

TRINITY MONTHLY

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



Spring Renewal

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Did you know that the Church uses a different calendar than the one on your wall, computer, or phone? We have seasons which reflect the religious significance of time as it passes. In some ways a season like “Easter” isn’t quite as practical as a season like “Spring.” Spring shows us the renewal of life visibly. Its time to plant a care for the life that sprouts up all around us. Easter serves

the same purpose, but it’s emphasis is on the spiritual life that grows within us by faith in Jesus Christ. Holding to both of these two ways of thinking about time can be a real blessing to us, as we learn to look for spiritual truth in the midst of our day to day.

The month of May is a month of spiritual and practical significance here in Ashland. May is a turning point. We close the school year, prepare for graduation, and begin
(continued)

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TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

turning our minds toward the summer which is upon us. These changes happen every year but they are big and important changes. It is a great time to reflect on where we've been and where we are going. May is important for Trinity as well. This month we will hold our annual meeting, vote in new council members, confirm our catechumens, honor our high school graduates, celebrate the Ascension of Christ and the Day of Pentecost.

The two calendars happen at once. The spiritual is always tied to the physical in our lives, just as we ourselves are a union of physical and spiritual. It is only when they are unified that we are at peace within ourselves and able to see things as they truly are. These two perspectives are like our two eyes which let us see the world with depth and clarity. Or our two ears which not only let us hear, but understand where we are relative to the things we hear. What is God showing you in your life today? I pray that you don't make the mistake of believing that any day is insignificant, or that every moment isn't filled with God's presence. Instead, may God give you eyes of faith to see him at work all around you in every moment .


In Christ,



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!

THANK YOU, KATE!

After a year and a half of dedicated service as our Director of Operations, Kate Strine will bid farewell to Trinity Lutheran Church on May 9th, 2024, to devote more time to her family. Since joining us on November 4th, 2022, Kate has been the driving force behind our operational efficiency, infusing our community with her warmth, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Her leadership and contributions have left a deep impact on every aspect of our operations, and while we will miss her dearly, we wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Thank you, Kate, for your outstanding service and for being an integral part of our Trinity family.



COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

CHURCH COUNCIL

“The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of the congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the NALC.”

*Taken directly out of section C11.03 of the church constitution.

Please make a note of the following information:

Trinity Lutheran Church will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend and participate. The Annual Report will be available both in-person and online that weekend, so you can read it before the meeting.

Church Council Nominations:

Ken Milligan, Melissa See, William Smith, and Tony Box are off-coming council members, and we thank them for their committed service to Trinity. Four new members will be elected for a five-year term from the following group of seven. The following nominees will appear on the ballot for the Church Council:



JULIE GUENTHER

Julie Guenther has been a devoted member of Trinity for 33 years, since her parents first started attending when she was in college. Born and raised in Ashland, Julie's lifelong dedication is evident through her involvement on various boards, including the Ashland Community Foundation's Women's Fund, Ashland City Schools Foundation, and the YMCA. She has also served extensively at Trinity on the Interior Design Committee, in women's ministry, teaching Sunday School, and helping coordinate VBS. She is married to Herb, with whom she has three children: Sarah, Nicholas, and Jackson. Julie's vision for serving on the church council is to help the church grow by leveraging technology, promoting community engagement, and fostering deeper spiritual connections within Trinity and the wider community.

ROB HENDRIX

Rob Hendrix, a member of Trinity for 5 years, brings a vibrant spirit of service and dedication. Originally from Cincinnati and now a resident of Ashland, Rob was introduced to Trinity through his wife, Stacy. Actively engaged in the praise service, he contributes to the Affiliation Committee, serves on the Altar Guild, and fills in on the audio board while showcasing his musical talents in the praise orchestra playing the trumpet. As an attorney at The Holmes County Prosecutor's Office, Rob is able to bring precision and a sense of justice and service to Trinity. His vision for serving on the council is to contribute to Trinity's decision-making and direction in order to make a positive impact within the church community.



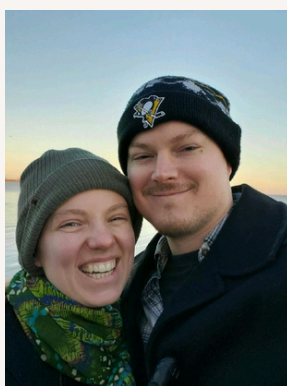


BRIAN OWENS

Brian Owens, a dedicated member of Trinity for over two decades, brings a wealth of experience and commitment to the church council. Hailing from Alliance, Ohio, Brian initially came to Ashland for university in the 1990s. He has since settled down in the area and served as a home communion deacon, usher, and communion deacon for the traditional service at Trinity. As an RN at Samaritan, Brian embodies compassion and empathy in his interactions, reflecting his ability to approach situations with grace and service. With his wife Kelly and their three boys, twins Noah and Ian, and Ryder, Brian's vision for the church council is to continue promoting the congregation and contribute to the growth of a strong church foundation for years to come.

TIM MERKEL

Timothy Merkel has been a dedicated member of Trinity for 25 years, residing in Ashland for four decades after hailing from South Dakota and living in Southern Ohio. As a remote Business Development Manager at Metropolitan Industries in Chicago, he brings extensive expertise from the pump industry, all while faithfully attending the 8:45 service and serving as an usher for over 15 years. Tim previously served on the council and contributed to catechism efforts. He has been married to his wife, Melissa, for 30 years. Together, they have three daughters, Abigail, Isabel, and Eleanor. Tim's vision for serving on the council is to assist the church in the best possible way at any given time. He is committed to working tirelessly to ensure that the church receives the support it needs to grow and thrive.



KILLIAN MURRAY

Killian Murray has been a dedicated member of Trinity for 11 years since 2013. Born and raised in Ashland, Killian's journey to Trinity began through the Beacon program, where she now serves as the Beacon Director. She also actively serves as a host for the praise service, with VBS, and more. Killian works as the food pantry coordinator at the Salvation Army Center and is married to Dan Mrachko. Beyond her church involvement, Killian and her husband serve as racing mechanics in the Formula 1000, and she showcases horses in her free time. Killian's vision for serving on the church council is to foster inclusivity, particularly among youth, ensuring everyone is welcome and has a place at Trinity.

STEPHEN RITZ

For 4 years, Stephen Ritz has been an active member of Trinity, where he participates in men's Bible study, serves as an usher at the 8:45 service, and fulfills the role of a Stephen Minister. Originally from Attica and now residing in Bellville, Stephen, alongside his wife Devera and daughter Katie, uphold a lifelong Lutheran faith and tradition. As a faculty member at the Ohio State University Dental College, Stephen brings a wealth of experience and commitment to the church. Stephen's vision for serving on church council is to uphold and honor the traditions that have been established at Trinity and are fundamental to the Lutheran faith.



DENNIS STEELE

With 47 years of steadfast devotion to Trinity, Dennis Steele brings a wealth of experience to the table. Hailing from Warren, Ohio, and relocating to Ashland in 1976, Dennis served as a Marine Corps Captain and distinguished Top Gun instructor before transitioning to a director role in quality assurance and regulatory affairs. Dennis and his wife Rebecca have one daughter, Rachel, and one son, Greg. His commitment to the church spans teaching Sunday school, leading Lenten bible studies, and preaching, reflecting his deep-rooted dedication. Dennis currently serves as a lay leader at Pleasant Valley Lutheran and attends the Saturday night service. Having previously served on the church council, Dennis' vision is to support Pastor Kevin and to pursue congregational growth and outreach in the community.

Annual Meeting Announcement: Trinity's annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 5th, at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

ALBANIA: JUNE 26TH - JULY 15TH | SLOVAKIA: JULY 11TH - 22ND

This summer, our community has the unique opportunity to serve, connect, and grow through mission trips to two remarkable destinations: Albania and Slovakia. Organized in partnership with the Spiritual Orphans Network, these trips are more than just travel—they're a chance to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others and deepen our own faith through relational ministry.

SON (Spiritual Orphans Network) focuses on bringing the Gospel to post-communist countries where Christianity was formerly outlawed and punishable by death. In these countries, Christianity has almost been eradicated, leaving families spiritually impoverished. To combat this, SON organizes week-long Teen Camps and English Bible Camps that are similar to Vacation Bible Schools in North America, as a way to share the Gospel. Parents are eager to send their children to camp to learn English from native speakers, which is where we come in. Each day, we will be leading worship sessions, themed English lessons, sports, crafts, and music rotations. On the final day, parents are invited to a celebration to see their children perform skits that showcase what they have learned. Our hope is that throughout our time there, we would be able to show each child the love of Jesus. Numerous families have been transformed as a result of the children coming to know Christ through these camps.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

The Great Commission is at the heart of our identity here at Trinity, and we are extremely thankful for the chance to collaborate with SON in fulfilling it. As a church, we are called to the Great Commission, and here are some ways in which you can support us in this mission:

HOW TO SUPPORT THESE MISSIONS

- **PRAY:**
 - Pray that the Lord would give us opportunities to share the Gospel and that lives would be changed.
 - Pray that we would encourage the local church and Christian workers located in each area.
 - Pray that God would bring salvation and healing which is only possible through Jesus.
 - Please pray for the 21 Trinity members who are traveling to Albania and Slovakia. Pray for their safety, strength, and growth in faith.
- **ATTEND:** Attend the Missions Dinner Benefit on May 1st at 5pm in Jack's Place.
- **SUPPORT:** You can financially support the missions teams that are going by giving through the QR code:



HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH



CELEBRATING MAY BIRTHDAYS



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

Carol Obrecht | May 3rd

Myron Amstutz | May 10th

William Farris | May 12th

Donna Shaw | May 13th

Carolyn Bonesteel | May 21st

Betty Burkholder | May 28th

Richard Obrecht | May 28th

Beverly Young | May 29th

Darrell Lindner | May 30th

WEDNESDAYS IN MAY

What's On the Menu

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

Missions Benefit Spaghetti Dinner:
All proceeds benefit summer mission trips.

Spaghetti Dinner, Salad, Garlic Bread and Assorted Desserts

MAY
1

5pm

Chicken Nuggets and Mac & Cheese
**Last Wednesday Community Dinner of the season*

Shredded Chicken Sandwiches, Mac & Cheese, Apple Sauce and Rice
Krispy Treats

MAY
8

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

Please call: Robin: (419) 632-5097

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



TRINITY

KIDS MINISTRY

MAY | 8



SCUBA VBS: COMING SOON!

Jun 10th-13th | 9am-Noon

At Scuba VBS, kids will dive into friendship with God! We are looking forward to helping kids explore what it means to have a friendship with a real, loving, trustworthy God.

Directors Amy Atterholt, Angela Baker, Kari Emmons and Kristen McClain are gearing up for a great week at Scuba VBS! Whether you are able to help in person or not, there are multiple ways to be involved and support this summer's program:

VOLUNTEER TO HELP

Now is the time to register to be a volunteer—this is one of the best opportunities we have to impact the faith life of the kids in our congregation and community!

PRAY

Pray for the hearts of the children and volunteers who attend—that through VBS they will grow in their relationship with God and each other. Let them leave each day knowing who God is and how much God loves them. May the impact of VBS last a lifetime.

SPONSOR A CHILD

We are so fortunate that Trinity has wholeheartedly supported our VBS ministry over the years. If you would like to sponsor a child to attend VBS, contact Dawn Forbes at dawn@trinityashland.org. Cost of sponsorship is \$20 this year, and includes the cost of a one-of-a-kind Trinity VBS t-shirt!

Registration is open now for children age 4 (potty trained) through completed Grade 5! Adults interested in volunteering can also register.





CONFIRMATION CEREMONY

Sunday, May 19th | 8:30-10am (Ceremony begins at 8:45am)

All confirmands and their families are welcome to join for the confirmation ceremony on Sunday, May 19th. This will be a confirmation of the youth that have completed catechism.



CONFIRMATION BREAKFAST

Sunday, May 19th | 10-10:50am | Mitchell Hall

This will be a celebratory breakfast in Mitchell Hall honoring our confirmands. The entire congregation is invited to join the celebration. Scan the QR code to RSVP!



SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Sunday, June 2nd | 8:30-10am (Service begins at 8:45am)

Please join us for a special senior recognition ceremony held during the 8:45am worship service. Register using the QR code.

All seniors should meet at the bride's room no later than 8:30am in their graduation cap and gown to line up for the processional. Seniors will follow the choir into the Sanctuary and sit in the first two rows on the pulpit side. The first 6 rows on the pulpit side will be reserved for immediate family members. During the service, parents will be asked to join their senior around the altar (parents will stand behind their graduate). Pastor McClain will lead parents in a responsive litany and blessing for their child. Following the service, the Crucifer will lead graduates and parents to the Gathering Space or outside if weather permits, where we ask that you remain for photos and well wishes from the congregation.



SENIOR CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

Sunday, June 2nd | 10-10:50am

Please sign-up and join us in the Trinity Room to enjoy a buffet breakfast and time of sharing as we celebrate our seniors and wish them well!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



RUMMAGE SALE COLLECTION

Beginning May 6th | 9am-3pm | Jack's Place

May is here! Bring all the goodies you've been saving for the Rummage Sale!! We will accept CLEAN, GENTLY used items such as clothing, bedding, purses and shoes, housewares, small appliances, furniture, children's toys and clothing. Any large furniture that does not sell will be the donor's responsibility to take back on Saturday after the sale. *Please NO ELECTRONICS, large exercise equipment or damaged items.*

RUMMAGE SALE VOLUNTEERS

Week of May 6th-11th | 9am-3pm Daily | Jack's Place

We need volunteers to help with this year's Rummage Sale! Collections will begin arriving on Monday, May 6th. Can you give a half day here and there to help us sort and organize our donations? We will also need cashiers during the sale on May 10th and 11th. Contact Dawn Forbes (567) 203-2618 or Ruth Ann Linder if you can give a bit of time.



MONTESSORI

GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL

MONTH OF MARCH RECAP

We shared a busy month of March. In addition to our regular academic learning, we learned about the total solar eclipse, spiritual lessons preparing us for Easter, and instruments through the Ashland Symphony Orchestra.



SENIOR MINISTRY

LUTHER CLUB

Thursday, May 2nd | Noon | Jack's Place

We will be hearing from speaker Judy Webster. The topics of discussion will include: the summer concert series and 75th anniversary of the Guy C. Myers memorial bandshell. Our menu for the gathering will include Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, roll and banana pudding.

EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

Friday, May 17th | Noon | Elevator Hallway, Lower Level

If you love creating original greeting cards, join us! Bring a packed lunch, and then craft handmade greeting cards to be used by staff and ministries at Trinity. We have supplies but feel free to bring anything you'd like to share.



MNM'S LUNCHEON

Tuesday, May 21st | Noon | Jack's Place

If you are a woman on your own, we would love for you to join us at our next luncheon on May 21st. We will enjoy lasagna, salad, garlic bread and cake. The cost for the luncheon will be announced. Please RSVP to the church office by May 16th.



EUCHRE NIGHT

Thursday, May 23rd | 6:30-8:30pm | Jack's Place

Shuffle up and deal! Join us in Jack's Place for a lively game night of Euchre. All skill levels and ages are welcome, and you don't need a partner to attend. Contact the office at (419) 289-2126 to RSVP and come enjoy an evening of cards and camaraderie.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION WEEKEND

Sunday, May 5th | Weekend Services

We're grateful for every one who contributes to the beautiful music and worship at Trinity! Every year Trinity sets aside the first weekend in May as a time to officially say "thank you" to our choirs, ensembles and others who lead us in our services of worship throughout the year. A printed list of participants in our musical groups will be available that weekend in worship and digitally through a link on our weekly update.



THANK YOU!



CREATIVE MOVEMENT CLASSES

Tuesday afternoons in May | 4:15pm | Jack's Place

Join the fun of Creative Movement on Tuesday afternoons in May! Walk-ins are welcome for movement classes for children 18 months and up! Feel free to show up anytime. Cost is \$8 per student and \$6 for each family member. Questions? Contact Mark Koehler at (419) 281-8948. Let's move and groove together this fall!

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 12th | 11am | Jack's Place

As a special gift for Mother's Day, our children's choir will be presenting music during our 11am praise service. The choirs will include the Music Makers, Notes of Joy and the Cherub Choir.



KIDS' CHOIR CAMP

July 29th - August 1st | 9am-Noon | Trinity

At Trinity's Kids' Choir Camp, children will learn about God and worship through singing, moving and playing instruments! All kids age 4 (potty-trained) - completed Grade 6 are encouraged to join the fun! We will host a closing program for children and their families on Thursday, August 1st. Come for lunch and a special presentation! More details to be announced.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



‘SEASONS, CYCLES AND SUCH’ CLASS

Beginning May 12th | 10-10:50am | Sanctuary

Whether you are new or familiar with the Lutheran tradition, you may wonder why we do some of the things we do. Join us to learn about the history and symbolism behind the things we do with Ron Marenchin. He is not only a musician, but also a compelling and captivating speaker. You won't want to miss this informative, 4-week class.

LAST DAY FOR CHILDREN’S SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, May 19th | 10-10:50am

Please note, the last Sunday School offered for Children during the spring season will be May 19th. The Summer Sunday School season begins on June 16th.

VOLUNTEER WITH KIDS’ SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

June 16th–August 1st | 10-10:50am | Assembly Rooms

This year we are doing a curriculum that was made in-house for the children’s Summer Sunday School! We are looking for volunteers to both teach, set up, and guide the kids. We will need teachers, arts and craft lovers, people who love to hold a child’s hand.

For more information, or to sign up as a volunteer, reach out to charity@trinityashland.org.



Adult Sunday School Dates: May 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th

Children’s Sunday School: May 5th, 12th, and 19th

Trinity Kids Dates: May 5th and 26th

Youth Sunday School Dates: Youth will only meet on May 5th

*Please note limited dates for Children’s Sunday School, Trinity Kids, and Youth Sunday school gatherings. We encourage families to enjoy Mother’s Day together on Sunday, May 12th!

GET INVOLVED

STEPHEN MINISTRY: SEARCHING FOR MINISTERS

Sunday, June 9th | 10-10:50am | Trinity Room

Spend some time learning about the unique opportunity of providing distinctively Christian caregiving to those who are in need of a trained listener in their time of need. Stephen Ministers will share their stories and experiences and you will learn about our upcoming training program.



SEEKING MEDIA VOLUNTEERS

A chance to use your creative gifts

Join Our Media Team! Are you passionate about photography and videography? Our church is looking for creative individuals to help capture and share the vibrant life of our community through visuals. Whether you're a seasoned expert or have a keen interest and willingness to learn, we'd love for you to join our Media Team.



This is a fantastic opportunity to use your talents to make a meaningful impact and tell our church's story in engaging and inspiring ways. If you're interested in contributing your skills and becoming a key part of our visual storytelling journey, please reach out to Raelene at rae@trinityashland.org.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

February 2024 Church Services

DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
February 3rd and 4th	117	298
February 10th and 11th	127	329
February 12th (Ash Wednesday)	N/A	216
February 17th and 18th	90	319
February 24th and 25th	178	341

February 2024 Receipts

DATE	AMOUNT
Feb 4th	\$23,270
Feb 11th	\$20,522
Feb 18th	\$14,776
Feb 25th	\$18,145

Operating Fund YTD

Income	\$76,713
Disbursements	\$131,685
Deficit	\$-54,972
Weekly Income Needed for Operation	\$19,178

COUNCIL NOTES & NEWS

Annual Meeting Announcement: Trinity's annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 5th, at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATES FROM THE MARCH MEETING

Pastor's Remarks:

We are rejoicing in our recent first communions, as well as a number of baptisms and a well-attended new members class. This month we will also be featuring the Montessori preschool in our Praise service on April 28th. Preparations are underway for all of the May activities such as Confirmation, Mother's Day and Senior Recognition.

In Christ,
-Pr. Kevin

New Members:

We had ten people in attendance for the first new members course session. Most of whom are former members returning to Trinity.

1st Communion:

We have only a couple of first communicants left who need to receive the sacrament.

Baptisms:

We have been blessed to baptize a number of people recently. There are several more on the horizon, including one at Praise this weekend.

Georg Warnecke:

Should be arriving soon, but date is not finalized. Updated information will be provided.

Staff:

A printed copy of the Employee Handbook is available for each council member.

Kitchen:

All is going well and 60 Cancer Patients received meals in March through the Ashland County Cancer Association with their voucher program.

Missions:

The Missions Committee is working with the kitchen staff to have a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, May 1st, with the proceeds supporting the SONetwork Mission Trips to Albania and Slovakia.

Montessori:

Montessori is still looking for a teacher to add to staff. The end of the year picnic has been scheduled. Sev new families attended the recent Montessori Open House.

COUNCIL NOTES & NEWS

COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATES FROM THE MARCH MEETING (CONTINUED)

Nurture:

Continuing to recognize committees/volunteers within the church. Last month treats were taken to Altar Guild at their monthly meeting. Stay tuned to see who we are "treating" this month. Bi-monthly meeting is April 11th. We will be discussing how the nurture committee might help/organize the breakfasts to honor catechism class and graduates to help the youth committee this year.

Outreach:

Kenny O. made a motion to nominate Ruth Ann Linder to the Outreach Committee for a three year term. Motion/2nd: Kenny Oberholtzer / Mellissa See Vote: Voice Carry (Unanimous).

Open position updates:

Bookkeeper interviews ongoing. Director of Christian Development.

Property:

Completing the renovation of A, B, C, and D downstairs. We have developed a roof leak above nursery. Charles repaired temporarily; need to have a roofer inspect for extent of damage.

Senior Ministries:

All but three months of Luther Club are scheduled for 2024. M&M's are going well. Numbers are growing and going to see Singing In The Rain later this month. Trinity travelers will plan to see Ruth at the Star Theatre at a date to be determined. Home communion is going well. Deacons are asked to visit once a quarter but some are going more often. Pastor Charles is doing home visits as well. Senior celebration is in the planning stages with a time to be determined.

Women and Children:

Rummage sale preparations are ramping up! We need volunteers to sort and organize stuff as it comes in. Please bring all unwanted items, in good condition, to Jack's Place beginning May 6th. Summer program registrations are open for VBS, Summer Reading and Choir Camp.

Worship and Music:

Easter numbers: Saturday and Sunday total was 683.