



RENEWED IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

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OUR MISSION

We learn and grow together in faith and God’s love as we reach out to all people.

SUMMER 2023 EDITION

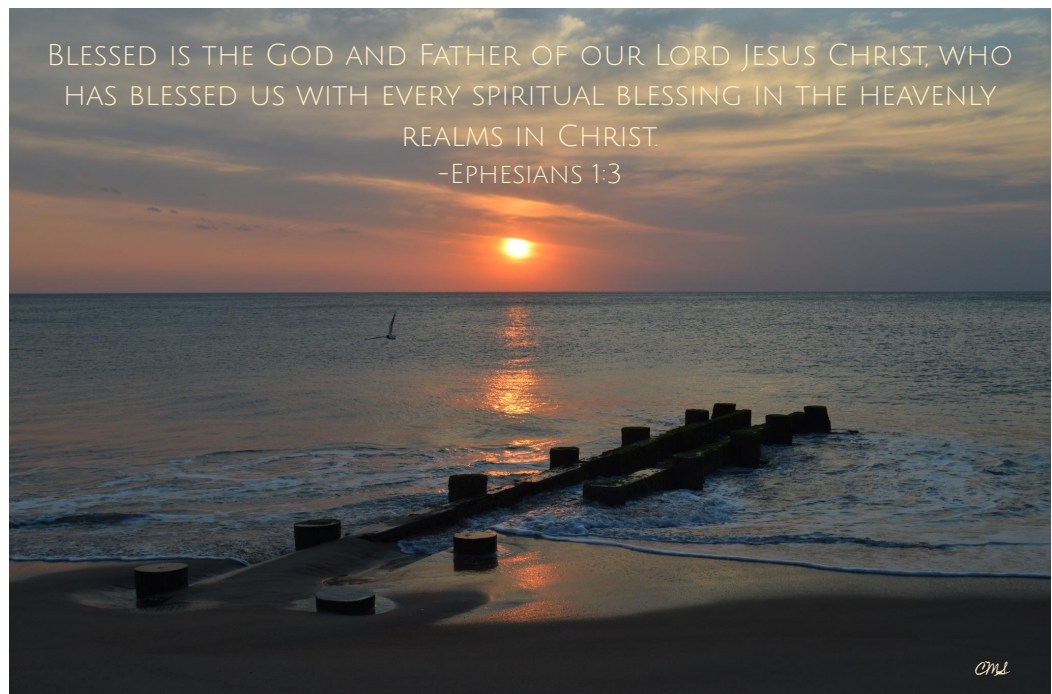
Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ. -Ephesians 1:3

What is a Spiritual Blessing? This is something that I have contemplated a lot. Is it a sense of euphoria knowing the presence of God is near? Is it the knowledge knowing that we will be with God and our loved ones in eternity even after this life? Is it knowing that all will be well, even in the midst when all is not well? Is Spiritual Blessing only something for the future or can it be something for the present? This world gives us much heartache, pain, disappointment and fear. In this temporal or physical space that we reside in, we experience things that are completely outside our control. We are thrown into aging, into disease, into physical pain, mental anguish and death. In the grand scheme of the universe, our existence on this planet is but a blink of an eye. Where we so easily say, “where has the time gone?” What did we do with our lives up till this point? Are we happy or sad about the life that we have lived? Are we in a panic that we did not live our life to its fullest? To me, after much contemplation, a Spiritual blessing is the knowledge that we do not have to live our lives to the fullest, to have a full life.

Pastor's Letter Continued...

There is a lie being perpetrated through popular media, that we have to see everything, do everything, spend all of our money to go around the world and experience every walk of life. And if we do not do that, then we seemingly failed life and we should be disappointed; this is nonsense. There is so much more to life than traveling the world. Now do not get me wrong, I love to travel and see the world. I love experiencing new cultures and broadening my horizon. It definitely makes a person more open, more understanding and more culturally diverse in thinking; but it isn't what makes a life worth living. God gave the earth to us to enjoy, to experience things that heaven wouldn't allow for us to experience, which includes suffering. But the purpose of life, is not to live the "Best" life as if it is a competition. No, the purpose of life is to do the work of allowing God into our lives ever more deeply each and every day. The purpose of life, is to work toward seeing God not only in the good things, but also in the bad and horrible. Not in the sense that God will make the bad things good things, but that it is an experience, that God is a part of. The true spiritual blessing of our time here on earth, is when we can see that this world, with all of its ups and downs, is one experience, one story, that we get to be a part of. Allowing all aspects of what it means to be alive, to be seen as our story, where God was present, and carried us along until we were given a new life in death. To me, the truest spiritual blessing that we can receive, is the ability to walk through life with such faith in the eternity of our souls, that life becomes an experience, that includes pains and joys, but not hopelessness and false happiness. If we can figure out how to see our lives as significant, even in the midst of life's journeys where we seem insignificant, I believe, that in that moment, we have discovered the truth of our relationship with Christ, with God. We are significant, because we are alive. That is the true spiritual blessing. And when it is our time to leave this earth, we will have a story to tell, in the eternal novel of God's kingdom. Never underestimate the power of prayer. Not in the sense of it being a vending machine for our wants. But rather, allow prayer to connect you to the divine. Allow prayer to be your life source, your reason for living. Allow prayer, to open you up, and free you from all expectations. And simply remember, that your existence, your life, no matter what part of life you find yourself in, is important, is needed, and is seen and experienced by our God.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Chad



Worship and Office Information

Sunday Worship

(All services begin at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted)

June 4: Trinity (Holy Trinity Sunday)

June 11: Joint Worship at **St. Peter's-Middletown**

June 18: Trinity (Father's Day)

June 25: St. Peter's

July 2: Joint Worship at **Trinity-RIG** and St. Peter's
Middletown

July 9: St. Peter's

July 16: Trinity

July 23: St. Peter's

July 30: Trinity

August 6: Trinity

August 13: Joint Worship at **St. Peter's Highspire**
RIG and St. Peter's Middletown

August 20: Trinity

August 27: St. Peter's



Office Hours

Pastor - Mondays at St. Peter's from 8:30 am to Noon; Wednesdays at Trinity from Noon to 3pm; Office hours are subject to change due to emergencies or scheduled appointments with members and/or community members. The best way to meet with me in person is to schedule a time by calling the office, email, or text my cell phone.

Jen - Tuesdays at St. Peter's from 1-5 pm; Wednesdays at Trinity from 1-5 pm



June, July, August at Trinity: Jan Holwig, Judy Krovic

Trinity Sponsors Needed

Trinity is in need of flower and bulletin/candle sponsors for June 18, July 2, and August 6 & 20. Please call Jan Holwig (717-564-6360) ASAP if you are willing to be a sponsor.

Remember, we are at Trinity on weeks 1 and 3 of each month. The flowers are \$25 and bulletins/candles are \$17. You may also pay in advance now! Put your check or money in an envelope and mark it clearly for the dates that you are sponsoring. Thank you!

Letters from the Presidents

Renewed in Grace Co-op

On the fifth Sunday in April 2023, there were four churches who joined together in worship, three Pastors, the Bishop, special words and music, and many visitors.

Thanks to everyone who made this day so very special. Hope you enjoy the pictures found in "A View From A Pew" under Happenings and on St. Peter's Facebook page.

Rich Deutsch

Renewed In Grace Co-Op Council President

Letters from the Presidents Continued...

Trinity Council President's Update

As we head to the summer months of June, July, and August we think of warm weather, summer vacations, family picnics, outdoor fun in the sun, and just kicking back and relaxing! God has a great plan for each of us and we need to reflect and focus on the good things in our lives!

One of those things is our church life. We have all been members of our churches for many years and we have seen many changes. We have all been through ups and downs, but when you seriously contemplate where God's plan for us has led, we have had many more "ups" than we realize.

Unfortunately, one of our "downs" has been church attendance, especially at Trinity, which has dwindled over the past several years. Ed and I were shocked when we updated the memorial plaque in the social hall last month. It had not been done since Covid had hit. We had to have 18 names engraved and added to our list of saints. 18 of our active members have passed on in the past 3 years. That's unbelievable!

I only bring this statistic to your attention so that when thinking about all the good things, we also remember that church can only go on with support from those of us who remain. We need to attend services on a REGULAR basis and also contribute as the Holy Spirit leads us, with our monies and our talents. While speaking with a parishioner on the phone the other day, she said that she could no longer get to church and do things as she once did. But she decided she could still give financially and she could send cards to those on the prayer list and she could still make phone calls and talk with those who might be lonely.

Think about all the ways that you can still be connected to your church. Think about God's good plan for your life and how it has manifested so far for you. Yes, we have our "downs", but we want to focus on our "ups" and continue to give God the glory for them.

See you in church!

Jan Holwig

Trinity Council President



Outreach News

Monday Night Takeout Meals at St. Peter's take place every Monday from 5:30-6:30 pm.

This is 15 minutes before we serve the meals. People come in early so they can shop for the extras we offer and also look at the clothing. They are so thankful for anything they are given.

Please continue to support this ministry.



Thursday Night Takeout Meals at Trinity take place every Thursday from 5:30-6:30 pm. This outreach program began on May 20, 2021. Over the past two years, we have served 4,718 meals. Wow! Thank you to the many people who have contributed to this mission by volunteering to serve, and through food and monetary donations. The Midwest Food Bank continues to generously support this project. We look forward to continuing this mission at Trinity. We are grateful to be able to serve our community with the faithful help of our volunteers: Judy Krovic, Matt Krovic, Jan Holwig, Ed Holwig, Zach Szekeres, Shelley Radic, Barb Kain, Nancy Paine, and Pastor Chad.

We could always use more cooks and helpers for our meals. The number of meals that we serve each Thursday has steadily increased. Through the help of the **Fellowship Committee**, we have a rotation of cooks who are willing to prepare meals. St. Peters Middletown is also part of this rotation, generously providing meals. If you would be willing to bake casseroles or prepare a meal to feed approximately 80 people, let us know. Through our food bank source, we can often provide for you rice, beans, pastas, spaghetti sauce, chicken patties, sausages, vegetables, boxed potatoes, crushed tomatoes, applesauce, potato chips/snacks, and various other ingredients to supplement the meals you prepare. If anyone from either Trinity or St. Peters would be willing to help in serving or preparing food for these meals, please contact Jim or Sandy Canning at 717-652-3493 or sandycanning@verizon.net. You may volunteer when it fits your schedule.

Many of the people who take out meals on Thursdays make use of the **Food Pantry** available to them in our social hall. Paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues) continue to be popular. We will certainly welcome any donations of foods (soups, canned goods, packaged foods) or toiletries if you would like to contribute to that mission as well. Thanks again for your support.

Sandy and Jim Canning

Food Ministries

The **Food Pantry** at St. Peter's and Trinity are always collecting food, non-food items, and monetary donations as they continue to serve those in our communities. For more information, please contact Rita Pressler for St. Peter's. Trinity's Food Pantry is available at Thursday Night Takeout Meals 5:30-6:30 pm.

Outreach News Continued...

Dear Renewed in Grace Members,

The following is an update to Laundry Love. Our group continues to meet at the Boardwalk Laundromat in Highspire the second Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:30 pm. We pay for the washing and drying of laundry for everyone who enters and wants to accept this help. Also, during the same time, Sally opens Thankful Threads for anyone interested in shopping for clothing.

We have been extremely busy over the last several months and our funds have reflected that. The number of people served and loads of laundry paid for are below for the Spring months.

March 2023 – 20 people served, 90 loads

April 2023 – 32 people served, 112 loads

May 2023 – 25 people served, 92 loads

Thank you for your support of Laundry Love. We wouldn't be able to continue helping people with clean clothes if it wasn't for your generosity.

You can support us by donating online at the Renewed in Grace Co-op website, by including it with your offering and specifying "Laundry Love", or by adding your cash to our Laundry Love tub in church.



Grace Hoover, Randy Hoover, Judy Kunzman, Sally Schonewolf, Patrick Hawkins, and Jill Hawkins

Tree4Hope Corner

ChicaBean Coffee- Since 2020 we have been partnering with ChicaBean Specialty Coffee, which is an all-female run coffee bean grower and roaster in Guatemala. Unlike other coffee growing and roasting operations, these women are given a livable wage. By supporting ChicaBean, we will also be supporting ourselves and the various ministries that we do here at Renewed in Grace. Not only will we get something in return, but we will be helping ChicaBean stay in business so that they can continue to promote financial and personal independence for women in Guatemala. Tree4Hope will also receive a small donation when you purchase with our order form. **THREE** ministries will be helped through the simple act of buying coffee! **To support Renewed in Grace and Tree4Hope through purchasing coffee, please try not to use the affiliate link, but rather give your orders to Pat Hawkins and he will place your order. Order forms are now available from Pat Hawkins.**



Outreach News Continued...

More Tree4Hope Corner



Pastor Chad with Xiamara and Clara

Sponsors still needed for our Guatemalan students- Join our friends Jenn and David Hope-Tringali and Tree4Hope in their amazing work in Guatemala. As Renewed in Grace, we are sponsoring 2 students at Hope Academy, a STEAM academy for girls. Members of St. Peter's and Trinity can help provide a month of sponsorship for \$100. Sponsors are needed for 2023. If you are interested, there are sign-up sheets in the narthex at both churches. Contributions should be clearly marked "Hope Academy Sponsorship" and placed in the offering plate. Sign up today to help provide life-changing education for girls in Guatemala.

Tree4Hope, one of the Lower Susquehanna Synod's global mission partners, is excited to be **opening Hope Academy in Pennsylvania!** This bilingual, STEAM based preschool program grounded in the Lutheran tradition will operate out of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Middletown and Trinity Lutheran Church in Steelton. They are actively looking for part-time teachers and volunteer teacher aides for their September opening. Email Deacon David Hope-Tringali at david@tree4hope.org to learn more and help make a difference in the lives of young children in your community today!



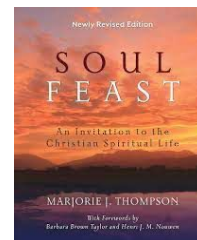
Happenings



Fifth Sunday Worship in April with Bishop James Dunlop
Renewed in Grace, St. Peter's Middletown, St. Paul's Sand Hill
We had 121 in attendance plus 1 sheep!

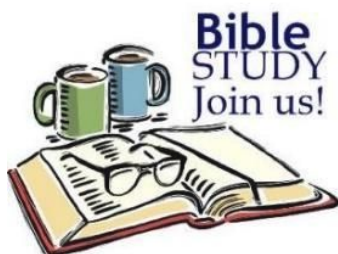
Sunday Morning Bible Study

"SOUL FEAST An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life"
by Majorie J. Thompson



After taking a hiatus June and July, Bible study with Pastor Chad will reconvene on August 6. This will take place every Sunday at 9 am before worship, both in person and on Zoom, and will last approximately 30-40 minutes.

Happenings Continued.....



All are Welcome Bible Study

The All are Welcome Bible Study continues to meet on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

We are working our way through the Bible. We are currently reading the Book of Deuteronomy.

We send out a weekly email with the Zoom link, as well as a brief summary of what we covered the previous week. To get the link for attending the Zoom session, or just to get on the weekly email list, please contact Matt and Mary Hunt at allarewelcomebiblestudy@gmail.com.

Young Adults Group

We have started a young adults group that is meeting monthly at 7 pm, usually on Monday evenings. So far we enjoyed going for dinner together, “escaping” from a submarine in an Escape Room at ABC East Bowling Lanes, and “Painting with a Twist” in Lancaster. There is no real age bracket, just all those who identify as young adults are welcome and are 18 or older. If interested, please email Pastor Chad at renewedgracecoop@gmail.com so that you may be in the loop for restaurants and topic choices. Come join the fun!

Happenings Continued.....

Fellowship Committee Updates

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank all of you from Renewed in Grace who generously donated toward the LWR personal care kits. Our members will be getting together sometime in June or July to assemble the kits. We will let you know in our fall newsletter how many we were able to put together. We will be giving the completed kits to Epiphany Lutheran or Tree of Life Lutheran who will then deliver the area's kits to New Windsor.

Our pre-Mother's Day luncheon was held at Trinity on May 7. There were lots of sandwiches and goodies plus a beautiful, delicious cake for the 25 people who stayed after the service. Lovely flowers were given to each of the ladies in attendance along with leftover cake! We want to thank those who supplied the food and helped serve and clean up. A special thanks to Doris and Gay for setting up the tables and to Nancy who took home all the tablecloths to clean! It was a team effort!

Trinity cancelled their Primary Election Day Bake Sale because of a lack of participation. Only about 4 ladies would have done all the baking and only 4 people had signed up to sell goodies on election day. We will have to reevaluate our Nov. Soup and Bake Sale coming up in the fall.

We will be doing birthday bags for the month of August for Oak Hill (formerly Frey Village). We usually do about 25 bags. This is a reminder to committee members to begin looking for small items to place in these bags. Let Jan know if you have anything ASAP so that she can inform the committee so there aren't any duplications.

Highspire Historical Society

The schedule for the Highspire Historical Society flea markets for the rest of the year are as follows:

Saturday, July 15/ Rain Date Saturday, July 22
Saturday, August 12/ Rain Date Saturday, August 19
September 9-Book Sale and Flea Market/ No Rain Date

The Highspire Historical Society is in need of and accepting donations of linens, handbags, and costume jewelry. For more information, call: 717 939-0385.

Submitted by Martha Walmer



Happenings Continued.....

Synod Assembly Update

Synod Assembly 2023 commenced at Trinity Camp Hill on June 2nd and 3rd. It was a joy to spend the day with all of the congregations in the Lower Susquehanna Synod and see many familiar and unfamiliar faces. Thank you so much to our representatives, Matt and Mary Hunt for Trinity and Connie Barner and Jim Walmer for St. Peter's. It was great to see our ELCA Presiding Bishop, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, sit in with us as an Assembly. She was able to witness us make ELCA history as the first Synod to enact a constitutional change that allows more representation for People of Color, People whose first language is not English, and Youth. Thank you again to our representatives and the work of the greater Church.

Pastor Chad



ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Pastor Chad

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, September 17th, 10am at Hoffer Park. Renewed in Grace Co-op and St. Peter's Middletown are coming together for an outdoor worship service and picnic. Please plan to bring something to share and join the fun!



Summer Birthdays

ST. PETER'S

June

8th Shanna Hawkins Mulford
9th Richard Deutsch
15th Tori Spangler
23rd John Deasy
24th Stephanie Strauss
25th Scott Whary, III
 Monica Dean Ruff
26th Clydene Strauss
29th Karen Eichelberger
30th Donna Sipe

July

3rd DeEtt Fackler
5th Tim Keene
7th Bernhard Kunz
8th Andy Jones
15th Amy Kennedy
18th Judy Kunzman
20th Susan Thomson
23rd Sherene Dorsey
28th Patrick Hawkins
31st Randy Hoover
 Jessica Pressler

August

2nd Diana Keyser
3rd Kane High
14th Martha Walmer
21st Mark Morgan
 Nancy Wilson
24th Bob Tonkin
26th Bethany Keyser
 Brady Keyser

TRINITY

June

16th Tom Lupkie

July

4th Doug Martz
13th Gay Rezin
15th Matt Krovic
19th Judy Krovic
 Tricia Butz
20th Dutchie Radosevic
21st Keith Kerns
 Lenny Bowling
26th Barb Kain

August

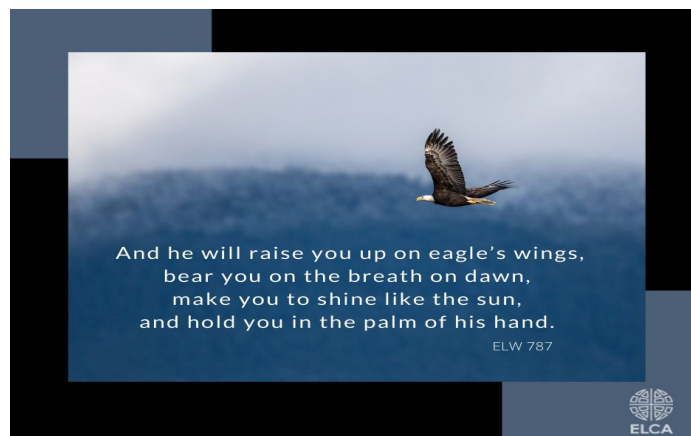
26th Barbara Brunner



Memorials

Memorials given to St. Peter's
in memory of *Dr. William S. Albright, III*
Kathy & Steve Campbell

Memorials given to Trinity
in memory of *Henry Koller*
Jacqueline Acri
Ed & Jan Holwig



Those Who Need Our Cards and 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. **Changes are in red.**

St. Peter's

Barbara Hawkins- Building 3, Rm 7, Ecumenical Retirement Community, 3525 Canby St., Harrisburg, PA 17109

Warren and Esther Nelson- Columbia Cottage, Rooms 45 & 48, 103 N. Larkspur Dr., Palmyra, PA 17078

Geraldine Reider- 277 Highland Rd., Hershey, PA 17033 (717-533-3506)

Trinity

John and Nancy Brunner- 600 Masonic Dr. Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Joyce Stickle- 224 Elm St. Steelton, PA 17113

Bob Wertz- **Artis Senior Living, 150 N. 12th Street, Lemoyne, PA 17043**

Ben Whittington- Harmony at Hershey, 75 E. Canal St., Apt. 232, Hershey, PA 17033

*Beloved, I pray that
all may go well with
you and that you may be
in good health, just as it is
well with your soul.*
3 John 1,2



We also want to remember to send cards and prayers to:

Jeff Myers

649 Highland St. Apt. C

Steelton, PA 17113

RENEWED IN GRACE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

240 BROAD STREET, P.O. BOX 97
HIGHSPIRE, PA 17034

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

221 SOUTH SECOND STREET
STEELTON, PA 17113

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUMMER 2023 EDITION
RENEWED IN GRACE CO-OP
NEWSLETTER



RENEWED IN GRACE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

Pastor Chad Butz

Worship with us on Sunday mornings in person or online.
Worship times/locations are included in newsletter.

Phone: 717-939-3492 (Highspire)

717-939-4998 (Steelton)

Email: stpeters240@verizon.net

trinitysteelton221@yahoo.com

Online: renewedingracecoop.org OR trinitysteelton.org

St. Peter's Highspire and Trinity Steelton are located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.