

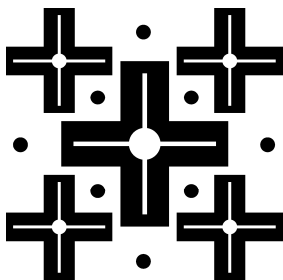
July 2015

Volume 12, Issue 7

The Proclamation

Christ the King Lutheran Church

5700 US Route 60 E, Huntington, West Virginia



Greetings!

We were blessed by having our Synod Vice President, Paul Wangerin, speak with us on June 28 about the Road to Renewal process and the opportunity for churches to grow spiritually, within the church and in the community. Society is always changing and we must be aware of those changes to truly proclaim the Gospel and to feed the sheep of God! I invite you to consider how you see God active in your life as we continue growing thru Road to Renewal!

We will be hosting a joint picnic on Sunday, July 5 following worship to welcome Pastor Kevin Mackey as the new Pastor at St. Paul in

Huntington. St. Paul and Cross of Grace folks are invited (at least 29 will be coming from St. Paul's!). Be with us as we welcome them all.

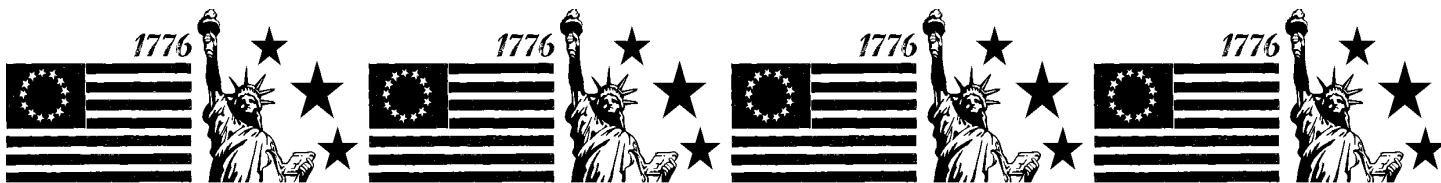
We heard from two of our several Camp Luther folks last Sunday on their experiences there and look forward to hearing from others in the near future. The two stories were full of emotion, friends and God encounters.

Our VBS starts on Monday, July 6 and goes thru Friday. We will have a presentation in the service on Sunday, June 12 – join us during the week in the evening, on Friday for the picnic and on Sunday for the presentation. Invite youth in your neighborhood to this time of

fun and God encounters!

On July 13 our adults, Jim Day and Kathy Eckstam Ames and three of our youth, Ben Day, Jon Day and Devin Ames, leave for Morgantown for some synodical youth gathering activities then the ELCA Church Wide Youth Gathering in Detroit MI. They will visit our Lutheran monastery, do work projects in Detroit as well as worship and get to know other youth from across our whole ELCA. About 30,000 total youth and adults are expected to participate. They will return on July 19 around midnight.

CTK, SP and COG will shortly be
(continued on page 2)



VBS is upon us!!! July 6-10, 6-8 p.m. This year the program is "Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power." We have a wonderful group of volunteers ready to teach several lessons through Bible study, song, games and snacks. Please continue to invite kids to attend!

The first lesson is that God has the power to provide, (I Kings 17 and 2 Corinthians 9:8). The second lesson is that God has the power to comfort. (I Kings 19 and 2 Corinthians 1:4). The third lesson is that God has the power to heal. (2 Kings 5 and Psalm 147:3). The fourth lesson is that God has the

power to forgive. (Luke: 22:31-24:12 and Nehemiah 9:17). The last lesson is that God has the power to love us forever. (John 14:1-3 and John 3:15). On the last day we will have a congregational picnic, with games set up for all. A slide from "Pump It Up" will also be there for enjoyment on that Friday. See you
(continued on page 2)

working on organizing welcoming students back to Marshall University as well as the new freshman. We set up a tent; offer refreshments to students and families as well as those students helping others move in and make the presence of the three Lutheran churches known. You may be asked to help and if so please say yes! It's fun!

I had a very difficult time taking vacation while serving as Interim at St. Paul so you will see me doing a lot of that the rest of this year. Pastor Mackey or Pastor Quickle will cover for me for emergencies and I will have someone in my place on a Sun-

day when I take one off.

Summer tends to be a slow time for churches but whether you are traveling or at home please remember that God still calls us to be the church, to love God and our neighbor.

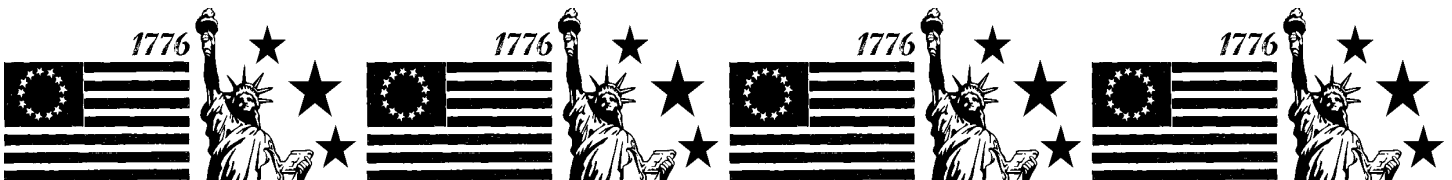
Those of you who were in church on June 28 heard me read the letter from our Presiding Bishop, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, about the murders at Emmanuelle AME Church in Charleston. Our country has suffered too long from the evil of racism. We need to speak out publically when we hear or see it and pray for the families who lost loved ones in the church there. Two had graduated

from an ELCA Seminary, and the shooter was affiliated with a Lutheran church.

We are all the children of God and can not sit idly by when any of God's children are made objects of hatred. Jesus did not die for us to ignore such acts but to set us free to love another even as he loves us!

May God bless you and be with you.

Pastor Carl



there!!!!

Theology of the Cross vs. Theology of Glory

OK, some of you may step back from the title of this article and say "Eh, what?!?" and move to another newsletter column. But wait! Give it a chance! The theology of the cross is another aspect of our Lutheranism that is critical to our understanding how we express our faith in our daily lives. You probably already know about it and see examples everywhere, but never knew what to call that expression.

The theology of glory is human-centered; you are in the driver's seat controlling your world. "I

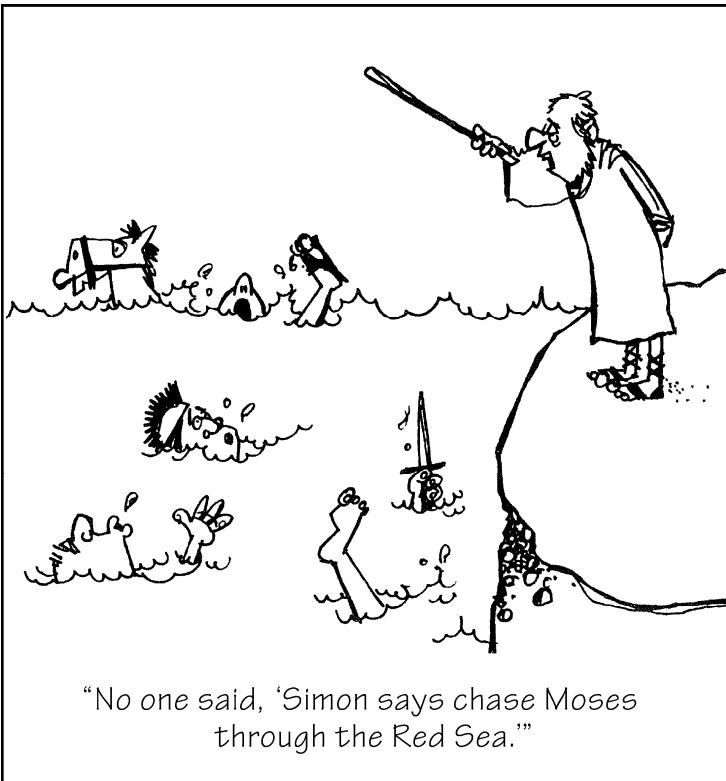
and "me" are popular words. According to theologian and pastor Tullian Tchividjian, this theology focuses upon "human effort intended to earn God's favor or exalt human achievement." This theology defines God and God's realm in our terms. **Grace "is a supplement to whatever is left of human will and power."** (Gerhardt Forde) "If you follow Christ you will earn rewards on earth." (Carl Ames) In this theology, we climb a ladder to God, rationalizing pain and suffering, earning rewards along the way, meeting Him at the top upon our deaths. We are in control.

The theology of the cross is God/Christ centered. We cannot

do ANYTHING to earn rewards; God decides. We confess, often through repentance, that God does all through the cross. **God's grace is central; we are saved by faith through the cross, through God's action, through grace.**

We focus upon what God has done for us; the greatest of which was giving his only son to die for us, then defeating death and sin by resurrecting him. God is revealed to us through Jesus. We also *face* pain and suffering, knowing God is with us and our suffering throughout. God is in control.

Next newsletter: examples of each theology!!!



1st Monday DINNER

**Tortilla
Factory**

July 6th, 6:30 p.m.

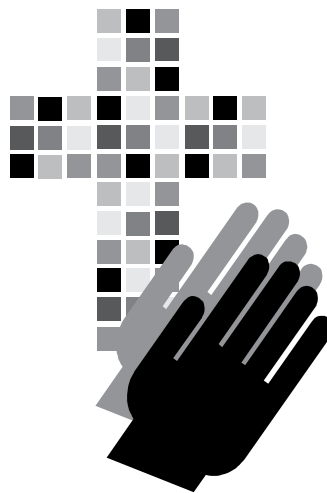
(Next to Outback Restaurant)

Sign up on the narthex bulletin board or call Anita Howard if you plan to come so she knows how many places to reserve. 304-736-0067 We have great fun, so please come join us for lots of laughter and a good meal among our sisters and brothers!

Dollars and Sense

**Treasurer's Report
5/1/2015 through 5/31/2015**

Income	
Envelope	11,040.00
Plate	113.00
Interest	43.86
Misc. Income	40.00
Misc. Designated Funds	139.90
Other Gifts	100.00
Total Income	11,476.76
Expenses	
Mission Support	1,237.00
Pastor's Salary & Allow.	4,174.57
Other Salaries & Allow.	990.21
Trustees	196.80
Worship	56.37
Office	375.12
Congregational Life	(10.00)
Property	1,191.63
Total Expense	8,211.70
Grand Total	3,265.06




ECCHO
Items of the Month

Pasta

IN OUR PRAYERS: Dee Fike's family, Maria Hager, Sarah Metz, Bob Troy, Carolyn Breisler & sister Marion, Margy Barrett, Flo Williams, Wailana Grove, Willie Smotherman, Winnie Rice, Donald McClain, and Pastors Ed & Jennifer. We also pray for all those in transition between grades, schools, school and employment, etc.

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 5:30-7:30 pm Exercise classes 7 pm @ St. P's; Rev. Mackey's installation	2	3	July 4 1776  Independence Day
5 10 am Adult SS 11 am Worship 12:15 Picnic Set up for VBS 7:30 pm YG	6 9:30-11:30 a.m. Praise Painters VBS	7 VBS	8 VBS	9 VBS	10 VBS PICNIC	11 No exercise classes today
12 10 am Adult SS 11 am Worship & VBS presentation 2-4 Jim F.'s Birthday Party 7:30 pm YG	13 9:30 am- PP Youth Gather in Morgantown 5:30- Exercise	14 Youth Gather in Morgantown 5:30 -7:30 pm	15 Triennial Youth Gathering in Detroit 5:30-7:30 pm Exercise classes	16 Youth Gathering in Detroit	17 Youth Gathering in Detroit	18 9-11 am Exercise classes Youth Gathering in Detroit
19 10 am Adult SS 11 am Worship Youth Gathering in Detroit No YG	20 9:30-11:30 am Praise Painters 5:30-7:30 pm Exercise classes	21 5:30-7:30 pm Exercise classes <hr/> 7 pm Council	22 5:30-7:30 pm Exercise classes	23	24	25 9-11 am Exercise Classes 3-5 Dinner for Hungry @ First UMC
26 10 am Adult SS 11 am Worship 7:30 pm YG	27 9:30-11:30 am Praise Painters 5:30-7:30 pm Exercise classes	28 Deadline to submit articles for The Proclamation 5:30-7:30 pm Exercise classes	29 5:30-7:30 pm Exercise classes	30	31	



**Meeting
July 21st
@ 7 p.m.**

August 2nd Worship

In case you don't receive the newsletter by Sunday, August 2nd, the following people are assigned to help in worship that day:

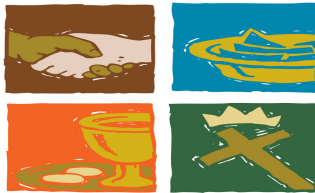
- Greeter: Christy Ward
- Ushers: Keith Ward & John Perry
- Altar Care: Carolyn Breisler
- Counters: Kitty Kelly-Smoot & Carolyn Breisler
- Nursery: Barbara Cook
- Baked Goods: Kislings



Happy Birthday!!!

- 2—Chuckie Perry
- 12—Devin Ames
- 14—Jim Fankhanel
- 15—Cassie Hynus
- 17—Clara Metz
- 19—Bob Troy
- 22—Sunny Hammers
- 22—Willie Smotherman
- 26—Charlie Smoot

SERVING THIS MONTH



**Assisting Minister - Kitty Kelly-Smoot
Acolyte - Ben Day**

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Greeter	Dean Twedt	Cathy Twedt	Flo Williams	Patsy McComas
Ushers	Harry Peterson Tom Kisling	Charlie Smoot Linda Van Matre	Dean Twedt Cathy Twedt	Joe Howard Earl Massie
Altar Care	Barbara Cook	Cathy Twedt	Jane Law	Jane Peterson
Counters	Patsy McComas Jean Day	Dee Fike Charlie Smoot	Becky Metz Ben Day	Barbara Cook John Perry
Nursery	Kirsten Cook Jon Day	Kerrianna Cornett Paula Ames	Christy Ward Faith Ward	Kathy Eckstam-Ames
Baked Goods	PICNIC	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>

Tidbits...

Thanks...

...to all those who participated in the church work day May 30th 8 am -2:30 pm! Tom Kisling, Matt Kisling, Starla Kisling, Brian Rundgren, Sunny Hammers, Pastor Carl Ames, and Devin Ames. Kathy Eckstam-Ames provided breakfast and Kitty Kelly-Smoot (with help from Charlie Smoot & Flo Williams) provided lunch.

A wayfaring and hungry stranger named James came into our building while we were eating lunch; we invited him to join us, which he did.

Work day accomplishments: The kitchen and nursery toys were cleaned, new curbs for our parking lot were installed, the outside of the church was painted, the wooden ramp was stained, the gutters on the pavilion were cleaned out, carpenter bee holes on the pavilion were sprayed with poison, and tree branches near the parking lot exit were trimmed back. Whew!

Camp Luther

Several of our youth attended Camp Luther June 21-27th and had a great time, making new friends and becoming reacquainted with "old" friends.

Thank you to all for supporting them financially through the special offering on the first Sunday of June, which was designated for scholarships for the youth to attend Camp Luther. (There was money leftover so that will be retained for youth attending Camp Luther next year.)

July 5 Picnic/Potluck

We will be gathering with St. Paul and Cross of Grace congregations at CTK right after worship to celebrate July 4th and to welcome the new pastor at St. Paul's, Kevin Mackey, and his wife Kathy and their just turned 6 year old lively granddaughter, Alexandria (Alex).

July 12 B'day Party

Jim Fankhanel's family warmly invites their CTK family to join them in celebrating Jim's 80th birthday, July 12th, 2-4 p.m in the Fellowship Hall. His birthday is actually July 14.

July 13-19 Gathering

Please pray for all those from around the nation attending The Lutheran Youth Gathering in Detroit, that the participants may grow in faith and the recipients of their love grow in their faith too!

Worship Committee

The hymn of the month for June was "Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading." We sang it all four Sundays in June, but in different places in the worship service. By the end of the month, people remarked how much better we sang it than at the first! We'll continue this practice!

Property Committee

One day last week it appeared as though our newer air conditioner was kaput. The other one also seemed to have issues. However, when Don Grant of Dandy Don's Heating and Air Conditioning came, he discovered that there was an issue on the telephone pole's equipment, so the power company was called, they fixed the problem, and our air conditioners functioned well once again, with a few new small parts (e.g. capacitor).

Kroger/Food Fair

Kroger (specifically, the Community Rewards Program) recently sent CTK a check for \$146.66 and Food Fair (again, Community Rewards) recently sent us a check for \$122.30. If you haven't yet signed up to help CTK through your purchases at these stores, please let Kathy know.



Road to Renewal ... Becky's Thanks to CTK

I'm not sure that I am the best person to write an article on the Road to Renewal. Not because I don't believe in it but because I feel so strongly about our church and the amazing God we serve that I'm not sure I can get my thoughts and feelings down in a way that will make sense.

There are so many thoughts, feelings and ideas that I want to share with you swirling around in my head that I'm having trouble grabbing any of them to express to you so please understand that this article comes from the heart.

I have attended Christ the King for 20 years. During this time I have experienced many of the major events in my life both good and bad - the birth and baptism of Sarah, the confirmation of Clara and Sarah, the graduation of both of them from high school and Clara from college, many medical issues with Sarah, the loss of Mark's parents, the loss of my parents and the loss of Mark.

Through all those years and all those experiences, the people of Christ the King have been there for me. You have laughed with me, rejoiced with me, cried with me and mourned with me. Your presence and prayers have at times been one of the only things I have had to help keep me going. Because of how important this church and its people

are to me, it worries me that we still seem to be struggling to grow.

When I attended the Synod Assembly in 2014, I heard a talk about the Road to Renewal program. It sparked my interest because I thought it might be a way to help our church. I kept bringing it up to different people and to council until we looked into it and decided to start the process here.

I realize that the Road to Renewal may not be the best or the only way to help our church grow but I still believe that it is one way to do it. I just want to find a way to share our church with more people that need love and support and show them that there is a God that loves them and is always with them because that is what this church and its members do for me on a regular basis.

I hope that everyone agrees that our church can only benefit from growth and renewal. I ask everyone to keep an open heart and mind to the ideas that come from the Road to Renewal or any other source that will bring us closer to each other and to God and bring more people to God.

With love and gratitude for all of you and the part you have all played in my life.

Becky Metz

R2R Notes

The question has been asked why we leave the last hymn and dismissal AFTER the Road to Renewal activity. It is because, when we break into small groups, we come back together to remind ourselves that we have been talking about God's #1 mission for us, that this is a Christ-centered activity (central and integral to our worship and praise of God), and that we are a congregation (it unites us as a whole once again). If you choose to leave early and feel like you are missing something from the whole worship experience, you are! We encourage you to stay through the dismissal. The future of our congregation truly depends upon you to do so.

Paul Wangerin, VP of our Synod Council and our R2R coach, visited with our congregation on June 28th and talked during the sermon time. He shared the good news that congregations engaged in the process of Road to Renewal have seen their congregations grow in faithfulness as well as in disciples. He also has genuine high hopes for our congregation from the feedback CTK's R2R team gave to him.



Bishop's Reflections on Synod Assembly

June 9, 2015

The concluding Resolution of Thanksgiving for the **2015 Synod Assembly** of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod began with these words – “The expression of the church, known as the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod of the ELCA has gathered together this first week of June, 2015 in Flatwoods, WV as the church together! We have worshiped together; we have prayed together, we have talked together, we have laughed together and we have shared meals together. We have prayed for the Holy Spirit to be present and active and have seen the work of the Spirit in many and various ways.”

The obvious highlight of the Assembly was the election of **The Rev. Matthew L. Riegel to serve as our third bishop** beginning September 1, 2015. We commend all of the nominees and those who allowed their names to go forward for this Call Process to proceed. Seven Pastors responded to three questions each that assisted the Assembly in their decision making process. Prior to the Fourth Ballot Pastors Matthew Riegel, Randolph Richardson and Sarah Lee Faulkner were provided five minutes as teaching mo-

ments. On the Fourth Ballot Pastor Matthew Riegel, having received more than 60% of the votes was declared elected to serve as our next bishop.

Our other major teaching moments came from **The Rev. Charles Lane**, a Stewardship expert and former professor at Luther Seminary. Pastor Lane reminded us that “all that we have and are, is not ours, but all belongs to God. That God’s Spirit moves us to experience the duty



and delight of generous giving and living.”

In addition to the keynote address we were blessed by **five Mission Moments** in which ministries from across the synod were lifted up and shared. We thank Beverly McDonald for her moment on prayer, John Perry for spreading the word, Larry Maxim on communion, our Madagascar travelers of Rev. Wanda Childs, Rev. Ian Reid and Helen Harms and Rev. Ian Reid and his power point of First Lu-

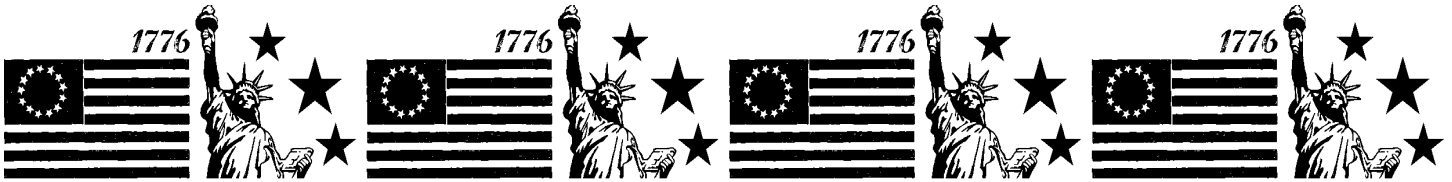
theran’s Community Garden.

Rev. Joel Richter challenged the Assembly to raise \$2,000 to “force” Bishop Dunkin to use the **Zip Line** at the National Youth Gathering in Detroit. To which Dunkin responded with a gift of the first \$100. It appeared that the Assembly was going to be \$17 short of their goal but several Assembly members joyfully offered to gift the remaining amount to see our bishop on a zip line. I am certain that at least one or more video will appear on Face Book during the week of July 15-19.

Within Bishop Dunkin’s final Assembly and report he lifted up and invited us to celebrate **the 45th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women!** Dunkin invited all of this synod’s female pastors to stand to be recognized. Plus we celebrated the ordinations of many pastors who have significant anniversaries this year in Bishop L. Alexander Black with 60 years of ordained ministry and Pastor Roger Harms who celebrates his 40th Anniversary this year.

The Assembly **celebrated Bishop Ralph Dunkin’s** 18 years of service as our Synodical Bishop with a bit of a roast and kind words during dinner on Friday evening. Many moments of joy were expressed throughout this Assembly





for Bishop Dunkin's ministry. Sherri Schafer, the Executive Director of Community Lutheran Partners, Inc. presented the bishop with a Lego Luther, created to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

The Secretary of the Church, The Rev. Chris Boerger, assisted the Assembly in carrying out our theme of "we are church together" by teaching us that the ELCA shows up. In commenting upon the two earthquakes in Nepal and the flooding in Texas, Secretary Boerger stated that the ELCA shows up and we stay until the last person has seen recovery.

This Assembly **witnessed more elections** than we have seen in a long time. With the Election of a new bishop we also elected Paul Wangerin to serve as Synod Vice President; Rev. Linda Muhly, Brian Felici, William Kohler IV, Amy Scott and Jaiden Courier to serve on Synod Council.

Elected to serve on the Synod Consultation Committee were Rev. Nathan Hall and Rev. Neil Cadle and Steve Gnegy. To the Discipline Committee we elected Rev. Jason Felici, Rev. Carl Ames and Joe Solberg. Elected to serve on the Gettysburg Seminary Board

was Rev. Sean Smith. Elected to serve as a part of the 2016 Church-wide Assembly were Rev. Wanda Childs, Faith Riegel, Timothy Crumitt, Subha Arthur and Devin Ames.

The Assembly had the opportunity to vote upon the **2016 Synod Budget and five Resolutions**. The first of these three encouraged us to study the Augsburg Confession; one resolution concerned children and poverty and one called for the creation of a Coordination Committee for the 2016 National Boy Scout Jamboree.

The 2015 Synod Assembly concluded with two Resolutions. The first naming The Rev. Ralph W. Dunkin **Bishop Emeritus** of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod. The second was the Resolution of Thanksgiving. Again, a quote from this Resolution: "Therefore be it resolved that we give thanks to God for the opportunity to be church together, for the presence, witness and ministry of **Helen Harms**, for the leadership, guidance, support, dedication and love of **Bishop Ralph Dunkin**, and for the willingness of to pick up the crozier as shepherd and defender as we go forward as church **Rev. Matthew Riegel** together.

This Synod has designated **Saturday, August 22, 2015** as the day to celebrate the retirement of Helen Harms and Bishop Ralph Dunkin. A worship service will be held at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Wheeling, WV at 2:00 p.m. followed by a reception in St. Mark's Fellowship Hall.

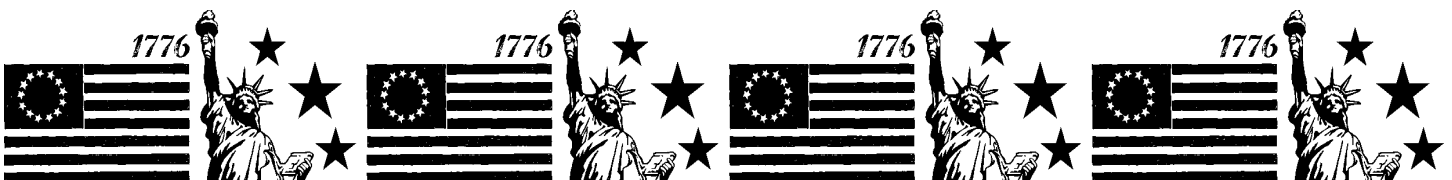
The date of the Service of Installation for our new bishop will be Saturday, **September 26, 2015 at Wesley Chapel** at Wesleyan College, Buchannon, WV. The time for this event has not yet been set.

Finally, as a Synod we owe a debt of gratitude to **the Synod's Transition Team**. Serving on our behalf have been Paul Wangerin, Laura Hall, Beverly McDonald, Dillon Muhly-Alexander, Rick Crumitt, George Friedline, Rev. Jessica Felici and Rev. Jerry Kliner.

Yours in our Lord's service,

+ Bishop Ralph W. Dunkin

Did you know...that 2 of the 6 people from our synod elected or named to go to the National Assembly in New Orleans in August 2016 are from CTK???
Subha Arthur and Devin Ames!
We can all be very proud!!!





June 27, 2015

Dear Friends,

Yesterday the air ways and social media was full of comments both for and against the Supreme Court ruling that “marriage equality is the law of the land.” Questions then started to flow as to what this means for churches and clergy.

One of the final paragraphs of the Supreme Court ruling reads as follows:

“Finally, it must be emphasized that religions, and those who adhere to religious doctrines, may continue to advocate with utmost, sincere conviction that, by divine precepts, same-sex marriage should not be condoned. The First Amendment ensures that religious organizations and persons are given proper protection as they seek to teach the principles that are so fulfilling and so central to their lives and faiths, and to their own deep aspirations to continue the family structure they have long revered. The same is true of those who oppose same-sex marriage for other reasons. In turn, those who believe allowing same-sex marriage is proper or indeed essential, whether as a matter of religious conviction or secular belief, may engage those who disagree with their view in an open and searching debate. The Constitution, however, does not permit the State to bar same-sex couples from marriage on the same terms as accorded to couples of the opposite sex.”

I continue to point to the ministry practices statement that we adopted at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly stating that these are congregational decisions. No one can force us to do a wedding we do not deem appropriate. This is still the case based upon the words of the Supreme Court that you have read above.

Congregations in the State of Maryland dealt with this more than two years ago when the State of Mary-

land voted to offer same-gender marriage. Congregations in West Virginia started to discuss this mission opportunity last fall when the Governor of West Virginia stated that same-gender marriage was now the law. Some of our congregations have agreed with this mission opportunity and others have decided that this is not their calling. The action of the Supreme Court allows denominations and congregations to determine what their mission emphasis will be.

Our social statement, “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” is a good place to begin a congregational discussion (www.elca.org).

I am fully aware that for many this is an emotionally charged issue. Is there a way for us to have this conversation without the anger and rancor? Is there a way to begin this conversation with love in our hearts and a willingness to learn with and from LGBT men and women? I am not saying that you or your congregation must change. I am challenging us to have conversations from a Christian perspective so that we learn, love, and grow in understanding with our sisters and brothers who are LGBT.

Tomorrows Gospel lesson from Mark 5 calls us to “stop living in fear and to live by faith.” The media seems to want us to be afraid. Too many posts to social media come from a sense of fear rather than a faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus. We are called to live without fear and by faith in Him.

Yours in our Lord’s service,

+ Bishop Ralph

Pastor Wanda Childs was supposed to be the pastor in charge our group attending The Gathering in Detroit, but she must have hip replacement surgery as soon as possible so cannot attend. Please keep her in your prayers!

Pastor Louise Knotts died on June 29th and her funeral will be at Christ Lutheran Church in Vienna WV on July 6th at 11 am. Please keep her family in your prayers!