

The Trinitarian



Pastoral Reflections – *Nothing Impossible!*

The last time that Ash Wednesday was on Valentine's Day and Easter fell on April Fools day was in 1945 and it will happen again in 2029 (that means that preachers can use the same sermon - just kidding). It does provide unique perspectives on both of those secular holidays in their connections with the holy.

While we will still celebrate Holy Humor Sunday on the week after Easter (see related article), there is still that sense of the foolishness of the empty tomb following the brutality of the cross.

Mary Magdalene couldn't believe her own eyes when she encounters Jesus. In fact, she mistakes him for the gardener until he says her name. She is so overwhelmed with grief that she cannot see anything else. And why would anyone expect to see Jesus after he had been dead for three days?!

Yet, throughout scripture we see the many ways in which God makes the unexpected to happen and does what we could see as impossible (*"for nothing is impossible for God"* Luke 1:37). From a virgin bearing the Son of God to a man blind from birth being able to see, from the elderly Abraham & Sarah being the progenitors of a nation to a denying Peter being the rock upon whom the Church was built - God uses impossible situations and improbable people to bring life and infinite possibilities.

Do we believe in the impossible being made possible in our own lives and world today? Or

are we constrained by the limitations of life? Do we just think that could only happen in the Bible?

"Why sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast" (Alice in Wonderland)

Faith goes against all reason and logic. It is not based on limitations but on the impossible made possible. God inspires and leads us forth through what seems impossible to what can and will be.

In some ways, this is what drive researchers as they face impossible situations to find solutions and ways through them. If they accepted what was, we never would have treatments for cancer or AIDS, we wouldn't have explored the far corners of the world or universe, we wouldn't have taken any risks in life and love.

Our faith inspires us forward in life to face the impossible and seemingly impassable to follow Christ. Our faith looks forward with hope and expectation to what God can yet do with and through us.

It's not a joke, but we do laugh with joy and hope in the face of the impossible because God in Christ Jesus overcame all that limits our lives and world (sin & death) so that we might have abundant life!

Peace in Christ, *Pastor Jen*

Prayer Mondays

Mondays often have a “bad reputation” with groans of having to go back to work and school. While we pray everyday of the week, we have been placing a special emphasis on praying on Mondays. Each Monday, you are invited to focus on this gift of faith in different ways.

1st Monday: 5:17 is the time that we set our alarms as a reminder to pray for the mission and ministry of Trinity based on that chapter and verse in I Thessalonians. If that time is not good, try one of these as well: John 3:16; I Corinthians 12:12; Philippians 4:4

2nd Monday: *Prayer Vigil* at 7pm in the church sanctuary. Take a short time apart from the noise of the world and enter into contemplative silence and prayer. The laying on of hands for healing for yourself or others is offered as well.

3rd Monday: *Prayer practices* are for daily use and reflection. This month’s suggestion involves coloring. You may use a pre-printed coloring page (there will be resources available in the narthex) or create your own. On a blank sheet, write in large letters on the page (in random positions) different prayer concerns. It can be names of people you know, items from the news or situations around you. Draw shapes around those names, then connect them with color. Go to www.prayingincolor.com for additional information.

4th Monday: The Labyrinth is a gift and tool that is offered for prayer. Our labyrinth will be put out on this day for people to stop by and use anytime during the day (9am-8pm). There are resources available to help guide you on your path. If you are unable to come, we have paper labyrinths for you to use and trace with your fingers or you can many different images online.

5th Monday: *Praying together.* We don’t often have a fifth Monday, but this month we do, so we will be gathering together this evening to learn more about Praying in Color from the 3rd week. We will create our own prayer drawings and pray together. We will meet in the General meeting room at 7pm.

Faith @ Home

The season of Easter continues for 50 days until Pentecost. It was purposely designated for the spring of the year as we begin to see signs of new life. What once looked dead is now springing forth with life.

Each day, watch for these resurrection signs. Share with family and friends each day these signs of life. How many did each of you see each day? Were there ones that surprised you?



3rd Tuesday Table Talk

Each month on this third week, we gather for a meal, fellowship and conversation around different aspects of our lives of faith. We meet at a local restaurant for the meal; this month, it will be on Tuesday, **April 17th at 6:30pm**. We will meet at La Famiglia (944 County Rd 6, Mahopac,) at 6:30pm. Please contact Pastor Jen and/or sign up in the narthex so that reservations may be made.

Holy Humor Sunday

Join us on **Sunday, April 8th** for what has become a yearly tradition as we celebrate the joke that God played on death and the devil as Jesus rose from the dead.

- ☺ Wear a costume, mismatched clothing, hats and more.
- ☺ Bring your favorite joke to share during worship.
- ☺ Come prepared to laugh and smile, filled with the joy and grace of God.

Social Ministry

Date	Activity
April 8th	Lutheran World Relief Fleece Blankets
October	Midnight Run – October 1st
November	Thanksgiving baskets for Putnam CAP
December	Christmas satchels for Seafarer’s International House

Please note that these dates are tentative and subject to change. Any questions can be directed to Joanne Icken (jicken@yahoo.com). If you have **Kohl’s cash** that you are not using, give it to me or bring it to the church office. We can use it to purchase clothing for our yearly activities.

- Joanne Icken

Lutheran World Relief Fleece Blankets

On Sunday, April 8th after the first service we will once again assemble Fleece Blankets for LWR.

Midnight Run

A plastic container, labeled “Social Ministry / Midnight Run” is now located in the Narthex for your donations to our Midnight Run in October. To help 50-60 homeless men and women requires many toiletries and underwear. For some it is easier to donate once but for those on a budget it is easier to buy a little at a time. As you are shopping each week, pick up a couple travel size toiletries such as shaving cream, deodorant, shampoo, and lip balm. When you are in Walmart pick up new men’s underwear sizes M-XL, both briefs and shirts. They have the best price. This will help us make sure we have what is needed come October.

Putnam CAP

Thank you for your continued generosity in filling the shopping cart each month with food and home items for Putnam CAP. Their clients are very grateful for the extra help we give them with your donations.

Thank you for all the Easter basket donations for Putnam CAP! We collected 30 bags of Easter candy for the clients of Putnam CAP. Thank you for your generosity.



April 2018 Property News

Blessing of the Hands

Pastor Jen and Chaplain Jan Fritzinger at Putnam Hospital on March 15th



I ask you all again that your help is needed to keep our closets neat and clean. Please help us by throwing away things that are not being used anymore. If you see things laying around before you leave any room, please ask someone if it is going to be of any use in the near future.

Our building usage is growing all the time. Thanks to **Pat Wills** for all her support to our Church. We are always looking for other organizations or groups to rent our building. Let Pat know if you hear of anyone looking for a place to hold their meetings. Thanks so much for your support.

I have noticed that some groups are not turning off the lights when you leave the rooms. Please help us.... if you see lights on in a room and no one is in it turn off the lights. Your support is greatly appreciated.

If you have the time to help with the mowing this Summer, please let us know. Thanks to all our committee members for their support to our building and grounds. You are the best!

If you notice that something is out of place or needs some repair work done, please let us know. Your eyes will help us keep things up to date!

We are always looking for more committee members. If you are interested please let us know.

Thanks again to **Karl Westerville** for putting little signs on the Fellowship Hall windows. Now we will all know how to lock them. If you have to open them PLEASE be careful.

We have ordered new area rugs for Shepherds Hall. Thanks to **Joanne Icken** and **Pastor Jen** for helping with this endeavor. They should be delivered shortly. YEAH!!!

Thank you all for your continued support to Trinity Lutheran Church!

Ken Mongold
Property Chairman

Trinity Finance

Good News – You haven’t heard from me in a while. Why? We had a great December financially, closing out our checkbook at \$38,781. So I crawled back into to my gnome hole waiting for Spring.

Bad News – I’ve popped back up again. Our checkbook balance is down to \$19,077. What happened? We repaid one of our \$10,000 loans from the Endowment Fund. And here comes the bad news, our contributions are already \$9,704 behind expenses after two months.

Perhaps we have become a little complacent. Contributions are about \$1,000 a week behind expenses

Your Finance Chair,
Don Icken

P.S. The mortgage fund is \$500 a month behind also.

Year to Date Budget Report Thru 2/28/2018

GENERAL CHECKING ACCOUNT	
<u>Category</u>	<u>Actual</u>
INCOME	
Contributions	27,839.31
Other Income	2,685.11
Total Income	30,524.42
EXPENSES	
Benevolence	\$500
Pastoral	\$19,632
Education	\$ -
Evangelism	\$ -
Worship & Music	\$3,343
Administration	\$9,532
Property	\$7,222
Total Expenses	40,228
NET INCOME	(\$9,704)
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCES	
(Includes no loans)	
January 1, 2018 Balance	\$ 17,180
Current Balance	\$ 19,077

MORTGAGE FUND

<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Variance</u>
\$6,222.94	(\$7,132.00)	(\$909.06)

COMMENTS

MORTGAGE FUND

- Contributions are \$909 behind payments.
- Mortgage Fund balance is \$5,009

MONTHLY INCOME

- February income was \$4,944 less than expenses.

YEAR-TO-DATE

- Expenses were \$9,704 more than income.



March Blood Drive Results

Below are the results of the March 6th blood drive at Trinity. Thanks to everyone who braved the weather conditions to make this another successful event.

Special thank you to Pam and Fred Carlson and Georgina Marek for their help during the drive and for all the clean up work after the drive was over.

- Registered Donors: 59
- Collected Whole Blood: 47 units
- Total Donations Collected: 63 units

The next "Churches of Brewster" blood drive is scheduled for May 31st from 2-8 PM at St. Lawrence O'Toole.

-Carol Fendt



**Youth Fundraiser
Clothing Drive
April 14th
10:00 AM – 4 :00 PM**

Clothing Drive

While we still await final approval from the town of Southeast for our clothing shed, we are able to have a clothing drive before it is actually on our property.

The youth attending the National Youth Gathering will be collecting clothing on April 14th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the lower parking lot. Items may also be dropped off during the week preceding the drive and put in Shepherd's Hall down the ramp to the left.

What to Drop-off: Used Clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets, curtains, and stuffed animals.

What Not to Drop-off: Furniture, electronics, household items, books, toys, garbage, pillows, rags, and fabric scraps.

For more information about the company that we are partnering with, go to: <https://www.stpaulytextile.com/>



Youth Houston Fundraiser Update

Thank you to all who came out for our Fiesta de Texas fundraiser - especially after having to re-schedule from Friday to Saturday. We had so much fun sharing a meal with you and dancing the Texas two-step! And through the great generosity of so many, we raised over \$900 that night!

We are well on our way to Houston this summer - thank you so very much!!

TERRACYCLE



Thanks to everyone for your continued support of the Terracycle program at Trinity. Your donations help make our world cleaner and safer for all its inhabitants

Did you know ...

That straws are not recyclable?

500,000,000 single-use plastic drinking straws are used and disposed of every day... in the US alone.

To give you a better idea, those 500 MILLION disposable drinking straws equal the distance from San Diego to Beijing. And if this amount is added up in one year, all of those straws would be able to circle the Earth 92 times!

Plastic straws photodegrade

Just like all plastics, straws will not biodegrade like wood, food scraps, wool, or other organic materials. In fact, it can take these flimsy straws centuries to photodegrade into smaller molecules of plastic, never fully able to break down. Once created, “disposable” straws are never gone.

Many plastic straws contain BPA.

Bisphenol A (BPA) is a chemical building block used to create polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins. Studies are finding exposure to BPA can affect brain and reproduction development in negative ways. This is alarming as wildlife is also being exposed to BPA from single-use plastic debris which ends up on beaches or in the ocean. As animals, particularly marine animals, ingest this plastic, those chemicals could be transferred through the food chain onto our dinner plates.



Straws are in the Top 10 Most Commonly Found Items during beach clean-ups

Plastic drinking straws are up there with cigarette butts, aluminium cans, plastic bottles, plastic bags, among other litter that contaminates waterways, the environment, and in turn, wildlife.

The GOOD news: we can all do something about it. Next time you're out at a bar or restaurant, order your beverage and say “no straw, please” after your drink order.

Trinity WELCA

We welcome you to join us at Trinity's WELCA meetings. In April we will go to our spring schedule of meeting weekly. Some of us will also be attending the Region 7 Retreat in East Hartford the weekend of April 27-29. There is still room if you would like to join us.

We will also be having the Mother's Day jewelry sale on Sunday April 29 and Sunday May 6. If you have any jewelry you would like to donate please see Sharon Laird or Irene Germain.

Schedule:

- **April 5**, 10 AM – Bible Study lead by Deb Lyon and cutting fleece for LWR blankets
- **April 12**, 10 AM – Craft or LWR project
- **April 19**, 10 AM – Craft or LWR project followed by lunch out at 12:30.
- **April 26**, 10 AM – Jewelry sale prep.
- **April 27-29** – Region 7 WELCA Retreat, East Hartford CT.
- **April 29** – Jewelry sale in narthex
- **May 6** – Jewelry sale in Narthex



April 29th & May 6th



Sunday School Update

Happy Spring to all!

The SCS children had another successful Lent event on Palm Sunday with putting together puzzles related to Holy Week, they were about Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. They also made some Easter crafts and enjoyed snacks. Thank you to all who helped make this such a great event.

Our fourth graders had **first communion on Maundy Thursday, they are, Solomon Bettcher, Makayla Grebb, Lorelei Jaklitsch & Mikayla Simon**. Thank you to **Heather Duben** for teaching this class.

The children will continue with classes preparing for the upcoming promotion Sunday in June.

Jeanette Baldanza
SCS Superintendent





WE ARE A WELCOMING SYNOD

March 6, 2018

To the Metropolitan New York Synod Community:

Many, if not most of you, who are reading this are aware of recent developments at the United Lutheran Seminary of the ELCA. Concerns include leadership, transparency, disclosure, and direction for the future. While we are aware that the seminary board has scheduled a time to address these concerns, we are also aware that there are some serious concerns for and among our LGBTQIA+ students and community.

Among the expressed concerns is the recent revelation of seminary President Theresa Latini's past leadership of One by One, an organization that promotes conversion therapy among other dehumanizing initiatives. This controversial therapy has been responsible for lifelong suffering among scores of participants, driving them to depression, anxiety and in some cases, suicide. In recent years, conversion therapy has been opposed and rejected by almost all major medical and public welfare organizations. President Latini now concurs.

The deepest concern relates to the nature of the hiring process undertaken by the seminary's Board that led to the appointment of Dr. Latini, and the subsequent knowledge that this information in Dr. Latini's history was withheld from timely, full, and transparent disclosure. This has resulted in a heart-breaking erosion of trust at the seminary.

As Interim Bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod, I will lend my voice to those who are urging that action be taken by the United Lutheran Seminary Board to rebuild trust with LGBTQIA+ students, faculty, staff members, other seminary constituents, and supporters of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Meanwhile, please be assured that the Metropolitan New York Synod is committed to being a fully inclusive, welcoming Synod which celebrates God's gifts of diversity within our Synod. We are committed to nurturing our church as a safe space for all. As your Interim Bishop, I will be proactive in honoring these commitments to justice and inclusion for all of God's children. Moreover, and very specifically, our LGBTQIA+ students at United Lutheran Seminary who are candidates for public ministry under the care of our Synod's Candidacy Committee can be assured of our advocacy for you during your time of education and formation for ministry.

In closing, I urge your prayers, prayers that may also lead you to advocate for justice and inclusion for all of God's children in ways appropriate to your ministry contexts. Pray for healing, for reconciliation, for God's justice, for all concerned.

Sincerely in Christ,
Interim Bishop Donald McCoid

Celebrations

Happy Birthday

GRILLO, BRYANNA	4/2
GENTILE, ALICIA	4/3
GENTILE, MICHELLE	4/3
LAROCCHIA, CHARLIE	4/3
BAGGETTA, DANIEL	4/5
IOVINO, VIOLET	4/5
KNAPP, NANCY	4/5
BETTCHER, TATIANA	4/7
HALBEKATH JR, ERIC	4/9
HARLIN, KATHERINE	4/9
TUCKER, ISABELLA	4/9
SCIARRA, JONATHAN	4/10
HALBEKATH, JOANNE	4/12
LAROCCHIA, DEBBIE	4/12
CUOMO, CLARISSA	4/13
O'TOOLE, TYLER	4/13
DZIBELA, ARIANA	4/14
CALLAHAN, DIANA	4/15
WILSON, DAVID	4/15
LOFTUS, RYAN	4/16
LAIRD, SHARON	4/20
SORBELLA, SCOTT	4/21
PROCTOR, ELLA	4/23
GERMAIN JR, CHARLIE	4/24
HELVIG, CAROLE	4/25
LUTZ, ANNA RAE	4/25
CHRISTIANO, LORETTA	4/27
TORLISH, WYATT	4/27
COMMISSO, MARY BETH	4/28
DANIEL, JUNE	4/28
MC NAMARA, JENNIFER	4/28
TEMPEL, ROSANNA	4/28
WILLS, PAT	4/28
O'TOOLE JR, GEORGE	4/29

Happy Anniversary

- ♥ ELLEN & BRIAN PARISE, 4/11
- ♥ FRED & PAM CARLSON, 4/11
- ♥ DON & JOANNE ICKEN, 4/16
- ♥ CHRISTOPHER & SANDY SCIARRA, 4/26
- ♥ NANCY & RANDY KNAPP, 4/26
- ♥ JIM & NANCY SORBELLA SR, 4/26

Our Prayers

We pray for those who are ...



IN THE HOSPITAL, ILL, RECUPERATING FROM SURGERY, OR UNDERGOING MEDICAL TREATMENT:

Donna Andren, Anne-Marie, Ava, Beth, Brigitte, Lee, Tony Baggetta, Tamara Bagen, Peter & Helene Basick, Joan Baum, Kitty, Barbara Jean Bennet, Elaine Berg, Joe Bettcher, Nicole Bettcher, Cherish Bliefertich, Bella Bobinski, William Brown, Betty Buckmaster, Chuck, Colleen, Corrie, Helen Conte, Sharon Cooper, Robert Cowen, Linda Cowen, Ben Dalecki, Joanne D, Karen Delduco, Kathren Devine, Dilynn, Ngan Dyer, Heather Evers, Wayne Farber, Tony Ferrajina, Bea Fieldstadt, Christine Gallegher, George Gilleo, Barbara Goos, Eleanor Greene, Barbara Grispin, Eric Halbekath Sr, Kathleen Heuschkel, Thomas Ingate, JoAnn Johnston, Jennifer Johnson, Matthew Kromar, Judy Lutz, Chaleb McCaughey, Raymond Maglio, Gail Maisel, Michael, Kelly Maxwell, Robert Murphy, Hedy McCloskey, Michael Montana, Karen Myerwold, John Noone, Pr. Paul Nordeen, Bob Obuck, Pr Garry Patrylo Jr, Nicholas Rogan, Liam Rogers, Larry Ruhs, Marilyn Schoeller, Sharon, James Sorge, Phyllis Sorge, Joe Stark, Meyer Steinhardt, Curt Stiles, Walter Straub, Rob, Rebecca, Debby Tieste, Teddi Tom, Greg V., Henry & Marie Von Bargaen, Katherine Waldvogel, Alex Wallace, Ruth Werner, Mary Ann Wilk, Jessica Wilkson.

WRESTLING WITH LONG-TERM HEALTH ISSUES:

Morgan Andren, Judy B, Lisa Bagnati, Bill Barki, Gloria Bretone, Jennifer Rebecca Butvinik, Janet Canor, Tony Cardella, Olivia Casale, Erin Conroy, Deena Cox, Nancy Cuomo, Copsy Cuomo, Tom Curran, Glen DiSanto, Gabriel Elliot, Donna Ficara, Jim Fiore, Margaret Fowler, Amanda George, Kira Hansen, Catherine Henneforth, Sue Kaufman, Raymond Kiernan, Janet Kniffin, Ryan Lee, Allen McCaslin, Reneé McElroy, George Miller, Tanya Murgai, Ed Ranieri, Rosaleen, Riley Rushia, Otto Schmid, Linda Siebold, Zack Small, Audrey Stone, Dylan Stolper, Kenneth Strawn, Kathy Sullivan, Jennifer Szczechowiak, Josephine Talley, Michael Tamborino, Kaeli Tretera, Mary Torlish, Gina Venezia, Glenn Wagner, Walt, Stephanie, Donna.

For prayer list changes or additions email :
trinluthernoffice@yahoo.com or call 845-279-5181

FACING LIFE'S CHALLENGES: Kim Andren, the Banuelos/Cable/Lyon family, Wanda & Cliff, Della Arndt, Charlotte Berwind, the Bueti family, Catherine, Donlin family: Marisa Pease, Liam & Noah, Barbara, JD & Katie Ray, Lillian Eberhardt, Rebecca Elliot, Fahy family, Elizabeth Goscinski, Jeannie Graham, Terry Gregori, Joanne Halbekath & family, Larry Hampson, Frank Hastie, Lillian K, Logan Keane, Nicola Kenny, Matt, Bill & Debbie Logan, Anita Luhrs, Mary Jane McMahon, Ryan, Mariela Ramirez & family, Alexander Maxwell, Charles Maxwell Wieller, PJ, Sue Rodriguez, Twila Skeels, Alex Smith, Barbara Sparkes, Katelyn Stufano, Kristen Sullivan, Michael Talarico, Morgan Watt, Jennifer West, Dave, Lisa, Jaimie Zeola, Zaccardo family

RESTRICTED TO HOME/NURSING HOME: Marge Christie, Gerrit Franssen, Lawrence Henry, Rita Karlsson, Marian Langlois, Horatio Massatti, Marge Popham, Sylvia Rieg, Elizabeth Waugh, Scott Werner

SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: Michael Caitney, Carlos & Alyssa (Torlish) Class, Liam Conroy, Dylan Cumpston, Adam Elliott, Phillip Gerhardt, Ron Hansen Jr., Dylan Kinsella, Pr Anthony Stephens, Kyle Tiersch, Adam Vieux, Jessica Woodall, all those in the service of our country, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their chaplains

ATTENDING SEMINARY: Dawn Morello

PARTNERSHIP MINISTRIES: The Northwest Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, the Brewster Soup Kitchen (Brewster 1st Baptist Church) and Brewster Food Pantry (St. Andrew's Episcopal), Brewster Ecumenical Service Partnership (BESP), local small business owners in challenging economic times

SERVANTS OF THE CHURCH: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and the Church-wide staff, Bishop Donald McCoid of the Metropolitan New York Synod and staff, Pastor Jennifer Boyd, Deacons Charles Germain, Jr. and Dorothy Kafalas, Minister of Music Franklyn Commisso, Council members, Sunday School teachers, and worship leaders.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 1 – Easter Sunday

7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Holy Communion

April 8

8:30 AM Holy Communion & SCS

10:45 AM Holy Communion

April 15

8:30 AM Holy Communion & SCS

10:45 AM Holy Communion

April 22

8:30 AM Holy Communion & SCS

10:45 AM Holy Communion

April 29

8:30 AM Holy Communion & SCS

10:45 AM Holy Communion

Trinity Lutheran Church

Mission Statement: As a people of God, we desire to experience the presence of God in our lives that we might be the presence of God in the lives of others.

Location

2103 Route 6
Brewster, NY 10509
Phone: 845-279-5181

Website: trinitybrewsterny.org

Pastor Jen's email

revjedyer1@yahoo.com

Office

[trinlutheranoffice @yahoo.com](mailto:trinlutheranoffice@yahoo.com)

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