September 2026 Volume 29, No.9

TIDINGS

Trinity Lutheran Church

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



Finance Office Update

As most of you are aware, we have been going through some personnel transitions in the Finance office since Brenda left. After unsuccessfully trying to replace Brenda in the office with an employee on staff, we have come to the realization that we have reached a point in the life of Trinity where outsourcing the function is the most appropriate and ultimately cost-effective solution for us.

Beginning in September, we will be transitioning the accounting/bookkeeping functions to Go Figure, a local Accounting/Bookkeeping firm who has significant experience in accounting for churches and other non-profits. Be assured that your personal information will not be shared, and recording the contribution information will continue to be handled as it currently is in the church office. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact Amanda at finance@trinitylutheranfc.org. She will be responsible for any in-house communication about finance.

Finance Office Update #2!

The Trinity financial office is being reallocated to allow St. Paul's and Mary of Magdala separate confidential pastoral spaces. For the past 6 years, the pastors of our partner churches have graciously shared office space but found there are times when this set up doesn't work. With an empty office space, Pastor Felicia of St. Paul's has agreed to move to the new location. Our hope is to have this set up in place by the middle of September. Let us know if you have any questions. Trinity Exec Committee

Adult Forum

Trinity's Adult Forums will resume on September 13. The first 4 Sundays will focus on current events in the Holy Land and how the lives of Palestinians, particularly Lutheran Palestinians, are affected. As this series concludes, we will discuss whether or not we believe the Israeli government is committing genocide and facilitating apartheid. If so, how do we as individuals and as a congregation respond? Check Trinity's weekly E-news for weekly programs.

Advent Table Wreath Making

All Trinity members are invited to an intergenerational advent wreath making event. We'll gather on **Sunday, November 15 at 9am**, during our education hour. All our regularly scheduled education small groups are coordinating schedules for this one fun activity. Everyone is invited, whether your regularly participate in education hour or not. This is also an opportunity to clean out your holiday and crafting supplies and find them a new home! Have some extra pinecones, garland, ribbon, candles, or more? If so, pull out those tired decorations, and bring them in to be repurposed by someone else. Collection bin will be out starting mid September. Questions, talk to Pastor Kaari, or members of the faith formation committee.

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

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Nursery Coordinator
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Pastor Kaari's Kindling

Though perhaps less prevalent in the news now than it was a year ago, the war and genocide occurring in Gaza has not stopped. As many of you know, the conflict that "started" on October 7, 2023 was not the beginning of this conflict. The Israel/Palestine conflict began long before, when the state of Israel was created and forcibly displaced the indigenous Palestinian people from their homes. Palestinian people now live under occupation, treated as second class citizens with different rights and rules than Israeli citizens have.

In order to better understand the history and reality of the Palestinian experience in Israel/Palestine right now, our Adult Forum will have a four week series on this topic, starting September 13. We will utilize resources from Sumud, our ELCA justice initiative working and advocating for a just, peaceful, and enduring future for Palestinians and Israelis. We will also hear from the experiences of Palestinians, and especially Palestinian Lutherans.

If you'd like to learn more now, I encourage you to go to the Rocky Mountain Synod Sumud page here: SUMUD: For Justice in Palestine and Israel. Sumud has many ways to engage, through learning, through advocacy actions you can participate in (click here to learn how you can advocate for a Palestinian Lutheran Student who is currently unjustly imprisoned-Free Natalie Abu Dayyeh), and through direct support to Palestinian Lutheran Ministries. There is also a Rocky Mountain Synod Sumud Working Group that meets regularly via zoom- let me know if you'd like to be connected to that.

All congregation members, whether attending Adult Forum or not, are also invited to look at the following documents as we all continue our learning and increase our cry for justice for our Palestinian siblings.

Kairos Palestine II (2025) - Final_Kairos_document_II_English.pdf

ELCA Social Policy Resolution "Toward Ending the Occupation of Palestine" (2025)- toward_ending_occupation_of_palestine_SPR25_CA25-03-13.pdf

Social Policy Congregation Guide (2025) - CA25_03_13_SPR_Toward_Ending_the_Occupation_of_Palestine_ak.pdf

ELCA Social Message on the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict (1989)- The Israeli_Palestinian Conflict.indd

With gratitude for our ministry together, Pastor Kaari

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.

ISAAC Comfort Care Baskets

Early this year the 301 Faith Partnership and Immigration Task Force started a new program to collect items for Comfort Care Baskets for ISAAC families in crisis. ISAAC of Northern Colorado is a coalition of faith groups and partners committed to equity, empowerment and justice for immigrants, refugees, and marginalized populations. It also supports immigrants facing detention and crisis. The baskets help relieve the stress that these families are experiencing. To date, there have been sufficient items but reserves are running low and need to be resupplied.

Item collection begins **Sunday, September 6, and continues through September and early October**. Donations may be placed in the clear, vinyl container marked ISAAC DONATIONS in the fellowship hall.

If you would like to join our effort, please provide a small box, basket, or bag and 1 or 2 items from each of the categories below. *Unused items only*, please.

- Self-care or practical goods (soft blanket or small throw, fuzzy socks or non-slip slippers, hand cream or lotion, emery boards, hair bands, hand sanitizer, facial tissues, small candle, reusable water bottle, mug, bandana, note cards, small journal, pen, book)
- Toiletries (toothbrush and toothpaste, dental floss, chap stick or lip balm, soap, deodorant, razors, shampoo, conditioner)
- Food & drink (assorted herbal teas or hot cocoa, snacks)
- A craft or fidget (paints, crayons, markers, coloring book, pencils, plain drawing paper)
- 1 or 2 entertainment items (crossword, Rubic cube, puzzle, bubbles, stickers, small book, small stuffed animal, ball, small metal cars).

Collected items are delivered and stored separately at the ISAAC offices at Plymouth Congregational Church. The ISAAC staff assembles and distributes the care baskets with appropriate items (including age-appropriate kid toys) as needed to a particular family.

Alternatively, monetary ISAAC donations are also acceptable and very much welcomed. Emergency funds help families with back rent and utilities when the loved one, often the bread winner, is detained. Please make checks payable to ISAAC and write Comfort Baskets on the memo line. Checks may be put in the offering plate or given to staff in the church office.

Thank you for your support of this much-needed ministry. Your caring donations offer comfort to our neighbors during a time of distress and uncertainty.

Senior's Day Out at Sky Ranch

A Day to Reconnect and Reflect. Join us **Tuesday, September 22 from 8:15 am- 4 pm** on the mountain for a day to reconnect and reflect on 63 years of ministry at Sky Ranch. We hear time and time again that older generations of supporters can't make the drive up the mountain any longer. The day includes round-trip charter bus transportation from either Loveland or Fort Collins, lunch, short program, and time to explore Sky Ranch. Cost is $30 per person. Register HERE.
Two pick-up locations to choose from; selection made when registering:
Zion Lutheran Church @ 8:15am (815 E 16th St. Loveland, CO 80538)
OR Trinity Lutheran Church @ 8:45am (301 E Stuart St. Fort Collins, CO 80525)

301 FP JET ECO Tip Water

Christians worldwide will observe the Season of Creation September 1 to October 4, 2026. This year's theme, "Living Water," comes from Ezekiel 47:9 and 12—a biblical vision of hope and ecological restoration. In Ezekiel 47, water flows from God's sanctuary, healing and renewing land, waters, and human responsibility toward creation. The prophet's vision unfolds amid exile and loss. Water flows from the temple-at first a tiny stream that deepens, bringing life to dead areas and restoring ecosystems. To receive this new life, we must step into the waters ourselves—becoming part of God's river, joining creation's healing. Ezekiel's message emerged during Babylonian exile after Jerusalem's destruction. Yet his prophecy doesn't end in judgment. The river in Ezekiel 47 shows renewal: when the Lord dwells with his people, the land restores itself. This restoration extends beyond human salvation—it heals land, water, and ecosystems. The trees' leaves bring "healing," providing both sustenance and flourishing for humanity and creation alike. Ezekiel 47 carries distinct environmental meaning: global restoration of life, ecological healing, the interdependence of humanity and the natural world. It brings hope for both humanity and creation.

When Jesus spoke of **living water**, a physical metaphor is used to describe spiritual life and the Holy Spirit. In the Bible, He explains that while well water satisfies physical thirst only temporarily, the living water He gives quenches the deepest spiritual thirst forever and leads to eternal life.

Let us overcome our fear and step into the water of God's love - to be part of the transformation for the world, to see the literal healing and renewal of creation and the blessing of the Earth.

These are some of the many current challenges of water:

- Unaffordable for poor people
- Water borne disease
- Industrial pollution and chemicals
- Increased water consumption by data centers and energy production for digital activity
- Poor governance by companies and governments
- Droughts, floods, storms impacting food security
- Sea level rise and overexploitation of aquifers causing salination of soil
- Competition over scarce water leading to violence

We are called to urge governments, local authorities, industry, and agriculture to act responsibly and protect water sources. Many of our brothers and sisters still lack regular access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Therefore, we must act so that households, schools, healthcare facilities, and places of worship including churches and parishes have access to clean water and sanitation. Watch for information later in September about our next 301 Spring Creek clean up activity!

The Joint Ecological Team's (JET) next meeting is **Tuesday, September 22 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. Check out the JET table and bulletin board in the NW corner of the Fellowship Hall.

SEPTEMBER 2026

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 Fellowship	**7 Labor Day** **Office Closed** 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	**8** 6:30 pm Executive
13 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	**14** 9:30am Trinity Readers 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6 pm Property 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	**15** 4:30 pm Birdhouse Bldg 5:30 pm Pub Theology 6:30 pm Council
20 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 11:45 am Faith Formation	**21** 12 pm Sermon Discussion 5:30 pm Trust 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	**22** 9:30 am Senior Bus Trip to Sky Ranch
27 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	**28** 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	**29** 5:30 pm FP Eco Justice

Assisting In Worship

September 5/6 / Kathy Lipscomb
September 12/13 / Sadie Wentzel
September 19/20 / Alex Lott
September 26/27 / Delores Wisner

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 5:45 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	**3** 11 am FP Clergy Mtg	**4** 10 am Quilting	**5** 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
9 5:45 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	**10** 9:30 am Bible Study 3 pm Spanish Beg. 4 pm Spanish Intermed 3:30 pm Get Together 5 pm Finance 6:15 pm FP Co-Op Mtg	**11** 10 am Quilting 6:30 pm TGIF	**12** 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
16 5:45 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	**17** 9:30 am Bible Study 3 pm Spanish Beg. 4 pm Spanish Intermed 6 pm Chap 2 Readers 7 pm Plaid for Purpose	**18** 10 am Quilting	**19** 12 pm Sweet Treats 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
23 5:45 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	**24** 9:30 am Bible Study 3 pm Spanish Beg. 4 pm Spanish Intermed 7 pm Immigration	**25** 10 am Quilting	**26** 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship 6 pm Oktoberfest
30 5:45 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir			



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.

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

301 FP Get-Togethers meets the **2nd Thursday** (**September 10**) **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.

Spanish Classes Offered Again We are happy to announce that Learning Spanish classes are here again. This is your opportunity to learn Spanish for the first time or brush up on skills if you already know some Spanish. Classes will be offered **Thursdays from 3-4 pm for Beginners and 4-5 pm** for Advanced. Dates for the six weeks are **September 10, 17, 24 and October 8, 15, 22**. There is a fee of $20 in order to compensate our wonderful teacher, Señor Diego. Please contact Jo Gearhart or Shelley Aust if you are interested or have questions. All are welcome. Todos son bienvenidos!

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 September 11: No one signed up yet! .** An RSVP to the host is appreciated but not necessary to attend.

Trinity Readers will meet on **Monday, September 14 at 9:30 am** in the Fireside Rm to discuss ***The Dictionary of Lost Words*** by Pip Williams. It is an historical fiction and a sequel to *The Bookbinder*. Set in London during women's suffrage and WWI, it is the story of a young girl growing up with her father, a lexicographer, who is working on the Oxford English Dictionary, which took over seventy years to create. As a child, she starts collecting the discarded words. This grows into something more.

Birdhouses Join us on the **(September 15) 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!

Pub Theology V.3 will meet ****Tuesday, September 15 ** 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, September 17 at 6 pm** to discuss *Whistler* by Ann Patchett.

Little Pantry As the official start of fall, the days and nights become nearly equal, school is fully underway, farmers begin gathering their harvests, and fall festivals bring our communities together. This season of change and gathering also reminds us of the importance of caring for our neighbors. At The Little Pantry, we remain committed to our mission of assisting individuals and families in need throughout our community. As we enter the fall season, the need for food assistance continues, and we are grateful for the generosity and compassion of our church family and community. As we celebrate the blessings of the harvest and the beauty of the fall season, we invite you to join us in sharing those blessings with others. Together, we can continue to ensure that our neighbors have access to the food they need. Thank you for your continued generosity and for helping The Little Pantry live out its mission of serving our community with compassion and care.

JOY (Just Older Youth) delights in welcoming all older adults and those young at heart to join for their next luncheon on **Monday, October 12 at 12 pm** for a time to gather and connect. Save the date and watch for weekly emails for further details and instructions for signup. We welcome all others that might enjoy visiting with us. More info and RSVP link coming soon.

Plaid For A Purpose

Outreach Fort Collins has their first fundraising event on **Thursday, September 17 from 7-9 pm** at Breckenridge Brewery. Outreach Fort Collins has been a great resource to 301 Faith Partners especially as we explore SafeLots. Their team includes 2 Trinity members: staff Andy Sprain and Lisa Dunworth and St Paul's Pastor Felicia on their board. This non-profit agency provides on-the-ground support and resources to address issues such as disruptive behavior, mental health concerns, and safety risks. Outreach Fort Collins provides proactive street outreach and rapid response in downtown, midtown, and northern Fort Collins. They collaborate closely with local businesses, law enforcement, service providers, and city departments to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all residents.

Oktoberfest 2026

The 301 Faith Partners at Trinity Lutheran Church are excited to host our Annual Oktoberfest Fundraiser for Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity! Join us **Saturday, September 26, from 6–7:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall, for an evening of brats, beer, sides, Oktoberfest music, and fun. There will even be homemade German chocolate cake! Most importantly, we'll come together to support affordable homeownership in Fort Collins. Hear the latest updates on Habitat's home-building efforts and from families who are beginning the journey toward owning and helping build their own homes. Come enjoy the celebration, learn about Habitat's impact, and help us build hope and homes in our community!

NOW all hands on deck, we need volunteers for food, brains, & brawn, sign up HERE to help.

Council Meeting Council Meeting July 2026

Joey presented the Financial report. The first quarter of Benevolence is $7,336. It was noted that we don't want to dip into the reserve to pay benevolence. The Council is to think about a preventative maintenance contract for HVAC. An annual estimate is to be obtained and Soren stated the he has submitted requests to companies for estimates. In the discussion of this financial report Soren said that $10,000 had been approved by Trust for the parking lot maintenance. Funds from Trinity's parking lot reserve account (and the $10K from Trust) would cover the majority of the proposed parking lot maintenance. Funds received from St. Paul's, Mary Magdala, Trinity's MPF and funds from Trust were combined and ½ of the furnace cost was paid. Funds that remain from the combination of all funds will be put into a reserve account to be used in the future for the parking lot upon the 301 Partners approval.

On the agenda next was discussion of the company, Go Figure, and that approval had been made by the Executive Committee to use this company to handle finances for the church due to Brenda's resignation as Financial Coordinator. This company will also handle the payroll. Hours will increase for Amanda Backsen and possibly Deana Andrist at their approval. It was also voted to increase their salary. There may be a savings overall but this will only be determined after a few months of using Go Figure. The HR committee will need to assess and review Amanda's and Deana's job descriptions. Making this change to Go Figure does change the reimbursement requests to be made only twice monthly. Also, the Ministry Team Reports will now be quarterly. Nyla Anderson has contacted Go Figure and the contract will be forthcoming to be put in place as soon as possible.

Ronda Simmons was unable to attend to present her report on SafeLot but sent slides for Pastor Rick to present. Information to help with the setup of SafeLot came from the City of Loveland. This is a pilot program that will start in Nov. 2026. Background checks for those applying for this program will be done by Catholic Charities There will be 7 cars allowed. Hours will be from 7PM-7AM. An exact location has not been determined but is to be in Trinity's south parking lot, right now in the SE corner. Cameras will be set up with the feed to go to Catholic Charities. Only a few costs have been acquired but as there are grants for which applications will be made to cover costs, the exact final costs to us are unknown. There could be no costs but estimates are to be $7K the first year and $3K the second year. The porta-potty will cost approx. $4150 and will be surrounded by fencing. An application for a zoning variance needs to be made. In order to go forward, the Council and the Congregation need to approve this program. The Exec Council has already approved. Once all have approved this goes to the City Council. The applications for grants and the zoning variance all have deadlines thus the urgency. Trinity participate in this one-year pilot program. This will be brought to the congregation in a Congregational meeting on July 26th. There was an email on July 7th from Eric Jurgenson to the Exec Council that called for a special Congregational meeting on July 26th. The executive committee approved this meeting to be set.

A reminder that by August 3rd all requests for the preliminary budget need to be made. Pastor Rick discussed there be an 'Emphasis' for the Stewardship Campaign for the budget. The emphasis as discussed in Exec Council was brought forward. This is to be an emphasis on the Youth to provide support from the congregation to sponsor programs. One area that was discussed was the ELCA National Youth Gathering that is held every 3 years. Approximate cost for youth to attend this gathering in 2027 is $1800 per person plus the cost for chaperones. This is to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This could also help partially finance Sky Ranch and other programs. If this emphasis for Stewardship would be in the Faith Formation budget, an application to Trust for these funds would not be allowed. Paul made the motion that recommends the upcoming Stewardship campaign celebrate Trinity's investment in youth programs generally, and, specifically, in our members who will be attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in 2027.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Lambert, Secretary

Retreat at Sky Ranch

This fall we are inviting camp friends of all ages to join us for a weekend adventure that YOU get to help create! If you had a weekend up at camp- for you, your family, your church community- how would you choose to spend it? Would you get out on that hike you've been needing, learn about and experience fly fishing, relax with friends and do some morning meadow yoga, or immerse with artisan on site to learn oil painting techniques and create an unique work of art? All of these and more are possible during this fabulous fall weekend retreat at Sky Ranch. Plus all the best of kid camp time, worship, fabulous meals and more! This weekend is YOURS - let it be what you need! For all the details, exact pricing and to register go HERE. If you have any questions please email Angie at Sky Ranch.

Date: September 18-20
PROGRAM PRICE: $75 - per person (includes meals & basic fees- 4 yrs and under -free)
SPECIALIST TRACKS:
Fly Fishing: led by Brian Bergum and Joel Pancoast -$
Artisan: led by Tara McConnell- $40
Yoga: led by Nicole Hanneman -$

Your Gifts In Action ~ LuMin

LuMin is a Reconciling in Christ faith community which values all backgrounds and identities. It is a partnering community which serves with people of other faiths. LuMin is an extended community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other full communion partners.

LuMin is a space to BE! It is a place to study, meet friends, a place to worship, do laundry, dishes, or a place to just BE.

- On Wednesday nights from 6-8:30 pm is **LuMin Wednesday**, an opportunity to hang out in community, study, play games, eat dinner, or do whatever you need to do. After dinner there is worship at 8 pm.
- Thursday from 11 am-12pm is the **Deconstruction Hour** when (Interim) Pastor Victoria from the Methodist church hosts a time to talk and deconstruct a variety of topics of interest to students. They meet at Sweet Sinsations in the Lory Student Center (LSC).
- On Tuesdays from 5-6 pm in the LSC Pride Center is **Queer Bible Study**. If you are interested in getting involved with LuMin you can make supper for their Wednesday night activity as part of a Trinity Small Group. Check out LuMin's website for their history.

When you give to Trinity, you give to Lutheran Campus Ministry LuMin

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