



TRINITY HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 2021

*The monthly newsletter of
Trinity Lutheran Church
Greencastle, PA*

Dear Family,

After worship on April 25th, the Finance Team partnered with the Renewal Team to present the first of several "State of the Union" forums to provide a deeper picture of Trinity's mission, ministry, and resources. We hope to provide brief updates every few months rather than simply waiting until the Congregational Meeting.

Clear information about resources and ministry will help all of us to pray about how God is calling us to participate in the work of the church. Specific information shared at the forum from both the Finance and Renewal teams can be found in the newsletter.

We are moving forward as a congregation. WE are the church not the building. Covid has given us an opportunity to experience that firsthand. The church is relationships NOT a structure. We don't GO to church; we ARE the church. Hand in hand, guided by the Holy Spirit, we support each other and our neighbors.

Before Covid closed the building, the renewal team held several conversations during worship using the PAWN process. The intention was to discover Trinity's (P)urpose by exploring our (A)ssets, (W)ows and (N)eeds. Using the information from those conversations, the renewal team discerned principles which describe what our faith family looks like when we're at our best. These are principles which will not only guide our ministry moving forward but will also help us encourage one another to live into God's vision for who we are called to be with one another and our neighbors.

The principles are now featured on the home page of our website: tlcgreencastle.org.

- Passionate about God
- Feeding the hungry physically, emotionally and spiritually
- Open, welcoming, and friendly
- Courage to creatively use our gifts in the community

We'll concentrate on one principle each month over the course of the summer to explore deeply what each one means for us as a congregation. May's principle is: Passionate about God.

Passion is hard to define but we all know it when we see it. When we're passionate, we give a lot of energy and focus. Jobs, family, sports all claim our attention and when we're passionate about those things they take priority. One of the principles the team discerned from the congregation is that on our best days Trinity is passionate about God. That means God is a focus and priority.

We show our enthusiasm for God in our lives through praise at worship and spending time with God through personal spiritual practice. We allow God space to transform our hearts and minds, so we see others with Jesus' eyes, hear with Jesus' ears and love with Jesus' heart. Our decisions about how we use our time, money and talent are grounded in God's love. Our passion for God compels us to serve each other and our neighbors.

In May, we will focus on what it means to be passionate about God. We will have time to respond to God's love in our worship services. To encourage one another, the renewal team will be making videos of members of our family answering the question, "What does being passionate about God mean to you?"

May our passion for God reflect God's light to those around us!

Pastor Barb





MAY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 R3 Workshop 9AM—12PM
2 Adult Forum 9AM Confirmation 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10 AM</i>	3 R3 Team 7PM	4	5 Bible Study 11AM <i>Worship & Music 7PM</i>	6 Prayer for Trinity 6PM	7	8
9 Adult Forum 9AM Confirmation 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10 AM</i>	10	11 Finance 7PM	12 Bible Study 11AM Council 7PM	13 Prayer for Trinity 6PM	14	15
16 Adult Forum 9AM Confirmation 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10 AM</i>	17	18	19 Bible Study 11AM	20 Prayer for Trinity 6PM	21	22 S'More Party 6PM
23 <i>Pentecost</i> Adult Forum 9AM Confirmation 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10 AM</i>	24	25	26 Bible Study 11AM	27 Prayer for Trinity 6PM	28	29
30 <i>Trinity</i> <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10 AM</i>	31					

May Worship Assistants

	MAY 2	MAY 9	MAY 16	MAY 23	MAY 30
Assisting Minister	Charlie Ford	Scott Valentine	Dave Wolfe	Don Swart	Charlie Ford
Ushers	Dave Wolfe	Larson Thomas	Alan Shank	Donna Wolfe	Kippy & Karla Smith
Singer	Hannah Ruffner	Zak Reynolds	Scott Valentine	Zak Reynolds Hannah Ruffner	Matt Cessna
IT Ministry	Brandon Sidoli Darrell Swart	Tom Sidoli Brandon Sidoli	Beth Ford Brandon Sidoli	Darrell Swart Brandon Sidoli	Tom Sidoli Beth Ford
Communion Preparers	Charlie & Beth Ford	Bud & Donna Wolfe	Sue Wunderlich	Don & Carol Swart	Charlie & Beth Ford

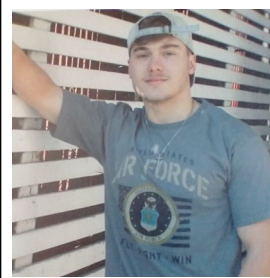
PENTECOST SUNDAY MAY 23

Pentecost Sunday is the day the church celebrates God's gift of the Holy Spirit.



Wear **RED** to worship that day to remind us of the tongues of flames as seen by the apostles.

We will be honoring Trinity's graduates on Pentecost Sunday, May 23 during worship and we will also remember all graduates in the prayers of the church that day. If you have a family member that is graduating and you would like them remembered in the prayers, please fill out the form found on the table in the Lobby, contact the Church Office at 717-597-9348 or email us at tlcsecoffice@gmail.com. We need the information by Tuesday, May 18.



Thank you so much for supporting me through the years! My career plan is just about to begin. I leave for basic training for the United States Air Force on May 18. After boot camp I will be training to be an Aerospace Propulsion Specialist. Thank you again for all your support throughout my life.

Connor Cléne

Please join us on Sunday, May 2 as we wish Connor Good-bye and Godspeed during worship that day.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

The time for the Zoom Bible Study has been changed to 11AM on Wednesdays. The group meets to study the book of Romans. Email the office (tlcsecoffice@gmail.com) or the pastor if you would like Zoom information to participate in the class.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Thank you to Trinity's two delegates to the Lower Susquehanna Synod's 2021 Spring Assembly. James and Lars Thomas will be attending assembly June 4 and 5 with Pastor Barb. The assembly will be held on-line from the church building.



Pentecost Sunday will be the last day for Sunday School and Confirmation. Classes. We will take a break for the summer and resume class in September.



PLEASE PRAY WITH US

Each Thursday evening a group gathers on Zoom for pray for our congregation. Please call the office for the zoom information if you feel called to participate with the group. Otherwise, set your alarm on your phone to pray from wherever you are. That way we are praying together as a family.

LET'S PARTY!

Saturday, May 22, at 6PM, council invites you to a *S'more Party* outside in the parking lot. Council will provide the fire and fixings for s'mores. Bring your own lawn chairs and beverages, if desired. We will sit in safe groups, socially distanced, and get to see one another, have conversation and simply enjoy being the body of Christ. We are learning how to BE the church not simply GO to church.



*S'more
Party
2020*



AUXILIARY BBQ FUNDRAISER

A Michael's BBQ Chicken Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 15 starting at 10:30 AM. Drive through service until sold out. Cost is \$12.00/ dinner and includes ½ chicken, baked beans, applesauce, and a Martin's roll. The event will take place in front of Franklin Hardware & Pet Store, 1975 Philadelphia Ave, Chambersburg. Sponsored by the SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary. For pre-orders, see Sue Snyder or call 717-860-7544.



HELP NEEDED

The Property Committee is seeking volunteers to help with mowing the church grounds this spring and summer. If you would be interested in helping or need more information, please contact Charlie Ford.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT PLANNED

Rachelle Gehr is organizing a young adult overnight at Nawakwa in Grove Lodge on May 28th through the 29th. This will be for the 18+ crowd. The group that has been doing our weekly devotion has been asking for it, so it is booked! The cost will be \$45 and will cover the stay and all food and drinks for the weekend. We will meet any time after 6pm on Friday night at Grove and conclude Saturday by 7pm. Please get your money to Rachelle to reserve your spot.

*Trinity Highlights
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Trinity Lutheran Church
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STATE OF THE UNION

A short 'State of the Union' presentation was hosted after the worship service on April 25th. We want to provide a deeper picture of Trinity's mission, ministry and resources more than once a year at the Congregational Meeting. We hope to provide brief updates like this every few months.

In addition to a presentation by the renewal team on the focus for ministry this summer, the Finance Committee presented an update of our finances to show the latest trends. Our Synod guidance is that it will be another 6 months before we know if these trends are the new reality or if we will get back to pre-Covid (2019) levels. At this point, we are simply monitoring the data and communicating to the congregation.

	2019	2020	2021
Cash Flow General	\$6,876	\$884	-\$7
Cash Flow Spiritual Home	\$12,110	-\$4,425	-\$3,398
Consistent Givers	46-62	34-49	32-41

Additionally, the Finance Team shared that the Estate of Ingrid Collins will be making a gift to Trinity in the amount of \$ 37,862.71. We are truly blessed by Ingrid's kindness and generosity. Trinity will tithe 10% of the gift to benevolences or charities chosen by the council. The remainder of the gift will be deposited into an interest-bearing account to be used to cover future financial deficits or other needs of the church.



SURPRISES!

Resurrection Day was a great morning of worship - moving from the vigil around the fire to the sudden surprise of Jesus is risen! So many volunteers handled the many logistics, including Larson Thomas ably playing his trumpet fanfare and a vocal quartet including Matt Cessna, Hannah Ruffner and Scott Valentine singing "O Praise the Name". That all produced really high praise for our worthy resurrected Lord!!!

Then April 11 there were the surprises of technical snafus which temporarily disabled the sound system completely with both Pastor and I on vacation. God was not and is never surprised. He, "who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will" (Ephesians 1:11 NIV). Bob Renali has checked over the system and found no major problems, so with a few adjustments we are back up and running. Brandon Sidoli is training Beth Ford, Tom Sidoli and Darrell Swart on Facebook Live. Thank you each! It would be best if one other person could be trained so that each person could basically take a turn recording the service once a month. HINT! HINT!

The May emphasis through the Renewal Team is being "passionate about God" so a time of reflection will be set aside after an opening song of praise. I am actively inviting the Holy Spirit to use this specified time to move each of our hearts to Webster's definition of passionate - "showing strong feelings or strong belief." God gave His all for us, so I pray we can grow to respond and express our gratefulness individually to Him as we personally encounter Him.

The Renewal Team also encouraged each committee to come up with a project to better connect with the community. The Worship and Music Committee has invited Hannah Ruffner and Zak Reynolds to do a summer concert including their various musical talents before we send them off to college in the fall. The date and details will be announced. For now it's a SURPRISE!



THANK YOU

From the Lower Susquehanna

Synod: *To the members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Greencastle in appreciation for giving \$5,914.81 for*

Mission Support for synod and churchwide ministries of the ELCA.

From Waynesboro Community and Human

Services: *On behalf of the neighbors we serve, thank you for your donation of \$361 given on 3/31/21. Your donation will provide help with food, diapers, and financial assistance to those most in need, especially during this difficult time.*

MAY SPECIAL APPEAL

The special appeal for May is Spiritrust Lutheran Hospice. Most of us know of someone who has been cared for by the staff of Spiritrust Lutheran Hospice. The Hospice team is dedicated to caring for those living with a terminal illness and their families. They assist by managing pain and symptoms, providing support to the family, providing education on what to expect and teaching care giving techniques. They also provide grief support programs in our community. More information about the services of Hospice can be found in the brochures located in the rack by the office door. If you desire to make a monetary donation, please mark your envelope for "Special Appeal".



WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

The Renewal Team continues to invite our family to notice God active in our lives. The more we notice God in our lives; the more we'll see God as the anchor on which we stand both personally and as a family of faith. Send us your God moments or fill out the form in your bulletin and we will share them next week in the Parish News. *Here are some ways our congregation saw God this week:*

- In today's prelude - beautiful!
- I feel his presence every day—even when life gets crazy.
- I noticed God in the support and positive comments I received for running for School Board.
- How great to hear Scott preach. He blessed us with his witness of faith.

MAY FOOD COLLECTION ITEMS

Each month we assign items needed by the Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry. Please bring them along to worship or drop them off at the church. Items needed in March are:

- May 2 - Canned fruit or applesauce
- May 9 - Rice and pasta mixes
- May 16 - Canned vegetables
- May 23 - Peanut butter or jelly
- May 30 - Dish Detergent



R3 TEAM CONTINUES OUR RENEWAL FOCUS

Beth Ford, chair of the renewal team, presented Trinity's current principles and priorities at the recent State of the Union Forum.

Each standing committee is committed to providing a project to address one or both of the priorities.

Trinity will be exploring one principle a month through the summer. May's principle is "*Passionate about God.*"

Please continue to share your God moments with the Congregation. Fill out the form in the bulletin, call the office or comment on Facebook each week sharing where you've seen God.

Principles

Using the information from conversations with the congregation about our assets, wows and needs, the renewal team discerned these principles for Trinity moving forward. We will use these principles as lens through which to evaluate ministry opportunities moving forward.

- Passionate about God
- Feeding the hungry physically, emotionally and spiritually
- Open, welcoming and friendly
- Courage to creatively use our gifts in the community

Priorities

The renewal team also identified these current priorities for ministry for Trinity

Internal: Renew and deepen our connection with each other in the family

External: Renew and deepen our connection with our neighbors in the community and continue working with the Food Pantry



MAY'S PRINCIPLE : PASSIONATE ABOUT GOD

- In worship we will provide opportunity to experience God's presence more deeply. The Gathering Song will be a hymn of Praise following by a time to reflect and respond. Please pray the Holy Spirit grabs our attention and gives us the courage and freedom to respond to God from the heart.
- Sermons will explore ways we can grow in our passion and love for God and God's work in the world.
- The renewal team will create a video of individuals from our congregation answering the question: "*What does being passionate about God mean to you?*"
 1. Videos can be made on your phone and emailed to Beth Ford at bethncharlie@gmail.com
 2. If you attend in-person worship, a member of the R3 team can make a video after worship.
 3. You can write something and a member of the R3 team will read it for the video. Email your writing to either Beth Ford or Pastor Barb. Please join us in creating a picture of what it means for Trinity to be passionate about God.



God has blessed Trinity with an abundance. Many of our family give time, talent and supplies behind the scenes so our work as the people of God can happen. Each month we will take some time to say thank you. You are appreciated! If you know of someone

who should be on this list, call the office.

- Members of our family of faith who tithe in these difficult times stopping by the office, mailing in their donations or using Simply Giving or the on-line Give button on the website.
- Brandon Sildoli for his weekly commitment to providing on-line worship through Facebook Live.
- Swart Family (Carol, Don, Darrell, Jess, Ella and Norra) picked up the Easter flowers and placed them in the sanctuary.
- Darrell Swart and Charlie Ford hung the white banner on the cross for Easter.
- Matt Cessna, Alice Marsh, Bud and Donna Wolfe, Sue Wunderlich: Set-up the sanctuary for Easter and uncovered everything during the Easter Service.
- Larson Thomas' Easter trumpet fanfare.
- Sandra Wingert, Matt Cessna, Hannah Ruffner, Scott Valentine sang a quartet anthem for Easter service.
- Bud and Donna Wolfe: set- up for Good Friday Service.
- Darrell and Don Swart: mowing the lawn.
- TruPrecision Lawn crew: mowing the lawn.
- Scott Valentine: preached and led worship on April 11 during the Pastor's vacation.
- Pam Arnold, Beth Ford: Provided clear and concise information for the State of the Union Forum.

STEWARDS OF OUR ELDERS' WISDOM

"Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." –Exodus 20:12

This month and next, as our culture celebrates Mothers Day and Fathers Day, God's people can make the occasions much more substantive than just greeting cards, gifts, and dinners for a few select relatives.

Instead, we can lift up the knowledge, wisdom and perspective that we possess from not only the mother and father figures in our own circles, but all the older men and women who have enriched our communities with their lives and experiences.

The wisdom of the past has helped people of every age to navigate the challenges of their times. Many communities in the world honor, respect, and value as "elders" their oldest members. It's something we surely can use in 21st century North America. Ours is a time of unprecedented change – both in the sweep of change and in the speed at which things are changing.

Our older members can give us perspective and patience and wisdom. Here are some ideas:

- Engage elders about issues facing you, your congregation and community. Listen deeply. Take notes.
- Enter into their thought world: How do they frame issues? What are their underlying assumptions? What sources help inform and inspire them?
- Compare their approaches to seeing the world and navigating challenges with your own. What is helpful? What can assist you?

Learning from our elder mother and father figures may be the best way to not only honor them, but also help us find our own way in life.

--Rob Blezard

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