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| **Trinity Messenger**September 2025 Issue 1 |

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| *Alleluia. Let your face shine upon your servant,**﻿and teach me your statutes. Alleluia.*Psa. 119:135 |

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| **September Stewardship Focus: Lancaster Food Hub**Founded in 1947 as the Lancaster County Council of Churches, the Lancaster County Food Hub has been serving neighbors in need for nearly 80 years. What began as a grassroots, faith-based effort to provide food, clothing, and shelter has grown into a trusted community anchor, rooted in compassion, dignity, and hope. Today, the Food Hub continues this important mission by meeting basic human needs through free food, clothing, and homeless outreach services. Their team works to foster respectful relationships, connect neighbors with supportive resources, and create a welcoming space for all who come through their doors. Guided by a vision of a Lancaster County where every individual is supported and empowered to live with dignity and stability, the Food Hub provides not only immediate relief but also pathways to long-term resilience and self-sufficiency. Through direct services, strong partnerships, and compassionate care, they uplift individuals and families while strengthening our whole community. **\*On September 7, Erin Conahan, Director of Advancement, Lancaster Food Hub, will give a Temple Talk.﻿** |

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| **Elevator Renovation Contract Signed**Holy Trinity has signed a contract with the Otis Elevator Company to renovate the elevator. The contract is in the amount of $179,500. In addition, Holy Trinity will do preparation work that is estimated to cost at least $20,500. The total cost for the upgrade will be at least **$200,000.**Otis will place the order for the parts needed. The Company anticipates 2-3 months before all the necessary parts are secured. The Company also estimates the installation work will take 7 weeks. This installation work by Otis may be divided into two parts.Given the length of time needed by the company for this work and the congregation’s desire to have an operational elevator for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, the project may not be completed until sometime in 2026.More information will soon be available about the special appeal for funds for this project. There is now an option available on our online giving portals to make contributions there designated for the elevator renovation.Updates on the renovation work will be given as the work schedules become available. Information on when the elevator is **not** available for use will be publicized, including when worship services will be held in the social hall. Also, regular updates on contributions for the project and total costs will be published.  |

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**Celebration Choir Schedule**Wednesday, September 10 – 7:15 PM – RehearsalSunday, September 14 – sing “Go to the World” Wednesday, October 15 – 7:15 PM – RehearsalSunday, October 19 – sing “Give Me Jesus” Wednesday, October 29 – 7:15 PM – RehearsalSunday, November 2 – sing “Gospel Medley” Please consider joining us and sharing your musical talents! **All are welcome!!**Contact Deb Olson at (717)314-5243 or **dtolson613@gmail.com** with questions!      |

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**Handbell hands-on workshop!!** – with Leanne Fiorella and Ron Bellamy, director of Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble. Wednesday, September 3, 6:30 PM – 8 PMThis is not only for bell ringers but for **EVERYONE** who has a thought of possibly ringing handbells or is just curious about how bells work. You will not want to miss it! Please let Debbie know if you’re interested in attending, but no RSVP needed.See Debbie for more information or just come!717-681-5985**Elegantkeys88@gmail.com** |

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The Evangelism committee is once again offering a hot dog meal to people during the**evening of the Ephrata Fair parade,** September 24. This is in place of the Thursday community meal that week. We have secured buns, cookies, and snack crackers from Pepperidge Farm but we need hot dogs. We are asking the congregation for donations of hot dogs for this event. The many families who attend the parade are always very thankful for this free meal with free will donation. Heather Zimmerman will also be setting up a booth for the children and would love to have you come and help put fun temporary tattoos on them with her. Please put your hot dogs in the refrigerator downstairs by Wednesday, September 24. For further questions, contact Peggy Dean, Winnie Gerlach, or Elaine Sernoffsky.   |

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| **HISTORICAL CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY**The Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA, held in Phoenix, Arizona, at the beginning of August was doubly historical. The assembly members elected a new presiding bishop, who is The Reverend Yehiel Curry. Most recently, Bishop Curry served as the bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod and is the first African American to serve as the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. If that was not historical enough, the assembly members also elected The Reverend Lucille Mills so serve as the first African American to serve as the Secretary of the ELCA. Her most recent call was as an assistant to the bishop in the North Carolina Synod. Let us keep these newly elected leaders and all churchwide staff in our prayers as they guide and support the greater church as we faithfully embrace the challenges and opportunities of making the love of Christ known in our communities and beyond.  **CELEBRATE RECOVERY**The local branch of the Christ-centered support group, *Celebrate Recovery*, has begun meeting in the church social hall on Monday evenings from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. The group was meeting at City Gate but outgrew their space and reach out to Holy Trinity to see about finding room in our facility. *Celebrate Recovery* is a world-wide ministry that offers support to persons seeking “freedom from their hurts, hang-ups, and habits” and is not limited to those recovering from addiction. It seeks to serve as well those persons struggling with various types of dependency and the pain and trauma associated with these. If you are interested in finding out more about this group and/or how it might be helpful to you, please check out their website at **celebraterecovery.com**. All are welcome!  |

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**Congratulations and Best Wishes**To the members of Holy Trinity who are 70 years and older and celebrating a birthday in **September:** 13 Karen Leonhard22 Jo Hurst22 Robert Snader26 Marie Gingrich27 Gisela Woerner Send them a birthday card or call them with a greeting. We pray God grants them many more years in their pilgrimage. |

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| **Friday Night Dinners**It’s that time of year again!! Friday Night Dinners will resume Friday, September 5th, 2025!!!!! Please sign the sheet in the gathering area, all are welcome to join this wonderful fellowship of fun, good conversation and good food!  |

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**Please consider volunteering!** Volunteer (s) needed to do "quick sweep" and empty trash cans in Chancel area, Sanctuary, Gathering area and entrance areas every other week. ( basically, the weeks that cleaning teams are not scheduled to do cleaning)    See Carlene Kerschner |

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THE ADULT (all adults are welcome) LUNCH BUNCH will be going to Applebee's after the liturgy on September 14**.** 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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| Weekly Faith ConversationsPlease join in weekly faith conversations on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 AM at Holy Trinity. Those gathered in the Conference Room will use Pastor Karen Minnich-Sadler’s book, *Spiritual Reflections for the Human Journey*, as a guide for reflection and conversation around areas of our faith lives that we share as we accompany one another on our journey of faithful discipleship.   |

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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, Peanut ButterLaundry detergent, Oatmeal, Pancake mix and syrup, Paper towels, Pasta - gluten freePremixed 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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| **Salem Lutheran Church, Ephrata, invites you on a bus trip to Christmas at Winterthur Museum and Gardens on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. Lunch at Buckley's Tavern is also included. Price is $119. per person. Reservations are due October 29, 2025. For information call Stephanie Frymyer at 717-682-9697.** |

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| **Help Wanted: Bergstrasse Community Clothing Closet****Bergstrasse Community Clothing Closet is open for all people in need of clothing and other household goods. Entrance is accessible via the door off the lower parking lot. Hours are 12 – 2pm.****Schedule: Sept 6th and 20th****Donations**: Currently there is a continuing need for men’s pants, shorts and shoes. There is always a need for children’s clothing. All clothing in good shape is accepted. 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. Thank you so much for sharing what God has given you! Your generosity is helping those in need in our community!**Please note new donation policy: due to limited space household items can no longer be accepted, only clothing and shoes.****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 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/text Pattie Martin at 717-344-1347. |

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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**](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563831542098&mibextid=LQQJ4d) |

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| **September 7-13 Calendar** |

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| [**View This Month's Interactive Calendar Here**](https://holytrinityephrata.org/events/calendar.html) |

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| **September 7th Servers:****Council Team:**Kathrin Baltz, Bill Spitzer**Assisting Minister:**Ed Quirke**Lector:**Lisa Garrett**Acolytes:**Lillian Doughty**Ushers:**John Fuehrer, Candy Snyder, Mark Mull,Whip Zimmerman**Altar Guild:**Brenda Wagman, Heather Zimmerman,Lisa Garrett, Charlann Brubaker**Linens:**Patricia Fassnacht**Flowers:**Winnie Gerlach**AV:**Bob Eberly |

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| **Office Hours September 8-12, 2025**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****Office email: officeholytrinity@ephratalutheran.org** |

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| **Day** | **Sue** | **Pastor** |
| **Monday** | 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM | 9:00 AM-12:30 PM |
| **Tuesday** | 8:00 AM- 12:00 PM | 9:00 AM-12:30 PM |
| **Wednesday** | 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM | 9:00 AM-12:30 PM |
| **Thursday** | 8:00 AM- 12:00 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), 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!*** |

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