

THE RINITARIAN

Dear Partners in Ministry,
“Because I could not stop for Death – He kindly stopped for me –”

So wrote Emily Dickinson in 1890, but not much has changed in 120-odd years: as a culture, we still have very little time for death. When was the last time you had a frank and honest conversation about what happens when we die?

We live in a culture that thinks that pretends that life can be extended indefinitely. “There are substances on the market now that claim to prolong life—and people are spending billions on them,” said a *New York Times* interviewer to Professor Leonard P. Guarente, an expert on aging at M.I.T. “Well, that’s really simple,” replied Guarente. “Any product on the market that claims to extend life—don’t believe it.”¹

Christians have a unique witness to offer in the face of death. At the center of our faith is Jesus Christ, a God who did a very un-Godlike thing in consenting to die, and descending to the dead, all in order to break death’s terrible power, so that we don’t have to be afraid of death anymore. Every week in our creed, we confess a belief in the resurrection of the dead. That’s mighty bold of us, you know!

The month of November is bracketed by two death-defying Christian festivals: All Saints’ and the Reign of Christ. During All Saints, we give thanks for the lives of those who have gone before us, and profess our belief that they live again with

Christ. And during the Reign of Christ, we celebrate Christ’s authority over all things—even (especially!) death.

As the season turns toward the harvest, our readings in worship turn toward Jesus’ last days of earthly life. It’s an appropriate time to stop for death, and to ask questions and have conversations that we might avoid in a death-denying culture. Questions like: what does it mean, as a Christian, to die well? What does Jesus’ way of dying teach us? How do we live in light of our death? How do we grieve? What can we say to others who are grieving?

These questions will be explored during worship, and during a special run of Coffee & Conversation sessions after worship throughout this month. Join David, myself, and special guests after worship for Starbucks coffee, homemade treats, and good conversation.

With faith in the resurrection,

Pastor Larson



¹ Quoted in *What Happens When We Die?* By Thomas G. Long. Church Publishing, New York: 2017. Pg 7.

Generosity Grows from Gratitude

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances!

--1 Thessalonians. 5:16-18

Would you like to be a more generous person, possessing a generous heart? Then try embracing gratitude as a spiritual practice. Since Thanksgiving is on the 23rd of this month, November is a great time to give it a try.

Gratitude and generosity go together naturally. Whether you're a millionaire or just middle-class, when you are grateful for what you have, you'll likely be happier and more satisfied with your life. You will tend to see the world through the eyes of abundance and be more likely to give of yourself.

And it has nothing to do with wealth. Some of the most generous people you meet are poor, and some of the wealthiest people in the world are stingy. But generous people, rich or poor, tend to look at their lives with gratitude.

How can we embrace gratitude as a spiritual practice? Paul gives us a good start in the Scripture verse above. If we reverse his order, things flow pretty well:

Give thanks in all circumstances: It's easy to give thanks when everything is going along swimmingly, but much tougher when we face problems (and we all do). Notice that Paul says give thanks IN all circumstances, not FOR all circumstances. In hard times, we can be grateful for the parts of our life that are going well and for the resources, relationships and faith that will help us get through.

Pray without ceasing: You can communicate with God anytime and anywhere. Pray in the shower, in your car, on the beach, on your lunch break, at a stop light, in a grocery line. God hears all our prayers, whether spoken, whispered, or just thought. So pray without ceasing.

Rejoice always: Look for everyday celebrations every day. Do you have hot water? A car? Clean socks? High-speed Internet? Enough to eat? Friends? Loving relationships? Then rejoice!

For a disciplined approach, keep a journal of your daily thanks, or a "gratitude list" that you can pray over every night and revise as necessary. Or just make it a point every day to enter into a time of thankful prayer.

Commit to a disciplined approach for a period of time – say, from Thanksgiving to Christmas. And it's a good bet that your developing "attitude of gratitude" will result in your developing a generous heart and seeing the world through a lens of abundance.

--Rob Blezard

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Sponsors Needed

We need flower and bulletin/candle sponsors for November and December. The sign-up charts are on the bulletin board near the chapel.

We also need communion assistants and lay readers!

November Birthdays (*80 or older)

- 1st Maxine Wertz
- 5th Jan Holwig
- 15th Donna Schenfelt
- 18th Harold Cobb
- 24th Elizabeth Faul *
- 25th Jim Canning
Sarah Canning
- 30th Ann Kline *

November Anniversaries

- 1st Ken & Kim Smith
- 22nd Judy & Vince Krovic



Thank You Notes

To My Trinity Family,

Thanks for the very nice dish garden for my 90th birthday.

Sincerely,
John Brunner
Oct. 12, 2017

To My Trinity Family,

A big thank you for the beautiful bowl of flowers I received for my birthday.

Dick Schultheisz
Oct. 2017

Dear Trinity:

Thank you for your gift of \$200.00 (*from the Humanitarian Fund*) to Lutheran Disaster Response. With this gift you are providing emotional and spiritual care, supplying emergency relief, and addressing long-term recovery. With your gifts you are making possible the support of unmet needs, the coordinating of volunteers in the U.S. through our local affiliates, and the promoting of disaster risk-reduction internationally, expanding knowledge and ability.

Thank you for this gift and all your faithful generous gifts. Thank you for encouraging others to learn, act, pray and give with you. Thank you for living into God's words of justice and mercy and for joining with the whole church to love and serve one another.

In God's grace,
The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World
Hunger & Disaster Appeal

Dear Gay,

Jennifer shared with me your generous support of *In a Pinch* and I wanted you to know how much it means to me. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for supporting this initiative.

Sincerely,
Ginny Roth
YWCA, *In a Pinch* fund

Dear Pastor Larson:

Thank you so much for hosting us yesterday (Oct. 18). We registered 8 donors and collected 6 units. Those 6 units will help up to 18 local patients! I think this was a very good start and believe it will continue to grow from here!

My best,
Kathy O'Day
Central Pennsylvania Blood bank

Jan and Trinity Church,

Thank you for the love you've shown by crocheting me a prayer shawl, for being such a special church family, and bringing cheer to dismal days. I pray our precious Lord will bless you even more as you keep sharing with gladness the love of the Lord.

Blessed beyond words,
Cheryl Kerns

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ministry in Motion!

Trinity's new youth ministry outreach, *The Tribe*, a wrestling club grounded in faith formation, is still going strong! Over the past several weeks we've had between ten and twelve kids in the social hall learning about their faith, their bodies, and themselves. If you or anyone you know has children between the ages of 6 and 11, please invite them to join us Monday nights at 6pm! This group is led by David Tringali.

Walking Group

David has started a walking group on **Tuesdays** at 10:30am. The group meets in Trinity's parking lot and is great for anyone who might like to get out, get moving, and enjoy the fall weather! Just show up by 10:30 in the parking lot and join the walk!



All Saints Sunday

On **November 5** we will remember especially our Trinity members who have passed on during the past year:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Judith Cole</i> | <i>11/16/2016</i> |
| <i>Marlene Beistline</i> | <i>1/24/2017</i> |
| <i>Conrad "Cuni" Enders</i> | <i>7/9/2017</i> |

We will also have our white carnations for you to place on the altar during communion in memory of any of your own loved ones remembered in your hearts and prayers on this special commemoration day. Please join your church family for this meaningful, contemplative service.

Joint Meeting for Churches' Co-op

The next meeting of the four Steelton-Highspire-Oberlin (SOHL) churches will take place on **Monday, November 6** at 6:00 PM at St. Peter's in Highspire. Anyone interested in hearing what's going on among the 4 churches is invited to attend. There is always a meal, followed by a brief Bible study and a general meeting.

Soup/Bake Sale

Voting Day is **Tuesday, November 7**. We will be selling soups and baked goods all day long. If you are able to help in any way, please sign the sheets in the entryway at church to let us know how you can help.

Those of you who preordered your soup and/or fudge may pick it up on Nov. 7 or the following Sunday, Nov. 12.

Council Meeting

The next regular meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 9 at 7 PM** in the social hall. The 2018 budget will be presented at that time. Any parishioner may attend the meeting, give opinions, but may not vote on any issues.

We will need *volunteers* for Council for the next term of 2018 – 2020. If you are interested, please talk to Jim Canning or Mark Harkins. If you are considering being a Council member, you may want to come to a meeting to see what is involved.

Veterans' Recognition Breakfast

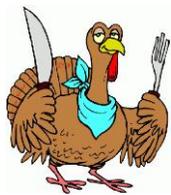
This will take place at Salem in Oberlin on **Friday, Nov. 10** between 9 and 10:30 AM. It is to honor veterans of the 103rd legislative district for their commitment, dedication, and time served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Veterans and their families will need to sign up on sheets available in the entryway of church. The event will be sponsored by Patty Kim.

October Fellowship Report

Our Second Sunday Fellowship was held on October 8, 2017. Robin and Harold Cobb did the cooking. They prepared ham and scalloped potatoes, peas and carrots, and assorted breads. Robin made ginger bread, orange cranberry cake and pumpkin cheesecake for dessert. We served about 50 people. The sponsors were John Brunner and Richard Schultheisz for their combined birthdays. Many people helped with the set up and cleanup which was greatly appreciated.

Our next First Sunday lunch will be held on **November 12, 2017**. The sponsors are Brenda and Bill Shick. Mike Anthony and Brenda will be cooking. The menu is Thanksgiving-themed with turkeyloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetables, salad, and dessert (made by Gay). We hope to see you all there.

We will soon be looking for sponsors for the new year. If you are interested, please call Gay at 741-1344. *(from Gay Rezin)*



A Walk through Bethlehem

A field trip is planned to the Line Mountain area to enjoy a walking tour of a live nativity following the journey of Mary and Joseph. The cost will be \$12 and will take place on Thursday, **November 30**. Vans will leave from Salem at 5 PM that evening. If you are interested, please contact Pat Warble at 717-564-7670.

Annual Holiday Bazaar

Salem in Oberlin will sponsor a Fall Bazaar at their church from 9 AM until 1 PM on **November 18**. They will be selling soup, apple dumplings, and goods donated to the church. Please stop by if you are able! If you would like to preorder pies (apple, apple crumb, peach, peach crumb, pumpkin, raisin, shoofly, cherry, or cherry crumb), soups (beef vegetable, ham & bean, chicken corn), or apple dumplings, please call Chris at 717-561-1123 or Arlene at 717-546-2205.

Thanksgiving Service/Hymn Sing

The four churches (Salem, Trinity, St. Peter's, St. John's) will be cooperating in a joint service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, **November 26** at 3:30 PM at Salem in Oberlin. Come and celebrate all the blessings that God has given us!



Youth Group Pancake Breakfast

The youth will be holding their annual Pancake Breakfast & Christmas "Yard Sale" on **Dec. 2** from 8 – 11 AM in St. Peter's social hall. The cost will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. Please start looking around your house for any Christmas items that you no longer wish to decorate with and consider donating them for the "yard sale". Put them in the choir room (mark them) and Anne Lentz will take them to St. Peter's.



ODDS AND ENDS!

Clean-Up Day

Thanks to those who helped clean out the attic on Saturday, October 14: Ed Holwig, Doug Martz, John Michtich, Matt Hunt, Tom Lupkie, and Jim Canning. What a job and what a mess! But these gentlemen persevered and got it done! A huge thank you goes out to Carl Zeiders who actually got rid of everything (recycling, trash, etc.) after it was brought out of the attic. Jim Canning also did a great job by posting some of the old desks and chairs on the web and they were “scooped up” by others who could use them. Thanks again. What a team effort!!



God give them and their human companions joy in their lives together.

At the end of the month, the four churches banded together for our first combined worship on October 29th! It just also happened to be Reformation Sunday, so there was a lot of red around, and of course, enthusiastic renditions of “A Mighty Fortress!” We all shared in the joy of witnessing Jessica Pressler’s confirmation as a member of the church by means of an Affirmation of Baptism. Afterwards we held a celebratory luncheon, complete with Luther Rose cake. It was a glorious day of praising God and commemorating our 500 year history as Lutherans!



October Events Recap

October was bookended by two wonderful events made possible by the cooperation of the four SOHL churches!

Steelton-Oblerin-Highspire Lutherans got together for a Blessing of the Animals on October 7th. The borough of Steelton was very supportive, connecting us with Steelton Community Cats and their monthly vaccine clinic. As a result, we saw a steady traffic throughout the day that included many dogs and cats, two Russian tortoises, and one awesome cockatoo! Volunteers from all four local Lutheran churches offered blessings, recognizing the beauty of God’s creation in those wonderful creatures and asking that



November Participants in Our Services

| Date | Greeter(s) | Communion Assistants | Ushers | Lay Reader | Acolyte | Bulletins, Candles \$17 | Flowers \$25 |
|---------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Nov. 5 | the people of Trinity | David Tringali, ? | Chuck Reider, Dick Schultheisz | ? | Ni'Shaun Ward-McMullen | Holwigs | Judy Krovic |
| Nov. 12 | " | Judy Krovic, David Tringali | Bob Emrich, Richard Martz | ? | Zachary Anthony | Kains | Bowlings |
| Nov. 19 | " | David Tringali, ? | Shelley & Mark Radic | ? | Brady Holwig | Kains | Kains |
| Nov. 26 | " | David Tringali, Judy Krovic | Jim Canning, Bill Stickle | ? | Gabe Whary | Schenfelts | Gay Rezin |

Altar Guild for November: Shelley Radic, Anna & Carl Zeiders, Brenda Shick
December: Jan Holwig, Peg Bowling, Judy Krovic



Shut-ins and Those Who Need Our Prayers

The following are those who cannot get to church because of physical problems, etc. Please remember them with a card, a visit, and/or your prayers.

Nancy Brunner 2115 James Buchanan Dr., Elizabethtown 17022
Darlene Martz 97 Brompton Rd., Hummelstown, 17036
Kathleen Michtich S2 – 228A, Spring Creek, 1205 S. 28th St., Hbg. 17111
Anna Guyer 1020 N. Union St., Rm. 231, Middletown 17057 (Frey Village)
Rene & Joyce Stickle 224 Elm St., Steelton 17113
Katarina Schuech 4805 E. Circle Dr., Hbg. 17111
Jackie Day 335 Wesley Dr. Apt. 601, Mechanicsburg 17055
Kathryn Steigler **Rm. 104A**, Homeland, 1901 N. 5th St., Harrisburg 17102
Bernie Campbell 100 Freemason Drive, Masonic Village, Elizabethtown 17104
Ray Stoner S310-A, Spring Creek, 1205 S. 28th St., Hbg. 17111
Fran Dubesky 517 Kelker St., Steelton 17113
Linda Lokey 117 Lancaster Estates, Mt. Joy 17552
Paul Flickinger 1199 Twin Lakes Dr., Hbg. 17111 (Paul is at Colonial Park Care Center in Room B12. Betty will take any cards to him that are mailed to their home.)
Christine Miller 4800 Lancer Court, Apt. C, Hbg. 17109
Bill Ward 232 Elm St., Steelton 17111

Poinsettias for Christmas – Order Form

It's time to start thinking about Christmas! We need to get our order in for the red poinsettias that we use to decorate the church on Christmas Eve. A tentative number must be called in to our florist by **December 4** and an absolute final number must be called in on **December 11**. All poinsettias will be red and wrapped in gold foil. You need to fill out the following order form and return it with your payment (checks should be made out to *Trinity Lutheran Church*) to Jan Holwig. You may give it to her at church or mail it to the church office. (221 S. 2nd St., Steelton, PA 17113) *Orders will not be called in for flowers for which payments are not received.*



Each donor will be listed in the Christmas Eve Bulletin including their name and the name of the person(s) for whom the flowers are in honor of (living) or memory of (deceased). If you are planning to order, please do it promptly before you put this form aside and forget about it! Thanks!

2017 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

I wish to order _____ poinsettia plants at a cost of \$10.00 each. These plants will be used to decorate the church on Christmas Eve.

Please fill out the following completely, making sure first names and last names are exactly the way you want them put into the bulletin.

Given *In Honor of*: _____

by: _____

Given *In Honor of*: _____

by: _____

Given *In Memory of*: _____

by: _____

Given *In Memory of*: _____

by: _____

Your name _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Please make an effort to pick up your poinsettias after the Christmas Eve service or the following Sunday. Any left after that will be given to shut-ins.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Steelton invites you to:

GRAIN THAT IN EARTH IS DYING

A worship series on death and deliverance,
grief and grace, and some little (BIG) questions.

JOIN US SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM FOR WORSHIP
& 12PM FOR CAFE-STYLE CONVERSATIONS

NOVEMBER 5: WHAT ARE WE AFRAID OF?

What are our biggest fears about death?
What can Jesus' own death tell us about our fears?

NOVEMBER 12: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?

NOTE: THIS CONVERSATION IS AT 9AM

Five answers about the afterlife, and a Christian response.
Special guest: the Rev. Liz Polanske, ELCA Gift Planner

NOVEMBER 19: HOW DO WE GRIEVE?

How do we say goodbye? How do we comfort one another?
Special guest: Bruce Parthemore, funeral director

NOVEMBER 26: HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

How do we live meaningful lives in light of our mortality?
Special guest: Dixie McCauley, hospice volunteer

