

From
Pastor
Keith



Pastor's Ponderings for the New Year

The world is constantly pushing us into planning for the future: our retirement, 401K's, pensions, stocks and bonds, social security and other means. We naturally gravitate toward our future here on earth. We plan our next projects, vacations, weekend getaways and nights out. Come on, admit it, you have already been doing it for 2020!

Does the Bible address the issue of planning for the future? You bet it does! Our eternity is at hand! When I recently turned 63, someone took the time to point out that I was way closer to the end of my story than I was to the beginning!

Since we are in the first couple of months of a brand-new year and decade, and we recently renewed our promise to live "in the Word". (see sermon for 1-5-20), let's look at what the Bible says about planning for the future.

Planning For Your Future On Earth

James (as you know, one of my favorite writers in the Bible) addresses this topic and shows us how we should approach it. He says in **James 4:13-15**, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit'— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.'"

The people addressed in this passage are assuming that they will live and do well in the places they go to, but they forget that tomorrow may never come. Therefore, that is why James tells them (and us) to take our plans to God. Why should we take our plans to God? Because God knows what is best for us. You can't assume that you will even be alive one minute from now. But you can assume that God knows what is best and that by following His lead you will ultimately arrive in heaven safe and sound!

Planning Smart

Planning and using your finances wisely is important. There are many verses in the Bible that address how we should think about and use our money and resources. Here are a couple of verses to ponder.

Proverbs 6:6-8 - "Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest." It is good to plan ahead so that our lives are in order and maintain balance. Your needs will be met when you plan ahead.

Proverbs 27:23 - "Know well the condition of your flocks and give attention to your herds." Pay attention to your finances and your investments. You need to know where your money is going and how much you are saving.

Bigger Plans

As important as your future on earth is, your eternity is much more important. Your entire eternity is decided on one simple truth: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" **John 14:6**. Your investment in eternity will take you to one of two places: heaven or hell. If you have repented of your sins and chosen to follow Christ instead of your own fleshly desires, you will experience life abundant in heaven. If you decide to continue on in living in your carnal nature and satisfying all of your fleshly desires in sin, I am afraid that hell awaits you. Don't spend eternity in pain and agony because of a very brief time of life on earth. The pleasures of this life will seem incomparable to the riches and joy we will have in Christ Jesus in heaven.

Your Children's Future

Planning for your eternal future is essential but planning for your children's future is just as important! Consider these verses as you continue to raise your children up in the Lord. I know that you want to see your earthly family in heaven, so stay alive in the Word and raise your kids with godly morals and principals!

John 14:1-3 - "Let not your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go and prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am, you may be also."

You can reassure your children that all of you will be in heaven if you all continue to abide in the Word, prayer, and promises of God.

Proverbs 2:6 - "For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding."

Your children need to understand that God is the most reliable source of knowledge and truth. When they believe this, they will continue to search for His truths in the Word as they grow up into adults.

Mark 10:14-15 - "But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them, 'Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.'"

Little children will believe everything you tell them. It is important to raise them to believe everything that God tells them too. We have to read scripture with a mind of a child. We need to believe it without any doubts, just like a child would. Your children are a blessing from the Lord, so bless them by investing them in the Word!

Conclusion

Speaking of investing, make plans to invest your time and resources here on earth wisely. Invest into your eternity even more. Repent daily of sin. Pray daily to your Father. Sing praises daily to the Lord. Bring the Gospel to the lost daily. Be a hearer of the Word and then do what it says! Pray for your family and friends! God loves you and desperately wants a life with you in heaven. If you have not accepted Christ as your Savior, do not delay! Your hour may be at hand today! God bless you as you continue to live a life worthy of the calling!

Oh, and one more thing, I used quite a few references from Proverbs in this article...that was not by accident...I have decided to teach Proverbs in the Adult Bible study class, as soon as we are done with the Gospel of Luke in the Spring. Trust me, you are going to want to make time for that one...such incredible words of wisdom for us all!

Blessings to you,
PK



Youth & Family Ministry News

Youth Group News:

In December the Youth Group held their annual Christmas party. We had a nice evening of Christian fellowship together playing games, exchanging presents and eating good food.

The Youth Group has planned our 3rd annual trip to a Hershey Bears hockey game. The game is scheduled for February 1st and is always well attended and a lot of fun. Last year we had 29 people attend! The theme for the evening is Faith & Family Night. I think it's awesome that the Bears have an evening celebrating faith and families! In order to be successful in making a difference in society, Trinity church needs to keep focusing on faith and family.

The Youth Group will also be having our annual sub and soup fundraiser in February, as well as a bake sale. Please watch your bulletin for more details. All proceeds will benefit the Youth Group. We appreciate your continued support!

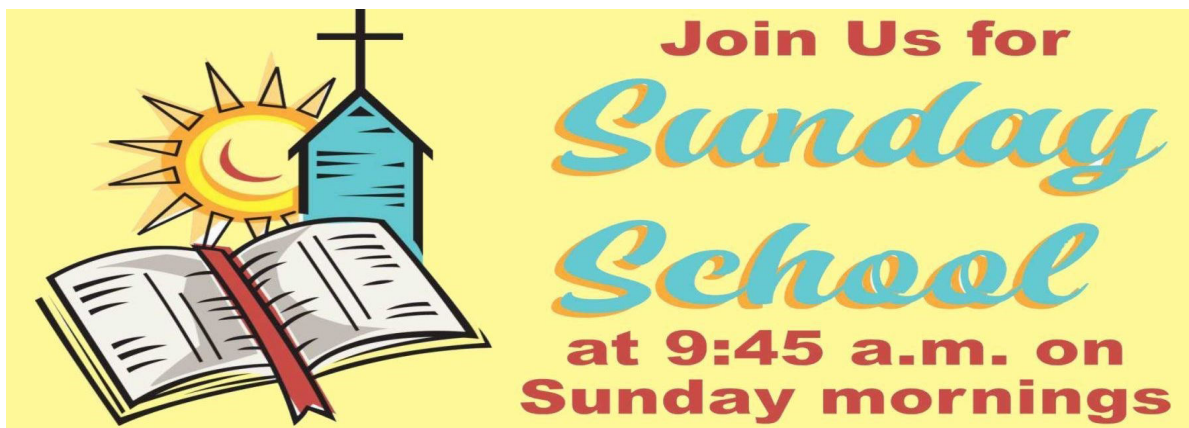
B.L.A.S.†. News:

B.L.A.S.†. continues to hold strong at an average of 15 school-aged kids attending each week in addition to my youth group aged helpers. We just finished lessons on the birth of Jesus and the baptizing of Jesus. In the future, I am contemplating moving both the youth group and the B.L. A.S.T. programs to be held simultaneously on Wednesday nights. This is when It appears that the Lord is blessing us with the greatest number of children available to attend. I could really use some volunteers to help bring this into fruition. Please consider coming on board to help with these vital children's ministries. Dinner is held at 5:30 pm and the program runs from 6:00-7:30 pm.

A special thank you to my kitchen helper Nancy Pysher and to Christina Bruno, Ken & Kallie Shaffer for helping run the program on Wednesday nights. I could not run this program every week without them. I am also still requesting/accepting donations for dinners and will gladly answer any questions you may have about how to donate a meal, or on how to get involved/volunteer.

As I am sitting here reflecting on these programs, I realize that most of these children come from homes that are un-churched. I thank God that he has sent them to Trinity to hear the gospel. It's my solemn prayer that I can help plant the mustard seed of faith in each of the children. Please prayerfully consider joining me on a Wednesday night to help plant the seeds of faith in the children of our community.

Blessings,
Cathy Shaffer



Sunday School is Where Faith and Life Connect!

Trinity has Sunday school classes for all ages. If you are interested in additional information regarding any of the classes listed below, please email trinityecchurch@verizon.net.

Crusaders – This class meets in the Adult Sunday school room across from the Sanctuary and is a traditional Sunday school class with material from David Cook. Carol Jones and Mark Thumma teach the class. Jim Neumyer and Ken Shaffer assist as necessary.

Seekers – This class meets in the Library located next to the Sanctuary and is led by Gary Deimler. The class uses a variety of materials and is discussion based.

Koinonia – This class meets on the second floor of the church office (building beside the church). This class is led by Steve Doyle and uses a variety of materials and is discussion based.

New Beginnings – This class meets downstairs in Old Trinity Hall. Ron Atticks leads this class and is discussion based using various studies.

Children – This class meets downstairs (room #9) located at the end of the straight hallway. Teachers for this class are Darlene Leach, Jen Leach, and Nancy Pysher.

Nursery – There is a nursery available for children three and under and is staffed by Barb Wilton. The nursery is located at the end of the hallway when you exit the Sanctuary.



Please Join Us For New Member Classes

Classes will be held:

Sunday, February 16, March 1, 8, & 15, 2020
10:15 to 10:45 a.m. in Trinity Hall

Four 30-minute informative and fun sessions.

New member ceremony will be held on Sunday,

March 29 at the 10:30 a.m. Blended Service

Anyone interested in pursuing membership in the church should contact the church office at 717-564-1528 or email trinityecchurch@verizon.net

Trinity Seniors Luncheon

Second Wednesday of each month @ noon
in Fellowship Hall

Mark your calendars for our next gathering on February 12, 2020 for a variety of soups, salad, rolls, drinks and desserts.

Senior Citizens in the Rutherford area are invited to join their friends and neighbors for lunch and a program for a nominal fee of \$5.00. This is a great opportunity to mingle with your neighbors and friends. Join us and bring a friend for a time of food, fun, fellowship, and faith! Call the church office at 717-564-1528 for more information.

On the menu for March 11 is chicken ala king made with biscuits, mixed vegetables, applesauce, drinks and desserts.

The Outreach Committee Needs You!

Next meeting on Sunday, February 16 at Noon

Our "Statement of Purpose" is:

To communicate the warmth of the Christian faith through invitation and inclusion of the community members and for visitors who may enter the doors of our church.

Please consider being a part of this important committee. If you are interested but can't make the meeting, please contact Dani Blank at 717-512-2394.

Become a Volunteer & Make a Difference!

Mark your calendars for
these upcoming movies on
Free Movie Fridays
@ 6 p.m.



February 21, 2020 - "Courageous"

March 27, 2020 - "I Believe"

in Fellowship Hall

(use the Huntingdon Street entrance)

Free popcorn, drinks, and a great movie!
Age-appropriate movies for younger children
will be shown in Trinity Hall.

Something new for 2020!

A Monthly Blended Worship Service

A Blended Service will be held in the Sanctuary on the
last Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School will meet at 9:15 a.m.

Join us for our next Blended Service on February 23.

We Are The Church Together!

FREE Pasta Dinner for the Community

Sunday, February 23, 2020

In Fellowship Hall

5:30-7:00pm



You are invited to a free delicious meal
and a special program with
New Life For Girls. A love-offering will be taken
for this incredible ministry for young women.

Ash Wednesday Communion Service

February 26, 2020

Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

(Use Huntingdon Street entrance)

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent.

Join us as we prepare for this sacred season.

Communion will be served.

Lent
B E G I N S



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

Distribution of palms at
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

Maundy Thursday Service, April 9, 2020

7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Communion will be served.



He's Alive!

*Worship with us on Easter
Sunday, April 12, 2020*

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
at Veteran's Circle

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
in Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Praise Worship
in Fellowship Hall

Communion will be served at the
8:30 & 11:00 services.

Altar Flower Calendar 2020

A new calendar is on the upstairs bulletin board for you to reserve your favorite Sunday. Flowers are \$27.50 for one vase and can be purchased to be placed at the pulpit "in memory of" or "in honor of". The flowers are yours to take home. Please contact the church office at 717-564-1528 or email trinityecchurch@verizon.net with your flower dedication for the bulletin.

Sign-Up for Electronic Giving

Use our convenient on-line giving to schedule your weekly offering. Our secure website can be found at trinityecchurch.org. It's easy, safe and secure. To set-up **recurring on-line giving** or for more information, please contact the church office at 717-564-1528.

We thank you for your generous support of
Trinity Church.

Trinity's Library - Check it out!

Great books, devotionals, and inspirational movies for both adults and children.

Stop in during Sunday worship hours or during the week office hours (8am to 1pm) to take a look at the New Book section of the library (located on the first floor). Children's material is on the lower level, room 6; material for adults is in the Library on the first floor.

Trinity Prayer Time

A Tuesday Evening of Prayer

Join us for an informal time of prayer Tuesday's at 6:00 p.m. in Trinity's Adult Sunday school room. We open with a song and a brief devotional about prayer. Prayer concerns are mentioned and the praying begins. Join us when you can.

When Bad Weather Hits . . .

and worship services/programs must be cancelled, look for "Trinity E.C. Church - *Rutherford*" on the following television stations WGAL-NBC 8, WHTM-ABC 27, WHP-CBS 21 or The CW-15.

Butterfly Ministry

Join us the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month at 1:00 p.m. in room #1 to create baskets of "goodies" that include a handmade butterfly, church information, and inspirational material that are given to visitors and new families in the community. It's a wonderful time of fellowship!



Shawl
Ministry

Shawl Ministry

Do you like to knit and
crochet?

Our Shawl Ministry meets the second Tuesday of the month to either knit or crochet shawls to give to a shut-in, a cancer patient, a new mother, a friend who has lost a loved one, a friend having surgery...there are so many possibilities and so much more to this ministry. You do not have to attend every meeting, join when you can. Call 717-564-1528 for more information.