

Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity Tidings

August / September 2026

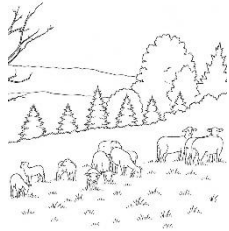
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Pastor Richard Pape
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"WHAT A PASTOR OWES GOD'S PEOPLE"

A strange sign appeared on the desk of a Pentagon official. In bold letters it read: *THE SECRECY OF MY JOB DOES NOT PERMIT ME TO KNOW WHAT I AM DOING.* Perhaps a similar sign could also be placed on many young pastors' desks: *THE SACREDNESS OF MY JOB DOES NOT PERMIT ME TO KNOW WHAT I AM DOING.* Thinking "way back in time" to my **vicarage** year in Elgin, Illinois at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church & School in 1973-74, I was kept quite busy by my supervising pastor. But there were times when I sat in my office wondering if I was doing the most important thing at the time, or should I be doing something else? I know I learned a lot from my first congregation. I was their last vicar before they Called an assistant pastor. (I'm still not sure what THAT was saying!)

A pastor's daughter in 5th grade was asked by her classmate what her dad's real job was: *"I know he's our pastor on Sunday mornings, but what does he do the rest of the week? Does he work at a company?"* Lots of



people don't have a clue as to what a pastor is supposed to do and what he owes the people of God, who have Called him to serve in the Office of Pastor. In reality, a pastor or "shepherd" gives his life for the flock!

The following "tongue-in-cheek" notice appeared in a church newsletter: *"HELP WANTED: MINISTER FOR GROWING CHURCH – Man must be in his upper 20's with 30 years of experience! ... a captivating speaker and intent at listening; will hold firm views on every topic but is careful not to upset people who disagree. Must be forthright but flexible, returns criticism with Christ's love and patience. Should smile all the time with a straight face, because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously*

dedicated to his work. He will make 15 home visits a day to members, spend all his time evangelizing the unchurched, and never go out of the office so that he's available to members stopping by just to talk. Has a burning desire to work with youth and spends all his time with older folks. Able to sound bright and intelligent, but most of his time talks and acts like a good-ol'Joe. Applicants' wife must be both attractive and plain; smartly attired, but conservative in appearance, and always able to get along with everyone. Must be willing to work in church kitchen; teach Sunday school, run office equipment, avoid gossip, and never become discouraged. Applicant's children must be exemplary in conduct and character, yet basically no different from others. No overtime pay. Anyone applying will undergo full investigation to determine sanity."

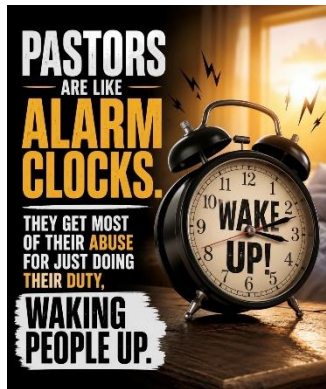
Well, this may be one church's ministry description, but what does God expect from a man serving His people as their pastor? First of all, he is a **watchman**. In Ezekiel 3:16 God tells this prophet, *"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the Word I speak and give them a warning from Me."*

Ezekiel 33 explains the role of a watchman. In ancient Bible times, communities built walls around the city to help protect them from invading armies. Watchmen would stand in towers around the wall to search the horizon for any approaching enemy. If they spotted any, an alarm would be sounded to warn all the citizens. And that's just what God is doing in having churches Call pastors to serve as watchmen for the members, young and old. Notice that a watchman has two responsibilities: one, to listen to what God says, and two, to warn people for the Lord. In doing this, the pastor emulates Jesus Who came to earth as our Savior, never shied

away from warning people of their sin. Of course, He did so always in order that He could then proclaim our forgiveness which He won on the cross for us by dying for our sins.

See how seriously God takes this business of pastors being watchmen, warning His people in Ezekiel 3? Let me tell you, there's no passage in the Bible that scares many of us pastors as this one does. God holds us responsible for warning you when you rebel against Him or omit doing what He commands. And if we don't, God takes that very seriously. But He also helps us in our weakness. What a gracious God we have in Christ Jesus. He took a frail, human being like Peter and made a great **apostle** out of him. He compensates out of His fullness for all we lack. He gives us words of grace to speak and the Sacraments to administer to His people.

Years ago a pastor heard about a rebellious situation in the life of one of his members. He asked her to stop by his office, and they talked about her sinful lifestyle. He tried to be tactful and loving, yet faithful to God. She jumped up and shouted, "*You blankety-blank, it's none of your blankety-blank business what I do with my life! I'm going to sue you!*"



She turned and left his office and slammed the door. Someone once said, "**Pastors are like alarm clocks. They get most of their abuse for just doing their duty – waking people up.**"

A good future topic could be – "WHAT GOD'S PEOPLE OWE THEIR PASTOR" as a follow-up to this article. And much more could also be said about what is expected of your pastor as a "shepherd". Hopefully, some of these thoughts will be useful as you prepare for receiving the pastor God will be sending you at Trinity.

Always In God's Grace and Peace,
Pastor Richard E. Pape

Contact me at:

pastorpape@trinityithaca.org

or my cell phone is 585-626-5735

"Sermons In August and September"

August 2nd – **"The Lavish Feast"** Isaiah 55
Pentecost 10 – Pastor's Sermon for Elder Delivery

August 9th – **"The 'IF' That Sinks Us"**
Pentecost 11 Text: Matthew 14:22-33

August 16th – **"Mercy: Me?"**
Pentecost 12 Text: Matthew 15:21-28

August 23rd – **"God's Riches"**
Pentecost 13 – Guest Pastor James Burch

August 30th – **"Losing Is Living??"** Mt 16
Pentecost 14 – Pastor's Sermon for Elder Delivery

September 6th – **"The Church That Works"**
Pent 15/Labor Day – Pastor's Sermon for Elder

September 13th – **"God's Unlimited Forgiveness"**
Pentecost 16 – Guest Pastor James Burch

September 20th – **"Never Empty-Handed!"**
Pentecost 17 – Pastor's Sermon for Elder Delivery

September 27th – **"An Angel's Protection"**
All Angels Sunday – Text: Psalm 91:11,12

Obviously, you've noticed I'll not be leading worship some Sundays in August and September. This is with the Board of Elders' approval. Prior to accepting the pastoral vacancy, I had committed to preaching three Sundays at my home church and on one Sunday I'll be on vacation to visit my brother and sister in Iowa. Plus, I'm still serving Calvary and Redeemer on the first Sunday of each month ~ Pastor Pape

"Sunday morning Adult Bible Class Survey"

As we prepare for our Sunday morning Education hour starting up again in September, now is a great time to continue/return to/get involved in the study of God's Word. What books of the Bible or topics would you like to see studied this year in the Adult Bible class? Let Lindsey Milbrath know (lindsey@trinityithaca.org or call the church).



Looking Forward to the Fall!

Please come join us for some Special Sunday Mornings beginning in August:

Sunday, August 23rd

- Special hospitality/coffee hour after church to welcome new Cornell, TC3, and Ithaca College students. Classes begin on August 24th

Sunday, September 6th (Labor Day Weekend)

- Education Hour begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Activities are still being planned, but it will be a special event including hospitality

Sunday, September 13th

- Rally Sunday
- Special opening activities and meet the teachers
- Break into respective classes for introductions to each other and the curriculum

If you have not been attending the Education Hour, this is the year to start! Please come and bring your family, friends, or both! Your presence is not only beneficial to you but is also encouraging and valuable to everyone who attends. We need each other especially during the vacancy and transition to a new Pastor. And by then you will be hooked and want to keep coming! 😊

Contact Mary Milbrath with questions or offers of help: 607-280-9087

SPOTLIGHT on YOUR TLC COUNCIL: Congregational Officers With the hopes of increasing communication between the congregation and Council, we will be SPOTLIGHTING each council position and Board during the next few months. This is your chance to see what jobs are represented by each Board on the Council as we all work together to keep Trinity moving forward during the vacancy. It is YOUR Council, so please feel free to reach out to representatives with questions, concerns, or even compliments! Please remember, if you wonder what's going on.... the Council is here to answer questions and address needs...PLEASE REACH OUT!

Church Council Our constitution lays out the positions and boards that keep Trinity Lutheran running smoothly. This is vital as we work through the transition to a vacancy pastor and a new full time pastor. The Church Council is made up of the congregational officers and all the board chairs, with the pastor serving as a voting member. The Council meets monthly to plan and coordinate the church's overall program, and can act on urgent matters between Voters' Assembly meetings when needed.

Congregational Officers

Chairman: Jean Pawlak Leads every meeting of the Voters' Assembly and serves as an advisory member of every board and committee in the church, so there is always a steady hand keeping things connected.

Secretary: Annalise Thompson* Keeps accurate minutes for the Voters' Assembly and Church Council, and organizes the church's official records so they are easy to find when needed.

Treasurer: Mike Thompson Pays all bills the congregation has approved, keeps clear financial records, and gives a report at every Council and Voters' Assembly meeting comparing actual spending to the budget.

Financial Secretary: Quinn Bedore* Receives, records, and deposits all church income, including offerings and contributions. Prepares each member's giving report and keeps individual giving records private.

**We thank Nancy Gifft for her years of dedicated service to the TLC Council. Annalise Thompson has graciously agreed to fill that position for the remainder of Nancy's term. Quinn Bedore is working as Financial Secretary remotely until someone can take over. He has a team of counters in place, so if you are interested in helping with this office, please let us know!*

Boards

Board of Elders: Tait Halverson Works alongside the pastor on the spiritual well-being of the congregation. Handles member concerns with care, and oversees how worship services run, including ushers.

Board of Deacons: Karla Notarianni and Mary Brodie Supports worship and outreach to those in need. Opens and closes the building for services and activities, and manages a fund to help members through difficult times, keeping those details confidential.

Board of Trustees: Bob Terry Takes care of all church property. Signs contracts, handles legal matters on the church's behalf, and manages the business side of running the congregation.

Board of Missions and Outreach: Darcy Bedore Focuses on sharing the church's message beyond our walls. Leads outreach efforts, mission work, and support for people in our community and around the world.

Board of Stewardship: *currently vacant* Helps members make good use of their time, talents, finances, health, and care for the world around them. Runs at least one training event each year in these areas.

Board of Youth: *currently vacant* Supports the spiritual growth and involvement of our youth, from the start of confirmation through high school graduation, and helps them connect with the wider church community.

Board of Christian Education: Mary Milbrath Oversees Sunday school and learning programs for every age group, including training for teachers.

Board of University and College

Affairs/LSF: *currently vacant* Focuses on the spiritual life of Cornell and Ithaca College students connected to the church, making sure they have ways to worship and get involved.

Board of Finance Made up of the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Chairman, and several board chairs. Prepares the annual budget and keeps an eye on the church's overall financial health.

Detailed coverage of each Board will be shared in the weeks ahead. **REMEMBER...**if you have concerns for the Council, you can email them to any Board member for inclusion on a future Council meeting agenda!

Together...WE ARE TRINITY STRONG!

Acts 2:42,45 We are strengthened as a body of Christ by being continually devoted to: teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer, & loving service !



Trinity Choir – Make a Joyful Noise!

Do you enjoy singing?
Whether you've sung in a
choir for years or simply
love lifting your voice in praise, we'd love to have
you join us!

The **Trinity Choir** meets **every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.** for rehearsal as we prepare music that proclaims Christ and enriches our worship together.

You don't have to be a professional singer—just someone willing to make a joyful noise unto the Lord! (Psalm 100:1)

Come to a rehearsal and see what it's all about, or speak with **Mike Thompson** if you'd like to learn more. New voices are always welcome!



For the Lighthearted! (submitted by Pastor Pape)

My friends at Trinity, since schools are on our minds in this month of September, here are some jokes about Sunday school children:

A ten-year old, under the tutelage of a well prepared teacher, was becoming very knowledgeable about the Bible. So, one day she “floored” the teacher when she asked, “Which virgin was the mother of Jesus, the virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?”

One Sunday the teacher gathered her group around her and exclaimed, “Well, class, all those who want to go to Heaven raise your hands.” Everyone in the circle raised their hands, except one boy. “Don't you want to go to Heaven, Henry?” asked the teacher. “I can't, ma'am,” Henry replied, “My mom wants me to come straight home after Sunday school.”

Teacher: “What must you do to receive the forgiveness of sins?” Teddy: **“Sin.”**

From: Church Jokes, compiled by Paul M. Miller

Congregation In Prayer for August :

Almighty and everlasting God, as Trinity goes through this time of vacancy we come to you with specific requests. Today we ask that you would be with the team assembling the Self-Study. Give them insight and wisdom as they present the findings to the congregation. Please let the process of calling the next Pastor be pleasing in your sight. Bless us all as we work together, sharing the responsibilities with joy and peace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



Congregation In Prayer for September:

Dear heavenly Father, who has so ordered this world that I do not spend my days in lonely solitude but has surrounded me with family, friends, neighbors, acquaintances, and fellow workers, I ask You to look with favor on all whose lives touch mine in the course of my daily activities. Grant them a deep and lasting sense of their sinfulness, and for Jesus' sake lead them to genuine repentance. Give them grace to always seek the forgiveness of their sins and to know the blessedness of those to whom the Lord does not charge their sins. Shield them from **temptation by the Evil One. Fill their hearts** with the faith that works by love, the hope that does not make ashamed, the charity that never fails, trust in You that shall not be shaken, patience that endures, and courage that shall always confess Christ. May they surrender themselves to Your service and, walking before You in righteousness and holiness all the days of their lives, constantly dwell in Your favor and finally die in Your peace. For Jesus' sake. Amen

My Prayer Book Copyright 1957 Concordia Publishing House
Revised Edition 1980

Trinity will again host the Lutheran Booth at the NY State fair



Thank you to all serving from Trinity Lutheran Church in this capacity !

If you happen to attend the NY State fair this year please feel free to stop by the Lutheran Booth and say hello to those there.

Prayer & Pie



The **first Thursday** of most months a small group joins together to share their praises and concerns, then take them to the Lord in prayer. We meet at 9:00 AM. The Prayer & Pie group will meet **August 3rd** and **September 4th** - come if you can.



Memento - an Invitation to Trinity's Men



Memento is a program for Christian men to grow in faith, discipline, and brotherhood through Scripture reading, prayer, and historic Christian practices like fasting. It is a distinctly Lutheran devotional platform for men

and supported by shared disciplines and a local fraternity of brothers at Trinity. For more information go to Memento70.com. There is a fee but don't let that get in the way – we can figure something out. Please consider joining us.

Lindsey Milbrath



Feed My Starving Children Ithaca MobilePack

Thursday, September 24-Sunday, September 27

National Guard Armory on Hanshaw Road (just south of Rte 13)

Trinity Lutheran Church is once again serving as the host congregation for this year's Feed My Starving Children Ithaca MobilePack. The Ithaca MobilePack (IMP) began in 2010 and we've packed over 4 Million meals, enough to feed 11,363 children every day for a year! Our goal this year is to pack 248,000 meals!

Trinity is scheduled to pack together after worship on Sunday, September 27, 1-3 PM. Sign-up on the narthex bulletin board, or call the church office at 607-273-9017, by August 9.

A special offering for the IMP was received on August 2. Those who would still like to contribute may give at any time through Trinity. Checks may be made payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, with FMSC/IMP written in the memo line.

Please check the Ithaca MobilePack website (www.IthacaMobilePack.org), throughout the registration and packing periods, to see if there may be some available spots for people to fill as needed.

Thank you for supporting this important ministry through your prayers, generosity, and willingness to serve.

~ Pastor Robert Foote

Trinity Vacancy Updates

Contacts

Interim/vacancy pastor (part-time)

Pastor Richard Pape

585-626-5735 (cell) or **Pastorpape@trinityithaca.org**

Church secretary

Hannah Massiah (*Yes, she got married – it's her new last name*)

607-273-9017 (office) or **Hannah@trinityithaca.org**

Pastoral assistant

Lindsey Milbrath

607-273-9017 (office) or **607-351-6771** (cell) or **Lindsey@trinityithaca.org**

Chairman of the congregation

Jean Pawlak

chairman@trinityithaca.org

Head elder

Tait Halverson

elder@trinityithaca.org

Congregational Self-Study, chair

Jeff True

607-227-3377 (cell) or **jtrue1951@gmail.com**

Call committee, chair

Dick Burlew

607-229-6602 (cell) or **dick@burlew.us**

Call process

- Self-study sent to District Office and shared with congregation (summer)
- Active, communicant members of the congregation may submit nominations for candidates for the call list. A nomination form provided by the District President (Rev. John Pingel) will be used, to be submitted during a specified period of time only, and forwarded to the district office.
- District President can add or remove candidates to the call list
- Call Packet emailed to Chair of the call committee
- Call committee screens the call list, may conduct phone/zoom interviews
- Congregational call meeting held to vote on and extend a Call to a specific pastor

Other leaders during the vacancy

Pastoral care - Pastor Pape, elders, other members

Congregational Prayer Team - Mary Milbrath

Circuit visitor - Rev. Carl Prostka (attends call committee and congregational call meetings)

Strategic planning - Rev. Barry Keurulainen (assisting Rev. Prostka)



Pastor Pape



Rev. C. Prostka & Rev B. Keurulainen

Honoring Special Milestones

As Christians, times of transition are an opportunity to serve our families, neighbors, and church in new ways. We give thanksgiving to God for His past faithfulness and emphasize the joys of new work and service in Christ Jesus our Lord!



Worship Assistants

Altar Care for August: volunteers



Altar Care for September: volunteers

Date	Elders	Ushers	Lay Deacons	Lawn Care
August 2 nd	Lindsey Milbrath	Tim Milbrath & Jean Pawlak	Linda Osborne & Mary Brodie	Rick & Josh Bryant
August 9 th **	Tait Halverson	Linda Osborne & Mary Brodie	Mary Brodie & Karla Notarianni	Bob Terry & Jim Bedore
August 16 th	Dick Burlew	Stephanie and Tait Halverson	Darcy Bedore & Stephanie Halverson	Mike Thompson & Jeff True
August 23 rd **	Tom Zitter	Jeff True & Sue Schattschneider	Pat Hollingsworth & Janet Krizek	Lindsey & Tim Milbrath & Jordan Stanton
August 30 th	Tait Halverson	Jim Morby & Jean Pawlak	Linda Terry & Sue Schattschneider	Carl Reimers & John Lambrou
September 6 th	Tom Zitter	Jim & Darcy Bedore	Sherri & Rick Bryant	Mitch Perry & Jim Osborne
September 13 th **	Lindsey Milbrath	Tyler Mason & Darrelle Dore	Mary Brodie & Marcia Zeller	Rick and Josh Bryant
September 20 th	Lindsey Milbrath	Stephanie and Tait Halverson	Linda Osborne & Mary Brodie	Bob Terry & Sung – Hoon Ahn
September 27 th **	Tait Halverson	Mary Brodie & Linda Osborne	Karla Notarianni & Mary Brodie	Jim Bedore & Thomas Gill

** Communion

Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard volunteers:

August 19th : Vivian Wheaton & Janet Krizek

September 16th : Sue Schattschneider and Janet Krizek



Church Attendance

Worship Communion

Sunday, June 7 , 10:30 a.m.	67	
Sunday, June 14, 10:30 a.m.	55	54
Sunday, June 21 10:30 a.m.	44	
Sunday, June 28, 10:30 a.m.	56	43
Sunday, July 5, 10:30 a.m.	41	
Sunday, July 12, 10:30 a.m.	59	52
Sunday, July 19, 10:30 am	57	
Sunday, July 26, 10:30 am	59	45





Trinity Lutheran Church

149 Honness Lane
Ithaca NY 14850

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Postage PAID

Permit# 547

Ithaca, New York 14850

Change Service Requested

If you have moved,
please let us know... We
are charged a fee for any
newsletter that cannot be
delivered as addressed.
Thank you!

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship,
to the breaking of bread, to prayer... and loving service. Acts 2:42, 45*

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