

# TRINITYnews

OCTOBER 2019

VOLUME 25 ▪ ISSUE 10

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

507.498.5291  
[www.trinitysg.org](http://www.trinitysg.org)



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



Instagram  
[trinityyouth203](https://www.instagram.com/trinityyouth203)  
[trinitylutheransg](https://www.instagram.com/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**

### STAFF

Elizabeth Hermeier, Lead Pastor  
[trinitysr@springgrove.coop](mailto:trinitysr@springgrove.coop)

Lane Zaffke, Visitation Pastor  
[lane.zaffke@gmail.com](mailto:lane.zaffke@gmail.com)

Bekah Leafblad, Dir. Of Children, Youth  
and Family Ministry  
[bekah@trinitysg.org](mailto:bekah@trinitysg.org)

Marlene Deschler, Admin. Professional  
[trinity@springgrove.coop](mailto:trinity@springgrove.coop)

Stewart Storlie, Admin. Professional  
[stewart@trinitysg.org](mailto:stewart@trinitysg.org)

Lorilyn Dehning, Bookkeeper  
[lorilyndehning@gmail.com](mailto:lorilyndehning@gmail.com)

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

## FACILITIES PLANNING TEAM

The Facilities Planning Team has been busy! Leonard Myrah, team lead, and team members Mark Dokken, Nolie Kapplinger, Bev Nelson, Steve Kemp, Andy Allen, Mark Udstuen, Fred Arnold, and Jacque Wennes met multiple times in August and September. They began by going through the Visioning and Planning Team work in detail. Then, the Facilities Planning Team brought in two architecture firms to interview. Both firms conducted a walk-through of the building and then presented their firm's capabilities. Len has done a follow-up interview with one firm, and he also had a preliminary meeting with a third. Both firms have done work with many, many churches over the years.

Next steps are to have the full Facilities Planning Team meet the final architect candidate, then vote on which firm would be best to create a master plan for updating the existing church building to meet the needs of Trinity ministries for today and the future. The final candidate will be voted on by the council and recommendations presented to the congregation before the firm is hired.

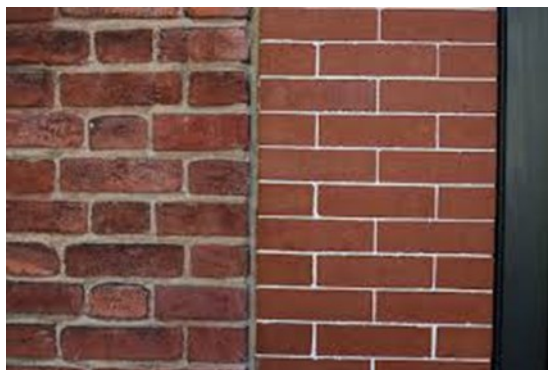
Please keep the Facilities Planning Team and Trinity in your prayers as we continue to imagine what God has in mind for us in this space.

## TUCK-POINTING BEGINS AT TRINITY ON SEPTEMBER 30!

Stone and brick masonry is virtually maintenance free. However, as brick buildings like Trinity Lutheran Church age, cracks in the mortar or crumbling mortar due to water damage sometimes need to be repaired. Tuck-pointing is the process of repairing mortar joints in stone or brick masonry walls by grinding or raking out the old mortar to a certain depth and then filling in with new mortar.

We expect the tuck-pointing process to last from 2-4 weeks, depending on the weather. The building will be accessible during the process, though there will be some disruption to the outside of the building, and the project will only be suspended for a day if there is a funeral.

Tuck-pointing was identified as a maintenance need for the church building about a year ago, and money was set aside from the Heritage Endowment Fund in order to pay for it. Karr Tuckpointing Co. of Vinton, IA, will be doing the work.



▲ before tuck-pointing    ▲ after tuck-pointing

## FROM THE PASTORS

*The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*  
~ Genesis 12:1-3

Dear friends in Christ,

This passage from Genesis is one of my favorites! Abraham (then called Abram – God renamed him later) is essentially homeless and childless when God promises to make a "great nation" of his descendants and a "great name" of Abram himself. God sends Abram and his family on a journey that lasts many years, to Canaan and then to Egypt, then back to Canaan again.

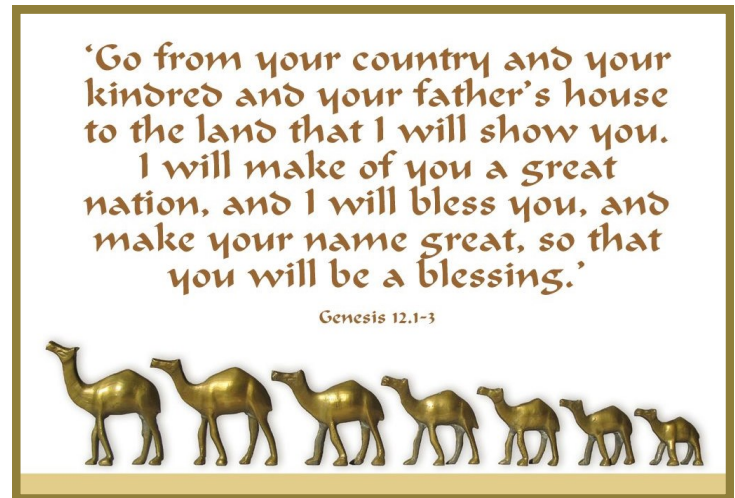
Abram is forced to negotiate with kings, save his nephew, Lot, from a series of mishaps, come to terms with his and his wife Sarai's lack of children into their very old age (God changed her name later as well), make some incredibly sketchy personal choices, and stay positive, despite any evidence that God's promises for him will actually come true.

But Abram had faith in God, and he was rewarded with a beloved son. And Abraham became the patriarch of a great nation and people. And his name is certainly well known and revered by each of the world's three major religions. Abraham's faith in God is also noted by Jesus as well as the Apostle Paul as an example for us. We shouldn't necessarily use Abraham himself as an example of good family values (see Genesis 16), but Abraham's faith in God's promises is a good example for us.

"Blessed to be a blessing" can sometimes be misinterpreted, though. It can seem as though we need to wait to be blessed in order to bless others. "Blessing" is also sometimes confused with privilege and luck. Blessing is not about our wealth or being in the right place at the right time. Blessing is not your team winning a championship or you winning the lottery.

Blessing is the grace bestowed on us because of Jesus Christ's action on our behalf, despite anything we've done to deserve it. We are blessed and called to tell the world that Jesus lived, died and rose again that all might inherit God's promise and receive that same blessing.

God bless you indeed!  
~ Pastor Elizabeth



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 BOUTIQUE GIFT SHOP IS BACK!** Are you looking for a baby gift? Or bridal shower gift? Or a birthday gift? Trinity Boutique is a great place to shop! The items are hand-made and one-of-a-kind — they make wonderful gifts! The Boutique is in the Fellowship Hall and has a variety of homemade articles and gifts to purchase during the upcoming year. With many members having special talents to make unique items, WELCA decided to offer these items for sale year-round. Anyone who makes an item may drop it off at the church office. Please price items when dropping them off. Anyone can purchase these treasures, simply put the tag and the money in the cash box by the items. Questions? Contact Boutique coordinators, Yvonne Krogstad, krogstad@springgrove.coop, or Jacque Wennes, jacquewen@aol.com.

**THIRST DAY OCTOBER 17: CONVERSATIONS CARDS!** I hope our beautiful fall continues for Thirst Day in October so we can again take advantage of the fire pit on the back deck of the parsonage. Plus, this month you don't have to read or prepare anything! I recently received a set of "conversation cards" with questions that strengthen relationships and provoke meaningful conversations. So for our October Thirst Day evening, we'll pick a few of these cards from a hat and then have 5-10-minute conversations about each. Nothing scary, I promise.

Remember Thirst Day is always the third Thursday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. and the "B" in "BYOB" stands for ...Bible ...book you'd like to share ...topic that challenges your belief ...or idea that makes you feel blessed. Oh, and you should bring a beverage as well. If you're thirsty for conversation about the Bible and topics of faith, I hope to see you at the parsonage — on the back deck! — for "Thirst Day" on October 17 at 7:30 p.m.

P.S. If you're shy, you don't have to answer any of the questions. Just show up for great fellowship!

~Pastor Elizabeth

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED** Sunday School is underway and we're having fun! Our activities and lessons take a lot of supplies! If you're interested in supporting our Sunday School education program, 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.

**FOR OCTOBER:** sugar cookie dough, margarine/butter, frosting in various bright colors, black and red licorice, chocolate sprinkles, small gumdrops, paper plates, brown yarn, *Aladdin* DVD (can be returned after use), newspaper, hand mirrors (can be returned after use). **FOR NOVEMBER:** colored tissue paper (blue, white, purple, green, black), tackle box (can be returned after use), hole reinforcements.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE NEEDED** Thank you to all that have volunteered to be Sunday School teachers! A few more are still needed — October 13, 27 and the months of February and March. We are also in need of preschool teachers. The commitment for a preschool teacher can be month-to-month. It's a great way to interact with our youth! Please let Bekah know as soon as possible, bekah@trinitysg.org or 498-5291. Thank you!!

**WISDOM LUNCHEON** On October 6, the Care Team is hosting a luncheon for all members 80 years old+. Invitations were sent out...have you called with your RSVP? Please call the office right away, 498-5291! Enjoy a noon meal of good food and fellowship! Questions? Contact Milly Halverson, 498-5339.

**AFFIRMING THEIR BAPTISM** On Sunday, October 27, eight Trinity youth will affirm their baptism at the Confirmation service. Please keep these youth in your prayers, Reid Bjerke, Cierra Blaskowski, McKenzie Fisch, Julia Halverson, Brielle Neeley, Ava Olerud, Kylie Standahl, and Jonah Udstuen.

**BEARY PATCH PRESCHOOL** For more than 30 years, Beary Patch Preschool has been a ministry of Trinity. Teacher Bethany Bergsgaard said that this year she has the most students she's ever had in the all-day program — what a blessing! Some children are even second generation attendees.

**RELEASE TIME** Spring Grove is one of very few places that still offer Religious Release Time during the school day. This year's programming has begun and 90 youth from grades kindergarten through third are attending — what a blessing!

**LIVING WELL WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS** This is a group workshop designed to help people better manage their symptoms and improve their daily lives. Participants learn practical skills to reduce pain and fatigue, make better nutrition and exercise choices, understand new treatment options, and improve communication with medical providers and loved ones about health concerns.

Tuesdays through November 12 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Gathering Room at Trinity. Register online, [www.ccsomn.org](http://www.ccsomn.org). Questions? Contact Susan Degallier, (507) 450-0287 or [sdegallier@ccsomn.org](mailto:sdegallier@ccsomn.org).

### **SIX MODERN-DAY ABOLITIONISTS FEATURED IN UPCOMING DOCUMENTARY**

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness month, Bluff Country Family Resources is hosting a screening of "In Plain Sight" at Spring Grove Cinema on Thursday, October 17 at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free, concessions will be available to purchase.

The film is a documentary about "stories of hope and freedom that are emerging from the darkness of sex trafficking." It features six modern-day abolitionists as they fight sex trafficking across America. Journeying to six U.S. cities, the documentary opens the viewer's eyes to what's happening down the street "in plain sight." Through engaging interviews with numerous victims of sex trafficking, the force, coercion, and deception of the children and women becomes apparent. In the midst of the darkness, stories of hope and freedom emerge as each survivor shares how she was impacted through the work of a sex trafficking aftercare home. Safe Harbor along with advocates from Bluff Country Family Resources will be available after the screening to answer questions and engage in discussion. Brochures and resources will also be available before and after the screening. Bluff Country Family Resources crisis line: (866) 367-4297.

### **FUNDRAISER FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY—SPRING GROVE HERITAGE HOUSE**

is scheduled for Thursday, October 3 at RockFilter Distillery from 5-8 pm. There will be a \$10 cover charge with food by Fat Pat's BBQ, live music, and several raffle prizes.

**PANS AND BOWLS** Have you brought a cake or salad for a funeral recently? Or brought food for another occasion? There are several unclaimed pans and bowls in the kitchen that are lonely for their homes. Stop in the kitchen and take a look and see if one of the pans or bowls is yours. Thanks for checking it out and helping us keep our kitchen tidy!

### **SE MN LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION RETREAT**

Finding Your Sweet Spot Men's Retreat is Friday and Saturday, November 15-16 at Good Earth Village. Retreat leader is Jim Troe. Registration deadline is November 7. Follow link at [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org) to register. Please note that all registrations will be handled by Russell Tesch with Lutheran Men in Mission. Please contact him at home: (507) 835-3843 or cell: (507) 461-5607 with any questions regarding the retreat details or registration questions.

**TENTH GRADE YOUTH** Confirmation rehearsal with pictures is October 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Confirmation service is October 27 at 9:15 a.m.. Please meet in the Middle Room at 8:45 a.m.

**3:16s YOUTH GROUP** is a group for 9th—12th grade youth that meets every week on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. at Bekah's house. We discuss questions the youth have about their faith, the church, God, world events, and everything else! After discussion, we have a time of fellowship — playing games (ping pong, air hockey, board games), doing homework, practicing yoga, and of course....having FUN! Bring a friend — you don't have to be a Trinity member to attend. If you have any questions about 3:16s, please contact Bekah, at the church office 498-5291 or [bekah@trinitysg.org](mailto:bekah@trinitysg.org).

**MIDDLE SCHOOL GAME NIGHT** for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth. Have fun and fellowship and play GAMES at Bekah's house!! Bring a friend, you don't need to be a Trinity member to attend. Game Night dates: October 11, October 25, November 8, November 22, December 6 at 7:00 p.m.

**PARISH NURSE OPPORTUNITY FOR TRINITY** Trinity Lutheran Church has been approached about the opportunity to have a part-time volunteer parish nurse. Before we pursue this opportunity, we'd like to hear from you about health and well-being needs within our community. Please take a few moments to complete the survey below and return it to the church office no later than October 27. The results, along with interviews and other research, will be compiled for a presentation to the congregation council in November. At that time, the council will make a determination about whether to pursue this opportunity. If you have questions about what a parish nurse might be able to do within our community, go to [elpna.org](http://elpna.org).

Thank you for your time! This is an exciting opportunity for Trinity.

## HEALTH MINISTRY SURVEY

Which of the following areas of health do Trinity members need assistance with? What needs do you see in the congregation? Select all that apply. If "other," please explain.

- ☐ I don't think the congregation has any needs.
- ☐ Mental health (anxiety, depression)
- ☐ Chronic illness (diabetes, heart disease, obesity)
- ☐ Support for caregivers and parents
- ☐ Education for teens and young adults (bullying, suicide, substance abuse, peer pressure)
- ☐ Women's health
- ☐ Infant/Child safety
- ☐ Grief and loss support
- ☐ Healthy eating and nutrition
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What are your thoughts on a Parish Nurse program or "Faith Community Nurse?"

- ☐ I don't know what that is.
- ☐ I think there is a need for this program at Trinity.

Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I *don't* think there is a need for this program at Trinity.

Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

What health and wellness events/programs would you like to see offered in our community?

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How do you think Trinity can better promote the health and wellness of its congregation?

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SURVEY

*Please return surveys to the church office by October 27. Thank you for your participation!*



**TRINITY U — WHAT IS IT?** Trinity U offers people of all ages the opportunity to gather for education, faith development, and mutual growth — youth, parents, grandparents, friends....**EVERYONE is welcome!** The purpose of Trinity U is to create a relational confirmation program where students (and other members) understand that they can live out their faith in everything they do with their lives. A Trinity U catalog is available at sanctuary entrances, in the office, and on our website. Please register ahead of time. Registration form is on the website or stop in the office for a paper form. Questions? Contact Bekah.

### OCTOBER CLASSES

**Creative Writing**—October 16 and 30 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Taught by Pastor Elizabeth. In this course, you will learn about three types of creative writing found in the Bible, including poetry, parables, and letters. After learning about these forms of writing, you will write your own!

**Living with a Disability**—October 23 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Taught by Angie Halverson. What's it like to live with a disability? Come find out! Learn a bit about people who are differently abled through some fun and challenging activities. We'll also have group discussion about how having a disability or a family member with a disability affects your faith.

**Stars, S'mores, and Song**—October 24 at 6:00 p.m. Taught by Scott Bingham. A walk through our solar system followed by s'mores and songs until it gets dark enough for you to have hands-on work with telescopes. Dress warm – the entire event will be outdoors. If it is too cloudy to use the telescopes, an alternate time will be planned for that portion of the fun. Dinner included! Bring a friend!

**Trick-or-Canning**—October 30 at 7:00 p.m. Instead of Trick-or-Treating for candy, you will be going around Spring Grove and asking residents for non-perishable food items to donate to the food shelf. Dress up in your favorite (appropriate) costume!

**Fall Clean-Up**—October 26-27 (time TBD). Help residents in Spring Grove clean up their lawns in preparation for winter. Bring a rake and come prepared to work all morning!

### AUGUST 14, 2019 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

#### Motions approved:

- To have Beary Patch Preschool pay 10% of the gross tuition annually to Trinity for cleaning and utilities.
- To accept new members to Trinity on New Member Sunday. New members are: Erin & Devin Becker and children Caroline, Natalie, and Simon; Audrey & Charles Ellingson, Kathy Phillips, and Laverne Reiersen.
- To form an ad hoc committee to discuss and recommend a long-term plan for Trinity Center, with one member serving from the Finance, Property, Education, and Visioning & Planning Teams.

#### Updates:

- Education Team is discussing naming the various rooms at Trinity. Suggestions are welcome!
- Bekah will spend 15 minutes per week with the 4-year olds at the Beary Patch Preschool. During that time she will share age appropriate faith-based activities.
- Looking for a volunteer to have caring conversations and bring prayer shawls to those needing comfort. Volunteers can contact Milly Halverson.
- Outreach Team members will serve as shepherds for the new members so they can be deliberate in welcoming them to our church family, walk alongside them, answer their questions, etc. Later, they plan to give them a shepherd from the congregation to continue the relationship.
- Custodial work: Rick Sundet and Lee Hoekstra have requested that their stipend [for custodial work] be given to Property Team. They are willing to continue doing the custodial work for funerals.
- Some Wilmington Lutheran children are attending Sunday School at Trinity as Wilmington is not offering Sunday School this year.
- Trinity is teaming up with Faith Lutheran of Blackhammer and Calvary Evangelical Free churches for Release Time. Pastor Len (Faith Lutheran) will teach the lessons. Bekah (Trinity) and Kimberly Holty (Calvary) will lead an activity pertaining to the lesson.

**Next Meeting: October 9 at 7:45 p.m. in the Gathering Room.**

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



◀ **▲ Meatball Dinner**—We served 742 meals, including 45 deliveries to private residences! Your support will benefit a multitude of projects supported by WELCA. And of course this couldn't have been accomplished without hours and hours of time and effort given by our many volunteers. THANK YOU!

▶ **WELCA Salad Luncheon and Sale** — delicious food and many items sold!

▼ **Handbell Retreat** — bells were polished and ringers practiced new ringing techniques.



▼ **Children's Time** — Enjoying a special time with Pastor Elizabeth during worship.

▼ **Rally Sunday**— outdoor games to kick off our Sunday School year!



PHOTOS



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 2:00pm Release Time (K), TC 5:00pm Worship Team, MR, Youth Handbells 6-7:30pm Confirmation Core w/meal, FH 7:00pm Handbell Choir 7:45pm Finance, MR 8:00pm Choir 8:00pm 3:16s	<b>3</b> 10:15am Staffing, GR	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
<b>6</b> 9:15am Worship/Communion/ Holy Baptism 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School 12:00pm Wisdom Luncheon	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9-11am Living Well with Chronic Conditions, GR 9:00am Deborah Circle 5:00pm Support Team, GR	<b>9</b> 9:30am Adah Circle 1:00pm Release Time (1 <sup>st</sup> ), TC 5:00pm Youth Handbells 6:00pm Acolyte training 7:00pm Handbells 7:45pm Council, GR 8:00pm Choir 8:00pm 3:16s	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Middle School Game Night	<b>12</b> 9:30am Praise Band practice
<b>13</b> 9:15am Worship/Praise Band 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School, Stewardship 11:30am Worship at Tweenen Care Center	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9-11am Living Well with Chronic Conditions, GR 2:30pm Phoebe Circle. GR	<b>16</b> 1:00pm Release Time (2 <sup>nd</sup> ), TC 5:00pm Youth Handbells 6:00pm Trinity U 7:00pm Handbells 8:00pm Choir 8:00pm 3:16s	<b>17</b> 9:30am Communion at The Manor 7:30pm Thirst Day, parsonage	<b>18</b> 12:00pm Newsletter Info due	<b>19</b> 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
<b>20</b> 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Outreach, Property, <i>No Sunday School</i>	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Hannah Circle	<b>22</b> 9-11am Living Well with Chronic Conditions, GR	<b>23</b> 12:30pm Release Time (3 <sup>rd</sup> ), TC 5:00pm Youth Handbells 6:00pm Trinity U 6-7:30pm Confirmation rehearsal and photos 7:00pm Handbells 8:00pm Choir 8:00pm 3:16s	<b>24</b> 9:30am Communion at Tweenen Apartments 10:30am Communion at SG Assisted Living 2:00pm Newsletter mailed 6:00pm Trinity U	<b>25</b> 9:00am Love Day, FH 10:00am WELCA meeting during Love Day 7:00pm Middle School Game Night	<b>26</b>
<b>27 Reformation/Affirmation of Baptism Sunday</b> 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9-11am Living Well with Chronic Conditions, GR	<b>30</b> 2:00pm Release Time (K), TC 5:00pm Youth Handbells 7:00pm Trick-or-Canning 7:00pm Handbells 8:00pm Choir 8:00pm 3:16s	<b>31</b>		

FH = Fellowship Hall (large room in basement)

GR = Gathering Room (in basement near men's bathroom)

MR = Middle Room (upstairs by offices)

TC = Trinity Center



# VOLUNTEERS

*Thank you for all that you do!*

	OCTOBER 6	OCTOBER 13	OCTOBER 20	OCTOBER 27 Reformation/ Confirmation
LECTOR	Rachel Udstuen	Mary Zaffke	Carlyn Kraabel	Willy Leafblad
ACOLYTE(S)	Elijah Solum August Allen	Jaxon Strinmoen	Nathan Solberg	Caleb Griffin Maggie Lile
COMMUNION SERVERS	Jan & Al Lochner Fred Arnold		Darla & Jim Hunzeker Jan Kraabel	<i>Needed</i>
COMMUNION BREAD	Barb Gulbranson			
ALTAR GUILD	Jan Lochner (chair), Jan Kraabel, Bev Nelson, Cindy Thorson, Lori Wilhelmson			
FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	Jean Ann & Lonny Tweeten, Kati Bergey	Joe & Marlene Deschler, Sheri & Andy Allen, Jessi & Chris Strinmoen	Judy Bratland, Mary Newgaard, Joan Sherburne	Bruce & Betty Bergsgaard, Jessica & Aaron Krauss, Bethany Bergsgaard
498-AMEN	October 6-19: Bill and Karen Fried		October 20-November 2: Vivien Mathsen	
USHERS	Jeff Ellingson (captain), Jeremy Myhre, Dale Buxengard, Duron Bratland, Chris Deck, Dave Selness			
MEALS ON WHEELS	October 14-15: Wayne & Janet Wold; October 16-17: Kim & Nolie Kapplinger; October 18, 21: Jan & Carlyn Kraabel; October 22-23: Steve & Linda Kemp; October 24-25: Kim & Doris Sherburne			

**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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