



July
2016

Trinity Tidings

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1010 Sill St, La Crosse, Wisconsin

CALLING ALL HELPERS!

Ushers and Communion servers are needed for the 8:30am service. Please consider signing up (ushers in the usher book in the narthex, communion servers on the board in the sacristy). Each of us can participate in sharing the love of Christ with our Trinity family and visitors.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Our Wednesday concert gatherings are continuing into July. The schedule will be posted in the narthex, bulletins and newsletters. So you can plan ahead, the dates are: July 6, 13, 20, and 27. Consider joining us, it's a great way to enjoy God's gifts as we listen to the talents of the La Crosse Concert Band, observe the beauty of Riverside Park and the Mississippi River all at one time (and don't forget the great company you'll have). Watch for the Trinity sign. We try to find a place in the shade but that may be more difficult this year since many trees have been removed. We will have a sign up sheet in the narthex so we have some idea how much space to save. See you there!

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Synod Assembly Coulee Courier
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Pastors Erik's Update

Erik Feig
Lead Pastor



At our Synod Assembly last month, our Bishop, Rev. Jim Arends, brought a strong and profound message to all congregations, their leadership and their members. In lieu of my message, I'd like to share his message with you.

In Christ, Pastor Erik

Report of the Bishop
La Crosse Area Synod Assembly
Luther College
June 10-12, 2016

GOD DOES NOT LEAVE US ALONE

Once a year we gather in Assembly to celebrate that God brings us together and that together as the Body of Christ we can do more than any one household or any one congregation can do alone. We celebrate the ministries we live out in the name of Christ. We celebrate the work we do as Jesus whispers in our ears, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." But we don't get comfortable, because God does not leave us alone. God is always challenging us to be more and more, the living Body of our Sovereign and Savior.

OUR MESSAGE

"Jesus is Lord!" – Many call this the first Christian creed. One of the shortest sermons I ever heard was, "Jesus loves you – live with that." And isn't this enough? We are thankful for the simple truths of faith. We can rest in them.

But God does not leave us alone. Since Jesus is our friend, we want to know Jesus better. Since we want to tell people about our Divine Friend, our Savior and Sovereign, we want more to share. Since we are called to be Christians in the Lutheran tradition, we want to know who we are. October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

The synod's Anniversary Committee has set a simple goal for the learning period from now until the observance: That every member of every congregation can name:

- 1) One thing special about being an ELCA Lutheran, and
- 2) One thing ELCA Lutherans contribute in this world.

Is it time to spend more time in Scripture? Is it time to learn more about your faith and your tradition? What would you like to know to share your faith more clearly?

OUR BUILDINGS

We love our church buildings. Many of us sit in worship, look to the chancel, and see in our minds our little ones in cherub robes waving and singing with shouts. We see our youth, now moved away to colleges and big city work, standing in confirmation stoles sharing their statements of faith. We see wedding dresses, baptismal gowns, and funeral palls. We see the candle glow of Christmas and hear loud Easter choruses. We look to the past, lean back in our pews, and thank God for the comfort of this place.

But God does not leave us alone. God calls us to see our buildings and ministry centers. And we open our doors. The number of Come for Supper sites continues to grow throughout our synod. Food pantries are moving from closets to classrooms. Office space is donated to county services and Lutheran Social Services. Stately sanctuaries seasonally see pews covered in patchwork quilts to be donated, piles and piles of food headed to hungry people. Comical mosquitoes and cartoonish cows celebrating both malaria and hunger fought. Classrooms are used by Alcoholics Anonymous groups, by county health screeners, and for supervised parental visits with at risk children.

One of the greatest assets our congregations have is our buildings. Many, many rooms are unused for great portions of each week. How does your church building serve our God? How does Jesus want to expand the use of rooms consecrated for service?

OUR TREASURES

We have weathered one of the greatest recessions in the history of our country. Many are still hurting, many are stable, and many are doing better. In a time of recession we make sure our security is guarded as much as possible. Many cut back their giving to the ministry that we share. Many were thrilled they were able to maintain a dollar amount. We thank God that we made it through and we rest.

However, the reality of the last three years is reflected in the amount we have been able to apply to our work through our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As mission support from congregations has remained fairly stable over the last three years, synod operating costs have risen. This has resulted in a difficult decision. The Synod Council is recommending that this assembly adopt an amended budget for 2016 and a new budget for 2017 that will reduce our mission support contributions from 55% to 50% of our income. We have been a 55% synod for a long time. Please take home from this assembly the stories of what we do together as a church. Please work to increase the mission support giving of your congregation to continue these vital ministries. The Synod Mission Support Committee is eager to help our congregations in stewardship education for our members.

At the same time this weekend we are particularly celebrating a herd of cows now grazing on the library lawn of this college. Each cow represents \$500 given by a congregation to fight world hunger. I will report the amount of giving to date at this assembly and we will have cause to celebrate. We are well on our way to our 2016 goal of \$150,000, a goal that was surpassed in 2015 with a total received of \$153,457.94. (In addition, we announced at the 2015 assembly that the synod had surpassed its three year goal in the malaria campaign of \$150,000; at the end of February 2016 the La Crosse Area Synod had contributed \$180,170.63 to fight malaria.)

But God does not leave us alone. We know as faith-filled people that all we have is a gift from God. We know that we are called to tend our treasures for the good of God's world. We remember that we have been taught as children of God to share.

How are you sharing beyond your family – in your neighborhood, congregation, and beyond? How is your congregation reaching out beyond its doors? Where is Jesus calling you to share?

OUR PEOPLE

We train our pastors well in the ELCA. Our congregations call their pastors carefully. We get a pastor we enjoy – full of energy, fine preaching and teaching skills, good with the youth and a blessing to the homebound and hospitalized. We thank God that our pastor has limited office hours, because most of the time our pastor is out of the building meeting people where they are at – the coffee shop, the school, the warming shelter. We thank God that our pastor is active in organizations on our behalf making our communities better places. We thank God that our pastor attends regular text studies to create the best messages we need to hear and attends theological conferences to hone the skills each pastor needs. We are thankful and rest in the blessings.

But God does not leave us alone. God reminds us that our pastors are only part of the ministry to which we are called. God works in us the need to serve and pushes us to volunteer. We are called to teach children and adults, to mentor youth, to lead the service ministries of our congregations, and to be the Christ-filled people who are needed volunteers in schools and hospitals and service groups, in short term projects and long term ministry. God calls us to speak of Jesus, to make disciples, and to raise up leaders.

A specific need: it is estimated that in the next ten years the number of active clergy in the ELCA will be reduced by 1,000 pastors. This means more and more leadership will need to be done by lay people. I believe this will be a positive change for our church. But change does not come easily. Now is the time to become more active. And now is the time to encourage people to consider professional leadership in the ELCA.

How is your congregation making disciples? What discipleship skills do you need to grow in? Where are you called to serve?

THANKS

Speaking of people, I am thankful for the servants who share a passion for God's work as we seek to be synod together. Thank you to leaders in congregations and those who serve in committees and projects of the Synod. Thank you to the synod staff – Pastor Libby Howe, Melanie Timmerman, Deb Wold and Alice DaFoe. Thank you to my spouse Lynn.

God does not leave us alone, what a promise! God does not leave us alone, what a challenge!

Thankful we are in Christ together,

Bishop Jim

Rev. Jim Arends, Bishop

Love Thy Neighbor Jar? What's that? A unique giving basket provided at each weekend worship service with money gathered going to different ministries outside of the church each month!

Social Ministry

Love Thy Neighbor jar for July – Trinity Block Party

From the Heart Food Pantry—July featured item: **Tuna**. As always, anything given to the food pantry is much appreciated!

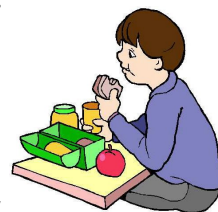
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

On October 8th we will join a build for Habitat For Humanity. Details to follow—“Save the Date” on your calendar!

In August there will be a personal hygiene drive for the Salvation Army. Watch your bulletins and this space for details!

KIDS' SUMMER LUNCHESES

We are looking for volunteers to help with preparing summer lunches for community children. We will need 8-10 people on each date, Friday July 29th and Wednesday August 17th. We currently have one person scheduled on each date, so we need several more volunteers. This month we're making the children peanut butter and jelly sandwiches! It's a fun activity that takes place at the Salvation Army starting at 9:45am, and usually takes just a couple of hours. Call Julie Thoftne at 783-0443 if you're able to help. Please consider helping to keep our community children fed this summer!



Social Ministry Committee meeting is July 12th at 5:30pm in the Library

Community Service

FREE FINANCIAL COACHING

La Crosse County UW-Extension is sponsoring free financial coaching sessions at Trinity every other Tuesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Please contact Susan Taylor, AFC at 608.785.6417 or email:smtaylor@afsc.com for an appointment.

MONDAY MEALS

In the regular rotation of congregations who serve at a Monday Meals, Trinity serves 7 times per year. Among those who are a part of that ministry are Social Ministry, Congregational Life, and Pastor Erik. If this is something you are interested in please call the church office or send an email to pastorerik@trinitylutheranlax.org. It's a great way to love our neighbors as Christ has loved us.

Worship & Music



Stacey Feig
Worship & Music

BLOCK PARTY

The Northside Annual Block Party is set for Monday Aug 15th from 5-8pm. Join the Northside in this effort to create community and get to know our Trinity neighbors. There are lots of opportunities to have fun, serve, and give. **MUSIC, FOOD, FUN, SHOES** for kids, **PHOTOS**, and **GAMES!!!** Please consider how you can do your part to make this year's event a success. If you have any questions, please call Stacey Feig at 651-373-1726 or email cptmazda@hotmail.com. If you are interested in volunteering, please check out: <http://vols.pt/KVTGBM>. Next planning meeting is scheduled Thursday July 14th at 6:30pm at 1636 Loomis Street (Menu is Mexican themed). We always have room on the planning team!!!



MUSICIANS WANTED

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Do you play an instrument or like to sing? Would you be willing to share your talent as a part of summer worship? Choose a song, choose a service! If you are willing to do **special music** this summer, please contact the church office and we will gladly get you scheduled. We would love to have everyone consider a musical offering.

THRIVENT MEMBERS!!

You can apply for a **Thrivent grant** to help any of the ministries happening here at Trinity. Please consider applying this month for the Northside Block Party, the Children's Clothes Closet, the From the Heart Food Pantry, or the Monday's Meals program. It only takes 10 minutes to give \$250 dollars to a good cause. If you have any questions, please contact Dale Eppler at deppler45@gmail.com.

Congregational Life



Bonnie Jeranek
Congregational Life
Committee Chair
bonniejeranek@gmail.com
608-784-2996

IN THE NARTHEX!

Each week we try to have news, sign-ups, coffee and cookies in the narthex. We encourage you to socialize with your Trinity Family and check out the opportunities we offer. Every time you volunteer, you help your neighbor and they feel blessed.

THANK YOU

To all who **"SENT A KID TO THE BALLGAME"**. Your generosity sent over 25 kids to the Logger game on June 29th!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRY meets the 4th Monday of the month at 6:00pm

Synod Assembly 2016

On June 10-12, 2016, the congregations of the La Crosse Area Synod gathered at Luther College for our annual Synod Assembly. Trinity was faithfully represented by Lance and Meme Mihalovic, Laura Cunliffe and Pastor Erik and Stacey Feig. The enclosed 'Coulee Courier' newsletter gives a synopsis of the event. It was a Spirit filled Assembly, and the theme 'Never Alone' was evident in all that happened. What a blessing to be the church!



Finance and Stewardship

TGIF! Or should I say TGIS!!

Thank God It's Summer!!! The best time of the year for most of us, but also the hardest part of the year for church budgets. As everyone takes time to get away our budget takes a strain. But this summer's Big Blockbuster is that we are much better than we have been in the past years. This has taken some extreme measures to lighten or expenses and it is finally showing up on our bottom line. That does not mean that it's not a juggling act by our hardworking accountant, Mark Heinz, but his job has been easier this year by far. We are meeting all of our obligations and still finding new ways to help others and be God's light here on the Northside without having to check the couch cushions to figure out how to pay for it. Our community partnerships continue to reap benefits for our members and neighbors.

Thanks for your help in all of our endeavors. Every little bit helps, please keep Trinity in your prayers and giving envelopes.

If you have any questions about ways to give electronically please reach out to us and we can help get you set up.

God Bless.

Pari Sexauer-Finance

Kathy Sexauer -Stewardship

Council President's message



Sue Weidemann
Council President
608-790-1862

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

President

Sue Weidemann

Vice-President

Todd Olson

Secretary

Kim Mitchell

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Worship & Music

Stacey Feig

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Bonnie Jarenek

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Kathi Volden

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Personnel

Chuck Thoftne

Stewardship

Kathy Sexauer

Finance

Pari Sexauer

Evangelism

Kelly Raymer

The Trinity Family

OK, so I wished for summer...well we got it! It's amazing how we go from winter to summer and never seem to get a long spring. Well, I am still thankful for the beauty we see in the Coulee Region. I can't even imagine what it must be like for those who don't get to see the changing of the seasons. Long or short, we do have 4 seasons of change, we are blessed. Change is good.

Recently my family had another baptism and I wish I could tell you the joy in my heart to see the young people of my family enjoying fellowship time together. Pastor Erik gave a fantastic talk about where church is going and how the younger generations feel about the building called "church". It certainly doesn't mean the younger generation doesn't have faith, it just means they do it differently. They still want their children to be a child of God's. They still want to stand before the Lord and take vows. They still want to say good bye to loved ones in his house and know they are going to a better place. They still know how the Lord is a part of their life and how when they have him in their hearts there is fellowship. Wonderful, lively, loving fellowship. I am blessed. I hope your family has those same moments and we see the change, embrace the change and take in the joyous moments we get. Even if it's not as often as we wished, they are still cause to be thankful.

OK for 2 newsletters I have asked for ideas and I just want you to know that I did get ONE idea for reaching out to our neighbors and will be sharing that with you soon! The church council is doing a special meeting to discuss activities we can do and how to communicate them so watch for these exciting updates! Please keep sending your ideas on inviting our neighbors to Trinity or getting more involved with our neighbors to me at sue@illumin8marketing.com. I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! I know you have good ideas!!

I sure hope a few of you took a look at using the easy resource of electronic giving and added Trinity in your financial plans! Remember, it's easy to sign up. Go to our website at www.trinitylutheranlax.org and on most pages there is a link to sign up. It's easy, convenient and we thank you!

Thank you for being a member of the Trinity Family!

Sue Weidemann

July 2016

Communion every service, every week

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5:30 Worship
3 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship	4 5-6 Monday Meals 5:30 From the Heart Food Pantry	5	6 Concert in the Park	7	8	9 5:30 Worship
10 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship	11 5-6 Monday Meals 5:30 From the Heart Food Pantry	12 9:30a-12:30p Financial Coaching 5:30 Social Ministry Meeting-Library	13 Concert in the Park	14 6:30 Block Party Planning Meeting-1636 Loomis St	15	16 5:30 Worship
17 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship	18 5-6 Monday Meals 5:30 From the Heart Food Pantry	19	20 Concert in the Park	21	22	23 5:30 Worship
24 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship 31 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship	25 5-6 Monday Meals 5:30 From the Heart Food Pantry 6p Congregational Life Meeting	26 9:30a-12:30p Financial Coaching	27 Concert in the Park	28	29 Salvation Army Kids' Lunch Program- contact Julie Thoftne	30 5:30 Worship

Trinity Tidings is a monthly newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church, 1010 Sill Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54603. All visitors are welcome to worship with us each Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 8:30 & 10:30. During the summer, May 29th-Sept 4th, Communion is celebrated at every service. Lead Pastor is Erik Feig. The church office telephone number is (608) 782-6200.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1010 Sill Street
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54603

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 8:30am & 10:30am

Radio Service Broadcast at 8:30am on WKTY AM 580

Website: www.trinitylutheranlax.org

Church Office: office@trinitylutheranlax.org; 608-782-6200

Pastor Erik: pastorerik@trinitylutheranlax.org

Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church—ELCA