
TRINITY TIDINGS

JULY/AUGUST, 2011

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Used by God to feed Christ's sheep and grow His church

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SYNOD ASSEMBLY UPDATE

A Message from Pr Jacqui

Synod assembly is always a joyful time, even when we have controversial issues to discuss as a synod. Just to refresh your memories we are Trinity Lutheran Church in the Capitol Conference of the Grand Canyon Synod, Region 2D, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (North). Yes, that is a very long description, but it helps clarify our place; it helps us know where we belong. Over all, we belong to God and we relate to world by the way of Lutheranism. Our annual synod assembly helps us clarify how we fit into the grand scheme of things within the church. It is good for us to go to and be at synod assembly because we get to see where we fit in and compare to other congregations and people in our vicinity. Laurie Schultz and Sam Fechenbach were our congregation representatives to the two day event and as far as I could tell a good time was had by all. Pastor Charles Wilfong manned the global missions display and shared his experience of a recent trip to Senegal. Larry Pagel gathered volunteers to staff the registration table and was joined by Noreen Baldwin and Mary Dickman. Our amazing Random Elements rocked the house opening Saturday morning worship. Trinity was well represented to the whole synod as an alive and thriving community. We were asked to provide some additional information and photos to the synod regarding our position of renewal. Below is a copy of the information I prepared. I want you all to know what is said about this great joyful community that welcomes all to come worship and praise our Lord and Savior.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Sunnyslope, AZ, worships about 90 people every Sunday. We have adult Bible study Sundays with approximately ten people in attendance and a Wednesday lectionary study that seven people attend. Our Sunday school has up to 15 children hearing stories, singing, playing games, and making crafts. We are all excited to have welcomed three infants and two adults into our family of faith through baptism within the last year. We appreciate the 20% growth in attendance we have experienced over the last year and attribute it to our wonderful spirit of hospitality that we share at TLC. We look forward to the amazing growth plan that God has in store for us as we know God is not done with us yet.

Renewal began with the commitment to call Jacqui Pagel as pastor over a year ago, in April of 2010, and her ordination June 12, 2010.

At TLC we are about making stew. Our community is unique because it reflects a strong traditional Lutheran base, flavored with "traditional" Anglos, American Blacks, and African Americans mainly hailing from Liberia. We take all the varying ingredients, keep the flavors, and provide stew that feeds the spirit.

We are focusing on being a prayerful community that helps everyone who worships with us know the Spirit is here and all are welcome. We have great stew here and we want to feed as many people as possible so that we are ready to be in the world doing God's work.

We need prayers to build and strengthen the leadership of TLC. We need discernment to clearly identify our mission and position within our community. We want to be sure we are serving the heartiest Lutheran stew around and using the best utensils to get the WORD—the stew—out.

Currently we are in the most need for a high-quality nursery attendant, a drummer, and people to join our community who appreciate diversity. As a renewal ministry we need to update our physical plant. There is no place to go but up and we need to start at the ground level. We need new carpet for the office area, the parking lot repaved, and sod for the play area.

We want to make it as easy as possible for people to come in and get fed and then go out and feed others.

This is a great place to worship and praise God. Keep up the good work of inviting others to check us out. We don't know what the future holds; we know that God is with us and with that, all things are possible.



Missional Leadership Academy Update

From Noreen Baldwin, Congregational President

Numbers of us are unsure of what exactly the Missional Leadership Academy is and what its implications for Trinity are. Back in the fall, our congregation was asked to participate in a survey which gauged opinion on our community, attitude and focus of our congregation, shared leadership/autocracy, mission, and inertia/reinvention. People's responses to questions provided the leaders of our congregation with a profile which has been used to analyze our strengths and areas of need, as well as a basis of determining our mission and how we want to be defined. This process will include the entire congregation, culminating with a mission statement. The Missional Leadership Team, as well as the Council, has been debriefed on the survey results. At the congregational forum on June 26th, we will share some of the results and the next steps.

There are many things we're doing right here at Trinity! We seem to be open in our communication from leadership to congregants. Since so many of us are involved in various projects, we are quite good at finding out what's happening in our community. Leadership has been open about Trinity's financial status, informing the congregation on a monthly basis where the finances stand and what we are facing. Finally, people at Trinity feel valued and trusted. This is huge. We as a Council always hope that all will feel welcome in questioning and expressing their views without fear of shutdown or shutout.

More information will continue to be shared on a monthly basis. The community is welcome to attend Council meetings and stop any Council member or Pastor Jacqui to become more informed as we go along. Stay tuned!

4th of July Picnic!!

Join us in celebrating the birth of our nation at the picnic after church on Sunday July 3. We will also celebrate Alan Dando's 80th birthday and send our confirmands off to Campfirmation. Lunch is jointly provided by the Dando family and Trinity. Join us for good food and fellowship.



RALLY SUNDAY

Rally Sunday is August 14. We plan an Open House for the neighborhood, tables displaying our ministries, and children's activities, including a jumping castle. If you can help, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex. We need lots of volunteers!!

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 14, 2011

Synod Assembly Sam Fechenbach and Laurie Schulz reported that Synod Assembly was very spiritual and inspirational. The primary focus was the need for churches to establish a mission and design worship and outreach activities based on that mission. A resolution was passed that the ELCA's stand on bullying is one of intolerance.

Worship Committee report presented by Judy Vogt We discussed Praise Team issues including the need to clarify copyright requirements and providing sheet music to those who request it. Rowena Zink, Terry Clark-Hughey, and Mary Dickman have expressed a wish to have a copy of the music. Jessica Cook has been making packets; we need to communicate procedure with the ushers and congregation. Music for some of the shorter songs has been scanned and put up on the screens.

Pastor's Report We have moved out of "survival" mode into the "abundance" mode for worship. Now we want to improve the quality of the worship experience. We want some songs that are familiar and "belong" to Trinity. Changes include a repeated sending song each month and the Words of Institution in song format.

Pr Jacqui met with Ruben Duran, Director for New Congregational Development, at synod assembly to discuss Trinity's current situation and plans for the future.

Secretary's Report The May minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report Attendance and giving are improving but we are still below projected budget income, and there have been some emergency expenditures (like a new electrical box). There is concern about the summer when giving typically decreases as people travel. Ruth is doing a great job making sure bills are paid on time. She is trying to limit taking from Endowment money; we have used \$3000 so far this year. Noreen and Judy will discuss with Ruth taking the entire mortgage from the Endowment money next month to provide a cushion for budget expenses.

Parish Nurse Report Jo is a tremendous ambassador for Trinity. The Parish Nurse Community sent her a thank you, demonstrating that others recognize the true blessing she is to Trinity and the community.

Old Business

- A. Background checks: Kim Ruble has researched the best way to have these done for those who work with children and youth. The 20-minute Church Mutual video regarding ensuring the safety of our children will be part of the June 26 forum.
- B. Nursery: Until we hire a nursery attendant, the nursery will be staffed on a rotating basis by volunteers who have background checks through their employers. Children in the nursery should be five years old and under; children older than five are expected to attend the worship service.
- C. Mission statement and MLA: MLA and Trinity mission were discussed June 12 at a special meeting at Judy Vogt's home. Ideas for a mission statement will be presented to the congregation for their input.
- D. Concordia Charter School: We are waiting for a proposal regarding their use of our facilities.
- E. Rally Day: Rally Day will be August 14. We want to have an Open House for the neighborhood, table displays illustrating church ministries, and children's activities. Georgia is coordinating the food. We need someone to coordinate volunteers for the event. Sunday school will start August 21.

New Business

- A. Liberian Free Day: Sah will provide further information about the celebration to take place at Trinity.
- B. Sound system: Working OK right now.
- C. Electrical panel: An electrician is rebuilding part of our electrical panel for \$1,090.98, vs purchasing a new one for \$20,000.
- D. Congregational Forum: The next forum on June 26 will include the Church Mutual video as well as a discussion of our current status and plans for the future.
- E. Pastor's hours: Jacqui's hours will remain at 30 hours per week for now.

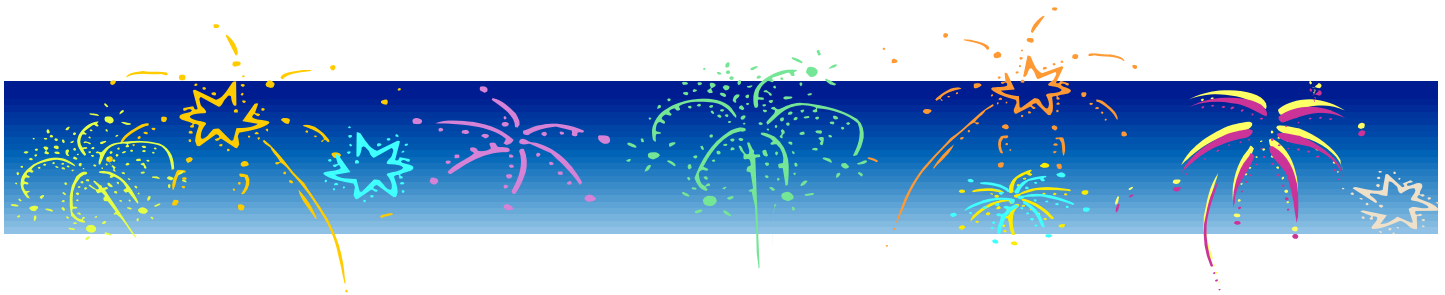
- F. New benches: Jessica and Random Elements would like to donate benches for the front of the church. There are concerns about vandalism, thefts, vagrants, bird droppings. Is there an areas where a donation might be put to better use? After we develop a mission statement, we will determine if this fits.
- G. Pool party: August 13 will be a back-to-school pool party at the Cooks for everyone in the congregation.

Thanks and recognition to

Pr Jacqui Pagel for her one-year anniversary of service and dedication to Trinity
 Mike Lynch for participating in the council meeting by speakerphone while working in Tucson
 Lisa Lynch and the multigenerational choir for their inspiring song on Pentecost
 Jo Ambrose for her inspiring Sunday (June 12) sermon
 Workday volunteers who helped Lane clean up the grounds and facility

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, July 12, 2011.

This is a synopsis of the council minutes. If you would like a full copy, please contact Ruth in the church office.



CAUGHT YOU CARING

The following names were cited for performing random acts of kindness during the past month. Thanks to all who took the time to recognize others. A random selection was made and a small token of appreciation was given. Each act gives honor and glory to God as we reach out to others in His name. Please, fill out your slips; let's keep this program going!!!

- all those who helped on the June 4 work day
- all those who worked so hard on food preparation and serving for the June 10 synod assembly dinner here at Trinity (Georgia, Lois, Mimi, Susan, Margaret, Ute, and anyone else who was involved)
- Wally Secosky, Bill Taylor, and Lane Doolittle — for the extra hours and extra effort spent during the recent roofing, air conditioning and electrical repairs
- Melody and Steve Daigneault — for volunteering to be the new church librarians
- Mike Lynch — for leading worship during Pr Jacqui's vacation on 6-19
- Florence Saltzman — for delivering the children's sermon on 6-19



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!!

