



Trinity Lutheran Church

2221 North Oak Lane  
State College, PA 16803

814-238-2024 [www.trinitystatecollege.org](http://www.trinitystatecollege.org)  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/TrinityLutheranSC/>

PRAYER LIST

TLC DISCIPLES

Jerry Wion, Carol Bernlohr, Dee Kiel, Linda Leslie, the Brownson Family, Diane & Keith Smith (COVID)

TLC FRIENDS

Rita Shetler, Burnell & Doris Reichart, the Butler Family

Readings

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Luke 4:14-21

TRINITY EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

8:15 am Worship w/Communion  
10:45 am Worship w/Communion  
YouTube Worship Service Recorded  
12:00 pm Deeper Waters Zoom

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

5:30 pm Bell Choir

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

8:00 am Faith & Fitness in Church

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

7:00 pm Zoom Memoir Group

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

5:00 pm Worship w/Communion

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

8:15 am Worship w/Communion  
10:45 am Worship w/Communion  
YouTube Worship Service Recorded  
12:00 pm Deeper Waters Zoom

2021 Giving Statements

The yearly 2021 giving statements were emailed to everyone directly from the Servant Keeper Contribution Program that we use.

If you did not receive one and should have, please let me know at [tlcoffice2@comcast.net](mailto:tlcoffice2@comcast.net) or call the office at (814) 238-2024.

If you need a printed copy of your statement, let me know that as well and I can print one for you and put it in your Trinity mailbox.

Lastly, if there is anything that you don't understand or if you feel there is something that needs corrected, let me know that too.

I tried my best this year to have everything correct, but sometimes despite our best efforts, things slip through the cracks.

MEMOIR GROUP

The Memoir Group will be meeting the second and fourth Thursdays of the month via Zoom at 7 pm.

The next session will be Thursday January 27th.

If you were unable to attend the initial meeting - no problem!!!

Please feel free to join us on the 27th and see what the Memoir Group is all about. Please email Beth at [tlcoffice2@comcast.net](mailto:tlcoffice2@comcast.net) to be added to Zoom Invitation email list.

The writing prompt for the 27th is: What is your earliest memory?

Please limit your piece to 300 words and come prepared to read it to the group.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carol Smith at [piffy1957@gmail.com](mailto:piffy1957@gmail.com).

# *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Beloved of God,

As has been noted “Laughter is good medicine”! Or as Lord Byron observes, “Always laugh when you can. It is cheap medicine.” Good humor invites us to laugh at ourselves; bad humor is insulting and hurtful since it mocks people, or laughs at them, not with them.

Have you ever wondered if God has a sense of humor? Well, think about it! Just look at me and that will settle the matter! But not so fast, all you have to do is go look in a mirror! Consider the giraffe, or the platypus, or watch how penguins walk. Surely God has a sense of humor!

In Genesis we read about the promise God made to Abraham and his wife, Sarah that they would have a child. And the promise was fulfilled, but not on what one might suggest as human terms and expectations. In fact, God prolonged the fulfillment of the promise for many years, until both Sarah and Abraham were well past the normal childbearing years. Still, God maintained his promise to them and reminded them that in God’s time it would come to pass. By then, however, it sounded like more of a joke as we read in Genesis 18:

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.” (Gen 18:9-15)

Sarah laughed at the promise because it sounded so ludicrous. It was not good, healthy humor but it was a mocking laugh, belittling even dismissing the promise of God. To that, God takes exception and rightly so. Still, it is something of a joke, but if God’s promise was a joke the joke was on Abraham and Sarah, when in their 90’s they had a “bouncing baby boy”! No doubt laughter filled their home loud and often.

Not surprisingly, the child was named Isaac, the name means, “one who laughs.” How appropriate.

Here at Trinity, we too, love to laugh, not at each other but rather with each other. Throughout this year, I have noticed that, despite the pandemic, we love to laugh. If health is associated with laughter, then we must be very healthy around here. Even Vicar Ted has brought a delightful sense of humor that has made the year fly by!

On Sunday, January 30, we will celebrate the successful fulfillment of Vicar Ted’s internship. After each worship service that weekend, we will have a small, simple reception. We invited everyone to consider giving him a cash gift and will have a basket to receive such gifts as well as a table if you have some other kind of gift to give him.

It has truly been a year of blessings and joys, and we have many good reasons to laugh as we share and hold God to his promises to us!

[Humanity] has unquestionably one really effective weapon—laughter. Power, money, persuasion, supplication, persecution—these can lift at a colossal humbug—push it a little—weaken it a little, century by century, but only laughter can blow it to rags and atoms at a blast. Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand. — Mark Twain

Thanks be to God for Isaac and for laughter! May we laugh often and hard as well as we celebration God’s blessings and share them with each other!

With Godly humor,

Pastor Ron

## VICAR TED

Vicar Ted's internship is coming to a close and his last Sunday with us will be January 30. He will preach at all three services and after each worship we will have a simple and safe reception for him with some light refreshments.

If you would like to give Vicar Ted a gift showing your appreciation for his ministry among us, there will be a basket to receive your financial gift as well as a table where you may place all other gifts. The Council has arranged for a congregational gift and the Lay-Intern Committee has a gift for him as well. If you cannot join us on January 29 or 30, please feel free to drop off any cards or gifts at the church office.

He has been a gift to us here at Trinity and rich blessing a to me as his supervisor. He will serve the church well as an ordained pastor.

### **BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP**

Did you know there are Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) classes in State College?

BSF offers free, in-depth Bible studies with trained group leaders for all ages and denominations around the world using a four-fold approach (answer questions, discuss in small groups, listen to teach and explore Biblical commentary). We currently offer local groups for women, men and preschoolers. There are evening and zoom options available, as well.

For more information on BSF, our local classes and to register, please visit:

<https://www.bsfindernational.org>

There is a poster about this on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary.



A Little Humor to hopefully make you smile!!



## COVID-19

### HOME COVID TEST

1. Open a can of beer and try to smell it.
2. If you can smell the beer, drink it to see if you can taste it.
3. If you can taste it and smell it, this confirms you don't have COVID

Last night, I did the test 19 times and all were negative. Tonight, I am going to do the test again because this morning I woke up with a headache and feeling like I'm coming down with something.

I am so nervous.

