

The Messenger

September 2019

Volume 84, Issue 9

Kindly, Save the Date

Sunday, October 13, 2019
3:30 PM

Rev. Michael Lozano

Installation as Bishop of the Northwestern
Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Church of the Holy Trinity
1 Trinity Place
Greenville, PA 16125

What's Inside

New and Noted:

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September Calendar

From our Pastor

Life at Holy Trinity About To Get Busier In September

After a slow summer in the life of the church, our September schedule is filling up fast with special events, the beginning of Sunday School, the return of the choir and the reconvening of committees.

On Sunday, September 8, we will participate for the first time in "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday. We'll be joining tens of thousands of Lutherans from thousands of ELCA congregations in a day of service. We begin with worship that morning, then we'll be fed and have the chance in the church building to both write notes and sign cards for those serving in the military who are on our prayer list. We'll also be able to join in ELCA advocacy activities by signing and sending letters to our national and state leaders. (There will be sample letters, so it will be easy to pick which ones you'd like to sign. Then we send them to our ELCA advocacy offices in Harrisburg and Washington, and they take care of the rest.) After we'll split into two groups. Half of us will go to the Good Shepherd Center to help do some work there. The other half will go to Riverside Park to help beautify a popular public spot. We're working to get a group of Thiel College students to join us for this day of service. There's a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

On Sunday, September 15, we'll have Rally Day to celebrate the beginning of Sunday School and confirmation for the year.

On Sunday, September 15, we'll also have the annual church picnic at Pavilion 2 at Hempfield Park. Take note: This is a different pavilion than we have normally used. (Another group scheduled before we did.)

God's blessings to all those who teach and those who learn who are now back at school and college!

Make sure to look at the schedule in this newsletter to see all of the events that are coming up this month.

Pastor Brenda

Rally Day

September 15, 2019 ~ 10:45

Join us for this

Intergenerational Event

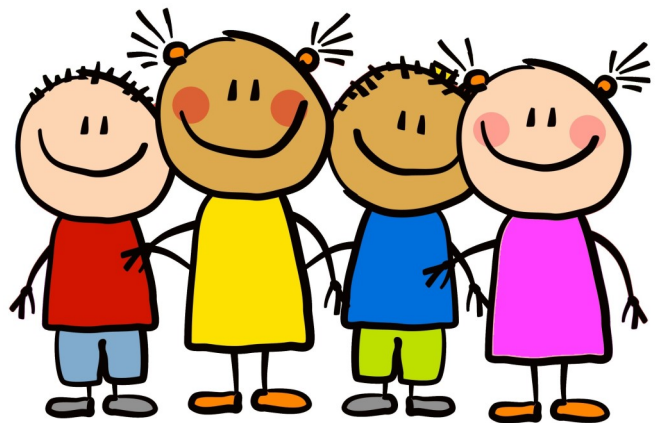


for ALL the congregation
to kick off another year of
learning in Holy
Trinity's Sunday School.

We come together in Trinity Hall at 10:45 a.m. as we sing songs, rejoin friends, and meet teachers. There will be snacks for everyone.

Parents, please come and stay with your child for this Intergenerational time together.

See you on
September 15!



Sunday Church School Teachers, Staff, and Confirmation Guides to be Installed on Rally Day, September 15th during Worship

The teachers, staff, and Confirmation Guides will be installed on September 15, with prayers offered on their behalf as they represent the congregation in this very important aspect of our ministry together. Children and adults all need to continue to learn the Faith throughout life. Our teachers will assist in sharing the good news of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Remember them in your prayers and say thanks when you see them. Our Sunday Church School leaders are: Tyler Martin Call Erin McKinney, Olivia Martin Call, Alyssa Martin, Aubrey Martin, Linda Armstrong, and Carol McQueen.

Sunday Church School Resumes

Sunday, September 22, will be the first day of regular Sunday Church School classes for children Grades K through 6 and Confirmation Class. We gather at 10:45 in the respective classrooms. Come, and invite your friends!



Confirmation Class

September brings the start of another year of Catechism instruction and growth in discipleship for the members of our weekly Confirmation Class on Sunday mornings.

All the class of seventh - ninth graders, and our adult and youth Confirmation Guides will gather for our Rally Day Intergenerational Event on **September 15th**. That morning at worship new catechumens, entering seventh grade, will participate in the Rite of Enrollment as they begin this important time of learning.

Sunday, September 22nd will be **Confirmation Orientation Day for parents and students**. Confirmation guidelines, with class and service event schedules, will be reviewed together. Guides will be introduced and small groups formed. Acolyte service schedules will be set. The class will meet weekly on Sundays through May in Trinity hall.

All the congregation is encouraged to join in prayer for Confirmation Class members in this exciting and growing time of their lives.

Congregation Picnic ~ Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, September 15, 2019



Join in the fun at our annual **Congregation Picnic at Hempfield Park in Pavilion #2.**

We will begin gathering after 12:00 p.m. and we will eat at 1:00 p.m. Please bring a casserole, salad, or dessert to share and your own table service. Beverages will be provided along with roasted pig and lamb cooked over an open fire.

Our able chefs who are planning for this event would love to have you join them in helping roast the pig and lamb and joining in the fun. Please call Bob Massing 724-253-2932 if you would like to help.

Focus on Stewardship

Attendance and giving always slow during the summer months. As we get back into our church year routine, please remember to catch up on your pledged giving. We give thanks to God for your faithfulness and your giving to the mission of the church as God has given to you.

Holy Trinity to Receive Gift

We have been notified that the late Jean Harnett has remembered Holy Trinity with a gift. She named Holy Trinity, along with two other organizations, as recipients of a trust that she established before her death in 2018.

We do not have much information about how this will work or what Holy Trinity will receive, although we believe that the gift will be disbursed each year, and will likely live on for generations to come.

We will share information as it becomes available to us, and we will also find a way to honor Jean's love for Holy Trinity and her wish to continue to help the congregation that she loved in fulfilling its mission to our neighbors and the world.

Thank You

Thank you to so many persons who helped with the funeral meals for Jan Truax's family and friends. Thanks to Marie Riley, Dick Meeker, Gretchen Minetti, Nancy Ullstrom, Judy Teats, Gianni Weaver, Nikki Weaver, Nancy McLaughlin, Don Achenbach, Linda Saverino, Beth Harpst, Jason Oros, Jonathon Oros, Ed Pitcher, Carol Koehler, Ruth Heil, Kim Gainor, Sue Achenbach, Elaine Wilkins, Frances Wackenhut and Karen McKay. Thanks also to all those who just started clearing the tables and setting the room to rights after both events.

Bonnie Massing

Churchwide Assembly – Getting To See How the Church Works

It was a great honor to be able to represent Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod as a voting member at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee.

In some ways, it was like a church council meeting or synod assembly, only with nearly 1,000 voting members.

You can read a summary of the actions and an explanation of what it means to be a sanctuary church body on the following pages. But along with the official actions, there were so many more memorable things:

We worshipped every day. It's always fun to get a group of Lutherans together to sing. It's awesome when there are more than 1,000 of us. Each day during worship, we were fed by Word and Sacrament. Two of the high school students from our synod who were voting members got the chance to participate in the opening Eucharist. They carried "twirlies," huge poles that had either streamers on the end of them or some other object, like doves. (I actually gave serious thought to staging a kidnapping of those birds, they were so much fun!)

This assembly also kicked off a year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in our Lutheran family in North America. During the Friday worship at assembly, female pastors were encouraged to vest and process at the beginning of worship. I was able to participate in that, along with between 400 and 500 other female pastors. The procession not only included people participating in the assembly, but pastors who lived within driving distance who came to participate. It took about five minutes for us to process, and I had the chance to be one of about 40 people distributing communion that day.

One of the fun things about assembly was meeting so many people, hearing about things happening in other churches and synods, and coming home with a notebook of ideas for us to try at Holy Trinity.

I also had the chance to meet one of the people who works for Augsburg Fortress, our church's publishing house. The person I met was one of the people who helped write First Holy Communion materials that we used this year for our group of kids who received the Sacrament for the first time. The writer was so excited about how we used the materials that she plans to use Holy Trinity as an example of how these materials help kids engage in God's story and the great gift we receive in the bread and wine.



On the following pages, you'll see the highlights of action at the assembly and a look at what it means to be a sanctuary church. I'll also share information about some of these things in other ways in the coming weeks.

It was a blessing to be able to attend the assembly to see how the church works, but it's also a blessing to be back home among you.

Pastor Brenda



What does becoming a sanctuary denomination mean for the ELCA?

- **In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith.** The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the highest legislative authority of the ELCA, declared that when we preach on Sunday that Jesus told us to welcome, we will use our hands and voices on Monday to make sure it happens.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination does not call for any person, congregation or synod to engage in any illegal actions.**
- **We have a broken system regarding immigration, refugees and asylum-seekers.** To declare ourselves a sanctuary church body is to say that we seek to provide concrete resources to assist the most vulnerable who are feeling the sharp edges of this broken system.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination is about loving our neighbors.** While we may have different ideas about how to fix this broken system and may have different ways of loving our neighbors, our call to love our neighbor is central to our faith.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination will look different in different contexts.** It may mean providing space for people to live; providing financial and legal support to those who are working through the immigration system; or supporting other congregations and service providers. We cannot mandate or direct our congregations and ministries to respond in specific ways. Each must work out what this means for them in their context.
- **While we don't yet know the full scope of the work that this declaration will open for the church, we do know that our faith communities are already doing sanctuary work.** Sanctuary for a congregation may mean hosting English as a second Language (ESL) classes; marching as people of faith against the detention of children and families; providing housing for a community member facing deportation; or, in some of our congregations, having thoughtful conversations about what our faith says about immigration. All of these are a step closer to sanctuary in our faith communities and sanctuary in our world for people who must leave their homes.

- Except for our members whose ancestors were here before European settlement or others who were forced to come to the U.S. against their will, the ELCA is an immigrant church. Our decadeslong work with immigrants and refugees *is* how we practice our faith in the world. Lutherans started Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, one of the nine refugee resettlement agencies in the U.S.
- At our last churchwide assembly, we also committed to walking alongside Central American children and families fleeing their communities by passing the AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities).
- Through the AMMPARO strategy, we are also working through our global partners in Central America to alleviate the conditions that cause people to migrate. We support organizations and faith communities that work with deported migrants in Central America and advocate for the humane treatment of immigrants in Mexico. In the U.S., we have a network of 151 welcoming and sanctuary congregations that are committed to working on migration issues and a welcome for immigrant communities. The church also has five sanctuary synods (our regional structures), all of which do work with immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.
- In baptism, we are brought into a covenantal relationship with Jesus Christ that commits us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Following the example of Martin Luther, we believe that advocacy is a crucial expression of baptismal identity. As a church, we have advocated for stopping the detention of children and families for decades. We have spoken out against family separation, sought a pathway to citizenship for community members who have lived in the U.S. for many years, and have taken steps to address the root causes of migration in a way that honors the humanity in people who must flee.
- Being a sanctuary denomination means that we, as church together, want to be public and vocal about this work. At the same time, we will have conversations about what sanctuary means with many of our members and discern future action and direction. Welcoming people is not a political issue for us, it is a matter of faith.

2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Summary of Actions

Gathering under the theme “We are church,” voting members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) made a number of key decisions to further the mission and ministry of this church. The assembly, the chief legislative authority of the church, met August 5-10 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee.

More than 900 voting members:

- Reelected on the first ballot the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton to a six-year term as ELCA presiding bishop.
- Elected Deacon Sue Rothmeyer to a six-year term as ELCA secretary. Rothmeyer, currently serving as executive for administration with the Office of the Secretary, was installed during the assembly’s closing worship on Aug. 10 and will begin her term November 1.
- Approved the social statement “Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action” and its implementing resolutions. The social statement, in part, names patriarchy and sexism as sins and calls the church to action on a range of issues, including gender-based violence, workplace discrimination and economic inequality.
- Adopted “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment,” which will serve as church policy for inter-religious relations. The policy statement was adopted with the witness of 39 ecumenical and inter-religious guests in attendance.
- Approved the triennium budget for 2020-2022, which includes a current fund spending authorization of \$68,378,325 for 2020, a current fund income proposal of \$68,442,034 for 2021 and \$68,507,018 for 2022; and an ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21.5 million 2020, and an income proposal of \$21.5 million for 2021 and for 2022.
- Adopted the “Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA,” which consists of a report and recommendations on how the ELCA exhibits authentic diversity and formulates goals for racial diversity and inclusion.
- Witnessed the presentation of the “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent,” which was accepted by the Rev. Lamont A. Wells, president of the African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA), and members of ADLA.
- Adopted 26 memorials en bloc, ranging in topics from gun violence to engagement in the Holy Land and gender identity to seminary tuition.
- Adopted a memorial that affirms the ELCA’s long-standing commitment to migrants and refugees and declares the ELCA a sanctuary church body.
- Adopted a memorial that calls for the development of a social statement and social message on the relationship of church and state.
- Adopted a memorial to encourage all synods and congregations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA’s ordination of women in 2020, the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color in the Lutheran tradition and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA’s decision to remove barriers to ordination for people in same-gender relationships.
- Adopted a memorial to support the vision and goals of the Poor People’s Campaign that align with the ELCA’s social teachings.
- Adopted a series of amendments to the “Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolu-

tions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” including one that makes ordination the entrance rite for ministers of Word and Service, and an amendment to no longer count deacons as laypeople for representational principles.

- Adopted a resolution that committed the ELCA to support the World Council of Church’s “Thursdays in Black” campaign toward a world without rape and violence.
- Adopted a resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance in the ELCA for the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9 – the nine people who were shot and killed June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.
- Adopted a resolution to condemn white supremacy, calling all ELCA congregations to engage in a “study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God.”
- Celebrated the end of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, which concluded June 30 with nearly \$250 million raised in cash, multiyear commitments and planned gift commitments. At the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, voting members approved the \$198 million campaign to help sustain and grow ministries of the church.
- Elected members to serve on the ELCA Church Council, churchwide committees and churchwide boards, including Portico Benefit Services, the Mission Investment Fund and 1517 Media.

Seeking Office Coverage

Again this year I am asking for your generosity so I may have vacation time away. As always, the times for each day are 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. If you are of a mind to, you can sign up for the whole day, although most have found half days work better. You will be asked to answer the phone, take messages, and bring along a craft, reading, or whatever you wish to help the time pass.

The dates I am looking for coverage are:



Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Friday, October 4, 2019

Monday, October 7, 2019

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Friday, November 8, 2019

Monday, November 11, 2019

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Monday, November 25, 2019

Friday, December 6, 2019

Monday, December 09, 2019

Monday, December 16, 2019

Thursday, December 26, 2019

Friday, December 27, 2019

Monday, December 30, 2019

If you can help, please call me at 724-588-8870 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Thank you so much.

Peace, Tammy

Harvest Weekend

Saturday and Sunday,
October 3 and 4, 2019

Please remember to bring

CANNED GOODS

as a Special Offering for the
Good Shepherd Center



Good Shepherd September Request



The Good Shepherd Center is our church community social service agency that supports the needs of many in the area. The Good Shepherd Center's request for Holy Trinity for **September** is **pasta, rice, or dried grains**. Donations may be placed in the marked box in the cloister.



Second Mile Giving for September - Lutheran World Relief (Flying Quilts shipping costs)

Each month we offer the opportunity for our members to reach out into the greater community to those who are seeking to minister to people with specific needs through our Second Mile Giving – our financial gifts beyond our regular offerings.

Picture yourself after the Tsunami in Japan - your home has been washed away - your whole neighborhood – your whole town - is gone and you are forced to start over with no possessions.

Imagine someone coming and giving you a quilt that can keep you warm at night - something that you can call your own - along with the food and clothes that you have received - a “security blanket” that is all yours, from people you don’t even know - friends at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Greenville, PA.

Members of the Flying Quilts group use their gifts and give of their time to make these quilts. But we must see that they get to where they are needed. That is where you and I come in! Money raised this month will be used to mail the quilts with the remainder of the money going direct to Lutheran World Relief.

If you would like to help Lutheran World Relief and our Flying Quilters with a Second Mile gift, you can place your gift in an envelope that may be found in the pew rack, or you may mail your contribution to the church office in an envelope clearly marked, “Second Mile Giving.” All Second Mile contributions received during the month of September will be given to the designated cause.

Funeral

Janet Lee Truax

Born:	November 6, 1938
Baptized:	December 18, 1938
Confirmed:	March 18, 1951
Died:	August 2, 2019
Funeral Liturgy:	August 9, 2019

***“Rest eternal grant her, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon her.”***



Thank You

Dear Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for awarding me money from the William and Adelaide Horner scholarship fund. I greatly appreciate it and it will help significantly with college this year.

Love,

Kaitlyn Faber



Dear Scholarship Committee,

I'd like to thank you for the scholarship I have received. I really appreciate your generosity. It will be really great for buying textbooks this semester!

Thank you again,

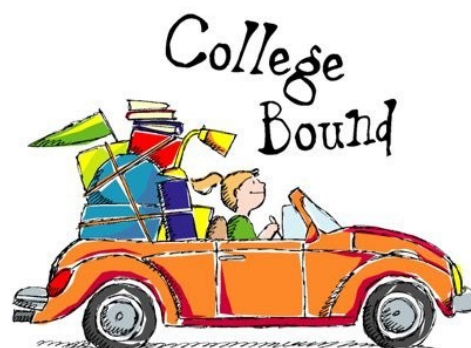
Julia Mozes

Dear Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for awarding me the Shaffer-Pearson Scholarship. It will cover most of my books for my last two semesters!

Sincerely,

Alex



Thank you so much for helping me go to camp! this year I went to horse camp again. I had the same horse as last year and the same leader. the people there are really nice and kind.

Sincerely,
Grace Mozes



Thank
You!!



Thank you for helping
me be able to go to
Camp I loved it.

JACKSON
MOZES

Dear Members of Holy Trinity,
I am writing to thank you for the money you donated to help me go to Camp Lutherlyn. It was greatly appreciated and I had a great time there.

Thanks again,
Zach Morgan.

September Birthdays

- 1 Dayna Gainor
- 3 Alex Mozes
- 4 Wayne Swift
- 7 John Logan
- 8 Michael Balas
- Brandon Stubert
- 11 Bonnie Long
- 12 Mary Alice Dean
- 15 Sue Bittler
- Neal Lineman
- 17 Sara Newton
- 18 Esther Wasser
- 19 Jeff Newcomer
- 21 Lee Barrall
- 24 Mary Beth Bradley
- 27 Matthew Logan
- Mike McKinney
- Andy Moreland
- 30 Mary Moore

September Anniversaries

The following members of our congregation are celebrating anniversaries this month. Congratulate them when you see them.

George and Donna Brecht	32 years	September 5, 1987
Pastor Robert and Jan Harris	21 years	September 5, 1998
David and Dolly Lineman	29 years	September 15, 1990
Jake and Jamie Miller	7 years	September 15, 2012
Nick and Betsy Hildebrand	19 years	September 23, 2000
Ken and Lori McEwen	16 years	September 27, 2003
Paul and Debbie Yoos	35 years	September 29, 1984

Trinity Travelers

If you visit another church, drop off a bulletin from that church, with your name on it, so that you can be a *Trinity Traveler*.

Anna-Marie Shears
Church of our Saviour
DuBois, Pennsylvania
Father Zeke Coughlin



Thank You

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,

I received beautiful flowers from the altar from your church, delivered by Linda Saverino.

Thank you so much for brightening my day.

Sincerely,
Carol Smith