

August 2026 Volume 29, No.8

Trinity Lutheran Church

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

TIDINGS



Sunday School Volunteers, 2026-2027, Needed and Appreciated!

Summer Greetings Everyone, Our Faith Formation Ministry is hopeful that you are finding opportunities for rest, relaxation and enjoyment outdoors this summer! As we look toward fall, we need to recruit a list of adult volunteers who would be willing to substitute for our Sunday School teacher, Jennifer Reeve, if she is ill. A substitute would find lesson plans available in the Sunday School classroom as well as easy access to supplies for any craft activity. If you are willing to have your name on a substitute list, please email Pastor Kaari at: pastorkaari@trinitylutheranfc.org. Thank you all for your prayerful consideration of this important volunteer role! Gratefully, Your Faith Formation Team



On Break for Summer

Sunday School, Confirmation, HS Youth Group, and Adult Forum, are on break for the Summer! Join us again this fall! A big thank you to everyone who contributed to making these activities a success. Your time, effort, and enthusiasm have made a meaningful impact, and we truly could not have done it without you. We are grateful for your support and collaboration!

Spring Creek Trail Cleanup

Help us care for our local environment by joining the Joint Ecological Team (JET) of the 301 Faith Partners for a community trail cleanup on **Saturday, August 1, at 9 am**. We'll meet in the Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot before heading out to clean the section of the Spring Creek Trail adjacent to the church. Please bring your own cleanup supplies, including gloves, a bucket or bag for collecting litter, and a trash grabber if you have one. Participants should also be comfortable walking approximately one mile. Whether you're a longtime environmental steward or simply looking for a meaningful way to serve our community, we'd love to have you join us! If you have questions or would like more information, please email [Caroline Conley Norris](mailto:CarolineConleyNorris).

Quilters - Help Needed!

The 301 Quilters are asking for help this summer to sew some quilt tops. We have made kits that are put together with cut 11" squares and instructions. All you do is sew! The kits are in a box in front of the red tote used for Quilt Donations beside the west Fellowship Hall door. If you are able, please pick up a kit, sew at your leisure and then return the top to the red tote. Thank you for your help.

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

Associate Pastor: Kaari Nieuwlandt
pastorkaari@trinitylutheranfc.org

Office Admin: Deana Andrist
office@trinitylutheranfc.org

Financial Manager:
finance@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Communications
Amanda Backsen
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Church Musician: Carrie Hansen
carrie@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Choir: Tessa Espinosa
choir@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Handbell: Austin Naylor
bells@trinitylutheranfc.org

Saturday Worship Leader
Clinton Ellerbe
saturdayworship@trinitylutheranfc.org

A/V Technician: Chad Carpenter
avtech@trinitylutheranfc.org

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

Nursery Coordinator
Tiffany Klijewski
tiffany@trinitylutheranfc.org

Pastor's Ponderings

Growing up I always wanted to be a firefighter, like my dad. Being a firefighter was in our family. My grandpa, uncle and dad all coming out of the same department. I idolized my dad. I would listen to the radio scanner for his voice, bike to blazing fires, and spend time at the fire house. I undoubtedly felt I would follow in his footsteps. He still hopes that one day I will be some sort of fire chaplain, so I could carry on the family 'business.'

While I doubt that will happen, I admit I have had fleeting dreams about volunteering as a wildfire fire fighter. The need is real, but reality quickly sets in.

Especially as we watch our state burn – at least 8 active fires, 150,000 acres, 4 firefighter deaths and 800 structures destroyed from the Aspen Acres fire alone. It is devastating, despairing. It is hard to have hope. Suffering is all around us.

These wildfires in Colorado are burning out of control. And that now feels like normal. But it isn't normal. We have to admit that climate change has impacted our seasonal patterns, that this "new normal" isn't healthy or sustainable.

And yet God does reveal resurrection amidst destruction. The forests have an amazing ability to regrow itself. Pinecones dormant until fire heat opens them up. Wildfire ash can restore ecosystems. And God reveal resurrection hope through you.

Through climate change activism for the long term.
For disaster response in the short term.

Do you know our Rocky Mountain Synod (RMS) has a disaster response team? And disaster response fund? The team helps the synod direct those funds where they are most needed. The team also helps communicate to our synod what is happening in our devastated areas.

If you are inclined to give to a wildfire relief fund, please do. One of those funds to be considered is the RMS Disaster Response - <https://www.rmselfca.org/give>

Make sure to find **"RMS Disaster Response"** in the dropdown menu so that it is directed to the right place.

And as always, keep all those impacted by the wildfires held in prayer. For fire fighters and displaced families. For brokenness of communities far from danger. For climate activists and climate change deniers. For the earth and all creation.

Trusting God's promise of resurrection now and always. Amen.

Pastor Rick

Fort Collins Habitat ReStore to Close

After more than 25 years of serving the community, Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity has announced that its ReStore will permanently close later this year. Learn why this difficult decision was made, important dates for donations and shopping, and how you can continue supporting Habitat's mission of building affordable homes. Read the full announcement [HERE](#).

Ways to Give at Trinity

Become a Realm giver! Call the office to get an invite to REALM, our new giving platform. In Realm you can donate from a checking account, savings account or your credit card. Donations can be done weekly, monthly, or annually. Also, you can look at the history of your giving and even print a statement for your taxes. Check it out!

For **One-Time Donations** go to www.trinitylutheranfc.org and click on “Give” at the top of the webpage. Find One-time Donation and follow the prompts from there. Again, you can have the donation come from a checking account, savings account or your credit card.

Are **Qualified Charitable** Distributions (QCDs) an option for you? If you are 70^{1/2} years old and have an IRA, you might be able to have the check from your IRA payable to Trinity, and not pay taxes on the distribution (please check with your tax advisor, or financial institution). The same does **NOT** apply if you have a charitable donor advised fund, so I would delete the sentence about that altogether. Check with your financial institution on the frequency that works best for you.

Does your bank offer their customers a **bill paying option**? You can check with your bank about this. Some banks do not charge for this convenience. Have **automatic deductions** from your checking or savings account, done weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly.

Have the Venmo app? Trinity is also on Venmo! We are “Trinity-LutheranFC”.

Use Regular Offering **Envelopes**-either brought to worship or mailed in.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider these options. Please feel free to call the office if you have any questions or need help; 970-482-1226 or email finance@trinitylutheranfc.org.

TLC 2026 Ministry Fund Plan Actuals		
	June 2026	Year to date
Receipts:		
Offerings	\$ 49,856	\$ 209,502
SPE and MoM Building Use Donations	4,901	29,406
Building Use	971	9,198
Benevity Funds Released	-	2,400
Total Receipts:	55,728	250,506
Expenditures:		
Operating and Support	\$ 28,394	\$ 173,104
Ministries	6,451	65,236
Benevolence/Gifts (Synod, Sky Ranch, etc)	-	.
Total Expenditures:	34,845	238,340
Receipts less Expenditures:	\$ 20,883	\$ 12,166
Total Checking/Savings as of 6/30/2026		\$ 226,848.75
Total Checking/Savings as of 12/31/2025		\$ 245,195.80
Difference		\$ (18,347.05)

301 FP JET ECO Tip

The month of August is a great time to evaluate your home or business for possible energy efficiency improvements. Fortunately, we live in an area where a program exists to do just that, Efficiency Works. Efficiency Works is a regional utility collaboration that provides guidance and resources to enable customers to use energy more effectively, work toward a non-carbon energy future and build strong, resilient communities for customers served by Platte River Power Authority and its owner communities of Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland.

Fort Collins Utilities offers safe, reliable and affordable electric service to over 70,000 homes and businesses across more than 55 square miles. The utility operates and maintains one of the most reliable electric distribution systems in the country, with 99.99% reliability. Fort Collins also emphasizes renewable energy to power their community and maintains climate goals to be carbon-neutral by 2050 with their "Our Climate Future" plan.

Residential utility customers can obtain a free energy-advising session and an expert will discuss your assessment options, help identify energy opportunities and outline the benefits each upgrade can offer. Or, you may choose A Home Energy Assessment which costs from 0-\$60. And for a limited time, rental properties are eligible for a free assessment. This will provide a detailed analysis of your home to identify ways to make it more energy efficient and how to qualify for potential rebates. An advisor can also help you plan future projects and review project bids after receiving an assessment. Check out the details of this program [HERE](#) by phone at 877-981-1888 or Email: information@efficiencyworks.org

The Joint Ecological Team's (JET) next meeting is **Tuesday, August 25 at 5:30 pm** in Room 2 or via [ZOOM](#). Please park in the west parking lot as that may be the only door open. The meetings are in person and on Zoom. We meet 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. Be sure to check out the JET table and bulletin board in the NW corner of the Fellowship Hall.

Your Gifts In Action ~ Teaching Tree

Teaching Tree is one of the agencies Trinity supports with an annual donation. It is the largest (serving nearly 600 families annually) non-profit daycare and preschool that provides affordable, quality care for low- and middle-income families, including those working toward self-sufficiency. It has programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers on a sliding fee scale. It is a high-quality Level 4 Colorado Shines rated center with low staff to child ratios. They are expanding their board to help make plans to sustain and increase ways to serve children and families far into the future. If you are interested contact Teaching Tree and explore opportunities to serve.

When you give to Trinity, you give to Teaching Tree

Rally Day

Rally Day Kick Off is **Sunday, September 13!** 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).

AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
2 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	3 9:30am Trinity Readers 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	4 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 6:15 pm 301 FP SEJ
9 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	10 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6 pm Property 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	11 6:30 pm Executive
16 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 9 am Faith Formation	17 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	18 5:30 pm Pub Theology 6:30 pm Council
23 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Small Group Fair	24 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	25 5:30 pm FP Eco Justice
30 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	31 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

August 1/2	/ Erik Elliott
August 8/9	/ Delores Wisner
August 15/16	/ JoAnne Gearhart
August 22/23	/ Nadine Hunt
August 29/30	/ Gerry Olsen

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9 am Spring Crk Clean up 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
5	6 11 am FP Clergy Mtg	7 10 am Quilting	8 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
12	13 3:30 pm FP Get Together 5 pm Finance 6:15 pm FP Co-Op Mtg	14 10 am Quilting 6:30 pm TGIF	15 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
19	20	21 10 am Quilting	22 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship 5:45 pm Small Group Fair
26	27 6 pm Chap 2 Readers 7 pm Immigration	28 10 am Quilting	29 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship

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

Small Groups Kick Off

Small groups have always been essential to the life of the Church and Trinity is no exception. As we enter our fourth year of intentional small groups, we have found a rhythm of what is working. If you have never joined a small group, this is the year to try. And, yes we say that every year! Find one interesting group and see how God working in and through this ministry. Come to the Fellowship Hall **after Worship on August 22 & 23** and see what Small Group might appeal to you.

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** 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 **Mondays at 6:30 pm** in Room 5.

Bible Study will resume on **Thursday, September 10 from 9:30-11 am** in Room 2. We will journey through the Bible studying various women in the Bible: the fierce, the brave, the good, the evil, the survivor, and the victim. Join us for a lively study & discussion of women in the Bible. All are welcome!

301 Quilters meets **Fridays from 10 am-12 pm** in Room 2. NO experience needed, NO need to have been coming last year, NO worries. We're a fun and caring small group that has a purpose of aiding those in need.

Trinity Readers will meet on **Monday, August 3 at 9:30 am** in the Fireside Rm to discuss Trinity ***Follow the Stars Home*** by Diane C. McPhail - a novel of America's history during Western Expansion. The story is told by Lydia Latrobe Roosevelt who is the daughter of one of the architects of the U.S. Capitol. She married Nicholas Roosevelt, an inventor twice her age who is her father's colleague. He is the inventor and builder of the "New Orleans," a steamboat with dual-side paddles. She is Theodore Roosevelt's great-grand aunt. It is Lydia's story of the first steamboat voyage on the Mississippi River. She shares her challenges of being pregnant, Indian unrest, disease, injury, flooding, the Falls of the Ohio River and other dangers. Lydia's experience and her record of it helped to redefine our country. historical . Questions, call Cheryl Smith at 970-218-5750.

Men's Breakfast all men are welcome to join at the Breakfast Club (Ft. Collins) for discussion and fellowship on the **1st Tuesday (August 4) at 7:30 am**.

301 FP Get-Togethers meets the **2nd Thursday (August 13) at 3:30 pm**. The location is picked closer to the date, so watch the e-News for details. 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 to share. If you have questions and or would like to sign up to host, contact [Liz Johnson](#) or 402-320-3699. **Friday August 14: JoAnne & James Gearhart**. An RSVP to the host is appreciated but not necessary to attend.

Pub Theology V.3 will meet ****Tuesday, August 18 ** at 5:30 pm** at **Odell Brewing Company**. We will explore a variety of texts and discuss how we live out our relationship with God and support each other along the way.

Small Groups cont ...

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 any time. **Thursday, August 20 at 6 pm** to discuss *Paper Girl* by Beth Macy.

Little Pantry As the new school year begins and fall approaches, The Little Pantry remains committed to serving our community. We continue to experience a high level of need and the pantry is often emptied several times throughout the week. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of our congregation and community, we are able to replenish the pantry and continue meeting this ongoing need. Thank you for your continued support of The Little Pantry Ministry. Your commitment makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors and we are truly grateful for your partnership. ~ The Little Pantry Small Group

Oktoberfest 2026 Save the Date!

301 Faith Partners will host the annual Brats 'n Beer Oktoberfest fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity on **Saturday, September 26**. Be sure to be there for a "gute Zeit" and bier!

New Publisher Program

Microsoft is discontinuing Publisher, the program we have used for many years to create our bulletins, Tidings, and other church resources. As we transition to new software for creating these communications, we ask for your patience and grace as we learn these new programs. While we strive for accuracy, there may be an occasional typo, formatting hiccup, or other minor mistake along the way. Thank you for your understanding and encouragement as we work to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Council Meeting Council Meeting June 2026

Pastor Rick presented information from the Finance committee. There is a deficit of \$4989.49 for the year. No benevolence has been given for the year. Again, it would be beneficial to have a graph of the expenses. Soren moved to approve the financial report as stated and Cheryl seconded this motion. All approved.

Thanks was given to Nyla (in absentia) for her time in the office with Brenda and Jess not working as employees anymore.

Going further into the status of the church financial duties, Jess was let go as she was unable to grasp all the necessary functions needed to do the job of financial coordinator. Outsourcing certain aspects of financial duties is being explored. So far, there are two companies being reviewed; GoFigure and Keep Smart Books. Ideas also being considered are sharing some additional responsibilities with the current office staff, hiring a part-time person, possibly a college student. We currently have a payroll service that will not change. It may run \$18K-\$20K to outsource. The goal is to finalize our selection by the next Council meeting or within the month.

Working the budget is moving forward. Stewardship will be sending out the forms for each ministry's budget by July 1 to be returned by August 3rd Pastor Rick stated he would like to have Trinity move the benevolence to the Synod from 45% to 50%, making the contribution on a quarterly basis. He will bring this suggestion to Benevolence. As Pastor Kaari was not in attendance, Pastor Rick explained the program brought forth in Exec meeting, Safeguarding God's People. It's a program that our 301 Partner. St. Paul Episcopal Church, uses and is from the Episcopal church, overall. It's an online tutorial for relationships of all kinds. Those who would be required to take this course would be those volunteers who are working with youth, the Church Council (effective 01 Jan) and others as deemed required would need to complete this effective 01 September. A record will be kept of those who complete this course as well as those required to take the course.

Soren presented the Property Report. We have paid ½ of the cost of the new furnace. The funds for the building expense came from: Trinity (furnace fund) \$22,500; Trust \$12,500; St. Paul \$10,000; and Mary Magadala \$5,000. Additional money over the cost for the furnace will be used for building expenses in an overage fund. We will get approval from our 301 partners to do this and hopefully will not have to ask for additional funds from them for quite a while. Parking Lot: Soren is completing a form for a request of \$10K for resurfacing the parking lot. (POC for Trust is Lori Schmidt.) There is \$23,400 in an accrual parking lot fund.

Trees for the Memorial Garden were discussed. Eric is in charge of contacting those in charge to discuss trees.

Shredding paper copies of music was briefly discussed. This is being addressed by the Executive Council. The Worship and Music committee has a budget and spending these funds for music should be part of their budget that can be used.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Lambert, Council Secretary

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 July 9th, 2026 meeting, the following items were discussed:

FAMILY ROOM SPEAKER UPDATE Still a work in progress.

SAFELOTS Mother Rosean reported on the June 25th SafeLots event. Mother Rosean moderated the panel discussion which included representatives from the "Hope" Team, Outreach Fort Collins, Catholic Charities, Zion Lutheran-Loveland, and the City of Fort Collins. About 45 people in attended, including members of all 3 congregations as well as neighbors, and it was felt that it generally went quite well although support among neighbors is mixed.

Our SafeLots committee, MOM, & St. Paul's are ready to move forward as is the Methodist church but will wait until Trinity votes on a one-year trial at a congregational meeting on July 26. If approved, the next step is to go to Fort Collins City Council for a variance.

***SHARED ADULT FORUMS** Program options for the next shared forum in October were discussed. They include: First Nations Land Acknowledgement, Care of Creation, and the Tri-Faith Initiative in Omaha. It was agreed that the Social and Eco-Justice committee's work with First Nations should be given priority in October, with the other options available for future Shared Forums

Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson, VP Trinity Council



Birthdays



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



Anniversaries



Arliss & Thomas Solie	8/8	Deana & Ryan Andrist	8/20
Joey Prows & Emily Moore	8/9	Karolyn & Roland Kufeld	8/24
Cherlyn & Dale Gorsky	8/16	Mary & John Raich	8/31





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