

TRINITYnews

AUGUST 2019

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 East Main Street
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Spring Grove, MN 55974

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www.trinitysg.org



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



Instagram
trinityyouth203
trinitylutheransg

Office hours:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Wed: Noon – 6:00 p.m.

Sundays at Trinity

9:15 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Listen live on KVIK 104.7 FM

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Rachel Storlie, Organist
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Jean Ellingson, Pianist
Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist
Mark Udstuen, Praise Band leader

SEARCHING FOR SABBATH

Do you feel as if the summer months are swallowing your family whole? Does the loss of a predictable schedule send you into a tailspin? Do you long for Sabbath rest, but know that going off the grid for 24 hours will never fly with your family? Fear not. You are not alone. There is hope. There is the Summer Sabbath Reboot.

As pastor Ken Shigemastu writes in *God in My Everything: How an Ancient Rhythm Helps Busy People Enjoy God*, “The golden rule for the Sabbath is cease from what is necessary and to embrace what gives life.”

This made me wonder: this summer, would it be possible to capture moments, minutes, and occasionally hours to embrace what brings life to our households? Are there ways that we can intentionally choose to pause and rest, to savor beauty, appreciate goodness, and celebrate and enjoy what God has created? Blessings. Rest. Pause. Restoration. Savoring. Beauty. Appreciation. Goodness.

“Then God surveyed everything He had made, savoring its beauty and appreciating its goodness. Evening gave way to morning. That was day six. So now you see how the Creator swept into being the spangled heavens, the earth, and all their hosts in six days. On the seventh day—with the canvas of the cosmos completed—God paused from His labor and rested. Thus God blessed day seven and made it special—an open time for pause and restoration, a sacred zone of Sabbath-keeping, because God rested from all the work He had done in creation that day.”
Genesis 1:31-2:3, *The Voice*

30 Minute Summer Sabbath Practices To get your family started with your own Sabbath practice, here is a little cheat sheet of ideas:

Rule 1: Don't Stress out.

Rule 2: There is no rule about how often you should practice Sabbath. Do it when you can. No beating yourself up about not doing it more often!

Rule 3: Sabbath practices really do work best when all devices are put away and turned off (adults too.)

Rule 4: Everyone in the household should find a way to participate if possible – even grown-ups!

Rule 5: No murmurings of discontent.

Rule 6: End your Sabbath practice with a prayer of thanksgiving.

Sabbath practices bring about restoration when you are intentional about taking time to pause and rest – when you choose to savor beauty, appreciate goodness, and celebrate your blessings. As a household, make your own list of Sabbath Practices. Begin by asking each other “what brings us life and joy?”

Sabbath Prayer: *Blessed are You, Lord our God, Thank you for the gift of Sabbath and the restoration it brings. Thank you for an open time to pause and savor the beauty of our lives. Help us to appreciate the goodness of this moment. Amen.*

Excerpt from www.buildfaith.org. Author: Jerusalem Jackson Greer is a writer, speaker, nest-fluffer, novice farm-gal, and author of “A Homemade Year: The Blessings of Cooking, Crafting and Coming Together.” She is also the Minister to Children, Youth, and Families at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Conway, Arkansas. Jerusalem lives with her husband and two sons on a little farm in Arkansas.



Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

John 14:6a

Dear friends in Christ,

At almost every preaching conference or seminar for pastors I've attended this year, I seem to have heard the same message: The world is changing.

The theme for our Southeast Minnesota Synod of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) synod assembly was "Following Jesus Into a Changing World." At Luther Seminary, faculty and staff are discussing "What do Christian leaders need to know, or know how to do, to be faithful and effective in the 21st century?" The headline of one of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's monthly messages was "So now what?"

So now what, indeed.

When I was growing up and attending Bible Camp in the 1970s, we often heard "What would Jesus do?" and "No matter what the question, Jesus is the answer."

So it turns out, Jesus is the question AND the answer.

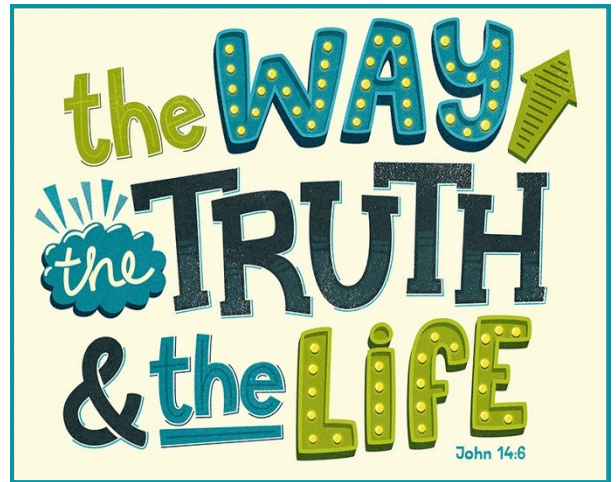
Michael Binder, affiliate faculty member in congregational mission and leadership at Luther Seminary, says "... it's becoming increasingly clear that in vibrant congregations there's a sense of deep connection with God and neighbor that leads to a willingness to grow spiritually and risk changing."

Change can be very hard, though, especially for Midwestern Scandinavian Lutherans. But as Fred Arnold said (paraphrasing Bishop Delzer) in church last Sunday, change is a sign of growth.

I don't know what God has planned for us concerning potential changes to our existing church facility. I only know that if we keep Jesus at the center of all our questions and conversations and explorations and discernment, we will be prepared for whatever and wherever God is calling us.

God bless you!

~ Pastor Elizabeth



FROM THE PASTORS



Newsletter time again and I have what some say is writer's block. I can't think of what to write or say. But part of my job description is to write a newsletter article if I have time. I wonder how long it took the Apostle Paul to write his letters. Actually he dictated most of his letter to someone who would write things down except his letter to the Colossians where he ends it "I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand...Grace be with you." The letter begins by talking about the awesomeness of Jesus, the firstborn of

all creation and goes on from there. Jesus created us, loves us, cries with us, laughs with us. Martin Luther said a true believer meditates on Jesus Christ day and night!

~ Pastor Lane

TRINITY TREADERS WILL BE PART OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE! This is the 25th year of the Relay for Life in Houston County! It is August 2 at the La Crescent High School track. It begins at 6:00 p.m. Trinity's team--*Trinity Treaders*--has participated nearly every year! We have a great team again this year. If you would like to donate or purchase a luminary, please contact Trinity Treaders' team captain Stewart Storlie, (507) 450-2851 or stewart@trinitysg.org or stewart.storlie@gmail.com. Thank you! The funds raised through Relay For Life not only honor survivors and remember loved ones, but also help give cancer patients and their families the resources and support they need, including a 24/7 helpline for answers and support.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Relay For Life. There will be entertainment throughout the evening plus food is available for purchase. The luminaria will be lit when the sun has set. It is very moving to see the many luminaria that are in memory of or in honor of those affected by cancer.

RALLY SUNDAY The first day of Sunday School will be **Sunday, September 8**. During worship at 9:15 a.m., 3-year olds and 3rd graders will receive a new Bible from the church. After worship concludes (around 10:30 a.m.), games for Sunday School students will begin outdoors - weather permitting. Please come prepared to complete a registration form for your Sunday School aged children. More information about the upcoming year of Sunday School will be coming to your mailbox soon!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS Bekah is looking for Sunday School teachers for the 2019-20 year. If you are interested in teaching, please let Bekah know at the church office or by emailing bekah@trinitysg.org. More specifics will be coming soon regarding what will be taught and the dates.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED We're looking forward to a fun-filled year of Sunday School! Our activities and lessons take a lot of supplies! If you're interested in supporting the Sunday School education program here at Trinity, we welcome you to help us by donating supplies or a monetary gift. You can sign-up to bring an item by contacting Bekah in the office, 498-5291 or bekah@trinitysg.org.

Items needed for the first two months — **September:** index cards (200), candy cane, large sequins, Christmas stickers, unbreakable nativity set (can be returned after use), star stickers, yellow gift wrap, small perfume bottle (can be returned after use), Christmas cards, pony beads. **October:** sugar cookie dough, margarine/butter, frosting in various bright colors, black and red licorice, chocolate sprinkles, small gumdrops, sandwich bags, paper plates, brown yarn, hot glue gun (can be returned after use), *Aladdin* DVD (can be returned after use), newspaper, hand mirrors (can be returned after use), white lunch bags.



FALL MEATBALL DINNER WELCA is pleased to announce that their Fall Meatball Dinner is back after a year's hiatus due to construction displacement in 2018. The dinner this year will be held on **Wednesday, September 18, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.** and will be carry-out meals only. Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on the delicious meal of meatballs, mashed potatoes, carrots, lefse, and rømmegrøt. Guests who prefer to eat their meal in the Fellowship Hall are welcome to do that, but service will be limited. Tickets are \$10 and will be sold the day of the dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

BONFIRES Bonfires are for all students who have just completed 6th-8th grades. They meet at Bekah's house. Come for s'mores and stay for fun and fellowship! Bring your friends — non-Trinity members are always welcome to attend! Upcoming dates: August 11, 18, 25 (no bonfire on 8/4).

3:16s Trinity's high school youth group, 3:16s, will meet on Wednesday, August 28 at 8:00 p.m. at Bekah's house. Come celebrate the end of the summer with your friends! Bring your friends — non-Trinity members are always welcome to attend!

CONFIRMATION INFORMATIONAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 11 AT 6 P.M. This meeting is for all students entering 7th-9th grades and their parents. We will be introducing our new confirmation program — Trinity U! More information will be coming to your mailboxes in mid-August.

JULY 10, 2019 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTSMotions approved:

- To approve the following activities as fundraisers for the youth: sale of Thanksgiving pies, January stock sales, Lenten supper to raise funds for Puerto Rico, April 12 Easter Breakfast, May 17 Meatball Supper. All fundraisers will be First Fruits with 10% of profits returned to the church budget.
- To allow the school to use the sanctuary for choir concerts on December 16, March 19, and May 4, 2020.

Updates:

- The ramp is not ADA acceptable. It would cost an estimated \$50,000 to get it up to code. It remains closed in the meantime.
- The Care Team has organized a Friends in Faith group who will be visiting 12 congregation members. Seven people have volunteered to visit these members in their homes.
- The Care Team is planning a "Wisdom Luncheon" for over-80-year-old members this fall.
- Day Camp had 38 youth attend. Vacation Bible School had 19 youth attend.
- Work on Habitat House will begin soon. A community fundraiser for the project will be held August 25 at Rock Filter Distillery. More than \$28,000 has been raised from the community for the Habitat project.

Next Meeting: August 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

Complete minutes are on Trinity's website, at sanctuary entrances, and in the office.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (7/14/19) HIGHLIGHTS

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss how our existing space (fellowship, education, and office areas) may be limiting us from performing our ministries to their fullest.

President Mary Deters reminded all that the purpose of the meeting was informational only. She gave a brief history of the project and how we got here:

- Through the Mission Investment Fund, a building consultant, on the staff of the ELCA, toured our building and made suggestions. This information was given to the congregation in July 2017.
- We responded by making small changes; large considerations were delayed until we called a pastor.
- Last summer, we formed a Visioning & Planning Team (Steve Kemp, Bev Nelson, Nolie Kapplinger). They presented their findings to the Congregation Council and congregation in May 2019.
- Len Myrah was appointed as the Facilities Planning Team Chairperson at the June 2019 Congregation Council meeting. The next step is to form a Facilities Planning Team.

Len Myrah addressed the congregation about the benefits and challenges of enhancing our space. He reminded us that we have a heritage – when the first church burned down, our ancestors rebuilt this church in eleven months. Today, we have professionals who will help us make decisions that fit our needs and our budget. He has contacted the Mission Investment Fund, who gave him the names of architectural firms who assist churches with developing a plan and names of churches that have enhanced their church facility.

Understanding that we do not make changes just for the sake of doing it, but because there is a reason and/or a ministry need, a time for questions/comments was facilitated by President Mary Deters. In summary:

- The recently updated Gifts & Memorial policy addresses the statute of limitations on bequests and how to legally free up bequest monies and use them.
- If Trinity is committed to growing the faith of young people in our congregation and we want them to worship, come to Sunday School, attend VBS and Day Camp, we are currently challenged by lack of space.
- Seek donations for the project.
- Professionals can help us look at the "big picture" and help us prioritize so that we are proactive, not reactive.
- If we chose not to change and grow, it will impact who chooses to worship at Trinity.
- The church is the people, not the building.

The duties of the Facilities Planning Team (6-8 members) was provided and an invitation to volunteer for the team was extended. Team members will be chosen at the August Congregation Council meeting.

Complete minutes are on Trinity's website, at sanctuary entrances, and in the office.

A/C DONATION In grateful appreciation of the temperature control during their many activities at Trinity, especially the comfort of the Fellowship Hall during Love Day in the summer, Trinity's WELCA group gave \$500 to the AC/boiler fund. Thank you!

GIFTS COMBINED HELP MANY Trinity received a note from Bishop Steve Delzer of our SEMN Synod that said, "Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000 at the synod assembly [in May]. You joined with individuals and congregations from around the synod to allow us to FULLY meet our \$40,000 goal. This means that, because of you we will:

- Provide \$5,000 to Good Earth Village, enough to pay the salary of two summer counselors, deepening their faith and leadership while they walk with campers to grow in faith.
- Allow for \$10,000 for each of our campus Ministries, growing their capacity to connect with college students, provide a space for faith reflection, and serve their communities.
- Give \$15,000 to Luther Seminary, enough to cover one year's tuition for a seminary student to prepare for ministry.

Thank you! Without generous supporters like you, this would not be possible."

TASKTAKERS IS HERE TO HELP! TaskTakers is an organization based in Spring Grove that connects volunteers with community members in need of assistance. Volunteers help with various tasks including transportation to and from appointments, handyman jobs, yardwork, light cleaning, shopping, and visiting services. If you are in need of assistance, please call 507-498-TASK (8275) and our coordinator, Bekah Leafblad, will help provide the services requested! For more information, visit our website, www.TaskTakers.com. *We look forward to serving you!*

THE SEMCAC FOOD SHELF IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS Help is needed most often on Tuesdays and Thursdays and occasionally during food drives as well. Tasks that volunteers of all ages and abilities can help with are many, including sorting food, unloading trucks, stocking shelves, check-in at the front desk and even washing up and bagging vegetables from our wonderful 4-H gardens. Come once, or weekly, or monthly....it's up to you! If you can help, please call Kris on Tuesday or Thursday at (507) 725-3677 or email her, kris.olson@semcac.org.

FAITH AND ADDICTION CONFERENCE As understanding of addiction and concern about the opioid epidemic grows, the Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy and the Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church are hosting a conference to educate congregations about addiction and provide workshops with ideas for how congregations can effectively do addiction ministry. The conference will be held September 20-22 in Bloomington, MN. Go to addictionandfaithconference.com for more information.

GOODSTOCK AT GOOD EARTH VILLAGE Good Stock is a celebration of 50 years of Good Earth Village ministry! Come for some or all events! Friday, August 16 from 6-10 p.m.; Saturday, August 17 from 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, August 18 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. No registration is needed. Entrance is free.

- Six Bands
- Children's Activities
- Food Trucks
- Hikes, games, and more
- On-site lodging available (including camping sites)
- Sunday worship
- More information: www.goodearthvillage.org/goodstock

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY Now is a great time for graduates to connect to Winona's and Mankato's Lutheran campus ministries AND Lutheran campus ministry **NATIONWIDE!** This website will help students find a Lutheran campus ministry, <https://lumin-networkreferral.org/student-referrals>. Campus ministry is a wonderful extension of congregational ministry — a place where students can continue to nurture faith and to meet students at this pivotal time in their lives.





THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY IS AUGUST 5-10 IN MILWAUKEE

Pastor Elizabeth and Bekah Leafblad will be attending the assembly.

WHAT IS THE CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION? Since our beginning in 1988, the ELCA has been one church body organized in three expressions — congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. Each expression has its particular functions but all three together share a common mission of doing God's work in the world and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Together, they ensure a solid foundation of leadership, active involvement in communities, opportunities for dialogue and diverse perspectives, creative partnerships, and support for members and ministries of the ELCA.

The churchwide organization is based out of the Lutheran Center in Chicago and functions with the ELCA's 65 synods and nearly 10,000 congregations across the 50 states, Caribbean and U.S. Virgin Islands. The churchwide organization's work and functions are guided by the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council and four elected officers. Its staff and elected officers work at the Lutheran Center and in other locations around the world serving as administrators, advisors, conveners, partners and resource people for the ELCA and its ministries.

The ELCA also nurtures important connections with Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith partners, and related organizations. We work alongside 27 colleges and universities related to the ELCA, 7 seminaries, more than 2,000 schools and early childhood education centers, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social service agencies, and other agencies and institutions across the country and throughout the world. The work God calls us to do in the world is never done alone or in isolation, and the churchwide organization plays a key role in developing and supporting a culture of interdependence, diversity and common mission across all expressions of the ELCA and its partners.

DUTIES OF THE ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

- Review the work of the churchwide officers, and for this purpose require and receive reports from them and act on business proposed by them.
- Review the work of the churchwide units, and for this purpose require and receive reports from them and act on business proposed by them.
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.
- Establish churchwide policy.
- Adopt a budget for the churchwide organization.
- Elect officers, board members, and other persons as provided in the constitution or bylaws.
- Establish churchwide units to carry out the functions of the churchwide organization.
- Have the sole authority to amend the constitution and bylaws and fulfill other functions as required by them.
- Conduct other business as necessary to further the purposes and functions of the churchwide organization.

****** This year, the churchwide assembly will elect/re-elect the office of the Presiding Bishop. Currently this position is held by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. She has indicated that she is available for another term.

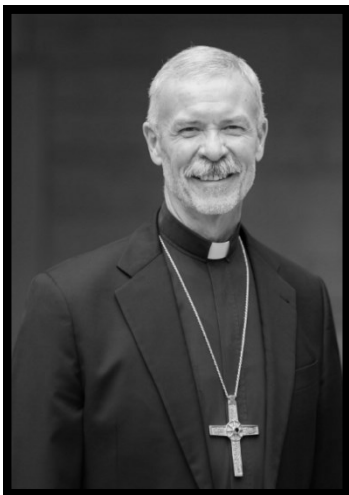


On Saturday, July 27 this group (plus two more) is headed to Indianapolis for a mission trip. Please keep them in your prayers while they are on this trip.

Pictured in front row: Ella Wennes, Maggie Lile, Bekah Leafblad. Back row: Willy Leafblad, Haley Ellingson, Nathan Solberg, Olaf Johnson, Hunter Holland, Madilyn Ostern. Not pictured: Lydia Solum, Caleb Griffin.



Gracious God, grant peace and safety to the Indianapolis Mission Trip group as they make this journey. Bless them by your hand, guide them by your Word, renew them by your Spirit, and protect them. In your name we pray. Amen.



YOU'RE INVITED TO A RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR BISHOP DELZER

Sunday, August 18

Open House Reception is from 2 - 4pm
Celebration and Sending Program from 4 - 4:30pm
Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Faribault.

Two special gift opportunities have been lifted up: helping to provide Bishop Delzer a mountaintop experience on Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania or supporting the ministry of Pastor Wal Reat with the South Sudanese refugees living in the Gambela region of Ethiopia. Gifts will be collected at the reception. If you are unable to attend and would like to honor Bishop Delzer with a gift, please forward it to: SEMN Synod, 1001 14th St. NW, Suite 300, Rochester, MN 55901. Please designate your gift: mountaintop experience or Pastor Wal's ministry. Thank you!



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF BISHOP REGINA HASSANALLY

Saturday, September 14 • 1:00 p.m.
St. John Lutheran Church, Owatonna



◀ ▼ On a summery Sunday morning, we held worship in Viking Memorial Park. What a great way to worship as we sat in God's beautiful creation. Worship was followed by a picnic hosted by the Stewardship Team (see the smoke coming from the grill? Yum!).



◀ Our awesome volunteer custodians, Rick Sundet (front) and Lee Hoekstra (back), have been working hard at cleaning and waxing the floors. Thank you! Check out how great the floors look when you're at the church next. Please note that some areas may be temporarily "closed" as they go through this process.

PHOTOS

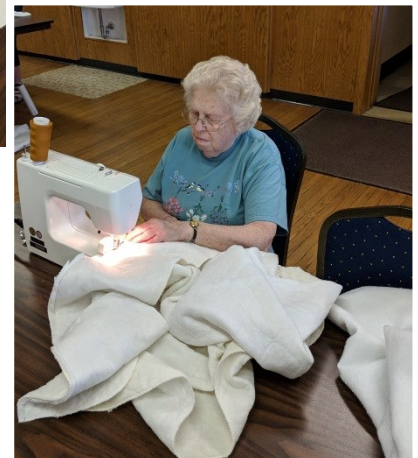


◀ ▶ Where has your Flat Jesus traveled this summer?

Remember to send us photos of where Flat Jesus has gone with you! Email them to us, trinity@springgrove.coop.

We look forward to seeing where Flat Jesus goes!





WELCA held a work day where they sewed donated mattress pads together to create warm linings for the quilts that they will make. They had about 800 pads to use! So many people will be comforted by the quilts these pads will line. Thank you ladies for all of your work and dedication to this ongoing quilting project!

Women of all ages are invited to participate in WELCA and Love Day (which happens the last Friday of the month with exceptions in the winter). Love Day begins at 9a.m. and goes until about 3 p.m., come anytime it works for you! At **10 a.m. a casual WELCA meeting** will be held with coffee and treats provided. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



FH = Fellowship Hall (large room in basement)
GR = Gathering Room (in basement near men's bathroom)
MR = Middle Room (upstairs by offices)

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for all that you do!

	AUGUST 4	AUGUST 11	AUGUST 18	AUGUST 25
LECTOR	Paul Gray	Michelle Jahnke	Kim Kapplinger	Bekah Leafblad
ACOLYTE(S)	Caleb Griffin, Tysen Grinde	Hunter Holland	Nathan Solberg, Haley Ellingson	Maggie Lile
COMMUNION SERVERS	Deb Spence, Karen Bingham, Steve Morken		Jim & Darla Hunzeker, Jean Ellingson	
COMMUNION BREAD	Karen Bingham			
ALTAR GUILD	Dawn Hewitt (chair), Carol Sherburne, Milly Halverson, Carolyn Olson, Carolyn Kampschroer, Carol Gunderson			
COFFEE HOSTS				
498-AMEN	July 28-August 10: Bethany Bersgaard	August 11-24: Mary Newgaard		August 25- September 7: Greg Wennes
SUNDAY USHERS	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>
MEALS ON WHEELS	August 26-27: Lenny & Janna Myrah; August 28-29: Steve & Barb Morken; August 30: Joyce Bergrud			

USHERS ARE NEEDED FOR AUGUST.....CAN YOU HELP? Please let us know in the office. Thank you!!!

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.

ELECTRONIC VERSIONS..... Would you like to receive the newsletter electronically instead of a paper version? Just let us know in the office! We also send a weekly email....would you like to receive it? Let us know!

FOLLOW TRINITY ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove

Instagram: Youth account = trinityyouth203

Trinity Church account = trinitylutheransg

Trinity
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AND GOD IS ABLE
TO **BLESS** YOU ABUNDANTLY,
SO THAT IN ALL THINGS
AT ALL TIMES,
HAVING ALL THAT YOU NEED,
YOU WILL ABOUND IN
EVERY **GOOD** WORK.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8