



The Trinity Messenger

A Periodic Publication of: Trinity Lutheran Church
(Post Office Box 544)
205 West Grove Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411-0544

Dates To Remember

- Aug. 26: Red Cross Blood Drive (Parish Hall 11-4)
- Aug. 30: Education Ministry Team Meeting (Early Education 6:30- Education Team 7:00)
- Sept. 6: Choir rehearsals resume on Wednesdays (7:00 PM)
- Sept. 9: Trinity Men in Mission Breakfast Meeting (8:00 AM)
- Sept. 10: Return to the fall parish worship schedule (Sunday services 8:15 & 10:30 AM)
- Sept. 10: Sunday School 2017-18 begins 9:15 AM
- Sept. 10: Adult Education Class (9:30 AM)
- Sept. 11: Congregation Council Meeting (7:30 PM)
- Sept. 13: Trinity Women in Fellowship Bible Study/Lunch (12:00 PM)
- Sept. 17: Monthly Family Service of the Word resumes at 9:15 AM (3rd Sunday of each month)
- Sept. 17: Welcome Back Pot Luck Luncheon (11:30 in the parish hall)
- Oct. 9: Congregation Council Meeting (7:30 PM)
- Oct. 16: Fall newsletter deadline (Projected mailing: October 25)



Fall Schedule

Please remember that the Summer Worship Schedule will be in effect through the September 3. The Fall Worship schedule will begin on Sunday, September 10 with the following services:

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| 8:15 AM | Worship Service |
| 9:15 AM | Sunday Church School |
| 9:30 AM | Adult Education Class |
| 10:30 AM | Liturgy of Word and Sacrament |

The monthly Family Service of the Word resumes at 9:15 AM on September 17. (Please note that for the 2017-18 Sunday School year this 20-25 minute service will be held on the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is followed by special all school events on those days.)

Choir



If you are thinking of singing in the choir, now is a great time to join. We are always looking to welcome new voices of all ages! Practices resume Wednesday, September 6 at 7pm. Also, if you blow, toot or plunk an instrument talk to Jeremy about opportunities to play in church.

"Come let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation." Psalm 95:1

Coming soon to Trinity – "Reformation 500 Bookstore"!

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is fast approaching! Do you want to learn more about Martin Luther, his writings, and their impact on Christianity? Do you want to reflect on the ongoing impact of the Reformation today? Stop by our Reformation 500 Bookstore to shop for engaging books on the Reformation for readers of all ages and interests! Save up to 50% plus receive free shipping on all Bookstore titles.

Trinity library will host this book sale from October 8 through October 21 in the gathering area with your chance to review and purchase books on the Reformation. This will be your chance to get fascinating books on the Reformation for you and your family.

Our Bookstore is sponsored by Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA. The books will include bestselling biographies like *Luther the Reformer* as well as an atlas of the European Reformations, a graphic novel for young readers, and primary sources from The Annotated Luther series.



Pot Luck Lunch

Welcome All! to Trinity's annual pot luck luncheon welcoming in the church's new season for 2017-2018 on Sunday, September 17, following the 10:30 service. We will be celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Your job is to think up some foods that might have been consumed during that period (Hint: fresh harvest foods, grains, fruits, vegetables, potatoes, cakes, etc.). We hope to see everyone there! Questions? Joyce A sign-up sheet is available in the church hallway or you may RSVP to the office (570-587-1088 or c.hamersly@trinitylutherancs.com).

Trinity Lutheran Men in Mission

The congregational breakfast will be held on Sunday October 29th, 2017 celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther, a determined monk in the small German town of Wittenberg, who nailed 95 theses on the Castle Church door, and the world has been feeling the reverberations ever since. The events surrounding and leading up to this monumental hinge in history changed the Church forever and brought to light the truth of the Gospel; that we are saved by grace through faith.

Please celebrate by attending the breakfast provided every year on Reformation Sunday. If you plan to attend, please sign up at church or notify the church office.

Men will also be needed to cook and serve.

Please consider hearing God's call to serve.

Upcoming Events

September 9h (Saturday) @ 8 AM Breakfast and meeting
 October 29th (Sunday) 8:30 to 10:30 AM Congregational Breakfast
 November 4th (Saturday) @ 8 AM Breakfast and meeting.

Friends and Members of the Trinity Family

Back in September we were so appreciative for your wonderful retirement gifts in the form of a "500th Anniversary Reformation Tour" through those parts of Germany that were so critical to this aspect of our faith history and tradition. It was exciting to plan and anticipate this journey which far exceeded any traveling that we have previously ever experienced. We chose to utilize Pilgrim Tours from Myerstown, Pennsylvania. They offered a one week tour that began in Strasbourg, France and then continued through regions of the old Eastern Germany ending in Berlin. They also offered an "add-on" tour through parts of Switzerland which highlighted events in the Reformed Reformation which followed on the heels of the Lutheran Reformation. This availed us to enjoy the incredible beauty of the Swiss Alps. Yes, we did elect to take a cog-wheel driven train (*90 minute ride*) to "The Top of Europe" (*11,330 feet above sea level*) which is the highest elevation in the Alps that can be accessed without a pick and ropes. While in Switzerland we were able to visit Geneva, Chillon Castle (the most visited place in Switzerland), Berne, and Zurich. This part of the trip climaxed with a delightful afternoon cruise on the Rhine River.



But the real highlights of the trip for us began as we entered Eastern Germany and began whirlwind visits to the places that were so much a part of Luther's life, Lutheran Reformation history, and the music of the Reformation period. These included stops in Mainz, Frankfurt, Worms (*Luther's "here I stand" declaration*), Eisenach (*where Luther lived as a student with the Cotta family from 1498-1501*), Erfurt (*where Luther resided as part of the Augustinian Monastery community*), Eisleben (*Luther's place of birth in 1483 and death in 1546*), Halle (*birth place of Georg Friederich Handel*), Naumburg, Erfurt, Leipzig (*Johann Sebastian Bach*), Torgau (*tomb of Luther's wife, Katharine von Bora*), Wittenberg (*where Martin Luther lived and taught for 36 years, where, on the Castle Church door Luther posted his 95 Theses, and the church is also the burial site of Luther*).

It was an incredible experience to visit the actual places of Reformation history. It made the Reformation come alive for us in ways that far exceeded our expectations. (We captured it all in 2,552 pictures!)

Thanks so much to all of you, our friends and spiritual family, for making this incredible experience possible.

Pastor and Kathy Mathews

Youth Group

All youth in grades 3-12 are invited to join in our very active youth group. We are gearing up for our fall schedule and looking forward to seeing everyone for lessons and activities. For more information contact Mrs. Klien at 570-881-3136 or h.klien@trinitylutherancs.com.



Confirmation Ministry

Pastor Jeff will be leading the confirmation ministry this year during the Sunday school hour for certain scheduled sessions. Parents and students will have a meeting on Sunday, September 17 during Sunday school. Confirmation for those students in 8th grade will be May 20, 2018.

Church Council Reorganization

At the July meeting, the council held a re-organizational session at which time the election of officers was held. The congregational officers for 2017-18 are:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| President: Charlie Saxe | Vice-President: Joyce Schwabe |
| Secretary: Linda Sheehan | Treasurer: |
| Financial Secretary: Carole Hamersly | |

We are currently seeking a Treasurer as well as another council member. If you are interested in either of these roles, please contact Pastor Jeff, Charlie Saxe or the church office.

Library

Read to Beat the Heat!

Please stop by the table outside of the gathering area and browse through our newest titles.



A special than you to Joyce Schwabe for donating "Half Truths" in honor of Carole Hamersly and "The Women of Easter" in honor of Inge Mills.

Also new to the library are: "It's Your Time", "Reaching to Heaven", "Heaven is For Real", "A Path Toward Love", "Need you Now", "Hello From Heaven!", "The Preacher's Bride", "Mount Hope", "The Revelation", and "Chicken Soup for the Golden Soul".

Don't forget that your library is always open for browsing. Please stop in before or after church and sign out not only our new titles, but we have over eight bookshelves full of adult and children's titles as well as movies.

Parish Register

Funeral

On July 8, Pastor Jeffrey Bohan conducted a service at Trinity for long time member Janet Rudat. We extend our sympathy to the Rudat family in their time of grief.

Trinity Women in Fellowship

The TRINITY WOMEN IN FELLOWSHIP will have their first meeting of the new year on September 13. In honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, a special presentation will be made on the first lady of Lutheranism, Katherine von Bora, better known as Katie Luther, "The Morning Star of Lutherhaus" as Martin Luther liked to call her. We meet at noon for lunch (which will be provided at no cost) and fellowship. Our discussion of this amazing women and role model will follow. All are welcome, as are desserts. Please sign up for lunch in the Narthex. Questions? Joyce 570-222-3041 or coolcats@nep.net.

Preschool

The preschool has openings in the three year old, four year old and Kindergarten Readiness programs. Classes for the three year olds meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-11:30; four year olds meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-11:30 or 12:30-3:00. The morning session is currently full. The Kindergarten Readiness class has three, four or five day options. We look forward to a new year and welcoming all of our new families to our classes. Classes begin Monday, September 11. For more information, contact the church office at 570-587-1088.

Sunday School News

The Sunday school year will begin on Sunday, September 10 at 9:15. Students should report to classrooms to meet their teachers. Classes meet until 10:15. The Family Worship Service will be held on the third Sunday of each month throughout the school year beginning September 17. The Adult Education Class will meet at 9:30 AM beginning on September 10. Discussion will continue with study of Martin Luther which will conclude in time for the anniversary of the Reformation.

Altar Guild

Our Fall Worship schedule is upon us and we are always happy to welcome new members to the Altar Guild as well as any suggestions the congregation might have concerning the Altar. Communion has been by intinction because of having supply pastors but several have mentioned using the communion glasses again, so starting with the fall schedule (which begins Sunday, September 10), we will have two chalice communion on the first Sunday of each month. We want to thank Emily Klien for the wonderful effort she is doing in training new acolytes and being such a big help to all acolytes and for serving faithfully.

Also, sincere thanks to all the ladies who serve on the Altar Guild and who have more many years. Along with their busy lives, they are dedicated to keeping the Altar prepared with clean linens and communion each Sunday. You are all so appreciated. Thank you, Pat Kiefer

Mission Statement

Trinity Lutheran Church is a family of believers in Christ who grow in their faith and their relationships with God and each other by participating in common experiences of Worship, Christian Education, and Fellowship.

Inspired by Christ's love, we are called through our faith to witness to the Good News and reach out to serve the needs of people within our congregation, the community, and the world.

The Next Issue of the Newsletter

The next issue of the parish newsletter will be the "Fall 2017" edition. The deadline for articles will be Sunday, October 16 the anticipated mailing date will be October 25. Please submit articles and announcements to the church office prior to Monday, October 16.

Quilting

The quilting group continues to meet each Wednesday morning. New members are always welcome. Many Prayer Quilts were dedicated and given to recipients over the summer and the group continues to make these special gifts to comfort those with medical or emotional needs. If you would like to help create these beautiful gifts to those in our communities, feel free to drop in the parish hall on Wednesday mornings.

Vacation Bible School

Thank you doesn't seem enough to express the appreciation to our VBS volunteers for VBS this summer. Along with our friends at Epiphany, we hosted 60 children from Trinity, Epiphany and the surrounding community in a week of Discovering our Strength in God! Many thanks to Ryan Sheffler, Emily Klien, Deenna Richmond, Dee Smith, Sierra Demuysere, Joyce Schwabe, Cathy Sheffler and Brenda Spangenberg as well as new and old friends, Sydney Hauk and Margrette Phillips for all of the help. We extend our appreciation to our Covenant Congregation, Church of the Epiphany, for the space and their volunteers as well as those volunteers from the community who assisted. We learned about bible heroes as well as heroes in our own communities. We had a "Hero" visit on Wednesday from Emergency Responder Kathryn who taught us many first aid tips and the children toured an ambulance. We also had a "Hero" visit from Sharon and her Therapy Dog "Alli" on Friday. We collected stuffed animals for the local Police and Fire Departments to deliver on calls where young children may be involved. Our offering will be donated to the Episcopal Relief and Development to assist in South Sudan with basic supplies as they deal with the atrocities of political unrest and ongoing famine that have left them in a humanitarian crisis. We collected \$300! Thank you one and all.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the
N.E. Penna Synod of the
Evan. Lutheran Church in America*

Jeffrey Bohan

Interim Pastor

Krystle and Ignacio Madrussan
Missionaries in Argentina & Uruguay

Carole Hamersly

Office Manager and Pre-School Registrar

Heather Klien

*Director of Youth Ministries and
Sunday School Superintendent*

Jeremy Prostka

Organist and Choir Director

Tammy Rade

ELCA Deacon

Terry Bockelkamp

Librarian

Larry Wood

Sexton

Kathy Sloneker

Prayer Ministry Coordinator

The Church Office is open Mon, Wed, and
Thur. from 9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon
(other times as needed)
Office: 587-1088 Pre-School: 586-5590
Pastor: 586-0761
Trinity Website:
www.TrinityLutheranCS.com

The Parish Messenger is published
periodically by:

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 544

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-0544

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Trinity Lutheran Church

August 20, 2017 - September 23, 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Aug 20</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Coffee Hour</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Aug 21</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Aug 22</p> <p>6:00 PM Youth Group "Build Your Brand" at church</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Aug 23</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Aug 24</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Aug 25</p> <p>Pastor Jeff Day Off</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Aug 26</p> <p>Red Cross Blood Drive 11-4 in the parish hall</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Aug 27</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Coffee Hour</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Aug 28</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Aug 29</p> <p>6:00 PM Youth Group "Just Paint it Art Party"</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Aug 30</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> <p>6:30 PM Early Education Committee Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Education Ministry Team Meeting</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Aug 31</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 1</p> <p>Pastor Jeff Day Off</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 2</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 3</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Coffee Hour</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 4</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 5</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 6</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 7</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 8</p> <p>Pastor Jeff Day Off</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 9</p> <p>8:00 AM Trinity Men in Mission Breakfast/Meeting</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 10</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:30 AM Adult Education Class</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Coffee Hour</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 11</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 12</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 13</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 14</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 15</p> <p>Pastor Jeff Day Off</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 16</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 17</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:30 AM Adult Education Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Coffee Hour</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 18</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 19</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 20</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 21</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 22</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 23</p> |

Trinity Lutheran Church

September 24, 2017 - October 28, 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 24</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:30 AM Adult Education Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Coffee Hour</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 25</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 26</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 27</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 28</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 29</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 30</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 1</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:30 AM Adult Education Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Coffee Hour</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 2</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 3</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 4</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 5</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 6</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 7</p> <p>2:00 PM Trinity Lutheran Men in Mission Bingo at Gino Merli Veteran's Center</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 8</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:30 AM Adult Education Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Coffee Hour</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 9</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 10</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 11</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 12</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 13</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 14</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 15</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:30 AM Adult Education Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Coffee Hour</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 16</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 17</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 18</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 19</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 20</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 21</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 22</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:30 AM Adult Education Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:45 AM Worship Ministry Team Meeting</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 23</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 24</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 25</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 26</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 27</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 28</p> |

Trinity Lutheran Church

Birthdays and Anniversaries: August 20, 2017 - September 30, 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| Aug 20 Janine (Cipollina) McClelland | Aug 21 Laura Worrell | Aug 22 | Aug 23 <i>Peggy and Tom Himes</i> | Aug 24 <i>Jaquie and Lee Ross</i> <i>Donna and Lance Fletcher</i> | Aug 25 Cheryl Battaglia Kevin Albright <i>Meri and Sonny Caputo</i> | Aug 26 Shannon Sweeney |
| Aug 27 Kathleen Nealon | Aug 28 Muriel Gallo Cheri Graboski | Aug 29 | Aug 30 Daniel Miller | Aug 31 Suzanne Bolig | Sep 1 Joyce Scott <i>Linda and William Sheehan</i> Tom Horeis | Sep 2 |
| Sep 3 | Sep 4 Anna Mae Williams <i>Rebecca and Paul Corby</i> | Sep 5 <i>Chris and Robert Cipollina</i> | Sep 6 Alexia Stravinskaskas John Pacyna | Sep 7 John Hess | Sep 8 | Sep 9 <i>Bonnie and Sam Lesko</i> Karina Stravinskaskas |
| Sep 10 Camrynn Albrecht | Sep 11 Mark Davis | Sep 12 <i>Marion and Roy Hopkins</i> | Sep 13 <i>Christine and Louis Uslin</i> | Sep 14 <i>Carol and Fred Pencek</i> <i>Marci and Bill McDermott</i> | Sep 15 Lila Meoni <i>Mari and Gary Pacyna</i> | Sep 16 Chris Evans <i>Tonya and Charlie Saxe,III</i> |
| Sep 17 Douglas Miller Ryan Sheffler | Sep 18 Dylan Grunza Lee Ross Brycen Hoffman | Sep 19 Kelsey Davis Dee Smith | Sep 20 Taryn Skojec William Walters | Sep 21 Emily Klient Madyson Bedford | Sep 22 William Sheehan, Jr. | Sep 23 |
| Sep 24 | Sep 25 Arja Duhigg Bob Smith Tom Himes | Sep 26 <i>Debra and Todd Smith</i> | Sep 27 Brittany Traub Evelyn M Walters | Sep 28 Gary Pacyna | Sep 29 Barbara Stich Todd Rehder Donna Fletcher | Sep 30 Meri Caputo Evelyn A Walters Ryan Saxe |

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Names in **BOLD/ITALIC**: blank space in schedule filled in by volunteer

Calendar Update: 8/18/2017

| DATE | COMMUNION | | | | OFFERING | ALTAR |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| | ACOLYTES | USHERS | ASSISTANTS | LECTORS | COUNTERS | GUILD |
| Aug 27 (9:30am) | Nathaniel Rade | Ray Keller John Pacyna | <i>(intinction)</i> | Mike Krahlung | Suzanne Bolig JR Bolig | Pat Kiefer |
| Sept 3 (9:30am) | Emily Klien | Larry Wood JR Bolig | <i>(intinction)</i> | Debbie Miller Marilyn Striepeck | Marci McDermott Larry Wood | Bonnie Lesko |
| Sept 10 (8:15am) | Evan Rade | Bill Oehler | <i>(intinction)</i> | Ronald Rade | | Bonnie Lesko |
| Sept 10 (10:30am) | Deenna Richmond Sydney Hauk | Ed Schwabe Bob Klien | <i>(intinction)</i> | Suzanne Bolig Deenna Richmond | Diane Remetta Linda Sheehan | Bonnie Lesko |
| Sept 17 (8:15am) | Nathaniel Rade | John Pacyna | <i>(intinction)</i> | Todd Rehder Elyse Rehder | | Bonnie Lesko |
| Sept 17 (10:30am) | Ben Worrell Ben Woytach | Dave Hamersly Steve Bowman | <i>(intinction)</i> | Dee Smith Karen Woytach | Carole Hamersly Charline Demuysere | Bonnie Lesko |
| Sept 24 (8:15am) | Emily Klien | Bill Oehler | <i>(intinction)</i> | Marilyn Striepeck | | Bonnie Lesko |
| Sept 24 (10:30am) | Deenna Richmond Shelby Hauk | JR Bolig Bob Klien | <i>(intinction)</i> | Mike Krahlung Joyce Schwabe | Suzanne Bolig JR Bolig | Bonnie Lesko |
| Oct 1 (8:15am) | Evan Rade | John Pacyna | <i>(intinction)</i> | Debbie Miller | | |
| Oct 1 (10:30am) | Ben Worrell Jake Walters | Ed Schwabe Steve Bowman | <i>(intinction)</i> | Marci McDermott Suzanne Bolig | Marci McDermott Carole Hamersly | |
| Oct 8 (8:15am) | Nathaniel Rade | Cal Corby | <i>(intinction)</i> | Ronald Rade | | |
| Oct 8 (10:30am) | Sydney Hauk Ben Woytach | Larry Wood Dave Hamersly | <i>(intinction)</i> | Dee Smith Marilyn Striepeck | Diane Remetta Linda Sheehan | |
| Oct 15 (8:15am) | Deenna Richmond | Bill Oehler | <i>(intinction)</i> | | | |
| Oct 15 (10:30am) | Emily Klien Elizabeth Harvey | Bob Klien JR Bolig Ed Schwabe | <i>(intinction)</i> | Joyce Schwabe Mike Krahlung | Carole Hamersly Larry Wood | |

Free Will (or not?)

The topic of free will is a difficult one for Christians, especially with respect to salvation. If you have free will, then it's up to you to save yourself or else send yourself to hell. If you don't have free will, then God is the One who decides who's saved and who's not. You're just a pawn in God's divine game. To deal with the topic of free will, the Lutheran Confessions introduce a very important distinction. "Of Free Will they teach that man's will has some liberty to choose civil righteousness, and to work things subject to reason. But it has no power, without the Holy Ghost, to work the righteousness of God, that is, spiritual righteousness; since the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, 1 Cor. 2:14; but this righteousness is wrought in the heart when the Holy Ghost is received through the Word" (Augsburg Confession XVIII.1-4). With respect to civil righteousness, there is some amount of freedom to choose this or that. This means that in things that are beneath you, in things that are subject to reason, you have free will. You can choose to have Cheerios or yogurt for breakfast, to wear green shorts or a corduroy skirt on Wednesday, to get a job in lawn care or delivering papers for the summer, to play basketball or run track or to play in the marching band. It also includes things of more significance, like choosing which colleges to apply to, what girl to date (and marry!), where to live. On the other hand, it's also possible to choose bad things, such as skipping church or choosing a false religion, or committing adultery or murder. Even though God knows in advance the choices you will make, this is different than Him having a script of your life that you are forced to act out against free will. But because your will is free in matters in which it is free doesn't mean that it is free. In matters of spiritual righteousness, there is no freedom of the will. The fact that you have a choice in things beneath you does not mean that you have a choice in higher things, in things that pertain to eternal salvation. And because of sin, your will is bound—bound to sin. You cannot choose the good no matter how much will you exert. In higher things—the righteousness of Christ, forgiveness, eternal salvation—you need God's choice. And that choice is found in Jesus Christ. Apart from Him, the choice is only sin, death, and eternal damnation. But in Christ you find God's resounding "Yes!" He has made the choice by His holy incarnation, by His innocent suffering and death, and by His victorious resurrection. And in Him the choice is given to you. In Christ, your bondage to sin is broken, and your will is bound to Christ.

