

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018

God's Work Our Hands



On Sunday, September 9, 2018 Trinity Lutheran Church participated in "God's Work Our Hands. After a "short service with Holy Communion" several members departed to TACO, where they cleaned inside & outside the premises. Also other members ventured out to Pastor Jira's home to help clean up from the flood. It was a busy Sunday but with great accomplishments & fellowship!

Fall Bazaar- Bake Sale and Basket Raffle



Friday, November 2, 2018 from 10:00 am—2:00 pm is our annual fall bazaar. Several baskets will be raffled off. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00. A quilt handmade by Peggy Cranmer will also be raffled. Quilt tickets are \$5.00 each. Tickets can be purchased from a Vesper Guild member too. Lunch will also be served offering chili and vegetable and chicken noodle soups. Our famous variety of homemade pies will be available and there will also be a **BAKE SALE**. Takeout's are available too. Come out & enjoy our great Lutheran cooks!!!

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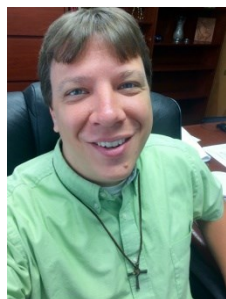
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



**A Message From
Pastor Jira
Albers**

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Matt. 11:28

For the Weary

There once was a man who had been suffering the effects of a withered hand since birth. The man had learned to work around the deformity throughout the years. He could clothe himself, he could go shopping, and he could even work. Even with all that, he secretly wished that he not be overly burdened with such a deformity.

One Sabbath day, Jesus appeared in the doorway of the man's hometown Synagogue. Seeing Jesus enter, the leaders of the Synagogue asked Jesus if it was lawful to cure on the Sabbath. The man had not intended to be the center of anyone's political battle. He certainly had never desired to be the center of attention. If anything, the man was weary from trying to hide his deformity his entire life. It is a tiring thing to keep from being the center of people's stares, glances, and jokes. It is a tiring thing to always be the different one. It is a tiring and stressful life to hold together a scrap of dignity when the world seems to deem you a lesser person.

Little did the man know, rest for the weary was about to come. Little did

he know, he was about to be healed.

Revealing to the room that mercy is what God's law is all about, Jesus takes the man's hand and gives rest for the soul. The man's hand was healed. The man was given rest from his weariness on the Sabbath.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." – Matthew 11:28-29

As I gaze around the church and around the community in general, there is a lot of weariness. There is a lot of pain, hurt, stress, and concern that burdens people and weighs them down. It can all get to be a little too much.

But, where I do find hope is that any day at any time, Jesus might show up and walk through the door. Any day at any time, he might take away the burdens that others throw on us and heal our weary souls. Come Lord Jesus, come.

The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)

"Pastor, are we in the end times? Are we in the time of Revelation?"

I had in no way intended the question box to be an advertising agent, but since the question was asked, we are studying the book of Revelation in Afternoon Fellowship, Tuesdays at 12:30pm. Here is a quick, quick answer: we are in the end times, and have been for about 2000 years since Jesus' death and resurrection. Now to answer the second question which really is a separate question: we are not specifically in the times about which the book of Revelation is concerned. The pastor who wrote Revelation was worried about the churches under his care in the time that Roman rule and oppression was the concern of the day. With that said, the hope that is preached in the book of Revelation still resonates as we engage with the struggles of today's world. – Pastor Jira



Parish News



Sunday, October 28! This day, the Sunday closest to October 31-the date Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses in Wittenberg In 1517, it is celebrated in honor of the Beginning of the reformation of the church. An ethnic luncheon with a dish to pass will be held following service. Bring your favorite dish!



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, November 4! We will honor all saints, known and unknown. We will be remembering all saints who have died in the past year (since 11/01/2017). Please call or email the church office with the names of people you want remembered.



November 11– We will honor all veterans! After service, we will have a “clean-up the church property” followed by pizza!



November 18– Child's Faith Service
Let's worship like we were kids again!
Bring a friend & enjoy music and Bible readings !



Advent Services Wednesday Evenings
December 5, 12, & 19. We will start at 6:00 pm with a soup supper. Service of Holden Evening Prayer starts @7:00 pm.

Worship Highlights

**Reformation
Sunday
October 28**

**November 4
All Saints Sunday**

**November 11
Honor Veterans
Clean-up property**

**Child's Faith
Sunday
November 18**

**Christ the King
Sunday
November 25
(special speaker)**

**First Sunday in Advent
Sunday
December 2**

Adult Education Opportunities



Afternoon Fellowship
Studying Revelations while enjoying each other's companionship

**Every Tuesday at 12:30 PM
In The Hart Center**



Sunday Afternoon Book Club
Reading and talking about faith issues
The Girl Who Drank The Moon

**Meeting Nov. 4th & 11th at 1:30 pm
At Pat & Sven Thomason's home**



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

Join and add your comments



Parish News Continued



Women's News

Willing Workers are busy preparing for our Annual Fall Bazaar on **November 2**. We will be in need of homemade pies and any other baked goods. Vegetables are also need for the soups.



OCTOBER 21- JR. YOUTH GROUP

Meeting at 1:30 pm in the Hart Center

WE WILL AGAIN BE HAVING "**SECRET PALS**" WITH THE CHILDREN OF OUR CONGREGATION. THIS WILL BE STARTING **NOVEMBER 4TH**.

We will reveal our "secret pals" with a luncheon on December 16th.



The board of directors of TACO Food Pantry would like to thank Trinity Lutheran church for your donation of volunteer hours in cleaning and tiding our pantry and the outside of our complex. This gift of your time and talents is very appreciated and helped us to get some items done that our volunteers have been too busy to accomplish. Thank you all so much!

ENGELHARD COMPASSION FUND 2018



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ONCE AGAIN IT IS ALMOST TIME FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF **THE ENGELHARD COMPASSION FUND**. THIS YEAR WE WILL BE USING THE MONEY TO HELP PASTOR JIRA, RANDELE AND THEIR FAMILY. AS MOST OF YOU KNOW THEY WERE VICTIMS OF THE RECENT FLOODING AND THEIR HOUSE SUFFERED SOME MAJOR DAMAGE. THEY HAVE TO REPLACE WALLS, FURNITURE AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS. YOU CAN HELP THEM WITH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ENGELHARD COMPASSION FUND THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE END OF OCTOBER. CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH WITH THE NOTATION THAT IT IS FOR THE ENGELHARD COMPASSION FUND. THANK YOU ALL FOR THE SUPPORT I KNOW YOU ARE GIVING THEM AND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS. Peace be with you, Maureen Engelhard

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 Doreen Secor for giving the Temple Talks.
- *Thank you to Dave Estelle for replacing the faucets in the church restrooms.
- *Thank you to Joyce Detharidge for maintaining the rock garden..
- *Thank you to Peggy Cranmer for making the quilts for our bazaar & for the newly baptized. Your talents are amazing!
- *Thank you to all who volunteered in any way to our "first" Oktoberfest.



Parish News Continued

MORE "GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS" PICTURES



THE CHAMPLUVIER KIDS!



A family's
Love[™]
is forever



A Closer Look at the Bible – Pastor Jira Albers

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (NRSV, Matt. 11:28-29)

This Bible selection is one of the most popular New Testament passages, and rightly so. All of us know what it is to be weary, and all of us hope to find rest for our souls. With that said we must remember that we cannot simply rip any Bible verse from its place in the scriptures and use it however we want. This can lead to either a complete misuse of the Bible verse that the original author would have never intended, or it can lead to a generalized sentiment that, though nice, does not hold the full meaning that the author intended. So, with that all said, let us take a little time to look at the placement of these verses about weariness and rest in the larger book of Matthew.

Matthew is one of the four gospels (stories about Jesus) and it is a gospel that is written primarily to early Jewish Christians (as opposed to non-Jewish Christians from the Roman world). Therefore, the writer of Matthew is concerned about helping his congregation understand how to follow Jesus and the Law of Moses (especially when they appear to contradict each other). This background is important especially to this Bible passage since it appears to be the beginning of a larger argument.

As you noticed, if you read my newsletter article, these verses about weariness are related directly to the stories that follow. In particular, it relates to the story that immediately follows. That story is about a man with a withered hand who is healed by Jesus on the Sabbath. The question for early Jewish Christians, as voiced by the Synagogue leaders in the story, is: “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?” The broader question for those early Jewish Christians is, “Now that we are Christians, what laws should we follow and how should we know?”

These verses about weariness serve as a sort of introduction to answering these questions. Jesus is about relieving heavy burdens. Jesus is about being gentle and humble. Jesus is about rest for the soul. Jesus is about making the yoke (the heavy, wooden harness around the necks of oxen and horses intended to help direct the animals in the ways of their owner) easy and light. Jesus even quotes scripture to make his point (which is a good Jewish thing to do). “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” This sentiment can be found in Hosea 6:6. Go ahead and take time to look it up to see how Jesus uses these words of scripture.

In the story that follows these verses about weariness and rest for the soul, the man with the withered hand is healed on the Sabbath by Jesus, and his “burden” is relieved. The man with the formerly withered hand finds rest for his body and his soul on the Sabbath (the day of rest).

But, healing is work, is it not? The Law of Moses says that work is not to be done on the Sabbath, correct? The synagogue leaders surely would not have had a problem with Jesus saving a man having a heart attack on the Sabbath; that is clearly saving a life and is not considered work. But, this man had the withered hand his entire life. Why not just wait until the day after the Sabbath to heal?

Jesus’ answer is that if the work shows mercy, it is not only permissible, but is at the very heart of the Law of Moses in the first place. The Law of Moses was given to promote life, not hinder it. Therefore, a follower of Jesus is following the Law whenever they show mercy.

The specific rest that we are given by Jesus is the rest that comes when overbearing weight and expectation on us are relieved and we receive mercy.

October 2018 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 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 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Larry & Maurine Gehring
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 2018 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 12:30 pm Bible Study	3	4	5	6
7 Always Made New Campaign	8	9 No Bible Study	10	11	12	13 Hall reserved 12-5:30 pm
14	15	16 12:30 Bible Study	17	18	19	20
21 1:30 pm Jr. Youth Meeting	22 6:00 Council Mtg.	23 No Bible Study	24	25	26	27
28 REFORMATION -Ethnic dish to pass	29	30 10:00 am V. Guild meeting 12:30 Bible Study	31 			

November 2018 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 FALL BAZAAR 10-2:00 PM	3
4 ALL SAINTS DAY "Secret Pals" starts 1:30 Book Club	5	6 ELECTION DAY No Bible Study	7	8	9	10
11 HONOR VETS Clean-up property 1:30 Book Club	12	13 12:30 Bible Study	14	15	16	17
18 CHILD'S FAITH	19	20 12:30 Bible Study	21	22 	23	24
25 CHRIST THE KING (special speaker)	26 6:00 pm Council	27 12:30 Bible Study	28	29	30	

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

The Gallery at St. Paul, Douglassville



The Gallery at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Douglassville consists of photographs of members of our congregation living, learning, serving and receiving the blessings of Christ's love.

We asked: How to add art to our bare walls? What type of art should it be? Biblical art? Nature art? Over time, a theme emerged - let's showcase the work of our congregation. Let's show visitors to our church who we are and what we do. And we dusted off the slogan, "God's Work. Our Hands."

We are fortunate in many ways.

There was no shortage in finding busy hands in our congregation. They are everywhere. From our Property Committee hanging a new wooden cross, to our quilters creating beautiful heirlooms, to the work of the Basket Social event, to the children in our Child Development Center. We also were blessed to have six members of the congregation who are immensely talented photographers, and they all donated their time and talent to capture extraordinary images.

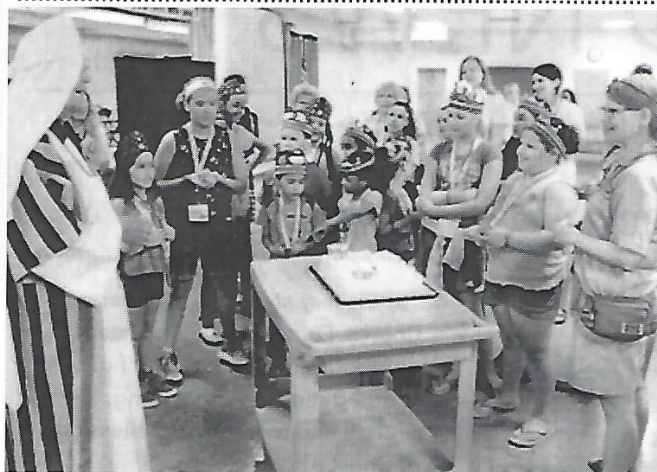
We further asked the congregation to provide us with a picture of their hands on their wedding day, and three large collages were created. During the month of August, a temporary art gallery was on display in the Fellowship Hall. There were over 50 photographs, printed as 8 x 10's, for all to view. A sponsor form was created, allowing for members of the congregation to contribute to the expense of framing. We worked with a local framer to provide three prices in three sizes.

We will spend the month of September in anticipation of seeing the photographs in their new size, framed; and then in October we will unveil The Gallery at St. Paul's. We hope our members and visitors will enjoy viewing the pictures for years to come. And since we had such beautiful photographs, we also plan to make a 2019 church calendar and note cards, which can be sold at our Fall Apple Festival and Christmas Bazaar.

To learn more about The Gallery Project, contact Pr. Greg Frey at gfrey@stpaulsdouglassville.com.



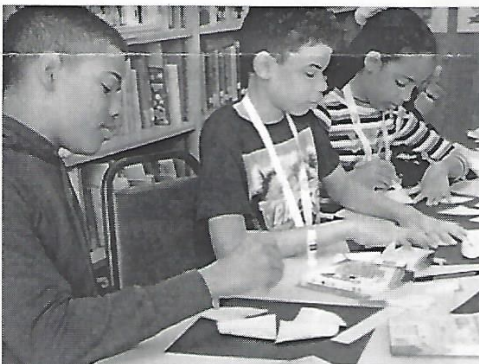
Camp Noah in Reading for Refugee Children from Puerto Rico



After the devastation in Puerto Rico from hurricane Maria, over 400 refugee families ended up in the Berks County area. Thanks to a generous grant from ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran Congregational Services was able to connect many of these families with agencies and churches who could provide help.

A group of Berks County churches, with generous financial support from the Reading Lutheran Parish, came together to host a Camp Noah during the week of August 13 at St. Luke, Reading. The churches also partnered with Centro Hispano, a nonprofit organization that serves the Latino community in Berks County.

The goal was to provide children from some of these families an opportunity to share their experiences with others who had lived through the same devastation, and then help the children to learn skills needed to move ahead with their lives. There were nearly 40 campers; over 40 in-person volunteers; and in-kind donations from over 50 congregations/ministries/benevolent organizations from Philadelphia to the Poconos.



Pr. Rebecca Knox reports: "A favorite moment was as I was driving a van-full of campers home the first day and a child was reading a unique bilingual birthday card created for each camper by St. John's Lutheran, Hamburg. The camper said, 'These people do not even know me, why did they give me a card?'"

I replied, "Because they love you like Jesus does."

The camper replied, "Cool!" and showed the card to the camper sitting in the next seat... "Look what they made just for me!"

Julia Menzo of Liberty Lutheran recruited volunteers and charitable donors; and Luci Bower was the staff coordinator. Pr. Katie Lyon (Christ, Reading) was a key organizer and hopes to work with Liberty Lutheran and its congregations to offer a Camp Noah experience next summer for refugee families in the Philadelphia area.



(Photos by Ralph Paparella, Friedens, Oley)

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View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.

Trinity Leadership Directory

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Serving us in worship:

The Rev. Jira A. Albers, presiding minister

Altar Guild– October—Thelma Allis

Alter Guild– November

Maureen Engelhard & Carol Cunfer

Altar Guild-December- Cindy Estelle

October 7—Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Cathy Bellanca
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca
Ushers– Ron & Ruth Russell
Children’s Church– Eileen Alesky
Counters– Cathy Bellanca

October 14—Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Abby O’Connor
Lector– Dave Estelle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Ushers– Paul & Aggi Cook
Children’s Church-Cindy Estelle
Counters– Peggy Cranmer & Satchel Manchester

October 21—Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Ushers–Peggy Cranmer & Satchel Manchester
Children’s Church– Cathy Bellanca
Counters– Debbie Philippi

October 28—Reformation Sunday

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Lois & Duane Carrington
Children’s Church– Maureen Engelhard

November 4– All Saints Sunday

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Cathy Bellanca
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca
Ushers– Janet Seaberg & Thelma Allis
Children’s Church– Chris Griffith
Counters-Doreen Secor

November 11—Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Kate O’Connor
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Ushers– Doreen Secor & Cindy Estelle
Children’s Church– Eileen Alesky
Counters– Cathy Bellanca

November 18—Twenty-six Sunday After Pentecost

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington
Lector– Dave Estelle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Ushers– Lois & Duane Carrington
Children’s Church– Cindy Estelle

November 25-Christ the King Sunday

Acolyte– Abby O’Connor
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Peggy Cranmer & Satchel Manchester
Children’s Church- Cathy Bellanca
Counters– 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

Spreading Christ’s word of peace to all through service.

