

# TRINITY MONTHLY

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



## Strong Enough

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Have you ever seen the bitter end? The bitter end is not exactly what you think, even though it feels that way. The term “bitter end” comes from the name of the end part of an anchor rope. It is called the bitter end because anchor lines used to and sometimes still attach to the “bitts” which are the strongest part of a ship. It is where the anchor holds you! Without the bitts you are all that

is there to hold onto the anchor line when the water is too deep for the anchor to reach the bottom.

Why would you even drop an anchor if you weren't sure it could hit the bottom? The anchor is dropped sometimes when the ship is adrift in a storm, or is otherwise out of control. When there is nothing left to do you can throw out the anchor and pray for things to work out. *To be at the bitter end is to be at the end of your rope.* (continued)

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

[August Highlights | 3](#)

[Rally Sunday | 5](#)

[Story of Impact | 6](#)

[BSF Opportunities | 9](#)



**TRINITY**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Imagine holding onto the last hope with all of your strength, unsure of how it will all work out. Maybe you don't need to imagine, perhaps you can remember, or even worse, you are there today. If your rope and anchor are your faith are they strong enough to get you through the trial?

Jesus is not our anchor, but our "Bitts." Faith in Christ is not the means by which God makes us strong enough to keep holding on. It is how he makes us strong enough to let go. Christ is strong enough to hold on to us, even when we are too weak to hold on. Where God dwells in you through his Holy Spirit you are strongest. He will hold fast and never let go until you arrive in safer water, and the storm has passed. I pray for all in the midst of overwhelming trials that you remember that at the bitter end you fear, Christ himself will grant you sweet salvation.

In Christ's Freedom,



*Rev. K. McClain*  
Pastor Kevin McClain  
Lead Pastor

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Dear Trinity,

Thank you for your love and the incredible support you have given me during my hospital stay in Texas and at home. It means the world to me. I am humbled and truly grateful for your prayers, cards, calls, flowers, food, and messages! Everything you did for me has been a great comfort.

I know God has been by my side through my journey in Texas and he continues to support me daily.

How blessed I am!


Thank you all again for your love. I miss you all and will see you once I am healed.

Blessings,

Joellen Smalley

## CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

 508 Center Street  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

 Phone: (419) 289-2126

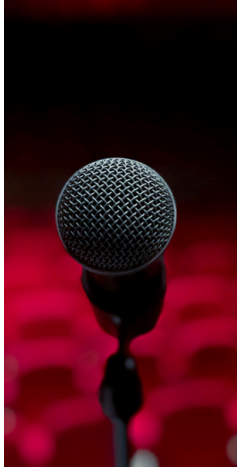
 Fax: 419-289-1381

 [trinityashland.org](http://trinityashland.org)

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

Monday - Thursday  
9am-5pm!

# HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH



## TRINITY'S BROADWAY REVUE

Friday, August 9th | 7pm | Jack's Place

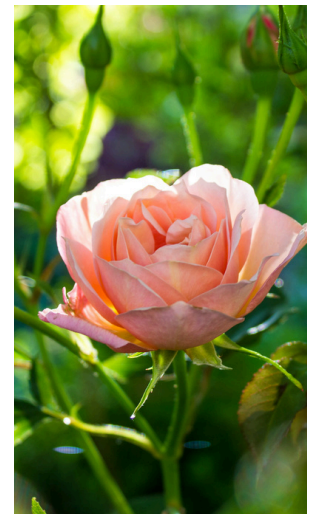
Join us for an enchanting evening of Broadway magic at Trinity's Broadway Revue on Friday, August 9th, starting at 7pm in Jack's Place. Doors open at 6pm. We are thrilled to showcase talented local musicians who will bring your favorite Broadway hits to life. Proceeds will benefit the AHS musical fund through the Ashland Community Foundation, as well as the HHS musical. Tickets are not needed, but freewill donations will be accepted. Join us for a night filled with unforgettable performances and the joy of giving back to our community!

## AUGUST SUMMER GARDEN SERVICE

Sunday, August 11th | 8:45am | Church Rose Garden

All are welcome to join our final outdoor summer garden service of the season, held in the Church Home Rose Garden! Special words and music will fill our time together.

Those attending the garden service should park in the lots on Walnut and Chestnut streets and use the sidewalk to the Rose Garden. In case of rain, the service will be held inside. The Rose Garden and the church Sanctuary are ground-level accessible. Please contact the church office with any questions.



## LOOKING AHEAD: FATHER/SON CAMPING TRIP

October 11th - 13th | Cooke Family Conservation Park

Come and join us for a memorable weekend retreat at the Cooke Family Wildlife Conservation Park! The event kicks off Friday night and wraps up after lunch on Sunday. Immerse yourself in nature with engaging activities such as fishing, archery, and hatchet throwing. The experience concludes with a peaceful worship service on Sunday. Don't pass up on this enriching outdoor adventure to grow in your relationship with God and others!

# HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH



## CELEBRATING AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



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

**Donald Wagner** | August 3rd

**Kay Krueger** | August 6th

**Elaine Witmer** | August 10th

**Gary Greene** | August 11th

**Robert Ingmand** | August 12th

**Jim Gribben** | August 16th

**Alex Karther** | August 23rd

**Bill Etling** | August 24th

**Marianne Mowry** | August 24th

**Phyllis Barr** | August 26th

## WEDNESDAYS IN AUG & SEP

### What's On the Menu

5:15–6pm in Jack's Place  
Suggested \$5 donation

Meatloaf

AUG  
28

Mashed Potatoes,  
Green Beans, & Cake

Stuffed Pepper Soup

SEP  
4

Grilled Cheese Sandwiches,  
& Brownies

Lasagna

SEP  
11

Salad, Garlic Bread,  
& Cherry Dump Cake

Pulled Pork Sandwiches

SEP  
18

Mac 'n' Cheese,  
Coleslaw, & Apple Crisp

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

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

*\*Please note all meals are subject to change.*

ONE  
ONE  
ONE

# GOD CHURCH SERVICE

Join us for a special Rally Day service on August 25th! This is a significant Rally Day as we will be focusing on the theme of *One God, One Church, One Service*.

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**Bring your family and friends for a day of celebration, unity, fellowship, and fun!**

#### Schedule:

- 10am: Service
- 11am - 11:30am: Sunday School Open House
- 11:30am - 1pm: Lunch & Activities

#### Highlights:

- *Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers:* Witness the commissioning of our dedicated Sunday School teachers during the service.
- *Meet Your Teachers:* Stick around after the service for the chance to meet your Sunday School teachers and tour your classroom.
- *Lunch at Jack's Place:* Join us for a delicious lunch at Jack's Place. More details to be announced soon!

**Sunday, August 25th | 10am | Center Street Lot**

# STORIES OF IMPACT

## Trinity Lutheran Church Outreach Fund Supports One Plus God Ministries in Tanzania

One Plus God Ministries received a generous grant of over \$19,000 from the Trinity Lutheran Church Outreach Fund, marking a significant milestone in their mission to serve communities abroad. This financial support has empowered One Plus God Ministries to make a profound impact in the village of Mbiti, Tanzania.

Most recently, Pastor Wayne de Wet led a transformative short-term mission trip to Tanzania, culminating in the dedication of a new church building in Mbiti. On June 4th, 2024, alongside Bishop Johanna Zelu, Pastor Prosper Shao of Tumaini Parish, and pastors Bert and Shelly Schultz of Grace Lutheran Church in Jackson Center, Ohio, One Plus God Ministries witnessed a powerful display of faith and community.

The dedication ceremony was a deeply moving experience, with the newly constructed church overflowing with villagers eager to celebrate this momentous occasion. Over the course of the mission trip, **more than 200 individuals gave their life to Christ, and over 50 were baptized**—many on the day of the dedication itself.

These extraordinary moments stand as a testament to the transformative impact of Trinity Lutheran Church's Outreach Fund. The generous contributions of our church community have not only facilitated the construction of a physical sanctuary but have also ignited a spiritual awakening in Mbiti. **Lives have been forever changed, and the community has been uplifted by the boundless love and grace of God.**

As a church, we have the power to profoundly impact lives worldwide by spreading the gospel and making a lasting difference. Together, we can glorify God as we faithfully answer His call to serve and proclaim His love to every nation.

In Christ's love,  
Trinity Outreach Fund





## CELEBRATING THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Thanks for a wonderful Summer Reading Program! Through it, nearly 50 kids in our community participated in an amazing time of reading, fun, and learning here at Trinity for two weeks. We're especially grateful to everyone who contributed, volunteered, and helped lead the program. An extra special thank you to Sondra Hays. See you next summer!

## SUMMER YOUTH HANGOUTS: 'NO DREAD, NEW THREADS'

Sunday, Aug 11th | 6-8pm | Youth Room

Join us for our final Summer Youth Hangout and say goodbye to Sunday night blues in style! Get excited for a fun surprise activity and prepare for the new school year. Cap off the evening with a delicious Sundae bar as we celebrate the end of summer together. Don't miss out on this chance to relax, reconnect, and make memories with friends before the school year starts! See you there!



# SENIOR MINISTRY



## LUTHER CLUB

Thursday, August 8th | Noon | Jack's Place

Join Luther Club for an engaging afternoon with Shirley Weyrauch as she recounts her fascinating trip to Antarctica. The event includes a meal featuring "Build your own salad," a roll, refreshing strawberry lemonade, and a delicious strawberry pretzel dessert—all for just \$7. Don't miss out on this opportunity! Please RSVP to the church office.

## EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

Friday, August 16th | Noon | Lower Level Elevator Hallway

Calling all greeting card enthusiasts! If you enjoy crafting original greeting cards, we invite you to join us. Bring a packed lunch and spend a few hours creating handmade cards to be used by staff and ministries at Trinity. We provide basic supplies, but feel free to bring any materials you'd like to share. Come make a difference with your creativity!

## MNM'S OUTING

Tuesday, August 20th | Noon | Yoder's Red Barn

For this month's MnMs meeting, we're hitting the town! We always have a fun time and a delicious meal at Yoder's Red Barn. If you are a woman on your own, we would love for you to join us for some good times and laughter. RSVP by August 15th so that we can let Yoder's know how many are coming! The address is Yoder's Red Barn, 428 Parkside Dr. We will meet at the restaurant.



## EUCHRE NIGHT

Thursday, August 22nd | 6:30pm | Jack's Place

Get ready to shuffle up and deal! Come join us in Jack's Place for a fun-filled game night of Euchre. Players of all skill levels and ages are welcome, and you don't need a partner to register. RSVP by contacting the office at (419) 289-2126 and join us for an evening of cards and camaraderie!



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



## TRINITY TESTIFIES (SHORT-TERM SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS)

Sundays, August 4th-18th | 10-10:50am | Trinity Room

Revelation 12:11 says, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony." Take this step of faith and learn how to share your testimony about God's goodness in your life! You will also have the opportunity to hear other people's testimonies and share your own. We invite you into deeper communion with God and others through your testimony! No registration needed.

## BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP (BSF) OPPORTUNITIES

Various days & times | Beginning in September

We are thrilled to kick off BSF (Bible Study Fellowship) for the fall! We will be diving into the book of Revelation. Join us as we engage in meaningful discussions and study God's word together. We warmly invite you to check out the different BSF options available. Don't miss out on this opportunity to grow in faith and community this fall season!



### Women's BSF | Thursday Mornings

- Women on Thursday mornings at 9am, starting September 12th, at Trinity.
- In addition to this BSF, we are excited to relaunch our children's program for infants-Pre-K, providing a nurturing environment for their spiritual growth alongside this morning session.



### Women's BSF | Monday Evenings

- Mondays at 6:30pm starting September 9th at Park Street Brethren.
- Note in the online sign-up form that you want to be part of the EVENING GROUP.



### Men's BSF | Monday Evenings

- Monday evenings starting September 9th at 6:30pm at Trinity.



### Men's BSF | Thursday Lunch

- Thursdays at 12pm starting September 12th at AU Convo.

# GET INVOLVED

## MOMS IN PRAYER INTERNATIONAL

Mondays at 8:30am | Beginning Sep 16th  
Gather in the Church Home

Moms in Prayer is an international organization that provides opportunity to join with other moms in prayer for our children and their schools. Our Moms in Prayer group begins on September 16th! Mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and caregivers are invited to participate in this time together. Contact Michelle Vanderzyden or visit the website at [www.momsinprayer.org](http://www.momsinprayer.org) to learn more.

**Join us for our prayer walk around the schools on Monday, August 12th at 6pm. Meet at the AHS flagpole.**



## STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

Begins in September | Dates TBA

Would you like to share your gifts with others through this distinctively Christian caring ministry? Contact Michelle Vanderzyden to find out how you can participate in our next class of caring ministers, beginning in September. Stephen Ministers train for 50 hours and serve those struggling with life's challenges. We hope to start our next class this fall.

Won't you prayerfully consider if God is calling you into this amazing ministry?

# CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

## DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

The Director of Christian Development will oversee Christian Education and development for children and youth, grades Pre K - Young Adult.

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## DIRECTOR OF BEACON AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our Beacon After-School Program is seeking to hire a gifted individual for our Director role.

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## 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 full instructions on how to apply.



# ATTENDANCE & GIVING

May 2024 Church Services		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
May 4-5, 2024	106	357
May 11-12, 2024	86	417
May 18-19, 2024	68	330
May 25-26, 2024	29	317

May 2024 Receipts	
DATE	AMOUNT
May 5, 2024	\$18,026
May 12, 2024	\$15,879
May 19, 2024	\$16,179
May 26, 2024	\$14,598

Operating Fund YTD	
INCOME	\$408,693
DISBURSEMENTS	\$647,037
DEFICIT	-\$197,276
WEEKLY INCOME NEEDED FOR OPERATION BUDGET	\$30,811

# COUNCIL NOTES & NEWS

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## COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATES FROM RECENT MEETING

### Pastor's Report:

As we are now halfway through summer I hope that you've been able to get some rest. The biggest problem with rest is that sometimes people won't let us have a moment of it. Thankfully God is different. In His 3rd commandment He says: *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."* (exodus 20:8-11)

God commands rest. It is a sin not to rest, and we see in his word it is also a sin to make it impossible for others to rest. Even the servants and strangers need a break. Oddly this is the only commandment that most people break without a care even though it is the only commandment that makes no demand on us.

How are you doing with the 3rd commandment? I encourage you to take your rest. I also encourage you to help others get theirs. When you help those who are struggling you give rest, when you encourage those who are doing their best you give rest, and when we accept that the work we can do in the time we have must be enough, then not only are our bodies free to rest, but our spirits as well. Please take a break, and give others a break as well, for it is pleasing to God.

In Christ,

-Pr. Kevin

### Reports and Items Needing Action:

- Visitors:
  - Pastor Georg Warnecke
  
- *From Pr. McClain:*
  - Recognized the hard work Council Members are doing
  - Where there are areas where more information is needed, all are encouraged to make the time to search them out
  - Encouraged all to openly discuss issues and then work together with one voice as Council
  
- *From Staff:*
  - No report
  
- **Old Business:**
  - No report

# COUNCIL NOTES & NEWS

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- **Call Committee**

- The Call Committee met 6/19, reviewed the NALC call process, TLC Call Committee doctrine, and metrics of the candidates who have applied since 2021. Prayer prompts were shared and prayer meetings were discussed. The Youth Pastor job description from the Personnel committee was presented. The NALC job posting and Jason Lancaster search firm job description for the Associate Pastor were revised.

- **Christian Education**

- No report

- **Communications**

- With the rally day and "One Service" coming up we would like to be prepared with literature for people to learn what opportunities are available at Trinity. Rae would like us to purchase the following not only for rally day but for any future events.
  - \$600- 500 brochures for each ministry area (5 areas x 500= 2,500 brochures)
  - \$200- Business cards for staff members so people can easily contact
  - \$300- Branded Tablecloths
  - \$500- Signs, promo items, etc.
  - road signage and maybe a Trinity intro booklet

- **Finance**

- The 6-month member giving statements will be mailed out the week of July 8th. The dedicated expertise of Barb Piatt, Laurie Maurer, Rae Harris, and Lindsey Morr resulted in the successful completion of this project. Without our strong volunteers and strong staff this would not have happened.
- The Montessori School Payroll account is currently being reviewed to determine how much spending was mistakenly charged to Trinity Operations Payroll Account (in 2023 and 2024) and needs to be offset by a Montessori Fund transfer.

- **Kitchen**

- Luther Club served 37 meals last month, with 45 signed up for this coming Luther Club
- VBS
- Served 150 packed lunches on Wednesday
- Prepared for 400 for the Finale and ran out of food
- Ashland County Cancer Association Thank You Dinner served 21 with funds leftover from the Thrivent Grant
- M-n-M's had 22 reservations for last month

- **Missions | Community Partnerships**

- The Mission committee met 6/17. Ruth Ann Linder and Cheryl Benway attended the meeting and provided insight regarding local missions and community partnership collaborations.

# COUNCIL NOTES & NEWS

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- Aaron and Amanda Wolfe reported on their trip to Uganda planned for June 26 – July 13th. They have 8 totes of supplies/clothes they will take with them.
  - The Missions committee is planning a Missions Weekend for Oct 26–27th. Pastor David and Angela Briedenbach will preach, and a Missions “Brunch and Learn” is being planned for the 10:00AM Sunday School hour, featuring local missions hosted by our members who are actively involved in the ministry.
  - Thank you to Trinity members who contributed to the summer mission teams! All 15 people on the SONetwork mission trips to Albania and Slovakia are fully funded, with an excess of \$2,474.16.
  - Kenny O. moved to move the \$2474.16 in excess from the summer mission fundraising to the Outreach Fund and earmark it for 2025 SONetwork missionary support, in addition to the 50% of the cost of the trip that Trinity usually contributes to their support. Angela seconded. Motion carried.
  - Pastor David and Angela Breidenbach will be coming to Trinity the weekend of October 26/27 to speak and encourage campers to participate in SONetwork camps in 2025.
  - Kenny O. moved to use up to \$2,500 from the Outreach Fund to pay for the Breidenbach’s expenses and program expenses the weekend of October 26/27. Angela seconded. Motion carried.
- **Montessori**
    - No report
- **New Member | Assimilation | Volunteers**
    - New Member Folder was assembled by someone other than Wendy and did not include certain things that have been included in the past, including the Spiritual Gift Survey. Some of the tools that help with assimilation were removed and would be beneficial to have them put back into the New Member Folder.
    - Willing to help find volunteers for other groups/organizations (for example, finding other volunteers to help with the weekly radio)
- **Outreach**
    - The Outreach Committee had their first meeting two weeks ago and tentatively approved four applications. Our next meeting is scheduled Thursday 7/25 – 7pm.
    - The Outreach Committee would also like to add Angela Baker as a council representative to this group. There was an understanding previously to committee assignments that she had already been assigned to this group and we would like to formally confirm that.
    - Kenny moved to add Angela as a Council Representative to the Outreach Committee. Tim seconded. Motion carried.

# COUNCIL NOTES & NEWS

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- **Personnel/Lay Leader-Kenny Oberholtzer**

- Survey update
- Almost 300 returned
- Cottage talks scheduled with Pastor Neff
- Follow-up informational meeting for the congregation September 22nd at 6pm
- Bishop Bradosky conversation update
- Director of Christian Development/Youth Pastor update

- **Property**

- Still working on getting firm quotes on the window project.
- Jeff moved to update the original estimate of \$7,680 to \$10,480 for servicing of the windows (painting, reglazing and caulking) to come from the Rybolt fund. Becky seconded. Motion carried.
- Motion to approve \$5,166.88 from Rybolt fund to allow Barefoot Floors to complete floor tiles in adjoining hallways in church basement.
- Jeff moved to approve \$5,166.88 from the Rybolt Fund to allow Barefoot Floors to complete floor tiles in adjoining hallways in the church basement. Angela seconded.
- Soffit work completed by Holmes Siding.
- Trinity Properties update: June beginning balance \$17,782.69, ending balance \$18,688.74. Year to date: in \$52,984.78 out: \$38,424.21

- **Senior Ministries**

- Nothing to report at this time.

- **Strategic Planning**

- No report

- **Women and Children**

- Summer Reading Program July 8th to July 19th.
- Family Movie Night July 12th

- **Worship and Music**

- Next worship and music meeting is Monday July 15th
- Choir camp to start on July 29th, and we are still looking for volunteers and snack donations
- Next two Garden services will be on July 28th & August 11th
- One God, One church, One service taking place on rally day August 25th.

- **Young Adult**

- No report

- **Youth**

- No report