

Trinity Tidings

A Monthly Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

August 2018

The Power of Personal Testimony

In the middle of July I entered a club that many of you reading this have already joined. It is the **Lyme's Disease Club!** I was diagnosed with the Western Blot Test (I believe that is what it's called) and have been taking antibiotics to it. Going through this experience was very interesting to see how it unfolded for me.

I had noticed a weird red rash on my side but didn't think too much of it because I felt fine and it did not hurt. In the back of my mind I thought *maybe* it was a tick bite and that *maybe* I should go in to the clinic to get it checked out. But I did not act on that because I was doing just fine. Then I showed it to my wife who reacted much differently than I did. She wanted me to go to the doctor ASAP! But again I downplayed it. I noticed that the red spot was getting lighter in color and seemed to be going away. And I said what could they do anyway?

Then I heard from another guy who had very similar type situation to mine the week before. His wife noticed a red area on him. He started feeling sick and went to the doctor who put him on antibiotics

for **Lyme's Disease right away.**

This sounded too similar to my situation to simply blow it off anymore. I also thought about the many conversations with other guys who have had tick borne illnesses and they all said it is nothing to joke around with. Hearing their first-hand experiences was a major factor in getting me to go to the doctor and receive the help I needed.

It took the personal testimony of at least seven other guys to nudge me in the right direction.

I think this experience might be similar to what it takes to help someone who is not connected to Christ to take a step forward. I believe many

people may have a sense of wanting to begin a faith life but have things that hinder them from pursuing it. This is where my **experience with Lyme's disease** was so eye opening. It takes many Christ followers sharing about their faith to help someone new to open themselves up to this life giving relationship. It took the personal testimony of at least seven other guys to nudge me in the right direction. It is striking to think about how influential that was for me.

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Check out the IOC Table
The IOC Table (Information and Opportunity Center) is located in the gathering area outside the worship space.

On Sunday morning it is staffed so that someone will be there to answer questions or help you sign up. Please stop by the IOC Table to check out upcoming events.



Scenes From the National Youth Gathering

A group of 12 High School youth and two adult chaperones attended the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas this year. The group included: Faith Bartelt, Ava Stauter, Morgan Johnson, Sandy Buss, Jenna Hawley, Emma Hjelle, Brooke Mork, Joshua Doro, Pastor Kari Vadis, Haley Seefelt, Ciarra Kadlec, Paige Buss. The Houston group will be sharing about their experience at the 9:30am Sunday worship service on August 5.



***This Changes Everything!
(Theme for Gathering)***





From the Council President



Greetings.

My Mother had a sweet potato dish that she served on holidays. It was simple and tasty. Sweet potatoes, brown sugar, butter and topped with marshmallows! The kicker was she'd only serve it on Christmas and Easter.

Charlotte and I have been trying to eat healthier lately and sweet potatoes have become a regular part of our daily diet. They go great in salads, you can serve them as oven fries and my favorite ... **GRILLED! Toss them in oil** and a pinch of cumin and grill them until tender and marked. Wow!

Pastor Kari in her sermon last week was noting how many kids at day camp had never heard the story of Jesus. The good news is that they were at Day camp with an awesome Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp staff, caring volunteers and Pastor Kari so they heard the message. But how many others

have never heard?

For decades we've seen those families that only worship on Christmas or Easter, and now their kids are showing up even less in worship and their kids are the ones that have never heard the story of Jesus. As the church overall is in decline we must change our mindset and our approach to ministry. Our mission should not be compromised by our inability to change and adapt our ministry so that we can be successful in helping people live Christ centered lives. There are things we do in worship and elsewhere that seem so common to us but are so foreign and off putting to a new worshipper that they can become invisible barriers and prevent people from even entering our building or engaging in this awesome community.

We are blessed. JESUS, the most amazing gift ever given to the world and being a part of a community that builds each other up and praises the God who loves us, is why we are here and it is our mission to share that message to all of creation. Praise be to God.

■ Kevin Eggers

COUNCIL OFFICERS

President—Kevin Eggers

Vice President—Carole Hansen

Secretary—Keith McCaffery

Trustee—Josh Pudlowski

Trustee—Rick Taylor

Trustee—Rob Wienandt

Rep Witnessing—Maureen
Sorensen

Rep. Worship—Mary Taylor

Rep. Education—Jody Doro

Rep. Property—Bill Weyker

Congregation Meetings

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council announces two upcoming congregational meetings. The first is the Annual Elections meeting which will be held on Sunday August 26 immediately following the 9:30am worship service. The sole purpose of this meeting is to elect council officers and trustees, board members, and committee members. Any nominations must be submitted to the nomination committee prior to the August council meeting. Please submit nominees to Josh Pudlowski — Nomination Committee Chair or to Kevin Eggers — Council President.

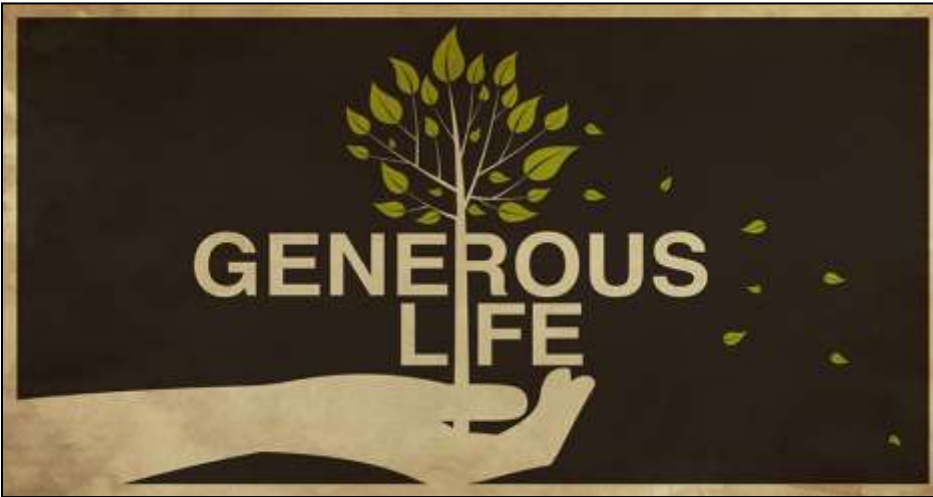
The council also announces that the Annual Meeting of the congregation will be Sunday September 23 immediately following the 9:30am worship service and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. The Annual Meeting is a time to celebrate our ministry and complete annual business of the congregation. In preparation for the annual meeting the finance committee will host presentations of our financials and preview the proposed budget for the next year. ■

CONGREGATION MEETINGS

ELECTIONS MEETING—Sunday August 26 immediately following the 9:30am worship service.

ANNUAL MEETING—Sunday September 23 immediately following the 9:30am worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

Speaking of Generosity



So many words that fill us with joy; who doesn't love talking about thanksgiving, gratitude, blessings, gifts, abundance, and generosity? Yet these words make some of us quake in our seats if we have to talk about stewardship, fundraising, giving, money, or budgets.

I am one of those people who actually likes the word "stewardship." I trust it's about caring for and protecting that which is entrusted to one's care. While God entrusted us with the care, growth, and delight of all that God owns, we are responsible for managing what God has given us, for God and the good of the kingdom. What an honor. Yes, what a responsibility.

I find myself grounded when I consider 2 Corinthians 9:11-12: "You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God."

Generosity and stewardship: what we do to give thanks to our God. It's what we do with what God has entrusted to us as caretakers for the good of the community of saints in our congregations, but even more importantly, for the good of the greater kingdom. My hope is that by working together as connected communities of faith, living Christ-centered lives, and celebrating God's grace, we realize that asking for the abundant sharing of blessings and gifts opens the way for grace to abound, faith to grow, and mission in the name of Jesus Christ to flourish. Who doesn't want to live that kind of generosity?

■ Article reprint by Karen Johnson Kretschmann – Associate for Generosity Delaware-Maryland Synod

Discover more inspiring and helpful Stewardship Resources at: www.luthersem.edu/stewardship

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Just imagine if those other guys would not have spoken so boldly and openly about their own battle with tick borne illness. I might still be waiting to go the clinic if they were silent!

I share this experience in hopes that you will think about the witness to Christ and his presence in your life. How might you speak more openly about what it means to be a follower of Christ? What do things like going to worship, praying, giving offerings, volunteering at church do for you? What can you tell someone about your faith journey?

It can be easy to downplay the significance of telling someone about what following Jesus means to you. But talking about your experience with someone you know might just be the way that God will help them come into the abundant life of faith.

■ Pastor Tim Vadis

FALL PROGRAMMING

Our Fall programs are right around the corner and we will be getting ready to begin registrations for our youth and adult faith formation opportunities. These will include Sunday School, Confirmation, and adult classes. Registering for these programs is important because it helps us in our planning for needed resources and communication with participants. We will be sending mailings in last August to early September that will have specific information about our programs and how to sign up. We look forward to helping you be active and engaged in your life with Christ.

Highlights From Day Camp 2018



Take a look at our Day Camp Participation:

- We had 64 campers – this is maximum capacity because of the bus. Next year we may need to expand!
 - 20 children were from Trinity Lutheran and 4 were from Immanuel Lutheran.
 - 7 of the youth were from other area congregations.
 - The remaining 33 children are not connected to any church community. Evidence we are reaching out to our community.
 - We work with Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp and they provide 5 counselors and the program for the week. It is awesome.
 - Trinity Lutheran had 15 volunteers who participated daily.
- Day Camp was extremely positive and a great opportunity for us to step into our mission of helping people of all ages become active and engaged followers of Christ.



Joint Service Event with Immanuel



Since 2013, thousands of ELCA congregations have participated in this dedicated day of service, gathering to serve communities in ways that share the love of God **with all of God's people. The event has quickly become an anticipated way to be "church together" and "church for the sake of the world."**

Whether your congregation prepares and delivers meals to people who are homeless, cleans parks and beaches or writes thank-you notes to emergency responders, your service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: All of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in **God's grace.**

"God's work. Our hands"
Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evan-

gelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. You work every day to make your community a better place.

This year Immanuel Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran are combining resources in an effort to reach as many people in our community on September 8th and 9th. We will be engaging in service work to make a positive change in their communities, build and deepen relationships **and share God's love. The** project that Trinity Lutheran members will be doing is to paint rooms in the NATH House Homeless Shelter.

We ask that you consider joining us. Please fill out a form which can be found on the IOC table.

■ *Board of Witness*

Update on Those Serving in Worship

A quarterly schedule of *Those Serving in Worship* is sent home to all those who help out with various worship assistant roles. These include readers, ushers, power point operators, communion helpers, Trinity Connection Café, IOC Table. These quarterly schedules are either sent via email or a printed copy is mailed to individuals who are serving based upon their preference for receiving the schedule. We hope that we have gotten your preference and that you are getting the schedule. Please let us know if we need to make an adjustment.

You can also find a copy of the three month schedule at the IOC Table for review. The names of those serving each week will also be printed in the Sunday bulletin. And we are also adding the names of those serving the following week to the Sunday bulletin.

For those who receive information via email, a reminder email is sent the week prior to the Sunday they are serving.

To help us coordinate *Those Serving in Worship* Carole Hansen is helping us by setting the quarterly schedule. One thing we have noticed is that our volunteers need to make changes to the schedule. This happens on a very regular basis. So here are a few reminders that will help us stay on top of the changes being made. First, we ask that individuals find their own substitute when they can not be there on a day they are scheduled to serve. Second, please contact the church office to let us know who is serving for you. This helps us keep the schedule we post up-to-date. Finally, thank you for serving, you are a blessing to the ministry we are doing in Jesus name. Please contact Carole Hansen or the church office if you have questions.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Newsletter Deadline

The Newsletter deadline is the *15th of each month*. Please email submissions to the office email: tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com or drop them off in the church office. The current office hours are Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 9:00am-Noon.

Church Rummage Sale

The church rummage sale is set for August 17. Set up begins on August 13.

Food Pantry Milk Collection

On the 2nd Sunday of the month we collect milk for the Rhineland Area Food Pantry. Needed are 1/2 gallon and gallons of skim or 2% milk. Please leave your donations in the milk crates by/in the refrigerator in the kitchen at church.

Trinity Logo Bags

Trinity Logo Bags are now available at the IOC Table. There is a suggested donation of \$7. The donation helps to pay for more bags. Get one of these handy tote bags to haul around your stuff. Great for Bible Study material!

Wednesday Worship Service

For the month of August we will be taking a break on Wednesdays and suspending the 5:30pm worship service until September 5 when we will resume. We take this break because of how busy August gets. We will be ready to get back into the swing of things once school starts in September.

Flowers for Worship Services

Flowers brighten our worship area. A bouquet can be placed on the altar to remember someone who has passed, honor a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary, or just in **thanks for God's blessings. Sign up for a bouquet on the flower chart on the bulletin board to the left of the IOC.** The cost is \$13.00 per bouquet and payment can be **made using the flower envelopes** in the pews or to the left of the **flower chart. The Board of Worship** thanks you.

Calendar Is Now Online

The church calendar is now available on our website, www.ComeToTrinity.com **Go to the tab "Events" And then to "Calendar."** The public calendar in outlook will come up. Clicking on individual events will bring up additional information including a brief description of the event, room, and contact person. If you see any corrections needed or your group is not meeting on a certain day, please notify the office so the calendar can be accurate and up-to-date.

NATH/Frederick Place Meals:

Reminder that we still need people to help provide the evening meal for the residents at the Frederick Place homeless shelter. This for the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Information and signup sheets are available at the IOC table. Trinity is committed to this community service for the remainder of this year and hope

to continue to do this with your help.

Northwoods Memory Cafe

The Northwoods Café is a gathering for people with memory loss and programs and most of all a place to be who you are. Hosted by Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, first Thursday every month, 10:30am-noon. For more information or to register, call the Immanuel Lutheran Church office at 715-362-5910. This program is Free. Registration is appreciated but not required.

Annual Reports Reminder

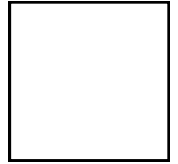
A reminder to all boards and committees that the deadline for the Annual Report is Tuesday August 29. We must have all your reports so that we can have the Annual Report printed and assembled for distribution to the congregation in preparation for the Annual meeting on September 23.

Gift and Memorial

Maribeth Vocke—

In memory of Tim Vocke
donated bushes for the
renovated front garden.

Trinity Lutheran Church
235 N. Stevens St.
Rhineland, WI 54501



Address Service Requested

*Read our Newsletter on our website at
www.ComeToTrinity.com*



***Our Mission is to help
people of all ages become
active and engaged
followers of Christ.***

We are a Lutheran congregation with a variety of ages, backgrounds and passions. We are a community striving to grow in our walk of faith with Jesus Christ to love and serve the world. We are a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (often referred to as the ELCA) in the Northern Great Lakes Synod. These relationships help us to share the saving message of the gospel in our congregation, in the Rhineland community, in our country and throughout the world. We welcome you to be part of our community and join us in the mission we share in Christ. For more information about Trinity Lutheran, to get involved in our ministries, or to learn more about becoming a member, please contact us.

Phone: 715.362.4258

Email: tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com

Website: www.ComeToTrinity.com

You can also find us on Facebook