

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



The 2016 Volunteer of the Year was **Lois Carrington**! Lois received this award at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 22, 2017. Lois is so deserving of this award as she is always ready to give a helping hand, hospital visitations, making soups and baked goods. She is also treasurer of the Vesper Guild. Congratulations Lois!

Pastor's Tenth Annual Chili Cook Off



On January 22, 2017, the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church enjoyed Pastor Jira Albers's 10th Annual Chili Cook-off. After holding their Annual Congregation Meeting, about 50 people tasted and judged the 9 different chilies entered. There were three categories: BEST, HOTTEST and MOST UNIQUE. The crowd tasted and submitted their votes. The BEST CHILI winner was **David Estelle Jr.** for his venison chili. The HOTTEST CHILI went to **Joe Snyder**. It was also venison chili and was the second year that Joe has won this category. The MOST UNIQUE CHILI went to

Peggy Cranmer for her Sweet Potato Chili. It was a fun time with great food and fellowship. The congregation welcomes all to join them for these fun events and look forward to next year's cook-off.

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



Thirsting for Righteousness



A Message From
Pastor Jira Albers

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

- Micah 6:8

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

There are two things that we all know should never be brought up at the dinner table in polite company; politics and religion. Politics is particularly relegated to the sidelines, not only at the dinner table, but especially at church. The reason usually given for this is probably a good one; in politics we revere people and human ideas, and in church we revere God and no one else. It all comes down to the first commandment: *"You shall have no other gods."*

Though there is great merit in this idea, a couple of biblical texts cause me pause. The first is straight from Jesus' mouth. It is the beatitude that says those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are the ones who are blessed by God.

I do not know about you, but I am more of a sidelines type of guy. I have no problem doing the work and letting someone else get the glory. I also have no problem staying comfortably in the boat and not rocking the darn thing if I can help it.

But, those who crave righteousness (those with whom God is very happy) are anything but "follow the crowd" sorts of people. They desire the world to be right and for people to act right toward one another. They cling to Micah who states quite clearly what the Lord requires of us; *"to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* In other words, people of faith do enter into the political realm.

Note: when we step into the political realm, we are not simply supporting a particular candidate because we revere them. (Recall the first commandment.) Rather, we engage in the political realm (in a loving way) so that we might seek justice and strive for righteousness in the land for the sake of other people. Love is a communal thing and it requires us to speak up and act on behalf of others.

Those with political power and wealth would rather that the people of God simply remain silent. But, it is not the silent who are blessed. Those who hunger and thirst for a right people and a right world are the people upon whom God smiles.

The Question Box

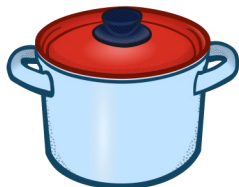
(Questions About Our Christian Life)

"What is humility according to the Bible?"

In Luke there is the story of one man who prays that he is not like other, terrible people. There is another man praying who looks down and declares, "God have mercy on me, a sinner." The second man is humble. In Philippians 2:3-4, Paul writes, *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."* Anytime God leads you to imitate Christ, who put others interests first and died for the sake of others, you are walking humbly with your God. – Pastor Jira



Parish News



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On **February 5** there will be a pot or container for members to put in monetary contributions and cans of soup for the benefit of TACO. We will also have installation of council members at our service.

CHILD'S FAITH SERVICE



On **February 12**, come worship and feel the love of a child at our Child's Faith Service. Guaranteed to bring smiles and renewed faith to everyone.



February 19 is the celebration of Martin Luther's birth into eternal life. A light lunch and cake will be served after service. Also there will be a movie entitled "Luther and the Reformation" by Rick Steves shown to all.



FASNACHTS— Kay Champluvier and her "staff" will be making, taking orders & distributing her famous fasnachts on **February 28**. Order forms are at the ushers table or contact the office.

Worship Highlights

FEBRUARY

- 5— Souper Bowl of Caring**
- 12— Child's Faith Service**
- 19— Celebration of Martin Luther**
- 26— Transfiguration of Our Lord**
- 28— Fasnacht Day (doughnuts)**

MARCH

- 1— Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00 pm**
- 8— 11:45 am Lenten lunch Service @ 7:00 pm**
- 15— 11:45 am Lenten lunch Service @ 7:00 pm**
- 22— 11:45 am Lenten lunch Service @ 7:00 pm**
- 29— 11:45 am Lenten lunch Service @ 7:00 pm**

APRIL

- 5— Prayer around the cross Service @ 7:00 pm**
- 9— Palm Sunday— Breakfast after service**

Adult Education Opportunities



Afternoon Fellowship
Studying the scriptures with enjoying each other's company.

February 7, 21, & 28
None in March
In The Hart Center



Wednesday Night Book Club
Reading and talking about faith issues
"Bonhoeffer, Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy"
By Eric Metaxas

In The Troup Home—Monroeton
April 19 & 26
At 7:00 pm



Parish News continued



March 1st is Ash Wednesday. There will be a service and receiving of ashes at 7:00 pm.



Lent luncheons begin on March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5 at 11:45 am.. Place has not been determined.



Our evening Lent services begin on March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5 at 7:00 pm. The service will be "Unfailing Light" and the text will be based on the small catechism. March 8 will be a service of Prayer & Meditation. April 5 will be Prayer around the cross.

LOOKING FORWARD

April 9-Palm Sunday there will be a breakfast after church. Pancakes, sausage gravy, home fries, eggs & bacon are on the menu! A free will offering will go to ELCA World Hunger.

April 16- Easter Sunday

April 30- Lutherans will gather at the Keystone theater to see a movie on The 500th Reformation. Time will be available soon.

Columbarium Space Available

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

Call (570) 265-5322

Thank You Members Of Christ!

- *Thank you to David Estelle Jr. for installing the door bells at the Hart center.
- *Thank you to Cathy Bellanca for contributing to the Sunday newsletters all about Saints.
- *Thank you to all who made chilies for the cook-off.
- *Thank you to the members of the prayer chain for offering prayers to friends in need.



JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

Pastor Jira will be contacting parents for future dates.



Vesper Guild meets only once a month or when there is something that needs immediate attention. Next meeting is scheduled for February 21st.

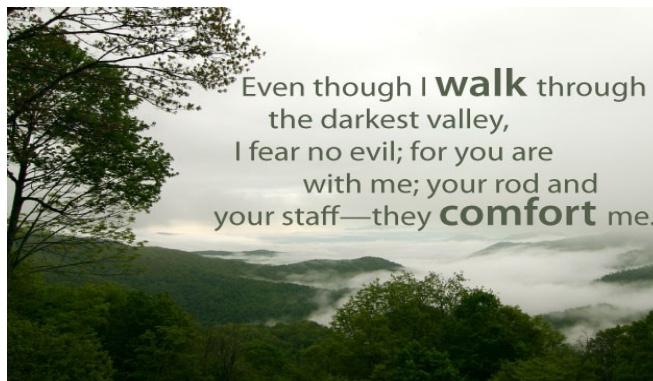
Bible study is at 12:30 pm on February 7, 21, and 28. Wysox luncheon is on the 14th. There will be no bible study in March because of Lent.



From Grace Connection for helping with Christmas for needy families.

For the "love baskets"-
David Weed
Pat Thomason
Joyce Grant
Dot Korb
Dan Vogel

Special thanks from Pastor Jira for their love basket and Christmas gift.





Volume 25, Issue 2

February 2017

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Meet Your Synod's Staff



Diane Hemerly

Diane is the financial administrator at the synod office. She pay the bills, reconciles the various account statements, does the daily book-keeping, and verifies the reports from the Mission Investment Fund. She also prepares the Bulletin of Reports and the Minutes Book for the Synod Assembly; and she assists Pr. Mary Gade with the work of the Candidacy Committee.

Diane has worked at the synod office for 5 years. Prior to that she worked at Dunn and Bradstreet for over 19 years, and at the Lehigh Conference of Churches for 2 years.

She and her husband Jim, have a daughter living in San Francisco and son, who is a commander in the Navy, living in Japan. They have one grandson. Diane had a kidney transplant over 18 years ago and she gives thanks daily for her continued good health.

Diane is an avid NASCAR fan. She also enjoys crafts such as making candy lollipops, sewing, and making wreathes. She is a member at Ziegels, Worsenborg Township.

Christ, Conyngham Outdoor Worship Space



In early 2016, leaders of Christ, Conyngham began exploring ways to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the congregation in 2018. One of three significant projects identified was restoring a courtyard area located between the buildings housing the sanctuary and Christian Education/ Fellowship spaces. The challenge was to re-imagine the space, taking creation care and reaching out to the community into consideration.

An outdoor worship space looking over the Conyngham Sugarloaf Valley was designed and constructed by ThorneCare Landscape Solutions, a business owned and operated by one of the congregation's young adults. Financing was provided by Mission Investment Fund, which allowed the congregation to use existing funds for giving to the Campaign for the ELCA.

The courtyard project and a parking lot restoration project occurred in tandem, along with the congregation's third anniversary project- giving \$100,000 to the Campaign for the ELCA. Lutheran World Relief Hunger Appeal has been the recipient of \$50,000. Plans include giving \$50,000 to Lutheran Disaster Response in 2017.

The space features a fully accessible worship space and stone altar, a baptismal fountain which pours forth from the altar, and a fire pit for social gathering. The fountain color may be changed based upon the season of the church year. The worship space includes capacity for sound and landscape lighting, and utilizes an open area with pavers marked with the sign of the cross. In addition, a Celebration of Life tree on the wall allows folks to have a leaf engraved with the names of their departed loved ones and two benches by the tree for seating.



Synod News Continued

Coaching

Do you have goals you would like to achieve but struggle to make time or map an approach to them?

Do you know of situations or projects so complex that you cannot keep the overview and be in it at the same time?

Are you looking for ways to be more effective in what you do?

Then why not find out more about coaching?

What is coaching?

Coaching is a focused, very effective way of intentionally addressing your goals and achieving them through a step by step process. Usually, coach and client meet or talk by phone once a month for about one hour. A good coach does not need to be an expert in your area of interest. A good coach is trained to draw the expert out of you.

- Coaching is *not* counseling.
- Coaching is *not* spiritual direction.
- Coaching is *not* a consultation process.
- Coaching is *not* about winning.
- Coaching *is* an intentional effort to strive for results and growth.

The synod has experienced as well as newly trained coaches, who are available to work with you. If you are curious, you can talk to a coach at no cost to discern if coaching seems right for you. For more information, please contact Mike Bennethum at 610-266-5101 or mike@nepsynod.org.

Parish Secretaries' Christmas Luncheon



On Tuesday, December 13, the synod staff hosted for the first time a Parish Secretaries' Christmas Luncheon. Parish secretaries from the entire synod were invited to come together for a catered lunch, followed by a time of fellowship and games. There were even prizes!

The event provided a wonderful opportunity to network with other secretaries in similar circumstances, and to share ideas and challenges. Some hope to continue the experience in their own mission district.

There was tour of the Lutheran Center for those who had never been there, including an introduction to the Resource Center. It turned out to be a productive and helpful day, and the staff hopes to plan another event for next year.

Because so much food was left over, the staff contacted the Lehigh Conference of Churches, which was happy to stop by and pick up the food to distribute to the hungry and homeless.



Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
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nepsinfo1988@gmail.com; www.godslove.org

February 2017 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Bob Stoudt	2 John Secor	3	4
5 Maurine Gehring	6 Scott Bracken	7	8	9	10 Dale Griffith David Weed	11
12	13 Thomas Morrison	14 Cathy Bellanca Butch & Terri Brion	15	16	17 Eric Secor	18
19 Christopher Hart	20	21 Kathy Smith	22	23 Kynlee Kunkle	24 Lois Carrington David Horn	25 Emily Chilson Irma Henson Colleen LaFerrara
26 Kristy Cook Richard Feusner	27 Sue Sites	28 Tanner Kunkle				

March 2017 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Justin Hart	2 Satchel Manchester	3 Braylee Brimmer	4
5	6 Carolyn Lacey	7 Timothy Hart Jim & Brenda Giffen	8	9 Morgan Post	10 Neil Danko	11
12 Michael Cantellops	13 Frank Zukerman	14 Sven & Pat Thomason	15 Aaron Lineberry Mavis Pugh Gene Vanderpool	16	17 Heather Manchester	18
19	20	21	22 Dorothy DeWalt	23	24	25 Wendy Keeney
26	27	28	29	30 Paul Sites	31 Brian Manchester Cindy Sites Alton Homan	

February 2017 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 Souper Bowl Sunday	6	7	8	9	10	11 Joe & Heather's Wedding
12 Child's Faith	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Celebration of Martin Luther Luncheon	20	21	22	23 COUNCIL MEETING	24	25
26 Transfiguration Of Our Lord	27	28 Faschnauts				

March 2017 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Ash Wednesday	2	3	4
5	6	7 12:30 Bible Study	8 Lent Lunch 7:00 pm Service	9	10	11
12	13	14 Wysox Luncheon	15 Lent Lunch 7:00 pm Service	16	17 	18
19	20	21 12:30 Bible Study	22 Lent Lunch 7:00 pm service	23	24	25
26	27	28 12:30 Bible Study	29 Lent Lunch 7:00 pm Service	30	31	

Trinity Leadership Directory

Officers & Staff:

Pastor – Jira A. Albers, MDiv..... 265-5322
Organist - Kay Champluvier..... 746-3641
Vice President – Cathy Bellanca.....265-6049
Office Manager – Cindy Estelle . . . 265-5184
Treasurer – Cindy Estelle... ..265-5184
Fin. Secretary – Doreen Secor265-3832
Ministers—All the members of Trinity

Council Members:

Chris Griffith268-4123
Cassidy Estelle.....268-4123
Dave Estelle Jr.220-8493
Maureen Engelhard.....247-2678
Debbie Philippi247-2353
Doreen Secor265-3832

Contact Trinity

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Email: trinluth@epix.net
In case of emergency, you can contact Pastor Jira at
his home: 570-363-2951
Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday–
8:00 am—Noon.

Serving us in worship:

The Rev. Jira A. Albers, presiding minister

Altar Guild– February

Maureen Engelhard & Carol Cunfer

Alter Guild– March

Cindy Estelle

February 5—Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Cathy Bellanca
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca
Ushers– Ron and Ruth Russell

February 12—Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Acolyte– Satchel Manchester
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Ushers– Janet Seaberg & Peggy Cranmer

February 19—Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington
Lector– Mary Lou Vanderpool
Communion Assistant– Mary Lou Vanderpool
Ushers– Thelma Allis & Nate Chilson

February 26—Transfiguration of Our Lord

Acolyte– Kate O'Connor
Lector– Cindy Estelle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Ushers– Lois & Duane Carrington

March 5—First Sunday in Lent

Acolyte– Rachel Champluvier
Lector– Cathy Bellanca
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca
Ushers– Doreen Secor & Cindy Estelle

March 12—Second Sunday in Lent

Acolyte– Tanner Kunkle
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Ushers– Paul & Aggi Cook

March 19—Third Sunday in Lent

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Mary Lou Vanderpool
Communion Assistant– Mary Lou Vanderpool
Ushers– Janet Seaberg & Peggy Cranmer

March 26—Fourth Sunday in Lent

Acolyte– Kate O'Connor
Lector– Cindy Estelle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Ushers– Lois & Duane Carrington

Trinity Lutheran Church
908 South Main Street
Towanda PA 18848

TRINITY TRUMPETER FEBRUARY/MARCH

“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.

