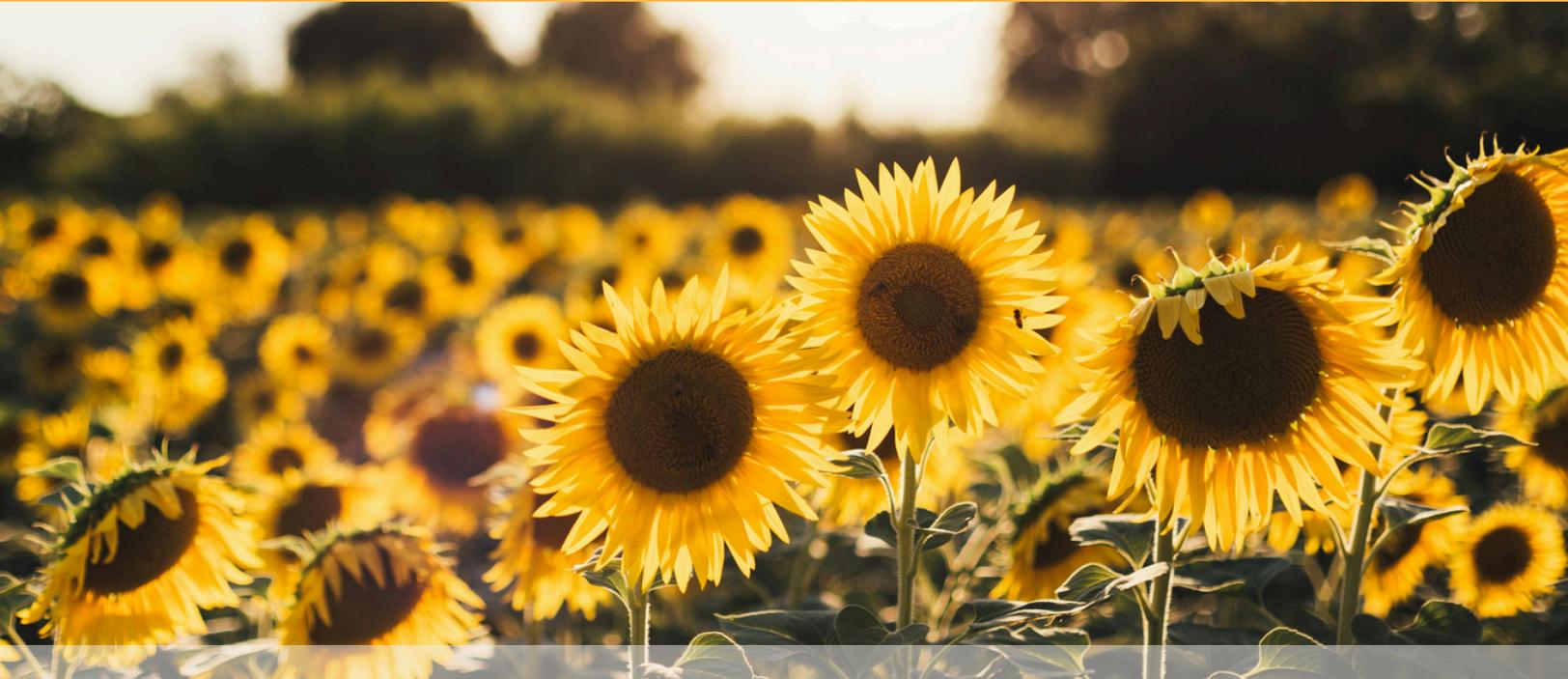


AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2025

# TRINITY MONTHLY

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



## *Living Connected*

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Summer is on its way out and we are on our way to being back together for another year of serving God together. On Sunday August 24th, we will have our *One God, One Church, One Service* Sunday. As a congregation we have been called to a shared faith and a shared life that we celebrate together. Our service will be held in the Sanctuary at 10 am that morning. Afterward we will hold an open house for our upcoming Sunday School classes. We have

a lot of new opportunities for you in this coming year. We will be adding a number of Sunday School Classes aimed at helping you become confident in your ability to faithfully read and understand scripture. Every member should participate in these classes. You won't want to miss them! We will also be starting up a number of Home Groups meant to help you bring the practice of Christian Faith into your home in a new and powerful way. These groups are centered around scripture and prayer, which are the foundations of a faithful home and a faithful life.  
*(continued)*

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

[Current Highlights | 3-4](#)

[Rally Day | 5](#)

[Fall Bible Studies | 11](#)

[How May We Pray  
For You? | 12](#)



A life more deeply connected with the God and the Neighbors you love will be a more deeply meaningful life. Rally Day is the start of these exciting new parts of our ministry here at Trinity. Plan on joining us on Rally Day and joining together throughout the year ahead.

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](http://trinityashland.org)

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

Monday - Thursday  
9am-5pm



### THANKFUL FOR CINDY DUFFEY'S YEARS OF SERVICE

After over ten years of service, our Preschool Director, Cindy Duffey, will be leaving us to explore new opportunities. We appreciate the dedication Cindy has shown in her role over the past decade. Her efforts have helped shape our preschool environment during her tenure. We wish Cindy the best as she moves on to her next chapter. God Bless!



## AUGUST GARDEN SERVICE

Sunday, Aug 10<sup>th</sup> | 8:45am | Church Home Garden

We invite you and your friends to our final outdoor garden service of the summer, taking place on Sunday morning, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:45am in the Church Home Rose Garden. 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. We hope to see you there!

## JOIN US FOR RALLY DAY: ONE GOD, ONE CHURCH, ONE SERVICE

Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> | Begins at 10am

Join us for our annual Rally Day, where we will come together as a community to worship, connect, and look forward to the season ahead! First, we will gather at 10am for a worship service in the main Sanctuary. We will join together in singing our 'hymns of the month' from the past year and commission our Sunday School teachers for the year ahead. At 11am, a Sunday School "Open House" and Ministry Fair will allow children, youth, and adults to learn more about opportunities for the fall! All ages are welcome to learn more about Sunday School opportunities, teachers, see classrooms, and get any further details. At noon, we will gather as a community for a fellowship luncheon in Jack's Place. We look forward to seeing you there and celebrating together! *Please note, there is no Sunday school until our first class day on September 7th for both children and adults.*



## BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP GROUPS THIS FALL

Beginning in September | More Info on Page 11

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) groups will begin a new study this fall, called *Exile & Return*. Group options are available at different times during the week. Turn to page 11 to find more info about the study, as well as details on groups and registration.



## 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** | 86 years | 08/03/1939

**Kay Krueger** | 88 years | 08/06/1937

**Elaine Witmer** | 86 years | 08/10/1939

**Gary Greene** | 90 years | 08/11/1935

**Robert Ingmand** | 87 years | 08/12/1938

**Jim Gribben** | 87 years | 08/16/1938

**Gail Pringle** | 85 years | 08/17/1940

**Alex Karther** | 88 years | 08/23/1937

**Bill Etling** | 86 years | 08/24/1939

**Marianne Mowry** | 89 years | 08/24/1936

**Phyllis Barr** | 94 years | 08/26/1931

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: SCHOOL SUPPLY SEASON



As you prepare for school to start in a couple of weeks, we will be collecting school supplies for our shoeboxes! Children all around the world get excited for new school supplies. Would you please help us to pack a small gift bag of school supplies for each shoebox? These gift bags contain crayons, scissors, pencils, ink pens, erasers, and a pencil sharpener. Please place your donations in the collection baskets. Just a reminder, the first weekend in August is tax free for school supplies! Also, older children can use theme style notebooks for school lessons. These need to be flexible so to bend and can be packed in a shoe box. The goal of every box is to '*spread the Gospel one shoebox at a time.*' These boxes will be used as a tool to present Jesus Christ to children and families around the world. Thanks for your continued support!

## EUCHRE NIGHT

Thursday, Aug 28th | 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. Be sure to RSVP by contacting the church office. We look forward to a great time together; all ages and skill levels welcome!



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



RALLY DAY 2025

**ONE GOD**  
**ONE CHURCH**  
**ONE SERVICE**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH

**10am** ——— Worship Service | Sanctuary

**11am** ——— Children, Youth, & Adult Sunday School  
Open House + Ministry Fair

**12pm** ——— Pot Luck Lunch | Jack's Place

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM: CELEBRATING TWO WEEKS OF LEARNING & FUN

This year's Summer Reading Program was filled with joy! Each morning, the kids came down the hallway of the church to meet their teachers, ready to learn! The two-week program gave kids the opportunity to experience reading in a fun and exciting way. The last Friday was the culminating program, which allowed the children to showcase what they learned, followed by a family picnic.

Volunteer readers this summer included Rebecca Humrichouser, Barb Renneker, Barb Bates, Lori Williamson, Pam Potter, Adam Kime, Jordyn Schwan, Mylan Larue, and Carly Butcher. Thank you to our volunteer presenters, Mark Koehler and Michelle Houts. Students also got to experience a STEM activity and students spent one morning at The Davy McClure Outdoor Education Center exploring the great outdoors.

A special thank you also goes to the teachers: Libby Hohler, Haley Bradfield, Molly LaRue, Lisa Bicker, and Carinna Baldner. Other special helpers during the two weeks were: Kellie Keating, Kassie Keating, Norah Woodlee, Keith Butcher, Carly Butcher, Ethan Bright, Karson Kaeser, Cana Walk, Zac Chapman, Everett Kime, Kayden Pickering and Jordyn Schwan. Thank you to everyone who made this year's program a success!



## 4TH/5TH/6TH GRADE SUMMER FUN

Next Event on Saturday, Aug 23rd

Our new 4th/5th/6th Grade Group kicked off at the July "Sundae Funday" event! We enjoyed learning about Pickleball and playing a few games, an ice cream sundae bar, and a devotion led by Angela Baker.

The next event will be held August 23rd - we would love to have any interested kids in grades 4, 5 and 6 join us. Contact Dawn Forbes for more information [dawn@trinityashland.org](mailto:dawn@trinityashland.org).

Look for more details in the coming weeks!



# YOUTH MINISTRY



## POOL PARTY AT THE JURJEVIC'S

Thursday, Aug 21st | 6-8pm | Grades 7-12

Join us for a fun night of swimming and fellowship at our upcoming Youth Pool Party! All students in grades 7-12 are invited to cool off at the Jurjevic's pool on Thursday, August 21 from 6-8 PM. Bring your beach towel and come ready for a great time with friends. We'll also be introducing our new Share Group for the upcoming school year. Contact Ryane Briggs at (419) 651-9383 or [ryane@trinityashland.org](mailto:ryane@trinityashland.org) to receive location details.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FALL KICK-OFF

Sunday, Sep 7<sup>th</sup> | 10am | Youth Rooms

Youth grades 7-12 are invited to join for our first Sunday School class back for the fall season! We will begin the new school year exploring Scripture in fresh and exciting ways, and growing in faith together. Youth Sunday School takes place in the Youth Rooms during the Sunday School hour.

## LUTHER CLUB

Thursday, Aug 7th | Noon | Jack's Place

All seniors are invited to join us for a delicious lunch and some great fellowship! On the menu is a brat patty sandwich, pasta salad, and pineapple upside down cake. This month's speaker will be Jennifer Miller, the Program Manager of Alzheimer Association of Northwest Ohio. The cost is \$7, and an RSVP to the church office is required. We hope to see you there!



## MNM'S: LUNCH & ICE CREAM AT YODER'S

Tuesday, Aug 19<sup>th</sup> | Noon | Yoder's Red Barn

Women on their own are invited to join us for the next MNM's (Making New Memories) lunch! We're heading to Yoder's Red Barn, located at 428 Parkside Drive (in Brookside Park). We'll meet at Yoder's and enjoy a delicious lunch that features their ice cream! Please RSVP by contacting the church office. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful opportunity to share good food and great company!

## TRINITY TRAVELERS: CUYAHOGA VALLEY TRAIN TRIP

Thursday, Oct 16th | Depart from Trinity

This October, plan to join us for a 2-hour train ride to view the beautiful Cuyahoga Valley in all of its splendid fall colors! We will depart from Trinity. The cost is \$125 per person, and includes a boxed lunch, bus bingo, snacks, and water. Payment is due by October 1st. This event is being planned through *1018 Travels* and seats may fill up fast. Contact Stephanie Kozak with *1018 Travels* at (419) 685-7058 for more information, or reach out to Trinity staff Wendy Shreffler by calling the church office.

## SENIOR CELEBRATION COMING IN OCTOBER

Thursday, Oct 9<sup>th</sup> | Noon | Jack's Place | Members 70+

Let's come together to celebrate! We are excited to welcome our guest speaker, Mayor Matt Miller. Invitations will be mailed out in September—mark your calendar!





## THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL EVENING ON BROADWAY!

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the Broadway Revue such a memorable night! From the incredible cast who gave an outstanding performance to all who attended and supported the event, it was truly a beautiful evening filled with music, joy, and community.

## APPLAUDING OUR MUSICAL THEATER WORKSHOP

A special thank you goes out to those who participated in the Musical Theater Workshop with our Artist in Residence, Mikayla Myers. Thanks to the generous grant from the Ashland County Community Foundation, more than a dozen singers had the unique opportunity to have a masterclass-style voice lesson in auditioning for shows!





## AUGUST MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT AT THE OLIVE TREE CAFÉ

Sundays this Summer | 10am | Sunday School Hour

This summer has been full of meaningful times together hearing from our local Christian non-profit agencies and those involved in missions efforts! In August, we will hear from a few more representatives as they join us for a casual time of sharing and questions. Join us at the Olive Tree Café for the final three Missions Spotlight gatherings between the worship services on the Sundays noted below. We hope to see you there!

**August 3rd** | Operation Christmas Child, *Ruth Ann Linder*

**August 10th** | Ashland County Cancer Association, *Angela Woodward*

**August 17th** | Albanians for Action in Albania, *Denis and Ela Shallari*

## SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR KIDS & YOUTH

Sundays this Summer | Sunday School Hour, 10-10:50am

Throughout the year, through all seasons, it is good to gather and learn about God! Join us during the Sunday School hour, with options for all ages.

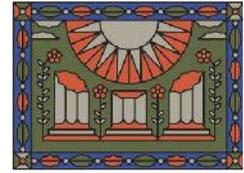
- **Preschoolers** will gather in the nursery area.
- **Grades K - 5** can attend the summer Sunday school class in Assembly Rooms A, B, C & D in the lower level (same place they meet throughout the year).
- **Middle & High Schoolers** will have a casual meeting in the Youth Rooms.
- **Adults** are invited to check out the Missions Spotlight at the Olive Tree Cafe!

## BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP 2025-2026 STUDY: *EXILE AND RETURN*

Available Dates & Times Below  
Groups Begin Week of September 7th

## Exile & Return

A TIME TO BUILD



Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) will begin a new study this fall, *Exile & Return*, featuring eight Old Testament books of history and prophecy that cover Israel's exile in Babylon and their eventual return to the promised land. So, beyond the obvious personal blessing that comes from reading every page of God's inspired Word, why should someone living in the 21st century read a bunch of books written approximately 2,500 years ago? *Exile & Return* isn't just an Old Testament history lesson. These books speak to people who feel displaced, weary, or like they're waiting for something more. Walking through these often-ignored pages will uncover the ache of living in a world that is not our home while continually pointing toward our hope of Jesus' return. Surprisingly, this study reveals the unwavering heart of our Savior, who meets us in every chapter of our lives.

### DAYTIME OPTIONS

#### Women & Preschool Daytime Class

Thursdays (Day) | 9am | Location: Trinity Lutheran Church

#### Men's Daytime Class

Thursdays (Day) | 12pm/Noon | Location: Ashland University

### EVENING OPTIONS

#### Women's Evening Class

Mondays (Evening) | 7pm | Location: Park St. Brethren Church

#### Men's Evening Class

Mondays (Evening) | 7pm | Location: Trinity Lutheran Church

### REMOTE OPTION

#### Online Classes

You Choose Day & Time | Location: Meet using Zoom

Women, men, and children can join in this study by registering using the QR code. Contact Michelle Vanderzyden if you have any questions or need help registering.





## DONATING CANS TO THE ALTAR GUILD

The Altar guild is seeking smaller (about 1 lb.) coffee cans, metal or plastic (or similar type containers) for altar flower distribution following services. The flowers that have decorated our altar for worship are divided and shared with various members who are homebound, ill, hospitalized, grieving or celebrating each week. Your thoughtful donation of containers is very helpful to the flower ministry of the altar guild and we are grateful. Please note that larger containers (over 1 lb.) are not able to be used. Containers may be dropped off at the office anytime.

## HOW MAY WE PRAY FOR YOU?

*First Sunday of each month | Following each weekend service*

Stephen Ministers *will be available following services on the 1st weekend of each month* to pray for you. Join a Stephen Minister in the library after the Saturday 5:30pm Folk Service or the Sunday 8:45am Traditional Service. Following the 11am Praise Service, prayer will be offered in the back of Jack's Place.

In addition, if you would like to include a prayer through our *prayer ministry*, send a request through the reach out on our website, on a connect card or by calling the office. If you would like to join us in praying for our church, community, and world, let us know and we will forward prayers to you via email.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY: JOIN OUR MINISTRY TEAM!

*Informational night on Tuesday, Aug 26<sup>th</sup> | 6pm*

If you would like to serve God by ministering to others in their time of need, Stephen Ministry provides the training and support you need. Please join us for an informational night to hear the benefits of serving as a Stephen Minister and explore the commitment to training and supervision. Join us on Tuesday, August 26th at 6pm pm. If you have questions please contact Michelle Vanderzyden at the church.



June 2025 Church Services		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
May 31- June 1, 2025	80	372
June 07-08, 2025	Summer Break	310
June 14-15, 2025	28	282
June 21-22, 2025	64	304
June 28-29, 2025	66	295

June 2025 Receipts	
DATE	AMOUNT
May 31- June 1, 2025	\$14,898
June 07-08, 2025	\$11,270
June 14-15, 2025	\$20,457
June 21-22, 2025	\$15,114
June 28-29, 2025	\$26,720

Operating Fund YTD	
INCOME	\$505,313
DISBURSEMENTS	\$697,659
DEFICIT	-\$190,716
WEEKLY INCOME NEEDED FOR OPERATION BUDGET	\$26,833

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

## **COUNCIL REPORT: JULY 2025 MEETING**

### Opening & Pastor's Report

- Pastor Kevin reflected on the midpoint of summer and the preparations underway for Rally Day on August 24. This will include a single service followed by an open house. He emphasized the importance of welcoming recent guests into a vibrant community centered on God's Word and prayer. Strategic planning efforts, directory updates, and the development of Sunday School and Home Groups are moving forward in alignment with the congregation's growth goals.

### Key Updates & Reports

#### **Approval of Minutes**

- Dan Wierbicki moved to approve the minutes and treasurer's report. Jeff Gray seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Pastor's Items**

- *Incident Report:* A minor incident occurred during Sunday pickleball on July 13. Security footage was reviewed and staff were reminded to report any concerning interactions.
- *Facility Inquiry:* A call from an out-of-state attorney's office posed a suspicious question regarding facility use for weddings. The situation was handled appropriately.
- *Ashland Cemetery:* In light of recent vandalism, Trinity will consider supporting restoration efforts for desecrated gravestones.
  - Julie Guenther moved for Trinity to explore offering support for the cemetery repairs, with Julie coordinating communication. Rob Hendrix seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Staff Updates**

- Ryane Briggs has officially joined the church office staff.
- Charles Neff has transitioned out of his role and sent a letter of gratitude to the congregation.
- Trinity renewed its Travelers Insurance policy, which now includes updated emergency planning and security standards.

#### **Old Business**

- Strategic Planning: A follow-up meeting is scheduled to implement recommendations. The full review report is available in the Council Drive.

#### **Christian Education**

- Summer Sunday School for K-5 continues smoothly.
- Home Groups and new Sunday School classes are being developed for fall, centered on Scripture and prayer.

## COUNCIL REPORT: JULY 2025 MEETING

### Finance Committee

- Dan Wierbicki moved to form a Stewardship Leadership Taskforce under the Finance Committee to enhance stewardship efforts. Rob Hendrix seconded. Motion carried.

### Grounds

- Seasonal watering and pruning are ongoing.

### Kitchen

- Input was gathered from staff and kitchen team regarding a potential hiatus of Wednesday night dinners. Discussion emphasized the importance of the ministry for seniors and outreach.

### Missions

- Upcoming mission highlights:
  - July 20: Associated Charities "ChrisBox"
  - July 29: Ashland Christian Health Center – Temple Talk by Cheryl Benway, with refreshments
  - August 3: Operation Christmas Child – Temple Talk by Ruth Linder

### Montessori

- Interviews continue for a new director.

### Nurture Committee

- Work continues on updating the church directory and assisting those needing help with the mobile app or photo submission.

### Outreach and Missions

- Four requests were reviewed. The committee recommends consolidating the membership mailing list for ballot distribution.

### Personnel Committee

- Rob Hendrix moved to approve a new cleaning contract with Ohio ProClean for \$80,000 annually—saving the church approximately \$20,000. Ann Emmons seconded. Motion carried.

### Property and Grounds

- Julie Guenther moved to approve \$2,600 for new church signage from Morris Signs Studio. Jeff Gray seconded. Motion carried.
- The council awaits a roof quote from Tremco and a report from Shakely Mechanical on HVAC systems.
- Jeff Gray moved to approve \$11,760 from the Rybolt Property Fund to remove a deteriorating brick wall on the south side of the property. Rob Hendrix seconded. Motion carried.

## COUNCIL REPORT: JULY 2025 MEETING

### Safety Committee

- No report.

### Senior Ministries

- Social groups remain strong: Euchre, Luther Club, MnM's.
- Fall trips and dinners are being planned, including a Cuyahoga Valley Railroad trip and a Caribbean cruise.
- Concerns were raised about the potential impact of pausing Wednesday night dinners on senior engagement.

### Women and Children

- Summer Reading Program has begun with over 60 kids participating.
- A new 4th–6th grade ministry will launch July 18 with a pickleball and ice cream event led by Kate Kaeser and Angela Baker.

### Worship and Music

- Garden Worship: July 27th at 8:45am with Missions presentation following.
- Choir Camp: July 28th–31st with 153 children and 57 helpers registered.
- Broadway Revue drew approximately 400 attendees and raised nearly \$2,000 for Ashland County Community Foundation.
- Emma McClain continues her internship; Gabe Murawski accepted a music director role elsewhere.
- Rally Day: August 24, will include ministry info booths—sign-up forthcoming.
- Ron and Kim will attend the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Conference from August 4th–8th.

### Youth Ministry

- No report.

### Young Adult Ministry

- The Evan Craft concert was cancelled due to weather.
- Next event: July 27th spaghetti dinner and devotional at the Briggs' home.
- A full youth calendar is in development. Plans include monthly Wednesday events and biweekly Share Group Sundays.
- Ryane plans to dedicate Thursday afternoons to in-person connections with Trinity youth. Referrals are welcome.

### Adjournment

- Rob Hendrix moved to adjourn. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.