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God's Plans

I am not the most mechanically inclined person in the world, but I like to attempt a project or two. Recently a project has occupied my spare time, and as I descended into the details, I discovered that little things can seem to overwhelm even the best laid plans. Stepping back and seeing the bigger picture helps to keep us going as we overcome the obstacles that we find.

My family has decided to make an upgrade to our summer camping adventures. Having used tents for many years, we are ready now to make a pop-up camper our home base for summer fun. My truck needs a towing hitch installed for this, and when I started researching the process I thought, "here's a project I can manage, and by buying the parts myself I'll save almost half the cost!" I checked out web videos, I asked a camping store employee, and I scoured the great store that is Amazon. Most everyone said that this is quite doable for someone at home and to go for it. There was just one voice out of all of them that offered a note of caution. Upon hearing the age of my truck, a hitch installer said, "watch out for rust." When I asked what he meant, he explained that the bolts on the truck frame and the

frame itself would be pretty heavily rusted after ten years. Since I have to remove four bolts to install the hitch, I'm going to have to break those bolts free without damaging the truck.

These rusted bolts have now occupied my attention for the last week. Back to the internet and neighbors and friends I went to learn what to do. I've got tools, techniques, crazy ideas that worked once, and a couple friends all interested in helping. But as I write this, I realize that all this expectation, all this worry and research and preparation and shopping, is focused on four little pieces of metal. Sure, they have been there 10 years, and they have proudly done their job of holding the truck's frame together through two owners. But they are just four little bolts. The worst that could happen is I need to pay someone to fix a mistake (well, let's pray that's the worst that can happen).

In this month's newsletter you will see that Easter is right around the corner. Lent is almost over. We've got a packed Holy Week with many opportunities to engage in the great drama of the Lord's death and resurrection. We have an adult education program beginning in April geared to helping us all develop confidence in telling our story so that we can be better advocates for God's story in our community. Our Easter Hot Meals ministry will send out

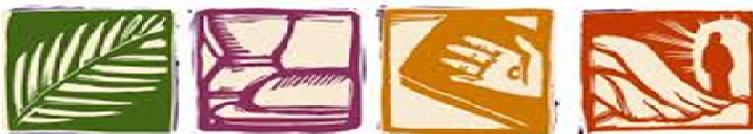
over 200 meals. God has great plans ahead for us!

God has great plans for you, too, but they might involve installing some new parts. You just may have to contend with some faithful yet rusted parts that are going to need to learn how to move. Lent is not over yet, and maybe there are a couple things you want to address and pray through as you think about what God wants for your life. Don't be afraid. They might seem like big problems, but they are not really. Far bigger are the plans God has for you. Get some tools, get a friend or two, and go to work.

By the time you are reading this, I will hopefully be done, one way or the other. Either a new hitch will proudly be installed just below my shiny bumper, or I will be sadly parking my truck at the local auto shop begging for help. No matter what, more steps will be taken in the journey toward setting the Scott family off on summer adventures with a pop-up camper. Some rusted bolts cannot stop that plan, nor can little things stop God's plan for you.

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HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 20 Palm Sunday 8:30 AM—Youngsville, 10:30 AM—Warren

The Palm Sunday liturgy invites us to march with Jesus into Jerusalem in triumph! Each service will begin with Blessing of the Palms, which we will wave as we celebrate Christ as he enters the Holy City. The liturgy then continues and offers a preview of the Holy Week drama, culminating in a reading of the Passion and the celebration of Holy Eucharist. Trinity's service will begin outside in General Warren Park as we gather with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters from St. Joseph's for the Blessing of the Palms.

March 23 Holy Wednesday 5:30 PM - Warren

Trinity's Wednesday Night worship experience encounters Holy Week, and with mystery and with joy we will contemplate the many stories and steps that make up this most grace filled week.

March 24 Maundy Thursday Agape Meal & Worship 6:30 PM - Youngsville

Maundy Thursday is all about a meal, and we will celebrate a unique meal together that continues a St. Francis tradition. Episcopalians from all over are invited to come and celebrate both the Holy Eucharist which Jesus commanded us to make that fateful Thursday night so many years ago as well as a community meal.

March 25 Good Friday 12 Noon - Youngsville, 5:15 PM—Warren

Good Friday offers to opportunities for observing the holy day. At 12Noon, we will join with Christians from around the Youngsville Area for the Procession of the Cross, starting at the Free Methodist Church and processing through town stopping at many parishes for a time of prayer. Join the march or wait at St. Francis for our stop to join in the prayer.

Our observance in Warren begins at 5:15, when our weekly Soaking Prayer and Music session offers 30 minutes of meditative space and sound for prayer and peace. Come any time during that and stay for the Good Friday Office observance that begins immediately after.

March 26 Easter Vigil 8:00 PM - Warren

The Great Celebration of Easter begins on Saturday night, with a liturgy that dates back to the earliest centuries of the church. The great vigil this year will have it all, chant, darkness, candles, incense, light, the Gloria sung with joy, the renewal of baptismal vows, and the first Eucharist of Easter! Do not miss this most holy night at Trinity.

March 27 Easter Sunday 8:30 AM—Youngsville, 10:30 AM—Warren

Traditional Easter observances will take place at our regularly scheduled Sunday worship at both our locations.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The spring meeting of the House of Bishops concluded on Tuesday, and I am grateful to have had a time of retreat and collegial reflection with so many colleagues and friends. At the close of our meeting, those of us gathered--137 bishops from across the Episcopal Church--unanimously approved a statement expressing our concern about the current political climate in the United States.

Extremism and violent rhetoric have become far too common in this election season. As people of faith, we must resist these forces of fear and division no matter what our party affiliations or political persuasions.

Holy Week 2016

On Good Friday the ruling political forces of the day tortured and executed an innocent man. They sacrificed the weak and the blameless to protect their own status and power. On the third day Jesus was raised from the dead, revealing not only their injustice but also unmasking the lie that might makes right.

In a country still living under the shadow of the lynching tree, we are troubled by the violent forces being released by this season's political rhetoric. Americans are turning against their neighbors, particularly those on the margins of society. They seek to secure their own safety and security at the expense of others. There is legitimate reason to fear where this rhetoric and the actions arising from it might take us.

In this moment, we resemble God's children wandering in the wilderness. We, like they, are struggling to find our way. They turned from following God and worshiped a golden calf constructed from their own wealth. The current rhetoric is leading us to construct a modern false idol out of power and privilege. We reject the idolatrous notion that we can ensure the safety of some by sacrificing the hopes of others. No matter where we fall on the political spectrum, we must respect the dignity of every human being and we must seek the common good above all else.

We call for prayer for our country that a spirit of reconciliation will prevail and we will not betray our true selves.

Please join me in praying for our leaders and our nation during this fractious time.

In Christ,



The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe

Good Friday Offering

The following is an excerpt from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Good Friday Letter.

"Each year every bishop and congregation is encouraged by the Presiding Bishop to participate in the Good Friday Offering. This tradition is decades old and is an important statement of our solidarity with members of the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. We have a Gospel imperative to be sure they know they are not forgotten behind the headlines or because of the distractions in our own lives."

Envelopes are available in the entryway marked to Good Friday.

Easter Meals

Join us on Saturday morning, March 26th as members of Trinity, St. Francis, First Lutheran and First Methodist Churches prepare and deliver hot meals to homebound in Warren and Forest Counties. Several shifts are set up for volunteers to cook, prepare and serve as well volunteers to deliver and donate cupcakes. All cupcakes should be delivered to First Lutheran on Thursday, March 24th or to your own parish March 20th. Please sign up in the entryway. Any questions, please see Addy Landrio or Father Matthew.



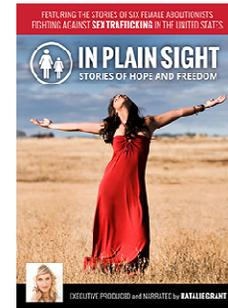
For our 3rd year in a row we will participate in Warren Gives with the Hot Meals Program being the beneficiary of all gifts.

The program received not only what individuals contribute but what is matched through the generosity of the 2016 Match Sponsors Community Foundation, Betts Foundation, Defrees Family Memorial Fund, Northwest Charitable Trust and Sara Sokolski Memorial Fund

Last year's total was over \$3300. Join in the giving this year on May 18th. The minimum donation is only \$10.

IN PLAIN SIGHT

The documentary [In Plain Sight](#), tells the inspiring stories of six modern-day abolitionists who fight sex trafficking in the U.S. Each woman tells how she became involved in providing a home and services for rescued victims of sex trafficking and the victims/survivors tell their tales of finding transformation and hope thanks to these amazing women. Four of the six women sight their faith as basis to their actions. This is a must-see for anyone who wishes to fight human trafficking in our county.



The Episcopal Mission of Warren County will show this documentary at Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, April 13. We will end the evening by discussing actions individuals in the community have and are taking to fight Child Trafficking and provide information on additional actions anyone can take. Handouts on protecting families and children will be available.

Speaking of Faith

This April, you are invited to participate in our Spring adult formation class entitled “Speaking of Faith.” Over five Wednesday evenings, participants will be invited into holy conversations around their experience of faith. Each night will feature exercises, informational reflections, and a take home assignment for those who want to work more on a certain facet of faith sharing.

Each class begins at 7PM and ends by 8:30. Our 5 classes are set for April 20th, April 27th, May 11th, May 18th and May 25th. We ask that you sign up to reserve your space either by using the sign-up sheets near the entryways of our worship spaces or by calling the office (723-9360, 563-7586). If there is enough interest, we will explore creating a second class that meets at a different time (weekend or

Safeguarding God's Children and God's People Training

April 30th 9 AM @ Trinity Warren

All clergy, all church personnel and volunteers who regularly or occasionally work with or around children or youth, all church personnel who are responsible for screening, selecting or supervising of others in programs for children or youth, all Bishops Committee and Vestry members and all parents who volunteer in Nursery School or Sunday School classes must complete *Safeguarding God's Children and Safeguarding God's People* training with a Diocesan certified trainer.

The Rev. Joann Piatko will lead us at Trinity in Warren on Saturday, April 30th beginning at 9 AM to 1 PM.

Other options, if you cannot attend on the 30th:

Saturday March 19th 9am -12:00pm St. Mark's, Erie

Thursday March 31st 6p-9pm at The Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie

Saturday April 2nd 10am-3pm at St. Andrew's, Clearfield



Christian
Education

Christianity 101

Each course in this series is a stand-alone course designed to be a brief overview of each topic. This series can be taken for credit for \$300. **You can also audit this series for no cost.** If you are not taking it for credit, you may attend all of the courses or choose which you would like to attend.

All courses are from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM at St. James, Titusville.

April 6: The Bible led by the Rev. Stacey Fussell

April 13: The Book of Common Prayer led by the Rev. Canon Brian Reid

April 20: Ministries of the Church led by the Rev. Canon Martha Ishman

April 27: Church History led by the Rev. Stacey Fussell

May 4: Styles of Worship led by the Rev. Matthew Scott

May 11: Prayer led by the Rev. Joann Piatko

To register, please email Vanessa Butler at vbutler@dionwpa.org by March 31.

Unleashing the Power of Creativity

Creativity is essential for survival and growth, and for sharpening your competitive edge. In this interactive program you will experience proven techniques to become deliberately creative--skills you will apply immediately.



We are all creative. The difference between those people who consistently make their ideas work and those who say, "Now why didn't I think of that?" is their ability to make creativity happen instead of leaving it to chance. By taking control of your creative ability, you can begin to turn problems into opportunities, develop more options, enhance learning, increase profits, and work together more effectively as a team.

Key points include:

- exercises to warm up your mental muscles
- learning a Creative Problem Solving system that you can apply to any challenge or opportunity
- how to use critical thinking rather than criticism to stimulate good ideas
- how to quickly and effortlessly generate multiple ideas for solving a problem
- cutting-edge research on creativity and innovation: what works, what doesn't
- how to ask the right question so that you can get ideas that really work
- strategies for developing a climate for creativity and innovation

applications of creativity in business, education, health care, human services, and life.

In this program you will apply the Creative Problem Solving method to generate ideas for a Diocesan related challenge. You will leave this program knowing how to take control of your creative ability and how to apply creative problem solving methods in any aspect of your life.

This training, will be offered on Saturday, April 16. It will be 9:30 AM-4:30 PM and will be held at the Cathedral of St. Paul, led by Dr. Roger Firestien. This is a one day version of a training that the clergy had at the fall retreat. The clergy found this training very beneficial and we are now expanding the training to laypeople. **The training is being offered at no cost and is limited to 32 participants.** Our hope is to have more people trained in this process so that we may use it to tackle problems on the congregational and diocesan levels. **To register go to the Events link on the diocesan website www.dionwpa.org by April 4th.**

Ponderings from the Tower

Years ago I was told about the ancient Japanese art form known as kintsugi. I fell in love with the concept and philosophy behind this art form. Kintsugi is an art form in which pottery that has been broken is soldered back together. The cracks where the piece of pottery was broken is infused with gold. The piece of pottery is not only once again useful, but even more beautiful because of its brokenness. I think the philosophy and image of kintsugi is beautiful, but it doesn't just apply to me; we are all kintsugi.



Throughout our lives we have all been broken or hurt by the circumstances of life. It is by God's love and grace that we are put back together. The cracks where we were broken aren't filled with gold. They are filled with something much more precious than fine metals. Our seams are filled with the light of Christ, which is much more beautiful than any chunk of gold. We are God's pieces of kintsugi beautifully recreated, and we are not meant to hide ourselves away.

Christianity is not meant to be practiced in a vacuum, void of contact. As children of God we are meant to be in relationship with God and with one another. This means that we need to be able to look at where we have been broken and see how God has soldered us back together with his love. We need to be able to examine our own stories with God and be able to share that with others. By examining our own stories, we can see where God was at work in our struggles, and where he was with us on our brightest days. We can see that even when we think things are gloomy God's light is still shining brightly. With practice, we can more easily God's blessings than our troubles.

Learning to tell our story begins with our worship. The worship we do on Sundays

is practice for what we are to take into the world and share, but we need to make sure we share that with each other too. All too often we come to worship and sit in the same spot, which is near the same people. We may smile at them and say hello and share pleasant conversation, but is that truly sharing

God's love? We are a community that comes together to worship a merciful, loving, and caring God. Do we share with one another where we have seen God's blessings? Those blessing could be as simple as seeing a flower poke up through the side walk or listening to a bird greet the morning sun. Blessings can be as complex as healing from an injury. Do we lean on one another when we struggle and feel broken? How well do we know and love our neighbor? This is all part of the worship we do on Sundays. This is all part of loving one another as Christ has loved us. This is part of being God's kintsugi.

As the Clergy Associate for Pastoral Ministries I would ask you to prayerfully consider joining me in a ministry designed to serve members of our community who are sick and ill. The premise behind this initiative is that the community loves and cares for one another, just as Christ told us we should. When a member of the community is ill a group, which represents the body of the community, visits the sick member. This isn't to take away from the visits by a clergy person, this is the community taking care of the body of Christ. This is just one way in which what we pray affects our beliefs, and how our beliefs affect our actions. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact me. We are God's kintsugi and are meant to shine his love into the world.

Tim

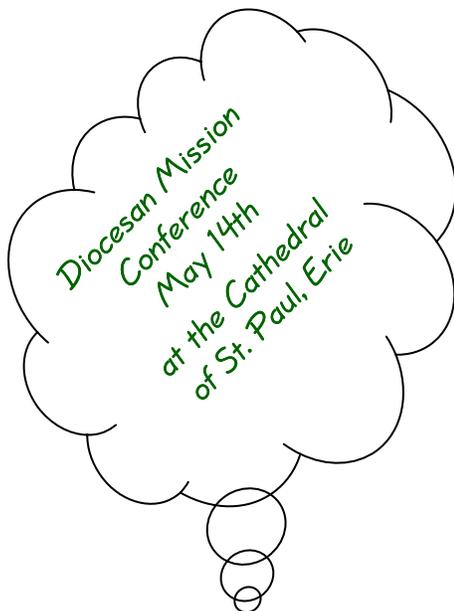
Clergy Associate

Coffee Hour



Our awesome after service coffee hour is a great time of fellowship and good food. We give thanks to all those who provide goodies for everyone to enjoy, *Nancy Reynolds & Anne Reynolds, Molly Lawson & Linda Salva, Brigitte & Jeff Chase, Bonnie Dickson & Jan Thompson, Chris Myers, Colette Grady & Laurie Rulander, and Karolyn Stone & Helenanne Meyer* for hosting in Youngsville. And to *Addy & Gary Landrio, Diane Brant, Rose Mary Landon, Jerry & Betsy Bowersox, Beth Porter, Mary Lou Watt and Ellen Eberly* for hosting in Warren. Check out the table in the entryway for open Sundays for your opportunity to serve in this fellowship ministry.

Looking Ahead



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April

- 1- Renee Cunningham
Ellen Eberly
Timothy Schantz
- 2 - Denise Ely
Marya Yurick
- 5 - Alex Hamilton
Jessica Hesch
- 7 - Kit & Norma Nagurney
- 8 - Chuck Stone
- 9 - Charmaine Myers-
Ingram
- 11 - Keith Hinsdale
Taylor Madigan
- 12 - Rachel Pope
- 16 - Lilee Renninger
- 17 - Myles McLaughin
- 18 - Nadine Westover
- 20 - Nancy Reynolds
- 21 - Ralph Peterson
- 24 - Maddison Thomson
- 25 - Gail Wright
- 26 - Bonnie Dickson
Guy Grow
Pauline Steinmeyer
Eric Robert Steuart
- 27 - Tristan Boger
Erinn Sveda
- 28 - Clayton Hesch

- 29 - Murry Quiggle
- 30 - Madison Hanks
Christopher Madigan
Amelia Schantz
Pam Taylor
Scott Taylor

May

- 1 - Bethany Schantz
Hamilton
- 3 - Kit Nagurney
- 4 - Bob Murphy
Simon Smith
- 5 - Tim & Noreen Dyer
- 6 - Kaylynn Dean
- 9 - Jerrod & Jess
Schantz
Scott & Pam Taylor
- 11 - Ben Scott
- 13 - Cathy Myers
Frederick

- 13 - Connie Michell
David Schantz
Ruth Warner
- 15 - Jon Ettinger
Stacy Jones
David & Emily
Whaley
- 16 - Marisa Smith
- 18 - Piers Curry
Hanna Taylor
- 19 - Peyton Brant
Patrick Wright
- 20 - Ben Madigan
Laura Schantz
- 21 - Camryn Brant
Brandon Dean
Debby Hornburg
- 22 - Tim & Debby
Hornburg
- 23 - Lynne Dyer
Brandon Myers
Jacob Myers
- 24 - Emerson Schantz
- 25 - Addison Schantz
Jan Thompson
- 26 - Donna Murphy
Dorothy Hartigan





Illness/ Surgery/ Other Needs: Karolyn Stone, Tony, Simon and the de la Guerra, Marian Edwards, Ed's recovery, refugees, Cheyelle and family, Alex, Burke Johnson, Roger, Doug, Jean and Elaine, Ann, Christian, Barb & Joan, Margaret, Cara, Terri, Laura, & trafficked children, Joshua, Ryan & Family,

Thanksgiving for: The Vine's hard work and witness, the outstanding All County Musical, Ed's visit, continuing good health of Bill, Joan & Janet, Samantha, Joan going home from the Rouse, Tom, Addy & Terry & all they do that no none know about, truly our treasures are in heaven, continuing health of Bill, Miracle surprises

Serving in the Armed Services: Curtis Delattre, Parker Hahn, Cody, Toby, & Jeremy Williams, Jackie Shaw, Nathan Lake, Jed in Afghanistan, Robert Barrett, Dan Schantz, Jonathon Fox, Andrew Horner, Stephen Miller, Patrick Schantz Abe Vansile, Bill Wencil, Bill Horner, Stephen Miller, Sondra Dew, T.J. Fera, Pete Ochucki, Stephen Battko, Rob Umbaugh, Adam Decker, Troy Spencer, Pete Scobell, Natalie Neidrick Julin, Jolene Nobles, Aaron Heliker, Arick Heliker Matthew Wright, Matthew Lambert, Sean Jenkins, Krista Traut, Matthew Easterly Alaxis Brink Smith, Julie Sveda

The Clergy: Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop; Sean Rowe, our Bishop; Matthew Scott, our vicar, Tim Dyer, our clergy associate

Prayer for the Diocese

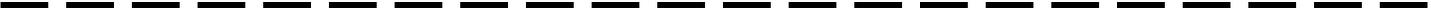
O God, by your grace you have called us in this diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our Bishop, Sean, and other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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EPISCOPAL MISSION OF WARREN COUNTY

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Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so
much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life.



Celebrate

Grow

Share

