



July 2025 Volume 28, No. 7

Trinity Lutheran Church

**A welcoming faith community
living together in God's love to
share the joy of Jesus Christ.**

TIDINGS

Your Gifts In Action ~ Food Bank For Larimer County

Food Bank for Larimer County's mission is to provide food to all in need through community partnerships and hunger-relief programs. They have set an ambitious goal to provide 12.2 million meals annually – more than a 60% increase by 2035. To meet that goal, the Food Bank has been expanding partnerships and adding new programming, including the current Mobile Pantries & Kids Café (known as The Lunch Lab) to expand the capacity and considering new opportunities for distributing food that will increase access to more neighbors needing food assistance both now and into the future.

A brief description of the programs: *The Nourishing Network* provides food to more than 120 nonprofit programs to distribute to their clients in need. Nourishing Network agency partners include food pantries, kitchens, shelters and snack programs that serve low-income populations. Nutritious Kitchen staff and volunteers work in our kitchen each day. It's thanks to their hard work we're able to prepare hundreds of thousands of fresh, from scratch, cooked meals for children and older adults (60 and older) in Larimer County every year. Cooking Matters works in communities across the country to help parents and caregivers develop their skills when shopping for and cooking healthy foods on a budget. This program offers cooking classes and nutrition training to coach participants how to shop for and to prepare healthy, low-cost meals. The Fresh Food Share No-Cost markets are our brick-and-mortar shopping locations. Just like a grocery store, clients choose what they shop for. We offer a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, meat, dairy and shelf-stable items – all at no cost to you. Everyday Eats is tailored specifically to meet common senior nutrition needs. Seniors 60 years and older whose gross monthly household income is at or below the guidelines below can also qualify for Everyday Eats. Everyday Eats boxes, sometimes referred to as "senior boxes," are distributed to individuals once per month. You can donate more than just dollars - In partnership with the Gardens on Spring Creek, the Food Bank for Larimer County's Plant It Forward initiative is an effort to increase local produce donations from backyard gardeners. Community members are invited to plant an extra row in their gardens and when the crops are ready, drop them off at either the Food Bank for Larimer County or the Gardens on Spring Creek. No donation is too small!

Saturday Worship – 5pm

Informal. Welcoming. Contemporary. Alternative.

This service provides an accessible environment with alternative worship styles and music. Strong points include the range of contemporary creeds, the convenient time, the beautiful piano music, and the after-worship fellowship.

Experience another sacred space and time at Trinity where our faith journeys can be authentically lived out. We believe we are not a complete community, and God is calling new people to join us. We look forward to welcoming you!

Sunday Worship – 10:30 am

A blended worship that will feel familiar for all generations. Points of interest include organ music, Chancel Choir and Handbells, and coffee fellowship following service. We look forward to welcoming you!

Check Fraud

Due to a rise in check fraud, including incidents involving mailed bill payments, we strongly encourage members to consider safer alternatives to mailing checks. Electronic giving is a faster, more secure, and reliable way to support the church. You can give through:

- * [Trinity's Secure Website](#)
- * Mobile apps like [Venmo](#)
- * Or by calling Brenda Moore, TLC Financial Manager, at 970-482-1226 to make a one-time payment via bank account or credit card

If online giving isn't your preference, checks can still be brought in person to the church office or placed in the offering plate during worship. Your generosity matters, and we want to ensure it's protected.

Social networking

Social networking is just a fancy term for staying connected with people online - like modern pen pals, but faster and often with pictures! It's done through websites and apps like Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Think of it like the bulletin board at church or the chatter after coffee hour, JUST digital!

So why does Trinity want you to share our Facebook posts?!? Having people share posts is crucial for increasing our visibility and reach, ultimately boosting engagement and awareness. When someone shares our content, their friends see it in their newsfeed, exposing our message to a wider audience that might not otherwise see our posts. This expanded reach can lead to more likes, comments, and clicks, potentially driving traffic to our church, events/activities, and website. Help us spread our reach by liking and following Trinity's Facebook page [HERE!](#)

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



www.trinitylutheranfc.org

Phone: (970) 482-1226

After Hours Emergency:
(970)-400-7252

OFFICE HOURS
MON-THURS 9AM-3PM

WORSHIP TIMES
SAT: 5 PM | SUN: 10:30 AM

Senior Pastor: Rick Reiten
pastorrick@trinitylutheranfc.org

Education & Family Minister
Deacon Katie Kline
katie@trinitylutheranfc.org

Office Admin: Deana Andrist
office@trinitylutheranfc.org

Financial Manager: Brenda Moore
bmoore@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Communications & Volunteer Coordinator
Amanda Backsen
amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org

Church Musician: Carrie Hansen
carrie@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Choir: Tessa Espinosa
choir@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Handbell: Jill Hunt
bells@trinitylutheranfc.org

Saturday Worship Leader
Clinton Ellerbe
saturdayworship@trinitylutheranfc.org

A/V Technician: Claire Pickerel
claire@trinitylutheranfc.org

Sunday School: Jennifer Reeve
childrensminister@stpauls-fc.org

Nursery Coordinator
Tiffany Klijewski
tiffany@trinitylutheranfc.org

TLC Preschool Director
Brenda Harju
brenda@trinitylutheranfc.org

Pastor's Ponderings

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go...

...yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near. (Luke 10:1;11b)

In the summer of 2002, there was a seminary outreach program in ELCA seminaries called Two by Two. Basically, two seminarians visited different Lutheran camps throughout the country recruiting future pastors, deacons, and other church leaders. While I had already decided on going to seminary, these folks helped solidify, affirm my decision, and answer my questions. Two by two.

Two by Two, is how Jesus does evangelism ministry with his volunteers – a transition from his mission of the twelve expanded to a mission of 72. He sends them in pairs to tell the story. To proclaim good news in scary places and cure the sick. To announce peace and receive hospitality. To shake dust off your feet when you are not welcomed as the stranger. To remember the kingdom of God is here. Two by two.

July of 2025, Trinity is also going into a time of discernment – decision making – expanded ministry and transition. Our Call Committee will be solidified by congregational vote and begin their work to find our next clergy person. The process is expected to take 3-6 months depending on who is available for call in our synod. Thank you to our 7 nominees who have volunteered to accept this position.

The good news is that Trinity is a vibrant congregation, and in good position to enter a call process. We are financially healthy. Our support staff is stable. Our Reconciling In Christ identity is lived out. Our council leadership is solid. Our partnership with two other congregations is strong. Our Call Committee is diverse. And over the last 2 years, we have gone through the hard work of determining what we want and need out of our pastoral leaders. Two by two.

Two by two, means we all do this ministry together – maybe in pairs, maybe as triads – but we rely on volunteers, to carry out this ministry by continuing to do what we have always done. From the call committee – to communion servers, you are part of these 72 that are the hands and feet of God. I too realize that I cannot be two clergy people at once and will rely on others to do share the load.

And we will see what God does through us in these next few months of uncertain hope and expectation. So that we may be welcome a new clergy person with the same hospitality and love that we were welcome with here at Trinity. And through this unknown time, we remind one another that God is near, God is here.

Thanks be to God, Pastor Rick

Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend - either in person or via zoom - a congregational meeting on **Sunday, July 6 at 11:30 am** to vote on our call committee nominees. Council has prayerfully found 7 people to serve on the call committee - and this is your chance to meet them and show support for the call process work they will be starting. Here are the nominees representing a diverse cross section of the congregation:

Shelley Aust, Emma Cleveringa, Jo Anne Gearhart, Sam Mullenbach,
Joey Prows, Lori Schmidt, Ron Splittgerber

The Final See You Later

Dear Trinity, thank you for such a wonderful farewell party and such kind cards and gifts. The quilt, earrings, and necklace are thoughtful and so personal! It truly is difficult to leave such a special place and such a kind congregation. I am grateful for our time together and feel so blessed to have been a part of this community. From the bottom of my heart, thank you! ~ Deacon Katie Kline

JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		1 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 pm Soc/Eco Justice 6:15 pm 301 FP SEJ
6 10:30 am Outdoor Worship 11:30 am Congregational Mtg 11:30 am Fellowship	7 9:30am Trinity Readers 12 pm Sermon Discussion	8 6:30 pm Executive
13 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	14 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6 pm Property	15 6:30 pm Council
20 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Faith Formation	21 12 pm Sermon Discussion 5:30 pm Trust	22
27 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	28 12 pm Sermon Discussion	29 5:30 pm FP Eco Justice



Birthdays



Michele Rose	7/1	Carrie Hansen	7/7	Bethany Jackson	7/20
Aida Schmidt	7/1	Andrew Zuniga	7/10	Ronda Simmons	7/20
Lynne DeLozier	7/2	Bob Waltermire	7/12	Judy Flatley	7/21
Ezra Orchard	7/3	Mary Ann Armstrong	7/14	William Foos	7/21
Steve Cobb	7/4	Alexis Dryg	7/14	Ethan Jurgenson	7/25
Naomi Jurgenson	7/4	Cody Hopkins	7/15	Jack Lipscomb	7/28
Lee Lamb	7/4	Dick Morton	7/15	Marissa Hopkins	7/31
Marlene Schild	7/6	Jan Morton	7/19	Tim Snyder	7/31



Anniversaries



Patty & Don Heyse	7/1	Margaret & Jim Frye	7/15
Katie Barron & Jerry Crosby	7/3	Debbie & Gary Schwartz	7/17
Cheryl & Tim Dolan	7/5	Ron & Steph Mullenbach	7/18
Nadine & Mike Cain	7/6	Katie & Kevin Dryg	7/22
Pam & Wally Jacobson	7/9	Lindsay & Rick Reiten	7/23
Kathy & Tim Gauger	7/9	Lauren & Bo Miller	7/25
Bethany & Reuben Jackson	7/11	Jeni & Scott Makinen	7/29

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3 11 am FP Clergy Mtg	4	5 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
9	10 3:30 pm FP Get Together 4 pm Finance 6:15 pm FP Co-Op Mtg	11 10 am Quilting Grp 6:30 pm TGIF	12 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
16	17	18 10 am Quilting Grp	19 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
23	24 6 pm Chap 2 Readers 7 pm Immigration	25 Saints & Sinners Golf 10 am Quilting Grp	26 1 pm Prayer Cards 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
30	31		

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

July 5/6 Vicki Volbrecht / Pat Wiedower
July 12/13 / Erik Elliott
July 19/20 / Cherlyn Gorsky
July 26/27 / Jim Frye

Pull Me OUT! HANG ME up!!
 PUT ME ON YOUR FRIDGE!

Small Groups

Sermon Discussion Enjoy a discussion of the weekend sermon to share where we see God present in our lives. Join us most **Mondays at 12 pm**.

301 Quilters will be working all through the summer this year. If you've been interested in being a part of this group but weren't able to make it through the school year, please consider joining us in the summer months. We all have busy schedules with appointments and travels, so feel free to come whenever you're in town and available. Maybe there are some youth that would like to participate? We'd love to have you. We all know the saying regarding many hands. We meet every **Friday 10 am-12 pm** with the exception of July 4.

Trinity Readers will meet in the Fireside Room on **Monday, July 7, at 9:30 am** to discuss the historical fiction novel *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. It explores the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and the civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune, highlighting their unlikely friendship that significantly impacted the world. Our selection for August will be the nonfiction book, *From Here to Eternity: Traveling the World to Find the Good Death*, by Caitlin Doughty. The author, a mortician, embarks on a global expedition to discover how other cultures care for the dead. She investigates the world's funerary customs and expands our sense of what it means to treat the dead with dignity.

TGIF (Second **Friday at 6:30 pm**) - Note, Hosts may opt for another Friday of the month. Come, kick back, relax, and enjoy an evening connecting with others from the Trinity family and meet new faces! Bring yourself, an appetizer/dessert and a beverage you'd like or would like to share. If you have questions and or would like to sign up to host, please contact Liz Johnson or 402-320-3699.

July 11 Don & Jan Garman: 4135 Crittenton Ln Apt 1, Wellington

301 Fellowship Get-Togethers take place the 2nd Thursday (**July 10**) at **3:30 pm**, the location is picked closer to the date, so check the e-News. All gatherings are informal and no RSVP needed.

Chapter Two Book Group meets for an informal discussion of a book chosen by the group. Anyone is welcome to hop into this small group, even if just for a month or two as your schedule allows. If you'd like to receive Chapter Two updates via email, please contact [Maddie Fairfax](#). On **Thursday, July 24 at 6 pm** in the Fireside Room we will discuss *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters.

Saints & Sinners Golf Group is back for the 2025 summer season! We plan to play nine holes on Friday mornings and then gather for snacks and fellowship. In June, we played City Park Nine. Our next event is scheduled for **Friday, July 25** at The Olde Course in Loveland. Tee times and further details will be emailed to group members. If you would like to join the group, send an email to Donna Dauner. Saint Paul and Mary of Magdala members are invited to join this Trinity small group ministry. Mark your calendar now to golf with us on September 12. We are a small but committed group. If you would like to join the group, send an email to [Donna](#). Saint Paul and Mary of Magdala members are invited to join this Trinity small group ministry. Our play dates are **July 25 & September 12**.

Prayer Cards Christmas in July! Come think cool thoughts and join Trinity Prayer Cards for Christmas in July on **Saturday, July 26 from 1–4 pm** down in Room 2 by the Nursery! This is a good time to check out what we do, and get a head start on some homemade Christmas cards to send to your loved ones. Feel free to bring a favorite Christmas treat to share! Please RSVP to [Erik Elliott](#) by **July 1** to make sure that there are adequate supplies.

Oktoberfest 2025 Save the Date!

301 Faith Partners will host the third annual Brats 'n Beer Oktoberfest fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity on **Saturday, September 27**. Be sure to be there for a "gute Zeit" and bier!

Habitat News

Exciting News! For the first time ever, Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity will have 15 homes under construction this summer! This is certainly a testament to the churches and organizations that support Habitat. The Harmony Cottages build site is in its final phases and from now on all volunteers will be hosted at Heartside Hill at Trilby and Lemay. Next spring, HH will start building homes at Bloom on Mulberry. Habitat for Humanity Ft. Collins is still accepting applications for those who would like to own a HH home until June 30. See the Habitat for Humanity Ft. Collins website to start the process (look for Homeownership Process). A huge thank you to our volunteers, Jim Rose, Josanne Lucas and James Gearhart, for their help on June 12. Thanks to the 301 Partners for all your support for Habitat for Humanity in the past and into the future! Know that you are making dreams come true!

Highlights from Co-Op Committee Meeting

The Co-Op Committee, composed of clergy and lay leaders of each faith community, meeting monthly to discuss the functioning of the faith partnership, coordination of collaborative projects, and other items affecting the faith communities. At the June 12, 2025 meeting, the following items were discussed:

Representatives from the Family Housing Network, City of Fort Collins, and Catholic Charities attended the meeting to discuss how we could work together if we were to participate in the SafeLot program which would use our parking lot periodically to provide a safe place to 7-8 vetted individuals/families who shelter in their cars. Currently, Zion Lutheran Church and King of Glory Lutheran Church in Loveland partner together with this program. We will continue to gather information and discuss this among congregational leaders.

It was agreed that the Co-Op Committee would plan shared Adult Forums on Sundays that we have shared worship services.

We reviewed the process and procedures taken to improve the Oval Garden at our main entrance and clarified how similar initiatives should be implemented in the future. Many thanks to Dave Cloyd, the shared Property team and others who helped complete this project!

Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson, VP Trinity Council

TLC 2025 Ministry Fund Plan Actuals		
	May 2025	Year-To-Date
Receipts:		
Offerings	\$ 37,296	\$ 181,313
SPE and MoM Building Use Donations	4,580	22,900
Building Use	2,016	9,273
Benevity Funds Released	1,400	7,000
Total Receipts:	45,292	220,486
Expenditures:		
Operating and Support	\$ 33,100	\$ 155,109
Ministries	5,773	46,554
Benevolence/Gifts (Synod, Sky Ranch, etc)	-	8,310
Total Expenditures:	38,873	209,973
Receipts less Expenditures:	\$ 6,419	\$ 10,513
Total Checking/Savings as of 5/31/2025		\$ 185,805.76
Total Checking/Savings as of 12/31/2024		\$ 204,772.61
Difference		\$ (18,966.85)



TRINITY LUTHERAN
301 E. Stuart St.
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301 FP JET ECO Tip of the Month

What is bat house? Bat houses are wooden structures designed for housing and sheltering bats, both local and migratory bats! While they have some things in common with bird houses, they have a few unique features that make them safe and comfortable for our favorite flying mammals!

- ✦ They have entrances on the bottom. This is so the bats can use all the space inside while hanging upside down and allows them to take flight out of the box without injury!
- ✦ They are usually taller and narrower than bird houses, with separate rooms inside so several bats can roost at once.
- ✦ The inside walls have grooves – bats don't build nests, but they do need comfortable spots to put their feet to hang securely.

Why would we need these? Don't bats normally live outside? In cities, sick trees or trees at the end of their life span are often cut down before they can damage people or property – bats that might have roosted in these trees can shelter in bat boxes instead. Bat houses are most used as roosting sites by bat moms looking for places to raise their pups. Having safe roosting places can help keep bats out of areas frequented by humans, keeping us and them safe!

I want to build a bat box! Great! Bat boxes are simple structures, but they do have a few specific needs. [Fish and Wildlife Service](#) and the [Wildlife Trusts](#) both have excellent guides to building and placing bat boxes. Be sure to read the tips so the boxes you build can be safe and useful for our local bats! To learn more about bat houses and gardens, check out this article by [Bat Conservation International](#).

The Joint Ecological Team (JET) meets as needed to plan educational events, bike to work day, volunteer opportunities, and advocacy. If you have any suggestions for future Eco-Tips, please email them to [Amanda](#) in the office. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, July 29 at 5:30 pm**. Be sure to check out the JET table and bulletin board in the NW corner of the Fellowship Hall!