

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 29, 2021



**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
EAST BERLIN, PENNSYLVANIA**

Trinity's Prayer Concerns

Biles Family	Pixie Henry	Barb Mummert	Logan Siekerman
Louise Boyer	Jack Hinkle	Wayne Mummert	Kim Smith
Sandy Boyer	Pr. Terry McCarthy	Noah Rinehart	Phyllis Snyder
Skip Boyer	Theresa McGee	Luther Rinehart	Christopher Teal
Louise Haugh			

Trinity's Homebound Members

Esther Baker	Nancy Brodbeck	Louise Eisenhart	Dottie Mae Eisenhart
Doris Edris	Itoe Hoak	Flo Jones	Phyllis Spahr

Other Family & Friends:

Heather Artz (Bonnie Boyer)
Stephanie Barliev (Kim Smith)
Steve Boyer (Bonnie Boyer)
Mike Brady (Mac McMaster)
Seville Brown (Livingston)
Vittoria Brown (Bonnie Boyer)
Valerie Bushey (Bob King)
Susan Caler (Noelle Kline)
Joan Cave (Pr. Terry McCarthy)
Gail Campbell (Pam Eisenhart)
Roger Cunningham (Joyce Wolf)
Alan DeGroft (Karen Sheaffer)
Leah Dillon & Family (Kay Hinkle)
Malaya Gohn (Jen Guiher)
Clifford Hafer (Shelly Livingston)
Joann Hinkle (Judy Burgard)
David Holtzinger (Kathy Kuhn)
Larry Holtzinger (Crackett)
Brittany Horst (Manzullo)
Elena Grace Hull (Janae Hull)
Tom Hyers (Noelle Kline)



Chris & Susie Klass (Bonnie Boyer)
Dolores Kmetz (Judy Burgard)
Kristine Kosack (Leah Dillon)
Lynn Kotula (Susan Smith)
Nancy Lewis (Bonnie Boyer)
Donna & Joe Linn (Bonnie Boyer)
Ruth Lusk (Bonnie Shue)
Betty Markle (Bonnie Boyer)
Jay Mummert (Judy Burgard)
Sandra Quier (Ali Long)
Larry Reily (Eva Boyer)
Chuck Ross & Spouse (Manzullo)
Mike & Aiden Schrek (Kay Hinkle)
Family of Brian Slater (Livingston)
Everly Grace Williams (Hoffman)
Family of Paula Wolf (Dona Lerew)
Edward Yale (Herman)
First Responders and those serving in the military and healthcare

Friends & Family Prayer List: The prayer list for family & friends has been updated. Any names submitted will be kept for 4 weeks unless a longer period is requested. Please let Bonnie Boyer bonnie0879@verizon.net or the secretary@trinitylutheraneb.org know if you need to have someone added to the list.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”* Michael Burkhardt

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Children who are present for in-person worship are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary for a time of faithful learning. The Children’s Time takes place early in the service to accommodate those who are energetic and squirmy while worshipping online via the livestream.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways when they make us uncomfortable. Turn us again to you. For, where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.

Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God’s mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** “*Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*” ELW 772



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com-ands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

***GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. . .

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear
the LORD.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be ^l overthrown.

Here ends the Psalm

SECOND LESSON: James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C **Thanks be to God**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

P The Holy Gospel according to St Mark, the 7th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON

The Rev. Susan McCarthy

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”* ELW 512



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world,
and all in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for everyone who seeks your
presence. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and
resources to thrive and flourish. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for individuals in positions of authority, that they may treat your people with justice for all. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are in need, that they may be healed of their worries. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, that we might be walking in your light. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for the faithful departed who showed us how to honor you. Let us live in the hope of reunion with them and you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us take a few moments to share a sign of Christ's Peace with one another.

OFFERING

Thank you for your ministry here at Trinity. Your giving, loving, serving, and care for each other and our neighbors is the mighty hand of God at work in the world. Thank you for the work you do! As we return to God what has first been given to us, let us rejoice in God's sacred blessing on what we do here in Jesus' name. Amen

OFFERTORY *“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”* ELW 691



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

C **Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**



*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who rose beyond the bounds of death and, as he had promised, poured out your Spirit of life and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exults in boundless joy. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat: this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Feast and be satisfied!

Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Worshippers are invited to come forward in the center aisle to receive the sacrament in continuous flow from the pastor; you may return to your seat or stand at the chancel rail while consuming the Meal. Please return to your seats via the side aisles. Anyone worshipping on-line or at home and wishing to receive the sacrament should call the church office to make arrangements with Pastor Susan or another eucharistic minister.

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

C **Jesus, Bread of Life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

P The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, **+** be upon you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven” Michael Burkhardt



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assisting in the Service Today: Assisting Minister: Charlie Hoffman; Lector: Bob Aims; Ushers: Judy Burgard, Leon Leas, Bob Aims; Hymn Leaders: Kathy Kuhn, Noelle Kline.

Everyone is welcome to gather with us! All activities are held both in-person and online; any electronic links needed will be provided by the church office. Please be in touch if you need any assistance connecting with any gathering, including worship!

Our pandemic approach is always evolving. As we keep an eye on the increasing infection rates, please know the COVID-19 task force has been in conversation and at this time is not recommending to council any changes to our official policy. (If you'd like an official copy, please contact the office.) Trinity's leadership encourages everyone to become vaccinated for your safety and the safety of others and to wear a mask if you have not been vaccinated or have any health concerns that would put you and others at risk. Let's continue to pray together for the health of God's children. Thank you.

Sunday Morning Adult Confirmation Class continues this morning at 10:30am in the Chapel. We'll be talking about the Lord's Prayer.

Bible Study continues Monday, August 30 at 6:00pm with special attention on how the weekly Word of God feeds our spirits. Everyone is welcome to join in either in person or via Zoom. Call Pastor Susan with questions.

Join the Midweek Prayer Service Wednesdays at 10am in the Chapel. The service will also be live-streamed to our private Facebook Group, "Trinity Lutheran EB Fellowship Group." This is a semi-private broadcast to only those who are members of our group, Trinity's closed gathering on Facebook. While electronically available, to protect private prayer concerns, it's not a publicly shared worship service. If you need help joining in electronically, please call the church office. 717-259-9125

SHARE THE HARVEST: Trinity continues a “Share the Harvest” program. Anyone wishing to offer produce, flowers, etc. is encouraged to place them in baskets in the Narthex, available to anyone worshiping for a donation. Donations will then supply food for the Sharing Shelf. Any goods left after worship will be placed on the Sharing Shelf for those in need of food.

The Wellness Group will meet on Tuesday, August 31, at 7:00pm. The topic will be prepping for significant days of remembrance - holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. when grief is involved. We will meet in-person and via Zoom. Please join in!

The WEEKLY CALL LIST and other Pastoral Care: If you know someone who could use a phone call (or a card) from Pastor Susan for any reason, please let her know. Each week she'll add your submitted names to the list she already keeps. In addition, if you or anyone you know are in need of immediate pastoral care, please don't hesitate to reach out to her at 717-778-5548 (She also texts at this number.) or pastor@trinitylutheraneb.org. Thank you!

THANK YOU! To Mark Boyer, Anita Madsen, all of Parish Life, and everyone else who made the Church Picnic a wonderful fellowship event! It was a really lovely afternoon, so much so we hardly noticed it was pouring. Watch for some pictures in the newsletter.

Coordinating Committee: There will be a meeting of Trinity's Coordinating Committee on Wednesday, September 15 at 7:00pm in the social hall. All interested people are invited to attend to discuss the most recent social events at Trinity and to plan for the future fall and winter events. Your participation is welcome!! The meeting will last one hour. Any questions or concerns, please see Dona Lerew. Thank you for your participation.

UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURE: The church office will be closed on Monday, September 6 in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Enjoy a blessed holiday weekend, everyone!

Next week's readings: Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-17; Gospel Mark 7:24-37

HOLY QUESTIONS/HOLY ANSWERS: Today's Question is: *The statement that we will be raised up on the last day is confusing. So does that mean that we don't go to heaven as soon as we die? Does that mean that we won't go to heaven until Jesus comes again?*

The answer to the question is a complicated one. The Hebrew belief (but not in all factions) was that when people died, they were dead and gone except that there would be a resurrection on the last day, when God would raise all God's people. So, if you're reading Old Testament scripture, that's the language you'll hear.

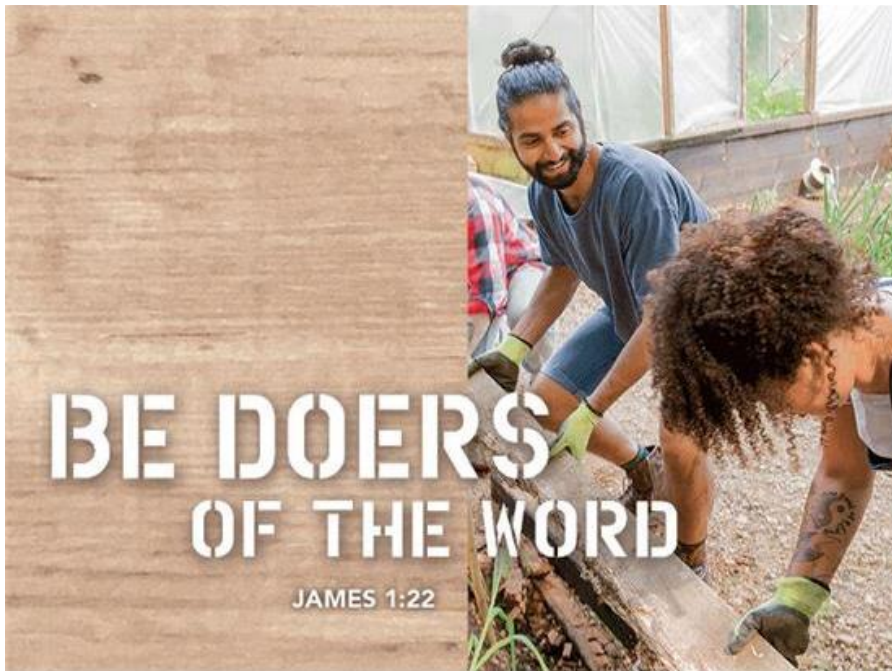
Then, on the cross Jesus told the thief that he'd be with him in paradise and both possibility and confusion were born with the placement of a comma. Koine Greek doesn't have punctuation, or even separation of letters between words, in the original transcripts of scripture. So, here lies an editing matter for the scribes. When Jesus says, "TrulyItellyoutodayyouwillbewithmeinparadise," it can be understood as, "...I tell you **today**, you will be with me...", or, "...I tell you, **today** you will be with me..." Notice the comma placement.

That got people riled up. What did Jesus mean, TODAY is the day? Or, is Jesus telling me today that I will be going at some point, the actual trip to heaven being not until the last day? Add to that a bunch of historical detail about the divided Jewish denominations' beliefs about resurrection, the influence of Greek culture that was still prominent and gave us the first idea that a body and soul are separate, the fact that a whole new religion was being birthed, factors around what people want and need to hear, and we have no idea when the promise will be fulfilled. But, we can certainly trust that it will be, however God works, in whatever timeframe. If it's not Heaven until later, we know Jesus promises we rest in Him. If it is Heaven right now then, Hallelujah!

We need also to remember that Jesus all but draws us a map. He tells us that he prepares a place for us and that he'll come take us to himself. Then, we see that he, in ascending to heaven, himself, goes up and sits at the right hand of the Father. Therefore, Heaven is at the right hand of the Creator. According to Jesus in John 14, he takes us there pretty pronto, once the place is prepared.

The other reason we can hope with feet on the ground that the heaven-now scenario is true is that we have TONS of testimonies of folks in all stages of life and death who have experienced the presence of, even seen, departed loved ones. Dead people,

even if they're busy decomposing and waiting for God to do the Ezekiel dry bones thing with them, are not up and walking around as spirits appearing here and there to their loved ones. Both those deceased and those who experience their presence witness to us that eternal life/resurrection/heaven above is a real thing. Heaven must be their home base, for we know earth is no longer. A pastor once told me, and I hold this encouragement to be extremely comforting, "If you're going to believe in eternal life, then BELIEVE in eternal life." I do – and I trust God to work out the details. ~ Pr. Susan



2021 Weekly Contributions	
Budget vs. Actual	
Month	Amount
August Budgeted Income	17,808
August Actual Income	16,220
Over/(Under)Budgeted Income	(1,588)

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
East Berlin, Pennsylvania*

Our Mission: We are a family of Christian disciples committed to making Christ known while loving and serving God and neighbors.

Our Vision: To fulfill our mission, we will:

Worship through liturgy, music, prayer & Sacraments;

Teach God's Word and nurture spiritual growth;

Serve and provide for those in need;

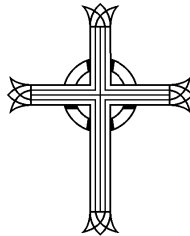
Witness to others by sharing the Gospel;

Celebrate with fellowship;

Return with joy what God has given;

Be active in our community and the Church.

Worship, Serve, Celebrate!



Worship: Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Ministers: The People of Trinity

Office Phone: 717-259-9125

www.trinitylutheraneb.org

secretary@trinitylutheraneb.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 7:45am – 11:45am, Friday 9am-1pm

Staff

Rev. Susan McCarthy, Pastor.....717-778-5548

Bob King, Council President 717-877-0616

Jennifer Guiher, Church Secretary 717-259-9125

Karen Wire, Church Organist 717-259-0778

Sue Clauser, Church Treasurer 717-259-0724

Bonnie Boyer, Prayer Chain Contact 717-259-0879