

TRINITY MONTHLY

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



New Life All Around

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The season of Easter and of new life is upon us. As we enter May the time for Spring cleaning, garden planting, and lawn mowing is upon us. The new life all around us in Spring often means a lot of new work. When we begin to lament the labor before us we can look back to the short, cold, dark days of winter when we longed for all of this. That work is the cost of freedom from what once held us indoors!

New life in Christ is like that too. As we celebrate the resurrection, and the gift of new life that Jesus gives to us. When we feel lost and overwhelmed by sin we long for freedom and new life. When we are given those gifts suddenly the exercise of that freedom is transformed within our hearts into something that sounds like work.

In some way all of life could be seen as work. What is the difference between being excited to cook for the family and having to get dinner out of the way? What makes fixing up one car a
(continued)

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

Current Highlights | 3-4

VBS: True North | 5

Kids' Choir Camp | 8

Get Involved | 11-12

restoration, and fixing another a nuisance?

What transforms something we might enjoy into “work?” The answer is desire. What does your heart truly desire? Often the answer is not the same as the stories we tell ourselves. To truly desire something is not simply to feel want, but to be willing to seek after a thing whatever the cost. As God's people, indwelt by His spirit, part of the gift of new life we have in Christ is a new desire to follow Jesus. We do not simply “want” His kingdom to come, we desire to live in his coming kingdom. We seek after Him, and work as needed to bring that kingdom we long to see. These are the hallmarks of new life.

In these seasons of Spring and Easter, seasons of new life, I pray you find yourself in a season of new life by faith in the life-giving son of God.

In Christ,



Rev. K. McClain
Pastor Kevin McClain
Lead Pastor

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CHARLES: A NEW & WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY

I have been invited to join the faculty of Drury University in Springfield, Missouri this fall in the role of Professor of Religious Studies, University Chaplain, and Director of Religious and Spiritual Life. I will also pastor a small United Methodist congregation in Springfield starting mid-July.

It has been an absolute joy serving Trinity Lutheran Church these last two years in the role of pastor for congregational care. Our senior and homebound members are truly wonderful and I've thoroughly enjoyed visiting with them each week, getting to know them one-on-one, and hearing their amazing stories. I've also enjoyed participating in the rich worship life of the church and having the opportunity to interact with almost everyone in the congregation sometime during my tenure. My family and I have greatly appreciated the kind words, warm smiles, and generous hearts. We will certainly remember our time at Trinity with fondness.

My final Sunday with Trinity will be June 29th. I will be away a few weeks during May and June preparing for the big move, but will be continuing my visitation duties all the way to the end.

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



SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Fri & Sat, May 9th & 10th | Jack's Place

We can't wait for the annual spring rummage sale! Collections will take place May 5th - 8th. The sale itself will be open Friday and Saturday, May 9th & 10th. On Friday, the sale will run 9am-4pm, and on Saturday, 9am-12pm. All proceeds will go to purchasing items for Operation Christmas Child boxes!

If you'd like to volunteer to help, find more details in the *Get Involved* section.

WEDNESDAY DINNER SUMMER BREAK

Our Wednesday Dinners will take a break for the summer months. Enjoy the summer, and we look forward to seeing you again in the fall!

SENIOR GRADUATION SUNDAY & CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

Sunday, June 1st | 8:45am Traditional Service

Join us as we honor our graduating High School Seniors during the Traditional Service on June 1st. Following the service, there is a breakfast in Mitchell Hall to celebrate all the graduating seniors— all are welcome to join with RSVP!

Any high school seniors not yet signed up can contact the church office to be recognized on Senior Sunday.

Anyone planning to attend the celebratory breakfast can sign up using the QR code by May 16th.





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 | 86 years | 05/03/1939

Robert G. Carver | 91 years | 05/17/1934

Myron Amstutz | 86 years | 05/10/1939

Richard Obrecht | 89 years | 05/28/1936

Donna Shaw | 88 years | 05/13/1937

Betty Burkholder | 98 years | 05/28/1927

Carolyn Bonesteel | 91 years | 05/31/1934

KIDS MINISTRY

SUMMER READING PROGRAM REGISTRATION OPEN

Weekdays, July 7th - 18th | 8:45am - Noon | Jack's Place

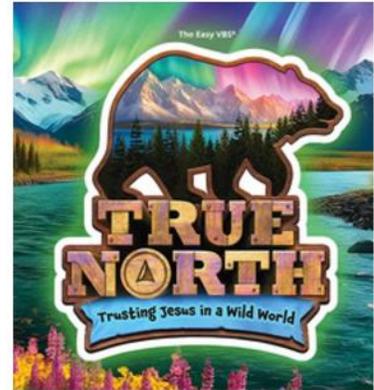
Join us for our annual summer reading program! This program will be open to all kids in the community who have completed grades K-4. We are a Christian-based program staffed with certified teachers and offering fun-filled hands on projects, lots of reading, and special guests! Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity. Registration is now open and early registration and sibling discounts apply.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: TRUE NORTH

June 9th - 12th | 9am - 12pm | Ages 4 - 5th Gr.

The theme of VBS this year is "True North!" Kids get to explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today, and they will learn that JESUS is our true north. Join us for a week full of faith discoveries, music, and epic adventures that help kids grow in friendship with Jesus! How can you help with this vital ministry?



- **Become a Crew Leader:** (The folks who take kids from station to station) Currently we have enough Crew leaders to minister to 50 preschoolers and 75 elementary kids. We will exceed those numbers by June.
- **Pray for the kids and volunteers:** We lift up the children and the volunteers who will be attending Vacation Bible School at Trinity. We pray that their hearts and minds will be open to receive Your Word and Your love. May they learn and grow in their understanding of You, and may the seeds of faith be planted deeply within them.
- **Purchase needed snacks/supplies:** There will be a "giving tree" in the hallway outside Jack's Place beginning April 11. At this table you can get a tag for decorating or snack supplies. Simply remove the tag and bring the item back by the date on the tag.
- **Sponsor a VBS child:** Because of your support, we are able to purchase the extra supplies that make VBS special and memorable, without adding a burden to families. Cost of a sponsorship is \$12 this year due to rising costs of supplies. Contact Dawn Forbes if you are interested in helping financially.
- **Be our donut runner:** We need a volunteer to bring Miller's donuts to Trinity each day—you'll be the favorite person around!

*If you are willing to be a volunteer for the week, contact one of the VBS directors: Amy Atterholt, Angela Baker, Kari Emmons, Kristen McClain or Dawn Forbes for more info.
Don't wait until June! Get your favorite spot now!!*



SENIOR DINNER CELEBRATION: HONORING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Wednesday, May 21st | 6-7pm | Youth Room

On May 21st, we're hosting a special dinner in the Youth Room to celebrate our graduating seniors! Come honor their accomplishments, hear their advice for underclassmen, and join us in praying for their future. This informal gathering is a wonderful way to connect and support our senior class as they move into the next exciting chapter of their lives.



SENIOR MINISTRY



TRINITY TRAVELERS BUS TRIP

Friday, June 13th | Depart at 9am
Meet at Trinity Parking Lot

We are heading to the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, and North Market for lunch and shopping. Cost is \$95 (\$75 for veterans). RSVP to the church office or to 1018-Travels, [(419) 685-7058]. We hope you'll join us!

TRINITY TRAVELERS CRUISE

November 16th - 21st | Departs from Miami

Ahoy! We'll enjoy five nights, sailing from Miami on November 16th, 2025 on the MSC Seaside, to Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve and Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. For more information, contact Wendy Shreffler at Wendy@trinityashland.org, or Joe Frantz, if you have questions.

LUTHER CLUB

Thursday, May 1st | Noon | Jack's Place

All seniors are invited to join us for a delicious lunch and some great fellowship! On the menu is pulled pork sandwiches, mac & cheese, cole slaw, and poke cake. After lunch, we'll hear from speaker Pastor Wayne DeWet, with God Plus One Ministries. The cost is \$7, and an RSVP to the church office is required. We hope to see you there!



MNM'S: MAKING NEW MEMORIES

Tuesday, May 20th | Noon | Jack's Place

Women on their own are invited to join us for the next MNM's (Making New Memories) lunch! On the menu is a chicken salad croissant, potato salad, and banana pudding. Please RSVP by contacting the church office. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful opportunity to share good food and great company!



EUCHRE NIGHT

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

If you enjoy playing Euchre, join us for a fun evening of cards! You don't need a partner to register—just bring your enthusiasm and we'll pair you up. Be sure to RSVP by contacting the church office. We look forward to a great time together; all skill levels welcome!

EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH: FELLOWSHIP & CARD-MAKING

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

Do you enjoy making greeting cards? Join us for Expressions of Faith, a creative time for anyone interested in crafting cards. Bring your lunch and any ideas you'd like to share—we'd love to see your creativity in action! No sign up needed.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS SINGING MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 11th | 11am Praise Service | Jack's Place

Come participate in this beautiful worship service that celebrates God's love through the role of mothers. Notes of Joy, Cherubs and Music Makers will be singing for the 11am Praise Service. The Children's Choirs will sing throughout the service. The last day of children's choir (Music Makers, Cherubs, and Notes of Joy) rehearsals will be Wednesday, May 7th, in preparation for Mother's Day.

KIDS' CHOIR CAMP 2025

July 28th - July 31st | 9am - Noon | Ages 4 - Completed Grade 6

At Trinity's choir camp, kids will learn about God and worship through singing, moving, and playing instruments! Crafts and snacks will be provided and a final presentation and lunch provided for families on the last day. Camp is for kids ages 4 (potty trained) through completed grade 6. Kids' Choir Camp is free for participants, and registration will open soon!!

The theme for the week is "*As for Me And My House, We will Serve the Lord,*" based on Joshua 24:15. Our theme song will be the Keith and Kristyn Getty song, *As for Me and My House, We will Serve the Lord.*

Students (grade 7 and above) and adults can volunteer as helpers (shepherds, snacks, crafts, games, etc.). Join the fun!

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH'S BROADWAY REVUE

Friday, Jul 11th | 7pm | Jack's Place

Join us as we celebrate the gift of Broadway Shows and those who bring them to life as an outreach to our community. If you are interested in participating, please contact Kim Wolbert as rehearsals will begin in May.



MONTESSORI GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL: CONCLUDING A WONDERFUL SCHOOL YEAR Now accepting applications for 2025-26 school year

We have had a wonderful year. We are pleased with how hard the children worked and progressed throughout the year. We are looking forward to celebrating with our families on our last day on May 22nd! This is a joyous time to converse, play games and eat together.



We are accepting enrollment for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. Please stop outside of the Montessori Office or scan the QR code for a registration form, or email: montessori@trinityashland.org.



UNLOCK DEEPER BIBLE STUDY WITH STUDY GATEWAY

Ready to enrich your spiritual journey? Our church now provides access to Study Gateway, a vast library of video Bible studies from renowned teachers. Dive into engaging content from authors like Max Lucado, Priscilla Shirer, and more, all at your fingertips.

To get your free access, please contact michelle@trinityashland.org. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship!

FINDING HOPE: GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP WITH KARIN SCHWAN

4-Week Group Beginning June 8th | 10am (Sunday School Hour)

Navigating grief can be a challenging journey, and you don't have to walk it alone. Join us for a 4-week grief support group led by Karin Schwan, offering a safe and compassionate space to share, listen, and find comfort.

This group will meet during the Sunday School hour in the North Patio Room beginning on June 8th. The focus of the group will be on the feelings of loss and confusion after the death of a loved one, how to begin to move forward, and how to adjust to the "new normal". We will use the book *Grief Walk* written by Gary Roe as a reference. It is available on Amazon in paperback for \$15.29. Purchase of the book is not required. All are welcome to attend.

Please register using the QR code, or on the sign-ups page of our website. We look forward to supporting you.



DIG IN & DE-CLUTTER: RUMMAGE SALE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Collections received May 5th at 9am - May 8th at 3pm

Spring is in the air, and that means it's time for Trinity's Spring Rummage Sale! This year, we're aiming to make it bigger and better than ever, but we need your help to make it a success.

Why Volunteer?

- **Community Spirit:** Connect with your neighbors and contribute to a great cause.
- **De-Stress & Organize:** Help others declutter while maybe finding a hidden treasure yourself!
- **Support Local Initiatives:** Proceeds go directly towards purchasing items for Operation Christmas Child shoe box gifts.
- **Fun & Fulfillment:** Enjoy a rewarding experience and make a real difference.

We need volunteers for:

- Sorting and organizing donated items.
- Setting up and breaking down the sale.
- Be a baker for the Bake Sale.
- Volunteer at the Bake Sale.
- Be a cashier during the sale.



FIND A LISTENING EAR WITH A STEPHEN MINISTER

Life's challenges can sometimes feel overwhelming, and having someone to truly listen can make all the difference. Our Stephen Ministry offers compassionate, confidential support to anyone facing difficult times. You don't need to be in crisis to benefit from a Stephen Minister's presence. Whether you're experiencing grief, loneliness, a job loss, or simply need someone to share your burdens with, a Stephen Minister is ready to listen and pray with you. You might be surprised at how comforting and beneficial it is to have a dedicated listener walk alongside you.

For more information or to be connected with a Stephen Minister, please contact Dan Forbes, a Stephen Minister, at dan@trinityashland.org. Or, reach out to one of our pastors at the church by calling (419) 289-2126. We are here to support you.

OLIVE TREE CAFE BAKERS NEEDED

The Olive Tree Cafe is a wonderful ministry that brings our Trinity community and guests together. We're currently seeking volunteer bakers to provide baked goods for our cafe. If you enjoy baking and would like to contribute, please contact Dawn Forbes at dawn@trinityashland.org. Your delicious contributions will be greatly appreciated!

SPECIAL THANKS: THE APRIL GIVING TREE

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a congregation to prepare over 600 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our donations are starting to accumulate as we prepare for our annual Packing Party! 'Thank you!' to all who donated through the Giving Tree in April. Every donation is very important as we "spread the Gospel one shoe box at a time." It is so exciting to think that each shoe box has the potential to impact so many people with the Gospel! We look forward to the Rummage Sale as this month's way of supporting the shoe box ministry.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

COMMUNITY EVENT: COLOR FUN WALK & RUN

Saturday, May 17th | 8:30am Check-In | Freer Field

Go an extra mile for a child with this colorful event! Support Fostering Family Ministries in their mission to meet the needs of children and families in foster care.

1. Register Online
2. Set a Goal
3. Get Pledges



March 2025 Church Services		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
Weekend: March 1-2, 2025	75	322
Ash Wed: March 5 th , 11am	n/a	93
Ash Wed: March 5 th , 7pm	n/a	123
Weekend: March 8-9, 2025	106	405
Vespers: March 13 th , 2025	n/a	50
Weekend: March 15-16, 2025	107	281
Vespers: March 20 th , 2025	n/a	47
Weekend: March 22-23, 2025	118	337
Vespers: March 27 th , 2025	n/a	51
Weekend: March 29-30, 2025	74	355

March 2025 Receipts	
DATE	AMOUNT
March 1-2, 2025	\$16,135
March 8-9, 2025	\$18,375
March 15-16, 2025	\$11,490
March 22-23, 2025	\$15,607

Operating Fund YTD	
INCOME	\$234,742
DISBURSEMENTS	\$359,814
DEFICIT	-\$123,442
WEEKLY INCOME NEEDED FOR OPERATION BUDGET	\$27,678

**Newsletter receipt and operating fund amounts reflect information from two months prior, as approved and available at the time of newsletter composition.*

COUNCIL REPORT: MARCH 2025 MEETING

Opening & Pastor's Report

- Pastor Kevin shared gratitude for council members, especially those completing their terms: Larry Franks, Kim Oberholtzer, Stephanie Stoll, and Lay Leader Kenny Oberholtzer.

Key Updates & Reports

Pastoral & Staff

- Pastor Neff will leave in June for a university position in Missouri. A replacement is being considered, with longer-term plans to develop lay ministers.

Annual Meeting Preparation

- Agenda and financial reports are being finalized. Council nominee bios will be added before distribution.

Christian Education

- First Communion classes successful. Over 30 children attended the Resurrection Celebration. No Sunday School on Easter Sunday (April 20th).

Finance

- Accounting adjustment approved to correct Children's Ministry Fund from 2024 errors.

Grounds

- Garden pots replaced, porch/garden tiles deteriorating, diseased boxwoods under discussion. Fountain opening soon; volunteers needed. Rose beds resting due to disease. Apex continues mowing.

Kitchen

- No report

Missions

- Committee meeting upcoming to discuss better communication of mission work. May 25th visit from Jayan & Molly Varghese (Child Evangelism Fellowship of India) canceled.

Montessori

- April open house had 3 families attend. Closing picnic set for May 22nd. Director Cindy Duffey resigning at end of school year.

Nurture

- Discussion on support of Ashland Pregnancy Care Center; policies in development to ensure balanced support of local ministries.

COUNCIL REPORT: MARCH 2025 MEETING

Outreach

- Returning to previous outreach form process. Marsha McNutt and Kenny Oberholtzer will co-serve as secretaries; Pastor Ben to serve as pastoral rep.

Personnel/Lay Leader

- No report

Property

- Approved funding for flooring and roof repair. TLC Properties March ending balance: \$25,004.70 after \$7,920 dispersal.

Safety

- No report

Senior Ministries

- Planning bus trip to Columbus on June 13 and 4-night cruise in November. MnM's, Euchre Club, Luther Club continuing strong. 44 members receiving home communion.

Women and Children

- Final Girls Night Out took place with 38 women attending. VBS and Summer Reading planning underway. Montessori Board working to fill preschool director role.

Worship and Music

- Positive feedback on Holy Week bulletin designs; plan to continue more inviting covers.
- Easter Praise Choir has 40+ members.
- Holy Week services included Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Tenebrae, Easter Vigil, and two Sunday services.
- Organ recital with George Sargeant set for April 27 at 4 p.m.
- Rally Day plans in progress—will include ministry fair, teacher commissioning, and fellowship.
- Broadway revue rehearsals begin after Mother's Day; planning continues for a potential Christmas Pageant.

Young Adult & Youth

- No reports

Adjournment

- Meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer. (Motion to adjourn: Stephanie)