



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Tidings

September
to
October '19

ALL ARE WELCOME....!!!!



Fall Schedule:

9:30 AM- Regular Service with communion

9:35 AM-Sunday School (every other Sunday starting September 15th)

10:30- Coffee hour in All Saint's Hall

10:45 AM- Bible Study in Library

Council Meetings are usually the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to come. Non-council members have voice, but no vote.

AA meetings are every Saturday at 10:30 am in All Saint's Hall

NA meeting are on Mondays at 6:30 pm in All Saint's Hall

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Your council members for the 2019 year are Randy Thumhart, Bill Bennett, Kathy Minto, Kathy Leifeste, Lynn Hutchenson, Marty Chaffee, and Joan Bower; with Bob Leifeste remaining as Council Appointed treasurer. Randy Thumhart is the Council president.

A Message from your Pastor~

In a recent sermon, I spoke about **Down religion**. I commented that Lutherans believe in Down religion. In what follows, I will explain a bit about Down religion as opposed to Up religion. What I share is inspired by the writing of Lutheran scholar and pastor, Dr. Timothy Wengert, especially from his confirmation resource, *Basics of Lutheran Doctrine*.

There are two kinds of religion. One kind is Up religion. In this approach to God, God is placed on a pedestal. We expect tough rules to live by and we are to measure up. We get right with God through what we do, justification by works. What does this approach do to us? On the one hand, we can feel anxious and worried, wondering if we have done enough to satisfy God. Have I been generous enough? Compassionate enough? Patient enough? Have I done enough to earn God's approval and love? What if I haven't? Despair. On the other hand, this Up religion approach can cause us to feel superior to others, assessing (wrongly) that at least we are not as sinful as those other people.

As I mentioned, Lutherans believe in Down religion. We believe that God comes down to us where we are, into our struggles and suffering, into daily life. We see this clearly and amazingly lived out through Jesus in the New Testament. While God does have expectations and guidelines for us, God is like the best, loving parent. As Dr. Wengert has communicated, God comes down to us in promises that create faith. We believe in a God who shows us grace, underserved love and forgiveness. Jesus in the gospels makes this clear. What does this Down religion approach do to us? Given that we are loved and forgiven, we begin to feel things like gratitude, peace, security, safety. Given that we are in the hands of our loving creator, we are free to ask how we might say thank you to God with our lives; or to word this another way, the downward action of God moves us outward in thankfulness to serve others.

We live in a culture in which many have questions about God. If you are part of a conversation in which God is discussed, and unsure what to say, explaining Down religion is a way to share our perspective on our loving Creator. The New Testament is full of passages pointing to Down religion. Below are a mere few examples.

Luke 15 (lost sheep, lost coin, lost son)

Mark 2:15-17 (eating with sinners)

Matthew 16:13- 18 (Peter's faith in Jesus is from God)

Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8 (gift of the Spirit)

Ephesians 2:8-10 (saved by grace)

Philippians 2:5-11 (humble example of Christ)

God's Peace,

Pastor John

A note from your Council President~

We are a small but busy church. Many updates to share with you.....

All the windows in the educational wing have now been purchased/donated and installed. The dedication of these donated items will be September 15th.

The roof is contracted to start September 4th, after Labor Day. Monies from the recent sale of the lot located across from the church, is going towards roofing project.

We are currently advertising for the rental of the upstairs classrooms/offices for a non-profit tenant. We have shared our site/offices before with St Francis Counseling Center during their roof issues and with JCC during their construction. It's a great way to give back to our community with sharing our site with a non-profit group, as well as generate some income. SPREAD THE WORD----HAND OUT THE FLYER...

There are MANY upcoming dates to remember...Once you read the Tidings --- MARK YOUR CALENDARS...!!!

At the 2019 ELCA Church wide Assembly in Milwaukee the ELCA voted and passed a motion to become a sanctuary denomination.....What does becoming a sanctuary denomination mean?



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

What does becoming a sanctuary denomination mean for the ELCA?

- **In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith.** The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the highest legislative authority of the ELCA,

declared that when we preach on Sunday that Jesus told us to welcome, we will use our hands and voices on Monday to make sure it happens.

- **Being a sanctuary denomination does not call for any person, congregation or synod to engage in any illegal actions.**
- **We have a broken system regarding immigration, refugees and asylum-seekers.** To declare ourselves a sanctuary church body is to say that we seek to provide concrete resources to assist the most vulnerable who are feeling the sharp edges of this broken system.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination is about loving our neighbors.** While we may have different ideas about how to fix this broken system and may have different ways of loving our neighbors, our call to love our neighbor is central to our faith.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination will look different in different contexts.** It may mean providing space for people to live; providing financial and legal support to those who are working through the immigration system; or supporting other congregations and service providers. We cannot mandate or direct our congregations and ministries to respond in specific ways. Each must work out what this means for them in their context.
- **While we don't yet know the full scope of the work that this declaration will open for the church, we do know that our faith communities are already doing sanctuary work.** Sanctuary for a congregation may mean hosting English as a second Language (ESL) classes; marching as people of faith against the detention of children and families; providing housing for a community member facing deportation; or, in some of our congregations, having thoughtful conversations about what our faith says about immigration. All of these are a step closer to sanctuary in our faith communities and sanctuary in our world for people who must leave their homes.
- **Except for our members whose ancestors were here before European settlement or others who were forced to come to the U.S. against their will, the ELCA is an immigrant church.** Our decades long work with immigrants and refugees show we practice our faith in the world. Lutherans started Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, one of the nine refugee resettlement agencies in the U.S.
- **At our last churchwide assembly, we also committed to walking alongside Central American children and families fleeing their communities by passing the [AMMPARO](#)**

strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities).

- **Through the AMMPARO strategy, we are also working through our global partners in Central America to alleviate the conditions that cause people to migrate.** We support organizations and faith communities that work with deported migrants in Central America and advocate for the humane treatment of immigrants in Mexico. In the U.S., we have a network of 151 welcoming and sanctuary congregations that are committed to working on migration issues and a welcome for immigrant communities. The church also has five sanctuary synods (our regional structures), all of which do work with immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.
- **In baptism, we are brought into a covenantal relationship with Jesus Christ that commits us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Following the example of Martin Luther, we believe that advocacy is a crucial expression of baptismal identity.** As a church, we have advocated for stopping the detention of children and families for decades. We have spoken out against family separation, sought a pathway to citizenship for community members who have lived in the U.S. for many years, and have taken steps to address the root causes of migration in a way that honors the humanity in people who must flee.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination means that we, as church together, want to be public and vocal about this work.** At the same time, we will have conversations about what sanctuary means with many of our members and discern future action and direction. Welcoming people is not a political issue for us; it is a matter of faith.



Sunday School

It's Fall so we are starting up Sunday School again. We meet upstairs in the main classroom, immediately following the first hymn of the service. All ages are welcome as it is just one large combined class. This year Sunday School starts on September 15, 2019. We meet alternate Sundays

through June 21, 2020. If you wish your child to attend, reach out to Dawne Thumhart at 609-290-0632 or dmthumhart@gmail.com

If you wish to have your child complete their First Communion, we usually do that once they are in second grade and can understand the curriculum and ideology discussed. If your child is interested please reach out to Pastor John or Dawne Thumhart. Our next Communion First classes will be in the first 4 sessions of Sunday school this Fall. The children during those 4 sessions will meet during class with Miss Dawne. They also will meet briefly with Pastor as a group, after our regular service on September 29th. The children will celebrate their First Communion on Reformation Sunday, October 27, 2019 during our regular service.

If you wish to have your child complete Confirmation classes, please reach out to Pastor John as well.

(Dates for upcoming year:

9/15,9/29,10/13,10/27,11/10,11/24,12/8,12/22,1/5,1/19,2/2,2/16,3/1,3/15, 3/29,4/12,4/26,5/10,6/7, and 6/21.....)



Bible Study-----Exploring God's Word

Over the past year we have found that our Adult Bible study has morphed into a very casual exploration of God's Word. We begin with prayer and then really "delve" into the Word. We read a passage and think about what stands out for us, what catches our attention. Many times it is seen in context to what is occurring to us in our lives at the present moment. We ponder the Word together and many times just laugh, because many times we

are befuddled...and then someone has an insight and we begin to roll into that direction or maybe in the opposite direction! Everyone's input is valued. There is no right or wrong concepts.

We also look at the historical context, library context and the Lutheran context. We can spend weeks looking at the passages from different angles. It is a lot of fun and by no means are we Bible Experts! Nor do we expect anyone to be. We are blessed to have Pastor Linda Wood attending our group and sometimes Pastor John, who can shed some light on the passage. Sometimes, even they are stumped! All in all, it is an enlightning experience.

Consider joining us on Sunday Mornings. Bring your coffee and goodies from Coffee Hour...and an open mind. It is fun to discover the richness of our Faith through looking at books of the Bible!

Submitted by Kathy Leifeste

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Prayer Ministry-Our prayer ministry is growing in leaps and bounds. We have a loyal group who pray daily for those on the prayer list. If you are interested in this ministry, you can help in one or two different ways:

Join the prayer chain by contacting me, Kathy Leicester, by phone 732 642-9408 or email:kataocn@gmail.com and provide me with your email address or phone number (if you don't have email) if you would like to be a prayer partner. Let me know if you would like someone to be added to our prayer list. Prayer cards can also be found in the pews if you would like to fill one out during the service and place it in the offering plate. The list is updated weekly and published in the bulletin. Names will be removed after one month unless you let me know otherwise.

Prayerfully consider being a part of this important ministry.....

PANTRY SUNDAY: On the third Sunday of each month we invite everyone to bring in canned goods and/or non-perishable foods for the benefit of the local Food Pantry. There is a dire need for food items for families in our county. We need to FILL UP the shopping cart in the narthex every month.



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

Thank you so much for your continued support...

(We received a thank you note from St Francis food pantry cash donations and many bags of food products donated to the Pantry in Jack Dessel's memory...)

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OUTREACH, FELLOWSHIP, AND WELCA--

September 8, 2019, we will be celebrating God's Work, Our Hands. We will be dedicating/blessing all the items gathered over the summer for school supplies during our service. We will also be blessing the backpacks that morning as well.

The WELCA ladies will gather on September 9th at 11:00 AM for our regular luncheon and meeting. Finish collecting items for school supplies and bring them on the 8th (or 9th to the meeting).

Sunday, September 15th, is a HUGE day at HTLC. Sunday School starts up again, the new windows will be Dedicated...AND...The Annual Church Picnic will be held following our service. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex so we know how many to expect and who is bringing what goody....YUMMM...

Pumpkin Washing Sunday will be Sunday September 29th immediately following the service. We will wash them outside and then bring them in to sort and dry, the same fun process we used last year. The pumpkins will be used for the

giveaway during Merchant Mart of October 5th. We need volunteers for the day of Merchant Mart to help man the table....AS WELL as volunteers to help label the pumpkins during the week of September 29th –October 3rd...

The Merchant Mart is October 5th and that will be the day we hand out the pumpkins beginning at 9am in Beach Haven. Volunteers are needed. You can sign up for an hour or two, or the whole day....

October 7th WELCA will meet at 11am. Bring a lunch.

The annual Flu Clinic this year will be held on Sunday October 20th, immediately following our service, in All Saints Hall. What for sign up sheet!!

The next Free Senior Lunch is scheduled for Sunday November 3rd at noon. The Senior Lunch will be offered to all area seniors. To make a reservation, call the church number at 609-494-6888. Leave a message with the names of those attending and how many. In March this event was very well received. We will be advertising this event starting in early October.

Family Promise--

Family Promise of Southern Ocean County has moved into their new space. Their new office and day center is now located at 1001 S Main Street, West Creek, NJ. Their phone number is 609-994-3317. You can follow them or become a volunteer with their activities or at the day center @ familypromisesoc.org. Family Promise is dedicated to ending homelessness. They also have a Facebook site you can follow. It is *FamilyPromise of Southern Ocean County*. They have many events coming up in which you can attend or volunteer.

Keep an eye out on Facebook and on the bulletin boards in Hallways for upcoming events.....

Stewardship-

Giving of your Time and Talents....Many hands make light work.....If you can help fill a slot in the everyday workings of the Church Life; ushers, readers, coffee hour, office help, etc....., see the in the back of the sign-up sheets church on the BELLS table.Together we can grow in Faith and Hope. **We need to keep those empty slots on the help list filled to make our ministry work.**

Music and Worship

If anyone who wishes to participate in the bell choir, ANY AGE is welcome. If you can read music, (or can count to 6 as Pastor Lind Wood replied at our annual meeting) or wish to participate in this ministry please see Lisa, our organist, before or after church. No age limit, young and old alike may come and play.....

We are in need of a few persons to help on a rotating basis as **Communion Assistants**.!! Teens up through the aged are welcome. If you aren't sure of what is involved and/or would like a little refresher course or training and would like to help out, let us know. Please see Joan Bower or Kathy Leifeste if interested.

The sign-up sheets for ushering and readers are in the back of the church. Please help out where you can.

The Alter Guild is still looking for donations of gifts/monies for the following items that still remain on their Wish List:

Purificators and corporals.....If you wish to contribute or purchase outright, please see Joan Bowers.

Kathy Leifeste is your Council liaison for Music and Worship

Holy Trinity's Book Group will be meeting again on Thursday, October 3, 2019 from 10:00 -11:30 a.m. in the Zastrow Library. The book we'll be reading will be Delia Owens' (2018) *Where the Crawdads Sing* (G.P. Putman's Sons Publishers. New York, NY). The story focuses on the desolate marshlands of the North Carolina coast through the eyes of an abandoned child who slowly learns to trust human connections. The group's conversation is lively and vibrant, and new members are WELCOME! See Marty Chaffee after services or email (rchaffee@juno.com) if you wish to learn more!

Knit One, Pray Too, Holy Trinity's knitting group is returning! We will be meeting the third Thursday of each month, and using our talents to knit or crochet TwiddleMuffs, a knitted sleeve with soft items attached to keep dementia patients' hands active and busy. After our stitching is completed, we will be attaching textured ribbons, beads, and various fabrics both inside and outside, creating a unique, one-of-a-kind source of visual, tactile and sensory stimulation. No worries! One does *not* need to be master knitters or crocheters to create TwiddleMuffs!

But, should you wish to embark on a slightly less complex project, we'll also have patterns to crochet cuddly, small octopi that can be used to comfort preemies in the NICU units in area hospitals. They are adorable!

P.S. We hope to meet the third Thursday of every month. However, if you can't join us in the Zastrow Library, September 19, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., you are welcome to complete any of these projects from home, and/or help us to collect buttons, ribbons, pompoms and large beads that we'll be able to use to decorate our crafts! See Marty Chaffee after services or email (rchaffee@juno.com) if you wish to learn more!

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is embarking on a new opportunity to come together monthly for food, fellowship and informal study of God's Word. Our gathering will occur monthly on a Thursday evening from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., will eat, draw upon scripture, and introduce various practices we can use to grow in faith. Akin to our Lenten Soup Suppers, we'll be learning *as we enjoy one another's company!* Stay tuned for more information regarding this "Living Faith Series!" See Marty Chaffee after services or email (rchaffee@juno.com) if you wish to learn more! See Marty Chaffee after services or email (rchaffee@juno.com) if you wish to learn more!

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH CORE VALUES:

As members of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church we strive to follow Jesus, as the Spirit and the Word transforms us and touches every facet of our life. Therefore, we are:

Intentional- Everything we do is purposely dedicated to sharing the good news of the Gospel.

Committed to Growing in Christ- Faith, for us, is a lifelong learning process. We endeavor to deepen our relationship to Christ as we work to be his disciples in this time and place.

Participatory- The work of the church is everyone's task and everyone is called to be involved in our ministry.

Joyful- Our worship draws on the liturgical and musical traditions of the Lutheran Church and expresses the joy of our faith.

Personal- We support and pray for one another and respond to individual needs as they arise.

Committed to Serving Older Adults- We particularly value and support people in the latter stages of life and strive to give older adults an opportunity to use their time and talents to serve those less fortunate.

The church email is office@holytrinitylbi.com. Our website is www.holytrinitylbi.com. Our Facebook site is under user name *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, LBI*.

Contemplating Membership here at Holy Trinity?...You are invited to speak to Pastor John Anderson or one of our Council members for information and process or you may fill out the blue new members sheet on back table and leave it in the office or place it in the offering plate and Pastor John will reach out to you.

IF YOU WISH TO BE ADDED TO OUR EMAIL LIST AND CHURCH DIRECTORY, PLEASE FILL OUT PEW CARD AND PLACE IN OFFERING PLATE. YOU MAY ALSO EMAIL DAWNE THUMHART AT dmthumhart@gmail.com. You can also follow us on FaceBook, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, LBI...as well as on our church website.....Also when you have a chance, go on our church website and read up on the history of all our stained glass windows.....Beautiful....!!



Are you a Non-Profit looking for a space to rent.....

Look no further!! We have up to 1900 square foot of space to rent in our church building. We are located at 5800 Long Beach Blvd in Brant Beach. We are Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We have 3 small classrooms and 2 large classrooms for rent in our educational wing—use one or use all. Call our church office at 609-494-6888....

3-Aiden Joback
5-Kathy Leifeste
9- Leah Lewis
9-Sandy and Robert Close
10-Mike and Judy Hueberger
15- Henry and Rosemarie Doerr
17- Jean and Bob Bell
20- Sandy Close
21- Alfred Lund
26- Gert Young

October—

2-Joan and John Bowers
10-Cathy Dessel
16- Claudia Murden
16- Mike and Nora Schuler
17- Dick Christensen
19- Bill Bennett
20- Dennis Brink, jr.
21-Lillian Bennett
21- Lynn Hutcheson
25- Sandy Despreaux
29- Carol Dunn

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church website: www.holytrinitylbi.com

CHURCH EMAIL: office@holytrinitylbi.com

Editor/President: dmthumhart@gmail.com

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 5800 Long Beach Blvd., Brant Beach, NJ 08008

Phone: 609-494-6888

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