



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH **THE GOOD NEWS, September 2019**

Pastor's Pause...

"Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind." – Psalm 26, verse 2
(NRSV)

My heart and mind sometimes disagree with each other. There are times of conflict between the two that can be very distressing. I'm pretty sure most of you reading this article feel the same way. You may really want to say the right words or do the right thing, but in a rush, it comes out messy and jumbled. Your mind tells you it was too little said and too quickly, to make a note to spend more time with the other person/people later. Then, yet another event takes up what was supposed to be "later." Perhaps it's an ethical or spiritual battle that causes one's heart and mind to be out of agreement; such as, having to take an action by a boss' order when that action is clearly against your values.

How does one know one's heart with this mind/heart conflict? Not everyone is able to quit their job over a value or ethics conflict – at least not immediately. All those missed "laters" can build up and cause a person quite a bit of spiritual stress, also. How is it clear, then, what the heart's true character and desire is?

As believers in Christ, we want to believe that we are good and that in the very depths of others, they are good as well. Some of what clouds over this sense of "good" and "evil" can be the very messages we receive from others. The science of psychology will tell us that if we are subjected to negative input consistently, we begin to believe those negative comments as truth; and, we can and often do act upon that "truth" accordingly. Likewise, positive reinforcement can have the opposite, positive effect. Parenting research as well as adult behavioral research regularly report such findings (and a quick visit to the internet and the library will yield a lot of details and studies!).

Is one's personal "truth" or the opinion of others truly descriptive of one's heart, though? Observation seems to be, in the psalmist's view, wholly God's purveyance.

The Apostles also witnessed to God's judgement of heart and God's grace on the matter: *"And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us."* (Acts 15:8-9, NRSV).

Again, it is witnessed that it is God who testifies to the human heart, not humankind. Humankind only witnesses to what God does with hearts. But, how does one's mind and heart not intertwine spiritually? For we understand our feelings and even our very selves according to what and how our brain receives information, support or conflict, praise or admonition, and so on.

Very recent studies are essentially proving that the brain and the "gut" are indeed linked in health, as are all the other organs of the body (source: www.health.harvard.edu). Perhaps it is indeed what the heart and mind receive as verbal and spiritual food that is important. Using the example of the gut/mind connection, healthy bacteria in the gut can provide for a healthy mood. As the Apostle's

witnessed, when the hearts of others received the same grace of God's good judgement, those hearts were likewise cleansed. Perhaps, then, we should consider that the heart needs to also receive goodness, to receive from God that which is of God, to be pure and clean. We then get to witness to the great things that God does with our hearts – the great things God does even with the hearts of people *we* may *think* are forever impure and lost.

In preparing for the lesson on Luke 12 wherein Jesus foretells of division among households and peoples because of belief in him, one commentary offered a suggestion to present church as a place where one's heart is encouraged, renewed and refreshed. A responding comment on that suggestion came from a Canadian pastor with five decades of experience and he answered with the very question of knowing heart and mind (source: textweek.com). His response felt cynical in that decade after decade in the ministry, he found that culture overwhelms personal development and only if there is a strength of desire communally to grow is there change and improvement in personal faith lives and following the Christ who loves and yet divides.

We are flawed and mistaken. Yet, we remain saved and loved – sinner and saint. While our minds may confuse our hearts and vice-versa, it is in God that we continue to have life, faith, purpose, purity, and wholeness. It is by God's gift of faith that we persevere and witness to God's judgement upon our hearts. As 1 John states, *"for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything."*²¹ *Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God;*²² *and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him."* (1 John 3:20a-22, NRSV).

Do I know my heart any better this minute than when I first starting writing this article of questions. No, I don't. I don't know what yet God has in store and how yet God may use or change my heart. My own voice and those of others may have provided rotted food that makes me think ill of my own heart. But God yet remains in control of my heart, of yours, of all. It is in the feeding of the food of God's grace and love that the truth in our hearts is known only to God. May our hearts and minds have the desire for God that leads us to God's truths and to put our human arrogant judgement aside. In other words, stop listening to the garbage others are saying as well as to the garbage you tell yourself. Stop giving garbage for food to others' hearts and walk away from condemnation of others because you've judged their hearts apart from God. May we each and all listen wholly to the Holy One who loves us, who has saved us, who cares for us. Amen.

OUR CONGREGATIONAL Council

President – Gary Kurtz, Mutual Ministry

***Vice President – Joe Muscato,
Communications***

Secretary – Kathy Knarr, Stewardship

Brenda Reber – Evangelism & Fellowship

Property – Gary Patterson

Finance – Jim Kishbaugh

Memorial Committee – Joe Shepperson

Grace Fund – Don Holdren

Christian Education – Abby Miller

Music & Worship – Zac Miller

Outreach & Nurturing – Peg Reed

Youth Ministries – Betsy Reed

***The next regular Congregational
Meeting will be September 26, 2019
at 7:00 PM***

***Deadline for the October Newsletter
will be Wednesday, September 25th
@ 9:00AM***

CHURCH STAFF

Custodian – Ed Haas

Assistant Custodian – Shawn Haas

Church Organist – Carol Payne

Choir Director – Dave Ruths

Church Secretary – Donna Evans

Treasurer – Tom Summers

FELLOWSHIP!

Join in, and sign up to serve,
in the lower level Fellowship Hall following
Worship



Stewards

In Christ

Danville Area

Food Bank

July

Spaghetti & Sauce

Good Samaritan

Mission

The Gate House

Transitional

Housing

Trinity Lutheran

Church Grace

Fund

Upper Susquehanna

Synod

Local Congregation

Support,

Global Partnerships

Evangelical

Lutheran Church

In America

World Hunger Appeal,

Lutheran World

Relief,

Lutheran Disaster

PLEASE NOTE!

MAILING ADDRESS FOR TRINITY:

241 East Market Street

P. O. BOX 417

DANVILLE, PA.

17821

Phone: 570-275-0283

Fax: 570-275-6209

Pastor's Days Off—Friday & Saturday

E-MAIL

trinitylutheran@ptd.net

FACEBOOK

Trinity Lutheran Church, Danville Pa.

WEB SITE

www.tlcdanvillepa.org

California Grange Chicken BBQ

September 14th, 4-6PM

\$10.00 ticket

Call Louise Nogle 570-742-8974

CHURCH EVENTS

September 5 Trinity Dinner Club @ Ruby
Tuesday's, Buckhorn
September 8 Trinity Block Party –
Noon to 3:00PM
October 6 Blanket Sunday
October 14 Jubilee Kitchen @9:00AM
October 20 Halloween Party @5:00PM
October 24 Danville Halloween Parade

September Birthdays

Sept 1 Ryan Palm
Sept 3 Katelyn DePew
Sept 6 Betty Sassaman, Karen
Humphries
Sept 7 Abigail Ruths, Vickie Mateer
Sept 9 Ron Rudy
Sept 11 Roxanne Oubenali
Sept 12 Joseph Hodish, Olivia Drumheller
Sept 13 Chrissie Keefer, Jim Kishbaugh
Sept 16 Althea Wertman
Sept 17 Kathy Mordan
Sept 18 Albert Churm, Annette Hagenbuch
Norman Fedder, Carlos Fernandez
Sept 19 Ethan Bulger, Dottie Eister, Zach
Harvey
Sept 22 Autumn Wimble, Marvin Sassaman
Sept 23 Kirsten Morrissey, Beth Campbell
Dennis Mertz II, Gary Hoffman
Sept 26 Marie Morgans, Gary Patterson
Sept 28 Drew Smith, Kathryn Hahn
Sept 29 Gary Kurtz, Helen Gerringer
Sept 30 Benjamin Bulger

FLOWERS

Sept 1 Psalm 121

Sept 8 Open

Sept 15 IMO Judy Kishbaugh by
Jim & Lois Kishbaugh

Sept 22 IMO Nancy Gerst by Donna
Evans

Sept 29 Open

BULLETINS

Sept 1 IMO Loved Ones by Ray & Peg
Fryling

Sept 8 IMO Vince Radel by Elemr &
Nancy Sabo

Sept 16 IMO Loved Ones by Ray & Peg
Fryling

Sept 22 Open

Sept 29 IMO Loved Ones by Ray & Peg
Fryling

“THANK YOU”

*Jerry & Doris Lemon wish to thank
all who have sent cards and helped
during their illness. God Bless you
all.*

Trinity Membership

Chapter 8 of the Trinity Constitution (2017) defines what it means to be a Voting member of the Congregation and is the focus of this message.

“Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation.”

Be sure to at least annually complete a communion card to maintain your place on the Trinity rolls. We realize you are communing on a regular basis however without the communion card there is no permanent record.

Those members of the congregation utilizing envelopes or online giving, your contributions are already recorded and you need do nothing further.

Your Congregation Council thanks you for your continued membership and support of Trinity.

Trinity Dinner Club

September 5, 2019

5:00PM

**@ Ruby Tuesday's
Buckhorn**

Night of Joy

Tuesday, September 24th

4:00PM

Clean Heart Distribution

Outreach Meeting Follows

*******Deadline for information for the
weekly bulletin is Wednesday morning at
9:00AM***

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
241 East Market Street, Danville
BLOCK PARTY
SEPTEMBER 8, 2019
NOON – 3:00 PM

FREE HOT DOGS, CHIPS, ICE CREAM
SUNDAES,
DRINKS &
SNOW CONES & POPCORN

Entertainment by Woody Wolfe
Bouncy House, Games, Face Painting

Church Street from E. Mahoning to East
Market

will be closed for this event
PLEASE JOIN US

Be sure and tell your neighbors



The Library Corner

As was promised in August, we will begin again with the following:

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Trinity's library encompasses 31 different categories? Some categories were mentioned in July & August and still others are referenced here. Titles which might be intriguing follow.

Teacher's Aid

Help I'm a Sunday School Teacher by Mary Dickert

Adult Fiction

Come Rain or Come Shine by Jan Karon

Spirituality

A Rustle of Angels by Marilyn C. Webber
Together by Grace – Introducing the Lutherans by Katherine Kleinham

Christian Life

Me and My Big Mouth by Joyce Meyer

Evangelism

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Martinson

Church History

The Imaginative World of the Reformation
By Peter Matleson

Bible Study Aid

Bible Now and Then by Jenny Roberts

Juvenile Fiction

When Lightning Struck by Danka Cooley

Senior

Help Lord! I'm Having a Senior Moment
By Karen O'Conner

Thanks to Betty Husson for being on duty as your librarian on a number of Sunday mornings.

This is your library to use.

See you in the library,

Eleanor Sandmeyer

BLANKET SUNDAY OCTOBER

6th.

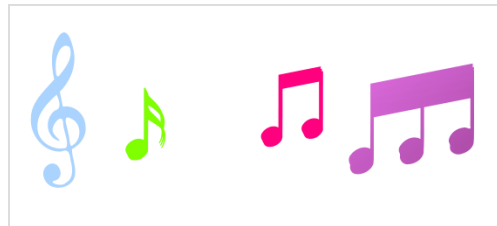
ITEMS NEEDED:

***New & Gently Used Blankets Twin
& Full Size, Baby Blankets,***

Quilts 60"x80"



Please bring your blankets in and leave them in the church kitchen. Deadline for dropping off blankets is Sunday morning October 6th. by 8:00AM.



***TRINITY CHOIRS RESUME
PRACTICE ON SEPTEMBER
10TH.***

Chancel Choir 6:30PM

Hand Bells Choir 7:40PM

Prayer List

Rhonda Brouse
Al Churm
Betty Gatski
Ruth Haas
Carson Keefer
Mary Frances Knoebel
Ashley Krejci
Elizabeth Leiby
Roxanne Oubenali
Cathy Quinton
Mark Schramm
Mike Siats
Bill Straub
Becky Zimmerman

Serving in Our Military

Jay Brennan
Rob Bromwell
Andrew Deck
Michael Deck
Rob DeWire
Derek R. Kirkner
Garrett Krum
Jason Lee
Jason McCann
T. R. Marks
J. T. Mullen
Tyler Quinton
Dalton Semiclose
Kurt Wimble

To the Family & Friends of:



Pastor's Schedule:

Church Offices: You can access all church offices by the East Market Street entrance. Church Office Hours are Monday 10:00AM -1:00PM., Tuesday-Friday 9:00AM-1:00PM

E-mail: trinitylutheran@ptd.net Pastor's e-mail: pastortlc@ptd.net

Please call the office at 570-275-0283 to schedule appointments to meet with pastor. Office Hours are Monday & Thursday 10:00AM—Noon. Pastoral Care emergencies should be made to the pastor regardless of day and time at 570-486-3792.

Thank you!

Pastor Trevor

Pastoral Emergencies

The Pastor's emergency number is his personal phone number as published in the member directory. Please be sure to add this number to your speed dial on your home phone, on your cell phone, or both. Pastor can receive text messages, also.

Please contact the pastor directly when there is an urgent pastoral need (an emergency visit to the hospital, accident, coping situations, family death). Please let the pastor know when there is a change in residence (such as from assisted living to the hospital, even if temporary). *We currently are not advised by area hospitals of when our members and member relatives are admitted, so we depend very heavily on the contact you make to the pastor and/ or to the church office.* Remember! All **medical** emergencies require you to **call 9-1-1!**

FINANCE:

CURRENT ACCOUNT—July 2019

INCOME:

Member Giving	\$ 10,465.36
Rents	1,275.00
Used Security Deposit for Repairs	[900.00]
Bulletins	30.00
Flowers	122.75
Haney[Oppenheimer] Unvesco	184.59
Wells Fargo Interest	2,078.53
Grace Fund	10.00

TOTAL INCOME: **\$ 13,266.23**

EXPENSES:

Pastors & Staff Compensation	\$ 12,163.45
Music & Worship	519.50
Parish Administration	1,122.44
Church Property	1,467.44
Apt. —339 Church St.	1,020.70
Apt. 2—343 Church St.	745.13
Property Insurance	1,026.00
Evangelism Supplies	51.36
Education/Outreach	300.20
Ministry Expense	135.65

TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$ 18,551.87**

NETLOSS/SURPLUS YTD ACTUAL \$ [9,113.57]