

September Beacon

Grace and peace,

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” -1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

I am rejoicing, praying and giving thanks recently over our confirmation class. To most other churches, this is something that they do every fall when a new school year kicks off. But here at Trinity, we're especially joyous because for the first time in six years, we have a confirmation class! And not only that, but we have a class of at least six youth that are about to begin their faith journey and say yes to God in response to the yes God said to them at their baptism. We have six incredible, wonderfully-made and gifted students for our confirmation class. It's one of the many ways we are blessed at Trinity.

I write to remind us of this and the countless other blessings we have together as a community of faith. It can be easy to forget the blessings and focus on what we think we're lacking, especially when we're pondering the future of our congregation. It's easier to focus on the negative, on what we don't have, on how small we are. It can be challenging to remember – as St. Paul reminds us in our Bible passage above – that we always have something to rejoice about. We always have something to give thanks for and pray for. And there's always time for these things, as God calls us to do. Even when we get stuck in the weeds of thinking we're less-than.

To this end, I challenge you to live into these words of encouragement. For what do you rejoice over at Trinity? How are you praying always? Who are the people and what are the things and times for which you give thanks for?

When we hold our Congregational Listening Session after worship on September 20th, keep these things close to your heart as we have a conversation about a potential partnership with Zion Lutheran Church in Gasport. And note that I said partnership – I did not say closing. And I didn't say merging, or moving or

choosing one building or another, but partnership: which I take to mean working together to best uplift both Trinity and Zion to continue to be vibrant and viable for the long term.

Friends, there's much to rejoice about, to pray for, and give thanks for in this time and place. Like our Confirmation class, and so many other people and more! See you in church!

Blessings,
Pastor Rick Mollenkopf-Grill

Office Hours:

Pastor Rick: Tuesdays 10:00-1:00 p.m. and by appointment

Tracy: Tuesdays: 9:30-2:30, Thursdays: remote. Call, text or email any time.

August 14-30th – Pastor is away
For Pastoral emergencies during this time:
Aug 22-30 – Pastor Craig Rhodenizer
716-799-5548

Please Hold in Prayer

- *To add someone to the prayer list in the bulletin/beacon, add them to the list at the back of the Sanctuary or contact the church office.*
- *You can call or email in a prayer at any time. Now you can also go on the website and email in a prayer through there.*
716-542-9828, trinitysouthnewstead@gmail.com
- *Prayers submitted after Tuesday at noon will be announced verbally in church and added in print the following week. Names are kept on the prayer list for 4 weeks unless instructed otherwise.*
- *If you would like your prayer concern to be shared by phone with everyone, please contact Sue Kidder at 716-542-2095.*

We pray for healing, strength and patience for those we love going through difficult times:

Harold Gardner

Sharon Ferraro

Bruce Albins & his family

Charles Berlinger

Sharon Ferraro
Mike Ferraro
Jordan Ertel
Pastor Dean and his wife, Nancy
Elaine Koch and family
Bruce Albands & Chris Anderson

We pray for patience, strength and support for the families and friends of:
Those battling drug and alcohol addiction
Virginia Doak

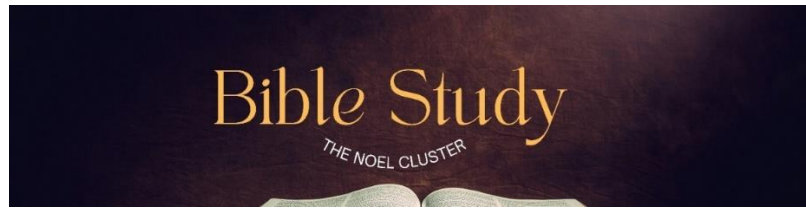


Choir is off for the summer!
Sunday Worship at 9:30 every week
Bible Study: See list below

Sunday School Resumes September 13



Updated date: September 8th at 7:00pm



Bible Study Upcoming dates and locations:
(10 am on Thursdays)

8/27 – Zion - 4447 Central Ave, Gasport 14067
9/3 - St. John's - 10213 Roosevelt Hwy, Lyndonville, 14098
9/10- Here at Trinity!
9/17 – St. Peter – 1355 West Ave, Medina 14103
9/24 - Trinity Wolcottsville – 6369 Wolcottsville Rd, Akron 14001
10/1- Zion - 4447 Central Ave, Gasport 14067
10/8 - St. John's - 10213 Roosevelt Hwy, Lyndonville, 14098
10/15 – Here at Trinity!
10/22- St. Peter – 1355 West Ave, Medina 14103
10/29- Trinity Wolcottsville – 6369 Wolcottsville Rd, Akron 14001



Pies in the Park

Thank you to everyone who donated pies, volunteered and gave of their time to make Pies in the Park a success! We brought in **\$713.00!**

Syod CaSTLE Session Recap

Thank you for a great turnout at our CaSTLE Listening Session with the Synod on August 3rd. This is just the beginning though, as this program shifts to Learning

Cohorts. These will involve teaching, learning, coaching and conversation based on the priorities we noted during our sharing. The first Learning Cohort will be Saturday, September 26 from 9-11:30 am online, for which we'll meet here at church to participate in. See Pastor Rick for any questions.



Women's Meeting

Our women's social group will resume meeting again on **September 3rd at 1pm.** **Please weigh in:** what would you like to see then or in the future; would you like to continue with snacks? Would you prefer it be a lunch? Or no snacks at all? Crafts? Other? Please let Ronda know what you'd like to see and our group will keep evolving to be what you'd like it to be!

Quilt Raffle

In the back of the sanctuary you'll notice the Crittenden Quilter's beautiful quilt on display. You can win it! Tickets are **\$3 ea or 2 for \$5.00.** You can drop your money in the box below the quilt with your ticket(s) (*but be sure to write down your name and number*) or, give it to Ronda Lauridsen and she will get you're your ticket.

Tickets are on sale now until the Chowder sale, and the winning ticket will be drawn with the basket raffle names. If you're interested in selling tickets in the community to help, please see Ronda and she'll set you up.

Sunday School

We are excited for Sunday School to start on **September 13th!** Sunday School this year will run from 10:45-11:45 am for a full hour. New this year: registration forms are online, and we'll be requiring parents to sign in and sign out their children. Registration forms are needed for all children, and can be found on the Sunday School page of our website at trinitysouthnewstead.org.

Note: there will be no Sunday School on September 20th.

Confirmation at Trinity

We're excited to offer a Confirmation program for our youth starting in September! Confirmation is a process in which junior-high youth in grades 7 and up learn what it means to be a Lutheran Christian in our world. They will then take responsibility for their faith when they are confirmed after completing a two-year program of classes, interactions, service, relationship-building, and more.

For interested families, there will be an information meeting after worship on **September 6th**, down in the adult study room. Please be sure to attend the meeting for all of the info. We'll run through the expectations that come with our Confirmation program, share what we're excited about, and answer any questions. Registration form is now online, you can find the link on our website on the Sunday School page. **Our first class will be September 20th from 6-8pm.**

Congregational Listening Session Sunday Sept. 20th following Worship

What is Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Newstead? Who is Trinity? Why is Trinity?

These questions come up from time to time as we evaluate ourselves as a congregation. From within that framework and understanding, we can better identify the people, the mission and the direction of the congregation of Trinity.

We have done this in the past. Through our period of intentional internship, to the congregational merger with St John's, to our development of our ministry site profile

for the purpose of calling and retaining pastoral leadership. We have asked ourselves these questions, as a council and as a congregation. The means to do this have varied. Focused collaborative stakeholder groups, to council committees, to surveys and now, a conversation.

Over the past few months, Trinity has been engaged in a shared ministry with Zion Lutheran Church of Gasport. Pastor Rick, through the direction of Synod and the understanding with council and Trinity, has been sharing pastoral leadership and care part time with Zion. The intent was to assist Zion in completing their ministry site profile and to organize to find new pastoral leadership. It was made into a formal agreement, along with a term, that has since expired. The question that Synod, Zion and Trinity now face is, what's next?

After discussion at council, it was decided to hold a listening session later this year. The listening session will be held on *September 20th following worship*. Deacon Rachel Sosebee will be joining us for this session to field any questions she can help with as well.

The purpose of the session is to ask and engage our congregation to review the past, the current and the future needs of our congregation's pastoral leadership. What does it look like? What do we need? This is the basis for the conversation. It will be open to the entire congregation as the council seeks your input for consideration. This is not a congregational meeting, so no actions are planned to be made. But with the conversation, the council will have a better understanding of Trinity to make decisions on next steps and direction.

Council encourages you to watch for additional information and to mark your calendars to participate. Additional details for this session will be made available as the session is planned, including participants and agenda for discussion.

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Rick or myself. Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and hopefully, your participation.

Yours in Christ,
Erik Polkowski
Conversation Facilitator, Council VP 2026

Save the date: Chowda' Time!

Our Chowder sale will be Saturday, September 26th, mark your calendars! Corn shucking will happen between now and then, and of course there's lots of need for volunteering throughout the process.

SECRET PRAYER PALS

Plans are underway for the SECRET PRAYER PAL REVEAL GET TOGETHER on **Sunday, October 11th** (NOT a BILLS Sunday), at the home of Sue Kidder, at Noon. **ALL LADIES OF THE CONGREGATION ARE INVITED WHETHER YOU PARTICIPATED IN THE PRAYER PAL GROUP OR NOT!** We're hoping you will participate when the new season begins in October! Just let Sue know that you will be coming so that a place may be set for you!

Please plan on bringing an Appetizer, Salad, or Dessert. I will provide hotdogs, rolls, paper products and drinks.

Even if you have no inclination of being a prayer pal, please come! There will be Fun, Food, and Fellowship.... AND, most importantly, you will find out who your Secret Prayer Pal for this last season has been! Hope to see you there!



Niagara Frontier Conference Assembly

Trinity will host the Niagara Frontier Conference Assembly from **6-8 pm on Wednesday, Oct. 21st**. This is a twice-annual gathering of clergy and lay leaders

from across WNY for making connections, devotions and conducting the business of the conference. Bishop Lee Miller will have a presentation as well. We'll need some coordination to offer snacks and drinks for attendees (of which there may be upwards of 50-75 people).

Rummage Sale

Mark your calendars! All-day set-up **Wednesday, Nov. 11**; the Sale itself is **Fri. Nov. 13th** from 5-7 pm and **Sat. Nov. 14th** from 9-11 am.

Food Pantry

The food pantry is low on cereal and canned fruit if you're looking to donate this month!

First Monday of the Month: Food Pantry setup @ 8am

First Tuesday of the month: Food Pantry distribution @ 8:30-10:30am

Upcoming schedule:

August 31 setup – September 1st distribution

October 5th setup – October 6th distribution

The Little Free Pantry is open for anyone in need and is supported by donations of items from the community.

WI-FI: Go to 'Trinity Guest' on your device, and then when prompted, enter the password: BeABeacon

Birthdays

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st- Tracy Dorr-Kittel
2nd - Ronda Lauridsen
8th- Tiffany Greiner
12th - Sarah Linneman
13th – Jase Young
15th – Brook Young
16th- Kelsey Sundown
28th- Bill Kittel

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

4th - Harold & Pat Gardner
6th - Paul & Darla Infanti

