

October 2014

Dear Friends of Trinity,

The Eastern Hemisphere of our planet is being torn asunder by war and terrorism; the Western Hemisphere is being torn asunder by political disagreement and endless distractions. While people in the East wonder if they will survive today, people in the West wonder either what Kim Kardashian is wearing today or which politician from the other side that is unacceptable and for which he/she must pay the price.

What all of these have in common, East and West, is division. How this plays out differs depending on which side of the planet you're talking about. Here in the West it's usually with words and rhetoric (and the occasional ruined career). In the East divisions are manifested by violence. Division isn't anything new to humanity. It's been playing out on the world's stage since the dawn of time and it shows no signs of ending in the near future.

While there is division and hostility between people and nations, there is no division and hostility between God and humanity. That division was ended at the cross of Jesus Christ where human sin was forgiven and the soul of humanity was restored and shaped to the image of Christ. Humanity is in favor with God through Christ. Is God in favor with humanity? Not really, and it seems to be increasingly worse with the passage of time.

But God is still merciful and for the sake of Jesus He still loves us with an everlasting love. Even with deep divisions within the human race, God has destroyed the wall of hostility that separates even the most hardened of hearts by nailing it to the cross. If only we humans can see that and learn to become united in heart and mind, and be on good terms with each other. Actually, it cannot be seen apart from the Word of God and the Sacraments. These are given as the signs that God has no anger or hostility toward us, for these give us Jesus!

God bless you in the month of October!

Pastor Hoag

Visit us on the web at www.trinitynewlenox.org

2014 Newsletter

Cool weather means fall fun for everyone. Enjoy the fall leaves, pumpkins, hayrides, bonfires and football games. Come join us at some of our fall activities.

Church Council Elections are approaching at the end of October. If you have considered becoming more involved with the running of the church, please consider running for a council position. We have a total of seven positions up for election this year and all positions are for a two-year term, beginning in January 2015. Council meets monthly (excluding summer months) on the second Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. in the church library. Positions up for election in 2015 include: Co-Director of Outreach; Co-Director of Property; Co-Director of Worship & Spiritual Life; Director of Social Ministry, Financial Secretary, Director of Parish Education and Council President. If you are interested in any of these positions, please let Pastor Hoag, the church office or a current member of church council know of your interest. Council is a great and rewarding way to become more involved with the church.

75th Anniversary - 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.

Trinity Pre-School

AM and PM spots still available for 2014-15. Please 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 have turned 3 by September 1, 2014. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.

Confirmation classes are held on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. If you would like to enroll your son or daughter, would like more information, or have any questions, please contact Pastor Hoag or call the church office at 815.485.6973.

Check out the Wednesday Morning Bible Class starting on October 8th, the class will explore other religions and Christian denominations and comparing them to Lutheranism. The religions they will be studying are: Mormonism, Methodist, Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Islam, Hinduism, Pietism, Buddhism, Baptist, and Calvinism. The class meets every Wednesday t 8:30 – 10:00 am in the Library. Contact Pastor Hoag if you have any questions.

Choir practice is held each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Please join us - both male and female voices are needed. If you have any questions, please call Julie Verchimak, at 815.723.1429 or the church office at 815.485.6973.

CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR – Saturday, October 18th 9:00 am. – 3:00 p.m. ***Come out and visit the great crafters and vendors and do some fall shopping! Woodcrafts and wooden toys, knitted items, floral arrangements, jewelry, purses, taste mixes and so much more! Free admission and lots of great raffle items! Come out for a great time and support the Youth!*** 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. Cost is \$25.00 for a table. This is a fundraiser for the benefit of the youth group.

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YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Junior High Youth – Come to see the Luther movie on Saturday, October 11. Come to worship at 5:00 p.m., supper at 6:00 p.m. and the movie will start shortly thereafter. We should finish around 9:00 p.m. Sign up on the youth bulletin board if you can attend.

High School Youth – Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 12, 4:300 – 6:30 p.m. Bring a 2-liter or several cans of your favorite root beer for a “beer” tasting competition. We’ll supply the hot dogs and chips. We’ll discuss future plans and service projects for the year. Yodeling is optional. Sign up on the youth bulletin board if you can attend.

Social Ministry:

Hayride– Sunday, October 19th beginning at 12:30 p.m. at Konow’s Corn Maze, 16849 S. Cedar Road, Homer Glen. Tickets are \$7.00 each and includes a hot dog lunch with chips, drinks and desserts. You may enjoy all the other activities at the farm, before or after the lunch. A sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. **You need to sign up by Sunday, October 12th. Payment is due when you sign up.**

The television set in the youth room no longer works. If anyone has plans to upgrade their TV set and is willing to donate their current set to the church, we could use it in the youth room.

Sunday School Fundraiser for the organ and lift fund. Last Sunday the Sunday School kids were given a tube of M&Ms in class. They are asking the children to help with our organ and lift projects by replacing the M&Ms with change that will be donated toward these projects. All materials for this project were donated to Trinity. If you child did not receive an M&Ms tube, please ask the Sunday School teacher or stop in the church office.

Nursery Interest has been expressed in having a nursery during the second service. We have one youth volunteer willing to help, but are in need of an adult to staff the nursery. If you would be interested in this position, please contact the church office at 815.485.6973. If you’re interested in helping on more of a part-time basis (1 or 2 Sundays per month), let us know that as well. If we can get enough interest to staff a nursery on a regular basis, we’ll reintroduce this to allow parents of young children an opportunity to worship while their children attend the nursery.

Remember to say "thanks". If you see a member of our property committee, please take a moment to say thanks for all the work they are doing. With an aging building, there is no shortage of issues that are being handled by our property committee, putting them in constant high demand. Visible improvements of late include a repair to the parking lot (no more sunken drain) and some recent tree trimming (we can now see our south entrance door again). One person who has been helping a lot is Virgil Switzer, who is commuting 3 hours by train each way to get to Trinity where he is volunteering his time to help out where needed (Virgil has recently painted the library, trimmed the trees and cleaned the gutters, and he keeps coming back for more!). Train fare costs approximately \$24 per day. If you would like to donate toward a train pass for Virgil to help him with this expense, please see Pastor Hoag. He has not asked for this, but we'd like to help him with this cost in recognition of the time and energy he is putting into the upkeep of the church.

We are still in need of a coffee host/hostess for the 4th Sunday of the month. We already have 3 months covered but still have 9 months available. If you would be willing to take a turn on a 4th Sunday of the month, the sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. Please be sure to stop and sign it! You do not have to do this every month, just once or twice a year would be appreciated. If you partake of these coffee hours – it would be nice if you gave back by taking a turn!

Wednesday, October 8th – New Lenox Historical Society Oktoberfest Dinner at the VFW, New Lenox from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Tickets (\$10 each) may be purchased from Ed Tatro or at the door.

Prayer Chain: Thanks to Ginny DeCarlo and Pat Fuerst for heading up this very worthwhile organization. Please feel free to contact Pat or Ginny via the telephone to leave a prayer request, or Ginny via email to get a prayer started. Contact information: Pat 815 485 6441, Ginny 815 485 2001 or at vdecarlo1952@gmail.com

Please inform the church office when you or a family member's status change, or are well enough to be removed from the Pray List. Thanks!

Readers and Greeters:

Sign-up sheets for October are on the hallway table. Please stop by and sign up. We could use a few more readers. If you would like a copy of the readings ahead of time, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.

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

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October Birthdays

Brian Thompson	1
Tracy Tomany	1
Christopher Kosel	2
Leah Pour	2
Natalie Loucks	5
Sharon Handorf	6
Kristin Rogan	6
Ashley Norton	6
Ashley Evans	7
Pam Burke	9
Pat Fuerst	9
John Leahy	9
Dave Nick	9
Michael Wajchert	9
Owen Elmlund	10
Dominic Prospero	10
Braiden Rogan	10
Cameron Jablonski	11
Madison Forsythe	12
Jeffrey Puttkammer	12
Angelle Minett	13
Eric Zielinski	13
Ethan Garrison	14
Marilou Lerner	14
Maxine Pavlovich	15
Al Prospero	15
Christopher Sanders, Jr.	16
Tanner Simon	16
Claire Anderson	17
Jan Clark	17
Elena King	17
Sarah Teare	17
Aubrey Bird	18
Rita Larson	18
Jeff McDonald	18
Kellyn Gappa	19
Ryan Gappa	19
Riley Jeffries	19
Amanda Norton	19
Andrea Zielinski	19
Lori Hilger	20
Zak Pavlovich	21

Kathy Sigrist	21
Jan Toepke	21
Ken Gerk	22
Courtney Shrank	22
Brody Wajchert	22
Maggie Wajchert	22
Ryder Wajchert	22
Justine Kavanagh	23
Katrina Prospero	23
Karen Tatro	23
Elijah Ziebell	23
Sandy Jeffries	25
Luke Ryan	25
Tracy Doerrer	26
Shirley Walter	26
Emily Backhus	27
Jaxson Cartwright	27
Isaac Torkelson	27
Logan Beaudry	29
Patricia Reithel	29
Grace Stokes	29
Deanna Anderson	30
Robert Stark, Jr.	31
Larry Wennlund	31

October Anniversaries

Steve and Rita Tinker	1
Charles and Barbara Baxa	4
Joe and Andrea Farneti	5
Mike and Liz Lyman	5
Scott and Patricia Cruise	8
Joshua and Rachel Kellbach	12
Danielle & Tim Ryan	16
Anthony and Barbara Adochio	17
Brian and Linda Thompson	17
Paul and Pat Fuerst	19
Stuart and Loretta Renwick	19
Jeff and Sharon Lorenz	20
Scott and Heidi Evans	22
Mark and Bonnie Norton	26
Brian and Colleen Delcorio	28
Gary and Lea Rae Marcolina	29
Robert and Christine Stark	31