

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 2018

Trinity Lutheran Church & School
146 Reserve Road, West Seneca, New York 14224
Church: (716) 674-9188, School: (716) 674-5353

Rev. Dennis Krueger, Pastor, C: 997-5666 / H: 671-8130
Mrs. Kathleen Fretthold, School Principal, School: 674-5353

Church Website: trinitywestseneca.com
Church Office E-mail: trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net



WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday @ 5:00 pm - Devotional
Sunday @ 8:00 am - Traditional
Sunday @ 10:30 am - Contemporary

ASH VALENTINES' DAY and EASTER FOOLS' DAY

This year Ash Wednesday happens to fall on Valentine's Day, February 14th. And if that isn't awkward enough, Easter Sunday is on April 1st, April Fools' Day! The last time this happened was in 1945. The next time it happens will be in the year 2029. So, I think I'll save this newsletter article and use it again in 11 years! Ha!

Ash Wednesday is one of the most solemn days of the church year, second only to Good Friday. It marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a time of preparation for Easter. Traditionally it was the time for training new believers in the faith, which is why many churches observe Mid-Week Lenten services. Often times the Mid-Week Lenten series is aimed at an educational focus. This year Trinity will be reviewing the six chief parts of *Luther's Small Catechism*. Ash Wednesday, which is not really a festival day remembering some person or event in the Bible, focuses on "repentance." That's why we observe the imposition of ashes as an act of humble repentance. As mentioned, this year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day which may present a distraction. Even though Valentine's Day was once observed as a commemoration of St. Valentine, today it has become more of a day of romance. Certainly it's a good opportunity to express one's love for family and friends, but it might be a little peculiar to attend an Ash Wednesday service and then go out to a romantic supper with a spouse or friend. Of course it could also remind us of God's great love and faithfulness to us. We know that when we repent and ask for mercy and forgiveness, the Lord does love and forgive us. One suggestion I heard is that you might consider celebrating Valentine's Day the day before (or some other day) and observe Ash Wednesday exclusively on February 14th. Whatever you decide to do, I urge you not to ignore Ash Wednesday and celebrate Valentine's Day instead.

Easter Sunday falls on April 1st this year which is also April Fools' day. While it sounds bad, I don't think it really is all that big a problem. I don't think people really observe April Fools' day so much. Perhaps we might incorporate the two emphases and say, "Don't be a fool! Easter is much more than bunnies and chocolate!" I know you know that, but you might be surprised at how many don't. We used to talk about "C & E" people who only attend church on Christmas and Easter. Sadly, I don't think there are too many "C & E" members anymore ... they have become "Nevers"! Like Ash Wednesday, I urge you to attend the Easter worship and join in the praise of our victorious and risen Lord."

This year Trinity is once again hosting one of the Mid-Week Lenten services of the West Seneca Community of Churches (WSCC). On March 21st at 7pm we have the opportunity to host and gather with fellow Christians from our West Seneca neighborhood. The theme for the WSCC Lenten series this year is "The Wideness of God's Mercy." Please join us on 3/21.

God bless you and your Lenten journey to the cross and the empty tomb!

~ Pastor Dennis J. Krueger

MID WEEK LENTEN SERIES 2018: “Review and Renew”

As we continue our celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, our Mid-Week Lenten Series will review the six chief parts of *Luther’s Small Catechism*. This concept for a midweek Lenten series review of the Catechism is not a new idea at all. It was inspired by the Book of Concord: “Such matters also concern the laity and the salvation of their souls. Therefore we also confess Dr. *Luther’s Small and Large Catechisms* as they are included in Luther’s works. They are “the layman’s Bible” because everything necessary for a Christian to know for salvation is included in them, which is handled more extensively in the Holy Scriptures.” (FC Ep I 5)

Once again this year two services will offered each week, except for the last week, at **11:15am and 7:00pm**. The morning service follows the mid-week Bible Class. The last mid-week service of Lent we will be hosting the West Seneca Community of Churches. The series will follow this schedule:

February 14 th	Ash Wednesday	The Ten Commandments
February 21 st	Mid-Week 2	The Apostles’ Creed
February 28 th	Mid-Week 3	The Lord’s Prayer (Guest Preacher)
March 7 th	Mid-Week 4	Confession and Absolution – Office of the Keys
March 14 th	Mid-Week 5	The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
March 21 st	Mid-Week 6	Hosting the WSCC Lenten Service (Not using Luther’s Small Catechism)
March 29 th	Maundy Thursday	The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Altar Guild Meeting Monday, January 29th at 7:00pm

All Trinity members Sr. High School age and above, both ladies and gentlemen, are invited to attend this informational meeting. Refreshments and snacks will be served. What actually is Altar Guild? What do they do? Answers to all your questions will be given. New members are always needed. If you can devote 1 hour per week for 1 month each year to help or are curious about Altar Guild, please plan to attend!



2017 Financial Statements

The 2017 member financial statements are ready. Statements have been placed in everyone’s mailboxes. For those without mailboxes, please see the table in the narthex .

SOUP-er Bowl Challenge

Please join us in some friendly competition for a great cause! We are asking that you bring in canned foods or non-perishable items to be donated to the West Seneca Food Pantry. There will be TWO bins located in the narthex, one for members who sit on the LEFT side of church and one for those who typically sit on the RIGHT side (when looking at the altar). Let the games begin...and may the best side win!

Please remember to save used 1st class postage stamps. Leave them in Nancy Hope’s mailbox. Funds raised are used to purchase Bibles for members of the Armed Forces. Thanks!



February Witness Center Idea

Please take a valentine card from the basket near the witness center and give it to a friend, co-worker or family member! Inside the card should be a Fathers Love Letter pamphlet. Share with them that they are loved!



Ladies' Bible Study

The Monday Ladies Bible Study’s last session focused on the Book of Ruth is February 12 at 7pm. We’ll try to make our plans for our next study at this time. Hope to see you all then. ~ Nancy Hope

WCSS Lenten Journey at Trinity

Trinity is hosting the West Seneca Community of Churches’ Lenten Journey worship service on Wednesday, March 21 at 7:00pm. Help is needed to set up, bake, prepare, serve, and clean-up for the fellowship time after the worship service. If you can help out in any way, please let Pastor Krueger or Nancy Hope know.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking to make each of our shut-ins a lap robe for next Christmas. If you are a knitter or crocheter and have some scraps of yarn and free time this winter, make 6" blocks (colors & patterns don't matter) and put them in Vicky Wienke's mailbox.

School News



From the Principal ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Prior to Lutheran Schools Week at the end of January, the staff adopted Philippians 4:6 for our temporary theme ... "Do not be anxious about anything..."! It's not surprising that at the half way point of the school year our plates are about as full as they can be. Report cards, planning the many Lutheran Schools Week activities, preparing for Open House and Taste of Trinity, LSW worship, coaching/chaperoning basketball games, making progress on Accreditation documentation, and most importantly, caring for the spiritual and academic wellness of our children required maximum effort! The teachers and staff are very hard-working and dedicated servants, and I hope that you pray regularly for them and will continue to support them in their mission however you can. We had an incredible week of thankfulness - as you can see by the banners on the balcony - and enjoyed the blessings of our Lutheran school. Thank you, too, for your awesome participation in Taste of Trinity! I'm always amazed at the variety and deliciousness of the food, and warmed by the pleasure of the company.

Our annual Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle fundraiser is coming in March! This year, we have the whole school involved and will be striving to make this our premiere tuition aid event. Over 600 letters have been mailed to Western New York businesses, and every school family will play a role in this event's success. Plan on popping over to the school on March 17th between 12-4 pm to enjoy a great meal and do some "shopping". As always, any donations would be deeply appreciated - the sign-up board will be in the narthex soon.

A "State of the School" letter was sent to all school parents about the things that have been and are happening here at school pertaining to facilities, curriculum, fundraising, etc. So much has been going on in the past 12-18 months, up front and also behind the scenes, for which I thank and praise God, which I'd love to share with you as well! There are copies available on the little school bulletin board by the elevator; please take one or call the school for a digital copy. I welcome your thoughts and comments regarding the letter. Your school family continues to thank God for your dedication to Lutheran education here at Trinity!

~ Kathleen Fretthold
Principal, Trinity Christian School

LCMS Foundation

Love: More than an Emotion

Love is described in the dictionary as affection that is felt for another. Love causes one to be devoted to the object of love, whether a person, place, thing or thought. People find the object of their love irresistible. People hold their loves dear and are very keen on these objects.

Love is a consuming sense that has the capacity to control a person's life. To be sure, love triggers the emotional senses, but is love more than emotions?

Martin Luther's explanations to the Ten Commandments began with the words, "*We should fear, LOVE and trust in God so that ...*" Love, being associated with the words 'fear' and 'trust' tell us that our motivations are entwined.

How interesting that the Apostle whom Jesus loved writes, "*For God so LOVED the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.*" Love is of God!

God told Abraham, when speaking to the son He had promised, to "*Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you LOVE and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.*" Can LOVE for God ever compete with our LOVE for our own family?

Paul, in his letter to the Romans says, "*God's LOVE has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*" Indeed, LOVE is God's gift, given to us to reflect His desire to bless.

Love is more than an emotion. Love defines our relationships, motivations and priorities. When your last will and testament is read, will your LOVES be evident? Want to talk? For more information, contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfn.org or (716) 863-4427.

School Impact

by Mark Willert

Recently one of our alum from last year's class was visiting and was telling me how much he missed it. I asked if he'd care to write his feelings for our church newsletter. Even though he was with us for only a few years, you'll hear the sense of family and bonding that took place. Here his faith and relationships could flourish unrestricted by those who surrounded him.

Greetings and Happy New Year,

I am grateful that Mr. Willert asked me to share a little bit of my experience at Trinity Christian School now as an alumni! Please let me start by thanking the Trinity Lutheran Church congregation and others that made it possible for me and other students to attend TCS through their prayers, financial commitment, and encouragement!

My years at Trinity are very close to my heart and some of the fondest of memories. For most of my life I had been in public schooling. From K-5 I attended an elementary school with no problems that I recall. I even had a couple teachers that were Christians that attended my church.

Although a lot changed when I went to the public middle school in sixth grade. I had a very hard time at this school, and wasn't able to share about my faith and Jesus freely, and therefore often dreaded stepping into the building. It was probably one of the most challenging school years of my life.

As a result of this I asked my parents to look at schools elsewhere or homeschool me, and thus I would eventually come to Trinity after a lot of conversations and prayer. I would say that the day that I shadowed Trinity Christian School was the highlight of my year. I wanted to transfer to Trinity immediately after shadowing in the Spring, but had to wait until the new school year started in the Fall. So, I attended Trinity, and my four younger siblings came with me. At first it was a little different adjusting from a class of about three hundred kids to a class of six, but I quickly grew to love the small class and close friendships that I made!

Our class forged friendships and relationships with the teachers and staff that will last far past eighth grade at TCS. During those two years, I grew as both a student and in my personal relationship with Jesus.

My prayer partners (within the church), the school musicals, and 8th grade class trip to Chicago are probably my favorite memories. The class trip was especially memorable since our class was so small with only six kids. I miss those days. I'm a little sad that 2017 is over, the year of both the class trip and my graduation from Trinity. Although I am so grateful for the time that I spent there as a student, and I will always be proud to be a TCS alumni!

In Him,

Andrew McFarland Class of 2017, TCS



LWML Servant Event
Saturday, February 3rd
9:00am-12:00pm
St. Luke Lutheran Church
(900 Maryvale Drive in Cheektowaga)

Sewing and card making project – After having a devotion, we will be making surgical caps for children for donation to area hospitals and creating cards of encouragement to go with them. You can cut fabric, do some sewing of this super easy pattern, insert elastic, color cards, or just chat with folks and have a snack! An application for a Thrivent Action Grant has been submitted. Any woman of an LCMS church is an LWML member and welcome to come join in service and worship. Bring a friend. Contact Linda Meissner for more info or desire to carpool.

Vendor/Craft/Rummage Sale

Saturday, April 14, 2018 11AM - 3PM

Vendors and crafters are needed!

If you are interested in vendor space, please contact Kevin or Colleen Kot at knckot@verizon.net or 674-7526 by March 9, 2018. Vendor space will be limited, so please submit your application ASAP.

We are also asking you to save items that you would like to donate for the rummage sale! Proceeds from this sale will go to support future local and domestic mission events.



Support: To hold in position so as to keep from falling, sinking, or slipping.

Support is something we all need. God gives us support through our Christian brothers and sisters. Let us all be sensitive to one another's needs and take the time to support each other through prayers, phone calls, friendly chats, and even visits. Also remember that we have Stephen Ministers who are willing to give their support. They are very good listeners and everything is extremely confidential. If you know someone who may need a Stephen Ministry, contact Don Meissner 652-1901 or Pastor Krueger 674-9188 or any Stephen Minister: Vicky Wienke, Erin (Meissner) Kotowski, Pat Hartman, Josh Makey, Sue Brehm, Darlene Miller, Judy Schmidt.

Trinity's Endowment Fund

Contributions to the Trinity Lutheran Church & School Endowment Fund can be made on a regular basis or in recognition of special or end-of-life events. The fund was established in 2016 and is growing at a rate of 9% - 10%.

Children's DVDs

Do you have any G rated DVD's which are no longer watched or wanted? If so, please consider donating them to the Trinity School library. Some of the kids enjoy borrowing a DVD along with books. DVDs can be given to Nancy Hope or dropped off at the school.

Shut-In Members

If you know if a member of Trinity who should be on our **shut-in member list**, please let Pastor Krueger and the church office know! We want to care for all!!!

Parents of Young Children

For your convenience, there is a lovely nursery in the basement of the church for your use during the service should you desire to use it. There are toys for your little ones to play with as well as a speaker for you to hear the service. If you are unsure of which area to use - the nursery is surrounded by two half-walls and very child-friendly.



2018 LWML Eastern District Convention

June 1-3, 2018

Double Tree Hotel in Niagara Falls, NY

The theme for the 2018 Convention will be "The Voice of the Lord ... Enlightening, Electrifying and Empowering". The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. John Sound, 1998-2005 LWML Pastoral Counselor of the LWML Eastern District. Other special guests include Patti Ross (LWML national President) and Jan Struck. A group tour of Niagara Falls will be offered on Friday, June 1 for those interested. Registration forms for this event, meals, lodging and tour can be found on the bulletin board in the church coatroom. **Registration deadline is April 30.**

Visual Faith / Bible Journaling Group

2nd Monday of Each Month

7:00pm-9:00pm

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
(900 Maryvale Dr., Cheektowaga)

Do you love to doodle and color and would also like to focus more on God's Word? It's amazing how coloring can focus your mind and relax you; and when it is centered around Scripture--you can make a wonderful connection with God. Bev Wicher will be starting a Monthly Visual Faith/Bible Journaling group **starting February 12** and continuing the 2nd Monday of each month. There will be a short devotion on one scripture verse and then we will have some time to color and/or journal about that verse. Coloring sheets and Bible margins will be available to color as well as a journaling page. If you are familiar with Bible journaling and have a journaling Bible or a favorite faith-based coloring book, bring that along to use. Basic supplies will be made available, but if you have favorite supplies bring them along. We will start simple and see where God leads us. Contact Bev Wicher with any questions at bev.wicher@gmail.com or 716-913-4140 text or call.

YOUTH SCOOP

Sr. High Discuss Hell: At our last Sr. High small group night, teens discussed hell and what the Bible says about it. After sharing about the many differences of thought in our society of what hell is, or is not, the teens dug deep into God's word to get concrete facts. After searching and reading, the discussion moved toward a genuine concern for those around us who may be headed there. What a somber and sad presence filled the room for a bit. Of course the happy ending to the discussion lead to the saving knowledge of having a relationship with Jesus. This prompted the discussion in sharing ways they could make a difference, allowing God to use them to reach others in their circle of influence. Some also shared and inspired others in how they've already been able to do so. When I shared that I felt a little bad about the seriousness and heaviness of the topic they all said they were glad to have had the needed and helpful discussion. They ended in prayer for each other and those around them and then proceeded to hit the brownies in the kitchen.



Sr. High Night: Our next Sr. High Night will be on **February 8 at 7:00pm-8:30pm** at Ryan Hamann's house! Contact Mark Willert for directions!

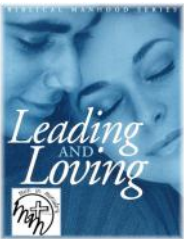
Sr. High Escape: Although we planned on doing an escape room in January, scheduling did not work out but the teens still want to do it. We will Try for February! Contact Mark Willert if you are interested.

Jr. High Youth Night: Our next meeting will be on **February 15 at 6:30pm-8:00pm!** Come to the school gym for fun, games and a meaningful devotion time!

Confirmation Students Questioning

What about aliens I hear about - did God create them too? This is just one of the questions that has come up in class. So we're going to have a **Question and Pizza Night** so Chris Kopra can go on teaching his confirmation material during class. Students - prepare to bring all life's questions that you wanted to ask in class. We'll get them figured out... within reason. :) Date to be set in class.

Just For Men...



It's one of the most confusing issues men face: what does it look like to lead your family? Should you be assertive and in-charge? Or should you be the strong, silent type? And what if your wife has more God-given leadership ability than you do? Should you defer to her?

Where does a man go to get techniques for leading his family? To his father and mother? To friends? To television and the movies? This six session video and discussion series is packed with insight, and explains why there's only one reliable source for learning how to lead your family -- the Bible.

As you encounter these down-to-earth, biblically-based principles on the husband's role, you'll quickly see how the man's leadership abilities directly impact every other aspect of the marriage and the family. We plan on beginning this series called "**Leading and Loving**" in mid to late February ~ the time and location will be based on the availability of those who show interest. This will be led by Mark Willert and sponsored by Men In Ministry. Contact Mark to **sign up by February 4** so we can set up a starting date and time, MWillert@ThinkTrinityChristian.com or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

For Women ...

If you happen to be a woman reading this and feel left out, there is also female complimenting series called, "**The Heart That Makes A Home**". It would be awesome to offer this as well following the man's series. If you feel God leading you to lead (or lead with a friend), please contact Mark Willert.

Welcome to Trinity!

On November 5, 2017, Stacy Conti, along with her children Gianna (9), Aubrey (6), and James (3), transferred to Trinity Lutheran Church. Stacy, her husband Daniel, and family live in Lake View. Staci attended Trinity School beginning at the age of four and continued as an active member. She and her husband Daniel were married at Trinity in 2008 and moved to Cheektowaga where she then transferred her membership to St. Luke's. When she moved back to the Southtowns, she decided to transfer her membership back to her roots here at Trinity. She enjoys spending time with her family, going on outings with her children, and personally enjoys running and activities that promote physical fitness. In addition, she is also an Assistant Principal. Please welcome Stacy and her family!

You may add Stacy's contact information to your church directory:

ADDRESS: 6100 Hewson Road, Lakeview, NY 14085

PHONE NUMBER: 860-4154



The Power of Prayer

(Adapted from the Dr. Gerald Kieshnick blog)

In Pahrump (this is a real place), Nevada, the Diamond D brothel began construction on an expansion of their building to increase their ever-growing business. In response, the local Baptist Church started a campaign to block the business from expanding, with morning, afternoon, and evening prayer sessions at their church. Work on Diamond D's project progressed until the week before the grand re-opening when lightning struck the building and burned it to the ground! After the brothel burned to the ground by the lightning strike, the church folks were rather smug in their outlook, bragging about "the power of prayer." But shortly thereafter, Jill Diamond, the owner/madam of Diamond D, sued the church, the preacher and the entire congregation on the grounds that the church "was ultimately responsible for the demise of her building and her business, either through direct or indirect divine actions or means."

In its reply to the court, the church vehemently and vociferously denied any and all responsibility or any connection to the building's demise. The crusty old judge read through the plaintiff's complaint and the defendant's reply, and at the opening hearing he commented, "I don't know how I'm going to decide this case, but it appears from the paperwork that we now have a brothel owner who staunchly believes in the power of prayer and an entire church congregation that thinks otherwise."

The moral of this story is we'd better be careful about how and for what we pray. And if we really trust God to answer our prayer, when he answers the way we asked, we'd better be willing to say that that's exactly what happened and to give him the credit.

The Attitude of Stewardship Giving

Thanks be to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for all the Blessings he has bestowed on our Congregation this past year.

This is the time of year your Church Council begins to prepare for the upcoming Church Financial year. Your personal financial commitment is an important part of the process that help's shape the path of our ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church & School. Your General Fund Offerings make up 65% of the entire income of the Church Ministry.

Good money management is just good stewardship. In fact, another word for stewardship is "management." Unfortunately in managing that which God has given us, we tend to think of only money. But stewardship is much more than just money. Stewardship really involves our whole life and everything we do.

Psalm 24:1: "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it". So what can we own that doesn't belong to the Lord? I Timothy 6:7: "For we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it." Can you think of anything you have that didn't come from God? We need to realize that everything we HAVE and everything we ARE belongs to GOD- our money and possessions, but also our time, our skills, our talents, and our ATTITUDES. Our ATTITUDES determine the way we view ourselves and others and our circumstances. Our ATTITUDES affect every area of our lives and our relationships with others. And our ATTITUDES determine to a great extent the way we manage our money.

If we have determined that our money belongs to God, we need to think of money management as the relationship between God (the owner) and you and me (the managers). As managers, we are responsible for every dollar that passes through our hands. The first step in financial management is PLANNING. God has a plan for all of us and we are given specific instructions throughout the scriptures with promises given that we will reap whatever we sow. A good plan should be in writing, with goals and priority setting.

FIRST PRIORITY: GIVING/SAVING. These two things should go together.

- Before you pay any bills, take out at least 10% from your paycheck or pension check for the Lord's work.
- Next take out a portion for saving.

Why should you continue to save? Because, we have responsibilities as Gods Stewards:

- Romans 12:13: "Share with God's people who are in need; practice hospitality."
- I Timothy 5:8: "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."
- I John 3:17: "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?"

So the more we save, the more we are able to give and help others as the need arises. God blesses us, so we can bless others!

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The Attitude of Stewardship Giving

(Continued from page 8)

HOW SHOULD YOU GIVE:

- Matthew 6:1-4: “Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven... But when you give... do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” We shouldn’t give to get praise and recognition from people if we want to receive God’s blessings.
- I Corinthians 16:2: “On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...” (Need to give regularly)
- II Corinthians 9:7: “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
- Malachi 3:8: “Will a man rob God? ... How? In tithes and offerings.” (Tithe = 10% of gross income)

RESULTS OF GIVING: YOU WILL BE BLESSED. YOU HAVE GODS WORD ON IT!

- Luke 6:38: “Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with measure you use, it will be measured to you.”
- Proverbs 11:25: “A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”
- Matthew 6:33: “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to your as well.” Priority: Put God First!
- Matthew 6:4: “So that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees in secret will reward you.”

One of the main gauges I use when flying is called the “ATTITUDE INDICATOR”. It tells me the aircraft position in relation to the Horizon. If the Attitude Indicator points up we’re climbing; if it points down we’re descending.

We all have an “Attitude Indicator” in our lives; we call it our FACE and our ACTIONS. Our FACE and ACTIONS shows how we are “flying” or living at that moment.

Our attitude is an inward feeling shown by an outward behavior. If we SMILE, people will know you are HAPPY. If you FROWN, people will know you are SAD or WORRIED. St. Paul tells us: “HAVE THIS ATTITUDE IN YOURSELVES WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS.” The HORIZON of our Christian Life is the example we see in Jesus. Using Christ as our center point we can “gauge” our attitude and actions accordingly.

As you prayerfully consider your financial commitment to the LORDS work here at Trinity, let’s begin the new Church Financial Year with a commitment to have an ATTITUDE LIKE JESUS! Let people in your family, in church and friends around you see on your face, hear in your words and see in your actions, the LOVE AND CARE OF JESUS.

Check the “ATTITUDE INDICATOR” in YOUR LIFE each day. Look at yourself in the mirror; then SMILE, BECAUSE GOD LOVES YOU!

David Broderdorf, Chairman Trinity Lutheran Church

Monkeying With Tradition?

(Adapted from the Dr. Gerald Kieshnick blog)

Have you heard the story about the following psychology experiment? Here's how it goes:

You start with a cage containing four monkeys. Inside the cage you hang a banana on a string. Then you place a set of stairs under the banana. Before long a monkey will go to the stairs and climb toward the banana.

You then spray ALL the monkeys with cold water. After a while, another monkey makes an attempt. As soon as he touches the stairs, you spray ALL the monkeys with cold water. Pretty soon, when another monkey tries to climb the stairs, the other monkeys will try to prevent it.

Now, put away the cold water. Remove one monkey from the cage and replace it with a new monkey. The new monkey sees the banana and attempts to climb the stairs. To his shock, ALL of the other monkeys beat the dickens out of him. After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs he will be assaulted.

Next, remove another of the original four monkeys, replacing it with a new monkey. The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked. The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment – with enthusiasm – because he is now part of the "team."

Then replace a third original monkey with a new monkey, followed by the fourth. Every time the newest monkey takes to the stairs, he is attacked.

In every case, the experienced monkeys that are beating up the new monkey have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs. Neither do they know why they are participating in the beating of the newest monkey. Having replaced all the original monkeys, none of the remaining monkeys will have ever been sprayed with cold water.

Nevertheless, not one of the monkeys will try to climb the stairway for the banana. Why, you ask? Because in their minds, that is the way it has always been!

The original version of this story goes on to make application by suggesting that “monkeys” holding certain elected offices in governmental circles should all be replaced at the same time. It goes on to say that this suggestion is meant to show no disrespect to monkeys.

I'll suggest another application, albeit a fairly obvious one. In circles other than governmental ones, the same phenomenon sometimes occurs. In families, schools, churches, community organizations, neighborhoods, civic clubs, social groups, and almost any other collection of people one can imagine, traditions abound. We often don't know the source of traditions we follow. We simply follow them. Why? Because they are traditions. We've always done things that way.

Most us are pretty traditional, whether we admit it or not. Yet unless breaking a tradition requires violating biblical, moral, legal, or ethical principles, a tradition might well be replaced by a new practice that better accomplishes the organization's purposes or objectives. We might want to remember this story next time we come across a tradition that seems to have no intrinsic value or detracts from our mission and what we are trying to achieve.

During his earthly life, Jesus broke many traditions. And on a topic far more important than earthly traditions, he said: “Behold, I make all things new!” (Rev. 21:5)

“Staying Safe in a Predatory World” Workshops

St. Paul's Fellowship Hall (3487 N. Boston Rd, Eden)

Be safe ... stay safe ... tips that can HELP keep you safe! All are invited to this series of 4 free workshops. Pre-registration is encouraged but not necessary (call 992-9112). Refreshments will be served. All workshops are held on Monday evenings from 7pm-9pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

2/5 - Sexual Predators (Jennifer Klein, Licensed Clinical Social Worker)

3/12 - Addressing the Opioid Epidemic (Theresa Walker, Samaritan Counseling Center)

4/9 - Suicide Awareness / QPR Training (Kim Zittel, Licensed Mental Health Counselor)

5/14 - Identity Theft (Brian Makey, Thrivent Financial)



Happy Birthday

2/2	Eric Osberg	2/11	Heidi Kosicki	2/15	Gregory Kopra	2/23	Tamie Dirrigl
2/3	Lois Rodgers	2/12	Loren Pletscher		Jamie Makey		Amelia Iannuzzelli
2/6	Laurel Szeider		Tonia Minko	2/17	Nathan McClellan	2/24	Gary Ecker
2/7	Sue Brehm	2/13	Robert Moeller	2/18	Carolyn Flattery	2/25	Olivia Wilkening
2/9	Florence Bogumil Zachary Powers		Alan Yox Sarah Makey Landon Heckman	2/19	Janet Bullock Robert Summerville	2/27	Geraldine Swart
2/10	Steve Meden Kris Heckman Chris Kwilas	2/14	Gay Nichols River Rowsell Morgan Ringle	2/20	Gertraud Warzecha Bok Yox		
				2/22	Lori Lorigo		

Happy Anniversary

2/3	Patricia & Jack Peterson	2/14	Michele & Edward Baun	2/26	George & Linda Hodge
2/7	Nevin & Linda Hope	2/22	Marcia & Gary Fenn		
2/11	Richard & Helen Schultz	2/25	Bruce & Kristen Heckman		

March & April Altar Flowers Needed

Altar flower donations are needed for March & April! A sign up chart is posted in the church coat-room. They are only \$10 per arrangement and can be taken home after the 10:30am service. We ask that 2 families sign up each week. Payments should be clearly marked **“Altar Flowers”** and placed in the **Church Office’s message center** (cash or checks payable to **“Trinity Lutheran Church”**).



**Travel Opportunities
With Pastor Mike
Blackwell**

**Bus Trip to Sight and Sound
Theatre's Production of "Jesus"**

May 23-25, 2018. Some spots are still available to see this long anticipated show and other stops in Pennsylvania Amish country. Also spots are still available to join him for a **Classic Danube River Cruise, September 12-23, 2018.** Call Pastor Mike (771-3474) for more information.



**Member Contact
Information**

Have you moved lately, changed your phone # or e-mail address? If so, please contact the church office with your new information so we can update our records.

Emergency Contacts

If a family member is **hospitalized** or there is an **emergency need**, please inform and phone Pastor Krueger (997-5666), the church office (674-9188), or one of the Deacons.

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

Position

Pastor
School Principal
Youth & Family Coordinator
Church Office Administrator
School Office Administrator

Name

Rev. Dennis Krueger
Kathleen Fretthold
Mark Willert
Teresa Lynch
Judeen Babcock

Contact Information

997-5666 / tlckrueger@verizon.net
674-5353 / kfretthold@thinktrinitychristian.com
608-8907 / mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com
674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
674-5353 / trinity@thinktrinitychristian.com