

July 2015

Dear Friends of Trinity,

I truly hope you are enjoying the new name that I've given to all of you.

In case you haven't heard, I'm addressing the members of Trinity as "Fellow Trinitarians" not only as a way of identifying us by the name of our church, but also as a way of showing to Whom we belong—our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

As I write this, the State of Illinois was once again struck by devastating tornadoes. Fortunately, there were no deaths this time around, but there was extensive damage and many people are homeless at this time. Things like this put people of faith into the quandary of justifying belief in a loving God in the face of disaster and/or violence.

In my sermon on June 20th and 21st I asked us to reframe the question a bit in light of the horrific shootings in Charleston, South Carolina. We can legitimately ask why God would allow the violent and senseless deaths of 9 innocent people gathered around the Word of God in a sanctuary. However, it is just as legitimate to ask why God allows us to continue living. Have you ever asked yourself that question?

There are no easy answers to either question. No one can fathom the mind of God or His infinite wisdom, especially when it comes to the issues of life and death. But if you think about it, you encounter many things on a daily basis that could potentially end your life. And yet... here you are reading this letter! Why were you allowed to live? It's a great question, but praise God that you can see another day even though it is fraught with untold dangers that you rarely think about.

I write all of this, not to frighten you, but to offer some perspective. Martin Luther in his Evening Prayer gives us a taste of this perspective, "I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ my Lord, **that you have kept me this day from all harm and danger...**" This is the prayer of those God allows to continue living. We give Him thanks for another day.

God cares and is not indifferent to the pain of this life, but made Himself a participant in it through Jesus Christ. Jesus suffered and died at the hands of unthankful people who thought they had a right to a carefree existence. Through Jesus we have the victory over destruction and death. It doesn't mean that we won't experience them. It means that what happened to Jesus will also happen to us. There is a coming age where there will be no more death and destruction. In the meantime, there is nothing in all of creation that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38).

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag

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JULY 2015



SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

(Through Sunday, September 6th)

Saturday Contemporary Worship Services are held at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Traditional Worship Services are held at 9:00 a.m.

Communion will be served on the 2nd and 4th weekends.



Thanks to all who came to our 75th Anniversary Celebration the weekend of June 13th and 14th. We ended up with 160 confirmed attendees at our luncheon on Sunday, including a lot of people who returned to Trinity to take part in the celebration. Bishop Stechholz from the English District and Pastor Bacon both helped with the weekend's services, and Pastor Hoag was central to our Sunday morning service as usual. It was great to see so many of our regular members there and also great to see some familiar faces from the past. If you made it to our Sunday service, you got to hear a lot of musical accompaniment to the service that included our organist, the senior choir, the hand chimes, and several instrumentalists. Hats off to all who helped with the weekend's music as well as to our 75th anniversary committee, who put a lot of time and effort into planning this celebration. We are in the midst of making some positive changes at Trinity and your financial support of our current projects - dedicated to our 75th anniversary - made that possible. Look for more improvements at the church as this 75th year wears on and thanks for being a part of this congregation! Please continue to be the Living Stones of Trinity Lutheran Church.

A special thanks to Bruce Burns, of Burns Photography, for attending our celebration and for taking pictures.



The new 2015 Church Directories are here. To ensure that all photographed families receive their copy - "One directory per family". Copies are located at the top of the center steps.

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Church Member Updates during the month of June, 2015

Baptisms: June 21, 2015 Brook Lynn Stuart, son of Jennifer and Thomas Stuart, birth date October 3, 2014, baptized June 21, 2015.

Weddings: April Tatro and Tim McPhillips, June 20, 2015

A memorial service for Nelda Schlak, will be held at Trinity on Saturday, July 11, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. Doug's mother lived in Arizona. Members of Trinity are welcome to attend the service.



Many thanks to everyone who helped with outside yardwork in preparation for our anniversary celebration.

Pat Czerwinski, Ginny DeCarlo and Pat Fuerst for planting the beautiful flowers in the outside flower pots.

Even though it was raining, Saturday, May 30th seven helpers joined Jeff McDonald with some outside clean-up/planting. These helpers were Pat & Ed Czerwinski, Pat Fuerst, Michelle & Pastor Hoag, Doris Klemm, and Virgil Switzer.

Thanks also to Rex Toepke for heading the removal of the large tree on the Southeast side of the church building, and his helpers Bob Jackman Virgil Switzer and Ron Lorenz.



Thanks to all our "sweet tooth: members who supported the Fannie May Candy Bar sale with the proceeds given to the organ and lift fun in the total amount \$650.00. Thanks to Rita Larson for coming up with such a great idea.

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Pastor Hoag and Rex Toepke, our Lay Delegate, attended the 55th Regular Convention of the English District LCMS on June 17-20. Following is a recap from Rex Toepke.

Thank you for allowing me to represent Trinity at the district convention at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan. One of the most important things that happened was the election of a new Bishop, Bishop Jamison Hardy. He is different from Bishop David Stechholz. I believe that Bishop Hardy will be honest (& loving) but direct in his actions. It will take some time to see how he may affect the district.

Meal time and other time, not spent in session, was spent in conversations with many different people of our district. It was great to be able to just sit down and start a friendly conversation with someone new. We do have a lot of great pastors and lay people who attended the convention. There is a diverse view of using technology among those with whom I had a conversation. Some people do not have cell phones (or televisions) and others were talking and texting all the time, not always generational.

The convention time was spent listening to reports. Sometimes it seemed that there was more time spent on those than anything else. Yes, there were times of serious business with most of the resolutions giving direction to the next Synodical convention. I plan to prepare a longer report that should be available if you would like more information about the convention.



2015-16 Trinity Pre-School

AM spots available.

Please tell your friends and neighbors!

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 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.

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Vacation Bible School was held last week. We had 110 students and 38 volunteers. Thank you to our faithful volunteers for your selfless service and thank you to all who graciously donated food and supplies.

Comment from one parent: "Our kids are having a wonderful time. Thank you for all you do! They are remembering their verses and learning sign language. Just amazing."

The "VBS staff" would like to thank Michelle Hoag, the Director, of the VBS. Thanks for all the time and energy you put in to make VBS so successful. We all enjoy working with you and helping with VBS!



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Blood Drive on June 15th. The turnout was great! We had 22 donors. Thanks to Debbie Aiken for once again for coordinating this project.



New Lenox Relay for Life – Friday, July 10th. This event is not a race but an evening of activities for the whole family to promote cancer awareness. For more information please call Jan Toepke at 815.485.2638.



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 office. Please write down your name and a note as to why you liked them. The latest issue of the "Blue Book For Seniors" is on the display case on the North side wall of the Narthex. Help yourself. This has a wealth of information specific to our area.



VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS. Please take a turn to be a Reader or a Greeter at our worship service. Sign-up sheets for the month of July are on the hallway table for Readers and Greeters Stop and sign up!



Thanks to Judy Wilmsen for your help in folding the bulletins each week. Your help is greatly appreciated.



Morning Star Serving Dates

July 6th and 20th You need to be at the Mission by 3:45 pm. The sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. If you have any questions call Judy Wilmsen at 815.462.1374.



CHANCEL NEWS

Altar Flowers: If you would like to give altar flowers, check the flower chart in the hallway outside the church office for dates that are still open for the balance of the year. If you are interested in ordering flowers to place on the altar in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a special birthday or wedding anniversary, or to celebrate God's many blessings, **please fill out one of the flower forms which are attached to the side of the flower cabinet. Please place it in the Chancel Guild mailbox located inside the church office.** Please call Christine Stark at 815.478.4079 if you have any questions. You can also email her at candb.stark@gmail.com.

The cost of the flowers are \$8.50 per vase or \$17.00 for both vases. The flowers may be picked up after the Sunday service.



July Work Schedule: Serving the Lord and keeping our church looking beautiful and our Communion ware filled this month are: July 4/5 – Sally Jackson, Jan Prospero; July 11/12 – Jan Prospero, Lois Dobbs; July 18/19 – Lois Dobbs, Judi Donovan; July 25/26 – Judi Donovan, Kay Purnell.



Social Ministry

Thanks to our "coffee hosts" who are continuing to serve during the summer following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Please stop in the gym for coffee and fellowship.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - - COFFEE HOSTS OR HOSTESSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
Open Sundays are September through December. If you are able to help, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the hallway table for the month/months that you would be willing to serve. If your help with this project would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.



St. Matthew's

We are continuing to support St. Matthew's Lutheran Church by collecting donations of non-perishable food items, as well as household goods. Please place the food items in the collection box by the parking lot door. The household items should be placed in the storage closet area at the far North end of the church basement. Please place items neatly so they do not block the aisle to the boiler room



Vacation Bible School –Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Frankfort

Camp Kilimanjaro – All trekkers are invited to join in an epic expedition through Proverbs!

Date: July 27 – July 31

Time: 6:00 – 8:15 pm

Location: 295 Sauk Trail, Frankfort, IL

For more information, or to register please call 815.469.2549 or visit

www.goodscheherdfrankfort.org.

JOBS

TRINITY SERVICES, INC. Now Hiring! Become an

Independent Living Counselor! Discover a rewarding career helping people with intellectual/developmental disabilities or mental illness live full and abundant lives! Job includes benefits, paid training, bonuses, high school diploma/DED required, background check/drug test required, multiple locations and shifts available. Apply at 301 Veterans Parkway in New Lenox. Send resume to jobs@trinity-services.org For more information call Sara at 815.485.6197. For a full list of job opportunities visit: www.trinity-services.org/careers/jobs

The New Lenox Rotary Club & Lincoln-Way Area Summer Stock Theatre

proudly present GREASE. Location: Lincoln-Way West High School Fine Arts Center. Dates: July 17, 18 & 25 – 7:30 p.m. and July 19 & 26 Matinees at 2:00 p.m. Tickets: \$25.00 (Row A-P)); \$22.00 (Row Q-Y). Seniors (60 & up) tickets - \$20.00 for matinees

Tickets may be ordered online at www.newlenoxrotary.org or call 708.339.1883 Call 815.258.3951 for information. .

Church Office Hours: Monday and Thursday, 9-3, Tuesday and Friday, 9-12.

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

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