

The Beacon



June greetings from Pastor Rick!

“A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” -Jeremiah 31:15 (NIV)

This month, I’m breaking from my recent Beacon letter format where I answer “why do we do this in church” questions. This month, I’m wondering “why don’t we do this MORE in church?” Or, “why don’t we do this more AS the church?”

I find myself these days lamenting a lot. I am sure a lot of you are as well. Lamenting for lives lost to evil in the form of not one mass shooting, but two. First, the one we all know about in our own backyard in Buffalo on Jefferson Ave. on May 14th. And second, the one we all know about in an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas on May 24th.

I find myself sad, heartbroken and angry, lamenting that it seems like our country all too easily allows this kind of evil to happen. Lament is the practice of releasing our sadness, despair, grief and anger to God. It is a practice we included in our worship service in church on May 22nd. It’s a healthy practice in that we acknowledge that we cannot carry the burdens of anger, grief, sadness and despair on our own. And we give thanks for a God who can

carry our burdens, and knows what our burdens feel like through experiencing them in Jesus in his time here on earth. And we give thanks for a God who never leaves us alone and is with us every step of the way.

Why don't we do this more as the church? I ask that rhetorically, because I know that we at Trinity have done this all along. We have walked with those who are carrying burdens too heavy for them alone. We are the answer to helping one another and our community lament and not have to carry their burdens by themselves.

So, I write my letter this month as an affirmation and thanks for helping others know God's love through offering space for laments and offering shoulders to lean on. And I encourage you to keep on doing just that. Check in with each other, and ask 'how are you feeling?' and don't let the conversation end with just 'good' or 'fine'. I don't know about you, but I am not fine these days with evil so visceral and raw in our world and country.

Know this too: it's okay to not be okay. It's okay to admit that you're having trouble with all of this. It's okay to reach out. I am here for you. And your community here at church and resources around town are here too.

Let's remember to love as God first loved – and still loves – us. Love our neighbors who are struggling, love each other and our families, and save some love for yourself by taking time to take care of yourselves. We will get through these times because of that love. And we will be stronger because of it.

Blessings,

Pastor Rick MG

By the way: As a part of understanding why and how evil works in light of these tragedies, we are going to be taking time this summer as a church to take on a book reading challenge. Look on in this Beacon to find out more. A big part we can play in the healing of our community is to learn about how evils like racism (for one example) exist, and what we can do about it. I invite you to learn together and to take on this important challenge so that we are better equipped to denounce hate and share love.



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).

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:

- **June 1st:** Bible Study 6:30-7:30pm
- **June 5th:** Choir rehearsal at 8:30 am
- **June 5th:** 150th Anniversary Committee meeting @ 10:45am
- **June 8th:** Bible Study 6:30-7:30pm
- **June 9th:** – Due date to email any printed items for council: 10am
- **June 9th:** Sunday School Planning Meeting at 11am
- **June 12th:** Choir rehearsal at 8:30 am
- **June 12th:** Sunday School @10:45 am
- **June 14th:** Council Meets @ 7pm
- **June 18th:** Sidewalk Sale starts at 9am
- **June 20th:** Due date for Beacon submissions

**Submissions for announcements for the Sunday bulletins is the Wednesday prior to that bulletin.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- ❖ *The family and friends of the victims of the mass shooting in Buffalo*
- ❖ *The family and friends of the victims of the school shooting in Uvalde, TX*

- ❖ *The family and friends of Jerry Zak*
- ❖ *Safe travel for: Bill Kittel*

- ❖ *Strength and healing for:*
 - ❖ *Helmut Bauder*
 - ❖ *Jim Kidder*
 - ❖ *Janelle Nati & baby Lowen*
 - ❖ *Vi Savage*
 - ❖ *Eileen Kittel*

Sunday School & VBS

Kids: Please join us for our final Sunday School on June 12th following worship. We will be creating messages of hope to adorn our sanctuary all summer and we need your artistic skills! Adults are all welcome to join us, too!

Vacation Bible School: VBS is coming up fast! We are joining with our siblings and holding VBS at Town Line Lutheran Church in Alden again this year. Miss Donna, Tyler Johnson and Pastor Rick will be on staff as well! It will run June 26th – June 30th, from 5:30-8pm, with dinner at 5:30. There is a waiver that will need to be filled out prior, so please see Pastor Rick or any of the Sunday school staff to get your child(ren) registered. Forms are also available in this month's Beacon and in the narthex.

Synod Assembly

Pastor Rick and Ronda Lauridsen will be traveling to Rochester on June 6th to participate in the Upstate NY Synod Assembly as voting members. Please hold the assembly in prayer as they gather together.

Trinity's Summer Book Challenge

As a part of our commitment to love and care for our neighbors, it's important to learn how to do this most effectively. And one of the most effective ways we can help our siblings on the East Side of Buffalo is to learn why the events of May 14th happened. Why was racism a leading cause? Why is racism still an evil force so present in our world? What role can we play to help stamp out this form of hate? That's what this Summer Book Challenge will help us understand.

We are going to read together *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin Diangelo. You can buy this book on Amazon or Barnes & Noble as a paperback or e-book, and it can be found in both formats through the Erie County Public Library.

We'll check in during the summer from time to time to see how your reading is going, and for our September Adult Forum after worship on **September 18th**, we'll take a look at the whole book and have a conversation around it.

There are many more books to read about white supremacy, racism and evils like it. In our summer Beacon next month, we'll include a reading list if you want to read further.

Bible Study on Revelation

Join us for our final two sessions of Bible Study Wednesday, June 1st and 8th from 6:30-7:30!

The Hospitality Room

The hospitality room - and after-worship fellowship - is here! Please enjoy it as a place to converse and visit after worship. There is a sign-up sheet available in the hospitality room if you'd be able to help with refreshments - or see Paula Jendrowski. The remaining dates to be filled are: June 12 & 26, July 10 & 31 and August 7th.

Summer Campfires Are Back!

We'll gather on select **Wednesday evenings** from **7-8:30 pm** for great conversation, devotions, snacks and more around the campfire outdoors at church.

Dress for the weather, bring your own lawn chair, bug spray and a snack or drink to share.

If there is rain one night, it will not cancel the night, but turn it into a movie night instead!

2022 Campfire dates:

June 15th,

July 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th;

August 17th, 24th & 31st

Little Food Pantry

A little food pantry box has been installed in the church parking lot, located next to the paper and clothing collection bins. This is a project headed by Audrey Smith for her Gold Award project in Girl Scouts.

The box is free for anyone to use 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone can take items they immediately need, and anyone can also donate items to share. Please refer to a list of suggested items to donate that's posted on the box. Anyone wishing to make larger donations or monetary donations can still drop them in the pantry donation bin next to the church door, or please call or text (716) 913-9882.

At the end of worship on Sunday, **June 5th**, we will process out to the Little Food Pantry to give thanks for and bless the pantry and those that will use and donate to it.

Worship in the Park 2022

Join us this summer as we worship together at Russell Park with Akron First Methodist Church! Please bring a food or refreshment to share for fellowship time after worship.

Dates: June 26th, July 31st and August 28th all at **9:30 am**.

Choir Rehearsals

Choir will be meeting before worship at 8:30am on June 5th and June 12th.

150th Anniversary Meeting

Join us on the first Sunday of each month for a meeting of the 150th anniversary planning committee. We are currently planning an outdoor worship and picnic at Akron Falls Park on **July 17th**! Ideas & volunteers are warmly welcomed!

Akron's Sidewalk Sale

We are still collecting **items (valued at at least \$1.00)** in a box in the Youth Room, and there is now a collection basket in the sanctuary too. They will be organized into boxes on Friday June 17th, and sold at the sidewalk sale at 9 am June 18th.

Volunteers are also needed to set up tables and man the station on the day of in 2 hour shifts. A sign-up sheet is available or please see Donna.

We are also asking for **old newspapers** to wrap the boxes in – especially the sports and comic sections. We also need **boxes** – small to medium sized, like a shoe box or small amazon box. Please consider sharing in the fun!

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 ones are: June 7th & July 5th
- 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

OFFICE HOURS:

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

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

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



JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

- 5th- Shirley Smith
- 6th- Shannon Kern
Kristine Fazio
- 7th- Troy Kaminski
Pat Gardener
- 12th- Jordan Miller-Stubbenick
- 17th- Margo Henley
- 19th- Jennifer Eckerson
Evangeline Francis
Roberta Lobur
- 20th- Kristin Kendziora
Gina Henley

JUNE BAPTISMS:

- 6th- Emma Corbett
- 10th- Tom Stuber
- 12th- Ruth Walworth

JUNE BAPTISMS:

- 12th - David Stuber
- 14th- Jason Fix
- 18th- Douglas Meyer
Hunter Adamczak
- 20th- Emerson Polkowski
- 27th- Ryan Yaeger
- 28th- Tammy Cummings
- 29th- Catherine Schoenthal
- 30th - Kristin Kendziora
June Hoffman

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES:

- 5th- Ray & Sharon Francis
- 8th- Chuck & Wendy Yaeger
- 21st- Wesley & Rebecca Rehwaldt
- 27th- Erik & Melissa Polkowski
- 21st - Pastor Adam and Jordan's
wedding anniversary

This recipe has been requested by some folks, here it is thanks to Chris Johnson!

Over - the - Top Blueberry Bread Pudding
(Easter Breakfast)

Ingredients:

3 large eggs
4 cups heavy whipping cream
2 cups granulated sugar
3 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries (I use fresh)
1 package (10 to 12 ounce) white baking chips
1 loaf of french bread (1 pound, cut into 1-inch cubes)

Sauce:

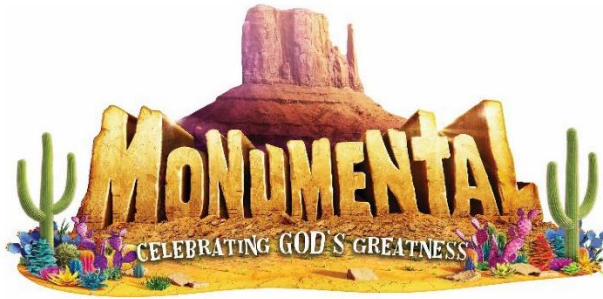
1 package (10 to 12 ounce) white baking chips
1 cup heavy cream

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350. In a very large bowl, combine eggs, cream, sugar and vanilla. Stir in blueberries and baking chips. Stir in bread cubes; let stand until bread is softened, about 15 minutes.

Transfer to a greased 9x13-in. baking dish. Bake, uncovered, until knife inserted in the center comes out clean, 50-60 minutes. Let stand for at least 5 minutes before serving.

For sauce, place baking chips in a small bowl. In a small saucepan, bring cream just to a boil. Pour over baking chips; whisk until smooth. Pour over bread pudding. Enjoy!



MONUMENTAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
SUNDAY, JUNE 26TH-THURSDAY, JUNE 30TH 6:00PM to 8:00PM
(LIGHT DINNER OFFERED AT 5:30 IF PRE-REGISTERED)

Registration Form

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (____) _____

Parent/caregiver's cellphone: (____) _____

Home email address: _____

Home church: _____

Allergies, medical conditions, or special needs: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Relationship to child: _____ Phone: _____

Would you like a meal for your child at 5:30pm: Y or N