

# The Messenger

September 2025

Volume 90, Issue 9

## What's Inside

### New and Noted:

- From our Pastor
- God's Work Our Hands
- Church Picnic
- From our DOM
- From our DOPM
- Music at Holy Trinity
- Thank you notes
- Calendar

### Social Ministry/Giving

- Good Shepherd Request
- Second Mile

### Birthdays/Anniversaries



## From our Pastor

### We turn our eyes toward fall events

*O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

It feels like summer just started, but we're looking ahead to fall and beginning planning for the fall season. Here are some of the things that are coming up:

While we look forward to the return of the choir and the return of Sunday School and confirmation in September, our calendar is starting to fill up with special events. We'd like to lift up some dates for you to mark on your calendars:

- God's Work Our Hands Sunday will be **September 7**, and we plan to have several service projects that day as we join ELCA congregations from around the U.S. in a shared day of service.
- Our church picnic and outdoor worship will be held at Riverside Park on **September 14**. It will also be Rally Day to prepare for Sunday School. Worship will be held at the amphitheater at 9:30 a.m., then we'll move to pavilions for our annual picnic.
- Sunday School begins on **September 21**. New this year will be a class for 3- to 5-year-olds. We have a sizable group of kids in this age group, and it's time for us to walk with them in their faith formation. We have identified a play-based curriculum, and are looking for a team of teachers and helpers for this group. If you are interested, please see Pastor Brenda or Sue Achenbach. We are planning to begin a support group at Holy Trinity for people experiencing grief and people serving loved ones as caregivers. Watch for more information on this important initiative.

Blessings to you, dear church, in this last full month of summer.

Pastor Brenda +

# Your hands help God's work

God's Work Our Hands Sunday, the ELCA's annual day of service, is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 7, and we will take part in several projects on that day, immediately after worship:

- One group will be in Brath Hall at Holy Trinity packing care packages for our college students. Please start bringing items in for the care packages and place them on table inside the office entrance.
- We'll also be at the Good Shepherd Center's thrift store, where we'll be doing a little bit of painting to help complete a renovation project begun last year. (We painted last year, too!)
- One group will help to get the Rotary plot across from Sheetz ready for fall, by taking out some season plants and replacing them with fall plantings.
- We'll also be helping lay mulch at Riverside Park. We're hoping a group of Thiel College students will join us for this project.

God's Work Our Hands is an annual day of service started by the ELCA more than a decade ago. We'll be joining tens of thousands of Lutherans from thousands of congregations who will be doing service projects for the good of their communities on this day. God's Work Our Hands is always the first Sunday after Labor Day.

Please join us for this day of service. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex so that we can get a good count on the number of volunteers we will have.

## **Church picnic: Sunday, Sept. 14, at Riverside Park**

Our church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 14, at Riverside Park. We begin the day at 9:30 a.m. with worship at the amphitheater in the park. There will be no worship in our church building that day. (But we will have Saturday evening worship at the church as we normally do.)

Bring a chair to sit on during worship. (If you're comfortable with it, you can also sit on the amphitheater seating, but it's hard!) Also bring a side dish or dessert to share, as well as table service for you and your family. Meats will be roasting even before we arrive! The church council will provide water and other drinks.

## **Help to raise the roof!**

The roof on the Clinton Street side of our church was replaced this summer, and we'll be starting the capital campaign this fall to pay for it. Watch for details coming soon.

Before we start that fundraising campaign, we do have 25 sets of coasters made from the slate that was taken off the roof to sell to raise money. The cost of a set of 4 coasters is \$100.

The coasters were created for us and shaped by Mike Williams, of Western PA Slate, who did the work on replacing our roof. It's a wonderful way to have a piece of Holy Trinity's history in your home, or to give as a gift.

If you'd like one of the coaster sets, please contact Catherine in the church office.

## From Our Director of Music

Et visibilium omnium et invisibilium And I believe in all things visible and invisible. -- from the opening sentence of the Nicene Creed After the roof project was finished, the protective plastic sheeting was removed to protect the organ pipes from dust and debris. Since organ pipes are tuned air columns, their pitch is affected by temperature. We were experiencing a heat wave the day the organ company removed the plastic. So given the rising heat that day, they could not tune the pipes.

At this time, there were a couple funerals scheduled on Saturdays along with two guest organists on the first two Sundays in August. So, the organ had to be in tune for these services. It takes two people to tune a pipe organ – one tuning the pipes and the other controlling the stops and keys to make sure that the tuner is on the correct pipe. With the help of Sue Auchenbach at the console, I tuned the pipes that are above where the choir sits. This involves getting the 15' wooden ladder out, putting the top part of the ladder on the case by the pipes and propping the bottom end against the choir kneelers. To fit this tight angle for the ladder, I had to put down the choir kneelers.

And lo and behold, I noticed for the first time six beautifully designed and executed needlepoint kneelers. Not only that, but the design consisted of a 4-line Gregorian chant notation complete with an F clef and chant-style neumes (notes).

My amazement didn't stop there. Each of the six kneelers in the choir area are flanked by herald angels – twelve angels in all. The represented chant is the Sanctus (Holy, holy, holy) from the Gregorian Chant Mass XV "Dominator Deus". This chant dates from the 10th century. Like a Medieval manuscript, each of the beginning six lines of the on the needlepoint kneelers start with an historiated initial letter.

To include a Sanctus in the choir area was a well-thought-out idea. As described in the Book of Isaiah, the Seraphim are the angels who continuously singing, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" Medieval Christian theology places the Seraphim in the highest choir of the angelic hierarchy, closest to God's throne, leading this ceaseless worship and praise. There are also four carved-oak angels facing inwards on the front ends of the choir and organ rails. It is to me somewhat representational of the two angles on the ark of the covenant that face inward. If you ever wish to view this hidden treasure in our church's chancel, it would be well worth your effort.

And speaking of effort, here are some things that are going on in the music department at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Greenville:

- We are in the process of forming a Friends of Music Committee.
- Over the summer I had the opportunity to look over new and old exciting choir repertoire.
- In September we will initiate a Choral Scholarship Program. This program is designed to support college students by fostering their musical and spiritual growth while enriching the liturgical life of our parish.
- Luke Politsky, who played organ for us on August 10th will be back again with his accordion not only playing for our picnic but also for the service.
- We are planning an Advent Service of Lessons & Carols in conjunction with our staff and choir, the Thiel College staff, and the Thiel College Choir.

# From Our Directors of Parish Ministry

## The Last Supper

I recently gobbled up Walter Icaacson's biography of Leonardo Da Vinci and since we look upon one of his seminal masterpieces over our altar every week, I thought it might be fun to learn a bit more about it.

The painting was commissioned by the Duke of Milan after he assumed the title by poisoning his nephew in 1494. The Duke had built a monastery retreat and wanted Leonardo to paint an interpretation of The Last Supper on the dining room's wall. Needing a sponsor for his scientific ambitions, Leonardo reluctantly agreed. The technique of the day was to apply paint pigment to wet plaster so they would dry together but Leonardo wanted the brightness of oil paints so he painted directly onto the dry wall. Spoiler alert-Bad idea!

The scene replicates the moments just after Jesus makes his "One of you will betray me." declaration, and understandably sets off a chain reaction of emotions. Let's sneak a peek. At our far-left end of the table, Bartholomew, James the Minor, and Andrew are reacting as if they barely heard Jesus' remarks. Bartholomew is beginning to leap to his feet in protest while the others just seem perplexed.

The next three are Judas, Peter, and John. Judas was purposely painted in the shadow, a technique Leonardo practically invented. Ugly with a hooked nose, Judas greedily clutches the infamous bag of silver. Notoriously slow, Leonardo rarely finished any of his works. Upon having his pace questioned, he reminded his patron that Judas wasn't painted yet, and that the Duke bore a striking resemblance. Message received!

Peter boldly brandishes the knife he will later slice off an ear with, while John appears to be devastated with sadness. "DaVinci Code" fans will remember the premise that because of John's feminine appearance, Leonardo really painted Mary Magdelene. Probably not, Leonardo loved to blur subject genders and specialized in painting androgynous figures.

Jesus is represented with a slightly bowed head while reaching for bread and wine which, according to Matthew, he blessed moments after the bombshell pronouncement leading to the painting's second depiction-the Eucharist. Leonardo painted Jesus in front of a window with a light background that formed a halo and a blue garment fashioned from the most expensive pigment available. This dark/light technique makes Jesus look slightly larger than the others. Thomas, James the Greater and Phillip are to Jesus' immediate left with Thomas pointing toward heaven a gesture Leonardo used repeatedly in his religious works. The pointed finger may also be foreshadowing Thomas' later doubts. James and Phillip simply look in denial.

The final three, Matthew, Thaddeus and Simon, are already engaged in a heated discussion. Thaddeus' cupped hand slaps the table as if to say: 'Aha, I knew it!', while Matthew's upturned hands suggest confusion. Both seek Simon's wisdom. Cupped and upturned hands are Leonardo trademarks. His persistent study of anatomy included hundreds of autopsies so as to better understand and paint muscle assignments.

Creating the 15 by 29-foot painting drew spectators from all over who came to watch the legend at work. On good days Leonardo worked from sun up to sun down, while other days he simply sat, stared at the painting and left after a couple of strokes. A perfectionist at work! And probably why few of Leonardo's commissions were ever finished. He worked on the Mona Lisa for the last 15 years of his life, never giving her up.

Now back to the oil paints. Because he used oil on dry plaster his masterpiece began to flake after only 20 years. By 1652 the painting was so faded the monks living there cut a doorway into it. Six major restorations (the first in 1726 and the latest from 1978 to 1999) have been attempted-most making the situation worse. The painting survived the French Revolution when anti-

clerics scratched out all of the apostle's eyes and a WWII bombing when disaster was averted by strategically placed sand bags.

"Talent hits a target most can't hit, genius hits a target most can't see!" Here's to enjoying genius every Sunday.

## Second Mile Giving for September ~ Youth Gathering 2027

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.

All Second Mile contributions received during the month of September will be given to the designated cause.

## 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 one pound bags of rice or canned vegetables.**

Donations may be placed in the marked box in the cloister or on the table in the office hallway.

### MUSIC at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Music is a vital part of the life at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. It uplifts, inspires, and adds so much to our worship experience.

Each Sunday, we worship with sacred music. We also offer special services and concerts throughout the year.

Whether you are a professional musician, someone who enjoys singing with others, or simply a person who appreciates beautiful music, we would love to have you join us in the choir.

### GET INVOLVED



Contact: Steve Repasky, music director  
jsrepasky@gmail.com

## September Birthdays

3 Alex Mozes  
 7 John Logan  
 Mary Reames  
 8 Michael Balas  
 Brandon Stubert  
 9 Ed Nanz  
 11 Elizabeth Kovack  
 Aurora Kovack  
 Harmony Kovack  
 Bonnie Long  
 17 Sara Newton  
 21 Lee Barrall  
 24 Mary Beth Bradley  
 25 Dave Leary  
 27 Matthew Logan  
 Mike McKinney  
 30 Mary Moore

## September Anniversaries

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

David and Dolly Lineman	35 years	September 15, 1990
Nick and Betsy Hildebrand	25 years	September 23, 2000
Ken and Lori McEwen	22 years	September 27, 2003

# Happy Anniversary



*Holy Trinity members and Scholarship Committee,*

*Thank you so much for the continuing support. I am starting my junior year at Thiel. My brother and I are blessed to have such a loving church family that supports us. The Meleky scholarship has helped me beyond words. Thank you again.  
 Love, Sidney Richardson*

Dear Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for the scholarship. I am still at Holy Family and will be starting my masters this fall while I play my last season of college baseball.

Sincerely,  
 Griffin Richardson

Dear Holy Trinity Family,

Thank you so much for your continued support in my college journey. The financial help the church bestows has been so important. The cost of school is so high and it is a struggle to come up with thousands of dollars every semester. These scholarships have eased the burden a great deal and have aided me in my four years while I work to get my degree.

Love,  
 Aubrey Martin

Holy Trinity,

I give profound thanks for the people of Holy Trinity. At 83, I have been a member of at least a dozen congregations. There has never been one like you. Gathered together in work, worship and prayer, you are such a presence of love, strength and belief. When my granddaughter died, you were just there. Church is the hardest place to be when there is a great loss. As I was standing near the columbarium a parishioner reached out, patted my hand with tearful eyes, and said, "I know, I know". At the columbarium, with the remains of his loved ones behind him. Thank you, thank you all. I know that with your help, I will get through it and whatever comes after. This is where I saw Jesus today. Carol McQueen

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	
	<b>September 2025</b>					
			Dance Lessons 6-9	Dance Lessons 6-9		5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (with prayers for healing)
7 13th after Pentecost	8	9	10	11	12	13
	6:00 Property Committee			5:30 Officers' Planning Meeting		5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken)
9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion		9:00 Flying Quilts	1:00 Staff meeting	Dance Lessons 6-9		
7:00 AA Big book meeting		5:15 Worship and Music	6:00 Choir Rehearsal	6:30 Finance		Thiel Choir Fundraiser 4 til 8
GWOH 2025			Dance Lessons 6-9	8:00 Happy Hour (Zoom)		
14 Holy Cross	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>RIVERSIDE PARK</b>				Dance Lessons 6-9		5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken)
9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion	7:00 GSO EXEC Board mtg	7:00 Congregation Council	6:00 Choir Rehearsal	7:00 Happy Hour (Zoom)		
12:00 Congregation picnic			Dance Lessons 6-9			
7:00 AA Big book meeting			6:45 GSO Board Meeting			
21 15th after Pentecost	22	23	24	25	26	27
			6:00 Choir Rehearsal	Dance Lessons 6-9		5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken)
8:30 Choir Rehearsal		9:00 Flying Quilts	Dance Lessons 6-9	7:00 Happy Hour (Zoom)		
9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion						
10:45 RALLY DAY						
7:00 AA Big book meeting						
28 16th after Pentecost	29	30				
8:30 Choir Rehearsal						
9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion						
10:45 SCS/Confirmation Classes						
7:00 AA Big book meeting						



Evangelical Lutheran Church  
of the Holy Trinity  
One Trinity Place  
Greenville, PA 16125



The Messenger is a publication of:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church  
of the Holy Trinity  
1 Trinity Place  
Greenville, PA 16125  
724-588-8870

**Email address**

holytrinitygreenville@verizon.net

**Website:**

www.holytrinitygreenvillepa.com

**Staff**

**Pastor:**

Pastor Brenda Martin

**Director of Music:**

Steve Repasky

**Office Administrator:**

Catherine Richardson

**Directors of Parish Ministry:**

Don and Sue Achenbach

**Sexton:**

Jennifer Martin

**Officers of the Congregation**

**Vice-President:**

Barry Oman

**Secretary:**

Barbara Swartz

**Treasurer:**

Tammy Daniello

**Council Members**

Linda Armstrong  
Mike Bradley  
Tammy Daniello  
Chuck Lanning  
Jim Martin  
Matt Morgan  
Jill Murrin  
Bob Olson  
Barry Oman  
Barbara Swartz  
Nicole Weaver  
Jamin Wentling

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.