



The Commitment

Newsletter of Trinity Reformed Church in Rochester, New York

A ministry of the Reformed Church in America

Seeking God's Light ... Reflecting God's Love

March 2020 · Vol. 27, No. 7

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Camp Fowler's Spring Fling will be held on Friday, May 1st at 5:30 pm. The event will take place at Young Sommer Winery in Williamson and will include hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, dinner, storytelling, and music.

A free will offering will also be taken.

Space is limited and reservations are required at a cost of \$30 .

If you are interested in attending, please see Michaela in the office for a reservation form.

Additionally, **silent auction items** are needed. If you are interested in donating, please contact Karen Manahan at (585)704-5785. Thank you for your continued support of this camp that is a home away from home for so many!



Please help **Sam Manuele** in the fight to end pediatric cancer. Sam will be a shavee for **St. Baldrick's "Shave for the Brave"** event on April 19th at Mickey Finn's in Victor. Sam is participating in honor of his granddaughter, Kailee, who has been battling rhabdomyosarcoma since she was two years old. Kailee is now eight and is currently in treatment for her fifth recurrence.



Worldwide, a child is diagnosed with cancer every two minutes, and 1 in 285 children in the U.S. are diagnosed with cancer before the age of twenty. Cancer is the leading threat to children in the U.S., but funding for pediatric cancer is often overlooked. St. Baldrick's is dedicated to finding cures for all forms of childhood cancer. Cash donations or checks made out to St. Baldrick's (Shavee ID: 1041760) can be given to Sam and he will forward them to the organization. To donate directly online, please visit <https://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/1041760/2020>.



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Facebook: Trinity Rochester

***"If you don't have time to sit and meditate for 20 minutes,
then sit and meditate for an hour."***

~Ancient Zen Wisdom



Lent is often intended as a time for introspection and repentance.

How do we make time for this with so many appointments, expectations, and distractions?

How can we free ourselves from the reminders to accomplish things?



~Lao Tzu

All I ask is that you try. In a world driven by results, accomplishments, bottom-lines, and dividends, the church is able to offer a counter-cultural community that offers patience, forgiveness, and encouragement.

When we gather for worship, we do not demand that you give your unwavering attention, pronounce each word in perfect unison, sing each note with perfect clarity, and bow your head with prescribed reverence. We invite you to find a meaningful experience that helps you understand yourself, your neighbor, and your God. This is hardly accomplished with rigidity and forcefulness; instead, we do our best to reflect God's love and offer opportunities for introspection, reflection, and exploration.

So this Lent, please consider how you can spend time in prayer, meditation, and reflection. If you don't have time or energy for this, then double your efforts. If you aren't sure how, begin with one step. If you think that it won't accomplish anything, or that you won't be able to do it the right way – that's not the point. God loves you as you are, and you should too.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Steve

Consistory Notes



The cold and snow of our winter weather seems to be showing up every Sunday! This is reflected in our lower church attendance. Hopefully both the weather and attendance will improve soon! The offering pledges also reflect

the lower attendance and the Operating Fund has a deficit of over \$5,000 through January.

To assist the Deacons and Consistory, a Stewardship Task Force is formed each year. The Task Force is charged with designing and leading activities that creatively and faithfully focus the Congregation's attention on Christian stewardship. Its work is not limited to financial forms of stewardship. If you can help with this support for Trinity's ministry, please contact Lesley Holloway or John Stratton.

Trinity will be hosting the African Children's Choir in August! The Choir includes eighteen Ugandan children between the ages of seven and ten and their chaperones, including our own Kristen Hearn. They will arrive on Tuesday, August 18th and depart Friday, August 21st. The Choir will give a concert on Wednesday or Thursday evening. Host homes will be needed. Watch for more detailed information in future issues of the *Trinity Times* and *The Commitment*.

The Consistory expressed appreciation to Marge Magans, who, as our treasurer, works weekly to pay our bills, keeps our records, and advises the Deacons on financial matters.

The Consistory acknowledged that Debbie Halsey and Pati Peters miss many of our Sunday worship services as they lead The Gathering for the older children. The Consistory appreciates their service.

The Pastor Search Committee continues to evaluate resumes and interview candidates.

~*Greg Halsey*,
Consistory Clerk

2020 CONSISTORY

Elders:

Ted DeSoto
Jana DiPiazza
Sharon Hann, VP
Lesley Holloway

Deacons:

Bill Almekinder
Kelly Bradshaw
Greg Halsey, Clerk
John Stratton

CONSISTORY MEMBER OF THE WEEK

Mar. 1: Lesley Holloway

Mar. 8: Kelly Bradshaw

Mar. 15: John Stratton

Mar. 22: TBD

Mar. 29: Bill Almekinder

CHURCH OFFICERS

Treasurer:

Marge Magans

Benevolence Secretary:

Michael Holloway

Financial Secretary:

Greg Halsey

TRC Thursday Senior Breakfasts

Contact John Stratton with questions or concerns at (585) 267-7535

Date	Location	Note
Mar. 5	Morningstar Greek & American	Merchants Road
Mar. 12	Atlantic Family Restaurant	Ridge Road in Webster
Mar. 19	East Ridge Diner & Steakhouse	East Ridge Road
Mar. 26	Browncroft Family Restaurant	at Blossom Road
Apr. 2	Morningstar Greek & American	Merchants Road

Our monthly adult Sunday School class entitled “**What Are Hymns and Worship Music Really Saying?**” is set to continue on Sunday, March 15th. This month, our focus will be on the following songs:

- *Create in Me a Clean Heart* (Hymn #422)
- *Forever* (Kari Jobe)
- *Resurrecting* (Elevation Worship)
- *This Is Amazing Grace* (Phil Wickham)



Participants are strongly encouraged to listen to these multiple times before we meet. Really focus on the words and see what God is saying to you through them. We will try to draw parallels between the songs, so thinking of a common theme may be helpful in your study. If you have any questions, please speak with Michaela. Hope to see you there!



TRWM: This month's meeting will be held on Friday, March 13th at 1:00 pm in the Lounge. After a brief business meeting and a time of prayer and devotions, our program will follow. This month, Cathy Almekinder will present the “Last Seven Words of Jesus”.

Following our program, refreshments will be served by Linda King during our fellowship gathering. ALL women are cordially invited to join us.



Please submit **Trinity Times content** by 9:00 am on Wednesday mornings. You may email TRChurchSecretary@gmail.com, or call the office at (585) 381-5330.

If you use the copier in the office, please be sure to turn it off when you are finished. Also, when using office supplies, please return them to where you found them and leave the office tidy for the next person who is going to use the space.

~Michaela Johnson,
Secretary

march BIRTHDAYS

3/2	Kelly Bradshaw
3/5	Joyce Marston
3/7	Jason Cottrill
3/14	Ida Hsu
3/16	Patrick McGarvey
3/17	Bonnie Magin
3/23	Fred Laitenberger
3/25	Richard Greene
3/26	Cat Kwiecien
3/28	Helen LaGasse
3/29	Jim Stoops
3/31	Amanda Kutner

Please call Barb Stoops at (585) 506-5559 with **prayer requests**, or with information about people for whom we are praying.



COMMUNION



SCHEDULE

March 1 st	August 2 nd
March 8 th	September 6 th
March 15 th	October 4 th
March 22 nd	October 25 th
March 29 th	November 1 st
April 9 th	November 22 nd
April 12 th	November 29 th
May 3 rd	December 6 th
June 7 th	December 13 th
July 5 th	December 20 th

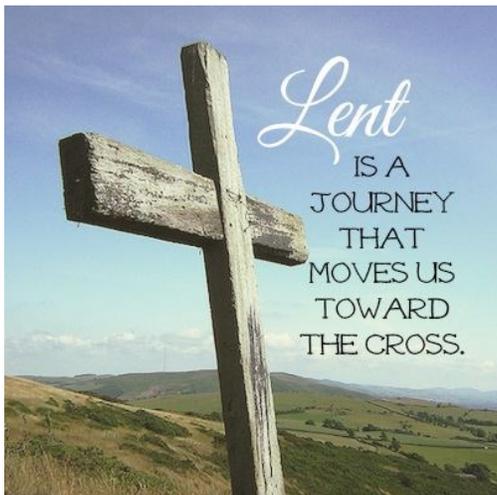
Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf



Please place donations in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you!

- Boxed Pasta
- Chicken/Beef Broth
- Ramen Noodles
- Chili/Beef Stew/Hash
- Mayonnaise
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Toothpaste

A special thank you to **Norma Koper** for keeping the coffee stocked in the fridge for our weekly coffee hours! Norma, we're thankful you keep us caffeinated on Sunday mornings!



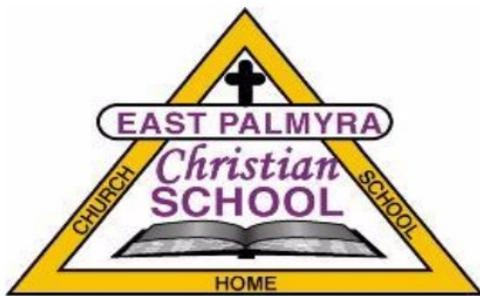
The Worship and Music Committee thanks the Almekinders for providing **Lent devotional books** for our homebound and senior members. There are special Lent edition Hope-Full Living books on the table in the Narthex available on a first come-first served basis. Please look for a copy so that you can have a guided daily devotional through Lent.



Church World Service Hygiene Kits

As in years past, Trinity is once again collecting items to assemble thirty Hygiene Kits to be distributed through Church World Service. When disasters strike, these kits can be the difference between sickness and health for struggling families. Below is a list of items still needed. Thanks to your generosity, we're close to reaching our goal! Please place your donations in the gold box outside the church office by Wednesday, March 25th. If you have any questions, please see Jana DiPiazza.

- 3 hand towels (no fingertip, bath, dish towels; no micro-fiber)
- 108 Band-Aids (all one size)
- 20 washcloths



The East Palmyra Christian School is hosting their annual **Dutch Dinner** on Saturday, March 28th from 5:00 til 7:00 pm. This buffet-style meal will include Dutch meatball soup, snert, boerenkool, zuurkool, Dutch lettuce, hutspot, sausage, rolls, beverages, and Dutch desserts. Adult tickets are \$12, child tickets are \$5, and children under age four are free. Tickets are available at the door or online at www.EastPalmyraChristianSchool.com. Take-out will be available. If you have any questions, please call (315)597-4400.



Trinity's **Crafts for a Cause** group continues to bless our community with their talents. At the December gathering of Come to Dinner, hats and scarves were available for all in attendance. If you would like to support this group in their mission, please join them during a Saturday morning meeting in the Lounge.



Updates From Our Missionaries

Peter & Patty Ford: The Fords encourage us to pray for Near East School of Theology president George Sabra as he guides the school through the many challenges facing Middle Eastern Christians and for the students as they face uncertainties both during their time at NEST and once they graduate, due to political and religious tensions in the region

JJ & Tim TenClay: JJ acknowledges that conversations around migration can be difficult. She reminds us that she is available to support us in any way she can as we explore these topics and consider how God might be calling us to care for the stranger, the foreigner, and the sojourner.

Wayne & Miho Jansen: An ongoing challenge the Jansens face is directing people to first focus on God when problems arise rather than on human intervention. Please keep them in prayer as they work through this challenge and live out this focus in their own lives.

Felipe and Janelle deWaard-Silva: The climbing gym has reached its capacity with over one hundred kids holding a membership! The Silvas ask you to pray for ways to expand their space and their team so they can bring more complete programs to their youth.

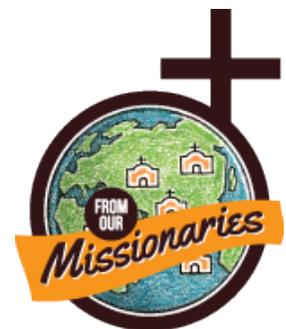
For **additional information** and/or to sign-up to **receive updates** from our missionaries, please visit:

<https://rca.org/peter-patty-ford>

<https://rca.org/jj-tim-tenclay>

<https://rca.org/wayne-miho-jansen>

<https://rca.org/felipe-and-janelle-dewaard-silva>



Updates From the Regional Synod of Albany

“The Courage to Be Honest” 2020 Women’s Stories Day: This event will take place on Saturday March 21st from 10:00 am til 2:30 pm at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Hosted by the Reformed Church Center at NBTS in cooperation with the RCA Office of Women’s Transformation and Leadership, this event is open to everyone, and will include worship, discussion, fellowship, and lunch. Speakers will include Lynn Japinga, Irma V. Williams, Lynn Min, and Pamela Peter Ennis, each focusing on the courage to be honest about divorce, domestic violence, where we fit, and mental health. Please register at the link below by March 19th: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-stories-day-2020-the-courage-to-be-honest-tickets-91709951935>.

Responding to Opioid Overdose: This training teaches community members to understand, recognize, respond to, and reverse suspected opioid overdoses using naloxone. It will be held from 6:00-7:30 pm on Thursday, April 16th at Glenmont Community Church . For more information and to register, please contact Lynne Gilgore at pastor@glenmontchurch.org.

Christian Book Review

By Marion Crump Spencer

If you are inspired by history, thrilled by western settlement, and love a great romance, [A Bride for Noah](#) by Lori Copeland and Virginia Smith is a grand offering. Inspired by the 1970's television drama, *Here Come the Brides*, this novel borrows the overall theme of the series while infusing real people and events.

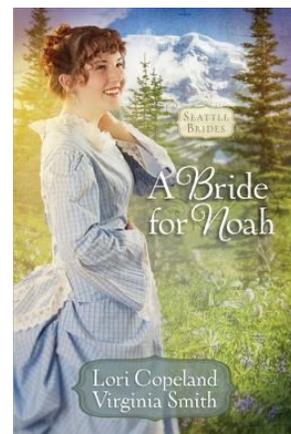
Each of the three main characters has a vision for a better life. Evie is a cook for the Coffingers after hardship reduces her social status. She longs for more despite her engagement. Miles Coffinger has lost much of his wife's fortune on bad investments and desires success to prove his mettle. Noah has been swindled by a love interest and seeks to find his fortune. He is the nephew of the Coffingers and writes them about his logging partnership out west. Miles excitedly discusses the possibilities with his skeptical wife and Evie overhears and catches the excitement. After some further communication with Noah, Miles offers her a partnership in owning a restaurant in the west.

Despite some initial misgivings, Evie agrees to partner with Miles, hires three women as restaurant employees, and makes the long journey. It soon becomes apparent that her misgivings were well founded as Miles conducts dubious business dealings in securing their passage and the necessary supplies.

The first encounter between Evie and Noah was not pleasant. He doubted her business-savvy and she resented his assumptions. The journey to the new territory was slightly less than horrific as turbulence threatened to capsize the vessel. The settlers arrived at their new home with no visible means of suitable shelter. Noah was partner in a lumber business with a contract to deliver lumber by a certain date. Needless to say, the presence of females was a distraction to the lumberjacks and a threat to fulfilling the contract. Miles decided to pursue an additional enterprise of pickling salmon. He quickly became acquainted with the Duwamish natives for help. These natives warmly welcomed the loggers and the restaurant. Their wise Chief became a much needed spiritual advisor.

Evie used as much patience as she could muster to keep her employees from being more focused on getting husbands than completing their tasks. These initial dealings between the three characters were fraught with unwillingness to express grace toward each other. In an interesting treatment, the authors shared the similar self-serving nature in each character's prayers. Interestingly, they were blind to the nature of their prayers. In spite of their declarations of faith, the Duwamish native Chief, a new believer, was instrumental in creating harmony between the three characters and in the entire settlement.

[A Bride for Noah](#) is not just about the love between these two characters. The grace illustrated in their relationship exemplifies the grace God offers us. Grace can even enable the success of what will one day become Seattle, Washington.



"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." Romans 4:23

March 2020

*calendar items
subject to change

Trinity Reformed Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10a- Worship 12:30p- CAYA	2	3	4 6:15p- Bells 7p- Choir	5 9a- Sr. Breakfast 6p- Finance 7p- Deacons	6 7p- Manuele Bible Study	7 10a- Crafts for a Cause
8 10a- Worship 12:30p- CAYA 	9 7:30p- Christian Education	10	11 1:30p- DiPiazza Bible Study 6:15p- Bells 7p- Choir	12 9a- Sr. Breakfast 7p- Consistory	13 1p- TRWM	14 10a- Crafts for a Cause 12p- Dahlia Society
15 10a- Worship 12:30p- CAYA 	16 7p- Outreach	17  11:45a- Lasher Lunch Bunch 7p- Pastor  Search Comm. 	18 5:45p- Music & Worship 6:15p- Bells 7p- Choir	19 9a- Sr. Breakfast	20 7p- Manuele Bible Study 	21 10a- Crafts for a Cause
22 10a- Worship 12:30p- CAYA	23 3:45p- Elders	24	25 6p- Mission 6:15p- Bells 7p- Choir	26 9a- Sr. Breakfast	27 6p- Come to Dinner 	28 10a- Crafts for a Cause
29 10a- Worship 12:30p- CAYA	30	31				





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