

OPENDOOR

AUGUST 2022

HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH



ESSENTIAL CONNECTIONS

Do you ever wonder about the structure of our church? Why do we have a synod...what purpose comes from our association with the Indiana-Kentucky group of churches? At the recent assembly, the story of Pastor Winkler illustrated why connections among Christians is part of God's plan.

With the on-going storm and rain damage in Kentucky, this remains a timely reminder of our call to stay connected and help our neighbors.



On the night of December 10, 2021, Pastor Colleen Winkler's daughter and son-in-law told her it was time to move to the basement due to a tornado warning. Colleen was trying to lead her tired husband, who had just been diagnosed that day with Covid-19, downstairs when she noticed the patio doors rattling back and forth. She now wonders if that might have been the time the tornado was passing through.

The family sat together in the basement waiting out the storm. While the others were watching news about

the weather, Pastor Colleen was constantly connecting through texts with the members of her congregation, St. Matthew by the Lake Lutheran Church in Benton, KY, to check on how all of them were doing. The news they shared with one another was that while most families were doing ok, a few had been trapped in their homes by debris. She got updates from a member whose home had been destroyed and whose son-in-law was traveling to get to them from Paducah, stopping along the way to cut the branches and tree limbs that blocked the road.

The next day, Saturday, there was some debate about whether to have church on Sunday, since Colleen had been exposed to Covid and couldn't preach, and so many people's lives had been disrupted. Colleen put a stop to those conversations. While she hated not be-

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ing able to gather with them, she said, "That (canceling church services) is the last thing we need to do. We need to get people together."

Pastor Colleen and her congregation didn't focus on looking inward. They reached out to see how they could help in the community and Pastor Colleen became involved in organizing and helping recruit volunteers for wrapping stations for Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear's Christmas gifts for tornado victims.

Establishing and maintaining connections continued to be a priority for Pastor Colleen and St. Matthew by the Lake church members. One connection led to another. A contact Pastor Colleen met at the Christmas wrapping station at Kentucky Dam reached out to her and asked if their church would provide a meal there one day a week. In January, St. Matthew by the Lake began that ministry, sponsored by a financial donation from St. Matthew, Paducah. Meals were cooked at St. Matthew by the Lake, then taken to Kentucky Dam to feed many people, including Red Cross volunteers and tornado survivors. A Red Cross worker then asked Pastor Colleen if they could set up a station at St. Matthew by the Lake to help people who had experienced major home damage. On Ash Wednesday and the day before they made their church, computers, and volunteer resource people available to help survivors apply for available financial resources.

Volunteers who Pastor Colleen recruited for these service opportunities made comments saying how glad they were that she had asked them. "It was something people wanted to do to be the hands and feet of Jesus to help these people," Pastor Colleen noted.

IN-KY Synod Disaster Response, in cooperation with Lutheran Disaster Response, is working to help with the long-term recovery efforts following this deadly tornado in Kentucky. There is already work underway to help with flooding. If you would like to help:

Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Write "U.S. Flooding" on your check memo line.



Cribbage with Flat Jesus

Coming
Soon...



- | | |
|---------|----------------------|
| Aug 2 | Aviators Outing |
| Aug 8 | Back to School BBQ |
| Sept 18 | Jubilee Tea |
| Oct 9 | Talent Show |
| Oct 16 | Mad Hatter Tea Party |

For the Lord God is our supply and our helper; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Psalm 84:11

Before I get too comfortable, I believe I must take this verse from Psalms at face value.

“Walking uprightly?”

Probably not much of the time. Where does my ego get in the way of my best or even God’s best for me. Where do I look upon his children with anything less than grace and love? When do I fail (choose) to respond in less than respectful manner even as other’s words sting in my ears?

Living uprightly: is it possible?

Of course! But not until I open my heart to the Holy Spirit’s prompting, leading, and correction. I cannot hide, but I can ignore.

“Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will lift you up.” James 4:10.

God’s desire is for me to be a vessel of love, reflecting him in all I am.

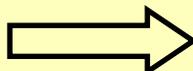
A Faith Practice Story submitted by an HTLC member



Flat Jesus on the road in Bayfield, Wisconsin.



Flat Jesus enjoying a beautiful rainbow at Thunder Bay, Ontario



HELP! It's Complicated

Some of us remember when people were confined to the hospital for more than a week due to cataract surgery. Can you imagine visiting someone trying to recover in a "ward" that housed four or five patients?

Advances in treatment and changes in laws governing health care are both good and not-so-good. You can thank HIPAA laws, that require the protection of patient privacy for single patient rooms being built in new hospitals.

Hospital rules have changed and require some extra communication and coordination.

Here are some pointers that will help our pastor and church family with hospital visitations.

- Notify the church when there is a hospitalization.
 - Specify which hospital. Hospitals are limited what information can be disclosed and who is authorized to know about the patient. Churches making telephone inquiries cannot get information about their members.
- COVID concerns have prompted some hospitals to impose restrictions on visitation. These are some limits we may encounter:
 - Number of people allowed to visit a patient within a given time-period. If several family members already have visited, sometimes the pastor must wait a day or two for her turn to see the patient.
 - Timing of when and for how long the patient may have a visitor.

With these challenges in mind, you can better help the pastor provide spiritual care as the medical team provides physical care..



Grace and the First Class Ticket

From “Morning Reflections” written by Glenn McDonald



There wasn't much glamor associated with stagecoach travel in the Old West.

The “roads” were dusty, miserable, and subject to radical changes of elevation. The food was lousy. The weather inside the coach was pretty much the same as the weather outside. In the pre-shock absorber era, sleep was nearly impossible. And there was always the potential drama of an encounter with hostile native Americans or marauding outlaws.

At least those riding in a nine-passenger Concord stagecoach could exercise one option when it came to privilege and comfort.

According to historian Roger M. Dillingham, a number of travel companies offered three classes of tickets.

If you paid top dollar for a first-class ticket, you were entitled to sit. No matter what happened, no one could force you to leave your seat. Methodist lay pastor Jerry Babitz observes, “If the stagecoach got stuck in the mud or had trouble making it up a steep hill, or even if a wheel fell off, you remained seated because you had a first-class ticket.”

Second-class ticketholders, on the other hand, were required to vacate their seats from time to time – perhaps to walk alongside the coach when it needed to negotiate a stretch of sand or a shallow stream, or when the horses simply needed a break. If repairs were necessary, a second-classer was free to stand off to one side and watch while others did the work.

A third-class ticket entitled you, in sports parlance, to one of the cheap seats. You got to sit all right – right up until there was a problem.

Third-classers then had to hop off the coach, roll up their sleeves, and help push. Or lift. Or help move the fallen tree or the loose rocks that were blocking the road. *And you had to do so without complaining.*

Over the years, people have entertained some funny ideas about what it means to follow Jesus. One of them is that Christianity is like being granted a first-class ticket through life. Because of God’s grace we get to sit and watch and enjoy the view. When problems arise – well, “we have people who take care of such things.”

Jesus, of course, would dismiss that out of hand.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

(Continued from page 5)

There are no entitlements in the company of those who follow the Messiah. We all hold third-class tickets. That's because our Master spent his life knee-deep in the problems of the Least, the Last, and the Lost. He calls us to do the same.

Paul makes things considerably more interesting by adding one of the great *Are You Kidding Me?* verses in the New Testament: "Do everything without grumbling or arguing" (Philippians 2:14).

At present, American churches aren't renowned for cultivating a spirit of servanthood. Nor can they be described as Bicker-Free Zones.

But we still have miles to go on our trip through

the Wild West of the 21st century. It's not too late to make up your mind to be a "working passenger."

What's the right response the next time things in your part of the world break down?

Get out, roll up your sleeves, and help push.

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From "Morning Reflections" written by Glenn McDonald.



Glenn is an ordained Presbyterian minister, has 33 years of congregational leadership experience, and is the author of ten books on discipleship and spiritual formation.



Can you see Jesus?

(Hint: He's flat)



Flat Jesus attends an important graduation party.

School is Starting

Please pray for school leaders

Ask God's guidance for teachers, classroom aides, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, counselors, principals, the cleaning crew, and all school leaders responsible for educating and protecting students in their care.



HTLC Finance Observations

What is it about money and church that makes everyone cringe?

After all, churches have bills to pay, staff to compensate, and services to provide. I don't think you can point to any other organization that provides so much to so many for so little.

And yet, "the money talk" is often frowned upon, especially when it comes from the pulpit. It makes people uncomfortable - or so I am told.

I have been involved with "stewardship" in a variety of forms at Holy Trinity for over 30 years, and there is no quicker way to clear a room to bring up money!

You should have received Contribution Reports for the first half of 2022.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS MATTER!

Our finances are generally positive – we are holding our own. The subtlety of a mature congregation where the top five contributors supply 30% of Operating Revenue must not be ignored. I can statistically state that the majority of our membership decline is from this mature sub-group of generous contributors, minimally in excess of \$5,000 annually.

Realistically, I would describe us as a "surviving" rather than "thriving" congregation.

If we are planning to become more effective in ministry, we must become comfortable talking about money.

Pastor Lee last Sunday mentioned a productive session shared with Mutual Ministry. She shared a well thought out **1 - 3 - 5 Year Plan** for our congregation. WHAT-WHAT!!

We are encouraged.

To evaluate and assist in creating a healthy relationship with money, an excellent reference is available produced by the president and CEO of **Thrivent Financial**.

Your New Money Mindset guides us through a spiritual perspective applying the wisdom of how God directs our handling of one of his resources.



WISDOM WORDS

"If we only talk about money when we need it, we set up ourselves to lose."

Pastor Carey Nieuwhof

We had two intimate groups cover the material in 2020 with very favorable reviews.

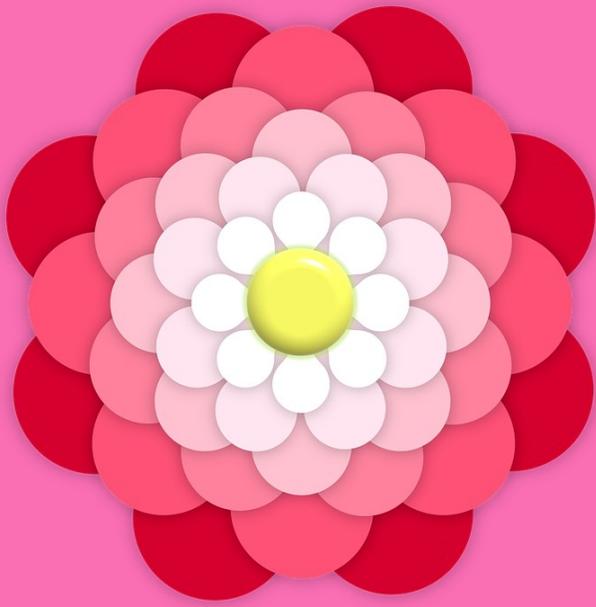
My goal is to offer the material again within the next few months.

As individuals and as a congregation we open our hearts and minds to God's spirit and leading, we will quickly move from surviving to thriving as the scriptures relate,

Philippians 4:19 *"And my God shall supply all you need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

Be encouraged!

Al Davis



PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works — give to us, your servants, the peace that the world cannot give.

That our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments, and that we are defended from fear of those who threaten us. May we live with the peace that only comes from you.

Amen.



LET'S CELEBRATE

August Birthdays

- 1 Stan Harlow
- 3 Urian Sabec
- 4 Dona James
- 5 Peggy Favorite
- 8 Jim Richardson
- 9 Jim Smith
- 10 Vickie Tetzloff,
Garrett Benner
- 11 Louise Baugher
- 12 Collin Wallace
- 19 Dan Lokke
- 20 Justin Crowe
- 22 Patricia Garrott,
Walt Niezabitowski,
Nita Cunningham
- 23 Patti Smith, Peg Wright
- 27 Janell Uerkwitz
- 29 Dixie Pederson

August Anniversaries

- 1 Urian & Allison Sabec
- 10 Kurt & Jane Tolen
- 15 Kevin & Carol Letcher
- 18 Terry & Joann King
- 20 Sam & Rita Biederstedt
- 23 Al & Sue Davis
- 29 Gordon & Elaine Rains



Jesus has a good track record when it comes to healing people.

LUM Protein Pantry has grown

Holy Trinity's partnership with Lafayette Urban Ministry is an effective way to make a positive impact on our community. The "bang for the buck" is greater when we band together with other Christians to have space, organizational systems and administrative services to offer meaningful outreach efforts.

Here's a little update: Since the Protein Pantry launched a couple years ago, it now has TWO locations. Sue Davis stopped in at the St. John's Episcopal location to see a larger facility and expanded set of items. The paper products and baby items have been added to the selections since they cannot be purchased via SNAP.

Donate **NEEDED ITEMS** – Food Pantry **Wishlist** (LUM Protein & Westside Food Pantries)

- **Paper Products:** Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Napkins, Facial Tissues
- **Protein:**
 - Peanut butter
 - Canned meats (beef, chicken), canned fish (tuna)
 - Beans, legumes, lentils – dry or canned
 - Eggs
- **Fresh Produce:** Fruits & Vegetables
- **Baby Items:** Baby Food, Baby Diapers, Wipes
- **Feminine Hygiene Products:** liners, napkins, pads, tampons, wipes



Drop Off – Donations

LUM Protein Food Pantry

- Every Thursday morning
- 8:30 a.m. to Noon
- St. John's Episcopal Church, 6th Street between North & Ferry Streets, Lafayette, IN
- Enter Red Door under Green Awning

LUM Westside Food Pantry

- Every Friday morning
- 8:30 a.m. to Noon
- Unitarian Universalist Church, 333 Meridian St, West Lafayette, IN
- Enter Smiley Street entrance by the playground

July Council Meeting was Cancelled



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BIBLE PASSAGE — “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?” And the Lord said,

Agnus Day



“Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful. That slave who knew what his master wanted, but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

— Proper 14, Series C