
the Trinity Messenger

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

Pastor's Page



Hello Trinity,

January 1st marks a New Year for us. January 1st also marks the first official day of my serving you as Interim Minister. It became evident to me right away that your greatest desire and need was to have someone care for you. Providing Pastoral Care to the congregation has always been an important focus for me. I believe it is the strength of ministry in a congregation such as Trinity Lutheran. I look forward to serving you in this kind of way. And I look forward to the care and support and love that you have already shown to me in these past few weeks.

Many of you know already that I had plans to visit my son and his family in Minnesota over Christmas. I wish I could also celebrate Christmas with you, but I will remember the congregation in prayer and trust that each of you, along with those you love, will have had a blessed holiday (since you will likely read this after it is over). I will be back with you for the last weekend of the year. Pastor Arter will continue to serve as your local interim through this time if you are in need of pastoral care.

The Church Council has asked me to work 30 hours a week instead of the normal interim which is 20 hours. I have agreed to this. But to prepare for worship and preaching, to serve well on both Saturday evening and Sunday morning, to visit people, attend meetings and church functions, that 30 hours will not go far. I also have to travel from Fombell (on the other side of Zelienople) which takes just over an hour (no matter which way I choose to come). So I must use my time well.

I have been asked if I will have regular office hours. At this point I will not. I would rather be out and about, being involved, rather than sitting and waiting in an office. So I ask this of each of you. If I can ever support you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. I want to know if you are in the hospital, sick, or just need to talk about a concern. I have always said to call me at any time. I am never bothered by a call in the middle of the night.

After the first of the year, I will be also looking at making contact with families. I will be available to prepare your children for baptism, first communion, confirmation. I only had one wedding in my two and a half year interim in Sewickley, but what a joy to have that opportunity just a few weeks before I ended my time with them. There new pastor started November 11th.

January 1st 2019. It is my hope that it marks the beginning of a fruitful ministry between pastor and congregation, as I help you discover and look forward to the next stage of your future. Please, let us enjoy one another as we serve the Lord.

Pastor Bob

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Grace and peace to you!

2018 has been a difficult year for many folks. This is also true for Trinity Lutheran Church.

Last April, the Bishop contacted me about serving as your local interim pastor for what was expected to be a very brief period—one month, *give-or-take*. There was the shared expectation that a transitional interim pastor would soon be designated, who would lead you along the next steps towards new pastoral leadership.


Needless to say, things did not work out according to those plans. Over the next eight months, your weekend worship services were led by numerous different supply pastors and lay worship leaders. And just when you thought you saw the way forward, something unexpected happened. A door was closed. The pathway before you disappeared. I've personally experienced this disappointment countless times—unable to move in the direction I believed was right.

Now, more than ever, we are anxious about the future of our congregations. Longtime members pass away, while others stop coming. Younger generations keep turning away from church. Offerings shrink, and savings dwindle. Meanwhile, big churches keep getting bigger. Their praise bands and elaborate children's programs attract what few young families are interested in the church. We ask, *what are we doing wrong? Why aren't we reaching people? Are we perishing?*

Despite all the losses and setbacks you've endured, God has been working. Your congregation council voted unanimously to enter into a contract with Rev. Bob Keplinger, a retired pastor with 35 years of experience in ordained ministry. In the short time I've known him, I have been thoroughly impressed by his expertise, his knowledge of God's Word and Lutheran Confessions, and his dedication to caring for the family of God.

And over the past eight months, it has been a joy to witness your passion and dedication to Christ's mission in the world. You are reaching out to your community. You are caring for the Trailblazers. Your children are learning about God's love in Sunday School and participating in the life of the church. And though it is impossible to know exactly where your congregation will be in ten years, Christ owns the future. God will provide everything you need to move forward into that future.

A new day has dawned at Trinity. For that, I rejoice. Thank you for the opportunities you have given me, brief and few as they have been, to journey with you in Christ, share his love, and witness his faithfulness.

In Christian love, + 

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

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

DECEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Approved secretary, treasurer, and interim pastor's reports

Children & Youth: 15 children attended the Children's Christmas Party

Christian Education: no report

Congregation Care: caroling went well—looking towards summer to visit Trailblazers again.

Community Outreach: attended Renaissances Meeting—Fudge sale this spring

Decorating: Church decorating will take place Saturday Dec. 15th & 22nd at 9 am.

Finance/Stewardship: 2019 Budget to be presented to Congregation in January at **Congregational Meeting Saturday Jan. 19th & Sun. Jan 20th.** .

Mission Endowment: Children's Window (small stained glass window restoration) - Motion made and carried that endowment fund will match up to \$2,000.

Mission Outreach: The Giving Tree gifts were delivered.

Property: sound system in church to be looked at

Social Ministry: No Report

Special Events: 17 people from Thiel were feed—all the food was donated for dinner and breakfast to feed the Thiel Walkers.

Worship & Music: December 30th service will be Lessons & Carols plus a Nativity skit by the children

Old Business:

Place advertisement in paper about church service and communion

New Business: Congregational meeting set for Sat. Jan 19th & Sun. Jan. 20th

Motion made & carried to have Rev. Robert Keplinger serve as Interim at Trinity beginning January 1, 2019.

~ January 2019 Council Devotions will be lead
by Brad Ferko ~

NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, JANUARY 8, 2019 @ 7 PM

2018 Lutherlyn Calendar

November

30-12/2 Family Advent Weekend 

December


1 Pastoral Plunge!
 1 Advent Dinner and Worship
 1 Family Advent Festival

Visit lutherlyn.com/2018 to learn more!

2019 Lutherlyn Calendar*

*Tentative

January

15-20 Quilting/Crafting Retreat
 25-27 Winter Youth Retreat
 26 Blacksmithing Class 


February

2 Saturday Safari (topic TBD)

March

2 Maple Sugaring Saturday Safari
 19-24 Quilting/Crafting Retreat
 23 Blacksmithing Class

April

26-28 YouthFest
 27 Blacksmithing Class
 27 Work Day 

May

11 Fun Run
 11 CAMP BLAST!!! 


June

2-14 Summer Staff Training
 7-9 Grown Up Camp
 9 Trinity Pines Banquet
 16 SUMMER CAMP BEGINS 

July

1-31 SUMMER CAMP CONTINUES

August

2 Last Day of Summer Camp
 23-25 Grown Up Camp 

September

4-8 Quilting/Crafting Retreat
 7 Blacksmithing Class 

Visit lutherlyn.com/2019 to learn more!

**If you or a loved one are
 in the hospital
 (or other health care facility)
 Please contact the church office
 724-295-9557**



The American Cancer Society needs volunteers.

One of the biggest roadblocks to cancer treatment can be transportation.
 The best medical treatment can't work if a patient can't get to it.

Attacking from every angle.

That's why the American Cancer Society *Road to Recovery* program provides patients with free rides to treatment. The key to this is having local volunteers who can offer these patients rides who have no means of transportation, or are unable to drive themselves to treatment. Our need is great in the Armstrong county area. Can you help?

The American Cancer Society provides a simple screening process and a complete training program that is required to assure good working knowledge of the job, as well as safety.

As many of us have had family members, friends, or neighbors touched by cancer, this volunteer program could be a great personal ministry, as a way to honor those you know who have battled this disease.

If interested in volunteering, please call **Teresa Segelson, 412.919.1100, ext. 1108** or contact the American Cancer Society office, at cancer.org/drive or call the toll-free number **1-800-227-2345**.

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	\$7,329.19	\$5,456.67	\$4,584.05
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	\$8,468.65	\$8,515.96	-\$47.31	\$6,925.00
December				\$0.00	
Total to date	\$145,574.00	\$96,379.86	\$113,540.69	-\$17,160.83	\$23,685.05
Annual Budget	\$158,805				

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



As Trinity welcomes Pastor Robert Keplinger, Interim we must say good-bye to Pastor James Arter. Pastor Arter has served as Interim Pastor since June, along with serving His own congregation in Leechburg. Trinity would like to express our Thanks and Gratitude for all your extra hours of caring and guidance when needed.

The Thiel Walkers arrived tired and hungry Friday, December 7th.

The eager group enjoyed every bite of Denny Revi's delicious spaghetti before finding a warm spot to stay the night.

For 50 years this Thiel Fraternity has traveled from Greenville to collect for Children's Hospital. It was Trinity's pleasure to welcome them and support their efforts.

Thanks to Denny, Pat, Shirley, John and those who made desserts for helping make their stop in Freeport a success.



December 18, 2018

Dear Friends of Trinity Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the less fortunate families of our community, I want to thank you for the many gifts you purchased. Because of your kindness and generosity, these children will have a brighter Christmas this year.

May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace; the gladness of Christmas give you hope; and the warmth of Christmas grant you love.

With true appreciation and warmest thanks,

*Amy Sutara, RN
Elementary School Nurse
Freeport Area School District*

*How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it.
~George Elliston*

*Dear Church Members,
Thank you for the many cards that I have received during my long recovery. May you all have a Merry Christmas and happy new year!
Ps. Also thank you for the prayer you have said for me.
Betty Frampton*



*Wishing you
Peace & Joy
this Christmas*



~ A GLORIOUS CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ~

There are not enough "Thank You's" to express the gratitude for all the work that was done to make Trinity shine the way she did on Christmas Eve.

Our decorating team did a fantastic job, Trinity looked beautiful in her Christmas attire; People who had Poinsettias in the church; our Christmas Eve Worship Assistants and volunteers; our Choir; our flutist. and our Organist—the music that was selected, sung, and played was outstanding (that organ never sounded better). And to all those who

"Made Trinity Their Home for the Holiday!"

THANK YOU

MEMORIALS RECEIVED

The following memorials were received:

Merle Shearer
 by
 Michael & Leah Serwon
 Gary & Diana Risch
 Millie Macurdy
 David & Suella Lindell
 John & June Cicola
 Darlene Laube
 Thomas & Mary Turner
 Shirley VanDyke
 David & Marissa Kaltwasser
 John (Jay) Yedlowski

Margaret (Peg) Mann
 by
 Bill & Sherry Lauer



**CONGREGATIONAL
 MEETING - 2019**

**THIS IS A NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS
 OF TRINITY EVANGELICAL
 LUTHERAN CHUCH, FREEPORT, PA.
 A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
 WILL BE HELD
 SATURDAY - JANUARY 19TH
 &
 SUNDAY - JANUARY 20TH
 WE WILL BE VOTING TO
 APPROVE A 2019 BUDGET
 ALONG WITH ADDITIONAL BUSINESS
 PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING YOUR INPUT
 IS IMPORTANT**

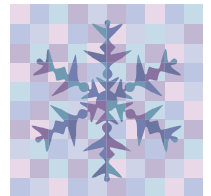
**WITH OUR DEEPEST
 SYMPATHY**

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

Roy Brendlinger
 of
 South Buffalo Township



Snow Removal at Trinity



Week of December 30 - John Foust
 January 6 - Tom Turner
January 13
January 20
January 27

**Volunteers needed—sign up sheet located
 in back of the church**

Don Smeltzer / when needed as fill in

The Gift of New Life:

In joyful thanksgiving to God for the gift of
 precious little ones we offer our prayers and
 blessings for them and their parents.

Micah Thomas Ferrante
 born December, 2018

Parents ~ Tommy & Allison Ferrante
 Grandparents ~ Tom & Pat Ferrante

OUR FAITHFULNESS AT WORSHIP

	<u>Sat</u>	<u>Sun</u>	<u>Total</u>
November 25	9	62	71
December 02	--	75	75
December 09	19	70	89
December 16	20	62	82
December 23	16	64	80
December 24			126

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: Jan Freehling, John Yacura, Mike Spence, Eddy Spence, Veronique Droke, Melanie Crytzer, Jordan Colosimo (12 yrs old with bone cancer, Bob Brown, Bob Behric, Sue Hazlet, Joan Bowman*, Tommy & Allison (the upcoming birth of their son), Tina, Matt Furhman (surgery), Ivan Kunkle (hospitalized), /Denny Fuhrman, Guy Carson*, Charlie Conti*, Betty Frampton*, Millie Macurdy*, Wayne McCollum*, Jay Yedlowski*, Simon Tomayko, Dan Kramer, 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.

For Prayers & Wisdom: for students entering final exams

For the Love of Jesus: to shine upon Trinity Lutheran

For Our Trail Blazers & Homebound:

Evelyn Croyle, Ruth Henry, Evelyn Hoak ... 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

Our Local Congregations:

Faith Lutheran, Natrona Heights and their Pastor Barbara A Ravebstahl

First Lutheran, New Kensington and their Pastor Alfred S. Petrill, Jr.

Sons of Zebedee Lutheran, Saltsburg and their Pastor Keith McCutcheon

St. Paul's Highfield, Vandergrift and their

For Comfort & Strength in time of sorrow:

the Families & friends of:

Daniel Fullerton; Gregory Sabattini; Gloria Masrks; Roy Brendlinger*; Cheryl Helgert; Holden Johns *and for all those mourning the passing of a loved one.*

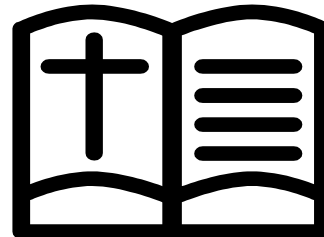
For Those Needing Guidance, Strength & Peace: ... and for all those in need, that God keep them in His care and fill their hearts and minds with His peace.

For All Who Travel: Pastor Keplinger & family... 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 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.

JANUARY 2019 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27	
Sunday Greeters	John & Diane Shirley	Ted & Janet Kaltwasser	Chuck & Wanda Warren	John & Kim Foust	
Acolytes	Dom Cummings Luke DiSanti	Bridget Beck Alaina Whitlinger	Brayden Riddell Cailyn Riddle	Joy Beck Blair Beck	
Lector	Yvette Beck	Adam Foust	Chuck Warren	Lyn DiSanti	
Comm. Asst.	Yvette Beck Pat Ferrante	Adam Foust Charlene Bouch	Chuck Warren Wanda Warren	Lyn DiSanti Mary Turner	
Ushers	Ted Kaltwasser Bill Lentz	Jayne DiSanti Shirley VanDyke	John & Kim Foust	Pat Ferrante Brock Loevlie	
Presenters	Ted & Janet Kaltwasser	Sally & Denny Revi	John & Diane Shirley	Chad & Rebecca Fuhrman	
Fisherman	Ella Fennell	Garrett Kramer	James Kramer	Lydia Cummings	
Nursery Att.	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	
Altar Guild	Linda Durst	Pat Ferrante Sue Lindell	Cathi Cooper	John & Diana Shirley	
Counting Team	Mary Turner Shirley VanDyke	Mary Turner Shirley VanDyke	Mary Turner Shirley VanDyke	Mary Turner Shirley VanDyke	

Saturday Greeters

1st Saturday 01/05 Greeters: Bill & Sherry Lauer
 2nd Saturday 01/12 Greeters: Dave & Sue Lindell
 3rd Saturday 01/19 Greeters: Keith & Amy Bash
 4th Saturday 01/26 Greeters: Imogene Cooper

Saturday Readers:

1st Sat. (01/05): Bill Lauer
 2nd Sat. (01/12): Imogene Cooper
 3rd Sat. (01/19): Amy Bash
 4th Sat. (01/26): Bill Lauer

Happy Birthday

01/01 Crystal Zembrzuski
 01/05 Zigmund Jordan
 01/06 Linda Durst
 01/06 Diana Shirley
 01/07 Tim Tomayko, Sr.
 01/07 Carly VanTine
 01/09 Avery Boyer
01/10 Ted Timashenka (81)
 01/10 Alaina Whitlinger
 01/12 Mary Lou Holler
 01/17 Tyler Hettich
 01/20 Bill Lauer
 01/21 Lewis Otterman
 01/22 Lisa Riddell
 01/25 Dawn Paulsen
01/28 Guy Carson (87)
 01/30 Mason Durst

Happy Anniversary

01/19 John & Beverly McDivitt
 01/24 Lewis & Sharen Otterman

Special Birthdays

Ted Timashenka (81)
 1402 Meadowbrook Lane
 Butler, PA. 16001

Guy Carson (87)
 411 Primrose Drive
 Sarver, PA. 16055

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.

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

JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Meals On Wheels	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 AA Meeting	10	11	12
Epiphany		Council Meeting 7 pm	AA Meeting 7pm			
13	14	15	16 AA Meeting 7pm	17	18	19 NOISY COLLECTION
20 NOISY COLLECTION	21	22	23 AA Meeting 7pm	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 AA Meeting 7pm	31		

“Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance”.

Jude 1:2 | NIV |



**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.

JANUARY 2019



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