

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2019



**On January 20th, our church service was canceled because of the snow storm. The safety of all of our members was of the utmost importance. We tried to reach everyone by e-mail or by telephone. If you were missed, we apologize! If you are in doubt, please call Pastor (570-363-2951) or Cindy Estelle (570-265-5184).**

Because of the service cancellation, our Annual Congregation Meeting will be held February 3, 2019 followed by our 11th annual chili cook-off!! It is also "Souper Bowl Sunday". Please give monetary donations or cans of soup for TACO Food Pantry.

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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

*"Therefore  
encourage  
one  
another  
and build  
each other  
up..."*

*1 Thess. 5:11*

### The Underappreciated Gift: Encouragement

The animal shelter all started with one little bit of encouragement. But, before we get to that, let us start at the beginning of the story.

It all started with a teenage girl who had no idea what to do with her life. Her friends knew what they were going to do (lawyer, beautician, accountant), but in her senior year of high school she still had no idea. She took all of those tests that try to help you decide what to do with your life, but the tests all seemed to come up somewhat...well...general. "Do something outdoors."

In the girl's congregation was a member who was arranging the yearly "Blessing of the Animals." She needed someone who could help with the logistics of having dogs, cats, hamsters, fish, and one known pet goat in the church without any of them fighting or eating the others. The first person that the woman thought of to assist was the teenage girl. She lived just down the street, and the woman saw every day how she loved and cared for her pets. She knew the girl would be perfect.

And, that is how it all started. The teen helped with the animal blessing and it all went well.

"You know, you are really good working with animals. Have you ever

considered working with animals for a career? Of course, you are always welcome to help us," the church leader told the girl. The encouragement was exactly what the girl needed, and with it she decided that she would create an animal shelter as her way to serve God.

All of us are members of the body of Christ, and all of us have gifts given to us by God so that we might serve God and our neighbor. What not all of have is the knowledge of what those gifts might be. It often takes someone to invite us to work with them in order for us to realize exactly what our gifts and passions might be. Sometimes, it takes someone else to tell us what our gifts are before we are able to find our place in Christ's body.

This spiritual gift of looking at others and helping them see their potential is called "encouragement." It is an extremely underappreciated gift, but it is the one that helps individuals and communities move out of a sense of being tired and stuck in the faith and into actions that show love of God and love of neighbor.

As you go about your life in the faith, keep your eyes open for the gifts of others, and let them know. Give them the gift of encouragement.

### The Question Box

*(Questions About Our Christian Life)*

#### **"Is the Bible the word of God?"**

Yes, the Bible is the word of God, but probably not in the way many might think. The Bible did not descend down from heaven for us to worship and follow. That Word of God was Jesus. Jesus is the Word of God (God's very breath) that we worship and follow. The Bible is the inspired word of God that preaches to us about the true Word of God. Without the Bible we would not know Christ, but, we do not worship it. — Pastor Jira





## Parish News

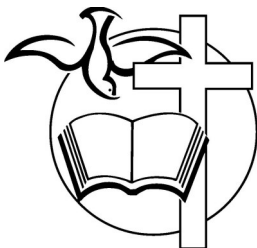


### **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**

On **February 3** there will be a pot or container for members to put in monetary contributions and/or cans of soup for TACO Food Pantry



**“Sweets Sounds Café”**  
**February 17, 2-4 pm**  
**Wysox Presbyterian Church**  
**Benefit Grace connection**



### **CONFIRMATION**

**Classes starting-**  
**February 24, 1-3 pm**  
**March 10 & 24, 1-3 pm**  
**May 19, 1-7 pm**

#### Worship Highlights

### **FEBRUARY**

**4– Souper Bowl Sunday**  
**17– Service of Healing**  
**17- 2:00 pm “Sweet Sounds Café”**  
**24– 1-3 Confirmation class**

### **MARCH**

**3– Transfiguration of Our Lord**  
**6– 12:15 Ash Wednesday Service**  
**7:00 pm Ash Wed. Service**  
**10- 1-3 Confirmation**  
**13– 11:45 am Lenten lunch Service @ 7:00 pm**  
**20– 11:45 am Lenten lunch Service @ 7:00 pm**  
**27- 11:45 am Lenten lunch Service @ 7:00 pm**

### **APRIL**

**3- 11:45 am Lenten lunch Service @ 7:00 pm**  
**10- 11:45 am Lenten lunch Service @ 7:00 pm**

## Adult Education Opportunities



**Afternoon Fellowship**  
Studying the scriptures with enjoying each

**February 5, 19, & 26**  
**Last one -March 5**  
**Continue after Easter**



**Book Club**  
Reading “Room” by Emma Donoghue  
**March 17 & 31**  
**@1:00 pm**



## Parish News continued



**Lent luncheons** begin on March 13, 20 & 27-April 3 & 10 at 11:45 am at the First Methodist Church, Main St. Towanda.

Trinity will be preparing the lunch on March 27 and Pastor Jira will be giving the message.



**Ash Wednesday** is March 6, 2019 and our services are:  
12:15 pm & 7:00 pm

We will continue Lent services every Wednesday night @7:00 pm. (March 13, 20, 27 & April 3 & 10).



**CHILD'S FAITH SERVICE ON MARCH 10TH.**

**JR. YOUTH GROUP- MARCH 7TH @6:00 PM**

### 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 Ron Cunfer for taking care of the leftover baked goods to Grace Connections and for taking out the garbage.
- \*Thank you to the members of the prayer chain for offering prayers to friends and families in need.
- \*Thank you to Beverly Serfass for lending her beautiful singing voice, for helping the Altar Guild and for posting the hymns.
- \*Thank you to Dave Estelle and James Kithcart for closing and securing the trap door on the side of the church.



## MORE PARISH NEWS:



Vesper Guild meets only once a month or when there is something that needs immediate attention. Next meeting is scheduled for February 26 at 10:00 am.



Thank you church family for the love basket of yummy goodies, along with the puzzle books. I miss seeing all of you at church. I am on the mend and hope to be back at church soon. Love, Rose Treimann

Thank you from the families of Grace Connection that the church sponsored for Christmas.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the kind basket with the many presents. It was just lovely! God bless you all, Carol Cunfer

What a wonderful surprise-the basket of "goodies" is just great! I made a nice dish of fruit salad & will put the gift cards to good use. All of you are very special to me & I am so thankful to be back & part of a great "family". Love to all of you, Suzanne Alexander

Thank you Trinity for the cards. I am at my daughter's for several months this winter while my son is working out of state. I hope to be back home soon. God bless you all and thank you again. Love, Janet Yocum

Rev. & Mrs. Kenneth Trexler wish to thank everyone for the Christmas cards in the decorated bag. It certainly brought many smiles to us! Thanks for thinking of us.

Greetings from Marian & Bill Feathers! "We think of you all fondly and miss singing and worshiping especially on Christmas Eve." Hope to see you in 2019!

Blessings from the Korb family! Marie, Greg, Dave, Hank, Barb, Jim, Kay and Mary Ann appreciate the love & caring given to them during this year. Our heartfelt thanks for the beautiful love basket which we all shared. Blessings to all.

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

*“12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot would say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear would say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ 22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; 24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, 25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*

*27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But strive for the greater gifts.” (NRSV, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a)*

1 Corinthians 13 will talk about how all Christians should strive together toward the greater gift of “love” that all share. But, before we get to that, the apostles Paul and Sosthenes (the writers of the letter) want to focus a little bit on the body of Christ and how it functions. The Corinthian church has begun quarreling over interpersonal conflict and ethical dilemmas. The Corinthian church seems to have tried to work out these situations by individuals claiming power and authority in various ways. Rather than choose a “king” or “queen” who is right and everyone else is wrong, Paul and Sosthenes take a different approach. They focus on the group’s unity. And they do this through an analogy of the body.

“The body” (soma in Greek) can refer either to our actual bodies (the ones we were born with) or to a group of people (think the “body politic”). This double understanding of body, which is similar in English, serves to be very useful to Paul and Sosthenes’ argument.

They argue that the Spirit has joined everyone through baptism into one body. All are included in the body and are important, no matter your background. Paul and Sosthenes then give a simple example to emphasize who is included in the body: “Jews or Greeks, slaves or free.” This list is not intended to be exhaustive, but serves as a springboard into thinking about who is included in this body by the Spirit. Both people of the covenant (Jews) and the people grafted in (Gentiles) are included by God. Whether you are owned by someone (slave) or own and direct your own body (free), you are equal in this body drawn together by the Spirit. Some Christians have expanded on this list to emphasize current realities, “Liberal and conservative, rich and poor, educated and uneducated.” Though this is not strictly biblical in that these categories are not listed, it is in the same spirit of Paul and Sosthenes’ understanding.

Of course, though we are in one body, we are not the same. We are equally in the body, but we do not all have the same gifts. This should seem obvious, but remember that people exclude themselves (or others) if they feel as if they do not fit in the group because they are different (14-16). People also tend to emphasize the important of their own gifts and passions and tend not to take seriously those gifts and passions for which they do not care as much (21). In fact, those members of the body that seem weaker (think fingers) are essential and those members that seem dirty and inferior (think sexual organs) we clothe greater (22). Paul and Sosthenes want to emphasize that we are all different with different gifts. No one is the same, nor do we all have the same gifts. In addition, those who appear to be of lesser importance are, in fact, given greater attention. We do not cast away those in the group who seem inferior. Quite the opposite; we hold onto them tighter.

But, how is this body ultimately arranged? Is it hierarchical with Christ as the head and most important? No. The body is Christ (27) and each member of the body is just as important as any other. Instead of quarreling over small things, the body should focus on the greater gift: love (1 Cor. 12:31-13).

## February 2019 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 <b>Joe &amp; Heather Snyder</b>	12	13	14 Cathy Bellanca <b>Butch &amp; Terri Brion</b>	15	16
17 Eric Secor	18	19	20	21 Kathy Smith	22	23 Kynlee Kunkle Stacey Kwader
24 Lois Carrington David Horn	25 Emily Chilson Colleen Woodrig	26 Kristy Cook Richard Feusner	27 Sue Sites	28 Tanner Kunkle		

## March 2019 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Satchel Manchester
3 Braylee Brimmer	4	5	6 Carolyn Lacey	7 Timothy Hart <b>Jim &amp; Brenda Giffen</b>	8	9 Morgan Post
10	11	12 Michael Cantellops	13 Frank Zukerman	14 <b>Sven &amp; Pat Thomason</b>	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						

## February 2019 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Congregation mtg. Chili Cook-off	4	5 12:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm VBS Mtg.	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Service of Healing 2:00 pm Sweets Sounds Café@ Wysox Presb.	18	19 12:30 pm Bible Study	20	21	22	22
24 1-3 Confirmation	25 COUNCIL MEETING @6:00 PM	26 12:30 pm Bible Study	27	28		

## March 2019 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Trans. Of Our Lord	4 Meeting	5 12:30 pm Bible Study	6 ASH WED. 7:00 pm Service	7 6:00 pm Jr. Youth	8	9
10 CHILD'S FAITH 1-3 Confirmation	11	12 Wysox Luncheon	13 Lent Lunch 7:00 pm Service	14	15	16 St. Pat's Meal @1st Presb. Church
17 1:00 pm Book Club	18	19	20 Lent Lunch 7:00 pm service	21	22	23
24 1-3 Confirmation	25 6:00 pm Council Mtg.	26	27 Lent Lunch 7:00 pm service	28	29	30
31 1:00 Book Club						



# Trinity Leadership Directory

## Officers & Staff:

Pastor – Jira A. Albers, MDiv..... 265-5322  
Organist - Kay Champluvier..... 746-3641  
Vice President –  
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  
Cathy Bellanca.....265-6049

### *Contact Trinity*

Office Telephone: 570-265-5322  
Homepage: <http://www.trinluth.com>  
Email: [trinluth@epix.net](mailto: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 3—Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Acolyte– Emily Chilson  
Lector– Cathy Bellanca  
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca  
Ushers– Janet Seaberg and Thelma Allis  
Children’s Church–Cathy Bellanca  
Counters–Cathy Bellanca

### **February 10– Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Acolyte– Kate O’Connor  
Lector– Bill Serfass  
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass  
Ushers– Cindy Estelle and Doreen Secor  
Children’s Church–Maureen Engelhard  
Counters–Doreen Secor

### **February 17—Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington  
Lector– Dave Estelle  
Communion Assistant–Dave Estelle  
Ushers– Lois and Duane Carrington  
Children’s Church– Chris Griffith  
Counters–Peggy Cranmer and Satchel Manchester

### **February 24—Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

Acolyte– Abby O’Connor  
Lector– Ron Cunfer  
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard  
Ushers– Peggy Cranmer and Satchel Manchester  
Children’s Church–Eileen Alesky  
Counters–Doreen Secor

### **March 3—Transfiguration of Our Lord**

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle  
Lector– Cathy Bellanca  
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca  
Ushers– Ron and Ruth Russell  
Children’s Church–Cindy Estelle  
Counters–Doreen Secor

### **March 10—The First Sunday in Lent**

Acolyte– Emily Chilson  
Lector– Bill Serfass  
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass  
Ushers– Paul & Aggi Cook  
Children’s Church–Cathy Bellanca  
Counters–Maureen Engelhard

### **March 17—The Second Sunday in Lent**

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington  
Lector– Cindy Estelle  
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle  
Ushers– Janet Seaberg & Thelma Allis  
Children’s Church–Maureen Engelhard  
Counters–Peggy Cranmer and Satchel Manchester

### **March 24—The Third Sunday in Lent**

Acolyte– Abby O’Connor  
Lector–Dave Estelle  
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle  
Ushers– Lois & Duane Carrington  
Children’s Church–Chris Griffith  
Counters–Cathy Bellanca

### **March 31–The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Acolyte–Kynlee Kunkle  
Lector–Ron Cunfer  
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard  
Ushers– Cindy Estelle and Doreen Secor  
Children’s Church–Eileen Alesky  
Counters–

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## **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.

