
OUR CHURCH PAPER

January-February 2023

Vol. 32 No. 1

A Message from the Pastor

It is with a deep sense of blessing and adventure that I greet you at these several beginnings: we're at the threshold of a new year; the congregation is approaching, in God's time, the call of a new pastor during this season of search and transition; and I am beginning my sojourn with you as your transition pastor. All of these beginnings are a renewed call to faith and gratitude, and inevitably they remind me of a poem titled "God Knows," by Minnie Louise Haskins, which begins with these lines:

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: / 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' / And he replied: / 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. / That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'"

The future, as always, remains unknown, and I would not presume to speculate about how and where God is leading us. But I have great confidence in these three things, at least. First, in our incredibly rich and complex life journeys, it is in God's grace that our paths have intersected and joined for a time. Second, at the heart of Christmas is the assurance that God is present and active in the smallest and seemingly least consequential people and events of our lives. And third, when we are open and responsive to God, the present moment, no matter how humble and otherwise inconsequential it may seem, can become a sacrament of grace.

The prophet Isaiah, not at the beginning of a new year, perhaps, but at the beginning of a new era in Israel's history, heard God say, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert" (Isa. 43:19). We don't make this beginning together, you and I, in a vacuum. We make it amid some new thing God is doing among us and with us and through us. It's a new thing that even now springs forth, before we know its details, before we imagine what shape it will take or how it will bear fruit.

Haskins ends the first stanza of her poem with these lines: "So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. / And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East." So let's join hands in faith, and with a sense of blessing and adventure, welcome the beginnings that are now unfolding.

Pastor Rich Neal



HOLY TRINITY
BUFFALO

About Pastor Rich Neal

Pastor Rich Neal, our new interim pastor, brings more than forty years of experience in parish ministry with United Methodist, Presbyterian (PCUSA), United Church of Christ, and Lutheran (ELCA) congregations, including six terms as an intentional interim minister. Most recently he served as interim pastor for St. Timothy (Grand Island) and Good Shepherd (Tonawanda) Lutheran congregations. Pastor Rich is ordained in The United Methodist Church and has been trained by the Interim Ministry Network in intentional interim ministry; the Mediation Center of Rochester and the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in mediation and conflict transformation; the Educational Center in life-centered maieutic education; the Guild for Psychological Studies in the life and teachings of Jesus; and he has studied monastic spirituality with Parker Palmer. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Drew University Theological School and a Bachelor of Science degree in fine art from Southeast Missouri State University and has been a graduate student in art history at the University of Missouri.

Before entering seminary and beginning parish ministry, Pastor Rich started his career in commercial printing and as a book designer and production director for the University of Missouri Press and Southern Illinois University Press. He lives in Snyder with his wife Sheryl, formerly a case worker for Concerned Ecumenical Ministries and for thirteen years (before retiring) the director of social work at Beechwood Homes. Their household includes two dogs, Gracie and Oliver.

Initially Pastor Rich will be in the office Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings or by appointment, a schedule that may change as he adjusts to the needs of the parish. He is especially interested in adult Christian education and Bible study, welcomes opportunities to talk with others about the life of faith, and invites your phone calls to schedule a time to meet.



Fellowship and Hospitality

A great thankyou to our congregation. Once again, our Christmas food basket project was a joyous success. Ten families received totes filled with non-perishable items and also included a \$75.00 gift card to Price Rite. Through a Thrivent grant, we were able to purchase ten canned hams. Each basket contained a beautiful prayer shawl knitted by our own Holy Trinity Needlers. And finally, we had enough left over to fill seven extra boxes. Thank you once again.

The church was beautifully decorated for Christmas. It's a shame that the big storm kept us from being together; but we know that Christmas is more than a one-day celebration. So, a Merry Christmas to all.

We will de-green the church on Sunday, January 8th after the 10:30 service. Your help is needed. Lunch will be served.

We will be scheduling a meeting soon to begin 2023. New members and new ideas are always welcome. We meet on Saturday mornings in Redeemer Hall.

COUNCIL CORNER

Updates and Info from the Council President

REMINDER: OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 22, 2023 AFTER BOTH 8:30am AND 10:30am SERVICES. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND. (HOPEFULLY WE WON'T HAVE ANOTHER STORM!)

Pastoral Transition Timeline /“Trust the Process”

- Our third candidate has decided not to pursue the position of Lead pastor at Holy Trinity. The committee will receive another candidate's name soon. Thank you for your patience, understanding and especially your prayers during this discernment process. Our interim pastor is The Rev. Richard Neal, Transition Ministry Specialist.

Sunday School/ Faith Formation

- Thanks to our faithful volunteers, we are providing crib room care along with Pre-K to 3rd grade and 4th to 6th grade classes. Sunday School families received a special wooden Advent calendar this year to enjoy for many years to come, too. Pr. Miranda and Kai Szakmary are providing instruction for Confirmation classes along with some special activities for our youth.

P.S. 17

- Many thanks for the donations of gifts for the Angel Tree. 58 children received gifts out of your generosity! We were also able to provide a small gift to each child in the school with extra items from our Sunday School supply room.

The Burrito Project

- This important ministry to the homeless in Buffalo is working in collaboration with other area Lutheran churches. If you would like to know more about volunteering or you have been previously involved and would like to continue, please contact Guy Huber or Jen Yap.

MISC

- A presentation on the budget for 2023 was provided on December 11, 2022.
- We are now collecting offerings and providing communion by intinction during services. Communion assistants and ushers are needed. If you are able to serve in either or both of these areas, please contact the church office.

A Day in the Life

Membership News

Special Birthdays

If you know a member who is no longer able to attend church regularly and has a birthday in January or February, please call the church office and let us know.

January 6	Merriejann Miller 179 Lafayette Avenue Buffalo NY 14213	February 15	Cliff Lochhaas Heritage Village 4600 Route 60 Unit 37 Gerry NY 14740
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Welcome to Pastor Richard Neal, who will be serving as our Interim Pastor, during this time of transition, beginning January 2023

Deaths

Our recently departed family and friends

October 26, 2022	Colleen Parks
October 27, 2022	Thebralyn "Teddy" Bradley
November 29, 2022	Lorretta Queffelec
November 29, 2022	Erich Nikischer
December 26, 2022	Elizabeth "Betty" Hutcheson

"Blessed are those who die in the name of the Lord. Amen."



The stewardship team would like to thank everyone who has made a monetary, time or talent commitment to Holy Trinity for 2023.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2022

Gifts for Christmas poinsettias decorating the church were received from:

In loving memory of:

Mr. and Mrs. John Hollands and Family by Prudence C. Hollands
Judge and Mrs. Robert N. Palmer and Family by Prudence C. Hollands
Our grandparents and Theresa "Granny" Pomietlarz by Justin, Kristen and Lillian Pomietlarz
James and Elizabeth Manzella by Mary and Kurt Kaufmann
Carl and Frances Kaufmann by Kurt and Mary Kaufmann
Jeanette A. Kuck by Kurt, Mary, Alexander and Emily Kaufmann
The Rev. Dr. Lee M. Miller by his wife, Joan
Doris & Walter Stroman, Marion Trier & Frank Ricchiazzi by The Battaglia Family
Our parents, George and Della Diehl by John Sullivan and Cynthia Lange
Our parents, Richard and Mary Sullivan by John Sullivan and Cynthia Lange
My wonderful husband Paul by Millie Nikischer
William and Mabel Johnson by Thomas Johnson
My parents Raúl and Margarita Saona by Raúl Saona
My parents Carolyn and Henry Hughes, my brothers Robert and Carlton Hughes and my nephew
David Hughes by Karen Saona
Louis, Vera and Robert Hoebel by Paul A. Hoebel
Elaine Fuhlbruck by Paul A. Hoebel
My parents by Doris Ratcliffe
Elaine Fuhlbruck by the Carmer, Addison, Fuhlbruck and Thomasula Families
Dr. Ralph and Maxine Loew by Michael and Janet Loew Day
Jacqueline Ruth Holcombe by her Family
William, Eleanor, Carol and Nancy Wolf by Linda Patricola
Dave Grabenstatter by his wife Nanc and son Eric
Grandparents, Anne and Hugh Alderdice by Doug Alderdice
Grandparents, Frederick and Elizabeth Maas by Doug Alderdice
Our parents, Viola and Layton Leiser by Ron and Donna Leiser
Our parents, Victoria and John Caffarelli by Ron and Donna Leiser
John, Dan, Josh and Daniel by Gail and John Camilleri
Melissa Thomasula, Elaine Fuhlbruck, William Fuhlbruck and Aaron Fuhlbruck by their Families
Earl and Virginia Kohler, Roger Kohler and Michael Alan Zaehring by Melanie (Kohler) and
Michael Durkee
Our parents, siblings and grandparents, Richard W. Bauchle, William and Emma Bauchle,
Albert Bauchle, Robert Klas, Shirley Klas and Robert R. Klas by Paul and Karen Bauchle
Our parents by Jayne and Doug Lloyd
Marie Guzdek and all of our other loved ones that have passed by Nicole and Chris Guzdek
Parents, Clifford and June Hehr by David Hehr
Grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Staffel and Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Hehr by David Hehr
Darwin C. Staffel by Nephew, David Hehr
Randall F. and Marie Smith by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones

In Loving Memory of cont.

W. Dana and Elizabeth Jones by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones
Randall E Smith by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones
Marshall Tyler by Ryon and Eileen Fleming
Earl J. Kunz by Heidi, Margaret and Sarah Kunz
Ruth and Michael Bloos by Heidi Kunz
Ruth & Jack Alexander and Jo & Bud Hunt by The Hunt Family
Our beloved parents by Joe and Martha Kryszczuk
Ken James by Ruth James
John Camilleri, Jr. by Ruth James
Our grandparents by Holly Holdaway and Daniel Culross

In honor of:

My children, Lauren, Brad and Matthew and grandson Wesley by Claire Carmer
Our families by Michael and Janet Loew Day
The Richard J. Lee Family by Richard Lee
Our grandkids, Ella Hope, Hannah Grace and Walker James by Paul and Karen Bauchle
Helen and Martin Wright by Kristen, Matthew, Avery and Clayton Best

To the Glory of God

By Jim and Norine Dunnigan

In Thanksgiving for:

the blessings of Alexander and Emily by Kurt and Mary Kaufmann

In memory of loved ones by: Carol Alderdice, Paul Biesinger, Richard Keuck, Dave and Mary Linda Schmidt, Sue Spindler



Bake Sale

The Global Ministries team will be holding a bake sale on January 22, 2023, to provide funds to support the Haiti mission. We will hold the bake sale between the 8:30 and 10:30 services and also before and after the annual meetings. If you would like to help with baked items for the team to sell, we would appreciate this. Please contact Kathy Crissey at kc1008@aol.com if you are able to help with this fundraising event. Thank you for your continued support of this mission.



Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

Eleventh Annual Ashes on the Run

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1080 Main Street, Buffalo, NY**

**We will be holding services at 12:00 pm in the Chapel
and 7:00pm in the Main Church.**

**For those unable to attend either service, but would like to receive ashes,
our pastors, The Rev. Richard Neal, will be distributing ashes
to anyone walking or driving by Main Street in front of
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
(1080 Main Street, Buffalo)
from 7:30–9:00 am.**



Watercolor Class

Watercolor classes, with our own Paul Biesinger,
continue on Thursdays in Redeemer Hall.
We will meet each week from 10am to Noon.
Classes are free but you will need to bring your own supplies.
All are welcome!

2023 MONDAY BIBLE STUDIES
Led by our own David Ulrich
(9:30am session only).

January 9: Martin Luther King, Jr.
and his (often-misinterpreted) Legacy.

Starting January 30
A multi-week program –
“America’s Sacred Texts:
the divine and the profane in our civic religion.”
How religious thought and political realities have shaped
many of the most important documents in United States history.
More specific details and dates will follow.



Our Church Paper

Editor: Linda Lipczynski

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Upstate New York Synod

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The Rev. Richard Neal, Intentional Interim Pastor
The Rev. Miranda Hammer, Part-Time Interim Pastor
for the Nurturing of the Congregation

Kristen Pomietlarz, Organist

Justin Pomietlarz, Choirmaster


Linda Lipczynski, Office Manager

Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant


John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds

JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 1 <i>First Sunday after Christmas</i> 10:30 Service of Holy Communion <i>Happy New Year</i>	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	3 5:30 Burrito Project	4 10:00 Watercolor Class 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	5 10:00 Watercolor Class 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	6 10:00 Watercolor Class 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	7 10:00 Watercolor Class 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON
8 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 8:30 Service of Holy Communion 9:30 Youth Choir 10:30 Service of Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 De-greening 12:00 Confirmation Class at Good Shepherd	9 9:30 Bible Study 6:00 Gamblers Anonymous	10 12:30 Women at the Well 7:00 Council Meeting via Zoom	11 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Worship Meeting	12 10:00 Watercolor Class 6:00 Chapel Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	13 10:00 Watercolor Class 6:00 Chapel Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	14 10:00 Watercolor Class 6:00 Chapel Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON
15 <i>Second Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:30 Service of Holy Communion 9:30 Youth Choir 10:30 Service of Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Hour	16 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED <i>Martin Luther King Jr Day Observed</i>	17 7:00 Executive Meeting via Zoom	18 10:00 Watercolor Class 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	19 10:00 Watercolor Class 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	20 10:00 Watercolor Class 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	21 10:00 Watercolor Class 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON
22 <i>Third Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:30 Service of Holy Communion 9:30 Youth Choir 9:30 Annual Congregational Meeting 10:30 Service of Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Annual Congregational Meeting 12:00 Coffee Hour	23 6:00 Gamblers Anonymous	24 7:00 CMS Concert rehearsal	25 10:00 Staff Meeting	26 10:00 Watercolor Class 6:00 Chapel Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	27 10:00 Watercolor Class 6:00 Chapel Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	28 10:00 Watercolor Class 6:00 Chapel Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON
29 <i>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:30 Service of Holy Communion w/Chapel Choir 9:30 Youth Choir 10:30 Service of Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Hour	30 9:30 Bible Study 6:00 Gamblers Anonymous	31 7:00 CMS Concert rehearsal				

FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
<i>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:30 Service of Holy Communion 9:30 Youth Choir 10:30 Service of Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Hour	9:30 Bible Study 6:00 Gamblers Anonymous	5:30 Burrito Project 5:30 Needlers	10:00 Staff Meeting	10:00 Watercolor Class 6:00 Chapel Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	7:30 Community Music School Concert	
<i>Sixth Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:30 Service of Holy Communion 9:30 Youth Choir 10:30 Service of Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Hour 12:00 Confirmation Class at HT	9:30 Bible Study 6:00 Gamblers Anonymous	12:30 Women at the Well <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16 10:00 Watercolor Class 6:00 Chapel Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	17	18
<i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> 8:30 Service of Holy Communion w/Chapel Choir 9:30 Youth Choir 10:30 Service of Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Hour	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED <i>President's Day</i>	7:00 Executive Meeting	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:30 Ashes on the Run 12:00 Service of Holy Communion 6:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Service of Holy Communion	23 10:00 Watercolor Class 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	24	25
<i>First Sunday in Lent</i> 8:30 Service of Holy Communion 10:30 Service of Holy Communion 11:30 Coffee Hour	9:30 Bible Study 6:00 Gamblers Anonymous	7:00 Council Meeting				
	27	28				

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on
Sunday, January 22, 2023
at the completion of each service.
Agenda items include approval of the budget
and candidates for Council.

OUR CHURCH PAPER
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1080 Main Street
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www.holytrinitybuffalo.org
Return Service Requested

