



August 2025 Volume 28, No. 3

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

# TIDINGS

## **Small Group Ministry Launch August 16/17**

We enter our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of churchwide intentional small groups at Trinity, and finding ways to 'Pray, Connect, and Serve' together. From Golf to High School; Choir to Garden; Bible Study to Books – there is a place for you. The value of these groups is more than we can articulate. If you have never joined a small group, this is the year to try. Find one interesting group and see how God working in and through this ministry. Come to the Fellowship Hall **after Worship August 16 & 17** and see what Small Group might appeal to you. If you have any questions, please reach out to [Pastor Rick](#).

## **Rally Day**

Rally Day Kick Off is **Sunday, September 7!** Come celebrate the start of a new year! Things to look forward to: **Education** start back up at 9 am, **Worship** 10:30 am, **Equal Exchange cupboard** will be open (as usual).

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## **Choir & Bells Start September 3!**

Choir and Bells are starting back up **Wednesday, September 3**. They meet on Wednesday evenings with Bells at 5:15 pm and Choir at 6:30 pm. Want to join? Come on a Wednesday evening and let your voice or bell be heard!

## Stewardship Campaign is Coming!

Our annual Stewardship Campaign kicks off during worship the weekend of **September 6 & 7!**

Join us in the following weeks for updates on our progress:

- \* Progress Report – September 13 & 14
- \* Updated Report – September 20 & 21

Let's grow in generosity together!

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## Organ Concert!

Join us for an afternoon of inspiring music featuring our magnificent organ and talented musicians. **Sunday, September 14 at 3 pm.**

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## 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!

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## Donation Corner

**Prayer Cards Small Group** needs:

- #5 - 1/2 invitation envelopes
- All color card-stock paper
- Any other scrap-booking paper or supplies, even stamps!

**Quilting Small Group** needs:

- We will still (and always!) collect donated fabric, Fabric, FABRIC.

**Thrivent Action Teams:** Are you an eligible Thrivent member and have choice dollars available to direct? There are a number of groups that count on the Thrivent Action Teams.

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



[www.trinitylutheranfc.org](http://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

**Office Admin:** Deana Andrist  
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**Financial Manager:** Brenda Moore  
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**Saturday Worship Leader**  
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**A/V Technician:** Claire Pickerel  
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**Nursery Coordinator**  
Tiffany Klijewski  
tiffany@trinitylutheranfc.org

**TLC Preschool Director**  
Brenda Harju  
brenda@trinitylutheranfc.org

## **Pastor's Ponderings ~ 2027 Egypt? Italy? BOTH!??**

As Small Groups Launch this month, Trinity has a unique opportunity for a special small group, not found in your brochure! If you have wanted to travel to Egypt or Italy, we will be hosting two trips in 2027. One will be led by Pastor Rick, the other led by our newly called Deacon or Pastor. These opportunities are in place of our travel to the Holy Land but are still considered Christian pilgrimages. There will be more details to come, and we are taking names now to gauge those who are interested. If you have any questions, please reach out to [Pastor Rick](#).

**January 2027- Egypt: Where History Meets Timeless Beauty** Discover Egypt, a land of ancient wonders and vibrant culture. Home to the iconic Pyramids of Giza, the majestic Nile River, and awe-inspiring temples, Egypt offers a journey through history unlike any other. Explore bustling bazaars, stunning desert landscapes, and pristine Red Sea beaches. Visit historic Coptic churches, including the Hanging Church and the Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus in Cairo, believed to have sheltered the Holy Family during their journey through Egypt. These sites reflect Egypt's rich Christian heritage alongside the pharaonic past, all while savoring the rich flavors of Egyptian cuisine. (Cost Estimate w/ flight \$4500)

**October 2027 - Faith, Food, and Wine of Italy** Discover the rich history and breathtaking scenery of Venice, Florence, and Rome. Immerse yourself in Florence's artistic heritage, glide through Venice's enchanting canals on a gondola, and explore the ancient wonders of Rome. This isn't just a sightseeing tour—it's a full cultural experience! Enjoy cooking classes, wine tastings at renowned wineries, and vibrant local food and art scenes. (Cost Estimate w/flight \$4800)

Thanks be to God, Pastor Rick

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## **Council Meeting Highlights**

- ✦ The Coop Meeting (301 Faith Partners) asks that our council and congregation to consider in participating in Safelots, a program offering safe overnight parking to identified individuals who are living out of their cars. Details will follow.
- ✦ Ministries have been asked by Stewardship Planning to think about any dreams or new initiatives they might want to include in their budgets.
- ✦ Pastor Rick invited Council to submit any new small groups that could be added to the small group brochure, coming out next month.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Morrissey, Council Secretary (Complete minutes available in the office)

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## **Synod Assembly Report**

Pick up a copy of the Synod Assembly Report from Margaret Wick and Dan Merz in the Narthex on the wall next to the kiosks. Or click on the link in the weekly e-News.

## Small Groups

**Small Groups Fair** From Golf to High School; Choir to Garden; Bible Study to Books – there is a place for you. If you have never joined a small group, this is the year to try. Find one interesting group and see how God working in and through this ministry. Come to the Fellowship Hall after Worship **August 16 & 17** and see what Small Group might appeal to you.

**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** Would you like to be a part of the 301 Quilting small group, but you have some concerns like:

- I can't sew! That's not a problem. There are many tasks that need to be done without touching a sewing machine. We have people in the group that have never used a sewing machine.
- I can't be on my feet for that length of time. We have a solution for that. The main task of tying knots once a quilt is assembled, can be done sitting with the quilt on a table in front of you.
- I can't commit to every Friday. No worries, we all have appointments, family visits, travels that keep us from attending every week. We come when we are able and in town.
- I'd be the only male in a female group. That's not true. We have one faithful male that comes most weeks
- I'd be the only person from my congregation. Actually, we have at least one person from each of the 3 congregations. It is truly a 301 group.

Hopefully, these solutions have eased your hesitation and you'll be more willing to join us one Friday. We're a fun and caring small group that has a purpose of aiding those in need. Join us any **Friday** in Room 2 from **10 am-12 pm**.

**Trinity Readers** will meet in the Fireside Room on **Monday, August 4, at 9:30 am** to discuss the non-fiction 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. From Zoroastrian sky burials to wish-granting Bolivian skulls, she investigates the world's funerary customs and expands our sense of what it means to treat the dead with dignity. Looking ahead, our September selection is *James*, by Percival Everett. This historical fiction is a reimagining of the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn - both harrowing and ferociously funny - told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. A National Book Award Winner and candidate for Pulitzer Prize.

**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.

**August 8:** Cheryl & Ron Smith - 6008 Sapling Ct., Fort Collins

**301 Fellowship Get-Togethers** take place the 2nd Thursday (**August 14**) at **3:30 pm** this month at New Belgium brewery located at 500 Linden St. Fort Collins. Join up between 3:30 to whenever, we are usually done by 5:30 pm. We are not exclusive! 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, August 21 at 6 pm** in the Fireside Room we will discuss *The First Ladies* by Benedict and Murray.

## Small Groups Continued...

**Saints & Sinners Golf Group** meets at local golf courses to play nine holes and then gather for snacks and fellowship. In June, we played City Park Nine. We are scheduled to play at The Olde Course in Loveland on July 25. Tee times and further details will be emailed to group members. 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 next play date is **September 12**.

**Little Pantry** Our shared pantry is getting heavy use this summer. Fortunately, we continue to get cash donations from individuals in the 301 Faith Partnership. We have also received another Thrivent Action Grant for \$250. We are grateful for the continued commitment of those who are assigned to check and supply the pantry and those who shop regularly and keep our cupboard stocked. We are also grateful for the checks that come in to fund our shopping. Our local community has proof that we more than a building. They can see that we care about their wellbeing. God bless you, The Shared Pantry Small Group

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## 301 FP JET ECO Tip of the Month

As of 7/15/2025, six wildfires are burning in Colorado ([Inciweb.wildfire.gov](https://inciweb.wildfire.gov)). According to the City of Fort Collins, smoke from wildfires is a significant source of air pollution and can impact air quality in our community even when a fire is miles away. An Air Quality Health Advisory is in effect for part of western Colorado.

The city of Fort Collins monitors air quality at [six locations](#). This Air Quality Index summary includes both regulatory and non-regulatory monitors to be more representative of local conditions. Symptoms of smoke exposure include: Watering and irritated eyes, Coughing, Wheezing, Difficulty breathing. To minimize the effects of smoke in your house, read the [City of Fort Collins website](#). [Check out wildfires across the U.S.](#) To check air quality, read the [Colorado Smoke Outlook](#), or check [AirNow](#).

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, August 26 at 5:30 pm**. Be sure to check out the JET table and bulletin board in the NW corner of the Fellowship Hall!



# AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<b>3</b> 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	<b>4</b> 9:30am Trinity Readers 12 pm Sermon Discussion	<b>5</b> 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 pm Soc/Eco Justice 6:15 pm 301 FP SEJ
<b>10</b> 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	<b>11</b> 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6 pm Property	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm Executive
<b>17</b> 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship <i>Small Groups Kick Off</i>	<b>18</b> 12 pm Sermon Discussion	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Council
<b>24</b> 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	<b>25</b> 12 pm Sermon Discussion	<b>26</b> 5:30 pm FP Eco Justice
<b>31</b> 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship		

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 10 am Quilting Grp	<b>2</b> 11 am Carol Hemken Memorial 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10 am Quilting Grp  6:30 pm TGIF	<b>9</b>  5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 11 am FP Clergy Mtg 3:30 pm FP Get Together 4 pm Finance 6:30 pm FP Co-Op Mtg	<b>15</b> 10 am Quilting Grp	<b>16</b>  5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship <i>Small Groups Kick Off</i>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  6 pm Chap 2 Readers	<b>22</b> 10 am Quilting Grp	<b>23</b>  5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  7 pm Immigration	<b>29</b> 10 am Quilting Grp	<b>30</b>  5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship

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

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

- August 2/3 / Shelley Aust
- August 9/10 / Donna Dauner
- August 16/17 / Wally Jacobson
- August 23/24 / Emma Cleveringa
- August 30/31 Vicki Volbrecht / Gerry Olsen

## **Your Gifts In Action ~ ISAAC**

ISAAC is organized as an intentional and highly collaborative coalition of dozens of frontline community partners and local agencies, fifteen-member faith communities, and hundreds of individuals. We believe that alone we know a little, but together we know a lot. Alone we can do a little, together we can do a lot.

ISAAC envisions a Northern Colorado in which immigrants, asylum seekers, refugees and religious minorities, feel connected and supported, can thrive to maximum potential, and are recognized for the amazing contributions made to families, work places and the broader community AND a community in which people from diverse generations, cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds learn to build meaningful connections and a sense of belonging, share their respective wisdoms and resources, find joy and common purpose, and are personally and collectively transformed through this sense of solidarity, mutual respect and care.

In 2024, love in action helped support:

145 scholarships for local families and individuals fighting complex legal cases.

Cash support and accompaniment for over a hundred local families experiencing a crisis such as a cancer diagnosis, accident or death of a loved one.

Project-development, leadership training and financial support for immigrants creating community-facing projects and LLCs based on their lived experience.

Conflict resolution training for tenants, mobile homeowners, landlords and managers, as we work to prevent evictions and create supportive communities.

Professional development fellowships at local host sites throughout the county for 30 immigrant and refugee youth ages 16-24; Need-based support for 70 first-generation higher education students mentoring K-12 newcomer youth.

To learn more or to donate: [www.isaachoco.org](http://www.isaachoco.org)

**When you give to Trinity, you give to ISAAC (Interfaith Solidarity & Accompaniment Coalition)**

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## **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!](#)



## 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 July 10, 2025 meeting, the following items were discussed:

Mother Rosaen and Paul Johnson reported on their conversations with representatives from King of Glory and Zion Lutheran in Loveland about their experience with the SafeLot program. Both shared very positive reports for volunteers, guests and their neighborhoods. After reviewing estimated initial and ongoing expenses, it was agreed that the next step would be to go to each congregation's governing bodies for consideration. A steering committee with 2 members from each congregation will probably be needed to lead this effort if approved by all 3 partners.

The next shared service is October 19. It was agreed to have a shared Adult Forum that Sunday featuring the first of 3 discussions on Martin Luther's "theology of the cross"; Bonhoeffer: reframing 'church' and liturgical renewal, led by James Gearhart.

More discussion was held on hosting the Interfaith Council's Our Neighbor's Faith program. A team consisting of members from all 3 congregations will be needed to plan and event to possibly host in early November.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson, VP Trinity Council

TLC 2025 Ministry Fund Plan Actuals		
	June 2025	Year-To-Date
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Offerings	\$ 21,174	\$ 202,487
SPE and MoM Building Use Donations	4,580	27,480
Building Use	774	10,047
Benevity Funds Released	-	7,000
<b>Total Receipts:</b>	<b>26,528</b>	<b>247,014</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Operating and Support	\$ 29,153	\$ 181,267
Ministries	11,063	59,298
Benevolence/Gifts (Synod, Sky Ranch, etc)	-	8,310
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>40,216</b>	<b>248,875</b>
<b>Receipts less Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$ (13,688)</b>	<b>\$ (1,861)</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings as of 6/30/2025</b>		\$ 175,134.04
<b>Total Checking/Savings as of 12/31/2024</b>		\$ 204,772.61
<b>Difference</b>		\$ (29,638.57)

## Habitat For Humanity

Earlier this month, we toasted our farewell to over 130,000 cubic yards of "beet tailings" on land that will someday become the Tapestry Neighborhood built in partnership with Hartford Homes.

The Tapestry story starts back in 2022, when we learned that our longtime supporters, the Odell Family (of Odell Brewing), planned to donate their land adjacent to the brewery to Habitat. The land has a rich history as a part of Fort Collins' sugar beet industry. This raw land was a true gift, and it was also a true undertaking—because the soil could not be built on without removing the beet tailings – because they aren't solid enough to build on. Additionally, we would need to install all the necessary infrastructure, including curbs, gutters, utility lines, and more.

Habitat is a builder, not necessarily a developer--that's where Hartford Homes came in. They care deeply about our community and wanted an opportunity to build "missing middle" housing alongside our Habitat homes. In exchange, they entered into a partnership that made it possible.

I'm pleased to share that our "toast" was in celebration of the final project plans being submitted! This milestone marks an astonishing acknowledgment that Habitat hasn't paid for land, raw or developed. The impact of this generous collaboration will be the development of affordable condominiums in a prime location.

I hope you'll stay tuned as we begin construction on our 30-total Habitat homes at Tapestry, likely starting next summer.

The vision for the Tapestry community is to bring together people from diverse backgrounds, ages, and life stages to create a truly diverse and inclusive mixed-income community. We spent a lot of time talking about the history of the neighborhood which is adjacent Buckingham neighborhood and the larger Tres Colonias neighborhood, which historically housed laborers working in the area's nearby sugar beet fields. The hope is that these homes will make it possible for more people who work here to live here. You can learn more about the [history of sugar beet farming and the extraordinary contributions of the farmers here.](#)

Cheers, Kristin Candella, Executive Director and CEO of Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity



## Notes from Special Congregational Meeting of June 6, 2025

The purpose of this meeting was to present the search committee candidates nominated by the Trinity Council and get congregational approval of the candidates by a quorum vote.

The nominees presented:

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

Nominations were accepted from the floor. None were put forward.

In response to questions, Council President Eric Jurgenson informed the congregation that rostered pastors or deacons would be considered but other candidates also may be considered. As to interview process, Pastor Rick informed us that the call committee will be able to listen to candidates preach either online or in person, but candidates will not be expected to come and preach at Trinity.

When the search committee is ready to recommend a candidate, the congregation will have the opportunity to accept or reject by a vote in a special congregational meeting.

Pastor Rick asked us to support our search committee with our prayers and by answering any questions they might have.

A vote was taken on the complete search committee roster; The entire roster was accepted by a majority.

Submitted by Marilyn Morrissey, Council Secretary



### Birthdays



Vicki Volbrecht	8/1	David Karst	8/12	Haynes Dickson	8/26
Doris Schwartz	8/2	Jill Rose	8/15	Jackson Dryg	8/27
Sue Thompson	8/5	Micki Hargis	8/16	Madeline Brown	8/29
Mike Cain	8/6	Carol Fulkrod	8/19	Terry Mize	8/30
Marilyn Morrissey	8/6	Bonnie McKenrick	8/19	Debbie Schwartz	8/31
Ginger Russ	8/9	Barbara Montague	8/24		



### Anniversaries



Arliss & Thomas Solie	8/8	Deana & Ryan Andrist	8/20
Joey Prows & Emily Moore	8/9	Karolyn & Roland Kufeld	8/24
Sonia & Howard Nornes	8/10	Heidi & Victor Zuniga	8/30
Cherlyn & Dale Gorsky	8/16	Mary & John Raich	8/31



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