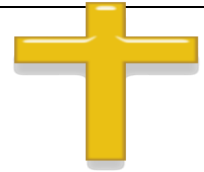

the Trinity Messenger

A Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church, 323 Fifth Street, Freeport, PA ~ Feb. 2019

Pastor's Page



A verse from Proverbs says, “Surely you have a future, and your hope will not be cut off.” Please hold onto this promise. Believe that God is still writing the story and history of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Freeport, PA.

But I also share this ancient prayer with you: “Lord, you have called us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, to paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we are going, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us”. Amen.

This is faith, whether for the journey of an individual dealing with cancer or a congregation doing what it must to support pastoral ministry. The Book of Hebrews puts it this way: “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not yet seen.”

It seems clear that the financial resources are not there at this time for the congregation to think of supporting a full-time pastor on its own. Knowing of the strength and vitality that this congregation once had, this can be a discouraging reality to accept. But this is precisely why the church family must hold onto the promise of God and the gift of hope. Your willingness to trust God and your willingness to remain committed are vital.

Perhaps God has brought me to this place and time for a reason. I started my first call to ministry by bringing the two Lutheran congregations in town together in a shared ministry. I ended my ministry in Zelienople by serving both congregations in town for over five years.

Moving forward, I would suggest that the congregation take advantage of my presence by trying to get a feel for what a shared ministry with another congregation looks like. To use a proverbial saying, “Let’s kick the tires before thinking about buying the car.” Let’s check it out before making a final decision.

I have been talking with Barbara Ravenstahl who serves Faith Lutheran Church in Natrona Heights as a lay person. She is a “Synodically Authorized Minister” who functions in every capacity as a pastor but who is not ordained. Unfortunately the ELCA no longer supports this kind of ministry. But she has served her congregation faithfully for many years on a part-time basis. She has been their hope, but now at the age of 77, she is ready to step back.

As Lent approaches, it might provide an opportunity to see what shared ministry looks like. If I was the sole pastor of these two congregations, I would wear myself out trying to do two Maundy Thursday Services and two Good Friday services between the two congregations. So each congregation could host one of the services and invite the other congregation to come. This would be a chance to “kick the tires.”

The Season of Lent is fast approaching (March) but there is time to think about it. Share your thoughts and feelings with me, with members of Church Council, with one another. It is a path as yet untrodden for this wonderful congregation. But can you and I have faith, the commitment to believe in the strength of our faith, to hold onto the gift of hope, and to know that God’s hand is leading us and God’s love is supporting us? Let me know what you think.

In Christ’s love, Pastor Bob

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

323 Fifth Street
Freeport, PA 16229

Church Phone: 724-295-9557

Church Fax: 724-294-2362

E-mail: tlcfreeport@consolidated.net

Website: www.tlcfreeport.org

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Freeport, PA



Our Worship Schedule:

Saturday Evening Service: 5:00 PM

Sunday School: 9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Service: 10:15 AM

Church Staff

Rev. Robert Keplinger

Phone number: 724-601-9330

E-mail: robert.a.keplinger@gmail.com

Office / Financial Secretary	Phyllis Woods
Church Treasurer	Wanda Warren
Organist / Choir Director	Krista Fennell
Saturday Organist	Alice Pater
Custodian	Chrissy Roppolo

Church Council

Brad Ferko - '21: President, Social Ministry
Shirley VanDyke - '20: V.P., Finance & Stewardship
Yvette Beck - '19: Christian Education
Kathy Blair - '20: Children & Youth, Worship & Music
Jessica Cummings - '19 : Children & Youth
Linda Durst - '19: Decorating
Krista Fennell - '21: Worship & Music
Pat Ferrante – '19: Freeport Community Outreach
John Foust - '20: Property
Kris Kramer - '21: Mission Outreach
Eileen Shearer - '20: Miss. Endow., Special Interest
Mary Turner - 21: Senior Outreach

Church Office Hours:
Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

JANUARY 2019 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Approved secretary, treasurer, and interim pastor's reports

Children & Youth: Thanks to all who helped make the Childrens Christmas Skit so successful.

Christian Education: Thanks to Krista Fennell for all her work on the Childrens Christmas Skit. Winter Sunday School curriculum is here and any unused Fall curriculum can be returned for credit.

Congregation Care: Valentines are being sent to Trailblazers.

Community Outreach: Spring Fling Yard Sale will be held in April by Freeport Renaissance.

Decorating: Postcards were made with Christmas pictures of Trinity and sent to Trailblazers.

Finance/Stewardship: 2019 Budget to be presented to Congregation in January at **Congregational Meeting Saturday Jan. 19th & Sun. Jan 20th.** "Noisy" offering will take place on the 3d Sunday of each month (Proceeds for Childrens Stained Glass window)

Mission Endowment: Going to ask John Smith to give a talk on the Endowment Fund to council..

Mission Outreach: No Report

Property: sound system in church to be looked at again, still having problems with mics. Would like to set a day for volunteers to come in and clean-up and paint Social Hall.

Social Ministry: Coffee & donuts will be provided for members the day of the Congregational Meeting.

Special Interest: No report

Worship & Music: An inventory of all costumes and props that belong to the church will be taken. Would like to have an updated phone directory done for the Annual Congregational Meeting. Lector & Acolytes robes to be cleaned.

Old Business: Council approved use of kitchen by Kiwanis for Pancake & Sausage Breakfasts.

Approved Pastor increasing his hours from 30 hours per week to 40 hours per week.

New Business: A second \$16,000 grant was received from the Wood Foundation for Trinity's Stained Glass Window Restoration Fund.

~ February 2019 Council Devotions
will be lead by Shirley VanDyke ~
~February 2019 Sunday Counters are
John Foust & Kathy Blair ~

NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, February 12, 2019 @ 7 PM

Good Morning. The bulk of this letter is about confirmation for our youth. Even if you are not “in the market” for confirmation, I encourage you to read on!

There is hope in this letter for our youth and our whole congregation. And who couldn't use a bit of hope on a cold Tuesday morning in January??

In September of 2018, I started my first term on church council at Trinity. I was late to my first meeting, and in my absence, I was appointed head of Christian Education! It has been a good fit for me, and I have enjoyed revamping the Sunday School hour, and starting some fun activities for both children and adults. If you haven't been to Sunday School recently, I invite you to come see what's new.

The most common question I have gotten since taking on this role has been “What about confirmation?!” To those of you who asked many months ago, I apologize for the delay. But I think I finally have some answers.

In the past, the education requirement for confirmation was a three-year commitment. In addition to regular Sunday School attendance, there were three meetings per school year required after church. These meetings were to facilitate the understanding of Luther's Small Catechism. It was also the tradition of Trinity to confirm in the spring of 9th grade. At council meetings, I learned that the ELCA governing body has no regulations on when youth can be confirmed, nor does it dictate a particular curriculum for preparation. These are individual congregation decisions.

As of January, we are enjoying new leadership with Pastor Bob. As our long term interim pastor, he is committed to working with our youth. We want to catch up with anyone we may have missed during our recent leadership changes. Pastor and I had a meeting about Confirmation, below is a summary of our discussion.

- Being new to the congregation, Pastor Bob is coming into the situation with no knowledge of what has or has not taken place in the past.
- Pastor Bob feels that three years may be a long time wait for confirmation, especially for those youth who may have in a sense been left behind. If the child feels ready to make the commitment to the church, and is of a reasonable age, he will work to make that happen. Normally confirmation takes place in Lutheran Churches between 7th and 9th grade. But if older youth want the experience of being confirmed in their faith, Pastor Bob will work with them.
- Pastor Bob wants to meet the youth of our congregation *wherever they are* in their faith journey, and give them a positive tie to the church. He would like to meet with individual families or small groups to move forward with the process and coordinate dates for confirmation when appropriate.
- Pastor Bob recognizes that youth and families are busy. Youth activities and involvement in the life of the church (like acolyting) are important elements as well. Scheduling “confirmation classes” and requiring attendance is always a challenge. It is hard to teach the faith by building on a series of classes when other important school and community activities conflict.
- Pastor Bob recognizes that family involvement in the process, including the educational element, is important.
- Pastor Bob tries to get the youth to pick a focus or theme – either alone or as a group, - something that ties the experience together in a memorable way. Examples are a Bible story, making a clay pot to know that one is a vessel of God, or learning about an “Ebenezer Stone” as a reminder that God is our helper in life.
- Pastor Bob stresses that the academic side of things is very important. The youth should be exposed to and demonstrate an understanding of the Bible, Luther's Small Catechism, faith, and the life of the church. But there may be other ways accomplish this without three years of weekly meetings. The main question now is how to make this work for the youth, the families, and this congregation. Together we can work on this.

I am very excited to move forward with this, as my own son, Blair, is of age to be confirmed. We made a list of youth who are of reasonable age, and we could think of about 15 who could be confirmed this spring. What a blessing that would be for Trinity, and all the families involved! So, if you feel that your child is ready to take this step in their faith journey, please email me at ybeck07@yahoo.com. Pastor Bob and I want to create an email list to facilitate future communication. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Yours in faith, Yvette Beck, Christian Education, Trinity.

**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING
RESCHEDULED**

Due to inclement weather in January our Congregational Meeting was postponed and rescheduled for:

**SATURDAY - FEB. 2, 2019
&
SUNDAY - FEB. 3, 2019**

The meeting will follow each worship service.

A new budget for 2019 will be submitted for approval and additional church business will be conducted.

As always your input is important, please plan on attending.

SEE YOU THERE!

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Pastor Bob is compiling a list of Trinity's college students and you can help Pastor with this.

Please either call the church office at 724-295-9557, send us an e-mail

tlcfreeport@consolidated.net

or drop a paper with the information in the offering plate on Sunday with the following information:

Students name and age;
College they attend;
what year of college they are in.

Hello, I am a member of the Freeport High School Swim Team parent board.

I am asking that you let your membership know that:

**Freeport Kiwanis is holding a
Turkey & Biscuit Dinner
Saturday, March 2
Freeport Methodist Church
from 4 pm to 7 pm.
Cost is \$8.00.**

The dinner is being held to benefit the FHS Co-Ed Varsity Swim Team. The swimmers appreciate your support.

**Trinity Lutheran Church
Income and Expense Summary 2018**

	Budget	Income	Expense	Difference	Other Designated Giving
January	\$13,234.00	\$7,270.70	\$13,777.62	-\$6,506.92	\$360.00
February	\$13,234.00	\$8,328.97	\$14,280.74	-\$5,951.77	\$710.00
March	\$13,234.00	\$8,662.16	\$11,510.25	-\$2,848.09	\$4,330.00
April	\$13,234.00	\$10,271.64	\$15,982.50	-\$5,710.86	\$1,020.00
May	\$13,234.00	\$7,226.90	\$8,970.12	-\$1,743.22	\$338.00
June	\$13,234.00	\$12,785.86	\$7,269.19	\$5,516.67	\$845.00
July	\$13,234.00	\$8,908.84	\$10,212.67	-\$1,303.83	\$2,253.00
August	\$13,234.00	\$5,897.64	\$6,128.31	-\$230.67	\$340.00
September	\$13,234.00	\$10,586.88	\$8,714.35	\$1,872.53	\$1,400.00
October	\$13,234.00	\$7,971.62	\$8,118.98	-\$147.36	\$1,425.00
November	\$13,234.00	\$8,483.65	\$8,515.96	-\$32.31	\$6,910.00
December	\$13,234.00	\$17,795.89	\$8,723.35	\$9,072.54	\$2,087.78
Total to date	\$158,808.00	\$114,190.75	\$122,204.04	-\$8,013.29	\$22,018.78
Annual Budget	\$158,805				

Note: Other Designated Giving includes Capital Improvements, Scholarships, Memorials, Needy Fund, and Endowment Fund



My Trinity family,
Thank you for the
Christmas cards and the
beautiful poinsettia.
also thanks for the
large group of carolers who
brought the famous carols
and hymns. It was special.
God bless you,
Ruth Henry

to all my dear friends at Trinity

May your heart be
JOLLY and **BRIGHT**
this Christmas season.

*thank you so much for your
Christmas gift - it truly is
appreciated.*

*Hope you all had a very merry
Christmas and have a happy
healthy New Year!*

*Love to you all from
Alice Peter*

Thank you for the Staff Christmas
gift from the congregation.
It is truly appreciated!
Merry Christmas and Happy New
Year to my church family.
Krista Fennell

To the Trinity Congregation,
My sincere thanks for the remembrance at
Christmas with the Staff Christmas gift..
It is so nice to be back in the church office and
to be able to see and talk with so many
of you on a daily basis.
Happy New Year! Phyllis Woods



*The
Mail Box*

Informational Address Update:

Joan Bowman
501 Franklin Street
Freeport, PA. 16229

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for
the friendly hospitality this
year. We were able to raise
over \$54,600.00 this year.
God bless you all for your
great deeds & thank you

-Θ-Θ-

Fraternity of Thiel College

Wme

The above note is from our Thiel
walkers, from their visit in December

MEMORIALS RECEIVED

The following memorials were received:

Merle Shearer
by
John & Diane Shirley
Richard & Christine Tokarek
Patty Swartzlander
Lee & Kathy Bures
Joan Bachman
Janis J. Gamer

Roy Brendlinger
by
Bill & Sherry Lauer

Homer Otterman
by
Lewis & Sharen Otterman

Betty Frampton
by
Bill & Sherry Lauer

**If you or a loved one are
in the hospital
(or other health care facility)
Please
contact the church office
724-295-9557
or e-mail
tlcfreeport@consolidated.net**

WITH OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We uphold in Christian love and prayer
the families and friends of

Betty Frampton
of
Buffalo Township

and

Cheryl L. Demek
of
Cabot,

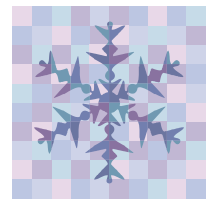


OUR FAITHFULNESS AT WORSHIP

	<u>Sat</u>	<u>Sun</u>	<u>Total</u>
December 29	22	70	92
January 05	23	56	79
January 12	20	42	62*
January 20	18	25	43*

*snow

Snow Removal at Trinity



Week of January 27 Brad Ferko
February 3 Chuck Warren
February 10 Drew Fennell
February 17 Doug Johnston
February 24 Chuck Warren
March 03 volunteer needed

Don Smeltzer / when needed as fill in

Trinity's Weekly Prayer List

"... Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of Christ Jesus for you."

- I Thessalonians 5:17

* Designates Trinity member in prayer lists

Health & Healing: Conrad Sutano (6 mo. Old needing liver transplant), Joan Bowman*, Elma Maier (pancreatic cancer), Donna Johnston (recovering from cancer); Ben Hoffman (Wanda Warren's brother-in-law, with blood cancer), Jan Freehling* (knee replacement), Jordan Colosimo (12 yrs old with bone cancer, John Clark, Andrew Andryka, Eddy Spence (knee Surgery; / Charlie Conti*, Wayne & Norma McCollum*, Jay Yedlowski*, Jacob Oziel, Jack Oziel, Alice, Jim ...those suffering from emotional and mental illness, from depression, from drug addictions, those struggling with cancer, for all who need healing...aid all medical scientists in their search for a cure to cancer, diabetes, aids, Alzheimer's disease . . . all those health conditions that debilitate human wholeness and well being . . . and for those who face imminent death and those who support them.

Special Prayer Requests: Evelyn Croyle* will be having surgery on January 29th for cancer of the bladder; also please remember Joan Bowman*.

For Praise and Thanksgiving Simon Tomayko, Dan Kramer, Cass Gearing the news of cancer free;

For Our Congregation For the Love of Jesus: to shine upon Trinity Evangelical Lutheran and our Interim Pastor Robert Keplinger and Faith Lutheran, Natrona Heights; and their Pastor Barbara Ravenstahl.;

For Our Trail Blazers:

Evelyn Croyle, Ruth Henry, Evelyn Hoak, Ted Timashenka, Lucy Smith, Mildred Sarver, Toni Ruzbacki, Evelyn Hoak, Charlie Hill, Henrietta Garvin, Guy Carson, Millie Macurdy, ... and all homebound members that they may know God's loving presence in Christ.

For Our Members in Care Facilities:

Concordia: Sara Jane Bouch

St. John Specialty Care: Mary Etta Orris

For Comfort & Strength in time of sorrow:

the Families & friends of:

Cheryl (Brant) Demek; Betty Frampton (Mother of Sherry Watt),; the Holden family; *and for all those mourning the passing of a loved one.*

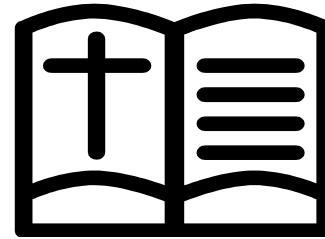
For Those Needing Guidance, Strength & Peace: ... and for all those in need, that God keep them in His care and fill their hearts and minds with His peace.

For All Who Travel: ... and for all travelers, that God grant each a safe journey.

For Those Serving in the Armed Forces:

Tom (T.C.) Watt...and all men and women serving in the military forces.

Be resolved to make prayer a significant part of your daily routine



Note: Prayer requests in the Saturday/Sunday Bulletin are posted for two consecutive weeks and then removed unless "prayer" is requested again.

TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

... offers up prayer upon request on any day and at any time.

To start a prayer request on the Prayer Chain, contact the church office at 724-295-9557

or

tlcfreeport@consolidated.net

If you would like to become a Prayer Chain Partner, please call the church office.

FEBRUARY 2019 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24	
Sunday Greeters	Janet & Ted Kaltwasser	Tom & Mary Turner	John, Charlene, and Sara Bouch	Eileen Shearer Kathy Blair	
Acolytes	Josh Heckman Luke DiSanti	Bridget Beck Blair Beck	Dom Cummings Emma Heckman	Joy Beck Garrett Kramer	
Lector	Wanda Warren	Lyn DiSanti	Yvette Beck	Chuck Warren	
Comm. Asst.	Pat Ferrante	Charlene Bouch	Adam Foust	Mary Turner	
Ushers	John & Kim Foust	Pat Ferrante Shirley VanDyke	Kathy Blair Brock Loevlie	Ted Kaltwasser Bill Lentz	
Presenters	Sara & Charlene Bouch	Linda Durst Carole Jack	Chuck & Wanda Warren	Kris & Heather Kramer	
Fisherman	Garrett Kramer	Lydia Cummings	Ella Fennell	James Kramer	
Nursery Att.	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	
Altar Guild	Linda Durst	Pat Ferrante Sue Lindell	Cathi Cooper	John & Diana Shirley	
Counting Team	John Foust Kathy Blair	John Foust Shirley VanDyke	John Foust Kathy Blair	John Foust Kathy Blair	

Saturday Greeters

1st Saturday 02/02 Greeters: Keith & Amy Bash
 2nd Saturday 00/09 Greeters: Imogene Cooper
 3rd Saturday 02/17 Greeters: Sue & Dave Lindell
 4th Saturday 02/24 Greeters: Bill & Sherry Lauer

Saturday Readers:

1st Sat. (02/02): Amy Bash
 2nd Sat. (02/09): Bill Lauer
 3rd Sat. (02/17): Imogene Cooper
 4th Sat. (02/24): Bill Lauer

Happy Birthday

02/05 Megan Sweeny
 02/05 Shirley VanDyke
 02/07 Roger Coffman
 02/07 Nathaniel Manko
 02/07 Samantha Silliman
 02/13 Jay Yedlowski
 02/14 Nancy Coffman
 02/14 Cathi Cooper
 02/15 Cameron Patterson
 02/15 Caden Patterson
 02/16 Douglas Johnston
 02/17 Jeff Leri
 02/17 Conner Patterson
 02/18 Lydia Cummings
02/20 Imogene Cooper (93)
 02/20 Krista Fennell
 02/20 Kris Kramer
 02/21 Amy VanTine
 02/24 Ave Dlubak
 02/25 Joy Beck
 02/28 Kathryn Bures

Happy Anniversary

02/14 John & Diana Shirley

Special Birthdays

February 20th
Imogene Cooper (93)
224 Market Street
Freeport, PA. 16229

If your birthday / anniversary is missing from the above list for the month, it could be that we do not have that information available in the church office.

Also please know that the list of birthdays and anniversaries are compiled from active members only.



PLEASE call the church office (724-295-9557), or e-mail us at tlcfreeport@consolidate.net so we may update our records. Thank you.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH,
FREEPORT, PA**

Worship Schedule

Saturday 5:00 PM Worship w/Holy Communion
 Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School
Sunday 10:15 AM Worship w/Holy Communion

February 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1  for women love your heart American Heart Association	2 Congregational Meeting
3 Congregational Meeting	4	5	6 Trinity Meals On Wheels AA Meeting 8 pm	7	8	9
10	11	12 Church Council 7 PM	13 AA Meeting 8 pm	14 	15	16 "Noisy Collection"
17 "Noisy Collection"	18  PRESIDENTS DAY	19	20 AA Meeting 8 pm	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 AA Meeting 8 pm	28		

He surrounds me with loving-kindness and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things!

Psalm 103:4-5



**TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
323 Fifth Street, Freeport, PA 16229

OUR MISSION

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is called by our Creator and Redeemer to be, to show, and to share our Christian faith and religion with one another, the community, and the world.

OUR VISION

To that end we commit ourselves to be constant in prayer for Christ's Church; to celebrate our community in Christ through Word & Sacraments; to minister and witness to one another by inviting and welcoming others into the fellowship; to show acts of caring and compassion through faithful stewardship of our time, talents and resources; to teach and proclaim the Good News; and to challenge ourselves to go beyond our expectations as God's people.

FEBRUARY 2019



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
323 Fifth Street
Freeport, Pennsylvania 16229-1249