



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Tidings

A Note From Your Pastor

“Inner Flourishing” is the name of an article in the June/July 2022 issue of Living Lutheran magazine. The article suggests ways to elevate our spiritual well-being. What follows are 3 suggestions inspired by that writing, in the midst of the stresses and strains of life, I think the suggestions are helpful.

Briefly, here are thoughts on 3 of the ways outlined in the article:

1. **Cultivate Gratitude:** Reflect back over your day. Look for how/where you see God's blessings in your life and in the world. The blessings may be big things or relatively small things. Thank God for those blessings. As you may have heard me share in a sermon, I have started writing in a journal where I have seen God at work. I usually include an instance for each day. For me, the act of writing down daily a way that I have noticed God at work is a new practice. It has allowed for me to be more aware of the blessings and for the gratitude toward God to grow in my life. Look for a way that works for you to cultivate gratitude.

2. **Find some Solitude:** In our hectic society, it is healthy that we find occasions for solitude. By solitude I mean, spending time with God. This is how Ilia DeLio understands the term in her book, *Franciscan Prayer*. It does not have to be for long. This might happen by taking a prayerful walk, sitting quietly, and talking to God, reading an entry in a devotional booklet, or in other ways. In the Psalm 46 we read, “Be still and know that I am God.” The four gospels show Jesus taking time for this kind of practice regularly. Consider this kind of solitude.

3. **Expand Compassion:** When Jesus asked about greatness, he spoke in terms of serving. Greatness in God's eyes, he communicated, is seen through humble service (see Mark 9:35). Look for ways to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Martin Luther worded it well when he said. It is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to the neighbor.

God's peace, Pastor John Anderson

Summer schedule for worship services, for period July 3rd through September 4th, consists of a Service of the Word at 8am and a regular traditional service at 9:30 am. We have resumed full communion and singing as part of our worship service. Masks are at your personal preference and not required. On Sunday September 11th, we will resume our regular service schedule of one service at 9:30 am.

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Council Meetings are usually the second Thursday of the month at 630 pm. All are welcome to come. Non-council members have voice, but no vote. The next dates for council are August 18th and September 8th.

A Message from your Council President---

Greetings to all,

It is such a blessing to hear voices in prayer and song again in our Sanctuary. We are now singing during the service and receiving full communion. Our numbers continue to increase with each week. We can not wait for you all to return, as you have been missed. We have many plans for Fellowship and Outreach in the coming months.

We have celebrations that will be coming up in the months ahead. One of them will be the installation of our new stained-glass windows in the Pastors office and the secretary's office. The dedication of the windows will happen a few weeks after the installation is complete. We thank our generous donor, Lee Auger, for this beautiful gift.

Another celebration will be the celebration of Kathy Minto and Dottie Dittler. Kathy and Dottie have both been long serving and dedicated servants here at Holy Trinity for 30 years. Dottie has served in her appointed position on the Columbarium Committee and Kathy has served as our Financial Secretary for years. There have been many other positions they have served faithfully in, over the years as well. Kathy and Dottie sold their home here and have moved to Marlton and will be transferring to a church closer to their new home. We would like to have a "Well Wishes" coffee hour for them in the near future.

That being said, there will be a void to fill when they leave. Dawne is trying to learn the Shepherds Staff program to be able to input for Financial Secretary recording until a permanent fill for the position can be found. We also need to fill Dottie's seat on the Columbarium Committee.

If anyone wishes to fill either of these positions, please reach out to myself or to Pastor John.

On Father's Day we welcomed Douglas Baart, as a new member here at Holy Trinity. Doug and his wife Linda recently moved to the island from the Smithville area. Welcome!

Blessings- Randy Thumhart, HTLC Council President

Stewardship-

Thank you to everyone for keeping up with their pledges for 2021 and 2022 during these challenging times. Your pledges/offerings can be submitted via mail or through online bill-pay. Each Sunday the offering plate is placed on a table in back of sanctuary to place your offerings into as you pick up your bulletin. If you have any questions about your pledge cards or offerings, you may reach out to Dawne Thumhart.

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Sunday School—

Sunday School is currently on summer hiatus and will also resume in the Fall, on Sunday September 11th and continue to meet biweekly. Those who have children who want to take part in the Sunday School program, please reach out to Dawne Thumhart at 609-290-0632.

Those children entering 2nd grade or higher and who wish to start First Communion please see Pastor or Dawne for the class in September/October. We will receive any children for their First Communion on Reformation Sunday, October 30th.

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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. If you are unable to bring in pantry items, you can bring in a check for the pantry or gift cards and we will see that the pantry gets them. Thank you so much for your continued support. If you are not able to



attend on the 3rd Sunday, we do accept donations every Sunday.

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OUTREACH, FELLOWSHIP, AND WELCA—

As a way of Fellowship, we have reinstated our Coffee Hour each week. We meet in All Saints Hall immediately following the 930 service. There is nothing like the smell of a fresh urn of coffee brewing in our fellowship area. Sign-up sheets for one to bring goodies is on the tables in back of the church. Hope to see you there. It is a GREAT way to catch up!

Nurses in Ukraine

Looking ahead:

At our last council meeting in June, we discussed more ways of Fellowship and Outreach in the Fall. We will be looking at having a Senior Luncheon, Flu Clinic, a potluck dinner and movie night, Round Table meetings and dinners, and other ideas.

WELCA is on summer hiatus and will resume in the Fall.

Watch for more details in your weekly emails.

Family Promise—

Like so many other outreach/charity works, Family Promise had to reinvent the preverbal wheel during COVID. The program did not house families in the individual churches since the start of COVID. They have just recently opened up the churches to families. We are exploring ways to help the program.

Music and Worship

We now can sing and receive full communion during our service. We need choir members and bell ringers for the choir. See Lisa, our Minister of Music if you are interested.

We are also in need of a few persons to help on a rotating basis as Communion Assistants!! Teens up through the aged are welcome. If you are not 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 Pastor if interested.

The sign-up sheet for readers, communion assistants, and ushers is on the tables in the back of the church. Please help where you can. Helpers come in all shapes and sizes.

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

Our Bible Study group is on summer hiatus and will start again on September 11th. They meet after the service in the Zastrow Library following the service. Grab a cup of coffee and some goodies and meet us there.

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 Kathy Leifeste, by phone 732 642-9408 or email:kataocn@gmail.com and provide her with your email address or phone

number (if you don't have email) if you would like to be a prayer partner. Let her 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.

HTLC Book Group

Holy Trinity's Book Group generally meets on a Thursday, 10:00 -11:30 a.m. in the Zastrow Library. They have been meeting every 4 to 6 weeks. The next meeting is Thursday July 14th in All Saint's Hall. We will be discussing Graham Moore's (2016) historical fiction, *The Last Days of Night*. 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!

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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** on the Facebook application.

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....!!

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