



July 2017

# Trinity Times

Newsletter  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Experience God. Find Community.

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## Pancake Breakfast - July 2<sup>nd</sup>

On the first Sunday of each month, Holy Trinity is opening our doors to the Elgin community for a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice. The congregation is welcome to come and enjoy breakfast and meet some people from the community. If you would like to help cook, serve, or clean-up, please talk to Bob Langlois.



## Kane County Cougars Game - July 12<sup>th</sup>



We have tickets for the Kane County Cougars game! Tickets are \$5 per person. The game begins at 6:30pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in

the back of the worship space.

## Elder Cafe - July 19<sup>th</sup>

On **Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**, Elder Cafe will celebrate National Peach Ice Cream Day! Bet you'll never guess what's for dessert! All are welcome! Bring friends too! Sign up on the glass table in the back of the worship space so we know how many to plan for.



## Summer Lunch - through August 15<sup>th</sup>

All children who need a lunch are welcome to come have lunch every week day during the summer. The lunches are provided by the Northern Illinois Food Bank.



## Hearts and Hands in Service - July 22<sup>nd</sup>



Come join Hearts & Hands In Service for the Saturday morning shift at the Northern Illinois Food Bank as we host our first Multi-Generational Service Project!

We have reserved 20 spots and want to fill them with the young and the young at heart. This event is Multi-Generational so it's open to everyone between the ages of 8 and 108! The Northern Illinois Food Bank is in Geneva and we can coordinate car pools if there is a need.

Sign up at the information desk or contact the Q's at 847-488-9956 or "on-line" by sending an email to [rquathamer@yahoo.com](mailto:rquathamer@yahoo.com). Space is limited so don't wait!

Where two or three are gathered, there I am among them. Matthew 18:20

*Church Picnic - July 23<sup>rd</sup>*

The annual church picnic will be held at **10:45am on Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>**. You



are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. The Witness Committee will provide meat, drinks, and tableware. The picnic will be held indoors down in Lind Hall. This is a Thrivent Action Team Project. Invite friends and family to come too!

In addition to your food item you are invited to bring one or more of the following items that we will donate to the Community Crisis Center:

**Food pantry:**

Ramen noodles  
Boxes of individual oatmeal packets  
Canned tuna (preferably w/ pop tops)  
Spaghetti sauce  
Pasta  
Boxes of saltine crackers  
Canned chili  
Canned fruit  
Mac-N-Cheese

**Toiletries:**

Travel size items shampoo, shower gel etc...  
Shampoo/Conditioner  
Shower Gel  
Deodorant  
Razors

**Diapers**

All sizes needed, but especially sizes 5 and 6

*Blessing of the Backpacks - August 13<sup>th</sup>*

Another fall is approaching! It is a time for students to return to the classroom and for other fall schedules to resume. Holy Trinity will be having a Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone celebration on August 13<sup>th</sup> during worship. We are asking that all students, teachers, and school support staff bring backpacks or another kind of school bag to be blessed.

*Festival Choir*

We have a short video clip on our facebook page of The Festival Choir that toured and sang in Germany in celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. Pam Zoller, Mark Kuntz, Heidi Hohman, and Cecilia Anderson were part of the choir. If you would like to see more of the choir's music clips, visit You Tube and type in St. Mark's Festival Choir 2017.

*Youth Mission Trip*

The youth will present a slide show and talk about their mission trip on Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> during worship.

*Milestone Ministry*

What is Milestone Ministry?

Milestone ministry is a way for us to celebrate the promises made in baptism, provide learning opportunities for families, and recommit ourselves as a congregation to nurture one another as the body of Christ as we mark "milestones" in a person's journey of faith. The first milestone is baptism—when we hear the words proclaimed to us "child of God, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever." Throughout a child's growing years, there are other times that we make a point to connect as a congregation and celebrate once again this identity as a child of God, a brother and sister in Christ. Of course, milestones don't only happen when we are young. Perhaps you can think of special moments in your life when it has been especially important to be surrounded by the body of Christ, and when you have been especially thankful for the support and love of the community. Milestone ministry is for everyone—for children, parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors—all of us together to remind one another that we are part of the body of Christ, fellow workers in the kingdom of God.

Whenever you have a special occasion in your life that you would like to celebrate with your church family, please call or email the church office.

*The Journey*

Check out our new worship service at 10:45am on Sundays. The Journey is short, interactive, has communion, prayers, and music. It's a very different way of connecting with God. Invite someone to come with you!

*Pastor Robert E. Linstrom's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

A birthday open house to celebrate Pastor Linstrom's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday will be held on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00pm-4:00pm at Bethany Lutheran Church, 76 West Crystal Lake Ave., Crystal Lake, IL 60014. This casual open house will be hosted by Pastor Linstrom's sons and their families. Light hors d'oeuvres and cake will be served. A short program will be held at 3:00pm. Pastor Linstrom

has requested no gifts, but if you would like to make a gift in celebration of your friendship, please consider a gift to the Bethany Fine Arts Series (checks payable to Bethany Lutheran Church).



## Pastor's COLUMN

### REFORMATION

For those of us who have grown up within the Lutheran church, the word Reformation takes on special meaning as we annually commemorate the theological work of Martin Luther beginning with the 95 Theses in the year 1517. However, it is always important for us to remember that the word itself means to re-form, not split apart. It was never Luther's desire to see the Church split into factions and denominations, but rather to simply reform the Church into a welcoming place where Grace and Love stand at the center of a unified worldwide community.

As we prepare for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this October, it is worth noting that above all else, Luther believed that we are called by the Holy Spirit to be One Body of Christ, the Priesthood of All Believers, unified as brothers and sisters around the extreme Grace and Love of the Gospel. The very idea that Luther and his followers were ex-communicated from the Church, and that his followers had begun to call themselves 'Lutherans' rather than Christians, was of great disappointment to Luther. In his eyes, the Body of Christ was meant to be unified and welcoming of all people and all theological discussions. In addition, Luther cringed to think that people in his day were following him more than Christ, at least by name. As a result, the Reformation has never been seen as a celebration of independence, as much as a celebration of Grace and the movement of the Holy Spirit within an ever evolving and Resurrecting Church.

With this as our understanding of the Reformation, the ELCA and the Roman Catholic Church began talks in 1999 with the long-term goal of reconnecting through our faith. (The ELCA has already created Full Communion agreements with other denominations such as the Episcopal Church and the UCC.) These talks have led to many exciting possibilities, and were culminated earlier this year when several of our ELCA Bishops were invited to the Vatican for an audience and worship with the Pope! The possibilities are endless and exciting. IT IS OUR GOAL AS THE ELCA TO MARK THIS 500TH ANNIVERSARY BY WORKING TOWARD ANOTHER REFORMATION – A REFORMING OF THE CHURCH INTO THE UNIFIED BODY OF CHRIST AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN INTENDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. Ultimately, our calling is for the Body of Christ to actually worship and serve as the Body of Christ in this world, not as a house divided.

At a local level, this has led our ELCA clergy to an exciting conversation with some of our Elgin-area Catholic clergy. As a result of these talks, we are planning a joint worship service on October 29<sup>th</sup> (Reformation Sunday) in the afternoon as part of our 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reformation Commemoration. More details will be provided as the time approaches. However, the idea that we can come together in prayer and song 500 years later is a monumental step in the right direction.

Meanwhile, talks continue at high levels of each Church as we work with a goal of eventually restoring our denominations to

Full Communion with one another someday, as God has always intended. For our part at Holy Trinity, we will both celebrate our Lutheran Heritage, while also making efforts to be welcoming role models of God's Grace and Unity to all. As we look to the months ahead, this will be an exciting year for all of us!

Rev Jeffrey G Mikyska

### Summer Faith and Fun

The children had a great week of exploring God's great world! They made tie-died T-shirts. They released butterflies. They learned about fruits and vegetables that are super heroes and got to taste them. The bee lady fascinated them with stories and facts about bees. They walked to the Lord's Park Museum and learned about trees and even hugged them! Bible stories, games, art, music, snacks and lunch were a part of every day along with a lot of fun with water!

The video of the week is on our website and facebook page if you would like to watch it.

Thanks to all the volunteers who made this week very special!



### Our Sympathy

**Daniel Brewbaker** passed away on May 14<sup>th</sup>. He was a pianist, composer and poet. Daniel's memorial service was held on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Roger Frederickson** passed away on May 4<sup>th</sup>. He served during the Korean War and worked at Illinois Toolworks. A graveside service was held on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Lorraine Lenz** passed away on June 14<sup>th</sup>. She was a lifelong resident of Elgin and was an owner of Lenz Concrete Construction Company. A graveside service was held on June 27<sup>th</sup>.



### Trees



A spruce tree has been donated and planted on our south lawn in memory of Brian Rothman.

This tree along with the four other trees that were planted earlier will be dedicated later this month.

Metro Chicago Synod Assembly

The assembly heard the keynote address by the Rev. Kathryn Mary Lohre, Assistant to the ELCA Presiding Bishop and executive for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations who spoke about the connections the ELCA has with Roman Catholics, Muslims, and Historically Black Churches. After her report, the assembly welcomed the Very Rev. Thomas A. Baima, Archdiocesan Vicar for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Archdiocese of Chicago, who brought greetings from Blase Cardinal Cupich, and spoke about the synod and archdiocese renewal of the covenant made between the two in 1989, and the service on Reformation Day that will be held at Holy Name Cathedral. Find out more at <http://www.renewingcovenant.com>.

After devotions on Saturday morning, and an update on the synod's Million Dollar ELCA World Hunger Challenge, Bishop Miller gave his report, and participants also heard the churchwide office report which updated the larger work of the church.

Mr. Terry Henderson I was elected as synod vice president, and the Rev. Erin Clausen was elected as synod secretary. Vice president Nanette Dahlke chose not to stand for re-election after serving for 16 years, and secretary Rev. Steve Srock chose not to stand for re-election after serving for eight years. Both officers gave their final reports to the assembly and their service was thanked with acclamation.

Council

- President:** Jordan Wildermuth
- Vice-President/Worship:** Jackie Kutina
- Secretary:** Heather Friedel
- Building & Grounds:** Scott Kolakowski
- Caring:** Mary Cook
- Learning:** Bob Jones
- Outreach/Stewardship:** Bruce Woerner
- Service:** Bob Langlois

Worship Times

- Saturday:** 5:00pm
- Sunday:** 9:30am and 10:45am

World Hunger Challenge

Meeting in assembly June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016, voting members unanimously passed RES. 03-16 To Support ELCA World Hunger, which resolved "that the congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod accept the challenge to raise one million dollars for ELCA World Hunger between June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, and October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017; and that 100% of the offerings from the 2016 and 2017 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly worship services be designated for ELCA World Hunger."



The new challenge total for the synod's ELCA World Hunger Challenge is \$627,656, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017!

Holy Trinity's project to help raise funds for World Hunger is our cows. Purchase a cow for \$50 and paint it. Bring it back and put it in our herd!

Where Hearts Gather

**Matthew 18:20** – "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them."

This particular verse has always held deep meaning for me as a pastor. It rings especially true when I contemplate God's presence in every heart, for a heart can only beat if God wills it to - and breathes life into its lungs. Indeed, God even intentionally and meticulously plants as a seed in every heart the Grace and Love that exists far beyond our human comprehension, giving meaning to our lives as our hearts are divinely purposed to serve as God's place of operation within our world.

As a result, I have come to see this verse over the years as a reminder that wherever two or three HEARTS are gathered, there God is amongst us. It is God's Love which is rhythmically beating as we gather in community around baptismal waters, sacramental meals, and favored hymns. It is God's Grace which is gently flowing as we gather in service at food pantries, disaster zones, and homeless shelters. It is God's Light which is brightly shining as we gather in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in prisons, hospitals and refugee settlements. God is present wherever our hearts gather, because I can truly see God outwardly in the 'other' - just as much as I can truly see God when I quietly turn inward within myself. Thus, although I may never quite wrap my mind around this, I also have come to know that my heart beats as one with the Heart of God itself, which remarkably means that my

own simplistic little heart, which I so often take for granted from moment to moment, amazingly serves as a mirror reflection of the Loving Creator to all the world! What an awe-inspiring and beautiful thought this is!

So, on this day, I give thanks because God's Heart has somehow been made into my life's mission. I give thanks because our gatherings are somehow made to be holy by the presence of God in the heartbeat of our community. I give thanks because somehow I can see God in you, even as you see God in me. I give thanks, because wherever at least two or three of us gather together, God's Heart pumps an incomprehensible Peace into these sacred moments, regardless of whether they be filled with sorrow, conflict or joy. I give thanks, because we are many, often feeble, hearts that yet are beating as one holy mission. I simply give thanks - to God's Sacred Heart. Amen.

-Rev Jeffrey G Mikyska



### Remember Your Church and Favorite Charities!

I recently had a conversation with Tim Urness from the ELCA Foundation. Did you know that less than 10% of the American population includes their church or a charity in their Will or Trust? A couple generations ago, it was the norm for people to leave something in their estate to their faith community or a charity.



So what has changed? Over 80% of the population states that they have simply never thought about it, and never been asked to think about it. Yet, these charities and faith communities are dependent upon our gifts, both in life and in death, to continue the ministry they so lovingly and diligently work toward in our world. Think for a moment about how much you give to Holy Trinity annually, or to any charity of your choice annually – and then imagine that charity suddenly not receiving that gift anymore. Beyond the deeply personal loss of a member of the church's or charity organization's family, is also the need for that group to now contemplate the continuation of their ministry without you. This can be very stressful.

Any gift whatsoever in a Will or Trust left to a church or charity can go a long way, and some gifts can even sustain that ministry for years to come. As someone who works with both our church budget and the budget of a not-for-profit foundation, I can assure you that every gift – regardless of size – is crucial and makes a difference.

It is always important for us to keep our Will or Trust up to date. The next time you look at yours, please keep in mind your church and/or favorite charities.

God's Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Jeff

### Simply Giving



This summer is a great time to start giving your offering electronically! If you're at the beach, or sitting on a mountain top or even just

sleeping in, your offering still helps us carry on our ministry. Ask Beth Quathammer for a form to fill out. It's as simple as that! Simply Giving can be changed, started or stopped at any time.

### Imagine Campaign

Our next project will be the outside stairs on the west side of the building. The Property Team and the Council have contracted with an architect who will draw plans for the stairwell and also decide how to fix the stairs to the sanctuary. After the plans are approved by the City of Elgin, we will get bids from contractors to do the projects. Thanks for your continuing support!

