

The rinitarian

February 2019

Focus Group Update

The FOCUS group is continuing to draft the Co-Op Agreement. We will soon be complete with our first run through, at which point we will review it again with the intention of tweaking and refining the contents.

Your input is appreciated, so at any point if you have a question or suggestion, please share it with a member of the group (Jim Canning, Richard Martz, Shelley Radic, Jan Holwig, and Anne Lentz). You are also welcome to attend the meetings and share your thoughts in that forum.

Focus Group Meeting Schedule:

Feb. 25 at Trinity at 7pm

March 11 at St. Peter's at 7pm

March 25 at Trinity at 7pm

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From the Pastor: Our Ministry in Steelton

One question I asked members of council recently, "How important is it for us to remain in Steelton?" As you might guess, the answers are varied. Some of our members have never lived in Steelton while others have been lifelong members of Trinity.

So for some remaining in Steelton is very important while to others not so important. (Please note, at this point no one has made any decisions on this subject, it is a matter for future prayerful decision.)

As I understand the history of our congregation, one important ministry was the welcoming of people from Germany and other countries following World War II. Some of these folks came from countries in which they were no longer welcome. However, the good people of Trinity welcomed them, and they made a home, here.

Today we face the often-repeated reality "that the more things change, the more they stay the same." Granted we do not have refugees from Germany/Europe, but we do have people all around us in need of a church home and a Christian community.

Many, too, are refugees here in Steelton.

So, here is where we are, there is a need to reach out and share ourselves and our faith with the many "newer families" in Steelton. This may seem difficult and maybe even impossible, but we have already laid the foundation with these efforts:

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- 1) Our church is a place for the youth ministry known as “the Tribe.”
- 2) We are a polling place which is also a place for people to gather on election day.
- 3) We have “the Life and Death” (Narcotics Anonymous) group who meet in our church
- 4) We have members involved in the Elementary School (tutoring and food program)
- 5) We are a friendly congregation.

So what more do we have to do?

- 1) Continue to ask questions and work on what it means to be a welcoming congregation
- 2) Start a second worship service (not to replace our existing service) but one with more outreach potential.
- 3) Invite others to come join us
- 4) Most importantly, continue to pray, worship, and read the Bible to grow in our efforts.

Let’s continue to show the love of God in all we do.

- *Pastor Mike*

Wednesday Morning Worship

January has been a tough month for Sunday worship due to one reason - SNOW.

However, if you hear there will be bad weather on Sunday, we still have our Wednesday Worship at 9:30. The service lasts for ½ hour, has lessons, a short sermon, and Holy Communion. (Note, we use different lessons and sermons for Wednesday, so you could come to Wednesday worship and not hear the same lessons and sermon on Monday.)

Rainy Day Fund

Our Rainy Day Fund Birdhouse (started by Kenn Higgins) is back in action! We have three building fund projects that must be done over the next several months: repair of a roofing issue, repair of an air-conditioning unit for the 2nd floor of the

social hall, and repair of a piece of fencing above the parking lot. There is also a Building Fund (green) envelope coming up in your box of offering envelopes that you may use for this purpose. That way, you'll get credit on your tax statement!! Every dollar is appreciated! Thanks in advance!

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

The Tuesday Evening Bible Study, led by Mary Hunt, meets Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the social hall.

The theme for February is love. We will be looking at examples in the Bible of romantic love, friendship, and familial love.

Feb 5 – Family love (the story of Ruth, Naomi, & Boaz)

Feb 12 – Romantic love (Solomon)

Feb 19 Valentines Party (food & games)

Feb 26 – Friendship (David & Jonathon)

As always there will be snacks, prayer, discussion, and fun. All are welcome!

Communities of Hope at Salem-Oberlin

This is something new for families that work all week or for those who have off one day a week and want to sleep in on Sunday Mornings. Come as you are on Saturday night, there is no need to dress up. Come in your jean or sweats!

Jesus loves you just the way you are.

Worship will be held at Salem at 1152 Main Street, Oberlin at 5:30pm on the following dates:

February 16

March 30

April 20

May 18

June 15

Thank You

Pastor Mike Thanks You

It is amazing all the things we have going on at Trinity. Thanks for all your efforts!



Our **ELCA Good Gifts campaign** was a huge success thanks to all of you who participated! A total of \$1,002.00 was collected and we were able to double \$650 of that amount so our **GRAND TOTAL** was \$1,652.00! A check will be sent to ELCA Good Gifts. Thanks to our TCO (Trinity Community Outreach) group for sponsoring this event and thanks again to all of YOU who helped reach that total.

A Big Thank you to the counters who dutifully count the money and help us keep track of the giving and attendance.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for thinking of Health Ministries of Christ Lutheran Church when deciding where to contribute profits from your Oktoberfest Dance!

In this season when give thanks for the gift of Jesus, we are grateful for the way you show his love for those in our community. May God fill your lives with hope, peace, love and joy this season and throughout the new year.

We are so blessed to share in the ministry of providing health, wellbeing, and safety for our Allison Hill community with you. May this season of Advent at Trinity be filled with the light of Christ!

Thank you,

Rev Andrew Stockstill
Health Ministries of Christ Lutheran Church

Memorials

Contributions have been received in memory of the following. We thank the contributors for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

We have received memorials for Kathleen Michtich from the following:

Virginia Michtich
Jacqueline Acri
Ed & Jan Holwig
Lenny & Peg Bowling
Henry Koller
Anna Gawel
Richard Schultheisz
Carl & Anna Zeiders
Richard & Darlene Martz
Bob & Edie Carrillo
Mike Miller
Thomas & Susan Orris
Mary Jane Haase
John & Nancy Brunner

memorial for Carl & Anna Guyer from:

Carl & Anna Zeiders

memorials for Hedy Hocker

Gerald & Hedy McKee
Matthew Galinac
Todd & Kelly Lynch
John Brunner

Memorial gifts may be given at any time and in memory of whomever you would like. Envelopes are available by the Memorial Book in the entryway of the church.



Combined worship at Trinity on December 30, 2018 at Trinity

Fifth Sunday Combined Worship

The congregations of SOHL continue to have combined worship on every fifth Sunday (or so). The last time we came together was on December 30, 2018. The 2019 Fifth Sunday worship schedule is as follows:

- March 31st at Salem-Oberlin
- June 23rd at St. John’s-Steelton (Note change of date to 4th Sunday this time only)
- September 29th at Trinity-Steelton
- December 29th at St. Peter’s Highspire

Souper Bowl Sunday



During the month of January Trinity and St. Peter’s collected cans of soup for a “Souper” Bowl donation to the United Lutheran Seminary Food Pantry at Gettysburg.

The two congregations engaged in a friendly competition to see who could collect the most cans during the entire month of January. St. Peter’s collected 723 cans and Trinity collected 634 for a grand total of 1,355 cans.

On February 3, 2019, St. Peter’s was awarded the official “Souper Bowl” trophy, designed by Mark Radic of Trinity.

| Date | Attendance | Giving |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| Sunday Dec 30 | 91 | \$2,795.00 |
| Wednesday Jan 2 | 5 | |
| Sunday Jan 6 | 43 | |
| | 48 | \$3,016.00 |
| Wednesday Jan 9 | 7 | |
| Sunday Jan 13 | 23 | |
| | 30 | \$1,034.00 |
| Wednesday Jan 16 | 5 | |
| Sunday Jan 20 | 18 | |
| | 23 | \$818.00 |
| Sunday Jan 27 | 48 | \$3,809.00 |

The next SOHL meeting will take place on Monday, March 4th, at 6:00 p.m. at St. John’s in Steelton.

Lent 2019

Once again, the congregations of SOHL will come together during the season of Lent.

The season of Lent begins with the Ash Wednesday service at Trinity on March 6. The service will begin at 7pm.

During the remaining five Wednesdays of Lent, SOHL will come together in a mid-week meal and Bible Study. The location will rotate among the four congregations. The hosting congregation will provide soup and everyone else will provide drinks.

The theme of these Wednesdays in Lent will be Evangelism.

On March 13 – St. John's will host and the focus of the evening will be prayer.

On March 20 – Salem will host and the focus of the evening will be the Gospel.

On March 27 – St. Peter's will host and the focus of the evening will be the mission field.

On April 3 – Trinity will host and the focus of the evening will be to understand how we can share our gifts with the community.

On March 13 – St. John's will host and the focus of the evening will be to consider what steps we take next.

Vacation Bible School

This year, the congregations of SOHL will once again offer a combined VBS. It will take place the week of June 24 at St. John's in Steelton. An organizational meeting will be held on March 2 at 10am at St. John's. The main focus of the meeting is to review and select the curriculum for VBS. Everyone interested in participating in this important cooperative ministry is invited and encouraged to attend.

Harrisburg Area Youth Initiative February Schedule

Sunday, February 10th 6-8pm: Faith Formation AT Good Shepherd Paxtang, 3700 Rutherford Street, Harrisburg. Join us and special guest Recovery Advocate Angela Cook as we explore addiction and the things that possess us in our lives!

Sunday February 24th, from 5-9pm: Dinner and Games at The Hope-Tringali House, 889 Alpine Drive, Hummelstown and Dave and Buster's Camp Hill. Join us for dinner at David and Jennifer's house from 5-6:30pm then follow along to games and fun at Dave and Buster's. Please RSVP to Deacon David so we can have an accurate headcount for dinner! All are welcome, bring a friend!

Monday February 4th, 11th and 25th: Caitlin's Smiles Projects at Trinity Steelton. Come out and help put together craft kits for children in the hospital. Appropriate for all ages, all are welcome! Please note that we will not meet on President's Day, February 18th!

Stewardship of loving relationships

Jesus said, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." –

Mark 12:31b

Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." --Matthew 5:43b

Red hearts, roses and chocolates are everywhere, so it must be February – the month of love! There's certainly nothing wrong with celebrating romance between you and a special someone, or love among family members, or best friends who are always there for one another.

But our inner-circle folks represent only a sliver of the people Jesus calls us to love. And let's face it: they're the *easy* ones to love. Jesus calls us to a higher plane of love; to love everyone. This means not just the people about whom we are ambivalent, but our actual enemies and those who persecute us.

Such love is a tall order, especially today, when hatred and demonization is rampant. Our political, media and social cultures encourage us to demean everybody with whom we disagree or who is different from us. Though it may be impossible to reach Jesus' ideal, as stewards and disciples of Jesus, we can do better.

Turn from hate. It may be too much to love our enemies, but we can start by turning from hatred. When negative feelings arise, refuse to marinate in them. Pray for guidance and strength.

Remember that loving your enemy doesn't mean approving of who they are, what they do, or letting them escape responsibility for their actions. It also does not mean you cannot protect yourself or others from harm.

Imagine them as a broken, imperfect child of God (just like you!), who needs God's love and mercy. Pray for them. Ask God to lead them, guide them, fill their lives with healing. Ask God to give them the kind of loving heart that you are hoping to develop in yourself.

If you do these things consistently, with God's help you will have transformed your heart, your life and our world.

--Rob Blezard

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Laundry Love

Pat Hawkins' ChristCare group is continuing to offer free laundry to the community on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Boardwalk Laundromat across from St. Peter's. This has been a very successful practice to share God's love from St. Peter's church family. They were able to help 28 families in 2018!

Combined Service Project: God's Work, Our Hands

On April 6, 2019, with a rain date scheduled for May 4th, there will be a cleanup of several outdoor spaces in the Highspire area. We will begin at 8:00 am with a breakfast together (place to be announced) and then go out from there to our clean up places. Even though this project will take place in Highspire, people from all four churches are WELCOME and ENCOURAGED to take part. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Hawkins.

Karate School

Salem has a karate school (Fearless Dragons) meeting in their basement on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays. There is a fee but it is reasonably priced. If you know of any children that would be interested, feel free to reach out to Salem for more information.



We pray for those...

In need:

Gay Rezin
Chris Orris
Scott Szekeres
Fran Dubesky
Bev Hawkins
Kirk Douglas
Bill Schick

Elizabeth Faul
Pastor Sharron Blezard
Darlene Martz

Fletcher Smith
John Schenfelt
Joyce Stickle

Serving in our military:

Kyle Anthony
Anthony Szekeres
Scott Whary

Continued prayer:

Jacky Day
Our homebound members

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.

Alice Brown
71 Edenvue Road
1802 Folkemer Circle Apt. 103
York, PA 17404

Nancy Brunner
2115 James Buchanan Dr.
Elizabethtown 17022

Bernie Campbell
100 Freemason Drive
Masonic Village
Elizabethtown 17104

Jackie Day
335 Wesley Dr. Apt. 601
Mechanicsburg 17055

Fran Dubesky
517 Kelker St.
Steelton 17113

Darlene Martz
97 Brompton Rd.
Hummelstown, 17036

Christine Miller
4800 Lancer Court Apt. C
Harrisburg 17109

Katarina Schuech
4805 E. Circle Dr.

Harrisburg 17111

Rene & Joyce Stickle
224 Elm St.
Steelton 17113

Ray Stoner
S310-A Spring Creek
1205 S. 28th St.
Harrisburg 171

February

| S | M | T | W | R | F | S |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 9:45AM Choir Rehearsal | 9:30AM Bible Study | 6:30PM Bible Study | 9:30AM Morning Worship | 3PM Tutoring at Steelton Elementary | | |
| 10:30AM Worship | 3PM Tutoring at Steelton Elementary | | 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal | | | |
| 12PM 1 st Sunday Fellowship | 6PM The Tribe – youth wrestling | | | | | |
| 6PM Life and Death Group | 6PM SOHL at St. Peter's | | | | | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 9:45AM Choir Rehearsal | 9:30AM Bible Study | 6:30PM Bible Study | 9:30AM Morning Worship | 3PM Tutoring at Steelton Elementary | | |
| 10:30AM Worship | 3PM Tutoring at Steelton Elementary | | 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal | | | |
| 6PM Life and Death Group | 6PM The Tribe – youth wrestling | | | | | |
| | 6PM – Caitlin's Smiles Project | | | | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 9:45AM Choir Rehearsal | 9:30AM Bible Study | 6:30PM Bible Study | 9:30AM Morning Worship | Newsletter deadline | | |
| 10:30AM Worship | 3PM Tutoring at Steelton Elementary | | 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal | 3PM Tutoring at Steelton Elementary | | |
| 12PM TCO meeting following worship | 6PM The Tribe – youth wrestling | | | | | |
| 6PM Life and Death Group | | | | 6PM Council meeting | | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | |
| 9:45AM Choir Rehearsal | 9:30AM Bible Study | 6:30PM Bible Study | 9:30AM Morning Worship | 3PM Tutoring at Steelton Elementary | | |
| 10:30AM Worship | 3PM Tutoring at Steelton Elementary | | 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal | | | |
| 6PM Life and Death Group | 6PM – Caitlin's Smiles Project | | | | | |
| | 6PM The Tribe – youth wrestling | | | | | |
| | 7PM FOCUS at Trinity | | | | | |

February Participants in our Services

| Date | Communion Assistants | Ushers | Lay Reader | Acolyte | Flowers \$25 | Bulletins, Candles \$17 |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Feb. 3 | Jan Holwig, ? | Mark Harkins, Matt Hunt | Jan Holwig | volunteer | ? | ? |
| Feb. 10 | Mary & Matt Hunt | Bob Emrich, Richard Martz | Anne Lentz | volunteer | Hunts | Holwigs |
| Feb. 17 | Shelley & Mark Radic | Carl Zeiders, Dick S. | Matt Hunt | volunteer | ? | ? |
| Feb. 24 | Judy Krovic, Jan Holwig | Jim Canning, Lenny Bowling | Jan Holwig | volunteer | Richard Martz | Richard Martz |



February: Judy Krovic, Peg & Lenny Bowling
March: Jan Holwig, Matt & Mary Hunt
April: Shelley & Mark Radic, Jan Holwig

February Birthdays (*80 or older)

6th John Schenfelt *
 7th Mary Hunt
 Ray Stoner *
 9th Rene Stickle *
 12th Bonnie Ward
 Zack Szekeres
 13th Ed Holwig
 18th Mark Harkins
 21st Joan Hogentogler
 23rd Jackie Day *
 Edie Carrillo
 27th Richard Martz *

February Anniversary

28th Henry & Vicki Koller



TRINITARIAN PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

| Issue | Deadline | Publication Date |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------|
| March 2019 | 2/21/2019 | 2/28/2019 |
| April 2019 | 3/21/2019 | 3/28/2019 |
| May 2019 | 4/18/2019 | 4/25/2019 |
| June/July/August 2019 | 5/16/2019 | 5/30/2019 |
| September 2019 | 8/15/2019 | 8/29/2019 |
| October 2019 | 9/19/2019 | 9/26/2019 |
| November 2019 | 10/17/2019 | 10/24/2019 |
| December 2019 | 11/14/2019 | 11/21/2019 |

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