

# Trinity Steeple Notes

## October 2021 News and Notes

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### Reformation Sunday on October 31



If you think October 31 is only for Halloween, you're missing a big part of our church's history. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses as a challenge to certain church doctrines and practices of his day, beginning what is now known as the Reformation. Among many other things, Luther held up the centrality of grace; affirmed the vocations of all God's people; encouraged the translation and reading of Scripture in the common vernacular; and wrote great hymns, profound treatises, and the Small Catechism. Celebrate the Reformation by worshiping at Trinity on Halloween morning. Our Lutheran heritage is worth more than buckets of treats!

### God's Work. Our Hands.

Thank you to everyone who gave and served on God's Work Our Hands Sunday. People of all ages assembled 20 hygiene kits and 16 full clothing bags for Safe Berks staff to give to clients recovering from violence. We also gave towels and extra items.



### Affirmation of Baptism

On October 3, several young members from Trinity will affirm their baptisms through the rite of confirmation. We pray that their gifts will enhance the ministries we share, that their ideas will inspire us, and that their faith will continue to sustain them, especially in these challenging days.

# Parish News

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## CROP Walk October 10 at 1:00 Gring's Mill

(or walk at your own favorite place or time)

When Jesus' disciples came to him with concerns about hungry people, his response was simple: "You give them something to eat." Right away, they came up with excuses, as we often do,

but as they opened their hearts and shared what they had, God fed a multitude with bread, fish, and grace.



Trinity has set an ambitious goal of raising \$2500 for the Reading Berks CROP Walk this year. If you can walk either in-person or virtually, we'd love you to join us! If you can contribute financially, God will multiply your gift to Christ's glory. If you can encourage your friends and family to make donations, we can increase our impact.

Trinity has set a lofty goal because the need is great, but our hearts and the heart of God are far greater. Let's do our part to "give them something to eat." You may sign up and donate online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/trinity-lutheran-reading> or by following this QR code; you may also sign up or contribute offline by talking to Pastor Alan.



### Thank you, Marian!

10th and Penn Partnership. Courtyard Café. Dancing cows for ELCA World Hunger. So many mission and service projects and initiatives. After many years of serving as the chairperson of Mission and Service (as well as many years of participation)

Marian Jameson is stepping down from her role. We thank you,

Marian, for your creativity and stick-to-itiveness, helping us live out our Christian calling to serve. Thank you for your years of formal dedicated service and for your heart for those whom it is easy to forget.

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## Flower and Broadcast Sponsorships

During the peak of Covid, when in-person worship was suspended, we asked Flower sponsors to consider shifting their gift to Broadcast sponsorships, supporting a ministry that was vitally important at a time when flowers were not needed. Over the past months, we have continued to offer the option to support broadcasts in lieu of flowers.



Beginning in October, we are excited to return to fresh flowers at the altar each Sunday. The last three Sundays in October are currently available, as are others throughout the year. We hope that Trinity members will also recognize the continued importance of our media ministry, as many members are still unable to attend live worship and rely on our broadcasts and online presence.

Broadcast and Flower Sponsorships are \$80 per week. To encourage support of both ministries, we are discounting dual sponsorships (flowers and broadcast in the same week) to \$150. (Flower donors may also designate the distribution of flowers after the service.)

Please sign up by contacting the church office, since physical signup sheets are on pandemic-hold. Thank you for your faithful support and flexibility in providing for the worship needs of our congregation. You are a blessing.

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## **Vestry Update** (The following is a brief summary; not official minutes.)

Trinity's Vestry met September 13. There was a constructive discussion of safety measures and consideration of Task Force recommendations. It was determined to allow only soloists or duets for special music on Sundays; this decision will be reviewed in October.

Noting the importance of worship and community for our Common Ground ministry, we have invited Common Ground to return to the Auditorium beginning October 3 for fifteen minute fully masked worship; take-out meals will be distributed following worship. Dave Troche will take care to ensure the area is disinfected each Monday morning.



The Property Committee reported an ongoing issue with loose door latches and false alarms which we are working to address. We are planning to replace the old water fountain, which doesn't work well, with a bottle filler in order to promote safety and hygiene; members will be encouraged to bring their own reusable bottles from home. ChAOS will resume with in-person, masked and distanced learning on September 25. Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) will be Sunday, October 3.



The Treasurer's Report through August continues to reflect faithful member giving and careful spending, resulting in a \$51,158 positive variance from budget. As deferred property projects are addressed, this surplus will likely be reduced.

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## All Saints Sunday is November 7

We will light candles, read names, and toll a bell for Trinity members who have died since last All Saints Sunday, and there will be a photo memorial around the baptismal font. We also invite you to submit the names of other loved ones who have died in the past year; their names will also be included in our prayer of remembrance. Please send names to [rgambone@trinityreading.org](mailto:rgambone@trinityreading.org) no later than October 29.



## We Love... to be held at Trinity on Saturday November 6 from 9-3 (and virtually)\*

The NEPA Synod is once again hosting a We Love... event. Our mission is to help build safer and more inclusive congregations for LGBTQIA+ youth and families. It's a day of worship, learning, and support with keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Noah Hepler (featured on Queer Eye Season 5 episode 1 and friend of Deaconess Deborah!) A registration link will be coming soon.



If you are interested in helping that day (Trinity is known for fabulous hospitality) please contact Deaconess Deborah.

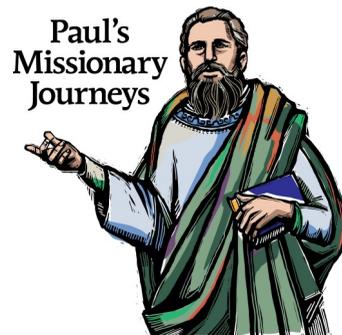
\*Arrangements may be changed due to Covid levels. We will host the entire event on line if we cannot be together in person.

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## Deaconess Deborah “In Search of Paul”

In 2020 BC (Before Covid) Vestry and the people of Trinity had given me sabbatical time, that did not happen. Part of the plan was to travel with a group “In Search of Paul” visiting biblical sites in Turkey and Greece while delving into the letters of the apostle Paul to understand the context of Roman Empire. This trip was postponed twice and has been rescheduled for this October. I am so excited that I will be able to take part of this study group. Using both continuing education and vacation time, I will fly from Newark Airport on Tuesday, October 5 and return October 26.



You can learn more about the journey by visiting: <https://waytolead.org/in-search-of-paul-2022/> (while it describes a trip in 2022, it is the same trip I am taking in 2021.)

I also will be posting updates about my journey on Trinity’s Facebook page, so you can travel along with me. I will have limited email access during my time away and will be in touch with Trinity’s staff for any important communications. Please pray for me and this group (of 30!) as we travel internationally. We will be taking all appropriate precautions to stay healthy and safe.

## October Scriptures

October 3: Genesis 2:18-24, Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; and Mark 10:2-16

October 10: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; and Mark 10:17-31

October 17: Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; and Mark 10:35-45

October 24: Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126; Hebrews 7:23-28; and Mark 10:46-52

October 31: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; and John 8:31-36

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## What's up with Faith Formation?

Good question. We are constantly discerning what is best for our Trinity Family. We know it will look different from the past and we pray for God's guidance as we continue to discern next best steps.



Many Trinity families are anxious to begin regular Sunday School. It is our hope that we can offer classes soon for those who feel comfortable doing so. A meeting with parents will be held after worship October 3 to discuss our path forward. In the meantime, we will be sending home faith kits for families with kids and will have learning/serving/fellowship events each month. Children are always welcome in worship!

ChAOS (Catechism And Other Stuff) will be meeting at Trinity on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Trinity. This is a shared ministry with other congregations of the Reading Lutheran Parish. This program will be for youth in grades 7 and up. We will be focusing on the Hebrew Scriptures this fall.

We are also discerning how best to resume Adult Forums and Faith Formation. With our 10:00 worship time all year round, we need to determine how to best continue. (Before worship? After worship? During the week? Daytime? Evening? In person? Zoom?) If you are interested in Adult Education/Faith Formation, please contact Deaconess Deborah with your ideas, hopes, dreams. We know it will look different from the past and we pray for God's guidance as we continue to plan.

**Serve Boldly Mission Trip 2022:** On July 24-30, 2022 Trinity youth grades 7-12 will join other youth of Berks County for a week of service in Washington D.C. Information was sent to all the youth. Be on the lookout for updates and ways you can support this ministry! Speak to Deaconess Deborah with any questions or concerns.

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## To the Members and Staff of Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading, PA

My Dear Friends,

I felt I had to write on behalf of myself and my wife, Jeri, after the fundraiser that was held by our congregation as a response to the fire at our home on this past Memorial Day. It is difficult to express our heartfelt gratitude for your caring and generosity. It is nothing like we have ever experienced in our lives. Your response and your willingness to help is overwhelming!



Early in the evening of this past Memorial Day my wife, Jeri, and I were alerted by our neighbors from our side door that our garage was on fire. After realizing the seriousness of the situation, we exited our house and took a vantage point overlooking our home from a nearby hill. From there we watched as our possessions and our keepsakes, and our home perished in the flames. We stood and watched helplessly for over forty minutes before the first fire truck arrived. It seemed like an eternity. It took another twenty minutes for lines to be run from the lake so that the firefighters had a water source. By that time our entire home was engulfed in flames and the fire had jumped to our neighbor's home. Because of the intense heat our neighbor's propane tanks were set on fire. The tanks discharged shooting flames forty feet straight up into the air. It was a nightmare!

As the fire consumed our retirement home, feelings of hopelessness consumed our personal thoughts and feelings. From the time of the fire over the next few days our lives became filled with darkness.

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Through your concern, kindness, generosity, and prayers the darkness gave way to light. In the light we could begin to see our way to what was next. We knew we would be OK!

Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts,

Russ and Jeri Diesinger

John 8:12 - *Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."*

## Trinity Outdoor Events

**October 10: Crop Walk**—See page 2. Those who register will be contacted about a picnic lunch.

(Pastor Alan... do you want to meet for a picnic at Grings Mille prior to the walk? What time do you wish to start?)

**November 7—Duncan's Corn Maze** We will meet at the corn maze (30 Quarry Road, Robeson PA 19551) at 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$10.00 per person (under 5 is free). Sign up by contacting Deaconess Deborah at [dgraf@trinityreading.org](mailto:dgraf@trinityreading.org) or (610) 374-4861.



**November 28 – Advent Crafts on the Portico (after worship).** On the first Sunday in Advent, we will take some time preparing with easy crafts and hot chocolate. You also can take time to peruse the Christmas Craft Fair in the Hintz Room.

**December 5 – Christmas Caroling in the Garden (after worship).** Gather with friends to sing some Christmas carols and spread some joy in our garden. (Dress warmly!)

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## Trinity In-house Craft Show Plus Baked Goods

Sundays from November 28—December 26; cash and carry

In the Hintz Room from 9:00—10:00 and 11:00 am—noon

Trinity has tons of talented members and our in-house craft show has much to offer. Here are some of the wonderful items you can purchase:

Woolen knitted or crocheted mittens, hats and scarves, slipper socks, shawls, felted mini totes, pottery, woodworked items, dishrags & scrubby squares, jelly & jam, Christmas wreaths and decoration baskets; hooked rugs & pillows, hydrangea wreaths, gorgeous sea shell frames; and cross stitched creations & Christmas ornaments.

**Plus: Each week we will have baked goods** made by Trinity members. Treats will include Peter Graf's made-from-scratch sour dough bread and Ron "Cookie Man" Eddinger's best—ever chocolate chip cookies, to list just a few.

The show will be a "cash (or checks) and carry" event and someone will always be there to help you. Please keep this information and take time to support Trinity and its members for all of your holiday hand-made gifts this season. For more information, call Annie Harlin at (610) 926-5488.



*Christmas Cards*

## Attention Trinity Kids & Young Adults

We Welcome Your Christmas Card Designs

by October 15

If you can believe it, now is the time to prepare for Christmas. Please share your card designs with Parish

Secretary Rachel Gambone. You may put a paper copy in her staff mailbox or scan and email her the image. For more information, contact Annie Harlin at (610) 926-5488.

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## **Making a Difference Together**

Wondering how to respond to national and global crises? We continue to pray together and encourage your support for these reputable organizations who stay for the long haul.

**To help our Afghan Allies:** <https://www.lirs.org/>

“Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) is the largest faith-based nonprofit dedicated to serving vulnerable immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the U.S. Simply put, we resettle refugees, reunite children and parents, and rekindle the American Dream.”



**To provide relief and support to national and global disasters.**

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

“Lutheran Disaster Response brings God’s hope, healing, and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.”

You can give directly or through Trinity (through October 31). If you choose to donate through Trinity clearly earmark your check for the project you wish to support.

## Broadcast Schedule

All of our programs listed below can be watched on Comcast Channel 190 (in the Reading Hospital, Channel 80) or online at any time at [www.trinityreading.org](http://www.trinityreading.org) or on our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch](http://www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch). Trinity's Sunday morning worship is also live streamed via Facebook and YouTube. You may log on to either platform on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM and worship at the same time as the in-person congregation.



These new programs premiere Sunday, October 3.

### Sundays

6:00 PM - First Friday:

Antiochian Orthodox Christianity

6:30 PM - Music from Trinity:

Jocelyn Crosby, flute and

Doug Wimer, piano

7:00 PM: Trinity Worship Service

### Wednesdays

4:00 PM: Trinity Worship

5:00 PM: Music from Trinity:

Jocelyn Crosby, flute

and Doug Wimer, piano

5:30 PM: First Friday:

Antiochian Orthodox Christianity



*Affirmation of Welcome: Trinity Lutheran Church is recognized by Reconciling Works as a "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation which welcomes all LGBTQ persons into all facets of congregational life.*

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(610) 374-4861 [WWW.TRINITYREADING.ORG](http://WWW.TRINITYREADING.ORG)

*A congregation of Reading Lutheran Parish and West Berks Mission District*