

Trinity Lutheran Church

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

TIDINGS



Shared Sunday

On **Sunday, October 19 at 10:30 am** we will have a shared service - with all four weekend services worshipping together. In past years Trinity's Saturday night service has not been included, and we miss a significant portion of our community. While always invited and encouraged, there will not be a Saturday service on October 18, making an intentional effort to bring all three communities together.

9 am Shared Adult Forum: ADVENTURES IN WONDER-LAND This 301 Faith Community Adult Forum will be convened in Room 2 by Jane Reina, Florian Hild, and James Gearhart around Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "thin tradition of a theology of the cross" which challenges us to wonder together about everything, including 'who is Christ for us today', who are we, and what's moved our own faith journey needles, etc. Join via Zoom [HERE](#), this is TLC's normal link.

10:30 am Shared Worship Join via Zoom [HERE](#). ****This is St. Paul's Link!!**** It will also be in e-News.

Stewardship Campaign Update!

Celebrate! To date, **84 pledges with a total of \$20,803 pledge increase** have been made to support our 2026 mission and ministry! Along with financial gifts, Trinity members also give generously of their time with over 161 volunteer hours each month! These commitments enable us to take confident steps into the new year. You can still be part of this initiative as pledges are still welcome. Your generosity and commitment to God's ministry now in this place is evident. We are Trinity together.

Adult Forum

October 5: We will watch and discuss a portion of a video titled "Faith and Climate Change-Talking with the Five Major Faiths" part of the world-wide Season of Creation.

October 12: Tim Snyder will lead a discussion of the new ELCA social statement "Faith and Civic Life", as well as 2025 voter guides, and faith-based advocacy opportunities through our national, regional and local church bodies.

October 19: ADVENTURES IN WONDER-LAND This 301 Faith Community Adult Forum will be convened in Room 2 by Jane Reina, Florian Hild, and James Gearhart around Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "thin tradition of a theology of the cross" which challenges us to wonder together about everything, including 'who is Christ for us today', who are we, and what's moved our own faith journey needles, etc.

October 26: BAD RELIGION Bad Religion not only prompted both Luther and Bonhoeffer to call out their church, but also that which prompts us to consider Luther's notion that 'the church' needs to be always reforming and always adapting to the truths of its contemporary context. Discussion led by James Gearhart and Kevin Mabry.

Nominations are Open!

The Nominating Committee is beginning its search for candidates for a variety of positions to be elected for terms beginning in January 2026. These positions include six Council positions (President, Treasurer, Secretary, Social Eco Justice, Faith Formation, Worship & Music); Trust; Nominating Committee; Financial Review Team; and delegates to the Synod Assembly. The committee certainly does not know the interests and skills of all members of our congregation, so if you would consider a leadership role at Trinity, please contact a member of the committee: Nadine Hunt, Don Heyse, Debbie Schwartz; Steve Dugger; and Erik Elliott. We will be glad to talk with you about where you might best serve.

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 always collect donated fabric, Fabric, & more 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

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
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:
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

Update from the Call Committee

Since our last Congregation update, the Call Committee has continued to meet and communicate with each other on a regular basis. With help and support from Pastor Rick, we have had a great collaboration among the Call Committee, Executive Team and Council in our efforts to gather information for our Ministry Site Profile, or the MSP as we call it.

We are pleased to share that on August 22nd all sections of the MSP were finalized and Trinity's data was entered into the Synod site for further review. This significant task of completing the MSP was a couple of weeks ahead of our goal, so we are thankful for the progress and eager to be moving into the next phase.

A meeting has been scheduled on September 11th with the Call Committee, Executive Team and Council to meet with Pastor Sara Wirth from the Rocky Mountain Synod for final Synod approval of the MSP. At that point it will go "live" on the Synod site where potential candidates can view the MSP and learn more about our church and congregation.

The Call Committee is currently working on preparing for interviews and several more tasks as we look forward to next steps. We thank you for your patience as it will take some time for the Synod to identify and select candidates which align with our needs and goals.

We are thankful for your kind words and encouragement and for thoughtful and deep conversations among Call Members, Executive Team, Council and other members of the congregation. We are excited about the journey ahead and hope to share more "good news" with you soon.

The Call Committee continues to pray and reflect, and are unified in working together to discern God's will for our future. We appreciate and are grateful for your continued prayers and support.

Respectfully the Call Committee- Shelley Aust, Emma Cleveringa, Jo Anne Gearhart, Sam Mullenbach, Joey Prows, Lori Schmidt, & Ron Splittgerber

Council Meeting Highlights

- ✦ Handbell Director Jill Hunt has resigned to accept a church organist position. St. Paul's choir director, Austin Naylor, has agreed to fill in for the next three months. Our handbell choir will meet for the first time after summer break on Sept. 24.
- ✦ The Social and Eco-Justice Ministry has received more information about a program called Safelots, as we have been asked to participate and our council has approved exploring this. Safelots is a program to help those struggling with housing who are temporarily living out of their cars. The program would allow specific participants chosen by Catholic Charities to park in our lot. There would be some expense which would be shared by Trinity and our 301 partners. Trinity's participation requires a congregational vote and our partners would also need to obtain their appropriate approvals.
- ✦ Our annual meeting will be held after worship on November 23. The 2026 Ministry Finance Plan will be voted on at that time. It is not known at this time if our synod and the call committee will have progressed to the point of presenting candidates at the meeting.

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

Small Groups

Saint & Sinners Golf closed out the 2025 summer season with 9 holes at City Park Nine on September 12. Thanks to all that played this summer!

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** in Fireside Rm.

Male Spirituality Carrying on the work of Fr Richard Rohr and Illuman we will utilize the power of ritual, image, and story to expand the depth and breadth of love in ourselves to make a difference in the world, using a circle of structured sharing. Join us most **Mondays at 6:30 pm** in Room 5.

Bible Study meets **Thursdays from 9:30-11 am** in Room 2. We are continuing are journey from the Mosaic covenant to the New Covenant. The group will NOT meet on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

301 Quilters meets **Fridays from 10 am-12 pm** in Room 2. We've come to another year's end of the 301 Quilters. That means we will gather all the quilts that have been made in the past 12 months into the sanctuary. As part of the joint service on Sunday October 19 we will bless those quilts before they are delivered to Denver and then on to Minnesota and then across the globe. Please join us for this special service. AND THEN...The following weekend Saturday the 25 and Sunday the 26, we invite you to join an old-fashioned quilting bee in the fellowship hall after each service. Well, it will actually be a new-fashioned tying bee. We'll have a couple of quilts ready for you to help us tie them. We'll have the needles threaded and you just make a loop and tie a knot. It's simple and fun.

Trinity Readers will meet on **Monday, October 6 at 9:30 am** in the Fireside Rm to discuss ***Our Missing Hearts*** by Celeste Ng. It is a novel about an imagined not-too-distant future in American. A severe economic depression has come about, citizens have taken to the streets, and the government has clamped down on any form of dissent and encouraged resentment of China, where there is economic prosperity. A small family of an Asian American poet/mother, a language professor father and their young son navigate the dangers of the society. Questions, call Cheryl Smith at 970-218-5750.

JOY (Just Older Youth) delights in welcoming all older adults and those young at heart to join for their next luncheon on **Monday, October 6 at 12 pm** for a time to gather and connect. Lunch will be Italian themed with a price of \$15. To adequately prepare, RSVPs are needed **no later than Wednesday, October 1** to [Amanda](#) or [HERE](#). You can pay day of via check/cash on [Online](#).

Men's Breakfast All men are welcome to join at the Breakfast Club (Ft. Collins) for discussion and fellowship on the **1st Tuesday (October 7) at 7:30 am**.

301 FP Get-Togethers take place the **2nd Thursday (October 9) 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.

TGIF (One Friday a month at 6:30 pm) - *Note*, Hosts can opt for a Friday of the month that works for them. 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.
October 10: Donna & Dan Dauner

Birdhouses Join us on the **2nd Tuesday (October 14) at 4:30 pm** in Room 2 to build and decorate bird houses and feeders to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity. Ages 8 and up invited!

Small Groups Continued...

Pub Theology V.3 will meet **Thursday October 16 at 5:30 pm** at Stodgy Brewing, 1802 Laporte Ave. We will explore a variety of texts and discuss how we live out our relationship with God and support each other along the way.

Habitat for Humanity The 301 FP helps to support Habitat for Humanity as they build safe, secure, and affordable homes in the community. Our next Habitat Build Day is **Saturday, October 18 from 8 am-3ish pm**. No experience or skills needed. Contact [Steph Dugger](#) to volunteer/sign up.

Chapter Two Book Group is an open small group for 301 Faith Partners and the wider community, new participants are always welcome to join the casual discussion. No long-term commitment required! If you have trouble finding any of the books and would like Trinity to order a copy for the library, please let [Maddie Fairfax](#) know at any time. **Thursday, October 23 at 6 pm: *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books*** by Kirsten Miller

Little Pantry As fall arrives...With the changing leaves, pumpkins on porches, and children eagerly preparing their costumes for Halloween, the season reminds us of community and care. The Little Pantry remains a vital, well-used resource for our neighbors in need. Thanks to our small group ministry, the pantry is stocked daily and replenished as needed. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and support our community in this small but meaningful way. 301 FP Little Pantry SG

Garden The "gardening season" is nearing the end for this year. The harvest is winding down, and will be shared with the members of the 301 Faith Partners churches until complete. The garden has been quite productive again this season. The volunteers of this small group ministry hope you have enjoyed the produce that has been shared, and want to let you know about the plan for next year, and beyond. There are several Biblical references to leaving the ground fallow every seven years. Although we have passed the 7th year twice, (the garden was established in 2011), it is time for the garden to go on "SABBATICAL" to restore and refresh. Although our plans aren't finalized, there are some improvements and enhancements needed and we will likely take next year to accomplish those tasks while the soil restores. We are grateful for the funds that were approved by the Trinity Trust Fund to assist with these improvements! We will update you as our plans come together. As always, we welcome volunteers to help with this rewarding ministry. For more information you can contact [Nyla Anderson](#) by email or phone or 970-231-1282 or notify the church office and they will let us know. Blessings!!

301 FP JET ECO Tip of the Month

Set your water heater to the sweet spot. Tank-style water heaters (the most common type) lose heat throughout the day, so the higher the standby temperature, the more energy you're wasting. For most people, 120 degrees Fahrenheit is a safe setting for your water heater, according to the Department of Energy. That setting is hot enough to blunt most bacterial growth for most people but mild enough to avoid scalding your skin. (If you rent, try asking your landlord to make an adjustment for you.) The next time you need a new water heater, consider a high-efficiency heat-pump model, which offers significant energy savings over most of today's most-common models. - from New York Times' Wirecutter series.

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, October 28 at 5:30 pm**. Be sure to check out the JET table and bulletin board in the NW corner of the Fellowship Hall!

OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
5 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	6 9:30am Trinity Readers 12 pm Sermon Discussion 12 pm JOY Luncheon 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	7 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 pm Soc/Eco Justice 6:15 pm 301 FP SEJ
12 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	13 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6 pm Property 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	14 4:30 pm Birdhouse Bldg 6:30 pm Executive
19 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Shared Worship 11:30 am Shared Fellowship 11:35 am Faith Form	20 12 pm Sermon Discussion 4 pm Finance 5:30 pm Trust 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	21 6:30 pm Council
26 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship <i>Quilting Bee</i> 11:30 am Fellowship	27 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	28 5:30 pm FP Eco Justice

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 RSVP JOY Lunch 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	2 9:30 am Bible Study 11 am FP Clergy Mtg	3 10 am Quilting	4 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
8 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	9 9:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm FP Get Together 6:30 pm FP Co-Op Mtg	10 10 am Quilting 6:30 pm TGIF	11 12 pm Sweet Treats 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
15 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	16 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Pub Theology	17 10 am Quilting	18 Habitat Build Day
22 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	23 9:30 am Bible Study 6 pm Chap 2 Readers 7 pm Immigration	24 10 am Quilting	25 5 pm Worship <i>Quilting Bee</i> 5:45 pm Fellowship
29 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	30 9:30 am Bible Study	31 10 am Quilting	

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

October 4/5 / Tessa Espinosa
 October 11/12 Vicki Volbrecht / Karl Schmdit
 October 18/19 Shared Weekend
 October 25/26 / Joey Prows

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

Your Gifts In Action ~ Neighbor to Neighbor

Neighbor to Neighbor is a multi-program agency that we support with our benevolence dollars. It has its roots at Trinity with Lou Stitzel in 1970. Helping neighbors stay in their homes. It began by buying trailer houses in Fort Collins that homeless or near homeless people could buy into or rent. She worked with Trinity members to fund this project and expanded its role when it became a non-profit.

It now has programs that range from helping families regain stability and achieve home ownership to preventing a family from losing their home. It can range from helping with a down-payment to rent an apartment, to education for first time home buyers. In the last year it helped 5,000 achieve preserve and sustain their own home. 811 were able to avoid eviction and 884 achieved homeownership.

But I want to focus on one program that has been very instrumental in helping families from becoming homeless. Too often homelessness begins because a family is living on the edge financially, they have an unexpected expense such as a medical bill that causes expenses to balloon out of control and ends in an eviction. This program was begun in the community by Sister Mary Alice Murphy (former director of Catholic charities) and was adopted into Neighbor to Neighbor over ten years ago. The agency works with the landlord to pay the rent. Doing so allows the renters to pay the unexpected bill without worry of eviction.

These two women who began with a vision to address homeless have made a huge impact in reducing homelessness in Larimer County. It's amazing what can be done when faith is put into action.

When you give to Trinity, you give to Neighbor to Neighbor

Support TLC Preschool: Buy a Christmas Wreath in October!

Embrace the spirit of the season by supporting TLC Preschool's Christmas wreath fundraiser. Every wreath purchased helps restore staff compensation, provide classroom supplies and curriculum enrichment, and celebrate the enduring impact of the preschool program. This year, we're offering two wreath sizes—perfect for decorating your home, office, or gifting to friends and family. Wreaths will be delivered to the church around the first week of December.

Thank you for supporting TLC Preschool. Your generosity helps sustain a mission rooted in care, learning, and community.



28" Mixed Green



22" Mixed Green

A Learning Series on Immigration

Refuge, Rights, and Community is a three-part education series on the impact of current policies and practices on immigrant and refugee communities in Northern Colorado. You'll get the context, information, and direction you need to take effective action while connecting with experts, advocates, and directly impacted community members. This series is a collaborative effort hosted by Church World Service Fort Collins, ISAAC of Northern Colorado, Arboretum Coffee and Alianza NORCO.

LOCATION AND REGISTRATION: The series will be held at Colorado State University. This is a free event but registration is required for all three events. Reserve your tickets now [HERE](#); location details will be sent in your confirmation e-mail. **LOVE OFFERING:** In conjunction with this campaign, at each live event and online with registration, we will be taking a love offering. Whether you choose to attend the event or not, your donations will go into a collective fund for emergency legal needs and supportive services for local immigrant and refugee communities.

Sunday, October 26 from 3-5 pm | Rights: Unpack the realities of today's immigration policies and how they are affecting individuals, families, and communities. Hear from a broad panel of Colorado-based legal experts and advocates.

Sunday, November 9 from 3-5 pm | Community: A critical conversation about the rise of white supremacist movements, their impact on refugee and immigrant safety, and how communities can resist hate. Includes film screening of the documentary, *Refuge*.



Birthdays



Douglas Prebel	10/2	Emma Cleveringa	10/11	Erin Sprain	10/24
Paul Schairer	10/3	Deana Andrist	10/13	Anne Jackson	10/28
James Gearhart	10/4	Ken Meyer	10/16	Cherlyn Gorsky	10/30
Donna Palmer	10/4	Judy Titus	10/23		
Luann Schilling	10/6	Gloria Weiderspon	10/23		



Anniversaries



Judy & Keith Titus	10/2	Tim & Susan Snyder	10/7
Brad & Kristina Brown	10/4	Vicki Volbrecht & James Prater	10/30
Ginger & Len Russ	10/4		

Habitat For Humanity

The next Faith Builds are Build Days for the rest of the year are: October 18 & November 22 (8am-3ish pm). Volunteer to build, no experience/skills needed. If you are interested in building on one of those days, please reach out to Steph Dugger or 970-223-9119.

Fun Facts:

- * Approximately 10,000 households qualify for Habitat's program based on their income
- * Median home prices more than doubled in 10 years
- * Single-family home: \$500,000+
- * Townhome/condo: \$350,000+
- * Fort Collins Habitat started in 1993 and has built 115 homes
- * This fiscal year, Habitat will close on 15 homes
- * ReStore – grossed over \$800,000 in sales last fiscal year!
- * Diverted over 650,000 lbs. from the landfill

Bloom Neighborhood:

- * A generous opportunity to build in Hartford Homes' "Bloom" neighborhood near Mulberry and Timberline, will have space for 40-50 Habitat homes
- * Hartford is doing the land development and allowing Habitat to purchase buildable lots at cost, saving us millions of dollars compared to the traditional market
- * Entire neighborhood will have about 2,000 units on 220 acres

Heartside Hill Neighborhood:

- * 11 acres of land owned and donated by Heart of the Rockies Christian Church (HRCC) to serve the community
- * Joint project between HRCC, Habitat for Humanity, CARE Communities (formerly known as CARE Housing), and L 'Arche—an international nonprofit that provides housing for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and caretakers
- * The Habitat units are all designated toward future Geometry in Construction homes = 9 homes

Tapestry Neighborhood:

- * Land donated by the Odell Family in 2021 behind the brewery where the "berm parking lot" is located now
- * Joint partnership with Hartford Homes—they will construct 110 multi-family/condo units targeting low to moderate income earners our community
- * Neighborhood will include 30 Habitat condos – our first venture into condominiums
- * The "parking lot" where the neighborhood will be located will need to be brought down to street level by moving over 130,000 cubic yards of "beet tailings" – an organic byproduct of the historic sugar beet farms that used to exist on the property decades ago

Harmony Cottages Neighborhood:

- * Largest project in affiliate's history
- * Full neighborhood - 48 homes upon completion
- * 22 paired units and 4 ranch style homes
- * Final 4 foundations poured in August!

Highlights from Co-Op Committee Meeting

The Coop 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 September 19th, 2025 meeting, the following items were discussed:

An update on the process of considering hosting the Safe Lots program was reviewed. Since the last Coop meeting the 301 Partners Social & Eco Justice committee heard from Annette at Family Housing Network. She reported that the Fort Collins Unitarian Church and First United Methodist church would be starting a pilot program so the 301 Faith Partners wouldn't likely participate until the fall of 2026. However, the Unitarian Church has stepped in to help since the fire at the homeless mission and is now unable to participate in Safe Lots. Due to the interest of SEJ and significant needs among the homeless population, there is broad consensus among the Coop leadership to participate in Safe Lots as long as individual congregations agree. Further discussion and consideration of potential steering committee members will be pursued.

Questions about the city's request to use our building for overflow homeless shelter in wintery weather was discussed. We will contact the city to get those questions answered. If we do participate in Safe Lots, we can simply decline to take in more homeless if Safe Lots participants have to stay inside the building.

All 3 congregational governing bodies have approved the expenditure of \$100 each for advocacy signs.

Lisa Dunworth has agreed to conduct a training session for welcome hosts who serve for worship services on best practices to deal with homeless people who enter the church building during worship.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson, VP Trinity Council

TLC 2025 Ministry Fund Plan Actuals		
	August 2025	Year-To- Date
Receipts:		
Offerings	\$ 21,624	\$ 272,824
SPE and MoM Building Use Donations	4,580	36,640
Building Use	463	14,239
Benevity Funds Released	2,800	11,425
Total Receipts:	29,467	335,128
Expenditures:		
Operating and Support	\$ 20,060	\$ 227,660
Ministries	7,785	74,173
Benevolence/Gifts (Synod, Sky Ranch, etc)	-	8,310
Total Expenditures:	27,845	310,143
Receipts less Expenditures:	\$ 1,622	\$ 24,985
Total Checking/Savings as of 8/31/2025		\$ 199,460.43
Total Checking/Savings as of 12/31/2024		\$ 204,772.61
Difference		\$ (5,312.18)



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