

June 2018



Trinity Times

Newsletter
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Experience God. Find Community.
A Community Following in the Footsteps of Christ.

Day of Service and Renewal
Saturday, June 30th

Save the date and watch for more information about the exciting “Day of Renewal” here at Holy Trinity. We’re looking for volunteers of all ages for a day of service involving home projects and visitations with those who would enjoy the company. After working in and around the homes of our members in need that day, we will come together at the Saturday evening worship service to celebrate the renewed spirit brought on by demonstrating our commitment to being a Community Following in the Footsteps of Christ.



As we work around Elgin, our youth will be working around Houston! The Spirit is truly using us to make a difference all around the world!

Youth Gathering: This Changes Everything!

Our youth will be spending the end of June with 30,000 other teenagers at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. This is an event that is held once every three years in different cities around the nation. The theme for this year’s Gathering is: This Changes Everything!

The theme was derived from the words of Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God.” This particular scriptural verse is central to our Lutheran faith. Grace is a gift of God that is not at all earned by any merit of our own. It changes our lives and our perspectives. Grace promises that we are worthy in God’s eyes regardless of our shortcomings. Simply put, we love because we are first loved by God.

Incredibly, God’s creation is glorious despite being filled with those of us who are imperfect in every way. This really does change everything!!! Each day of the Gathering will bring with it a different theme for our youth. They will see that God’s Call changes everything; that God’s Love changes everything; that God’s Grace changes everything; that God’s Hope changes everything; and finally that Jesus Himself changes everything.

Here at Holy Trinity, we will spend the month of June also studying these themes in small group Bible studies. Look for opportunities to come join us at several different times each week. The same Grace that changes everything flows through our congregation and our lives each and every day! Thanks be to God!

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

Youth Gathering Missions

Each Youth Gathering, the youth of the ELCA and their home congregations take on several mission projects. This year's Gathering in Houston is no exception. The following efforts will be undertaken in an effort to "Change Everything".

1) There will be a massive Blood Drive held throughout the week for the 30,000 participants of the Youth Gathering. There is always a need for blood, and local hospitals in Houston are still reeling from last September's massive hurricane. Every participant will have the option to donate blood at some point during the week.

2) Blast Off For Books – As with any large urban area, education is a major area of concern for Houston. Approximately 60% of Houston children lack reading-readiness skills upon entering kindergarten, and 40% of Houston's teenagers fail reading and writing exams required for graduation upon their first administration. Thus, the Gathering is raising up literacy as a major theme of this year's event. Participants from around the nation have been asked to bring children's books (from a specific list) to this year's Gathering. In past Youth Gatherings, up to 1,000,000 books have been donated to schools in Detroit and New Orleans!

We are collecting specific children's books to take with us to the gathering. The books titles were given to us by the school system in Houston. From our two churches we are taking: any of the Bad Kitty books (a series), Matilda by Ronald Dahl, Wonder by Raquel Palacio, and The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt. Books can be new or gently used. If you would like to donate bring to church. Thanks!!!

3) **God's Global Barnyard** – This is a ministry of the ELCA Good Gifts program. Here at Holy Trinity we are collecting \$20 donations to help create honeybee farms. Besides the honey for consumption, soaps and candles can also be from the wax. To learn more, go to www.ELCA.org/goodgifts We have raised over \$100 so far! Thanks!

4) **Service Projects** – Each youth group will be assigned to one afternoon of service around Houston. This can range from working with children in orphanages to rebuilding neighborhoods damaged by last year's record flooding in Houston. We are not yet sure what project our youth will be assigned to, but we do know they will have some great experiences to share upon their return home!

Upcoming Youth Group Dates!!!

Saturday, June 2 – Spaghetti dinner at Holy Trinity. Youth set-up begins at 4:00pm

Friday, June 8 6:00pm – Saturday June 9 9:00 am

Youth in grades 6-12 overnight at Elgin Fire Museum Dinner \$5 per person Need chaperones! Children (under 6th grade) and their parents are invited from 6:00 – 9:00pm for the program.

Saturday, June 16 - Visit St. Sophia, Elgin to learn about the Greek Orthodox faith! Meet at Holy Trinity at 10:00am to carpool.

August 5 – Interfaith Youth Gathering...join other youth from around the Elgin area for food, games, and more! Organized by Kristin Delaney

August 12 – ELCA back to school youth gathering! All 4 ELCA youth groups together!!

Baptisms

Wolfgang Benjamin Bruggeman, infant son of Brian Bruggeman & Jessica Jean, will be baptized on June 3rd. His godparents are Joshua Ozbirn and Cody Ozbirn.



Giada Joan Strickler, infant daughter of Eric & Natalie Strickler, will be baptized on June 10th. Her godparents are Erik Stellern and Dana Jourdan.

Kane County Cougars Game

We're taking ourselves out to the ballgame on **Wednesday, July 18th**! Game time is 6:30pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the glass table in the back of the sanctuary. Tickets are \$5 per person.

Hearts & Hands in Service

Calling all Hearts & Hands Alumni and Hearts & Hands Newbies of all ages! It's time to host our second Fellowship Hour on June 24th! This is the perfect opportunity for those of you who wish to be a part of our ministry, but the work at NIFB or FMSC doesn't fit into your schedule. We would love to have your hearts and hands help with Fellowship Hour set up, treats or clean up. Please sign-up on the June 24th Fellowship Hour sheet on the glass top table outside the sanctuary. If you have any questions please contact Dick or Beth Quatham (rquatham@yahoo.com)

Wednesday Cafe

Wednesday Cafe will be held on **Wednesday, June 20th, at noon**. Sign up on the glass table in the sanctuary.

From the Finance Desk ...

... A Financial Snapshot as of April 30th, 2018:

Year To Date Income	\$ 99,769.76
Year to Date Expenses	\$117,784.62
Line of Credit Principal	\$ 60,905.30
Imagine Fund	\$ 17,263.41

The **newsletter** is given by Janet Page in honor of her daughter Tracy's birthday.

Marriage

Russell Burney & Beth Harmon will be married on June 9th.

Church Picnic

The church picnic will be held on July 22nd.

Child Nutrition Classes

Child nutrition classes will be held 2 days a week during the summer lunch program. We need volunteers to teach.

Summer Lunch

The summer lunch program will serve lunches at 11:30am each weekday beginning June 4th.

Council

President: Jordan Wildermuth
Vice-President: Jackie Kutina
Secretary: Bruce Woerner
 Scott Kolakowski Bob Jones
 Bob Langlois Kim Stancl

Worship Times

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 9:30am

From the Pastor

n the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Romans 8: 26

Prayer is perhaps one of the most intimate and, at the same time, perplexing activities that we partake in as Christians. Children literally struggle with the idea of prayer and often avoid the exercise altogether. As adults, it is common to find ourselves in moments where our heart is simply too emotional for us to find the words we wish to speak. Sometimes, we are so angry that we feel ashamed of praying to God what we really feel. Occasionally, we aren't even sure we know what we are hoping for as we sit down to pray. In fact, the whole concept is lost on those who may treat prayer like some magical time in which we can request favors from God! Jesus went so far as to script for us the words we should pray (The Lord's Prayer) when we cannot find them ourselves. In so many ways, prayer exposes our weakness.

This is what makes the promise of the Holy Spirit so powerful. We do not need to "get it right." We do not need to understand the situation we dwell within before sitting down to speak with God. Indeed, we do not even need to speak at all! God, who searches our hearts, intimately knows the mind of the Spirit! The same Spirit who stands with us constantly in every moment and with every breath we take, helps us in our weakness and speaks on our behalf. The same Spirit who is sent by God into each and every life

expresses that which we cannot comprehend well enough to put into words. This truth changes everything about our relationship with God! We can relate on an even playing field with God even if we cannot speak the language of God or put into words that which worries or haunts us.

Many years ago, a doctor walked into a hospital room and confronted me with the worst decision of my life. "We need to know if you would approve the disconnection of life support for your mother." There was still a small sliver of hope for surgery, but the desired outcome was unlikely. Nonetheless, being asked to give up all hope was not the decision I wished to have placed squarely upon my shoulders. There were no words in my soul that could have expressed the despair and guilt lumped in my throat. Thankfully, we don't need words. In those minutes, I sat quietly in a room with my mom and God, holding her hand and knowing that God's hand rested upon me. Slowly, the reality of what she would want came more and more into focus even through my tears. I was not being asked to determine her fate, but rather to act as her voice when she couldn't. I knew how she would answer. The Spirit did the same for me, acting as my voice to God with words I simply could no longer utter. The Spirit helped me in my time of paralyzed emotion. The Spirit intercedes, in every moment, and that is all we need to know. Thanks be to God! Amen. -Pastor Jeff Mikyska

The Sunday before the youth/adults go to Houston (June 24) we are presenting them with backpacks. We would like to put in \$5 gift cards for the youth to Starbucks and/or Subway for snacks. If you are able to donate a couple gift cards (or \$ and I will buy them), please leave in church office or give to Deaconess Andrea.