



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

More Than a Meal: Building Community in Bangor

Submitted by Pastor Deborah Staniszewski of Trinity Lutheran Church in Bangor, PA

On August 19th, the faith community at Trinity Lutheran in Bangor came together for an evening that blended hospitality, fun, and genuine relationship-building. It was a true intergenerational effort, and even some of our youngest members rolled up their sleeves to help set up, serve, and welcome guests.

The congregation offered a free community meal featuring hot dogs with all the fixings, homemade sides, cold drinks, and a full ice-cream sundae bar. Neighbors were invited to stop by for quick pick up or to stay, sit, and enjoy conversation. Children delighted in a castle bounce house, hands-on crafts, and art projects that kept creativity flowing all evening.

The turnout was strong, the weather was beautiful, and the spirit of connection was unmistakable. Food, laughter, and shared presence were enjoyed by all.



This event was made possible through the generosity and collaboration of many: volunteers who cooked, served, and created delicious desserts; members who offered their time, talents, and creativity; a Thrivent grant shared by a member; and the support of friends who came out to join the celebration. Trinity also received a Witness and Service Grant from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, which helped defray costs and make the event accessible to the whole community. Special thanks to DEM Kat Tigerman and Jean Sandberg for their guidance and support in making the grant available.



Creative ministry moments such as this cookout remind us that church is not confined to a building but is lived out wherever God's people gather to share food, joy, and love. On August 19th, Trinity Bangor embraced Christ's call to friendship, hospitality, and service, creating a space where neighbors could connect, children could play, and the Spirit could weave community in simple, joyful ways.



Help Make Ministry Possible

Mission Support strengthens congregations, supports leaders, and helps new ministries take root across our synod and the wider church. Thank you for being part of this shared ministry. Learn more about Mission Support and how your congregation can support at godslove.org/missionsupport.



Complete an application

01

Grab your leadership or ministry team and complete an application! Applications can be found on the Synod website at: godslove.org/witness-service



The Grant Team reviews your application and notifies you

02

The Grant Team will review your ministry project proposal and reach out with any questions. Then you will be notified of your application's approval.



Complete your project!

03

Once you receive your grant check, you can start working on your project! Be sure to track your expenses and take pictures!



Submit your evaluation form

04

After you finish your project and have used your grant funds, please complete the grant evaluation form, submitting any pictures or stories along with it.