

TRINITY^{news}

AUGUST 2018

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 East Main Street
PO Box 188
Spring Grove, MN 55974

507.498.5291
www.trinitysg.org



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



Office hours:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 10a.m. – 4 p.m.

Wed: Noon – 6:00 p.m.

Sundays at Trinity

9:00 a.m. Hymn Sing (summer)

9:15 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Fellowship

Listen live on KVIK 104.7 FM

STAFF

Elizabeth Hermeier, Lead Pastor
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David Myrah, Custodian
Scott Solberg, Choir Director
Rachel Storlie, Organist
Willy Leafblad, Handbell Director
Jean Ellingson, Pianist
Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist

The Education Team and Youth & Family Coordinator, Bekah Leafblad, would like to extend a **BIG HUG AND THANK YOU** to each member of Trinity for their awesome support in helping our youth meet their budget of \$28,500 to go on a trip of a lifetime in June to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas!

It is with active, engaged youth in our congregation that our present and future can spread the love of God to many who have a need to feel included and **THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING!**



▲ The youth and adult leaders (from Trinity and Blackhammer) before boarding the bus to Houston, Texas, and the ELCA Youth Gathering!



▲ We're almost there!

The stage at one evening of the mass gathering... Love changes everything! ►



PASTOR'S PEN

Dear friends in Christ,

What would it be like to worship God by serving others? How can we embody our faith with practices of justice and mercy? The prophet Habakkuk tells us to “write a vision, and make it plain upon a tablet so that a runner can read it.”

By the time you read this letter, I hope we at Trinity Lutheran Church – and have I mentioned how wonderful I think it is that the initials of our church, TLC, also stand for “tender loving care”? It's got to be a sign of something – will have had our first “servant Sunday” worship service and Loaves and Fishes feast on July 29 in Viking Park.

The idea of Servant Sunday is something I came across at a neighborhood church in Minneapolis (and I stole the idea). Basically, in any month of the year in which there is a fifth Sunday, we dedicate the day to an alternative worship service that focuses on stewardship and outreach in our neighborhood. The day concludes with fellowship and some sort of servant project or fundraiser.

It just so happens that the first fifth Sunday since I started at TLC is/was July 29, and coincidentally (or miraculously), the text for July 29 is/was John 6:1-21, in which Jesus takes a couple of fish and a few pieces of bread and feeds 5,000 or so people – not including women and children. So probably a lot more. (Don't get me started on why the writer of John's gospel didn't include women and children.)

I'm going to go all out and predict that our first Servant Sunday was a great success. Thank you to the worship and stewardship teams for putting it all together, and all the others who contributed to making it possible. Our first Servant Sunday also concludes our very successful (again, I'm making a strong prediction) Summer Surge Budget Booster campaign. Thank you to all who contributed to that as well. The proceeds from our goodwill offering – the “first fruits” of the Budget Booster campaign, will go to support area hunger programs. A fitting way to give honor to the gospel.

There will be other ministry opportunities in the future as well. More plans are being finalized for Servant Sundays in September (blessing of the animals and outdoor service) and December (TBD but not likely an outdoor service). As you can see, there will be many chances to put your faith in action.

God bless you,

~ Pastor Elizabeth

In our last staff meeting, one of us informed the group that according to a pastor on the radio, the world was going to end on Friday. If it is true you won't be reading this. If you *are* reading this, the world is still chugging along. Anyway, it got me thinking later on about what I would do if the world was ending or actually, just my life. The world will go on for thousands of years only humans may not be alive to enjoy it because we may be extinct. After all this earth was here long before humans were alive. There are rocks, in Minnesota, that have been carbon dated to be 6 billion years old! We saw it when the whole family took what we called a Minnesota rock tour for one of the boys 5th grade Minnesota projects. We went to Pipestone, the Rune Stone in Alexandria, and the Sudan Iron Ore mine. So I am pretty sure the world will go on without us.



There will come a time though when MY world will come to an end and yours and every living creature. Our lifetime on this earth is very limited and in the grand scheme of things is very short. Martin Luther was asked what he would do if he knew he would die tomorrow. Good Old Martin said he would plant an apple tree! I like that idea. It suggests that there is hope that life will go on without us and we are people of Hope. It suggests the goodness of God's creation. It does make me think of how would I spend the last day of my life? If someone asked you, how would you respond? Are there enough apple trees to go around?

In Christ,

~ Pastor Lane

7TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY POTLUCK ▪ WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1



Come one, come all and join your neighbors and friends at the Viking Memorial Park for an evening of good food, fellowship, and music. The potluck meal will start at 6:00 p.m. Music by the Thankful Brass along with a Gospel Sing-Along with area musicians will begin at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish to pass, eating utensils, and sit with us while enjoying a beautiful evening in Spring Grove. Lemonade, water, and coffee will be provided. The event is sponsored by the area churches. In case of rain, we will be at the Fest Building.

(Don't let the circus stop you from coming! Join us first and then go enjoy the circus!)



ALL TEAM RETREAT

Are you a member of a team at Trinity? Then this is for you! Please plan to attend an All Team Retreat on Sunday, August 5, from 3-5 p.m. at Giants of the Earth Heritage Center. Team members check your email for details and agenda.

Thank you!

~ Pastor Elizabeth, Congregation President Mary Deters

SHAKING THE DUST OFF YOUR SANDALS.....

Jesus told his disciples to "shake the dust off your sandals." Get up and do it!

We had this message shared in a recent sermon, and now we have an opportunity for ministry where we can practice this.

For the last several years, the Methodist Church in Caledonia has held a Free Rummage Sale and Back to School event for Houston County residents who are in need. They call it the Give Away! This event has grown so much that some extra help is needed. These thoughtful members have reached out to us as possible helpers.

The event is held during the week of the county fair. This year it will be held Thursday, August 16 from noon until 7 pm and Friday morning, August 17. It will be open to all of the community on Friday afternoon with items available for a free-will offering. This event is for Houston County residents in need of a little extra help getting their children ready for the school year, through the donations of backpacks, school supplies, and gently used clothing.



We are looking for donations of school supplies. There is a special need for new backpacks, calculators, dry erase markers, markers, and Clorox wipes, as well as general school supplies, such as notebooks and folders. Last year more than 100 backpacks were given out. They also need children's clothing of all sizes.

There is also a great need for helpers to assist with setting up. If you are able to help with the setting up of this event, please contact Mary Zaffke, (507) 498-5823 or zaffkes@springgrove.coop. Set-up of the Give Away will happen the beginning of the week of

August 12. We would like to have donations at Trinity by August 12.

Trinity will have an area set aside in the Fellowship Hall where you can bring your donations. Jessi Strinmoen is also willing to coordinate some picking up of donations. Please talk to Jessi if you want to help out in this way.

Thank you for considering this ministry opportunity that supports our county neighbors.

~ Outreach/ Mission in the World Teams.

LANDSCAPE SURVEY — ARE YOU IN A GROUP THAT SHOULD FILL IT OUT?

Next year, Bishop Steve Delzer will retire from our ELCA Southeast Minnesota Synod. The coming year will be a time of prayer, reflection, and discernment as we begin to call a new bishop. We'll also engage in self-study using an assessment tool called Landscape.

The Landscape assessment is a survey that can be taken online or printed out in PDF format. It is now available and can be submitted anonymously. To fill out the survey, visit semnsynod.org/landscape. Landscape will help us determine the needs of our wider community and Synod so that we can have informed conversations about the gifts we seek in our next bishop. The survey remains open until Friday, August 24.

The following groups of people will be invited to participate in the Landscape survey:

- Active rostered ministers ▪ Communicators, office managers and secretaries
- Retired rostered ministers ▪ Lay congregational members with active involvement in the synod
- Synod Council members ▪ Church council members, recent call committee
- Office of the Bishop staff ▪ Faith Formation leaders and volunteers

As you can see from the above list, a number of Trinity members and groups will have an opportunity to take the survey and give feedback. Your participation will be very beneficial, as will your prayers. Any questions, please feel free to ask Pastor Elizabeth.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND AN IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, August 5 at 10:15 a.m. (immediately following worship)

The Property Team met with the Executive Committee on July 1 to inform them that our boiler needs to be replaced. It was installed in 1993 and the average lifespan is 20-25 years, so it has served us well. At the July 11 Council Meeting, they informed the council members of the problem. The Council approved getting bids for this project. Since the cost will be substantial, approximately \$175,000 plus asbestos abatement, paint, flooring and touch-up, the congregation will have to approve the purchase at a special meeting.

There is some good news. Our current steam-heating system would be replaced with hot-water heat. This will result in cost savings in the future. Once this system is in place, air conditioning could be added more easily, at an approximate cost of \$50,000-\$60,000.

Obviously, this amount is not in our current budget and will require us to borrow the money. The Finance Team is exploring various possible sources and will bring suggestions to the Congregational Meeting on August 5.

This is new information to everyone, but the Council felt it was necessary to move forward as quickly as possible to have a new system in place before winter comes.

Both the Finance and Property Teams are hard-working teams. Please keep them in your prayers as we go forward with this project.

Thank you,

Property Team: Lee Hoekstra (leader), Andy Allen, Dan Alstad, Kris Rud, Dana Kjome, Rick Sundet, Lonny Tweeten

Finance Team: Lorilyn Dehning (leader), Carlyn Kraabel, Alan Frydenlund, Jean Ann Tweeten, Chris Strinmoen

Pastor Elizabeth Hermeier

Mary Deters, Congregation President

IMPORTANT TIDBITS

LIGHTEN UP! INTRODUCING NOISY (CRINKLY) SUNDAY

If you're like me (Pastor Elizabeth), you probably have a cup or a jar or a crock or something even bigger somewhere in your house in which you throw all your loose change. Because let's face it, not only can't you get a cup of coffee for a nickel anymore, you can't really get much of anything for under a dollar – not even on the dollar menu!

But all those pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters add up when we pool them. So beginning on Rally Day (September 9), we're going to give you an opportunity to lighten up and unload all that change. And then we're going to do something great with it: Support Lutheran ministries in South Sudan (saving the lives of pregnant women and infants) and Puerto Rico (hurricane relief). In a twist on our "First Fruits" initiatives, 10% of everything gathered will come back to Trinity to support the general fund.

Even more fun than unloading all this change will be the ones gathering it: Our kids! Look for them to come around on the first Sunday of every month, shaking cans and gathering smiles.

Oh, and what's the "crinkly" part you ask? If you want it a little quieter, you are welcome to throw in paper money. Because nothing quiets illness and devastation like dollar bills. Thank you!



PRACTICING HOSPITALITY



Louis, chevalier de Jaucourt (a French scholar and the most prolific contributor to the Encyclopédie) describes hospitality in the Encyclopédie as *the virtue of a great soul that cares for the whole universe through the ties of humanity.*

Members of Trinity Lutheran Church have a great opportunity to practice the gift of hospitality! This next month, members of the Outreach Team will be calling you to see if you are able to serve Coffee Fellowship this next year.

We think of your saying "yes" as a gift to the "whole universe" of Trinity Lutheran.

If you are not called, please call us! Serving is a great way to experiment (and share) a new recipe or a favorite one. It is a good way to meet and work with other members and it is a great way to practice hospitality. You can call Mary Zaffke (498-5823) or Joyce Landsom (498-5213) or the church office if you are willing to serve.

Thank you! ~ Outreach Team

HANDBELL FUNDRAISER

Thank you again to all who were able to contribute to our new four-octave set of Schulmerich Handbells. This fundraiser was a First Fruits initiative. We were able to tithe 10% of what we raised back to Trinity. We are pleased to announce that the tithe from this First Fruits initiative (about \$2,000) went to Trinity's Health Initiative Program (HIP)! (Bekah opening the bells. ►)



YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIR

Trinity members entering grades 7-12 this fall are encouraged to consider playing in the brand new Trinity Youth Handbell Choir. Rehearsals will be Sunday evenings (beginning in September) from 6:45-7:45 p.m. three or four times a month with Bekah and Mr. Leafblad. Youth Handbell Choir will not rehearse on weeks there is Praise Band practice.

With the new addition of a fourth octave of handbells, we are also looking for 2-3 more ringers for the **ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR!** New members should be able to read musical rhythms at a novice/advanced beginner level. Help us use our new handbells to their full potential. This is a great opportunity to help enhance the worship experience at Trinity! Questions? Email: willy.leafblad@springgrove.k12.mn.us!

GOOD STEWARDS

PHOTOS



WELCA Summer
Salad Luncheon
and Auction



DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN GIVE TO TRINITY ELECTRONICALLY?

Through Trinity's website, you can set up a Direct Debit Giving account to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account, or credit card, to go directly to Trinity's bank account. You set the schedule as it best fits for you! It's convenient and easy especially during the summer months when many people are traveling more for vacations. Consider setting up your electronic giving account.

Visit www.trinitysg.org. On the right-hand side of the home page, click on the link "Contribute" then click on the bar "Contribute Online" and it will bring you to the site to set up your online giving account. Questions? Just let us know! Thank you!

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE PHOTOS IN THE NEWSLETTER ARE IN FULL COLOR?

If you receive the newsletter via email, you get to see the full color photos! If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please let the church office know and we'll add you to our email list! Send us an email at trinity@springgrove.coop or give us a call!

WEEKLY EMAIL Did you know that we send out a weekly email on Fridays with news about the upcoming week at Trinity. Would you like to receive this email to help stay up-to-date with all things Trinity? Just drop us an email, trinity@springgrove.coop, or give us a call and we'll add you to our list!

PRACTICE STARTING SOON! Choir and Praise Band practices will be starting soon! New members are always welcome! Watch for more details as to the start dates.

NICHOLAS CLARK



children: Malia and Gavin
employment: painting and dry wall
favorite food: chicken alfredo
place you'd like to travel to: Hawaii
favorite summer activities: being outdoors, camping, fishing

CHARLEY AND CARLA HAHN



adult children and grandchildren: Alysia (Jesse) Woodard and Eliza, Henry, Arlo Tyler Hahn, Britney Hahn, Kayla Hahn (fiancé Alex Folkman)
employment: Charley-Farmers Winn Co-op, Carla-Ridgeway Community School
favorite winter activities: reading, watching movies, playing cards and board games
favorite summer activities: Ranger riding, gardening

DAVID AND KATHY OVERLAND



adult children: Carl, Eric (Marcia), Mark
employment: retired
favorite food: meal cooked on the grill
place you'd like to travel to: a beach where it is warm, like Hawaii
favorite summer activity: camping

TOM PECINOVSKY



significant other: Bobbi Holland
children: Tyler Pecinovsky, Trevor Pecinovsky, Hunter Holland, Sydney Holland
adult children: TJ Pecinovsky, Jr.
employment: Stanley Engineered Fastening
favorite food: breakfast/brunch
place you'd like to travel to: Germany for Oktoberfest
favorite summer activities: patio parties, spending time on the river canoeing

JENNY ST. MARY



spouse: Derek St. Mary
children: Gavin, Mason
employment: stay at home mom
favorite food: pizza or tacos
place you'd like to travel to: Italy
favorite summer activities: walks and outdoor activities with my kids

ADELL TWITE



adult children: Jean Caron, Dean Twite, Jon Twite, Paul Twite
employment: retired
favorite food: pork ribs and chocolate cake
place you'd like to travel to: Norway and Hawaii
favorite summer activities: reading in the shade, visiting neighbors



Just a few photo highlights from the ELCA Youth Gathering.... (clockwise from upper left) adult leaders, at the Mass Gathering, NRG Park sign, Service Day Book Fair, Galveston, riding the Metro



photos

Milestone records at Trinity from January—July 2018

BAPTISMS

March

Nora Mae Kragness

Morgan Ione Hansen

May

Hank Robert Sherburne

Trevin William Mitchell

Emberly Kira Eide

Luka Rose Scheetz

July

Nevaeh Rose Hahn



FUNERALS

January

Pauleen Ruth Bratland

March

Katharine Ann Peterson

Delores Harriet Liudahl

April

Milda L. Thompson

Shirley E. Sylling

George Leif Morken

May

Mae Constance Refsdal Skindlov

Warren Alan Sylling

June

Emma Bernice Landsom

Maxine La Vonne Barth

JULY CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Motions approved:

- To give the Gifts & Memorial Committee the ability to look at the wisdom of having a separate committee and make a recommendation to the Council.
- To do a steam-to-hot-water conversion to replace our existing boiler system.
- To add the ALICE Plan to the Trinity Lutheran Church Safe Church Policy. (ALICE is a plan for leaving a building if there is a dangerous intruder. It stands for A=alert, L=lockdown, I=inform, C=counter, E=evacuate.)
- The next Council meeting is August 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Pastor Elizabeth's house.

Complete Congregation Council minutes are on Trinity's website, available at sanctuary entrances, or in the office.



Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, August 1: Community Potluck Picnic

Sunday, August 5: Special Congregational meeting

Sunday, August 5: All Team Retreat

Friday, August 10: Luren Concert at Trinity

Sunday, September 9: Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 10: Noisy (Crinkly) Sunday

Wednesday, September 12: Confirmation begins

Wednesday, September 19: WELCA Meatball Dinner

Sunday, September 30: Servant Sunday

Sunday, October 7: Bishop Steve Delzer will be our guest at Trinity!

Sunday, October 28: Confirmation and Root River Conference Reformation Service at Trinity

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5:00pm Worship, MR	2 5:30pm Education, MR 7:00pm Finance, MR	3	4 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
5 9:00am Hymn Sing 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:15am Congregational Mtg, Fellowship 3-5:00pm All Team Retreat, Giants of the Earth 8:30pm 3:16s	6	7 2:00pm Root River Conference mtg, MR 6:00pm Stewardship, MR 6:30pm Staffing, GR 7:00pm Support, FH	8 9:30am Adah Circle 7:00pm Council, parsonage	9 7:00pm Luren Concert 8:30pm Bonfire	10	11
12 9:00am Hymn Sing 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Outreach, Pstr ofc 11:30am Tweeten Care Ctr Service 8:30pm 3:16s	13	14 9:00am Deborah Circle 9:30am Anna Circle	15 2:30pm Eve Circle	16 9:30am Communion at The Manor 8:30pm Bonfire	17	18 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
19 9:00am Hymn Sing 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:15am Fellowship 8:30pm 3:16s	20	21	22	23 9:30am Communion at Tweeten Apartments 10:30am Communion at Assisted Living 8:30pm Bonfire	24 12:00pm Newsletter info deadline	25
26 9:00am Hymn Sing 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Outreach, pr ofc 8:30pm 3:16s	27	28	29	30 2:00pm Newsletter mailed 8:30pm Bonfire	31 9:00am Love Day	

VOLUNTEERS

	AUGUST 5	AUGUST 12	AUGUST 19	AUGUST 26
LECTOR	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Michelle Jahnke	Kim Kapplinger	Jan Kraabel
ACOLYTE(S)	Reid Bjerke, Kennedy Bornholdt	Kelsey Bratland	Ella Wennes, Haley Ellingson	Dane Edginton
COMMUNION SERVERS	Deb Spence, Karen Bingham, Steve Morken	N/A	Lori & Gary Wilhelmson, Jean Ellingson	N/A
ALTAR GUILD	Teresa Holland (chair), Karen Bingham, Bonnie Solberg, Marilyn Sylling, Deb Spence, Geri Worden			
USHERS	Rob & Amy Gross family	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Mark & Rachel Udstuen family	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
COFFEE HOSTS	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Erin Konkell, Lyn Solberg team	Joyce, Justin, Jeff Landsom; Stewart, Richard, Betty Storlie; Janet Fossum	Joyce Lee, Kathy and Bruce Anderson
498-AMEN	July 29-August 11: Bethany Bergsgaard	August 12-25: Karen Gray		August 26-September 8: Greg Wennes

HAVE YOU......moved? ...changed phone numbers? ...changed email addresses? Let the office know! Thanks!

LET US KNOW.....If you have a loved one ill or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if any pastoral need arises.

CONTACT TRINITY..... (507) 498-5291, trinity@springgrove.coop

FOLLOW TRINITY ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



Instagram: Youth account = trinityyouth203

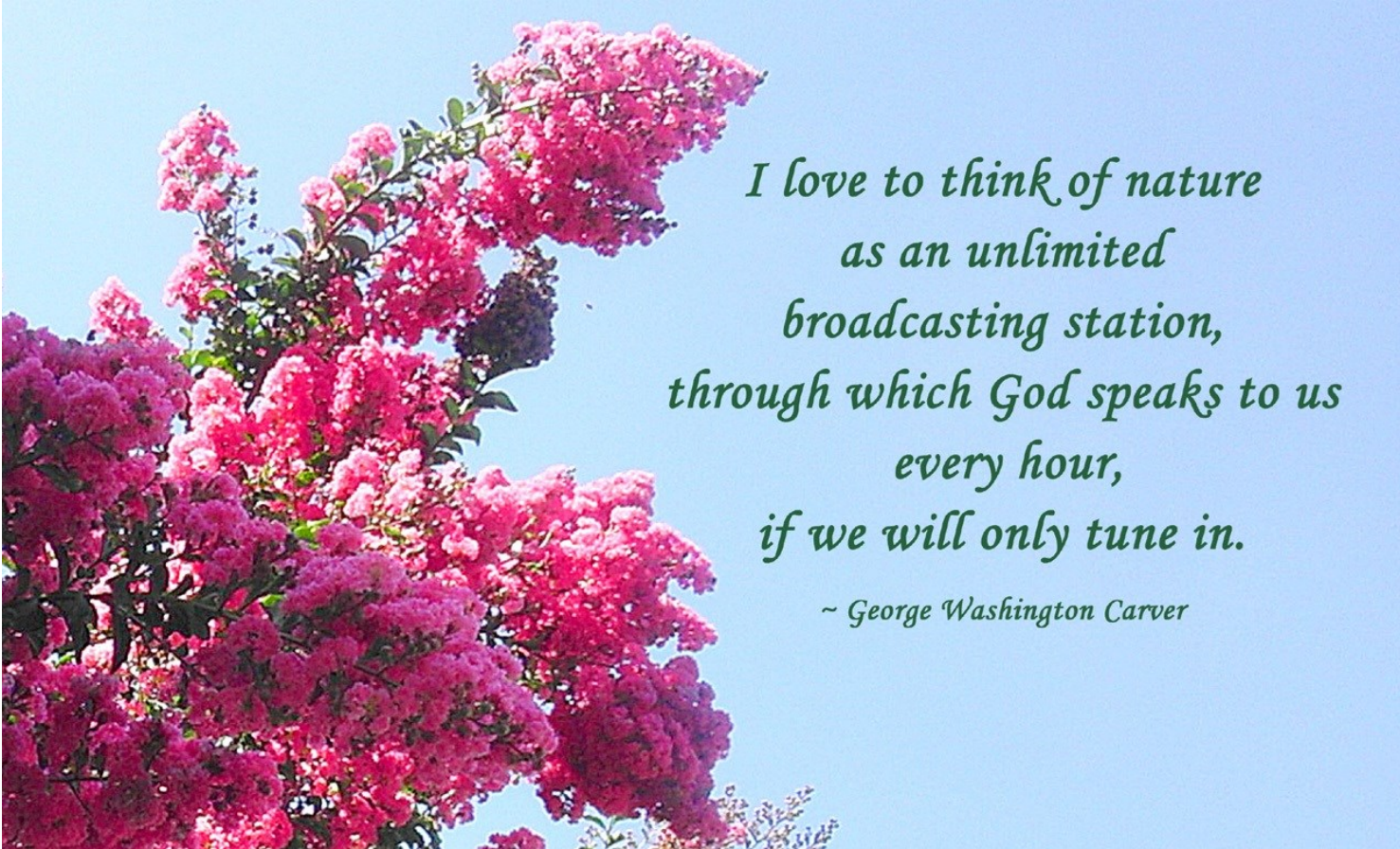
Trinity Church account = trinitylutheransg



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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A photograph of a large, dense cluster of bright pink flowers, likely a flowering shrub, set against a clear, light blue sky. The flowers are in sharp focus, showing individual petals and green leaves.

*I love to think of nature
as an unlimited
broadcasting station,
through which God speaks to us
every hour,
if we will only tune in.*

~ George Washington Carver