

April Beacon

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church of S. Newstead

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

7PM

April 2 | Maundy Thurs -
**at Zion Lutheran, Gasport

7:30 PM

April 3 | Good Friday

9:30AM

April 5 |
Easter Worship

10:45AM

April 5 |
Brunch + Egg Hunt for kids

trinitysouthnewstead.org - 4809 S. Newstead Rd. Akron - 716-542-9828

Zion Lutheran in Gasport - 4447 Central Ave, Gasport 14067

Blessed Easter! Christ is Risen!

We pick back up with working our way through the Bible, looking at each book in order from Genesis to Revelation. This month we continue in the Historical Books of the Old Testament, and enter (again?) the promised land. Our book this month has a similar mission as our last book, Joshua, but this book – Judges – looks at the people's entry to the promised land in a different way.

Think of a movie that years later was remade into a new release, only this time with some changes to the story. This is one way to look at the book of Judges. Joshua and Judges are similar in that they both tell the story of God's people settling in the promised land, and how God's promise is always there for them. But they differ in how that happens. In Joshua, it was a very decisive though at times brutal win for Israel as they settled in the promised land. In Judges though, settlement was very piecemeal, and at times things didn't go well at all. At times, the people were suffering and being challenged by other people who were already in the land they were moving into. Sometimes the challenges came from within. But the main point of contention was how God implored the people to not worship other gods (which is the first commandment). Guess what they do time and again? They worship other gods, mainly Baal and Asherah, the same gods the locals worshipped.

Because of this, they would come under threat from others. So, God would empower leaders – judges – for the people to follow that would deliver them from these threats not only to themselves, but to their relationship and promise with God.

These judges were – for the most part – not the court judges that we think of today. Think of social justice as it relates to working for people's well-being, and that comes closer to the function of these judges, because they were called by God to deliver justice to the people and relief from their challenges. There were twelve such Judges (that's an important number in the Bible).

Each time a judge appears, it's after the people worship other gods and are facing trouble for doing that. They cry out for help, then the judge acts to bring deliverance to the people. This cycle repeats time and again, but the story does move along...eventually. It's not a unified story either: some of the book's stories only happen with just one or a few of Israel's twelve tribes.

One neat thing to notice in reading Judges is that women play key roles in this book (and in the book of Ruth that comes after this). The story of Deborah is but one example.

Another theme of Judges – and through much of the Bible for that matter – is how God uses flawed people to carry God’s promise forward. You’ll notice this in how many rulers – judges and kings alike – try to rule, but they fall short when they turn to other gods. Some really mess up too. Yet God’s promise continues through a new ruler who tries again. How often has this happened throughout history, and even today, and even in our own lives?

Judges ends with a bit of foreshadowing: “in those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes.” With the scattered and sometimes chaotic existence for the tribes as they each faced challenges as a result of doing what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and threats from opposing forces all around them, we look ahead to the coming books when God carries forth God’s promise through the kings to come. Before that, next month we dig into the book of Ruth!

-Pastor Rick

Office Hours:

Pastor Rick: Tuesdays 10:00-1:00 p.m. and by appointment

Tracy: Tuesdays: 9:30-2:30, Thursdays: remote. Call, text or email any time.

***Pastor Rick is away for Continuing Ed 4/6-4/12*

Please Hold in Prayer

To add someone to the prayer list in the bulletin/beacon, add them to the list in the back of the Sanctuary or contact the church office. If you would like your prayer concern to be shared through our One Call Prayer Chain, please contact Sue Kidder at 716-542-2095.

We pray for healing, strength and patience for those we love going through difficult times:

Laura Pingitore
Jane Firestone
Mike Kropelin
Amanda Dehn
Harold Finger

Elizabeth Ewell
Sharon (Linda Lawrie's sister)

We pray for patience, strength and support for the families and friends of:

Lyn Aiosa

Irv Easton

Pam Neuroth

Joan Antonicelli

Danny Cummings

John Rogers

Bill Lawrie

The loved ones of all those killed in the Iran War



Sunday worship is weekly at 9:30am!

Sunday School is (mostly) weekly at 10:45-11:30

March 29th: Palm Sunday at 9:30am

April 3: Good Friday at 7:30pm

April 5: Easter Sunday at 9:30am

Choir meets at 8:30am on Sundays



Meeting: April 14th @ 7:00



Good Friday Worship is April 3 at 7:30

Easter Sunday is April 5th at 9:30am followed by pot-luck brunch and easter egg hunt

Save the date: Our Spaghetti Supper will be April 25th

Maundy Thursday Agape Feast

On April 2nd Zion Lutheran in Gasport will be having an Agape Feast: a Pot Luck Supper & Worship, from 6:30-8pm. Please join us at 4447 Central Ave, Gasport, 14067.

Easter Setup

We are looking for volunteers on **Saturday April 4th** to arrange the flowers in the sanctuary and set up tables in the fellowship hall. Flowers will arrive at **11:00**, please arrive around that time.

Spring Cleanup

April 11th – outdoor AND indoor cleanup at 9am. Please sign up in the narthex.

Spaghetti Supper and Basket Raffle

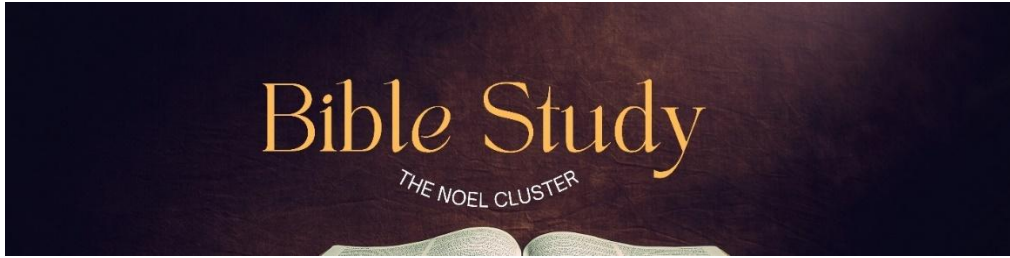
Our Spaghetti Supper is coming up on **April 25th**. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex – please take a look. Flyers for handing out in the community are also on the table. We'll be looking for baskets for the basket raffle and desserts as well.

First Bibles

As a part of our baptismal promise to "place in their hands the holy scriptures," Trinity offers a first Bible program for children in grades 3 and up. Families would gather for a first Bible class, have some fun homework to do, and then Trinity would present children their new study Bible during a worship service. Please see Pastor Rick by **March 8th** if you want your child to be a part of this program. Our class will be later in March, with the presentation of Bibles happening later in April.

Sign up for Altar Care

We're starting a new Altar Care ministry and we need your help. Please sign up in the narthex if you're willing and able to care for our altar for a month at a time, starting with March. Responsibilities would include setup and cleanup of communion each week; and as needed filling candles with oil, changing paraments and setting up for baptisms. No experience necessary: we will train you. See Pastor or Donna if you have any questions.



Lent with the NOEL Cluster

During Lent, we've expanded this collaboration with several opportunities for food, worship, conversation and more. Wednesday evening Lenten Soup Supper and Devotion times continue on **Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm** through the month of March, and we're planning a Maundy Thursday Agape Feast on **April 2nd** at 6:30 pm at Zion in Gasport (no Maundy Thursday service here). We'll also have our own Good Friday service here at Trinity on April 3rd at 7:30 pm. We hope you'll come to help host here at Trinity and join us on the road as we are guests at our neighboring churches.

Bible Study Upcoming dates and locations: (10 am on Thursdays)

3/26/26 - Trinity Wolcottsville – 6369 Wolcottsville Rd. Akron

4/2/26 – NO Bible study on Maundy Thursday



First Monday of the Month: Food Pantry setup @ 8am
First Tuesday of the month: Food Pantry distribution @ 8:30-10:30am

Schedule:

April 6 setup, April 7 Distribution

(Easter setup is March 30th)

Distribution is March 31st)

The Little Free Pantry is open for anyone in need and is supported by donations of items from the community.

WI-FI: Go to 'Trinity Guest' on your device, and then when prompted, enter the password:
BeABeacon

Birthdays

8th- Becky Fix

9th- Emerson Polkowski

15th- Catherine Schoenthal

16th- Darla Infanti

19th - Evan Eckerson

TRINITY EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SOUTH NEWSTEAD
4809 S. NEWSTEAD RD, AKRON

Spaghetti
SUPPER

AND BASKET RAFFLE

April 25, 2025

4:30 - 7:00 (or until sold out)

\$12 Adult, \$8 Kids (12 & under)

**includes: Spaghetti with meat sauce,
french bread, salad, drink and a cookie**



716-542-9828

TRINITYSOUTHNEWSTEAD.ORG