



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church



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From Pastor's Desk

In these days of uncertainty there are some among us who anticipate the COVID-19 pandemic as the beginning of a global cataclysm. In anticipation of a coming disaster and even collapse of social order we see people "preparing" for the chaos they envision. Some are stocking up on shelf stable foods. Gun sales have soared, as have "carry" permits for handguns. Families have bought land in isolated areas where they can be safely separated from others, raise their own food and provide for the needs of their family independent of any common and public market that may or may not exist in the days to come.

I understand how these visions of dark and dreadful chaos can often drive us to think and act in odd ways. My PhD educated cousin was convinced that Y2K would destroy the world so he had

a basement full of rice and flour and corn meal and canned goods, only to see the world carry on uninterrupted.

Jesus of course calls his disciples to be prepared and to stay alert. (Matt 24:42-43; 25:1-13; Mk 13:33-37; Lk 12: 35-38) Being alert means we pay close attention to the everchanging situation, but what is the perspective we have for being alert? What signs are we looking for? What new reality are we being called into? I have a rather different view than the "preppers".

Rather than isolating myself from neighbors that might become a threat, I choose to engage neighbors in a community of trust and hope. I think we are stronger, safer, better off when we gather together, take stock of the gifts, abilities, assets we have at our disposal. I look around

my neighborhood and I see people with incredible skills and abilities, that could truly create a means for many to not merely survive but thrive in a new world that we cannot yet imagine. All of this of course begins with an attitude of trust rather than fear, and a desire to share with my neighbors rather than become isolated from them.

Rather than stockpiling out of fear I would choose to sow seeds of hope in the here and now. Building relationships with neighbors, getting to know people who are now

"Rather than stockpiling out of fear I would choose to sow seeds of hope in the here and now."



TriniKids Closure: End of Ministry Recognition

TriniKids



The Place to Grow!

On August 2nd, our Sunday service included a service of Holy Closure for TriniKids Preschool Ministry. Sharon Scott, Sandy Lawler and Carol Mahon were present along with their husbands. The Congregation

presented each of the ladies with an icon of Christ with the Children. On August 16th a sanctuary sized version of this same icon will be dedicated during our service, which also happens to be Pastor Dan's final service before retiring. Thank you to Sharon, Sandy, Carol and Pastor Dan for your service to Jesus through the children and families of TriniKids Preschool! More information on the icon can be found on the back page.

Mission Message from Marcia Brown: Immigrants and Coronavirus

Luciana, a widow, fled Honduras with her children because of the violence there. She came to America with a dream of a fresh start. She got a full-time job in a factory, was learning English, and was helping her children settle into their new lives. Then COVID-19 hit, and her hours were cut. She found a part-time job in food service, but was soon laid off because of the shut-down. She filed for unemployment but is a victim of the massive backlogs, and she is not eligible for a stimulus check.

Luciana pays taxes, holds a responsible job, educates her kids, and contributes to the diversity of her community. But because she is not a citizen, she cannot take advantage of the same opportunities her neighbors can. Yet, she is part of the backbone of this country, working an essential job that provides for everyone else's needs, while exposing her to a

higher risk of getting sick.

ELCA's Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has established the Neighbors in Need Fund, an emergency cash assistance fund to help Luciana and the thousands of immigrants in the same situation. When the pandemic upends lives, immigrants and refugees are thrown into sheer desperation. And now, LIRS is there to help. Learn more at lirs.org. Your mission support makes programs like these possible. *Thank you!*

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.



God's Work, Our Hands Sunday—September 13, 2020

As congregations throughout the ELCA participate in this event, this is an opportunity to celebrate that the ELCA is one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. With the COVID pandemic, there is an even greater need to assist the vulnerable in our community. This year our focus for this project will be to collect non-perishable foods to be delivered to the Resurrection Lutheran Church food pantry. **Between now and September 13th, there are several ways to participate:** 1) Place food donations in the "ark" at church, 2) Contact the church office if you would like someone from Faith in Action to pick up the food from your house or 3) Make a monetary donation to Trinity designated for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday and someone from Faith in Action will purchase groceries for you (unless you want the money to go to the food pantry). Thank you in advance for your support of this project!

Pastor Dan's Retirement Plans



This week our church council accepted with regret my letter of resignation. I will retire from active pastoral ministry on **Sunday, August 16, 2020**. So then what?

After I move out of the office and cease to be your called pastor, I will still be a member at Trinity East Amherst. I will more or less be absent for a year or so. I will still be around, leading the Wednesday AM Exegesis group, doing some property stuff, and showing up for congregational meetings, and returning to preside at the Celtic Mass whenever that happens. My intentional absence is to provide the freedom and space for Pr. Wendy Buckley and Meghan Garland to establish their ministry among you.

Pr. Wendy will be the intern supervisor and your interim pastor. Meghan will be your intern. More about that later.

I will not be available for pastoral services unless requested by Pr. Wendy, so do not ask me, ask her.

I have served as a parish pastor for 40 years. I am looking forward to the next phase of my life and ministry which may involve a return to Zimbabwe as a seminary professor for a semester. With the crazy uncertainty that the whole world now experiences, nothing is certain. Everything is in God's hands, which means we all move forward in faith. I trust that the God who has always led and guided us will lead us into new ventures that will serve God's mission, and put our faith to work in marvelous ways.

I am still and always your friend, and brother in Christ:

Pastor Dan Hoffman

Communion for those not gathered in worship

For many years, local congregations made arrangements to bring Holy Communion to shut-ins. These were the elderly, the sick, the homebound and prisoners. Today this has changed drastically. Along with shut-ins we have some who are shut out, some who are geographically distant, some who are at risk, and some who may be quarantined. Regardless of your situation if you would appreciate receiving the elements of Holy Communion so you can more fully participate in the life of the church, PLEASE contact us. We can do a variety of things to meet the specific needs of your situation. We can come for an in-home visit, drop the elements off, send you a kit via mail, share communion through a window. Whatever the restrictions may be, we will find a way to help you share fully in the worship of the church, as a disciple of Jesus Christ. But please call us, contact the church office and get the process started.



Faith In Action

Gerard Place Soup Kitchen: Gerard Place is closed until further notice. Contact Kathy Back for future volunteering.

Hearts for the Homeless: Hearts for the Homeless (the red box in the parking lot) is collecting again now.

TriniKnits Knitting Project: Even though warmer weather is here, we will continue collecting knitted items all though the year. If you have any questions about this ministry, please see Barb Seegar.

Collections: There are containers on the table in the narthex for the following: **Ronald McDonald House** (can tabs), **Appalachian Wildlife Refuge—Wands for Wildlife** (clean used mascara wands), **Stamps for a Living** (postage stamps) and **Dash's Markets** (receipts—we are collecting receipts from 2019 and 2020).

Amazonsmile: If you shop Amazon, consider doing so through Amazon Smile indicating that you are supporting Trinity as the church will receive 0.5% of eligible purchases. 1) Log into smile.amazon.com 2) Enter sign-in info or create an account. 3) At the top of the next screen under the search box, there is a place to select the charity one wishes to support. Type "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church". Select the one that says "East Amherst, NY" 4) Shop online. Contact Kathy Back with any questions.



amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.



Notes from Pastor Dan

FREE BOOKS

AS Pastor Dan plans for retirement he has to combine his office library and his home library and wife Deb has declared "NO new bookshelves!" So lots of great books just have to go, and they are available to any of you for free. Take what you want, share them with friends and family, give some to your local little library. This exercise is about sharing a blessing, so just as pastor dan has been blessed with wonderful library, the blessing is now shared with many others enjoy.

If you have a modicum of Lutheran Guilt and feel the need to offer up a few dollars for the gift received.....please do so and know that ALL the funds will be sent to Zimbabwe, to aid their current needs.

ZIMBABWE

Recent news from our friends in Zimbabwe is not good. The inflation rate is now at 780% per year. More than 50% of the population requires assistance to maintain food security. A recent public protest ended in violence with 17 deaths and others injured. The COVID-19 pandemic has not been hard hitting but the health care system is not up to meeting the need so the anticipated death rate may be rather high. The government recently shut down the electronic payment system that fuels the economy, in an attempt to curtail black-market trading. The crisis is growing rapidly, and the effects are felt by every household in the land. We hold our brothers and sisters in prayer even as we see to make a generous and sacrificial response to help meet their needs.

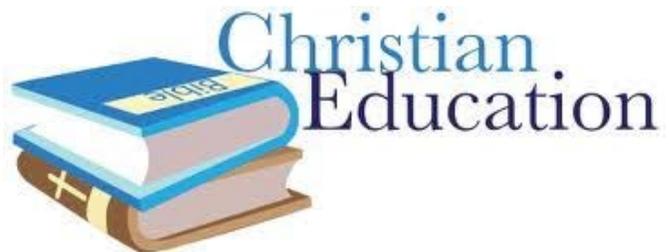
AVAILABLE:

God and the Pandemic is a new work by the well-known British New Testament Scholar N.T. Wright. The small commentary is full of insight and Biblical perspectives on our current crisis. The book is available at a cost of \$10. Pastor Wendy and Vicar Megan will probably use this as an Adult study in the Fall, so stay tuned for details.

Christian Education 2020-2021 Year Plans

A Christian Education meeting was held on Sunday, August 2nd, following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting was to plan for the coming 2020/2021 Sunday School year. Due to Covid19, our usual format will undoubtedly need to be modified and the class schedule will be changed in most cases. Julie Terry will continue to teach our elementary class. Doug Cassidy will be teaching our Confirmation class. Vicar Meghan is developing a new plan for our high school youth. The Sunday Adult Forum will continue with a start date yet to be determined. Pastor Wendy and Vicar Meghan will share leadership of the class. Discussions are lively

and topical, so please plan to join us when we resume. A weekly evening Bible study will continue to meet under the leadership of Pastor Wendy, Vicar Meghan and Mary Wolf. More information and details will be coming soon.



Not Alone For Mighty Empire

A Bible Study on Empire and Empire Criticism written by Pr. Hoffman has been edited (by Mary Wolf) and printed and is now available for distribution. Free copies can be found in the church Narthex, or if you would like to receive a copy let us know and we will deliver in person or by mail.

From Pastor's Desk (continued from page 1)

strangers because discovering the gifts and experiences of my neighbors is what builds up a community that is strong and able to deal with adversity.

We do not know exactly what tomorrow holds, therefore we do not know what we should do to be prepared for that unknown future. What we can do is stay alert, and hone that alertness with a perspective of a new community of hope that is being

built up in anticipation of a new world where we will need the gifts and skills and knowledge of every single person to ensure our safety and security.

As for me, despite the absolute uncertainty that tomorrow holds, I cling to Jesus departing words in Matthew's Gospel: "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the close of the age." He is the one who truly binds us together in a peace that is beyond our

own doing, and that peace is what I long for in the midst of every change, and any chaos.

As I close this final letter to you as your called pastor, I truly bid you God's own peace in the midst of every change, and any chaos, so that you may find yourselves a part of this very form of life-giving community in Christ.

Pastor Dan

WELCA Fall Conference

Women of the ELCA is asking women to please reserve the date for our Fall joint event with Southwestern conference. It is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2020 at St. Paul's in Ellicottville. A flyer with more information will be available soon. The Upstate NY Synod Women of the ELCA has a new treasurer. Here is her contact information: Emily Purtell, 47 Robin Lane, Rensselaer NY 12144 email: epurtell3@gmail.com.



A Few Pictures from Pastor Dan's 40th Anniversary of Ordination



Thank you to everyone who made this celebration so wonderful in such a challenging time to celebrate! More pictures on page 6.

Thank you, Pastor Dan!



From the Desk of Pastor Wendy



August 2020

And so another adventure begins as I join you as your transitional pastor and Vicar Meghan's supervisor. I hope you are as excited as I am to begin.

In the time I have lived in Western New York, the maple tree in my front yard begins to shed its leaves in August. When that happens, I know that it is time to finalize the plans for the church's fall program.

Yet these are unusual times. The pandemic will be with us for longer than we want. Pastor Dan has retired, you have a new intern, you've become a teaching parish, and I will get to spend some very special time with you.

I was able to attend the education committee. Programming includes the adult forum Sunday School and the Wednesday Bible Study. The Sunday School will resume in ways that are COVID safe and appropriate. Other programs will continue as safety allows and the church council directs.

I'm planning to be at Trinity on Mondays and Tuesdays, but you can reach out to me at my home number anytime 632-5048. During these days don't hesitate to speak with me or to a council member about any ideas you might have to enhance Trinity's mission.

Pastor Wendy Buckley

Home of My Own of WNY hosts "Dining for Dollars"

Home of My Own of WNY will be hosting a chicken barbeque fundraiser called "Dining for Dollars". We hope you will join us! There is a flyer on the kiosk and the table outside of the sanctuary which contains information about this fundraiser that we hope you will share with others.

Date: August 30, 2020, **Time:** 12:00 to 5:00 (or until sold out), **Location:** Eastern Hills Mall parking lot. The dinner from Weidner's BBQ includes half of a barbecued chicken, coleslaw, buttered spuds and a freshly baked roll.

Preorders are encouraged as they help us plan and should be picked up by 4:00 p.m. Please order your dinners by August 21 at <https://homeofmyownofwny.org/get-involved/events/>. Alternately you may send a check to:

Home of My Own of WNY, Inc.
18 Monta Vista Court
East Amherst, NY 14051

We will also be hosting a bottle and can drive during this event.
Thank you for your support of *Home of My Own of WNY!*

Ellen Pachioli, Executive Director/Secretary
Home of My Own of WNY, Inc.
(716)570-2589
18 Monta Vista Court, East Amherst, NY 14051





*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
8760 Transit Road
East Amherst, New York 14051*

*Rev. Daniel Hoffman, Pastor
716-688-9245*

trinityontransit11@gmail.com

Saturday 5:00 PM "A New Song"

Sunday 10:30 AM Eucharist, July & August 9:30 AM

www.trinityeastamherst.org

www.facebook.com/TrinityOnTransit/

AND

*www.facebook.com/ELCZ-ELCA-Mission-Bridges-
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Icon of Christ and the Children Honoring TriniKids Preschool Ministry

Pictured at right is the full size version of the icon which was presented to Sharon, Sandra and Carol on August 2nd at the Holy Closure Service. This version will be dedicated for use in our sanctuary on Sunday, August 16th. Below is a description of its meaning.

Jesus is the center and the focus of this icon. All of the children, from largest to smallest, look to Jesus, and so do the mothers! Jesus' right hand is raised in blessing and his left hand holds the girl who raises her hand to him. The boy next to her is encouraging her to come to Jesus, and the infant in the mother's arms reaches out to Jesus. On the left, the boy on his mother's shoulder looks on, waiting his turn. The small boy offers a flower to Jesus – symbol of new life in Christ. In the background are two buildings. On the left is a public building – assembly hall, possibly a church. On the right is a home- a family dwelling. The three trees in the

ZOOM CONNECTION

For Wednesday Exegesis, Wednesday night Bible Study, Sunday morning Worship and any other services, we will be using Zoom at <https://zoom.us/>. You will need to download the app to your computer, phone or device. Then, to join our Zoom meeting simply go to: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4605504086> (code is 460 550 4086). The password for Trinity is: **600776**. If you are using dial-up, find your local number at: <https://us04web.zoom.us/u/fei59xzihG>.



center symbolize life and growth and perhaps the Trinity.

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16