



The Beacon

April 2022

April greetings from Pastor Rick:

Happy *almost* Easter!

So here we are in April, and the fourth month that I've used this pastor's letter in the Beacon to talk about two things: (1) is why do we do the things that we do in church and worship; and (2) is a 'by the way' section that I highlight a little something going on in our lives together. I hope you've been enjoying this format, and I would love if you had a question as to 'why' we do what we do in church and worship, let me know and I'll address it in an upcoming Beacon.

For April, and Holy Week that leads into Easter and the resurrection, I'm looking at:

Why do we pray the way we do in worship?

There are two modes of prayer that we mainly use (there are more than two of course): personal/individual; and communal, together as the church. I'm talking about the latter this month. We pray all the time in worship, and for good reason: like the personal prayers we each have, our communal prayers we pray together are our main way we communicate with God. Notice that I didn't say we communicate TO God, but we communicate WITH God, because I believe God communicates to us as much as or more than we communicate to God.

We pray in church using mostly pre-written, prepared in advance prayers. One reason is so that you don't hear your worship leaders (mostly myself) saying 'umm' every other word if (again, mostly myself) were to speak off the cuff. Another reason is also that we want to make sure the words we use are intentional and speak to what it is that we are praying for. There's also value in the repetition of our prayers each week, like the Lord's Prayer. In fact, the origins of many of our prayers go back to the very early church centuries ago.

We pray during worship for God to come to us through the word, for God to be present with us in Holy Communion, to thank and bless the offerings we receive, and so on. We also pray for the needs of the world, God's creation, our community that we live in, and all those we know of who are in need of prayer for illness or injury of any kind.

We do not pray alone, of course. Remember that Trinity isn't the only church that prays. There are more than 60 ELCA churches in WNY, and over 150 in our Synod, and over 8,900 worshipping communities and 3.3 million people in the ELCA...all praying for the same or similar needs, all at once each week. Multiply that by Lutherans around the world, and our siblings in other faith traditions, and it all adds up to billions of people praying around the world! Prayer certainly adds up to something!

We try to leave space in our prayers to speak to the needs that any given moment presents which pre-written prayers don't capture. But our words and our prayers aren't perfect. God knows this. And it's why I give thanks that we have a God who knows our needs, which sometimes come out in sighs that are too deep to express in words. It's why we've recently inserted a solid minute into our prayers each week to exhale those sighs, and to breathe in God's breath of peace, comfort, grace, forgiveness, healing and so much more.

I hope this gives you hope that you don't pray alone, and the prayers we pray together in worship aren't empty words, but words that can definitely make a difference in the lives of those who we pray for and in the world we live. And as always, be attentive to prayers that may call on you to be the answer to those prayers. How powerful your answer to a prayer can be to those in need.

By The Way...

- We are forming a team who's mission is to write the prayers we use during the Prayers of the People in worship. If you'd like to join us, speak to me and I can fill you in on what we're looking for.
- Also, I am so excited that we are reintroducing in-person times for fellowship and interaction! The pandemic has eased enough to allow us to bring back the hospitality room after Sunday worship, and we are eagerly awaiting Easter Sunday with brunch and an Easter egg hunt following worship. Special thanks to Paula Jendrowski and Donna Kumpf for heading up our fellowship committee. Please reach out to them if you'd like to help re-establish this important form of life together as Trinity.
- For those we haven't seen in a while (whether it's been several weeks, months or even years) I hope you'll find an opportunity to re-connect with

Trinity. Know that there is a place for you, and that God is up to something big here. Come be a part of it!

Have a blessed Holy Week, a Happy Easter and enjoy these first days of Spring,

Pastor Rick MG



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, 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.

If you hit '*subscribe*' and follow our channel, you'll get updates and reminders of videos being posted, plus you'll help us get to 100 subscribers - at which point we get our very own YouTube channel web address, making it easier for people to find us. If you are in need of curbside communion, please contact Pastor for that as well.

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).

Your friendly Covid reminder: Do not come to church if you are feeling ill in the slightest. Let's keep doing what we've been doing so well, loving and caring for our neighbors.

Upcoming:

- **Palm Sunday** is April 10th at 9:30 am
- **Maundy Thursday** is April 14th at 7:00 pm
- **Good Friday** is April 15th at 8:00 pm
- **Easter Sunday** is April 17th at 9:30am

These services will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel. Go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for Trinity Akron.

Council

Council Meets at 7pm on **April 12th** .

Easter Flowers

Easter flower orders are due this Sunday, March 27th. Printed forms are available in the narthex. You can also print your own at the end of this Beacon.

150th Anniversary

Trinity will be having our 150th Anniversary Worship Service & Picnic in Akron Falls Park on **Sunday, July 17th**. Worship will be at **10:30 am** (one hour later than usual) with the picnic with food, games and good times to follow.

Sunday School

Mark your calendars for the next Sunday School meetings on **April 10th** and **May 8th**! On Easter Sunday, there will be an egg hunt for the kids!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

➤ *The family and friends of Hal Ferguson & Walt Wilkins*

➤ *Strength and healing for:*

- ❖ *Bill Beaky – back on chemo*
- ❖ *Jessica Brown – healing*
- ❖ *Annette Adamczak – strength*
- ❖ *Jodi (Linda Laurie's daughter) – covid*
- ❖ *Bob Say - cancer*
- ❖ *John Lang - cancer*
- ❖ *Eileen Kittel – awaiting cancer diagnosis & treatment*

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Volunteers Needed

Extra hands will be needed for spring cleaning at Trinity. All are welcome! Please join us on:

This Saturday: **March 26th** at 9am – Indoor Spring Cleaning
April 2nd at 9am – Outdoor Yard Cleanup

Lenten Midweek Devotions

Join us **Wednesday March 30th** and **April 6th** for our final two evening devotions from 6:30-7:15. We are looking at *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects* by Jill L. Duffield. God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice. *Lent in Plain Sight* draws our attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem.

This year our church will use the season of Lent to facilitate conversation and connection to each other and the meaning of this time in the church year. The goal of these devotions will be to focus on spiritual lessons and recognize how the seemingly ordinary can reveal the extraordinary presence of God in our lives.

Devotions will also be available via Zoom, use Meeting ID: 878 4162 1035
and Passcode: 952121

The Hospitality Room Returns

The hospitality room - and after-worship fellowship - is back! We hope you'll hang around after Sunday worship to get to know each other better once again and have those in-person connection times we've missed so much. There is a sign-up sheet available if you'd be able to help with refreshments, or see Paula Jendrowski if you'd like to help.

Lenten Diaper Collection

Current diaper count: 1742 and counting!

This Lent the entire Upstate New York Synod is collecting...Diapers!
What are the consequences of diaper need? One in three families suffers from diaper need in the US. Based on present funding in NYS and many other areas in the US, diapers cannot be purchased with food stamps. Babies who remain too long in a soiled diaper are exposed to increased health risks and concerns. Diaper need creates additional stress and concern for the family as well. Most child care centers, even free and subsidized facilities, require parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers; therefore, many parents cannot go back to work or school if they cannot leave their babies at child care.

Trinity is joining in to do something about this! We are collecting size 4, 5 and 6 disposable diapers that will be donated to *All Babies Cherished* in Batavia, an agency that helps with the needs of young families through support, education and supplies. You can add to the diaper stack that will be growing in front of the altar during Lent starting March 6th and ending April 13th

Easter Sunday Brunch and Egg Hunt

Join us after Easter Sunday worship in the fellowship hall as we have our joyous Easter brunch! *Kids*: there will be an Easter egg hunt too! Help make brunch happen by bringing an item to share. Please let Donna Kumpf or Paula Jendrowski know if you're able to bring an item.

Spaghetti Supper

In years' past, Trinity's Youth group supported the Children's Hospital by way of a Spaghetti Supper. This tradition continued for a number of years, when Trinity's women took over the fundraiser and designating the beneficiary every year. People of the community look forward to this dinner. During the pandemic shutdown, the people of Trinity couldn't offer the dinner, but last year a drive-thru Spaghetti Supper was held...and WOW! What a success! This year it will be held **on Saturday April 23rd at 4:30pm**. We will once again offer spaghetti with tossed salad, bread and butter. In respect to our friends and neighbors who are still taking pandemic precautions, it will be a drive-thru format again. You are asked to check out the sign-up sheet posted in the narthex to see where you may be of help – either through donating ingredients or donating your time to help. All donations are gratefully accepted!

There will also be a drive-thru **bake sale** during the supper, with the proceeds going to support the people of Ukraine.

Choir Rehearsals

Come share your voice in our church choir! All are welcome, don't be shy!

Here's our rehearsal schedule:

Sunday March 27th at 8:00 am
Wednesday March 30th at 7:15 pm
Sunday April 3rd at 8:00 am
Wednesday April 6th at 7:15 pm
Sunday April 10th at 8:00 am
Wednesday April 13th at 7:00 pm
Sunday, April 17th at 8:00 am
Wednesday, April 27th at 7:00 pm

Akron's Sidewalk Sale

Remember the days we collected items with a value of at least \$1.00? The fun we had packing them in boxes and wrapping in comic papers (which we had been collecting for a while) and marking them according to age & gender? The few hours we stood on Main St. in Akron to offer our items to passers by for \$1? Well, that time is back!

Trinity will be sharing this activity again. Throughout the months of April and May we will be collecting the items in a **box in the Youth Room** (found off of the fellowship hall) and assembling them. On *Friday, June 17th*, we will gather to wrap and mark the items, and on **Saturday, June 18th** the sale will start at **9 am**, and continue until all of the packages are sold. A *sign-up sheet* will be put out soon for volunteers to set up tables and man the station (2 hour shift.) Please consider either donating a few items or volunteering and share in the fun!

ADULT FORUM

Our next meeting is **April 24th** following worship. All are welcome - the coffee will be on!

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Trinity's Mutual Ministry Team of 3-4 people gathers quarterly to be a support to Pastor Rick. This team offers feedback to pastor, helps pastor process his ministry efforts and is attentive to pastor's self-care. The team is also attentive to the congregation, offering insight they observe and receive that can help pastor grow in his ministry. The team is also a safe place to pass along any suggestions and feedback to pastor in a positive way.

The hope is that this team will further help in accountability and communication between Pastor Rick and everyone at Trinity. Team members are Pastor Rick, Annette Adamczak, David Hofmeier and Lisa Kaminski. Feel free to reach out to the team if you have any questions or feedback.

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 the month, the next ones are: April 5th & May 3rd. Easter distribution is on April 12th.
- Set up and distribution occurs between 8-10:30 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.
- 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: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11 a.m. - 2 p.m

*Scheduling change – Tracy will be in later on April 14th

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



APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- 8th- Becky Fix
- 9th- Emerson Polkowski
- 10th- Sandor Nagy
- 11th- Clint Szczygielski
- 12th- Kaila Szczygielski
- 15th- Catherine Schoenthal
- 16th- Darla Infanti
- 19th - Evan Eckerson
- 24th - Judy Rowland

APRIL BAPTISMS:

- 2nd- Ryan Dorr
- Claire Bentley Coffta
- 4th- Donna Kumpf
- 9th- Bill Nehrboss
- 10th- Tammy Johannes
- 12th- Lois Kruschke
- 16th- Andrew Jacob Congdon
- 18th- Hanna Skorupski
- 19th- Don Hoffmann
- 21st- Beth Aylsworth
- 24th- Garrett Jurewicz

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

- 28th - Irv & Sharon Easton

In honor of:

Given By:

Please use back if you require additional space.

Trinity S. Newstead, 542-9828; e-mail order to: trinlc@rochester.rr.com web site: www.trinlc.com

Flowers may be picked up following Worship Service on Easter Sunday.

Please only remove flowers you have purchased.

Thank you!