

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

AUG/SEPT 2019



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019

Fall is almost here!! And that means you need to start thinking about the Annual Basket Sale and Fall Bazaar. Mark your calendars for **Friday, October 20.** Baskets will be displayed before that for your perusal and ticket buying pleasure.



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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

908 S. Main Street
Towanda, PA 18848

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Putting God First...Literally



A Message From
Pastor Jira Albers

“You are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing.”

Luke 10:41

Most of us know well the story of Mary and Martha. Jesus shows up at Mary and Martha's house. Martha gets mad at her sister Mary for sitting around and listening to Jesus rather than helping her cook. In other words, Martha criticizes Mary even though she was doing the right thing: loving the Lord with all her heart, soul, strength, and mind. Martha assumes that Mary is failing to love her neighbor by not partaking in the kitchen duties. But, Mary has not failed to love Jesus at all. Rather, she puts first things first and allows Jesus to speak to her. When God is put first, loving the neighbor will certainly follow.

Jesus reinforces that Mary has “chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.” Martha, on the other hand, is worried and distracted. So, how do we keep from being distracted? How can we put Jesus first rather than making faith an after-thought in life?

Why not try this little morning devotion? It is designed to be the first thing that you do as soon as you open your eyes in the morning.

1. Take three long and deep breaths in and out. As you take those breaths in and out, say yourself this Easter promise: “Christ Lives!”

2. Now open your hands and stretch your fingers while repeating to yourself, “You are the potter, I am the clay.”

3. Take another deep breath in and say to yourself, “Create in me a clean heart, O God...” And, as you breathe out say to yourself, “...and renew a right spirit within me.”

4. Stretch your arms like Jesus on the cross and say to yourself: “God is love. God forgives.”

5. Tilt your head to the left, putting your ear low and remind yourself to listen for the lonely and poor.

6. Tilt your head to the right, putting your ear low and remind yourself to listen for the sick and oppressed.

7. Stretch your arms high and say to yourself, “To you O Lord I lift up my soul.”

8. Finish with another deep breath saying to yourself, “Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.”

Of course, this is not some magical formula that needs to be done in order to put Christ first in your life, but it is a nice reminder to “choose the better part” and sit beside Mary at the feet of Jesus. Go ahead and give it a try.

The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)

What should I do about my adult children who do not go to church?”

Quite frankly, there is not much that you can do. You cannot spank them. So, you are limited to the things that you can do like letting them know that you are praying for them and their faith. You can also share something that was a surprising revelation to you from the sermon and engage them in a faith conversation.

– Pastor Jira



Parish News



Sunday, September 8, the congregation is invited to continue the community service of volunteering. What our project will be is yet to be determined. Look for more details.

Worship Highlights

**God's Work.
Our Hands.
September 8th
Following the Service**



Sunday, September 15th, the congregation will worship with the heart and faith of a child. The music, bible readings, and message on this Sunday will all be tailored to children. Everyone is invited to bring friends to enjoy the worship service


**Child's Faith
Worship
September 15th**





Starting, September 17, Bible Study will be held on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 AM. Pastor Jira will be leading us and exploring different chapters in the bible. This is open to everyone....hope to see you!!

**September 22
Children's
Church starts**

Adult Education Opportunities

	Morning Fellowship Studying the scriptures while enjoying each other's companionship
Will resume on September 17 th 9:00 AM In The Hart Center	
	Facebook- Bible Study at Trinity Towanda Bible Readings, Topics, Tips & Video
Join and add your comments	

	Book Club Reading: "Year of Living Biblically" By A. J. Jacobs
September 22 & October 6 at 1:00 pm At Sven & Pat Thomason's Towanda	
	Group Event Looking for ideas!! Share your thoughts!!



Parish News



Junior Youth Group

Junior Youth Group meeting is September 15 at 12:30 PM in the Hart Center.



Confirmation Group

Stay tuned for future announcements on Confirmation group meetings.



Women's News

Vesper Guild will resume September 10th. We will begin preparing for the fall bazaar and basket raffle which will be held on **Friday, October 25, 2019 from 10:00—2:00 PM**. Several baskets will be raffled off at \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00. Tickets can be purchased also from a Vesper Guild member. Lunch will also be served offering chili and vegetable and chicken noodle soups. Our famous variety of homemade pies will be available too along with a bake sale. Takeout's are also an option!

Come out & enjoy our great Lutheran cooks!



Trinity is in need of Worship Assistants—

Altar Guild, ushers, lectors and communion assistants!

Please consider volunteering!

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 everyone who helped clean up the church's property and planted the geraniums.
- *Thank you to Bill Serfass for filling in for Pastor Jira while he was on vacation.
- *Thank you to everyone for filling in for worship assistants.
- *Thank you to everyone who helped out with Community Vacation Bible School.
- *Thank you to Doreen Secor for giving the "Temple Talks".



TRINITY'S FAMILY PAGE



GUESS WHO'S GOING TO KINDERGARTEN??

Mavis Pugh & Ember Albers

**GUESS WHO'S
GOING TO COLLEGE??**



Satchel Manchester graduated with honors and received awards for Future Business Leaders of America, social studies as well as achieving a Presidential Outstanding Academic Excellence Award. He received a Lockheed Martin engineering scholarship. During high school he was active in cross country; science Olympiad; quiz league; Rho Kappa National Honors Society; FBLA, serving as president; National Honor Society, serving as president; captain of the Scholarship Challenge team. He will be entering Drexel University in their honors program majoring in Data Analytics-Business with 18 credits due to AP courses he took in high school. The 5-year major includes two tracts of working for firms in his field. He will be starting college in September. At the 2018 NEPA Synod Assembly he was elected to represent out synod at the 2019 Church wide Assembly in Milwaukee. He will attend as a Youth-Male voting member at the Assembly August 5 through August 8.

FIRST YEAR ALMOST DONE!!



Cassidy Estelle is attending Lackawanna College for her Fall semester 2019-2020 in Business Administration. She has one year left and will attain her Associate Degree. She currently has a successful animal sitting business and is looking for more clients. References can be provided.

TROY FAIR 2019



Allie



Brock, Olivia, Allie



**Purple cow
(Olivia Champluvier)**



Olivia



Holly & Jacob

THE FAMILY OF KAY CHAMPLUVIER

A Closer Look at the Bible – Pastor Jira Albers

Luke 10:38-42

38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. 40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' 41 But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; 42 there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

I wanted to take some time to give you a closer look at this story about Mary and Martha because in interpreting it you are able to learn a couple of basic principles that will help you as you study the Bible. But, before we get to those basic principles, let us start out with a very basic exercise: asking questions. So, here are some of the questions that come to my mind. Why is Jesus just stopping into random people's houses? Why does Martha care so much about Mary not helping? Is not entertaining guests a needed task? Is Martha wrong in doing her many tasks (presumably cooking and cleaning and making up a bed - it does not say), or is Jesus upset at her for a different reason? Is Jesus even upset in the first place? What exactly is the "better part" that Mary chooses? I am certain that there are many other questions you may have, but these questions are a good start. Now, we will move into finding answers to some of these questions.

Let us start with the first question, "Why is Jesus just stopping into random people's houses?" There are two things you need to understand. The first is that in the ancient world, there were very few inns and there certainly were no supermarkets (though there were marketplaces in the cities). What this all means is that if you are traveling (and in this section of Luke, Jesus is traveling to Jerusalem) you must rely on the hospitality of others in order to survive. Hospitality was essential in a society where people depended on each other to get by in life. This also answers the question of why Martha cares so much about Mary not helping. It appears to Martha that Mary is not being hospitable, which is clearly rude behavior in a hospitality culture. The second thing you must understand when Jesus just stops in at a random person's house is that Jesus is doing the very thing that he instructed his disciples to do in Luke 10. He instructed *"Go on your way...⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!'...⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house...⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"* This is precisely the nature of Jesus' ministry. I wonder what would happen if we did the same today?

We just used two very basic principles to study this story in the Bible. First, we used social and cultural information about the time to try to understand. Social commentaries are helpful in this regard. If you do not try to understand this social and cultural information, you may completely miss the point of the story because you will assume that the ancient culture was the same as our own. It was not. Second, we looked outside of this Bible story (looking in other parts of Luke) in order to shed light on this story. Never forget that these stories are a part of a larger story, and that makes a difference. Reading one chapter of a novel might be interesting, but to get a full understanding of the story, you have to read it all.

Continuing with our questions, "Is Martha wrong in doing her many tasks, or is Jesus upset at her for a different reason? Is Jesus even upset in the first place?" Here we see Jesus respond to Martha's distraction with the double use of her name, "Martha, Martha." We could interpret this as condescending disapproval because it follows a condescending trope from our own culture. However, the double use of a name in the ancient world may signal great concern rather than condescending disapproval. Therefore, Jesus may not be upset with Martha at all, but is simply concerned about how her worry and distraction is causing her to lash out at Mary. Notice that Jesus does not care that Martha is attending to the tasks of hospitality. Rather, he cares that Martha wants to limit what Mary is doing. And, what Mary is doing is following the first part of God's most important law which is found in the story preceding this: ***"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."*** If the parable of the Good Samaritan immediately preceding this story is a story about loving the neighbor, then this is the story about not forgetting to love God. And, that is the first commandment. Loving God is the better thing

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Highlights from Assembly 2019

Festival Worship

On Saturday, June 1, approximately 500 delegates and visitors gathered at Genetti Ballrooms Inn & Suites in Hazleton for Assembly 2019. The day began with a Festival Worship Service led by Bishop Zeiser and synod Vice-President Kristen Edelman-Weiner. Service music was provided by Deacon Michael Krentz and a volunteer choir. An offering of \$3,600 was collected for World Hunger.

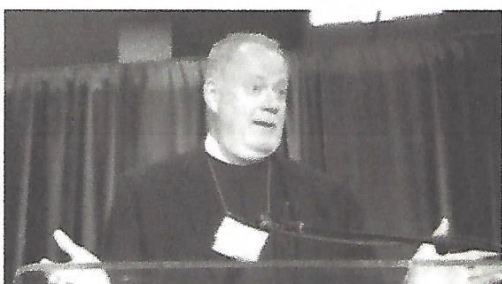


In his sermon, **Bishop Zeiser** spoke of a "stirring" within us when we recognize the active presence of God in our life. Driven by faith, we become convinced that we "are onto something"; and we then are compelled to see it through. The result is ministry, ministry built on the generations of

Christians who likewise were convinced that they were onto something. However, the past, no matter how great, is sometimes unhelpful for this time. Our theme "Freed in Christ for a New Day" reminds us that it is indeed a new time; and it further reminds us of who it is that got us here, and who will come again.



ELCA Churchwide Representative

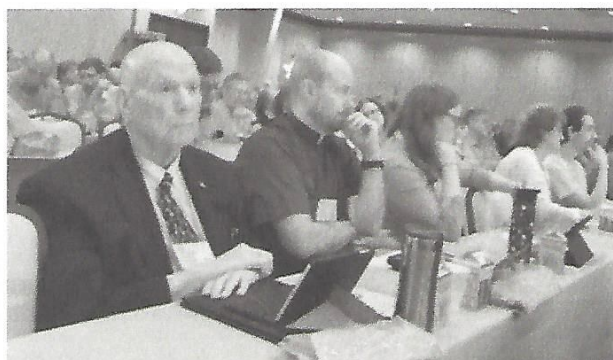


The **Rev. Ronald T. Glusenkamp**, Director for "Always Being made new: The Campaign for the ELCA," was this year's ELCA Churchwide representative. Pastor Glusenkamp described the ELCA Churchwide ministry and mission in 2018. This included major efforts in advocacy, candidacy, congregational vitality, Fund for Leaders, World Hunger, global mission, and the Youth Gathering. He shared a video report highlighting these efforts (video link: <https://vimeo.com/332095341>) and also a video greeting from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (video link: <https://youtu.be/TMVRrRkF2sg>). Following Pastor

Glusenkamp's presentation, an offering of over \$3,300 was collected for The Campaign for the ELCA.

Bishop Zeiser's Report to the Synod

Bishop Zeiser reviewed some of the mission and ministry of our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod during the past year. He then talked about challenges that the next bishop (to be elected at Assembly 2020) will face. He emphasized that many congregations will be facing challenging situations; and that it is critically important for both congregations and rostered ministers to commit to building a collegial relationship with the new bishop and his or her staff as together they face the immense challenges to come.



More Highlights from Assembly 2019

Luncheon

After the morning session, the delegates and visitors adjourned for a luncheon in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Synod receiving its charter. They enjoyed their meal under a large tent on a beautiful spring afternoon.



Elections

Several individuals were elected to offices in the synod:

Synod Vice President: Kristen Edelman-Weiner

Synod Secretary: The Rev. Carl Shankweiler

Synod Council-Clergy: The Rev. Cheryl Meinschein

Synod Council-Lay Female: Ruth Major

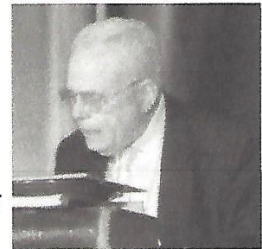
Synod Council-Lay Male: Thomas Engle

Reports from Synod Officers



Kristen Edelman-Weiner

The Assembly heard reports from the synod officers: Vice President Kristen Edelman-Weiner; Secretary The Rev. Carl Shankweiler; and Treasurer Donald Dillman. The 2020 Spending Plan was adopted with a total budget for next year of \$1,984,400, of which \$869,500 is sent to the ELCA for Mission Support; and \$148,000 is given to various church related institutions such as Bear Creek Camp, United Lutheran Seminary, Muhlenberg College, PA Conference of Churches, and LAMPa.



Rev. Carl Shankweiler

Resolutions

The Assembly adopted two resolutions. The first was a major revision of "Continuing Resolutions" offered by Synod Council to bring them up to date with current practice. The second was a resolution that the Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry Team address the need for synodical youth leadership; and that this Team work with the Transition Team that will report to the new bishop in 2020.

The 2020 compensation guidelines for pastors and deacons were also adopted.

Assembly 2020, June 4-6

Kalahari Resort & Convention Center Pocono Manor, PA

Plan now to attend. If you are a delegate, you will help to elect a new bishop.
And both delegates and visitors can enjoy the indoor
and outdoor waterparks of this exciting resort.



Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.

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

AUGUST 2019 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 Ron Russell	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Ann Feusner Sandra Hart Cara Kapson Hannah Lockhart	16 Joyce Detharidge Kyle & Korrie Kunkle	17
18	19 Rachelle Horton Bob & Helen Fleck	20 Jeff & Tammy Lockhart	21 Olivia Champluvier	22 Ember Albers Jan Kapson	23 Kelly McNamar	24
25 John Troup	26	27	28 Roger Horton Jr.	29 Megan Abell Helene Foreman Katrina Horton	30 Kyle Kunkle Bill & Bonnie Stout-Johnson	31

SEPTEMBER 2017 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Holly Champluvier Gene & Mary Lou Vanderpool	4	5	6	7
8 James Post Jr.	9	10	11	12 Roger Horton	13	14 Bill Feathers
15 Richard & Mary Horton	16 Zane Carrington Jacob Lineberry Jeff Lockhart Bill & Marian Feathers	17	18 Barbara Horn	19 Rick Landers	20	21
22	23 Timothy Hart	24	25 Jim & Debbie Philippi	26 Emily Dunn Tifani Starr Rebecca Troup-Hodgdon	27 Randeale Albers Joyce Grant Bob Teppner Brian & Debra Chilson	28 Duane Carrington Bill & Beverly Serfass
29	30	26	27	28	29	30

AUGUST 2019 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 Pastor on vacation	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 SCHOOL STARTS	23 ANNIVERSARY OF PASTOR JIRA'S ORDINATION- <u>16 YEARS</u>	24
25	26 6:00 pm Council	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER 2019 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7
8 God's Work. Our Hands Sunday	9 Worship/Prayer Mtg. @12:15PM	10 Vesper Guild Meeting @10:00	11	12	13	14 Holy Cross Day
15 Recognition Day Child's Faith	16	17 9:00 am Bible Study	18	19	20	21
22 Children Church starts	23	24 9:00 am Bible Study	25	26	27	28
29 Pastor on vacation	30					

Trinity Leadership Directory

Officers & Staff:

Pastor – Jira A. Albers, MDiv265-5322
Organist - Kay Champluvier..... 746-3641
Vice President – Doreen Secor 265-3832
Office Mgr/Treas. – Cindy Estelle..... 265-5184
Fin. Secretary – Doreen Secor 265-3832
Council Secretary-Maureen Engelhard.247-2678
Ministers—All the members of Trinity

Council Members:

Maureen Engelhard..... 247-2678
Peggy Cranmer.....886-0705
Satchel Manchester 886-0705
Doreen Secor.....265-3832
Joe Snyder.....412-2796
Lois Carrington.....247-7765

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

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

Altar Guild—
August— Maureen Engelhard
September— Cindy Estelle

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

August 4– The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Cindy Estelle
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle
Ushers– Ron and Ruth Russell
Counters–

August 11– The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost
Acolyte– Kate O'Connor
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Ushers– Paul and Aggi Cook
Counters-Joe Snyder

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS (contd)

August 18– The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Acolyte– Delaney Carrington
Lector– Bree Carrington
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Ushers– Doreen Secor and Cindy Estelle
Counters-Maureen Engelhard

August 25—The Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Duane and Lois Carrington
Counters– Peggy Cranmer

September 1—The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost
Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Cindy Estelle
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle
Ushers– Ron and Ruth Russell

September 8—The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Acolyte– Abby O'Connor
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Ushers– Janet Seaberg and Thelma Allis

September 15—The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle
Lector– Dave Estelle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Ushers– Paul and Aggi Cook

September 22—Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Acolyte– Delaney Carrington
Lector– Bree Carrington
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle
Ushers– Duane and Lois Carrington

September 29—The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Doreen Secor and Cindy Estelle

Trinity Lutheran Church
908 South Main Street
Towanda PA 18848

TRINITY TRUMPETER

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

“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.

