

Happy  
New  
Year

## January Beacon

*Hello Trinity Family,*

Happy New Year...and until January 6<sup>th</sup>, we can still say Merry Christmas!

In the second week of January, we celebrate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. At the end of this month, we will celebrate the first communion of several of our young disciples. Which brings us to our topic for “why we do things the way we do in church?”: sacraments.

Much like we’ll be sharing with our youth first communicants in their first communion class on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, and is a review for the rest of us, here’s the lowdown on sacraments...

In the Lutheran church, we have two sacraments: Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. Did you know that both of these sacraments have a lot in common? First, Baptism and Communion are gifts of God’s grace. They both are signs of God’s unconditional love for us, and a promise that we will always have that love with God.

Second, Baptism and Communion are events and moments in our faith journey

together that are commanded by Christ for us to observe. Baptism is commanded by Christ in Matthew 28:19-20; and we hear about Holy Communion in Luke 22:14-20, and from Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

And third, Baptism and Communion have a physical element attached. Both take common, tangible elements from our daily lives (or the lives of people at the time of Jesus) and give us a way to experience Christ in ways we can touch and feel. Baptism is linked with water, and Communion with wine and bread.

Sacraments, in addition to sharing the Word from the Bible in reading and preaching, and prayer together, are the essential parts of our worship together. (But what about singing and all the other stuff? That, friends, is a future Beacon topic!)

I hope you'll be here on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> as together we celebrate the first communion of our young disciples! It's a wonderful way to show our support for their continued faith formation.

**By the way:** January 29<sup>th</sup> is also the day of our Annual Congregational Meeting. We return to our tradition of having a potluck meal together following worship, we'll hear about our past year together through word and pictures, and we'll set plans for the life of Trinity in 2023. This will technically be my first potluck meal with you outside of Easter brunch (no thanks to the pandemic), so I am excited to see what you bring to the table!

Blessings,

Pastor Rick



## LIVESTREAMING AVAILABLE

Not able to make it to worship service in person? Don't forget to join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on our livestream. To access it, go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), type in 'Trinity Akron' in the search bar, and you should find our page. Then click on the day's worship to watch from home.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram if you haven't already! On Facebook we are: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Newstead. On Instagram we are [trinityakronny](https://www.instagram.com/trinityakronny).

**Next council meeting: January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00**

**Council & Committee Retreat: Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>  
8:30am-noon (pot-luck breakfast to kick things off!)**

**Counters:** January: Donna, February: Jennifer

## **Please Pray For...**

**The friends and family of:**

Mike Soyka

Tom Lots

Brian Helebach

JoAnn Betzold

Albert Peterson (Peterson/Miller families)

Rosemary Didizic

Lisa Wideman

Marilyn Callahan

Marge Lawrie

**Strength & Healing for:**

Harold – continued healing

Eileen Kittel – Chemo & blood transfusion

Scott & Nick – healing

Mike Fetraro – upcoming back surgery

Mike's wife, Sharon – patience as a caregiver

JoAnn – patience

Samantha Keller – covid

**Thanksgiving for successful back surgery for Mike Farraro**

**Safe travel for everyone traveling this season**

*Prayers are a powerful way to lift up people who are sick, injured or suffering for God's healing. Let us know of names you would like to have the church pray for, and we'll add them to the list here and in the Beacon. If you wish for names to remain anonymous, you can let Pastor Rick know privately and he'll pray for them silently. Names will remain in the bulletin and Beacon for around a month unless you let us know to extend their listing or remove them sooner. There is a*

*list near the offering collection plate to write names down, or you can leave a message with the church office.*

## Upcoming

Here's what's coming up soon!

- **New Years Day: 9:30 am**
- **1<sup>st</sup> communion class: January 28<sup>th</sup> 10am - noon**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Communion: January 29<sup>th</sup> during worship**
- **Annual Meeting: January 29<sup>th</sup> following worship**

## Sunday School

Our Sunday School Christmas pageant will be on January 8<sup>th</sup>, we hope you'll join us as the congregation gets to join in from their seats this year!

**Children – please arrive at 9 am that day for instruction.**

**\*\*First Communion class has been rescheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup> from 10-12**

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held Sunday, **January 29<sup>th</sup>**.

Anyone who needs to submit a report for the booklet, please do so by **January 15<sup>th</sup>**. We hope you'll join us for this important meeting! We're having a pot-luck brunch before the meeting, bring a favorite dish to pass!

## For Your Consideration

I am writing to ask church members to consider filling openings on council. Come and take part in the decision process. I have enjoyed my time on council, but my term is ending. Give it some thought – be a council member!

*Sincerely,* Harold M Gardner

# Sunday Worship Leadership

Ever feel called (or curious?) about participating in worship? There are lots of opportunities to participate and we'd love to see new faces keeping things running. Anyone who is of reading age can participate, and we will train you - please see Pastor any time.

## Bible Study:

Bible study will be back **Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**. We will start in the book of Matthew.

## Choir

It's not too late to join! We are in need of more voices...please give some thought to joining us – all are welcome! Choir resumes January 11<sup>th</sup> and meets Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. Please see David for dates for additional Sunday rehearsals.

## WI-FI

Trinity now has community Wi-Fi! To access it, go to 'Trinity Guest' on your device, and then when prompted, enter the password: BeABeacon

## AKRON-NEWSTEAD FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry is doing heroic work feeding our neighbors in the community! If you or someone you know is in need, here's when the pantry is open:

- Food distribution is on the first Tuesday of each month, from 8:30-10:30am. The next one is: 2023: January 3<sup>rd</sup>, February 7<sup>th</sup>
- Set up occurs on the day before each distribution starting at 8 am.
- Call Jean Dolph at 716-908-2306 or Sharon Waff at 585-599-3893 for

details.

- ***Would you like to volunteer?*** Sharon at [sjwaff@yahoo.com](mailto:sjwaff@yahoo.com).
- To donate monetarily, please make checks payable to: *Akron Newstead Food Pantry.*

## OFFICE HOURS:

**Pastor Rick:** Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. or by appointment

**Tracy:** Thursdays 9:30 - 2 p.m.

*Pastor will be away January 11-16<sup>th</sup>*

*Be a Beacon - seeking and reflecting the light of the Lord!*



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:**

1<sup>st</sup>- Jim Kidder

Rebecca Jandrowski

2<sup>nd</sup>- Paul Fix

5<sup>th</sup>- Sylvia Hebell

Rachel Jendrowski

20<sup>th</sup> - Brianna Jurewicz

Mark Jurewicz

22<sup>nd</sup>- Reese Sundown

26<sup>th</sup> - Ryan Dorr

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:**

26<sup>th</sup> - Bob & Tammy Johannes

