



TRINITY TRIANGLE

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, LATROBE, PA
GROWING IN FAITH • REACHING OUT IN LOVE • MAKING DISCIPLES

VOL LXXVI

NUMBER: 4

MONTH: APRIL 2024

Pastors Corner

Every year at the Easter Vigil, we begin our service in darkness. A "new fire" is struck in the back of the sanctuary (this part alone excites the youngest of those who are gathered for worship!). And from that new fire, we light our new Paschal Candle. This candle stands roughly three feet tall, with elaborate wax decorations, handcrafted and carefully marked with the year and symbols of Jesus. This candle symbolizes for us the presence (and promise) of the Risen Christ in our midst.

But the part that is most magnificent about this candle is that it is lit for Easter as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord... and not again until we celebrate baptisms and funerals as a congregation. This candle is typically located beside the baptismal font, but is moved for funerals to stand beside the body of the deceased... a reminder of our full life in Christ not only here but for eternity!

As we celebrate Easter, we light this candle in worship for seven whole weeks. As we bear witness to baptisms and funerals throughout the year we see its tremendous height shrink over time. This is, perhaps, most notable when it burns low enough for me to light the baptismal candle myself and not require assistance to reach the flame over my head!

We here at Trinity are richly blessed with opportunities to light this candle, as we make promises for those who are baptized in our midst and as we grieve and celebrate the lives of the saints who depart our company for the Church Triumphant. I hope you'll notice when we light this special candle, and that you'll notice as it grows ever smaller across the span of the year ahead.
Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed.

Let us continue in our witness to his holy work in our midst!

Peace,

Pastor Jess

Do You Use a QCD for your RMD?

Would you like to reduce your taxes?

If you have a Traditional or Rollover IRA and are at least 70½ you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (a "QCD") to Trinity or other qualifying charities and not pay Federal Income Tax on the withdrawal. If you are at least 73, this withdrawal counts toward satisfying your Required Minimum Distribution ("RMD"). There are limits, but they will not impact most people.

Changes to the tax code in 2018 significantly increased Standard Deductions, allowing fewer people to take advantage of Itemized Deductions on their Federal taxes. If you have to take RMDs, using QCDs for your charitable giving allows you to receive a tax benefit from your charitable giving.

The QCD must be made directly from your IRA to the charity. If you manage your own investments, many mutual fund companies make this process very easy, just contact them for information. If you use a financial advisor, they should be able to help you. If you need additional information, contact the church office, and we can put you in touch with the ELCA's Regional Gift Planner.

Even if you currently itemize your deductions, using a QCD might be a better choice depending on your individual tax situation. Depending on your income level, using QCDs can also potentially help you reduce taxes on your Social Security and reduce or avoid Medicare premium penalties. Therefore, you might be able to save on taxes three different ways by using QCDs!

ANOTHER LOCK-IN! WHOO-HOO!

All High School and Middle School youth are invited to join us **Saturday, April 13th** for an overnight lock-in at Trinity! We'll gather **Saturday at 8:00pm** and then stay for the **8:15am worship service on April 14th**. **Pick up time is after Sunday School at 10:30am!** Invite a friend, bring a snack to share, and plan on a fun time! Sign-up via the Trinity App or online. If you have not completed a permission slip for the 2023-2024 school year, you will need to do so. They are available on the "Youth Bulletin Board" (across the hall from the Café entrance).

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your Calendar for **Friday, July 19th, 2024!**



A one-day bus trip to see "Ruth", which is an original Sight & Sound production, at the Ohio Star Theater is planned. Other attractions of the day include a stop to see the world's largest cuckoo clock, shopping excursions, and a family-style dinner at the Dutch Valley Restaurant. **Departure is 7:30am and return is 9:30pm. Cost is \$125 per person. You can pay in full or make a \$25 deposit to hold your spot (deadline for deposit is May 12th and the final payment is due by June 2nd).** There are full information flyers available on the bulletin board across from the Lounge. Be sure to check it out.



ELCA World Hunger

Offerings collected each week go a long way to bring hope to many in need. Thank you!
ELCA World Hunger Offerings YTD: \$3,324.84

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

*(located in the front narthex or drop off in the office). In April we will be collecting **Toothbrush/toothpaste** for the Greater Latrobe Food Pantry.*



Deaths

Benjamin C. Roble 2/21/2024
 Christine Frye 3/14/2024



Baptism

Sloane Makenzie Gilbert 3-30-2024
 Eliza Ginger Giovannagelo 3-30-2024

Treasurer's Report for February 2024

Current Month

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	45,696.95	44,953.00	743.95
Total Expenses	52,789.55	54,225.00	(1,435.45)
Cash Flow	(7,092.60)	(9,272.00)	2,179.40
		<u>Year to Date</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	93,039.66	89,936.00	3,103.66
Total Expenses	102,464.05	110,408.00	(7,943.95)
Cash Flow	(9,424.39)	(20,472.00)	11,047.61

Thanks to everyone for their continued financial support. This month we were especially blessed with a large gift. This gift allowed us to meet the budgeted income without using endowment money. Expense were lower than planned. Although we have a deficit, the cash flow for the month was \$2,179.40 better than planned.

Social Chit Chat

Have you ever wondered what Faith In Action is all about. Well, come join us on April 8th at 10am—noon and meet Amy from Faith In Action. She will be giving us an insight of what they can do for our community. Enjoy the program while sipping on a cup of Tea or Coffee and some cookies. Hope to see you then!

Updates from the March 19, 2024 Council Meeting

- The Council heard a proposal from the Varner Financial Group for Trinity's Endowment Funds using Dimensional Funds to align with our recently updated Investment Policy. The Council recommended that the Finance Committee get proposals from two or three other investment groups before making any decisions.
- Ministry Report
 - Pastors' Reports:
 - Pastor Jason stated that 56 people came through drive through communion during February. This large increase was because of Lenten Services.
 - Good feedback was shared from the Annual Ministry Meeting.
 - We are moving from the year of observation to the year of "asking WHY".
 - Reminder to let the office know if someone is in the hospital.
- Council members were updated on the work of: the pending stock sale, the roof repair, Pastor Opalinski's 50th Anniversary of Ordination which we will celebrate with him later this summer, Trinity received two Synod grants- \$1500 for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren group, and \$2500 to start a new Breakfast Program ministry.
- Council members approved:
 - Motion from Pastor Jason to accept Edgar and Susan Lininger, Woneida and Nathan Naggy, and Heather Deemer into voting Membership at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Holy Communion Class

We had seventeen children involved in our Holy Communion class in March where kids heard the story of the Last Supper, created a keepsake banner, and baked bread together. This class has previously been called "First Holy Communion Instruction," but is transforming to invite all children in kindergarten through sixth grade to participate. We understand the sacrament of Holy Communion to be a means of grace, a gift freely given by Jesus to all who believe and are baptized. Because there is no way to learn everything about this gift all at once, it is our intention to offer our Holy Communion Class every year with a rotating curriculum. Families are invited to discern (in conversation with the pastors) when their child is ready to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion and all children, whether they communed already or not yet, are invited to participate in this annual program!

Trinity Gardening

'Trinity Beautiful' has been truly happening in our landscaping this past year. The Reiner Garten is continually being updated and more names were added to the Trinity Veterans Honor Roll. The Pandemic Memorial Garden is being cared for.

We thank those who have helped in the past year and look forward to having some new people volunteer this year.

Ways you can help –

Spring Clean-Up Day will be March 12 @ 10 AM weather permitting. Fun Day and food will be provided. Shopping for summer flowers in early May for those who like to shop ☺ or by donating to Trinity gardening to help cover the costs. We support Derry High School Agriculture Dept. as much as possible.

Planting Summer flowers – this is done one day in the spring, usually mid to late May.

Watering – summer flowers are watered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays all summer. You can pick the day (or evening) that suits you. You can do that day all summer or for the length of time that suits you (fun family project). Instructions will be given.

Weeding and deadheading spent flowers – These are as needed ways to help.

Please contact Karen Mowry at karenmowry@hotmail.com or 724-516-8219 for more information or to answer questions or call the church office @ 724-537-4450. There are signup sheets on the bulletin board in the office hallway, if you are interested in helping or getting more information.



Garden Flower Memorial Gift

We invite you to make a memorial contribution toward the purchase of flowers and plants for the Reiner Garten and courtyard beds.

Name _____

Amount _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Please return this form to the church office with your donation.

Thank you

Blessing of the Purls of Prayer

Look at the wonderful display some the ladies from Purls of Prayer did for the weekend of "Blessing of the Purls of Prayer" (March 2nd & 3rd). The ladies created beautiful shawls, walker caddies, crosses and lap throws to give away to anyone that would like one. We have a great group of woman knitting/ crocheting their fingers to the bones every week.



Outreach

Thank you. The **Outreach Committee** thanks the congregation for their generous donations for the Valentine's Day Party for the residents of Loyalhanna Care Center. Donations received were in excess of \$1100.00. Part of the money was used to provide gifts and cake for 73 residents for the party. The rest will be used throughout the year to do special things for the residents. Trinity is a generous congregation and is truly a blessing to the community.
Thank you again.

Holy Communion Class of 2024



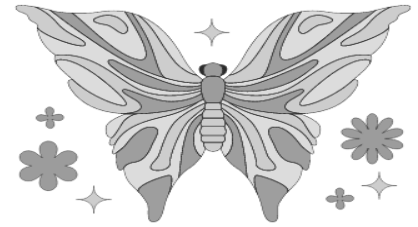
Easter Egg Hunt



Eli Clever worked with Pastor Jess and his dad, Matt Clever, to earn his "Jesus & Me" award, which was presented to him in worship on Sunday, February 25. Eli learned about the ways Jesus teaches us through story and made his own scroll of stories from scripture.



April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:00 Mason Dinner	2 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 11:00 Pericope 6:00 Executive	3 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg NO Line Dancing	4 1:00 Purls of Prayer 4:00 Club FRED 6:00-8:00 Young Marines 6:00 BPW 7:30 AA Mtg	5 12:00 AA Mtg	6 9:00 Sisters in Christ Bible Study 12:00 Fellowship 5:30 Spoken Communion
7 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 SCS 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Car Hop Meeting	8 10:00 Social Chit Chat	9 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 11:00 Pericope 6:00 Finance 7:00 Handbells	10 Council Deadline 9:00 WELCA Quilters 11:00 NCR 12:00 AA Mtg 5:30 Outreach NO Line Dancing 7:15 Choir	11 1:00 Purls of Prayer 4:00 Club FRED 6:00-8:00 Young Marines 7:30 AA Mtg	12 12:00 AA Mtg	13 5:30 Spoken Communion 8:00pm Lock-in
14 Lock-in cont. 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 SCS 10:45 CYFM/ CE 10:45 Holy Communion 12:15 Drive Thru Communion	15 2:00 Loyalhanna Church Svc	16 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 11:00 Pericope 6:30 Council 7:00 Handbells	17 Triangle Deadline 8:30 Special Gifts 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg NO Line Dancing 7:15 Choir	18 11:30 Stewardship 1:00 Purls of Prayer 4:00 Club FRED 6:00-8:00 Young Marines 7:30 AA Mtg	19 12:00 AA Mtg 1:30 Esther Circle	20 5:30 Spoken Communion
21 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 SCS 10:45 Holy Communion	22	23 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 11:00 Pericope 7:00 Handbells	24 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg 2:00 Grief Group NO Line Dancing 7:15 Choir	25 1:00 Purls of Prayer 4:00 Club FRED 6:00-8:00 Young Marines 7:30 AA Mtg	26 Mail Triangle 12:00 AA Mtg	27 9:00 Sisters in Christ Bible Study 5:30 Spoken Communion
28 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 SCS 10:45 Holy Communion 12:15 Drive Thru Communion	29	30 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 11:00 Pericope 7:00 Handbells				

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START YOUR ENGINES!

Yes, indeed! The **Car Hop Committee** is revving up for the annual Car Hop set for **Sunday, June 2nd**. This is an event we all look forward to for the good food, great music, community-wide fellowship, and cars, cars, cars. If you would like to be part of the committee and help out, their second meeting is on **Sunday, April 7 at 12:00pm in the Lounge**.

Still Seeking Adult Sunday School Office Help

Do you have **1 hour on Sunday** morning during the Sunday School hour (9:30-10:30) to take attendance and count offering in the **Sunday School Office**? **2-3 adults are needed** and training is available.



Annual Mother's Day Dinner

Saturday, May 4, 2024
Fellowship Hall

3:00pm – 5:15pm

Choice: Stuffed Shells,
Spaghetti w/Meatball, or
Fettuccine w/Alfredo Sauce.

**Tickets are available April
7th – 21st in the church**

**office Monday—Friday or after the 8:15 and
10:45 services. Tickets are \$10 per person
over 10, Ages 6-10 \$5 and under 5 are free!**



The Breakfast Program- A New Ministry!!

Because of the food insecurity crisis being experienced by many of our Latrobe families, Trinity applied for and was awarded a Synod grant of \$2500.00 to start a Breakfast Program here at our church. The program will provide breakfast and fellowship one day a week (Wednesdays) beginning the week of June 2, 2024 and running through the week of August 19, 2024. The program is open to children, families, and adults. The hope is to have it outside in good weather and in Fellowship Hall in case of inclement weather. We are looking for four cooking groups and four Fellowship groups. The plan is to have enough help that each group would only be "on duty" once a month through the summer. If this new ministry sounds interesting and appealing to you, please contact the church office. A planning meeting is being scheduled!