mission of stable housing, supportive services and loving relationships. For more information on the work we are doing or to schedule a tour of one of our apartments being rehabbed, please contact Jessica Johnson Vinton at [jjohnsonvinton@bha-pa.org](mailto:jjohnsonvinton@bha-pa.org) or 717-233-6016.

**Your Favorite Hymns:** Thanks to everyone who responded to the request for 'Your Favorite Hymns!' Your suggestions were used for our summer service hymns! Everyone enjoyed singing the old familiar hymns, so keep that in mind, we will do it again next year!

**Tri-Valley Cross Country Shoe Drive Fundraiser and Service Project:** Thanks to the support and generosity of Trinity and the Tri Valley community, the Tri-Valley Cross Country Team and Booster Organization was able to collect 2900 pairs of gently used shoes. The Cross Country Team is a newly sponsored school sport and this collection will help to build a general fund. The team worked with a company called Funds2Orgs. This company gives the team .40 per pound of shoes. In turn, these shoes are sent to developing countries for people to start small businesses. Your contribution of gently used shoes to support two great causes was greatly appreciated.



## Mail Box

**Thank you from the new resident of the BHA apartment we adopted ...**

*There are no words I can use to explain how happy and appreciative I am to have received such a beautiful home. The moment I walked in there was a breath of fresh air but at the same time the sight was breath taking. What you did for me was so wonderful and I can't thank you enough. I will forever cherish what you did. May your blessings continue to unfold, because you have blessed me with such happiness. Thank you so so much for everything. Tavia*

**Thank you from BHA for the recent donation from Trinity's members...**

*Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,  
About a month ago I told you about some unexpected projects we were surprised with this summer. These projects included fixing a water line leak outside our 1245 Mulberry Street property, replacing the corroded sewer pipes inside 1245 Mulberry Street, and repairing a sink hold that had formed in the alley by 1245 Mulberry Street. The projects came with a \$17,000 price tag. So we asked for your help.*

*And help us you did! We are humbled and thrilled that through the generosity of our supporters, we raised \$21,169. This money will not only cover the cost of completing the property projects but will also help in supporting the participants at BHA while they work to learn skills to increase their stability.*

*Thank you. BHA is blessed to have amazing supporters who believe in the work we are doing to build futures with hope. It is with this support that we have been able to grow and touch lives for almost 30 years, and we will continue doing so for many more.* Jessica Johnson Vinton, Director of Development

**Another BHA thank you for our recent donation ...**

*Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,*

*You all continue to amaze us with your generosity. We are so thankful for your gift towards our unexpected project costs this summer. We have been overwhelmed by the amount of support we have received. BHA is truly blessed with amazing people who believe in the work we are doing to build futures with hope. Thank you,* Jessica Johnson Vinton, Director of Development

## What's Happening in September



**Hegins Valley Food Closet:** The Food Closet Item for September is **chicken noodle soup**. Please bring any brand of chicken noodle soup to the cupboard in the overflow room and they will be added to the Food Band at St. John's United Methodist Church in Hegins. Other food donations are welcome as well!



**New School Year:** With the start of a new school year, we wish all our students, teachers, administration, and support staff a good, safe and successful school year. May God Bless and be with all of them.



**Chancel Choir rehearsal resumes** on **Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 PM. If you like to sing, please join us. Anyone grade 7-adult is welcome. No tryouts!

**Rally Day, SATURDAY, September 8<sup>th</sup>**. The Christian Education Committee would like to invite everybody to our Rally Day on Saturday, September 8th! We are trying something new this year and are having it on a Saturday night at 7:00 PM, following the Saturday night worship service. We will have games, music, and ICE-CREAM!!! Please come out and join us and bring your friends! The new Sunday School year will begin on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM. We look forward to seeing you there!

**New Sunday School Year Begins Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**. The new Sunday School year will begin on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM. Classes from Nursery to Adult will be offered by our Christian Education Committee. We look forward to seeing you!

**Recognizing Our Students, September 9<sup>th</sup>**: On September 9<sup>th</sup>, our 2-3 year-olds will be recognized with a faith book. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th graders will also be receiving Bibles the same date. Letters will be sent out to all children involved reminding them that this special event will be taking place.

**Bible Study Resumes, September 10<sup>th</sup>:** There will be no Bible Study on Labor Day, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bible Study will resume on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM in the library and continue every Monday morning. Come ready to start a new journey into the study of the Gospel of Mark. Everyone is welcome. And bring a friend!

**Mission Trip Information Session, September 10<sup>th</sup>:** After our wonderful experience at Roanoke in July, we are partnering with Group Mission Trips to engage in another mission trip next July! This trip is open to everyone – youth and adults. The dates for this trip are July 14-20, 2019, and next year we will be serving in Erie, PA. There is much to coordinate and plan. We had such a great time, and we are hoping that our energy coming back was contagious and that we can send twice as large a group next year. We want to come together and share our experiences and explore possibilities for Erie. For this to happen, we are having an information session on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the church library. Come and see what God is doing through this amazing ministry!

**Agape Community Meal, September 12<sup>th</sup>:** Our next Agape Community meal is on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. We will be serving beef barbecue/buns, Tortilla chips/ salsa, applesauce, and brownies/Rice Krispie treats. Spread the word! And if you want to plan ahead, mark your calendar for the second Wednesday of every month. Our next Community meal will be Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. The menu is Alice's campfire meal, Crusty rolls, and Cake. We hope you'll join us!

**Serving/Clean Up Crew Volunteers Needed for Community Meal:** Please consider helping out at one or more Agape Community Meals. If you can give of your time to help clean up, and/or serve, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary or call the church office at 570-682-9373.

**Acolyte/Crucifer Training, September 16<sup>th</sup>:** Beginning in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, children have the opportunity to serve as acolyte and crucifer. Training for all children who will be acolyte or crucifer in the upcoming year will be held Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. This training will enable them to learn the correct way to perform these duties. There will also be time to practice! If any children who are already acolytes and crucifers would like a refresher course, they are welcome to attend this training, too.

**Installation of Acolytes/Crucifers, September 23<sup>rd</sup>:** On Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, all children who will be serving as acolyte or crucifer in the upcoming year will be installed. We want to publicly acknowledge that we are thankful for their important service in our worship.

**Contemporary Worship Service, September 30<sup>th</sup>:** The Contemporary Service for September will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. Come and join us!

**Youth Group News:** The time of year is here for Youth Group to begin! We are asking for volunteers to help transport children for Junior Youth Group on Wednesdays. You would come to the Elementary School at 2:15, load your car with children, and transport them to the church building. If you are available, please see Pastor Brian.

The first day of Senior Youth Group will be on Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the church, and the first day of Junior Youth Group will be on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, also at the church. Registration forms are due to the school offices by September 12<sup>th</sup>. For any questions, see Pastor Brian.

**Flood Buckets:** We are still collecting supplies to assemble flood buckets for people in need after the recent flooding in our area. Here is the list of what is needed:

5 gallon buckets	all-purpose sponges
disposable green gloves	soft grip scrub brushes

Sharpie permanent markers	retractable utility knives
wide mouth sprayers	mold control spray
bleach	all-purpose cleaner
33 gallon drawstring garbage bags	terry towels

**Harvest Home, October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>:** Harvest Home will be celebrated at Trinity on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. This celebration provides an opportunity for us to give to others in thanks for all that we have been given. We will be setting up a Harvest Home display and collecting items to be given to the Schuylkill Women in Crisis Center (SWiC) in Pottsville. Schuylkill Women in Crisis is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1983 to provide services to victims of domestic violence and sexual violence in Schuylkill County. In addition to assisting victims, this agency is working to confront the societal issues that contribute to this problem. SWiC is motivated by the belief that all individuals are entitled to live free of the fear and pain caused by emotional and physical abuse.

The following items have been identified as items used at the Shelter and frequently needing replacement. Please help us help the Schuylkill Women in Crisis Shelter.

Bed Linens (twin and full)	Cleaning supplies (floors, dishes, bathrooms)
Pillows	Laundry Detergent
Paper Towels	Garbage bags, especially 55 gal black trash bags
Toilet Paper	Ice melt
Gift cards (Giant, Walmart, Staples)	

**DVD Service Delivery:** Our new sound and video system provides us the ability to record DVDs of our services. To help keep our shut-ins feeling part of our church family, we will be delivering DVDs of our worship services with a player to our shut-ins. We are looking for volunteers to help with the delivery. All you need to do is drop off the DVD and player, pick it back up when they are done watching, and then take it back to the church. If you are willing to participate, please speak to Pastor Brian.

**Birthdays and Anniversaries:** To help celebrate birthdays and wedding anniversaries, we would like to project pictures on the screen at the time of singing. Anyone interested should submit a photo two weeks ahead of the date. Just give it to Pastor Brian, Lillie, or put it in the door of the church office. Surprise your loved one with a photo from the past!

**Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend:** Your marriage relationship is one of the things in life that provides the greatest potential for happiness. Is yours living up to this potential? Please make 2018 the year you resolve to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to learn how to maximize the joy and intimacy that God intends for your marriage.

✚ September 14-16, 2018 at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis, PA. A lovely hotel-style facility in a wooded area of the Poconos, an hour north of Allentown.

✚ October 19-21, 2018 at Olmsted Retreat Center. A stunning, hotel-style retreat next to Olmsted Mansion in Allegheny National Forest, 2 hours north of Pittsburgh.

Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. To be sure to get the Weekend of your choice, sign up at your earliest convenience by going to the website: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) and paying the registration fee with your credit card, or marking the option to mail a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to

you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 [orfjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:orfjschamber@comcast.net).

## Save the Dates

Dates	Future Events
October 6-7, 2018	<b><u>Worldwide Communion, October 6-7:</u></b> Worldwide Communion Sunday is a celebration that promotes Christian Unity and ecumenical cooperation. It takes place the first Sunday of every October. The tradition originated in the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in 1933, was adopted throughout the U.S. Presbyterian Church in 1936, and spread to other denominations. In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches), endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Christian Churches worldwide. It is a day when we mark the almost universal Christian practice of breaking bread with one another and remembering both the night of Jesus' betrayal and of Jesus' sacrifice. At Trinity, we will celebrate Worldwide Communion <b><u>Saturday night, October 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday morning, October 7<sup>th</sup>.</u></b>
October 13-14, 2018	<b><u>Harvest Home:</u></b> collection for Schuylkill Women in Crisis. See write up above for list of most needed items.
October 21, 2018	<b><u>Reformation Service:</u></b> District-wide Reformation service on Sunday, October 21 <sup>st</sup> at Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Schuylkill Haven.
November 4, 2018	<b><u>All Saints Day and Gospel Service</u></b>



### Did You Ever Wonder...

### about the Baptismal Font?

The Baptismal Font is the piece of "church furniture" to do baptisms.

In some churches, they are three-sided, in symbolism of the Holy Trinity. There are different ways of baptizing people, such as immersion, but at Trinity, we usually pour water on the baptized, also called affusion.

Sometimes you may see a baptismal font placed in the rear of a congregation's building. This is to remind believers of their baptism, and to invite them to place water on their head in remembrance of that sacred event. Ours is placed near the front of the church, a physical remembrance up front so that it is always in the line of view for the worshipper.

Baptismal Fonts in the Middle Ages sometimes had an entire room dedicated to their presence. Many of these fonts were designed for full immersion, and the room that would hold the font was a baptistery.

Regardless of the mode of baptism, all one needs is water and the word!

# Important Reminders



## **Worship Services - Everyone Welcome!**

- ✚ Saturday Evenings, 6:00 PM
- ✚ Sunday Mornings, 10:30 AM
- ✚ Contemporary Service – Sunday evening, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM



## **Sunday School for all ages:** Sunday mornings, 9:00 AM

- ✚ **Children's Sunday School:** Sunday School for our children ages 2 to 18 is held every Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:15 AM. There are classes for Nursery; Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> Grades; 3<sup>rd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> Grades; Pre-teens (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grades); Confirmation; and Teens (Post Confirmation).
- ✚ **Adult Sunday School:** Our adult discussion Sunday School Class is held every Sunday morning 9:00 to 10:00 AM in the church library. The class uses the weekly Faith Lens curriculum for discussion of scripture as it relates to current events.

## **Contact Us:**

- ✚ Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 153, 1220 West Maple Street Valley View, PA 17983
- ✚ Office Phone: (570) 682-9373
- ✚ Visit us on the web at: [www.TrinityintheValley.com](http://www.TrinityintheValley.com)
- ✚ Email address for Trinity: [TrinityLuthvv@gmail.com](mailto:TrinityLuthvv@gmail.com)
- ✚ Follow us on Facebook

**Pastoral Visitation:** Due to health privacy laws, hospitals do not automatically call the church office to tell us when our members are hospitalized. If you or someone in your family is hospitalized, please call Pastor Brian to ensure a pastoral visit. Pastor Brian strives to visit members in nursing homes at least once every six weeks. **If you feel your loved one would benefit from more frequent pastoral visitation, please contact Pastor Brian.**

**Community Aid Bins:** The two Community Aid bins at the west end of the parking lot are waiting for donations. Trinity receives 3 cents per pound back for whatever is donated which in turn is used to support our Miles to Mend Program. The items we donate support Community Aid's mission.

**AmazonSmile:** AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Trinity is registered with the AmazonSmile program to receive donations from Amazon when purchases are made from Amazon accounts. To shop at AmazonSmile enter [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) in the web browser on your computer or mobile device. To choose Trinity as the recipient, enter "Lutheran Church Valley View" (do not enter PA) in the charity search box. Trinity Lutheran Church Valley View PA should appear after you press enter.

**Newsletter Distribution:** Please call the church office at 570-682-9373 to let Lillie know if you would like to receive the newsletter via email or U.S. mail or if you would prefer a LARGE PRINT version. You may also pick up a copy inside the office entrance or on the shelving unit to the right of the glass case across from the Nursery classroom.

**Tree of Life:** Leaves in honor or memory of loved ones or special events such as weddings, confirmations, baptisms are still available. The cost is \$60 per leaf with proceeds designated for Christian Education. If interested, please complete a Leave Your Legacy form for each leaf.

**Electronic Online Donations:** Online contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account, or processed using your credit or debit card. Vanco Payment Solutions is the administrator of the Simply Giving Program endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union. To participate, please contact Pastor Brian.

## Let us pray...

Trinity's Council begins each meeting with prayer by a Council member. Many of these prayers ask God for guidance as we discuss issues and make decisions for our congregation. Joe Fogarty's prayer for our August meeting focused on giving thanks for our congregation and its ministries. We want to share it with you and hope that you, too, will include your gratitude and support for Trinity's ministries in your prayers and actions – God's Work, Our Hands.

*Lord,*

*We give you thanks for our congregation and all its members who give of their time and talent in your name. We give you thanks for allowing this to be a place where someone can come with a prayer request or come to give thanks for a prayer answered.*

- ∞ A place where the elderly and the infirmed are not forgotten*
- ∞ A place where people in need of medical treatment receive help with transportation needs*
- ∞ A place where families in need of clothing or school supplies are welcomed and that need is met*
- ∞ A place that is vigilant of the needs of our military, of people in impoverished nations or people in our own community that suffer loss*
- ∞ A place that turns an empty apartment into a home for someone who had nothing*
- ∞ A place that provides a community meal that nourishes not only the body but the soul as well*
- ∞ A place that houses child care for working parents*
- ∞ A place where the word of God is taught to our young*
- ∞ A place where the community's youth can gather weekly for fun and fellowship experienced in a Christian environment*

*But most of all, Lord, we thank you for allowing this to be a place where the true meaning of the word ministry is alive and well. For these things and all that you have given this congregation, Lord, we give you thanks. Amen*

## God's Work, Our Hands

### Mission Statement Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is called to carry on the serving, teaching, proclaiming ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ to all people through our life as a congregation and through our daily lives as individual Christians.