

January 2018



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A ministry of the Reformed Church in America

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Deadline for February Issue: January 15

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The Commitment

Newsletter of TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH
Seeking *HIS* Light... Reflecting *HIS* Love

WINTER FUN DAY



This event will be on **Saturday, January 27**. The time is tentatively set for **1:00-4:00 pm**.

Come join us for some winter fun!

If the weather cooperates, we'll grab our sleds and head to the nearest hill, stopping to make some snow people along the way! Be sure to bundle up!

If we're forced to stay inside, we'll play crazy games, watch snowy movies, and eat yummy popcorn!

And of course, no Winter Fun Day is complete without hot cocoa!

All are welcome, so bring your friends!

Kristen Hearn & Michaela Johnson

January 7: Installation and Ordination of New Consistory Members

Elders: Sharon Hann & Bonnie Harris

Deacon: Greg Halsey

Thanks to those completing their term for their faithful service:

Ed Allatt, Bonnie Magin, and Pat Peters.

**Undecorate the Sanctuary
Saturday, January 6 at 9:30 am**

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
 Before the mountains were brought forth,
 or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
 from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
 You turn us back to dust,
 and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
 For a thousand years in your sight
 are like yesterday when it is past,
 or like a watch in the night. (Psalm 90)*

*Therefore I intend to keep on reminding you of these things,
 though you know them already and are established in the truth
 that has come to you. (II Peter 1:12)*



From the Pastor

Happy New Year! To me, these seem to come quicker and quicker. It's hard to believe how many of these I've celebrated here with you. When my family and I arrived here, my youngest was only four years old. Now he's in college

As we start another year, one that will certainly have blessing and challenge, continuity and change, I want to offer some reminders: about this church, about our work together, and about the gospel. They will (or should) sound familiar to you. To some, they might sound *very* familiar: I had them in the newsletter a few years ago.

I find they are still relevant. I think they are (with some slight modifications) still right. And I believe they bear repeating, especially at the start of this new year.

Here are Dan's hopefully-holy reminders:

1. God loves you, just because.
2. God doesn't love you because you're good. You're good because God loves you.
3. The proof of God's love is Jesus.
4. The most important question in life is whether you will respond to God's love.
5. The second most important question is *how* you will respond.
6. God loves other people too, even some you really might not like. *What'ya gonna do about it?*
7. The purpose of the church is to help us learn of God's love and respond to it.
8. The primary tools God gives us for that purpose are preaching, baptism, and communion, all others being but extensions of and helps to these.
9. The church is not a social club.
10. The church is not a museum.
11. The church exists not to make us comfortable but rather to

make us fit for the Kingdom of God.

12. Those who expect only to be comforted or entertained by the church will either be disappointed or will corrupt the church.
13. *Every* Christian has a ministry.
14. Discovering that ministry is among the Christian's greatest joys.
15. *Sharing* that ministry is among the Christian's greatest joys.

May these reminders be a blessing to you, serving both to comfort *and* discomfort you, in whatever measure you need!

Christ's peace,

Pastor Dan

dgriswol@rochester.rr.com

2018 Consistory *

Minister of Word & Sacrament:
 The Rev. Dr. Dan Griswold

Elders:

Evelyn Ghyzel
 Sharon Hann
 Bonnie Harris
 Yi-Fen Lee
 John Stratton

Deacons:

Kelly Bradshaw
 Greg Halsey
 Jeannetta Kinmond
 Larry Scheerens

*After January 7 installation

~ ~ ~

Treasurer: Marge Magans
Benevolence Secr'y: Steve Letter
Financial Secr'y: Greg Halsey

New Faces at Trinity



Consistory Member of the Week

1/7 – John Stratton
1/14 – TBD
1/21 – TBD
1/28 – Pati Peters



The eighth annual "Step It Up! To Cure Pancreatic Cancer" 5K Walk was a huge success. The Walk was held on Saturday, November 18, 2017, at the RIT Gordon Field House. We raised \$81,280 for pancreatic cancer research. Proceeds from this event will help support the development of a Rochester Pancreatic Cancer Center of Excellence at the Wilmot Cancer Institute. This initiative will provide a comprehensive approach to fighting pancreatic cancer from research to diagnosis to treatment and care. You are part of making that a reality!

For Every Fight Won, For Each Battle Lost, For Those Still Fighting! Thank you for your generous support.

Patricia Van Dussen

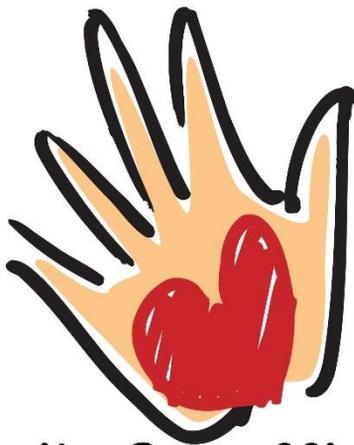


Michaela Johnson was born and raised in Schoharie, New York, where she has been involved with the Schoharie Reformed Church for a number of years. She spent the summers of 2014 and 2015 working at Camp Fowler as a Day Camp and Arts Staff, and during the summers of 2016 and 2017, Michaela served as the Director of the Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp. In June 2017, she graduated from Elmira College with Bachelor's Degrees in both Childhood Education and Mathematics. After graduation, Michaela moved to

the Rochester-area to attend the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester to study Teaching and Curriculum. In addition to her new position here at Trinity, Michaela teaches at Gananda Middle School. In her free time, Michaela enjoys watching movies, kayaking, and spending time with her friends and (much younger) siblings. She is excited to continue working with youth in a community of faith where she will have the opportunity to form bonds with children and inspire them to ask questions about what they are seeing, hearing, thinking, and feeling in today's world. As an energetic social butterfly, she also looks forward to getting to know you all over the course of the next few months and to the opportunities Kristen and she will have here at Trinity. Please feel free to reach out to them with any ideas, comments, or questions you have! It takes a village to raise a child, and they hope you'll join them and support them on their adventures!

Kristen Hearn grew up in eastern New Hampshire and as a child and teenager was very active in her school and church communities. She attended Elmira College and graduated this past June with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a concentration in International Business, with the hopes of one day being able to travel fairly extensively. In addition to being one of the new Associates for Youth and Family Ministry here at TRC, Kristen also works in the recording department at Frontier Abstract, a title company in downtown Rochester. Some of her favorite activities include spending time with friends, reading, playing soccer or basketball, skiing, and doing just about anything outside. Growing up, a major highlight of her year was attending Wanakee United Methodist Center, a church camp in central New Hampshire, for a week every summer. She also spent three summers on staff at Wanakee during college; the first two as a kitchen assistant and the third as a full-time counselor. Since her last summer at Wanakee in 2015, Kristen has missed having regular opportunities to spend time interacting with children, so she is very excited for this opportunity to work with the youth of your congregation. She wants to get to know the members of the congregation as well as find out what you are looking for as she works with Michaela and Dan to develop this new role for Trinity Reformed Church. She invites you to stop and talk to her and/or Michaela on a Sunday, and encourages you to reach out to them with any ideas or suggestions you may have!





Trinity Care Ministry 2017 Annual Report

**Purpose: To show Christ's love
by serving others.**

About 22 of our elderly are unable to leave their home very often and/or unable to attend church. We visit them at least once every 3 months. Some enjoy more frequent visits so we visit them about once a month. Some prefer to keep in touch by phone or a written note. One way or another we let them know they are still loved and not forgotten.

We have provided soup or full meals or supermarket gift cards to a few people.

Many rides have been given to church, for different occasions, not only for the Sunday service but for Bible study, TRWM, the various outreach events etc.

A group of ladies mail out about 20-25 cards 4 times a year. We send cards or call, for many other reasons, including to inquire of folks who have missed church 3 Sunday's in a row or sooner if they live alone. Also, we send a "Welcome to Trinity" note to visitors if they leave their name and address.

We delivered Christmas cookies to 6 people who live alone in their own homes. Next year we hope to do more.

Anyone is welcome to join us in providing these services. If you are interested, you may contact me.

Home phone: 585-482-3539

Cell: 585-313-9484

Email: jmdevisser@yahoo.com

Blessings

Marilyn DeVisser, Chair

January Communion Offering

The communion offering for the month of January will be designated for **Saving Grace Ministries**. This organization may not be well known, but supports parolees by providing them with a Christian-based place to live. They help the residents work toward finding a normal place in life.

Along with providing monetary support, we will also be collecting warm men's clothing in large and extra-large sizes, including hats, gloves, socks, sweat shirts, long johns, and jackets as well as personal hygiene items such as toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, shaving cream, and disposable razors.

From David Ford's Recent Newsletter:

PRAISES

~For the great assistance of Houghton College in working with me to prepare the certificate necessary to transfer my work permit to SIL AIM.

~For a good time at the Houghton 10-year reunion in October.

~It has been good to be back 'home' in Ethiopia after such a long time in the U.S. this year.

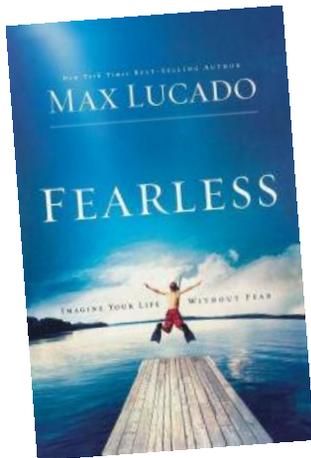
~That work on my transition to *Ethnologue* editor for Ethiopia is going smoothly.

PRAYERS

~That the certificate authentications process would go smoothly (especially without my being in the U.S. to manage any mailings). We used to have a U.S.-based SIL staffperson to handle these kinds of authentications, but she has retired, so I need to hire a firm to manage the process on my behalf.

~My church congregation (the International Lutheran Church) is facing a difficult time and will probably have to move from our (relatively, for Addis Ababa) historic building and find a new home.

~For the SIL Ethiopia Executive Committee as we search for a new director (our current director will finish her term in the spring)



CHRISTIAN BOOK REVIEW

by Marion Crump Spencer

Have you made your resolutions yet? Well among mine, I've decided to use spiritual tools to overcome anxiety and fear. So, every quarter I will feature a book which offers tips on overcoming fear which I hope will benefit you. Won't it be wonderful when we achieve this! My first offering is a re-printing of the review of a book that got it all started for me, **Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear** by Max Lucado.

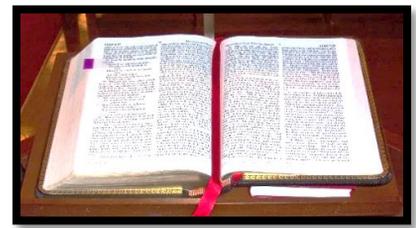
Opening with endorsements from religious and secular media sources, the anticipation mounts for the blessing contained in this book. Divided into 15 short chapters and many humorous anecdotal offerings, this is a very engaging read which is hard to put down.

Lucado is a pastor, and this is reflected in his liberal use of Biblical quotes and profound illustrations which clarify his points. Actually, the reading is akin to witnessing sermons which entertain you and convict you at the same time. With quirky chapter titles like "God is ticked off at me-Fear of disappointing God" and "Scared to death-Fear of life's final moments" Lucado presents fear in ways that reveal that it is at the basis of all sin. Fear robs us of the joy that life brings. Jesus promises that we are never alone. But fear drives all declarations of comfort and victory far away from our awareness. It robs us of the peace that is ours and always available from Christ. Fear makes every challenge monumental. This book offers multiple Biblical examples of those who overcame fear with God's help. Our humanity compels us to pull for the underdog. Christ pulled for the underdog as well, and it is a joy to read about the overcomers' stories from the Bible. The Discussion Guide explores ways to examine fear, expose fear, and battle fear enabling direct application of the book's principles.

The overall message of the book is "...When Christ is great, our fears are not." To learn how to live a life totally free of angst, to have "...faith, not fear..." be your default response to threats, I challenge you to do devour this book and all the others I will be presenting. Lucado shares some frightening statistics of how the media impacts the overall health of individuals. He found that the media reported that 543 million Americans consider themselves to be seriously sick, yet there are only 266 million people in the country! What a scary, false statistic! Lucado states, "The promise of Christ and the contention in these pages (of the book) are simple: we can fear less tomorrow that we do today."

Let that be our mantra for 2018 and let us begin to walk in faith and not fear.

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me...I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am." John 14:1, 3



Readings from the Revised Common Lectionary - YEAR B

Epiphany of the Lord, January 6:

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Baptism of the Lord, January 7:

First Sunday after the Epiphany
Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29;
Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany, January 14:

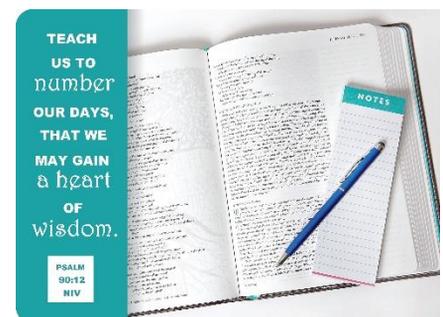
1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20);
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany,

January 21: Jonah 3:1-5, 10;
Psalm 62:5-12;
1 Corinthians 7:29-31;
Mark 1:14-20

4th Sunday after the Epiphany,

January 28:
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28



Manuele's Bible Study

January 12

January 19

News of the Trinity Church Family



- 1/1 Chuck Baldwin
- 1/2 Jack DeVuyst
- 1/3 Anita Manuele
- 1/5 Christine Turnquist
- 1/10 Ken Midavaine
- 1/12 Ed Allatt
- 1/12 Jana DiPiazza
- 1/12 Diane Pivarnik
- 1/13 Emma Turnquist
- 1/17 Jauntah Cottrill
- 1/17 Lois Stratton
- 1/20 Geoffrey Cooper
- 1/22 Sharon Hann
- 1/23 Marge Dangler
- 1/23 Spence Kennedy



- 1/5 Joseph & Yi-Fen Kuo



TRWM - Our first meeting of the new year, 2018, will be held on **Friday, January 12th at 1:00 PM in the Lounge**. Following a time of prayer and devotions, we shall study from the Book of Jonah, Chapter 4, entitled "God's Extravagant Grace." **All ladies** are cordially invited to come. Following our lesson, we shall have refreshments and great fellowship. Hope to see you there.

Liz Dalton



Don't forget our friends at the Penfield Ecumenical Food Pantry this Christmas. They would appreciate: Applesauce, cake mixes and frosting, salad dressing, dish soap and laundry detergent, canned soup – chicken tomato and creamed, cranberry sauce, canned fruit, boxes of cereal, gravy and broths, Jell-o and pudding mixes, canned meats (chili, spam, stew, etc.) stuffing mix, hamburger or pasta helpers, condiments (esp. mayo, mustard & ketchup), canned potatoes, canned tomatoes (all types.)

Please place your donations in the basket in the narthex.

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Luncheon Royal Dynasty 12:00 PM	2	3 Senior Breakfast 8:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM	4	5	6 Undecorate Sanctuary 9:30 AM Crafts for a Cause 10-12 CAYA 6:00 PM
7 Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Discipleship 6:30 PM	8 Outreach 7:00 PM AMPS 7:00 PM	9 Consistory 7:00 PM	10 Senior Breakfast 8:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Bell Choir 6:15 PM Choir 7:00 PM	11 Finance 6:00 PM Deacons 7:00 PM	12 TRWM 1:00 PM Manuele Bible Study 7:00 PM	13 Crafts for a Cause 10-12 CAYA 6:00 PM
14 Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Discipleship 6:30 PM	15	16 Men's Lunch 12:00 PM	17 Senior Breakfast 8:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Bell Choir 6:15 PM Choir 7:00 PM AM	18	19 Manuele Bible Study 7:00 PM	20 DLC Event 9-4 Crafts for a Cause 10-12 CAYA 6:00 PM
21 Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Discipleship 6:30 PM	22	23	24 Senior Breakfast 8:00 AM Bible Study 10 Worship & Music 5:45 PM Bell Choir 6:15 PM Choir 7:00 PM	25	26 Come to Dinner 6:00 PM	27 Crafts for a Cause 10-12 CAYA 6:00 PM
28 Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Discipleship 6:30 PM	29	30	31 Senior Breakfast 8:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Bell Choir 6:15 PM Choir 7:00 PM			