



# HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



## Trinity Messenger

September 2024 Issue 2

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*Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia. James 1:18*

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### ***Weakness is a Strength***

*"...to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup> Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, <sup>9</sup> but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10*

Are the weaknesses we possess, the thorns in our flesh which are no fault of our own, liabilities, or potential assets we might steward to bring us closer to God and experience a more intimate relationship with our Creator?

Paul does not identify the thorn he carries in him nor its nature. Paul, as one who understands human nature well, wisely keeps this information to himself because, let's face it, we would likely compare our thorns to his and quickly dismiss ours as having little or no spiritual value when placed side by side with Paul's. Of course, we would be wrong in making that assumption.

I have recently been considering the thorns (weaknesses) that jab at me daily and make certain aspects of life far more challenging than I would like them to be. In doing so, unlike Paul, I find my ability to embrace them consistently as assets challenging. However, I strive to experience these thorns with gratitude for their power to draw me closer to God, increase my understanding of my dependency on God's faithfulness, and strengthen my faith in God's ever-present power in my life. I am reminded that I need God to weather the weaknesses and experience His presence in them, transforming them into assets I can use to enhance my ministry to others while deepening my relationship with our gracious God. Faithfully reevaluating my weaknesses,

**Pastor Mark**

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### **Sunday, September 8: Rally Day**

**Sunday Church School resumes this week! Join us for refreshments in the cafe immediately following the liturgy. All children and youth are invited to join Donna upstairs in her room on the second floor. The Adult forum will be held in the Social Hall.**

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### **Sharing Upcoming Events and Information**

Congregational committees and other ministries of Holy Trinity are invited and encouraged to share the details of upcoming happenings with the congregation and beyond via our recently updated Facebook page and our webpage. If you have anything that will be occurring between now and Christmas and needs sharing, please contact Theresa Mull ([theresakmull@gmail.com](mailto:theresakmull@gmail.com)), our Facebook page administrator, and Adam Doughty ([adamc.doughty@gmail.com](mailto:adamc.doughty@gmail.com) or 717-445-0007), our webpage administrator if you would like your group's activities shared. They are waiting to hear from you to help share your information with a broader audience.

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### **Stewardship Special Giving for September:**

#### **Konde Diocese - Our Partner in Ministry**

You may or may not know that each of the sixty-five synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has been linked with a Lutheran companion synod or church body outside the United States with which to partner in ministry and provide each other support through prayer and opportunities to engage with each other. We in the Lower Susquehanna Synod have been blessed with the companionship of the Konde Diocese, part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). The Konde Diocese at present boasts a membership of over 125,000 members in seven church districts. Within these seven districts, more than 100 congregations are served by 160 pastors and 200 evangelists serving God's people and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ, which they have been faithfully doing since 1977.

The operative word in beginning to understand the nature of this ministry partnership and its benefits is "companion." Each of our synods/dioceses and the congregations that make up these bodies are called to serve our neighbor and share the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ. Doing so, whether one is part of a congregation in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, or a congregation in a village in the Konde Diocese, we can offer encouragement for each other's challenges and celebrate the joys. Through this relationship, the work we have been called to do becomes easier and more meaningful because we know there are siblings in Christ offering mutual support. Such a relationship also provides the opportunity to learn from each other through correspondence and sharing ideas. This is especially relevant as we in this nation struggle with shrinking congregations and a waning interest in organized religion. Christian churches in Africa and other less developed parts of the world are experiencing a boom in persons embracing the Gospel and its grace-filled message.

During September, the Konde Diocese will be our stewardship focus. I encourage us to prayerfully consider how we can actively engage in a relationship with the diocese and its individual congregations—supporting their ministries as they support ours. To help us

deepen our connection, we are working with our synodical liaison with the ELCT to link the Holy Trinity with a congregation in the Konde Diocese with whom we can personally have contact and grow our relationship from congregation to congregation.

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**Needed: Doers to fill open council positions**

Sunday's lesson from the book of James tasked us with being doers, not just listeners. If you heard that and wondered what you could do, please consider filling a vacant or soon-to-be vacant church council position. There are three positions that will be vacated at the end of the year and need to be filled in addition to two other seats that have remained unfilled. Please consider a place on church council to help lead our congregation. You may contact Lisa Garrett or any other current council member with any questions and to express your interest in being a doer who acts. Thank you!

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**PROPERTY COMMITTEE WORKDAY-** A Fall church facility cleaning is scheduled for Saturday, October 5th from 7:30AM to 10:30 AM. YOU are invited to join our volunteer cleaning teams for this workday. There is a sign-up sheet with details on the table in The Gathering Area. Bring extra cleaning supplies, please. Also, bring your coffee, water or drink for break time. If you have questions see Carlene Kerschner. Thank you for volunteering.

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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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**Celebration Choir Schedule**

Wednesday, September 4 – 7:00 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, September 8 – “Healer of Our Every Ill”



Wednesday, October 2 – 7:00 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, October 6 – “As a Little Child”

Wednesday, October 23 – 7:00 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, October 27 (Reformation) – “When in Our Music God is Glorified”

Wednesday, November 13 – 7:00 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, November 17 – “God is So Good”

Wednesday, December 11 – 6:30 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, December 15 – “First Song of Isaiah”

Please consider joining us and sharing your musical talents! All are welcome!!

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**We are offering additional Pickleball time in the evening. Beginning every Tuesday starting, September 3, the court will be open for play from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Open to any skill level.**



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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Salem Lutheran Church, Ephrata, invites you on a bus trip to “Cape May at Christmastime,” on December 3, 2024. The trip includes free time to explore, shop, and lunch on your own, at the Washington Street, pedestrian only, outside mall; guided tour of the 1879, Emlen Physic Estate and Carroll Gallery at the estate; dinner at the Lobster House Restaurant; and the Holiday Lights Trolley Tour. Reservations are due by Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>. For information, call Stephanie Frymyer at 717-682-9697, or Laurel Kluck at 717-701-0266

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

Bergstrasse Community Clothing Closet is open the first full 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.

#### **Fall/Winter Schedule:**

**Sept 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Oct 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Dec 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

**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 directly at Bergstrasse when the Community Clothing Closet is open or in the box at the back of the narthex in Holy Trinity.

**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. When the Closet is open, volunteers are needed from 11:30 – 2:30 on Saturdays and 10:30 – 1:30 on Sundays. 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.

## September 8-14 Calendar Sunday is Rally Day, SCS begins!

<b>Sunday, September 8</b>	
Celebration Choir sings	
9:00am	Worship
10:00am	Coffee Hour After Worship
11:00am	Lunch Bunch
<b>Monday, September 9</b>	
10:00am	Women's Prayer Group
6:30pm	Yoga
<b>Tuesday, September 10</b>	
8:00am	Pickleball
6:00pm	Pickleball
7:00pm	Bell Choir
7:00pm	Finance Committee
8:00pm	Executive Council
<b>Thursday, September 12</b>	
Community Meal 6PM	
7:00pm	Yoga
7:00pm	Thursday Worship
7:30pm	Council Meeting
<b>Saturday, September 14</b>	
7:30am	Walking Group

The fourth Tuesday morning Coffee held over the summer. The next time it in October.

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

### September 8th Servers:

**Council Team:** Kathrin Baltz, Kevin Gingrich

**Assisting Minister:** Ed Quirke

**Lector:** Allen Nace

**Acolytes:** Ava Morgan

**Ushers:** John Fuehrer, Candy Snyder, Mark Mull, Whip Zimmerman

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

**Linens:** Patrice Mull

**Flowers:** Jo Hurst



### Office Hours September 9-13, 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](mailto: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.

