

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

JUNE/JULY 2019

MOTHER/DAUGHTER BANQUET

Fifty years ago, Emma Hart was our "Mother of the year"! On May 5, 2019, our "Mother of the year" was

CHRISTINE GRIFFITH

Better known as "Chris", she was chosen because of her spirituality at Trinity and her contributions to her hometown community. Over the past years she has been instrumental in our youth groups with chicken barbeques, Sunday School and even attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, MI. She is also a business woman with her own beauty salon in her home. She is very instrumental in various raffles and benefits for various organizations. Well deserved, Chris!!



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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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



**A Message From
Pastor Jira
Albers**

*"Trust in
the Lord
with all
your heart,
and do not
rely on
your own
insight."*

Proverbs 3:5

Discerning God's Will

"What is God's will for my life?" "Which job prospect shall I pursue?" "Is this the decision that God wants me to make?"

There are all the types of questions that come up from time to time as we try to live out our lives of faith. These questions are all about discerning God's will. In other words, they are about trying to figure out what God would want us to do. But, discernment is not necessarily easy. What if two options seem equally valid? What if no options seem to be valid? What if I do not want to do what seems to be God's will? What if God's will now does not match what God has done in the past?

I cannot even begin to answer these questions in a two column newsletter article, but I can provide some basics at least about the discernment process.

The first thing that you should understand is that discernment is ultimately about following God's will rather than our own. "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done," we pray every day when we pray the Lord's prayer. Our desire should not be to seek a certain goal in our discernment, but rather to seek doing God's will.

What I mean by that is that if the question before you is, "Which job prospect shall I pursue?" the answer might be "Either one." Perhaps, either one will offer the opportunity to follow God's will. In that case, you just take the best stab at deciding on one and then be the person God has called you to be no matter which job you choose. God ultimately might not care

which job you choose, as long as you are following Jesus. On the other hand, asking a question about God's will might lead you to choose against one of the jobs because the job may inherently go against Jesus' closely held value of caring for the lowly (for example).

Because we are concerned about God's will, searching scripture is essential to finding what may be God's will. Do you want to know what Jesus may think? Go to the source and tease it out.

This too might not be easy. When Peter searched the Hebrew Bible while considering inclusion of the gentiles into God's promises, he certainly saw the Deuteronomy 7 injunctions not to marry or associate with gentiles along with the many injunctions against eating what they eat (eating what is impure such as pork). But, he would have also seen Isaiah 49:6 which says that Israel is to be a "light for the gentiles," as well as the example of Ruth who is a gentile, but has the loving-kindness of God. With those contradictions, how shall he decide? Where will Peter look?

Peter discovers the revelations that God has given other people. Cornelius was also given guidance by God, and this confirms what Paul suspected God was up to. Gentile inclusion is God's will.

Discernment requires consulting scripture and also talking with other people of faith when seeking God's will. After that, we decide the best we can, trusting in God's ability to make all things new and good.

The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)

"Why go to church, can't I just be a Christian at home?"

It depends. If your idea of Christianity simply concerns doing right and wrong, then you can be a Christian at home. However, biblical Christians are those who abide in Jesus, and Jesus in them. Christians are those who have a relationship with Jesus and with Jesus' people: this relationship is the definition of church. — Pastor Jira



Parish News– Looking ahead

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**COMMUNITY
Bible School**

June 23-27 from 6-8pm
1st Presbyterian Church
5 Court St., Towanda, PA





**Kids in
K4 - 6th
grade
are
invited!**


More info:
570-265-5575

**THIS YEAR VBS IS SCHEDULED ON
June 23, 24, 25, 26, & 27, 2019
AT THE 1st PRESBYTERIANCHURCH
FROM 6-8 PM**

Adult Education Opportunities

	<p>BIBLE STUDY Studying the scriptures while enjoying each other's company.</p>
<p>We will resume in September Time to be determined In The Hart Center</p>	

	<p>Book Club Reading: "Year of Living Biblically" By A. J. Jacobs</p>

	<p>Facebook- Bible Study at Trinity Towanda Bible Readings, Topics, Tips & Video</p>
<p>Join and add your comments</p>	



Parish News Continued

Youth Group

Stay tuned for future announcements on youth group meetings.



Vesper Guild only meets once a month and it is usually the fourth Tuesday of the month unless certain circumstances require us to gather sooner. Our next meeting however is Tuesday, September 10, 2019. Plans will be made for our annual Fall Bazaar on October 25, 2019 from 10:00—2:00 PM.

The Annual Mother/Daughter banquet which was held on Sunday, May 5th was a huge success and enjoyed by all. Check out the snapshots of the event!

Caring and Sharing



CHURCH PICNIC-JUNE 30 AFTER SERVICE AT THE CHURCH. BRING A DISH TO PASS. HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS & DRINKS FURNISHED!

Care to volunteer? Trinity is in need of Worship Assistants- Altar Guild, ushers, lectors & communion assistants. As the saying goes: many hands make "light " work!! Please consider volunteering for some of these positions! If interested contact the office.



FYI- The "old" tree in Trinity's side yard is finally gone. According to the men that took it down, they believe the tree to be at least 300-350 years old! They did not have a chain saw big enough as the diameter was almost 7 feet and they had to cut it in chunks!



Order your Geraniums! \$2.00 each. Last day is June 2 as Pentecost is June 9. Call the office with your order.

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 Vesper Guild for all their work on the Mother/Daughter banquet..
- *Thank you to Randele Albers & her Rugrats for the entertainment at the M/D banquet.
- *Thank you to Rick Landers for changing the light bulbs & dusting the Crucifix.
- *Thank you to Thelma Allis for polishing & maintaining the baptismal font.

Trinity Trumpeter MOTHER/DAUGHTER BANQUET



RACHEL CHAMPLUVIER

Sven & Pat Thomason's grandson, Jake Atkins, finished his 1st year at Columbia Law School & is working this summer as an intern at the U.S. Supreme Court. Their other grandson, Christian Thomason, graduated with honors from Penn State in Chemical Engineering & has accepted a job with Hatch Engineering in Pittsburgh.



NATALEE HICKS



OLIVIA CHAMPLUVIER-DAIRY MAID



A Closer Look at the Bible – Pastor Jira Albers

Acts 11:1-18

1 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, 3 saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. 6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' 8 But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' 9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' 18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

Around 400 years before Jesus' time, the people of Israel were just starting to reestablish themselves as a nation after being destroyed and divided by the Babylonians. The Temple was rebuilt during this time period (the time period of King Darius), and the people of God also needed to be "rebuilt" after years and years of exile. The prophet Ezra reintroduced the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) and was strict with the people concerning Gentile exclusion. Men were not to keep the Gentile wives they took in Babylon. Doing so could bring moral and ritual impurity into the life of Israel. Ezra imagined Israel as divinely ordained to remain pure and holy, set apart and without the influence of other nations in Canaan. Therefore, all of this reestablished an emphasis on the purity laws of the Torah. There were animals that the people of Israel were not to eat and there were actions that they similarly were not to do. We know well concerning the prohibition regarding pork, but other things were prohibited such as reptiles, dolphins, and eagles. By following these holy rules, the people of God are set apart from the rest of the world in obvious ways that all can see.

Given this, one of the biggest questions in early Christianity was whether or not Gentiles (non-Jews) could be allowed into the church and whether or not they needed to follow Jewish laws if they were allowed into the church. Remember, early Christians were all Jewish.

In light of the recent history of Israel at the time and its emphasis on excluding the Gentiles, it seems suspect that the Holy Spirit would come to a Gentile named Cornelius. It was even more suspect that the Holy Spirit would lead the people of God toward eating with those who are impure. Note: in the first few lines of this scripture selection, the acceptance of God's word by some Gentiles is not the greatest concern, rather, the fact that Peter ate with them within their home was the greatest concern. Surely, it was an experience of impurity. This is where a new revelation from God comes into play.

Peter receives a vision from God which has a great vessel, like a sheet, that was lowered down onto the earth and it contained all the animals and birds of the earth, including reptiles. A voice from heaven then says "Rise up Peter; kill and eat." When Peter protests eating unclean animals the voice further instructs: "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This is a new revelation. Previously, God had instructed only to eat certain things. Now God instructed that all of these things are acceptable as food. This is not the first time God has changed God's mind. God changes God's mind when Moses convinces God to show mercy to God's rebellious people. God changes God's mind toward mercy on multiple occasions. Immediately, those that Cornelius sent show up on the scene and Peter gets the message: the Gentiles are to be included in God's people. But, such a new revelation like this is not given only to Peter. It is confirmed by the Spirit's presence with Cornelius. It is also backed up by Hebrew Scripture that disagrees with the exclusionary ideas of Ezra's time (Isaiah 49:6 and the Book of Ruth to name just a couple of the numerous examples).

Note: This major change in belief is eventually accepted by the early Jewish Christians, but it is not immediate. The "Gentile Question" is not settled until Chapter 15 in Acts. Change has always been hard.

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Saturday Evening at Zion, Tamaqua



One size does not fit all, especially when it comes to worship styles. Five years ago Zion, Tamaqua developed a Saturday evening service to

- provide an alternative time of worship for people who cannot get to a Sunday service, and
- provide an alternative style of worship for people who do not relate to the typical traditional high liturgy.

Pr. Cindy White offers blessings to three companions at a Saturday service

The service includes all the parts of a traditional service but in a more relaxed, informal style. Within a short period of time, we installed a digital projector and purchased the ProPresenter program to organize our worship and to allow us to add purchased music and subject matter videos to our service.

Because of its flexibility, the Saturday service has been adapted to include a special service for cancer survivors, our annual blessing of the animals, a vow renewal service around Valentine's Day, and a Christmas in July service complete with a full holiday dinner following the service. All the Saturday services begin with Godsightings, when people are encouraged to share where they have seen God at work in their lives during the past week.

In December 2017 we began live-streaming our Saturday and Sunday services through Boxcast. As of March 30, we have webcast 107 services. On our website we've reached 379 unique viewers who watched 1,491 times. We began posting on Facebook in March 2018. Since then we've had 2,522 viewers of Saturday services and 2,830 viewers of Sunday services. Services are archived for several weeks.

Correction: In the last edition of Synod News Pastor Carl Shankweiler was reported as having retired. Although Pr. Shankweiler has stepped down from synod staff, he is still the called pastor at Zion, Frackville and also working under contract with Trinity (Chapel), Buck Run.

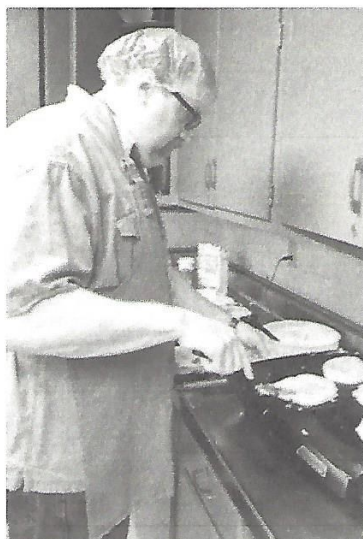


Community Breakfast at St. John, Easton



A member of St. John's Lutheran Church in historic downtown Easton came to the Outreach Committee meeting and said, "Let's have a community breakfast." No agenda, no cost, just something to get people together. The committee mulled it over and said, "Let's do it!"

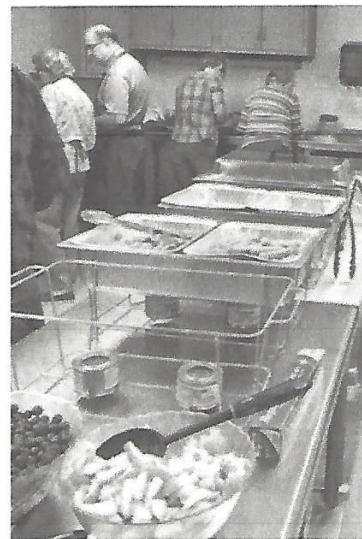
Breakfast had already become a speciality for Roger Ruggles. On Sunday mornings he cooked pancakes, French toast, and bacon/sausage; and he served them with fruit for any in the Sunday school before the 9:00 start time.



Roger decided to extend what he already knew; so he recruited some others to help cook: Mayor Sal Panto, and Roger's brother-in-law Dennis Greenleaf. And Roger also invited Bishop Zeizer, who was kind enough to attend and help fix the plates.

At the free meal firefighters, police officers, community leaders, Lafayette students, neighbors, some homeless, and parishioners gathered together to eat. Another church even sent volunteers to help serve. The volunteers served over a hundred people, and comments from the diners were very positive.

A simple breakfast became an example of hospitality in downtown Easton at its best!



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

June 2019 Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

July 2019 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 Horn Dave & Cindy Estelle	29 Cassidy Estelle	30 Terri Brion	31 Kay Champluvier Laurie Kapson			

June 2019 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Synod Assembly
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 PENTECOST	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 FATHER'S DAY HOLY TRINITY	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 VBS 6-8 pm 30 church picnic	24 VBS 6-8 pm	25 VBS 6-8 pm	26 VBS 6-8 pm	27 VBS 6-8 pm	28	29

July 2019 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Trinity Leadership Directory

Officers & Staff:

Pastor – Jira A. Albers, MDiv.....265-5322
Organist - Kay Champluvier.....746-3641
Vice President – Doreen Secor.....265-3832
Office Mgr/Treasurer – Cindy Estelle.... 265-5184
Fin. Secretary – Doreen Secor265-3832
Council Secretary-Maureen Engelhard.....247-2678
Ministers—All the members of Trinity

Council Members:

Maureen Engelhard..... 247-2678
Peggy Cranmer.....596-7055
Satchel Manchester.....596-7055
Doreen Secor.....265-3832
Joe Snyder.....412-2796
Lois Carrington.....247-7765

Contact *Trinity*

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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

July- Thelma Allis

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

June 2-The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Cindy Estelle
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle
Counters– Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Ruth & Ron Russell

June 9—The Day of Pentecost

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Counters—Doreen Secor
Ushers– Paul & Aggi Cook

June 16—The Holy Trinity

Acolyte—
Lector– Cindy Estelle
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle
Counters—Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Janet Seaberg and Thelma Allis

June 23– The Second Sunday after Pentecost

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle
Lector– Dave Estelle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Counters– Peggy Cranmer
Ushers– Duane and Lois Carrington

June 30—The Third Sunday after Pentecost

Acolyte– Kate O'Connor
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Counters—
Ushers– Doreen Secor and Cindy Estelle

July 7– The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Dave Estelle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Counters—
Ushers–Ron and Ruth Russell

July 14—The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Acolyte– Abby O'Connor
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Counters–
Ushers– Paul and Aggi Cook

July 21—The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle
Lector– Joe Snyder
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle
Counters–
Ushers– Janet Seaberg and Thelma Allis

July 28– The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Counters–
Ushers– Duane and Lois Carrington

Trinity Lutheran Church
908 South Main Street
Towanda PA 18848

TRINITY TRUMPETER JUNE/JULY 2019

“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.

