

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

JUNE/JULY 2020

## SPECIAL GUEST LECTOR



**THANK YOU JANE GINGERICH  
FOR PROVIDING OUR READING ON  
MAY 17, 2020**

**Because of this COVID-19 pandemic,  
Trinity Lutheran Church**

**Is setting a goal of having  
“outdoor” church services  
beginning June 7, 2020**

**(weather permitting). You will be  
advised of conditions regarding  
your health, safety and procedures.**



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**Trinity Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

908 S. Main Street  
Towanda, PA 18848

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www.trinluth.com



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



## Pastor's Message



### The Struggle Between Two Goods



**A Message From  
Pastor Jira  
Albers**

***“Make my  
joy complete:  
be of the  
same mind,  
having the  
same love,  
being in full  
accord and  
of one mind.”***

*Philippians 2:2*

Any good moral dilemma is usually a struggle between two things that are good. By contrast, easy moral dilemmas usually have a good choice and a bad choice and you only have to figure out how to implement the good choice. For example, a fully mechanized factory that creates widgets discovers that it has been polluting the streams that nearby towns use for drinking water. There is no moral dilemma here. The lives of the people are more important than the widgets. The only dilemma concerns how one can create a widget without polluting the water. This is an easy moral dilemma.

The difficult moral dilemma comes about when the factory is not fully mechanized, but is the employer of nearly all the town's people. Obviously, the drinking water is essential to life and needs to be protected, but how do you do that when closing the factory will put all of the people of the community out of a job. People also need to eat to live.

Do you see? Any good moral dilemma is usually a struggle between two things that are good. In this case, between clean water and jobs that feed families. The struggle between two goods is what makes it a moral dilemma.

As a world, we are sliding evermore into the realm of moral dilemma as we try to deal with a public health crisis. Do we continue to quarantine to save lives or do we get people back to work so that they can make a living?

I am not answering this question. I am not that smart of a man. What I do want to point out is that it is a classic moral dilemma which struggles between two goods. That means, people on both sides of the argument want what is good and life giving. What should not be happening in such a situation is the vilification of people who seek to do good. We have a commandment from God to help us out with this. “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” We do not seek to destroy the reputation of a neighbor who seeks to give life. This is a fundamental command from our Lord.

Rather than dividing over a dilemma, the Bible encourages us to, “be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.” Knowing that both sides of a dilemma have the “same mind” and “same love,” is a better way toward a life-giving resolution all around than division will ever be. Be of the same mind in Christ.

### The Question Box

*(Questions About Our Christian Life)*

***What can I do to help my neighbor in these times?”***

It is easy to feel like you are unable to do anything good in times such as these, especially when you fall in the category of those who are encouraged to continue to stay at home. But, there are still life-giving tasks that you can do. If able bodied, help distribute food at CHOP. Stand outside, distanced, yet fully present and talking with those stuck at home. If stuck at home, take the time to make the phone call or write the letter to someone who needs the contact. Connecting with your neighbor is loving your neighbor. — Pastor Jira Albers



## Parish News—

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL





## THIS YEAR'S VBS HAS BEEN CANCELLED


**\*\*NEW DEVOTION ON THE WARM LINE: YOU CAN CALL TRINITY'S WARMLINE AT ANY TIME TO HEAR A PRECORDED MESSAGE OF GOD'S LOVE. THE NUMBER IS 570-718-8422.**

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS!  
YOU CAN GIVE BY SENDING TO: TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
908 SOUTH MAIN STREET, TOWANDA, PA 18848 OR  
<https://tithe.ly/give/new/www/#tithely/give-one-time/1304226>**

## Adult Education Opportunities

	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b> Studying the different religions.
We will continue to have "Zoom" meetings the month of June @ 9:00 AM	

	<b>Book Club</b> No info at this time

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



## Parish News Continued

### Youth Group

Stay tuned for future announcements on youth group meetings.



**Vesper Guild is not meeting because of the pandemic. Tentative plans will be made for our annual Fall Bazaar when restrictions are lifted. We will inform everyone!**



**CONFIRMATION CONTINUES VIA ZOOM ON SUNDAYS! PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL OR MESSENGER FOR ZOOM DETAILS.**

**CARING AND**



**SHARING**

**THANK YOU, PASTOR JIRA, FOR OUR CHURCH SERVICES ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND YOUTUBE. IT SURE SEEMS STRANGE TO WATCH THE SERVICE IN OUR PJ'S AND WITH OUR MORNING COFFEE! WE LOVED THE MUSIC-THANKS KAY! IT WAS GREAT HEARING AND SEEING BEVERLY! LOVED THE ALBER CHILDREN SINGING AND HAVING FUN!**

### 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 Paul Cook for weeding the rock garden..
- \*Thank you to Joyce Detharidge for redoing the church planters.
- \*Thank you to the church council for requesting the government PPP grant.



*Trinity*



*Trumpeter*

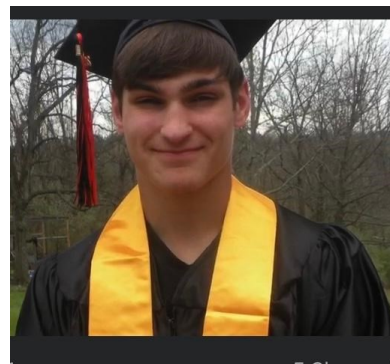
## TRINITY'S CLASS OF 2020



**RACHEL CHAMPLUVIER**  
Keystone HS, Knox, PA



**EMILY CHILSON**  
Northeast Bradford HS



**TANNER KUNKLE**  
Towanda HS

### Maureen Engelhard's Granddaughters



**TAYLOR BENNETT**  
**LEIGHANN WEGMANN**

Taylor (left) graduated from Syracuse University with a Bachelor's Degree In Health & Science Ex. with a Minor In coaching & Phys Ed (right) is her sister, Leighann, who Received her MBA from Liberty University

### Maureen Engelhard's Grandson



**RYAN ENGELHARD**

Graduated from Currituck County HS, NC. He will be going to the Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD

### Chris & Dale Griffith's daughter Dave & Cindy's Granddaughter



**CASSIDY ESTELLE**

Graduated from Lackawanna College with an Associate Degree in Business Administration



## TRINITY'S CONTINUED GRADUATES

### St. Agnes Kindergarten Graduates



Ember Albers



Mavis Pugh



HERE ARE THE ADDRESSES FOR TRINITY'S GRADUATES!  
LET'S SEND THE CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Rachel Champluvier  
%Bryan Champluvier  
278 Poplar Road  
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Emily Chilson  
31368 Route 187  
Rome, PA 18837

Tanner Kunkle  
948 Beirne Hill Road  
Towanda, PA 18848

Cassidy Estelle  
50 Cobblestone Ln  
Towanda, PA 18848

Ember & Mavis  
% Rev. Jira Albers  
2444 Route 220  
New Albany, PA 18833

Taylor & Leighann and Ryan  
% Maureen Engelhard  
644 Lovet Hill Rd.  
Rome, PA 18837



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

### Philippians 2

*2If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

For years, Philippians 2:2 was used by those in power to convince those who were not in power to tow the line. “Be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind,” was translated as “Be of the same mind as me, doing things the same way as me, and being fully accorded to me.” As you will see, this sort of distortion of the Bible can only be done if you lift Philippians 2:2 out of its spot and completely ignore all that surrounds the text. The complete text is actually quite beautiful and teaches the same life giving way of being community that Jesus himself encouraged.

Before we dig deeper into that, I would just like to point out that the Christian community in Philippi is a beloved community of Paul’s. There get no rebuke from Paul in this letter, and the community is given great praise. So, the entire letter is one of encouragement to bolster all that the community is already doing. Never forget to also focus on those who are doing well as well as those who need help.

Right away, I would like to point out that Paul does not say that the people of Philippi need to agree. Rather, what would make his already abundant joy complete is for the community to “be of the same mind” and “have the same love” that can be found in Christ. It is Christ’s love and the Spirit that shares that love that provides the community “encouragement” and guidance. They are not supposed to agree on what type of Pizza to have for supper. They are supposed to eat whatever pizza they have together in the Spirit of Christ’s love. Do you see the difference?

In case there is any confusion on this point, in case some people would take this idea and misuse it in order to muscle through whatever agenda they have in mind, Paul immediately tells the people to “look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” This is fully in line with the thoughts of Jesus. “Love your neighbors as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). Further, in the sermon of the mount, Jesus has this idea that we should not hesitate to give away what we have (Matthew 5:38-42). The point is that if we are fully a servant to others, God will certainly take care of us (Matthew 6:33). Paul continues this line of thinking by reciting what must have been a favorite hymn of the Christian community, “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who...emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.” Living with each other is a life of serving one another. This is the Christian way of life. Being of one mind has to do with loving as Jesus loved. And, Jesus’ way of loving was looking to the interest of the neighbor and serving the neighbor. This is love. This is the way of Christ. This is the way of the cross.

# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## More Stories of Being the Church in a Time of Pandemic



### Masks for Health Care Workers

**Kourtney Keim from New Life, New Tripoli** is a sophomore at Northwestern Lehigh High School. Seeing a need for protective gear for healthcare workers, she organized a community effort to make and distribute masks and headbands.

"It reminds me of the story of the fish and bread where the collections of few created plenty for many. Some members of our group could sew beautifully but had no material. Some had material and no sewing machine. Some had a machine, but not the skills or time

to use it. Some had fabric, others thread, still others (the coveted) elastic. Some had time to cut or money to donate materials. All of these efforts came together to provide more than 7000 masks, and counting."

Masks were donated to Lehigh Valley Health Network, St Lukes Health Network, KidsPeace, visiting nurses, Children and Youth Centers, dialysis centers, rehab clinics, homeless shelters, banks, grocery stores, and others. They have continued to donate to various healthcare workers as well as provide masks available to the general public. Asking for a \$5 donation to a local food pantry in exchange for a mask, they've raised over \$5,000 in just a few weeks - while helping to keep everyone safer.



### Muhlenberg Chaplaincy Responds to the Pandemic

The worldwide coronavirus pandemic has shown how very important our grounding in the Lutheran theological tradition lived out in a multi-faith environment has been. At the forefront of decision making, has been the care and support for all people, including students, faculty and staff. While most students left campus by March 16, around 100 students initially remained for various reasons (30 will remain on campus for the summer). In some cases, they are international students unable to travel to their homes, or students with no primary residence outside the college. During the pandemic, the work of the Religious and Spiritual life team of the college has been grounded in a collaborative effort with many different colleagues, to provide care, counseling, support and programming for students online—as well as actively supporting students who have remained on campus.



Here is the story of one student, Kate Ekanem, who remained on campus. "Since the outbreak, I've honestly been in a constant on and off panic mood. I am a first generation student, a single-mother to a six-year-old daughter, and an international student from an economically underserved family in Nigeria. It is the first time in many years that I'll feel like I don't have anything under control because I am afraid of failing in my usual responsibilities to myself, my child and my elderly father back home.

"Since the pandemic, the college has gone beyond what's expected of any institution to express genuine care and love for students like me on campus. I have seen love, felt it deeply, and I cannot begin to explain how my heart bursts in joy to have a school that cares



## The Food Pantry at Friedens, Oley

For almost 30 years, **Friedens, Oley** has been serving the surrounding community by hosting a Food Pantry. Allowing clients to enter the building, grab a grocery cart, and shop through the aisles of food was our mode of operation. All that changed during the pandemic! Like many congregations, we struggled how to allow this vital, life sustaining ministry in the midst of fear, regulations and hope. 75% of our food pantry volunteer force were identified as falling in the "most at risk" category. This included our food pantry directors! We did not want to put anyone in danger!

We decided to invite folks in the "least at risk" category to help us continue this important ministry. Our young people stepped up and volunteered with the understanding that strict safety standards and regulations would need to be followed. There was no hesitation! The volunteer hours were long, noon to 8pm. There was unloading trucks, repackaging food into boxes, delivering food to waiting vehicles and clean up all while maintaining physical distancing and wearing a mask and gloves. No time for rest while we created a new way of serving the community.



I like helping with the food pantry because unfortunately, so many people need it. Ethan Hohl (9th grade)



I like that we are helping with the food pantry during COVID-19 because people need food! Jacob Hohl (6th grade)



The Covid 19 pandemic caused me to come home from college. , I was pleased for this opportunity to serve in my community. -Jenna Reed (senior in college)



My grandparents and Mom work during the regular food pantry. Since I do not have school or sports, I have time to help! Kristina Kauffman (10th grade)

## Lunch for a Homeless Shelter



**St. John's downtown Easton** was asked by Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter to provide 24 bagged lunches for people who usually come to the shelter to eat at noon but are not residents of the shelter. Because of the virus and fear of spreading, a table is set up at noon at Safe Harbor and the take away bagged lunches are available (and taken) by people who stop by. Some are homeless, some are temporarily sleeping at the homes of friends, some are food insecure. St. John's adjusted how the lunches were made as the rules of social distancing evolved. They began making the meals every Wednesday at the church and then started making the lunches at individual homes. Vicar Matthew picks the lunches up and transports them to the shelter. The program began March 25 and will continue until Safe Harbor no longer requests the help.

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2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. [nepsinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto:nepsinfo1988@gmail.com).  
View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.

## June 2020 Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

## July 2020 Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

## June 2020 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Election Day 9:00 am Zoom Bible Study	3	4	5	6
7 THE HOLY TRINITY	8	9 9:00 am Zoom Bible Study	10	11	12	13
14 FLAG DAY	15	16 9:00 am Zoom Bible Study	17	18	19	20
21 FATHER'S DAY	22 6:30 PM Council Meeting	23 9:00 am Zoom Bible Study	24	25	26	27
28 Secret Pal Reveal After service	29	30 9:00 am Zoom Bible Study				

## July 2020 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 Secor .....265-3832  
Council Secretary-Maureen Engelhard.....247-2678  
Ministers—All the members of Trinity

## Council Members:

Maureen Engelhard..... 247-2678  
Paul & Agnes Cook.....247-7383  
Cassidy Estelle.....506-9644  
Doreen Secor.....265-3832

## 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

## **Serving us in worship:**

**The Rev. Jira A. Albers, presiding minister**

## **Altar Guild—**

**June— Cindy Estelle & Beverly Serfass**

**July- Thelma Allis**

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

### **June 7-The Holy Trinity**

Acolyte– Emily Chilson  
Lector– Bill Serfass  
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass  
Ushers– Paul and Aggi Cook

### **June 14—The Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Acolyte– Natalee Hicks  
Lector– Joe Snyder  
Communion Assistant– Joe Snyder  
Ushers– Ron and Ruth Russell

### **June 21—The Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington  
Lector– Bree Carrington  
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle  
Ushers– Duane and Lois Carrington

### **June 28– The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle  
Lector– Ron Cunfer  
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard  
Ushers– Janet Seaberg and Thelma Allis

### **July 5—The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Acolyte– Emily Chilson  
Lector– Bill Serfass  
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass  
Ushers– Ron and Ruth Russell

### **July 12– The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington  
Lector– Bree Carrington  
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle  
Ushers–Duane and Lois Carrington

### **July 19—The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Acolyte– Trinity Pugh  
Lector– Cindy Estelle  
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle  
Ushers– Paul & Aggi Cook

### **July 26—The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Acolyte– Jennifer Kaniuka  
Lector– Ron Cunfer  
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard  
Ushers– Janet Seaberg and Thelma Allis



Trinity Lutheran Church  
908 South Main Street  
Towanda PA 18848

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## **TRINITY TRUMPETER**

### **JUNE/JULY 2020**

**“Challenged to witness and share Christ’s love with all”**  
**“COME AND SEE”**

**Sunday Morning Schedule**  
**Service of Holy Communion at 9:30 AM**

