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**Trinity Messenger**  
August 2024 Issue 3

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*Alleluia. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I abide in them. Alleluia.* John 6:56

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### **One is Not the Loneliest Number**

In 1969, the American rock band Three Dog Night lyrically informed its fans and all who would go on to hear their song *One* that “One is the loneliest number that you’ll ever do.”

This belief that one is the loneliest position to inhabit and to be strongly avoided remains a commonly held feeling in the human psyche of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Our society is deeply entrenched in a culture of numbers, isn’t it? We measure our worth by the number of “likes” our posts receive, the hits our websites get, or the followers we have. The more, the better, no matter the source. A single digit would be a colossal failure, shattering our egos. Quantity, it seems, is the ultimate affirmation of our place in the universe and our worth compared to others.

When we think of our faith, I imagine one of the images that comes to mind for some is a sanctuary on a Sunday morning packed with folks gathered to praise God, sing hymns, and be fed by the Good News and God’s gift of Holy Communion. The more the better. Yet, Christianity, despite what we might visualize, is not a religion for the masses and neither was Jesus’ message. Granted, Jesus does speak to large crowds and feeds many in one sitting, but Jesus’ most powerful, permanently life-altering engagements occur when he is one-on-one with God’s children and displaying his concern for the well-being of the individual: the woman ostracized by others at the well who receives forgiveness and “living water”, the one leper who is moved to return to thank Jesus for the life-changing gift of healing, and the one sheep searched for while the other ninety-nine are left behind.

Each of us is the focus of God’s love through Jesus Christ. He died for us individually, was resurrected so we could each have eternal life, and claims and transforms us through our baptism. The power of the Gospel is not focused on the many, but on the one—you, me, our neighbor. God values us individually, without comparing us to others or assigning worth beyond the love he has for us—one sheep at a time. Claimed by God’s singular love,

Pastor Mark

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### **Unified Budget Monthly Financial Update**

July Income                                \$28,379.35

July Expenses	\$33,674.39
Income Year to Date	\$205,878.17
Expenses Year to Date	\$201,251.23

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**Property Committee News-** Currently there are 3 teams of 5 people who faithfully clean our church facility. The 3 teams are looking for additional help to do a fall cleaning involving a little extra work and help. This is an opportunity for our congregation members to volunteer 3-4 hours of your time to accomplish this one time fall cleaning. Planning to schedule in October-date, time, details, signup coming in September. Please consider helping. Thank you.

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### **Stewardship Special Giving for August: LUTHERCARE.**

Each year, the Caring Fund dollars provide quality care to residents in Luthercare's senior living communities whose resources have been exhausted. The difference between Medicaid reimbursements for daily care and the actual costs to Luthercare is significant. Such deficits are covered through the Caring Fund. In addition, Caring Fund resources provide scholarships for children to participate in Luthercare's early learning programs. Without such scholarship aid, many of these children would not receive this valuable education

Currently, Luthercare has residential communities in Lititz, Lebanon, and Columbia. The child care centers provide service in Annville, Columbia, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Reamstown.

Luthercare also provides administrative support to Ephrata Area Social Services and mentoring support for in-home child care providers.

Your gifts help these very valuable programs continue.

You can use your special giving envelope during August to support this important program.

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### **Gather On The Hill**

In partnership with Ephrata Area Social Services (EASS), Bergstrasse Lutheran Church has begun a new program for area senior citizens called Gather On The Hill. It takes place on the first Tuesday of each month at the church (9 Hahnstown Rd., Ephrata) from 11:30 – 2:00 PM. Each gathering includes games and other fellowship activities. The event is free to the public, and lunch is provided at no cost. Need a ride? EASS provides free transportation for those who are interested. Please call EASS at (717) 733-0345 to RSVP no later than the Friday prior. To arrange for transportation, please dial ext. 112. See you on the hill!

### **Help Wanted: Bergstrasse Community Clothing Closet**

**Bergstrasse Community Clothing Closet is open the first weekend of every month for persons in need of clothing and other household goods. Entrance is accessible via the door off the lower parking lot. Hours are Saturday noon – 2pm and Sunday 11am – 1pm. Next open August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> for a special back to school clothing giveaway.**

**Donations:** Currently there is a desperate need for men's pants, shorts and shoes. There is always a need for children's clothing. All clothing in good shape is accepted as are household items like sheets, towels, etc. Donations may be dropped off at Bergstrasse when the Community Clothing Closet is open. There is a special need for donation of a bookcase for use by the Clothing Closet.

**Volunteers:** sort clothing, hang it and tag it by color to keep track of what is moving and what is not, and greet shoppers at the courtesy desk. Shoppers check in and specify how many people they are shopping for and what items are of particular interest. Volunteers meet at 6-7:30pm on the Friday before the

Closet is open to sort donations and get them ready for the next day. On Saturdays and Sundays when the Closet is open, volunteers are needed from 11:30 – 2:30 and 10:30 – 1:30. You do not need to be there the entire time to volunteer – whatever time you have available within those times is fine.

If you have further questions, you may either stop by the next time the Closet is open and have a look around or call Pattie Martin at 717-344-1347.

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**This past week I believe we had 3 new people joining us in our church service. I know people were welcoming them and that is terrific! Just want to ask the congregation to pass on the info of asking them to sign the guest register and pick up a Welcome Bag. Thanks for your help.**

**Evangelism committee**

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### **Phyllis Peters**

Phyllis Peters moved to a new home on July 31. Her new address is below if you would like to send her a card for her birthday and your well wishes.

Phyllis Peters  
Apartment 118  
11349 Alamo Ranch Pkwy  
San Antonio, TX 78253

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### **HOLY TRINITY HAS A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!!**

**Please follow this link to the new page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563831542098&mibextid=LQQJ4d>

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As director of the Senior Choir at Holy Trinity since 2008, I am very grateful that I have been able to share my love of sacred music with so many dedicated and talented choir members. These choir members have been a pleasure to work with, inspiring me every single week, and the support I have felt from Donna Nace, a very talented musician, and the congregation has been truly uplifting.

Over the past few years, the choir has diminished in size due to many factors, and it has become difficult to continue having a choir that rehearses and sings weekly. In light of this and the financial issues this church is facing, I feel this is the time to make a change. In place of the weekly Senior Choir, I will instead direct a monthly Celebration Choir, similar to what we tried this past year, which will rehearse one Wednesday and sing one Sunday a month. This will begin in September.

Music has always been important to this congregation and I am hoping you will support the Celebration Choir by joining us whenever you are able. A schedule for the Celebration Choir will be coming soon.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Deb Olson

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Thank you to everyone for the cards, prayers, visits and support I received as I recovered from surgery. It means the world to have such a caring family. Sincerely, Christy Boos

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**MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!** Ephrata Area Social Service is in need of food items this summer and we need to start stocking their shelves now. With financial hardship and rising food prices it is getting harder and harder for some of our local families to provide meals for themselves.

Items needed:

Beverage products (Kool-Aid, Crystal Light-Drink mixes, etc.), Canned fruits - sugar-free  
Canned hearty soups, Canned meats and pastas (spaghetti, spam, tuna, ravioli, etc.)  
Canned vegetables, Condiments, Dish soap, Hamburger helper, Individual snack packs (chips, pretzels, crackers), Instant potatoes, Jelly, Laundry detergent, Oatmeal, Pancake mix and syrup, Paper towels, Pasta - gluten free, Peanut Butter, Premixed Jell-O snacks, Spices.

Gift cards to Giant, Redner's, or Weis to support fresh produce, meat, and dairy items

This year our goal is to provide **50 full** boxes of food items this summer and we need your help! Please bring one or two items each week to help reach our goal. If everyone donates – “*many hands make light work*”. Let's help those in need in our community. The Social Ministry Committee thanks you for your continued support!

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THE ADULT (all adults are welcome) LUNCH BUNCH will be going to The Centerville Diner in Mt. Joy after the liturgy on September 8. We'll meet downstairs immediately after the liturgy. All are welcome. Plan to join us! Please call Cheryl Plummer at 625-3187 to reserve your place!



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### Summer Music

Our congregation is blessed with talented musicians! Please share your gift and sign-up to offer music during the summer on the sheet provided in the Gathering Area.



August 18-24 Calendar

<b>Sunday, August 18</b>	
9:00am	Worship
10:00am	Coffee Hour After Worship
<b>Monday, August 19</b>	
9:30am	Trini Mini Camp
10:00am	Women's Prayer Group
6:30pm	Yoga
<b>Tuesday, August 20</b>	
8:00am	Pickleball
9:30am	Trini Mini Camp
<b>Wednesday, August 21</b>	
9:30am	Trini Mini Camp
12:00pm	Luther Lunch Ladies
7:00pm	Historical Society
<b>Thursday, August 22</b>	
9:30am	Trini Mini Camp
7:00pm	Yoga
7:00pm	Thursday Worship
<b>Friday, August 23</b>	
9:30am	Trini Mini Camp
<b>Saturday, August 24</b>	
7:30am	Walking Group

The fourth Tuesday morning Coffee Klatch will not be held over the summer. The next time it will meet will be in October.

[View This Month's Interactive Calendar Here](#)

**August 18th Servers:**

**Council Team:** John Fuehrer, Norm Wangman

**Assisting Minister:** John Weiss

**Lector:** Dan Doremus

**Acolytes:** Anya Gilbert

**Ushers:** Denise Shirker, Trig Olson, Matt Shirker

**Altar Guild:** Barb- Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart

**Linens:** Lori Spitzer

**Flowers:** Winnie Gerlach



**Office Hours August 19-23, 2024**

We recommend you call the office prior to stopping in to ensure hours have not changed.

Office Phone: 717-733-4134 Pastor's Cell: 315-317-8517 Donna's Cell: 717-669-7831  
Office email: officeholyltrinity@ephratalutheran.org

Day	Sue	Pastor
Monday	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Friday	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	OFF

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### **Make Your Regular Offering Electronically**

On the Holy Trinity website ([www.holytrinityephrata.org](http://www.holytrinityephrata.org)), a tab on the menu bar called "Online Giving" will take you to a secure web site for you to give. You can also give your Regular Offering, your Special Appeal donation, your building fund, or your Homes of Hope fund donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.



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***Thanks for reading! Have a great week ahead!***

