

TRINITY MONTHLY

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOD'S TRUTH THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE



A Season of Renewal

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

October is the month of reformation. The weather is re-forming, preparing to take its turn into winter. The trees and fields join in as well shaping the familiar scenes we know from summer into a brilliant burst of color as all of nature is re-formed. As Lutherans, each October we celebrate reformation day to commemorate Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg. We think of this as the moment that

sparked the reformation, where the church was re-formed.

Reformation is not just about change per-se. It is about a very specific kind of change: renewal. Summer always changes to autumn and autumn to winter, the seasons bring us back to where we were before, but still carrying us forward in time. This cycle of renewal is how life is perpetuated, carried forward, and passed on, re-forming our world. Our spiritual lives are meant to work like this as well. The church has seasons *(continued)*

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within each year which guide us through a cycle of being renewed by the work of God's Holy Spirit. Without the change and renewal, life, both physical and spiritual, would stagnate and end. Thank God for reformation.

If Reformation is about being reshaped and renewed, where should the church look for inspiration? Martin Luther didn't want to do away with the things he had, he wanted to see them renewed. For Luther, the answer was to look back to a time when things were closest to what they should be today. I thank God for so many good things to look back upon, and to look forward to seeing renewal.

There were times before the brokenness and decline of the church throughout America knows today; before church splits, a time before society and politics influenced the church's views of God more than the Holy Bible. Perhaps this isn't such a bad place to start a new reformation, a renewal that brings the best things of the past back to life to be lived again in the future. Perhaps now is the time to start. It is the season of reformation after all. When you see me this month I would love to hear about the times you feel are worth looking back upon, and that you'd hope to see again in the future. God can do it.

In Christ's Freedom,



Rev. K. McClain
Pastor Kevin McClain
 Lead Pastor

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

 508 Center Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805

 Phone: (419) 289-2126

 Fax: 419-289-1381

 trinityashland.org

Of course, you are always welcome to stop by Trinity's office:

Monday - Thursday
9am-5pm

Reaching Out & Signing Up for Any of This Month's Events

To connect, sign up, or simply get more information about any of Trinity's October events, we invite you to reach out! To do so, you can:

- **CALL:** Call the church office at (419) 289-2126
- **SCAN:** For events with QR code sign-ups, just scan the code with your phone camera and follow the link
- **VISIT:** Visit the "Get Involved" section of our website at TrinityAshland.org

WELCOME NEW STAFF



STAFF WELCOME: MOLLY LARUE

Director of Beacon After School Program

Molly LaRue, a lifelong resident of Ashland, has dedicated 26 years to shaping young minds as an educator. A 1994 graduate of Ashland High School, she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Ashland University in 1998 and her Master's in Literacy Instruction in 2003. Molly has taught both Kindergarten and 2nd grade at several schools, and she currently teaches 2nd grade at Reagan Elementary. She has also been actively involved in the Summer Reading Camp at Trinity for many years.

Molly is the proud mom of three boys—Nolen (17), Nevin (15), and Mylan (12)—and enjoys cheering them on in soccer, basketball, football, baseball, and wrestling. While being a devoted Cleveland Browns and Ohio State Buckeyes fan, she also loves summertime and the beach. Molly is excited to be part of the Beacon program, helping students grow in their learning through God's Word while ensuring they feel loved and valued at Trinity.



STAFF WELCOME: RYANE BRIGGS

Director of Christian Development and Education

Trinity is excited to introduce Ryane Briggs as the new Christian Education Curriculum Director. Currently in her 27th year of teaching American and World History at Ashland High School, Ryane will transition to full-time ministry at Trinity after the 2024/25 school year. Until then, she will continue teaching while leading youth in Sunday School and participating in monthly church events.

Having grown up at Trinity, Ryane and her husband Kevin have raised their own children in the church. She values the rich history of Trinity's youth program and is passionate about guiding children in living God-centered lives and sharing God's love with the community. Ryane looks forward to building relationships, deepening biblical knowledge, and inspiring youth to spread God's love. She asks for your prayers and welcomes anyone interested in volunteering with the youth ministry.

While Ryane is preparing for her expanded role, our current Christian Development and Education program will continue to be led by Michelle Vanderzyden, who welcomes any input or questions about ongoing initiatives. We ask for your prayers as this transition takes place and are excited to see what the Lord has in store!

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

TRINITY FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 20th | 4-7pm | Trinity Parking Lot

Experience the magic of fall at Trinity Lutheran Church's Fall Festival on Sunday, October 20th, from 4-7pm in our church parking lot. Indulge in a variety of food trucks, bounce houses, photo opportunities, lawn games, and face painting. With over 300 attendees last year, this year's festival promises even more community joy and connection. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to celebrate the season with Trinity, your friends, and more!



SENIOR CELEBRATION

Tuesday, October 29th | Noon | Jack's Place

Save the date for this special celebratory event at the end of October! All Trinity members who are over 70 are welcome to join the fun. Invitations will be sent out. Contact the church office for more information.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PACKING PARTY

Sunday, November 3rd | 3-5pm | Jack's Place

Join us for a special Operation Christmas Child Packing Party on Sunday, November 3rd, in Jack's Place! This is a meaningful way to kick off the holiday season by coming together as a church family to serve and spread the light and love of Christ to children in need around the world. By packing shoeboxes, you'll make a lasting impact on the lives of young boys and girls, bringing joy, hope, and the message of Jesus to children who may have never experienced it before. Bring your family, friends, or small group to help make a difference. A meal will be served after the packing party. We are still in need of larger gifts for boys, such as soccer balls and larger toy cars or trucks. Let's unite to change lives and share Christ's love this holiday season!

If you prefer to pack your own shoebox, the boxes will be available for you to take home and pack. A display will be outside Jack's Place and in the Gathering Space with shoeboxes and packing instructions. Please return your box to the table by October 27th. Thank you for your donations and participation. Scan the QR code to sign up, or contact the office for more!

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH



CELEBRATING OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



Let's shower our cherished members 85 and over with lots of love and well-wishes as they celebrate their birthdays this month!

Douglas Mullenix | October 1st

Harold Emmons | October 3rd

Leann Frank | October 14th

Betty Ann Winklmann | October 17th

Donald Dilgard | October 21st

Alice Cook | October 23rd

Norman Peterson | October 27th

Al Toski | October 30th

Janice Fridline | October 30th

WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER

What's On the Menu

**Please note all meals are subject to change*

Goulash

Corn Bread, Apples,
& Yellow Cake with Chocolate Frosting

OCT
2

Salisbury Steak

Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables,
& Peach Cobbler

OCT
9

Beef & Noodles

Green Beans, Roll &
Chocolate Cake with Sprinkles

OCT
16

Chili & Hot Dog

Fresh Fruit
& Cherry Cheesecake

OCT
23

Sloppy Joe

Tater Tots, Cole Slaw,
& Chocolate Pudding

OCT
30

RSVP encouraged by Tuesday. Call ahead for carry-out.

Please call: Peggy: (419) 210-5226 | Robin: (419) 632-5097

5:15-6pm in Jack's Place

Suggested \$5 donation

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



GIRLS NIGHT OUT: BUNCO & PIZZA



Monday, October 7th | 5:30-7:30pm | Jack's Place

Ladies, get ready for the return of our Girl's Night Out activities! Kick off the year with a fun evening of Bunco, pizza, and dessert in Jack's Place. The cost is just \$5 per person. In addition, we'll be supporting ACCA by collecting note cards and \$5 gift cards. Don't forget to wear pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness! We can't wait to see you for a night of laughter, friendly competition, and fun! Scan the QR code to sign up, or contact the office for more!

MEN'S MINISTRY



FATHER/SON CAMPING TRIP



October 11th - 13th | 6pm Friday - Sunday Lunch
Cooke Family Conservation Park

Fathers and sons, join us for a memorable weekend retreat at the Cooke Family Wildlife Conservation Park! The campout begins Friday night with a campfire and continues through Sunday afternoon, concluding with a special worship service in the woods led by Pastor Kevin. Enjoy outdoor activities like fishing, archery, and hatchet throwing, along with meals provided on Saturday. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes meals, and you'll need to bring your own camping equipment (some is available if needed). This is a great opportunity to grow in your relationship with God and each other. Don't miss out—sign up today! Scan the QR code to sign up, or reach out to the office for more.

SENIOR MINISTRY

LUTHER CLUB

Thursday, October 3rd | Noon | Jack's Place

Join Luther Club for an informative luncheon featuring guest speaker Chris Vanderzyden, who will share valuable insights about upcoming Medicare changes for 2025. Enjoy a delicious meal of shredded chicken sandwiches, scalloped potatoes, and cherry pie—all for just \$7. Don't miss this chance to stay informed and enjoy a great meal! Please RSVP through the church office.



MNM'S: MAKING NEW MEMORIES

Tuesday, October 15th | Noon | Jack's Place

Ladies, if you're navigating life on your own, we invite you to our next "Making New Memories" (MnM's) luncheon! Join us on October 15th for a meal of meatloaf, red potatoes, broccoli, and pecan pie. It's also our annual costume contest, so come dressed to impress—there will be prizes and plenty of laughs! Be sure to RSVP to the church office by October 10th. We can't wait to see who (or what!) you'll be!

EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

Friday, October 18th | Noon | Lower Level Elevator Hallway

Attention, greeting card enthusiasts! If you enjoy creating unique, handcrafted cards, we invite you to join us for an afternoon of creativity and fellowship. Bring a packed lunch and spend a few hours making personalized cards for use by the staff and ministries at Trinity. While we'll provide the essential supplies, feel free to bring any additional materials you'd like to contribute. Use your creativity to make a difference! Contact Wendy Shreffler at wendy@trinityashland.org if you have questions.

EUCHRE NIGHT

Thursday, October 24th | 6:30pm | Jack's Place

Shuffle up and deal! Join us in Jack's Place for a lively game of Euchre. All skill levels and ages are welcome, and you don't need a partner to attend. Contact the office to RSVP and come enjoy an evening of cards and camaraderie!





CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CHORUS

Details to Come

Practices for the Christmas Musical Chorus will begin at the end of October. We invite singers from high school through adult to join us in celebrating the season with our 39th annual Christmas musical, scheduled for Saturday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 15th at 11am. Stay tuned to the announcements for more details or contact Kim Wolbert at kim@trinityashland.org with any questions.

MEN'S CHORUS WEEKEND SERVICES PERFORMANCES

October 19th & 20th | All Services

Attention, Trinity men! Join us for a special weekend as the Men's Chorus performs at all services on October 19th and 20th. All men in the congregation are invited to participate. The remaining practices will be on October 1st, October 7th, and October 10th from 7- 8:30pm in the Sanctuary. Don't miss this opportunity to lift your voices together in praise! Contact Kim for more details at kim@trinityashland.org.

HIGH PRAISE YOUTH CHOIR

Wednesday Rehearsals: October 2nd, 9th, 16th, & 23rd

Calling all 7th-12th graders! Don't miss out on an incredible opportunity for community and fun with High Praise rehearsals, starting October 2nd from 7-8pm. in the downstairs choir room. This is a great chance to connect with friends from Trinity and the Ashland Community while making music together. Join us for our first performance at the Folk Service on Saturday, October 26th. Contact Kim at kim@trinityashland.org for more information. Come be a part of the excitement and make lasting memories!

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

Story of Impact: Relationships in Slovakia

By Raelene Harris



Growing up, my siblings and I were adopted, which opened our eyes to the incredible blessing of not only being saved from physical death through adoption but also being saved from spiritual death through Christ. As I've matured, this understanding of being adopted into God's family has fueled my understanding that we have received an incredible gift of salvation, and therefore, are all called to live out the Great Commission.

Initially, I wasn't sure what to expect from Slovakia. It wasn't a place that I automatically associated with missions, but God transformed my heart, revealing the deep spiritual need there and showing me how He is moving in Slovakia.

SON focuses on countries where Christianity and the local church are fading due to past Soviet oppression. We saw the impact firsthand—one Soviet tactic was to build prisons next to churches. Pastor Daniel, who we worked with, shared how his grandfather, also a pastor, was threatened with death for ministering to the youth. Despite the danger, he continued his work, and now Daniel and his wife, Tatiana, carry on that legacy by pastoring their local church and partnering with SON to spread the Gospel in Ružomberok.

During our week at English Bible Camp, we reached children and families who wouldn't normally come to church. Parents sent their kids to learn English from native speakers, but in doing so, the children also learned the Gospel. This year's theme was about trusting God in different areas of life, using Moses' story. We explored lessons like trusting God in danger, when we make mistakes, when we feel unworthy, and when we need help.

The camp included crafts and music to reinforce these lessons. Kids made baskets and pompom sheep, symbolizing God's protection and Moses' role as a shepherd, and created sun catchers representing the Burning Bush. They also learned songs like "Jesus Loves Me" and "There is Power in the Name of Jesus." It was amazing to hear these children, many hearing about Jesus for the first time, singing about His power. Our prayer is that these truths will stay with them for years to come.

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

There was a moment at the end of the camp when we celebrated the week with a closing program where the kids presented skits and songs, showcasing what they had learned. Parents, siblings, and grandparents were all in attendance. As the children were sharing the Gospel through their presentations and singing “Jesus Loves Me”, the parents hearts were moved- there was not a dry eye in the room. It was so clear that God was moving in the hearts of the children and families in Ružomberok.

Through these relationships and planting seeds of the Gospel, God gave me a heart for the spiritual orphans in Europe. We’ve all been given the treasure of salvation—how can we not share it? Whether it’s across the world or across the pew, God calls us all to be part of making disciples of all nations.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: FOCUS ON FAMILY

Sundays, Beginning September 27th
10-10:50am | North Patio Room

This class is designed for anyone navigating the journey of raising a family—from birth through college. We understand that while the stages of life may vary, the challenges often feel the same. Together, we'll explore how to keep God at the center of it all—marriage, parenting, work, and life. Whether you're looking for support in your faith, insights on raising faith-filled kids, or building a resilient marriage, we're here to connect and grow! Scan the QR code to get more info and sign up.



WHEREVER TWO OR MORE ARE GATHERED

Sunday, October 20th | 10-10:50am | Trinity Room

Join us this Sunday for a special Sunday School class focused on prayer and worship. Come together as we lift up our church, community, and ministry partners in prayer. If you participated in "Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools," this is a great chance to put your learning into practice. We're excited for this transformative time of worship and prayer. No sign-up needed, see you there!

STUDY ON THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

Sundays, October 27th - November 27th | 10-10:50am | Trinity Room

Join us for a Sunday School class where we'll explore the life of Joseph and its connections to Jesus Christ. As we study Joseph's journey, you'll see how his experiences foreshadowed the coming of Christ and find insights for your own spiritual growth. This class will help you understand how Joseph's story parallels the teachings of Jesus and offers valuable lessons for our lives today. Don't miss this chance to deepen your faith and gain new perspectives. Reach out to the office or scan the QR code to sign up!



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GET INVOLVED



FUNERAL FOOD DONORS NEEDED

The comfort of a meal with family and friends after a funeral is immeasurable. We maintain a list of donors who either cook or purchase food for these meals when contacted by the kitchen staff. Would you be able to help provide this significant comfort by becoming a donor? If you would like to be added to or removed from this list, or if you have any questions, please contact Wendy Shreffler at wendy@trinityashland.org. Reach out to the office for more information.

STEPHEN MINISTRY CARE RECEIVERS

As we transition into fall, you might feel exhilarated, exhausted, or even depressed. If you're struggling with the change in season, a shift in your life, or just need someone to talk to, a Stephen Minister could offer the support you need. Stephen Ministers are trained lay people who listen and share the love of Christ with those who are hurting. Remember, it's okay to seek help and you don't have to navigate difficulties alone. Visit our website and "Reach Out" today for support. For more information, contact Michelle Vanderzyden at michelle@trinityashland.org. We're here to help you or someone you care about. Learn more about Stephen Ministry at: www.stephenministries.org.



GET INVOLVED

SUNDAY "SMILES" HOSPITALITY TEAM

Sundays, 9:30-10:30am | Information Center

We're seeking friendly and welcoming individuals to greet and assist those who come to worship, study, and build community with us. If you love to smile, say hello, and help others find their way, this role is a great fit for you! You can contribute to our growing Trinity community with just a warm smile, once or more a month based on your availability. For more details, contact Michelle Vanderzyden at michelle@trinityashland.org.




Change For Life
BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

"...who knows but that you have come
...for such a time as this?"
- Esther 4:14b

October 19-November 24

Fill A Bottle & Save Lives!

Bottles will be in the Gathering Space
& Jack's Place hallway.
All proceeds of the

Change for Life Baby Bottle Campaign

benefit the life-affirming ministry of
Ashland Pregnancy Care Center.

BENEFITTING:
 Ashland
PREGNANCY CARE
Center

"CHANGE FOR LIFE" BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

October 19th - November 24th

Help make a difference with the *Change for Life Baby Bottle Campaign: For Such A Time As This!* From October 19th to November 24th, pick up a bottle in the Gathering Space or Jack's Place hallway, and fill it with change or donations. Every contribution supports Ashland Pregnancy Services in their life-affirming mission to provide resources, support, and Christ-centered care for women facing unplanned pregnancies. Join us in making an impact.

Bottles should be picked up starting October 19th and returned November 24th.

CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

We're seeking a Director of Operations to oversee the comprehensive functioning of the church's various administrative and operational aspects.



DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

We're seeking a Director of Communications to oversee the various elements of communications and media that Trinity uses to share and propel our ministries.



ASSOCIATE PASTOR

We're seeking to hire an individual who desires freedom, opportunity, and responsibility to minister faithfully while seeking innovative and successful approaches to connect our community with the Gospel.



APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Please visit our website's job opportunities page or scan the QR-code for a full list of qualifications and instructions on how to apply.



ATTENDANCE & GIVING

July 2024 Church Services		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
07/06-07/2024	37	311
07/13-14/2024	33	264
07/20-21/2024	42	314
07/27-28/2024	54	262

Important Notice:

For the time being, we are pausing the publication of our monthly financial numbers in the Monthly Newsletter while we review and update their accuracy. Rest assured, the Finance Committee is working diligently on this, and we will resume sharing the financial details soon. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we ensure everything is in order.

— The Council

COUNCIL NOTES & NEWS

COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATES FROM RECENT MEETING

Pastor's Report

Pastor Kevin reminded the council of the busy season ahead with Sunday School and ministries in full swing. He encouraged everyone to stay energized and committed, drawing inspiration from Apostle Paul's message to run the race with purpose.

Meeting Highlights

- **Minutes & Reports:** Accepted with a motion from Rob Hendrix and seconded by Ann Emmons.
- **Baptisms:** Over 20 baptisms this year, with 7 more anticipated this month.
- **Resignation:** Kim Pool has resigned from the Council.
- **Strategic Leadership Team:** Becky, Jenny Pence, Tim Merkel, and Pastor Kevin will manage nominations for the team.
- **Christian Education:** Sunday school and catechism classes have started with over 140 attendees. New classes include "Focus on Families" and a 5-week prayer class.
- **Finance:** The Budget 2025 project is progressing. Financial reports for June and July are more accurate. Detailed General Ledger reports will be available by the end of September. Kenny Oberholtzer will provide a financial update on September 22.
- **Kitchen:** Wednesday Night Suppers are back with strong attendance and partnerships with local organizations.
- **Missions:** The Grow in Hope Ministry event raised over \$2,700.
- **Montessori:** 20 students enrolled with a silent auction fundraiser planned for November 6. The school will also have an art display at the fair.
- **Nurture:** Discussing plans for Christmas parade participation and snacks for the congregational meeting.
- **Outreach:** The Outreach ballot and projects are available for review and were approved by the Council.

COUNCIL NOTES & NEWS

- **Personnel/Lay Leader:** Interviews are ongoing for the Director of Operations and Marketing/Communications Coordinator.
- **Property:** Exterior painting and nursery updates are underway. Strong Electric has installed light sensors in basement hallways.
- **Senior Ministries:** Recent and upcoming trips include Sugarcreek and Frankenmuth, and the Senior Celebration on October 28.
- **Women and Children:** Upcoming events include Movie Night on September 27th, Girl's Night Out on October 7th, and a Father/Son camp-out from October 11-13th. The Fall Festival is scheduled for October 20th.
- **Worship and Music:** Rally Day was a success with around 250 attendees. Men's Choir starts on September 17th, High Praise begins in October, and further meeting scheduled for September 23rd.
- **Call Committee:** Interviews for the Associate Pastor position occurred, with next steps and prayers requested for discernment.

For more details, please contact the respective committee chairs or Pastor Kevin.