

trinitynews

July 2019

volume 25 • issue 7

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



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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Scott Solberg, Choir Director
Rachel Storlie, Organist
Willy Leafblad, Handbell Director
Jean Ellingson, Pianist
Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist
Mark Udstuen, Praise Band leader

WHAT IS GOD CALLING US TO DO?

Come to a Congregational Meeting on July 14.

Over the last month there have been some concerns raised about the Visioning and Planning recommendations as outlined in the June newsletter. The article led some people to believe that our existing church building might be torn down and a new one built. I'm so sorry about any distress you may have experienced as a result of that article.

As I mentioned during our announcements at worship on June 16, it is not the recommendation to tear down and build new. On the contrary, the overwhelming responses during the Visioning and Planning process were that people love our existing sanctuary. And as I said, I believe we'll be worshipping here for many years to come.

That said, there were a lot of concerns about how the existing space (fellowship, education, offices) is limiting us, and even preventing us from performing our ministries to their fullest.

I hope you all plan to attend this important congregational meeting on July 14 (after worship in the sanctuary) so we can discuss this in more detail, and so we can discern a way forward to make changes to our existing church building – and this MIGHT include a small addition to the existing church building – so that we can do what God is calling us to do without limits.

At the June meeting, the Congregation Council voted unanimously to select Leonard Myrah to be the Building Team Chairperson for a potential space enhancement. Anyone interested in serving on the Building Team, please leave your name with the church office.

We have just completed a major project with the installation of our new boiler/air-conditioning system, raising an extraordinary amount of funds in a short amount of time to execute the project. If we proceed with a project to enhance our existing building, we will do it thoughtfully and prayerfully, and we will not proceed without a sensible plan to finance the changes.

Please plan to attend the Congregational meeting and please keep Trinity in your prayers.

~Pastor Elizabeth



Congregational Meeting: July 14, 10:30am

Habitat Build: August 21 & 24, 8:00am–4:00pm

3:16s canoeing outing: July 19, 8:30am-3:00pm

Youth Mission Trip to Indianapolis: July 27-August 3

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. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. John 3:8

Dear friends in Christ,

As I write this, I am on vacation in New Mexico, where the elevation is 7,000 feet above sea level. By comparison, the elevation in Spring Grove is 1,322 feet above sea level. If you've climbed or travelled in the mountains, you know you can really feel the difference – especially the first few days. You get a little breathless when you walk. You might get dizzy or light-headed, or even feel fatigued.

We're led to believe that the "air is thinner," that there's less oxygen at higher elevations, but it turns out air contains 20.9% oxygen at all altitudes. (Yes, I Googled it.) In reality, it's the lower air *pressure* at high altitude that makes it feel like there's less oxygen. Because of the lower air pressure there are fewer molecules of everything present, including oxygen. So it turns out it's the pressure that keeps us from breathing deeply, from absorbing oxygen, so we have the energy we're used to.

On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples absorbed the Holy Spirit like much-needed oxygen, and that gave them the energy to preach the gospel of Jesus, to start churches, and to use their gifts – the gifts of the Spirit – to respond to the needs of their neighbors.

What pressures, I wonder, prevent us from absorbing the Holy Spirit completely? Some are external – the responsibilities and stresses we experience in our lives – but some are internal. Sometimes, I think, our fears or anxieties prevent us from using our gifts to their fullest. We fear where the wind might blow us.

In our baptisms, we received the Holy Spirit as a gift. During this season of Pentecost, I hope we will look anew at where the Spirit of God might be leading us. We can trust that God will be with us every step of the way.

God bless you!

~ Pastor Elizabeth



REMEMBER, TRINITY IS AIR CONDITIONED EVERYWHERE NOW!

NO MORE HOT, STICKY SERVICES! UNLESS OF COURSE A CUTE LITTLE ONE SPILLS THEIR CUP OF APPLE JUICE DURING WORSHIP! 😊

COME COOL OFF WITH US THIS SUMMER!

And remember, just \$80/family and we can pay off the new AC/Boiler!

WHERE HAS YOUR FLAT JESUS TRAVELED THIS SUMMER? Remember to take Jesus along with you wherever you go this summer! And remember your Flat Jesus, too! Send us your photos of the adventures Flat Jesus has gone on with you! You can email photos to Bekah, bekah@trinitysg.org, or to the office, trinity@springgrove.coop. If you haven't picked up and colored your Flat Jesus yet, no worries! The papers are available at sanctuary entrances or in the office. If you'd like it laminated, just let us know!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW CUSTODIAN — KAYLA TOLLEFSRUD

Kayla has been hired as the part-time custodian at Trinity. She officially began on Monday, June 24. Kayla lives in Mabel with her husband, Dustin, and their three children, Rachelle, Raelynn, and Landen. You may also see her at the BP in Mabel where she is the assistant manager. One of her favorite past times is spending time with her husband and children. Welcome, Kayla!



SUMMER SURGE BUDGET BOOSTER It's summertime! A time of vacations and lazy days. This time of year, we tend to fall behind in our budget. Instead of waiting until the end of the year to play catch-up, the Finance Team is bringing back the successful Summer Surge Budget Booster.

For the Budget Booster, we are asking each family unit to give an extra dollar a day plus five for the month of July. That's a total of 36 extra dollars. We think we can raise around \$7,000 extra with this budget booster! A special envelope is included in this newsletter, to help make this budget boost easy! Special envelopes are also available at sanctuary entrances and in the office. Simply return the envelope with the extra \$36 (or more if you'd like) any time during the month of July. Thank you so much for your generous support of Trinity!

SUMMER USHERS NEEDED FOR JULY AND AUGUST Would you be willing to help? It's an important part of our ministry and a fun way to see our Trinity family through the summer months! Four ushers are needed each week. Gather your family and friends and find a week that works for you. We appreciate your willingness to help! Open dates include: July 7, 28 and August 4, 11, 18, 25. Contact the office or follow the link to Sign-Up Genius on the home page of our website, www.trinitysg.org. (For those reading the digital version of the newsletter, [click here](#) for the link directly to Sign-Up Genius.) Questions? Contact Mark Udstuen, 498-5536. Thank you!

HELPING HANDS DRIVE FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES & HYGIENE ITEMS Trinity is working with Caledonia United Methodist Church to conduct a Free Garage Sale & Back to School Event, where Houston County families in need can find gently used clothing, school supplies, backpacks, shoes, and hygiene supplies. The event is held for families in need on August 15-16.



The greatest need is for donations of backpacks and general school supplies (including dry erase markers, Clorox wipes, notebooks, and folders). Can you help? You can order online and have them shipped to Jessi Strinmoen (402 3rd Ave SE, Spring Grove) or drop donations off in the Gathering Room at Trinity. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, August 4.

Would you also consider cleaning out your children's closets and drawers as we get ready for the 2019-2020 school year and donate gently-used items for this cause? Please be selective in your items and do not include items that are unclean, stained, ripped, or unusable. Please organize and label everything by size.

Volunteers are needed to help set up for and work at this event. Contact Jessi Strinmoen, (507) 923-5587, for more information.

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION This fall we will have a new member reception. If you know of anyone interested in joining our congregation, please direct them to the church office. If they are interested in learning more about our congregation, the Outreach Team would be happy to talk with them! Please contact Outreach Team leader, Lara Wold Mendez, (507) 450-6118 or wold.lara@gmail.com for more information.

SPRING GROVE'S HABITAT BUILD Trinity will be providing volunteers for the Habitat for Humanity build in Spring Grove this summer. Updated project dates are **August 21 & 24**. The 8/24 build date is reserved for youth to help out. We hope that you will be able to lend a hand in any way. Questions about the project? Contact Steve Nelson at (507) 421-2212. Let the office know if you're interested in helping with this project, 498-5291 or trinity@springgrove.coop. Thank you!

PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP Trinity will be taking a mission trip to Puerto Rico in the summer of 2020! Youth and adults are welcome to be a part of this trip. The dates of the trip are July 25-August 1, 2020. Starting and ending dates are subject to change depending on when flights can be booked, but we will definitely be in Puerto Rico from July 26-31 of next year!

There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, July 7 at 10:30 (following worship) in the sanctuary. I don't have much information yet as the trip is still a year from now, but I will do my best to answer your questions! The meeting is not mandatory to reserve your spot, but encouraged if you have questions.

Optimistically, this trip will cost \$1,000 per person. This price ultimately depends on flights and if we can get a good deal on them. Please know that this \$1,000 is not set in stone yet and the price could end up ranging from \$1,000-\$1,300. There will be many fundraisers in the coming year to help raise money for the trip - participants will likely not have to pay this full amount out of pocket. Also, scholarships are available for Trinity mission trips. Please do not let price be a deterrent in signing up for this trip - we will find a way!

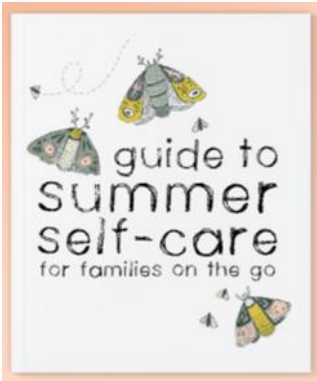
Would you like to participate in this mission trip to Puerto Rico?! If you would, I will need to get your name on our list as soon as possible. I am expecting slots for this trip to fill quickly. **If you would like to commit to this trip, I will need a \$50 non-refundable deposit by Monday, July 15 to hold your place as a participant on this mission trip.** The \$50 will go toward the overall cost of the trip.

Anyone who has completed 8th grade at the end of the 2020 school year is eligible to join the trip. If you have any immediate questions, please contact Bekah at the church office, 498-5291.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA'S MISSION AND PURPOSE Several women gathered in January to discuss how to best fulfill Women of the ELCA's mission and purpose in a changing world. An 11-woman exploratory committee met and centered its work on investigating the organization's current business model. The committee was created at the behest of the churchwide executive board's budget and finance committee at the board's April 2018 meeting. "On my flight home [from the meeting], I had some time to reflect over the course of the weekend and felt a full and grateful heart," said Lisa Plorin, churchwide president for the 2017-2020 triennium. "It was inspiring to be in the presence of women from all corners of the United States who have the same passion for this organization as I do." Plorin said she is looking forward to seeing how the committee's plans grow to ensure the life and vitality of the Women of the ELCA. Plorin supported the work of the committee in an ex officio capacity.

The committee began its work examining the organization's governance structure, communication methods, constitutional structure and financial realities. Following a small group brainstorming session, the Rev. Leila Ortiz, chaplain for the committee and an assistant to the bishop in the Metro D.C. Synod, led a Bible study based on 2 Kings 5. She reminded committee members that everyone is relevant to the issue. Ortiz asked, "Who is not at this table? Who could give the organization new life? Who has wisdom to share?" Like Naaman's experience in the biblical passage, the process of bringing about new life will likely be messy, Ortiz said, and may take several different approaches. Ortiz offered the committee members a repeated question over their weekend meeting: What must die so Women of the ELCA can come alive again?

The committee listed the many assets of Women of the ELCA: people, publications, giving to the annual budget, (Katie's Fund, restricted funds, synodical-held funds, congregational unit held funds, expectation of planned gifts and intellectual property). Over the next several months, the committee will engage participants in a variety of ways, asking questions and gathering data. Questions to consider: 1) If you could make changes to our constitutions to encourage more participation in the organization, what would they be? 2) Annual revenue from offerings has been insufficient to pay for the convention over the past two triennium. How could your SWO assist with the costs? 3) Why is this organization important to you? If this organization went away tomorrow, would you miss it? The committee broke into two sub-groups, one to examine constitutional issues and one to create assessment tools. Following this in-person meeting, the committee will continue its work by email and conference calls. The committee will offer a report at its October 2019 meeting.



GUIDE FOR SUMMER SELF-CARE FOR FAMILIES ON THE GO

Both conversational and practical, this 20-page guide is chock full of ideas for how to make this the most healthy, restorative, and magical summer ever.

The guide is divided into three sections, peppered with evocative biblical verses along the way; simple activities that take no prep time at all; medium-sized (but still doable!) suggestions to chew on; and big ideas that can help transform the whole season.

Pick up your Guide from the church office or church entrances. Feel free to grab extras to share with other on-the-go families. You may also request an electronic copy by emailing the church office: trinity@springgrove.coop.

OPEN HOUSE BRIDAL SHOWER All are invited to a Bridal Shower for Elizabeth Johnson, bride-to-be of Andy Houdek, on Saturday, July 13 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO INDIANAPOLIS Trinity has nine youth and two adults heading to Indianapolis, IN for a mission trip from July 27–August 2. Please keep them in your prayers as they journey to and from Indiana and for a meaningful time while they are there. Trip participants are: Haley Ellingson, Caleb Griffin, Hunter Holland, Olaf Johnson, Maggie Lile, Madilyn Ostern, Nathan Solberg, Lydia Solum, Ella Wennes, Bekah and Willy Leafblad.

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.

DID YOU KNOW THAT TRINITY HAS A PRAYER CHAIN? What is a prayer chain? When there are special prayer requests, we will “start” the prayer chain by calling the first person and they call the next and that person calls the next, etc. The members on the prayer chain add this special request to their prayers. Just imagine when so many people are praying what great things can be done! Would you like to be a part of this wonderful mission? Give us a call in the office, 498-5291, and we will get you added to the list.

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 TRINITY HAS HAD A RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM FOR NEARLY ALL OF THE 25 YEARS IT'S BEEN IN HOUSTON COUNTY?

Houston County's Relay for Life this year is August 2 at La Crescent High School. This is the 25th year of the relay in Houston County. Trinity has had a team participate nearly every year and would like to again this year for this 25th anniversary. Are you interested in being a part of a Trinity team or being the captain? Please contact Judy Bratland, 498-5147.

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.

Tidbits

did you know?

MILESTONE RECORDS AT TRINITY FROM JANUARY—JULY 2019**BAPTISMS***April*

Aaden James Oakes

May

Aubrey Mae Solie

WEDDINGS*June*

Kayla (Hahn) & Alex Folkmann

**FUNERALS / GRAVESIDE / DEATHS***January*

Norman Lloyd Ellingson

February

Beryl Edith Blexrud

March

Muriel Vaaler

Melvin R. Ruehmann

April

Norma Belle Reed

May

Bernard James Krenzke

Betty Jean Benson

June

John Everett Nerstad

Brenda Jean Rosendahl

Edith Juliet Nerstad

Gordon Pitel

BONFIRES! Youth completing grades 6-8 are invited to Bonfires at Bekah's on most Sunday nights throughout the summer (check dates below) at Bekah's house (231 1st Ave SW). Come for s'mores, stay for fun fellowship with friends! Bring your friends – you don't have to be a Trinity member to attend. Bonfire dates: July 7, 14, 21; August 4, 11, 18, 25

JUNE 12, 2019 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTSMotions approved:

- To accept the recommendation of the Staffing Team to hire Kayla Tollefsrud for the part-time (20-25 hrs/wk) Trinity Church custodian position at \$12/hour, for a probationary period of three months, after which time the position will be reassessed.
- To nominate Len Myrah as chair of the Building Team.
- To schedule a Congregational Meeting on July 14 following worship in the sanctuary, to discuss the opportunity to enhance our existing building based on the work done by the Visioning & Planning Team.
- To accept the recommendation of the Property Team to put aside monies that would have gone to the custodial salary, since David's retirement on April 21, into a maintenance and repair fund to be used to do needed work around the church.
- To accept the recommendation of the Property Team to immediately close the north ramp for safety reasons.

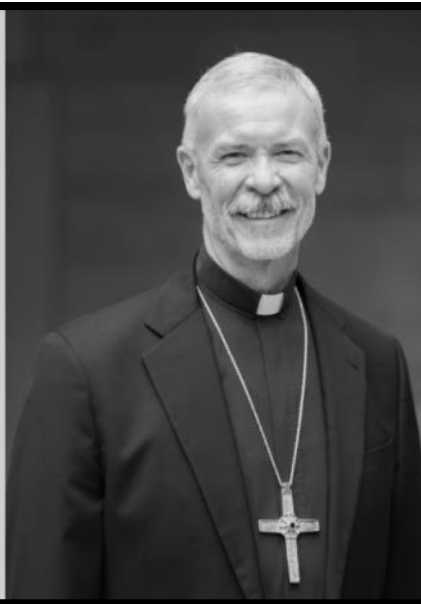
Next Meeting: July 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

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

**A RETIREMENT
RECEPTION**

*For Bishop
Steven Delzer*

**SUNDAY
AUG 18
2-4:30PM** | **OUR SAVIOR'S
FARIBAULT
1207 Prairie Ave SW**





SAVE THE DATE

**Installation of Bishop
Regina Hassanally**

**Saturday,
September 14
1:00 pm**

**St. John
Lutheran Church,
Owatonna**

2019 SYNOD ASSEMBLY IN REVIEW The 2019 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly took place at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester on May 31-June 1. During the gathering, Rev. Regina Hassanally was elected as the synod's next bishop! We rejoice and give thanks!

Rev. Eric Barreto served as this year's Bible Study leader. Presiding Bishop Eaton was the churchwide representative and officiated over the balloting process. Current synod bishop, Rev. Steven Delzer, shared his final Report of the Bishop during assembly; his retirement begins on August 31. We rejoice in the Spirit's movement throughout the entire assembly, and we give thanks for all who were involved in the planning and preparation of this sacred gathering!

We also extend special thanks to all involved in the process of calling our next synod bishop - from assembly voters, to the Committee on the Election of Bishop, to the nominees! Thank you! An article can be found in the June 1 edition of the Rochester Post-Bulletin about the process and Rev. Hassanally's election.

The offering total from the two assembly worship services is over \$40,000 (the final number will be shared after all gifts have been received). Thank you for your generosity! This year's offering will support Good Earth Village, Luther Seminary, and our two campus ministries in Winona and Mankato! Trinity contributed \$1,000 to these important ministries.

For photos and highlights from the event, please visit the synod's Facebook page.



◀ Four seventh grade youth attended Confirmation Camp at Good Earth Village in June. Pictured are Elijah Solum, Jaxon Strinmoen, Ellie Halverson, Maria Albrecht, and Bekah Leafblad (Trinity's Director Of CYF Ministry).

▼ Ellie Halverson helped lead a song during worship at camp.

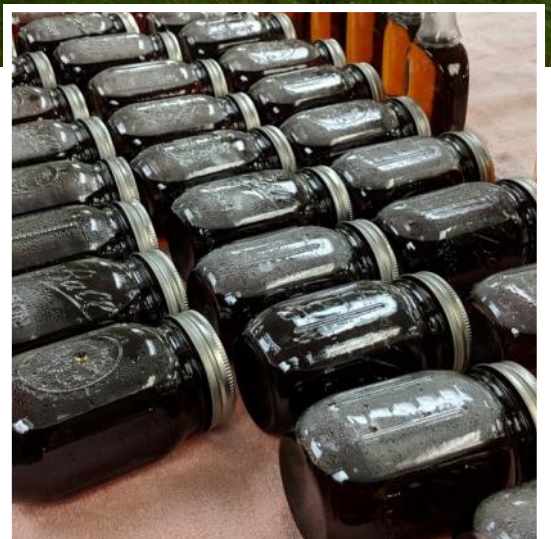


▼ Rolling River Rampa was the theme of Vacation Bible School this summer. Children ages 3-5 enjoyed many fun activities including fishing and playing with a parachute. ▶



▶ Spring is the season when maple sap is harvested and made into syrup. A delicious new batch is now available for sale in the Fellowship Hall and the office.

Proceeds from the syrup go to youth activities at Trinity.



PHOTOS

▼ Day Camp was June 24-27 and led by counselors from Sugar Creek Bible Camp. Youth attending had a full day filled with activities like a hike on the Birding Trail, making fleece quilts to give away, and singing at Spring Grove Assisted Living, plus many other activities!




◀ During the summer, families are our ushers. And even the youngest have fun helping!

Would your family like to help? We still have some Sundays where ushers are needed. Check out the link on the home page of our website to see available dates. More info is also on the first "Newsworthy" page of this newsletter.



PHOTOS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 10:00am Staffing Team, GR	3 5:00pm Worship Team, MR	4 Office closed 	5	6 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
7 9:00am Hymn Sing 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Property (GR) 8:30pm Bonfire	8	9 9:00am Deborah Circle 5:00pm Support Team, GR	10 9:30am Adah Circle 7:00pm Council, GR	11 5:30pm Education, MR	12	13 10:00am Bridal Shower for Elizabeth Johnson, all are invited, FH
14 9:00am Hymn Sing 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Outreach, Stewardship 11:30am Tweenen Care Ctr. Service 8:30pm Bonfire	15 7:00pm Hannah Circle	16 2:30pm Phoebe Circle	17 2:00pm Eve Circle, Manor	18 9:30am Communion at The Manor	19 8:30am-3:00pm Canoeing outing for 3:16s 12:00pm Newsletter info due	20 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
21 9:00am Hymn Sing 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:15am Fellowship 8:30pm Bonfire	22	23	24	25 9:30am Communion at Tweenen Apartments 10:30am Communion at SG Assisted Living 2:00pm newsletter mailed	26 9:00am Love Day	27 Youth mission trip to Indianapolis (return August 3)
28 9:00am Hymn Sing 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship No Bonfire	29	30	31			

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!

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
LECTOR	Missy Bratland	Mary Deters	Roxanne Finnesgard	Bill Fried
ACOLYTE(S)	Austin Conway, Ellie Halverson	Elijah Solum	Jaxon Strinmoen, August Allen	Dane Edgington
COMMUNION SERVERS	Carol & Curt Rustad, Glorianne Mulvenna		Carol & Mike Sherburne, Jackie Parker	
COMMUNION BREAD	Kari Alstad			
ALTAR GUILD	Karen Bingham (chair), Bonnie Solberg, Marilyn Sylling, Deb Spence, Geri Worden, Terry Holland			
COFFEE HOSTS	<i>Hosts being contacted by Outreach Team.</i>			
498-AMEN	July 7-13: Ruth Johnsrud	July 14-27: Melissa Wold		July 28-August 10: Bethany Bergsgaard
SUNDAY USHERS	4 needed	Sheri & Andy Allen family	Jessi & Chris Strinmoen family	Milly Halverson, 3 more needed
MEALS ON WHEELS	July 8-9: Cindie Gunderson; July 10-11: Bill Fried; July 12: Dana & Elaine Kjome July 15-16: Dave & Bonnie Solberg; July 17-18: Howard & Mary Deters; July 19: Dana & Elaine Kjome			

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

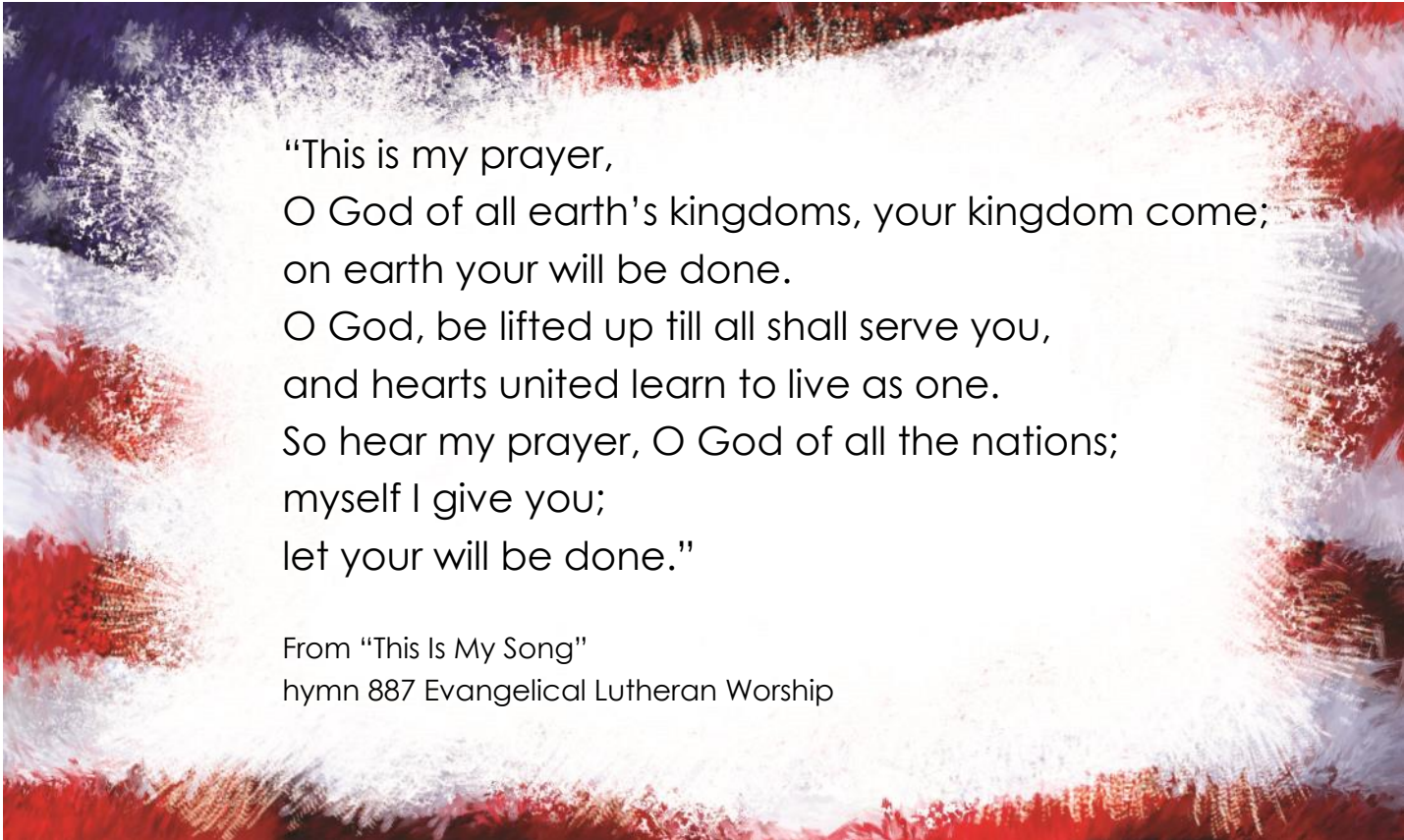
Instagram: Youth account = trinityyouth203

Trinity Church account = trinitylutheransg

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



"This is my prayer,
O God of all earth's kingdoms, your kingdom come;
on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you;
let your will be done."

From "This Is My Song"
hymn 887 Evangelical Lutheran Worship