

Trinity Tidings

A Monthly Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

July 2019

Creating a “Test & Learn” Culture

The Executive Committee wants to share information with you about what the council is working on to help our congregation fulfill its mission to help people of all ages become active and engaged followers of Christ.

Last fall the council met in retreat and identified some challenges we are facing here at Trinity Lutheran Church. Through prayer and thoughtful discussion we identified

Volunteering in our congregation is different now than it was 50 years ago.

two main challenges that are hampering our shared ministry. The two challenges are: our current organizational structure and communication within this structure. We have consistently heard Council AND Board members express feeling: Overwhelmed, frustrated and burned out; Not aligned with strengths or, not given the opportunity to develop required strengths; Wasting time and energy; Missed opportunities/loss of efficiency; and Confusion about clarity of roles for Council—Boards—Pastors & Staff.

All of these are limiting us! The council wants to deal with these challenges and so some meaningful changes are needed.

Over the past several months we have been really looking at our

organizational structure. Praise be to God our congregation is growing and changing. Volunteering in our congregation is different now than it was 50 years ago. Family life has changed. Many of our young couples are both working. This means volunteers' time is more limited. We

are all being pulled in different directions and thus find it difficult to

commit to long-term activities. **We have heard many times, “I'd like to commit to that, but that's a long term commitment and right now with family and work, I don't have the time” or “I want to help but not for a long-term commitment.” or “I'd love to help with short-term activities where the end is within a short time.”** Right now our organizational structure does not make it easy to work with the new reality that **defines many of our member's** lives today.

Hearing these comments and wanting to include all of us in our mission to engage all to be followers of Christ, Council wants to try a different approach this next year.

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Day Camp Family Night

We welcome the Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp counselors who will be leading our Day Camp July 8-11!

Day Camp Family Night
Everyone is invited!

Join us for dinner and a night of experiencing a bit of Day Camp: songs, skits, the love of Jesus and a lot of fun.

Thursday, July 11
Dinner 4:30 pm
(drop in any time)
Program 5:30 pm



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A Thank You to Our Trinity Church Family

Three years ago, when I was 75 years old and Bob was 77, we **drove to Tim's Hill, the highest elevation in Wisconsin.** We hiked up the hill and climbed to the top of the tower. It has been **"downhill" ever since.**

Bob was diagnosed with a type of dementia called **Pick's Disease.** He was falling 2-3 times a week. I would use my arms to pull him up resulting in torn rotator cuffs in both arms.

In December of 2018, I fell and have been in a lot of pain from compression fractures in the vertebrae of my neck. During the **past couple of months, I've had severe pain in my left leg and will need a total knee replacement which is scheduled for June 19.**

Bob and I prayed to God, and **it went something like this: "Dear Lord, we used to feel like we were in charge of our lives, maybe even feeling a little smug about how well we were doing. We realize now that we have no control over what has been happening to us, maybe we were never really in control.**

Now, dear Lord, we give our **lives to you. Please help us."**

God answered our prayers by sending angels in the form of Trinity members to help, care about us, and encourage us in many, many ways.

Thank you, dear church family

for your prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, meals, rides, shopping, cleaning, carrying out garbage, fetching

our mail, watering plants, sending flowers, bringing us treats like: homemade cookies, delicious pie from Friendship House, pineapple-rhubarb cake; staying with Bob when I had to go somewhere, setting mouse-traps, shoveling, raking the **yard, and daily living God's command to "Love One Another."**

Thank you! We feel so humbled and grateful to all of you. May God send His angels to you when you are going through tough times.

With love and gratitude,

■ Ruth and Bob Aho



Do You Like Decorating?

Are you getting your creativity needs met? The Decorating Committee would love to have you join them.

The committee is responsible for decorating the worship space for seasons of the church: Christmas, Lent/Palm Sunday/Easter, Pentecost, All Saints Day, etc.

Please prayerfully consider joining the Decorating Committee. Check out the decorating booth after Sunday worship services the month of July. Sign up at the IOC or contact Pam in the office at 715-362-4258 or email tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com.

■ Mary Taylor

Gardeners!

Is your fruit and vegetable garden over abundant this summer? If have produce to share, you can drop it off at the Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing (NATH) at 204 W. Frederick St.

It will be put to good use.

"... and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward." – Matthew 10:42

■ Fred Voss





From the Council President

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,
Change. Yep, I said it, change. Change is a constant, and it is inevitable. We change our clothes and hair styles. We upgrade our cars. Hey, indoor plumbing was a change!

Ten years ago I thought worship was the green hymnal, vestments and chanting. But looking around I saw that the institutional church and that style of worship **wasn't** working for most people my age or younger, so I

CHANGED MY MINDSET. If you are giving God all the glory, praise and honor he so richly deserves, then that is worship. That same shift in thinking by leadership here at Trinity has led us to a growing worship community!

We have been spending a lot of time as a council looking at how we function. Carole Hansen, our Vice President gave a passionate and honest account of where we are and what we hope to achieve as we make changes in the ways we function. This was digitally recorded and will hopefully be available soon in our digital media. She says it far

more eloquently than I. These changes will require all of us to change our mindset. We are striving for a higher way of functioning and to position our congregation to accept the contemporary realities of today

and help us live out our mission statement.

For those who will question the actions taken and wonder if they are con-

stitutional, I would ask for patience while we **“test and learn”**. We are pushing some limits, but remember that what relates to board structure in our document are bylaws, and they are easily changed by the congregation as needed. In fact, the comment from Synod when we last amended the document was “are you sure you want to lock yourselves into all **this**”.

God is blessing us! I ask you to pray for our congregation and for God to continue to guide us as we go forward together. Praise be to God!

■ Kevin

MINDSET IS
EVERYTHING

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2018-2019

President—Kevin Eggers
Vice President—Carole Hansen
Secretary—Jerry Dykstra
Trustee—Josh Pudlowski
Trustee—Lori Grinde
Trustee—Rob Wienandt
Rep. Witnessing—Sue Johnson
Rep. Worship—Margo Morey
Rep. Education—Jody Doro
Rep. Property—Peter Leick

FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019
YEAR-TO-DATE
THROUGH May 31, 2019

Actual Giving: \$266,373
(Actual Giving represents the *contributions* we have received thus far)

Projected Needs: \$283,814
(Projected Needs represents the *contributions* we need to support our ministry plan)



Welcome New Trinity Members!



Rick and Jodi Brice

Rick is a retired electrician who likes woodworking, hunting, fishing and gardening.

Jodi is a retired medical coder who likes baking, working on their family tree, crafts, gardening and spending time with family.



Ricky and Jaclyn Brice, Finn and Maverick

Ricky and Jaclyn love outdoor activities in all seasons, especially winter. Both boys learned how to ski this winter at the ages of one and three and are now on to learning how to fish without getting a hook stuck in their hand.



Kristy Hicks, Taylor Domaika

Kristy grew up in Tomahawk and moved to Rhinelander shortly after college. She's lived here for 13 years. She is a respiratory therapist at St. Mary's Hospital and enjoys gardening, camping, four-wheeling, fishing, knitting and crafts.

Kristy is a first-time mom to a beautiful healthy seven month old with whom she loves to spend time. Taylor loves being tossed in the air by her dad; she likes spending time with grandma and grandpa **and playing on the floor with her toys. She's super quick at rolling across the room and is getting better at the army crawl and can almost sit up by herself. She loves cereal and fruit but isn't a fan of peas and beans.** She loves to be cuddled and rocked and will smile at just about anyone.



Ann Matz

Ann moved from St. Germain to Rhinelander in August.

She was widowed four years ago when her husband Peter was cutting wood for the firewood ministry and had a heart attack and died the same day.

She is a retired home health and hospice nurse and mother of two daughters, two step-daughters and five grandchildren. Her youngest daughter and son-in-law live in town and have a new baby.

Ann is of a Swedish background and bakes 18-20 types of Christmas cookies and likes crafts.



Rev. John and Jan Meachen

Jan was born and grew up in Toledo, Ohio. She enjoys quilting and owns “Rusty Thimble Quilting Company”, a long-arm quilting company business. Jan is active in Pine Tree Quilters Quilt Guild.

John was born and raised in Port Clinton, Ohio. He graduated from what is now Trinity Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, in 1977. John served in North Dakota and Wausau, Wisconsin, from 1982-2011. He was executive director of Crossways Camping Ministries from 2012-2015 and retired in 2017. John enjoys fishing and woodworking and is active in Trout Unlimited.

John and Jan moved from Wausau in December to Parrish, Wisconsin. They have two children with spouses and three grandchildren.



Ernie and Jessica Tromp, Remi

Jessica was born in Minnesota, but raised in Rhinelander.

They will be married three years in July and welcomed their daughter Remi who was born in March.

Ernie grew up in Rhinelander and enjoys playing softball, hunting and fishing.

Along with their daughter, Jessica and Ernie have a year-old black lab.

(continued from page 1)

We've selected points from the Vision and Planning Committee's document that was submitted at the 2017 annual meeting to help us address our challenges. We are acting on the recommendation to create a test and learn culture. This coming year boards will be given the opportunity to operate in a manner that more closely resembles a committee structure. We want to experiment with how this might work so that needed adjustments can more easily be made. We also need to figure out exactly what it will look like. The adjustments will be assessed by council on an ongoing basis during this Test and Learn period. I'm excited about this new adventure as we take action to address the new challenges before us!

If you have any questions about these changes, please feel free to contact one of the executive committee members: Kevin Eggers, Carole Hansen, Jerry Dykstra, Rob Weinandt, Josh Pudlowski, Lori Grinde.



Jeffrey and Jennifer Thomas, Aden and Chloe
The Thomas family enjoys camping and nature hikes.

Jeffrey is an automotive technician and Jen is an early childhood teacher.

Aden is currently a sixth grader, a boy scout, and just finished track and field.

Chloe will be entering 4K, loves swimming and is outgoing.

The family enjoys spending time together and seeking new adventures.

Rummage Sale

Trinity Lutheran Church is in the process of planning for our annual Rummage Sale on Friday, August 16th.

We will accept your items starting **Sunday, August 11th**. Please no TV's or furniture. We appreciate your assistance.

Help will be appreciated starting Monday, August 12th.

■ Yvonne Molinski and Jan Johnson



Baby Care Kits

This summer, volunteers will be putting together Baby Care Kits to send to Lutheran World Relief this fall.

Items needed:

- Baby socks
- Yards of flannel fabric
- Gently used/new baby clothes in sizes 6 months to 2T: sleepers, cotton t-shirts, jackets/sweaters, outfits, long pants (no dresses please)
- Monetary donations to purchase items needed

Come join us each Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. to noon downstairs at church. We always have jobs to do to get the kits together.

■ Questions, please call Susan Swanson at 715-362-6227.



Help Needed for Sunday Power Point Operators

We are looking for additional people to run the power point for Sunday worship. This entails using the remote to advance the slides throughout the service. Training will be provided.

Please call Pam in the church office at 715-362-4258 or email her at tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com if you would like this opportunity to serve.

High school age or younger



From the Office

Trinity Lutheran is a busy church! To help us keep track of our space, please contact the church office to get your meeting, practice or set-up information on the calendar so you or your group can use the space without any conflicts.

The calendar, serving schedule and birthdays and anniversaries can be found posted on the bulletin board in the church gathering area or at the IOC table.

If you would like copies sent to you, please contact the church office Monday-Friday from 8 am to 12 pm. by calling Pam at 715-362-4258 or emailing her at tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com.

Share Your Garden at Worship

Our summer gardens are blooming with beautiful flowers!

Garden flowers are a beautiful way to brighten our worship area on the weeks that flowers have not been ordered from Forth Floral.

If you would like to provide a bouquet from your garden, sign up on the Altar Flower Calendar on the bul-

letin board across from the IOC table and write "garden".

Please only sign up on a week that someone hasn't already ordered a bouquet from Forth Floral.

If you have questions, contact Sue Underberg at 262-719-7898.



■ Board of Worship



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. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-Noon.

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.

LiveStream of Church Service

We are Livestreaming our worship service on the first and third Sundays of the month. If you are interested in the live stream worship services please email the church office requesting a [link](#) that we will send you. This link is how you will connect to the service. Note that the link must be watched during the service time at 9:30am. We are working on how we can download recorded files so that these can be shared for future viewing.

Staffed Nursery

A staffed nursery is available from 9 AM-10:30AM downstairs for children during the worship service. While children are ALWAYS welcome to be in worship this option is available if needed. We want to help families have a good worship experience.

Electronic Giving Option

You can now give online through our website portal under the **“Connect” tab/Share Faith Giving/Give**. This is a secured transaction with many giving options from one-time gifts to recurring donations. For your convenience you can simply scan the QR code with your phone to take you to the giving portal.



Calendar Is 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.

Double 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 up to date.

This is the best way to find the most current info!

Toilet Available For Donation

The Board of Property replaced the toilets in the lower level. They were installed in 2002 and have had little use. If you are in need of a 1.6 gallon flush toilet, please call the office to make a donation and pick it up.

RAFP

Every second Monday of the month from 3-6 pm volunteers are needed at the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry to distribute, weigh, and carry food. If you would like to help, please sign up at the IOC table.

RAFP Milk Collection

On Sunday, July 14th we will be collecting milk for the Rhinelander 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.

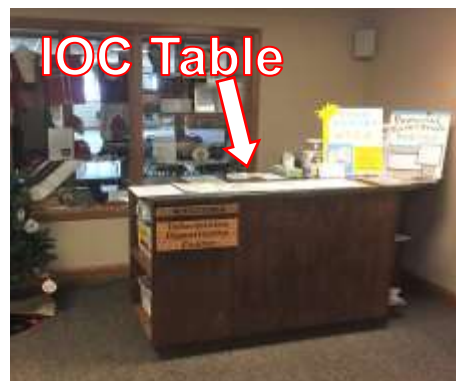


Thank you!

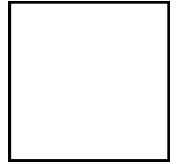
Check out the IOC Table

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 for volunteer projects.

Please stop by the IOC Table to check out upcoming events or locate community resources.



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