



May Beacon

Welcome to the month of May!

I'm interrupting our Bible book of the month series to offer an update on our ongoing partnership with Zion Lutheran Church in Gasport.

As you may remember, last July I started as the part-time (25% of full-time) "transition-plus" pastor with Zion. I've led worship there on the first Sunday of each month since, plus other special occasions (Christmas Eve for example). I've attended their council meetings and a few other special events. I've also taken care of pastoral care duties (visits, funerals, etc.). Trinity has plugged in with the NOEL (Niagara Orleans Erie Lutherans) cluster of now six churches that share some programs, like weekly Bible Study, and a series of mid-week Lenten suppers and presentations, all of which rotates each week among the NOEL-participating churches.

Meanwhile at Trinity, I've been part-time (75% of full-time) leading worship on most other Sundays, and attending to things like council meetings, the Food Pantry, Sunday School, fundraisers, bulletins and Beacon newsletters, hymn lists, our online presence, visiting persons as needed, and other administrative and pastoral tasks as they've come up. On days that I've been with Zion, Trinity has had a host of pastors and lay leaders leading worship here, giving us a flavor of other preachers and worship leaders.

While I've pulled back from offering some faith formation programs (there is no longer an adult forum for example), and handed off some administrative tasks, I feel that this partnership has worked well so far. Trinity has been able to share your pastor with a congregation that needs someone on a part-time basis, and it's helped Trinity continue to be responsible stewards of our budget. Personally, it's enabled me to remain a full-time pastor to support my family.

More than simply financial matters, our partnership has led to relationships forming and faith growing. Those that have participated in our NOEL Bible Studies and Lenten activities have thoroughly enjoyed them. And both churches have grown in lay leadership. It's been a joy for me to be present in both communities and experiencing church, worship and faith together.

The time has come to begin wondering, praying, and having conversations about whether we want to continue this partnership on a more permanent basis. A Synod representative visited our April council meeting to share potential details on what a more permanent partnership could look like. To be clear, Trinity and Zion each have the final say in what this may look like, if we do decide to continue the partnership as-is or make changes.

Any change can be scary, I get that. But my hope is that we do continue this partnership. Not just to keep myself in full-time status, but because I think church works best if we work together. The blessing of being a part of the NOEL cluster cannot be overstated enough. There are resources to be shared and ways we can help one another. With the pressure off our budgets somewhat, we can dream of what the Spirit may be calling us to do with our resources in new ways. More relationships can be made. I especially see our youth faith formation and confirmation benefiting greatly from continuing our partnership.

Of course, we do want to hear from you. What are your questions or concerns? What does this mean for Trinity, and you and your family? What's the bottom line? What is the Spirit calling us to in this time and place? Stay tuned for details as we organize opportunities for these conversations. We greatly value including the whole congregation in this time of discernment, prayer and wondering.

At the same time, the council is proactively beginning to look at our physical plant and take into consideration the long-term needs of our buildings and grounds to best take care of both the church and the parsonage well into the future. (Let me dispel one rumor: the parsonage is not for sale, nor are we looking to unload it in any way.)

Please reach out to the council or me if you have any questions or concerns in the meantime. And hold Zion, Trinity and our conversations and discernment in prayer. Blessings,

-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 from May 18th – June 3rd***

Pastor Craig Rodenizer is available for emergencies – 716-799-5548

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

Trevor Beats

Rosemary Doyle

Sam Siebida

Sharon Ferraro

Betty Bergman

D. Stambros & family & friends

Norman Blosser (MaryLou's father)

Arlene Richardson

Betty Bergman

Becky Fix

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

Dottie Routledge

Shirley Roberts (Mary Lou's aunt)

Donna Roehling

Elaine Golden

Rose Zmuda (Annette Adamczak's mother)

Thanksgiving for: Good test results for Mike K!



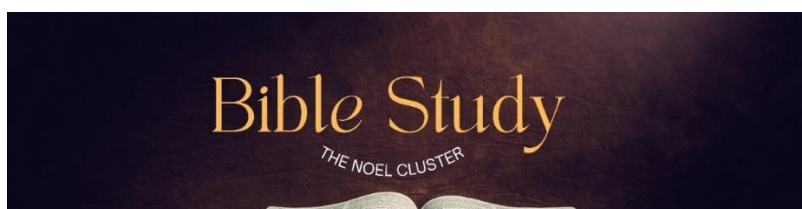
Sunday worship is weekly at 9:30am!

Sunday School is (mostly) weekly at 10:45-11:30 – the last day will be June 7th

Choir meets at 8:30am on Sundays



Meeting: May 12th @ 7:00



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

5/7 – Trinity Wolcottsville – 6369 Wolcottsville Rd. Akron
5/14- Zion - 4447 Central Ave, Gasport 14067
5/21- St. John's – 10213 Roosevelt Hwy, Lyndonville 14098
5/28/26- Here at Trinity
6/4/26- St. Peter – 1355 West Ave, Medina, 14103

First Bibles

On May 10th, Aviaunna and Zachary will be receiving their first bibles during worship, please keep them in prayer. If your child is in 3rd grade or older and has not received a bible, please let Pastor Rick know.

Women's Social Group

Please join us for fun and girl talk at our next meeting, following worship, at **10:45am on May 24th!**

Some thoughts to share with my congregation:

Dear church family,
God is inspiring me to brainstorm ways we can increase our income to pay our outstanding bills. I'm interested in gathering some folks to brainstorm ideas and find a volunteer or two to help with each task. Some ideas include: a weekly table where kids (or adults) could sell items that they've made and showcase their talents, a 50/50 raffle at in-person events, reviving a version of our talent auction, a plant sale, or anything else you can think of. If you're interested in joining me, please let me know, (or Tracy Dorr-Kittel by email/office or phone.)

Sincerely,
Ronda Lauridsen



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

Schedule:
May 4th setup – May 5th distribution
June 1st setup – June 2nd distribution

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

- 3rd- Jason Fix
- 7th- Bentley Jones
- 8th - Samantha Kern
- 9th- Brian Nehrboss
- 14th- Helmut Bauder
Dylan Greiner
- 16th- Madison Brege
Jaxon Fix
- 17th- Mitchell Edgar
- 21st - David Adamczak
- 24th- Jim Lobur
- 25th- Meghan Greiner
- 26th- Jane Dorr
- 27th - Jena Jendrowski
Pastor Rick
- 28th - Ruth Walworth



Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

On **June 20th** we will be at the **annual sidewalk sale in Akron** with our “Buck-a-Box.” You can start bringing in items of at least \$1.00 or more and put them in the adult library. We are also looking for shoeboxes and the comics section of newspaper. Stay tuned for more info! Any questions in the meantime, see Donna Kumpf.

On **July 4th**, we will have a **float in the Akron parade**. Christine Johnson and David Hofmeier are spearheading it – please see them to find out how you can help! Many hands make light work.

On **July 12th**, we will have our annual **Worship in the Park at Akron Falls Park** at **10:30am** with the picnic following. This year, we will be joined by our

brothers and sisters from Zion!

July 31st is the annual **Pies in the Park**. Stay tuned for a signup sheet for that but mark your calendars in the meantime!

On **August 2nd**, we will go to **Veteran's Park in Gasport** for a second Worship in the Park at **10:30am** with our brothers and sisters from Zion! The address is 7992 State St. in Gasport. Stay tuned for more info.