

TRINITY TIDINGS

132 E. Main St. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

717-766-2662

trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com



February 2024



TRINITY
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ON MAIN
"Sharing God's Love"TM

Stretching Toward Joy

I wasn't always Lutheran. I was raised in the church, but God brought me to the Lutheran expression of Christian faith later in life, at a time I desperately needed it. It felt like coming home. Lutheranism allowed me the freedom to embrace the paradoxes of faith – the parts that seem so sure, and the parts that baffle me. I discovered the power God's grace holding me in-between the now and what is coming, and through it all, the joy of knowing that I am held firmly in God's heart, even and especially in the painful times.

In her new book, "The Lives I Actually Have," Kate Bowler is giving me words to my pursuit of God's joy in all the in-betweens places of faith. May her words from "for stretching your heart"¹ encourage you too.

Let today be a divine exercise of *yes . . . and*.

Yes, I have so much to be thankful for,
and this hasn't turned out like I thought it would.
Yes, I feel moments of joy,
and I have lost more than I could live without.
Yes, I want to make the most of today,
and my body keeps breaking.
Yes, I am hopeful, *and* this is daunting.
Yes, I am trying to be brave, *and* I feel so afraid.



So, bless me, trying to live in-between those two words:
yes . . . and.

May I understand this is where the real work of life is found.
Where it takes courage to live.
Where grief can strip me to the studs
and love can remake me once again.
Where my heart can be both broken and keep on beating.
Never sorry to have broken at all.

Yes . . . and

Make me capable of great joy,
Great love,
Great risk,
Even fear,
As you expand my heart
with this *yes . . . and* today

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¹Bowler, Kate. "for stretching your heart." The Lives we Actually Have. Kate, Bowler. Random

Music Notes



Lament as "Spiritual 'Discipline'"?

la • ment

/la-'ment/

verb

1. to feel or express sorrow or regret for
2. to mourn for or over

noun

1. a passionate expression of grief or sorrow
2. an expression of regret or disappointment; a complaint

In all of our church hymnals are subsections that appear at the top edge of each hymn page, identifying themes that the verses relate to (for example, categories like: Grace; Holy Baptism; Hope and Assurance; Praise; Witness; Worship, etc.).

The ELCA's hymnal *All Creation Sings* (ACS, 2020) includes - for the first time - hymns in a subsection titled "Lament." Why, *WHY* would we sing in worship of grief, disappointment and our questions to God about suffering and injustice in the world?

Lament enables us to name our sorrow rather than simply pushing it aside because it's challenging or uncomfortable. Coming before God in humility to admit that we cannot always bear the "stuff" of life and leaning on the knowledge that our God can turn letdowns and struggles "into holy joy and renewed hope" (*Sundays and Seasons*, p. 97) can be an expression of deep faith.

The Bible is filled with examples of God's people who struggled - at times argued! - with God about their personal circumstances, the plight of their nations or the seemingly dismal prospects for their futures. Even Jesus, whose obedient steps we retrace and follow in the upcoming season of Lent, voiced his laments and placed them in God's care. May we always be invited and uplifted to do likewise.

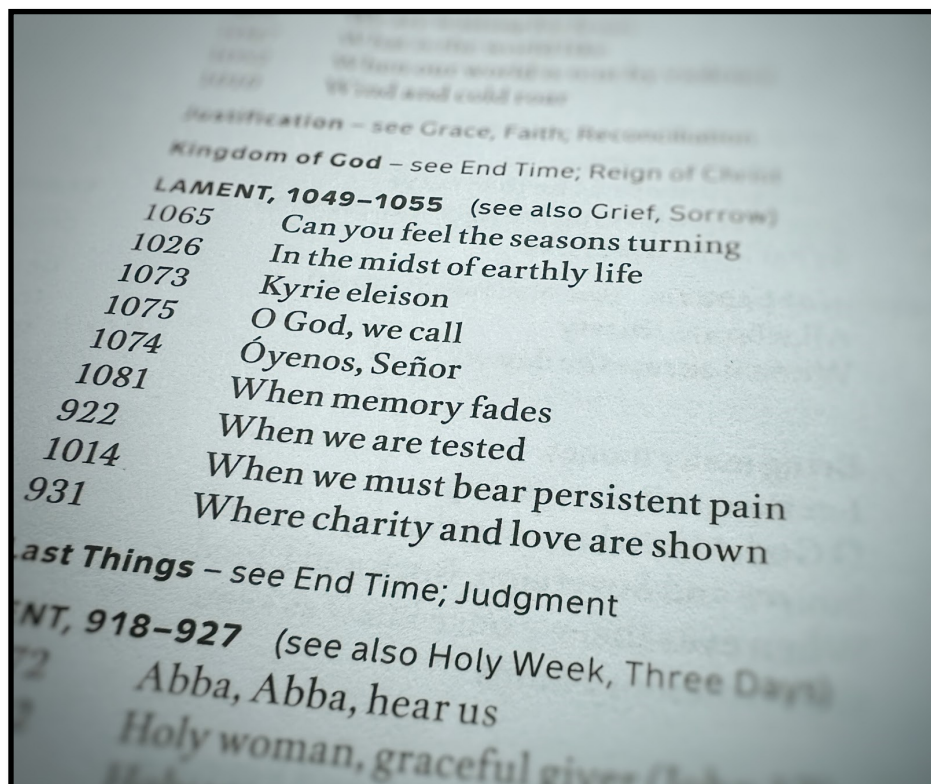
*Let my spirit always sing,
though my heart be wintering,
though the season of despair
give no sign that you are there,
God to whom my days belong,
let there always be a song.*
(ACS #1020, text by Shirley Erena Murray)

*...I will turn their mourning into gladness;
I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.*
~ Jeremiah 31:13

Thanks for Festive, Faithful Musicians!

Heartfelt thanks to **ALL** our Trinity musicians - bell ringers, choir singers, and instrumentalists - who offered their talents, time and love of music in worship services throughout the fall and Advent and Christmas seasons.

Rehearsals begin again on Wednesday, February 7.
Contact Deb Hartman (bells) or Melissa Jacoby (choir) for details.



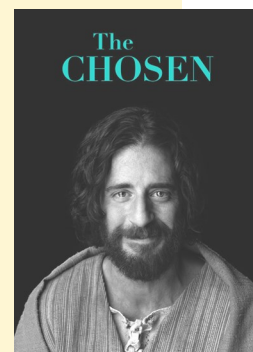
Christian Education Opportunities



Snax n Study:

We are already into Season 3 of The Chosen. Join us Sunday mornings at 8:45 for food and fellowship. The video and discussion begin promptly at 9.

"Come to me, you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." Season Three begins where Season Two left off --with Jesus delivering his most famous sermon – the Sermon on the Mount. What happens when believers in Jesus try to live out Jesus' teachings? What happens when we do the same? How do Jesus' enemies respond? Follow the confusion, chaos, and doubt. There are tough questions for them and for us, but, there is rest for all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.



Pastor Karen and David Durbin will be team teaching this spring, except for a few Sundays in April when they will be away. But, you can always sign up to bring food!

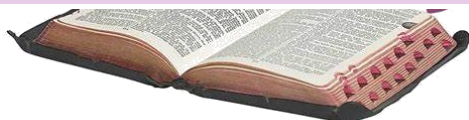
Bible Study 2024 returns Feb. 1 @ 6:30 pm until Feb 15

We will be working through the gospel readings in Mark appointed for the upcoming Sundays, with a few additional readings offered for more consideration. If you have not already done it, take some time to read through the gospel in one sitting to get a good overview. Here is the Bible Study schedule:

Feb 1 – Mark 1:29-39

Feb 8 – no Bible Study. Church Council is meeting)

Feb 15 – Lent 1 - Mark 1:9-15



MEMBERSHIP, BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION

Are you interested in Membership, Baptism, or Confirmation at Trinity Church? Pastor Karen is currently scheduling dates. Please contact her for information by email at pastorkjd@gmail.com or through the church office at 717-766-2662.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join our men on the 4th Thursday morning of each month at 8 am, at [C.C's Kitchen](#), 710 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg, PA. David Durbin usually leads each month with some words of inspiration from scripture followed by lively discussion. All men are welcome!



SYNOD NEWS

The Lower Susquehanna Synod has an on-line newsletter that provides information about what is going on around the SYNOD! Just go to the LSS website: <http://www.lss-elca.org/>

Lenten Worship at Trinity on Main - The Seed of Joy



During Lent, we will be considering what it is like to find Joy during the more somber season of Lent.

Typically, Lent begins with an ashen cross traced on our foreheads – a sign of mortality and sin. We intentionally put our alleluias aside until Easter. We consider what we might “give up” during this season to keep us more aware of God’s presence. We assume that joy just doesn’t fit into this season. The authors of Barn Geese Worship urge us to watch for joy, to “put aside surface assumptions “ and to notice how something beautiful emerges. Something richer and more nuanced than sheer happiness. A joyful Lent is not an oxymoron. As it turns out, joy is right at home during a minor-key season like Lent – and if joy is there, perhaps there are other seasons of life that joy calls home, too. Joy is a beacon that points us toward God’s unfailing presence, even in the heart of fear and pain.”

Join us as we consider “how joy is planted, tended, nurtured, and nourished by God and God’s people”. With the help of Barn Geese Worship resources, we will include fresh liturgies and prayers to engage our imaginations and help us grow in faith. (Quotations are used by permission of Barn Geese Worship © 2023. Adapted by Pastor Durbin)

- Midweek Lenten Worship will continue the weekly themes.
- A Lenten At-home Devotional is available free of charge. Contact the office or Pastor Karen for a copy.

The Seed of Joy for Children

Each Sunday in Lent will include a special “Seed of Joy” time for children. On week one, Feb 18, we will plant seeds in containers to place in the sanctuary so we can watch them grow. Each week we will also include a particular tangible way to help us think about joy.

Families will also be given a take-home handout to keep the ideas rolling!

Lenten Weekly themes and schedule

Ash Wednesday, February 14 –

“Set the Stage for Joy”

February 18, Lent 1 – “Persistent Joy”

February 25, Lent 2 – “Expectant Joy”

March 3, Lent 3 – “Liberating Joy”

March 10, Lent 4 – “Transformative Joy”

March 17, Lent 5 – “Vocational Joy”

Palm Passion Sunday, March 24 –

“Joy everywhere and Nowhere”

8 am Worship begins inside.

10:15 Worship processional begins outside.

Maundy Thursday Meal & Worship –

March 28, 6:30 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae – March 29, 7:30 pm

Resurrection Sunday – March 31,

“Glorious Joy”

6:30 am – Sunrise Worship begins outside with lighting the flame of the resurrection and a procession into the sanctuary

10:15 am – Festival Worship begins inside

Ash Wednesday, February 14, “Set the Stage for Joy.”

Consider expressing your love and devotion to Jesus on the stereotypical Valentine’s Day with a time of Worship at 7 pm, in the sanctuary, with Holy Communion, music, confession, and the Imposition of Ashes at 7 pm.

Ashes to Go is an option you may want to choose. Come at 7 am or 12 noon. Drive or walk through our parking lot for a brief liturgy, prayer, and to have an ashen cross placed on your forehead.



Lenten Worship at Trinity on Main - The Seed of Joy, cont'd

Soup Suppers & Mid-week Lenten Worship Feb 21 – March 20

Lenten Soup Suppers and Mid-week Worship will be held
Feb 21 – March 20

Here is the schedule for each week:
5:45 pm – soup begins to be available
6:15 pm– handbell rehearsal
7 pm - Lenten Worship
7:30 pm - choir rehearsal

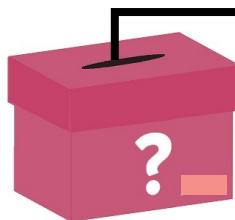
Are you able to provide soup, bread, or dessert for any of these Wednesdays? Sign up on the bulletin board inside the west entrance. Various ministries will sponsor each week, but you are welcome to sign up on the week(s) of your choice.



Why Do They Do That?

Why do they do that?

A new feature of our monthly newsletter is "Why do they do that?" People like you may often wonder about our liturgy, the symbols in our sanctuary, or other random things about Trinity Ev Lutheran Church. This feature will attempt to answer some of your pressing questions.



This week's question: What are those wooden shields on the walls in the sanctuary?

On Sunday, December 7, 1969, a set of "Twelve Apostles' Shields" were dedicated. They were given in memory of Mrs. Lester W. Erb by her husband and family. Leslie Hocker remembers when studying these shields was a part of the confirmation process at Trinity.

The shields are hand painted and polychromed on red backgrounds. They are approximately 10 x 12 inches, and are hung on the walls of the sanctuary. The Gospel shields are on the pulpit side. The Epistle shields are on the lectern side, and the lesser Apostles are on the back wall.

Can you identify the 12 apostles?
Who is on the Gospel side front to back?
Who is on the Epistle side front to back?
Who is on the back wall?

Give Pastor Karen your answers to win!
Let pastor know if you would like to know more about each of these shields and she will do another feature in the March issue of Tidings!
Extra credit if you can sing the song!

"There were 12 disciples Jesus called to help him..."

Community Outreach

Blessing Box Needs:

Cereal
Peanut Butter
Canned Meats – Chicken/Tuna
Canned Pasta
Canned Potatoes
Canned Fruit
Kidney and Baked Beans
Macaroni & Cheese
Personal Care items
Toilet paper
Tissues



Donations can be dropped off Sunday morning, or during church office hours. Thank you!



Helping Others

Trinity's Clothing Closet:

Trinity's Closing Closet is growing. From September 2020 to December 2023, the Clothing Closet has distributed 7,684 items and served 1,019 neighbors. Many of these neighbors are repeat visitors, but we usually meet someone new almost every month.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who help with their time, prayers and caring. A very special thank you to everyone who can donate used clean adult clothing. Personally, I love this ministry and find it rewarding.

The Clothing Closet is open the second Saturday of every month, except January. The hours are 9am-11am. Please feel free to stop by any Saturday and experience the Clothing Closet.

Recap since inception:

2020: Sep.-Dec.; Visitors: 104; Items Given: 571
2021: Feb.-Dec.; Visitors: 227; Items Given: 1,858
2022: Feb.-Dec.; Visitors: 301; Items Given: 2,324
2023: Feb.-Dec.; Visitors: 387; Items Given: 2,931

Heather Zielonis

Church Council Highlights:

- Gutters on the church building will be replaced in December 2023.
- In the event that inclement weather will affect church services or activities, notifications and announcements will be made via the following: calls by the phone chain, updates to Facebook, email messages, and an updated message on the church answering machine. Please make sure the church office has your up-to-date phone number(s) and email address(es).
- The January 2024 semi-annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024, immediately following the 10:15 am worship service.



FREE



Adult Clothing

Saturday, Feb. 10

9-11am



Trinity's Closet on Main
132 E. Main St.
Mechanicsburg, PA

Birthdays, Etc.



2/3 Emily Hartman
 2/5 Olivia Moats
 2/6 Geraldine Miller
 2/7 Ashley Strine
 2/12 Karen Schmick
 2/14 Cory Reisinger
 2/16 Bonnie Williamson
 2/17 Patsy Shaw
 2/19 Kristi Jo Peterson Caton
 2/26 Edward Metka, Jr.
 2/27 Cynthia Alleman

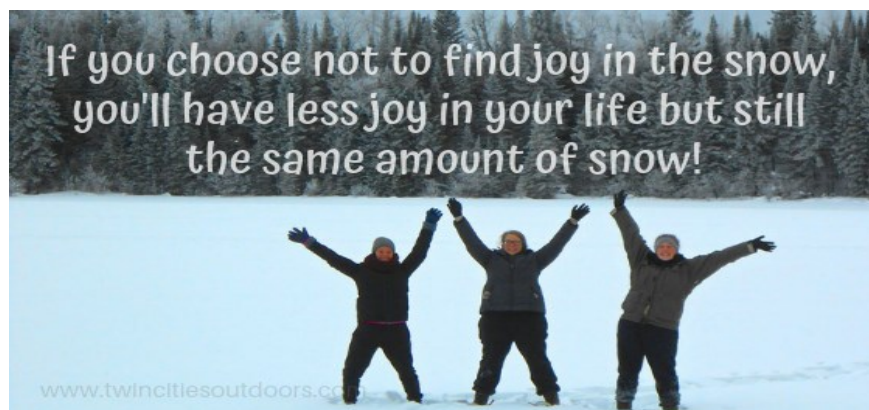
Is your birthday missing? Please let us know so we can update our database!

People of Trinity,

Thank you for all that you have done to support my seminary experience and my journey to becoming a pastor. Be strong, be faithful and be of good courage.

Thank you for the Almy gift certificate and blanket that you gave me back in November.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Vanessa



TIDINGS DEADLINE:

JUST A REMINDER that the deadline for newsletter items is the 10th of each month for the following month's issue.

PLEASE NOTE: The next issue of Tidings will be sent out at the end of February, for March. Deadline for submitting articles is February 10.

Thank you!

Office Contact Info

Church & Staff Office Hours
Mon. – Thurs. 9 AM – 2 PM
(other hours as needed)

Phone: 717-766-2662

trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/TLCMech

<https://trinity-on-main.org/>

Pastor Contact Info

Pastor Karen Durbin

Email: pastorkjd@gmail.com

Minister of Music Contact Info

Melissa Jacoby

Email: trinitymburgmusic@gmail.com

Parish Administrator Contact Info

Debbie Schue

Email: trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com

Christmas Blessings Express!

What a blessing! Thanks to your support, the families we serve at New Hope received Christmas gifts for under their trees and food for a Christmas meal. God Bless You!

- New Hope Ministries



History Corner

Trinity Church Historical Photo:

Thank you to a local Facebook friend for posting the picture below from the Mechanicsburg Museum Association.

His post reads as follows:

From the MECH. ASSOC... looks like they're ready to unload the Bell for the Lutheran Church steeple. Note the size of the horses. The working men on the cart are probably the Carter's, who make their living moving different items around town, including items to and from the museum freight station. The man by the front appears to be wearing a Cumberland Valley railroad uniform. The well dressed men are probably from the church. They appeared to be on the grass between the church and the home next-door, with Main Street behind them. (132 East Main St. Mechanicsburg.) The house is no longer there.



Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Christmas Blessing Express for New Hope. 100 pounds of toys, clothing and other items were delivered to New Hope in early December. Thank you for your generosity, Trinity Church family!!



For fun, these Trinity choir friends went Christmas caroling to our Locust St. neighbors on Wed., Dec. 20. Pictured here from right to left: Verlyn Hays; Billye Hays; Cathy Lamason; David Strausser; Deb Warner; Koen Thomas; Deb Hartman; Deb George; Melissa Jacoby

Mechanicsburg Area Churches invite you to...



COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, February 18th at 5:00pm

Dinner and live music - free of charge!



Join us at
BUHRIG'S GATHERING PLACE
25 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:30 am Staff Mtg 6:30 pm Bible Study	2	3
4 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 9 am Confirmation 10:15 am Worship	5	6 6:30 pm Worship & Ministry Meeting	7 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	8 7 pm Church Council	9 4 pm Set up for Trinity's Closet on Main	10 9-11 am Clothing Closet
11 Deadline for Super Bowl Challenge 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship 11:30 Tailgate Lunch and Burning of Palms	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday 7 am Ashes to Go 12 pm Ashes to Go 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	15 6:30 pm Bible Study	16	17
18 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 9:00 am Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship with Music 5:30 pm Community Meal	19	20	21 5:45 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Lenten Worship 7:30 Choir	22 8 am Men's Breakfast	23	24
25 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 9 am Confirmation 10:15 am Worship with Music	26	27	28 5:45 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Lenten Worship 7:30 Choir	29		