

April Beacon



Blessed Holy Week and Easter!

I have a few questions for you this month:

- Do you know when the church office is open, or how to reach out to myself or our office staff?
- Did you know that we have a prayer chain that is really effective in getting prayer needs out to our church community?
- Did you know that we have many areas that you can reach out to or get involved with to share your talents and gifts in our church and community?
- Do you know who to ask about getting connected with this or that?

Now I know many of you would answer ‘yes’ to some or all of these questions. But I also know – especially for our newer people or our first time in a while people (there are quite a few of you which is fantastic!) – you may not know these things just yet.

So for the next several months, in addition to our usual updates, I’m going to highlight the answers to these questions in my pastor’s letter. Called ‘Trinity 101’, I’ll tell you about these areas, the people involved, and how they connect to

Christ's calling to love and care for our neighbors. Some of it you may already know, and some may be news to you. Eventually these will be assembled into a welcome packet for future new disciples. But for now, enjoy these snippets of the different pieces of Trinity, that when put together, form a wonderful picture of God's people at work and gathering to be fed spiritually and physically, and then being sent out into the world.



Trinity 101



For our first 'Trinity 101' topic: let's get to know our Prayer Chain.

We all know that prayer is a wonderful and powerful way we can communicate with God and not only share our lives but offer prayers for those in need of care. Trinity has a deep tradition of prayer, and our Prayer Chain is one part of that tradition. Sue Kidder is a Trinity disciple who faithfully heads up our Prayer Chain, and she shares more about it below...

Years ago, the Prayer Chain was just that...a chain! One person received a call requesting prayers, that person called another, that person then called another, and so on and so on. But on occasion, one of the prayer chain members was unable to continue the process; consequently, losing the chain!

Today, we have our fantastic OneCall system. This year, the call system is in memory of Jacquie Arndt. That means that thanks to Jurgen Arndt's (another of Trinity's disciples) generosity, the one call system is continued for another year. Thank you Jurgen! (Side note: if you're interested in sponsoring our OneCall system in the future, please reach out to us.)

If you wish to have the prayer group members receive a phone call requesting prayers, updating health information, prayers of thanks, anything for ANYONE... church member, family member, friends, etc. this is how to proceed: Contact Sue Kidder at (716) 542-2095 with the information you wish to have sent out to the Prayer Chain.

This group doesn't automatically include the entire congregation. If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain, contact Pastor Rick or Tracy in the church office.

Sue will follow up by sharing prayer requests via our OneCall phone system, which sends out a call to the Prayer Chain members automatically. This is a wonderful ministry for those who appreciate the power of prayer!

Philippians 4:6-7 says:

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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, 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).

We will also be livestreaming Maundy Thursday and Good Friday!

Next council meeting: April 11 @ 7:00

Counters: April: MaryLou, May: Jennifer

Please Pray For...

Strength & Healing for:

Roger Hofmeier - healing from a fall
Sharon Dixon – healing from broken leg
Jake Smith – prayers for healing
Terry Smitch
Jim Blake
Sarah Popalardaro
Dale Kruschke – continued healing
Leah Kissel - waiting for a liver transplant
Michele Sion - strength to face the days ahead
Flo Goeseke – continued healing
Anne Golpl – healing from cracked ribs
Jeff Saylor – comfort for him & his family
Kathryn Johannes – pneumonia
Bob Whiting – cancer
Betty Rehwaldt – comfort

Patience & understanding for:

Eileen Kittel – chemo
Al Buza - testing
Scot Baron
Joanne Goeske Taylor – radiation treatments

The family & friends of:

Ron Dorr
Carl Patterson, Sr.
Ken Kasparek
Randy Noody
Burt Lyon

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.

Holy Week Services

Join us as we complete the walk towards the cross on Holy Week. Our services are:

-Maundy Thursday: **April 6th at 7 pm**

-Good Friday tenebrae (a service of light to darkness): **April 7th at 7:30 pm**

Easter Sunday at Trinity

We celebrate Easter at Trinity on Sunday, April 9th:

-Easter breakfast at 8 am...this year will be a *pot-luck breakfast*

-Easter worship is at 9:30 am

-Following worship will be the Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt for the kids!



Sunday School

Join us on Easter Sunday for an Easter egg hunt for the Sunday School Students following worship! Regular Sunday School resumes on April 23rd. We look forward to seeing you!

Our May dates are May 7th & 21st

Communion Helpers:

We resumed our communion “helpers!” Any child that wishes to help with communion by handing out goldfish to the other children during communion is welcome. Pastor will ask for a volunteer during service and will choose a different volunteer to help each week. Every child will get a chance to help if they desire.

Sunday School News

Trinity's Sunday School continues to gather twice a month at 9:45am. They join together in prayer, talk about events in their lives over the past couple of weeks, and hear a story related to that Sunday's scripture. A brief discussion on the story takes place, followed by a craft or activity that also reflects the day's scripture readings.

Last month, the youngsters painted a bank. These banks are to help the children better understand mission work. The Synod has come up with a new program in which the less fortunate may receive aid to use to pay their medical bills.

Kids: Please return your banks on Easter Sunday (April 9th.) The banks will be emptied & the coins counted, and the kids can take them home on April 23rd to use as their own personal bank.

As we finish up this season of Lent, the Congregation is encouraged to share in this mission project either by picking up a baby bottle from the table in the narthex or by making their own bank, returning their money each week by dropping it into the large kettle in the narthex.

It's hard to believe there are people who must choose between paying their bills or buying food, or getting their medicines each month. Help with this program! Help people who need meds get them.

Donna Kumpf

The Historical Committee Needs Your Help

First, we want to thank **Lois and Dale Kruschke** on behalf of the whole congregation for the 13 years they meticulously kept records of our church's history. It has been a labor of love that Lois took on following in the steps of our Aunt Betty Sugg who acted as historian before her. Thank you for all your hard work!!

Secondly, while we may never live up to these previous historians, we would like to try something a little different. The Historical Committee would like to involve everyone in the church. Tracy will have a folder on her computer for historical facts for 2023. Whenever there is an event or holiday at Trinity, we would like a volunteer to give a brief recap of what happened. We are inviting all of you to participate - anyone can submit a short recap. For example, it would contain information like the date, what it was, how many attended and how it went. It can be as short as one sentence.

Submit the entry either by email to the church office, or if you prefer, write it down and put it in Tracy's mailbox. You can decide at your event who will be responsible for sharing the information with us. At the end of the year, Tracy will compile the list and submit it with the reports for the Annual meeting. If this is successful, we can continue in the future the same way.

Thirdly, while Ryan Dorr will photograph as many events as he can, we would like to invite all you photographers out there to join in sharing your pictures of church events as well. Please email them or copy them onto a USB and leave it in the office. Attach your name so Tracy can get it back to you.

While it will not be as fantastic of a job like we are used to, it will be a new twist on a job that has been a lot of work for one or two people. By working together, we can continue keeping up the historical records of Trinity as we move forward into our next 150 years. Just as we enthusiastically celebrated our past 150 years based on memories and written factual words, let us join together in keeping today's history at Trinity for future generations. Thank you for your help and God Bless you all.

Jane Dorr

Spring Cleaning

Thank you to all those who helped with the indoor cleanup! It was a great success. You can join us for the outdoor cleanup day on **Saturday, April 1st at 9 am**. We will alert you of a reschedule in case of inclement weather, which is looking likely.

Synod Lenten Collection:

R.I.P. Medical Debt

We wrap up our collection challenge on Palm Sunday! Our Synod's goal is to raise \$10,000, which translates into eliminating \$1 million of medical debt! Even Sunday School is collecting donations in piggy banks! If you haven't already...any and all donations (paper and coin cash, checks, etc.) are welcome!

**Pastor Rick will match the first \$200 that is donated, and he challenges Trinity to raise at least \$1,500! That would eliminate \$150,000 of medical debt! We can do it!*

Adult Forum

Adult Forum Book Study: Tattoos on the Heart

We have our next book that we are going to dive into in our Adult Forum times this spring: *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* by Gregory Boyle. More on the book:

For twenty years, Gregory Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, the gang capital of the world. In *Tattoos on the Heart*, he distills his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith.

Arranged by theme and filled with sparkling humor and glowing generosity, these essays offer a stirring look at how full our lives could be if we could find the joy in loving others and in being loved unconditionally. From giant, tattooed Cesar, shopping at JCPenney fresh out of prison, we learn how to feel worthy of God's love. From ten-year-old Lula we learn the importance of being known and acknowledged. From Pedro we understand the kind of patience necessary to rescue someone from the darkness. In each chapter we benefit from Boyle's gentle, hard-earned wisdom.

These essays about universal kinship and redemption are moving examples of the power of unconditional love and the importance of fighting despair. Gorgeous and

uplifting, *Tattoos on the Heart* reminds us that no life is less valuable than another.

Options to get your copy of *Tattoos on the Heart*:

- The Erie County Public Library has copies available for loan.
- You can also purchase your own copy elsewhere.

We'll dive into our book at these upcoming Adult Forum times following Sunday worship:

10:45 am on April 16th

10:45 am on April 30th

Spaghetti Supper

Thank you to all those who volunteered their time, talents, ingredients and baskets for the Basket Raffle to make the Spaghetti Supper a success! We brought in \$1549.00! And the basket raffle brought in \$915.00!

The Spaghetti Supper was held from 4:30-7:00pm. We also had a basket raffle and the Crittenden Quilters had a table to sell some of their sewn items. The dinner was a huge success, selling over 100 dinners including about 12 take-out meals. The dinner included all-you-can-eat spaghetti, bread & butter, your choice of beverage and cookies for dessert.

The basket raffle offered over 60 baskets of items anywhere from doggie treats, children's toys and homemade canned goods, to wine-lover's and book-lover's themed baskets. Harold & Pat Gardner, along with Diane Hurne oversaw this endeavor.

The Crittenden Quilters offered dish cloths, casserole carriers, jar openers and pot holders among other things. The Quilters meet at Trinity twice a month and graciously donated all their proceeds from the sale to Trinity!

All in all, it was great to be able to join our neighbors and friends, sharing stories while enjoying a great meal. We are looking forward to having another Spaghetti Dinner next year in 2024.

-Donna Kumpf

Bible Study

Reminder: There will be no Bible Study on April 5th or 12th. It will resume on the 19th at 6:30.

Choir

Choir is meeting Wednesdays at 7:30 all are welcome. Please see David for additional Sunday rehearsal dates.

Upcoming: Save the dates:

Summer Worship and Picnic

Trinity is going back to Akron Falls Park for worship and fun and food! We'll have our Summer Worship and Picnic at the Brooklyn St. shelter in Akron Falls Park at **10:30 am on Sunday, July 16th!**

Council & Committee Retreat

Council members and anyone who is associated with a committee is invited to attend the Council & Committee retreat **from 8:30am – noon on May 20th**. We will start with a pot-luck breakfast before getting down to business.

VBS

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School: **Sunday July 16-Thursday July 20th**. It will run from **5:30-8pm each night**, at Town Line Lutheran Church in Alden.

Pastoral visits

Pastor Rick is always available to help. If you have concerns, questions or just want to chat, don't forget you can reach out to him any time.

His info is: 716-465-1321

pastorrickmg@gmail.com

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: April 4th and then May 2nd.
- 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.
- To donate monetarily, please make checks payable to: *Akron Newstead Food Pantry.*

Little Food Pantry

The Little food Pantry is in constant need of restocking. Dry, non-perishable items like peanut butter and mac 'n cheese will help keep the pantry afloat to help those in need. Please spread the word so we can get the community involved as well. There is a collection box in the narthex, or you can place your items in the Pantry itself.

OFFICE HOURS:

Need something printed, copied or to place an announcement in the weekly bulletin or Beacon? Then you want to contact the office!

Tracy is in on Thursdays 9:30 - 2 p.m and can take any announcements, prayer requests or office-related questions. If you want to reserve the Fellowship hall or look something up, you'll want to contact her. You can also leave a message in her mailbox or on her desk.

Pastor Rick is in on Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (or by appointment.)

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



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