

FALL 2021



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church



TRINITAS

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From Pastor's Desk

Dear Trinity Family and Friends—

The leaves are beginning to fall and some bushes are turning red, so our minds begin to turn to the autumn rituals of the Church.

We will observe Reformation Day on October 31st. If you have a red item of clothing, please wear it.

The following Sunday is All Saints Day when we will remember those who have claimed their baptismal promises. Those to be remembered are: Kevin Phelan and Samantha Guzman.

Stewardship Sunday will be November 21st. We are using the theme "Live Generously". There will be several temple talks/speakers from the congregation, who will speak about their ministry in the world.

Then Advent and Christmas are upon us. I hope you will join in person or on Zoom for these opportunities.

Pastor Wendy



***Remember
to wear
something
red on
Reformation
Day, October
31st!***



Faith In Action

TriniKnits: Fall is here and cold weather cannot be far behind. While we have a good start on our hats, scarves and mittens for distribution to Cathedral Park, St. Luke's and Gerard Place, the need is even greater. We will continue to collect both purchased and knit/crocheted items. Gift cards for Joann or Michael's are also helpful. If you have any questions about this ministry and how you can help, please see Barb Seegar.



Gerard Place Soup Kitchen: Gerard place is in need of volunteers to help on days other than Trinity's scheduled Wednesday each month. Please see Kathy Back if you can help them for more information. Also they are accepting any men's/boy's clothing to hand out to that community. We are collecting outerwear for them (coats, hoodies, etc) as there is a great need as the weather turns colder.

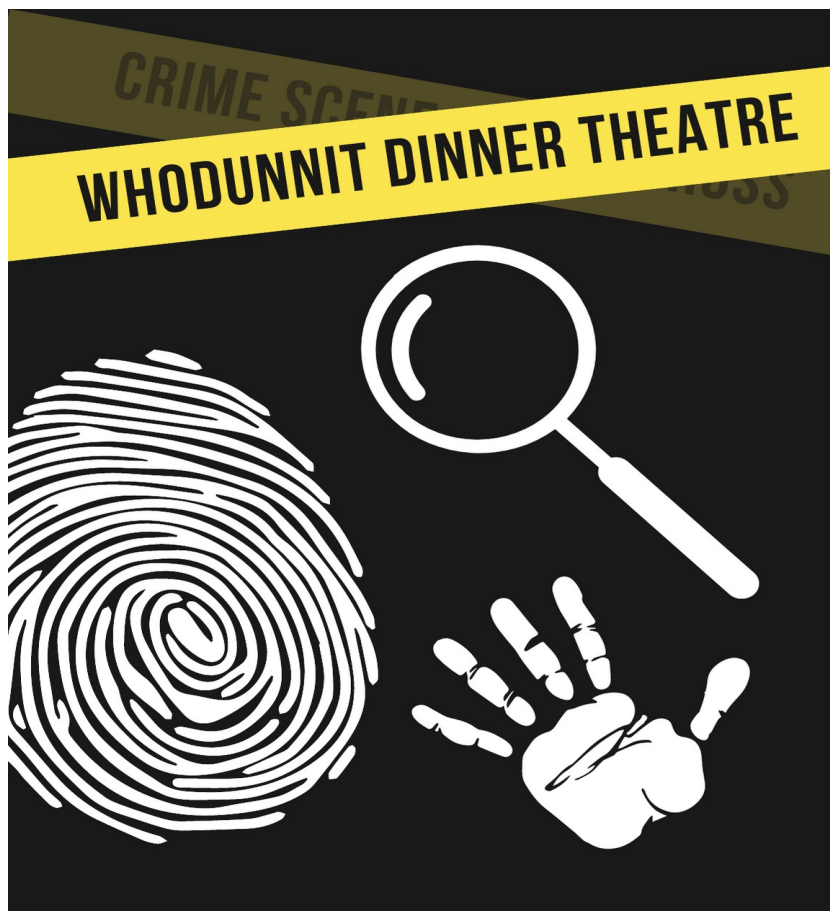


Collections: There are containers on the table in the narthex for the following: **Ronald McDonald House** (can tabs), **Wands for Wildlife** (clean, used mascara wands), and **Dash's Markets** (receipts). We are collecting 2021 receipts. **Hearts for the Homeless:** Collecting clothing in the red box in the parking lot.

Amazonsmile: If you shop Amazon, consider doing so through Amazon Smile indicating that you are supporting Trinity as the church will receive 0.5% of eligible purchases. 1) Log into smile.amazon.com 2) Enter sign-in info or create an account. 3) At the top of the next screen under the search box, there is a place to select the charity one wishes to support. Type "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church". Select the one that says "East Amherst, NY" 4) Shop online. Kathy Back can help if you are having problems.



Lutheran Charities of WNY WHODUNNIT Dinner Theatre



November 5 & 6
6:00pm Doors Open
7:00pm Dinner Theatre

RIPA's Restaurant
4218 Walden Ave
Lancaster, NY 14086

\$55 per ticket

Dinner Choices:

- Boneless Chicken Breast
Florentine w/Mornay Sauce
- Baked Atlantic Cod Florentine
- Homemade Rigatoni with Vodka
Cream Sauce

Details and registration at
wnylutherancharities.org
or call 716-632-2623

Mission Messages from Marcia Brown

DREAMS COME TRUE

Chhani Marandi used to be a domestic worker. She is 24, lives in Nepal, and always dreamed of being a health care professional, inspired by her father's health problems. He died when she was 5, and her older siblings had to leave school and work to support the family. Chhani herself started to do domestic work in third grade to pay for her own education, eventually graduating from 10th grade. Then she heard about a scholarship program from the Lutheran Community Welfare Society, a partner of Lutheran World Federation in Nepal. This is one of many projects supported by ELCA World Hunger that create opportunities for women.

After 18 months of study, Chhani completed her training as an auxiliary nurse midwife, and now works at Anjali Hospital. She plans to also provide health services to her community by phone, and to continue her training so she can provide free care to families in poverty. "It was my dream to be a health worker since the time my family could not afford proper treatments for my father," Chhani said. "I got the opportunity to fulfill my dream from the Lutheran World Federation in Nepal. I realized that it was 'God's grace to me and my dreams.'"

You helped make Chhani's dreams come true through your Mission Support. *Thank you!*

FROM ASHES TO NEW LIFE

Again, the Western states of the US are on fire. The smoke from them can be seen from satellites it is so dense. Entire towns have been wiped off the face of the earth. Whole hillsides of trees have burned, leaving them vulnerable to mudslides. Complicating the situation, of course, is the continuing pandemic. How can people safely rebuild their lives, go to work, and attend school when all their possessions have been lost?

Lutheran Disaster Response is always at the ready to determine the best ways to respond, from immediate needs like food and shelter, to long term emotional and spiritual support. LDR also has helped the fire departments by purchasing generators for volunteers who have lost their homes, and by starting a tool lending program. Children have been helped through the trauma by attending summer camp spon-

sored by Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.

Your generous gifts of mission support to the Synod, and direct gifts to LDR, have shown people impacted by these disasters that you care for them, whether through long-term recovery projects or something as simple as a generator.

Thank you!

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Most everything has been harvested from the vegetable garden by now. But in the southern hemisphere, it is spring and time for planting. In Chile, Maria Carrasco has worked since 1985 with a program, founded in 1982 by an ELCA missionary, called Educacion Popular en Salud (EPES). Supported by ELCA World Hunger, EPES trains students, public officials, health and education workers, and women from vulnerable communities to advocate for the rights to health care and sustainable food. As a response to Covid-19, EPES proposed to start community gardening workshops online. The problem is, in Maria's neighborhood, there are very few green spaces for gardening. But she learned how to improve soil quality and reduce waste by composting, and to work with natural light and the space she had. Soon, arugula, chard, and spinach were growing in the 6-foot walkway to her front door.

In Chile, as in many other countries, people experiencing poverty are especially vulnerable to illnesses caused by poor nutrition. Add to this the pandemic, and food has become expensive and difficult to access. Cultivating community gardens gives families greater autonomy and assures them access to fresh produce. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make all this possible. *Thank you!*

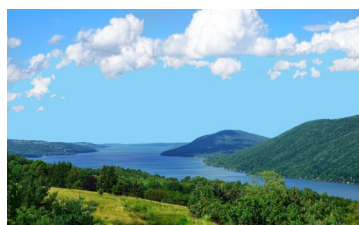
We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.

Marcia Brown
Mission Interpreter



Pr. Dan's Retirement Party in Pictures: Saturday, September 18th





*Canandaigua,
here they come!
Please visit often,
Pastor Dan and Debbie.
You will be missed!*



‘Christus’ Finds a Home in the Narthex

Thank you to Kathy Sullivan for obtained Resurrection Church’s ‘Christus’, and for having it beautifully and lovingly restored for placement in our special, historical corner of the narthex. The statue is a replica of a very famous statue in Denmark. Below is an article about it from a Yale University website.

Bertel Thorvaldsen, Christus (Christ)

by Petra ten-Doesschate Chu and Peter Ahr

In September 1807, the Vor Frue Kirke (Our Lady’s Church), the National (Lutheran) Cathedral of Denmark, was destroyed during the bombardment of Copenhagen by the British navy. The church was rebuilt between 1817 and 1829 in the then fashionable Neoclassical style. The internationally famous Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen (1789–1838) was asked to produce for the new church a series of colossal statues of Christ, John the Baptist, and the apostles. Of these, Christus (Christ) has become best-known (Fig. 1). Copies of the sculpture, often true to size or even larger, can be found around the world. Thorvaldsen’s Christ is particularly meaningful to the adherents of the Mormon Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. An 11-foot replica is on display at the Temple Square in Salt Lake City, UT. Other reproductions are in Mormon churches across the United States. Copies of Thorvaldsen’s Christ are also found in non-Mormon buildings, such as the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Popular culture has embraced the sculpture as well: small plastic reproductions for domestic or dashboard use are widely sold and, in 2009, parishioners of the Önsta Gryta church in the Swedish city of Västerås made a nearly 6-foot copy out of 30,000 Lego blocks.

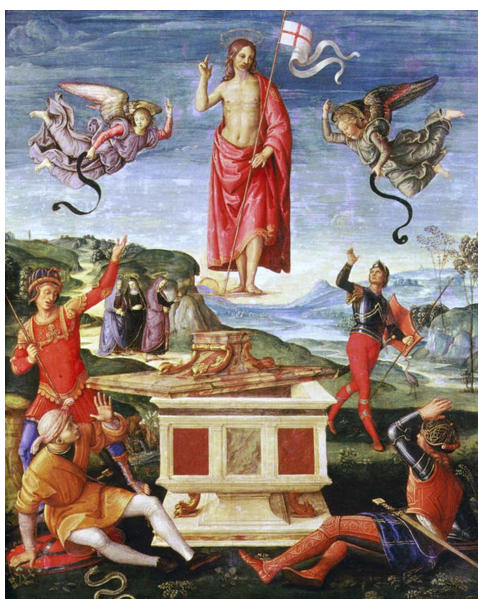
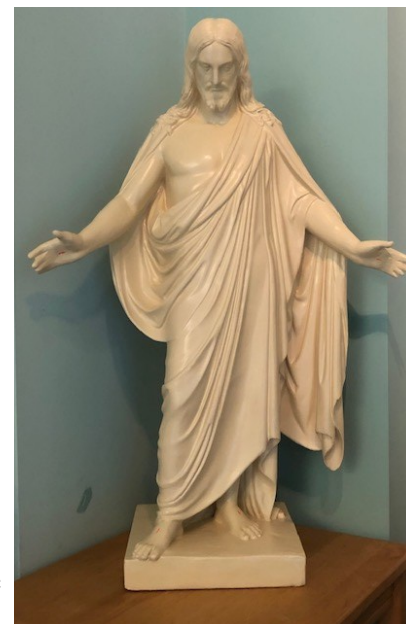


Fig. 2 Raphael, The Resurrection of Christ, ca. 1502

Thorvaldsen’s Christ shows a young man whose idealized body is draped in a heavy cloth that leaves part of his torso and right arm bare. His arms are outstretched in a gesture of welcome, embodying the Christian biblical quote on the statue’s pedestal, “Come to me all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew (11:28). Christ’s face, with its perfectly modeled classical features, is inclined, the eyes cast downwards, and the lips slightly parted.

The Western iconographic tradition shows Jesus as nude or even partly nude only at specific moments: in images of his nativity, in which he often wears no clothes at all; his crucifixion, in which he wears only a loin cloth; and his resurrection, as in Thorvaldsen’s sculpture. Images of the nude or partially nude Christ, in which the viewer’s attention is drawn to the body of Christ, have overtones of Eucharistic devotion characteristic of Roman Catholicism from the thirteenth century forward and maintained, albeit with a few notable changes, in the Lutheran church.

Thorvaldsen’s Christ, behind the altar, helps the faithful participating in the Communion to imagine themselves in the presence of Christ, whose body and blood, according to article X of the Augsburg Confession, are truly present in the bread and wine of the sacrament.

Thorvaldsen’s sculpture presents a Christ risen from the dead and available to believers in the present moment. Torso bared, he



Fig. 3 Caravaggio, Doubting Thomas, 1601-1602

Continued on next page

resembles traditional images of the resurrection, but differs from them in that the wounds of the crucifixion are underplayed. In Renaissance and Baroque images, such as Raphael's Resurrection (Fig. 2) and Caravaggio's Doubting Thomas (Fig. 3), Christ prominently displays his wounds. Thorvaldsen's image, however, is iconic rather than narrative, inviting the viewer to focus on the presence of Christ rather than on events of the life of Jesus.

Yet, despite iconicity and idealism, Thorvaldsen's Christ is not distant and remote. His downward gaze and outstretched hands all invite an immediate response from the congregation. The viewer is not merely invited into this Christ's presence, as the quote from the Gospel of Matthew suggests, rather the (human) world is entered and embraced by Christ as he steps forward to engage the faithful.

Thorvaldsen's sculpture appears to underscore the Lutheran belief that salvation is dependent purely on faith in Christ, or, according to the Augsburg Confession (article IV), individuals "cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor . . ."



Fig. 1 Bertel Thorvaldsen, Christus (Christ), Installed in the apse of the Vor Frue Kirke in 1839.



New Dean Elected in Niagara Frontier Conference!

Congratulations to the Rev. Jeremiah Smith who was elected to the office of Dean in the Niagara Frontier Conference on September 22. Pastor Jeremiah is the pastor of Parkside Lutheran Church (and will remain so) and will assume this part time position as Dean on October 1. His term will be 4 ½ years (Fall 2021 – Spring 2026). A new Dean will be elected in the fall of 2025 and that person will shadow Dean Jeremiah as the Dean elect until the next synod assembly.

In his nomination form Dean Jeremiah said, as a pastor "I strive to be a bridge builder. The first priority is always Jesus, striving to create opportunities for people to explore and encounter faith in Jesus. I work hard to foster connections between people in the congregation as we grow an internal sense of community."

Please pray for Pastor Jeremiah as he begins his ministry among us. He can be reached at unysdeannf@gmail.com.



With joy we welcome our
autumnal observances of
Reformation Day,
All Saints Day and Advent!
Come join us!



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Vicar Meghan James
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trinityontransit11@gmail.com
Sunday 9:30 AM Eucharist
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www.facebook.com/TrinityOnTransit/*

ZOOM CONNECTION

Our Zoom account, "Worship and Meetings" can be found at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85167890638?pwd=eHptd21KN01Vc0QyS2pSNVU4U3hUQT09>

ID # 851 6789 0638 Passcode: 860145

Wednesday Exegesis continues to offer in-person and Zoom, using Pr. Dan's account:

ID# 460 550 4086 Passcode: 600776

Both of these accounts can be found at <https://zoom.us/>. You will need to download the app to your computer, phone or device. Then, to join our Zoom meeting simply go to:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4605504086> If you are using dial-up, find your local number at: <https://us04web.zoom.us/u/fei59xzihG>. To watch the recording of Sunday's service go to www.trinityontransit.org.

SPEAK UP! One more Mission Message from our friend Marcia Brown

What do you care about? What stirs your heart enough to act? What can't you help keeping silent about?

All those are part of advocacy—speaking up for someone who is unable to. All parents are advocates for their children at one time or another and some people have experienced being an advocate for a relative who is ill and temporarily cannot speak for themselves. Have you ever thought of advocacy as a witness to Christ? Because what you are doing is caring for your neighbor. Do you remember the bracelets that said WWJD (what would Jesus do)? The answer is that Jesus would care about the hungry, the homeless, the stranger, the children and orphans and widows.

ELCA advocacy is a wide-ranging effort, touching on local concerns as well as national and world-wide. Sometimes advocacy is dramatic and very public, as in rallies and demonstrations. But more often it's quiet and slow, involving months or even years of work with governments and social agencies. It is not political as it does not identify with a particular ideology or party. Here is a partial list of topics that ELCA Advocacy focuses on: migrant children; corporate social

responsibility; faith, science, and technology; justice for women; peace not walls; racial justice; social issues. Go to elca.org, type "advocacy" in the search box, and you can sign up for email updates of those issues and more. You can find opportunities for action and also more resources.

We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. Stand up for policies that create opportunities to overcome poverty, promote peace and dignity, and defend God's creation. Advocate as a witness to your faith!

We are church together
for the sake of the world.

God's Work. Our Hands.



advocacy