

TRINITY MONTHLY

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



The Gift of Confession

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Throughout these past several months we at Trinity have engaged important questions about what we believe, and who we are in Christ. It may seem that there have been several different questions: what makes a pastor able to serve a congregation? What is the role of the Creeds of the faith? How should our congregation's constitution speak to matters such as these? Ultimately all of these questions are connected because they deal with Confession.

At the core confession is about speaking and living out what we believe to be true. The Church uses this term in a couple of ways; first we confess the faith as we do in the creeds, in our liturgy, in preaching, teaching, and worship. As we speak of God and of His Word, we do so in an effort to make Him known and understood rightly. This is the "corporate confession" of the Church. That is, what we all confess together. But there is another important type of confession, that we confess our sins. In this confession we come before God to speak the truth of who we are.

(continued)

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

Youth Ministry | 8 & 9

Music Ministry & Choir
Schedule | 11

Fall Sunday School
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We stand before the all-knowing God and admit that we know this too, that we have sinned.

Both forms of confession work to conform us to truth. In our confession we learn how to be honest and how to speak rightly. But the acknowledgement of these things cannot be complete through confession alone. Our actions are never that which connect us to God. Instead, in confession we wait to hear God speak back to us. It is God who gets the last word. It is after our confession of faith in worship that we receive God's grace in the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. Having acknowledged God as our Father he welcomes us home into His family and to His table. After our confession of sin we hear God speak His absolution, that is His forgiveness. It is only in God's confession that confession is completed. Only then do we have a relationship with Him.

Beginning in September I will be teaching classes on our Lutheran Confessions each Wednesday at 9 a.m. Men's group, 1:30 p.m. Women's Bible Conversations, and at 6 p.m. for our evening Men's Group. I invite you to come and to dive into confession. I promise God will have the last word, and it will be for your blessing.

In Christ,
Pr. Kevin



Rw. 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

HEALING AND PRAYER SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

Thursday, August 6th | 11am | Sanctuary | Prior to Luther Club

Join us on Thursday, August 6 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary for our Summer Pew Communion Service. Before gathering for Luther Club, we invite all to receive the gift of Holy Communion and spend time in worship, prayer, and reflection. All are welcome to attend and partake in the sacrament as we gather around God's Word and Table. We hope you will join us for this meaningful time of worship and fellowship. If you have any questions, contact Wendy Shreffler or the church office.



FINAL SUMMER ROSE GARDEN SERVICE

Sunday, August 9th | 8:45am | Church Home Rose Garden

Join us on Sunday, August 9, for our final Summer Rose Garden Service of the season as we gather for worship in the beauty of God's creation. Our Traditional Worship Service will be held outdoors at 8:45 a.m. in the Church Home Rose Garden, offering a peaceful setting to hear God's Word, sing His praises, and enjoy worship together. Our Praise Worship Service will be held at its regular time of 11:00 a.m. in Jack's Place. In the event of rain, the Rose Garden Service will move indoors. We hope you'll join us for this special opportunity to celebrate the close of another wonderful summer of outdoor worship.

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

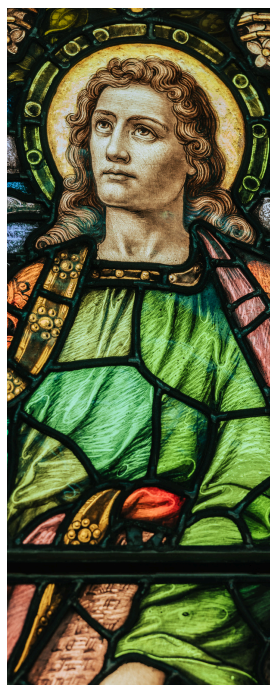
Sunday, September 6th | Begins at 10am

Join us for our annual Rally Day as we come together to worship, connect, and celebrate the beginning of a new ministry year! We will begin with a special worship service at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, where we'll sing our "Hymns of the Month" from the past year and commission our Sunday School teachers as they prepare to lead during the year ahead. Following worship, we'll kick off our Sunday School year with a shortened class for all ages before gathering for a fellowship luncheon in Jack's Place. We'll also bless the backpacks of our children as they begin a new school year and enjoy activities for kids and adults alike. We hope you'll join us for this special morning of worship, fellowship, and celebration!



NEW MEMBER CLASS COMING THIS SEPTEMBER

September 13th, 20th, 27th | 12:15pm | Trinity Room



Have you been thinking about becoming a member of Trinity or simply want to learn more about what it means to be Lutheran? We invite you to join our upcoming New Member Class led by Pastor Kevin this September. Over the course of three Sunday afternoons—September 13, 20, and 27—you'll have the opportunity to explore the Lutheran faith, learn more about Trinity's mission and ministries, meet our church staff, and take a tour of the building. Whether you're new to Trinity or have been worshipping with us for some time, this class is a welcoming place to ask questions, grow in your faith, and discover what it means to be part of our church family.

Classes will meet from 12:15 p.m. in the Trinity Room, and a meal will be provided each week. To RSVP or for more information, scan the QR code or please contact the church office. We look forward to welcoming you!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child recently shared an encouraging reminder about the many ways we can help spread the love of Christ through a simple shoebox gift. Each shoebox, filled with quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items, opens the door for local church partners in more than 100 countries and territories to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through these gifts, lives are changed, children are disciplined, and communities are transformed.



Whether you choose to pack a shoebox as an individual, with your family, as part of a church group, or online, every gift makes a difference. You can also support this ministry through financial donations if you're unable to pack a box yourself. However you choose to participate, don't forget the most important item to include—your prayers. Together, we can help share God's love and the hope of the Gospel with children around the world.

SAVE THE DATE: WOMEN'S MORNING WITH SARAH STEELE

Saturday, October 3rd | 10am–Noon | Jack's Place

Ladies, mark your calendars for a special morning of faith, fellowship, and encouragement on Saturday, October 3, from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. in Jack's Place. We're excited to welcome guest author and speaker Sarah Steele, who will share an inspiring message about finding freedom in Christ in a world that often pressures us to please others. Through her own experiences, Sarah will encourage women to let go of unhealthy expectations and embrace a more authentic, Christ-centered walk. Invite your friends and save the date for this uplifting event—we look forward to gathering together! More details and registration information will be available in the September newsletter.

WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS, FUNERALS

Celebrating and remembering the meaningful milestones in the life of our church family, including baptisms, weddings, and funerals from the past month.

Alice Fetzer | Funeral | July 10

Molly Bitounis | Baptism | July 12

Bill Poeppelman | Funeral | July 21

Marlene Rose | Funeral | July 24



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!

- **Karen Kime** | 85 | August 1
- **Donald Wagner** | 87 | August 3
- **Kay Krueger** | 89 | August 6
- **Elaine Witmer** | 87 | August 10
- **Gary Greene** | 91 | August 11
- **Robert Ingmand** | 88 | August 12
- **Judy Staley** | 85 | August 12
- **Jim Gribben** | 88 | August 16
- **Gail Pringle** | 86 | August 17
- **Alex Karther** | 89 | August 23
- **Marianne Mowry** | 90 | August 24
- **Bill Etling** | 87 | August 24



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



ONE GOD
ONE CHURCH
ONE SERVICE

RALLY DAY 2026

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

10am | Worship Service | Sanctuary

RALLY DAY HIGHLIGHTS

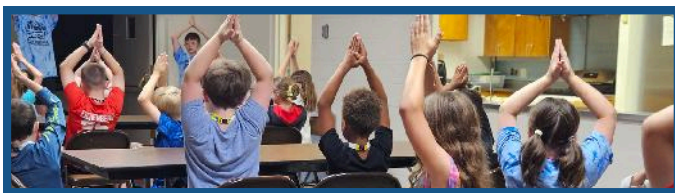
- Commissioning of Sunday school teachers
- Mini Sunday school session following worship
- Blessing of backpacks for students
- Fellowship and activities for children and adults
- Lunch provided for all in Jack's Place

SUMMER READING WRAP UP

This year's Summer Reading Program was filled with joy! Each morning, children came down the hallway of the church to meet their teachers, eager to learn, grow, and spend time together. Throughout the two-week program, students strengthened their reading skills while memorizing Scripture, learning Bible stories, praying together, and discovering that reading can be both fun and meaningful. The final Friday concluded with a special celebration where students shared what they had learned, followed by a family picnic.

Volunteer readers this summer included Rebecca Humrichouser, Barb Renneker, Barb Bates, Pam Potter, Cindy Messner, Zac Chapman, Karsyn Kaeser, Mylan LaRue, and Keith Butcher. Thank you to our special presenters, Mark Koehler, who shared his love of movement to music, and Laura Kime, who led a cupcake decorating activity. Students also enjoyed creating UV bracelets during a STEM activity while learning about ultraviolet light, as well as a field trip to Ashley's Candy & Nut Shoppe, where they learned about candy making and enjoyed building their own ice cream sundaes.

A special thank you also goes to our teachers: Libby Hohler, Haley Bradfield, Molly LaRue, Lisa Bicker, and Carinna Baldner. We are also grateful for our many helpers throughout the two weeks: Kellie Keating, Kassie Keating, Norah Woodlee, Keith Butcher, Carly Butcher, Cana Walk, Zac Chapman, Caroline Rowsey, Joslyn Bicker, Everett Kime, and Kayden Pickering. Thank you to everyone who shared their time, talents, and generosity to make this year's program a wonderful success!





TRINITY KIDS 456 SUMMER KICKOFF!

Sunday, August 16th | 6-7:30pm | Jack's Place
Children Entering 4th, 5th & 6th Grades

Calling all 4th, 5th, and 6th graders! Trinity Kids 456 is excited to kick off another year of faith, friendship, and fun with our Sundae Fun Day on Sunday, August 16. Students are invited to join us for an evening of building their own ice cream sundaes, playing kickball and Capture the Flag, and helping plan the exciting activities, trips, and service projects we'll enjoy throughout the upcoming school year. Scan the QR code to register for our Sundae Fun Day!

Trinity Kids 456 is a wonderful opportunity for tweens to build friendships, grow in their faith, and have fun together in a welcoming Christian environment. We encourage everyone to invite a friend and come be part of this exciting kickoff event. Parents interested in helping with future events are invited to contact Dawn Forbes or Trinity Kids 456 leaders Melissa and Brad James, Jesse Gruver, or Luke Morris for more information.



YOUTH MINISTRY



YOUTH SUMMER PUTT PUTT & ICE CREAM

Thursday, August 6th | 6:30-8:30pm | Brookside Park | Grades 7-12

Join us for an evening of friendly competition and summer fun! Students in grades 7-12 are invited to meet at the Brookside Park Putt-Putt Course on Thursday, August 6, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for a round of mini golf. Afterward, we'll head to The Red Barn for ice cream, so be sure to bring money for a treat. Parents can pick up students at The Red Barn at 8:30 p.m. Invite a friend for the fun. We can't wait to see you there!

YOUTH OPEN MIC NIGHT

Monday, August 17th | 7–8:30pm | Youth Room | Grades 7–12

Bring your talents and join us for an evening of music, creativity, and fun! Students in grades 7–12 are invited to Open Mic Night on Monday, August 17, from 7:00–8:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. Whether you want to perform, cheer on your friends, or simply enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, come experience a fun night of fellowship in our cozy, moody Youth Room.



RALLY DAY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday September 6th | Following the service | Youth Room | Grades 9–12

High school students are invited to kick off the new Sunday School year on Rally Day! Following the combined service, join us for a shortened Sunday School class in the Youth Room. Bring your Bible, invite a friend, and come reconnect as we begin another year of growing in faith together.

YOUTH BONFIRE

Saturday, September 19th | 7–8:30pm | Pence Home | Grades 7–12

Kick off the new youth ministry year with an evening of fellowship around the bonfire! Students in grades 7–12 are invited to gather on Saturday, September 19, from 7:00–8:30 p.m. at the home of Brayden and Collin Pence. Bring a friend and join us as we reconnect, enjoy time together, and celebrate the start of another exciting year of youth ministry. Contact Ryane Briggs for the address.

LUTHER CLUB

Thursday, August 6th | Noon | Jack's Place

Join us for Luther Club as we enjoy a delicious meal, fellowship, and an engaging presentation by Sara Fisher, Executive Director of the Ashland County Historical Society. Sara will share "The Great War & Ashland County," offering a look at the local impact and history of World War I. The cost is \$7 per person, and the menu includes beef and noodles, mashed potatoes, corn, and a cookie. Please RSVP through the church office.



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

Tuesday, August 18th | 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!

EUCHRE NIGHT

Thursday, August 27th | 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 come ready to have fun and meet new people as you rotate partners throughout the night. This event is open to all ages, so invite a friend, family member, or fellow card player to join you. Be sure to RSVP by contacting the church office at (419) 289-2126. All skill levels are welcome.

SENIOR CELEBRATION COMING IN OCTOBER

Monday, October 5th | Noon | Jack's Place | Members 70+

Let's come together to celebrate! Join us for a special afternoon of fellowship, a delicious luncheon, and a wonderful guest speaker to be announced soon. Invitations will be mailed out in September—mark your calendar!



Expressions of Faith Taking a Summer Break

*Expressions of Faith: Card Making will not meet in August.
We will meet again on September 18th! Have a wonderful summer.*

JOIN OUR UPCOMING CHOIR OPPORTUNITIES

See the schedules below

Music is a wonderful way to worship, grow in faith, and build meaningful friendships. Whether you're a seasoned musician or just enjoy making a joyful noise, Trinity's music ministry has a place for you! This fall, we invite singers and handbell ringers of all ages to join one of our choirs as we prepare music that leads our congregation in worship and praise. New members are always welcome—we'd love for you to be part of this vibrant ministry.



Rally Day Choir

Help us celebrate Rally Day by joining this special choir! Everyone is welcome to sing.

Rehearsals

- Wednesday, September 2 | 7:00–8:30 p.m. | Sanctuary
- Saturday, September 5 | 9:00–10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

Rally Day Worship

- Sunday, September 6 | 9:00 a.m. Warm-Up | Sanctuary

Contact Kim Wolbert for practice recordings and sheet music.

Children's & Adult Choirs

Our regular choir season begins Wednesday, September 9, and we invite everyone to join us!

Schedule:

Luther Bells (Grades 2–6)

- 4:30–5:15 p.m.

Children's Vocal Choir (Ages 4–Grade 6)

- 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Trinity Bells (Adults)

- 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Senior Choir

- 7:15–8:15 p.m.

Whether you're returning or participating for the first time, we'd love to welcome you to this joyful music ministry.

Men's Chorus

Our Men's Chorus begins Tuesday, September 22, and we invite all men who enjoy singing to join us!

Schedule:

Weekly Rehearsals: (Tuesdays)

- Beginning September 22
- 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Performance Weekend:

- October 24–25

Whether you're an experienced singer or simply enjoy making music, we'd love to have you join us for an evening of fellowship, music, and worship.

GROW IN FAITH THIS FALL

Join one of our Sunday School classes!

There's a place for everyone this fall! Whether you're new to Trinity or have attended Sunday School for years, we invite you to join us each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Beginning on Rally Day, September 6, we'll offer Bible studies and discussion groups for every stage of life—from preschool through adults. Come discover God's Word, build friendships, and grow in your faith together.



At a Glance:

Adults

7 rotating studies
Four sessions throughout the year
New classes every 7–8 weeks

Children

Preschool–Grade 6
Age-appropriate Bible lessons
Scripture memory

Youth

Grades 7–12
Middle School Catechism & High School Bible Study
Faith & real-life discussions

Featured Adult Studies

See what is coming this September

Putting Faith Into Practice: Bob Beer

- Learn practical ways to apply God's Word to everyday challenges like forgiveness, decision-making, and trusting God through difficult seasons.

Christian Faith for Families: Pastor Ben

- Practical encouragement for parents and families seeking to pray, learn, and grow in faith together.

10 Lies Satan Loves to Tell: Amanda Wolfe

- Discover how God's truth overcomes fear, shame, doubt, and the subtle lies that pull us away from Christ.

Because Jesus Taught It: Gail Warnes

- Explore Lutheran beliefs, the sacraments, and the rich history that shapes our faith today.

Also Offered Every Session

- Christian Women (Wendy Shreffler)
- Christian Living (Tom Gaus)
- Adult Bible Study (Doug Clark)

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR EVERY AGE

Preschool (Ages 3–Kindergarten)

- Children are lovingly introduced to God's Word while learning The Lord's Prayer in a caring, age-appropriate environment.

Grades 1–3

- Students journey from Daniel into the New Testament while learning the Apostles' Creed.

Grades 4–6

- Children continue their Bible journey while learning the Ten Commandments, following God's story from Daniel into the New Testament.

Middle School (Grades 7–8)

- Students prepare for Confirmation through the study of Luther's Small Catechism.

High School (Grades 9–12)

- Bible studies help students connect Scripture to everyday life while building friendships and growing in faith.

COMING LATER THIS YEAR

November–December

- Stronger Everyday
- Holy & Happy Marriage
- The "I Am" Statements of Jesus

January–February

- Being Faithful When God Feels Far Away
- Ragged: Spiritual Disciplines for the Spiritually Exhausted

March–May

- Returning favorites plus two new pastor-led studies (details coming soon).

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP 2026 STUDY: BOOK OF ROMANS

Available Dates & Times Below
Groups Begin Week of September 13



Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) will begin a new study this fall, Romans, one of the most powerful and life-changing books in the Bible. Written for ordinary people facing real struggles, Romans speaks to our deepest doubts, fears, pride, and guilt while pointing us to the transforming grace of God. More than a theological study, Romans reveals how the God who saves also changes lives—moving us from striving to surrender, from fear to faith, and from guilt to grace.

Whether you are new to Bible study or have spent years in God's Word, this study offers practical encouragement and lasting hope for everyday life. Join us as we explore Paul's letter to the Romans and discover the freedom, confidence, and assurance found in Christ alone.

DAYTIME OPTIONS	Women & Preschool Daytime Class <i>Thursdays (Day) 9 a.m.</i> <i> Location: Trinity Lutheran Church</i>
EVENING OPTIONS	Women's Evening Class <i>Mondays (Evening) 6:00 p.m.</i> <i>Location: Park St. Brethren Church</i> Men's Evening Class <i>Mondays (Evening) 6:30 p.m.</i> <i>Location:</i> <i>Trinity Lutheran Church</i>
REMOTE OPTION	Online Classes <i>You Choose Day & Time Location:</i> <i>Meet using Zoom</i>

Register today! Register at www.bsfinternational.org or scan the QR code.
For questions, please contact Michelle Vanderzyden at the church office.

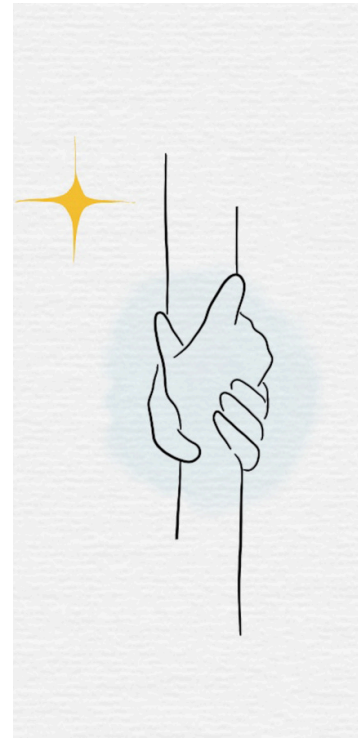


STEPHEN MINISTRY

Christ caring for people through people

"Christ Caring for People Through People." That's the heart of Stephen Ministry. A Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. Stephen Ministers listen, care, support, encourage, and pray with and for those who are hurting. In the midst of this confidential, one-to-one caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through.

If you or someone you know is facing a crisis—large or small—and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, we encourage you to reach out. Please contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Michelle Vanderzyden, Dan Forbes, or Pam Prezioso. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to walk alongside you with compassion, hope, and the love of Christ.



June 2026 Church Services		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
6/6-6/7	-	350
6/13-6/14	-	258
6/20-6/21	-	342
6/27-6/28	-	238

June 2026 Receipts	
DATE	AMOUNT
6/6-6/7	13,059
6/13-6/14	22,188
6/20-6/21	11,039
6/27-6/28	35,045

Operating Fund YTD	
INCOME	\$507,437
DISBURSEMENTS	\$647,386
DEFICIT	-139,949
WEEKLY INCOME NEEDED FOR OPERATION BUDGET	\$21,580

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

REGARDING GIVING ENVELOPES:

If you receive envelopes for giving but would like to discontinue receiving them, you may request this through emailing giving@trinityashland.org. Please include your name and address and we will confirm your request. You may continue to give electronically/paperless via our website.

COUNCIL REPORT: JULY 2026 MEETING

Opening & Administrative Business

Pastor Kevin reflected on the midpoint of the year, noting that ministry planning for the coming year is already well underway. Staff have developed detailed plans for worship services, special events, and regular ministries, while Trinity continues to celebrate baptisms and prepare to welcome new members through a fall New Member Class. He also shared that Council's ongoing work to update the congregation's constitution and bylaws is laying a strong foundation for years of future ministry.

Key Updates & Reports

Christian Education

- The 2026–2027 Sunday School schedule has been completed with 13 facilitators serving Preschool through 6th grade classes.
- Nine facilitators are scheduled to teach adult Sunday School classes throughout the year.
- Additional adult facilitators are still needed. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Ryane Briggs.

Finance Committee

- Council approved the June 2026 financial report.
- Banking updates were approved for church and Montessori accounts.
- Approved an accounting review by Irwin's & Associates.
- Approved the budgeted transfer of \$20,000 from the New Pastors Fund to the Operating Fund.

Grounds

- The Rose Garden was prepared for the July 26 outdoor worship service.

Nurture

- The M&Ms monthly luncheon continues to meet on the third Tuesday of each month with steady attendance.
- Luther Club and Euchre continue to see growing participation.
- A New Member Class is scheduled for September 13, 20, and 27, with new members expected to be welcomed on Reformation Sunday.

Outreach

- Council approved funding to provide lodging for missionaries Michael and Lupe Geiss during their visit to Trinity as they shared about their ministry in Nepal.

Property

- The church roof replacement has been completed and is awaiting final inspection.
- A new 30-year roof warranty has been issued.
- Council is obtaining quotes to power wash the church's front steps and walkway.
- A window washing contract was also discussed.

Women & Children

- Summer Reading Program concluded with a family picnic attended by nearly 200 people.
- Trinity Kids 456 will kick off the new ministry year with Sundae Fun Day on August 16 under the leadership of Melissa and Brad James, Jesse Gruver, and Luke Morris.
- Planning is underway for a joint women's retreat in early October featuring guest speaker and author Sarah Steele.

Youth Ministry

- Summer Share Group continues each Thursday in July with students studying the Book of Ruth under the leadership of Vicar Gage Garlinghouse.
- The Youth Council is planning for the QUAKE Youth Conference in Cincinnati this January and is exploring ways to help cover costs for participating students.