

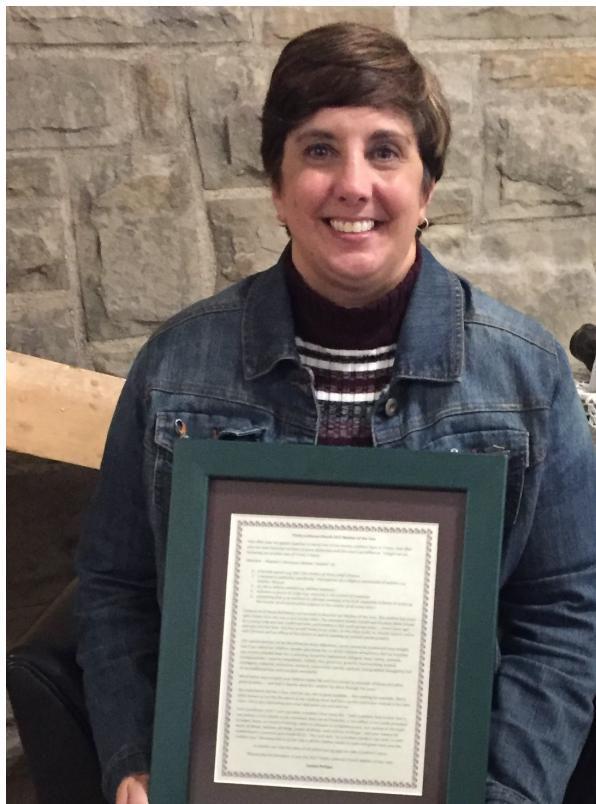
Trinity
Trumpeter



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

JUNE/JULY 2017

DEBBIE PHILIPPI OUR MOTHER OF THE YEAR



At our annual Mother/Daughter banquet, held on May 7, 2017, Debbie Bellanca Philippi was named Mother of the Year! Debbie has been with Trinity since she was a very young infant. She attended Sunday School and vacation bible school as a young child, was confirmed here, participated in the youth group and was married here. She has served as an usher, Altar Guild, active with Thrivent, several special church projects and is currently vice-president of our church council. Congratulations to a well deserved Mother!

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

908 S. Main Street
Towanda, PA 18848

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NEPA Synod Assembly June 2 & 3



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



Created Out Of The Scraps



**A Message From
Pastor
Jira Albers**

*"We know
that all things
work together
for good
for those
who love
God, who
are called
according to
his purpose."*

- Romans 8:28

I knew of an early teen that lived in a town that was undergoing a huge housing boom. Houses were being built left and right. And, one of the benefits for a young woodworker living in such a town was that there were dumpsters on the curbs full of boards that were two foot long or less. To the builders of the houses, these boards were useless hunks of wood, but to a budding carpenter they were like gold. He would scavenge the small hunks of wood, take them home, and add them to a growing collection. What was he going to do with all of those short pieces of wood? He did not know. What he did know was that the pieces of wood were not scrap. He would figure out something to build with the wood. Thus, birdhouses, toys, storage boxes, clocks, and many other small wonders were created out of the scraps.

That is the difference between someone who builds things and a creative carpenter. Someone who builds things uses a plan that has been drawn up clearly and goes and buys the most pristine wood needed to build the project. There is nothing wrong with this. Beautiful buildings, furniture, and other works are made in this way. However, the creative

carpenter, though he/she too is capable of building from plans, is more energized by having a pile of scraps and imagining what work of beauty could possibly be made out of such a pile of misfit pieces.

Jesus was a carpenter. I sometimes think about how well his trade suited his ministry of good news. He was not just a builder of things, though he most certainly could create things out of perfect raw materials. More than a builder, Jesus is a truly creative carpenter. Jesus takes imperfect people, people who have been thrown away or cast aside, and fashions them into a beautiful work for the purpose of his wonders. When he looks at us, broken people as we are, he does not decide that our destiny is simply for the trash. Instead, he looks at us and decides what he can create with the scraps that we are.

If Jesus can redeem a poor scrap of wood like me individually, imagine what he can do with a bunch of us put together! Jesus' church has been created out of scraps to be a beautiful representation of his own heart. It is not perfect. But, at its best, it is a beautiful creation of love for the sake of love. We are not just any scraps after-all, we are God's scraps.

The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)

"I was told that the phrase 'descended into hell' from the Creed is not biblical. What do you think?"

Those who question the biblical basis for the phrase "descended into hell" as stated in the Apostle's Creed are on good footing. You would be hard pressed to find a place where the Bible says that Jesus descended into "hell;" the place of eternal punishment. By the eighth century, the Apostles' Creed included the Latin phrase "descendit ad inferna," which literally means 'he went down to the spirits of the lower regions.' The Latin phrase is more akin to the idea of "Hades" which was not a place of eternal torture, but just a place of the dead. When "descended into hell," is used, people are really meaning, "descended to the dead" (which is the ecumenical phrasing used by many churches today.) In the Creed we are declaring that Jesus died a true death. For without a true death there cannot be a true resurrection. — Pastor Jira Albers



Parish News



**This year's vacation bible school will be held June 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29 at 6:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Church , Towanda. Use River Street entrance.
The theme this year is:
"Mighty Fortress", In Jesus the Victory is Won!**

Adult Education Opportunities



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

**Will resume in September
12:30 PM
In The Hart Center**



**Tuesday Night Book Club
To be scheduled in the Fall**



**Facebook-
Bible Study at Trinity Towanda**
Bible Readings, Topics, Tips & Video

Join and add your comments



Parish News Continued



Junior Youth Group

Junior Youth Group will resume in the fall



Women's News

Willing Workers will resume September 5th. Work will begin preparing for the bazaar and basket raffle.



Caring and Sharing

Thank you for your generous donation to Grace Connection. Your kindness is certainly appreciated by the many families who turn to the ministry of Grace Connection when you are in need. We cannot express how appreciative we are for you and your gift to us.

Grace Connection

The Towanda Area Christian Outreach (T.A.C.O.) Food Pantry board of directors would like to thank you for your donation. Your donation is very appreciated. Support such as yours is what keeps our mission active and growing so we can continue helping local families.

Through April 2017, the pantry served 935 families totaling 2,262 individuals. We also served 513 senior families through our Elder Share/Fresh Express programs.. The need is continuing and we thank you again for your help.

T.A.C.O. Food Pantry

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES: NATE CHILSON & MICHAEL WALLITSCH

Michael received the Senior Scholarship Challenge Recognition. He was the team captain. He received the President's Academic Excellence Award and was the recipient of a \$500 Talisman Outstanding Student Scholarship for excellence in science and engineering.

Nate will be going to Heavy Equipment school in Wisconsin and will be gone until November.

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 Cathy Bellanca for her interesting inserts in our bulletins about saints.
- *Thank you to the Willing Workers for all their work on the Mother/Daughter banquet.
- *Thank you to all the worship assistants and to Pastor Trexler for filling in for Pastor Jira while he is on paternity leave until July 9th.
- *Thank you to all who donated geraniums. They will be planted around the church grounds.



Parish News Continued

PRINCESS TEA

Saturday, June 17 in the Hart Center. Price is \$10 per princess and \$5.00 per adult. Come join the fun with your princesses. Enjoy crafts, music and story telling! RSVP to Cathy Bellanca 570-265-6049 by Friday June 9th.

News from Maureen Engelhard:

Easter services were well attended and Sunrise Service had about 14 people. It was a beautiful morning and the entire service was done at the rock garden. After the service a breakfast was provided by Cindy. Thank you Cindy, as usual it was great.

There was a nice turnout at the Keystone Theatre on April 30th for the movie MARTIN LUTHER: The Idea that Changed the World. Approximately 60 people attended. There was a mixture of denominations and it was enjoyed by all. There were some tee-shirts given out and a table with “freebees” was in the entrance. The Keystone provided a Popcorn/Soda Special. People brought in non-perishable food and gave cash donations for TACO. \$79.00 in cash was donated. Pastor Jira welcomed the audience dressed as Martin Luther. He presented some historical facts that were not in the movie/documentary. This was sponsored by a Thrivent Action Team Committee, which Maureen applied for; donations from members of our Trinity congregation covered the rest of the expenses.

The Worship and Prayer Team worked on this project and thanks to everyone who helped.



The worship and prayer committee is working on plans to celebrate our “500 Years of the Reformation”. Plans are being made for a community picnic on July 23, 2017 at the Riverfront Park in Wysox. More details coming.



Trinity's snapshots

Mother/Daughter Banquet



Trinity's run! Fundraiser



for her school!

**AND INTRODUCING THE NEWEST MEMBER TO TRINITY'S CHURCH FAMILY:
BORN MAY 23, 2017-8:37 AM, 7 POUNDS 7 OUNCES, 20 INCHES LONG:
ISAAC ASHER ALBERS**



JUNE 2017 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Brian & Heather Manchester	2 Kiersten Horton	3
4 Zachary Griffin	5	6	7 Tom Henson Brandon Renninger Pastor Jira & Randeale Albers	8 Duane & Lois Carrington	9 Ron Cunfer Richard Seaberg	10
11	12 Eileen Alesky	13	14	15	16 Martin Frey Jim Giffen	17
18	19 Matthew & Wendy Keeney	20 Debbie Philippi	21	22 Sharon Weed Tom & Irma Henson Frank & Carol Zukerman	23	24
25	26	27 Aaron Lineberry Sr	28 Richard Horton	29 Ron & Thelma Allis	30 Janet Buchta Brian Chilson	

JULY 2017 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Thelma Allis	4 Beverly Serfass	5	6	7 Butch Brion	8
9 Kay Korb Kyle Lockhart Matthew Brimmer	10 Jameson Brown	11	12 Stacey Hart	13 Amy Champluvier	14 Helen Fleck	15
16 Harold Renninger	17 Bill Serfass Patti Thomason	18	19 Timothy Dunn Jr James & Kathy Smith	20	21 Aubrey Carrington Delaney Carrington	22
23 Mark Cantellops Donna Feusner	24 Kelly Smith	25 Paul Cook	26	27	28 Christian Horn Christopher Horton Dave & Cindy Estelle	29 Cassidy Estelle
30 Terri Brion	31 Kay Champluvier Laurie Kapson					

JUNE 2017 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Synod Assembly	3 Synod Assembly
4 DAY OF PENTECOST	5	6	7	8	9	10 t
11 HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY	12	13	14	15	16	17 PRINCESS TEA
18 Father's Day	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 VBS @6:00 PM MOTORCYCLE MASS	26 VBS @6:00 PM	27 VBS @6:00 PM	28 VBS @ 6:00 PM	29 VBS @ 6:00 PM	30	

JULY 2017 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Pastor Jira Returns!	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Community Picnic Riverside Park	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Lutheran-Episcopal Shared Ministry



Installation of Council at St. John, Sayre with Pr. Melinda M. Artman

St. John, Sayre was without a pastor; and the Congregation Council realized that the operating budget could not support a full time clergy person. A little more than two years ago, the neighboring Episcopal Church (Church of the Redeemer: 'Redeemer') reached the same conclusion and approached St. John's about sharing a clergy person. Both churches had a history of sharing in ministry with one another, and this seemed like a wonderful opportunity to do more together while maintaining their respective and distinct identities.

Both Lutheran and Episcopal churches are few and far between in the northern tier of the synod. So with the help of Pastor Peter Kuritz, Associate of the Bishop, and Canon Anne Kitch of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem, a general outline of what the parishes wanted from clergy was developed. Pastor Kuritz and Canon Kitch then worked together to hammer out a call process that respected both traditions. Each parish was willing to have either a Lutheran or an Episcopalian as the pastor; so a Call Committee was formed from both parishes, and a notice went out last summer of a vacancy.

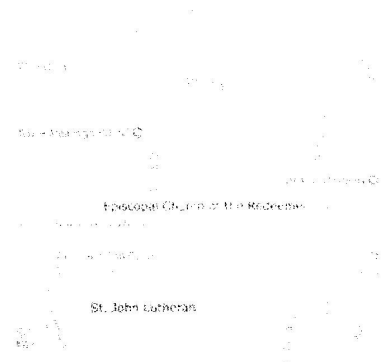
Pastor Artman saw the notice. Her work in helping two Episcopal parishes through the merger process in Southern Maryland was coming to an end, and serving in two great reformed traditions greatly appealed to her.

(Continues in the right hand column)

Working collaboratively with small congregations in discerning how to be the church in the 21st Century was also an attractive challenge to Pastor Artman. With a prior career in city and regional planning she thought that she had a skill set that would help both parishes grow into their full stature in Christ. So she applied.

Interviews began in November and concluded in January. It is not typical for an Episcopal priest to be the only candidate presented to a parish, nor to have "an audition" before the entire congregation. Redeemer agreed to have only one candidate at a time presented. However its governing body made the decision to extend a call, and the congregation was not made aware of the selection until after St. John's made its decision.

In early January, both parishes extended a call to Pastor Artman, and three weeks later she accepted. On April 1 she began her new ministry. In late May, she will be joined by her wife, two dogs, and a cat in a new home somewhere in or near Sayre.



"Bridge Over Troubled Water"

Parish Secretaries' Seminar October 3 - 4

Originally started by the North-eastern and Southeastern PA Synods, the Parish Secretaries' Seminar is designed to provide opportunities to strengthen work skills needed in the modern office, to network with other secretaries/administrators, and to grow spiritually. Participants from any denomination are welcome.

This year's theme is "Bridge Over Troubled Water." Mary Lou Hatcher will lead the workshop on Church Politics: "Staying Out of the Storm." The Rev. Kurt Garbe will lead Churches in Transition: "Making Your Way Through the Fog." And Julia Menzo will present "Financial Lifeboat." Our Spiritual Leader is the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ollikainen.

The cost for this year's seminar is again just \$250, which includes one night's lodging (double occupancy), five meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Tuesday, and breakfast and lunch on Wednesday), presenter fees, and workshop materials. Please see the registration form (available at <http://nepasynod.org/event/parish-secretaries-seminar>) for more information.

The registration form, along with payment, must be received by July 17 to receive the early registration discount. For answers to questions, contact Kathy Reyher, at 610-437-3018.

Anniversary Luncheon

On Tuesday, May 9, the synod hosted a luncheon at the Lutheran Center to honor those rostered leaders who are celebrating a major anniversary of service this year.

Sixty-fifth Anniversary

The Rev. Paul Fisher

Sixtieth Anniversary

The Rev. Peter Grimes

The Rev. David Kistler

The Rev. Donald Landis

The Rev. Durrell Seip

The Rev. George Spieker

Fiftieth Anniversary

The Rev. Edward Cloughen

The Rev. Sterling Geiger

The Rev. F. Peter Muhr

The Rev. James Seifert

Fortieth Anniversary

The Rev. Patricia Criste

The Rev. Thomas Cvammen

The Rev. George Grubb

The Rev. Gene Handwerk

The Rev. Wayne Kaufman

The Rev. F. Thomas Lichner

The Rev. Dennis Moore

The Rev. Dennis Ritter

The Rev. David Schaeffer

The Rev. Paul Schoffstall

The Rev. Eugene Sharkey

Twenty-fifth Anniversary

The Rev. Susan Fox

The Rev. James Hammond

The Rev. Douglass McKeeby

The Rev. Martin Milne

The Rev. Philip Spohn

The Rev. Jack Steltzer

The Rev. Beverly Wenrich

Fifteenth Anniversary

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones

The Rev. Herbert Dolich

The Rev. Susan Ruggles

Deacon Linda Maule

The Rev. Jeremiah Sassaman

The Rev. Jami Possinger

The Rev. Dody Siegfried

Congregations, Clusters, and Mission Districts:

**How do you plan to celebrate
this once in a lifetime event?**

**Be sure to let us know at
nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.**

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

Trinity Leadership Directory

Officers & Staff:

Pastor – Jira A. Albers, MDiv 265-5322
Organist - Kay Champluvier..... 746-3641
Vice President – Debbie Philippi..... 247-2353
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:

Chris Griffith 268-4123
Cassidy Estelle..... 268-4123
Doreen Secor 265-3832
Maureen Engelhard..... 247-2678
Debbie Philippi 247-2353
.....

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– June

Cindy Estelle

Alter Guild– July

Thelma Allis & Peggy Cranmer

June 4—Day of Pentecost

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle
Lector– Cindy Estelle
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle
Counters– Dave & Cindy Estelle
Ushers– Paul & Aggi Cook
Counters-Dave & Cindy Estelle

June 11—The Holy Trinity

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Ushers– Janet Seaberg & Peggy Cranmer
Counters—Chris Griffith & Cassidy Estelle

June 18—Second Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Brock Champluvier
Lector– Cathy Bellanca
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca
Ushers– Lois and Duane Carrington

June 25—Third Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington
Lector– Dave Estelle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Ushers– Cindy Estelle & Doreen Secor
Counters– Doreen Secor

July 2—Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Tanner Kunkle
Lector– Cathy Bellanca
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca
Ushers– Ruth & Ron Russell
Counters– Maureen Engelhard

July 9—Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

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

July 16—Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Cindy Estelle
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle
Ushers– Dave Estelle & Peggy Cranmer
Counters– Chris Griffith & Cassidy Estelle

July 23—Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Allie Champluvier
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Lois & Duane Carrington
Counters-

July 30—Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Kate O'Connor
Lector– Dave Estelle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Ushers– Cindy Estelle & Doreen Secor
Counters-

Trinity Lutheran Church
908 South Main Street
Towanda PA 18848

TRINITY TRUMPETER

JUNE/JULY 2017

“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.

