

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

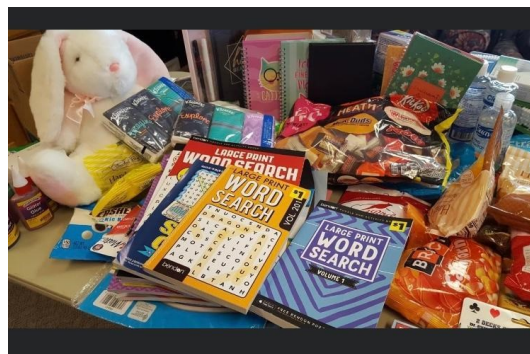
God's Work Our Hands



CHURCH MEMBERS PREPARING SUPPLIES

On Sunday, September 13, 2020 Trinity Lutheran Church participated in "God's Work Our Hands". Members filled baskets and bags with an assortment of items for the residents of Guthrie Towanda Memorial Personal Care Home and Skilled Nursing.

Special thanks to all who Helped with this yearly Project of community Service!



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**Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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Towanda, PA 18848

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www.trinluth.com

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



Is There A Point In Praying?



**A Message From
Pastor Jira
Albers**

*"The LORD
is near to all
who call on
him, to all
who call on
him in truth."*

Psalm 145:18

Over the past few days, I have heard a lot of expressions of despair. Along with that despair is the question of whether or not prayer even matters. I have been there. I once stood in a room, staring at a hospital bed, wondering if offering a prayer would even matter. Among the twisted chords and tubes of the medical equipment laid a woman with no real sign of life. She was medically brain dead. I could not bring myself to pray that day. What would it matter? Nothing would change.

I must admit that for a lot of my adult life, I just did not get prayer. I did not understand it. I did not know what it was for. What exactly is the point of prayer? What is prayer?

I am still quite certain that I am not the leading authority on prayer. There are many who have devoted their lives to the discipline and can speak on a much deeper level on the subject, probably even in this church! But, reflecting on the scriptures and looking back upon my childhood, I think that I understand a little better. This is what I have learned.

Reading through Genesis again has been eye opening to me, because in it you see prayer presented, not as a knee bending task done at night, but as a very real conversation. In Genesis 18:20-32, Abraham is seen conversing with God, even arguing politely with

The Lord so that God might have mercy upon Sodom. God is set on destroying the city, but Abraham convinces God to have mercy upon the city if there are even 10 righteous people living there. The story indicates that God's mind can be changed. This implies that prayer is a very real conversation between God and us. It speaks to a very real relationship where fancy words are not needed.

I think that I understood that better as a child. I remember conversing with God all the time about my family, about my dreams, and about my friends. It was a real, honest conversation and relationship. I wish that I would have understood my conversations as "prayer" at the time.

Since prayer is a real conversation within a real relationship, the answer to any request will not necessarily be "yes." God has promised that the Holy Spirit will always be there for us, but our request may receive a "no." This is true even for Jesus. Jesus asked that his life be spared in his final days, praying, "but, your will be done." God the Father's answer was "no." Jesus did die on the cross. We hear "no" or "not yet" all the time in our very real relationships with our wives, parents, and friends. Our relationship with God will be no different. The importance of prayer is not in the result, but in the relationship.

The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)

How do you deal with difficult Christians who aren't being very 'Christian?'

You forgive them. Jesus was asked a similar question, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." With Jesus, compassion on the sinner is always the answer. Our community is made up of sinners. In fact, that is who Christians are: sinners who need and trust in the forgiveness of Jesus Christ. There is just one caveat: we are reminded in Timothy that, though all are forgiven, not everyone is fit for leadership. Therefore, we have compassion on difficult Christians, but we do not allow their "difficulty" to affect very many people. – Pastor Jira Albers

The Ten Commandment Challenge

Exodus 20:1-17

20Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

I have a Bible challenge for you: I want you to list the Ten Commandments. This should be easy enough, after-all you probably had to memorize them as a child in Sunday School or Confirmation. But, a quick look at the different denomination's Ten Commandment lists will reveal that they read somewhat different. Some have a commandment about idols while others do not. Some have two commandments about coveting while others have only one. And, the Jewish tradition has a first commandment that does not read as a commandment at all. What is going on?

You can see what is going on by reading the biblical basis for the Ten Commandments above. Go ahead and try the Ten Commandment Challenge. Try to decide which of those commands make up the Ten Commandments. Are you finished? Most people discover that there are actually more than ten commands going on here, with lots of people coming up with 12 commandments and Jews listing up to 13. (For the Jewish people the Ten Commandments are known as the "Ten Sayings" and, thus, this is considered the first "saying": *"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."*). Things get even more complicated if you continue reading the laws that appear in the verses following these. Are they included also, or are they completely separate?

There are not definitive answers to any of these questions. The point of the Ten Commandment Challenge is to read the Bible on its own terms. When we enter into the Bible, we sometimes need to leave our pre-conceptions behind. If we do not, we may miss what is actually written. For example, did you notice that in Exodus 20:4 there is a prohibition in creating anything "that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." That would mean that most art would be violating this law since it is creating or representing something in creation. Muslims take this command seriously, thus all of their art consists only of geometric shapes. Remember, to take time to carefully read the Bible. Thanks for taking the Ten Commandment Challenge!



Parish News



Sunday, October 25! We will be honoring our student's in worship.

Worship Highlights

**Confirmation
Sunday
October 25**



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, November 1!
We will honor all saints, known and unknown. We will be remembering all saints who have died in the past year (since 11/01/2019). Please call or email the church office with the names of people you want remembered.

**November 1
All Saints Sunday**



Children's Church will be done in a different way due to the continuing nature of the pandemic. The Pastor will introduce the story and lesson in church and the children will be given activity bags to reinforce the message of the bible story. At this point, the children will not leave the worship service for children's church.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH HAS LOST A BELOVED MEMBER- ON THE MORNING OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020, JANET SEABERG DIED AND JOINED THE SAINTS IN LIGHT. JANET WILL BE SADLY MISSED AS SHE WAS A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF GOD. RIP DEAR SISTER



Adult Education Opportunities



Morning Fellowship
Studying different religions
Via Zoom

Every Tuesday at 9:00 AM
Contact the office if interested
All are welcome



**Looking for ideas!
Share your thoughts!!**



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

Join and add your comments



Parish News Continued

ENGELHARD COMPASSION FUND 2020

Dear Congregation,

It is October and it is almost time for the distribution of the 2020 Engelhard Compassion Fund money.

Recently we welcomed Nathan Milarta when he joined us at our worship service. He is someone that worked with Pastor Jira at TOPS Supermarket. Some of you may have seen a post that Pastor Jira included on his Facebook page about Nathan.



© wondercliparts.com

Nathan lost his dad in 1998, and his little 14 year old sister to cancer in 2006. He has one daughter that is autistic and she needs some peer support to help her gain a better footing in life. Nathan brought her to church last week and she is a lovely little girl who is shy, but hopefully felt okay being at our worship service. He is a single dad of three children. His life revolves around his children as they need him, and he needs them.

Nathan's family is a close knit family and they have been dealing with hardships every year. They try hard to get ahead but it seems that as soon as things seem to get better new problems arise. Nathan has acquired numerous medical bills and sustained damage to his family's home, which require expensive repairs. He is now a few months behind on the mortgage as well. He needs help with bills and housework.

Nathan is working multiple jobs, but his income is not able to keep up with the increasing expenses his family is incurring. He does not want to lose this home as it is the children's home, and they love and need their home. They have no place else to go and do not have any other close family.

This year has been such a challenge for everyone and if you can do God's Work through helping Nathan and his family using the Engelhard Compassion Fund, please do. You can send your Contributions to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran church and in the memo area of your check, please write Engelhard Compassion Fund. If you know anyone who is looking to help out someone in need during these trying times, please let them know about the Engelhard Compassion Fund. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me. God bless you!

Peace,

Maureen Engelhard

570-247-2678

rme@cableracer.com



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 Maureen Engelhard for her support and "compassion" for the Engelhard fund.
- *Thank you to Joyce Detharidge for filling the planters for Fall.
- *Thank you to Duane and Paul for removing the shrubs from the church.
- *Thank you to all who helped with the annual clean-up of the church grounds.
- *Thank you to all for the many contributions for "God's Work Our Hands".
- *Thank you to Dave Estelle who came to Cindy's rescue & fixed the arm on the door.

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Growing Young in a Changing World: Virtual Summit



Have you watched again and again as youth leave your church after they have affirmed their baptism?

Or maybe you have youth who only attend youth group and are not part of the larger congregation?

Does your congregation have a large age gap missing of people in their 20s and even 30s?

If you see any of the above as problems that the church needs to address, **then this event is for you!** It is also for as many folks as you can bring along with you.

The Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry Team is thrilled to welcome everyone in our synod to a two-day Virtual Summit titled "Growing Young in a Changing World."

Dozens of youth leaders in our synod have already reaped some of the benefits from a book called *Growing Young*. On November 10th and 11th, one of the authors of that book, Jake Mulder from the Fuller Youth Institute, will be working with our synod specifically to help us be more welcoming and engaging to the youth

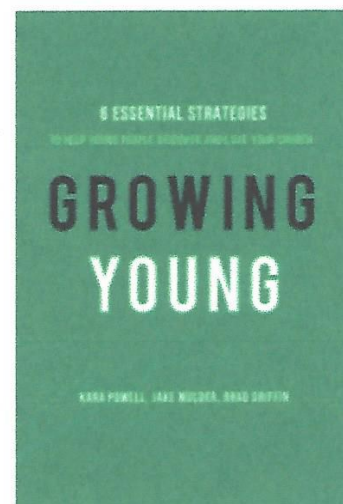
and young people in our midst. **ALL synod church staff, rostered ministers and members are welcomed and encouraged to attend.**

We will meet digitally in the morning and afternoon of Tuesday, November 10th and the morning of Wednesday, November 11th, with an optional afternoon session that day.

It is strongly encouraged that you read *Growing Young* prior to attending. You can purchase the book at <https://shop.fulleryouthinstitute.org/products/growing-young>.

Please note: Throughout this event, you will spend time in break out groups with others from either your congregation or mission district as we develop action plans to carry our teachings forward. Therefore, it will be helpful if you know in advance if others from your congregation or a partnering congregation are attending.

Please email sammy@nepsynod.org with questions and register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/growing-young-in-a-changing-world-virtual-summit-tickets-117650278149>.



Assembly 2020 - A New Way of Being Church Together

Friday evening, October 16 & Sunday afternoon, October 18
Friday evening, October 23 & Saturday morning and afternoon, October 24

Watch the Assembly Online

Registration for voting members is now closed. However, you can still watch all the proceedings, including the election of a new bishop. The entire assembly will be broadcast live and can be viewed by anyone with an internet connection. For "visitors" - those who simply wish to watch the proceedings - unlike past years, there is no need to register.

The information you need to watch the Assembly will be posted on the synod website (nepasynod.org).



ELCA "Stories of Faith in Action"

Stories are the foundation of our faith. They teach us how to serve God with humility. They remind us of our identity as God's beloved children. They bring us together and give us hope for the future. Given the challenges of 2020, we need stories of hope and unity more than ever before. That's where your 2020-2021 edition of "Stories of Faith in Action" comes in.

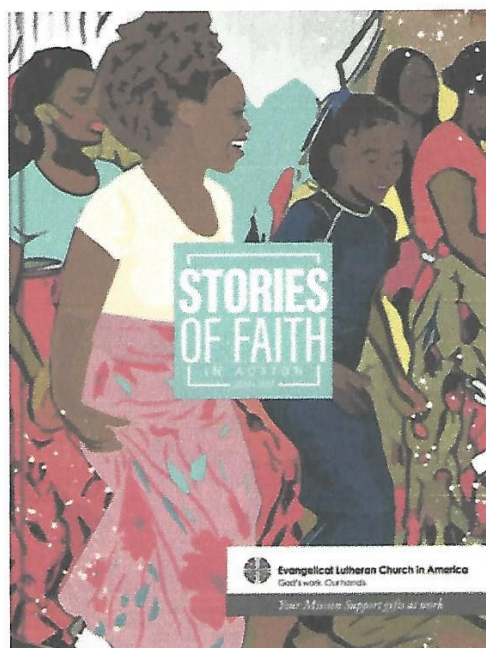
This annual publication illustrates how God is at work across the ELCA through your generosity. It highlights how a portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church – particularly the ways the ELCA nurtures vital congregations, raises up leaders and grows the global church. Most importantly, it's one way we say thank you for your faithful generosity to your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization – by showing your offering at work.

The latest edition is now available digitally and includes:

- A special message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.
- Nine inspiring stories from around the country and world.
- Your 2019 financial report on Mission Support – the portion of your offering your congregation shares with your synod and your synod shares with the churchwide organization.
- A story-based devotional for use at Bible studies or committee meetings.

Visit the ELCA website at <https://www.elca.org/sofia> where you can either download a printable version or view it as a "Flip Book."

[This article is taken from an email authored by Victoria Flood, Director, ELCA Mission Support and Nick Kiger, Associate Director, ELCA Mission Support.]



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

October 2020 Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

November 2020 Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

October 2020 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		9:00 am Bible Study Via Zoom		1	2	3
4	5	6 9:00 am Bible Study Via Zoom	7	8	9	10
11 2:00 PM Confirmation via Zoom	12	13 9:00 am Bible Study Via Zoom	14	15	16 7-9:30 PM Synod Assembly On-line	17
18 2-4:30 pm Synod Assembly On-line	19	20 9:00 am Bible Study Via Zoom	21	22	23 7-9:30 PM Synod Assembly On-line	24 9:30-11:45 am 1:30-4:00 pm Synod Assembly On-line
25 CONFIRMATION DINNER?	26 6:30 pm Council Meeting	27 9:00 am Bible Study Via Zoom	28	29	30	31 REFORMATION DAY

November 2020 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 ALL SAINTS DAY	2	3 ELECTION DAY	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 9:00 am Bible Study Via Zoom	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 9:00 am Bible Study Via Zoom	18	19	20	21
22 CHRIST THE KING	23 6:30 pm Council	24 9:00 am Bible Study Via Zoom	25	26 	27	28
29 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT	30					

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/Treas.– Cindy Estelle..... 265-5184
Fin. Secretary – Doreen Secor 265-3832
Council Secor.-Maureen Engelhard....247-2678
Ministers—All the members of Trinity

Council Members:

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

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

November-Maureen Engelhard

October 4—The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Jennifer Kaniuka
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle
Ushers– Ron & Ruth Russell

October 11—The Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle
Lector– Korrie Kunkle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Ushers– Paul & Aggi Cook

October 18—The Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Trinity Pugh
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Ushers–Thelma Allis

October 25—Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

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

November 1– All Saints Sunday

Acolyte– Jennifer Kaniuka
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Ron and Ruth Russell

November 8—Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle
Lector– Korrie Kunkle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Ushers– Paul and Aggi Cook

November 15—Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Trinity Pugh
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Ushers– Sue Alexander and Joyce Detharidge

November 22-Christ the King Sunday

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

November 29– The First Sunday in Advent

Acolyte– NEED
Lector- NEED
Communion Assistant– NEED
Ushers– Doreen Secor

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

Come and See, Come and Serve, Follow Christ

