

August 2015

Dear Fellow Trinitarians,

Of late there have been controversial issues that have come screaming into the American consciousness—race relations, flags, abortion, foreign diplomacy, terrorism, church shootings—just to name some of them.

Let's stop and take a look at the bigger picture. Just this morning I heard a report about how the Pacific Northwest is about to be demolished by a magnitude 9.2 earthquake that will set off a 600 foot tsunami which will travel all the way to Japan. The scientists are saying that everything west of Interstate 5 in Washington and Oregon will be totally destroyed and washed away. This includes the cities of Seattle and Portland. Tens of thousands of people will be killed; over 7 million people will be affected. It will be a natural disaster of epic proportion which, scientists say, is long overdue.

How's that for perspective? When you consider how vulnerable we all are, it can make our controversies seem trite and unnecessary. So why do we hold to our opinions on matters so tightly and don't stop to consider what a precarious spot we're in? I don't write this to frighten you or to say you can't have any opinions on pressing matters, but rather to keep things in perspective.

What does Jesus have to do with any of this? He wasn't put to death by a natural disaster. He was crucified by people with self-serving agendas. But, according to Scripture, that was exactly what was supposed to happen! He took the pain and suffering that self-serving agendas inflict onto others and that are inflicted onto us in order to ultimately defeat them by being raised from the dead. And having agendas being defeated and disarmed we are set free to not be identified by our opinions and biases. And we don't need to identify others by their opinions and biases either. This is reflecting God's great love for us to our neighbors. This is how we love our neighbors as ourselves no matter what they think about controversial issues. It doesn't mean you have to agree with others. It just means that others are not ultimately their opinions. They are mortal and human and vulnerable.

...always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.—2 Corinthians 4:10

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag

Visit us on the web at www.trinitynewlenox.org



August 2015 Newsletter

We waited a while for summer – but it finally arrived, with 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 Sunday, September 6th, with the 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 13th as follows:

- Saturday contemporary service – 5:00 p.m.**
- Sunday traditional service – 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**
- Sunday School and Bible Class – 9:15 a.m.**



Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's 2nd Quarter Report: The congregation adopted a 2015 General Fund Budget of \$201,752 at its Annual Meeting on January 25. The Budget is 2.7% higher than contributions made to the General Fund in 2014. The Council deemed the increase warranted to cover expected higher operating costs. 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. Budgeted contributions were made to Missions and LCCF. General Fund receipts were nearly 5% higher than those received during the same period last year. \$37,500 for the new organ, a \$2,400 deposit for stair work and a \$21,233.25 deposit for the new Lift were all paid out of fundraising proceeds. A balance of \$50,828.46 remains to complete those and other 75th Anniversary Projects. We want to thank everyone for their support of Trinity Lutheran Church and its missions. If you have any questions, please contact Janice Prospero, Financial Secretary, or Bruce Hasch, Treasurer



Pastor Hoag and his family were out of town the last two weekends of July. Thanks to Jeff McDonald, Rex Toepke and Sheldon Klemm for covering the services for the first weekend; and thanks to Larry Wennlund for covering the services for the second weekend.



75th Anniversary Pictures

Bruce Burns, of Burns Photography, took pictures at our 75th Anniversary service celebration on June 14th. Those pictures are posted on Trinity's Facebook. If you have not yet seen them, visit our web at www.trinitynewlenox.org. On the opening page, scroll down to the bottom left side, and click on the blue Facebook box. It will take you to the pictures.



Church Improvement Updates

The inside steps have been redone and were completed at the beginning of July. Thanks to the property committee, Dan Bay and Jeff Lorenz, for coordinating this project.

The outside front steps are in the process of being redone. This will not only add to the outside appearance of the church but also to the safety of the people using them.

The lift installation project will begin soon. It will take approximately 30-45 days to complete.



Two large trees, in the pre-school yard behind the church, were removed on July 17th. Thanks to Jeff McDonald and Virgil Switzer for removing some of the fencing so the tree removal company will be able to grind out the tree stumps. The Pre-School will be installing a new fence prior to school starting.



With the installation of the new lift, and remodeling on the Narthex, the display area will be eliminated. Some of the trophies have been packed up and placed in the attic. There are several trophies/plaques remaining. They are on a table in the gym. If you can use any of them, help yourself!



Student Service Hours

Students - if you need service hours, you can help the pre-school prepare for the start of their school year which begins September 8th. For more information or to sign up, talk to Jeanine Welsh or call her at 815.485.6973.

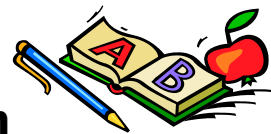


Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 13th at 9:15 a.m.

If your child enjoyed VBS please bring them to Sunday School. We have classes for preschool – high school. Many of the VBS staff members are also involved in our Sunday School.



Preschool News and Information



2015-16 Trinity Pre-School begins on Tuesday, September 8th.

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 2015 the tuition per month will be \$100 for two day students and \$125 for three day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2015. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973. Pre-School begins on Tuesday, September 8th

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MEETINGS

Our organizations will be back in full swing in September. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend one of our groups.

Chancel Guild will meet on Monday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m.

Women's League will meet on Tuesday, September 29th at 12:30 p.m.

Social Ministry will meet on Monday, September 21st at 7:00 p.m.



Choir will resume on Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00 p.m. Choir is open to men and women. Everyone is welcome.



CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR – Saturday, October 17th 9:00 am. – 3:00 p.m.
This is a fundraiser for the benefit of the youth group. If you would like to participate as a vendor, or have other questions, please contact Donna Cuthbert at rusty351@ameritech.net or call 815.462.0380, or Michelle Hoag at hoagmichelle@msn.com or call 815.723.7642, and the form will be sent to you.



Chancel:

Next meeting is September 14th at 6:30 pm; hostesses are Janice Prospero and Christine Stark.

August work schedule:

August 1/2	Kay Purnell, Allene Bachmann
August 8/9	Allene Bachmann, Wendy Kaun
August 15/16	Wendy Kaun, Christine Stark
August 22/23	Christine Stark/Rita Larson
August 29/30	Rita Larson

Women's League



Next meeting is September 29th at 12:30 p.m. The group will be making blankets. Hostesses are Pat Fuerst, Ruth Hucher.

Social Ministry ----- Coffee Fellowship



Thank you to everyone who has continued to service coffee every month. We have had a few new hosts over the past few months. A special "thanks" to you. **We are still looking for a coffee "host" or "hostess" for the 4th Sunday for the months of August through December.** If you enjoy the coffee hour why not take a turn at being a host! Your help would be greatly appreciated. A 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 the church office at 815.485.6973.



ALTAR FLOWERS: Thanks to everyone who has signed up to donate flowers for our altar. There are still a couple open weeks. 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-up sheets for August 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 3rd and August 17th at 3:45 p.m.



Senior Support. Thank you for your interest in forming a Senior Support/Clearinghouse. If you have any material (business cards, brochures, etc) that you would like to share, please put them in Bob Blecke's mailbox in the church office. Please write down your name and a note as to why you liked them. Also, if you have any ideas or suggestions please talk to Bob or put them in his church mailbox.

Sharing
Is
Caring

Sharefest New Lenox. September 1st through 27th ShareFest is an annual event in New Lenox involving over 103 organizations. During this time, they unite as Proud Americans to meet the needs in the community. This is open to the community. For more info please call 815.727.1614 or visit www.charefestnewlenox.com.

September 1st – 19th Donate books, clothes, food, home goods, pet supplies, and items for our Troops.
Donation trucks are located at St. Jude Catholic church and Standard Bank.

September 11th – Job & Resource Fair – at the New Lenox Village Hall from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

September 12th – Recyclepalooza, at Spencer School Campus, 1711 s. Spencer rd. from 8:00 am – 3:00 p.m.: Electronics, carpet padding (in 45 lengths), wood, scrap metal, Styrofoam, flags, usable latex paint; Donations of books, clothes, home good, food, pet supplies, items for the troops

September 19th - ShareFest Saturday - The Main Event at Spencer School Campus

Art Exhibition, Book Drive/.Exchange; Blood Drive; Clothing & Home Good Drive; Food Drive; Collection for our Troops; Free Legal Services; Free Hair Cuts; Health & Safety Fair; NAWS Pets; Forest Preserve Workday Projects.

September 26th - Pilcher Park Clean Up. Volunteers meet at Pilcher Park Nature Center, 2501 Highland Park Dr., Joliet. 9:30 am to Noon. Second cleanup is scheduled for November 7th at the same time. Contact Virgil at vkemp@helpersofmotherearth.org.

September 27th - Collections to Support Our Troops Pantries and Schools. See website for item list.

Volunteers can register at www.sharefestnewlenox.com or www.sharefestwillcounty.com



New items are being found weekly. Please stop and take a look to see if any of the items on the coat rack outside the gym belong to you. If anything belongs to you, please take it home.

Newsletter

If you do not presently receive our monthly newsletter electronically, but would like to be added to our email list, please email tlcsecretary@sbcglobal.net or call the office at 815.485.6973

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



Reminder... Cedar Road Metra crossing will be closed to traffic from Wednesday, August 5th – 14th. If you are affected by this, please remember to use an alternative route to get to church during that time.

Our organizations are still on "summer break" but our worship services continue each week. See you at church!

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