

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021

**NOTE:**  
**WE WILL RETURN TO A FULL WORSHIP SERVICE ON OCTOBER 10, 2021**

## God's Work Our Hands



**AND OF COURSE, WE LOVE ANIMALS!**



**SPECIAL "THANKS" TO ALL WHO  
HELPED, IN ANY WAY,  
WITH THIS YEARLY PROJECT OF  
COMMUNITY SERVICE!**



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### Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

## Pastor's Message



**A Message From  
Pastor Jira  
Albers**

*“...on  
this rock  
I will  
build my  
church.”*

*Mark 6:31*

## You Are Not Good Enough, And That It's Fine

With a title like, “You Are Not Good Enough” it might be hard to believe that I do not intend this article to be negative. In fact, I can list the many things that make all of you absolutely great. All of you are gifts from God set in the right place at the right time. I have seen how you care for those who are ill. I have seen you rally around those who have suffered disaster. I know that you raise money for the unfortunate through a variety of means. I know that you care deeply for the faith of those around you. In all of these ways I have seen that you are absolutely the right people for the right time.

So, where does the “You Are Not Good Enough” part come in? Well, if you are anything like me, the words “you are not good enough” are most often my own. They speak in my mind in those times when things are not going right. “You are not good enough.” They whisper in those times when I do not quite know what to do. “You are not good enough.” They cause me to sit when I should be getting up, convincing me, “What is the point of moving, you are not good enough.” Sometimes, it has even been uttered

by someone else.

Do you know who else was not good enough? The apostle Peter too was not good enough. Recall that Peter is the one who sinks when he tries to walk on the water with Jesus present. Peter is the one who has no idea what to make of the transfigured and glorious Jesus on top of the mountain. Peter is the one who is called, “Satan” by Jesus when he utterly fails to understand Jesus’ purpose in this world. If you have ever felt as if you were not good enough, you are in good company with Peter.

Despite all of this, Peter is the one whom Jesus names the “Rock” and is the one upon whom Jesus is going to build the church. Just to be clear, it is not because Jesus has the right guy for the job, rather Peter has the right God for the job. Jesus knows that the good news is not shared by those who are perfect; rather the good news is shared by those who are not. The good news of salvation in Jesus Christ is shared only by those who are sinners; those who need his salvation and trust him to lead, guide, and save.

You are not good enough, and that is a good thing.

## The Question Box

*(Questions About Our Christian Life)*

***If I give my talents to the church, do I have to give money?”***

The short answer is that the faithful follower of Jesus Christ gives all that they are and all that they have to the ministry of Jesus Christ. This is bigger than just giving to the church, but it also includes giving to the church. Followers of Jesus typically give both their talents and money (10 percent) to the church, but if you are not blessed with money, then you have little to none to give. You give out of your blessing. – Pastor Jira

## The Ten Commandments: More Than You May Think

### Exodus 20:1-17

*20 Then God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>You 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. <sup>5</sup>You 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, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. <sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But 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. <sup>11</sup>For 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.*

*<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>You 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.*

Above in Exodus 20:1-17 you have the opportunity to read the Ten Commandments (also known as the 10 sayings) as they appear in the Bible. We have looked at the Ten Commandments before. You will probably remember that the Ten Commandments are kind of hard to break up into just ten. That is why they appear numbered differently in different traditions.

What I want to focus on this time around is a basic understanding of the Bible that comes to us from the Hebrew tradition. Within the Hebrew tradition, the tradition that birthed the Bible, meaning from any given passage of scripture is not limited to just the words on the page. There is a breadth of meaning that fills in the gaps of what is actually written. Let me help you understand this concept. For example, the Ten Commandments say, “You shall not murder.” A strict biblical interpretation, such as a Christian fundamentalist would espouse, would say that this means literally what the words say. You shall not kill people in a malicious and premeditative way. This is what the Hebrew words mean. That would be the end of the matter for them. But, the Hebrews would not and do not interpret this verse in such a limited, literalistic way. For the Hebrew people, intrinsic to the meaning of “You shall not murder,” is all of the ways that we hurt one another which can be seen as less than murder. In other words, hitting your sibling is included in this commandment. Spitting on another person would be included in this commandment.

Beyond the breadth of meaning which has to do with things “lesser than” that is included in the commandments, there is also an implied positive meaning to the commandment. This is how the positive meaning works: the command to not murder also inherently means that we actively protect and help others. We actively give of ourselves in order to protect others. This is the positive meaning of the commandment, “You shall not murder” in it is to be interpreted in such a way.

The Biblical writers intend us to consider both the breadth of meaning and the positive meaning, not only in the Ten Commandments, but in all of the Hebrew scriptures (Old Testament).



## Parish News



### **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, November 7!**

We will honor all saints, known and unknown. We will be remembering all saints who have died in the past year (since 11/01/20). Please call or email the church office with the names of people you want remembered.

## Worship Highlights

**November 7  
All Saints Sunday**



**Children's Church Bags Resume** - Bags, with items to help guide the children in the formation of their faith, will resume their weekly appearance on Sunday, September 26th. Special thanks to Maureen, Chris, Rebecca and Cindy for all their help in this ministry! If you are interested in helping, in any way, please contact one of the ladies.

## ENGELHARD COMPASSION FUND 2021

The yearly Engelhard Compassion Fund money will be distributed at the end of October. If you have a person or organization you would like the funds to go to, and would like to help raise money for them, please let me know. I will announce by Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> where the funds will go. Please send contributions to Trinity Lutheran Church with the designation ENGELHARD COMPASSION FUND. If you have any questions please feel free to ask me or call me at 570-247-2678, or e-mail me at [rme@cableracer.com](mailto:rme@cableracer.com). Thank you. Peace, Maureen Engelhard

**NOTE: RETURNING TO FULL WORSHIP SERVICE ON OCTOBER 10**

## **Adult Education Opportunities**



**Morning Fellowship**  
Studying Women of the Bible  
In Person or 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



### THE CHAMPLUVIER FAMILY

2 Jr. Champions  
1 Reserve Jr. Champion  
1 Grand Champion  
1 Reserve Grand Champion  
Supreme Heifer Open &  
Youth with Jersey  
Winter Yearling

(7 Kids, 6 Adults and 13 animals-all but one went back in for champion

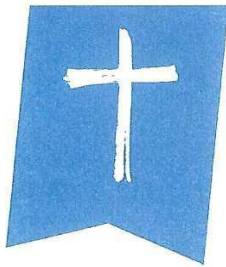


### Columbarium Space Available

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 all for the many contributions for "God's Work Our Hands". And to Cassidy Ayers for coordinating the event.
- \*Also to all the workers who helped at the Humane Society.
- \*Thank you to Bill Serfass for filling in for Pastor Jira. Blessings to you, Bill.
- \*Thank you to Kay and Pastor for their continued taping of our church services.



# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

OCTOBER 2021 • ISSUE 10 • VOLUME 29

## CONGREGATIONAL LEGACY & PURPOSE

BY DEACON TRAVIS WOODFIELD

I have to admit, I'm a sucker for history, especially church history. I love learning about times in the past that I'll never get to experience, in places I can only aspire to visit. I've been fortunate to go to some of those places: I've stood in churches that were 1,000 years old across Europe and marveled at the engineering, been in the cradle of the Roman Empire, lived in New York City and Philadelphia, laid down, in the rain, in the grass of monasteries from 800 years ago that is now in ruins. In all of these places, I try to imagine what it was like to be part of a community from long ago. Sometimes it's easier than others, I know something unique about a place or I know how a building was built, but the end is the same- I am in a place, remembering what I can about it, being part of its history and life.

There is a cycle to these things. Empires come and go. Leaders and rulers come and go. Institutions come and go. All of these life cycles, being born, going through a growth period, living adulthood, moving into the twilight of life, and finally, death, are all part of our lives, whether on a personal or institutional level. Part of the incredible message of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection is that death does not have the final word. However, no matter how much we try to avoid it, duck it, or deny it, death will have a word. Jesus himself understood that the only way to resurrection was through death - after all, if there's no death before resurrection, what we are really talking about is immortality, which is certainly not the Christian message.

These "deaths" can come in many forms in the church. Maybe it's moving a worship time, moving from 2 services to 1 so that the community might be one and ministry might be effective. It may be struggling with how to do "virtual" church in the time of a pandemic. Maybe it's letting a go special ministry that the church can no longer support with financial or labor. Maybe it's giving up a building to move to a building that fits the congregation. Maybe it's merging or closing.

The truth is that none of these realities, these deaths, are easy to imagine or even embrace. There is real grief, fear, anxiety, anger, and sadness that comes with even thinking about them. It's also true that we are not alone in these decisions. We do not know what resurrection may look like, but we know that it is Christ's promise. History always seems short when we are the ones participating in it. Christ sees the long view and, I think, wondering how we can participate in trying to see that long view is part of our call as a Christian. We cannot see the end but we can think and pray about what next, faithful steps may be. As a church, we have to start thinking about what those faithful steps might be, both as individuals, as a church, and as a synod.



Four years ago, I had the chance to go to the Isle of Iona in Scotland and visit the Benedictine abbey there, which is now a retreat center. Could a group of Benedictine nuns, living in the 1200's on a remote island of Scotland, possibly imagine that a guy from a land that had not been discovered yet to come visit their monastery? That, I would lay down, in the rain, in the ruins of their chapel, and imagine what it was like to worship there? 800 years ago, it would have been simply impossible to dream. What they did do was make faithful decisions that allowed that moment to happen and, even in the literal ruins of their communal life, there was a moment of that community's resurrection in my mind and heart, remembering them. As we move forward as a church, locally and as a synod, I pray that we can make faithful, prayerful decisions that are resurrection decisions and not immortality ones.



## Synod Staff:

# STACEY BURKE

Stacey Burke is the Lutheran Center's receptionist and the friendly voice you will most likely hear when calling the Synod office. Her main responsibilities will be scheduling supply pastors and maintaining the database of congregations.

Stacey graduated with a graphic design and TV/Film degree and plans to use her positive attitude and creative mindset to fulfill God's work throughout the Synod office and beyond. Being an active member at Hope Lutheran Church in Cherryville for over 30 years, Stacey has volunteered her time in various committees including youth group, Vacation Bible School, choir, orchestra, and worship arts.

Stacey is inspired daily by her husband Kevin and their new baby boy. They love spending time together as a family, which also includes a cat named Duncan and a dog named Red. Stacey resides in Bethlehem and enjoys attending art festivals and concerts. In her free time, Stacey likes to capture photography, play the guitar, perform in theater arts and spend time outdoors. She is very excited to have the opportunity to join the Synod staff, and she looks forward to growing within the Lutheran Center and watching God inspire and work all around her.

# October 2021 Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

# November 2021 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 <b>Larry &amp; Maurine Gehring</b>	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 <b>Paul &amp; Agnes Cook Harold &amp; Rose Renninger</b>	17 Thomas Lineberry	18 Peter Hart	19 Larry Gehring	20 Aaron Albers Nichole Albers
21	22	23 Duane Carrington Jasmine K. Brown	24 <b>Jan &amp; Laurie Kapson</b>	25 Pastor Jira Albers	26	27 Michael Dunn Maureen Engelhard
28 Trinity Pugh	29 Bob Fleck Jim Smith Skylar Yoder	30				



# October 2021 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 No Bible Study	6 6:30 PM Council Meeting	7	8	9
10 RETURN TO FULL SERVICE	11	12 9:00 am Bible Study	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 9:00 am Bible Study	20	21	22	23
24	25 6:30 pm Council Meeting	26 9:00 am Bible Study	27	28	29	30
31 REFORMATION DAY						

# November 2021 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 ELECTION DAY	3	4	5	6
7 TURN CLOCKS BACK	8	9 9:00 am Bible Study	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 9:00 am Bible Study	17	18	19	20
21 CHRIST THE KING	22 6:30 pm Council	23 9:00 am Bible Study	24	25 	26	27
28 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT	29	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 Sec.-Maureen Engelhard.....247-2678  
Ministers—All the members of Trinity

## Council Members:

Maureen Engelhard.....247-2678  
Agnes Cook.....247-7383  
Doreen Secor.....265-3832  
Cassidy Estelle.....506-9644  
Thelma Allis.....265-4230  
Ron Cunfer.....814-234-8796

## *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–**

**October—Thelma Allis**

**November-Maureen Engelhard**

## **October 3—The Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle  
Lector– Ron Cunfer  
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard  
Ushers– Sue Alexander & Joyce Detharidge  
Children’s Church– Chris Griffith

## **October 10—The Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost**

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington  
Lector– Bree Carrington  
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle  
Ushers– Paul & Aggi Cook  
Children’s Church– Maureen Engelhard

## **October 17—The Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost**

Acolyte– Trinity Pugh  
Lector– Jeff Lockhart  
Communion Assistant– Kathy Smith  
Ushers–Ron and Ruth Russell  
Children’s Church-Rebecca Hodgdon

## **October 24—The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle  
Lector– Korrie Kunkle  
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle  
Ushers– Lois & Duane Carrington  
Children’s Church-Cindy Estelle

## **October 31– Reformation Day**

Acolyte-Trinity Pugh  
Lector-Ron Cunfer  
Communion Assistant-Maureen Engelhard  
Ushers-Thelma Allis  
Children’s Church-Chris Griffith

## **November 7– All Saints Sunday**

Acolyte– Jennifer Kaniuka  
Lector– Ron Cunfer  
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard  
Ushers– Ron and Ruth Russell  
Children’s Church-Maureen Engelhard

## **November 14—Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

Acolyte– Trinity Pugh  
Lector– Cindy Estelle  
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle  
Ushers– Thelma Allis and Doreen Secor  
Children’s Church-Rebecca Hodgdon

## **November 21—Christ the King Sunday**

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington  
Lector– Bree Carrington  
Communion Assistant– Kathy Smith  
Ushers– Lois and Duane Carrington  
Children’s Church-Cindy Estelle

## **November 28-The First Sunday in Advent**

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle  
Lector– Korrie Kunkle  
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle  
Ushers– Paul and Aggi Cook  
Children’s Church-Chris Griffith

Trinity Lutheran Church  
908 South Main Street  
Towanda PA 18848

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## **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**

