VOLUME 34 | ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2026

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

More Than a Meal: Building Community in Bangor

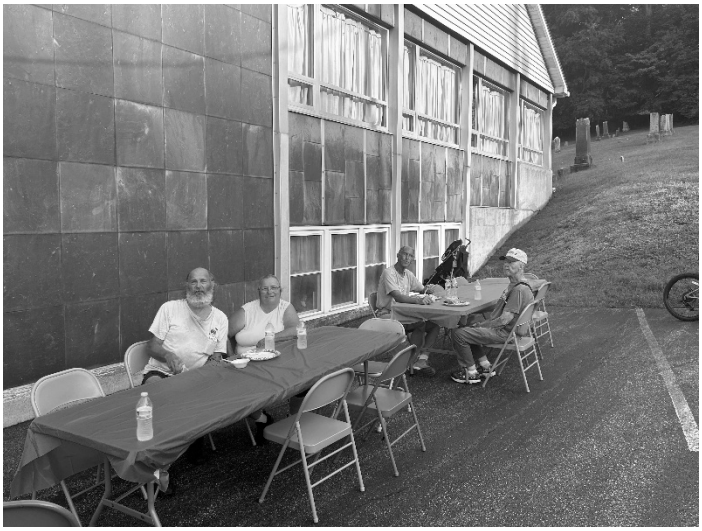
Submitted by Pastor Deborah Staniszewski of Trinity Lutheran Church in Bangor, PA

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.

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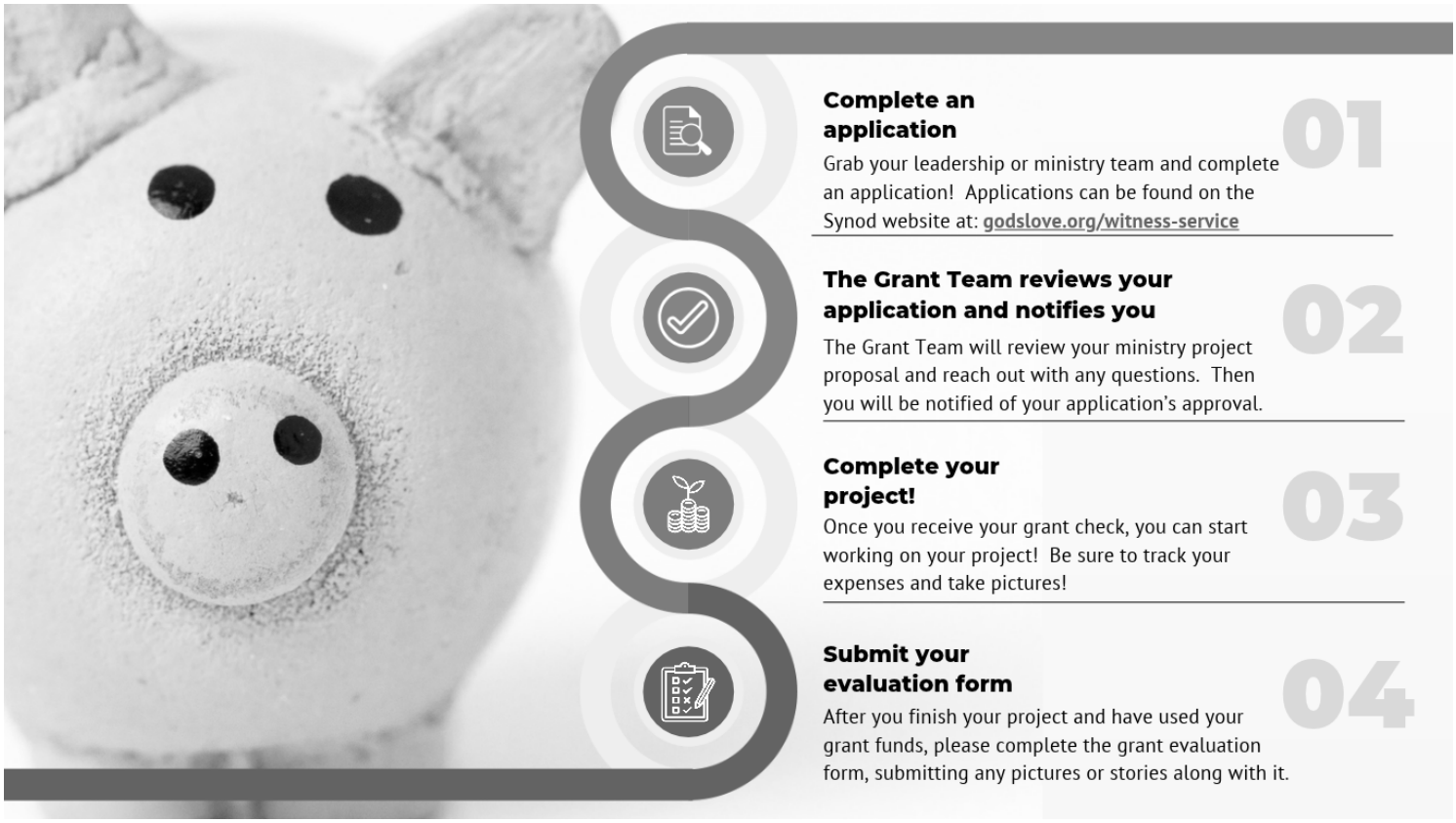
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