

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

APRIL/MAY 2020

AS OF THIS PUBLICATION AND BECAUSE OF COVID-19, CHURCH SERVICES WILL BE ON-LINE. IF THERE ARE CHANGES, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED!



**SUNRISE SERVICE ?
IN THE ROCK GARDEN @6:00 AM ?**

REGULAR SERVICE @ 9:30 AM ?

**Mother/Daughter Banquet ?
Questionable at this time!**

The annual Mother/Daughter banquet will be on Sunday, May 3rd at 6:00 PM in the Hart Center. Bring a dish to pass. Men of the congregation will be the servers. This year we will be honoring the "Mother of the Year" and our graduates.

**Put May 3rd on your calendar.
?????**



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**Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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Towanda, PA 18848

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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Pastor's Message



A Message From
Pastor Jira
Albers

Thankfulness At A Time Like This?

For the time being, we are stuck in our homes. For some of us this is not a change in circumstances. Some of us have been stuck in our homes, alone, for a very long time. What is different this time around is that those who do visit infrequently cannot.

For others of us, the loneliness is fresh and being stuck in our homes, alone, is not something to which we are accustomed.

Still, for others, being stuck at home means that there are no breaks from the kids or the chaos. We are not allowed to go to our places of refuge, and there is no alone time. It is all just 100% other people and their needs. "What is for breakfast?" "Tell them to stop kicking me!" "What is for lunch?" "When can we have a snack?" "Why are you crying in the bathroom?" "What is for supper?" "What is the red stuff in that funny shaped glass?"

Yet, we are encouraged to give thanks. Ephesians urges us to sing, make music, and "always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul in Thessalonians models this act of giving thanks for those whom he has

encountered. Paul is constantly giving thanks for those God has put into his life, even when he finds himself in prison or persecuted. In prison he sings songs of praise to God. How can he do that? What is that all about?

I have lots of compassion for all that people have lost in this time. Some people have lost their employment. We need time to miss what we don't have. Yet, like Paul, we still give thanks.

After-all, everything we have is a gift from God. How many of us have prayed in the past for the time to read the book we have been yearning to read? How many of us have prayed in the past to spend more time with the family? How many of us prayed in the past for some peace. The things that we lose are very real, but so are the gifts that we gain. Giving thanks helps to put it all into perspective.

So, I personally will start the day by giving thanks for the chance to spend the days ahead with the kids. Maybe, we will discover something new together as we take our walks? Maybe, the extra dishes means extra time to talk and connect. Maybe, this is the perfect time to give thanks to the Lord.

*"We always
thank God
for all of
you and
continually
mention
you in our
prayers."*

1 Thess. 1:2

The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)

"Why is the church cancelling activities when it is a great time to reach out?"

It is absolutely true that in a time like this, many people are searching for answers and comfort. As the church, this is the perfect time to reach out with the good news of forgiveness and new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Yet, churches have decided to close their doors. Is that the right thing to do? Our physical doors may be closed, but Christians are not closed off from sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in any way. We have closed the doors out of love and safety of our neighbors, but we have not closed our phones or internet connections or our hearts. Now is the right time to be the church in a new way, and in a powerful way. Now is the right time to reach out to the lost with love. — Pastor Jira Albers



Parish News



ALL SERVICES ARE QUESTIONABLE AT THIS TIME-YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED!

PALM SUNDAY-April 5th with distribution of palms. A breakfast brunch will be served after the service with various delicacies! A free will offering will be taken.



MAUNDY THURSDAY-

April 9th @ 7:30 PM.

GOOD FRIDAY– April 10th @ 7:30 PM



EASTER– April 12

6:00 am Sunrise service in the rock garden followed by a light breakfast

7:30 am Ecumenical service @ Wysox Presbyterian Church

9:30 am Regular service

Adult Education Opportunities



Afternoon Fellowship

Studying the scriptures while enjoying each other's company.

Tuesday, April 14 & 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, & 26

12:30 PM

In The Hart Center



Facebook-

Bible Study at Trinity Towanda
Bible Readings, Topics, Tips & Video

Join and add your comments



Wednesday Night Book Club

MORE INFORMATION TO COME!



Parish News Continued



CONFIRMATION CLASS

Classes currently are on-line.



Vesper Guild only meets once a month and it is usually the second

Tuesday of the month unless certain circumstances require us to gather sooner. Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 14 at 10:00 am.

The Annual Mother/Daughter banquet will be on Sunday, May 3rd at 6:00 PM in the Hart Center. (questionable)



Caring and Sharing

Thank you so much for your cheerful card. It really brighten my day along with all your prayers. I miss you all at church.
Love, Rose Treimann

Thank you everyone for your cards and prayers! Having a heart attack was certainly not in my forecast, but with God's help and my church family, I was able to get thru this.
Thank you again, Dave Estelle

Columbarium Space Available

As you make your end of life arrangements do not forget that the church has columbarium space available.

Thank You Members Of Christ!

- *Thank you to Doreen Secor for her donations of her fabulous soups!
- *Thank you to Cassidy Estelle for filling in for our cleaning lady who is on vacation.
- *Thank you to Randele Albers for her beautiful singing voice during an evening Lent Service.
- *Thank you to Maureen Engelhard for chairing the "Secret Pals" project.
- *Thank you to Thelma Allis for polishing the brass paraments.

Trinity Trumpeter

MORE PARISH NEWS:

CLARION AREA'S BROCK CHAMPLUVIER FINISHES 5TH AT PA JUNIOR WRESTLING- JUNIOR HIGH CHAMPIONSHIPS



WAY TO GO BROCK!!!!!!

DUANE'S QUILT OF VALOR (Thank you for your service)



**Duane Carrington and his family
Wife, Lois
Son Duane II & wife Bree
Grandkids, Zane & Delaney**

A Closer Look at the Bible – Pastor Jira Albers

Bible Tidbits

I would like to share with you two Bible study tidbits that you may have not known before. Here are two things that you might find interesting.

1. Hearts are not always what you think.

Psalm 17

¹*Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.*

²*From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right.*

³*If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress.*

...⁸*Guard me as the apple of the eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings,*

⁹*from the wicked who despoil me, my deadly enemies who surround me.*

¹⁰*They close their hearts to pity; with their mouths they speak arrogantly.*

In the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament), when you read about hearts, the Bible may not be saying what you think it is saying. You see, in the ancient world, the center of emotions were the kidneys. So, in the Hebrew Bible, when emotions are expressed, it says that people feel it in their “kidneys.” The confusion comes when people in the ancient world start to talk about the intellect, or the center of logic and reason, because the ancients thought the intellect came from the “heart.” So, how should a translator put these ideas into English? Should the translator put what the text says literally, “If you try my kidneys, if you visit me by night...”? That would be accurate, but we would have no idea what the Bible is trying to say. Or should they translate it as “heart” because that is what we consider the metaphorical center of emotions? Should translators translate “heart” as “mind” because that is what we consider the center of the intellect, or should they be true to what the Bible literally says? “They close their intellect to pity” or “They close their hearts to pity”? This is a hard call, and since the Bible is, in general, translated by many people working together, the decisions may not be consistent (as we see in the NRSV version of Psalm 17 above. So, when you read the Hebrew Bible, just know that the “heart” you are reading may actually mean “mind.”

2. We don't get our “daily bread.”

Very early on in Christian history the Lord's Prayer was mistranslated from the Greek, and it has not even been corrected. We all pray, “give us this day our daily bread,” but Greek scholars point out that even the Greek dictionary that translators use to help them in their work of translating parses these words out wrong. The correct way that it should read is, “give us the loaf for tomorrow.” In the ancient world, bread was baked over a fire in huge pans that were divided into pie-like sections. Peasants would come to their masters after the bread had been baked and they would be handed one of these “loafs,” one of these pie sections of bread for the day. It was never enough food. Therefore, when Jesus prays, “give us the loaf for tomorrow” Jesus is acknowledging the yearning and hunger that continues even after you have eaten for food for the day. To get tomorrow's loaf in addition to today's loaf would be a gift of grace from the master.

There you have it; two Bible tidbits to keep in mind as you explore the Bible. Happy Reading!



MORE PARISH NEWS:

PRAYER CHAIN: TRINITY HAS A CHURCH PRAYER CHAIN-
IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS IN NEED OF PRAYERS, PLEASE
CONTACT (1) PERSON BELOW WHO WILL START THE CHAIN-

Kay Champluvier	570-746-3641
Cindy Estelle	570-265-5184
Maureen Engelhard	570-247-2678
Thelma Allis	570-26504230
Ruth Russell	570-265-8655
Janet Seaberg	570-247-7972
Lois Carrington	570-247-7765
Sharon Weed	570-265-5865
Doreen Secor	570-637-7134
Bree Carrington	570-247-7239
Randele Albers	570-250-8562

Calls should be made between 8 AM and 8 PM

Sample prayers: Comfort, healing, strength or courage

SECRET PALS:

Beginning April 26, Maureen Engelhard will be implementing the “Secret Pal” program within our church. The program will end on Sunday, May 31st. If you are interested in the “faith sharing ministry”, please contact Maureen— 570-247-2678 for more details!

WARMLINE

For a Weekly Dose of
Warmth
Call the WarmLine

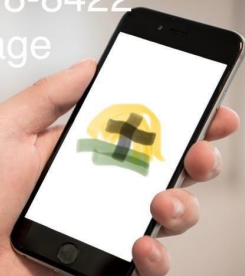


(570) 718-8422

A Ministry of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Towanda PA
and Wysox Presbyterian Church, Wysox PA

THIS
<
OR THIS
>

Call (570) 718-8422
For a Message
of Warmth



WarmLine is a Ministry of Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church and Wysox Presbyterian Church

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

St. James, Pitman: Rural and Vibrant



St. James, Pitman, is a very rural congregation that maintains a vibrant ministry of outreach, Christian education, worship, and social ministry. The congregation recently dedicated its new ADA accessible restrooms and wheelchair lift with Bishop Zeiser and a packed house in attendance. The new restroom and wheelchair lift became a reality after the congregation received a significant bequest from a former member's estate. Making the building accessible was the logical way to open the doors and welcome in the community.

Each year, the congregation, which has 150 baptized members, crafts and ships nearly 200 quilts to Lutheran World Relief sites around the world. Locally, St. James raises thousands of dollars to help people within the community, while meeting its benevolence tithe to our Synod. When Bishop Zeiser learned that the quilts were shipped to places like Madagascar, Tanzania, and Indonesia, he said, "some people may think you're 'in the middle of nowhere', but for the people receiving the work of your hands you are very much somewhere."

The congregation's vision of reaching out and being a welcoming place has already borne fruit. The quilting group, open to anyone in the community, now has its largest membership ever and the quilt production has taken off. As word about the accessibility project has spread in the community, worship attendance has risen as well. For a little church 'in the middle of nowhere', many more are finding that it is really somewhere to be.



St. Paul, Fountain Hill, NFL Canned Food Challenge Award

The Bethlehem-Easton Mission District Council challenged their congregations to participate in collecting canned goods for the food bank(s) of their choice. It was an effort to join forces; and with a bit of a challenge, to help others.

The goal was to collect a canned good for each point scored during the playoffs! Yes, that meant each congregation was asked to collect 523 cans. The prize was not revealed to the congregations ahead of time.

The suspense grew from week to week as the scores piled up and the cans were counted. Who would win the prize? As the points total grew, it seemed like an unreachable goal; yet many remained hopeful and determined.

After 11 play-off games, watching their canned goods pile up at their altar each week to be counted, St. Paul Fountain Hill was honored to receive a framed award for their "Mighty Effort" in the NFL Canned Food Challenge by surpassing the goal as they collected a total of 594 items. A total of 2,279 cans were collected & distributed to several food banks within the district.

Yes, the "Mighty 45" (as their Pastoral Care Provider Marlene Werkheiser calls them) stepped up to the challenge! As she told them that first week, "This is a great way for our small congregation to help others and to possibly win bragging rights to the prize." The challenge intrigued them enough to muster up an average of 13 cans per worshipping parishioner.

"I am beyond proud of them", said Werkheiser. "For a small congregation, they really wanted to show others that their congregation can (and wants to) participate in ministries that help to do God's work."

Pictured below is the "Mighty 45" on February 9, after they reached the goal.



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View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.

April 2020 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Mason Kunkle	7 Michael Wallitsch	8	9	10 Betty Blatz	11
12	13	14	15 Brianna Brimmer Tammy Lockhart	16	17	18 Roger Blatz
19	20 Karen Troup	21	22	23	24 Katie Feusner Jim Philippi Richard Seaberg Jr Bob Stoudt Jr	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2020 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Mary Ann Feusner	4 Eric Horn Christian Thomason	5	6	7	8	9 Quinn Cantellops Natalee Hicks
10	11	12	13 Ruth Russell Robert & Lisa Horton	14	15	16 Cassie Gardner Mike & Melissa Cantellops
17 Rachel Champluvier	18 David Estelle	19	20	21 Peggy Cranmer	22 Joe Stoudt Mary Horton Peter & Sandra Hart	23 Isaac Albers
24 Joe Stoudt Mary Horton Peter & Sandra Hart 31 Duane & Aubrey Carrington	25	26	27 Brock Champluvier	28 Dan & Karen Troup	29	30 Matthew Dunn Christine Griffith

April 2020 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday Brunch following	6	7	8	9 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Ser.	10 7:30 PM Good Friday Serv.	11
12 6AM Sunrise Ser. 7:30AM Wysox 9:30AM Reg. Ser.	13	14 9:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 am Vesper Guild	15	16	17	18 Hall rented
19	20	21 9:00 AM Bible Study	22	23	24	25
26	27 6:30 pm Council	28 9:00 AM Bible Study ELECTION DAY	29	30		

May 2020 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Mother-Daughter Banquet @6:00 pm	4	5 9:00 AM Bible Study	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12 9:00 AM Bible Study	13	14	15	16 Hall rented
17 HONOR OUR GRADUATES	18	19 9:00 AM Bible Study	20	21 Ascension of Our Lord	22	23
24 31 Day of Pentecost	25 6:00 pm Council	26 9:00 AM Bible Study	27	28	29	30

Trinity Leadership Directory

Officers & Staff:

Pastor – Jira A. Albers, MDiv 265-5322
Organist - Kay Champluvier..... 746-3641
Vice President – Doreen Secor 265-3832
Office Manager – Cindy Estelle 265-5184
Treasurer – Cindy Estelle 265-5184
Fin. Secretary – Doreen Secor 265-3832
Ministers—All the members of Trinity

Council Members:

Maureen Engelhard..... 247-2678
Doreen Secor..... 265-3832
Joe Snyder..... 412-2796
Paul & Aggi Cook..... 247-7383
Cassidy Estelle..... 506-9644

Contact *Trinity*

Office Telephone: 570-265-5322
Homepage: <http://www.trinluth.com>
Email: trinluth@epix.net
In case of emergency, you can contact Pastor Jira at
his home: 570-363-2951
Office hours: 8:00-Noon Tuesday, Wednesday
& Thursday

Serving us in worship:

The Rev. Jira A. Albers, presiding minister

Altar Guild– April

Thelma Allis

Alter Guild– May

Maureen Engelhard

April 5-Palm Sunday

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Joe Snyder
Communion Assistant– Joe Snyder
Ushers– Ruth & Ron Russell
Counters– Maureen Engelhard
Children’s Church–Cindy Estelle

April 12—Easter Day

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington
Lector– Bree Carrington
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Ushers– Paul and Aggi Cook
Counters—Cassidy Estelle
Children’s Church–

April 19—The Second Sunday of Easter

Acolyte– Trinity Pugh
Lector– Cindy Estelle
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle
Ushers– Janet Seaberg and Thelma Allis
Counters–Maureen Engelhard
Children’s Church–Maureen Engelhard

April 26– The Third Sunday of Easter

Acolyte– Jennifer Kaniuka
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Lois & Duane Carrington
Counters–Joe Snyder
Children’s Church– Rebecca Hodgdon

May 3—The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Ushers– Ron and Ruth Russell
Counters–Doreen Secor
Children’s Church– Cindy Estelle

May 10–The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acolyte– Natalee Hicks
Lector– Joe Snyder
Communion Assistant– Joe Snyder
Ushers–Paul & Aggi Cook
Counters–Doreen Secor
Children’s Church– Chris Griffith

May 17—The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington
Lector– Bree Carrington
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Ushers– Lois & Duane Carrington
Counters–Paul and Aggi Cook
Children’s Church– Maureen Engelhard

May 24—The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Sue Alexander and Joyce Detharidge
Counters–Cassidy Estelle
Children’s Church– Rebecca Hodgdon

May 31– The Day of Pentecost

Acolyte– Trinity Pugh
Lector– Cindy Estelle
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle
Ushers– Janet Seaberg and Thelma Allis
Counters–
Children’s Church–Cindy Estelle

Trinity Lutheran Church
908 South Main Street
Towanda PA 18848

TRINITY TRUMPETER

APRIL/MAY 2020

“Challenged to witness and share Christ’s love with all”

Sunday Morning Schedule
Service of Holy Communion at 9:30 AM

Spreading Christ’s word of peace to all through service.

