

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania**

**Taskforce on New Ministries Meeting: August 27, 2024**

**1. Attendance:**

The meeting of the *Taskforce on New Ministries* was chaired by Todd Rehder. Those present for the meeting were Terry Bockelkamp, Haydn Evans, Cheri Graboski, Carol Howell, David Howell, George Mathews, Kathy Mathews, Todd Rehder, and Dee Smith.

**2. Opening Prayer:**

The meeting was opened with prayer by Todd Rehder.

**3. Minutes from the Previous Meeting: July 17, 2024:**

The minutes from the meeting of June 5 were reviewed by those who were present. Upon motion by Terry Bockelkamp and a second by Carol Howell the minutes were accepted as presented.

**4. Review, updates and further discussion of the next steps of our initial priorities:**

**a. “Fun for Seniors:”**

Terry Bockelkamp provided the task force with verbal update as well as a printed summary of the current “*Fun for Seniors*” planned activities through December of this year (*attached as part of these minutes*). Terry continues to welcome suggestions from members of the task force regarding suggestions for additional activities. Terry continued to express frustration regarding low attendance and late registrations coupled with inadequate channels of publicity regarding planned events. This led to a repeated concern that the Trinity newsletter was last published in Lent of 2023. The consensus was that a regular newsletter publication schedule similar to prior years be resumed in which the newsletter was published seasonally seven times a year (*Advent/Christmas issue, Epiphany/Lent issue, Holy Week/Easter issue, Pentecost Season (Summer) issue, September issue, Fall issue, and Advent/Christmas issue*).

**b. Shut-in Ministry:**

Cheri Graboski reported that she is ready to begin a visitation program at both *Abington Manor* as well as *Elan Skilled Nursing and Rehab* in Scranton. In both facilities visitation would be focused upon residents who receive few visitors and would probably appreciate being visited on a regular basis. At this point in time the issue of visitor clearance needs to be clarified at *Abington Manor*; at *Elan Skilled Nursing and Rehab* visitors are required to complete a “*Criminal Record Check*” as well as a “*Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Certification*.” There is no charge for these clearances for volunteer visitors. Cheri will begin to distribute these forms to prospective visitors this Sunday.

An additional program possibility for future consideration that was briefly discussed is a process of home communion visits conducted on a very regular basis by teams of visitors.

**c. “Adult Blessing Bags:”**

Kathy Mathews reported that she anticipated initiating the “*Adult Blessing Bags*” program in October. She plans to apply for a \$250 grant from Thrivent to initially fund the program. Bags will be prepared monthly by four or five volunteers; the “*Adult Blessing Bags*” would then be picked up by worshippers weekly as they leave the church. The bags would be dated so that people who didn’t pick up bags in prior weeks would be able to pick them up in subsequent weeks. Additionally, the “*Adult Blessing Bags*” could be distributed through the *Keystone Mission* when Trinity sponsors monthly meals, through the “*Card Ministry*” on a monthly basis, as well as through “*Meals-on-Wheels*” delivery by Trinity volunteers on a weekly basis

**d. Young Adult Gatherings:**

Because Angel Garcia was not in attendance at this meeting, the development of a program for persons generally within the ages of sixteen through twenty-five remains on hold until we are able to have further conversation and planning with Angel.

**e. Hosting Site for Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings:**

There is the need for additional research and several details that need to be addressed before an *Alcoholics Anonymous* program can be initiated at Trinity.

**5. Planning opportunities/process to publicize our emerging “Elderly Ministry”**

Broad publicity of upcoming events is essential to the expansion of the program. As noted in previous meetings, there are probably several places within the community where fliers can be posted and information can be made available such as the *Silver Spoon Restaurant* as well as the *Senior Center*.

Additionally, the taskforce emphasized the need for events to be aggressively promoted through e-mail contact as well as adding a section to the Trinity website that could also be used for *Taskforce on New Ministries* information.

Other previously discussed publicity opportunities were also revisited which included advertising in the local *Happenings Magazine* as well as the reconsideration of an electronic programmable sign which could provide constantly updated information and publicity regarding upcoming events.

**6. The Taskforce on New Ministries and the Issue of Spirituality:**

The strong urging and advice from Pr. Brad Hales was recalled regarding a spiritual foundation as an essential foundational element as we plan and implement any new ministries. This led to an extended and lengthy conversation within the taskforce of the need to undergird all of our ministries with aggressive prayer support. Subsequent conversation extensively focused upon ways that the spiritual life of every member of the congregation be strengthened. The taskforce members were in strong agreement that

we need to constantly build all of our outreach efforts upon the saving grace which is ours through Jesus Christ. This fundamental truth is basic to our identity as a congregation of the *North American Lutheran Church* and needs to be ingrained within hearts and minds of all of our members so that all that we do as a congregation are vital and essential efforts to fulfill our identity. The need for all members of the congregation to become highly invested in all the ministries of the congregation is vital as we move forward in a culture that is increasing hostile to the Christian faith and the Church. This topic of discussion needs to continue within the taskforce and the congregation at every possible opportunity.

**7. Reconvene:**

We determined that the next meeting of the *Taskforce on New Ministries* will be held in the *Parish Center Social Hall* on Thursday, October 3 at 7:00 PM.

**8. Closing:**

The meeting concluded as those present prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes prepared by:  
George Mathews



# Fun for Seniors

Trinity Lutheran Church

205 West Grove Street, Clarks Summit

(570)587-1088

Web: [www.TrinityLutheranCS.com](http://www.TrinityLutheranCS.com) Email: [office@TrinityLutheranCS.com](mailto:office@TrinityLutheranCS.com)

## SEPTEMBER



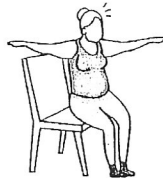
Foot Care

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 - 11:45 AM

VNA Home Health (speaker Melanie Biederman)

and

Proper Foot Care (speaker Dr. Brutico)



Monday, September 23, 2024 - 11:45 - 12:45

Balance and Strength Chair Yoga

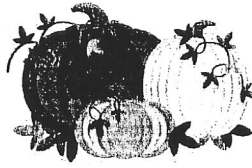
Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 11:45- 12:45 Balance and Strength Chair Yoga

*Mon., Nov. 18, " " " " " " " " " "*

Monday, December 16, 2024 - 11:45- 12:45 Balance and Strength Chair Yoga

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## OCTOBER



Pumpkin Painting

Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> - 1

10:30 - 12:30 (BRING YOUR OWN PUMPKIN/PUMPKINS)

All other supplies will be provided.



## DECEMBER

Monday, December 2, 2024 - 10:45 - 12:45 Christmas Ornament Making Class

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