



TRINITY STEEPLE NOTES

September - October 2025

TRINITY TOGETHER

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:00 AM STARTING SEPTEMBER 21

Psalm 145:4 *“One generation shall commend your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.”*
“Relationships are the oxygen of human development.” - Dr. Peter Benson

Besides family gatherings, where do you find people of all generations interacting with one another? Not sitting NEXT to each other at sports events, concerts, or even at church. But where do people have the opportunity to really interact with each other, learning their stories, their hopes, and their dreams?

Generational Discipleship, the passing of faith from one generation to another, is modeled for us all through the Bible. Notice that the Psalmist doesn't say the OLDER generation shall commend your works to the YOUNGER generation. Trinity Together is about being in Christian community, learning with and from people of ALL ages.

Together we will explore spiritual practices such as Prayer and Holy Communion (helping Nina L. prepare for her first communion.) We will engage in hands-on activities and service projects. We will hear about adventures: Our Youth Summer Mission/Service Trip, ELCA Triennial Churchwide Assembly, and Synodical Journeys to Germany and Argentina.

Trinity Together provides an opportunity for us to get to know the people who sit on the other side of the sanctuary, or those in the balcony. This is a place where all ages and abilities are welcome.

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

9/21 & 28 – Lord, Teach us to Pray: When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, he gave them the words of what is known as the Lord's Prayer. Using Luther's Small Catechism as a guide, we will explore this prayer and what it means for our lives.

October topics will be determined by our **Trinity Together Survey**:

In order to help us plan for the year, your feedback is welcome and encouraged. Trinity Together Surveys are available in the narthex. We can also email or send a copy in the mail if you wish.

Contact Dcs. Deborah for details at dgraf@trinityreading.org or (610) 374-4861.

STEEPLE NOTES

PROPERTY WORK NIGHT!

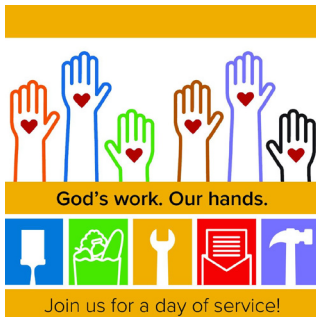
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND AT 6:00 PM.

We are in process of repairing, repainting and repurposing some rooms in the Bard House. When the dust settles, we'll have a more workable Choir practice area, and will once again have a dedicated conference room. To accomplish this, we will need assistance moving furniture from Pastor Hans' office to the 2nd floor (location of his new office). Strong backs recommended. In addition to Gods eternal reward, we will also have some light snacks afterwards.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 1:00 -4:00 PM

**THE POTATO PROJECT @ BECKER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
265 MAINDENCREEK ROAD, FLEETWOOD, PA 19522**



We will join people from all over Berks County harvesting and bagging potatoes. The potatoes we pick will be donated to Helping Harvest and our own Common Ground.

For those who don't want to bend down, you can help by bagging up the potatoes. Bring a lawn chair for your comfort. All volunteers are rewarded with a snack of hotdogs and freshly cut French fries. Bring a water bottle and sunscreen.

Sign up in the Narthex or email Dcs. Deborah at dgraf@trinityreading.org or call (610) 374-4861.

Directions for Volunteers:

Park in front of church in parking lot, and/or on side lawn grass. Walk back behind the church through the cemetery to the field. Handicap and 'providers' may drive through as needed, through the right-side gate behind church north/west, outside of fence

STEEPLE NOTES

YOUTH OF TRINITY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14 AT 9:30 AM - ALL SAINTS ROOM

Bring your calendars and your dreams for youth ministry together. We hope to schedule a week for our 2026 Mission/Service Trip as well as other opportunities.

Here is what we have planned so far:

October 5 – 6:00 p.m. – Stronger Together Youth at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Sinking Spring. This is an opportunity to meet with youth from all over the county for food, faith, and fellowship.

October 12 – 1:00 p.m. – CROP Hunger Walk at Gring’s Mill

January 18 – 5:00 p.m. – Stronger Together Youth Game Night location TBA

February 21-22 – Stronger Together Lenten Overnight @ Trinity

March 15 – 3:00 p.m. – Bowl-a-thon for Mary’s Shelter

READING-BERKS CROP HUNGER WALK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 AT GRING’S MILL. 1:00 PM



Some give by walking. Others walk by giving. You are invited to join the Youth and Families of Trinity as we walk to fight hunger locally and globally. As programs and support systems are being drastically cut, our participation is even more important. 25% of donations will be given to Helping Harvest and the remainder distributed through the work of Church World Service, a partner of ELCA World Hunger. Our 2025 goal is \$751.00. WE CAN DO IT!

Register to walk/ or donate to team Trinity using the QR Code or see Dcs. Deborah on Sundays.



A BLESSING FROM THE BARD HOUSE: THERE ARE WHITE LUTHERANS?!



Growing up, the busiest day of the church year wasn't Christmas or Easter. No, it was an unassuming Saturday in October when the country church we attended would host its annual Norwegian Supper. The men spent weeks prior to the event peeling potatoes, the ladies would wear folkloric costumes and serve at table, and the youth would wash one thousand diners' plates and glasses in the commercial Hobart dishwasher. Our donations of food and labor—and the community's support—meant that we were able to pay around half of the pastor's salary through this one huge event.

At this saturnalia of Scandinavianness, it seemed self-evident to me that being Lutheran meant being Nordic, if not strictly Norwegian—my proud Swedish father loved to remind my Norwegian mother that both countries were ruled from Stockholm until 1905. I was surrounded by things that reinforced this youthful opinion, and precious few that disproved it.

If you were raised in Berks County, you might have a similar memory about being German and Lutheran. After all, our home is the true epicenter of Pennsylvania Dutch culture, at least as far as the “Church Dutch” (Lutherans and Reformed) are concerned. Trinity's metropolitan nature has long drawn a diverse mix of congregants and clergy to the Word and the Sacraments—I'm not even the first Scandinavian to lead this congregation (that would be Pastor Knudsen). But venture out into the countryside and you'll find pig stomach dinners initiating youth and adults alike into the assumption that Lutheran equals German.

A friend of mine pastored a nascent Lutheran church on the South Side of Chicago. Since he had been a teacher and a social worker prior to entering the ministry, he knew exactly what his neighborhood needed in terms of youth ministry and programming, and within a few years his congregation had a large and growing youth group along with many bible studies, worship services and fellowship events. This church was thriving!

One year, the congregation decided to raise funds and make the journey to the triennial ELCA Youth Gathering, with tens of thousands of high-school-aged Lutherans from across the country gathered together for speakers, worship, music, and service. Upon arriving at the Gathering and mingling with the throngs, one of his youth exclaimed to Pastor Yehiel with confusion: There are white Lutherans?!

STEEPLE NOTES

This isn't just a story about the narrow-mindedness of youth—whether me, or you, or this young person from Chicago. Instead it's a story of how all of us universalize our own experiences. It is hard for us to get into the mind and experiences of the Other because we have only experienced the world through our own lenses.

Yet being a Christian can reset our anchoredness in the Self and push us towards God and the neighbor—two beings that we can't know through unmediated experience, but that we can come to know through the mediation of the Holy Spirit. We come to know God through the Word and the Sacraments—learning from the experiences of our ancestors in faith and by taking God's own body and blood into our own bodies, making Jesus no longer the Other but an integral and living part of ourselves.

The incredible thing is that, by becoming a part of Christ's body in Baptism and by receiving Him in the Eucharist, we also come to a deeper understanding of our neighbors, especially those who share our faith in Christ. Although our experiences might be wildly different, we recognize that God dwells in each of us, and this shared identity can become the disarming connection that leads us to inquire about our differences openly. Through this sharing, we learn how to love our neighbor as ourselves—even if our neighbor has hopes and needs that we don't share or even fully understand.

Oh, and my friend from Chicago? After leading Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, he was elected Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. And, on July 30th, he was elected Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. While many people will focus on this historic moment—the first Black Presiding Bishop—I think that Bishop Curry's greatest gift will be his testimony about the transformative power of Jesus Christ, that same power that turns each of us inside out so that we can know God and Neighbor.

We've never had a Presiding Bishop who took a small group of believers in a challenging situation and turned them into a thriving, growing congregation that was effective in making disciples. We've never had a Presiding Bishop who was called to the Holy Ministry after serving long and well in another career. And I don't think we've ever had a Presiding Bishop who got to explain to his inquiring youth that being Lutheran isn't about race or ethnic origin—but rather about experiencing the transformative power of God through Word and Sacrament.

—Pastor Hans

SAVE THE DATE: BABY BECKLIN'S BAPTISM AT TRINITY!



On Sunday, December 28th, the newest addition to the Becklin family will be welcomed into God's family through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. This will take place at Trinity at 10 AM during a joint service of Trinity and Faith United Evangelical Lutheran, Denver.

As a sign of both congregations' participation—along with the participation of the wider church in this sacrament—Bishop Christopher deForest of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will preach and Bishop Stephen Herr of the Lower Susquehanna Synod will preside at the Baptism. Pastors Hans and Marissa, as pastors loci, will lead the remaining portions of the service.

With two congregations attending, we envision that parking will be especially challenging on this date, so plan to park offsite and carpool if you can.

THANK YOU FROM THE BECKLINS

We were so honored and touched by the beautiful baby shower that Trinity threw for us on Saturday, July 26th. The huge congregational gift of a library spoke to us as bibliophiles, the food was phenomenal, and the activities were original, fun, and classy—not an easy thing to balance at an event that can sometimes err on the side of clichés. The Fellowship Committee did such a wonderful job, showing what we can do at Trinity when we work together.

We were overwhelmed by your individual generosity as we gathered everything together that a family needs as it welcomes a new child into the world. We will long cherish this day and the love and support it exemplifies in our hearts. What a blessing it is to be a part of this community and for our family to be growing alongside this congregation!

-Pastors Marissa and Hans

STEEPLE NOTES

WE COULD USE A HAND IN THE OFFICE



Trinity's weekday office volunteers play an important role in the life of the church—greeting visitors, answering the phone, and helping with simple clerical tasks. Right now, we're managing, but just barely. A few of our regular volunteers are hoping to move from weekly to bi-weekly shifts, and we don't have many substitutes to call on when someone is away.

If you're free in the afternoons from 12:30–3:30 (even just once or twice a month), we'd love to add you to our list. Some days are busy, and some are quiet—perfect for catching up on reading, knitting, or other personal projects.

To learn more or to sign up, reach out to Rachel Gambone, our Congregational Life Coordinator, at (610) 374-4861 or rgambone@trinityreading.org. Your presence in the office helps keep things running smoothly and extends a warm welcome to all who stop by.

FALL CLEAN UP DAY!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND AT 9:00 AM.



Join us to do a final cleaning of the church yard and to help clean and prepare the sanctuary for Advent season. There will be activities for all abilities -- from cleaning sconces and polishing brass to outdoor raking and leaf blowing. Pizza lunch to be provided to volunteers. Even if you can only join us for an hour, more hands make for easier work for all!

STEEPLE NOTES EVENT CALENDAR



PAM SHIELDS ROULE /ELAINE SOLTIS ART SHOW (SEPTEMBER 5-21)

OPENING RECEPTION FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 AT 6:00 PM
GALLERY TALK, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AT 7:00 PM

Pam Shields Roule lives and works in West Reading, PA, and exhibits her works at the Ceres Gallery in NYC where she has been a member since 2011. Pam works predominantly in charcoal, and pen and ink. She sees art as a way to observe and examine the world and open the door to unexpected discoveries.

Berks County artist Elaine Sotis is currently a Studio (211) Artist at The Goggleworks Center for the Arts. She is a mixed media artist, and she describes her process as inherently spiritual, intuitive, and organic.



SORROW AND JOY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AT 12:05 PM

Step into a powerful musical tradition with a concert of Ukrainian art songs. These aren't just beautiful melodies; they are a profound expression of Ukrainian identity and national pride. This program is a testament to the resilience of a culture that has endured centuries of oppression, with composers often defying bans on the Ukrainian language to create their art.



READING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WITH READING CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS BEETHOVEN'S 9TH SYMPHONY

SEPTEMBER 27 AT 7:30 PM

Tickets are available online through the Reading Symphony or by calling (610) 373-7557. Singers with Trinity connections include **Fred Opalinski, Matt Hayes, Darryl Jeffires, Rachel Gambone, and Pat McMahon.**

STEEPLE NOTES EVENT CALENDAR



OUR CLASS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 3:00 PM
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Our Class, a readers theater presentation, is about a group of schoolchildren, Jewish and Catholic, who are classmates in 1925 Poland. As the children grow up, their country is torn apart by invading armies, first Soviet and then Nazi. Internal grievances deepen as fervent nationalism develops. Friends betray each other and violence escalates, until these ordinary people carry out an extraordinary and monstrous act that darkly resonates to this day.



THE BEAUTY OF UKRAINIAN MUSIC

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3 AT 7:00 PM

Immerse yourself in a captivating musical journey with acclaimed concert organist Gail Archer, as she presents a program deeply rooted in the rich tapestry of Ukrainian musical heritage. This unique performance shines a spotlight on the profound contributions of Ukrainian composers, offering a rare opportunity to experience their vibrant and diverse works. From the evocative works of Bohdan Kotyuk to the intricate pieces by Tadeusz Machl, each piece unveils a distinct facet of Ukrainian artistry. Gail Archer invites you to an

unforgettable evening celebrating the power and beauty of Ukrainian music.

This is a free-will offering event in collaboration with Fall Festival of the Arts. All donations from this event will go to the Berks County Community Foundation's Fund for ISAR Ednannia which collects and distributes donations to community foundations in Ukraine. Their assistance includes food packages for the most vulnerable populations and new hospital equipment where hospitals have been destroyed or damaged. You can learn more about the work of ISAR Ednannia by reading their 2024 Impact Report using the QR code.



STEEPLE NOTES EVENT CALENDAR



BARYNYA: UNITING WITH UKRAINE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT 3:00 PM
WCR CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Fall Festival presents an afternoon of spirited traditional Slavic folk performances presented by Ukrainian Kozak Dancers, a group dedicated to honoring the Slavic arts and culture. Founded by artistic director Serhiy Tsyganok, the internationally respected ensemble consists of talented dancers and traditional virtuoso musicians and vocalists. Tickets available for purchase at using the QR code at the bottom of the page or visit fallfestivalofthearts.org/tickets



FAITH HEALER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER, 10 AT 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025 AT 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 AT 3:00 PM
WCR CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Brian Friel, in his masterpiece, Faith Healer, presents a portrait of an artist as a charlatan/miracle worker who tours with his wife, Grace, and his agent, Teddy. As each character tells us his own story of their lives together, we find ourselves transfixed by the musicality of Friel's dialogue and the fictions of memory that each story reveals. Tickets

available for purchase at using the QR code at the bottom of the page or visit fallfestivalofthearts.org/tickets

HOW TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS FOR FFA EVENTS

This year we encourage our audience to support the Fall Festival by generously paying what you can for your tickets. When you visit the Ticket page, using the QR code, you will be offered several suggested ticket prices to choose from and you can purchase tickets for multiple events and checkout only once. We will also be offering in-person sales again in September and will be using a card reader to process purchases which should make for a much easier experience.



STEEPLE NOTES EVENT CALENDAR



DOGS IN SPACE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 AT 12:00 PM

FFA is thrilled to bring back Tuckers' Tales Puppet Theater. This Philadelphia based group has been entertaining the region since 1981. This season's selection, Dogs In Space, is fun for the whole family. In the race to explore the universe (and find the best sunny places to sleep) can the dogs get there before the cats? A dramatic tale of adventure, science and dogged determination told with the magic of shadow puppets. Dogs in Space is a dog-gone fun way to travel to space.



BRANDI DIGGS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29 AT 12:05 PM

American Soprano Brandi Diggs is a versatile vocalist who sings operatic and solo repertoire throughout the United States. She recently appeared as a soloist with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, The Atlanta Opera, Kentucky Opera, and as a recitalist at the Kennedy Center and the Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. At present, she is a professor of voice and the Coordinator of Vocal Studies at The College of New Jersey.

SEPTEMBER BROADCAST SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

6:00 PM

WORLD VIEWS

Hindu Temple Ritual and Practice

6:30 PM

MUSIC FROM TRINITY

Vince Ryan, organ

7:00 PM

TRINITY WORSHIP SERVICE

WEDNESDAYS

4:00 PM

TRINITY WORSHIP SERVICE

5:00 PM

MUSIC FROM TRINITY

Jill Haley and David Cullen

5:30 PM

WORLD VIEWS

Hindu Temple Ritual and Practice

OCTOBER BROADCAST SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

6:00 PM

WORLD VIEWS

Womenpriests in Contemporary
Catholicism

6:30 PM

MUSIC FROM TRINITY

Sorrow and Joy

7:00 PM

TRINITY WORSHIP SERVICE

WEDNESDAYS

4:00 PM

TRINITY WORSHIP SERVICE

5:00 PM

MUSIC FROM TRINITY

Sorrow and Joy

5:30 PM

WORLD VIEWS

Womenpriests in Contemporary
Catholicism

TRINITY TV

Trinity broadcasts can be watch on Comcast Channel 190. We also stream our worship service live on Sunday mornings to YouTube and Facebook.

Past Music From Trinity programs, Beneath the Steeple episodes, and Worship/Music clips can be found on:

YouTube



Facebook

