

The Trinity Connection

Trinity Episcopal Church
124 N Mulanix St, Kirkville, MO 63501
Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.



Sunday, September 21
Following the 10 a.m. Worship
Service

Trinity Community Dinner

Join Us for a
Potluck and Holy
Conversations

Envisioning Trinity's Future

The time has come for us to begin to dream about Trinity's future—a future that manifests itself in love and hope, one that lasts far beyond the tenure of your two co-transition pastors.

We will begin these holy conversations by sharing a potluck meal and discussion time together in lieu of Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 21, following church. Our new Bishop's Warden Laura Gruber Harden will be the facilitator for this meeting.

Please sign up to bring a dish on the bulletin board in the undercroft. Please plan on being present longer than usual; childcare will be available. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing this special time together.



**We are an inclusive community of faith,
strengthened by joyful hearts and engaged minds.**

Welcoming Bishop Deon K. Johnson

We are delighted to announce that The Right Reverend Deon Johnson, Bishop of Missouri, will visit Trinity on Sunday, October 26, 2025. Bishop Deon will preside at Eucharist during his visit and preach at the Sunday service. After the service, he will join us for a meal and will also meet with the Bishop's Committee.

Don't miss this opportunity to welcome Bishop Deon and learn more about the exciting developments in our diocese. Known for his insights and practical experiences in parish renewal, transition and growth, the bishop always offers thoughtful perspectives on a congregation's needs.

We know that Bishop Deon loves engaging with the community, and we are sure he will want to take a fun selfie with the congregation! This is an outstanding opportunity to engage with him and gain further insight into his work.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at this special event. Your presence will make this day even more memorable!



The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

Jane Dey Convocation Gathering – October 4

The Jane Dey Convocation will meet on Friday, October 4, at Journey Episcopal Church in Fulton. All members of Trinity are warmly invited to attend. If you'd like to carpool, please let Maria or Krista know. Journey members will kindly provide lunch.

About Convocations:

The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri comprises 41 congregations organized into four convocations. These regional groups collaborate on ministry, share resources, and strengthen the diocese's common mission. Through our convocation, we build connections with fellow Episcopalians and partner in living out Christ's mission together.

Living Out Our Mission

Love in Action at Trinity

Trinity
Reaching Out

At Trinity, we take our call to be engaged in the world seriously, living out the belief that “Love is the Way.” One way we do this is through our Third Sunday Plate Offering, which supports outreach projects selected by our parish.

Because food ministries are such a vital part of Trinity’s service and witness, this issue highlights three of them, along with our special *Second Sunday Offering* and *Avenues*, supporting victims of violence. Together, these ministries reflect our commitment to feeding bodies, nurturing spirits, and sharing God’s love with our neighbors.

September: World Central Kitchen

Bringing Food, Comfort, and Community Where It’s Needed Most

Founded in 2010, World Central Kitchen (WCK) provides fresh, nourishing meals after disasters worldwide. Guided by the belief that “food is a universal human right,” WCK partners with local chefs, volunteers, and food producers to respond swiftly to crises—from hurricanes to humanitarian emergencies. Serving millions across dozens of countries, WCK brings not only food but also dignity, connection, and hope in times of need.



**“Food is a
universal
human right”**

October: Avenues

Supporting security and awareness for victims of domestic and sexual violence

Avenues promotes respect, empowerment, and healthy relationships through crisis support, education, and prevention programs. Partnering with schools, agencies, and advocacy groups, the organization raises awareness, supports survivors, and helps break the cycle of abuse—guiding individuals toward independence, resilience, and hope for a violence-free future.



November: Pantry for Adair County

Compassion in Action

The Pantry for Adair County (PAC) exemplifies compassion and community resilience. Staffed by dedicated volunteers, PAC provides fresh produce, pantry staples, and household essentials to neighbors in need. Volunteers greet each client with warmth and dignity, ensuring nourishment and hope. Partnering with local organizations like Trinity, PAC shows how generosity strengthens the whole community. Trinity is proud to be one of the six churches who were the founding members of PAC.

Trinity
Reaching Out



**Abide in Love is about
"standing in
opposition with love"**
Amy Beechner-McCarthy

Abide in Love

Extending Love Across Boundaries

Born from concern for immigrant detainees at the Phelps County jail, Abide in Love is an outreach organization rooted in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophy of nonviolence. Led by local volunteers, it affirms detainees' humanity through care, connection, and hope. Volunteers send postcards, provide care packages, and offer financial support, reminding detainees they are not forgotten. Join this work by praying for detainees and supporting Abide in Love through Trinity's Second **Sunday Offering on September 14**. Your donations will go to the detainees' commissary accounts so they can make phone calls to their lawyers or relatives.

Little Free Pantry

Just outside our church building stands a simple wooden pantry with a big mission: to share God's love in practical ways. Stocked through the generosity of parishioners and friends, the Little Free Food Pantry is open around the clock. This ministry is available to those in immediate need. "Take what you need, give what you can, but above all, be blessed." There is also a Narcan box on the side of the pantry. Though small in size, this pantry is a powerful reminder that even the simplest gifts can bring hope, nourishment, and dignity to our neighbors. It is one more way we live out Christ's call to care for one another.



**Take What You Need,
Give What You Can,
but above all, be blessed**

The Instructed Eucharist

An Invitation to Engage, Learn and Be Transformed

The liturgy of the Episcopal Church is a tapestry woven from ancient tradition, reverent symbolism, and the vibrant participation of the entire community—threads that span centuries of living Christian faith. At its heart lies the Holy Eucharist, also known as Holy Communion: a sacred celebration that not only commemorates but also invites us to mystically participate in Jesus Christ's Last Supper.



While many of us may recognize the familiar movements and words of our worship, the profound meaning and history interlaced within each gesture, prayer, and element often go unspoken. To illuminate these deeper layers, Trinity Episcopal Church will offer an “Instructed Eucharist” —a regular Holy Communion service enriched by thoughtful pauses for brief explanations along the way on **September 14.**

During this Eucharist, teaching moments will be gracefully woven into the flow of worship. This practice transforms the experience from passive attendance to mindful engagement, inviting us to become not just a witness but an active seeker of understanding. Guided by Carrol, who will preside, Maria will guide us on this journey, with special attention paid to how the Eucharist unveils the symbolic and spiritual significance behind each part of the service.

The familiar rhythm of worship will be transformed into a living classroom by pausing to reflect and learn. We will uncover the biblical and historical roots that shape the prayers and rituals we cherish, gaining new appreciation for traditions we have practiced for years. Children, newcomers and those from other denominations will be empowered to join in with insight rather than simple imitation. At the same time, longtime Episcopalians may find new meaning in words and actions that once seemed routine.

The Eucharist will offer more than a lesson—it is an invitation to enter more deeply into the sacred mystery of God’s grace. By providing clear explanations along the way, the Church affirms that every word, gesture, and symbol in our liturgy is meant to awaken us to Christ’s presence among us. In this way, ancient words and actions no longer remain distant or obscure; instead, they come alive as timeless expressions of faith, hope, and love—gifts to be cherished, lived, and joyfully shared with the world.



Gathering Around the Table

Community Meals at Trinity Episcopal Church

Hospitality is a core value at Trinity. On the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 5 p.m., our Community Meals offer more than food. They provide welcome, dignity, and connection to all who come through our doors. Rooted in our mission to serve all without exception, these meals reflect Christ's call to love our neighbors.

Funded partly by the diocese, the program is open to everyone—there is no registration or requirement. Whether you face food insecurity, live on a fixed income, are away from home, or seek fellowship, there's a place for you at our table.

Volunteers make each meal possible — people of all ages and abilities who cook, serve, set up, and clean with joy and generosity. In giving their time, they discover something more profound: a ministry that transforms both those who are served and those who serve. Here, strangers become neighbors. Stories are shared. Spirits are lifted. For families, it's a shared moment around the table. For the lonely, it's a space to be seen and known. And for all of us at Trinity, it's a chance to live out our faith—not just in words, but in action.

Come. Be fed. Be known. Be part of something holy.

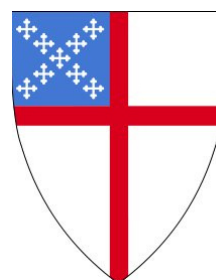


Keeping the Table Set

Our community dinners have flourished over the past few months. With a mix of home-cooked and catered meals, we have shared food, fellowship, and welcome with neighbors. One guest recently shared that after bringing her husband home from the hospital the day of the dinner, she told him, “I hope you’ll be okay for a little while, because I really need to see my community.” We had considered not applying for the grant again, but her words reminded us how deeply these meals matter and gave us the resolve to continue.

As we prepare to reapply for the grant, we recognize the need to make this ministry more sustainable. One exciting step forward is to invite Trinity and the wider community volunteers to join us in the kitchen on selected Saturdays. Together we’ll prepare ingredients for an upcoming Sunday meal and freeze extras for future gatherings. This will help us lower costs and deepen the bonds of fellowship already growing around the table.

We also pause to remember with gratitude the late Pam Ryan, whose dedication and vision drove this ministry. With her passing, we feel both the gift of her example and the reality of a large void in our leadership. We need your hands and leadership— whether chopping vegetables, organizing the freezer, leading a team, or simply showing up with a willing spirit.

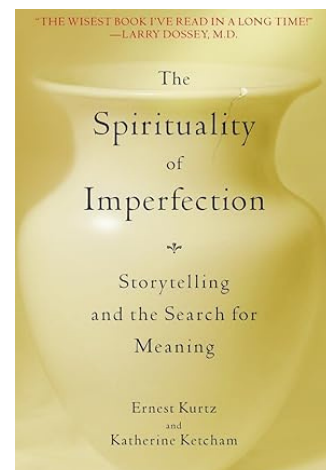


A Journey Through 'The Spirituality of Imperfection'

Our next Adult Formation class will be held on Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. at Maxwell's, beginning on September 13. Our next book will be *The Spirituality of Imperfection: Storytelling and the Search for Meaning* by Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham.

Through this book, we will explore how understanding our limitations and accepting the inevitability of failure and pain can actually ease our hurt and move us toward a greater sense of serenity and self-awareness. The book bridges multiple faith traditions and secular forms of self-help (for instance, the spirituality of 12-step groups) through vivid storytelling and thoughtful commentary. It's an excellent way to begin forgiving ourselves for the things God had long ago forgiven us.

The book is available in either paperback or Kindle from here: <https://a.co/d/jbGgrFZ> As always, if the cost is prohibitive, contact Maria and we can discreetly use discretionary funds to purchase it.



**Adult Formation
Begins
September 13**

Finding Home at Trinity

When Brent and I had Lola, we decided that it was important to us that she grow up with an understanding of the Christian faith and the stories of the Bible. It probably sounds silly, but as an art historian, I saw Christianity as a vital part of my child's education. Neither of us had attended church for over a decade, but we wanted a church where love and acceptance were the elevated doctrines. We chose well with Trinity! What we didn't expect was to be immediately drawn in as vital members of the community, and that is what has kept us going to Trinity - love and community.

Heidi Cook

Why Trinity?

Each of us has a story about what first drew us to Trinity and what makes it our spiritual home. Sharing these stories helps us celebrate our community, deepen our connections, and inspire one another.

We invite you to share your story about why you chose Trinity. Whether it's a moment of welcome, a tradition that speaks to your heart, or the sense of belonging you feel here, your reflections matter.

Please email your story to: Shari.S.Bonham@gmail.com — we would be honored to include it in an upcoming newsletter.

Nurturing Faith Across Generations: **Intergenerational Faith Formation**

At Trinity, we recognize that while children learn important lessons at church, actual faith formation begins at home. Children's spiritual foundations are laid within the family—through conversations about faith and witnessing how parents live out their baptismal covenant. Though we strive to provide faith formation opportunities within our church community, we continue to imagine new ways to support the unique needs and hopes of parents and their children.



Our intergenerational events are designed to foster both learning and meaningful conversation between parents and children. These gatherings offer educational experiences and suggest ways families can continue exploring faith together beyond our church walls.

This fall, our upcoming events will include:

September:

Holy Hardware

We will showcase and discuss the sacred items used during Eucharistic services, such as the paten, ciborium, chalice, corporal, and Sanctus bells. Children will receive drawings of these objects to color, helping them engage with the symbols of our liturgy in a hands-on way.

October:

Instructed Eucharist

Families are invited to participate in a brief, guided Eucharist, deepening their understanding of its meaning and traditions.

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**Actual Faith Formation
Begins at Home**

November:

Advent Preparation

Our focus will shift to the season of Advent, with activities and reflections to prepare our hearts and homes.

December:

Christmas Story and Pageant Practice

We will share the Christmas story and rehearse for our beloved annual pageant, celebrating the joy and wonder of Christ's birth together.

We remain committed to finding meaningful ways to incorporate children into our worship, hoping they will come to love the liturgy as deeply as we do. As we continue this journey of faith formation, we warmly invite families to participate, learn, and grow with us—both at Trinity and home.



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Trinity Church is a place where all of God's people are welcome, with absolutely no exceptions. Come as you are, with all your certainties and all your doubts, and you will find a welcome here. Join us in following the way of love, because if it is not about love, it is not about God.

Stewardship at Trinity

Living in Gratitude and Abundance

This fall, Trinity will launch our Stewardship Campaign, an annual opportunity to reflect on how we respond to God's abundant gifts. Stewardship is not only about financially supporting the church—it is about living faithfully, gratefully, and generously with all God has entrusted us.



The tradition of stewardship comes from the Biblical practice of tithing—returning a tenth of our earnings to God (Numbers 18:26). But in the Episcopal Church, stewardship means more than giving money. It is also the offering of our time, talents, and hearts in service to God's mission. It is about building relationships, serving our neighbors, and approaching life with an attitude of abundance instead of scarcity.

When we make a pledge, we commit to returning to God a portion of what God has given us. These gifts sustain and expand the ministry of Trinity, while also supporting the broader mission of our diocese. Your pledge:

- Nurtures your own faith journey.
- Strengthens our shared witness as a parish family.
- Helps the parish plan wisely and faithfully for the year ahead.

At its heart, stewardship is about joy and transformation. It is an act of thanksgiving for God's blessings, a promise to our community, and a way of saying "yes" to Jesus. Our stewardship is guided by grace, never guilt. It is about changing lives—our own and those we serve.

**This fall pray
about your pledge.**

Respond with gratitude and
abundance to all that God
has given us.

Our Co-Pastors at Trinity

The Rev. Carrol Davenport and The Rev. Dr. Marie Evans serve together as Trinity's co-transitional pastors, offering shared leadership and complementary gifts to our parish. While they collaborate on many decisions, each has distinct areas of focus that strengthen our life together.

Rev. Carrol guides formation for children and families, ensures our parish remains Safe Church compliant, supports intergenerational worship, and provides pastoral care. She also keeps weekly office hours at The Gathering Grounds—check the Sunday service leaflet for details.

Rev. Dr. Maria nurtures lay leadership, oversees the administrative life of the parish, and leads opportunities for adult formation and spiritual growth.

Together, Carrol and Maria embody a ministry of partnership, helping Trinity grow in faith, service, and community.



The Rev. Carrol K. Davenport,
Phone: 660-349-1888

Email:
davenport1959@yahoo.com

The Rev. Dr. Maria L. Evans,
Phone: 660-216-2727
Email: mlevans327@gmail.com



Worship: Sunday, 10:00 AM.
All are welcome!

Livestream our Sunday Services at
youtube.com/@trinity-kirksville
or on our Facebook page:
facebook.com/trinitykirksville

Pastoral Care

At Trinity, we are here for you in times of need. Our clergy are available to talk with you about personal, pastoral, or spiritual matters—please feel free to call or email them at any time. If you would like to add someone to our parish prayer list, simply contact the church office.

In the event of a pastoral emergency—such as hospitalization, when a loved one is near death, or has died—please notify Carrol or Maria as soon as possible. They will be honored to walk with you, offering prayers, anointing, and the comfort of God's presence.