

A Different Way

“You live in a dream world. Nobody actually lives like that.” Her brother-in-law couldn’t believe she actually thought that it was possible, or even a goal, to love your enemies, to treat others with kindness instead of revenge, to give generously without thought of being repaid.

Jesus’ words do seem to be from another world. Our world doesn’t operate like the one he envisions. In our world, some people aren’t even satisfied with “an eye for an eye.” Our movies, television series, and video games are filled with ever bigger explosive responses to enemies. It’s rare to see one where someone desires the enemy to be redeemed instead of eliminated. At work, school, on the court, at home, it’s hard to get hurt and not want to respond out of the desire to hurt back.

Jesus asks us to respond with kindness, generosity, and love, to go the second mile, even to pray for our enemies. Otherwise, the actual fighting never stops. It just goes back and forth and on and on.

It takes courage to model a different way to handle hurt. We’re challenged to be courageous lovers of God, ourselves, and others—not as doormats but as those who firmly do the loving thing. That can even mean doing the tough loving thing of setting a boundary for someone.

That’s the dream of the kingdom that Jesus embodies and invites us to pray for as we live it out. Jesus is the one who loves and forgives even us who have been hurtful to others, ourselves, and God. He is the one who prays for his enemies from the cross. For a world full of hurting people who hurt people, the resurrected Jesus brings light, life, healing, and hope to redeem us all.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 19, 2017

6:30 PM



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

408 North Sixth Street, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601

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AND
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In today's first reading we hear, "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." Yet we know we cannot achieve perfection. Our attempts to love neighbors and even our enemies fall short of what God desires for us. Yet in Jesus we see one who loved even those who persecuted and killed him. We are made holy in baptism, and forgiven at the table of God's mercy. As a people made holy by God, we go in peace to love as we have been loved.

Worship Participants

Every Member.....Ministers
 Elizabeth Hess.....Pastor
 Ralph Grove.....Saturday 6:30 PM Organist
 Cindy Finnegan.....Sunday 8:15 AM & 10:45 AM Organist

Lectors

Jim Frederick.....6:30 PM
 Amanda Woodring.....8:15 AM
 Janice Knee.....10:45 AM

Acolytes

Logan Bartlebaugh.....6:30 PM
 Allison Everhart.....8:15 AM
 Maddison Conway.....10:45 AM
 Georgiana Sigrist.....Flowers

Ushers

Jim Frederick, Jonnie Frederick.....(Saturday 6:30 PM)
 Ron Eamigh, Russ Burda.....(Sunday 8:15 AM)
 Joe Luciano, Ted Williams.....(Sunday 10:45 AM)

Weekly Offering – February 12, 2017

\$3822.40

Attendance: 164

Trinity Member

Jim Aungst
 Judy Baird
 Tyler Bennett
 Amy Bush & Baby Zoe
 Russ Burda
 Carol Callis
 Craig Cameron
 Tina Chestney
 Debbie Conway
 Paul Hamilton
 Kathy Hatch
 Kristina Henderson
 Bob Hofmann
 Jarod Kutz
 John Kutz
 Arlene Leonard
 Jaden Rhode
 Sarah Minnoia
 Ken B. Myers
 Ray Nycum
 Dave Olinyk
 Gene/Joyce Otto
 Margaretta Perry
 Arlene Roessing
 Ruth Ann Saleme
 Doug Simons
 April Shackelford
 Alaina Stevens
 Emily Thompson
 Daniel Thompson
 Michelle Thompson
 Bert Watchey
 Donna Williams
 Nancy Yeager
 Church Health Team

Shut-In Members

Jo Ann Boyd
 Chris Burda
 Bob Nearhoof
 Mary Olinyk
 Joan Rhiver
 Joan Stout
 Robert Streightiff
 Bev Thompson

Family & Friends

Baby Allison
 Jim Andrews
 Elisabeth Armstormg
 Janet Aungst
 Michael Baughman

Baby Blade Beckwith
 Kris Bennett
 Michael Bennett
 Dee Bernicki
 Blade
 Mrs. D. Brown
 Casey Bondarenka
 William Burda
 Pat Burk
 Ron Clawson
 Baby Cowan
 Danielle
 Denise
 Rodger Ecker
 Haley Gehret
 Krista Gerheim
 Gerstenberger Family
 Shyann Gooma
 Ann Gosnell
 Jack Grassmyer Child
 Dianna K. Green
 Richard Gunsallus
 Mark Haigh
 Bob Hamilton
 Ann Hanczaryk
 Jody Haring
 Don Haslam
 Pastor Peter Helmers
 Joe Hershel
 Linda Hess
 Doris Hollingshead
 Don & Martha Johnson
 Glories Kimmel
 Richard M. Kolbe
 Jim Kutz
 Lynette Latchford
 Janelle Lehr
 Rose Marlett
 Matthew Martz
 Kirin McCaulley
 Dylan McGilvary
 Mike McGraw
 Nick Merritts
 Benjamin Metzger
 Charles Miller
 Kate Mimmich
 Brenda Murray
 Sharon Myers & Family
 Caydan Noel
 Beth Noye
 Jeff Nycum
 David Oswald
 Joe Pacifico
 Bess Patton

Bill Peterman
 Ann Pryfogle
 Sal Randazzo
 Lucille Rodell
 Joe Roub
 Nancy Roessing
 Carl Ruckinger
 Jim Settlemyer
 Jessie & Justin Shackelford
 Patricia Slone
 Connie Sooy
 Elaine Stetser
 Gayle Streckland
 Jerry Stevens
 Darlene Sterner
 Becky Thompson
 Ann Van
 Nina Wallis & Children
 Joy Woodring
 Ben Yohn

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Sarah Brown
 Jason Buck
 Nathan Frank
 Justin Patz
 Peter Quinn
 Jason Smith
 Eric Sweet

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY!

Sunday	8:15 AM	Worship
Feb. 19	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:20 AM	Youth Choir Rehearsal
	10:45 AM	Worship
	11:45 AM	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Monday	10:00 AM-2:00 PM	Sewing Class
Tuesday	10:00 AM	Healthy You Program
	2:00 PM	Stewardship Meeting
	6:00 PM	Crochet Group
Wednesday		
Thursday	9:00 AM	Prayer Breakfast
Friday	10:00 AM	Healthy You Program
Saturday	6:30 PM	Worship

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY SESSIONS

M 7:30-8:30 PM
T 9-10 AM, 7-8 PM
W 7-8 PM

***Call 943-7488 for more info.**

Please also continue to keep the service men and women who are serving our country, Trinity, our council, and Pastor Hess in your prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are now accepting orders for Easter flowers. Envelopes are located in the back of the church. Your choice of flowers are: lilies, tulips, hyacinths and mums. Be sure to indicate which flowers you would like and if you will be claiming your flowers after the 10:45 a.m. service. The cost for each flower is \$7.00. The **dead line** to order will be **April 2.**

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

6:30 PM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRE-WORSHIP MEDITATION:

PASTOR: Let us read together Mark 12:28-31 (the Jesus Rule)

ALL: **Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.**

PASTOR: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

PRELUDE

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Loving God,

C: we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

P: Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of + Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen

***ENTRANCE HYMN** WOV#742 "Come, We That Love the Lord"
(insert in bulletin)

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray....

C: God of compassion, keep before us the love you have revealed in your Son, who prayed even for his enemies; in our words and deeds help us to be like him through whom we pray, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

FIRST LESSON Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

The Holiness Code in Leviticus urges people to be holy since God is holy. Holiness is lived out in partiality for and consideration of the poor and the weak. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

L: A reading from Leviticus

¹The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

⁹When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God. ¹¹You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. ¹²And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord. ¹³You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the Lord. ¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord. ¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 119:33-40

³³Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;
I shall keep it with all my heart.

³⁵Make me go in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

***CLOSING HYMN** #389 “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

***DISMISSAL**

P: Mark 12:28-31

C: Love God, Love others.

***POSTLUDE**

***Congregation Stands**

THE FLOWERS on the altar this week are presented by Ruth Ann Saleme in loving memory of Husband, Jim, & Parents, Ernest & Elizabeth Hooper.

THE BULLETINS are presented by Marla & Tom Hamond in loving memory of their Parents, Verna & Lawrence Whitfield, and Ruth & Roy Hammond.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church. We are grateful you are joining us today for worship. All who are baptized and receive communion in their home church are welcome to commune with us. In Christ's name we welcome our visitors and ask you to please introduce yourselves to Pastor Hess.

Sequanota Lutheran Camp has announced its 2017 summer schedule, so it's time for Trinity members, including our young people, to start thinking about which sessions they'd like to attend. Parents and youth can go online at www.sequanota.com to learn what's being offered this year. We also have some schedules on the table by the cry room.

Mark your calendars!

The next Sunderman Memorial Concert will be on Sunday, April 30, at 3:00 in the sanctuary. The concert will feature the following quartet:

Genaro Medina and Lela Tsinadze serve as concertmaster and principal viola, respectively, of the Altoona Symphony. In addition, they each concertize extensively and maintain a private teaching studio. Jeremy Klapper, violin, is a member of the Altoona Symphony, a former member of the Houston Symphony, and is currently a practicing pathologist at UPMC Altoona. Kim Cook is professor of cello at Penn State University, and is recognized as an international concert artist.

As always, the concert will be free, and refreshments will follow. The public is very welcome to attend. Invite your friends!

OFFERING (PLEASE SIGN AND PASS THE PEW REGISTER)

(THE USHERS BRING THE GIFTS FORWARD)

***THE PRAYERS**

A: Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing.

After each portion of the prayers:

A: Lord in your mercy

C: hear our prayers

The prayers conclude:

P: Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

***BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make his face shine on you

and be gracious to you

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace

C:



³⁶Incline my heart to your decrees

and not to unjust gain.

³⁷Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;

give me life in your ways.

³⁸Fulfill your promise to your servant,

which you make to those who fear you.

³⁹Turn away the reproach which I dread,

because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰Behold, I long for your commandments;

in your righteousness preserve my life.

SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church and its ministry. We are God's temple because God's Spirit dwells in us, and we belong to Christ. Hence we are called to build wisely upon this sure foundation not for our own benefit but for others to experience Christ's benefits.

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. ¹⁶Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. ¹⁸Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," ²⁰and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." ²¹So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, ²³and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares an end to the law of vengeance. God's people will respond to evil with love and forgiveness.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the Fifth Chapter,

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴²Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

FOR THE CHILDREN

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** #401 “Before You, Lord, We Bow” (verses 1,3,5)

***APOSTLE’S CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. **Amen**

***PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Each of you shall bring such a gift as he can in proportion to the blessing which the Lord your God has given you” Deuteronomy 16:17