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**Trinity Messenger**  
October 2025 Issue 1

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*Alleluia. The word of the Lord endures forever. That word is the good news that was announced to you. Alleluia. 1 Peter 1:25*

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**October Stewardship Focus: Milagro House**

**Our Mission:** Milagro House provides education, housing and support services for women and their children who would otherwise be experiencing homelessness. Our vision is to prepare the women and children who come through our doors with the skills they need to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty and move from dependence to self-sufficiency. What sets Milagro House apart in our industry is the educational component to the program. Education is the underpinning of everything we do at Milagro House and is the catalyst for women moving from dependence to independence through meaningful employment at a self-sustaining wage.

**Services Provided:**

**Educational Services**

Women accepted into our program must be committed to pursuing educational advancement. The staff at Milagro House customizes each woman's program to meet her specific needs and interests. Milagro House offers two educational options for women in our program GED Program: Provides GED classes conducted by a certified teacher and volunteer tutors. Post-Secondary Programs: Works with staff to develop a post-secondary education plan and attend college and certification programs of their choice.

**Residential and Support Services**

Provides support through – Housing for women and children customized case management, individual and group counseling, parenting programs, life skills training, children's programs.

**After Milagro House**

After education, gaining employment and housing, case management staff continue to work with the families for their first year to help ensure their continued success. For additional information check their website at [www.Milagrohouse.org](http://www.Milagrohouse.org)

*To help Milagro House you can use your Special Giving envelope or give online during the month of October. Thanks in advance for your support of this program.*

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**LESSONS FROM DIETRICH BONHOEFFER**

Beginning Sunday, September 28, the Sunday Adult Forum will be engaging in a multi-week study entitled *Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in a House Divided and a World on Fire*. The study was created by Dr. Lori Brandt Hale, a professor at Augsburg University and President of The International Bonhoeffer Society—English Language Section in concert with the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa). The overarching theme of the study will be "Who is Christ for us today," a question Dietrich

Bonhoeffer asked himself and others in the midst of the authoritarianism of the Nazi regime under which he and his fellow Germans lived and through which he and they experienced the persecution of their vulnerable neighbors and friends. The curriculum will encourage us to honestly ask that question for ourselves in this particular time and place we find ourselves.

“Who is Christ for us? How are we to best love our neighbors? What is the ethic of love and discipleship that will help us to be most faithful? What are the tools at our disposal to live this out?” If we are faithful to our baptismal calling and Jesus’ unwavering command to love our neighbor and our enemy, these are but a handful of the things we need to be considering in the times we find ourselves when violence has been normalized and those in power are seeking to turn us against each other through propaganda, vitriolic language, and the inciting of baseless distrust and fear of the “other.”

As Christians we are called to follow Jesus, and Jesus alone, and be hope-filled agents of change and support for all God’s beloved children armed not with hearts of hate but rather hearts overflowing with living water and God’s ever-present, life-giving love and grace. Please make time in your lives to attend this study and faithfully engage with your fellow siblings in Christ as we seek to perpetuate the relationship healing kingdom of God in our relationships, our community, and beyond.

The weekly Adult Forum starts at 10:20 AM each Sunday morning following worship. We look forward to learning and growing together with you in our faithful pursuit of loving and standing with all our neighbors in these divisive times.

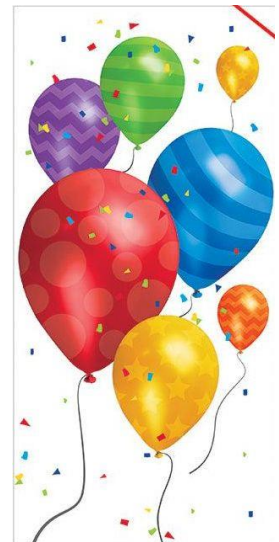
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### **Congratulations and Best Wishes**

To the members of Holy Trinity who are 70 years and older and celebrating a birthday in **October**:

2 Vicky Rettew  
5 Judy Williams  
12 Donna Nace  
17 John Weiss  
22 Newell Embley  
27 Randy Maurer  
31 Henrietta Mull  
31 Deb Martin

*Send them a birthday card or call them with a greeting. We pray God grants them many more years in their pilgrimage.*



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### **Lutheran World Relief Ingathering Appeal**

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering appeal is Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>. This year the Social Ministry Committee is looking for monetary donations to purchase items for personal kits. Each kit is \$5.00. See the poster in the Gathering Area. Volunteers will be needed to help assemble the kits. The time and date will be announced later. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Gilbert at 717-721-3822



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### **Welcome to Holy Trinity Sunday School on the Move!**

Please join us as we begin our Action Packed Journey with Jesus ❤️ Sunday October 19, 2025 at 9:20 following the Children’s Sermon For those not attending church, Please meet us on the lower level in the Cafe!!!

### Elevator Restoration Project

In previous Trinity Messenger articles, there has been information about the cost for this project. The total cost will be at least \$200,000. The cost for this project is covered up front by the reserves the church has on hand. What we need to do is replace these reserves. We are not financing this project through any bank or other financial organization.



Currently, we have 113 giving units according to our most recent church directory. If 60 of these giving units would commit to making a donation of \$1.00 a day for the net nine years, the obligation would be met. Each member of our congregation needs to pray and consider their commitment to this financial obligation.

If you mail your donation to the church office, please indicate the amount you are contributing to the elevator restoration project. There will be additional information included in future issues of The Messenger.

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**NOTICE: Holy Trinity's website is sometimes up, sometimes not. A new website is being pursued and will be up and running as soon as possible. If you are looking for the livestream connection it is here:** Holy Trinity's services are now online at Sermons.net. Just copy and paste the link below into your browser. <https://holytrinitylutheranchurchepratap.sermon.net/main>

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*Notes of* **THANKS**

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### Celebration Choir Schedule

Wednesday, October 15 – 7:15 PM – Rehearsal  
Sunday, October 19 – sing “Give Me Jesus”

Wednesday, October 29 – 7:15 PM – Rehearsal  
Sunday, November 2 – sing “Gospel Medley”

Please consider joining us and sharing your musical talents! **All are welcome!!**  
Contact Deb Olson at (717)314-5243 or [dtolson613@gmail.com](mailto:dtolson613@gmail.com) with questions!

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## Handbell Choir

Weekly rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:30PM. Please arrive early to set up bells so we can start promptly at 6:30. For Questions contact Debbie: 717-681-5985 [Elegantkeys88@gmail.com](mailto:Elegantkeys88@gmail.com)



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## CELEBRATE RECOVERY

The local branch of the Christ-centered support group, *Celebrate Recovery*, has begun meeting in the church social hall on Monday evenings from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. The group was meeting at City Gate but outgrew their space and reach out to Holy Trinity to see about finding room in our facility. *Celebrate Recovery* is a world-wide ministry that offers support to persons seeking “freedom from their hurts, hang-ups, and habits” and is not limited to those recovering from addiction. It seeks to serve as well those persons struggling with various types of dependency and the pain and trauma associated with these. If you are interested in finding out more about this group and/or how it might be helpful to you, please check out their website at [celebraterecovery.com](http://celebraterecovery.com). All are welcome!

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THE ADULT (all adults are welcome) LUNCH BUNCH will be going to The Ark House Diner in Leola after the liturgy on October 12. We'll meet downstairs immediately after the liturgy. All are welcome. Plan to join us! Please call Cheryl Plummer at 625-3187 to reserve your place!



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## Weekly Faith Conversations

Please join in weekly faith conversations on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 AM at Holy Trinity. Those gathered in the Conference Room will use Pastor Karen Minnich-Sadler's book, *Spiritual Reflections for the Human Journey*, as a guide for reflection and conversation around areas of our faith lives that we share as we accompany one another on our journey of faithful discipleship.

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**Salem Lutheran Church, Ephrata, invites you on a bus trip to Christmas at Winterthur Museum and Gardens on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. Lunch at Buckley's Tavern is also included. Price is \$119. per person. Reservations are due October 29, 2025. For information call Stephanie Frymyer at 717-682-9697.**

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## **Help Wanted: Bergstrasse Community Clothing Closet**

**Bergstrasse Community Clothing Closet is open for all people in need of clothing and other household goods. Entrance is accessible via the door off the lower parking lot. Hours are 12 – 2pm.**

**Donations:** Currently there is a continuing need for men’s pants, shorts and shoes. There is always a need for children’s clothing. All clothing in good shape is accepted. Donations may be dropped off directly at Bergstrasse when the Community Clothing Closet is open or in the box at the back of the narthex in Holy Trinity. Thank you so much for sharing what God has given you! Your generosity is helping those in need in our community!

**Please note new donation policy: due to limited space household items can no longer be accepted, only clothing and shoes.**

**Volunteers:** sort clothing, hang it and tag it by color to keep track of what is moving and what is not, and greet shoppers at the courtesy desk. Shoppers check in and specify how many people they are shopping for and what items are of particular interest. Volunteers meet at 6-7:30pm on the Friday before the Closet is open to sort donations and get them ready for the next day. When the Closet is open, volunteers are needed from 11:30 – 2:30 on Saturdays and Sundays. You do not need to be there the entire time to volunteer – whatever time you have available within those times is fine.

If you have further questions, you may either stop by the next time the Closet is open and have a look around or call/text Pattie Martin at 717-344-1347.

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## **HOLY TRINITY HAS A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!!**

**Please follow this link to the new page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563831542098&mibextid=LQQJ4d>

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5 OCT, SUN

● PENTECOST 17

- 9am Worship
- 10am Coffee Hour After Worship
- 10:15am Adult Forum

6 OCT, MON

- 10am Women's prayer group
- 6pm Celebrate recov.
- 6:30pm Yoga

7 OCT, TUE

- Ephrata Auxiliary
- 11am Bible Study
- 3:30pm Trini Mini
- 6pm Pickleball
- 7pm Fellowship Committee Meeting
- 7pm Finance Committee
- 8pm Executive Council

8 OCT, WED

- 6:30pm Handbell Choir

9 OCT, THU

- 3:30pm Trini Mini
- 7pm Thursday Worship
- 7:30pm Council Meeting

10 OCT, FRI

- Church office closed

11 OCT, SAT

- 7:30am Walking Group

[View This Month's Interactive Calendar Here](#)

**October 5th Servers:**

**Council Team:** Heather Zimmerman, Christy Boos

**Assisting Minister:** Ed Quirke

**Lector:** Norm Wangman

**Acolytes:** Patrice Mull

**Ushers:** Dave Bowers, Bob & Ann Snader,  
Tom & Kitty Dickersheid

**Altar Guild:** Denise Shirker, Ann & Bob Snader



**Linens:** Patricia Fassnacht  
**Flowers:** Winnie Gerlach  
**AV:** Matt Shirker

**Office Hours October 6-10, 2025**

We recommend you call the office prior to stopping in to ensure hours have not changed.

**Office Phone: 717-733-4134 Pastor's Cell: 315-317-8517**

**Office email: [officeholyltrinity@ephratalutheran.org](mailto:officeholyltrinity@ephratalutheran.org)**

Day	Sue	Pastor
Monday	OFF	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Tuesday	OFF	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Wednesday	OFF	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Thursday	OFF	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Friday	OFF	OFF

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A NEW QR CODE...DO NOT TRY TO USE THE OLD ONE.**

**Make Your Regular Offering Electronically**

On the Holy Trinity website ([www.holytrinityephrata.org](http://www.holytrinityephrata.org)), a tab on the menu bar called "Online Giving" will take you to a secure web site for you to give. You can also give your Regular Offering, your Special Appeal donation, your building fund, or your Elevator Improvement fund donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.



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***Thanks for reading! Have a great week ahead!***