



July Beacon

Happy summer, friends!

When we think of summer, many of us like to move at a different pace. One that's more relaxed, that's outdoors, that's renewing, recharging, and life-giving. There's a lot of ways I like to do that: vacations to the Outer Banks come to mind. Our daily walks with our dog (in daylight) are another. Time to read something fun perhaps, take in a baseball game, or do something or go someplace that isn't possible during the rest of the year. And, to take time to recharge my faith.

I'm going to keep this short – well, at least shorter than that I usually write, and this summer, I'm going back to the basics with my faith. We can get so caught up in the details and all that's on our plates (and there's a lot on the church's plate lately) that it can be good to go back to the basics of simply being God's people.

What are the basics for your faith?

Going back to basics with the ten commandments is one great way to do this. Especially when we consider the third commandment: remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. Sabbath is any time that we can find to recharge and do that which we normally don't get around to the rest of the week, or year. Sabbath can be a time to come to worship too, but sabbath isn't locked on Sunday either. I'm hoping

to find times for all the summer things I mentioned above as part of my sabbath. What are you looking forward to as your sabbath this summer? Whatever sabbath looks like for you, I pray it's filled with times to recharge, find joy and reconnect with God, who is always connected with us.

Blessings,

-Pastor Rick

PS: There's a lot coming up that we have in this Beacon issue. Our summer slate (in addition to two worship & picnics, Pies in the Park, etc.) has two separate listening sessions scheduled.

These sessions focus on two separate things: the first is a chance on July 20th to share Trinity's story with the Synod with the intent on connecting us with resources to further our ministry. The second is on Sept. 20th after worship, and is the congregation's chance to share thoughts and concerns on our pastoral ministry in relation to our partnership with our siblings at Zion in Gasport.

Please read everything carefully and plan on attending. And if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to myself or a council member. We're here for you.

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.

Summer office hours updates:

Things change slightly in the summer. If you need to stop in the office, here are the changes:

July 2nd – office open from 11am-5pm

July 14th and 16th – office open from 1:30-6ish

July 28 – office is closed (Tracy is away)

August 11th and 13th – office open from 1:30-6ish

August 14-30th – Pastor is away

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:

Tony Kaminski, Jr.
Ray Francis
Rosemary Doyle
Nancy Dean (Pastor's Dean's wife)
Catherine Schoenthal
Pastor Wiedman and his wife, Carol
Helmut Bauder
Dave Raquet
Emily Sciolino (Mike and Paula's granddaughter)
Ty Kropelin
People in Venezuela suffering with floods
People suffering from Ebola, praying for a cure

Prayers of thanksgiving!

-Elaine Koch's successful eye surgery
-Shirley Domen's son-in-law's successful surgery
-Pastor David Wiedman's new stent
-birth of Milton Paul to Jason and Molly fix
-successful tumor removal for Shirley Smith

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

Norman Bosser
Ken Schmidt, Jr. (Gordy's Cousin)

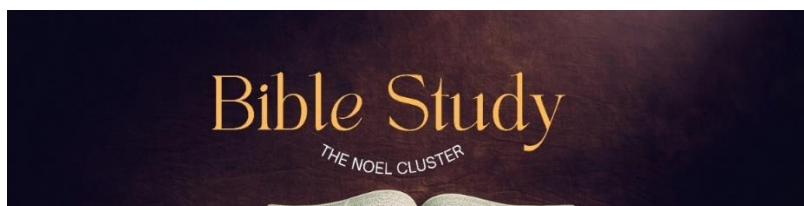
Memorial for Diane Hurne's son, James, is going to be on Saturday July 25th at 11 am.



Choir is off for the summer!
Sunday School is off until September
Sunday Worship at 9:30 every week
Bible Study: See list below



July 14th and August 11th
(we will not be breaking for the summer this year)



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

7/9- St. Peter – 1355 West Ave, Medina, 14103
7/16 – Trinity Wolcottsville – 6369 Wolcottsville Rd, Akron 14001
7/23 – Zion - 4447 Central Ave, Gasport 14067
7/30 – St. John's - 10213 Roosevelt Hwy, Lyndonville, 14098
8/6 – Here at Trinity!
8/13 – St. Peter – 1355 West Ave, Medina, 14103
8/20 – Trinity Wolcottsville – 6369 Wolcottsville Rd, Akron 14001
8/27 – Zion - 4447 Central Ave, Gasport 14067
9/3 - St. John's - 10213 Roosevelt Hwy, Lyndonville, 14098



Bucks for Boxes Update

Thank you to everyone who gave their time to volunteer at the stand and donated items. It was a great success; we sold all but 10 boxes. Thank you, Ronda Lauridsen for all your brainstorming and organizing ahead of time. Actually wrapping hundreds of boxes was no small feat – thank you to everyone who put in that time!! **We brought in \$747.75!** Yay!

Property Thank You

Thank you to all the volunteers who keep our flowerbeds looking beautiful at Trinity! And a great big thank you to Beck and Paul Fix for providing the mulch.



July 4th Parade

On **July 4th**, we will have a float in the Akron parade:

Please meet at Akron school at 2:30-3:00pm.

Call Christine Johnson with any questions.

We are still collecting **donations** to help pay for it. You'll see the fancy box in the narthex – Thanks, Donna!

July 12th Worship in the Park

On July 12th, we will have our annual Worship in the Park at Akron Falls Park at shelter off of the Brooklyn St. entrance. This year, we will be joined by our brothers and sisters from Zion Gasport.



Then on August 2nd, Veteran's Park in Gasport – only one shelter in the park, you can't miss it. The address is **7992 State St.** in Gasport.

For both picnics, worship starts at **10:30am**. **Bring a dish to pass and a comfy chair if you like.**

****Sign up sheet is out in the narthex now**

July 19th Sunday School Staff Meeting

Sunday school teachers, please stay after worship on **July 19th** for a meeting to plan next year.

Synod Coming to Trinity (1st Meeting)

Monday July 20th at 6:30pm

Synod CaSTLE Project Listening Session with Trinity July 20th

Rev. Imani Olear will be visiting Trinity on **Monday evening, July 20th at 6:30 pm** for a listening session with us around what's called the CaSTLE Project, an opportunity being offered to rural congregations to help strengthen their ministry in their setting. Please consider coming to share your thoughts. More on this listening session:

What is the CaSTLE Project and What Can We Expect? **About the CaSTLE Project**

CaSTLE stands for **Country and Small Town Lived Ecclesiology**. It is a grant-funded initiative through Wartburg Theological Seminary and the ELCA that is helping synods across the country learn from rural and small-town congregations. The project begins with a simple belief: rural congregations are not problems to be solved. They are communities with gifts, wisdom, and experiences that have much to teach the wider church.

Through listening sessions, coaching, leadership development, and shared learning, the CaSTLE Project seeks to identify what helps rural congregations thrive and what resources, partnerships, and support may be needed for the future.

About Rev. Imani Olear

Rev. Imani Olear serves as the Director for Evangelical Mission and Associate to the Bishop for the Upstate New York Synod. Her work includes congregational vitality, mission development, leadership development, justice ministries, and supporting congregations as they navigate change and opportunities for growth. Rev. Olear is leading the Upstate New York Synod's participation in the CaSTLE Project and has been traveling throughout the synod to listen to congregations, learn from their experiences, and identify common themes emerging across rural and small-town ministry settings.

What to Expect During the Listening Session

The listening session is simply a conversation. We are not coming to evaluate, assess, or judge the congregation. We are coming to listen. During our time

together, we will discuss:

- What you love most about your congregation
- Where you see God at work
- The strengths of your community and congregation
- Challenges facing your church and community
- Leadership and lay ministry opportunities
- Hopes and concerns for the future
- Partnerships and collaborations in your community
- Resources, training, or support that might be helpful

What This Is Not

This is not:

- A congregational assessment
- A financial review
- A strategic planning session
- A conversation about closing churches
- A meeting with right or wrong answers

Why Your Voice Matters

The experiences of your congregation matters. The stories, wisdom, challenges, and hopes you share will help shape future conversations, resources, and support for rural and small-town congregations across the Upstate New York Synod and beyond. We are grateful for your willingness to participate and look forward to learning from you.

July 26 – Pulpit Exchange

Join us for worship as Pastors Serena and Rick exchange pulpits!

Pies in the Park

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

Lutheran Night at the Bisons

This year's Lutheran night at the Bisons will be Friday August 21st at 6:35.
Printable tickets are at the end of this beacon and printed copies are in the narthex.

September 20th: Congregational Listening Session (2nd Meeting)

What is Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Newstead? Who is Trinity?
Why is Trinity?

These questions come up from time to time as we evaluate ourselves as a congregation. From within that framework and understanding, we can better identify the people, the mission and the direction of the congregation of Trinity.

We have done this in the past. Through our period of intentional internship, to the congregational merger with St John's, to our development of our ministry site profile for the purpose of calling and retaining pastoral leadership. We have asked ourselves these questions, as a council and as a congregation. The means to do this have varied. Focused collaborative stakeholder groups, to council committees, to surveys and now, a conversation.

Over the past few months, Trinity has been engaged in a shared ministry with Zion Lutheran Church of Gasport. Pastor Rick, through the direction of Synod and the understanding with council and Trinity, has been sharing pastoral leadership and care part time with Zion. The intent was to assist Zion in completing their ministry site profile and to organize to find new pastoral leadership. It was made into a formal agreement, along with a term, that has since expired. The question that Synod, Zion and Trinity now face is, what's next?

After discussion at council, it was decided to hold a listening session later this year. The listening session will be held on *September 20th following worship*. Deacon Rachel Sosebee will be joining us for this session to field any questions she can help with as well.

The purpose of the session is to ask and engage our congregation to review the past, the current and the future needs of our congregation's pastoral leadership. What does it look like? What do we need? This is the basis for the conversation. It will be open

to the entire congregation as the council seeks your input for consideration. This is not a congregational meeting, so no actions are planned to be made. But with the conversation, the council will have a better understanding of Trinity to make decisions on next steps and direction.

Council encourages you to watch for additional information and to mark your calendars to participate. Additional details for this session will be made available as the session is planned, including participants and agenda for discussion.

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Rick or myself. Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and hopefully, your participation.

Yours in Christ,
Erik Polkowski
Conversation Facilitator, Council VP 2026

Food Pantry

First Monday of the Month: Food Pantry setup @ 8am

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

Schedule:

July 6th setup – July 7th distribution

August 3 setup – August 4th distribution

August 31 setup – September 1st 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

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

1st - Carrie Palizay
2nd - Katie Kaminski
3rd - Jessie Coffta
4th - Melissa Francis
5th - Alexandra Eckerson
Valerie Infanti
6th - Morgan Infanti
7th - Barbara Edgar
Diane Hurne
Jacob Kendziora
10th - Cameron Infanti
13th - Annaleigh Kittel
14th - David Hofmeier
16th - Jurgen Arndt
17th - Brandon Fix
Amy Morgante
22nd - Bryan Kern
Marissa Brege
25th - Riley Polkowski
27th - Nicholas Greiner
Christine Johnson
29th - Bob Johannes
Kylie Adamczak

JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

21 - Tony & Lisa Kaminski

OneCall Sponsors Still Needed

We're looking for sponsors to ensure our OneCall system stays active.

We use our OneCall system often: for our prayer chain, to let you know of weather notices, events coming up, and to send Beacon newsletters. It's an important communications tool we have so that we're as transparent as possible with things going on at Trinity. And it's all made possible by the support of generous members.

We're asking for monthly sponsors at \$79 per month! A generous family has already sponsored 6 months...thank you! Would you help us fill the gap for the rest of the year and beyond? Sponsors have the option to dedicate messages in honor or memory of a loved one or a cause dear to you, and that dedication will be heard at the beginning of each OneCall message. Please reach out to Lisa Kaminski, our treasurer, if you're interested in sponsoring. You can also let Pastor know or leave a check in the church office noting what its for.

Issues with One Call?

As most of you know, our One Call system, while highly necessary and effective, often has glitches. If you receive a message that starts halfway through, or stops prematurely, or – if you don't even *receive* the message but heard there's one – there is a **backup option** you can try:

Call back the One Call number (1-877-698-3261) and follow the prompt to hit #1. That will replay the last message for you. This feature is only available for the last message and may expire after a day or two. But, it's a second option to try. We've contacted the company but there doesn't seem to be a fix for it. If you need to double check your number on file, please email the church office. And, if you're able to support by paying for a month of the One Call service, please see pastor or leave a check in Tammy & Becky's mailbox designating what it's for.

Synod Update:

Here's a recap of what the synod was up to last month:

G.R.A.C.E. mindset

Synod Assembly
May 26-27, 2026



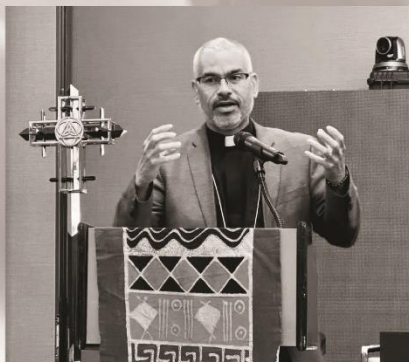
UPSTATE NEW YORK SYNOD

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA

Highlights

- New logo revealed
- Budget - approved
- Learning
 - Bible Study with Dr. Karyn Wiseman
 - Experiential Learning with Pat Greene
- Elections
- Celebrations
 - Synod Discipleship Award
 - Welcoming a new congregation
 - Installation of Deacon Rachel Sosebee
 - Anniversaries of congregations
 - Anniversaries of rostered leaders
- Amendments, Resolutions, and Memorials
- Resources
- Next Assembly

ELCA Representative



Mission Plan 2027-28

Revenue \$1,365,300
Expenditures \$1,408,044

APPROVED

Celebrations



Brad Wendel
Synod Discipleship
Award

Assembly by the Numbers

World Hunger:
\$25,656.85

**ALDI Gift Cards for
Appleseed Ministries**
\$1,050.00

Zambia
\$1,600.00+

The Rev. Dr. Carmelo
Santos, Director for
Theological Diversity
and Ecumenical and
Interreligious
Engagement

New Logo

See above ...

Bible Study



Dr. Karyn Wiseman - "If it's not about love, it's not about God."

Experimentation

Cultivating a G.R.A.C.E. Mindset:
Experimentation



Pat Greene - try using "yes ... and ..." rather than a flat "no." And ask, "What is God doing that's new?"

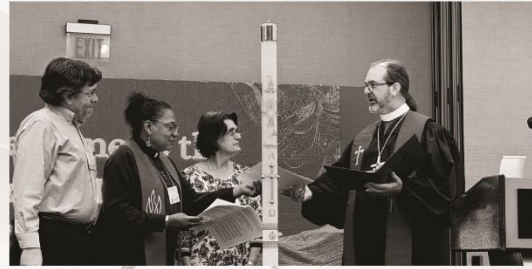


Special guest
appearance by
ImaLu Thran

Celebrations



Installation of Deacon Rachel Sosebee
Associate with the Bishop for Transitions



Reception of Hope Lutheran Church,
North Greenbush

Anniversaries

We celebrated the anniversaries of congregations throughout the synod with significant anniversaries, and we celebrated rostered leaders with anniversaries ranging from 5 years to 70 years. Thanks be to God!

Constitution Amendments, Resolutions, and Memorials

- **Amended** our governing documents related to the changes from the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.
- **Approved** a plan to realign the conferences of the synod, which includes disbanding the Southern Tier Conference.
- **Adopted** a bylaw creating term limits for officers of the synod.
- **Referred** the memorial concerning Synod Authorized Ministry to Synod Council.
- **Directed** the Synod Council to study the ability to grant voice at vote at assemblies to rostered ministers on the roster of another synod and serving in our synod.

Elections

Vice President: Lindsay Stannard
Deans: Amy Walter-Peterson, Genesee Finger Lakes, Jeff Silvernail, Foothills
Synod Council Young Adult: Halley Telaak
Consultation Committee: Lance Kelly
Discipline Committee: Garth Olsen



Newly elected Vice President, Lindsay Stannard, with Bishop Lee M. Miller II.



Two Bishop Lees?!

Resources

Resources shared at the Assembly will be available using the QR code below, including:

Books Slide decks
Websites Movies



Next Synod Assembly

- Bishop's Election
- Election of voting members for Churchwide Assembly 2028

Scan this QR code for a wrap-up video and other Assembly-related documents.

Save
the
Date

JUNE 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



@ SAHLEN FIELD

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST

6:35 PM Game Time

How to Get Your Tickets...

Buy **ONLINE** at www.WNYLutheranCharities.org

or

Buy with **PayPal** – Use the QR Code

Note the # of Individual Tickets and/or Tickets w/ Concessions
& Any Seating Preferences (group, who with)

or Mail in a Check with the Form Below.

**** Tickets Must be Purchased Together to be Seated Together ****



Lutheran Charities Bisons Night RSVP: DUE IN the OFFICE by 10 AM, August 18th

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

of individual tickets _____ x \$15 ea. = _____

of tickets WITH discounted concessions _____ x \$25 ea. = _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail Form with Payment to: Lutheran Charities, 6540 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221

COST:

Individual Tickets: \$15

Tickets WITH Discounted Concessions: \$25
(includes 1 hot dog & small soda)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

Tuesday, August 18th!

Tickets will NOT be mailed.

Pick them up on game day from Jessica,
the Office Administrator,
after 5 PM to the right of the Swan Street entrance
to the ballpark
near the tree grove @ Washington Street.