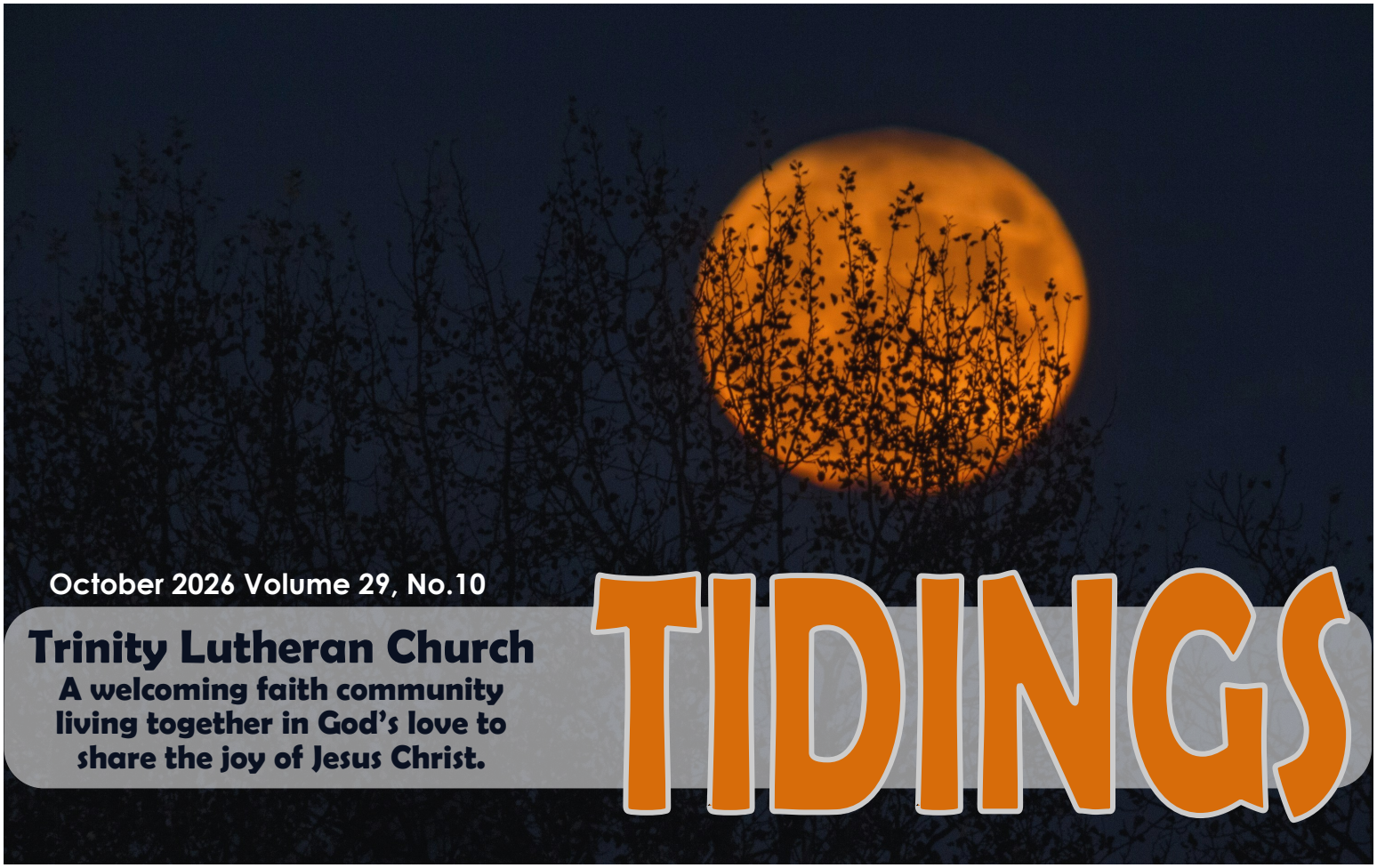


October 2026 Volume 29, No.10

Trinity Lutheran Church

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

TIDINGS

301 Faith Partner Shared Sunday

On **Sunday, October 18 at 10:30 am** we will have a shared service - with all four weekend services worshiping 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 17, making an intentional effort to bring all three communities together.

9 am Shared Adult Forum: will be led by Nizhoni Valdez, Executive Director of the First Peoples Community Center in Fort Collins. She will share information about the vision, mission and activities involving this non-profit organization founded in 2026.

10:30 am Shared Worship

11:30 am Shared Meal It's fall y'all so you know what that means! Time to bust out some of those delicious Chili recipes! Sign up to bring one to the shared Sunday **HERE.**

Preschool Sale!

As we continue to re-home the supplies and materials from the Preschool, all 301 Members are invited to a sale on **Sundays, October 25 and November 1 from 11:30 am-12:30 pm**. Up until this point, internal ministries (like our faith formation committee, Sunday School, small groups, etc) have had the chance to claim items to use for their ministry. Now it's your turn to claim some items for your home! Come see what treasures you can find for your home, your children, your grandchildren, or any other children you know!

Adult Forum

October 4: We conclude our discussion about the Middle East conflict by viewing “Israel Palestine Apartheid Explainer” produced by Amnesty International, and an interview with Pastor Munther Isaac from Apartheid-Free.org.

October 11: We will review and discuss the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement statement that Trinity has been working on.

October 18: We will continue to discuss the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement statement with our 301Faith Partners in this shared Adult Forum

October 25: We will have discussion on ballot initiatives & constitutional amendments on this year’s ballots.

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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pastorrick@trinitylutheranfc.org

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

Nursery Coordinator
Tiffany Klijewski
tiffany@trinitylutheranfc.org

Pastor's Ponderings Be invested – Stewardship 2027

This year we have a new opportunity with stewardship. We are emphasizing our Youth Program, instead of property insurance, staff salaries, debt reduction or other necessary but unexciting expenses. While those expenses are still part of our Ministry Funds Plan, we get to invest in something new and life-giving.

In seminary, I learned that most churches don't have money in their youth accounts and only rely on youth fundraising to fund mission trips and ministry. While this is the normal experience, the healthiest churches have dedicated lines in the budget to fund youth ministry.

I am proud of this church and our council for seeing this need and making the youth program our focus this year. Instead of the annoying fundraisers, we get to support youth up front at $1000 per youth. This is a huge investment, but one that you have been asking for. For years I have heard, 'Where are our youth?' They are here – in youth group, and worship. Some of them work, some of them do sports, but a lot of them are interested in this mission trip!

Whether we have 6 youth or 12 that attend the national youth f, I am proud of these young people for exploring faith and giving up 10 days of their summer for a church mission trip. I am proud of Pastor Kaari for using her time and gifts to strengthen our youth ministry.

Our youth are important to this congregation and your stewardship to Trinity gets to tell that story. Your giving helps our youth go to the National Youth Gathering in 2027.

Our stewardship over the last several years has told us who we are as Trinity Lutheran in Fort Collins CO. We are a church with two full-time pastors, a growing benevolence, and a robust youth program. And I am excited to see what God is doing and promises to do now and in the future. Thank you for being part of this ministry.

If you have already filled out pledge card, that is ok. If you have yet to fill your pledge card, we will still collect them. Thank you for your generosity now and into 2027.

Pastor Rick

Help Welcome & Connect!

We're looking for a few more volunteers to join our Welcome Table and Fellowship Host teams! Both groups could use at least two more people in the rotation. Volunteering means serving about once a quarter, with flexibility to choose dates that work for you. Whether you enjoy greeting people as they arrive or helping create a welcoming space after worship, we'd love to have you join us! Sign up today (email Amanda) and help make Sunday mornings a little more welcoming for everyone.

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.

301 FP JET ECO Tip ~ Halloween Decorations

Keep Halloween Decorations Safe for Animals: Halloween decoration can pose hazards to animals. Fake stretchy net-like webs can entangle and harm animals trying to get out. Animals can be burned by lit candles. Small plastic items, such as fake eyes or small shiny objects, can cause choking or digestive upset or poisoning if swallowed. The list of affected animals could include birds, squirrels, skunks, hares, deer, bats, and even insects. So have fun with your animal-safe Halloween decorations!!

The Joint Ecological Team's (JET) next meeting is **Tuesday, October 27 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.

Your Gifts In Action ~ Neighbor to Neighbor

Neighbor to Neighbor is a multi-program agency that we support with our benevolence dollars. It makes me smile to see our 1988 cookbook list Neighbor to Neighbor as one of its small groups! It has its roots at Trinity with Lou Stitzel in 1970. Helping neighbors stay in their homes. It now serves many people in our community. 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 over 1000 achieve preserve and sustain their own home.

Preventing 458 evictions, 467 forecloses, 297 utility shut offs. **Helped** 1,028 interested homebuyers with education and financial coaching to buy a home.

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 a unexpected expense such as a medical bill that causes expenses to ballon out of control and ends in an eviction. This program works with the landlord to pay the rent. Doing so allows the renters to pay the unexpected bill without worry of eviction.

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



Birthdays



Douglas Prebel	10/2	Emma Roetman	10/11	Anne Jackson	10/28
James Gearhart	10/4	Deana Andrist	10/13	Beth Henderson	10/29
Donna Palmer	10/4	Judy Titus	10/23	Cherlyn Gorsky	10/30
Luann Schilling	10/6	Gloria Weiderspon	10/23	Ethan Aelabouni	10/31
Susan Almeida	10/10	Erin Sprain	10/24		



Anniversaries



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

OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
4 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	**5** 9:30am Trinity Readers 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	**6** 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 6:15 pm 301 FP SEJ
11 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	**12** 12 pm JOY Luncheon 12 pm Sermon Discussion 5:30 pm Trust 6 pm Property 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	**13** 1:30 pm Reel Reflections 6:30 pm Executive
18 Shared Sunday 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Shared Worship 11:30 am Shared Fellowship 11:30 am Faith Formation	**19** 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	**20** 4:30 pm Birdhouse Bldg 5:30 pm Pub Theology 6:30 pm Council
25 Quilting Bee 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Preschool Sale	**26** 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	**27** 5:30 pm FP Eco Justice

Assisting In Worship

October 3/4 / Tessa Espinosa
October 10/11 Vicki Volbrecht / Joey Prows
October 17/18 Joint Service
October 24/25 Vicki Volbrecht / Walter Nieuwlandt
Oct 31/Nov 1 Sherry Albertson Clark /

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:30 am Bible Study	**2** 10 am Quilting	**3** 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
7 9 am FP Clergy Mtg 5:45 pm Bells 6:45 pm Choir	**8** 9:30 am Bible Study 3 pm Spanish Beg. 3:30 pm FP Get Together 4 pm Spanish Intermed 5 pm Finance 6:15 pm FP Co-Op Mtg	**9** 10 am Quilting	**10** 10 am Sharing Losses 12 pm Sweet Treats 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
14 5:45 pm Bells 6:45 pm Choir	**15** 9:30 am Bible Study 3 pm Spanish Beg. 4 pm Spanish Intermed 6:30 pm Hebrew Bible Study	**16** 10 am Quilting 6:30 pm TGIF	**17** 1 pm Prayer Cards
21 5:45 pm Bells 6:45 pm Choir	**22** 9:30 am Bible Study 3 pm Spanish Beg. 4 pm Spanish Intermed 6 pm Chap 2 Readers 7 pm Immigration	**23** 10 am Quilting	**24** 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
28 5:45 pm Bells 6:45 pm Choir	**29** 9:30 am Bible Study	**30** 10 am Quilting	**31** 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship

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

Small Groups

Sermon Discussion enjoy a discussion of the weekend sermon to share where we see God present in our lives. Join us most **Mondays at 12 pm** 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 meets **Thursdays from 9:30-11 am** in Room 2. Our topic of study is Women in the Bible, starting with the Old Testament. All our welcome--just bring yourself and a bible.

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, October 5 at 9:30 am** in the Fireside Rm to discuss the novel ***Penitence*** by Kristen Koval. It is a suspenseful novel, written by a Colorado lawyer. It is a story of family secrets, illness, tragedy, and death. The story explores personal and family relationships and how complex they can be. When a thirteen-year-old shoots her fourteen-year-old brother, the lawyer wrestles with forgiveness and acceptance of "the worst we have ever done."

Men's Breakfast all men are welcome to join at the Breakfast Club (Ft. Collins) for discussion and fellowship on the **1st Tuesday (October 6) at 7:30 am**.

301 FP Get-Togethers meets the **2nd Thursday** (**October 8**) **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. **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 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 October 16: Rebecca Roland at 6:30 pm.** An RSVP to the host is appreciated but not necessary to attend.

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 for fellowship over shared meal and education. Sharon Johnson will present on how the housing crisis affects CSU students. She will also explain what LuMin is doing to help first generation students get and sustain safe places to live so they can graduate on time with reasonable debt. Come and enjoy a meal of BBQ meats and salads. Register by emailing donnadauner@gmail.com by Friday, October 9. Lunch fee is $15. Come a little early to pay by check or cash at the luncheon.

Reel Reflections (**Tuesday, October 13 at 1:30 pm**) Will view movies together and then discuss them immediately following. We will be exploring how these products of our culture challenge or affirm our faith. No prep is necessary. Our movie selections are limited to those in the public domain or with the PRR (Public Performance Rights) designation, including popular releases, classics, documentaries, and animated films. End time no later than 5 pm, usually earlier.

Small Groups cont ...

Hebrew Bible Study Old Testament meets the **3rd Thursday (October 15) at 6:30 pm in Room 2**. Ever read something from the Old Testament and wondered what in the world is going on that someone was writing this? Ever wondered about the history and context of the Old Testament? Come and participate in learning the history and context of the Hebrew Bible while diving into scripture passages!

Prayer Cards This group meets to make homemade greeting cards **Saturday, October 17**. No crafting skills needed, just a willing heart to serve others. Open Invitation to come when you are able BUT an RSVP to Erik Elliott is needed for supplies.

Birdhouses Join us **Tuesday, October 20 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 meets the **3rd Tuesday** (**October 20**) **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.

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, October 22 at 6 pm** to discuss *The Things We Never Say* by Elizabeth Strout by Ann Patchett.

Little Pantry As Autumn settles in…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.

Newcomer Winter Gear/Hygiene Kit Drive

ISAAC's Newcomer Winter Gear and Hygiene Kit Drive is **August 31-September 30**. Each year ISAAC works with the Poudre School District's Newcomer office to provide newcomer middle and high school students with winter gear and hygiene kits. If you purchase coats, choose dark or neutral colors and buy youth sizes (12, 14, 16) and adult sizes (S, M, L) for women or men. We also need volunteers to help us sort and prepare the items for distribution on October 5, 6 and 7. The drop off locations are: First Presbyterian, Trinity Lutheran Church, and Fort Collins Friends Meeting. Questions? Contact Judy Matthews at soc-ecojustice@stpauls-fc.org Last day to donate at TRINITY is Sunday, October 4.

Hygiene Kit Items List click HERE | Hygiene Kit Amazon Gift Registry click HERE

Volunteer to sign up to sort donations HERE

Council Meeting Council Meeting August 2026

Joey presented the Financial Report. He also presented a graph which was appreciated. We are currently $11K in the black. We have currently paid the first quarter benevolence. Paul brought up the idea that next year our benevolence to Rocky Mountain Synod be made quarterly regardless of the current state of the finances.

Pastor Kaari presented the next topic: Land Acknowledge Agreement. This is a statement of acknowledgement of the indigenous inhabitants (1st natives) of the land on which Trinity resides. As Cheryl heads the Social and Eco Justice Ministry, she explained more regarding what this agreement is and why it is felt to be necessary to bring forth to the congregation. There will be a proposal put together to be presented to the congregation. Prior to this proposal there will be educational presentations for the congregations regarding this Agreement on Oct 11 at Trinity Adult Forum and also on October 18 at a shared Adult Forum with all congregations.

Some of the topics presented as part of this agreement are: Justice for the Indigenous brothers. The ELCA does have a website and the email address will be made available. This proposal, once formed, will be presented to the congregation at the Congregation meeting in November.

Eric and Pastor Rick presented updates on SafeLot. There have been emails of grievances (2 at this time) sent to the Fort Collins City Council. A City Council member, Amy Hoeven, has responded that she wishes to arrange a meeting with those representatives for SafeLot. Pastor Rick stated he would respond to Ms. Hoeven. It was further stated that there will be a working meeting at City Council on Sept.8th to discuss SafeLot. It has been stated that the City of Fort Collins is on the positive side of SafeLot. Hannah Jurgenson, working on her Eagle Scout rank, has been involved in the separation of the seven sites in the parking lot. This continues to be on track for starting Nov. 1.

Soren discussed the rental contract that would be necessary for porta pottys. There needs to be more discussion to get a feel as to the other things needed. This will be done by the SafeLot committee.

Next for discussion was the Family Break Room and the lack of good sound and/or good quality in the sound system. A quick analysis shows a remedy for this could cost $100-$130. Soren will talk with Chad and explore further how to remedy this issue.

It was reported that the 301 Coop has given consent to use the excess of funds received for the new furnace to be applied to the parking lot sealant project. This could be approx. $4,000. This project needs to be put on the calendar, considering the use of the 301 Partners' congregations, Mountain Kids and also with the consideration that SafeLot is predicted to begin in Nov. It was recommended that $3100 is to be taken from the reserve funds, partially from Building Fund. Soren made the motion that the remainder of the quote for the parking lot project of approx. $3,100 be taken from the Building Fund. Motion passed.

The recently defunct preschool program was on Soren's agenda. The preschool room needs to 'not look lik'e a preschool as there will soon be a walk-through for insurance purposes. A majority of the furniture / items in the room could be moved to the storage room or made to look like another storage room. The preschool board gave control of the items previously belonging to the preschool to the Council. There was discussion as to what could be done with the items. No final decision was made. The Council will take a walk through the preschool room and storage at the end of this meeting to see the amount and type of preschool items.

Pastor Felicia will be given the recently vacated finance office to use by the 15 of September. This is to allow for privacy for her pastoral duties. This was brought to the Exec Board for discussion and positively approved.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara, Council Secretary

Election Information & Resources

As we approach the election, we are providing links to nonpartisan resources where you can find information about voter registration, ballots, voting options, important dates, and local election information. We encourage everyone to use these resources to become informed and participate in the election.

Vote.org – A nonpartisan nonprofit organization offering voter registration and election information resources.

Larimer County Elections – Official information from the Larimer County Clerk & Recorder, including voter registration, ballots, voting locations, election dates, and ballot tracking.



The heart, hands & feet of God

Thank someone who has lived out their faith by sharing their gifts and made a difference in the church OR community, please email Amanda, amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org.



Thank you to **Soren Nicholson**, our property chair at TLC, who went above and beyond to refresh the confirmation room. Room 8 has been repainted, decluttered, and has a new whiteboard! We appreciate Soren's time as we start the new confirmation year. ~ Everyone

Thank you so much for your generous gift. Just this year you have provided 5,246 meals for those in need in our community. The impact you have made in the lives of so many folks needing a hand is astounding. ~ Many thanks, Food Bank for Larimer County

Friends, We are writing to thank you all for your recent generosity. We continue to be humbled by your support. Best wishes ~ Trees, Water People

Trinity, thank you so much for the use of your meeting space on Friday. We appreciate your support. ~ The Happy Destiny Group AA

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