

June 2018

Dear Friends of Trinity,

I talk quite a bit in my sermons about spiritual ladders and treadmills, and I do that for a reason.

They are exhausting and counter to the Christian faith.

We climb ladders every day to please people-- family members, co-workers, neighbors— all to earn a reward or some recognition, or to be on the top rung. It works with people.

It doesn't work with God. We try though, don't we?

"I hope I'm good enough to go to heaven when I die."

"I don't pray hard or long enough."

Perfection is required to go to heaven. Prayer is to be unceasing. How are you doing with that?

We are not perfect. We do not pray unceasingly. So, what's the answer?

The answer is NOT striving for perfection or praying 24/7.

God gave the answer. It's Jesus! He is our perfection. He is our pray-er. He achieves what was impossible for us. Jesus, and he alone, is the way to God.

We can get down from our ladders. We can step off our treadmills. We can rest in Jesus.

Our baptism is still effective. The Lord's Supper is adequate. The promises of God through Jesus are ours in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag



JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER

Sunday Summer worship schedule: Sunday – May 27th (Memorial Day weekend) through Sunday – September 2nd (Labor Day weekend) at 9:00 a.m. Our contemporary Service will continue on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. communion will be served on the second and fourth weekends each month.



USHERS: In the past the Sunday early service ushers covered the 9:00 am summer service. Due to so many people being out of town through the summer months, all ushers for both services will be included in ushering on their regular scheduled week.

If you need a summer schedule, please stop in the office and get a copy.



Updates from our Church Council President, Jeff McDonald

June marks the start of our summer break from council meetings, but there is plenty ongoing to keep us busy. The final stage of the office moves is nearing completion. Our Property Committee is working on some electrical and paint work in Pastor's old office and then we will be installing the new cabinets for what will become the Church Secretary's office. At that point, the current Secretary's office will be for general use by all of our groups. It's been a long haul, but the finished product will be worth the effort and we will have much better utilization of our space as a result of these moves.

Next is the stained glass window project. We have all of our bids in and Rex Toepke volunteered to help analyze the bids for us. Rex will be working closely with our Property

Committee to explore these bids in a bit more detail and a recommendation of which contractor to choose will follow. Council will call a special meeting to review the recommendation and ask any final questions and then we plan to move ahead with this project. Our total proceeds raised for this project just topped \$50,000 as of our May council meeting and depending on which contractor we select, that will either cover all or nearly all of the cost of this project. Thank you to ALL who generously supported this project! We are 'paying it forward' in a pretty big way by restoring these windows for decades to come.

We have the Trinity Tailgate planned for June 9th and we are then hosting a concert by Revival (Pastor Hoag and Dan Bay's band) afterwards from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. If you want to compete in the BBQ competition, please see Bob Blecke for details or sign up at church. The tailgate event is open to those competing in the competition and their invited guests. If grilling isn't something of interest to you, the concert afterwards is open to all members. Feel free to invite a friend to join you and join us for an evening of fellowship and some rock music by Revival.

While our summer Sunday schedule is never completely convenient for everyone's schedule, it is a great opportunity to interact with people who typically attend other services than your regular one. And keep in mind that our Saturday service is ongoing at 5 p.m. each week, so if 9 a.m. on Sunday is too early or too late, perhaps the Saturday option works better for you. We have several new members, so please introduce yourself if you spot someone at church that you don't know. One benefit of having two services during the summer over three is that we always have a bigger crowd in attendance, which gives each of us a greater opportunity to interact with our fellow members.

Church Member Updates during the month of May, 2018

Transfers In: Keith and Megan Mochel with their children Vivienne and Miles from Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church in Mokena.

Calling all grillers, smokers, and tailgate food specialists!!

We need you on Saturday, June 9th, 2018 to participate in the

Trinity Tailgate

Our Goal is to invite and include non-members who are known to and invited by members, to attend as Participants and make them feel comfortable in being with members and the church facility.

How can I get involved?

- Sign up as a **Participant**. Bring your grill, food, & equipment on June 9 and show us your Stuff.
- Sign up as a **Judge**. Help decide whose is best. And sample everything ;-)
- Sign up as a **Recruiter**. Get a non-member to sign up as a participant or a Judge, and you get to stay for the food and entertainment! This is an outreach event. Use it to get that seeker / potential members to check us out, casually.
- Sign up as a **volunteer**. We will need help with promotion, preparation, setup, teardown, cleanup. And eating food.

Spots are limited, so show your support and sign up today! Sign up sheet and participation rules are on the table in the hall.

- **Start Time:** That's up to you, how much prep time do you need?
- **Serve / judge time:** 5:00 p.m.
- **Showtime:** 6:00 p.m.
- **Event end time:** 8:00 p.m.

Questions? Find Bob Blecke, Outreach Chair, or email him at robert.blecke@yahoo.com

THERE WILL BE NO SATURDAY EVENING CHURCH SERVICE ON JUNE 9TH



The Youth will continue with the Scrip Fundraiser Program using the proceeds for the Capital Improvement projects at church this year. Scrip (Gift Card) Fundraiser

Our next order deadline will be [Monday, June 11th at noon](#). Cards will be ready for pick up at church the following Sunday, June 17. Any questions can be directed to Angie Minett at minett411@yahoo.com or (815)467-2537 or Gary Purnell at (815)485-9017. You can also check out shopwithscrip.com to learn more.



Vacation Bible School – Vacation Bible School will be June 25-29, 9:30-Noon. Our theme is Splash Canyon and we invite children age 3 up through 5th grade to join us. Cost is \$5 per child. Register online at www.trinitynewlenox.org, using the password "trinity". Church members and preschool students have priority to register until May 1 when registration opens to the public. Last year we were full in the preschool class and had to close registration, so be sure to sign up soon!

We also are looking for volunteers for the week. Youth who have completed 6th grade or higher as well as adults are invited to help. If you can help for one day or all five days, we'd love to have you join our staff. Sign up online at www.trinitynewlenox.org/vacationbibleschool or talk to Michelle Hoag.

We have a wish list of snack and other donations on the poster board in the Narthex. Also, if anyone has an inflatable raft or life jackets we could use for decorating, please talk to Michelle Hoag.

Please keep our VBS in your prayers that we have a safe and fun week sharing the Good News of Jesus' love to our young members and neighbors!



Fannie May Candy Bars: Fannie May Candy bars are still available, with the proceeds going to the Chancel Guild. They are on the counter in the church office. Cost is \$1.00 for each. Please leave your payment in the gold envelope.



Pre-School Registration for September 2018-2019. Please tell your friends and neighbors. If you have any questions, please call the pre-school at 815.485.6973. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 per student. The tuition per month for the school year beginning September 2016, will be \$110.00 for two day students and \$135 for three day students. Children must have turned 3 by September 1, 2018.



ALTAR FLOWERS: Flowers are placed on our altar every weekend to enhance and beautify our altar area in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary, or in celebration of God's blessings. **A 2018 flower chart showing open weekends has been posted in the cabinet across from the church office.** The flower order forms are attached to the cabinet. If you would like to sponsor flowers on a particular weekend, complete the form and place it along with a **check made out to Trinity Lutheran Chancel Guild** in the Chancel Guild mailbox in the church office. Please note the cost of the flowers has increased to \$30.00. If you want a date already chosen, it may be possible to share the date and the cost with permission from the person who has



We are continuing to support St. Matthew's Lutheran Church by collecting donations of non-perishable food items, as well as household good. Please place the food items in the collection box by the parking lot door. The household items should be placed in the storage closet area at the far East end of the church basement. PLEASE – WHEN DROPPING THOSE ITEMS OFF PLEASE STACK ITEMS NEATLY AND DO NOT BLOCK THE PATHWAY THROUGH THAT ROOM.



Portals of Prayer for July through September 2018 will be available in the Narthex and also on the hallway table by the middle of June.



Relay for Life Survivor Sunday -

Today we CELEBRATE those who have overcome the challenges of cancer.
We REMEMBER people lost to the disease and those who are fighting cancer.
And we FIGHT BACK to take action against a disease that has taken too much.

New Lenox Relay for Life
Friday, July 13
Lincoln-Way West High School
6:00 pm -2:00 am

Join survivors, caretakers, and friends for an evening of celebrating, remembering, and fighting back. There will be food, games, raffles, and entertainment. Stay for awhile or all evening.

Visit us on the web at www.trinitynewlenox.org

Today and during the month of June, Luminaria bags may be purchased for \$10 each to honor or remember a loved one.

Donations to the American Cancer Society to support cancer patients and research may also be made.

If you are a cancer survivor and wish to participate in the survivor dinner on June 24, please call Terrie at (815)212-4837.

For questions or if you would like to be part of a team, please contact Jan Toepke.



VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS:

New Volunteer sign-up sheets for June are on the hallway table for Readers – Greeters MorningStar Missions. Stop and sign up for your turn!



Coffee Hour will be held following the 9:00 a.m. service through the summer. Stop in and get acquainted with your fellow church members.

Coffee Hosts are still needed for the 4th Sunday of June, July, August and November. Please take a turn especially if you drink coffee after church. The sign-up sheet is on the hallway table.



SUMMER BREAK/VACATION:

Even though our church organizations are taking a summer break, our church services continue each week. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please call the church at 815.485.6973.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9-2.