



# THE TELL



## JUNE 2026

### TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

What a refreshing congregation.

I've ministered among churches throughout New England, the Midwest, and the West Coast. You are among the best, and I'm glad for that.

Your council welcomed me into our contract discussions in May of 2026 with the question, "What can we do for you?" Most councils begin discussions wondering what the church will get.

Now, to focus on some points that need a clear understanding for our life together.

**One** – a "Bridge" Pastor is a new creature among ministers because of the increasing length of time needed to get a called pastor. Sometimes the work of the traditional "Interim" pastor is done, and they leave before the called pastor arrives. That's when the "Bridge Pastor" steps in. That's me.

**Two** – the most cherished gifts congregations and Bridge Pastors can give one another are transparency, empathy, courage, and respect. Out of all that – trust grows.

Trinity is a solid church with generous community outreach, but it also has pain, like any other church on earth. Your distinction is that your pain is recent and clearly felt among many of the members and friends.

I recognize that, but I do not dwell on that. I encourage you to accept that you are a "latter-stage" congregation in the call process. Other churches could be envious of you because you have already formed a call committee, established your paramount MSP (Ministry Site Profile), and have experienced interviewing and voting on a candidate.

**Three** – I encourage you to work with the LSS staff as you examine your recent progress towards a called pastor, and look for ways you can gain greater insights from your experiences. You can turn the recent months into a learning triumph.



God bless us all as we worship and follow the Lord together.

- Bridge Pastor John Damien



#### Pastor John's Background

Our new Bridge Pastor – Rev. John Damien – is a rostered minister of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA.

He has served congregations varying from three-point rural parishes to large inner-city congregations. He was a youth pastor with 100 confirmation students in a multi-site Lutheran parish, an interim pastor to the Dacotah Oyate Lutheran Church on the Spirit Lake Nation reservation in North Dakota.

He also was the office manager at an interdenominational homeless shelter in California.

Beyond his ministerial experience, Pastor John has been an award-winning professional writer and photographer, and a social worker.

He is divorced, has two wonderful children in the Midwest, maintains a healthy lifestyle, and has been a cat socializer for the humane society.

We expect Pastor John to be with us for some months since Trinity Lutheran is in the latter stage of the call process.



Through a season of change and transition at Trinity Lemoyne, music has been one of our steady joys—a constant thread of praise woven through every season. Our choirs, ringers, soloists, and instrumentalists led us in worship week after week, and I'm very grateful for all the wonderful musical contributions.

I've gathered many of the special music selections from this year into a YouTube Music playlist (as performed by various artists), along with our full music calendar, at the links below:

**Playlist:** <https://tinyurl.com/TrinityYearInSong>

**Music calendar:** <https://arthurberg.com/music-calendar.html>

In case you missed it, you might also check out Kenny Weaver's moving rendition of Gethsemane (I Only Want to Say) from Jesus Christ Superstar that was prepared for the start of Holy Week:

<https://tinyurl.com/KennyGethsemane>

My heartfelt thanks to all who shared their gifts in worship week after week:

Chancel Choir: Ed and Sally Conrad, Sherrin Gentzel, Colleen Hiltl, Linda Moffet, Paul and Susie Schubert, Nick Siegl, Rebecca Weaver, and Jeanne Yovicich.

Handbell Choir: Ed Conrad, Sherrin Gentzel, Jennie Hande, Colleen Hiltl, Jim and Mary Karl, Andrea Leach, Jackie Mikkelsen, Linda Moffet, Andrea Snedaker, and Jeanne Yovicich.

Youth Choir: Abby, Bennett, and Bridgette Beck, Charlotte Karl, Bennett Weaver, and Sydney Weaver.

Soloists & Instrumentalists: Angelina Berg (violinist), Ed Conrad (vocalist, guitarist), Linda Dinsmore (flutist), Heather Doyle (flutist), Colleen Hiltl (violinist), Carolyn Houck (organist), Kenny Weaver (pianist), Rebecca Weaver (vocalist), and Jeanne Yovicich (vocalist, pianist).

My thanks, as well, to the hymn selection committee for their help in choosing our hymns, and to the Worship & Music Committee for their openness in letting me draw on a variety of musical liturgies across the seasons of the church year. Special thanks to Jeanne Yovicich for her dedicated talents—her constant support of all the choirs and her willingness to take on the variety of music I would throw at her, whether it be pre-service music, preludes, descants, or postludes.

Our choirs and ringers now get a much-deserved summer rest. Whether you sing, ring, or play, there is always a place for you in Trinity's music ministry.

**Arthur Berg**, Music Director  
[TrinityLemoyneMusic@gmail.com](mailto:TrinityLemoyneMusic@gmail.com)

### LOOKING AHEAD



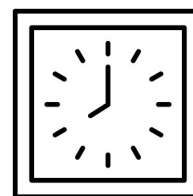
**Strawberry Festival Picnic:** June 14 after the joint service in the park with Grace UM

**Trinity Car Show:** June 20

**First Sunday on the lawn:** June 21

**National Night Out:** August 4, 2026 @ Memorial Park, Lemoyne

**Reconnection Breakfast** - Saturday, July 18 at 9:00 am at Trinity



*Time is a dressmaker  
specializing in  
alterations.  
-- Faith Baldwin*

June 14th  
 9:30 am  
 Worship in  
 Memorial Park  
 followed by Annual  
 Strawberry Festival  
 Picnic

Bring your favorite dish to share!  
 Burgers and hotdogs are provided.



Caring for the Earth: Stories From Faith Communities – Free Video Resource

Four leaders from ministries across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) share how their faith journeys intersect with their commitment to creation care in the seven-part short film series “[Caring for the Earth: Stories From Faith Communities](#).” The free-to-access series is available now.



**LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD**  
THIS IS CHRIST'S CHURCH. THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE.

Joining with more than 25 other representatives — including youths, organizers and advocates from Christian, Muslim, Indigenous, Baha’i and Jewish communities — these ELCA leaders will share inspiring stories that highlight the importance of caring for both community and the environment:

“Caring for the Earth” was developed through a partnership between ecoAmerica’s faith program [Blessed Tomorrow](#), which brings together a coalition of diverse religious partners, including the ELCA, to advance climate solutions, and the award-winning film company Climate Listening Project.

Blessed Tomorrow also hosts the National Faith + Climate Forum, an annual gathering of over 2,000 participants across more than 80 in-person locations. The event draws representatives from more than 550 congregations and 30 faith traditions and denominations.

Learn more about the forum — which will feature ELCA speakers and in-person host locations — on the [program website](#). The site also provides free resources to help groups of all sizes engage in faith-based climate discussions.

Discover more about the ELCA’s work on creation care and climate justice by reading the ELCA’s social statement [Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice](#) (1993) and social message “[Earth’s Climate Crisis](#)” (2023). Learn more about the work of the ELCA’s affiliated organizations: [Lutherans Restoring Creation](#) and the [Center for Climate Justice and Faith](#).

# This Month's Schedules



**Bob Threnhauser**  
**Jacque Mikkelson**  
**Andy McCarty**

**TRINITY'S TABLE**  
**This month it is on**  
**Wednesday the 17th at 4 pm.**  
 Thank you to everyone who continues to donate items for Trinity's Table.  
 Items needed: Toothpaste, shampoo, soap, feminine products, and diapers



**7 Nick Siegl**  
**14 Bob Threnhauser**  
**21 Theresa Brennan**  
**28 Lisa Webster**



*Bread Seneaule*

**7 Donna White**  
**14 Sally Conrad**  
**21 Jennie Hande**  
**28 Stephanie Threnhauser**



**Andrea Leach**  
**Laurie Ellis**  
**Jannie Hande**

*Money Counters*

**7 Tom & Sherrin Gentzel**  
**14 Jim & Mary Karl, Colleen Hiltl**  
**21 Linda Moffet, John Stewart**  
**28 Don & Mary Ann Howe**



## BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

3 - Lisa McCarty  
 4 - Tom Gentzel, Charlene McCurdy  
 7 - Rebecca Beck  
 9 - Barbara Binkley  
 11 - Vernon Greenfield  
 17 - Natalie Karl  
 18 - Krista Ellis Smith  
 24 - Connie Kirkley  
 27 - Tom McCurdy



**CALLING ALL GRADUATES!** If you know of a graduate in your family that we can honor please let the office know!



**Congratulations!** to Geoffrey Hiltl-graduated summa cum laude from Central Penn College with his Associate Degree in Criminal Justice.



Please consider using the QR code to make a donation to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Your support aids our efforts to share the love of Christ with others.

# Looking back...

This year the United States celebrates 250 years in the making.

I was going thru some 'old' stuff and saw that Trinity celebrated the Bicentennial in style!



1776  
*We the People*



The Sims

Ron, June, Kelly, Jeff



Back Row: Ron Sims, Bob Hershey

Middle Row: John Sims, Dan Miller

Front Row: ?, Stan Sheaffer

(If anyone knows the name of the man in the front row in blue, please let me know! Thanks)



Pastor Fenner



SOME SUNDAY FROM LONG AGO?

Not exactly, just the Rev. Allan H. Fenner, pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lemoyne, greeting Mrs. Lloyd Myers, center, and Mrs. John Martin after concluding a Bicentennial worship service.



COLLECTION PLATE, COLONIAL STYLE

Usher John Sims carefully extends the collection bag down the length of a pew. It takes a smooth hand to avoid tagging congregation members in the back of the head.



ON ALERT

Stanley Sheaffer stands ready to use his "nudging stick" if a congregation member falls asleep.

LIFESTYLE

Sunday Patriot News,  
Sunday, March 21, 1976

## Lemoyne Pastor Seeks 'Spirit of Enjoyment' Lutheran History Salute Unique

By CAL TURNER  
Staff Writer

LEMOYNE — George Washington never slept, soldiered or watered his horse here. But you can bet he'd give a pair of his best boots to be in the front pew at one of the Bicentennial services in Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fifth St. and Hummel Ave.

Nothing flamboyant, no boom of cannon, no hurrah for the grand old flag kind of thing. Nothing like that at all. Nothing to echo to the other side of Shiremans-town. Just something accomplished with a solid, superior sense of dignity.

— when, with the Rev. Allan H. Fenner in the pulpit, you reach back to just why the country was founded in the first place. In a black robe and with a fine-spun cotton wig atop his head, the Rev. Mr. Fenner can come up with words like "... freedom from oppression ... freedom to worship."

No sir, no torchlight rhetoric for the pastor and his congregation. Salt-and-pepper sermons are often OK, but for the Bicentennial, the Rev. Mr. Fenner and company are going first-rate.

"We try to see that there is a spirit of enjoyment," said the pastor, a rather portly man of open countenance. "We wanted our observance of the Bicentennial to be somewhat different. And we wanted to keep things on a high plane. The sermons — if you can call them that — are meant to be very informative.

"And the costumes, of course, and the women on one side of the church and the men on the other remind us of the early days our forefathers spent on this continent. There were certain



READY TO RESPOND

Ushers Robert Hershey, left, and John Sims stand ready to answer the pastor's call to take the offering. Pastor Fenner said the pattern of the Lutheran services has not changed much since Colonial times.

principles they adhered to and they came here with a strong sense of the role of worship in their lives."

In one of the recent services, the Rev. Mr. Fenner focused on the Muhlenbergs, men of deep and abiding will who were patriarchs of the Lutheran Church in America and very much in the forefront in service to Pennsylvania and the other colonies.

The old man was Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, a pastor and a genius at organization. He, according to the Rev. Mr. Fenner, likened himself to "one of the Lord's shepherds, who must round up the sheep and goats on the pasture by barking at

them, and herd them into one flock."

Then there were the sons — John Peter Gabriel, Frederick Augustus Conrad and Gotthilf Henry Ernestus. Yes sir, the alphabet received a workout when Henry named his boys. But they were characters in the great sense of the word.

Peter in the pulpit in January, 1776, gave his farewell sermon.

"Events occurring around Boston had long stirred his blood," said the Rev. Mr. Fenner. "He was a friend of both Patrick Henry and George Washington. And after giving his farewell sermon, he pulled back his robes and revealed his colonel's uniform of the Colonial Army."

Yes, the drums then rolled. And in front of the church, the colonel enlisted a couple of hundred men. No sir, nothing lukewarm about the Muhlenbergs.

The Muhlenbergs, according to the Rev. Mr. Fenner, "saw God's hand in American victories." And in prayer from the pulpit, he is quite forthright with his phrases:

"Let us not forget the leaders of Christianity in the early days of our nation ... Let us remember the men who were so self-reliant in this new land ... They proclaimed His Lordship in all places."

And there is a plea for the current day:

"We are seeking divine

guidance for this country and this world in our troubled times."

In the next Bicentennial worship service, March 28, the Rev. Mr. Fenner will touch upon one Christopher Ludwig, "Washington's friend."

In his office, relaxed and with a pipe in hand, the Rev. Mr. Fenner is quite reflective about the church's grasp of the "essentials" of the Bicentennial. He renders a salute to the congregation and for a moment is amused. "If we let them wear costumes every Sunday, we'd pack the church."

"Mrs. Mary (Eugene) Sutton, our Bicentennial Committee chairman, and the church council have done great jobs," he said. "And when we first started talking about how we would observe the Bicentennial, we hit upon the idea of the costumes for the particular services."

"And you can bet a lot of work has gone into them. Yes, the women of the church did the sewing. And as you noticed, many of them aren't hesitant."

"Yet, I really believe the colonial dress brings something special to each occasion. At least, I feel it does and I think much of the congregation would agree with me there."

The church's Bicentennial calendar will be spiced with trips and tours to various historic spots in the area. Yes, Valley Forge is

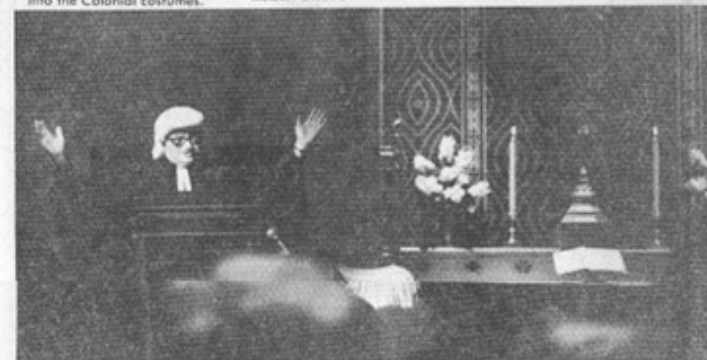
on the agenda, and then there's Augustus Lutheran Church at Trappe, which is thought to be the oldest Lutheran Church building in America.

The Rev. Mr. Fenner has relied on Bruce Bateman, organist and choirmaster, to musically thread the Bicentennial services as he sees fit. There are meditations based on Moravian hymns, and at the Muhlenberg occasion he came up with a neat organ postlude by Johann Pechelbel, who incidentally was no slouch. He taught, as the program noted, "the great Bach and his elder brother, Johann Christian."



SIDELINER

Usher David Rhoads keeps a careful eye on proceedings as worshippers move into the pews. Women of the church put "considerable time and effort" into the Colonial costumes.



WORDS OF STRENGTH FROM THE PULPIT

Pastor Fenner gestures broadly as he recounts the strength of "the leaders of Christianity in the early days of our nation." The sermon focused on Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America.



SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

Christine Sims, 6, gets into the spirit of the services as she joins in singing the hymn, "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken."

SUNDAY PATRIOT-NEWS  
PHOTOS BY  
JAMES S. BRADLEY

## Dedicate a New Candelabra!

### New Candelabras: They are here!

We invite you to invest in this improvement by contributing any amount or sponsoring a full candelabra, (\$862.50). This is an opportunity to honor a loved one, as gifts may be dedicated **in honor of or in memory of someone close to your heart.** Please mark your donation as "Candelabra Fund" with your dedication intentions. Thank you for helping us provide a more beautiful worship experience!



**SUNDAY FUNDAY**  
**MAY 31**  
**Back to School Blast!**

**Please join us  
on the lawn  
after Church  
for fun and food.**

**Future "Sunday Fundays"!**  
August 30: End of Summer Blast - November 29: Advent Family Event.  
These events take place right after church time.  
Think about it and join in the fun!

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Terry Richcreek.....Friend of Lori Sisco  
Barbara Talarico.....Friend of Connie Gilroy  
For the birth of Clara Jo Howe...GGparents Mary Ann and Don Howe  
Karen Haag..... Member  
Bonnie Waggoner.....Friend of Cathy Krause  
Sherrin Gentzel ..... Member  
Laurie Ellis..... Member  
John & Barbara Stewart.....Members  
Gerry & Sara Jane Crawford.....Members  
All Military Personnel and Families

For our Homebound Members

For all victims of violence and natural disasters

For the situations in Gaza, Ukraine, and Iran

For all leaders in our country



There are prayer cards in the pews. Write their names on them and put in the offering plate or email/call the office. Thank you.. :)

### MILITARY CORNER

We would like to recognize the following US Military Members:



**GARRETT EASTIN  
ELIJAH SIEGL**


*If you or a family member are on active duty, National Guard, or Reserve status, please let the church office know.*



**Any member requiring emergency pastoral care should contact Mary Karl, Council President,**

**at 717-433-0877**

# JUNE 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>MAY 31</p>  <p>Rev. John Damien</p> <p><b>Sunday Funday!</b> Stay after church for fun and food!</p>	1	2	3	4	5 Hummingbird Quilters 10 am	6
7 9:30 Service 10:30 Coffee Hour Faith Formation	8	9	10	11	12 Hummingbird Quilters 10 am	13
<p>14</p>  <p>9:30 Service At Memorial Park w/ Grace UM</p> <p>Strawberry Festival Picnic after service</p> 	15	16 Council Mtg 7pm	17 Trinity's Table 4pm	18	19 Hummingbird Quilters 10 am	<p>20</p> <p><b>TRINITY'S</b></p>  <p><b>CAR SHOW</b></p> <p>9 - 2</p> <p>Benefits New Hope Ministry Lemoyne</p>
<p>HAPPY 21</p>  <p>9:30 Service Worship on the Lawn 10:30 Faith Formation</p> <p>Summer SOLSTICE</p> 	22	23	24	25	26 Hummingbird Quilters 10 am	27
28 9:30 Service Worship on the Lawn 10:30 Faith Formation	29 TELL DEADLINE	30				