

Trinity Times

Proclaiming Christ's Love through Witness & Service

September 2019



Join us for a special coffee hour Sunday, September 15th, in honor of all the amazing volunteers that serve at Holy Trinity!

*Altar Guild needs some help setting up communion on Sunday mornings!
Contact Jackie Kutina if you would like more info or to sign up!*

From the Pastor...

THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF STEWARDSHIP

The word **stewardship**, when defined in its most literal form, refers to the task of supervising or taking care of something. This is a role we play every single moment of our lives, as we serve as stewards of our homes and our families, amongst other things. It is also a role we need to embrace as a spiritual practice, for God places such remarkable gifts such as love and grace for the world into our care. Take a moment to think about that... God places Holy Love and Holy Grace into our care! God has faith in us! What might this mean? What do we do with such gifts?

Look around you. What exactly belongs solely to you? Or are all the things you so deeply cherish just simply in your care for the time being? Our perspective changes when we realize the difference between simple ownership versus the honor of stewardship. For example, we do not own the beautiful creation we live within, but rather the life God personally molded around us has been entrusted into our care in this day and age. We do not own our spiritual gifts, but rather they have been divinely planted within us for use during the time we have to spend in community with others. People will come and go in our lives, but they are likely to remember us for our stewardship of spiritual gifts while in their presence. This is what makes the practice of stewardship such an honor. It becomes a vehicle by which we bless one another and God.
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Dementia Caregivers Support Group

I am pleased to announce that starting August 28th and continuing every 4th Wednesday of the month, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 357 Division St, Elgin, will be the host location of an Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group. It will be from 10am to 11am and include supportive conversation and education. All caregivers of loved ones in the Elgin area who have various stages of dementia are welcome. It will be a time to get together with others to share practical information, coping with stress, and sharing feelings and experiences that come with caring for a loved one with dementia. I look forward to facilitating this group.
Peace and Blessings,
David Rohlwing

Financial Snapshot

Income YTD \$144,530.52
Expenses YTD \$161,265.16
Imagine \$13,464.00
LOC \$120,814.04

Interested in serving in the church office once a week or every other week? We need a few more people who can answer phones, open the door, & help with bulletins. Contact Deaconess Andrea or Jackie today! Thanks!

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By this train of thought, Holy Trinity is not really *our* church either, even though we often use such language. It is instead an opportunity to care for a precious ministry that was planted by God over a century ago and has been passed down from previous generations to us. To this end, our time here is a divine calling of stewardship. The question we must ask of ourselves is not what I get out of this church, but rather what can I contribute in order to care for that which God has first planted and cherished. Thus, stewardship is a *spiritual practice* of the church, and not simply a matter of church business.

I encourage you to take some time to contemplate how you practice stewardship as a spiritual part of your faith. In what ways are the roles of caring for those you love a spiritual calling? Is tending your garden on a Saturday morning a spiritual exercise for you? Do you see plants and creatures roaming around God's creation as God's beloved you are responsible to care for? Do you experience the offering of your gifts and resources in church as a form of worship?

Stewardship takes many forms and occurs repeatedly in our everyday lives. It helps us to see and recognize the gifts God has placed in our corner of the world. It is a spiritual practice through which we grow to appreciate our blessings. Stewardship is a divine calling, in which God entrusts that which God cherishes into our care. Stewardship is a moment in which we respond to the faith God has shown in us! We have much to be thankful for, and much to care for. Thanks be to God! Amen.

-Pastor Jeff Mikyska

Wednesday Café



September 18, 2019

Noon

Sign up at church or call the office!

Confirmation 2019-2020 Youth grades 3-9

Wednesdays 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Confirm not Conform...a new look at the small catechism

“We cannot and should not force any one to believe,” Martin Luther writes in the Small Catechism. Yet, as Luther well understood, it is by spending time considering the essential elements of faith that we can come to believe and integrate what we come to believe into our lives and actions.

This curriculum has general sessions on Scripture, church history, the Nicene Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, worship, world religions, and social justice, CnC Lutheran includes sessions on:

- Martin Luther and the beginning of the Reformation
- The meaning of Sacraments in the Lutheran tradition
- The church year
- The priesthood of all believers

Date	Place	Lesson
9/18/2019	HT	Session 1
10/2/2019	CTL	Session 2
10/16/2019	CKI	Synagogue
10/20/2019	Downtown	Crop Walk
11/13/2019	HT	Session 3
11/27/2019		Thanksgiving Eve Service

Please let Deaconess Andrea or
Pastor Jeff know if your child can
participate!
or if you have any questions!

Youth & Children’s Ministry – Fall 2019

The youth and children have many activities planned this year! See Deaconess Andrea for packet of info for all the activities!

Event	Date & Time	Place	Cost	age group
River Clean-up	Sat, Sept 21	South Elgin	None	All ages
1 st Bibles – preschool, 3 rd & 6 th grade	Sunday, Sept. 28- during worship	HT	None	
HT youth group meeting	Sunday, September 28 after worship	HT – Youth group room	None	Gr. 6-12
LOMC gr, 3-6 retreat, Registration due 10/1	October 11-12, 7 pm – 4 pm	LOMC, Oregon ,IL	\$65	Gr.3-6
HT youth group meeting	October 13 after worship	HT – youth room	None	Gr. 6-12
CROP WALK	Sunday, October 20	Civic Plaza	bring donations	all ages
LOMC High School retreat registration due Oct 13	Nov 1-2 7pm-4pm	LOMC, Oregon, IL	\$65	Gr. 9-12
LOMC Jr. High Retreat - registration due 10/20	Nov. 8-10	LOMC, Oregon, IL	\$145	Gr.7-8
HT Youth group meeting	Nov 10 after worship	HT youth group room	none	Gr. 6-12

DIAKONIA CLASSES

Holy Trinity has been chosen as one of three sites in the greater Chicago area to host this two year program. Classes run on most Saturdays (9am-noon) from September to early May. You can register online by speaking to Pastor Jeff. There are six different teachers throughout the year. Registration forms are available at http://www.mcselca.org/Diakonia_Application_rev.pdf

Diakonia is a two year process of spiritual formation and theological education for baptized members of the Lutheran Church. This process occurs in three basic ways:

By thorough grounding in the classic seminary disciplines of practical, systematic, historical, and Biblical theology;

By identifying particular skills and aptitudes in ministry, and encouraging their use in the local parish;

By providing spiritual growth through worship, retreats, and a supportive community of fellow students, mentors, and instructors.

These are the tools Diakonia uses to help equip God's people for service in parish and neighborhood ministries. The primary theme and focus of the Diakonia experience is the word of Jesus in scripture (e.g. Mark 10:43): "Let the one who would be great among you be your servant (Greek: Diakonos).

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

What is the emphasis of Diakonia?

Diakonia emphasizes the baptismal vocation of all Christians to serve as did our Lord Jesus. Participants are usually already leaders in their parishes, and have a high degree of commitment to the ministry of the Church. They want to deepen their life of faith and ground their baptismal commitment to serve in the scriptural, theological, liturgical, and historical traditions of the Church. They are committed to serve through the Church in a variety of ways: teaching, administration, liturgical leadership, action for social justice, evangelism, visitation of the sick, community organization, youth work, ministry among the elderly, and the like. In every way they seek, and are helped by diakonia, to grow closer to the image and example of Christ the servant.

How is diakonia structured?

The diakonia curriculum consists of twelve courses, six per academic year. Each course is 5 sessions in length, and meets weekly for 3 hour sessions. Weekly assignments and reading reflect the twin purposes of relating subject matter to the students' context of life and ministry (family, parish, neighborhood area of ministry), and of giving a solid background to the topic. Students work at their own level, and assignments reflect the understanding that students are already busy in their families, jobs, and parish. Typically, students average approximately two to five hours of studies per week in addition to class time.

How much does diakonia cost?

Tuition: Tuition will be \$360 (each year for the two-year program). Tuition may be paid by class. Diakonia has a financial aid program.

Books: Actual costs vary from course to course, but instructors try to provide materials for \$25 or less per course.

Retreats: The number of retreats is determined by year, normally there is one. Recent retreats have cost participants approximately \$65 per weekend.

Fees: A nonrefundable registration fee of \$25 is required at the time of registration. An additional fee of \$25 at the conclusion of the program covers graduation expenses, including the presentation of a commemorative diakonia cross.

Memorial Bricks – Fill out the attached form or fill one out at church to purchase a beautiful memorial brick today!