



The Beacon

February 2022

February greetings from Pastor Rick!

Hello friends of Trinity!

Welcome to February, and the time on the church calendar that we transition from Epiphany to Transfiguration to (almost) Lent. Like I mentioned last month, I'm beginning to take on two purposes with my Beacon letters. The first will take a look at 'why' we do what we do as a church...and 'by the way' is the second, meant to highlight goings-on and a way for me to give thanks for our ministry together. So here we go...

For this month, we'll look at why we say what we say in worship. One way to answer this is that much of what we say in worship has its roots in the Bible. Some things are obvious, such as the Lord's Prayer. That's in the Bible in Matthew 6:9-13 and in Luke 11:2-4. But there are many other words we speak in worship that come straight out of the Bible:

- In our Confession and Forgiveness, you know these words: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [But] if we confess our sins, [God] who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This comes from 1 John 1:8-9.
- "The grace of [our] Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." You can find this in 2 Corinthians 13:13.

- You know the greeting “the Lord be with you” and our standard Lutheran reply “and also with you.” That’s based on Ruth 2:4: “Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, “May the LORD be with you!” They replied, “May the LORD bless you!””
- How about this Gospel acclamation that we’ll soon be switching to for Lent: “Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.” This is from Joel 2:13.
- I start my sermons with a variation of this prayer out of Psalms 19:14: “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.”
- And how about the words of institution said during Holy Communion: “For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” This is right out of 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.
- How about this at the end of worship when we proclaim this or a similar benediction: “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.” This is from Numbers 6:23-26.

And you may have thought the only Bible verses you hear during worship are from the lessons for the day. Now you know that our worship liturgy (which means “the work of the people” by the way) is full of words of faith and hope straight out of the Bible!

By the way...

Thanks to those who were able to be present with us for our annual congregational meeting on January 30th. I give thanks for the faith and dedication of our church who in 2021 stepped up and supported ministry, supported the work of our church, and supported all the ways we love and care for our neighbors. I pray that we continue this enthusiasm into 2022 as well, as we come through (God willing!) the pandemic and look towards the future of Trinity in year 150 and beyond.

My prayers go with you as we continue through winter, being the hands and feet of Christ for our loved ones, tending to what is bringing you down and helping to lift others up in prayer and action.

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, physically distance, washing hands, staying home if you feel ill, and vaccinate/boost if you're able.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

❖ *The family and friends of:*

- ❖ *Jeanette Lewanowski*
- ❖ *Helen Smith*

❖ *Strength and healing for:*

- ❖ *All individuals and families who have Covid*
- ❖ *Craig Blake - in intensive care burn unit with hypothermia*
- ❖ *Linda Laurie - healing from eye surgery*
- ❖ *Kevin Kruschke - recovery and positive results from angiogram*
- ❖ *Pastor Robert Dean - hospitalized with Covid*
- ❖ *Wilbur Stone - battling Covid*
- ❖ *Jim Kidder - patience awaiting heart surgery - February 17th*

COUNCIL

Council Meets at 7pm on **February 8th**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our next Sunday school is on February 13th, please join us!
Also, please note there are children's worship bulletins and supplies available every week in the narthex. Help yourself!

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Next week, February 13th will be our “Souper Bowl of Caring.” While the Bills won't be there (boo!), we can all support a winning ministry at Sunday worship. We'll have two soup pots out that you can contribute cash donations to - one for LA and one for Cincinnati. We'll see if we can predict the winner of the big game, and we'll support the Community of Good Neighbors at the same time!

Fun Facts - Did you know Trinity has been participating in the Souper Bowl Program for over 15 years? The program started with people being asked to donate a can of soup to a local Food Pantry or prepare a soup supper inviting the less fortunate of the community to come and eat. This was a national program set up by a group of teens. After a few years, the program decided to ask for monetary donations in lieu of the suppers or cans of soup. That's when Trinity jumped on the band wagon. Trinity collected money to support local Food Pantries, the City Mission, Heart & Hands, etc.

Let's make the Community of Good Neighbors a winner!

THANK YOU

I send a sincere thank you to you all for your prayers and cards during my medical issue. I feel great. I haven't felt this good in a long time. It was, surely, God at work through all of the medical personal that attended to me for all these years.

Especially the last few years. God bless you.

-Harold Gardner

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: UPDATE

The congregation members approved the sealing and striping of the parking lot and the rebuild of the 3rd driveway at the annual meeting on January 30th. The property committee says thank you to those who donated to these projects. We hope you will continue to help us on the repair projects. Please make your donation to: The

Improvement fund - Property Fund.

I will be reaching out to the contractors that will do small jobs to replair the bad areas of the parking lot.

*Harold Gardner,
Committee member*

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study: Places of the Bible part II

Join us for Bible Study 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

Join us for adult forum on **February 20th 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! The remaining dates are: **March 20th, April 24th and May 22nd**.

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 Kaminiski. Feel free to reach out to the team if you have any questions or feedback.

CHOIR

Choir is meeting on Wednesday nights. All are welcome, don't be shy! We are always in need of more voices. During Lent, choir will meet immediately following Lenten Devotions at approximately **7:15**.

LENT

Lent will be here soon! Ash Wednesday service will be **7 pm** on **March 2nd**. Midweek Advent Devotions will be on Wednesday's at 6:30 from March 9th through April 13th. Hope you'll join us!

SAVE THE DATE

The Spaghetti supper is planned for April 23rd. More info to come!

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

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you haven't picked up your 2022 envelopes, they are available in the narthex.

150th ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS

The photos from our event at Akron Acres are 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 is extended.)

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: March 1st & April 5th.
- 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 February 11-14th, Pastor Serena will be on call for emergencies. (716- 510-2939)

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- 3rd - Caroline Kern
4th - Sue Campbell-Kidder
6th - Lisa Mazur
8th - Norm Waff
11th - Jessica Jones
12th - Jessica Brown
Louis Henley
14th - Walter Greiner
Lisa Kaminski
16th - Rebecca Rehwaldt
Carol Ferguson
23rd - Wesley Rehwaldt
24th - Tony Kaminski
25th - Dale Kruschke
27th - Jordan Kendziora
28th - Anthony Pingitore
29th - Harold Gardener

FEBRUARY BAPTISMS:

- 6th - Autumn Waff
13th - Victoria Snyder
Zachary Snyder
14th - Kathy Greiner
20th - Sandra Schoenthal
23rd - Nicole Kaminski

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

- 14th - Wally & Kathy Greiner
Paul & Becky Fix



Trinity Lutheran Church

Dear Friends,

We hope this letter finds you and your families safe and warm this winter. We're happy to report that 2021 was a record year. Over *40 million* pounds of clothing were donated to our clothing sheds - that's over 200,000 pounds of clothing collected every business day!

Every clothing shed is an important part of the big picture. Here are some numbers to show you the impact your own shed made in 2021...

- 34,242 pounds of clothing were donated to your shed in 2021
- This was enough to clothe an estimated 6,308 people all over the world
- Based on this volume of clothing, your organization received \$1,370

Thank you so much for partnering with us on this. We truly appreciate all the support you continue to give to the clothing shed program!

Sincerely,
The Team at
St. Pauly Textile, Inc.