



Trinity Messenger
September 2025 Issue 3

*Alleluia. Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ;
strive side by side for the faith of the gospel. Alleluia. Phil. 1:27*

Treasurer's Report: September, 2025

August Financial Report

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Unified Budget Income | \$28,089.91 |
| Unified Budget Expense | \$27,321.63 |

Year To Date:

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$235,212.18 |
| Expenses | \$222,963.07 |
| Surplus | \$ 12,249.11 |

September Council Report

At the September meeting, the Congregation Council:

- Received a Thank You card from the youth for whom the congregation provided a scholarship to church camp this summer. Included was a contribution for the camp scholarship fund.
 - Set the annual congregational meeting for Sunday, December 7, following the worship service. A forum to review the proposed 2026 Ministry Support Plan will be held following the worship service November 30.
 - Approved the Communications Committee engaging a company to design and host a new website. Our current provider evidently has gone out of business since our current website cannot be accessed and will not respond to communications from us.
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NOTICE: Holy Trinity's website has crashed. A new website is being pursued and will be up and running as soon as possible. If you are looking for the livestream connection it is here: Holy Trinity's services are now online at Sermons.net. Just copy and paste the link below into your browser. <https://holytrinitylutheranchurchephratapa.sermon.net/main>

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering Appeal

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering appeal is Sunday October 4th. This year the Social Ministry Committee is looking for monetary donations to purchase items for personal kits. Each kit is \$5.00. See the poster in the Gathering Area. Volunteers will be needed to help assemble the kits. The time and date will be announced later. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Gilbert at 717-721-3822.

Shepherding Our Siblings in Christ

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, displays for us through his ministry the important, life-giving task of caring for each other. We as Jesus' followers are called as well to live a life through which we care for our friends and neighbors with Christ-like love and commitment. Pastor Mark and Phyllis Doughty are working together to assemble a team of Holy Trinity Shepherds who will provide an extra connection to our church family for those who are not able, for a variety of reasons, to attend worship despite their desire to do so. In simplest terms, this would involve building a relationship with two or more church members, who are not consistently with us physically in worship, through monthly visitation, phone calls, card writing, and other forms of connection that may develop throughout the year. All that is required is a desire to share God's love as a friendly channel for others to their church family of which they remain a part no matter their circumstances. If you are interested in serving God and your faith community in this manner, please join us for a meeting **on Monday, September 15 at 6:30 PM** in the conference room of the church. If you have any questions, please speak with Phyllis or Pastor Mark.

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.

Sue will be on vacation from October 3-October 17. This Weekly Messenger will be scheduled to go out those weeks before she leaves. So...if you want anything in the Messenger those weeks, please have the articles/announcements to her by Monday, September 29.

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.



Thanks for the opportunity to go to summer camp, I especially enjoyed the rock climbing! From Maysen

Pastor Newell Embley would like to thank the congregation for their prayers and cards following his knee replacement.



Celebration Choir Schedule

Wednesday, October 15 – 7:15 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, October 19 – sing “Give Me Jesus”

Wednesday, October 29 – 7:15 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, 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!

Handbell Choir

Weekly rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:30PM. Please arrive early to set up bells so we can start promptly at 6:30. For Questions contact Debbie: 717-681-5985 Elegantkeys88@gmail.com



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.

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!

THE ADULT (all adults are welcome) LUNCH BUNCH will be going to The Ark House Diner in Leola after the liturgy on October 12. 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!



Weekly Faith Conversations

Please 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.

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.



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: September 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.

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>

September 21-27 Calendar

| | | | |
|----|----------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 21 | SEP, SUN | ● All day | PENTECOST 15 |
| | | ● 9 – 10am | Worship |
| | | ● 10 – 10:30am | Coffee Hour After Worship |
| | | ● 10:15 – 11:15am | Adult Forum |
| 22 | SEP, MON | ● 10 – 11am | Women's prayer group |
| | | ● 6:30 – 7:30pm | Yoga |
| 23 | SEP, TUE | ● All day | Ephrata Fair (Day 1/5) |
| | | ● 11am – 12pm | Faith Conversations |
| | | ● 6 – 8pm | Pickleball |
| 24 | SEP, WED | ● All day | Ephrata Fair (Day 2/5) |
| | | ● All day | Ephrata Parade |
| | | ● 6:30 – 7:30pm | Handbell Choir |
| 25 | SEP, THU | ● All day | Ephrata Fair (Day 3/5) |
| | | ● 7 – 7:30pm | Thursday Worship |
| 26 | SEP, FRI | ● All day | Ephrata Fair (Day 4/5) |
| 27 | SEP, SAT | ● All day | Ephrata Fair (Day 5/5) |
| | | ● 7:30 – 8:30am | Walking Group |

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

September 21st Servers:**Council Team:** Lisa Garrett, Barry Kreider**Assisting Minister:** Kathy Kuhns**Lector:** John Fuehrer**Acolytes:** Norm Wangman**Ushers:** Steve Sweigart, Sue Watts,
Carl Rentschler, Andy Sweigart**Altar Guild:** Barb & Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart**Linens:** Brenda Wangman**Flowers:** Heather Zimmerman**AV:** Rob Gilbert**Office Hours September 22-26, 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: officeholyltrinity@ephratalutheran.org**

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

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A NEW QR CODE...DO NOT TRY TO USE THE OLD ONE.

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 Elevator Improvement fund donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.



Thanks for reading! Have a great week ahead!