



TRINITY *tidings*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH | ROLLING MEADOWS, IL
SEPTEMBER 2025

Congregational Redevelopment *By Pastor John Hildner*

In 2023 and 2024 Trinity learned about the Synod's efforts to design strategies for congregations experiencing similar challenges as those Trinity is experiencing: declining and aging membership with few youth or young members, giving that does not meet the budgetary demands of the congregation's needs, and fewer people to run programs, and fewer ministries that are able to make an impact in the community. The document recognizes that the societal trends are making it more and more difficult for churches to thrive. The document the synod created is called "Three Pathways"

In the document some of the stresses and challenges are identified and there is a Bible Study helping us realize that the Church has always faced difficult challenges that call it (and its people) forward in faith.

Each pathway had several options, and after Pastor Nolte presented the tool, the council looked at each of the options of all three pathways. We called Pastor Nolte back to talk to the council and identified two of the options that seemed either appealing or at least acceptable. The first was Yoking. This option included two (or more churches) sharing a pastor or potentially even some programs like Sunday School or Confirmation. Each congregation would maintain its independence but the thinking was that some of the expenses could be shared. The second option we found acceptable was the "anchor" model. This would mean that a church, like Trinity, would employ the services of a healthier congregation to serve as a coach and help the anchor church share some of its DNA and disciplines with the struggling church so it could develop a meaningful ministry.

Pastor Nolte left that night seeing if she could identify another local congregation that might want to partner with Trinity. Unfortunately, two of the larger and healthier congregations were just beginning to deal with pastoral vacancies and Pastor Nolte was not able to identify a congregation that would want to share this path. She continues to look, however and to stay aware of where other congregations are working.

CONGREGATIONAL REDEVELOPMENT

The decision that Trinity did not want to merge, develop a new congregation, close, sell its building or employ a task master mentor meant that we needed to look at something that might revitalize Trinity. This is where the process that began in February has been leading us.

It began with brainstorming and thinking of ways we might connect with populations that might be open to building a faith partnership. A lot of this was the coaching to get us to think “outside the box” of focusing on our main “product” as worship. We did some brainstorming and came up with about 20 potential ideas.

The next task was the envisioning process. It was to see which of those ideas we could envision that would 1) engage an identified population, 2) provide opportunities to have enough contact time and opportunities to engage them in a faith conversation, and 3) it would have to be consistent (or at least not inconsistent) with our mission as a church.

From there we whittled the ideas down to a handful. The hope was that we would have small groups champion the ideas and paint a picture as to how they might engage a new population in a community where faith could flourish. Unfortunately that did not happen.

WHERE WE ARE NOW:

Presently two groups are championing two of those possibilities. This came after a consensus conversation after worship this weekend.

The first group is looking at a “Pet Ministry.” The idea is that there are many people who “love” their pets, and for whom their pets are meeting their personal needs. Pets are wonderful, but this also exposes a need in our society. People are not getting their needs for feeling good about themselves, receiving love or finding an outlet for their love in a relationship with God and in a community of people. Utilizing people’s love of their pets may provide an opportunity to create a community that can recognize that those pets are gifts from God, and that we as people are meant to be drawn into a deeper, more trustworthy and fulfilling relationship with each other.

The second group is looking at the “Alpha” program. The Alpha program has been around for at least two decades and been very successful in helping people who are seeking for something deeper in their lives to learn about God’s love as expressed through Jesus. The hope is that by providing this ministry we will be helping bring people into a relationship with Jesus, and hopefully also into a community of faith.

In October both sub-groups will be presenting to the Council and getting feedback as to make each proposal more complete and powerful. We will reconvene to hear the new updated presentations and then bring them to the congregation to see if enough of the congregation will back movement to make that ministry the most important ministry activity of Trinity with the hope of reinvigorating Trinity.

If not, well then we will have to regroup. In the meantime we wait to hear if there is another partner congregation we can cooperate with.



MANY THANKS TO JOE SAFRAN, CHRISSY BARILE AND ALL OTHERS FOR THE BEAUTIFUL JOB PAINTING OUR FRONT STEPS AND ACCESS POINTS. NOT ONLY DOES IT LOOK GREAT BUT ALSO MAKES OUR ACCESS TO THE CHURCH MUCH SAFER !



TLC's Growing Season -2025

The garden photos left show how God has bountifully blessed the 8 garden plots Trinity offered to its neighbors.

Two garden plots are shared by numerous people, including ladies from Peaceful Baptist Church.

One plot is for people participating in a Rolling Meadows Human Services Program, several couples have garden plots and one of the couple's relative is a master gardener.

Trinity's garden plots can be considered as our tithe to God by Trinity following Jesus' second great commandment...

"...LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORS AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF..."

Mark 12 Verse 31, Good News Bible version

(Submitted by Lynn Griesmeyer)

EVERY THIRD
SATURDAY OF
THE MONTH

10:00AM
to
2:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church,
3201 Meadows Drive,
Rolling Meadows, 60008

Come join us, take a
look around. There will
be vendors, crafters
artisans showing off
their wonderful items

July 19

August 16

September 20

October 18

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
TLCMARKETSRM@GMAIL.COM

T.L.C. CRAFT FAIR
2025

3-DAY EVENT ✨ SEPT. 12, 13, 14
KIMBALL HILL PARK

MEADOWS Fest

THE TAYLOR EXPERIENCE

HI INFIDELITY ✨ 7TH HEAVEN

HOW RUDE (90'S) & IN THE STIX (COUNTRY)

BEVERAGES PROVIDED BY REP'S PLACE, MILLER & PEPSI

NO OUTSIDE FOOD/DRINK ALLOWED

Friday

7:00 PM - ANNUAL DUCK RACE
8:00 PM - THE TAYLOR EXPERIENCE

Sunday

12-4:00 PM - FAMILY FUN & MARKET VENDORS
4:00 PM - IN THE STIX - 6:00 PM - 7TH HEAVEN

Saturday

2-6:00 PM - FAMILY FUN & MARKET VENDORS
6:00 PM - HOW RUDE - 8:00 PM - HI INFIDELITY

✨ *Every day* ✨

TASTE OF RM, BEER TENT & HEADLINING BAND

Rolling
Meadows
Park District

Rolling
Meadows

Rep's
PLACE
MAJOR SPONSOR

One Pan Meatball Casserole

- 16 OZ. UNCOOKED ZITI PASTA
- 24 OZ. MARINARA SAUCE
- 1 CUP MILK
- 2 CUPS WATER
- ½ TSP. GARLIC POWDER
- ½ TSP. ONION POWDER
- 1 TSP. OREGANO
- 1 TSP. SALT
- 24 MEATBALLS, FULLY COOKED, THAWED
- 2 CUPS SHREDDED MOZZARELLA

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

In a 9 x 13 baking dish, stir together uncooked pasta, marinara sauce, milk, water, spices, and meatballs.

Cover tightly with foil and bake 40 minutes.

Uncover dish and sprinkle with mozzarella over the top. Bake 5-10 minutes or until cheese is melted and bubbly.

Allow to cool at least 10 minutes before serving, to allow sauce to thicken up.

From The Kitchen of Princess Kathy)

September Anniversaries

Ray & Kathie Godfrey
September 25, 1960

September Birthdays

- Brett Johnson 02
- Ken Vigna 15
- Glenn Anderson 22
- Donna Vigna 22
- Joanne Soderberg 23
- Ben Johnson 25
- Bryan Johnson 25
- Dena McIntosh 30



Financial Update: General Fund 2025

	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT)	SUNDAY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE
Jan	\$ 11,098.30	\$ 15,093.68	\$ (3,995.38)	25
Feb	\$ 10,149.70	\$ 13,588.82	\$ (3,439.12)	25
Mar	\$ 10,686.45	\$ 13,395.28	\$ (2,708.83)	25
Apr	\$ 12,618.41	\$ 12,723.28	\$ (104.87)	31
May	\$ 10,455.19	\$ 11,973.61	\$ (1,518.42)	24
Jun	\$ 11,554.78	\$ 13,140.38	\$ (1,585.60)	25
Jul	\$ 11,441.46	\$ 13,177.53	\$ (1,736.07)	28
	\$ 78,004.29	\$ 93,092.58	\$ (15,088.29)	26

Donations can be made electronically from your smartphone using the "Vanco Mobile" app available from the App Store or Google Play, or use our website QR code, or go to the Donations link on our website tlcrm.com or our secure website at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YRVQ/home>



Thank you for your continued support!



ON SEPTEMBER 9, THE TLC LADIES GROUP WILL MEET AT 12 NOON, HAVE OUR LUNCHES TOGETHER, SHARE FELLOWSHIP TIME AND SEE A BARN BURNER OF A MOVIE.

JOIN IF YOUR SCHEDULE IS OPEN AND A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Suggested Scripture Readings for September

Sundays and Principal Festivals	First Reading	Psalms	Second Reading	Gospel
7th: Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost	Deut 30:15-20	Ps 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
14th: Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost	Exod 32:7-14	Ps 51:1-10	1 Tim 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
21st: Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost	Amos 8:4-7	Ps 113	1 Tim 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
28th: Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost	Amos 6:1a,4-7	Ps 146	1 Tim 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31



THE CITY OF ROLLING MEADOWS PRESENTS



On Kirchoff

FOOD TRUCKS & LIVE MUSIC

SEPT 24

6:00 PM

JUDSON BROWN BAND (Multi-genre)

5-7 PM

2720 KIRCHOFF ROAD

ON THE GROUNDS OF
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF ROLLING MEADOWS
(THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT PARTNER!)




Don't Forget....

September 14th Is Our Second Sunday Cereal Collection For The Food Pantry.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 10:30am Book Study With Pastor Hildner 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship	1 Labor Day	2  10:00am "Come And See" Bible Study  Fellowship Committee 7:00pm Fellowship Ministry	3	4	5	6 10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship
7 9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 10:30am Book Study With Pastor Hildner 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship	8	9  10:00am "Come And See" Bible Study  Ladies Fellowship 12:00pm Talk, Lunch, Crafts - TLC Ladies Club	10	11 Patriot Day	12	13 Trinity Anniversary 10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship
14  Food Collection TLC Second Sunday Cereal Food Drive 9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 10:30am Book Study With Pastor Hildner 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship	15	16  10:00am "Come And See" Bible Study	17	18  CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00pm TLC Council Meeting	19	20  Craft Fair 10:00am TLC Craft Fair 10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship
21 9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 10:30am Book Study With Pastor Hildner 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship	22 First Day of Autumn	23  10:00am "Come And See" Bible Study  ANNIVERSARY Trinity Anniversary	24	25	26	27 10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship
28 9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 10:30am Book Study With Pastor Hildner 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship	29	30  10:00am "Come And See" Bible Study	1	<div> Trinity Lutheran Church 3201 Meadow Drive Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 847-398-7122 www.tlcrm.com </div>		4 10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship