

August 2013

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Think about this—when compared to the breadth of the entire universe our planet, Earth, is infinitesimal. It seems big to us because we live on it. But our planet is traveling at breakneck speed around a burning nuclear furnace we call “The Sun”. We are sailing through a very insignificant corner of our galaxy, which itself is spiraling in a very insignificant corner of our universe. Traveling at the speed of light (about 700,000,000 mph) would only get you to the other side of our Milky Way galaxy in 100,000 years. The universe is mind boggling in its vast scale, and we live in oblivion compared to it.

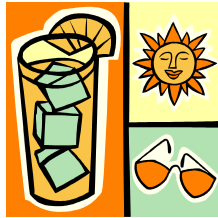
We can have this perspective today when we go online or watch TV shows about space exploration, but this is not the perspective from which the Biblical writers saw things. And yet they could write with such profundity and grandeur. They wrote from an earthbound perspective, the same one you and I encounter daily. This is what makes the Bible an incredible library of salvation history and how that history reached its peak in the person of Jesus Christ.

As Lutherans we treasure the Bible as the Word of God and as the account of what God wants humanity to know about forgiveness, life, and salvation, and how great His love is toward us. But we recognize that the Bible points beyond itself to the One who is revealed in its pages. And it tells us that we are on the receiving end of God’s mercies through no merit of our own. It’s the narrative of people messing up, getting it right, messing up again, and how Jesus made it right for all time!

Beginning in September my sermons are going to be “off lectionary”, which means they will not be based on any of the assigned readings. Rather, I’m going to go through the Bible a book at a time and I would invite you to either follow along with a pew Bible or bring your own Bible to use. Scripture has so much to offer, but we have to open it first. I promise that my sermons will be short and interesting. I’ll point out things that are important to know without getting bogged down in nitty gritty details. I hope you will enjoy this as much as I will, and I will welcome any feedback along the way.

Have a wonderful and blessed remainder of Summer!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag



August 2013 Newsletter

Summer arrived pretty hard and fast with all the 90+ degree days. Our church organizations are taking summer breaks, but our church services continue each week.

The summer church service schedule through September 1st is as follows: Worship service on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. The Saturday worship services were suspended for a couple weeks due to Pastor attending conferences out of town. **The 5:00 p.m. Saturday services will resume on August 17th.** Communion will be served on the 2nd and 4th weekends.



**“Feed My Starving Children Fundraiser”
Concert, Skiddles the Clown and Ice Cream Social”
Saturday, August 10th 6:00 p.m.**

**This is a ticketed event....all proceeds will benefit Feed My Starving Children.
Tickets are on sale before or after church services or through the church office (815.485.6973)
Cost: \$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family**

We need your help to make this benefit a success! This event is open to the community so invite your friends and neighbors to join you. If each member would talk to and invite 10 others to attend our event, we would have a full house and we would be able to help a lot more children!

What is “Feed my Starving Children?” This is a Christian nonprofit hunger relief organization that provides food to help communities in developing countries become self-sustaining. FMSC’s approach is simple: Volunteers hand pack scientifically designed meals, which are shipped to partners in nearly 70 countries and used to run orphanages, clinics, schools, missions and community feeding programs. \$80 feeds a child for one year. Children need food to learn. Without food they can’t concentrate and many will even drop out of school. FMSC Mobile Pack events are scheduled to enable children and adults across the United States to help pack these life-giving meals. FMSC provides guidance and logistics, and you provide funds, time and labor to pack the meals. We have over 50 church members who have volunteered to help with this mobile packing at Lincoln-Way High School on Saturday morning, August 10th. Another way you can help support this very worthy cause is by purchasing tickets to our “fundraiser” which will be held here at Trinity on Saturday, August 10th at 6:00 p.m. For more information, please visit www.FMSC.org/mobilepack. See the next page for more volunteer opportunities that are available.

Feed My Starving Children – ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

If you missed the sign up for the packing event or are going but able to do more, there are some additional volunteer opportunities below you can do. If you are able to help with any of the following tasks, please contact the church office, Jeff McDonald [(312)953-1862] or Roger Wandersee [(312)816-3201] on or before August 1st:

- **Logistics Volunteer** (help move boxes, wrap pallets, etc.) is needed for EACH shift on Friday and Saturday (sign up for 1 or more shifts if you can)
- **Greeters / Hairnet Distributors** (welcome volunteers and hand out hair nets) are needed Friday and Saturday for various 1-hour shifts
- **Marketplace Store Volunteer** (help sell shirts, etc.) is needed on Friday and Saturday for various shifts (ranging from 30 to 90 minutes)
- **Kitchen Volunteers** (cook and serve Manna to volunteers, set out snacks, etc.) are needed on Friday and Saturday for various 90-minute shifts



SUNDAY SCHOOL – Shoeboxes for Kids!

The Sunday School will be collecting items again to put together shoeboxes for kids and families in the community who might be struggling throughout the Christmas season. We know that it is early, but we feel that if we collect over the next 5 months, we can make more shoeboxes than we did last year. Last year, we were able to make up 10 boxes, plus give an additional 2 boxes of items that could be given to those who came into the food pantry in New Lenox. All of these items were greatly appreciated and the families were happy to receive them! Items that can be given are toys, gloves, books, or anything that can fit into a shoebox. We encourage our parents to let their children pick out items from the Dollar Store that they think another child would enjoy receiving for Christmas. Thank you in advance from the Sunday School Staff.

Share Fest New Lenox will be held from September 1st – 14th. The main event will be held on Saturday, September 14th at Spencer School in New Lenox. Volunteers are needed to help in various ways starting on September 1st. If you are able to help with this event, or would like more information, please call 815.717.2614.

If you “need help” Share Fest may be able to help you too. Give them a call. Details may be found at www.sharefestnewlenox.com.

Good news from Thrivent Financial! Eligible members who direct Choice Dollars online between July 1 and October 31 will be designated an additional \$25 Thrivent Choice Dollars. Through Thrivent Choice, Thrivent Financial’s member-advised charitable grant program, eligible members help support the causes and organizations they think are doing great work. Our church is one of the many groups you can support through this program. If you have any questions, talk to your Thrivent representative or to Michelle Hoag.



MorningStar:

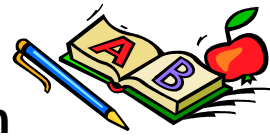
Sign-up sheets for August are on the hallway table. Serving dates are August 5th and 19th at 3:45 p.m. If you have any questions call Judy Wilmsen at 815.462.1374.

Readers and Greeters.

New sign-up sheets are on the hallway table. Won't you take a moment and agree to either read or greet one of the coming Sundays? If you'd like a copy of the readings, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.



Preschool News and Information



There are still a few openings for Preschool. Please check our website or call the church/preschool at 815.485.6973.

BLOOD DRIVE: Tuesday, September 3rd from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. Please come be a lifesaver. Heartlands' motorized coach will be here. A \$10 Target gift card will be given to each donor.

Social Ministry: The coffee hour will continue through the summer following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Thanks to all our wonderful hostesses.





CHANCEL GUILD: Altar Flowers. If you would like to give altar flowers, check the flower chart in the hallway outside the church office for dates that are still open for the balance of the year. If you are interested in ordering flowers to place on the altar please fill out one of the flower forms which are attached to the side of the flower cabinet. Please place it in the Chancel Guild mailbox located inside the church office. If you have any questions, please call Christine Stark at 814.478.4079 or email her at candb.stark@gmail.com. The cost of the flowers are \$8.50 per vase or \$17.00 for both vases. The flowers may be picked up after the Sunday service.

Serving the Lord and keeping our church looking beautiful and our Communion ware filled this month are:
August 4th: Doris Bay/Jeri Sandt
August 11th: Jeri Sandt/Christine Stark
August 17/18: Christine Stark/Allene Bachmann
August 25: Allene Bachmann

The regularly scheduled organization meetings will resume in September.

Due to privacy laws, hospitals cannot notify the church when you or your family member is hospitalized. Please call the church if you would like us to know. 815.485.6973.

Church Office Hours: Monday 9-3, Tuesday and Thursday 1-4.

