

Come Holy Spirit!

The Tidings

Monthly Newsletter of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - June/July 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

I sit down to write today just before leaving for the annual Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly. It is there that the voices of the people of the congregations, your voices, are lifted up to speak to the whole church. It is also there that we receive communications from the many various ministries we support through our benevolence giving.

In some ways, the Synod Assembly is a precursor to our own annual meeting that is also the place for the voices of Holy Trinity to be heard. After two years of information gathering, listening, discerning, and praying, the Council will present a Long-Range Plan on June 10 following our 10:30 Music Sunday Service. This plan is YOUR plan; it comes from your thoughts, reflections and ideas. As such, it is more than just another document to vote on, it is a road map we agree together we will use to lead us into the next 3-5 years of ministry. As the Synod is funded from congregation's benevolence dollars (Holy Trinity gives 10%/a tithe to the Synod), so this long-range plan will be funded by our regular giving.

In the plan there are a few new ministries like Communications, Young Adults, and Senior's; they will need volunteers to get them off the ground and move them forward. There are also suggestions for new staff in the areas of Communications and Volunteerism; these will need ongoing financial support. And there are plans for two audits...one of the property and one of our current communications channels. The property audit will, no doubt, yield a list of property updates and renovations which will need to be funded. Funding may be through future budgets, a capital campaign or an extension of our mortgage. We will be looking most particularly at the structure's roofing (we have water leaks/lost shingles), handicap accessibility (ramp is damaged; access to fellowship hall is needed) and security (a second exit from the front of the sanctuary). We are also aware of issues with the sound system in the sanctuary and the potential need to reshape the chancel to make it more user friendly for modern worship and accessibility. The communications audit will look at what we currently are doing and at alternative communication channels via electronic and social media. Persons savvy in today's multifaceted communications networks will be needed as volunteers to move this forward.

I share all this because I don't want the hard work of this congregation to get voted on then put on a shelf to gather dust. A vote in favor of the long-range plan must also be a vote to step up and support it through volunteering and increased financial support. The council's commitment is to review the plan at least once a year to analyze how we are doing and to keep communicating this vision to the congregation.

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Let me say something specifically directed at our retired or retiring segment of the congregation (my peer group and a growing segment of the congregation). We never retire from the ministry of the Kingdom! We may retire from our job, and that is a joy indeed. But we never retire from our family; and the ministry of the Kingdom is our family! As more and more of us move into our retirement years from work, more is expected of us in the commitment of our resources to the ministry of the congregation. When we were younger and raising a family, many of us said I'll do more "when I have the time." A commitment in our later years acknowledges and respects the financial and time demands of our parents of young children AND fulfills the vision of our middle years to "be able to do more" if only we had the time. Our retired and retiring members have a tremendous amount to contribute to the ministry and vision of Holy Trinity, including a ministry to and for our peer group. So rather than retiring, let us be renewed in our vigor to serve God through HTLC.

*****Together, we can make this vision a reality*****

Pastor Connie

June 24 we welcome to our pulpit Deacon Laura Heller from the Delaware-Maryland Synod Creation Care Team

July 1 we welcome to our pulpit Pastor Lois Carrigan UCC Pastor & Board member of St. Dysmas, our ministry in the prison system.

Music Sunday

Join us for ONE service on Sunday, June 10 at 10:30 AM. Special Music will be provided by JoyBells, JoyBell Lights, Voices of Praise, Jubilation!, and the Sunday School

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday, June 10. The meeting will begin in the Sanctuary after the service at 12 Noon. The following positions are available for election at this meeting: Vice President, Financial Secretary and 3 At-Large. To be eligible to serve on the Congregational Council, one must be an active (confirmed, communed, and contributed within the current or immediate past year) member of this congregation. The nominating committee is chaired by Courtney Ritz.

The congregation will also be voting on the 2018-2019 budget, Constitution changes and Long Range Plan. Additional items for discussion may be brought up by the congregation at this meeting.

Here We Come, Houston!

On June 24, 12 youth and 4 adult leaders will be attending the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. Our youth have worked very hard this past year to raise money for the NYG and wish to thank the congregation of Holy Trinity for supporting them in this endeavor. Our youth attending are Madison Ashley, Will Behler, Samantha Ferrer, Tyler Ferrer, Michael Gonzales, Cameron Jones, Jenna & Jordan Kreh, Lewis Miller, Peter Olaitan, Alicia Ribeiro and Caroline Salopek. The adult leaders attending are Pastor Connie Miller, Gary Kreh, Bobby & Stephanie Gonzales. In addition, Jacob Ausherman and Mathew Gonzales are attending as Servant Companions. Please pray that this will be a safe and faith filled week that reinforces the love of Christ and that we are redeemed through Our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.



**Saturday, June 9 & July 14
7:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
ALL MEN ARE WELCOME!**



At the Bookends meeting on June 18, we will discuss *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep* by Joanna Cannon. The setting is an English village in 1976.

Mrs. Creasy is missing and the Avenue is alive with whispers. The neighbors blame her sudden disappearance on the heat wave, but ten-year-olds Grace and Tilly aren't convinced and decide to take matters into their own hands. One reviewer describes this book as a thoughtful tale of loyalty and friendship. We'll see how these two young girls solve the puzzle. And what to Goats and Sheep have to do with it?

We have several options still open for our July discussion. For August we have decided to read *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware. This psychological thriller with many twists and turns has helped put Ruth Ware in the forefront of the modern thriller genre.

We meet at Panera (off Rte 198) at 6 pm for a light dinner and book discussion. Read the book and meet us at Panera! School teachers who have the summer off and might be free to join us are always welcome. Questions, contact Karen Brownell at mammakar@aol.com.

Vacation Bible School

Shipwrecked is the theme for VBS this year where children will learn they are "Rescued by Jesus". The Fun begins on Monday, July 9 and runs through to Friday, July 13 from 6 - 8:30 every evening. Children ages 2 through and including the completion of 5th grade participate while children who have completed 6th grade and higher are welcome to help.



Thank you in advance for supporting such a fun-filled week at Holy Trinity.

Jen Renkevans

Christian Education Ministry Chair

Worship & Music Ministry

Music Sunday is June 10, we will celebrate with a single service at 10:30. This is the time when we recognize the efforts of our music staff and participants. It also marks the end of the choir season for the summer.

Sunday, June 17, we change to our summer schedule. The first service will continue to be held at 8:30, the second service moves to 10:30 and is held outdoors, weather and other circumstances permitting. To handle the logistics of holding services outdoors, we need folks to move chairs outside. Since "many hands make light work," as they say, we ask congregational members to help.

Deacon Laura Heller will be with us on June 24. She is in charge of the Synod Creation Care Ministry. It was she who brought us the three dogwoods and helped plant them just north of our playground.

During June, Communion will be offered at both services on June 3 & 17th.

Jim Thomas

Worship & Music Ministry Chair

June Worship Schedule

June 10 ONE service at 10:30 AM

Annual Congregational Meeting at 12:00 PM

June 17 & 24 - 8:30 & 10:30 AM

July Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM



June 2018 Prayer Concerns

- 1 For Bishop Gohl and the Synod Staff as they lead the Delaware-Maryland Assembly.
- 2 For the ministries of the Gospel on the territory of the DE-MD Synod.
- 3 In Thanksgiving for our Sunday School teachers, administrators and students.
- 4 For the children in Lofa County Liberia receiving scholarships from Holy Trinity.
- 5 For those graduating from High Schools, Colleges and Technical Schools for jobs.
- 6 For our oceans, its inhabitants and vegetation.
- 7 For farmers as they prepare and plant the soil.
- 8 For those suffering from brain diseases and disorders; for research and treatment options.
- 9 For Cancer survivors and all who walk at the Relay for Life.
- 10 For the gift and joy of music; and for the leadership of our Church Council.
- 11 For abused women and children; for options, safety and healing.
- 12 For the end of child labor around the world.
- 13 For young people recovering from the trauma of school gun violence.
- 14 In Thanksgiving for the American Flag and for Muslims celebrating Eid al-Fitr (the end of Ramadan)
- 15 For the children and staff of the Day School as they celebrate preK graduation and advancement
- 16 On this International day of the African Child, we pray for all African children, especially those living in poverty and those who are unable to attend school.
- 17 In Thanksgiving for fathers, step-fathers, adoptive fathers, father figures, and fathers-in-law.
- 18 In Thanksgiving for dairy farmers, for their work and their commitment to farming.
- 19 In Thanksgiving for Juneteenth Day and the Emancipation Proclamation.
- 20 For all cat owners, especially those who have adopted and for the cats they love.
- 21 For all LGBTQ individuals who celebrate their beauty and diversity this month.
- 22 In Thanksgiving for the summer solstice and the joy of play during the summer months.
- 23 For widows and for those who work in public service.
- 24 For our youth and chaperones who travel to Houston for a safe flight.
- 25 For the youth of MYLE as they gather to celebrate their diversity amidst their unity in Christ.
- 26 For those addicted to drugs and for those who are victims of illicit trafficking.
- 27 For the 30,000 plus youth traveling to the ELCA Youth Assembly, for the Assembly organizers and leaders.
- 28 For the people and organizations that will be served by the youth in Houston.
- 29 For Stephanie, Bobby, Gary and Pastor Connie as they chaperone our young people.
- 30 For a transformative faith experience for Lewis, CJ, Peter, Madison, Jordan, Jenna, Alecia, Samatha, Tyler, Will, Caroline, and Michael at the National Youth Gathering.



July 2018 Prayer Concerns



- 1 For Bishop Easton and the ELCA staff and missionaries.
- 2 For our youth and chaperones traveling home from Houston, for safe travels.
- 3 For those traveling this holiday week, for safe travels and joyous reunions.
- 4 For the vision and bravery of the Founders of our nation; for our freedoms and diversity.
- 5 For those living with Sarcoma, for research and treatments.
- 6 In Thanksgiving for our National Parks, prayers that they be preserved and protected.
- 7 In Thanksgiving for our Eucharistic ministers and those they serve.
- 8 For those living with Amyloidosis and other rare diseases, for research and treatments.
- 9 For our VBS leaders and volunteers.
- 10 For a faith-growing experience for the children participating in VBS.
- 11 For the children who will receive seed packets from our VBS service project.
- 12 For all those who navigate the seas for work or for pleasure.
- 13 For the gift of Christian Community as it gathers to worship and scatters to serve.
- 14 In Thanksgiving for all who study God's Word, especially the Men's Fellowship Group.
- 15 On a hot summer day, we give thanks for Ice Cream!
- 16 For those who advocate for the earth and those whose work protects nature.
- 17 For justice around the world.
- 18 For the gift of hearing and the gift of listening.
- 19 For the gift of the seashore and the joy it brings.
- 20 In Thanksgiving for dentists and dental assistants and the work they do.
- 21 For our church staff: Dottie, Lynn, Sarah, Kevin, Beverly, Matt, Tom and Pastor Connie.
- 22 In Thanksgiving for the Baptism today of Eric Nelson!
- 23 For those with spiritual vision, that they might be given the words to articulate it.
- 24 For those who work in manufacturing.
- 25 For those living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), for doctors, researchers, and treatments.
- 26 In Thanksgiving for Pastors Tom and Connie on their anniversary.
- 27 For those living with Kidney disease, especially those on dialysis and awaiting transplant.
- 28 For summer athletics and sports and the fun they bring.
- 29 In Thanksgiving for the media and their commitment to reporting.
- 30 In Thanksgiving for our friends, for the joy they bring to us; and for the chances to gather during these summer months.

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Community Events

Thank You from Laurel Cats

We are most grateful for your choosing Laurel Cats organization. The amount of food & supplies that was delivered was heart felt.

To all that participated in Holy Trinity's event, thank you. A special thanks to the children for their wonderful act of giving.

Joyfully you gave.
Joyfully we received.
Helen Woods

Fundraiser for Laurel Cats!

On Wednesday, June 6, from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Bella Indian & Italian restaurant (7423 Van Dusen Rd, Laurel, MD) will donate a percentage of your check (dine in or carry out) to this local charity. Holy Trinity supports Laurel Cats with cat food and products from our in-gatherings. Questions? Call 301.886.0161

Sight & Sound Theatre, *Jesus* Over-50 area resident trip to Lancaster, PA, to see the Friday, August 24, stage production of *Jesus*. Sometimes called "the greatest story ever told," this inspiring, musical stage presentation is an action-packed adventure that takes you on a miraculous journey alongside the most famous person ever to walk the earth. This is an all-day trip; 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM. Cost includes transportation aboard a charter bus and a ticket for the show. Lunch and dinner will be at your own expense. Pre-registration deadline is Friday, August 17. Cost: Prince George's county seniors \$100 and non-PG county seniors \$130. Sign up at the LBSAC (Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center), 7120 Contee Road, Laurel. Use code LBSAC-20180824

FREE Summer Patio Concert Series

- Performances will be on the LBSAC [Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center] patio [weather permitting]. All are from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Sign up in the LBSAC center lobby.

Thursday, June 28 - "Night at the Opera" - Vocalists and keyboard

Thursday, July 26 - Marty Nau Trio - Jazz trio

Thursday, August 30 - Ginny Carr - Piano, bass, & vocals