

Experience God. Find Community.

Proclaiming Christ's Love through Witness and Service

August 2020

Trinity Times

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church * Elgin, IL

Musical Notes...

During my past 12 years of serving various congregations, I have experienced many different types of services. As a substitute musician, I get to experience church in a way most people don't ever get to. Most people find a church and attend that one for years, perhaps a lifetime without getting out and visiting other churches. For various periods of time, I played for a different church every Sunday. This adds up to many different congregations served, many instruments played, and an endless list of pastors I have worked with. Not only would I get to see how different churches have church, but I would get to work hand in hand so to speak with the leaders of their congregations. While all churches follow the same concept of how a church service should go, you quickly notice similarities and differences between congregations. One of the things I noticed was how some churches feel like clockwork. Pastors may tell you prior to the service "we do not want dead time or silence". If nothing is happening, I was to fill in with music until the next event would occur. One congregation I served was not happy with the amount of silence there was between the liturgy and start of communion (a mere 5 seconds, as I was specifically told). I never understood why things were rushed all the time, why something always had to be happening. When I asked the pastor why he felt that something needed to constantly be happening, he told me that silence shows uncertainty and unpreparedness – a service with any amount of silence looks sloppy to the congregation. Cont'd p. 4

VISIT US ONLINE holytrinityelgin.com



Summer Events

Outdoor Worship

Saturday, August 8

5:00 p.m.

Featuring some of the music from VBS!

Saturday, August 22

5:00 p.m.

Communion Service

Blessing for school kids.

We will have chairs set up, feel free to bring your own!

Wear a mask please!



FROM THE DEACONESS:

Community, Compassion, Collaboration!

VBS 2020 just ended. In my over 25 years participating in various VBS programs, this year was the first time I helped lead a virtual VBS! A definite learning curve! But it was made possible by three key components: Community, Compassion, and Collaboration!

Community – it took a community of leaders here at HT to produce, send out info, & teach the kids this year. It took a community pulling together to be willing to learn a new way to share God’s love with kids this year and it took families at home supporting the children.

Compassion – This year VBS was called “Compassion Camp.” The kids (and adults!) learned how to be compassionate to their neighbors, families, and themselves. In a stressful time in our history, this was so important to teach children these values. I think the song on the last day sums up the camp nicely: *May we be filled with compassion. May we be filled to the top of our hearts. When we have the power to make something right. May we show God’s love. May we be shown compassion. May we be found in the center of peace, when we have needs that others can meet. May we find God’s love.*

Collaboration – An exciting part of this VBS was that all 4 ELCA Elgin congregations participated in this program! Working with other leaders it gave the children a chance to meet other kids from Elgin and around the country, and each congregation could share the gifts from their community. It was pure joy to serve with the many people from CTL, Zion, and Bethlehem!

Special thanks to Jordan, Emory, Maddie, Matthew, Hannah, and Nathan for sharing their musical talent!

This important ministry took place only because all three of these C’s came together – community, compassion, and collaboration, - centered in Christ. I think as we look to the future of HT and the larger church these important concepts *plus lots of creativity* to dream of new ways to teach the faith and serve others will be key to the church continuing to grow disciples in a post-COVID world. I am excited to start dreaming and serving with you! May we be filled with compassion for ourselves and others as we navigate together this new world.



Peace,

Deaconess Andrea

A Breath Prayer Exercise to Help You Face Coronavirus

You pray the first line slowly breathing in and the second line slowly breathing out

Lord God, fill me with your Holy Spirit.

I receive your love,
and release my insecurity

I receive your joy,
and release my unhappiness

I receive your peace,
and release my anxiety

I receive your patience,
and release my impulsiveness

I receive your kindness,
and release my indifference

I receive your goodness,
and release my ungodliness

I receive your faithfulness,
and release my disloyalty

I receive your gentleness,
and release my severity

I receive your self-control,
and release my self-indulgence

<https://sheridanvoysey.com/coronavirus-is-going-to-demand-much-of-us-this-might-help/>



New Ministry Teams Forming!

Communication Team – Wednesday, August 5th at 6:15 p.m.

Worship Team – Sunday, August 23rd 11:00 a.m.

Both are hybrid events – contact Deaconess Andrea to attend in person or via Zoom.

I finally got the answer to my question that I pondered on why services seemed so rushed.

In college, I attended some very moving worship services. They by no means were holidays or special times of the church year, just the average Sunday worship – likely one of the infinite number of Sundays between Pentecost and Advent (June through December). Even when I figured out why these services were so much more enjoyable for me, it was still difficult to wrap my mind around it. These services were not rushed. The liturgy was never just going through the motions. The sermon felt like a nice conversation rather than someone speaking at you. The service wasn't sped through just to get everything in and leave exactly 60 minutes after the service began. The silences and pauses made the service that much more meaningful. You had time to contemplate what was just said and time to prepare for what was next. Church wasn't being hurried just to get everyone out and get the next service started. People weren't panicking when there was 15 seconds of silence between the gathering of the offering and preparation for communion. We were all there worshipping together at a relaxing pace. It didn't feel sloppy as the one pastor once told me, quite the opposite. It felt connecting, bringing all the people worshipping together with the pastor, the music, and to Christ. When I brought this up to one of the pastors that conducted worship in this manor, his response was simply "show me where in the Bible it says church needs to be exactly 60 minutes long, not a minute too early or late. A whole day was set aside for rest and worship". That was a very thought provoking statement to hear. We often times get so stuck in tradition and habits or pointing out the nuances that occur in worship on a weekly basis that we push aside the notion of why we are truly in worship. Next time you are in worship, look for those pauses. Use that time to reflect on your connection with Christ.

- Matt Wahl

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Every Sunday morning on AM
WRMN 1410
Live-Stream
go to holytrinityelgin.com and follow link or watch on our
YouTube Channel

Quilting Queens

The quilters are back at work! They are working on the 1st and 4th Tuesday of the month, socially distant style. Thank you ladies!

Other notes...

The August Newsletter is sponsored by Carol Stafford in honor of her August birthday!

At the first Saturday evening worship, those in attendance were invited to write a prayer concern on a strip of fabric. Then we attached all of them to a wire circle which is hanging in the sanctuary. **You are invited to send a prayer request in (either by mail or e-mail) and I will write it on a piece of fabric and add it to the circle of prayers.**

If you need pastoral care please reach out to Chaplain David Rohlwing or Deaconess Andrea Delaney.
Chaplain David: home 847-695-2745
or email dwrohlwing@att.net
Deaconess Andrea: cell 847-504-7029
or
deaconessandrea@holytrinityelgin.com
Church office: 847-742-2025

Council & Staff:

Jackie Kutina, President
Robert Langlois, Vice-President
Candace Grzadziel, Secretary
Brian Janz
Ursula Digman
Scott Kolakowski
Bruce Cook

Matt Wahl, Music Director
Deaconess Andrea Delaney



Thank you to the many volunteers who carry out the ministry of HT!

Soup Kettle – Sunday and Friday evening volunteers

Community breakfast – 1st & 3rd Sunday mornings

Lawn Mowers and weeders/trimmers

Water ministry volunteer

Book & food barn volunteer

Property team, who have been keeping necessary PPE around church and making sure things are safe for all who enter.

Special worship leaders

Council

Mask makers

Quilters

Counters and bookkeepers

Wednesday morning volunteers who get the 40 bulletins out every week

Volunteers who receive & serve the Northern Illinois Food Bank school lunches, Mon – Fri

A donor who purchased a new baptism bowl!

The care team who sends out hundreds of cards a month

All those who call/text others!

Radio booth announcers

Garden volunteers

VBS leaders

All those who pray for HT

Families who faithfully “bring” their kids to church either by watching or listening!

It takes a community to share God’s love! May we be compassionate to ourselves, other members, and our neighbors as we serve in our corner of Elgin!

Financial Snapshot:

As of June 30, 2020

YTD income: \$ 136,250.02

YTD expense: \$ 136,765.06

LOC balance: \$140,570.73

Imagine balance: \$ 14,066.14

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Please consider sponsoring Radio Hour (\$100), 7-Day Candle (\$8), Bulletins (\$25), or the Newsletter (\$50) during this time. **The Radio, printed bulletins for those who aren’t online, and Newsletter are vital communication ministries during this time!**

Thank you! E-mail

deaconessandrea@holyltrinityelgin.com or call the church if you would like to sponsor a week.

Call Committee

The call committee will soon be forming!

If you are interested in more information on the call process in the ELCA, go to <https://www.elca.org/call-process>.

If you feel called to be on the committee to discern the next pastor please send a letter/e-mail to the council president, Jackie.

The council will then appointment the six member call committee.