

---

---

# TRINITY TIDINGS

## September, 2019

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

9424 N 7 Ave      Phoenix, AZ 85021  
phone 602-943-3311      or 602-943-4031  
e-mail [trinity@tlcphx.org](mailto:trinity@tlcphx.org)      Website [www.tlcphx.org](http://www.tlcphx.org)

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

---

---

#### FROM ROME TO AUGSBURG: A JOURNEY IN FAITH

By Jo Ambrose

So how did an Italian American Roman Catholic from NYC wind up as the parish nurse of an ELCA congregation in Phoenix, Arizona? The story starts in the Bedford / Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn, a rough neighborhood by any standard, where I was born. By the time I was three, my parents had scraped together enough money to put a down payment on a modest one family house in Richmond Hill, Queens, a racially and ethnically mixed blue-collar neighborhood.

My family attended a 10,000-member Roman Catholic church; however, tuition in the local parochial school was prohibitive so I attended public school. My "religious education" was provided by Roman Catholic nuns one afternoon a week. The influence of these formidable task masters caused me to grow up thinking that God was some terrible ogre waiting to punish me every time I missed the mark. Since I was a curious, inquisitive child who loved to test limits, I figured I kept him mighty busy.

One of my best friends in elementary school was Lutheran. When she invited me to a weekend at a Lutheran camp for kids, the experience was life changing. We had fun and learned about God who was both loving and forgiving. This was so very foreign to what I had been taught that I could hardly wait to tell the sisters about my weekend experience. Instead of sharing in my joy, the nun was horrified

that I had "missed mass". She urged me to go to confession the following Saturday and pray that God would not "strike me dead". This of course stimulated a lively back and forth between the two of us. I said, "What if I were on my way to confession and got run over by a big truck before I got to church?" "Too bad", said the sister; "you should have thought about that before you missed mass."

After my first marriage ended in divorce, I was informed by the family priest that I should apply for an annulment. I could not comprehend how paying \$500 could erase seven years of marriage. Needless to say, I passed on that one and for many years I did not attend any church.

When I met my present husband, I decided to try church again. I attended both Episcopal and Lutheran churches and, as a result of those experiences, renewed my faith in the God who created me in his image and likeness and never let me go. Regardless of how far I may stray or what lifetime baggage may come back to haunt me, God continues to answer my prayers for health and strength. When doctors said there was no hope, God helped me find an avenue to use my nursing gifts. I will be forever grateful to my childhood friend for exposing me to Lutheranism and to the God who continues to enable, equip and encourage me, no matter what.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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

August 13, 2019

Submitted by Sarah Rose, Secretary

### Old Business

**Community Action Committee** – The outreach is going well. They were able to donate additional clothing and bedding to the Native American group lead by Pastor Mary Louis Frenchman.

**Youth Fund-** Susan motioned for Ruth to cut a check for the initial youth deposit of \$500 (for PyLY); Jan second the motion. All are in favor.

**Security System-** Susan motioned to go forward with the security system bid of \$965 initially, and \$45.95 a month after; Jan second the motion. All are in favor.

**Insurance-** The bid given is a lower premium and offering more service than the current insurance. We will also receive a 6% discount for having a security system in place. Tabled for September meeting.

**Call Committee update-** The ministry site profile was unanimously approved. They are now working on uploading it. Mark Holman will be attending the next call committee meeting to help advise and move the process forward.

### New Business—none

### Thanks and Recognition:

- To Walter for refreshing the yellow paint stripes on the sidewalk.
- To Keith and Walter for installing a dusk-to-dawn light outside the parish hall entrance area.
- To Dave Koschney, Bill Taylor, and Don Brethauer for installing an AC vent in the pantry cupboard.

**Next meeting date and time:** Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 5:30 pm



**Have a safe and  
fun Labor Day  
weekend**





## **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!!!

- Noreen Baldwin and Mimi and Bill Taylor for coordinating and all who helped with Pastor Joe's birthday celebration
- Danny Schulz—for agreeing to foster a cat until the owner is able to care for the animal again
- Laurie Schulz for coordinating and all who helped make Rally Sunday such a success
- Diane and Wally Secosky—for helping a member who was moving to pack books and belongings



## **GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.**

This year for the ELCA designated "God's Work. Our Hands." day of service, six Lutheran congregations (including Trinity) are uniting in a day of service and fellowship. On Sunday, September 8, 2019, we will gather at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1212 E Glendale Ave, Phoenix from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. During the entire time, you will have the opportunity to donate blood. Between 12:00 noon and 3:00 pm, you can work at assembling health kits for Lutheran World Relief. Starting at 3:00, there will be a cookout where you can mingle with members of the other churches and strengthen our bond with them. Another interesting feature of this event is the pastors of the six congregations involved are swapping pulpits! Trinity will host Pr Dan Hoeger from All Saints that Sunday.



## **THE WISDOM OF MARTIN LUTHER**

### **The Only Right Way**

If you do not want to go wrong or be lost, then believe Scripture, which testifies that all men are sinners and that no man living is just in the sight of God. To become just they will have to become so through Christ, the blessed Seed, who was promised to Adam, Abraham, and others as He who should crush the serpent's head and redeem the whole world from the curse. This He has done. He has taken the sin of the whole world upon Himself, has become a curse for us, and in this way has redeemed from the curse all who believe on Him (Gal 3:13-14).

Such knowledge and faith make a joyous heart which can say with certainty and assurance: I am no longer conscious of any sins, for all of them lie on the shoulders of Christ, and they surely cannot lie on Him and on us at the same time.

According to Christ's own testimony, it is futile to try to save oneself by one's own efforts, Luther declares in a sermon he preached October 28, 1531, on John 8:20-23.