



CTC CONNECTIONS

Countryside Trinity Church August-September 2026

FROM THE PASTOR ---- REV. NATHANIEL ASPERGER

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Christ!

Can you believe we are 3/4ths of the way through 2026? It feels rather wild how fast time can go. It can often feel as if there is nothing but difficulties and negativity in the world around us. Especially if you watch the news or look at social media for any length of time. There are, however, lots of beautiful and wonderful things happening. I invite you to consider with me how you see and feel the Spirit of God at work in our community. There has been an abundance of moments I have been blessed to see so far, and I want to highlight a couple of them.

1. Attendance, membership, and our community continues to grow: We have two new members to be welcomed on Genesis Sunday this year, September 13th. While their faces may not be new, you have certainly seen new faces around the church. We have multiple new folks who have joined our community in attending worship, classes, and celebrating CTC. While it may not seem grand, there are not droves of new people entering the church; we are growing! That is worth celebrating as we watch the kingdom of God and the Spirit alive in this place. In addition, we are partnering and supporting more of our community. The Saginaw READ program has been mentoring several children in our fellowship hall through the summer. We are caring for the community and helping support the future of Saginaw and its youth. There is so many more things we could go into. Scout troop 304 and all their hard work. The ways people support each other in this community, congregation and all the missions. The growing number of people sharing food on the table in fellowship hall. These are blessings of the Spirit in our community of faith.
2. Financial growth: I am not one who generally likes to spend a lot of time on the financial health of the congregation. The reason is so much of our culture has been beaten down by the endless calls by televangelists, politicians who co-opt their faith to encourage your donations, etc. However, it is important to talk about it from time to time. Last year I highlighted in a sermon series how our stewardship and our tithes are spiritual practices and faithful expressions. I also mentioned that we were in a large deficit, which is never good for anyone or any institution. This year we have continued to grow in positive ways. Even when we received setbacks, like air conditioners, security systems, and sanctuary screens, we have grown in our financial health. This is something to celebrate as well! When we are able to pay our Music Director, pianist, custodian and Administrator, we can be assured that we are supporting people who care for us with their gifts and abilities. We can support missions that care for all of God's creation. We can update, fix and care for this place that we worship in, and that community members come to for all sorts of reasons.

I highlight all these things to say that the Spirit of the Triune God is active in this place, and people are responding! These are blessings and worth our celebrations. I hope you will look around Countryside Trinity Church and the community, and see all the ways that the Triune God is at work. If you see something that you believe we can do to respond to the Spirit better, please let the Session and me know. When God's people watch, listen and respond, the kingdom of God continues to grow and bless all creation.

May the Lord bless you and keep you until we meet again.

-Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS FOR AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

<u>August 2, 2026</u> <u>Semicontinuous</u> Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 <u>Complementary</u> Isaiah 55:1-5 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21	Jacob wrestles with a man from God, and receives a blessing. Visit and test me in the night, O Lord; I will behold your face. Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; eat and be satisfied. The Lord is gracious and merciful, giving food in due season. Paul struggles with the issue of Israel's relationship to the church. With five loaves and two fish, Jesus feeds a great multitude
<u>August 9, 2026</u> <u>Semicontinuous</u> Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b <u>Complementary</u> 1 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 85:8-13 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33	Out of jealousy, Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery in Egypt. God sent Joseph to Egypt to save the people in a time of famine. Elijah hears the word of the Lord – not in the storm, but in silence. Let me hear what the Lord will speak; God will speak peace. Proclaim the word of faith: confess Jesus as Lord and be saved. Jesus walks on the water to meet his disciples, and calms a storm.
<u>August 16, 2026</u> <u>Semicontinuous</u> Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133 <u>Complementary</u> Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 67 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15(10-20) 21-28	Joseph is reunited with his brothers; the family will move to Egypt. How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity. The Lord will welcome foreigners along with the outcasts of Israel. God's saving power is known among all the nations of the earth. God has not rejected Israel, but desires to show mercy to all. Debate about what defiles; a Canaanite woman shows great faith.
<u>August 23, 2026</u> <u>Semicontinuous</u> Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124 <u>Complementary</u> Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20	Pharaoh orders the drowning of Hebrew boys, but Moses is spared. Were the Lord not on our side, the water would have consumed us. Look to the rock from which you were hewed; God will deliver. I sing your praise, O Lord; do not forsake the work of your hands. Offer yourselves to God as a living sacrifice; one body many gifts. Who is Jesus? Peter answers: You are the Messiah, the Son of God
<u>August 30, 2026</u> <u>Semicontinuous</u> Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b <u>Complimentary</u> Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28	Moses meets the Lord in a burning bush, and learns God's name. Give thanks to the Lord, who sent Moses to set the people free. Jeremiah laments his calling, but God promises to redeem him. Vindicate me, O Lord; I have trusted you and walked in integrity. Love one another; seek what is good; live peaceably with all. Jesus says: If any wish to follow me, they must take up their cross.

<u>September 6, 2026</u> <u>Semicontinuous</u> Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 <u>Complementary</u> Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20	Before the exodus, the Lord gives instructions for the Passover. Let the faithful praise the Lord with tambourine and dancing. The Lord desires that the wicked turn away from evil, and live. Teach me your way, O Lord: to turn from vanity and disgrace. Love is the fulfillment of the law; put on Christ; salvation is near. Jesus says: Seek reconciliation; when you gather I am with you.
<u>September 13, 2026</u> <u>Semicontinuous</u> Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 <u>Complementary</u> Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103(1-7)8-13 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	At the sea, God delivers the Israelites from the Egyptian army. The earth shakes and the sea retreats in the presence of the Lord. Moses and Miriam sing praise to God, who has delivered them. Joseph's brothers seek forgiveness; God turned their evil to good. Bless the Lord, who is gracious and merciful, forgiving our sin. Refrain from judgment; whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. A lesson in forgiveness from a parable about debts and debtors.
<u>September 20, 2026</u> <u>Semicontinuous</u> Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 <u>Complementary</u> Jonah 3:10-4:11 Psalm 145:1-8 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16	The people complain of hunger; God gives food in the wilderness. Give thanks to the Lord, who gave food and drink in the desert. God's mercy angers Jonah; God teaches a lesson through a bush. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of love. Living is Christ, dying is gain; live in a way worthy of the gospel. The parable of laborers in the vineyard; the last will be first.
<u>September 27, 2026</u> <u>Semicontinuous</u> Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 <u>Complementary</u> Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-9 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32	The people thirst and quarrel; God gives them water from a rock. God made streams flow from rocks, giving water to the people. Is the way of the Lord unfair? Turn away from your sin and live. Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord; do not remember my sin. Seek the mind of Christ, who was humble, but exalted by God. Leaders question Jesus' authority; he answers them with a parable.

TREASURER'S REPORT – BETHANY SCOVILL

Changes in Equity- July 2026

July 2026

CONSOLIDATED ALL FUNDS

		Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Ending Balance
NET ASSETS	3000					
UNRESTRICTED	3100					
Memorial Fund	3105	28,078.13	125.00	0.00	0.00	28,201.13
General Fund	3110	(8,680.60)	3,574.27	(7,168.11)	1,535.00	(10,739.44)
Bricks Fund	3115	1,539.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,539.85
Mission Fund	3130	37.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.50
Minister Compensation Fun	3140	82,197.30	0.00	0.00	(535.00)	81,662.30
Endowment - Expendable	3150	107,542.02	821.24	0.00	(1,000.00)	107,363.26
Subtotal Unrestricted	3100	210,712.20	4,520.51	(7,168.11)	0.00	208,064.60
DONOR RESTRICTED	3200					
Food Account	3220	164.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	164.52
Good Samaritan	3230	1,065.21	20.00	(118.40)	0.00	966.81
Youth Experience Fund	3241	835.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	835.81
Parking Lot Fund	3242	1,296.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,296.24
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	3290	6,363.15	342.94	0.00	0.00	6,706.09
Endowment Nonexpendable F	3310	149,796.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	149,796.50
Subtotal Donor Restricted	3200	159,521.43	362.94	(118.40)	0.00	159,765.97
TOTAL FUND BALANCE		370,233.63	4,883.45	(7,286.51)	0.00	367,830.57

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

SESSION COUNCIL	DEACONS
Class of 2026 Roger Scovill Kathy Loviska Chuck Davis	Class of 2026 Dan Groom Paige Pequignot Lori Halase
Class of 2027 Sidney Diggs Debbie Davis Sandy Redfield	Class of 2027 Lynne Groom Jackie Williams Ron Platt
Class of 2028 Carol VanArsdale Becky Pequignot Bethany Scovill	Class of 2028 Pat Denno Ronda Otway Duncan Redfield

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

MISSIONS SUPPORTED BY COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH - HOW DO WE CHOOSE?

At CTC we support many different Missions through "Special Offerings" including **One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost/Strengthening the Church, Peace & Global Witness/Neighbors in Need** and **Christmas Joy/Fund** as well as our "Missions of the Month" throughout the year. It is not necessary to contribute to each of the Mission's CTC supports. If you are able and wish to do so, we invite you to select those missions you are most passionate about and donate to them. Any contributions you make are greatly appreciated. **THANK YOU.**

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH: The Missions of the Month for July were Emmaus House and for Christmas in July we collected for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. For August, the Missions will be Weiss Elementary School Supplies and Monetary Donations, and we will be having our Baby Shower which benefits the Baby Pantry and the Underground Railroad on Saturday, August 15th at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Please mark your donations accordingly.

"SCAM TEXTS, EMAIL, CALLS, OH MY! It seems that scammers are hard at work again. If you receive an email, text or some other communication, asking for you to buy gift cards, send money, click a link, scan a code, or anything of the like, IT IS A SCAM! If you receive any contact from someone from the church, whether Pastor, Kathy, Dan or anyone else, please call Kathy or Pastor Nathaniel to verify. Use the numbers listed in our directory to do so. Thank you!"

"Pastor Nathaniel is starting a new class on Sundays, looking at setting discipleship and life goals. This class is part of Nathaniel's doctoral program, where he shares some of the lessons he has learned and then work together on practices to help us in our faith and lives. If you are interested, please talk to pastor Nathaniel for more information."



Pack your lunch each Wednesday and join Pastor Nathaniel for fellowship and Bible Study. Come each Wednesday, or the Wednesdays you can. Together we can grow in understanding.



John & Leore Bethune Traditions of Saginaw, West,	Dawn Curtis @ Home	Lois Krzak @ Home
Avis Leach Roosevelt House/Hemlock		Marilyn Leffler Traditions of Saginaw, West
Marie Lemmer Candlestone Senior Living Community-Midland, MI	Fern Evon Little Swan Haven Manor	Elaine O'Keefe Great Lakes Rehab

Our Homebound members and friends would all love to hear from you. Please drop them a card or give them a call. Their contact information is in the Church Directory.

GET INVOLVED!



Express yourself and your faith by joining the worship, music, or usher team today.

There are so many meaningful and fun ways to get involved, and there is something for everyone to do and **YOU** are needed for CTC to continue to grow and move forward. If you are interested in becoming a worship helper, singing in the choir or have any questions about how you can help, please speak with Darren Woodke or Dan Groom. If you can occasionally usher, talk with Pat Denno or Ron Platt.

CTC CHOIR

TALK WITH DAN GROOM IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR VOICE. CHOIR WILL BE BACK SOON – SO NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO JOIN!



THE NEXT CTC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH
BEGINNING @
11:30 A.M**

WE HOPE YOU CAN ATTEND!



CTC Directory: I am still working on completing the new Directory. Please be patient, it will be finished soon.

**GENESIS SUNDAY IS
September 13, 2026
Please plan to attend
Food, Fun and Games for all
Sunday School officially begins**

On Sunday, August 9th, we held a baby shower in honor of Pastor Nathaniel and Andrea as they prepare to welcome their new baby. Thanks to the generosity of our members and friends, we were able to purchase a new car seat and crib mattress, as well as provide a \$450.00 Meijer gift card to help with any additional needs. Guests enjoyed cake, ice cream, and fruit, and it was a wonderful time of fellowship and celebration. We wish Pastor Nathaniel and Andrea all the best as they welcome their new baby.

YOUR SESSION AT WORK
Carol VanArsdale, Clerk

Opening: The meeting was called to order with prayer by Pastor and Moderator Rev. Nathaniel Asperger at 9:01, in the lounge.

<u>Deacon's Report:</u>		Ron Platt	
June, 2026,	Beginning balance		\$935.30
	<u>Income:</u>	Coffee Hour	\$83.00
		Total Income:	\$1018.30
	<u>Expenses:</u>		
	Kitchen supplies, coffee, juice		\$81.25
	Napkins, eco supplies, etc.		
	Approved the transfer to the		
	Good Samaritan Fund		\$300.00
June 30, 2026	Ending Balance		\$637.05
	Cake Fund Balance		\$225.00
July 1, 2026	Beginning balance		\$637.05
	<u>Income:</u>	Coffee Hour*	\$24.00
	*Additional July coffee hour donations		
	Will show up on the August report,		
	They were deposited August 3 rd .		
		Total Income:	\$661.05
	<u>Expenses:</u>		
	Kitchen supplies, communion		\$33.05
	Supplies, eco supplies		
July 31, 2026	Ending Balance		\$628.00
	Cake Fund Balance		\$182.00

Clerk of the Session:

Baptisms since beginning of year:	0
Deaths since beginning of year:	0
New members in 2026:	1
Carole Kaster	
Current membership:	86
Average Attendance :	36
Communion served in July	35

Presbytery Report: Pastor Nathaniel

The next Presbytery meeting is September 13 in Holly. Pastor Nathaniel encouraged those who have never attended a Presbytery meeting to attend. Roger Scovill and Pastor explained that the day starts with a communion worship service that often includes interesting elements within it.

Anyone not getting the Presbytery email blasts were encouraged to sign up for them. Go to the Presbytery of Lake Huron webpage to sign up

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds: Roger Scovill

Update on nursery: Randy Groom has painted the infant room. Chuck and Debbie Davis put together the new changing table. Matt and Lindsay Van Arsdale donated a crib. Sandy will scrub the mattress and get some bedding for it.

The air conditioning was not working after the funeral this summer. Randy Groom had a couple of fellow workers from his company look at it. It is working now. It may be that it was just overwhelmed during the funeral because of the heat and the amount of time doors were open.

Four fire extinguishers were replaced at a cost of \$400.

The committee will review the snow plowing bid and get additional bids.

A toilet seat was replaced in the women's bathroom. Please let Roger Scovill or Chuck Davis know if you see areas or issues that need attention.

Christian Outreach: The baby shower for Old Town Baby Pantry and the Underground Railroad will be August 15 at 1:00. All are invited.

Finance and Stewardship: Roger Scovill

The finance report for June was presented. Current income was up. We incurred less cost for pensions this year because we had to play "catch up" last year.

The July report is not complete because there was a deposit that was not clear. It should be completed very shortly.

Spiritual Life: Debbie Davis

Genesis Sunday is September 13. There will be a taco bar. Cake and ice cream will be dessert and our monthly celebration of birthdays and anniversaries. There will not be a cake walk this year.

Nominating Committee: Sandy Redfield

The committee will meet in September.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nathaniel

The Good Samaritan Fund now has written operational and safety parameters. The form for seeking assistance has been updated. Neither is completely ready for presentation to the Session.

The Goal setting class has 6 regular attendees. They are working hard on homework and are helping each other with their goals. Pastor would like to offer a stewardship Class in October. He would also like to have a Worship Service Class for those interested in learning how to write parts of the worship service. He asked if there were other adult classes that the congregation might want. He is open to discussing them. He would like to have more than one option for adult study.

Chuck Davis reported that Brian Leach is available to teach CPR any day but Tuesday. He can take as many in a class that want to learn. Perhaps September 10 and 16 at 6:30 would work. The Deacons want to be included. It will be announced and a sign-up sheet created.

Roger Scovill reported that a Pack in the township is still being worked on. The Session previously approved the chartering of a Pack.

Next meeting of the Session: **September 20, at 9:00 A.M.** in the lounge.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 after a prayer by Pastor Nathaniel.

Dear Friends at Countryside Trinity Church

My family and I are grateful for your generosity and thoughtfulness you gave us for my husband Wesley's funeral on July 2, 2026. Everything you did for us was amazing.

We couldn't have done it without all your help, thank you so much. A special thanks goes to Pastor Nathaniel Asperger for the wonderful service, to Dan Groom for the music, and to Kathy Loviska for all her help.

Sincerely, Carole Kaster and Family



FIRST AID/CPR TRAINING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH AND WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH BOTH AT 6:30 P.M. AT COUNTRYSIDE. THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE TABLE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL. PLEASE SIGN UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH has invited us to their Annual Picnic. Here is the information if you would like to attend, please let Kathy know so that we can pass it on to them, so they know how many to plan on. Thanks.

Our annual Family Picnic & Corn Roast will be on Sunday, August 16, 2026, at 4:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. We provide hot dogs and beverages, and you bring a dish to pass and your table service. In the past we've had a great time, so come join us! Don't miss out on the fun – this year we've added yard games!!

CTC is looking into starting a "Cribbage Club" this fall. Are you interested in joining? Do you want to learn how to play?

If so, there is a sheet on the table in Fellowship Hall.

More information to follow.



NEWS FROM OUR BOY SCOUT TROOP 304: We had a weekend backpacking trip and added a new scout, Evan to the group. He did great on his first time out. The troop attended a weeklong summer camp at Camp Tesomas in Rhinelander Wisconsin with 9 scouts attending. Liam and Frank completed the Mile Swim. Ryan had his Board of Review for First Class. Declan excelled at the Eagle Quest program, and all scouts earned merit badges. What a great time that was! Well worth the long drive. We stopped at the Mystery Spot in the UP about halfway. To finish my report and kick off August we attended the Saginaw Township National Night Out which has served as a recruiting event. There are many more photos I could share but here are a few. Best Regards, John Reis



BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2 Elaine O'Keefe
5 Dawn Curtis
8 Dave Strom
11 Graham Parker
13 Jean Bortner
18 Sidney Diggs IV
23 Bobby Diggs
24 Zayden Evans
(M=Alexa Mahan)
24 Dick Mallette
26 Nathaniel Asperger
29 Holly Furlo
30 Lynne Groom
31 Rachael Barerra

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 Taylor Hansen (M=Dana
Woodke Cooper)
4 Marianne Bird
5 Daniel Groom
8 Chad Parker
8 Rylan Hanson
10 Randy Jacob
13 Kyle Redfield
15 Ainslee Mahan

15 Aubree Mahan
21 Karla Parker
21 Casey Redfield
31 Jim Lorenz

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Becky Pequignot
3 Rob Halase
3 Charles Davis
8 Lindsey Groom
13 Louis Diechman
14 Michael Patrick Groom
14 Jane Strom
17 Lois Krzak
20 Liz Saperstein
25 Thomas Kennedy
29 Tom Ladner
30 Vincent Martinez

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Zachary Plater
2 Drew Pequignot
2 Dan Groom
3 Joseph Ruth
5 Mary Longstreth
8 Karen Blankenship
11 Jerry Paquette
13 Ethan Parker

13 Charlotte Armstrong
14 Mike Yusaf
14 Tania Yusaf
16 Randy Groom
17 Elizabeth Jacob
19 Christopher Davis
22 Jean Anne Miller
22 Pat Denno
25 Ezra Yusaf
25 Aaron Plater
26 Ashley Huizar (Hanson)
27 Marie Lemmer
29 Scott Jacob
29 Lori Halase

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

28 Charles & Irene Ohmer

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

17 Dallas & Jackie Williams
29 Darren & Joann Woodke
29 Duncan & Sandy
Redfield

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

20 Sidney & Kermit Diggs

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