

# Trinity Lutheran Church

## Monroeville, Ohio

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36

### Important Reminders!

**Red Cross Blood drive** at TLC, is July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please log onto [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), to schedule your appointment to give blood.

**Sewing Group** - Wednesday  
July 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

**VBS Mtg-** July 1<sup>st</sup> @ 5:30pm

**Council Meeting** - July 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm

**Bible Study @ TLC**  
Thursdays @ 4:30pm

**Potluck Brunch for Pastor Dan's Retirement** - July 5<sup>th</sup> after service

**VBS Decorating** - July 24<sup>th</sup>

**VBS** - July 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> 6pm - 8:30pm

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Council Updates.....          | 3 |
| NALC/Midwestern Updates ..... | 4 |
| Youth/TLC Happening.....      | 5 |
| Worship Assistants.....       | 7 |
| Offering.....                 | 7 |
| Coffee Hosts .....            | 7 |
| Calendar.....                 | 8 |

### Pastor's Letter

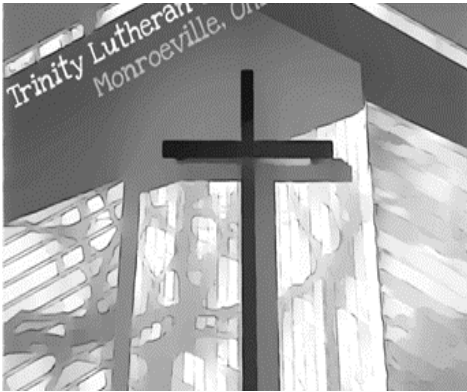
*Happy 250<sup>th</sup>, America, and Thank You, Jesus*

It's kind of a big month for many of us. This marks my remaining couple of weeks as a full-time, parish pastor. July 4<sup>th</sup> marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country's adoption of the Declaration of Independence as its founding document, the signing of which may have begun as late as August 2, 1776. Most folks are celebrating the great blessing of freedom which is ours to live and thrive as Americans. Some may be celebrating having another holiday more than its reason for being, despite the reality that folks to whom they are likely related have literally risked life and limb to maintain such freedom for them. Fortunately, that attitude is still in the minority in this country according to recent polls.

My point in bringing up the civilian patriotism of gratitude for those who could and did defend us and our basic rights is to a lesser extent much like the gratitude Christians should feel for the one who bought their freedom forever, namely Jesus Christ our Lord, through his mortal death and divine resurrection pointing us to more than just this life. Christian gratitude is a much more critical freedom to act with love for one's neighbor on the timeless battlefield of good versus evil, not just nation versus nation, even though such secular wars can be part of the larger, age-old conflict against sin, death and the devil.

If you have ever thanked a veteran for serving, many of them appreciate the acknowledgement even if they feel a bit embarrassed by it. They may have only served in a clerical or maintenance capacity far from danger, but their direct support of those in more dangerous positions was still priceless. The support given to those veterans who returned less than whole in any way is often priceless, too.

Jesus was very direct about receiving recognition for what he did for us in order that through his recognition and glory, God also might be recognized and glorified by all his children. Our purpose is to witness to the glory of God's activity on our behalf such that everyone can readily



## Council

**President:** Ken Underwood  
**Vice President:** Rob Ludwig  
**Treasurer:** Jennifer Miller  
**Secretary:**  
**Christian Ed:** Missy Kluding  
**Youth:** Jennifer Miller  
**Parish Life:** Cindy Schuller  
**Worship/GIFTS Team:**  
**Mission Team:**  
**Property Team:** Dan Smith,  
Ken Underwood,  
Gary Underwood

## Staff (volunteer & paid)

**Volunteer Coordinator & Office Assistant:** Tonia Smith  
**MYC Director:** Jenn Miller & Tonia Smith  
**Organist:** Andrew Morfier  
**Organist:** Julie Roeder  
**Custodian:** Jenn Miller  
**Pastor:** Rev. Dan Pennington  
Phone: 567-333-6451  
Email: dan@pastorpennington.org

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trust God for all his activity in their lives. Jesus was also quite plain when expressing, that of those embarrassed about what he did for them, he will likewise be ashamed before our Father in heaven. Expressing gratitude is a witness to deeds accomplished. This is one way to honor vets, and this is a requirement for honoring our Triune God: Father, + Son and Holy Spirit. If we cannot practice honoring the one we say we worship, how can we reliably say we honor our neighbors who righteously support or defend us?

I want to take time now to say “thank you.” Thank you, Veterans, for giving us a free country in which to worship without too much threat of being tossed into an arena where lions devour us, or of living in a society where an opposing religion decides they must “purify” their neighborhood of Judeo-Christian influence. You veterans have lived into a calling just as holy as that of clergy with at least as many pitfalls for sinful or abusive behavior.

Neighbors in Christ, thank you for supporting any work God gave me that you saw worth supporting. Thank you for holding me accountable when necessary, which can be a hard thing to do with loving admonishment. Thank you, too, for allowing law and gospel to reach your ears through this filter of life experience you called “Pastor” since October of 2022. Please know it is not easy to let go of the honor and privilege of having served you this long, the time served seeming both very short and very long, often from moment to moment. I also want to thank you for letting me go peaceably into my retirement. It is a great gift which I appreciate more than you may know.

Thank you, my family, for needing me as much as I needed you. The loneliness I can barely imagine without you has kept me all the more grateful to God in my short life which grows ever shorter, and my time with you ever more precious.

But mostly, thank you, Jesus Christ. Without you I would have no purpose worth mentioning, no value in the Father’s kingdom, and no hope of salvation whatsoever. What message could I have possibly passed along to anyone without you? What wisdom could I have possibly espoused or proclaimed without you having chosen me as one of yours? If there is one memory I would leave with those whose journeys brushed up against mine, it would be that we are “loved by Jesus.”

Grace and peace, always,

*Pastor Dan*

Rev. Daniel I. Pennington

## Church Council Minutes ~ June 3, 2026

**Present:** Missy Kluding, Cindy Schuller, Rob Ludwig, Gary Underwood, Jennifer Miller, Dan Smith

**Absent:** Pastor Dan, Ken Underwood

**Devotions & Prayer:**

Rob opened with a prayer

**Minutes:**

Minutes from May were reviewed. Cindy made a motion to accept, and Missy seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Missy made a motion to approve, Cindy seconded, motion carried.

A discussion was held on the amount to reimburse Pastor Dan for his trip to Malawi. Donations that have come in for the trip as of the meeting were \$275. A motion was made to reimburse him for the amount of what has been given for the 2026 trip. Rob moved to accept the motion, and Cindy seconded. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Property and Planning - Gary**

Charlene's ashes have been placed in the memory garden. Steve Covlin has been doing the mowing. No news from Andy about the siding. The paperwork from the attic has all been taken care of. The sidewalk in the memory garden has been finished with the addition of more sand. The bathroom renovation should start soon, waiting for the vanity.

**Parish Life - Cindy**

Father's Day breakfast on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Brunch potluck on July 5<sup>th</sup> after service for Pastor Dan's retirement.

**Worship -**

We need to get a committee together to help plan the worship services. Gary will ask Monica if she is interested in helping with this. Rob mentioned that Carolyn could take the lead as the council representative. Possible people to be on the committee and/or help with worship: Bret Gfell, Angie Swanbeck, Jim Thill, Tonia Smith, Jenn Miller.

**Christian Education - Missy**

June 24: VBS Craft Day

July 24/25: Decorate for VBS

July 3: Next Meeting

July 26-29: VBS

**President's Report - Ken**

Nothing to report.

**Pastor's Report - Pastor Dan**

Nothing to report.

**Old Business**

Rob spoke with possible candidates for the vacant seats on the council. The following people said they would be interested: Carolyn Adelman, Bonnie Gfell, Jason Nuhfer, and Jim Thill. A discussion was held on each candidate. Gary made a motion to accept Bonnie, and Jenn seconded the motion. Motion carried. Missy made a motion to accept Carolyn, and Dan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**New Business**

Discussion on our next steps as a congregation without a Pastor. We will start to put together a call committee and a worship committee.

A motion to adjourn was made by Rob, and Cindy seconded. The motion was carried.

We prayed the Lord's Prayer and said goodnight.

Next meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup>.



## GREAT LAKES AREA NEWSLETTER

July 2026



Provided by: Pr. Jess Abbott  
Great Lakes Assistant to the Bishop (AAB)  
513-314-2028, [greatlakesaab@thenalc.org](mailto:greatlakesaab@thenalc.org)  
Mission District Newsletters also included  
below: SE Ohio, Heartland

### Latest and Greatest News!

#### Congregations and Pastors

**Welcome St. Paul's, Smyrna, IN!** Heartland MD. The NALC Executive Council received St. Paul's into "full" membership June 23, 2026

**Condolence.** Heartland MD. Pastor Harrison Gaptor entered the church triumphant on Saturday June 20. A Celebration of Resurrected Life was held at St. Mark's Fort Wayne, IN, where he served many years. May Harrison rest in eternal peace. May his legacy continue to inspire all who knew him and loved him.

**50 Years of Ordination.** Heartland MD. Congratulation Pastor Doug Gast, Dean of Heartland Mission District, upon the celebration of his 50 years. A worship service of celebration will be held at Bethel, Noblesville, IN, July 9<sup>th</sup>.

**45 Years of Ordination.** SE-OH MD. Congratulation Pastor David Wendel, Pastor of Grace, Westerville, OH. All are invited to Grace to celebrate, on July 19<sup>th</sup>, at either service 8:15 or 11 AM, as Bishop Emeritus John Bradosky will be preaching. A reception will take place between services, for those who may wish to greet Bishop Emeritus John. Also, that afternoon at 4 PM on the church lawn will be our annual summer concert offered by the Scioto Valley Brass and Percussion Company, directed by Chris Hoch, director of OSU athletic bands (and the OSU marching band).

**Oromo Evangelical Church,** Baltimore OH. SE-Ohio MD. This **Ethiopian Lutheran congregation** outside of Columbus Ohio is hoping to restructure their mortgage. They faced significant change in interest rates and have many members struggling to help family members caught in terrible conditions in Ethiopia. For more information on how to support or contribute to this cause, contact Pastor Kurt Luebke, Dean of SE-OH MD, [padrekurterik@gmail.com](mailto:padrekurterik@gmail.com)

**Lutheran Church in Cuba.** NE-Ohio MD. Pastor Miguel Acosta (Stone, Ashland) is working with the church to expand mission in Cuba. Through his work, and his many contacts and long familiarity with Cuban Lutherans, FOUR mission starts are now meeting, and young people are the nucleus of them. Miguel hopes to help the churches form a "teaching post" to help instruct future pastors, deacons, teachers, and evangelists as the churches take root and grow. Thanks be to God!

#### NALC Resource to consider this month

This brief monthly blurb is to point you to **ONE** great NALC course you can use with groups or by yourself to improve the health and vitality of your congregation. You need to click on this link, scroll down to the "Create an Account" button and provide your email address. Once in, you can use all the resources there, no cost.  
<https://thenalc.org/en-us/our-work/church-resources-and-courses/>

#### **An Introduction to Luther's Small Catechism for Youth and Adults**

*by the Rev. Dr. Jim Nestigan*

Discover the heart of Luther's Small Catechism and the Lutheran Confessions in a clear, conversational format. This online course orients learners to the Small Catechism, explains why some documents were written "for us" and others "for the world," and shows

*\*The whole newsletter can be found on the bulletin board outside the offices.*

# TLC Happenings

## Mystery Trip 2026 Kelley's Island



January: Humane Society - \$90.86  
February: Non-Food Bank - \$98.80  
March: Lifewise Program - \$189.31  
April: Mystery Trip - \$116.59  
May: NALC Disaster Relief - \$157.55  
June: Love Bus - \$100.63



## TLC Prayer List

Keep the following in your continued prayers:

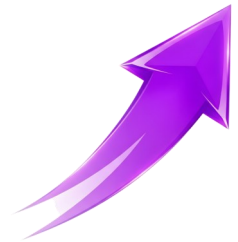
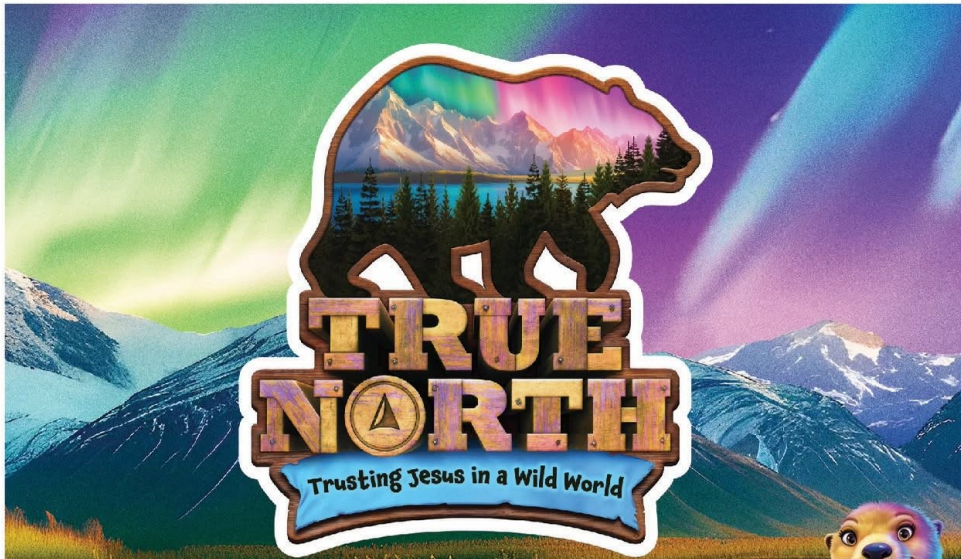
Natalee Newland\*, Olivia\*, Leslie Warnke\*, Travis Seip\*, Amy\*, Wesley Newland\*, Ila\*, Pr. Wayne, Jason Funk, Scott Bauer, Rick Schipple\*, Nathan Berry, Nancy Gfell, Pat McDonald, Tom White, Nevaeh, Arlene Anderson, Mitzi, Joyce Ditz, Kevin Killingsworth, Lonnie Laser, Cooper Adams, Randy Anderson, Charee, Jaime, Kathy, Matthew, Jay Thurston, Bob, Aiden

*Military Personnel:* Anna Little, Owen Roeder, Jeff Schuller, Nick Tommas, Nate Tommas, Chris Jedding

Save the Dates

◆ July 5th - Retirement Potluck Brunch for Pastor Dan

◆ July 26, 27, 28, 29 - Vacation Bible School



### SUPPLIES NEEDED

Cabin (use last years house)  
 Deer antlers - mounted deer head / birds /  
 Lanterns  
 Canoe & oars  
 rock paper  
 paper that looks like water  
 crepe Paper for Alaska flowers/wildflower  
 Fishing net /fishing poles / tackle box / fishing  
 gear / water waders /  
 Stuffed fish  
 Campfire  
 wood Logs / Woodpiles / wood sticks to look  
 like we are in the forest.  
 Christmas / pine trees - all sizes  
 Forest trees  
 Bears / polar bears / eagles / moose / Eagle  
 nest / Husky Puppy / puffin  
 Wilderness whistle - Compass  
 Totem  
 Snowshoes

Scan to complete  
 online registration

### TO MAKE:

Crepe Paper for Alaska flower/ wildflowers  
 Golden banner flowers - 20 to 30 petals  
 5 gal Bucket Stumps - brown paper / spray ad-  
 hesive dry brush with shades of brown  
 Wood Fish line - rope, 78" 2x2 boards  
 Wild animals tracks -  
 River rock out of papers  
 National Park sign  
 Made Paper Rocks (brown paint)  
 Eagle nest (with twigs) / eagle  
 Small water fall - Tinsel foil backdrops  
 Glacier ice - painted Styrofoam (can get  
 Styrofoam from K&K)  
 Totem pole - boxes

## July Worship Assistants

| Date    | Lector         | Greeter                | Acolyte |
|---------|----------------|------------------------|---------|
| July 5  | Miriam Tommas  | Carolyn Adelman        |         |
| July 12 | Daniel Clinker | Gary & Paula Underwood |         |
| July 19 | Candi Kinn     | Don & Miriam Tommas    |         |
| July 26 | Daniel Clinker |                        |         |

Altar Workers for July: **Bonnie Gfell**

### July Coffee Hosts



|         |                        |
|---------|------------------------|
| July 5  | Cindy Schuller         |
| July 12 | Carolyn Adelman        |
| July 19 | Gary & Paula Underwood |
| July 26 | Steve & Donna Colvin   |

### June Offering

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| June 7             | \$2478   |
| June 14            | \$2123   |
| June 21            | \$1547   |
| June 28            | \$2340   |
| June Online Giving | \$297.21 |

We need **\$2615** each week to make our budget. Thank you for continuing to faithfully support the Lord's work.

We are **behind \$6272.37\*** for 2026.

Please remember your gifts when you are away.

Our ministry depends on your generosity.

You can give to the Lord's work here at TLC by scanning the QR code or going to:

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/tlc-monroeville>



\*as of June 30, 2026

# July 2026

| Sun                                           | Mon                                                          | Tue                                               | Wed                                                                           | Thu                                                                                                                                                   | Fri                                                                     | Sat                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                               |                                                              |                                                   | <b>1</b><br>Jeff Schuler B-day<br><br>Sewing Group<br>VBS Meeting 5:30        | <b>2</b><br>Andrew Claus B-day<br><br>Tom & Marylynn Sutter<br>Anniv.<br><br>Bible Study 4:30                                                         | <b>3</b><br>Ben Gfell B-day                                             | <b>4</b>                                                                  |
| <b>5</b><br>Ann Querin Baptismal<br>Anniv     | <b>6</b><br>Brian Gfell B-day                                | <b>7</b><br>Ken Arnett B-day                      | <b>8</b><br>Reece Kluding B-day<br><br>Church Council Mtg 5:30                | <b>9</b><br>Josie Lillo B-day<br>Natalie Judge B-day<br><br>Bret & Bonnie Gfell<br>Anniv.<br><br>Bible Study 4:30                                     | <b>10</b><br>Andrew Morfier Baptismal<br>Anniversary                    | <b>11</b>                                                                 |
| <b>12</b><br>Julie Roederl Baptismal<br>Anniv | <b>13</b>                                                    | <b>14</b><br>Sydney Schuster B-day                | <b>15</b><br>Ben Henney B-day<br><br>Sewing Group                             | <b>16</b><br>Connie Brown B-day<br><br>Bible Study 4:30                                                                                               | <b>17</b>                                                               | <b>18</b>                                                                 |
| <b>19</b><br>Josiah Watson B-day              | <b>20</b><br>Alex & Deanna Schuller<br>Anniv.                | <b>21</b>                                         | <b>22</b><br>Jeff Little B-day<br><br>Scarlet Gerber Baptismal<br>Anniversary | <b>23</b><br>Noah Little B-day<br><br>Bob & Sue Underwood<br>Anniv<br><br>Bible Study 4:30                                                            | <b>24</b><br>Mallory Roeder B-day<br><br>Todd & Sharlene Lillo<br>Anniv | <b>25</b><br>Jim & Kathy Henney Anniv.<br><br>Steve & Missy Kluding Anniv |
| <b>26</b><br>VBS 6-8:30                       | <b>27</b><br>Tyley & T aylor Tonelli Anniv<br><br>VBS 6-8:30 | <b>28</b><br>Hunter Smarr B-day<br><br>VBS 6-8:30 | <b>29</b><br>Christine Hunt B-day<br><br>VBS 6-8:30                           | <b>30</b><br>Brayden Schuller Baptis-<br>mal Anniversary<br>Rachelle Corbin Baptis-<br>mal Anniversary<br>Lincoln Schuller Baptis-<br>mal Anniversary | <b>31</b>                                                               |                                                                           |