

THE TRINITARIAN

October 2017

Dear Partners in Ministry,

“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”
(Philippians 4:8)

This is the scripture verse that grounded the small group that gathered this past Monday night at Trinity. Half the group was from St. Peter’s, Highspire. The other half was from Trinity. We’d met in faith and hope to take the next step into the conversation into which St. Peter’s invited Trinity this past May: to wonder together how God might be calling us.

As we gathered, our very first step was to get to know one another. Grounded in that verse from Philippians, we asked each other questions, discovering stories about what each of us found excellent and worthy of praise:

Remember a time at Trinity or St. Peter’s when you felt most alive, most motivated, most excited about your involvement. What was happening? Who was involved? How did you feel?

What gifts has God given you that you value giving back to the church—your personality, your perspective, your skills, your activities?

What are the most important disciplines, lessons, or steps of faith that have occurred for you at your church? How did they happen? What was most helpful?

These questions turned up stories both precious and telling—how one person’s potato salad reflects a deep value of hospitality. How another person’s passion for victims of human trafficking unexpectedly led her to develop a whole ministry outreach. Stories about singing in choir and serving

on council took on a new depth of meaning as we reflected on how many gifts God has given to us.

What stories do these questions stir up in you, beloved? We need to know! You see, the stories we remember, especially stories about the times we felt that our lives of faith were most meaningful, most fulfilling, those stories are vehicles for our deepest values and priorities, for the things we want to make sure we name and cherish and carry with us into the future. That’s why members of that group went away with the goal of asking these questions of at least two other people in their congregations this October—so don’t be surprised if you’re approached!

But if you aren’t approached, if you still have stories you want to tell about the times at Trinity, stories about things that are pure and just, honorable and excellent, pure and pleasing, commendable and worthy of praise...then know that I always want to hear these stories, and am happy to meet you in my office or your home or out in the world over a cup of coffee to hear them.

Also know that at an upcoming retreat (Saturday, November 4th—see article further on!), these stories and values will be especially welcomed as we seek God’s purpose for Trinity, here and now, together.

As for me, I am grateful to serve a congregation so rich in stories, so grounded in its history, and full of so many memories of life-giving joy. Let’s continue to think about these things!

In Christ,
Pastor Larson

Yesterdays
Memories
are tomorrows
Treasures

Our Harvest of Blessings

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. --1 Corinthians 3:6-7

Doesn't fall give your spirit a boost when you see the colorful fruits and vegetables in the farm stands and supermarkets? Orange pumpkins, red apples, green squash, yellow corn and purple eggplants are all tasty reminders of God's abundance.

We bear in mind that although the farmers grow the harvest by carefully preparing the soil and planting in spring, then watering and nourishing all summer, it's God that produces the life in the seeds that sprout into fruitful plants. Farmers *manage* God's order of life by providing the ideal conditions for plants to grow abundantly. Yes, the plants would grow and produce fruit and vegetables if left wild, but their yield would not be as plentiful. The attentive, skillful work of farmers in cooperation with God's design for life ensures a harvest of plenty for all.

Fall harvest provides a wonderful metaphor for how we are stewards of all the blessings that God gives us. We know that God has given us wonderful, amazing gifts, such as family, community, church, health, intelligence, time, and relationships. And we also know that we are responsible for caring for them and working hard to provide the ideal conditions under which they will benefit ourselves, our families and our communities.

For instance:

- Maintaining the gift of our bodies by eating right, exercising and getting plenty of sleep, we increase the likelihood we will live longer, healthier, robust and resilient lives.

- Nourishing our gifts of intelligence and wisdom through education, reading, exploring, curiosity and continually learning, we will be best able to understand and improve the world around us.

- Cultivating our gift of faith through prayer, worship, scripture, generosity, love and service, our lives bear fruits of the spirit -- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

- Loving and tending to our spouses, children, parents, siblings and other relatives, we build strong, healthy families and develop caring, purposeful individuals who can make a difference.

Our farmers are stewards of the earth, not only understanding how to make the most of God's gift of plant life but also working tirelessly to achieve it. They are partners with God to create a bounty of blessings for our dinner table.

We are stewards of our lives, not only understanding how to best use our gifts of time and talent and treasure but also faithfully striving to make the most of all with which we have been entrusted. We are partners with God to create a bounty of blessings for ourselves, our communities and our world.

--Rob Blezard

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Sponsors Needed

We need flower and bulletin/candle sponsors for October, November, and December. The sign-up charts are on the bulletin board near the chapel.

We also need communion assistants and lay readers!

October Birthdays (*80 or older)

- 5th Kathleen Michtich *
- 10th John Brunner *
- 12th Richard Schultheisz *
- 25th Elizabeth Canning
- 30th Mark Radic
- 31st Helen Bailey *



October Anniversaries

- 4th Chuck & Monica Reider
- 10th Carl & Anna Zeiders
- 13th Jim & Sandy Canning
- 16th Mike & Abby Anthony

Memorial Gifts

Contributions have been received in memory of the following. We thank the contributors for their generosity and thoughtfulness. (Memorial gifts may be given at any time and in memory of whomever you would like. Envelopes are available by the Memorial Book in the entryway of the church.)

In loving memory of Catherine & Scrappy Kerns
Keith & Maria Kerns

UPCOMING EVENTS

Joint Meeting for Churches' Co-op

The next meeting of the four Steelton-Highspire-Oberlin (SOHL) churches will take place on **Monday, October 2** at 6:00 PM at St. John's in Steelton. Anyone interested in hearing what's going on among the 4 churches is invited to attend. There is always a meal, followed by a brief Bible study and a general meeting.

Ministry in Motion!

Trinity's new youth Ministry outreach, The Tribe, a wrestling club grounded in faith formation has been off to an excellent start! Over the past three weeks we've had between ten and twelve kids in the social hall learning about their faith, their bodies, and themselves. If you or anyone you know has children between the ages of 6 and 11, please invite them to join us Monday nights at 6pm!

David will be starting a walking group on **Tuesday, October 3** at 10:30am. The group will meet in Trinity's parking lot and is great for anyone who might like to get out, get moving, and enjoy the fall weather! Please sign up in the lobby if you are interested in participating.

Blessing of the Animals

SOHL is teaming up to offer the local community a **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS** to be held on **Sat., October 7** from 10 AM – 2 PM at the corner of Front & Locust Streets in Steelton (next to the Steelton Pharmacy). There will be parking available. Well-behaved pets are welcome, as long as they are securely restrained and promptly cleaned up after! If your pet can't come, you could bring pictures instead, or stuffed-animal stand-ins.

Second Sunday Fellowship

On **Sunday, October 8**, we will have 2nd Sunday Fellowship in the social hall immediately following the service. Our sponsors, Richard Schultheisz and John Brunner, will be celebrating their **90th**



birthdays! Please come and wish them a happy birthday and many more!!

Our guest chefs will be Cobbie and Robin Cobb who will be preparing roasted ham, scalloped potatoes, peas & carrots, and autumn desserts. Sounds yummy! Please plan to attend!

Communication Committee

There will be a meeting of anyone interested in becoming involved with our church's different forms of communication: the Mini-tarian, the Trinitarian, our Website, the SOHL newsletter, etc. Please stay after the fellowship on **Sunday, October 8** to hear ideas for where these things are headed. We need some volunteers to help with these important ways to communicate.

Council Meeting

The next regular meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 12 at 7 PM** in the social hall. Any parishioner may attend the meeting, give opinions, but may not vote on any issues.

We will need *volunteers* for Council for the next term of 2018 – 2020. If you are interested, please talk to Jim Canning or Mark Harkins. If you are considering being a Council member, you may want to come to a meeting to see what is involved.

Clean-Up Day

The Property Committee is scheduling a fall clean-up day on **Saturday, Oct. 14** from 9:30 AM until noon. They will focus their efforts on cleaning out the attic,



sprucing up the banks in the parking lot, and/or washing windows. Please sign the sheet downstairs if you think you will be able to help. We need to know how many donuts to buy and if anyone is interested in staying for lunch!

Blood Drive

The Central PA Blood Bank will be having a blood drive in our social hall on **Wednesday, October 18** from 3 – 7 PM. If you are able, please come and donate blood during those hours. All donors will receive a certificate for a Buy One, Get One Free large pizza from Papa John's! This will also be opened up to the whole Steelton area.

Giving blood is a commitment to saving lives. As a result of donations, many patients will see another tomorrow. Thanks in advance!

Soup/Bake and Fellowship Committees

There will be a joint meeting on **Wednesday, October 25** at 5:00 PM at Jan Holwig's home. We will be discussing upcoming first Sunday fellowships and our Election Day soup and bake sale. If anyone is interested in joining these committees (only 4 members at this point!), please talk to Jan to get directions to her house! (Supper will be served!)

Dates have been set for the following so mark your calendars:

Oct. 8 – 2nd Sunday Fellowship

Nov. 7 – Election Day Soup/Bake Sale

Nov. 12 – Thanksgiving Dinner (1st Sunday Fellowship)

Dec. 3 – 1st Sunday Fellowship

Dec. 15 – Cookie Walk

May 12, 2018 – Women's Banquet!

Specifics about these events will be given as we get closer to each one.

Oktoberfest

The dance will take place on **Saturday, October 28** at the Chambers Hill Fire Co. Social Hall. Doors will open at 4 PM for those who want to come early and eat their dinner there. Music will be provided by *The Whooo* from 5-9 PM. We will have lots of different foods, door prizes, and raffles. Tickets will be \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under and are on sale now before and after church.



If you would like to donate a prize for the raffles, please bring it to church at any time and make sure that Judy Krovic gets it. You may also leave it in the choir room, but be sure to mark it so that we know it's for Oktoberfest!

We are also asking for donations of desserts to be sold during the evening. Please sign the sheet at church if you are able to bake. Bring your dessert (UNCUT) that evening and give it to the food servers. They will cut it and put it out to be sold.

Gather all your friends and relatives and come to the dance! It's quite a family event! There will be something for everyone to enjoy!

Reformation Sunday, October 29

We will be having a joint church service beginning at 10:15 AM that day. Members from Trinity, Salem, St. John's, and St. Peter's will gather at St. Peter's in Highspire (plenty of parking available) to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

We will have a joint choir (over 20 members) and lay assistants from all four churches during the service. Afterward, there will be a luncheon served in their social hall. You are asked to sign up for the luncheon and possibly bring a side dish or dessert.

If anyone needs a ride, please call the office or talk to Jan or Ed Holwig.

November Congregational Retreat

One of the things Pastor learned during her recent trip to Denver to attend a congregational redevelopment seminar:

One of the key marks of a church that's thriving is that it has a clear sense of its own purpose in light of God's mission.

What is God's mission? What's Trinity's purpose in light of that mission?

You are invited to consider that question at our fall congregational retreat, set for **Saturday, November 4th** from 9am-3pm at St. Peter's, Middletown. Pastor Richard Jorgensen will be our facilitator during this time of Bible study and reflection. Come for fellowship, deep reflection, and to immerse yourself in that holy longing to understand and do God's will! Lunch will be provided. A sign-up sheet is located in the entrance vestibule.

We will share this time and space with St. John's in Steelton as well! We look forward to the opportunity to wonder together about how to serve our shared community of Steelton.

All Saints Sunday

On **November 6** we will remember especially our Trinity members who have passed on during the past year:

<i>Judith Cole</i>	<i>11/16/2016</i>
<i>Marlene Beistline</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>Conrad "Cuni" Enders</i>	<i>7/9/2017</i>

We will also have our white carnations for you to place on the altar during communion in memory of any of your own loved ones remembered in your hearts and prayers on this special commemoration day. Please join your church family for this meaningful, contemplative service.



Soup/Bake Sale

Voting Day is **Tuesday, November 7**. We will be selling soups and baked goods all day long. If you are able to help in any way, please sign the sheets in the entryway at church to let us know how you can help.

You can also help by preordering soup and/or fudge on the order forms that *you will find in your church bulletins*.

Veterans' Breakfast

This will take place at Salem in Oberlin on **Friday, Nov. 10**. Veterans and their families will need to sign up. The event will be sponsored by Patty Kim. The time will be announced at a later date.

ODDS AND ENDS!

2018 Budget

If any committees have extra monetary requests for 2018, please have those in to Mike Miller by mid-October. The Finance Committee will soon be meeting to start the 2018 budget which will need to be approved at our annual congregational meeting in December.

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday

Every year a Sunday in **September** is designated as *God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday* by the Lutheran Church. All Lutheran churches are asked to participate in some type of helpful project in their neighborhood on this day. Trinity chose to collect needed supplies for Health Ministries in Harrisburg during the entire month.

Our Health Clinic collection for Christ Lutheran Health Ministries in Harrisburg was

a great success! We gathered enough items to fill 6 baskets! Thank you to everyone who participated in helping supply a clinic that administers help to the poor and needy.

About 30 people from area congregations also gathered at the Caitlin's Smiles headquarters in Harrisburg on **Sept. 10** to pack craft kits. These craft kits will be distributed, free of charge, to area hospitals for the children who are admitted. The kits keep the kids occupied for hours on end! What a worthwhile endeavor!



Property Committee

The last meeting was held on **Saturday, Sept. 16** at 9:45 AM on the 2nd floor of the social hall.

We had a special congregational meeting to approve the removal/repair of the two roof chimneys that are leaking. The bid was awarded to Anderson Chimney Sweeps who will begin the work toward the end of October.

The kitchen commercial refrigerator needs a new coil in order to keep the proper internal temperature at a constant. K & D Factory Service will install the new part as soon as it arrives.

The snow removal contract has been renewed with Casey Skarupsky from Highspire. His prices will remain the same unless the cost of salt increases. Pray for NO SNOW this winter!

Our chairlift was inspected on Aug. 30 at a cost of \$36.00. This is done twice a year.

Please remember that the committee needs your help! If you see anything amiss that isn't working or needs repaired, tell someone! Leave a note in John Michtich's mailbox or talk to John, Bob Carrillo, or Ed Holwig.

Trivia Night

On **Tuesday, Sept. 19** beginning at 6:30 PM, Trinity held its 2nd *Trivia Night*. We had five teams competing for five different charities. Pastor Larson had compiled the questions in 3 different categories: “The Fall”, “Superman”, and “General” trivia. We had lots of laughs as our memories were truly tested to their limits! The winning team, *The Pinch Hitters*, will be sending \$300 to the “In a Pinch Fund”, which was established by Carolyn Smith to help women living at the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg with one-time grants to cover immediate needs such as gas to get to a job interview, a winter coat, eyeglasses, a good haircut, or even a new pair of shoes. Thanks to everyone who came, played, and donated toward this worthy cause.

Chapel Renovation Task Force Meeting

The committee met on **Sept. 25** and discussed three separate bids for the chapel area. One of the bidders will now be called and asked to come in and speak with the whole committee about the scope of the work. This company was the lowest bidder, but they were still slightly over our budget. We will see if there are any areas where costs can be cut.

If anyone would like to contribute to the Renovation Fund, there is still time to do so. Put your donation in an envelope, mark it for Renovation, and put it in the offering plate or Jan Holwig’s mailbox. Thanks!

Soup/Bake Sale & Fellowship Committees

The Soup/Bake Sale Committee is getting prices for a new baptismal font for the sanctuary. The one we have now is very heavy and awkward to move and it has chunks of marble missing in spots. Pastor would like to eventually place this old one



downstairs in the renovated chapel area once we get the new font. (If anyone knows the history of the present baptismal font, please share the info with Pastor.)

The Fellowship Committee has also purchased new white tablecloths for the social hall. The old ones are stained and will be disposed of.

If anyone is interested in joining one of these committees, please talk to Gay, Jan, Lyn, or Peg. We need as many voices and opinions as we can get!

TCO (formerly CAAG) Committee

This group met on **Sunday, Sept. 24** to discuss old business and then plan for the Oktoberfest.

We debriefed the “Back to Worship” breakfast held on Sept. 17. At least 30 people attended. The different breakfast foods that everyone brought with them to share were absolutely delicious! What good cooks we have in this congregation! Pastor Chuck Utter from St. Peter’s led our service that day because of the Pulpit Exchange that we are doing with the other three area churches.

We also discussed the upcoming Central PA Blood Drive, ELCA Advent tree ornaments, our November food pantry collection, and a new program, *Family Promise*, being sponsored by St. John’s at the start of the new year. You will hear more about each of these activities as they get nearer to happening!

We discussed the Oktoberfest and felt that everything should stay the same. “If it ain’t broke, don’t try to fix it!” as the old saying goes. We will be inviting the other 3 congregations to attend also.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, Oct. 22 immediately after the service. It will be very brief! We will only talk about Oktoberfest and see if there are any “loose ends”.

Youth Ministry Update

The landscape of children and youth ministry at Trinity has changed quite a lot in the past year! It's time for an update.

Children's Sermon: We're leaving the children's sermon out of the order of worship for the time being. This is for a couple of reasons: first, when a children's sermon is planned, Pastor puts serious prep time into it...but it isn't always needed! Second, it sometimes feels to Pastor as though it's not the best way to reach kids with the gospel message; they can be nervous about being up in front of everyone, and easily distracted. Pastor would prefer to find other ways of involving kids in worship, like the way they help with the dismissal! Do you have thoughts on this, or ideas for other ways kids could be invited to participate in worship? Let Pastor or a member of the Worship and Music committee know! Meanwhile, Jan does a wonderful job preparing worship bags every week, so that the kids are continuing to engage with our scripture and worship.

Nursery: We are having difficulty finding enough volunteers for the nursery each week. The nursery is always available for those who wish to use it during worship, but we can't guarantee there will be a volunteer on hand to help. Are you interested in volunteering for the nursery? Do you feel that it's important enough that we ought to consider hiring someone? Let Jan know in the church office!

HAYI: The Harrisburg Area Youth Initiative is our new model for youth group. It's a cooperative group that meets monthly for fun, faith formation, and service. We have a WONDERFUL time, and this group, though new, is going well! Adults are welcome to many of our events, and Pastor Larson is one of the key leaders of this group, so if you're

interested in learning more or participating, talk to her or to Anne Lentz.

The Tribe: David Tringali has started a youth ministry centered around wrestling for kids aged 6-11, and it's a ton of fun! *The Tribe* meets weekly on Mondays at 6pm in Trinity's social hall for wrestling, scripture study, and reflection on living lives of faith. Several of Trinity's youth are involved, as well as youth from the area. Adult volunteers are needed, so please let David know if you want to witness and help with this awesome ministry!

Confirmation: Though Trinity has no confirmation-aged youth this year, Pastor Larson is involved in a cooperative confirmation program that includes St. John's Steelton, Our Savior Progress Ave, and St. Peter's Highspire. Gabe Whary completed the "coursework" for confirmation this spring—congratulations, Gabe!—and after he attends the Harrisburg Area Confirmation Camp next summer, we look forward to celebrating his confirmation next fall!

Other: The Worship and Music Committee is considering the idea of creating a "pray-ground" in our sanctuary. These are spaces for small children. They are usually filled with soft toys or quiet activities, but are located in a space where kids can see what's happening during worship. Churches that have tried pray-grounds have found that it's a way for kids to be more aware of what's happening in worship, while still being allowed to be kids. Do you have thoughts about this? Let a member of the Worship and Music Committee know!

(from Pastor Larson)

October Participants in Our Services

Date	Greeter(s)	Communion Assistants	Ushers	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Bulletins, Candles \$17	Flowers \$25
Oct. 1	the people of Trinity	?	Carl Zeiders, Lenny Bowling	?	Brady Holwig	?	John Michtich
Oct. 8	"	?	Ed Holwig, Harry Spilker	?	Zachary Anthony	Elizabeth Faul	John Brunner
Oct. 15	"	?	Ed Holwig, Mike Sanders	?	Grace Holwig	Ann Kline	Elizabeth Faul
Oct. 22	"	David Tringali, Judy Krovic	Pat & Zack Szekeres	?	Ni'Shaun Ward-McMullen	Helen Bailey	Helen Bailey

Altar Guild for October: Jan Holwig, Peg Bowling, Judy Krovic
November: Shelley Radic, Anna & Carl Zeiders, Brenda Shick



Shut-ins and Those Who Need Our Prayers

The following are those who cannot get to church because of physical problems, etc. Please remember them with a card, a visit, and/or your prayers.

Nancy Brunner 2115 James Buchanan Dr., Elizabethtown 17022
Darlene Martz 97 Brompton Rd., Hummelstown, 17036
Kathleen Michtich S2 – 228A, Spring Creek, 1205 S. 28th St., Hbg. 17111
Anna Guyer 1020 N. Union St., **Rm. 231**, Middletown 17057 (Frey Village)
Rene & Joyce Stickle 224 Elm St., Steelton 17113
Katarina Schuech 4805 E. Circle Dr., Hbg. 17111
Jackie Day 335 Wesley Dr. Apt. 601, Mechanicsburg 17055
Kathryn Steigler Rm. 116, Homeland, 1901 N. 5th St., Harrisburg 17102
Bernie Campbell 100 Freemason Drive, Masonic Village, Elizabethtown 17104
Ray Stoner S310-A, Spring Creek, 1205 S. 28th St., Hbg. 17111
Fran Dubesky 517 Kelker St., Steelton 17113
Linda Lokey 117 Lancaster Estates, Mt. Joy 17552
Paul Flickinger 1199 Twin Lakes Dr., Hbg. 17111 (Paul is at Colonial Park Care Center in Room B12. Betty will take any cards to him that are mailed to their home.)
Christine Miller 4800 Lancer Court, Apt. C, Hbg. 17109
Bill Ward 232 Elm St., Steelton 17111