

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2017

God's Work Our Hands



On Sunday, September 10, 2017 Trinity Lutheran church participated in "God's Work Our Hands". After a "short service with Holy Communion", several members departed to the Towanda High School with rakes, hoes and clippers to tackle the task of cleaning the high school court yard. Meanwhile at the church, other members assorted and filled school bags with school supplies. Afterwards we all enjoyed pizza.

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Fall Bazaar and Raffle Baskets



The Vesper Guild/Willing Workers will hold their annual Fall Bazaar on November 3rd with tables of assorted home items and homemade baked goods. Lunch will be available as well as drinks and pie. Doors will open at 9 am and will close at 3 pm. Lunch will include vegetable beef and chicken noodle soups as well as chili to eat in or take out.

The basket raffle features several fantastic selections from Thanksgiving, kitchen, lottery, animal and wine. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 for the baskets and \$5.00 each for a beautiful quilt & quilt wall hanging.



ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!!!

Vegetables are needed for the soups and homemade pies and goodies are needed for the bake sale



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

908 S. Main Street
Towanda, PA 18848

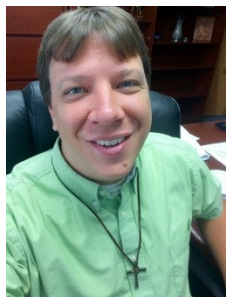
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Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Do We Need To Tithe?



**A Message From
Pastor Jira
Albers**

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

- 2 Corinthians 9:7

I will say right up front that you are saved by God grace, through faith, and not by your works. You are chosen by God because God wanted you. You did nothing to deserve your salvation or to deserve being chosen. It is all God’s doing; period.

Now that you understand that completely, you will then also understand that neither you, nor the church, are saved by the amount of money you give towards God’s purposes. Your giving in no way dictates whether or not the good news of Jesus Christ is given to you.

Yet, we still give. Many Christians give what they view as the biblical minimum of 10% of their income and most churches do likewise. Deuteronomy 14:22 instructs, “Make an offering of 10%, a tithe...” I say minimum because Jesus stretches the idea of giving beyond just a rule to follow and makes it a matter of the heart. Jesus tells the rich young man to give all that he has to the poor, and then follow him (*Matthew 19:16-30*). Jesus instructs his followers directly to “Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Give, and it will be given to you” (*Luke 6:30,38a*). For Jesus, giving is not about the letter of the law (give 10% of your gross income), but it about the spirit of the law that views all that God has given as God’s property. If it is God’s property, then love would dictate that that we give it towards the things that God cares about the most. Jesus is quite explicit in the things that God cares about. Read the beatitudes of Matthew and Luke to get a

notion of what God cares about, but here are just a few to wet your appetite: God cares about the poor and the poor is spirit; God cares about the grieving; God cares about those who face injustice; and God cares about those who work for peace, just to name a few. Jesus is also grateful to those women who supported his own ministry of preaching and healing.

We do not give to gain recognition. We do not give in order to fulfill an obligation under the law. We give because we love God, because we are grateful for all that God has done for us, and because God has given us a desire to love our neighbors.

I encourage you to work toward tithing and beyond. *“The discipline of tithing shapes us into people who understand and live the abundant life of self-giving that Jesus teaches. That’s why former tithers are so rare — once you have gotten a closer view of the kingdom, and a bigger piece of it, the old life of accumulation loses its appeal.”* – Pastor Margaret G. Payne

For these reasons, the church also tithes and strives to give beyond. We as a church cannot possibly do, with our own hands, all the ministry that God desires for the world. Luckily, we do not have to. We can (and we do) give to others who do God’s work both locally and around the world. The church tithes (and strives to give beyond) out of love of God and love for our neighbors. We do it because we are disciples of Jesus. God’s work is just as important as paying an electric bill, so we make it a habit to give for the sake of love.

The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)

“Should the church be tithing/giving if we are dipping into savings?”

If you are hungry, should you be going down into the cellar and bringing up your canned goods? Yes, yes you should. Should you be using those canned goods to feed the rest of your family rather than just feed yourself? Of course, you should feed your family with what you have. We are God’s people and we love God and our neighbor with all that we have been given. We are who we are and we use what we have. – Pastor Jira Albers



Parish News

Consecration Sunday October 22nd



The *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program*, the basis of Consecration Sunday at Trinity, focuses on the desire to give for our own spiritual development. Through this desire, each person is asked to give what they feel they can to further the work and ministry of the church.

A catered lunch will be served following the service. All are welcome to attend and are asked to indicate their reservation by filling out their card or contacting the office.

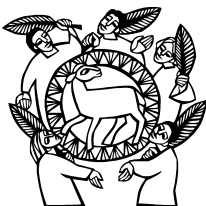
Reformation Sunday October 29th



This day, the Sunday closest to October 31st—the date Martin Luther posted his 95 *Theses* in Wittenberg in 1517, is celebrated in honor of the beginning of the reformation of the church. We celebrate this year as the 500th anniversary! There will also be an ecumenical service at 5:00 PM.

The liturgical color is red and is often the color seen on members of the congregation.

All Saints Sunday November 5th



All Saints Sunday is to honor all saints, known and unknown. We will be remembering all saints who have died in the past year (since November 1st, 2014). Please call or email the church office with names of people you want remembered in worship.

Worship Highlights

**Consecration Sunday
Sunday, October 22
Catered lunch following**

**Reformation Sunday
Sunday, October 29**

**Special service
At 5:00 PM**

**All Saints Sunday
Sunday, November 5**

Adult Education Opportunities



Afternoon Fellowship
Studying the scriptures with enjoying each other's company at 12:30 PM

October 3, 17, 24 & 31 and November 7 & 14
In The Hart Center



Wednesday Night Book Club
"Limping But Blest"
By Jason Jones

In The Troup Home—Monroeton
November 8 & 15 at 6:00 PM



Parish News Continued



Junior Youth Group

October 15 at 12:30 pm in the Hart Center.

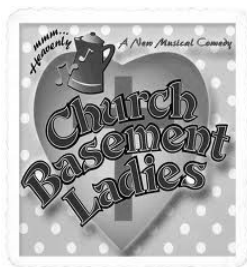
ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS:



If you have the benefit of Choice Dollars and have chosen to give them to Trinity, please remember to direct them once a year. You can do this via, computer or call Thrivent directly. You need to request this to be done, it is not done automatically. Thanks for your contributions. If you have any questions, please ask me and I'll be glad to help.

Maureen Engelhard

Women's News



Vesper Guild is currently meeting once a month. Next meeting is October 17 at 10:00 am. The Harvest Bazaar, Luncheon and Bake Sale will be held on Friday, November 3rd from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. There will be some home goods for sale and a lunch of Homemade Chili, Vegetable Beef and Chicken Noodle soup plus pie and beverages will be for sale as well as homemade baked goods. Several baskets and other interesting items will be raffled at the bazaar with tickets at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. A handmade quilt and quilt wall hanging will be raffled at \$5.00 each ticket. All are invited to browse and buy, put your tickets into your favorite item, have a cup of coffee and some homemade pie or stay for the delicious lunch. Baked goods are also available on the bake table for you to take home a few "goodies" to the home folk.

Bible study Fellowship is also on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. except on the October 10th and November 14 when they will attend the Wysox Presbyterian Church Noon luncheon.

Grace Connection

Benefit: Original Musical Production: The Gateway of Joy to the Void by Jeff Lockhart. October 27-7:30 pm, October 28-2:00 pm, October 29-2:00 pm at the Towanda High School. All proceeds to benefit Grace Connection. Come in costume! Costume competition for all ages!

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 Bill Serfass and Cathy Bellanca for filling in for Pastor & Kay.
- *Thank you to everyone who participated in working at the high school and putting together school supplies on God's Work Our Hands Sunday.
- *Thank you to Paul Cook for removing the tree limbs from the church property.
- *Thank you to Dave Estelle for fixing the door to the Hart Center again!
- *Thank you to Thelma Allis for buying the new Baptismal candle.



Parish News Continued

CHURCH COUNCIL

Autumn Greetings!

I hope this Council update finds you all happy and healthy. As you all know, the loss of Council member, David Estelle Jr. hit our Trinity family very hard. While Dave is absolutely irreplaceable, we cannot thank Paul Cook enough for allowing us to appoint him to complete Dave's term. What a selfless and compassionate thing to do for your Trinity family when it is in need.

As promised, your Council is working hard at curbing spending at Trinity. We are sticking to our budget in all areas and constantly searching for ways to make our church better. One thing you asked us to do was to explore possible fund-raising events. The "Once Upon a Time Princess Tea" is scheduled for Saturday, October 7th at 12:30. Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered to help so far whether it be food, crafts, or a monetary donation. The event has been advertised at local businesses, churches, and day cares as well as on several cable channels. Perhaps the best publicity is word of mouth so please share our event with anyone you know who has a princess or two at home! We're open to other fund raiser ideas. If you have one, please see a Council member.

As reported in my first update, we are actively searching for any and all ways to follow through on your request of curbing spending here at Trinity. We have been shopping around for a "friendlier" internet rate. We'll be installing thermostats with timers in order to be more energy efficient. A new copier contract is being explored which has a sizeable cost savings to us. Every little bit we can save will be beneficial.

More community outreach was another suggestion from the congregation that your Council has taken to heart. The Community Day of Service was a big success. People from several churches helped paint the rehearsal hall at the Keystone Theater and stocked shelves, organized, and cleaned at TACO. Both organizations could not thank us enough for our efforts. The picnic afterwards was a good time with delicious food. Our most recent "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday was well attended. Some members went to the Towanda High School to weed/garden the courtyard area and others stayed behind in the Hart Center to stuff bookbags with supplies donated by GTP. We have also reached out to our recovering community members by offering our hall for meetings/gatherings. Flyers for Pastor's Prayer Around the Cross service were distributed at recovery meetings throughout our area. A fund-raiser for Mason's Hope was held in the Hart Center. Mason's family was extremely grateful for our efforts.

Nothing major in the works for your Council, but I thought it would be nice to keep you posted on our doings. I hope to see you all soon. Until then, be happy and be well.

Sincerely,

Debbie Philippi, Vice-President



Parish News Continued

Caring and Sharing



To all you fine people of Trinity,
Thanks so much for remembering me on my big 90! We still miss you all. It's such a blessing to be remembered by you all in my "old age". However, we are not olders here. Several are 100+, 2 are 102, 103 & 104!! So if you want to feel younger, come visit Brittany! God bless you all 'til we meet again! Bill (and Marian) Feathers

OUR CHURCH YOUTH– CHILD'S FAITH SERVICE, NOVEMBER 12

-Outstanding Young Woman
Contestant



Satchel Manchester



Kate O'Connor



Abbey O'Connor



October 2017 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Eric Thomason	2	3 Korrie Kunkle	4 Donald Feusner Alan Seaberg, Jr.	5 Allie Champluvier Miranda Clark Wulff Kristen Zuckerman	6	7
8	9	10 Ron & Ruth Russell	11 Edward Grant	12 Echo Denniston Marian Feathers Merlin Horn Merlin&Barbara Horn	13 Elizabeth Keeney Matthew & Brianna Brimmer	14
15 Nathan Chilson Carol Cunfer	16 Kristy Feusner	17	18 Anita Bennett	19 Edward & Joyce Grant	20 Bryan Champluvier	21 Bella Grace Clark
22	23	24	25	26	27 Rosemary Renninger David&Sharon Weed	28
29	30	31 Jessamine Manchester				

November 2017 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 Larry & Maurine Gehring	4 Bonnie Stout Johnson
5 Elisha Troup	6 Sven Thomason	7 Landyn Brimmer	8	9	10	11 Ron Allis
12	13	14 Cindy Estelle	15 Carol Zuckerman	16 Paul & Agnes Cook Harold & Rosemary Renninger	17 Thomas Lineberry	18 Peter Hart
19 Larry Gehring	20 Nichole Albers Aaron Albers	21	22	23 Duane Carrington Jasmine Brown	24 Jan & Laurie Kapson	25 Pastor Jira Albers
26	27 Michael Dunn Maureen Engelhard	28 Tinity Pugh	29 Bob Fleck Jim Smith Skyler Yoder	30		

October 2017 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 12:30 Bible Study 5:30 Movie @Troup's "D. Bonhoeffer"	4	5	6	7 12:30 pm Princess Tea
8	9	10 Wysox Luncheon	11	12	13	14
15 12:30 Jr. Youth Group	16 10:15 am Worship/ Music meeting	17 10:00 am Vesper G. 12:30 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Council	18	19	20	21
22 Consecration Sunday Meal Following	23	24 12:30 Bible Study	25 6:30 Book Club	26	27 7:30 HS Hallow- een play	28 2:00 HS Hallow- een play
29 Reformation Sunday 2:00 HS Halloween Play	30	31 12:30 Bible Study 6:00 Halloween				

November 2017 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 Fall Bazaar Hart Center 9-3PM	4
5 All Saints Sunday (Back to standard time)	6	7 Election Day 12:30 Bible Study	8 6:00 pm Book Club @Troup's	9	10	11 Hart Center reserved
12 CHILD'S FAITH SERVICE	13	14 1Wysox Luncheon	15 6:00 pm Book Club @Troup's	16	17	18
19	20	21 10:00 Vesper Guild 12:30 Bible Study 6 PM Council	22	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26 Christ The King Sunday	27	28	29	30		

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Spiritual Care for Elder Care-Givers

- Do you provide part time or full time care for an elder?
- Would you like a safe place to share your joys and struggles with other care-givers?
- Would you appreciate companionship in nurturing your spirit?

Elder-care-giving can certainly be challenging, presenting both joys and frustrations to elders and their care-givers. An every-other-month gathering will provide participants with a time of guided program, prayer, supportive conversation around joys and struggles, and sharing new ideas for offering care.

Each gathering will be led by the Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, specially trained in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Direction. Please direct your interest to Pastor Lichner either at tllichner@rcn.com or 610-533-9362.

Meetings will be held at the Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton St., Allentown from 1:30 - 3:00 PM on the following Wednesdays: Sept. 20, Nov. 15, Jan. 17, March 14, May 16, and July 18.

"Spiritual Care for Elder Care-Givers" is being co-sponsored by the synod's Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team.

Luke Csellak Swanson - YAGM



Luke Swanson with friends Alicia, Lucas, and Martin from Santo Sacramento

I am Luke Swanson, a recently returned Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM). As a missionary/volunteer for the ELCA, I was called to walk alongside our brothers and sisters in Buenos Aires, Argentina. There I volunteered with the Santo Sacramento Congregation where I aided in their Sunday program supporting marginalized neighbors and providing them with a safe place to be themselves. Additionally, I volunteered with a creative organization, El Arca, where I lived out daily life in community, joy, and forgiveness with intellectually disabled adults.

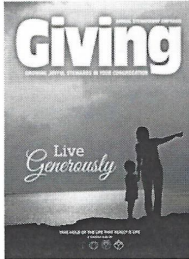
My YAGM year was filled with ups and downs. I started my year with some inevitable expectations, many of which provided me with layers of comfort, others with intense feelings of hardship. For the first time in my life I frequently felt like an outsider. My Protestantism, white skin tone, and language all put me at a disadvantage.

But what my friends at El Arca taught me so well is that I can do things others cannot, and they most certainly can do things that I never will be able to do. Life is to be lived in community, in joy, and in forgiveness; and it is these ideas that I have brought home with me.

Thank you to all who have supported me during this journey.

Don't Reinvent the Wheel!

- ◆ Are you a member of a ministry team in your congregation?
- ◆ Did you know that the ELCA website has a ton of resources to help you?



If you visit <http://elca.org/resources> you will find links to over 50 areas of ministry (listed alphabetically).

This month we highlight some of the resources for stewardship.

They fall under 6 categories.

Leadership: These resources can help your team put together a stewardship program that is eye-catching and informative.

Care for Creation: This is a page for congregations who want to raise environmental awareness among their people.

Lifestyle: There are numerous bible studies and other spiritual resources available at this location.

Finances: Here you will find samples of giving charts, proportional giving, an explanation of tithing, and other helpful materials.

Spiritual Gifts: This page is helpful for the non-monetary aspect of stewardship.

StewardNet: This is a newsletter for church leaders. There are links both to the most recent edition as well as many previous editions.

Healing the Wounds of Racism



Christian writer and activist Jim Wallis calls racism "America's original sin." Racism was present at the birth of our nation and, as current headlines make clear, has never been eradicated.

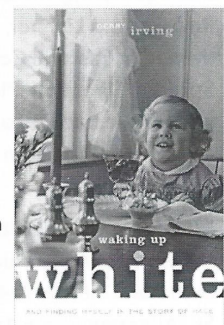
Seeing a need to address racism in the Northeastern PA Synod, the synod staff recently studied Debby Irving's book *Waking Up White*. This book is Irving's personal story about awakening to her own racism, how it has been built into our societal structures, and how she has benefited from it. Her book is a helpful resource for white people to understand the insidiousness of racism and their complicity in it.

Conversation continues among the staff about this issue. In particular, these are some questions that continue to rise: What kinds of actions could we, a predominantly white synod, take to address this evil? Where can we have honest and open conversations about racism?

If you are looking for ways to act against racism, this book may be a good place for you to start. Including this concern in the prayer life of your congregation is also another way to begin to take action.

Each upcoming issue of Synod News will include a resource or an idea to help you wrestle with ways in which you can participate in healing the wounds of racism.

Please share any ways you might be actively addressing the sin of racism. Perhaps we can learn and act together as a synod to continue doing God's work.



Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
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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 Secor265-3832
Ministers—All the members of Trinity

Council Members:

Maureen Engelhard.....247-2678
Chris Griffith 268-4123
Cassidy Estelle..... 268-4123
Doreen Secor 265-3832
Debbie Philippi 247-2353
Paul Cook 247-7383

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– October - Thelma Allis
Alter Guild– November–Maureen Engelhard
and Carol Cunfer

October 1—Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Tanner Kunkle
Lector– Dave Estelle
Communion Assistant–
Counters—Doreen Secor
Ushers– Ruth and Ron Russell
Children’s Church– Chris Griffith

October 8—Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle
Lector– Cathy Bellanca
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca
Counters– Chris Griffith and Cassidy Estelle
Ushers– Paul and Aggi Cook
Children’s Church– Maureen Engelhard

October 15—Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Counters– Debbie Philippi
Ushers– Peggy Cranmer and Satchel Manchester
Children’s Church– Cathy Bellanca

October 22—Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost **Consecration Sunday**

Acolyte– Kate O’Connor
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Counters—Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Lois & Duane Carrington
Children’s Church– Eileen Alesky

October 29—Reformation Sunday

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington
Lector– Mary Lou Vanderpool
Communion Assistant– Mary Lou Vanderpool
Ushers– Doreen Secor and Cindy Estelle
Children’s Church– Cindy Estelle

November 5—All Saint’s Sunday

Acolyte– Tanner Kunkle
Lector– Mary Lou Banderol
Communion Assistant– Mary Lou Vanderpool
Ushers– Ron and Ruth Russell
Children’s Church– Chris Griffith

November 12—Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Emily Chilton
Lector– Cathy Bellanca
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca
Ushers– Paul and Aggi Cook
Children’s Church– Maureen Engelhard

November 19—Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Kate O’Connor
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Ushers– Janet Seaberg and Thelma Allis
Children’s Church– Cathy Bellanca

November 26—Christ the King Sunday

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle
Lector– Dave Estelle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Ushers– Lois and Duane Carrington
Children’s Church– Eileen Alesky

Trinity Lutheran Church
908 South Main Street
Towanda PA 18848

TRINITY TRUMPETER OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

“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.

