

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Identity Statement:
With God We Can!

THE JOYFUL NOISE
AUGUST 2023

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAYS, AUGUST 6-27

WORSHIP

10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP

AFTER WORSHIP

SATURDAYS, AUGUST 5 – 26

WITH GOD WE CAN!

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

MONDAYS, AUGUST 7 – 28

WITH GOD WE CAN!

9:00 AM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

BOOK GROUP

11:00 AM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

COUNCIL MEETING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

BLANKET MINISTRY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

FIRST COMMUNION
BLESSING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

MEALS ON WHEELS
10:00 AM

**PLEASE READ ARTICLES IN THE NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
OFFERED HERE AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH DURING AUGUST.
PLEASE ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE.
BE SAFE, BE KIND.**

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear
the sound of it, but you do not know where it
comes from or where it goes. John 3:8a

The past couple of weeks I've thought a lot about wind – how powerful it is; how it seemingly comes from nowhere; how it can be a calm breeze one minute, then a howling uncontrollable force the next.

Wind can work itself into a frenzy that wreaks havoc and destruction and changes lives in a blink of an eye, leaving a swath of flattened homes, tossed cars, peeled roofs, snapped trees, and the scary reality that nothing will ever look or feel or be the same ever again.

As I go through our neighbourhood looking at piles of rubble and debris, seeing exposed foundations instead of sturdy houses, blue tarps still nailed in place of shingles, open areas where woods and clusters of trees once stood, I consider the wind of the EF3 tornado that decided to set down in our neighbourhood, on our street, and its lasting presence.*

The words of Christina Rossetti's poem are in my mind's ear, too, standing alongside the passage above –

Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you:
But when the leaves hang trembling,
The wind is passing through.
Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I:
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing by.

Wind is unseen; only recognized by its effects. Which is probably why in this time of facing wind and the ferocity it can bring, the words of Jesus are comfort and reassurance and promise. His Wind is the Holy Spirit, who comes and goes without chaos or restraint. The Holy Spirit who brings peace into turmoil, wholeness into brokenness, hope into despair, healing into wounds, fullness into emptiness, life into death, love into numbness.

Who has seen this Wind? I believe I have – in the voices of strangers asking “how can I be helpful?”; in the generosity of a community sharing time and energy and money; in DOT work crews clearing massive trunks and limbs from the road; in hands carefully gathering what once was a person's home, doing so with reverence and making sure to keep it separated from trash heaps; in trailers from the Red Cross and Baptist Mission and

UMC and Mennonite disaster assistance ministries; in words of encouragement and smiles and even laughter shared among our neighbours; in the amazing quality of hope and unity that still endures.

This is the Wind of the holy presence of Jesus that is stronger than any threats or challenges or storms, even an EF3 tornado that decided to touch down in our small community. Jesus was there on that afternoon. Jesus is still here. Jesus will always enter – because Jesus comes and goes wherever He chooses. And where He chooses to be is with all His beloved always and forever.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

You continue in my prayers.

Breathe peace,

Pastor Alice

**On Wednesday, July 19, 2023, an EF3 tornado passed through Rocky Mount, North Carolina. The most concentrated destruction was in Dortches, a small town outside Rocky Mount. Many houses were completely destroyed; many had significant damage; there was other property damage such as cars and out buildings. Pfizer, the largest employer in the Rocky Mount area, had major damage to the loading/shipping dock part of the plant. With all this loss, there were only a few people who sustained injuries, none life-threatening, and all have been released from hospital. Bob and I live in Dortches. Our home was not damaged, but four of our neighbours had their homes leveled; many lost at least part of their roofs; many had other damage to their homes and property.*

Words of Appreciation

Thank You to Everyone who as given time and effort in assembling bulletins and newsletters in July! We are truly blessed by your partnership in ministry

On the First Sunday of the Month we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries during our after worship fellowship gathering in Resurrection Hall. **Everyone is Welcome!** Please plan to join the after worship fellowship time. It's an opportunity to enjoy some conversation and light refreshments.

School days are only weeks away! Everyone is invited to help students have the supplies needed for a successful school year. Contributions will be shared among Trinity's Teachers and Support Staff. Items will be received through **August 27**. Please place on the table in the Gathering Space. And please keep all staff, students, and families in your prayers. Thank you!

- notebook paper (wide and college ruled)
- 3-ring binders (1-inch)
- yellow pencils (fancy ones mess up sharpeners)
- 3-prong 2-pocket folders
- pencil pouches and small sharpeners
- spiral 1-subject notebooks
- fine tip markers
- highlighters
- broad tip markers
- red, black, and blue ink pens
- crayons
- large boxes of tissues
- colored pencils
- copy paper
- blunt tip scissors
- backpacks
- glue sticks

A Blessing of the 2023-2024 School Year will be included in worship on **Sunday, August 27**. All staff and students are invited to bring a school item to be blessed. We will also recognize the beginning of this school year and all our teachers, staff, and students during our after worship fellowship gathering.

Book Group will gather on **Tuesday, August 8** at 11:00 am to discuss *The Mountain Between Us* by Charles Martin. The September book is *Half Broke Horses* by Jeanette Walls, and the September gathering has been rescheduled to **Thursday, September 21**. The October selection is *One Woman's War* by Christine Wells. All are welcome to join us for lively conversation and fellowship.

With God We Can! Continues to prepare fresh produce for members of our community whose plates might otherwise go empty. Many of those who receive the frozen vegetables live in South Rocky Mount which is considered a food desert. **Produce for freezing will be available after worship.** Please return prepared, frozen vegetables by Monday mornings at 9:00 am. Please keep all who are partners in ***With God We Can!*** in your prayers.

Blanket Ministry On the 3rd Sunday of the month, the blanket ministry gathers in Resurrection Hall after worship. Participants are reminded to bring a bagged lunch. **Below is a wish list of items that would very helpful:**

45 mm rotary cutters; at least 24’’ cutting mats; cotton thread; crochet hooks – various sizes; working sewing machines; acrylic yarn (any size).

All are welcome! For more information, please call the church office. Thanks!

Love Meals A reminder that the 1st Sunday of every month is designated as Love Meals Sunday. Please bring non-perishable food items to share with folks in our community who struggle to provide food for their families. The bucket is under the side table in the Gathering Space. Thanks!

Meals on Wheels Trinity is on the schedule to deliver meals on **Wednesday, August 30 at 10:00 am**. Food is picked up at First Presbyterian Church. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Space. For more information, please call the church office. Thanks for your partnership in this ministry.

During our worship service on **Sunday, September 3** a **Litany of Thanksgiving for Vocations** will be offered as we recognize Labor Day.

Getting Ready for Sunday School Adults’ and Children’s Sunday School classes will resume on **Sunday, September 17**. Early plans for the adults include looking at the life of David, followed by the *Book of Wisdom* and Proverbs.

A Gift of Kindness The managers of the **Golden Wok** (in Westridge Plaza) have **offered to donate 10% of the cost of any meal purchased by Trinity folks to assist those in our community who need help in their recovery from the tornado on Wednesday, July 19**. These funds will be processed through Trinity in partnership with Lakeside and the Town of Dortches. Also, a “repeat customer” card will be given which if used will lead to a free meal. Please consider buying a lunch or dinner of Chinese food at Golden Wok through the month of August – enjoy a good meal and help our neighbours! Thanks!

Happy 100th Birthday – Trinity Lutheran Church!!!! Mark your calendars now to save the date for an amazing celebration: **October 29, 2023 (Reformation Sunday)**. The congregation council members are in the planning stages for this BIG event! Everybody is invited to help. A special worship service is being planned, and a meal will be shared. Historic items like pictures, bulletins, letters, etc. will be collected and displayed. There will be much more information coming in future bulletins and newsletters. This is an exciting time to remember and to look forward! Please keep our congregation in your prayers.

**Congregation Council
Cluster Reports
July 9, 2023 meeting**

Worship Cluster

- Council rep met with Pastor Alice June 15 to discuss the worship service on October 29, 2023 for the 100th Anniversary celebration.
- Summer Community Worship Service will be on Sunday, August 6, 2023 at 6:00pm. Word Tabernacle will host this Worship Service and Pastor Alice has been invited to preach.

Faith Growing Cluster

Christian Education

- We are taking a summer break from Sunday School classes. Both Adult and Children's classes will resume on Sunday, September 17.
- Summer Movie and Discussion Series
Please plan to share the opportunity to watch and have conversation about three movies that capture a common theme about living in faithful discipleship. Each movie is rated PG. The movies and dates are

Radio, Thursday, July 6

Moving Mountains, Thursday, July 13

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood, Thursday, July 20.

On Thursday, July 27, we will have a "movie review" and discuss how each movie shared the message of discipleship and how Jesus calls us to follow Him. We will begin at 6:00 pm. Folks are welcome to bring a bagged dinner. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend! For more information, please contact Pastor Alice.

- Pastor is putting together a schedule for New Member and First Communion Instruction. More information will be in your bulletin and announcements on Sunday.

Stewardship - Nothing new to report

Caretaking Cluster

Family Life

- Students and teachers were recognized for successfully making it through the 2022/2023 school year by celebrating with a cake and other refreshments following the June 4 worship service.
- Plans are being made for a congregation cook-out later this summer, to be coordinated with the Invitation Cluster.

Finance – see separate report

Property

- Estimates for repairs to the leak in the church roof and the deteriorating wood around the stained-glass windows were recently solicited. As a result, at the June

11 Trinity council meeting a motion was approved to begin a capital campaign for repairs to the roof over the north entrance to the Memorial Garden and the area below the stained-glass windows facing Winstead Avenue, for an estimated cost of \$7,500.00. The capital campaign will be conducted through designated offerings during the five Sundays in July.

- All of the fire extinguishers throughout the church and the storage buildings have been inspected and recharged by BFPE International Fire, Safety and Security Company. This inspection is an annual requirement to satisfy fire safety standards.
- Plans for mounting a bulletin board on the wall between the library and Sanctuary doors are underway. The board will hold special event and general information, ministers' list, calendar, and birthdays.

Invitation Cluster

Evangelism

- Efforts are underway to add an online giving app to the website. Tithe.ly is being looked at; Council needs to decide how to proceed as this app requires not only the church tax ID but also an "authorized legal" representative of the congregation to supply personal information as well. Perhaps other avenues need to be researched. Since the website does reach a wide audience, an online app would be a good tool for those who wish to be a part of Trinity's ministry.

Social Ministry

- **Highway Cleanup** was completed on June 25th. A lot of good conversation was shared along the way and a few laughs! The community expressed an appreciation for what we do by honking horns and verbally saying "Thank you". It's a good opportunity to put Trinity's love for our community in the public eye. Our next opportunity to serve is tentatively set for September. Thanks to everyone that participated!
- ***With God We Can!*** Even if you don't have experience with preparing vegetables and fruit for freezing, there are some experienced food processors who will be happy to help you learn how to do so. If you cannot commit to being at the ***With God We Can!*** sessions on Monday mornings, you can always take home a bucket of produce on Sunday and returned it chopped and bagged on Monday. And, if you want to avoid the food processing altogether, you can help us deliver the fresh produce and frozen quarts to Peacemakers, the Soup Kitchen, and the Salvation Army. Just let anyone the ***With God We Can!*** team know what you would like to do, and we'll get you to right to work. For more information, call the church office.
- **Meals on Wheels** is scheduled for August 30. Please call the church office for details. This ministry really helps a lot of our community members in need. The tireless workers of this organization are amazing and dedicated people. If you can, please plan to be a part of this opportunity to serve our community. (FYI – Meals

on Wheels has been designated to receive the offering from the August 6 Community Worship Service.)

- **The Blanket Ministry** is looking for supplies! We meet every third Sunday in Resurrection Hall. We have an excellent teacher and ALL are welcome. The following items would be very helpful if you can donate to this ministry: • *45 mm rotary cutters* • *24" minimum cutting mats* • *Cotton thread* • *Crochet hooks – all sizes* • *Working sewing machines* • *Acrylic yarn* Our next blanket ministry session will be July 16. Bring a bagged lunch and join the conversation and learning experience.

TLC

- Trinity members will be attending a **Mudcats** game on July 22. So far we have ten people expressing an interest in attending. If we have 20 to sign up we can get the tickets for \$11 instead of \$13. The council rep spoke with a ticket agent this week. Since July 22 will be well attended, tickets should be purchased two weeks in advance. Therefore, tickets will be purchased by July 7. Council rep will purchase tickets and will be re-imbursed by each participant. Tickets will be purchased by calling the ticket agent so everyone can sit together, and any needed special seating accommodations can be made.
- **The Book Group** will meet July 11. This month's reading is *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flag. All are encouraged to attend even if you haven't read the book. The conversation is always enlightening and entertaining.

Thank you for your support of the ministries here at Trinity Lutheran Church, especially gifts made to the recent Capital Campaign and your gifts to help members of our local community as they begin the long road of recovering after the tornado.