

# Trinity Tidings

A Monthly Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

September 2018

## Faith Formation 2018-2019

While visiting my parents, I got to spend some time with my brother and his three children. As we put all our children to bed (all 5 kids plus my brother and I were all in the same room) I got to eavesdrop on their bed-time ritual. Even though we were up way too late

(we watched “Dr. Strange” which kept us up past everybody’s bed-time including mine) my brother still kept the ritual. They sang a couple hymns and prayed **the Lord’s Prayer**. But what stands out to me the most is that they all did

it. The littlest one who still sucks her thumb and sleeps in a pull-up... **and the oldest one who will be in 5th grade**. They affirmed that **“Mommy & Daddy love you and God loves you the most.”** It was really beautiful.

Faith Formation begins in worship which is central to a life of faith. And faith formation is happening all the time. Children are learning from their parents what it looks like to walk in faith (or not). Teens are learning from their parents and also their peers about how to live it out (or not).

And adults, too, are figuring out how to make faith a priority **when they’re already feeling like they’re over committed and under-rested**. This is why we offer ways to connect with Christ and one another to grow deeper together. Sometimes we do this



with peers and sometimes we do this Cross Generationally (Cross+Gen). Worship is always Cross+Gen which adds to a rich and full experience of the Body of Christ.

It is the fall and I wanted to show you how you can participate in your Faith Formation on either Sundays, Wednesdays or both. Sunday mornings starting on September 9th, we offer Faith Formation for Adults with Pastor Tim at 8:30am downstairs in the Moses Room. At that same time we offer Sunday School for children 4K – 2 in the Fellowship Hall. On Wednesday nights (Starting September 5th) we offer worship & Faith Formation for All Ages with monthly Cross+Gen Events. The idea is

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### CONGREGATION MEETING

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

In preparation for the annual meeting the finance committee will host presentations of our financials and preview the proposed budget for the next year on Sunday September 9 & 16 and Wednesday September 12 & 19. These meetings will be in the Fellowship Hall following the worship services on Sunday and on Wednesday. The presentations are a great time to get more detailed financial information and have a chance to ask questions about the budget being presented at the annual meeting.

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## Houston Follow-Up: An Interview with Emma Hjelle



Once a year the high school youth are given the opportunity to travel with their peers to experience the love of God in a new environment outside of the walls of Trinity Lutheran Church. This year the youth had the opportunity to travel to Houston to attend the ELCA's National Youth Gathering where they worshiped and served with 31,000 other young Christians.

One such youth that attended with Pastor Kari was Emma Hjelle. Emma was kind enough to answer a few questions about what they did in Houston and share some of her own thoughts about the gathering.

Christine Blakeslee: All the youth at the Gathering participated in some sort of Service event; what was the project that you were assigned to? What was your favorite part of this service project?

Emma Hjelle: The service project that our group was assigned to was participating in the "Red Sand Project" which is a movement against human trafficking. For this project we spread red colored sand in sidewalk cracks at the University of Houston campus. I appreciated learning about the realities of human trafficking in the United States,

and around the world.

CB: Would you say this whole experience changed the way you live out your faith? Did it happen in a way that you were expecting, or not?

EH: I would not say that this trip changed the way I live out my faith but it did perhaps reestablish my tolerance for unconventional people and walks of life.

CB: What would you say was the one thing you learned, about yourself or about God, that you will take away from this whole experience?

EH: **I learned that God's grace changes everything.**

CB: If there was anything you could have changed about this trip (other than the long return home) what would it have been? Why?

EH: If I could have redesigned the trip I would have allowed our group more time to be away from the conference and perhaps see the city a little bit. Being at the conference centers day after day was draining.

CB: Given the opportunity, would you ever go to another National Youth Gathering again?

EH: This was a wonderful opportunity but I would probably not want to go to another youth gathering.

■ *Christine Blakeslee*

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that whether we are engaging with our peer group or engaging across the generations we are all becoming active and engaged followers of Christ.

Its an exciting time to be the Church together.

■ *Pastor Kari Vadis, Team Pastor*

## "THAT FRIDAY THING"

A Joint Youth Night  
for Grades 6-10

TRINITY—Rhineland,   
ASCENSION—Minocqua  
& PRINCE OF PEACE—Eagle River



October 26,  
5:30-8:30pm  
@ TRINITY,  
Rhineland

A night of New Friends,  
Dinner, Praise, Games like:  
**Dodge Ball, "Romans & Christians" ...and a lot of FUN!!** \*\*Bring a flashlight (or your phone)\*\*

For Questions & Sign Up contact  
Pastor Kari @ 715.437.0770



## From the Council President

Greetings Brothers and Sisters.

In preparing the budget for the new fiscal year that starts September 1st, we are proposing something that we believe is essential **to Trinity's continued growth and development.** Something that is honestly long over due.

We are proposing that Pastor **Kari's status be changed from 3/4 time to FULL time!** The reality that we are now a program sized church, with very different needs than a pastoral sized church, and the demands on staff (staff does not include secretaries or janitors) to minister to a growing congregation are great. Moving Pastor Kari to full time is one of the important steps we will need to take as we prepare to build our staff for growth.

In our Visioning and Planning process of a year ago, one of the recommendations was to evaluate this option. We looked closely at our ministry needs and Pastor **Kari's opinion was sought.** We believe this is the right step for the future. This doesn't mean we

going just heap more jobs on her. We are going to work with her so all her skills and Talents are used productively and that we don't set unrealistic expectations.

As you look at our proposed 2018-19 budget you'll see that this proposal has a significant financial impact. We don't take this fact lightly. Harvey Mathisen will be holding 4 budget forums with specific details and we will have council members there to answer questions as well. These forums will be following worship services September 9 and 16 (Sundays) September 12 and 19 (Wednesdays). We are also preparing a stewardship campaign for the fall.

God has blessed us with an incredible pastoral team and that blessing is reflected in lives and passion of this amazing congregation. 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

## Welcome to Our New Administrative Assistant

We welcome Pam Karoliussen to our office staff at Trinity Lutheran. Pam will be our new Administrative Assistant. She will be here during office hours Monday thru Friday 8:00am to Noon.

Pam has lived in the Rhineland area for many years and has worked at the hospital coordinating volunteers. So she may be a familiar face to some of you.

You can contact Pam at the church office 715-362-4258 or by email:

tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com  
Please stop by the church office and introduce yourself and help Pam connect names to faces.

A big thank you to Ellen Leick who has provided much needed office support during the interim and to Carol Alderton who filled in to do many of the office tasks that needed to get done. It has been much appreciated.

■ *Church Council*

## First We Give of Ourselves

is the theme for this year's Stewardship Drive. The theme verse is found in 2 Corinthians 8:5. The Apostle Paul in describing the generosity of the Macedonian Christians says: **"...and this, not merely as we expected, they gave themselves first to the Lord..."**

We will begin our Stewardship Drive on Sunday September 30 and Wednesday October 3. In our worship services we will be studying 2 Corinthians 8-9. The sermons and Bible Studies will help us grow in our understanding of what it means to be centered in the abundance of God's generosity.

We look forward to journeying together as we carry out our mission to serve Jesus Christ.

# Stewardship 101: Why Do You Give To The Church?

I recently led two workshops about narrative budgeting in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA. During one of the workshops, I asked participants to answer the question: Why give to the church? One woman responded, **“Why not give to the church? I don’t understand why people don’t give to the church.”** And I probed her, **“But, why should they?”** The floodgates opened. She said with a smile, **“Well, my church is like a second family to me. I take care of my first house, so I also take care of my second home — the church.”** At the root of her giving was this deep sense of community she felt called to support. Immediately, when she said the church was **“her second family,”** I wanted to hear more. I wanted to hear the stories behind her statement.

The best way to share the **“why” with young adults** — and all our community, for that matter — is through stories that demonstrate how the church is making a difference in your community. Stewardship is living by faith, best told through stories of hope. We are eager to hear about your traditions and liturgy, but we are more eager to hear about how lives are being transformed in and through your congregation. According to the 2013 Millennial Impact report, the top two reasons millennials (young adults born between 1981 and 2000) give to an

**organization is because they’re** inspired and understand how their gift makes an impact. A subsequent 2015 report also suggests that millennials are most likely to give to organizations willing to engage with them beyond soliciting a donation. Transformational stories not only



inspire, but they can help to illustrate how gifts to the congregation lead to opportunities for deeper engagement and greater reach.

So, how do you integrate these stories of hope and transformation into your stewardship ministry? One of the best ways to do this is by using a narrative budget, or ministry plan, in addition to a line item budget. A narrative budget connects the money to the mission and ministry of the congregation using a story or narrative style. It connects each dollar spent to a specific element of the congregation’s **mission and ministry** rather than particular programs or staff.

It has been said that young

adults prefer to give to a specific project or inspiring cause. People **often ask me, “Well, the specific projects are all well and good, but how do you get young adults to support the general fund of the church? How do you get them to fund the electricity bill?”** Great question! My answer: **“Why are the lights on? What is going on in your congregation when the lights are on?”** The lights are on Thursday evening because the choir is practicing, they are on Sunday morning for worship, they are on Saturday morning as we prepare meals for **“Meals on Wheels,”** and the list goes on. What is God up to in your congregation when the lights are on? These are the stories that connect money to ministry in a narrative budget.

The greatest thing about this **storytelling approach to “why church?”** is that it inspires people of all ages, not just young adults. Making your congregation a place where the **“why” is taken seriously** and where stories of hope and transformation are freely shared will enliven and empower your community. It will help members connect their financial support to the ministry of the congregation, not just numbers in the budget.

■ Article reprint by  
Grace Duddy Pomroy

Discover more inspiring and helpful Stewardship Resources at:  
[www.luthersem.edu/stewardship](http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship)



# FOOD FOR KIDZ

FOOD PACKAGING EVENT  
October 20 @ 10am—Noon



@ The LAKELAND UNION HS Cafeteria

Along with our larger community, we will provide over 200,000 Life-Saving Meals for children around the world!

All Ages are invited to serve!

This is a FREE Event with Live Music & Snacks.

Sign-up with Pastor Kari @ 715.437.0770

*\*\*Carpooling Options Available\*\**

Sign up & Questions to Pastor Kari @ 715.437.0770

## Drawn to the Word By Paul Oman

Paul will inspire as he paints a Biblical story before your eyes. Local musicians will join us as we listen to music, hear scripture and other readings. This is a free community event for all ages.

Saturday September 8 at 7:00pm

Held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
5030 Highway 70 West, Eagle River  
715-479-9263

A Free will offering will be taken to support Northwoods Singers Youth Scholarships, Warehouse Art Center Scholarships,  
**Land O' Lakes Arts**



# Getting Out To Serve Together

Join us for  
 "God's work. Our hands."  
 day of service



On Saturday September 8 we will join together with members of Immanuel Lutheran Church to do a service project in the community. We will be painting several rooms at the NATH House. Meet at Trinity Lutheran at 8:45am. Lunch will be provided at Trinity Lutheran for the workers. There is a sign up sheet at the IOC Table.

■ Board of Witness

# Those Serving in Worship

A quarterly schedule of *Those Serving in Worship* is sent home to all 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.

# 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.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### Newsletter Deadline

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

### Food Pantry Milk Collection

On the 2nd Sunday of the month we collect milk for the Rhineland-er 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.

### Rummage Sale

A big thank you to all the workers that made the rummage sale a huge success. To all of you that donated items, the ladies who worked all week setting up and sorting, and to the guys who helped clean up and deliver the unsold items. Thanks to all of you we raised \$1,302.25 to help the area food pantry and world hunger. *Yvonne Molinski & Jan Johnson – Co-chairs of the sale.*

### Outdoor Event at Hodag Park

A big thank you to all the people involved in attending, organizing and helping make the Outdoor Worship Service such a huge success. We certainly became **“Connected in the Water and the Word!”** We could not have done it without each and every one of you! We went out on a limb to try and do something different this year. With a lot of praying and a whole lot of faith, we succeeded

and became energized. It was a pleasure, knowing how well our boards can work together to **make good things happen.** Let's do it again next year!

*Board of Witness*

### Wednesday Worship

The Wednesday worship service resumes on September 5 at 5:30pm. Programming begins the following week September 12 with break out groups for all ages.

### Calendar Is Now Online

The church calendar is now available on our website, [www.ComeToTrinity.com](http://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.

### Adult Faith Formation

Join Pastor Tim on Sunday mornings before worship from 8:30am -9:15am in the lower level Moses Room for a time of Spiritual discussion and learning. We cover a wide variety of topics which range from studying books of the Bible to basics of the Christian faith. We are always done in time for worship. No registration is needed and you can attend as your schedule allows. We will have coffee available downstairs. Please join us for a time to enrich your walk of faith.

### Gift and Memorial

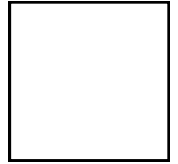
Marilyn Bradley and Ruth & Bob Aho in memory of Don Randolph Designated to the TLC Quilters

Harvey & Ellen Mathisen, Al & Sharon Hofstetter, John & Betty Schwanz and Emily Bodensteiner in memory of Don Randolph

James & Sue Binder in honor of **Gary & Pat Peterson's** 50th Wedding Anniversary Designated for the TLC Garden Fund

Marilyn Bradley in honor of Yvonne Molinski Designated for the TLC Garden Fund

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



**Address Service Requested**

*Read our Newsletter on our website at  
[www.ComeToTrinity.com](http://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](mailto:tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com)

Website: [www.ComeToTrinity.com](http://www.ComeToTrinity.com)

You can also find us on Facebook