



## *If God seems far away, who moved?"*

Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

### **Happy Anniversary!**

June 1, 2021 marks the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my arrival at Trinity as your intern for the 2014-15 “academic” year.

A LOT has happened within that time frame:

Barack Obama was just a year-and-a half into his second term as President.

The United Kingdom was still part of the European Union.

COVID-19 (enough said :)

A lot has happened within Trinity (and our lives) in that time as well:

Sophomores for the 2014-15 High school year are now (2021) graduating from college.

I was the newest staff member (which included *Pastor Hand; Mr. Kiehner, Tish Gayeuski, Lisa Walsh, Janet Little, Bobby Faust, and Megan Bensing*).

You have called (and entrusted me) from the position of Intern to Lay Minister, to Assistant/Associate Pastor, to Senior Pastor.

The word of God also makes special recognition of the number seven. In fact, the number 7 is recognized as the number of completeness from God’s standpoint.

*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.*

*(Genesis 2:1-3 NRSV)*



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*The LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying: <sup>2</sup>Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a sabbath for the LORD. <sup>3</sup>Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; <sup>4</sup>but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the LORD: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. <sup>5</sup>You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land. (Leviticus 25:1-5 NRSV)*

*At the end of every seven years, you shall grant a release. And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor. He shall not exact it of his neighbor, his brother, because the LORD's release has been proclaimed. Of a foreigner you may exact it, but whatever of yours is with your brother your hand shall release. But there will be no poor among you; for the LORD will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess— if only you will strictly obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all this commandment that I command you today. (Deuteronomy 15:1-5 ESV)*

The word of God, our Holy Scripture, makes it clear that God has placed special significance upon seven's (days and years) in our lives...God's people; the land (and blessings) God has given us; and the interactions between ourselves and of our lives (in response and relationship with God, and toward one another). If we hold fast to God's will, God's Word, God's promises; God has further stated that God will hold fast to us:

*<sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20 NRSV)*

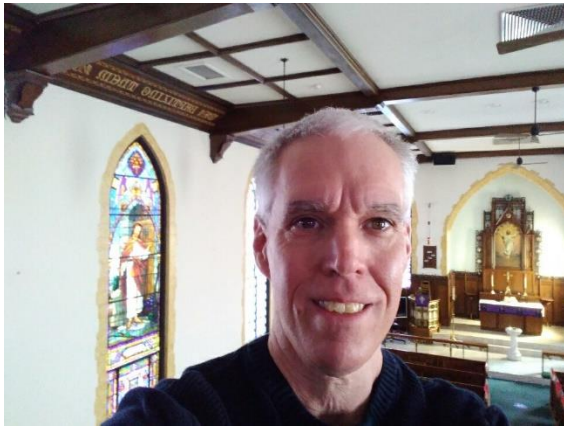
*Let mutual love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup>Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. <sup>5</sup>Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' (Hebrews 13:1-5 NRSV)*

In these past seven years, and in preparation for all the years to come; wherever our roads may take us, if we haven't, or don't feel the presence of God as we wished we would...remember...in the quaint little saying that is attributed to these feelings:

***“If God seems far away, who moved?”***

With all the pressures of life, I know I feel this way sometimes myself. Peace be with you all!

Pastor Chris Rothharpt



**A Prayer from Pastor Chris:**

Most gracious and loving God, as the summertime is upon us and the activities in our lives continue to move closer to a more normal way of existence, we give you thanks for helping us through one of the most difficult times and experiences in our lives, and our world. We pray that you continue to Order the days that lay before us with your presence just as we give thanks for the preciousness of everyday and the gifts you had blessed us with through this terrible journey, we all made together. We pray Your peace, Your wisdom, and Your presence be with us and guide us through to another day with strength within us, to stand and move forward each day, and beneath, us to hold tight to Your promise of life anew. **AMEN+ Peace be with you all!**

Pastor Chris

*Thank you to all that are so generous and donate to Our Daily Bread and the Alms boxes!*



# GUIDELINES



**Our current guidelines are following the CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines: Fully vaccinated individuals (those who have received both vaccine shots or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and are two weeks removed from their vaccination date) are free to not wear masks should they feel safe to do so.**

**Those who have not yet been fully vaccinated are asked to continue to wear a mask for their safety and peace of mind.**

**For anyone who wishes to remain safe by continuing to wear a mask, they are certainly welcome to do so.**

**As always, we want everyone to feel safe coming back to church and we invite and welcome everyone back to worship in a safe and healthy environment!**

**Thank you and  
Peace be with you!  
*Pastor Chris***

**STATEMENT OF  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MISSION**

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Trinity Lutheran Church is a worshipping, learning, witnessing, and serving community of baptized Christians. It is a welcoming place where the Word is proclaimed and the Sacraments are celebrated according to the Gospel. As a community of believers, we challenge each other to respond to the call of our Lord to love and minister to persons at home and throughout the world. We encourage each other to share our time, our talents, and gifts to further The mission of our Lord Jesus Christ. In these ways, we bear witness to the love we have first received from God through Jesus Christ.*

***Adopted by the Congregation***

***January 25, 1998***

**RADIO MINISTRY**

We invite you to listen on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am on Pottsville AM/FM radio stations:

**WPPA 1360 AM OR 105.9 FM**

to listen to our radio ministry.

*You can also sponsor the radio ministry by calling the church office. (570) 622-9910*

*\$25 for half sponsorship or*

*\$50 for full sponsorship.*

"We are modifying the current format of our Radio Ministry ("*The Connecting Link*") in hopes that it will help enhance everyone's listening and worshipping experience and enjoyment. Our new format will more closely reflect the worship services that are currently available on Trinity's website. We thank everyone for tuning in and listening to our Radio Ministry services all these years. It has been, and continues to be our privilege to bring them to you."



**TLC EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

**Pastor Chris**

[crothharpt@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:crothharpt@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com)

**Jean Miller**

[jmiller@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:jmiller@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com)

**Janet Little**

[jlittle@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:jlittle@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com)

**Maryann Lascala**

[mlascala@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:mlascala@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com)

**Main email address**

[tlccares@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:tlccares@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com)

**DIGITAL MINISTRY**

**You can now sponsor the digital ministry for \$30, anyone interested can call the church office (570) 622-9910.**





**Baptisms:**  
**Remi Jade Lusavage**  
**Baptized: May 16, 2021**

**Emmitt Michael-Elliott Gordon**  
**Baptized: June 6, 2021**

**Benjamin Thomas Woll**  
**Baptized: June 12, 2021**

**Mallory Karen O'Reilly**

**Wedding:**

**Megan Jacqueline Hoffman**  
**wed**  
**Dylan Miles Kuebler**  
**May 15, 2021**  
**at Trinity**



**Memorials:**

**Boiler Fund:** In memory of *Richard Zeller* by Naomi Ost.

**Elevator Fund:** In memory of *Richard M. Zeller* love, Debbie and Bill Pauzer and family.

**General Account:** In memory of *Kathryn Johnson* by Larry and Sharon Haffey.

**Memorial Fund:** In memory of *Richard M. Zeller* by Debra Slutter.

In memory of *Richard Zeller* by Robert & Mary Ellen Whalen.

In memory of *Richard Zeller* by Kay Rossachacj.

**Sr. Coordinator Fund:** In memory of *Richard Zeller* by Larry & Sharon Haffey.

**World Hunger:** In memory of *my beloved Mother, Minna M. Kliebenstein* by Cynthia Lucia.

**Notice:**

When making out checks for offering and memorials, they must be separate checks made out to Trinity Lutheran Church. Any questions, call the church office. (570) 622-9910

**Funerals:**

**Kathryn Johnson**  
**passed away 5/10/2021**  
**Funeral: 5/18/2021**

**Michael J. McGuinness**  
**passed away 5/14/2021**  
**Funeral: 5/21/2021**

**Memorials:**

**Memorial Fund:** In loving memory of *Jean Neithamer*, a wonderful Mother and friend. Mom's birthday was May 12 and it was always a special celebration with Mother's Day. We miss her every day, but see her in the flowers, birds, sunshine and a good home cooked meal by *John and Elaine Bosin*.



## CONFIRMATION NEWS



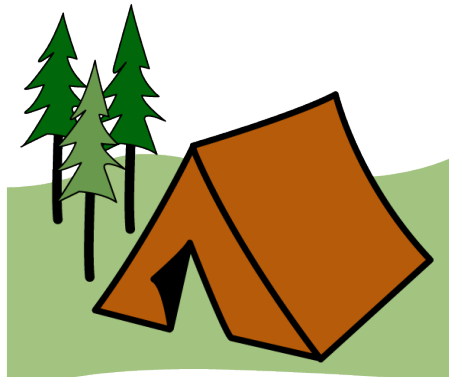
### Congratulations to:

**Owen Gretsky  
Ryan Grube  
Emily Roth  
Nicholas Sukeena  
Leah Walasavage**

**who were confirmed on Sunday, June 6, 2021.**

**A word of thanks to their parents and adults who supported them to this point in their faith life. A special thank you to these youth for being such great students!**

**Please keep them in your prayers as they figure out where this next leg of their faith-walk will take them.**



**Calling all high school youth interested in a summer service adventure in June 2022. This week-long event will be held at Camp Frederick, Ohio and provide youth with an opportunity to participate in meaningful service to others, camp activities all while enjoying the beauty of God's creation. The event is designed for youth who will have completed grades 9 - 12 next summer. An informational session for youth and parents will be held later this summer.**



**VBS Family Carnival**

**Saturday, July 10**

**10 am - 3 pm**

**Join us for a one-day VBS event open to kids of all ages! Bring your kids - and their friends, grandkids, nieces/nephews for a day filled with fun, games, crafts, stories, goodies and more!**

**Watch our website and future bulletins for updates.**





**Interpreting**

**Attention:**

**Deaf and Hard-of-hearing community  
Maureen Hill will be here to interpret the worship  
service:**

**Sunday, June 27, 9:30 am**

**Sunday, July 18, 9:30 am**

**Sunday, August 22, 9:30 am**

**Sunday, September 19, 9:30 am**



**Adult Volleyball  
Is  
Back!**



**Mondays  
6:30-8:30 pm  
\$3.00 per player  
Starting, April 5th**



**Adult Exercise  
Is  
Back!**



**Tuesday & Friday  
10-11:00**

**Come & have fun with us!**



**TUESDAY, JULY 13, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm**

**J.F.K. RECREATION FACILITY**

**You're invited to a family-friendly pool party featuring music by DJ Kevin Sibbett! Enjoy swimming, diving, the water slide and relaxing with friends while the DJ plays great songs! Register to win great door prizes! JFK also has basketball and tennis courts, sand volleyball and the city's shaded walking/bike path too. Grab your family, friends and neighbors and join us. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for students and kids (pay at the front desk, pre-registration not required). The JFK concession stand will be open and the pool will be staffed with lifeguards. DJ courtesy of Trinity Lutheran Church Pottsville #EveryoneIsWelcome [www.trinitypottsville.com](http://www.trinitypottsville.com)**

**Note: Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

**Sports—Kid Friendly**

**ATTENTION:**

**If you're a TLC member, please register in advance**

**on our website: [trinitypottsville.com](http://trinitypottsville.com).**

**While pre-registration isn't required, it will help us plan when we know which of our members will be attending. The event is open to the public and we're so excited to bring this popular event back! We had about 300 people attend in 2019!**

## TRINITY IS PROUD TO PRESENT:

2021

### Rev. Philip S. Bendle, III Scholarship Fund Recipients



**Connor Adams will attend Penn State University, Schuylkill Campus and major in Project & Supply Chain Management:**

“Being a member of Trinity Lutheran Church has helped me immensely this past year. I found myself leaning on my faith in God to help me cope with the pandemic. I learned a lot about myself, along with other people. Through prayer, I turned to God to help guide me through. I have learned how to calm down a situation and how to stay focused on a goal that I want to achieve in life. Most importantly, I learned that with God in your life...ANYTHING is possible.”



**Nicholas Angelo will attend Kutztown University and major in Accounting/Business:**

“Trinity Lutheran Church is the first and only church that I’ve been going to, and is the church that I was baptized in. My church has been there for me and my parents. With the support from the pastors and the church, I was able to get through the worst times in my life. Trinity helped me get to the mindset to keep pushing forward for the things I want in life.”



**Christian Honicker will attend Shippensburg University and major in Computer Science:**

“I was baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church before I turned one and have been attending Sunday School since pre-school. It was through this church that I met many different friends, explored musical opportunities, and learned effective leadership skills. God is a man who loves every human being equally, no matter their status, gender, sexuality, or race, and so too should we. This lesson is important to me and one I take with me outside the church. Whether it be through the friends I’ve made, the opportunities I took, or the things I was taught, Trinity has certainly impacted me for the better.”



**Shane Martin will attend Bloomsburg University and major in Nursing:** “I cannot think of a time in my life that Trinity Lutheran Church was not a part of it. I remember puzzles and snack at Sunday School; Easter egg hunts out in the side garden; singing songs and listening to bible lessons at VBS; Staying at a Lutheran Church in Ocean City, NJ and helping to clean up the Cape May Zoo; Playing Joseph in the Christmas Program; And three years of Confirmation. Trinity has always felt friendly, happy, and comforting to me. The solid foundation of kindness and caring that Trinity instilled in me as a child and young adult is one that I am proud to share and “pay forward” in the future though a career in nursing.”



**Zachary Morrow will attend West Chester University honors program and major in Pharmaceutical Product Development:** “Through my participation in Sunday School, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation, as well as weekly attendance at Sunday services, the Trinity Community facilitated my maturation and overall development into the young man I am today. Participation in the Youth Program helped me understand the importance of creating connections with other people as well as establishing a sense of creativity which allows me a deeper understanding of my faith. Despite the current pandemic, my Church Family continues to inspire me in my daily life.”



**Kaleigh Sibbett will attend the University of Scranton and major in Occupational Therapy:** “I’ve been participating in church activities since I was little. Through the years, I’ve made great friends and have had many volunteer opportunities that bring people together. I participated in the Rock-a-thon and love the feeling of doing something good for the community. Last year I was nominated to serve as Youth Representative on Church Council. I enjoy being a part of something that makes an impact on others, especially with all the challenges due to Covid-19. I hope I can continue to make a difference in the Trinity community in the future.”

## Graduate Recognition

Name	Graduating from	Continuing Education
Connor Adams	Minersville Area High School	Penn State University Majoring: Project & Supply Chain Management
Ben Angelo	Harrisburg Area Community College Associate in Fire Science	Penn Tech Majoring: Bachelors in Homeland Security/Emergency Management
Nicholas Christopher Angelo	Schuylkill Haven High School	Kutztown University Majoring: Accounting/Business
Nicolis Boris	Pottsville Area High School	University of Pittsburgh Majoring: Biology
Madeline Condon	Pottsville Area High School	Undecided
Jeremy Dellock	Penn State University Bachelors of Science-Computer Science	Secured employment AT Deloitte, Harrisburg, PA
Christian Honicker	Pottsville Area High School	Shippensburg University Majoring: Computer Science
Shane Daniel Martin	Blue Mt. High School	Bloomsburg University Majoring: Nursing
Zachary Morrow	Blue Mt. High School	West Chester University Honors Program, Majoring: Pharmaceutical Product Development
Caley Mae Potts	Pottsville Area High School	Delaware Valley University Majoring: Small animal Science-Pre-vet
Kaleigh Sibbett	Pottsville Area High School	University of Scranton Majoring: Occupational Therapy
Kylie Stoffregen	Pottsville Area High School	LCCC Majoring: Criminal Justice
Patrick Francis Yoder	Pottsville Area High School	East Stroudsburg University Majoring: Business Administration and play baseball



**Connor Adams**  
Minersville Area H.S.



**Nicholas Angelo**  
Schuylkill Haven H.S.



**Nicolis Boris**  
Pottsville Area H.S.



**Madeline Condon**  
Pottsville Area H.S.



**Christian Honicker**  
Pottsville Area H.S.



**Shane Martin**  
Pottsville Area H.S.



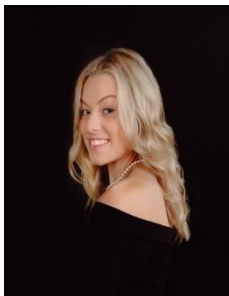
**Zachary Morrow**  
Blue Mt. H.S.



**Caley Potts**  
Pottsville Area H.S.



**Kaleigh Sibbett**  
Pottsville Area H.S.



**Kylie Stoffregen**  
Pottsville Area H.S.



**Patrick Yoder**  
Pottsville Area H.S.



## **Our Daily Bread**

*June, 6, 2021*

### **OUR TRUE SELVES**

**Inside my parents' old photo album is a picture of a young boy. He has a round face, freckles, and straight, light-blond hair. He loves cartoons, hates avocados, and owns just one record, by Abba. Also inside that album are pictures of a teenager. His face is long, not round; his hair is wavy, not straight. He has no freckles, likes avocados, watches movies rather than cartoons, and would never admit to owning an Abba record! The boy and the teenager are little alike. According to science they have different skin, teeth, blood, and bones. And yet they are both me. This paradox has baffled philosophers. Since we change throughout our lives, who is the real us?**

**The Scriptures provide the answer. From the moment God began knitting us together in the womb (Psalm 139:13-14), we've been growing into our unique design. While we can't yet imagine what we'll finally become, we know that if we're children of God we'll ultimately be like Jesus (1 John 3:2)—our body with His nature, our personality but His character, all our gifts glistening, all our sins gone.**

**Until the day Jesus returns, we're being drawn towards this future self. By His work, step by step, we can reflect His image ever more clearly (21 Corinthians 3:18). We aren't yet who we're meant to be, but as we become like Him, we become our true selves.**

**What songs and films encourage us to find our "true selves?"**

**what do you think they miss?**

**In what area can you step toward Christlikeness today?**

*Jesus, make me more like You today and every day.*







**online**

**[www.trinitypottsville.com](http://www.trinitypottsville.com)**

We are constantly adding content, videos and services to Trinity's website, Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Please continue to **mail** in your **offering** envelopes to the church or set up an online giving account on our website. You can choose to donate one time or set up recurring giving for weekly, biweekly or monthly options.

It's your choice! Get details on the GIVE page at: **[www.trinitypottsville.com](http://www.trinitypottsville.com)** or download the Give Plus APP on your smartphone.