

July 2013

Dear Friends of Trinity,

I must say that I'm really enjoying going through the book of Galatians with you in church. It's a nice change of pace, and so far I've received very positive responses. As you might know, Galatians was a favorite of Martin Luther's because of its emphasis on Christian freedom. Yes, the law of God is good. Yes, the law of God is wise. But the law of God pointed beyond itself to the time when it would be kept perfectly the way God intended. That was accomplished by Jesus Christ! He did what we are unable to do. That fact alone unburdens our often guilty consciences.

We'll be continuing this sermon series throughout the summer, so you'll want to stay tuned to see what happens. But just to whet your appetite a bit, St. Paul (the author of Galatians) begs and pleads the Galatians to turn back to the good news of Jesus Christ they received from him instead of living by the "weak and miserable principles" of their former lives of idolatry and false worship. Those who insist that the Galatians follow a set of regulations are actually leading them into very slavery from which they've been set free.

The Christian faith is not a cold list of "do's and don'ts". Period. The Christian is FREE! However, St. Paul will explain that this is not a license to gratify the sinful nature (selfishness). That would be a gross misunderstanding of the Gospel, the Good News. Rather, the Christian in joy will produce "the fruit of the Spirit".

So, back to the question I posed in last month's newsletter—What does it mean to you to be a Lutheran? You can chat with me about it, or if you'd like you can shoot me an email at revdoughoag@msn.com and give me your thoughts. I look forward to it!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag

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JULY 2013

JULY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Communion will be served on the 2nd and 4th weekends.

Note: The Saturday evening worship services are suspended for the month of July and running through August 10th. This change in the schedule is due to Pastor Hoag's out of town obligations this month. He will be attending the Youth Conference, the Synodical Convention, plus a family wedding – all in July. The Saturday 5:00 p.m. service will start up again on August 17th.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN FUNDRAISER

**Trinity Lutheran Church, New Lenox, IL
Saturday, August 10, 2013 at 6:00 P.M.**

Concert, “Skiddles the Clown”, and Ice Cream Social.

This fundraiser is in conjunction with the Lincoln-Way High School in packing “manna pack meals” on August 9th and 10th. Feed My Starving Children is an experienced mobile food – packing and distribution charity, and makes a difference in the lives of young children in more than 67 countries around the world. Over 40 of our church members have volunteered to help pack these “meals”. A big thank you to all the volunteers.

Our concert/entertainment fundraiser is a ticketed event, with a price of \$5.00 per person, or \$15.00 per family. Tickets will be on sale at church beginning July 7th. If you have any questions or wish to purchase tickets you may also contact the church at 815.485.6973.

POSITION OPEN for “Usher Coordinator. The usher schedules are pretty much set but we need someone to continue with what has already been set up. Contact Ed Tatro, Director of Spiritual Life (815.485.5760) or Pastor Hoag (815.485.6973). Our sincere thanks to Bill Sandt for volunteering to fill the Property Director position that Paul recently vacated.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

VBS was held June 10th through 14th. A total of 152 children were signed up and we had a staff of 47. Thanks to the staff and volunteers who all worked so hard to get it organized. The kids had a good time and learned a lot. \$288.80 was collected for LCMS Disaster Response, which supplies funds to help with national and international disasters. Thanks also to all the members of the

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congregation who donated items for VBS and who helped prepare crafts, move Bibles, hymnals and tables, and to those who helped prepare and clean the church before and after VBS. THANK YOU.

The "VBS staff" would also like to thank Michelle Hoag, the Director, of the VBS. Thanks for all the time and energy you put into making VBS so successful. We all enjoy working with you and helping with VBS!

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS. Sign-up sheets for the month of July are on the hallway table for Readers, Greeters and MorningStar Mission. Stop and sign up!

SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

After a busy year, Social Ministry is pausing to enjoy the summer. Meetings will resume in the fall. The coffee hour will continue after the summer 9:00 a.m. service.

Please continue to sign Virgil's card and/or take a label to send him greetings yourself. We have verified that the mailing labels may be used.

Morning Star Serving Dates

July 1st and 15th. You need to be at the Mission by 3:45 pm. The sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. If you have any questions call Judy Wilmsen at 815.462.1374.

CHANCEL NEWS

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 in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a special birthday or wedding anniversary, or to celebrate God's many blessings, 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. Please call Christine Stark at 815.478.4079 if you have any questions. You can also 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 wares filled this month are:

July 7.	Ann Romadka/Kay Purnell
July 14.	Kay Purnell/Jan Prospero
July 21.	Jan Prospero/Doris Klemm
July 28.	Debbie Nick/Allene Bachmann

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“Idea” (Suggestion) Box: If you have an idea or suggestion to help the church function better, please complete the form found with this newsletter (if you are receiving it in printed format) or found next to the marked box in the hall roll-away and deposit it in the box. Rest assured that your idea will receive prompt attention. Items will be forwarded to both Pastor Hoag and the appropriate church Council member. Remember, you are encouraged to attend any monthly Council Meeting to further discuss your idea/suggestion.

SOW HOPE: A “thank you” letter was received from Mary Dailey Brown, President of SowHope and is on the bulletin board outside the church office. As Mary put it “this amazing gift of \$1,551.37 was donated to this organization by members of our congregation. Even though this fundraiser has ended, you may still continue to donate on your own to this very worthwhile cause. All donations are appreciated by SowHope. Please make checks payable to SowHope and send to: P>O. Box 234, Rockford, MI 49341.

July 29 – August 2

Vacation Bible School – “IndrediWorld Amazement Park”

At: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Frankfort,

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:10 p.m.

For information call 815.469.2549 or visit www.goodshepherdfrankfort.org.

Summer Break: The following groups are on summer vacation and will resume meetings in the fall: Chancel Guild, Social Ministry, Wednesday Morning Bible Class, Adult Choir, Church Council and Sunday school. Even though our organizations are taking a summer break, our church services continue each week. See you at church!

Lost and Found: We have several items that have been left at the church.
Adult fleece jacket – “Champion” - size XL – black with grey sides.
Girls “Old Navy” – sweatshirt type – size medium – charcoal grey
Set of car keys & fob (with Autobarn of Countryside key ring)
Call the church office at 815.485.6973.

Updating Records: There are pink Update forms on the hallway sign-up table. If you have not yet done so, please complete this form and turn it in to the office.

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

As stated on the Sunday School bulletin board - “take God with you on your summer vacation!”

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BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Aiden Majchrzak	2	Jonathan Pfiffner	22
Caleb Majchrzak	2	Don Burke	23
Ashley Salazar	4	Christopher Hoag	23
Christine Stark	4	Logan Valentine	23
Quinn Bowden	4	Lea Rae Marcolina	24
Colton Donath	5	Jordan Cuthbert	25
Julie Verchimak	5	Jim Ingalls	25
Alicia Woodcock	5	Grace Anderson	26
Anna Minett	7	Midge Meents	26
Nancy Tomany	7	Angelina Condit	27
Denise Buchanan	9	Reaghan Downing	27
Patricia Cruise	10	Eric Kosel	27
Madison McGinnis	10	Bill Sandt	28
David Hubrich	11	Bob Buchanan	29
Chris Myers	11	Madison Condit	29
Ken Myers	11	Rachel Czaja	29
Ed Lueken	12	Judi Donovan	29
Janet DeForest	13	Carol Palmer	29
Jacqueline Tomany	13	Sean Palmer	29
Dominik Youngren	13	Linda Thompson	29
Barbara Adochio	14	Sharon Lorenz	30
Cameron Hoag	15		
Wendy Kaun	15		
Mike Kunce	15		
Kevin Schlak	15		
Michelle Kosel	17		
Angie Opiola	17		
Melica Kenworthy	18		
Judy VanderVeen	18		
Dave Anderson	19		
Elyse Black	19		
Allison Bormet	19		
Larry Buell	19		
Katelynn Briese	20		
Scott Cruise	20		
Elyse Lerner	20		
Paul Sandahl	20		
Julie Seville	20		
Austin Bird	21		
Brian Johnson	21		
Charles Johnson	21		
Kiley Pfiffner	21		
Dillon Dyer	22		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Thomas and Jennifer Stuart	8
Matthew and Elizabeth Conway	9
Scott and Suzanne Jablonski	12
Les and Ginny DeCarlo	16
Bob and Denise Buchanan	16
Brian and Bridget Garrison	19
Eric and Dana Kosel	24
Scott and Cheryl Baggs	25
Tom and Michelle Buell	26
Lee and Marcy Remm	27
Kevin and Julie Seville	27
Mike and Liz O'Neill	29
Roy and Nancy Minnick	30