

September 2013

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Have you given more thought to my question that I asked back in June? My question was: What does it mean to you to be Lutheran? If I remember correctly I said that I would eventually give you my answer to the question. So, here we go!

To me being a Lutheran means that I cannot by own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

Did those words have a familiar ring to them? It's the explanation to the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed in Martin Luther's Small Catechism!

Okay, so they aren't my own words. I like Luther's words much better and I can use them anytime. But they indicate a very profound truth in how God makes Christians. Can you see that truth? It's this: that becoming a follower of Christ is totally and completely God's work, not ours. We are completely passive. We cannot believe in Jesus by our own strength because our own strength steers us **away** from Jesus. It takes an act of God to place us on Christ's path. God does this work most powerfully through His Word. We are called by the Good News of Jesus and made holy by the work of the Holy Spirit. And you had nothing to do with it!

Lutherans make their stand on that unmovable and unwavering truth. All glory and honor belongs to God, and God alone. To inject and give credit to any human effort is to actually steal some of God's glory and honor and place it upon ourselves.

Did you know that Luther's Small Catechism is in the hymnal? It's on pages 321-330. Take a look at it sometime and read (or re-read) a simple explanation of the Christian faith as it is exercised by Lutherans.

Glory to God alone!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag

Visit us on the web at www.trinitynewlenox.org

September 2013

Summer is over, school is back in session, it's time to get back to our regular fall schedules. Our church groups are ready to go to. Information about our organization/groups is in this newsletter and can also be found on our website: www.trinitynewlenox.org. Members of our church are all encouraged to get involved in one or more of our organizations. Joining one of these groups is a great opportunities to get acquainted with fellow church members.

We will be back on our regular worship service schedule beginning Sunday, September 8th with services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 am. Saturday evening services will continue at 5:00 p.m. Sunday School and Bible Classes will be at 9:15 a.m.

Church Council: Meets the 2nd Sunday of the month. **Next meeting will be Sunday, September 8th at 7:00 p.m.** all members of Trinity are invited to attend these meetings.

Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's 2nd Quarter Report: The congregation adopted a 2013 General Fund Budget of \$196,472 at its Annual Meeting on January 27. The Budget is 4.6% higher than contributions made to the General Fund in 2012. 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. Budgeted contributions were made to Missions and LCCF. Additionally, \$1,551.37 was given to Sow Hope, on behalf of Trinity members, as part of direct out-reach efforts. General Fund receipts were about 6% higher than those received during the first six months of last year. General Fund expenses were slightly higher than the budget for the same period. The balance on the original \$100,000 mortgage, used to finance the new restrooms, was \$17,976.57 at June 30. 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.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN FUNDRAISER In August, we completed our fundraising efforts for Feed My Starving Children. This involved a number of volunteer efforts from members of Trinity, with nearly 50 members of our congregation volunteering to pack meals as part of the Lincoln Way Area Mobile Pack. The goal of the event was to pack 272,000 meals at a total cost of \$60,000. When all was said and done, the total number of meals packed came to 279,936 and more than \$70,000 was raised - enough to cover the cost of ALL meals packed this year and to make a down payment on next year's efforts for this Christian charity.

Trinity partnered again this year with Good Shepherd Lutheran and was one of many area churches to lend a hand in this community-wide effort. In addition to our volunteers helping out in the packing of these meals, we also hosted a benefit concert on August 10th that featured music by Pastor Hoag and Dan Bay, a Bible-themed presentation by Skiddles the Clown and an ice cream social hosted by our own Social Ministry group. We had about 85 people attend the concert, which included a rousing rendition of Praise Be The Lord, with audience participation by our own Phil and Sharon McFarland. Christie Alfano also bravely volunteered to be outfitted with balloon armor during the concert. Concert attendees seemed to really enjoy the event, which is evidenced by pictures on display on our web site.

In the end, donations from our members combined with proceeds from the benefit concert amounted to a total donation from Trinity Lutheran Church to Feed My Starving Children of \$1,492.25! This concludes another church-wide effort to

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extend the reach of our congregation beyond the four walls of Trinity and into the community - this time going overseas to feed starving children around the globe! Our next fundraiser will focus on Morningstar Mission, another Christian-based organization that we have supported for a number of years. Many thanks to all those who pitched in to make this a success - please keep up your great work!

For more information about the event, please check out the following web links:

ABC news coverage of the event: <http://abclocal.go.com/wis/html5/video?id=9207834&pid=§ion=>

Article on Trinity's web page, including pictures from the concert: <http://www.trinitynewlenox.org/feed-my-starving-children.html>

OTHER LUTHERAN GIVING

In addition to the great turnout for Feed My Starving Children, we also made our quarterly contribution of \$750 in support of Missions of the English District of the Missouri Synod and our quarterly contribution of \$412.50 to Lutheran Church Charities! All told, we donated a total of \$2,655 this past quarter to charitable causes that our congregation supports. Thanks for ALL members for helping to make this possible. We are helping in ways we may not even realize, but we are definitely making a positive difference thanks to the generosity we, as a congregation, have shown. Please keep helping us to set such a positive example.

Readers and Greeters: September sign-up sheets are on the hallway table. Sign up to either read or greet at one of the coming Sundays. If you'd like a copy of the readings, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Flowers are placed on our altar every Sunday to enhance and beautify our altar area in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary or in celebration of God's blessings. The flower order forms are attached to the cabinet in the hallway outside the church office. If you would like to give altar flowers, complete the form and place it in the Chancel Guild mailbox in the church office. If you have any questions, please call Christine Stark at 815.478.4069 or email her at candb.stark@gmail.com. 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.

Sunday School/Bible Classes

Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. This includes classes for children, and separate classes for both the high school students and also adults. Pastor will be leading the high school class.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class will resume on Wednesday, September 11th at 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Resumes on Sunday, September 8th at 9:15 a.m. Sunday School will once again be doing “Shoebboxes for Kids!” This involves putting together shoeboxes for kids and families in the community who might be struggling

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throughout the Christmas season. We know that it is early, but we feel that if we collect over the next few months, we can make more shoeboxes than we did last year. Last year, we were able to make up 10 boxes, plus give an additional 2 boxes of items that could be given to those who came into the food pantry in New Lenox. All of these items were greatly appreciated and the families were happy to receive them! Items that can be given are toys, gloves, books, or anything that can fit into a shoebox. We encourage our parents to let their children pick out items from the Dollar Store that they think another child would enjoy receiving for Christmas. Thank you in advance from the Sunday School Staff.

CONFIRMATION: The first day of class for the teen confirmation is **Wednesday, September 4th at 6:00 p.m.** Registration can be done online by visiting www.trinitynewlenox.org. Please call or email Pastor Hoag if you have any questions. 814.485.6973 or douglashoag@gmail.com

PRESCHOOL: There are still a few openings for 4-year-olds for the upcoming school year. For more information please visit their website at www.trinitynewlenox.org/trinity-pre-school. Call 815.485.6973 X 3 to enroll.

Today's Light for October-December are in the church office. The Today's Light may be picked up by those who have registered for it.

Portals of Prayer (both the regular size and also the large print size) for October-December are available in the Narthex or on the hallway table. Please stop and pick up your copy today.

CHANCEL GUILD

Chancel will be meeting **Monday, September 9th at 6:30** in the church basement. All ladies of the church are cordially invited to come. If you are not ready to join, you are welcome to come and visit. This is a great way to serve your church and also get acquainted with fellow church members. Even though being a member of the Chancel guild is a very important job – it is not a time consuming commitment. Each member is usually scheduled to work 2-4 times during the year. There are always 2 members scheduled for each week, so you don't have to work alone. For more information call Denise Buchanan at 815.464.1004 or her cell at 815.485.2729.

ANNUAL FALL SALAD LUNCHEON hosted by the Chancel Guild

Mark your calendars now: **Wednesday, October 2nd from 11:30 am. - 1:00 p.m.** the Chancel Guild will be serving their annual salad luncheon. Carry-Outs are available. Tickets will be sold following the church services, and are also available from any Chancel Member or through the church office. The price is \$7.00 per person. This is our only fundraiser of the year. Our monies are used to purchase altar paraments and linens, or for the benefit of the church. Our paraments are beautiful and rather expensive to purchase.

CHOIR

Will resume **Wednesday September 4th at 7:00pm in the Choir Loft.** Rehearsals are generally over before 8:30. The performance schedule is TBD. We are always looking for more voices, both men and women. Come join us.

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SOCIAL MINISTRY

Our monthly meeting will be held on Monday, September 16th at 7:00 p.m. at Sue Kunce's home. We welcome all female adults to join us for a most enjoyable, productive session. The snacks and dessert add much to the evenings planning and productivity. Most important on the agenda is planning the October hayride. Call 815.485.6527 for information.

Please remember to sign Virgil Switzer's September greeting card, located on the reception area coffee table; he really appreciates knowing we care about him. Also take time to read mail that congregation members have received from him, posted on the office bulletin board.

Feed My Starving Children Fundraiser. As usual, we are most grateful to the many persons who participated to make our church's volunteering for this most worthy charity a huge success. Thanks to the Monday night Boy Scout Troop for setting up tables and chairs, to the 17 ladies who donated desserts served with the ice cream, to Jan Toepke's work in booking Skiddles the Clown, to Fritz Meents for all the advertising banners, and especially the Social Ministry Committee members who shopped, served, sold left-over sweets, and to all who cleaned up at evening's end. Working together brings top-notch results.

St. Matthews Soup Kitchen. We will be transporting rummage to St. Matthews in Mid-September. Please deposit your donations in the designated basement room. We recently donated \$100 from our annual budget to help supply food for the 150 hungry and homeless that attend each serving. Please remember to include this charity in your prayers

Butter Braids Sale: We'll soon be taking orders for Butter Braids, for delivery in early November. Watch for the pertinent details in forthcoming bulletins.

Coffee Hosts: Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to be coffee hosts each Sunday following the 8:00 a.m. worship service. This is a great time to meet and get acquainted with fellow church members.

Women's League

Women's League will be tying blankets at the meeting on **Tuesday, September 24th, 12:30 pm.** Hostesses are Jan Toepke and Judy Wilmsen. Guests are always welcome.

MorningStar Mission Serving: The September sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. We need 4 volunteers each week at 3:45 p.m. Call Judy Wilmsen if you have any questions (815.462.1374).

Blood Drive

The Fall Blood Drive is **Tuesday, September 3rd from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.** Come be a lifesaver! The Heartland motorized coach will be in our parking lot. If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment call Deb Aiken at 815.462.0687. Donors will be rewarded with a \$10 Target gift card

Craft Vendor Fair for the Youth Group... Save the Date! Saturday, October 26th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church New Lenox. For more details or information on being a vendor, please contact Donna Cuthbert at 815.462.0380.

Share Fest New Lenox will be held from September 1st – 14th. The main event will be held on Saturday, September 14th at Spencer School in New Lenox. Hazardous waste items will also be collected that day. Volunteers are needed to help in various ways starting on September 1st. If you are able to help with this event, or would like more information, please call 815.717.2614. ShareFest is a service organization. They offer clean-up and fix-up projects for those who need a helping hand. They have completed 175 service projects over the last 6 years. **If you, or someone you know, could use a helping hand, or if you would like to volunteer, call 815.717.2614, or visit www.sharefestnewlenox.com.** Copies of the schedule of events are on the hallway table.

Old Campground Antiques, Collectibles & Flea Market. United Methodist Church of New Lenox on Saturday, September 21st from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Rain Date: Sunday, September 22nd from 1:00-5:00 p.m. For more information call 815.485.8271, Ext. 53.

MISPLACED - LOST - FOUND. There are a number of clothing items on the coat/wall rack outside the gym. Please check to see if any of these items are yours, and please take whatever belongs to you. There is also a pair of sunglasses on the counter in the church office.

Church Office Hours: Monday 9-3, Tuesday and Thursday 1-4, Friday 9-12.

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sam Forsythe	1
Ann Johnson	1
Linda White	1
Brian Garrison	2
Allan Brunmeier	3
Henry Bylaitis	3
Emily Niemann	3
Hannah Niemann	3
Gary Purnell	3
Kendall Sherman	3
Roger Wischover	5
Leigha DeMaertelere	6
Amy Ingalls	6
Taylor Ivers	7
Aubrey Trautvetter	7
Lacey Kosel	8
Scott Lueken	8
Courtney Nichols	8
Eva Grady	10
Jan Prospero	10
Valerie Harbin	12
Jerry Molenaar	12
Tamara Doerrer	13
Ricky Adams	14
Kimberly Charles	14
Ruth Janner	15
Sarah Parker	15
Terry Larson	16
Ashley McCure	16
Juliette Pour	16
Jacob Charles	17
Heather Molenaar	17
Devin O'Neill	17
Charlie Sigrist	17
Andrew Ashley	19
Leah Black	19
Quinn Dunmore	19
Thomas Forsythe	19
Mason Klisz	19
Adolf Fandl	20

Lynne Pigney	21
Ethan Kosel	24
Marge Hummel	25
Madison Simon	25
Parker Niemann	26
Marcy Remm	26
Stephen Purnell	27
Rebecca Verchimak	27
Betty Hopkinson	29
Sally Jackson	29
Virgil Switzer	29
Jacob Capretto	30
Janell McDonald	30
Jessicca Thompson	30

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Duncan & Allene Bachmann	4
Scott & Wendy Elmlund	4
Bob & Tamara Doerrer	6
Harry & Corri Grady	7
Sheldon & Doris Klemm	7
Nick & Jayna Perez	12
Jeff & Kim Alfano	13
Bob & Karen Dickson	19
Al & Jan Prospero	19
Paul & Jean Moeller	20
Randy & Nancy Varju	20
Rich & Jacqueline Rohner	23
Jack & Lois Dobbs	24
Mark Lord & Marge Hummel	24
Jim & Jeanine Welsh	24
Chris & Pat Reithel	28
Harold & Jane Schrank	28