



The Beacon

January 2022

January greetings from Pastor Rick!

Happy New Year people of Trinity!

I am going to be giving these letters I write in this space each month a dual purpose.

The first purpose will be the first half of my letter each month, and it looks at the question of ‘why’ as it pertains to church and worship. Why do we do this or that? Why do we say what we say, or sing what we sing, or pray the way we pray? Why do we have a season of Epiphany or Lent? Why does the church year start out of synch with the secular calendar? Maybe you’ve always wondered ‘why?’ Or maybe you wonder why should we even come to church at all? (There’s a question I’ll tackle in future letters!)

Look forward to each month in this space as we try to answer ‘why?’ about church, worship, our role in the world, etc. If you have a question about church, or a ‘why’ question you’d like me to explore here, please let me know. It may already be on the list for future months, or it may be one I haven’t even considered yet. There are no bad questions!

The second purpose, “by the way,” (that will be the name of the second half of this letter, by the way...get it?) will be a space for me to highlight what’s going on at Trinity, or an observation of something I see, or a place for me to give thanks for the many ways you all live into your baptismal calling to be people of God who love and care for your neighbors.

I'll start this format with our February Beacon. I hope you enjoy what will be coming as we explore together how we're all connected to and through each other, through worship, through being people of God, and through being loved, forgiven, and empowered to make a difference in Christ's name.

Blessings,

Pastor Rick MG



LIVESTREAMING AVAILABLE

Need to quarantine or want to stay safer at home during the spread of Omicron? 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. Livestreaming will begin a minute or two prior to the actual service, so don't worry if you're early and you don't see anything yet. If you have any questions about how to access it, please ask Pastor Rick. 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. The omicron variant is here...let's keep doing what we've been doing so well, loving and caring for our neighbors: mask up, physicaly distance, washing hands, staying home if you feel ill, and vaccinate/boost if you're able.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

❖ *The family and friends of:*

- ❖ *Craig Parker*
- ❖ *Roy Bauer*
- ❖ *Joe Koczuta*
- ❖ *Roy Olsen*
- ❖ *Phil Freidly*
- ❖ *Pat Gardner's friend, Ana*

❖ *Thanksgiving for healing of broken fingers for Donna!*

❖ *Strength and healing for:*

- ❖ *All of the families who are affected by Covid*
- ❖ *The Triznadel family - Covid*
- ❖ *Sue & Jim Kidder - Covid*
- ❖ *Harold Gardner- continued healing and thanksgiving*
- ❖ *Diane Hurne - continued healing*
- ❖ *Lucas - continued strength and healing*
- ❖ *Helmut Bauder - continued healing*

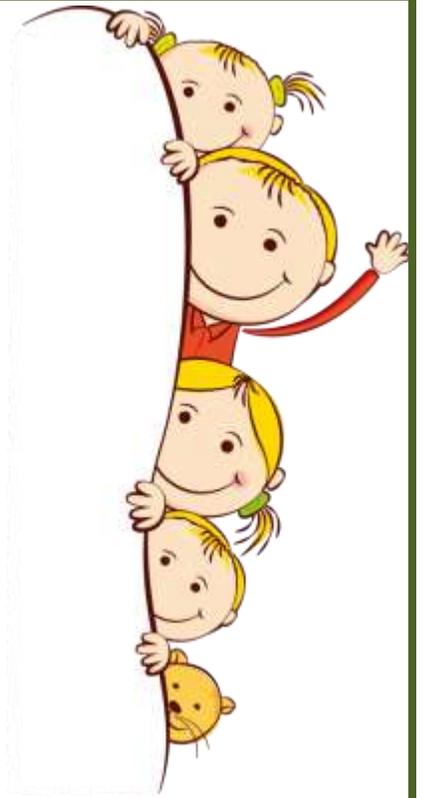
COUNCIL

Council Meets at 7pm on January 11th

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our next Sunday school is on February 14th, please join us!

Also, please note there are children's worship bulletins and supplies available every week in the narthex. Help yourself!



YEAR END REPORTS & ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting will be on **January 30th** following worship.
Please join us!

Please have all reports submitted to Tracy in the office by **January 21st**.

Pastor is assembling a slideshow of pictures from the past year of life at Trinity, which will be shown during the meeting. If you have pictures you think would be good to add, please share them with Pastor by **January 21st**.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

A message from the property committee:

At the annual meeting, the Property Committee will ask for your approval on two items:

1. Seal and stripe the parking lot. The bid received from Mr. Powell is \$2750.00.
2. Excavate and rebuild the "3rd" driveway. A lot of travel is done by heavy trucks using it for a turn-around, making what was already in bad shape,

worse. 2 bids received: Seitz Paving: \$4795.00, and Powell Paving: \$3800.00.

I have listed these and other repairs needed around church a few times in the Beacon. We need to address all of the repairs before they get so large that it is impossible to afford the cost. The parking lot and the boiler are first on our list. We cannot do any of this without membership help in the form of donations.

Harold M. Gardner,
Committee member

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study: Places of the Bible part II

Bible Study will resume on **January 20th** and run every Thursday evening from **6:30 - 8:00 pm** through February 24th. Remember those places we heard about over Advent and Christmas: Bethlehem, the Fields where the Shepherds saw an angel, Jerusalem, and more? They are coming up in Part II! Join us here at church, or online via Zoom (use Meeting ID: 834 1294 8039 and Passcode: 102790).

ADULT FORUM

Adult forum will resume on **January 23rd** from 10:45-11:45am. All are welcome! We restart by exploring a new social statement recently developed by the ELCA called "Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action." Join us in the fellowship hall...the coffee will be on!

CHOIR

Choir is meeting on Wednesday nights from 7-8 pm. All are welcome, don't be shy! We are always in need of more voices.

THANK YOU

I want to say Thank You to all who sent cards and prayers during my trying times. I thank God for the great doctors that have taken care of me. I am doing good, but have a mile to go. Live one day at a time, do your best in that day, and think positive! You will have a better day! Prayers to you all,

Sincerely,
Harold Gardner

YOUTH GROUP

Next summer, Emerson Polkowski, Tyler Johnson and Pastor Rick will be travelling to Minneapolis to take part in the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering! This multi-day event brings 30,000 youth together to worship, hear inspiring speakers and music, learn ways they can be a part of the church, and serve the community. They will then bring that energy back home to impact their lives. The Gathering isn't free though: there's travel, lodging, food and programming costs to cover, and you can help to make a difference in the faith formation of these youth. Stay tuned for ways you can help support their journey through fundraising efforts we're working on.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

There's been a shipping delay for our new 2022 offering envelopes. Once they are in they can be picked up in the narthex at church. In the meantime, if you would like a temporary envelope, see Becky or Tammy on the way in to worship. Checks with your name and the date of the week's offering in the memo line do not need an envelope if you don't want.

150th ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS

The photos from our event at Akron Acres are now available if you would like to view or download them. Instructional sheets are located on the table in the narthex, or contact Tracy at the church office. (The expiration date will be extended.) If anyone is interested in video of the Saturday event or Sunday service, please see Tracy or Ryan Dorr.

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: February 1st and March 1st.
- 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

Pastor will be out of the office from Jan 12-16th

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



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

1st - Jim Kidder

Rebecca Jandrowski

2nd - Paul Fix

5th - Sylvia Hebell

Rachel Jendrowski

20th - Brianna Jurewicz

Mark Jurewicz

22nd - Reese Sundown

26th - Ryan Dorr

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

26th - Bob & Tammy Johannes