

# Trinity Treasures

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## SEPTEMBER'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Trinity's Worship Service will begin upstairs in the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 12 at 10:30 A.M. (weather permitting...not too hot upstairs).

Once again, I must talk about Trinity's finances. We had to take \$10,000.00 out of investments to cover expenses, along with \$3,500.00 that we had to be borrowed from the Memorial Fund in August and \$5,000.00 in May. I see no way of repaying these funds. We cannot continue to do this and remain open as a place of worship. Not contributing because you are not attending means you won't have a church service to watch sometime in the future,

*Barbara Hallet, Treasurer*

## BOOK CLUB FOR SEPTEMBER

The next Book Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, September 21 at 7:00 P.M. on zoom. The book to read is "Children of the Land" by Marcelo Hernandez Castillo. A reminder including ID and passcode will be sent out the day before the meeting.

## BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR SEPTEMBER

Colton Freeman – 9/7

Donna Fuls - 9/14

Amanda Gillingham – 9/7

Elena Goffredo – 9/13

Bryce Hartzell – 9/20

Donald Jones – 9/5

Tony Kmetz – 9/17

Keri Siegfried – 9/5

Mark Smith, Jr. – 9/24

Donna Zazulak – 9/29

## **ALTAR FLOWERS AND BULLETIN FLOWERS NEEDED**

> Altar Flowers are needed for October 10, October 17 and October 24. If interested, please call the church office, (610-588-2023) Monday thru Thursday, 8:30 A.M-12 Noon. The cost is \$40.00.

> Bulletin sponsors are needed for September 19, September 26, October 3, October 10, October 17, October 24 and October 31. If interested, please call the church office, (610-588-2023) Monday thru Thursday, 8:30 A.M-12 Noon. The cost is \$15.00 per bulletin sponsor.

## **FOOT-LONG FRIDAYS**

Tasty Tuesdays is on the move to Friday, September 10....due to the increased number of sandwiches we have given out this summer, I know that there is still a real need to feed our families and seniors. So, on Friday September 10 from 5:00 P.M.-6:30 P.M., we will be handing out hoagie dinners! Depending on the community response and the willingness of our volunteers, this may become a monthly event. So come help and be a part of our community ministry from the beginning!

- *Christina Hagan*

## **YOUTH GROUP**

> Youth Group will begin on Wednesday, September 8 from 6:15 P.M.-7:45 P.M. I will be leading the youth on a 4- week study of “Gideon, Underdog Warrior” to start this year. The study is based from Judges in the Old Testament. The focus being that God sees/knows our potential – each one of us can be an overcomer!

> Youth Group is open to all youth – grades 3 and above. Many of our youth are now in high school – it has been a blessing to see them grow – physically as well as spiritually.

- *Christina Hagan*

## **TASTY TUESDAYS**

### **FINAL REPORT – AUGUST 2021**

What a blessing this ministry is for our church and the local community we serve! Every summer we (the volunteers and participants), catch up on the past year – stories of joy and sorrow – and always end with the promise of prayer. We are truly connected to those we serve!

Once again, this ministry was blessed with an abundance of funds, and abundance of willingness from our volunteers and an abundance of those in need!

We served 36 families, made/served 760 lunches over an 11- week program, and made many new friends. The youth group actively participated in handing out lunches throughout the summer – a first!

We raised \$3,000.00 – Thrivent. Fidelity Bank, Bangor Lions Club and individuals in/outside our congregation. The Bangor General Store provided our lunch meat at a discount as well as the donation of 44 loaves of bread.

I am thankful of the many hands who joined together to serve joyfully.

- *Christina Hagan*

# Church Faces Hope Filled Future

The vast majority of churches in America have an average attendance of less than 100 people that attend a worship service on Sunday. The attendance of most churches has continued to fall due in large part because of the pandemic and the closure of live church services over the past 18 months. We could add a whole lot more reasons for this decline in attendance, but that doesn't change the reality of church participation. Trinity Lutheran Church is no different from the norms of the church world and of most small congregations. The analysis is quite clear and the conclusion could not be more obvious. The question is: what do we do about it? What are the options?

We can do nothing. No doubt that is a defeatist attitude and a very negative way of approaching the issue. Nevertheless, it is an option.

We can change things in the church. We can change the worship service. We can continue to change the music, the liturgy, the format for worship which we constantly do in small and significant ways. Hopefully, our worship changes make it more meaningful and inviting for people to attend. (I might add that I am always open to suggestions from you folks on how to make worship more meaningful.) We could change the minister. (Some people who have left the church might agree with that assessment.) Studies suggest, however, that unless there is some great discontent and identifiable issue within the congregation, it does not help the growth and vitality of a congregation to simply change ministers.

We can begin a discussion and study of "our commitment to grow," including an appraisal of how we have been and are growing in significant ways as a congregation. There can be little doubt that many of you have grown in your time and commitment to the church body as well as to the care and compassion of one another. We should never underestimate how healing and comforting this has been and continues to be in the life of our congregation. We have developed great strength and commitment to the health and healing of people in this church. That is a strength that will carry us into the future. It is the core of who we are.

We have done a very responsible job in our financial stewardship over the past few years. In 2021, we have reduced our costs significantly and we have decreased our withdrawal of funds from our endowments. However, the one thing that we have not done well is in our efforts to be challenged to give more of our financial resources. I ask you this simple question: Have you increased your weekly or monthly giving in the past 3 to 5 years? Ask yourself, would it really change your lifestyle if you increased your giving to the church if you gave an extra \$5.00, or \$10.00, or even \$100.00 in your regular pattern of giving? I suspect that most of you could afford to do so. Thus, I challenge you to step up and help to make our church function on a balanced budget. We can do that. (In the 6 years that I have been here, I have never asked you to give more. We need your help and your contributions.)

Also, there are two other things that we can do as loving and caring people in this congregation. First, we can pray about our commitment and what it takes of our time and talent to give more of ourselves to the life and vitality of this community of believers. Secondly, most importantly, we can continue to invite others to join us in worship and fellowship.

*Blessings and Peace - Pastor Laine*