

TRINITY HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2023

The monthly newsletter of

Trinity Lutheran Church

Greencastle, PA

Dear Family in Christ,

One of my favorite Bible verses is Revelation 21:5, "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See I am making all things new.'" It's a reminder that God is in control and that God is with us even when life and the world around us changes. Nothing stays the same. Each day that goes by presents us changes in ourselves, in our lives, in the world, and even in our churches. Change is a part of life. We may not like it, but everything changes. God, however, loves us yet. That is a certainty. God loves us despite ourselves. That will not change. A part of God making all things new is change.

In the special meeting that the Call Committee had with the congregation, they explained that after much deliberation and prayerful consideration that Trinity cannot afford a full-time pastor. The Synod has told us that they do not have pastor's looking for part time ministry. In fact, they just don't have many pastors looking for calls right now. In our own Chambersburg Conference, there are only 5 full time ministries right now. There are 14 pastoral vacancies in the conference and four congregations without interim pastors. There are very few pastors looking for interims in Franklin County.

The ELCA has 578 congregations in the call process (This number is just those with their Mission Site Profile completed and activated) and 378 pastors with their call papers in looking for congregations to serve. This means that there are not enough pastors to serve all of the vacancies in the ELCA. It also means that for many of us the time has come to do something different.

Over the past few years, we have done various things both with Salem, Marion and Evangelical, Greencastle. Last year we did a joint hymn sing with all three churches, as well as a Thanksgiving service. We have also done joint midweek Lent suppers and services. Once again, this year we will be doing cooperative Ash Wednesday services, midweek Lent suppers and services and Holy Week services with ELC and Salem. The Lenten series this year will be "Sing With All the Saints in Glory," and will be about the festivals and commemorations that occur during Lent.

I am asking you to please support these efforts to bring together three faithful congregations all of whom are struggling to see what the future may hold for them. Support this effort by making an effort yourself to attend the suppers and services or even just the services. More details on the suppers and services will be coming out soon.

Please pray for us all as we look to the future. Pray, have faith and don't forget to have hope. I am certain that God isn't finished with us yet.

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Denise





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Worship & Music 7PM <i>Scouts 7:30PM</i>	2	3 Cub Meeting 6PM <i>AA 8PM</i>	4
5 Sunday School 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10:15 AM</i>	6 Trinity Outreach Comm 7PM <i>AA 8PM</i>	7 Operations Comm via Zoom 7PM	8 Council 7PM	9	10 AA 7PM	11
12 Sunday School 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10:15 AM</i>	13 AA 8PM	14	15	16	17 AA 7PM	18
19 Transfiguration Sunday School 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10:15 AM</i>	20 AA 8PM	21	22 Ash Wednesday Worship at 12 Noon –ELC 7 PM - TLC	23	24 AA 7PM	25
26 1 Lent Sunday School 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10:15 AM</i>	27 AA 8PM	28				

February Worship Assistants

	FEBRUARY 5	FEBRUARY 12	FEBRUARY 19	FEBRUARY 26
Assisting Minister	Charlie Ford	Scott Valentine	Don Swart	Dave Wolfe
Communion Assistants	Carol Swart Robin Witmer-Kline Don Swart	Mary Thomas Rob Marsh Dave Wolfe	Sue Wunderlich Wendy Hall Donna Wolfe	Carol Swart Robin Witmer-Kline Darrell Swart
Communion Cups	Josie Thomas	Josie Thomas	Josie Thomas	Josie Thomas
Ushers	Donna Wolfe	Darrell Swart	Charlie Ford	Alan Shank
Singer	Scott Valentine	Hannah Ruffner	Choir	Matt Cessna
IT Ministry	IT Team	IT Team	IT Team	IT Team
Communion Preparers	Don & Carol Swart	Beth & Charlie Ford	Donna Wolfe Sue Wunderlich	Charlie & Beth Ford
Media Shout	Ivan Wingert	James Thomas	Scott Valentine	Ivan Wingert



2023 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Matt Cessna - President
 Robin Witmer-Kline—Vice President
 Beth Ford - Secretary
 Don Swart
 Donna Wolfe
 Darrell Swart
 Sue Snyder

Not Voting Council Members
 Pam Arnold - Financial Secretary
 Carol Swart - Treasurer

ATTENDANCE

We are once again including a Member Connection card in the bulletin for each worship service. This card helps us keep track of our in-person attendance as well as who is communing.

Once side of the card is for visitors to fill out so that we can contact them following the service. Please fill the card out each Sunday and place it where the offering envelopes are placed.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

- The 2023 budget was approved.
- The Congregation approved adding Sue Snyder as a new Council Member and for Darrell Swart to serve another term.
- Council proposed that the threshold for a quorum be changed from 25% to 15%. This is a constitutional change and aligns with many of the other congregations in the synod. The congregation approved the change to 15%. This means that 15% of the congregation must be present when a vote is necessary.
- There was a discussion about our financial situation with respect to a new pastor. Our projections for the upcoming year do not support a salary for a full-time pastor. The call committee will be getting recommendations once the ministry site profile is submitted.

*Trinity Highlights
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PLAN NOW TO ATTEND ON THE WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Services on Ash Wednesday will be held at Evangelical at 12 Noon and at Trinity at 7:00 PM. Both services will include the Imposition of Ashes. Please plan to attend the one which works best for you. We will be joining with the members of Salem, Marion and Evangelical, Greencastle for weekly Wednesday evening services during Lent. The first weekly service will be held at Salem at 6:45 PM on Wednesday, March 1. The theme for this year's Wednesday services is "*Sing With All the Saints in Glory*".

A light soup and sandwich supper will be held at 6 PM before each Lenten Services. The first supper will be held on March 9 at Trinity. The supper will be held each week at the church sponsoring the service. If you can't attend the supper, please plan to come to the service at 6:45 PM. *Please let the Church Office know if you would be able to supply soup or bread.*



2023 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES *Evangelical, Greencastle* *Salem, Marion* *Trinity, Greencastle*

(Join us at 6PM for Soup and Bread on the Wednesdays in March)

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION	TIME
February 22	<i>Ash Wednesday Worship</i> <i>Ash Wednesday Worship</i>	Evangelical Trinity	12 Noon 7:00 PM
March 1	<i>Inheritance of Faith</i>	Salem	6:45 PM
March 8	<i>Perseverance with Endurance</i>	Evangelical	6:45 PM
March 15	<i>Faithful in Prayer</i>	Trinity	6:45 PM
March 22	<i>Striving for Justice</i>	Evangelical	6:45 PM
March 29	<i>Dying and Rising with Christ</i>	Trinity	6:45 PM
April 6	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> <i>Service with Communion</i>	Evangelical	7:00 PM
April 7	<i>Good Friday Service</i>	Trinity	7:30 PM
April 8	<i>Easter Vigil</i>	Evangelical	5:00 PM



MUSIC

It remains a privilege to serve as the music director at Trinity! For the last several weeks we have been hearing as part of the Confession the words from Isaiah 43:18-19 promising God will do something new. In verse 21 God asserts, "The people whom I formed for Myself will declare My praise." Under my watch may God help us to do just that and do it better and better and more and more from our hearts!

Continuing thanks to Carol Hughes and Scott Valentine for all their office efforts to help make our services flow smoothly, to James Thomas and Scott Valentine and Ivan Wingert for their services with Media Shout, to Beth Ford and Darrell Swart for their services with sound and Facebook (have been missing Brandon and Tom Sidoli in that department so if you see them, please reach out to them), and to Matt Cessna, Hannah Ruffner and Ella Swart faithfully rotating as singers (and Phyllis McCullough trying to work back into the rotation after a long sabbatical due to health issues).

Choir continues to be part of the music each third Sunday and a couple people have expressed interest in joining choir, so the welcome mat is always out for 9:15 warm-up! I am also looking forward to cooperative ministry with Evangelical and Salem for Lent beginning Ash Wednesday, February 22, hopefully to include some joint music endeavors!



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Barbara Grane at the Greencastle Food Pantry is asking for our help

to stock the shelves for cold weather. To help us focus our efforts, each week we'll assign a food item. Please bring the assigned item when you come to worship to place in the box in the Narthex or to the church on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings.

February 5	Cereal
February 12	Peanut butter and jelly
February 19	Rice, pasta or potato mixes
February 26	Soup

NEW COMMITTEE NEEDS NEW MEMBERS

As part of simplifying our committee structure, we are combining the Renewal, Harvest and Outreach Committees into our Trinity Outreach Committee. Our first meeting will be on Monday, February 6th at 7pm and moving forward will be on the Monday before Council meeting each month. In the event that we have members that would prefer to join remotely, we will be happy to create a Zoom meeting, but we can assess the need at the first meeting. This is an open invitation to anyone that has previously served on any of the three committees as well as to anyone that is interested in participating. We am looking forward to the discussion about how we can enhance how we connect with our community as well as our church family. If there are questions, please reach out to Beth Ford.

2023 SPECIAL APPEALS

The following is a list of the Special Appeals for 2023:

January - Franklin County Homeless Shelter and Cold Weather Shelter
February - Habitat for Humanity
March - Waynesboro Area Community and Human Services
April - Chambersburg Conference Furniture
Ministry - Storage Fee
May - Hospice - Spiritual Trust
June - Local Animal Shelter
July - Companion Congregation
August - ELCA World Hunger
September - Greencastle Food Bank
October - Lutheran World Relief
November - Greencastle Exchange Club
December - Women in Need

FEBRUARY SPECIAL APPEAL

The Special Appeal for February is Habitat for Humanity. Families in need of a decent place to live build safe and affordable homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. In Franklin County, Habitat builds decent affordable houses in partnership with participant families, then sells those homes with very affordable mortgages.

The Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly will be held via Zoom on June 2 and in-person at Trinity, Camp Hill on June 3. We need two people to volunteer to be Voting Members of the Assembly. Voting Members need to be able to attend these two meetings as well as a Day of Edification on May 20 and the Chambersburg Conference Assembly at St. Luke, Williamson on Sunday, April 16 at 2PM. If you would be willing to serve as a Voting Member, please speak with Matt Cessna or Pastor Denise.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Camp Nawakwa and Camp Kirchenwald are currently in the hiring process for summer camp positions including counselors, lifeguards, summer kitchen staff, summer maintenance staff, summer leadership staff, summer craft director at Nawakwa, summer camp craft instructors, summer head cook at Kirchenwald, a year-round maintenance and facilities manager at Kirchenwald, and a year-round camp director at Nawakwa. The Kirchenwald summer head cook, the Kirchenwald maintenance and facility manager, and especially the Nawakwa camp director positions are of special concern!

All those positions, the information about them, and how to apply can be found on the LCC web site at: www.lutherancamping.org/employment/

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING

The February meeting of the Greencastle-Antrim Christian Women's Fellowship will be held at 9:30 AM on February 28 in Memorial Fellowship Hall of Evangelical Lutheran, Greencastle. The speaker for February will be Melissa Varner. Her topic will be *Knock, Knock. Who's There? Who Does God Say I Am?*



Dear friend in Christ,

Thank you for sharing your gifts with our church, and for sharing the power of God's love with the world. As we begin this new year, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your powerful impact in the previous one. We are drawn into community by our shared faith. We are also called to go out and get to work alongside our siblings in Christ, near and far. **Your generosity makes incredible work possible.** You have helped plant crops, build homes and churches, expand access to education, provide quality health care, and so much more.

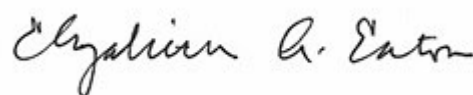
I am not the only one who wants to thank you. Here are words from just a few of the people your generosity has touched:

"I always had heard that the Lutherans excel at helping churches in need, but after having experienced it firsthand, I'm just really so happy and proud to be a member of this church." —Kay (Kyong Yon) Mattingly, Light of Grace Lutheran Church, Federal Way, Wash. In partnership with ELCA World Hunger, Kay participates in a ministry that provides meeting space and support for Korean American immigrants.

"I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the ELCA for helping us and families like us. We received a bag of rice, 15 boxes of dried noodles, fish and salt. These wonderful supplies help us so much. We as a family can live and feed ourselves on this for 25 days. May God bless you all abundantly." —Nayse Pley Tu. After being displaced from Myanmar, Nayse received support from Lutheran Disaster Response through the Lutheran Church of Christ in Thailand.

There are so many more people and communities you have reached! I hope this small sampling of their gratitude helps you understand the difference you have made.

In thanks,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America