

# TRINITY *news*

SEPTEMBER 2022

VOLUME 28 ■ ISSUE 9

## 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

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



YouTube

Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove

### Office hours:

Mon - Fri: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Sundays at Trinity

9:15 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Listen live Sundays on **KVIK 104.7 FM**

[www.kvikradio.com](http://www.kvikradio.com)

and on Facebook Live

**Saturday Worship** 5:00 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays each month

### STAFF

Elizabeth Hermeier, Lead Pastor

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Lane Zaffke, Visitation Pastor

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Gary Wilhelmson, Custodian

Rachel Storlie, Organist/Pianist

Scott Solberg, Choir Director

Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist

Mark Udstuen, Praise Band Leader

Rick Sundet, Technology Lead



## SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sun., Sept. 25 ■ 10:15 a.m.

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.*

*By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.”*

~ Hebrews 11:1-3

At the August Congregation Council meeting, the council voted to proceed with restoration of Trinity’s stained glass windows, beginning with the three windows centered on the south side of the sanctuary (pictured above). The projected cost for the restoration of these three windows, including the new protective storm windows, is approximately \$80,000.

We already have donations of nearly \$30,000 toward this initiative. Also remember, there is a pledge for a matching donation of up to \$30,000! Thanks be to God for this generous congregation!

### What does a window restoration entail?

People have asked questions about the Stained-Glass Window project, including “what exactly happens during the restoration?” and “why does it cost so much?”

Historic stained-glass window restoration is a time-intensive process done by experienced professionals with years of precise training and expertise. During the process, each window is carefully removed from its frame and worked on remotely. (Plywood is installed for the duration.) After removal and transportation to the work-site, each pane of glass within the window is removed, cleaned, replaced with historically appropriate glass (if necessary), and then, piece by piece, reassembled and re-leaded. A protective covering system is installed over the window, along with a brand new storm window system with updated ventilation. In addition, the millwork surrounding the window will be scraped, replaced (if necessary), and given two coats of new paint, along with a coat of primer. The new storm windows will be framed to match the tracery and existing outline of each window, to provide a more transparent view.

**Please plan to attend this Special Congregational Meeting after worship on September 25 to vote on this initiative.**

Instructions to join via ZOOM are on the calendar page.

*On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After Jesus said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.*

*And again Jesus said, "Peace be with you!"*

*John 20:19-21a*

Dear people of God,

The disciples were fearful, uncertain, and grief-stricken after Jesus' death, and so they retreated to a locked room. Jesus came through that locked door to offer them his peace – three times altogether in the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter of John's gospel.

We also "pass the peace" in our worship services, and often the pastor offers "the peace of God which passes all understanding" after the sermon." Additionally, "peace" is offered to the assembly after Holy Communion is served.

And yet ... we know that many of us live without peace in our hearts and minds. One in five of us live with a mental health issue that causes us pain, leaves us fearful, and separates us from people who love us. September is Suicide Awareness Month. The statistics in our country, in our state, and in Houston County are heart-breaking ([www.health.state.mn.us/](http://www.health.state.mn.us/)), and the pandemic and social isolation have exacerbated the crisis. And suicides are higher in rural communities because of stigma, lack of resources, shame, and "pull yourself up by your bootstraps" attitudes (<https://fillmorecountyjournal.com/988-suicide-and-crisis-lifeline-is-live/>).

In July, the new **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** went live throughout the United States. (See article on the following page.) This is a major step toward connecting people with the resources they need.

Recently, I attended an online seminar hosted by the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance that featured medical professionals, law enforcement professionals, and individuals affected by the loss of a family member to suicide. In September, I'm attending an in-person seminar entitled "Suicide Prevention Conference for Rural Faith Leaders."

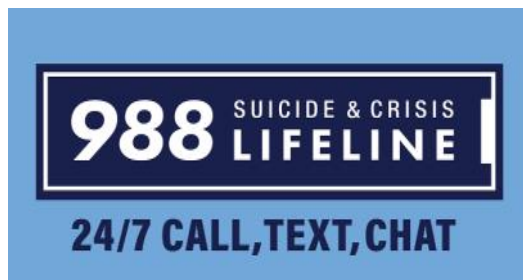
Over the next two months, the Congregation Council will be reading "All Who Are Weary," by Pr. Emmy Kegler. "In *All Who Are Weary*, Emmy Kegler joins the reader on the long walk of reflection, understanding, and compassion, calling followers of Jesus back to ancient practices of lament, vulnerability, honesty, community, and hope. This book is not a map to a cure, nor a perfectly restorative prayer. Written with a wide community in mind — patients, but also parents and partners, coworkers and friends, pastors and therapists, and the whole church- — *All Who Are Weary* points to the embodied grace known in Jesus, trusting in the promise of a lighter load for all." (Amazon)

As Christians, we are called to bear one another's burdens. But we cannot bear them alone. We need professional resources to overcome our mental health challenges in the same way we need professional resources to overcome our physical health challenges.

If you, or someone you know, is in crisis, there are resources that can help.

God's peace to you,

~ Pr. Elizabeth



## TOGETHER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

1 in 5 Americans live with a mental health condition.

Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background. In fact, suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition. Suicidal thoughts, although common, should not be considered normal and often indicate more serious issues.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month — a time to raise awareness of this stigmatized, and often taboo, topic. We use this month to shift public perception, spread hope and share vital information to people affected by suicide. Our goal is ensuring that individuals, friends, and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help.

Throughout the month of September, The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will highlight the “Together for Mental Health,” campaign which encourages people to bring their voices together to advocate for better mental health care, including an effective crisis response system. After years of advocacy and preparation, 988 is now available nationwide as the new number to contact for mental health, substance use and suicide crises — a simple, easy-to-remember way for people to get help. This new number will allow people to quickly connect with support during a crisis, 24/7, no matter where they live.

NAMI wants any person experiencing suicidal thoughts or behaviors to have a number to call, a system to turn to, that would connect them to the treatment and support they need.

### 988: Reimagining Crisis Response

Too often, people with mental illness do not receive a mental health response when experiencing a mental health crisis. Instead, people in crisis often come into contact with law enforcement rather than a mental health professional, leading to tragic results. One in four fatal police shootings between 2015 and 2020 involved a person with a mental illness, and an estimated 44% of people incarcerated in jail and 37% of people incarcerated in prison have a mental health condition — and people with mental illness are booked into the nation’s jails around 2 million times every year. Millions more end up in emergency departments that are often ill-equipped to address mental health crises, often waiting hours or days to access care.

988 is the new three-digit dialing code where compassionate, accessible care and support is available for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress — whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

When someone calls or texts 988, a trained crisis counselor will answer the phone, listen to the caller, understand how their problem is affecting them, provide support and share resources, as needed. Crisis counselors are trained to help in a variety of crisis situations, and no caller is required to disclose any personal information.

For most callers, calling, texting, or chatting 988 is the intervention. Crisis counselors will be able to resolve the urgent needs of the majority of callers on the phone or via text or chat, reducing the need for an in-person response overall. It is estimated that fewer than 2% of calls require connection to emergency services like 911. Communities that currently have robust crisis services estimate that more than 80% of crises are resolved on the phone, and mobile crisis teams, staffed by behavioral health professionals, are dispatched when an in-person response is needed — with most dispatches resolved in the community. The work is ongoing to make this available everywhere.

**NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness**, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. To learn more, including FAQs about the new 988 line, visit [nami.org](http://nami.org).

**988** SUICIDE & CRISIS  
LIFELINE

No matter where you live in the U.S.,  
you can easily access 24/7 emotional support.

Call or text 988 or visit [988lifeline.org/chat](http://988lifeline.org/chat) to  
chat with a caring counselor.

We're here for you.







## Hey all 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade youth! You are invited to Wednesday Bible School!

What? Sunday School on Wednesdays? Yes, that's right!

We will have **Sunday School on Wednesdays** after school from 3:30-5:00 p.m. at our new youth room at Trinity!

Kerri Jahnke, our Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Director, will lead this youth group-style program. There will be snacks, Bible lessons, faith formation, games, and lots of fun!

**Bring a friend — all are welcome!**

**Parents** — would you like to help? Bring snacks, help prepare the room, assist with games and Bible study, keep the youth and teachers in your prayers.

Contact Kerri for details and any questions, [cyf.trinitysg@gmail.com](mailto:cyf.trinitysg@gmail.com), or 498-5291.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

### Schedule and Location

Pre School – Kindergarten students will meet in the Boy Scout room from 10:30 a.m.–11:15 a.m. We also need 2-4 parents to help lead this time together.

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade youth will meet in the new youth room at the church from 10:30 a.m.–11:15 a.m.

3<sup>rd</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> grade youth will meet Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m. in the new youth room at the church.

**Rally Sunday!** The Sunday School year will kick off on Sunday, September 18 with our Rally Sunday celebration. Join us for worship at 9:15 a.m. and activities outside at 10:30 a.m. Please come prepared to fill out registration forms for your children to participate in Sunday School for the year. Form is also on the next page.

**Bibles for 3-year-olds and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students!** If your child is a 3-year-old (new to Sunday School) or a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, they will receive Bibles from Trinity during worship on September 18. Please join us for worship at 9:15 a.m. so your children can be recognized and given their Bible! Please email Kerri, [cyf.trinitysg@gmail.com](mailto:cyf.trinitysg@gmail.com), to let us know you will be in attendance that Sunday.



## WELCOME TO TRINITY U!

Mark your calendars for an important orientation and registration meeting for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents, and mentors.

**Wednesday, September 14, 2022 • 6-7p.m. • Fellowship Hall at Trinity**  
Pizza will be served!

**What is Trinity U?** Trinity U is Trinity's education program leading toward your youth's Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation service. Trinity U consists of required quarterly core classes and electives\* from which your youth may choose. We ask that youth and parents come to the orientation meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> to learn more.

### At the meeting, you'll learn about:

Quarterly Core Classes • Electives • Mentor groups • Acolyting • Worship notes • Registration

\*Details about the elective classes will be available for you at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

\*There will also be time for you to sign up for the elective classes after the meeting.



**Sunday School / Wednesday  
Night Registration Form  
2022-2023**

We happily welcome all children. For safety reasons, all children must have a registration form on file.

**Family Information:**

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Information:**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in September: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age, as of September 1, 2022: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Information (food allergies, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would like to pick up my child       My child can leave on his/her own

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in September: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age, as of September 1, 2022: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Information (food allergies, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would like to pick up my child       My child can leave on his/her own

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in September: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age, as of September 1, 2022: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Information (food allergies, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would like to pick up my child       My child can leave on his/her own

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in September: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age, as of September 1, 2022: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Information (food allergies, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would like to pick up my child       My child can leave on his/her own

**If you have more than four children, please write the additional information on the back of this form.**

Please complete the reverse side of this form.

### Photo Release for 2021-2022 Sunday School Year

Trinity Lutheran Church occasionally has the opportunity to use photos to share or promote the Sunday School program, Youth Group, and other church activities. Uses might include a display board, church newsletter, church website, a press release, or social media. No names will be used.

I give Trinity Lutheran Church permission to include my child(ren):

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in photos used for informational or promotional purposes.

**Signature of Parent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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I'd like to help in Sunday school as a:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rotational SS Teacher                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherd    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool & Kindergarten Teacher                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Connect Teacher |                                      |

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Additional Information:

WE'LL MAKE DINNER FOR YOU!

# Fall Meatball Dinner

**Date:** Wednesday, September 21

**Time:** 3:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m. or until supplies last

**Cost:** \$13/meal

**Menu:** meatballs in gravy, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, dinner roll, lefse, rømmegrøt, dessert

**Instructions:** Turn north on 2nd Ave SE (by Roble Funeral Home) and continue around the block to Trinity's driveway. Proceed to the canopy to purchase meals, continue into parking lot and your meals will be brought to you, exit onto Main Street.

**Thank you!** WELCA thanks all those who volunteer to make this dinner such a great success!

**LION'S DEN**  
Clothing Corner

## LION'S DEN CLOTHING CORNER

Our Outreach Team has a new initiative — A FREE clothing shop at Spring Grove Public School! The items will be available for students free-of-charge.

### WISH LIST

**New or gently used:** t-shirts/tops, sweaters, sweatshirts (hoodies and zip), sets of tops/bottoms, sweatpants/wind pants, athletic wear, SG gear, light-weight jackets/rain gear, new socks, new underwear.

**Sizes:** Youth 4/5 through Adult 4XL

**Monetary donations:** are welcomed and can be used to purchase items and help create the space and keep it organized. Checks can be made out to Trinity with a memo/note attached specifying Lion's Den Clothing Corner. A drop box for clothing items at Trinity is accessible from the southwest entrance on Main Street.

### NEEDED: MAPLE SYRUP HELP!

How much wood can a woodchuck chuck, if a woodchuck could chuck wood? It would chuck all the wood that a woodchuck could chuck, but a woodchuck can't chuck wood.

Or can it? Hmmm.....

See how much wood you can chuck at the **Wood (chucking) Cutting Bee on September 20** at the syrup shack at Lane and Mary Zaffke's farm starting at **9:00 a.m.** We need to replace the wood we used making maple syrup this past spring. There will be snacks and lunch and great comradery! If it rains, the Wood Cutting Bee we will be on September 27.





**CHEER PACKAGES** Trinity's Outreach Team is excited to once again be sending cheer packages to our young adults! In early October they plan to send packages to young adults (ages 18-22)! To make this successful, we need updated mailing addresses. Do you have one of these young adults in your family? Do you have a neighbor or grandchild in this age range? *Recipients do not need to be Trinity members.*

Please let us know names of your young adults including the best mailing address for them. Please call the church, 498-5291, or send us an email with the information. Please have the names and addresses to us by Friday, September 30. Thank you!



**Suggested items:** individual packages of Pringles potato chips, beef sticks, trail mix, candies/chocolates, ramen noodles, lip balm, gum, hot chocolate packets, microwave popcorn, sunflower seeds, hand sanitizer, travel-size shampoo/conditioner/body wash/lotion, highlighters, pens, and face masks. Other items can include \$5 gift cards to places such as Kwik Trip, McDonalds, Subway, Burger King, Taco Johns, etc.

**Monetary donations of any size are also welcomed.** You can also sponsor a box for \$25. Please indicate "Cheer Packages" on any of the donations.

Please have all donated items to the church office by Friday, September 30. Thank you for helping us reach out to our young adults letting them know we are thinking of them and praying for them!

## SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION CONVENTION

Saturday, September 17 ▪ Bethel Lutheran Church ▪ 810 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SE ▪ Rochester

**Registration/Coffee:** 8:00-9:15 a.m. ▪ **Business Session I:** 8:15-9:15 a.m.

**Gathering Music & Welcome:** 9:15 a.m.

**Bible Study:** Rev. Emily Carson

**Speaker:** Author Kim Kane, *Empowering Women in Gratitude*

**Churchwide Message:** Jean Pishaw

**Lunch break ▪ Special Music**

**Skit:** Nadine Omans

**Anniversary Celebration and Style Show**

**Business Session II:** 2:00 p.m.

**Installation of Officers**

**Closing Worship:** 3:00 p.m. with Bishop Regina Hassanally and Pastor Anjanette Bandel, *Love One Another*

**Registration fee:** \$25 ▪ **Registration deadline:** Sept. 2 ▪ Diane Linbo 507.634.6602

**Questions?** Judi Mickelson, 651.764.3575, or Linda Sandborg, 507.835.2881



*"Thank you for applying for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod's Food Ministry Grant. On behalf of the Hunger Team, we would like to congratulate your congregation in receiving of the of the grants [\$500]. Your diligence in respectfully feeding hungry people throughout the Spring Grove community, including migrants working on area farms, through Little Free Pantry is inspiring. We hope that the grant funds will help in the continuation of this vital food ministry."*

*~Kathy Chatelain, Assist. to the Bishop for Global Ministry*

*~Rob Knutson, Chairperson, Hunger Team*

*"Our community appreciates the services that your organization provides in our area and is thankful for the generosity of those who gave financially to our [Spring Grove United] fund. Because of their donations, we are able to provide your organization with a donation to continue your endeavors. We are pleased to give you \$200 in support of your Little Free Pantry."*

*~ Spring Grove United Fund co-chairs: Jennifer Stender and Heather Gray*

*"Thank you for your monetary gift, the volunteers, all the school supplies and clothing that you generously gave to Helping Hands. We were able to do so much this year for so many families. Trinity's help is always extra great!"*

*~ Caledonia United Methodist Church*



**JULY 13, 2022 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**Updates:

- Outreach has Thrivent Funds for Helping Hands Backpack Project.
  - Staffing Team is updating and renewing the staff documents for 2023. They met with the Finance Team to discuss the wages for 2023.
  - Worship Team needs to update readers, ushers, communion servers, etc., people that help with the worship services. The team would like to have an updated time and talent list. Kim Kapplinger asked Mary Zaffke about her Communications Team helping assist in working on the time and talent information.
  - Master Planning Committee update — received 4 proposals to do the windows. Jeff Engen volunteered to look at the proposal; MPC going to a church in Austin to view addition done by CRW Architects in Rochester.
  - Fall Retreat reminder (Sun., Oct. 2, 11 am – 2:30 pm, Giants of the Earth) For all team members and leads.
  - Trinity Center electricity will be left on as we need to have the dehumidifier on.
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**AUGUST 10, 2022 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**Updates:

- Sunday School starts Sept. 25, 10: 15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; Pre-K – Kindergarten meets in the Boy Scout room, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade meet in the new youth room (Gathering Room)
- Confirmation Orientation Sept 14; First day of Confirmation Sept. 28; working on finding Confirmation mentors for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade youth; Rite of Confirmation – October 30; Confirmation (7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> grade youth) Retreat November 4-6 at Expeditions Unlimited (Baraboo); 10<sup>th</sup> grade pre “Rite of Confirmation” retreat October 15-16 at TBD.
- Release Time: Working with Pr. Len Liptack and Principal Luke Kjelland; we will start the first week in October and will meet at Giants of the Earth Heritage Center on Wednesdays.
- Youth Room at the Church: asking that the Gathering Room be changed into a youth room; the current youth room in the Trinity Center will be moved to the church; to make the room youth friendly — new paint, add big rug, put the 70” TV; AA would then meet in the Boy Scout room.
- 2023 HS Mission Trip to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation: Info Meeting September 25 at 10:15 a.m. for 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade youth
- Care Ministry Team received a \$500 grant from Southeastern Minnesota Synod's Food Ministry Grant and a \$200 check from Spring Grove United Fund for the Little Free Pantry.
- The Lion’s Den Clothing Corner is the Outreach Team’s new project. Karry Thorson has been working with Assistant Superintendent, Gina Meiners, to find a location in the school for clothing donations for children. They plan to have a drop-off place here at Trinity. There is money set aside for clothing racks.
- Gary Wilhelmson asked the Property Team to look at and do some work on the door that goes to the basement at the parsonage.
- Master Planning Committee went to look at a couple of churches in Austin and not too impressive. The committee would like to hire an architect to look at the entire church, look at our master plan, and give us a vision of what Trinity should look like.
- Release Time update — will be at Giants of the Earth Heritage Center, a 3-minute walk from the school. Looking at making a donation to Giants for use of their space. Kerri will walk the children from school to Giants, and then back to school following their Release Time sessions.
- Beary Patch is suspended due to having 4K at the school.
- Pr. Elizabeth will double check the church, but she does not think that Trinity has an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Dean Wiste will bring this need up at Tweeten Foundation as they donate AED’s to various organizations. He will also check with other area churches.

Motions passed:

- to fix the three south windows and to go with Staige out of Onalaska with a bid of \$78,215 plus time and materials if wood casings need to be fixed. They can start in January and will do one window at a time. Windows are guaranteed for 25 years. (This motion will need to be brought to the congregation at a special congregational meeting on September 25.)
- to change the gathering room to a youth room.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.** Complete minutes are on Trinity’s website.

## 5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW FROM THE ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

By Emily McFarlan Miller

Watching backstage as more than 800 Lutherans sang hymns on the floor of the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton mused, “We haven’t been singing like this for a long time together. It’s really powerful.”

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gathered in Columbus for its first Churchwide Assembly since COVID-19 upended churches across the country in 2020.

The triennial gathering brings together members from all corners of the ELCA to hold elections, make declarations and consider legislation guiding the country’s largest Lutheran denomination. Their work continued unabated in Eaton’s absence Friday (Aug. 12) after the presiding bishop tested positive for COVID.



Here are some of the actions the ELCA Churchwide Assembly took.

### Apology to Santa María Peregrina

Four representatives from Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina in Stockton, California, traveled to Columbus to receive a public apology from Eaton during the Churchwide Assembly.

The former bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod was forced to resign after their abrupt removal of the Latino congregation’s pastor on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe sparked outcry across the denomination. Eaton’s response afterward — appointing a listening team months later, then failing to immediately act on their recommendations — also drew criticism.

Eaton said the congregation’s response was “very gracious,” even if it was hard to hear.

“I think it was a healthy thing to do, and I’m touched by the courage of those four to stand up in front of all these people and say, ‘This is how this affected us,’” she said.

Eaton said she plans to visit Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina later this month and will work with the congregation, the synod and churchwide leadership to respond to requests the congregation has made.

### First Asian American vice president elected

The ELCA elected Imran Siddiqui as vice president of the denomination, making him the first Asian American elected to the highest office a layperson can hold.

“This is surreal,” Siddiqui said after the final tally was announced.

The incoming vice president is a senior investigator for the U.S. Department of Labor and current vice president of the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA, which spans Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi. He grew up Muslim and became Lutheran in 2011.

Siddiqui said it was “fantastic” that the top three candidates for vice president were all people of color. They included Roberto Lara Aranda, president of Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos ELCA, and Tracey Beasley, a member of Reformation Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. (Travel guru Rick Steves, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood, Washington, also received one vote on an earlier ballot.)

But, Siddiqui said, “That doesn’t mean we have solved racism yet. We have a lot of work to do, church.”

Siddiqui will take office in November. He follows Carlos Peña, who stepped into the role after the unexpected passing of Bill Horne in 2021.

### Support for #Landback movement

Voting members considered a memorial urging support for the #Landback movement.

*continued* →

**ELCA Churchwide Assembly article continued**

In the end, they approved a memorial encouraging ELCA members and entities to support “creative programs of restorative justice in partnership with Indigenous peoples.” That can include returning land to the appropriate Native American nations when selling or transferring property.

The memorial also encourages ELCA members and entities to explore making land acknowledgements a part of their public gatherings, to educate themselves about the Indigenous peoples whose land they inhabit and to deepen relationships with Indigenous peoples and tribal nations.

The memorial comes as the denomination announced its Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People for the first time in person at Churchwide Assembly. The assembly also hosted a worship service designed and led by Indigenous Lutherans and an address by National Congress of American Indians President Fawn Sharp.

**Revisions to Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust**

A lot has changed since 2009.

That’s when the ELCA adopted its social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust,” which allowed Lutherans to hold differing views about same-sex relationships and opened the door for LGBTQ clergy.

Social statements are the denomination’s teaching and policy documents.

A memorial authorized a narrow review of the social statement about sexuality to make sure its wording “reflects current church understanding, church policy, civil law, and public acceptance of same-gender and gender non-conforming couples.”

A later motion asked that the denomination in particular consider the four positions of “bound conscience” expressed in the social statement. The statement allows that “on the basis of conscience-bound belief,” Lutherans may have different views about sexuality and marriage, including the view that same-sex relationships are “sinful.”

Revisions could be considered as early as the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

**Restructure the governance of the ELCA**

Is it time for another Reformation?

Eaton said she thought the idea was “brilliant” when she first heard of plans to consider restructuring the governance of the ELCA, which was formed 35 years ago by a merger of three Lutheran denominations.

“Things are very different from 1980s America,” she said.

Voting members seemed to think so, too. They approved a memorial directing the ELCA Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to reconsider the principles of the denomination’s organizational structure and the statements of purpose for its churches, synods and the churchwide organization. The memorial instructs the commission to be “particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism.”

The commission will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a reconstituting convention.

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The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly convened in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 8-12. Gathering under the theme, Embody the Word, voting members participated in plenaries and worship while acting on key legislative business and hearing reports on the work of the church. You can find all the actions of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly in the Legislative Update ([www.elca.org/churchwideassembly](http://www.elca.org/churchwideassembly)). The 2025 Churchwide Assembly will be held in Phoenix, Arizona.

Since its 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.





▲► Seventh graders spent a week at the beautiful Good Earth Village for Confirmation Camp.

◀▼ The front porch on the parsonage was deteriorating. This summer it was replaced and is once again sturdy and safe. Thanks for the hard work, guys!

▲ The Education Team served a meal at Music & Market to raise funds for education needs.







▲► Rev. Emily Carson from SEMN Synod spoke about stewardship at the All Teams Picnic.



▲ Enjoying Wednesday evenings under the stars at bonfires was enjoyed by many 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> graders this summer.



◀▼ Thank you for the generous donations and volunteering for the Helping Hands School Supply Drive! Our youth helped and the Outreach Team coordinated and delivered supplies. Many families were given a boost for a great start to the school year!







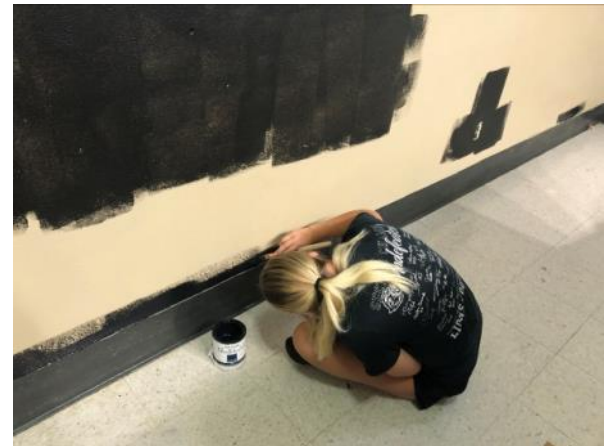
Outdoor worship at Trollskogen Park with a meal following served by the Stewardship Team. It was a beautiful (and delicious!) morning!! Thank you to all who made this service and meal possible!







◀ Many youth and Kerri have been working hard on creating a new Youth Room at Trinity. Soon it will be ready as a welcoming place for youth to gather!



▼ Beautiful special music on a Sunday morning when a grandma is surrounded by her granddaughters singing together!



▼ The Outreach Team served a Community Picnic during Music & Market with the proceeds going to the new Lions' Den Clothing Closet at Spring Grove Public School.





Lectors	
Sept. 4	David Storlie
Sept. 11	Lenny Myrah
Sept. 18	Rachel Udstuen
Sept. 25	Michelle Jahnke



Acolytes	
Sept. 4	Olivia Wennes Elle Berns
Sept. 11	Christian Bjerke
Sept. 18	Kya Deck Hayden St. Mary
Sept. 25	Siri Konkel

### Usher Schedule



September Ushers
Kim Kapplinger (captain) Jim Wilhelmson Mark Engebretson Dennis Gulbranson Bruce Anderson



## FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Fellowship	
Sept. 4	Mary Newgaard Judy Bratland
Sept. 11	Danielle & Jeremy Myhre Lorilyn Dehning
Sept. 18	Sheri & Andy Allen Jessi & Chris Strinmoen
Sept. 25	Lyn Solberg Erin Konkel



Communion Bread Makers	
September	JeanAnn Tweeten
Communion Servers	
Sept. 4	Milly Halverson Ruth Johnsrud
Sept. 18	Jerald & Pat Oakes
September Altar Guild	
Peggy Landsom (chair) Rachel Olerud Judy Bratland Missy Bratland Marilyn Sylling	

Thank you for volunteering!



498-AMEN	
August 21-Sept. 3	Greg Wennes
Sept. 4-17	Jessica Kraus
Sept. 18-24	Cheryl Mann
Sept. 25-Oct. 1	Joyce Landsom
Christ in our Home devotional booklets and 498-AMEN instructions are located inside the southeast entrance of the church.	
After your last reading, please contact the next person on the list to remind them to	



Prayer Chain	
Chain 1	Chain 2
Joyce Landsom	Karen Gray
Nolie Kapplinger	Bev Nelson
Terry Holland	Janet Wold
Bonnie Solberg	Jan Lochner
Dawn Hewitt	Ruth Johnsrud
Lynn Rostad Anderson	Judy Bratland
Milly Halverson	



# SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS AT TRINITY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>FH</b> = Fellowship Hall (large room in basement) <b>MR</b> = Middle Room (upstairs by offices) <b>YGR</b> = Youth Gathering Room (in basement near men's bathroom)				1 5:30pm Education Team, MR	2	3 10:30am AA 5:00pm Worship/Communion
4 9:00am Hymn Sing 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:15am Fellowship	5 <b>Labor Day</b> <i>office closed</i>	6	7 8:00 Choir	8 9am-3pm WELCA Work Day, FH 7:00pm Finance Team	9 5:45pm wedding rehearsal	10 10:30am AA 4:00pm Arneson/Solum wedding
11 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 11:15am Nursing Home service	12	13 9:00am Deborah 9:30am Anna 7:00pm Hannah, FH	14 9:30am Adah, Tweeten Apts. 6:00pm Confirmation Orientation (7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> gr) 7:00pm 10th gr Confirmation Service Orientation 7:00pm Council, FH 8:00pm Choir	15 9:30am Worship at Manor	16 October Newsletter info due in office	17 10:30am AA 5:00pm Worship/Communion
18 Festival of Celebration & Renewal/Rally Sunday 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:15am Fellowship	19 2:30pm Phoebe, GR	20 9:00am Wood Cutting Bee at Zaffkes' farm	21 1:00pm Eve, Manor 3:30-6:30 Fall Meatball Dinner 8:00pm Choir	22 9:30am Worship at Tweeten Apts 2:00pm Newsletter prepped for mailing	23	24 10:30am AA
25 9:15am Worship with Holy Baptism of Bohdi Eric Rask 10:15am Congregational Meeting (window project) 10:30am Fellowship, Mission Trip Info Meeting, YGR	26	27 9:00am Wood Cutting Bee at Zaffkes' farm— RAIN DATE 10:00am Assisted Living service	28 3:30-5:00pm Wednesday Bible School, YGR 6:00pm Confirmation 8:00pm Choir	29	30 9:00am Love Day	

## TO JOIN THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING VIA ZOOM ON SEPT. 25

You can CALL in to the meeting or join via the ZOOM APP. (It is a free app, download it in your device's app store or visit [www.zoom.us/download](http://www.zoom.us/download).)

### To call:

- call (312) 626-6799.
- when prompted, enter meeting ID: 862 8875 7626

### Via Zoom app:

- type in this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86288757626>
- you will be let into the meeting, please be patient as others may be trying to join at the same time.

### To vote:

- on your device have your video turned on, then raise your hand to vote yes or keep your hand down to vote no.
- if you called into the meeting via phone, you will need to say yes or no followed by your name, you will be asked for your answer so that people are not talking over each other.



*Trinity*  
Lutheran Church  
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Spring Grove, MN 55974

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The graphic features a background with a warm color gradient from light orange to dark red. On the right side, there are stylized, flame-like shapes in white and light orange. The text is centered and reads: "Festival of" in a black serif font, "Celebration" in a red cursive script font, and "& Renewal" in a black serif font.

# Festival of *Celebration* & Renewal

**Sunday, September 18**

Rally Sunday Worship and Outdoor Activities ▪ Bibles for 3-yr. olds & 3<sup>rd</sup> graders  
Blessing of Backpacks ▪ Trinity Choir begins their season ▪ Extra-special Fellowship Time