

August 2014

Dear Friends,

Who doesn't like a good story? They can be captivating, entertaining, and informative. Jesus' parables are like that but they served a greater purpose than just telling an interesting tale. They describe the very nature of the Kingdom of God. "The Kingdom of God is like..." is how Jesus began most of his parables.

They are much more than "earthly stories with heavenly meaning" although they are that. Jesus uses parables to explain what he himself was doing in ancient Israel. People heard him but most did not understand. A good many flat out rejected his message. But it didn't faze Jesus at all. He kept right on doing what he was sent to do—calling Israel to repentance from believing in their own privilege over and above what God had formed them to do.

Jesus repented on their behalf when they refused and allowed their occupiers, the Roman Empire, to torture and kill him by crucifixion, which is what Israel's religious leaders wanted done to Jesus all along. While most saw the crucifixion as the execution of a criminal, some saw what God was doing and declared Jesus to be the Son of God just as the centurion at the cross recognized. Who would be right? God would show them.

God raised Jesus from the dead! Romans 1:4 says that Jesus "...was *declared to be the Son of God* in power according to the Spirit of holiness *by his resurrection from the dead...*" Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, the New Israel—our Prophet, Priest, and King! And this message was given to be spread all over the face of the earth. This message we have received from the writings of the Apostles and the Prophets of the Bible. And having received and granted faith in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit we are reassured of the love of God and given life in the Spirit through the forgiveness of sins. What a wonderful Father we have. And what a great story!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag

August 2014 Newsletter

Summer arrived pretty hard and fast with all the 90+ degree days. Our church organizations are taking summer breaks, but our church services continue each week.

Our summer church service schedule will continue through August 31st, with Saturday contemporary services at 5:00 p.m., and the Sunday traditional worship services at 9:00 a.m. Communion will be served on the 2nd and 4th weekends.

Our fall/winter schedule will resume on Sunday, September 7th as follows:

Saturday contemporary service - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday traditional service - 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.

Summer Offertory Music – If you are interested in offering some type of musical addition to our service please sign up on the sheet on the hallway table. If you have any questions, please call Julie Verchimak at 815.723.1429. After you sign up, Julie will be in touch with you to make the arrangements.

Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's 2nd Quarter Report: The congregation adopted a 2014 General Fund Budget of \$193,951 at its Annual Meeting on January 26. The Budget is 1.1% higher than contributions made to the General Fund in 2013. The increase was tempered by plans to pay off the mortgage balance in 2014 using Endowment Funds. The Council deemed the increase warranted to cover expected higher operating costs. A modest salary increase of 2% was granted to Pastor, the Secretary, Organist and Choir Director. Primary support of the General Fund by the congregation is very important to meeting Trinity's ongoing needs.

During the quarter, all due bills were paid. General Fund receipts were 4.7% higher than those received during the same six-month period last year. Total General Fund expenses were near the budgeted level. Savings in other areas basically offset the effects of extreme weather on Snow Removal and Utility costs. Budgeted contributions were made to Missions and LCCF. The balance on the original \$100,000 mortgage, used to finance the new restrooms, was paid off in January. We want to thank everyone for their support of Trinity Lutheran Church and its missions. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Prospero, Financial Secretary, or Bruce Hasch, Treasurer.

Sunday School needs a 3rd/4th grade Sunday School teacher. If you would like to volunteer, have any questions or need more information, please talk to Judi Donovan or call the church office at 815.485.6973. Sunday School begins on September 7th.

Preschool News and Information

2014-15 Trinity Pre-School

AM and PM spots still availableplease tell your friends and neighbors!

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$66.00 per student. For the school year beginning September 2014 the tuition per month will be \$100 for two-day students and \$125 for three-day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2014. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973. Pre-School begins on Tuesday, September 2nd.

75th Anniversary

Pot Luck Lunch. Our 75th anniversary committee met again on July 20th and moved forward with plans for next year's Diamond Anniversary. We are planning to host a pot luck lunch on Sunday, October 5th, following the late service to kick off our 75th anniversary activities, which will culminate in a catered meal on Sunday, June 14th, 2015. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass for our October pot luck (see sign-up sheet by the gym). We are asking for members to bring an entrée or casserole, a salad or appetizer, or a dessert. Please sign up for your favorite and let others know what you are bringing so that we can try to balance our meal.

Special Moment/Memory. In addition, we are asking all members to submit a special moment or memory of their time as a member of Trinity for possible inclusion in a memory book / updated membership directory that is being prepared for the event. **A Special Moment or Memory sheet is at the bottom of this Newsletter.**

Printed forms are available on the table outside the church office. *Please take time to fill out a sheet and drop it in the suggestion box outside the church office prior to October 5th. If you are unable to*

get to church, you may use the form at the bottom of this Newsletter and mail it to us to the attention of the 75th Anniversary Committee. Remember – we need this returned to us by October 5th.

We are hoping to tackle two significant improvements as part of our 75th anniversary. Both are long-needed improvements to our church, but both will involve a fairly large investment by our congregation. **We hope to have a lift installed and we hope to raise enough funds to purchase a new organ for the church.** We have received a number of memorial funds over the years for these projects, but we are projecting the total cost to be greater than what we have available. We prayerfully ask that all members consider supporting one or both of these projects so that we can complete them both without incurring any additional debt. Members are encouraged to use their “Designated Offering” or “Debt-Reduction Fund” envelopes to help us raise funds for these projects, or you can write a check to Trinity Lutheran Church and state “Lift” or “Organ” in the subject line to designate a donation to this effort. Having just paid off our mortgage in January, we would love to remain debt-free at the conclusion of these two projects and we are hoping our congregation can come together to make that possible.

Our organizations will be back in full swing in September. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend one of our groups. Chancel will meet on Monday, September 8th at 6:30 p.m.; Women’s League will meet on Tuesday, September 30th at 12:30 p.m.; Social Ministry will meet on Monday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Chancel:

Next meeting is September 8th at 6:30 pm; hostesses are Sally Jackson and Jan Falk.

August work schedule:

August 2/3	Kay Purnell, Doris Klemm
August 9/10	Doris Klemm, Christine Stark
August 16/17	Christine Stark, Ann Romadka
August 23/24	Jan Falk, Judi Donovan
August 30/31	Judi Donovan Allene Bachmann

Women’s League

Next meeting is September 30th at 12:30 p.m.

Social Ministry ----- We are asking for your help:

We need a coffee “host” or “hostess” for the 4th Sunday of the month beginning on September 28th. *A yellow sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. Please stop and sign up for the month, or months, that you would be able to serve.* If you have any questions, please call Midge

Meents at 815.485.6527, or the church office at 815.485.6973.

St. Matthew’s Fund Raiser

Our congregation is continuing to focus on better aiding the Mission work of feeding the hungry and homeless at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church in the Pilsen neighborhood. We are asking that members donate food and paper supplies for their twice weekly meals, to be placed in the designated containers or on the card table in the hallway out the Narthex. Suggested supplies are coffee, canned vegetables, rice, soups, cereal, crackers, noodles, beans, canned fruit, powdered milk, toilet paper and paper plates and cups. Thanks for your continued support. Rummage, food and monetary donations will be delivered periodically.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Thanks to everyone who has signed up to donate flowers for our altar. All the weeks have been taken through the end of this year. If you missed signing up for a special date, please contact Christine Stark at 815.478.4069, or email her at candb.stark@gmail.com to see if you would be able to share a week with another member. The cost of the flowers is \$8.50 per vase or \$17.00 for both vases. The flowers may be picked up after the Sunday service.

Thanks to everyone who signed up last month as a reader, greeter or a volunteer for the MorningStar serving. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Readers and Greeters. The sign-ups through Labor Day weekend are on the table. Won’t you take a moment and agree to either read or greet one of the coming Sundays? If you’d like a copy of the readings, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.

MorningStar Mission. The August sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. Servings will be August 4th and August 18th at 3:45 p.m.

Prevent Prescription Drug Overdose. Excess prescription drugs around the house leads to an increased curiosity or temptation to try them. **Dispose of unused medications safely!** Keep prescription drugs off the streets! Please do not flush your old medicine down the toilet as it may poison your local water stream or septic field. And, do not simply throw your medications in the trash as children and/or pets may accidentally consume them, or end up in land fill ground water. There are better ways to dispose unwanted medications... The best way is through the local drug take back programs!

Help keep our community safe! Please dispose of unwanted medication at the Unwanted Medicine Disposal Container located in New Lenox Police Department, 701 W. Haven Ave., New Lenox. Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Acceptable items include pills, salves and liquid medications in original containers or non-leaking containers. Unacceptable items include sharps, needles, IV bags, thermometers and medical waste.

Sharefest New Lenox. ShareFest is an annual event in New Lenox involving over 103 organizations through "Thirty days of service" from September 1st through 30th. During this time, they unite as Proud Americans to meet the needs in the community. Meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month at 12:00 Noon at Standard Bank Meeting Room, 456 Nelson Rd., New Lenox. Lunch will be served. This is open to the community. If you are interested or want more details, please call 815.727.1614 or visit www.sharefestnelwnox.com. Watch the papers for details about the upcoming "Thirty Days of Service" in September.

LOST: LARGE BLACK UMBRELLA. It originally had been placed on the coat rack outside the gym. If found - please put it back on the coat rack or in the church office.

Church office hours are Monday, 9-3; Tuesday and Thursday, 1-4; and Friday, 9-12.

Visit us on the web at www.trinitynewlenox.org

(Please return this one completed form per person to Trinity Lutheran Church prior to October 5th)

75th Anniversary – Special Moment or Memory of your time at Trinity.

Place the completed form in the suggestion box outside the church office prior to October 5th.

Name: _____

Member of Trinity since approximately: _____

My special moment or memory from my time as a member of Trinity is:

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AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Andrew Ritter	1	Jasmine Berkey	24
Ryan Doerrerr	2	Brenden Delcorio	24
Blake Evans	2	Brian Pigney	24
Shauna Jandeska	2	Amanda Peters	24
Christopher Gappa	3	Mackenzie Remm	24
Lutz Guenther	3	Jim Welsh	24
Jasmine Reyes	4	Cindy McCullough	24
Colleen Delcorio	5	Violette Torkelson	25
Derek Delcorio	5	Bridget Garrison	26
Nina Jefferies	5	Cullen Seville	26
Claire Sandahl	5	Kelsey Evans	27
Laura Wendling	5	Fred Meents	27
David Dobbs	6	Karen Dickson	28
Stephen Kaun	6	Autumn Chlebek	29
Justin Niemann	6	Colin Chlebek	29
Roy Minnick	7	Robert Bell	30
Mallory Johnson	9	Betty Dortmann	30
Trey Murray	9	Lee Remm	30
Chloe Elise Heintz	10	Ed Tatro	30
Michael Prospero	10	Braden Bowden	31
Connor Rogan	10	Hannah Sigrist	31
Michael Lopez	11	Adam Wroblewski	31
Joseph Lyman	11		
Stephen Tomany	12		
Robert Dickson	13		
Doris Klemm	13		
Makayla Schlak	13		
Cari Ingalls	14		
Millie Steinbrenner	14		
Nicole Black	15		
William Briese	15		
Dan Bay	16		
Heidi Evans	16		
Allene Bachmann	18		
Matthew Brunmeier	18		
Kayleigh Spain	18		
Robert Doerrerr	20		
Carissa Lorenz	21		
Jan Falk	22		

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Jack and Cheryl Mork	3
Mike and Joanne Gardner	7
Rex and Jan Toepke	11
Tom and Wendy Kaun	14
Jeff and Janell McDonald	16
Larry and Debbie Miller	17
Doug and Jan Schlak	18
Lutz and Ellen Guenther	22
Don and Ann Johnson	26
Caton and Brandy Tinker	26
Andrew and Kathleen Seppi	27
Gary and Kay Purnell	30