
Newsletter April 2018



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Valley View, Pennsylvania

Pastor's Letter

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose resurrection gives us new hope! Amen.

On Wednesday mornings, I typically drop Timmy off at my aunt's house in the morning so that I can go and take care of pastoral responsibilities. Lately, before I drive down to Valley View, I have begun to add something else to the ritual.

Instead of driving down Interstate 81, I continue on to the site of the former Schuylkill Mall. I drive up the ramp that, years ago, would take me to my first job. I continue to the parking lot where, years ago, I would park my car to hang out with friends or see a movie. I look and see the progress of the demolition of the building where I spent Scout Nights with my troop growing up.

I guess I'm curious, but I also remember the hundreds of jobs, the stores that used to be, but more than anything, the community hub that was this place. As of the time I am writing this, the mall is probably 75% of the way to being completely scrubbed from the face of the earth.

Toys R Us just recently announced they will be closing all of their stores. I think of parents who had just set up registries at Babies R Us (same company, so they'll be going, too) and I think of parents who used to make that a special trip for their kids.

So many things seem to be *dying*...

Meanwhile, we are still here, living.

Death is a part of life. We have all lost people close to us who are more important than any building or department store. We think of those who have gone before us, and this year at Trinity, we've already lost three of our sisters in Christ.

But for our faith, death is part of a cycle, and part of that cycle involves resurrection. We believe that we are resurrected because Jesus destroyed the power of death on Easter Sunday. We also look at our culture, and see that as things are dying, as things are phasing out, new things come into their place.

Sometimes we negatively judge those new things because they remind us of change and because we have sentimental attachments. *Insert thing you love here* isn't what it used to be!

I remember years ago in Frackville that there was a delicious bakery not far from my house, the New York Bakery. It closed for the first time when I was probably around 12 or 13 years old. In the time since, it has reopened and closed a few more times. The first time this happened, I remember sitting in the Dutch Kitchen, listening to a few of my fellow locals talking about it. One man exclaimed, "I'm sure something will come in its place, but whatever it is, it won't be good!"

"Whatever it is, it won't be good?"

Our faith speaks to resurrection. Things are coming, and with God's help, they *can* be good.

It's not just our commerce centers in this world. We can all point to past times in our congregations around our communities and see how they seemingly were more vibrant. They certainly had more people. But that doesn't mean that what comes after isn't good. We look for resurrection in our faith communities as well.

We are Easter people. Therefore, let us look forward with hope!

See you along the way,
Pastor Brian



In Memoriam ✝

May the light and promise of the Resurrection shine
in the lives of the family and friends of

Bette Bowman

Rev William Wightman

*Rest eternal grant them, Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

♥ **Bette E. Bowman**, born September 6, 1927, entered into eternal rest on February 28, 2018. Pastor Brian shared this about Bette... Bette of course was a fixture in the back row of Trinity with her husband Fritz. I always knew whether I was loud enough or not based on whether Bette could or could not hear me! She was a kind, sweet, dignified woman who loved this community. She had an outgoing personality and could strike up a conversation with just about anyone. Bette was a very big supporter of our community meals, and was at just about everyone that we have had thus far. I remember her joking with me about the fact that we had it the same time as her usual Bingo night, and she said, "you're doing something right if you're getting me away from that!" We will miss Bette's kind heart and wonderful laugh. May the hope of the resurrection carry us as we mourn the loss of Bette Bowman.

♥ **Rev. William Wightman** entered into eternal rest on March 25, 2018. Pastor Brian shared this about Pastor Wightman...As many of you know, he served Trinity as pastor from 1969-1974. We were blessed to have Pastor Wightman with us to preach during last year's Coming Home Sunday. He gave a wonderful sermon about how the church is supposed to be a family, and then afterward I was honored to sit with him and a number of us at Trinity as we shared stories. Though he served Trinity for five years, his ministry and its positive effects are still seen in our life today. He married many of our couples, baptized and confirmed many of our children, and enjoyed his time here in the Valley. When I had discussions with him, he always enjoyed being updated about people he knew from his time as pastor here. As your current pastor, I will say that I enjoyed Bill as one of my predecessors. As I told his daughter when she informed me of his passing, I always got a grandfatherly vibe from him, a warm, caring man who wanted to see Trinity do well. He liked to point out the things that had not changed since his time, such as the fact that I still used the same desk in my office that he once used. May the hope of the resurrection carry us as we mourn the loss of Pastor Wightman.

MARCH Highlights

Agape Community Meal, March 14th: March's Agape Table meal marked our one year anniversary in this ministry. When we started we had approximately 30 in attendance and now have between 70 to 90 people attending. We are thrilled with the awesome response to this ministry. March's menu included shepherd's pie, pepper cabbage, applesauce, rolls, and dessert, and about 70 people attended. Thanks to all who helped prepare and serve the meals, as well as to those who donated cakes for dessert. Thanks also to the Junior Youth group for setting up the tables and chairs, and setting the tables.

Confirmation Class Trip to Philadelphia, March 16-18: On the weekend of March 16-18, the confirmation class journeyed to the Philadelphia area to learn about several historical churches and many other points of interest. This year's group included: Samantha Masser, Haley Bowman, Alexius Snyder, Sydney Schley, and Devin Wertz. The first stop on our trip was the Augustus Lutheran Church located in Trappe, PA. This is the oldest Lutheran Church in America and was founded by Henry Muhlenburg. We were given a tour of the "Old church" nick-named such to differentiate it between the newer place of worship located right next to it. They still hold church services inside during summer months. www.augustustrappe.org.

We arrived in Philly at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. This is where we stayed for the weekend. www.st-pauls-lutheran-church3.bridgееlementcms.com. We enjoyed lunch at the Reading Terminal Market. After lunch, we continued on our tour through the city. Points of interest included: Love Park, a Quaker Church and most notable, Christ Church, the birthplace of the American Episcopal Church. Early members included George Washington, Betsy Ross, Ben Franklin, and John Penn to name a few. www.christchurchphila.org. We ended the evening with the movie "A Wrinkle in Time". Pastor discussed with the kids after the movie how it applied to their lives of faith.

Saturday was another full day. We started our day at the Philadelphia Seminary. We spent time in the chapel and the library. The history as well as current day events were discussed. Mid-day we took an audio tour of Eastern State Penitentiary (which I highly recommend). www.easternpenn.org. We got our picture taken with the statue of Rocky and then ran up the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. I think Brian won this race?? We attended mass at Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. The service was a different experience than what the students were used to. www.cathedralphila.org. The evening concluded with dinner at a Chinese restaurant....and then Shamrock shakes to make up for making them try something new ☺

On Sunday morning we woke up early, packed up our things and went to the 8 AM worship service at our host church. They have an interim pastor who delivered a great message. It was very comparable to what our 8am service would be like. We grabbed a quick bite and went to our final destination. We attended Tabernacle Lutheran Church. This is a predominately African American congregation. We were immediately warmly greeted by: Ryan, Arlette and Annie. I remember their names because we made a real connection with them. There was a fellowship time prior to the service. Rev Carlton Rodgers, a 6'10 former Drexel basketball player and second career pastor lead the service. The service was much like ours but more singing. If pastor felt he wanted to sing it one more time....we did. I felt myself smiling and happy the entire service which I think lasted about 1.5 hours. Our kids were very engaged during the entire service. Their assistant pastor, Pastor

Daniel Wollo is a native of Liberia. The worship service at Tabernacle is frequently lead by lay ministers. This day, Pat Moore-Hunter delivered a passionate message. Amens and other praises sounded throughout the pews at random. Many components of the service were familiar as they used the Lutheran liturgy. After the service we were greeted by anyone that had not greeted us before. It was a truly amazing experience and several of the kids expressed wishing we had this type of service. The pastors also took time following the service to discuss urban ministry as well as their paths into the ministry.

If you get a chance, ask the kids what they thought about the trip. On behalf of the confirmation class and their parents, I thank you for continuing this educational/spiritual experience as part of the confirmation curriculum.

Sincerely,
Jamie Masser

Trinity's 3rd Annual Scrabble Tournament, March 24th: The 3rd annual Scrabble Tournament was held at Trinity on March 24th. 17 players shared in an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship. The matches were competitive with participant ages ranging from 12-86. **Congratulations to Vernon Schlegel, the 2018 champion!** Positive feedback was given by many of the attendees and \$206.00 was collected for Miles To Mend. Thank you to Scott Kroh who kept the games organized with his computer generated bracket system. Also, many thanks to those who donated barbeque, rolls, Rice Krispy Treats, Brownies, card tables, Scrabble games and helped with set up and cleanup. Your generosity helps to continue our outreach through Miles To Mend.

Palm Sunday, March 25th: On Sunday, March 25th we celebrated Palm Sunday. Our Sunday School children enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt. With snow still on the ground from our latest Nor'easter, the confirmation class hid the plastic candy-filled eggs for the Sunday School children in the Sanctuary. So if you find a plastic Easter egg in your pew, you will know why!

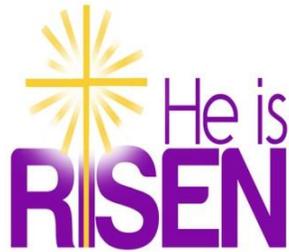
Parade of Palms, Palm Sunday, March 25th:

We continued our celebration of Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week, with Pastor Brian leading the children in the Parade of Palms in which we welcome the Triumphant Jesus into the city of Jerusalem. It is always a joy to experience the children re-enacting this procession.

Miles to Mend: There were no Miles to Mend requests filled for the month of March. The Discipleship Committee has made new pamphlets, which are in the process of being placed all around our valley. They are yellow and detail the Miles to Mend program. If you see them, please point them out to a friend! Our Miles to Mend guidelines have been expanded to include not only helping with travel costs when traveling distances for treatment of medical conditions, but also assisting children with expenses needed to participate in extra-curricular activities, such as sports, band, or clubs. Information on the forms and the names of donation recipients are kept confidential.



**Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
Happy Easter!**



With thankful hearts we celebrate the Risen Christ's victory over sin and death and the promise of eternal life with God. Jesus, our Savior, our God, our Redeemer, laid down his life as our sacrificial lamb to pay for our sins. When he rose from the dead three days later, he gave victory over death and separation from God to all who put their faith and trust in him.



Hegins Valley Food Closet: The Food Closet Item for April is **Jelly**. We are looking for all flavors and varieties of jelly (or fruit preserve) for donation. You can bring all assorted jellies and other food donations to the cupboard in the overflow room, where it will be transported to the Food Closet at St John's United Methodist Church in Hegins.

Mother's Day Gift Bags: For the April Outreach Project, the Discipleship Committee will be collecting items to fill Mother's Day Gift Bags for the Moms at Brethren Housing Association (BHA). The items listed below were suggested by the BHA staff. There is a sign up sheet in the overflow. We will be filling 15 gift bags and would like to collect 15 of each item.

- Candles (in a jar)
- Journals
- Adult coloring books
- Lotions/perfumes (bath and body works type items)
- Candy

If you prefer to give a monetary donation you can place it in an envelope and write Mother's Day gift bag on the envelope. Thank you for your help.

8:00 AM Service on Sunday, April 8th: Please note that there will be no 8 AM service on Sunday, April 8th. Pastor Brian will be on vacation.

From Surviving to Thriving, Congregation Revitalization Book Study, April 9th and April 23rd: Come and join us on Monday, April 16th and April 30th at 7:00 PM in the Library. All are invited as we talk about revitalizing our congregation using the ideas from the book *From Surviving to Thriving: A Practical Guide to Revitalize your Church*. A list of ideas to implement from this book study will be presented following completion of the book study.

Agape Community Meal, April 11th: Our next Agape Community meal is on Wednesday, April 11th at 5:30. We will be serving roast beef and pork, filling, gravy, roast carrots, tea rolls, and cake. Pass the word! If you'd be interested in helping with this ministry, we'd love to have you. Contact

Cindy Kramer, Sherry McDonald, or Joan Klinger, or the church office at 57-682-9373 for more information.

And if you want to plan ahead, mark your calendar for the second Wednesday of every month. Our May Community meal will be Wednesday, May 9th. The menu is ham barbecue/buns, potato salad Cupcakes. Hope to see you there!

Congregational Cleanup, April 7th: On Saturday, April 7th from 8 AM to 12 noon we will be cleaning up the church grounds. Please take a few hours of your time to lend a hand. The more people we have the less time it will take. Just bring your broom, rake, shovel and/or wheel barrow and join us!



Polka Service, April 15th: This year for Music Recognition Sunday we will have **Trinity's first Polka Service** during Sunday 10:30 AM worship service. All hymns and service music will be set to German or polka tunes. Join us as we gather to worship the Lord with this joyful music. Come and get a small taste of what we'll be doing on Music Sunday, April 15th.

TLC's Children's Corner Closet, Collection March 1st through April 15th: Trinity Lutheran Church will hold a "Free Shopping Event" on **Saturday, May 5th from 9 AM to 12 noon**. The goal is to provide area infants and pre-school children clothing, toys and baby items. Donations of new and gently used clothing size newborn to 4T and other items will be accepted **March 1st through April 15th** at the Tri-Valley Free Public Library, Valley View Post Office and Trinity Lutheran Church. Monetary donations for this cause may be sent to: Trinity Lutheran Church, 1220 West Maple Street, PO Box 153, Valley View PA 17983. Make checks payable to: Trinity Lutheran Church. Please contact Trinity Lutheran Church by phone at 570-682-9373 to learn more about potential help available to your family.

Youth Spaghetti Dinner, April 22nd: The Youth Groups will be having their 4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner at 6:00 PM on Sunday, April 22nd. Donations of thin spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, salad mix and desserts are greatly appreciated. There is a sign-up sheet for desserts on the bulletin board across from the office. Other donations can be brought to the church and marked spaghetti dinner. The money raised from the dinner will go towards the mission trip to Roanoke, VA in July.

Contemporary Service, April 29th: The Contemporary Service will be held next on April 29th at 6:00 PM. Come and join us! Please be reminded that offerings for the Contemporary Service will go towards Brethren Housing Association.

Morning Bible Study: Bible Study continues on Mondays at 9:30 AM in the library. Please join us in our study of the Gospel of Matthew.

Youth Group News:

The Senior Youth Group will be ending its year on Tuesday, April 10th. For this day, we will be traveling to Haven Ministry in Sunbury to make sandwiches for the residents there. Because of the travel, we are expecting youth group to end on 5:30 that day.

The Junior Youth Group trip to the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg is set for Wednesday, May 9th. After our experience at the Civil War Museum, we will go to make sandwiches for the residents at the Ronald McDonald House of Hershey.

We are tentatively scheduling a movie on Saturday, April 14th for youth 6th grade and up. We will depart from the church at 12 noon for the movie theater in Selinsgrove. Provided it is still in the theatre, we will watch "I Can Only Imagine", a movie about the Contemporary Christian song of the same name.

Pick Your Favorite Hymns: The Worship and Music Committee would like YOU to pick our hymns for the church services this summer. There is a paper on the glass case in the Narthex you can use to list the names of hymns you would like to sing during the summer services. Now's the time to let us know your favorite hymns!

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend: Your marriage relationship is one of the things in life that provides the greatest potential for happiness. Is yours living up to this potential? Please make 2018 the year you resolve to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to learn how to maximize the joy and intimacy that God intends for your marriage. The following Weekends have been scheduled with one more to be added in Massachusetts in the fall.

- April 6-8, 2018 at Toftrees Golf Resort in State College PA. A peaceful resort surrounded by a golf course and nestled in the woods in the center of PA.
- September 14-16, 2018 at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis, PA. A lovely hotel-style facility in a wooded area of the Poconos, an hour north of Allentown.
- October 19-21, 2018 at Olmsted Retreat Center. A stunning, hotel-style retreat next to Olmsted Mansion in Allegheny National Forest, 2 hours north of Pittsburgh.

Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. To be sure to get the Weekend of your choice, sign up at your earliest convenience by going to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and paying the registration fee with your credit card, or marking the option to mail a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 orfjschamber@comcast.net.



Dinner and Lip Sync: May 20th at 6 PM. Mark your calendars. You won't want to miss a fun-filled evening of great food and entertainment for everyone as we enjoy another infamous Trinity Dinner and Lip Sync show. The cost of tickets for dinner and the lip sync show is \$15. If you just want to see the show, the tickets will be \$5. Stay tuned for more details. Proceeds to benefit Brethren Housing Association (BHA). *Please note that this evening is for everyone, it is NOT a mother daughter banquet.* So invite your family, friends, neighbors, and anyone else you can think of. It will be a very enjoyable evening!



Birthdays and Anniversaries: To help celebrate birthdays and wedding anniversaries, we would like to project pictures on the screen at the time of singing. Anyone interested should submit a photo two weeks ahead of the date. Just give it to Pastor Brian, Lillie, or put it in the door of the church office. Surprise your loved one with a photo from the past!

DVD Ministry: With our new sound system we are able to record our services on DVDs and share them with members of our congregation who are unable to attend. Years ago we had a tape ministry where we shared audio tapes with shut ins. Now they will not only be able to hear the service, but see it as well. The Discipleship Committee is working on a plan to distribute DVDs of the service to shut ins. May is their target month to have the distribution process finalized.

Welcome Bags: The Discipleship Committee is working on filling Welcome Bags to be given to visitors. Suggested items to include are a TLC mug, thanks for visiting note, list of outreach projects, TLC Brochure, and latest copy of the newsletter.

Trinity Cookbook: The Kitchen Committee would like to compile a cookbook of Trinity's favorite recipes. This is in the very early planning stages, but the recipe collection will hopefully be underway by the summer. Please be thinking of recipes you'd like to contribute, and watch for more information to come! Proceeds will benefit Brethren Housing Association (BHA).

Crystal Brown of the Brethren Housing Association (BHA): As part of our serving ministry, Trinity's Discipleship Committee is working to establish a relationship between our congregation and BHA. In February, Crystal Brown, the Executive Director of BHA, spoke to our congregation about the work of BHA. In January 2018, *THE BURG, Greater Harrisburg's Community Magazine*, published the following inspiring article about Crystal and the BHA. The more we learn about the BHA, the more exciting supporting BHA's mission becomes. Read on...

She Builds: A social champion is in the house.

by Diane McNaughton

I remember standing on the corner watching my house burn in my 'New Kids on the Block' nightie." That memory is one of Crystal Brown's earliest and most formative ones, as a 5-year-old living in Ohio, forced to face a hate crime sparked by her parents' interracial marriage. "We were very fortunate that we were able to stay with family until my parents were able to find another home," Brown recalled. "Actually, a person from the community let us stay with them since all of our family was in Pennsylvania." Thus, Brown understood from a young age that "having a support system is important to maintaining stability.

"If it would not have been for family and those kind neighbors, we would have been homeless," she said. "That is why I believe in the work we do at BHA."

BHA stands for Brethren Housing Association, a nonprofit, interdenominational organization that owns more than 10 properties in South Allison Hill, serving about 85 adults and children a year. Their red-doored headquarters is situated in the shadow of the Capitol, on Hummel Street, across from the Mulberry Street Bridge. Named executive director in 2011, Brown helps Harrisburg

residents obtain housing and the skills they need to keep that housing. BHA is probably best known for its “Transitions” program, in which women with children who are homeless are given transitional housing. Families live in BHA-owned housing, obtaining their own apartment without being forced to share common spaces. BHA also works to secure permanent housing for people with disabilities and offers an aftercare program for families once served by their programs. Brown said she and her staff give clients both “encouragement and accountability.” Many came to BHA from an emergency shelter or were couch-surfing, she explained, “doubling up” with another family temporarily. The reasons for homelessness vary, she said. “Every family is different, but there is usually the need to supplement their income,” she said. Most are in need of a job, an education, and, often, basic money management skills. “They need skills to keep their apartment neat, pay their bills on time, live successfully with their neighbors,” she said.

Love and Support

A 2004 graduate of Susquehanna Township High School, Brown began volunteering at the Interfaith Shelter, which operates under the auspices of Catholic Charities in Lower Paxton Township, while earning a degree in social work from West Chester University. The Shelter offered her a job soon after, and she went on to earn a master’s degree from Temple-Harrisburg. The desire to serve families in need is in her genes. Her father, the Rev. Wayne Baxter, served a congregation in Edgemont, and her grandfather also was a minister. Brown said that, unlike the Interfaith Shelter, where families usually stay only 30 days, her goal is about permanence, opportunity and access. Families can stay as long as two years. With more time, she can better help clients acquire the skills they need and connect them with more resources for long-term stability. “I feel like housing is a right,” she said. “People deserve to have a roof over their head.”

That sentiment is reflected in many of the plaques bearing motivational quotes in her busy first-floor office, which straddles a large open meeting room where clients gather. One of them reads: “You have to be taught to be second class. You’re not born that way.” She notes that homelessness is part of a larger problem. Low-cost housing leads to housing segregation, which leads to educational segregation—which “leads to a perfect storm, and our families live with the aftermath,” she said. She pointed out that rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Dauphin County costs about \$886. “I can’t change federal policies, but I can give love and support and encouragement,” she said.

Tag Out

Brown sees a lack of affordable housing as a serious problem in every American city, but especially Harrisburg. So many restrictions are often imposed upon prospective tenants, such as criminal background checks and credit checks. The homeless with criminal records often can’t get housing, which leads to not just homelessness, but hopelessness. Many have paid their debt to society, but cannot break out of homelessness because of their past. “People make mistakes,” Brown said matter-of-factly. Although memories of her childhood house fire remain, other, more recent memories lift her spirits. She recalls a single mother, frazzled after dealing with a boisterous 3-year-old all day, with no one around to give her a break. Brown came home with the mom and calmed the child by singing “Itsy Bitsy Spider.” That child is now 6 and doing well in school. “I got to be that tag out” for that mom, Brown said.

The community is a vital partner in BHA’s efforts. One of their most popular programs is “Adopt an Apartment.” Caring donors can buy pots, pans, lamps and more for a family moving into a new apartment. She said UPMC Pinnacle and its employees are frequent sponsors. She is often asked if she ever feels afraid, working where she does. She replies that she is no more scared than she would be in a parking lot at Wal-Mart or camping. And, while she may have little experience camping or

living in a rustic environment, she clearly knows what she is doing in an urban setting. “I have a healthy level of fear,” she said.

Such Transformation

One of Brown’s mentors is Lisa Peck, program director at Interfaith Shelter. Peck returns the respect. “Crystal is very open, very honest, and she very much believes in her work,” Peck said. Peck and Brown often brainstorm about how they can make things better for others. “She is very, very dynamic,” Peck said. “She does everything with enthusiasm and nothing is too small to take on. She is always up to challenges and will stop at nothing to help the less fortunate.” When families arrive, Brown is “always warm and welcoming,” Peck said. “I really enjoy working with the women,” Brown said. “Every day, I learn and grow. It continues to humble me. It is a constant reminder to not pass judgement.” Still, amidst the triumphs are tragedies.

One of BHA’s most ardent supporters, Ray Diener, was brutally murdered several years ago, and one of the rehabbed houses on Hummel Street was named in his honor. That experience forces a reflection on another plaque on her wall: “Pray about everything. Worry about nothing.” “We are here to serve—to love God and love our neighbor,” Brown said. One of Brown’s greatest sources of pride is that they are a “trauma-informed organization.” Many homeless people are victims of physical and sexual abuse, she explained, and that trauma hinders their growth and stability. Homelessness then becomes an additional trauma. BHA partners with Pressley Ridge to offer counseling. “Instead of asking, ‘Why did you spend that \$100 on that?’ we try to understand their story and put it in context,” she said.

BHA also works with Dauphin County’s Office of Children and Youth, since many of the children in the child welfare system are there due to homelessness. In the mid-winter cold, Brown gave a short tour of snow-topped Hummel Street. The townhouses across the street from her office are new construction. BHA demolished old buildings and built new with the help of UPMC Pinnacle. A playground, pavilion and garden are also part of the tidy block. A state grant helped with streetscaping. “There is such transformation on this block,” she said. The growth in their properties is among the accomplishments she is most proud of. She lists many other housing construction and renovation projects going up around her, including 50 affordable housing units slated for 13th and Mulberry and Crescent and Mulberry, in conjunction with the Harrisburg Housing Authority. Her end goal is more housing, less hate. “We just need to be nice to each other and share in our abundance,” she said. The mean-spiritedness she witnesses is rooted in fear, she believes. People are afraid that, if someone else gets an opportunity, it subtracts opportunity from them. But she knows it is not a zero-sum game. She pointed to her favorite quote on her wall, uttered by Frederick Douglass: “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” And so she builds.

Brethren Housing Association is located at 219 Hummel St., Harrisburg. For more information, call 717-233-6016 or visit www.bha-pa.org.

Save the Dates

Dates	Future Events
May 5, 2018	<u>TLC Children’s Corner Closet Free Shopping Event</u> at Trinity for Baby and Toddler Clothing and Toys.
May 11, 2018	<u>Attention Golfers!</u> The 15 th Annual Brethren Housing Association (BHA) Golf Tournament will be held on May 11 th at ParLine Golf Course

Dates	Future Events
	located at 4545 East Harrisburg Pike, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. BHA's goal this year is 120 golfers and to raise \$15,000 to help families experiencing homelessness get back on their feet. Golfer fees are \$75 per golfer, or \$300 for a team. This entitles your group to 18 holes of golf with a cart, snacks, eligibility for prizes, and a delicious full course meal after your round. Registration deadline is May 4 th . Visit bha-pa.org/get-involved/events to register online, or contact the office at 717-233-6016 to register over the phone. Sponsorship opportunities – including hole sponsors – are still available. Please contact Jessica Johnson Vinton at jjohnsonvinton@bha-pa.org or 717-233-6016 for more information.
May 20, 2018	Andy Svrcek in the park: Andy Svrcek will perform gospel, Elvis, and country music in the Hegins Park. A chicken BBQ dinner will be served from noon to 2PM. Some seating is available, but those attending should bring their lawn chairs. Andy will perform from 2 to 5PM. Proceeds benefit Hegins Valley Fire Rescue. Call Linda at 570-590-9507 or Jody at 570-985-3295 for tickets.
May 20, 2018	Lip Sync Show: And at 6 PM, plan to attend the Dinner and Lip Sync Show "On the Road Again" in the social hall at Trinity on May 20 th to benefit the Brethren Housing Association.
June 25-29, 2018	Vacation Bible School (VBS): Vacation Bible School will be held June 25 th to 29 th at the Valley View Park.
July 6-9, 2018	Roanoke, VA Mission Trip: Our youth, age 12 and up or going into 7 th grade in the fall of 2018, will be going on a Mission Trip July 6-9 (Friday – Monday) to Roanoke, VA.



Did You Ever Wonder... about Fred Rogers?

There is a big interest right now in Fred Rogers, and his program, *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, as this year is what would have been his 90th birthday. There are retrospectives and documentaries being released, and in fact Tom Hanks just signed a deal to play him in a movie coming out early next year.

Most people know that Fred Rogers was an ordained Presbyterian minister, but there is a bit more to that story.

Fred Rogers never served a congregation. He started work at Pittsburgh Public station WQED in the mid 1950s, working on a children's show called *The Children's Corner*. It was at this show where he developed a lot of the puppet characters that would follow him to his own show. He worked on this show for quite some time, but studied theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on his lunch breaks.

He was ordained in 1963, but was not assigned a parish, instead, the Presbyterian Church commissioned him to continue his important work with children. Later that year, he was hired by the Canadian Broadcasting Company to develop a children's show, which turned out to be the first appearance of himself as Mister Rogers.

We went back to Pittsburgh in 1966, where the *Neighborhood* show became fully formed. Fred Rogers used to receive letters all the time from his young viewers (in fact, your pastor has a book full of said letters with Mister Rogers' responses). One such letter was from a young girl who was worried about Mister Rogers' salvation. She wrote him a letter to make sure he knew so that he could go to heaven someday. Here is part of Fred Rogers' response:

"You told me that you have accepted Jesus as your Savior. It means a lot to me to know that. And, I appreciated the scripture verse that you sent. I am an ordained Presbyterian minister, and I want you to know that Jesus is important to me, too. I hope that God's love and peace come through my work on MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD."

He closed the letter by stating something he often stated: "You've made this day a special day by just your being you. There is no person in the whole world like you, and I like you just the way you are."

Important Reminders



Worship Services - Everyone Welcome!

-  Saturday Evenings, 6:00 PM
-  Sunday Mornings, abbreviated service at 8:00 AM; full service at 10:30 AM
-  Contemporary Service – 4th Sunday, 6:00 PM



Sunday School for all ages: Sunday mornings, 9:00 AM

-  **Children's Sunday School:** Sunday School for our children ages 2 to 18 is held every Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:15 AM. There are classes for Nursery; Kindergarten-2nd Grades; 3rd-4th Grades; Pre-teens (5th-6th Grades); Confirmation; and Teens (Post Confirmation).
-  **Adult Sunday School:** Our adult discussion Sunday School Class is held every Sunday morning 9:00 to 10:00 AM in the church library. The class uses the weekly *Faith Lens* curriculum for discussion of scripture as it relates to current events.



Community Aid Bins: The two Community Aid bins at the west end of the parking lot are waiting for donations. Trinity receives 3 cents per pound back for whatever is donated which in turn is used to support our Miles to Mend Program. The items we donate are used to support Community Aid's mission.

AmazonSmile: AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Trinity is registered with the AmazonSmile program to receive donations from Amazon when purchases are made from Amazon accounts. To shop at AmazonSmile enter smile.amazon.com in the web browser on your computer or mobile device. To choose Trinity as the recipient, enter “Lutheran Church Valley View” (do not enter PA) in the charity search box. Trinity Lutheran Church Valley View PA should appear after you press enter.

Newsletter Distribution: Please call the church office at 570-682-9373 to let Lillie know if you would like to receive the newsletter via email or U.S. mail or if you would prefer a LARGE PRINT version. You may also pick up a copy inside the office entrance or on the shelving unit to the right of the glass case across from the Nursery classroom.

Tree of Life: Leaves in honor or memory of loved ones or special events such as weddings, confirmations, baptisms are still available. The cost is \$60 per leaf with proceeds designated for Christian Education. If interested, please complete a Leave Your Legacy form for each leaf.

Electronic Online Donations: Online contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account, or processed using your credit or debit card. Vanco Payment Solutions is the administrator of the Simply Giving Program endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union. To participate, please contact Alex Zimmerman at 570-617-3911 or Pastor Brian.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Contact Us!

Trinity Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 153
1220 West Maple Street
Valley View, PA 17983
(570) 682-9373

- Visit us on the web at: www.TrinityintheValley.com
- Email address for Trinity is TrinityLuthvv@gmail.com
- Find us on Facebook

Pastor Brian's Office Hours:

- Mondays - 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM; and
- Tuesdays - 4:00 to 6:00 PM
- Pastor Brian is also available by appointment.

Pastor Brian's Contact Information:

- Church office: 570-682-9373
- Cell phone: 570-516-1787

Pastoral Visitation: Due to health privacy laws, hospitals do not automatically call the church office to tell us when our members are hospitalized. If you or someone in your family is hospitalized, please call Pastor Brian to ensure a pastoral visit. Pastor Brian strives to visit members in nursing homes at least once every six weeks. **If you feel your loved one would benefit from more frequent pastoral visitation, please contact Pastor Brian.**

Easter is not about the Bunny,
It's about the Lamb.



God's Work, Our Hands

Mission Statement Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is called to carry on the serving, teaching, proclaiming ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ to all people through our life as a congregation and through our daily lives as individual Christians.