





TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

APRIL/MAY 2022



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# EASTER DAY THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

APRIL 17, 2022 @ 9:30 AM in person And on-line

If you are fully vaccinated (two weeks past your final shot) you are free to worship indoors, unmasked and without social distancing. If you are not vaccinated, it is recommended that you continue to take appropriate precautions (masking and social distancing) for your own health and for the health of others.

#### Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

908 S. Main Street Towanda, PA 18848

570-265-5322 trinluth@epix.net www.trinluth.com



### Pastor's Message



### **Value 1: Christ Centered Worship**



A Message From Pastor Jira Albers

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 2:5

Did you know that we still have a Christian hymn that is almost 2,000 years old? That is right, almost 2,000 years ago, the early Christians in Philippi raised their voices to the night sky to celebrate Christ. That hymn can be found in Philippians 2:5-11. In that hymn those early Christians remembered that Jesus refused to use his divine powers to control others, but rather gave his life up for the sake of others, especially the lowly. Christ is the king who chooses to be a slave and serve the peasant. Christ is the superintendent who chooses to be a teacher's aide for the sake of the student. Christ is the general who chooses to sludge through the mud in order to take a bullet for the private.

It is because of that superior love, a love which does not forget even the lowliest of us, that those voices from long, long ago sang out into the night sky. It is because of that amazing grace that we still gather and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Though it may seem obvious, one of the most important values that we Christians hold, both when we gather together and individually as we live out our lives, is "Christ centered worship."

Christ is at the center of our devotion. We raise our voices celebrating Christ.

Though there is a lot of great, meaningful music out in the world, our song is always about the one who created us, and loves us, and redeems us. And, as we sing, we are reminding ourselves again and again that our very lives belong to Christ.

We are a people who belong to Jesus Christ. We do not belong to politicians, nor do we follow them. We do not belong to cultural warriors, nor do we follow them. We do not belong to social influencers or public personalities, nor do we follow them. Our song reminds us again and again that we belong to the one who loved us all the way to the cross: Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul encourages us to, "Let the same mind be in [us] that was in Christ Jesus" (NRSV, Phil. 2:3).

Christ is at the center of our devotion and celebration. Christ is at the center of our decisions. Christ is the voice to which we listen. Christ is the personality that we follow. We hold close the value of "Christ centered worship" because Christ's love holds us central. It is a love that can overcome anything that we throw at it, including sin and death. It is a love that is worth being a part. It is a love worth emulating. It is a love worth living. Christ is our center. We strongly value, "Christ centered worship."

### The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)

Sometimes I feel hatred. Is it OK to hate?"

Jesus did not hate. He disagreed vehemently with people. He called them to repent and turn from their ways. He also died for them. All of it was out of love. Christians do not hate. – Pastor Jira Albers



### Trinity Trumpeter



### **Parish News**



### **HOLY WEEK**

MAUNDY THURSDAYn person service @7:00 PM



GOOD FRIDAY- In person service @7:00PM

BOTH SERVICES WILL BE ON-LINE ALSO



Take a few minutes on this day to commemorate Jesus' completion of His resurrection and His return to sit at the right hand of God the Father. **Worship Highlights** 

Maundy Thursday April 14

> Good Friday April 15

Easter Day April 17

Ascension of Our Lord Thursday, May 26

### **Adult Education Opportunities**



#### **Morning Fellowship**

Studying the scriptures while enjoying each other's company. We will be studying **"Women of the Bible"** 

Tuesday, April 5, 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 9:00 AM Via Zoom– You will be notified



#### Facebook-

### **Bible Study at Trinity Towarda**

Bible Readings, Topics, Tips & Video https://www.facebook.com/towandalutheran/

Join and add your comments



### Trinity Trumpeter



### **Parish News -**



### **DEFINITION OF MOTHER:**

SOMEONE WHO IS NUTURING, CARING, AND TAKES CARE OF HER CHILDREN, HER FAMILY, HER FRIENDS AND HER ANIMALS. SHE WANTS TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD FOR EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING.

ON MAY 1, 2022, WE WILL HONOR "ALL" MOTHERS!
DINNER STARTS AT 6:00 PM WITH A "DISH TO PASS"! BEVERAGES
AND TABLE SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED. HOPEFULLY OUR
GENTLEMEN OF THE CHURCH WILL BE THE SERVERS!!

**EASTER LILIES:** I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET A GOOD PRICE YET ON THE LILIES. AS SOON AS I DO, I WILL SEND OUT AN E-MAIL TO EVERYONE.

**SYNOD NEWS**: Seeking nurses interested in joining a Parish Nursing Task Force. This is an opportunity for Christian nurses in the NEPA Synod to become part of a collegial group for support, education, parish nursing and service opportunities. For more information, contact Pastor Mary Owens at MARYOWENS903@YAHOO.COM

### 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 Nathan Milarta for cleaning the church, hall and basement.
- \*Thank you to Joyce Detharidge for getting the flower pots ready for spring planting.
- \*Thank you to Maureen Engelhard and Kay Champluvier for their Thrivent projects for banners and vacation bible school.
- \*Thank you to Pastor Jira and Kay Champluvier for providing evening services during Lent and Holy Week.

### A Closer Look at the Bible - Pastor Jira Albers

### Shame and Honor

As you read through the Bible, it might sometimes seem that there are reasons for the things that are happening that we just do not quite grasp in our modern, western world. It might seem that way, because that is the case. One example of this is that both ancient Israel and ancient Rome were what are considered "shame and honor" societies.

In societies that function with shame and honor, an individual's standing has everything to do with what other people think. It is common within our own society to say, "I don't care what other people think." That sentiment would have never been uttered in a society that functions through honor and shame. Your very worth in an honor and shame society is tied up in what other people think. High honor is often rewarded with high respect and the opportunity to accumulate wealth. Low honor means a desperate and desolate life.

In ancient Israel, the honor of the father was particularly prized. If you were a child, a slave, a maidservant, or a wife and you did something very wrong, it would not reflect badly on you, rather it would reflect badly on the head of the household, the father. It is the father, the head of the tribe, who is supposed to make certain that his entire household (wives, children, and slaves) are honorable. Therefore, anything good that someone in the household does, does not necessarily reflect well on them but mostly reflects well on the father. It is in this sense that the following proverb makes the most sense:

"Those who spare the rod hate their children, but those who love them are diligent to discipline them." Proverbs 13:24

This proverb does not primarily mean that lack of discipline means a rotten child will emerge (though that sense is certainly in there). It primarily points to the need of the father to discipline his children so that they bring him honor and not shame. Loving a child means bringing them up in an honorable household.

Conversely, the sins of the father can have reverberations for generations to come. Just recall how the sins of David (having Bathsheba's husband murdered) had reverberating consequences through his own children (lust, rape, and murder). That can be found in 2 Samuel 11 and 12. The father is able to bring shame not only upon himself, but everyone in his own house. The commandment on making idols makes this abundantly clear:

"You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, 6but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments."

Exodus 20:4-6

With that in mind, we should probably mention shame. Shame is not the same as guilt. When we do something wrong, we feel guilty, and we try to fix it. Guilt come when we do something wrong. Shame is what comes when we feel that something about our very selves is wrong. In the ancient world, to have disruptive and disrespectful children, wives, or servants means that there is something very wrong with the father.

This is why the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32) is so shocking to ancient ears. When the wayward son asks for his share of the inheritance, he is essentially saying that his father is as good as dead. Such a request would normally be met with a complete ousting of the son from the family in order to preserve the father's honor. But, shockingly, the father gives the son his share of the inheritance, and diminishes his own wealth and honor in the process. It sounds kind of like Jesus who would go to the cross in humiliation (the lowest rank in the honor and shame society) in order to save the wayward sinner. When you understand honor and shame, the Bible starts to make a lot more sense.



### Easter 2022 - No Idle Tale

"I love to tell the story..." So goes the great old hymn. But the world is filled with stories today, that are tough to tell. As Covid lingers. As the war in Ukraine breaks our heart. What's next? And will it be worse? Just as much, I worry: can we trust each other anymore? Trust enough to share any kind of news, and believe it, together? Do we still hold in common, any of the assumptions, beliefs, and causes we used to share? Or is our world now filled only with suspicions and deceptions — "fake news" from all sources, on all sides?

On that first Easter Sunday, still overshadowed by Good Friday, bleakness and distrust were also all around. Even when those energized, overjoyed women burst in, announcing the most amazing thing they had ever seen and heard – HIS TOMB IS EMPTY! JESUS IS RISEN! – even then, "all the rest" dismissed their report as nothing more than "an idle tale" (Luke 24:11).

We are the church. We are called to be different. If the prevailing winds of our world today are seeking to blow us apart, the Holy Spirit winds us back together. God calls us to come to the places of sadness and sickness and doubt and despair – where all hope is dead and buried – and be ready to be amazed. Ready to see (and say!) what was dead – is now ALIVE. What was lost – is now FOUND. What was impossible – is now POSSIBLE. Real. True. And trustworthy. Jesus is risen, and we shall arise. The Bible prophets foretold it. Jesus said it, again and again. But almost nobody could trust it. Until God made it true, and sent people out to spread the word, the good news, the gospel. God is still sending us today. This Easter Sunday is like the first: a world full of doubt and distrust. A world full of conflict and separation. In the midst of it all, Christ is standing here with us. The Holy Spirit is in us and giving us courage. And God is making all things new, even now.

Jesus is risen, and we shall arise. Let us share this good news, for ALL people, for ALL creation. Holy God, give us the power to trust it, and to share it. Rebuild in us: trust in you. And through us: rebuild trust throughout our world, with justice, with peace, with faith, hope and love.

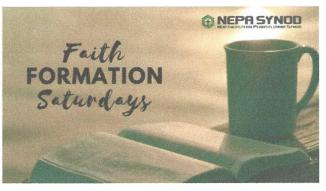
Blessed Easter to you and yours! Bishop Christopher deForest



### **TOGETHER**

Our 2022 Assembly will be held online on June 10-11. Each congregation is entitled to bring two voting members. If you are interested in attending the synod assembly as a voting member please reach out to your congregation's leadership for more information.





Join us on the 2nd Saturday of every month! (more information on our website)

### **STEWARDSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA**

**JUNE 18. 2022** TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, LANSDALE AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE SEPA AND NEPA SYNODS (REGISTRATION FORTHCOMING)



APRIL 23 & 24, 2022, 1PM-4PM

RAIN OR SHINE, BAREBONES EVENT, BRING YOUR OWN KNIFE, CUTTING BOARD, DRINKS, AND SNACKS. WE'LL BE CUTTING THE SEED POTATOES FOR PLANTING SEASON! ALL ARE INVITED! JUST WALK-IN AND HELP!

BECKER'S ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 265 MAIDENCREEK ROAD FLEETWOOD, PA 19522

### April 2022 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 2022 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	14
15	16 Cassie Gardner Mike & Melissa Cantellops	17 Rachel Champluvier	18 David Estelle	19	20	21 Peggy Cranmer
22	23 Isaac Albers	24 Joe Stoudt Mary Horton Peter & Sandra Hart	25	26	27 Brock Champluvier	28 Dan & Karen Troup
29	30 Matthew Dunn Christine Griffith	31 Duane & Bree Carrington				

### April 2022 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 9:00 AM Bible Study via Zoom	6	7	8	9
10 PALM SUNDAY	11	12 9:00 AM Bible Study via Zoom	13	14 Maundy Thur. 7:00 PM Service	15 Good Friday 7:00 PM service	16 THE VIGIL OF EASTER
17 HAPPY EASTER	18	19 9:00 AM Bible Study via Zoom	20	21	22 EARTH DAY	23
24	25 6:00 pm Council	26 9:00 AM Bible Study via Zoom	27	28	29	30

## May 2022 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Mother's Day Banquet 6:00 PM	2	3 9:00 AM Bible Study via Zoom	4	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10 9:00 AM Bible Study via Zoom	11	12	13	14
15	16	179:00 AM Bible Study/Zoom	18	19	20	21
22 29	23 6:00 pm Council 30MEMORIAL DAY	24 9:00 AM Bible Study via Zoom	25	26 Ascension of Our Lord	27	28

### **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**:

Doreen Secor	265-3832
Cassidy Estelle	506-9644
Thelma Allis	
Ron Cunfer	814-234-8796

#### Contact *Trinity*

Office Telephone: 570-265–5322 Homepage: <a href="http://www.trinluth.com">http://www.trinluth.com</a>

Email: trinluth@epix.net

In case of emergency, you can contact Pastor Jira at

his home: 570-363-2951

### Serving us in worship: The Rev. Jira A. Albers, presiding minister

Altar Guild-April—Cindy Estelle May- Thelma Allis

#### **April 3-The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Acolyte– Jennifer Kaniuka Lector– Ron Cunfer Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard Ushers– Sue Alexander & Joyce Detharidge Children's church-Rebecca Hodgdon

### April 10—The Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)

Acolyte- Delaney Carrington Lector- Bree Carrington Communion Assistant- Kathy Smith Ushers- Thelma Allis and Doreen Secor Children's Church- Cindy Estelle

#### April 17—Easter Sunday-The Resurrection Of Our Lord

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle Lector– Korrie Kunkle Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle Ushers– Ron and Ruth Russell Children's Church-Cindy Estelle

### April 24- The Second Sunday of Easter

Acolyte- Trinity Pugh Lector- Bill Serfass Communion Assistant- Bill Serfass Ushers- Lois and Duane Carrington Children's Church- Maureen Engelhard

#### May1—The Third Sunday of Easter

Acolyte– Jennifer Kaniuka Lector– Ron Cunfer Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard Ushers– Ruth & Ron Russell Children's Church– Rebecca Hodgdon

#### May 8- The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acolyte-Trinity Pugh Lector-Cindy Estelle Communion Assistant-Cindy Estelle Ushers-Thelma Allis and Doreen Secor Children's Church-Cindy Estelle

#### May 15—The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acolyte- Delaney Carrington Lector- Bree Carrington Communion Assistant- Bill Serfass Ushers- Lois and Duane Carrington Children's Church- Maureen Engelhard

#### May 22—The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle Lector– Korrie Kunkle Communion Assistant– Kathy Smith Ushers– Paul & Aggi Cook Children's Church– Maureen Engelhard

#### May 29- The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acolyte- Trinity Pugh Lector- Bill Serfass Communion Assistant- Bill Serfass Ushers- Sue Alexander & Joyce Detharidge Children's Church- Rebecca Hodgdon



# TRINITY'S SUNDAY BULLETIN APRIL/MAY 2022

"Come and See, Come and Serve, Follow Christ"

