
TRINITY TIDINGS

June/July, 2019

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

A loving, Christian community, feeding God's people in mind, body, and spirit

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Trinity office hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

MY JOURNEY OF FAITH

Ruth suggested that we contribute our biography of our faith journey to the monthly Trinity Tidings newsletter as a way to better know and support each other. Chris Cole started the ball rolling last month, and I contribute this month with my bio. This is my story....

I was born Janice Lee Wilker in Cleveland, Ohio, or as my dad called it, "The Garden Spot of America". My family was all of German Lutheran background—kind, intelligent, loving. I was blessed. Still am blessed with many cousins who are among my best friends. I have one magnificent brother four years younger than I. Dennis is a Vietnam Air Force veteran.

I cared for my father in my home for the last 20 years of his 97 years. Also was the "shepherd" for my first mother-in-law until her death at 97. They had no one else local to tend to them.

When I was in third grade, I found an old rickety violin in the attic. It was my father's third grade violin and had a crack down the middle from when he hit a kid over the head with it. I used that fiddle for violin lessons, "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star", and learning to read music. One day my Grandpa Behlke sent for a Popular Mechanics violin pattern and started making violins for his grandkids. As I was the only one who actually ever played (somewhat), I got the first one he made and used it

through college. I still have both of the violins. I loved being in the orchestra but wanted to be in the high school band, too, because band got to do cool things like march in parades and ride in the bus with the football guys. Can't do that with a fiddle! So they let me into the band's percussion section. I was the woodblock and symbol player. Once I even had a timpani solo to "Dance Macabre!" As an adult, I graduated to the mandolin for campfire and front porch picking.

I am truly the "milkman's" daughter from the horse-drawn milk wagon days. We drank a lot of milk. After his service in the navy during WWII, my dad and his brother took jobs with the same dairy and stayed there through age 65. Dad was a graduate civil engineer from what is now Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, but he enjoyed the physical work and the people-contact of peddling milk. I watched him re-career at age 65 into the funeral home business. Mom was a homemaker and tried very hard to get me to behave and be a lady.

I graduated from Kent State University in Ohio with a Baccalaureate Social Work Degree, got married and worked for four years in hospital medical social work and as a juvenile probation officer. Initially, I didn't know what I was doing, but on-the-job training grew me up. After a few more years of YUCK Ohio weather, my husband and I moved to

Honolulu for a while, then to Arizona as my forever home.

My career in social work has been everything I could hope for. I served the last 20 years as a hospice social worker. Six of those years were training and supervising hospice volunteers for multiple hospices. Prior to hospice work, I served with families, kids, disabled adults, teen girls in foster care group homes, and two years as church secretary at Christ the King Church.

I am so proud of the part I played in working with al-anon people in developing the first shelters for domestic violence victims in Arizona (Rainbow Retreat, now closed, and Faith House, now known as New Leaf) in the early 1970s. California developed the first shelter in the nation and we were first in Arizona, second in the nation. We wrote and implemented the first treatment program for victims based on a 12-step and higher power spiritual belief system. Rainbow Retreat hired me for two years as a domestic violence counselor. I did this while extricating myself from my own violent situation. When I was homeless with three little daughters, there was nothing but God and the shelters. That was on-the-job training on a personal level!

Mother-wise, I raised and deeply loved three daughters basically as a single parent. I am blessed to be close to and feel proud of my daughters. I always considered my daughters primary in my life. They are strong, caring, and creative women. Jennifer is mother of four and dual-degreed in early elementary and special education. She is now the special education administrator in a charter school. She and I had a few years of being professional clowns. I was "Hoop, the Love Clown". Krista has two daughters and two adult step-children. She is a talented third grade teacher, also at a charter school.

Krista develops and teaches special-interest classes after her school classes.

My first-born daughter, Holly Kay, was a 19-year-old University of Arizona student and athlete who aspired to be a doctor one day. Holly died with a traumatic head injury 22 hours after a one-car traffic accident in Sunnyslope. Horrible tragedy. Unimaginable pain with profound grief and a forever hole in my heart. Holly died on Memorial Day, May 26, 1986. Her fiancé, Richard, died three years later, also in a traffic accident. Holly was an organ donor. This put a little sense to the tragedy. So sad. So hard.

I am now a doting grandma and call the grandkids The Darlings. I am now a 10-year Hodgkins lymphoma cancer survivor.

My hobbies have always been crafting and putting my faith into action by volunteering. I like to make pretty things, admire them, and give them away. When cabbage patch dolls were the rage, I got a pattern and made dolls for my whole extended family—even hand-painted the faces. I love tent-camping, playing cards, sitting by a flowing stream, and 99¢ Store shopping.

I find peace through church worship and activity. I find a sense of meaning through refugee resettlement, first through Christ the King Church and Lutheran Social Ministry and a paid year with Tolstoy Foundation working with large Afgan families. And now with our Trinity church in the current humanitarian border crisis. We are a nation of refugees. I wish for world peace.

So that's my story. What's your story?

Jan Hoopingarner, Child of God
My story is unfinished....



Anyone who would like to contribute to the Tidings is welcome to do so. Articles could be a biography of one of our members, an interesting faith experience of yours or someone you know, a perspective on our Lutheran beliefs or heritage, reflections on meeting challenges during the call process, vision for Trinity's future, or other information of general interest. Articles should be from one half to one page long. Ruth needs your article by the 20th of the month for the next month's Tidings. Please let her know a couple of weeks in advance if you will be providing an article so she can plan the space for it. We look forward to seeing the written word from some of our members!

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2019

Submitted by Sarah Rose, Secretary

Old Business

Call Committee – Work has begun on the Ministry Site Profile. The chairperson met with Pr Mark Holman from the Synod office, which was helpful. The committee will be installed on May 26.

Community Action Ministry – ICE is sending people to intended destinations. Jan believes the ministry is flourishing and gives a big thanks to all who have helped and are helping.

New Business

Camp – We have four participants for Campformation and two for Camp Aloma this year.

Security – Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) need to be put in place in case of emergencies, such as first aid, a break in, a fire. As time goes on we must prepare for specific incidences so we are not blindsided. We are looking into a possible seminar to better prepare the congregation.

Signage – Watched a video presentation in Pr Joe’s office about an electric sign for our property. The sign would cost between \$15,000 and \$18,000. The company could put up a temporary sign as a demo for six hours. The estimate is valid for as long as we need.

Thanks and Recognition:

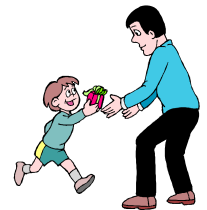
We appreciate and applaud:

- Laurie Schulz and family for organizing a superb Palm Sunday Brunch and everyone who brought food to share.
- Jerry Cook for donating and arranging the palm branches for Palm Sunday service.
- Don Brethauer and Dave Koschney for bringing over the extra bookcase to hold pantry items.
- Wally Secosky, Bill Taylor, and Keith Miller for replacing the office front door lock.
- Diane and Wally Secosky for picking up the yard.

Next meeting date and time: Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 6:30 pm



Happy Father’s Day

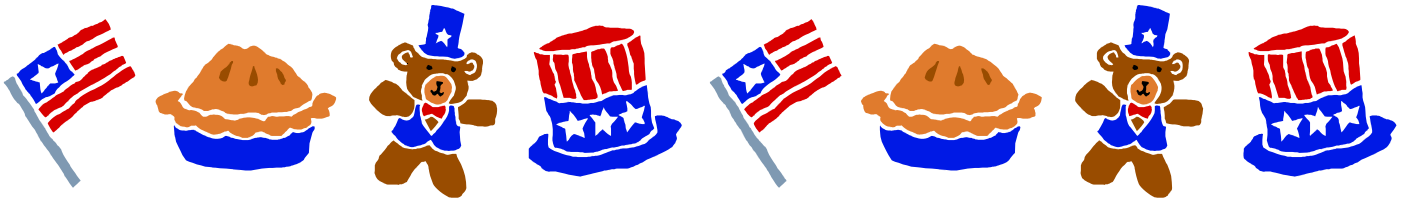


CAUGHT YOU CARING

The following people 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, continue to notify Jo (in person, by phone or email) with names of those doing acts of kindness; let’s keep this program going!!!

- Ruth Texidor-for her kindness and extreme patience with all those calling or coming into the TLC office
- Wally Secosky, Bill Taylor and Keith Miller — for replacing the lock on the office door
- Don Brethauer — for repairing the fence that had been vandalized
- Laurie and Dave Schulz — for coordinating the multigenerational end-of-school event and all those who contributed to the pot luck luncheon
- Susan Meintel — for working to register kids for camp





THE WORK OF THE CALL COMMITTEE

by Susan Meintel

As members of a Lutheran congregation at Trinity we have the unique opportunity to Call a new pastor to lead us in our ministry to each other, our community and indeed, the world. As Lutherans we do not “hire” a pastor; we Call one as a community. Hiring implies an impersonal list of resumes of prospective applicants. Call is done through the congregation participating in determining a Mission and Ministry statement; installing a Call Committee to interview and recommend a new Pastor; and the entire congregation praying for the leader that God has in store for us, as well as discernment for who that leader will be. Based on the verse from I Peter 2:9, we are told we are “members of a royal priesthood...and have been called to walk in His marvelous light”. Martin Luther said this is the Priesthood of all Believers, by which we can each go directly to God Himself in our prayers, and for salvation, and we can be ministers to one another. However, in the Augsburg Confession it is noted that to publicly teach and preach the Word and Administer the Sacraments, a leader must be called.

The Call Committee was installed at the worship service on Sunday, May 26, 2019. After dealing with Pastor Jacqui’s resignation, then acquainting ourselves with our Interim Pastor, Joe Dillon, the next step in the transition process is to survey the congregation to determine the Ministry Site Profile. Through this profile, the congregation approves our Mission Statement as well as what our needs are in terms of a pastor. This is an important step and needs communication from the entire congregation. Once this is accomplished, we will then publish our profile online on the ELCA website for prospective pastors to peruse. Therefore, as this is a huge step in the future of Trinity, this has to be done with much thought, prayer, and discerning care so that we can present an accurate picture of ourselves. Each person’s input is important in the process.

Once the Ministry Site Profile is put together and approved by the congregation, the Call Committee will begin its work in earnest. Ideally, the entire congregation has already been in prayer for the future of Trinity Lutheran Church. The Call process can take a while, due to the desire to have a Minister of the Gospel and the Sacraments who will fit our needs. However, we at Trinity have a strong congregation with many people who are already involved in the precious work of the church. We have those who work quietly behind the scenes with little fanfare as well as those who are visible and have kept the church going. Everyone is an important part of the community. I invite the congregation to be in prayer regarding the Call Committee, our Counsel, our Congregation, our Ministries, our Interim Pastor Joe Dillon, and our future Pastor. Everyone is important in this process and your input on the survey and further communication is appreciated.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!



Have a safe and happy Independence Day.