



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Vol. 33 Num. 2

February, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of Trinity,

On one of the past Sundays here at church, a note was put into the offering plate that read, *"Sharing of the Peace" during flu season puts members at risk!* No name was given and no request was made. Neither was there any elaboration of the thought behind it.

How was it to be interpreted? As a complaint? As a gentle reminder of the severity of flu season? What does this mean? Unfortunately, there was no way to figure that out, and sadly the gut reaction I had was one of frustration. I just wanted to ignore it with the cavalier commentary, "Well, they don't have to shake hands, use a fist bump, don't leave your pew, etc, etc, etc."

However, there does need to be an avenue for criticism and feedback, both positive and negative, here at Trinity, and there is. My office door is always open. I want you to feel free to meet with me and talk about your concerns and ideas about anything at Trinity. I am sure that the PPC and Elders also feel the same.

Unfortunately, this is not Trinity's history or traditional mode of operation. As one member told me in regards to an earlier example of this sort of thing, "This is how Trinity does it." When I asked what they meant they explained that the history is not looking for a resolution or reconciliation, just complaining from the sideline.

I should be honest that I knew that already. When my family was here to celebrate Trinity's 150th

anniversary just before I was ordained in 2011, two former Pastors warned me about Trinity's history of dealing with issues. They told me to watch out, not exactly what I wanted to hear just before beginning my call here. I do not relate this story to cast dispersions or as a guilt trip upon the congregation, but they had both left decades before I got here and sadly, there has continued to be a history of this here.

In my time here, there have been phone calls to circuit visitors, letters to elders, complaints lodged with District and notes left in collection plates and plenty of times when I have been told, "People are saying...." None of which allowed for conversations seeking resolution or more importantly reconciliation between aggrieved parties.

This cannot be. It is not how the Church should operate. I will be perfectly honest that these sort of things take a cumulative toll. On the morning that note in the collection plate appeared, one of my first thoughts was of the letter to the elders complaining about my preaching several years ago. I had not thought of it in a long time, maybe a couple of years, but the devil brought it back to my mind almost immediately. Why? Because there was never any resolution to the matter. All the elder did was hand me the letter and said, "Take it for what it's worth." There was no meeting, no conversation, no way to deal with the concerns expressed about a young pastor.

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OUR MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Greyson Grenz (ggrenz@wyan.org)
Administrative Secretary: Carissa Schafer
(tlm@wyan.org)
Mission/Ministry Director & Guitarist:
Mendy Grenz (mgrenz@wyan.org)
Custodians: Carl Joyce & Bob Freeman
Organist: Mary Tollefson, *Music:* Danny O'Neill

NEWS AND NOTES

COMMUNITY BUILDING FLAG

Many of you may have noticed that the American flag was removed from the community building. This was done due to the weather ripping it to shreds within a couple months of a new one being raised, which raised complaints with members of the community. Without having someone to take care of the flag daily and monitoring its condition, the Parish Planning Council agreed with Pastor Grenz's decision to remove the flag from the building. If you would like to put the flag back up and take on the responsibility of caring for it, please talk to a PPC member.

PPC Members: Matt Schafer, Tom Trimble, Sande Meilander, Carissa Schafer, Carolyn Harris, Paul Ivity

FREE MOVIE NIGHT!

Saturday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the community building, we will be showing a great family movie: Yours, Mine & Ours, starring Dennis Quaid and Rene Russo, a hilarious story of a very large family and how they learn to live together. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors! Free popcorn and refreshments provided!

MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club meets Friday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Willie Brink's home.

PPC & ELDERS

Tuesday, February 13, PPC at 6:00 p.m. & Elders at 7:00 p.m. in the community room.



Service: February 14 at 6:00 p.m.

LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays, February 21, 28, March 7, 14 & 21
6:00 p.m.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

The group meets February 7 & 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Building. If you have any questions,

Having said all that, if you have a concern or complaint about anything at Trinity please take it to the person or board that is responsible for it. If it is about me, please come to me about it. If it is about the operation of the Church, please talk to the PPC. If it is about a concern for the membership of the congregation, please bring it to the Elders.

In addition, it is only reasonable that there be some ground rules that we all agree to on how this sort of thing should and will be done. So let me lay out what I think are reasonable expectations to address concerns or complaints.

First, there can be no anonymous critiques or complaints. To my mind, if you have a gripe, you need to be willing to put your name to it.

Secondly, there should be no attempts to gather others to your position or to add their voice to your complaint. If someone approaches you with an issue that they want your "opinion" on, they should be encouraged to talk with the appropriate person about the issue.

Third, it is my contention that our main concern and focus should be the Gospel. Any issue should be about the wellbeing and building up of the congregation and this mission. Yes, there is a business side to the Church and a need for order and organization to how and why we do things, but I maintain that those concerns are secondary to the mission of proclaiming the Gospel. Maintaining the buildings and programs that we run are to serve the purpose of spreading the Gospel.

Fourth, any issue needs to be about others more so than about yourself. The concern expressed in the note in the collection plate is well placed. We are in the midst of a very serious flu season. I also trust that people can and will do what they need to in order to take care of themselves and of others.

Finally, there must be a willingness to sit down and talk an issue out with me or with the Church's leadership. That is the only way to truly deal with any concerns or complaints so that they further our work together rather than hinder it.

In Christ,

Pastor Grenz

please call Nancy Coman, 734-634-0394. **One way that we can support the members of our caregiver support group is to clip coupons for incontinence products, so if you are a coupon clipper, please save those coupons and bring them into the office.**

WOMEN'S SPOUSAL SUPPORT GROUP

A support group just for women, meets on, Wednesday, February 28 in the community building at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Coman, 734-634-0394.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB



Meets Thursday, February 8th at 1pm at Mendy's home. We are discussing The Prayer Box by Lisa Wingate. Tentative March meeting is March 15th at 1pm to discuss The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah.



- Little Known Books of the Bible led by Pastor Grenz, Saturdays, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary & Sundays, 8:45 a.m., Sanctuary
- Formula of Concord led by Pastor Grenz, Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Acts led by Pastor Grenz, Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
- Galatians a Men's Bible Study, led by Al Ave-Lllemant, Thursdays, 8:00 a.m., Community Building
- Women's Bible Study, led by Mendy Grenz, Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary (the first Tuesday of the month, meet in the Community Building)
- 1 & 2 Peter, led by Doug Wieneke, Sundays, February 11 & 25, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Meets at 8:45 a.m. (same time as Adult Bible Class) in the basement library in the Church after a brief prayer with the adult Bible Study in the Sanctuary.

START NEW NEWS:

Message from Mendy:

Summer will be here before we know it! The goal of our Start New programs is to build relationships, meet a need in the community and ultimately have the chance to share the Gospel with the families we work with. These programs can only happen with your help! They are volunteer driven. So as you are starting to look at and plan your summer, please keep these dates in mind.

Save the Dates – We can't make it happen without you!

Vacation Bible School: June 18-22, 9-11:30am

Bitty Ballin': Camp 1: June 25-29 6-7:30pm

Camp 2: July 16-20 1-2:30pm

Camp 3: August 6-10 10-11:30am

Raising Up Readers:

Session 1: June 26-July 19

Session 2: July 24-August 16,

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11:30am.

We can find a place for you! If you prefer behind the scenes, I can always use help, and of course we have many areas for working with children! Watch for information on signing up or talk with me about helping.

~ Mendy Grenz

DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Since the report in the January newsletter, Trinity members donated 94 lbs. of food and paper products to the Food Pantry. The volunteers at the Food Pantry appreciate and thank you very much. Thank you to Danny O'Neill for picking up and delivering the items.

Remember to "**Gimme 5**" every week! Bring in five non-perishable food items or a 4-pack of toilet paper. Thank you for your help.

CONFIRMATION

Wednesday, February 7 is the last confirmation class until after Easter. Remember to bring \$3 for dinner.



(Christians Hyped About Our Savior)

Youth group is off to a great start! It is for youth from **4th-8th grades and their friends!**

Youth Events

- **Super Bowl Party, February 4th, 6pm, Grenz home**
- **Youth Group, February 11th, 18th, 25th, 6pm in the youth room.**

COME AND BE PART OF THE ACTION!

Our worship assistant list has become a little short and we are in need of some volunteers!

Sorry for the inconvenience, but changes have caused a drop from four to three usher groups. If you would like to become an usher or know someone who would, please contact the office. If we get enough volunteers, the groups can return to ushering once a month.

We are also looking for one or two volunteers interested in becoming a part of the altar guild and filling in when needed. Please contact the office if you are interested.

DO YOU LIKE NUMBERS?

If you are good with numbers and like to count, please contact the office or Carolyn Harris so you can learn what it takes to be a counter! Counting will be done on Sundays after service OR Monday afternoons.

THANK YOU, to Paul Ivity for taking on the position of Director of the Board of Properties. If you are handy and available days, please consider joining the Property team! There are always projects needing to be completed around these two old buildings and we need volunteers able to take care of them once in a while. For more information or to put your name in, please call the office or talk to Paul Ivity.

THANK YOU ... To all those who helped take down our church Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 20th. The following eighteen people organized and put everything away in one hour's time: Laura Baker, Margaret Brink, Alex Bunnell, Carolyn Harris, Ethan Ivity, Luke Ivity, Paul Ivity, John Kowalczak, Gail Ledl, Julie Liphardt, Ryan Liphardt, Leola Marquardt, Rick Meilander, Sande Meilander, Julie Trimble, Tom Trimble, Rick Tollefson and Christie Wilczynski.

Happy and Blessed New Year to the Membership at Trinity Lutheran Church from your Endowment Fund Committee

Over the past years your gifts to the Endowment Fund has made possible the contribution to the maintenance and outreach programs at Trinity. This was accomplished by utilizing the generated interest while still maintaining the perpetual original funds. We thank you for your support and thank God for His continued blessings on the Endowment Fund.

Only through your continued prayers and gifts are we able to do this critically important work here at Trinity as well as growing the Fund. As we continue through this New Year please prayerfully consider giving to the Endowment Fund on a regular basis as well as considering it in your long-term estate planning.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Endowment Fund Committee: *Sande Meilander, Floyd Schafer, Tom Miller, Matthew Schafer, Dennis Stathakis & Tom Trimble*



*Trinity
Women
in
Mission*

**February 2018 TWIM
Notes & News**

Seven ladies attended the January 2nd meeting.

TWIM approved a monthly stipend to support Deaconess Kim Buelmann, a LCMS Refugee Outreach Facilitator,

who began her new mission in Germany during January. She will assist with helping Muslims, Hindus and others who have migrated to Germany as refugees. The Lord has provided a mission opportunity to witness and share the gospel message to these individuals and families.

TWIM is looking for a new seminary student to support once Adan Chris Garcia, our current TWIM sponsored seminarian, graduates in May 2018.

Trinity will host the **LWML Spring Zone Rally on Tuesday, April 24th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

The **Spring Rummage sale dates are April 13th and 14th.** Save your rummage for our sale!

The next regular TWIM meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6th at 10:00 a.m. Trinity Ladies, why not join us for our next meeting? Visit with friends you already know and meet a few new people too. All ladies are invited to join us and guests are always welcome!

Christie Wilczynski, Secretary

SAVE THE DATES!
MUSKRAT DINNER

The annual Muskrat Dinner is **Saturday, March 10, 4:00 p.m. until sold out**, in the Community Building. Pay at the door; first come, first serve! Muskrat dinners: \$15.00 each, spaghetti dinners: \$8.00 each.



Easter is right around the corner and so is collecting candy for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! This event will be on Saturday, March 31. Be sure to invite your friends, family and neighbors.



If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please fill out a purple prayer request slip OR call Carissa in the office (734) 282-5877, OR e-mail t1m@wyan.org.

The person/family added to the list will be in the next month's newsletter and in our bulletin's announcements for three weeks. A new request will need to be filled out each month to remain on the list. Thank you!

The Endowment Fund has 6 cemetery lots for sale.

Glenn Eden Lutheran Memorial

Park:

Section 228, Graves 3&4, Block 16 – Garden of Hope, \$900.00 each. (Current value \$1,500.00 each)

Section 1662, Graves 1, 2, 3 & 4, Block 20 – Garden of Holy Trinity, \$780.00 each or 4 lots for \$2,800 (Current value \$1,300 each)

If an individual would prefer a different lot or location at Michigan Memorial Lutheran Park than those listed above, they could purchase the above lot/lots for the price indicated and Glenn Eden Memorial Lutheran Park will apply the current lot value of either \$1,300 or \$1,500 towards the purchase of any other available lot within the Park. For additional information on this purchase and transfer procedure you may contact the church office or call a Service Representative at Glenn Eden Lutheran Memorial Park at 1-248-477-3915.

BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE

Just a reminder that the blue toter next to the pop machine in the Community Building is there for you to put bottles and cans in to support our Community Building Improvement Fund.



*"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."
Psalm 139:13-14a*

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 2 Chuck Heineman | 11 Pam Smith |
| 3 Kenneth Sample | 20 Scott McCall |
| 9 DJ Begeman | 21 Barb Ball |
| Aberum Tankersley | 23 Michael Grahl |

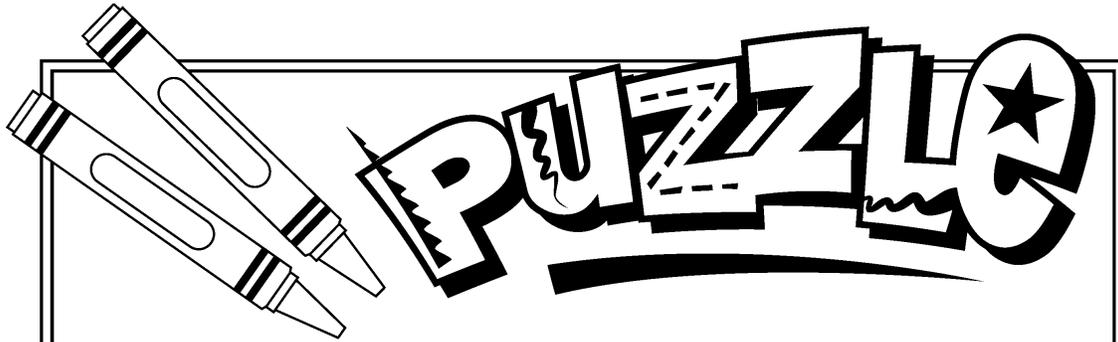


*Jesus said, "Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."
Matthew 19:6*

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 10 Vern & Barb Ball |
| 14 Fred & Rosemary Keller |
| 15 Wayne & Angela Stankus |

<u>Fund:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>In Memory or Honor of:</u>
Birthday	Joyce Kubley	
Birthday	Paul & Brenda Ivity	Honor of Brenda, Luke & Ethan
Birthday	Ilene Begeman	
Christmas Baskets	Ilene Begeman	Memory of Vern Speer
Ed Bender	Christie Wilczynski	
Endowment	Loretta Gebhard	
Endowment	Lauren Schafer	
Food Pantry	John Roehrig	
General	Joyce Kubley	Memory of Vern Speer
General	Ilene Begeman	Memory of Ruth Niemi
General	Vera Begeman	Memory of Vern Speer
Loan Reduction	Loretta Gebhard	
Loan Reduction	Bill Turski	
Welfare	Christie Wilczynski	Memory of Vern Speer
Welfare	John & Barb Kowalczak	

Parochial Report December 2017				
	<u>Average Attendance</u>			
	<u>Dec 2016</u>	<u>Dec 2017</u>	<u>YTD</u>	
Baptisms – 0				
Weddings – 0				
Funerals – 1				
Released – 0	Worship:	116	97	88
Transferred in – 0	Bible Class:	11	18	17
Transferred out – 0	Sunday School:	12	10	6
Reinstated – 0				



A NEW COMMANDMENT

In John 13:34, Jesus offers important instructions for his followers.

Directions: Figure out the pattern in each vertical line of letters. Then add the next letter in the sequence to the blank underneath, completing John 13:14, NIV.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCD...

F	L	S	Y	F	K	Y	X	E	I	Q	B	V	O	O	J	F
H	M	T	A	I	L	A	Y	H	K	R	D	Y	P	S	M	G
J	N	U	C	L	M	C	Z	K	M	S	F	B	Q	W	P	H
“	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

E	X	M	B	C	L	M	B	U	V	F	R	P	L	V	F	R
F	Y	P	C	F	M	P	C	X	W	I	S	Q	M	W	I	S
G	Z	S	D	I	N	S	D	A	X	L	T	R	N	X	L	T
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

A	R	J	Q	C	C	S	B	F	K	Y	X	H	L	Q	B	Y	I
E	S	M	R	F	G	T	C	I	L	A	Y	J	M	R	D	A	L
I	T	P	S	I	K	U	D	L	M	C	Z	L	N	S	F	C	O
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

JOHN 13:34, NIV

Answer: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34, NIV