

Trinity Lutheran Church
 Trinity Connections Newsletter

A Message from Pastor Mike:

"All (the apostles) were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers." Acts 1:14

Trinity's Comprehensive Ministry Review was April 22-24. A 5-member Synod Review Team (SRT) made up of clergy and lay people from nearby congregations spent the weekend with staff, council and worshippers, studying the ministry we do together. Our goal in inviting them was to have another set of eyes take a look at what we're doing, notice what we're doing well and name some things we might consider working on or changing. None of the SRT's recommendations are binding. They are to help Trinity shape its mission and ministry going forward.

I'd like to share the SRT's Affirmations and Recommendations in this space over the next few months. They studied our ministry in 14 different categories. I'll print 2-4 categories a month. Let the affirmations wash over you. We are doing many things well! Prayerfully consider the recommendations. We cannot do all of them - at least not right away. What is God's preferred future for Trinity? What do you hear God calling us to be and do? Talk about it over coffee. Listen to your neighbors. Pray. Dream.

AFFIRMATIONS

The Synod Review Team (SRT) thanks the members of Trinity of Hammond and its staff and pastor for their openness and willingness to participate in the Comprehensive Ministry Review. We hope and pray that our reflections on our time with you will be helpful to you as you continue to move faithfully forward in God's mission. First and foremost,

- The SRT affirms Trinity's openness to change and willingness to discover a new vision that will move the congregation forward in God's mission.

Hospitality and Fellowship/ New Members & Visitors

- The SRT affirms card making
- The SRT affirms potlucks
- The SRT affirms thank you dinner for firefighters, EMTs, meals during advent and lent
- Pancake breakfast, chicken dinner, salad luncheon, turkey
- The SRT affirms May Day baskets

Sharing the Good News

- The SRT affirms council members can post on Facebook, sandwich board, T-shirts, website, newspaper

Giving Station

HAVE YOU TRIED THE GIVING STATION

YET? It's located at the secretary's office window and it's available 24/7. With the swipe of a debit or credit card you can give regular offerings, pay for youth events, give a memorial gift and much more. You'll receive a receipt by email. Instructions are on the window. Come give it a try and let us know how you like it!

CHURCH RECORD UPDATE

Baptisms

Luke Joseph Briggs

Son of Matthew & Holly (Gordon) Briggs

Sponsors: Cynthia Gordon & Jason Briggs

Baptized: July 3, 2016

BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS. DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO. ~JOSHUA 1:9

Luther Point News

July 2016

Greetings from Luther Point Bible Camp! Mark Peters, Executive Director

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

For More Information:

Be sure to visit www.LutherPoint.org



We love camp - a warm summer hello from program directors Scott Tolzmann & Liz Tomczak!

Liz has previously worked at Badlands Ministries as both counselor and summer program director, and Scott has attended camp at Luther Point since 2001, eventually joining the summer staff in 2012. Involvement in the Luther Point community has been very exciting for both of us. It is our goal to continue to build on our core objective, "Forming Faith, Pointing to Christ!"

For many years Luther Point has hosted a wonderful Summer Celebration. On Sunday August 7 our day begins at 11:00 AM with lunch and an opportunity to view quilts and other items available in live and silent auctions. At 12:30 PM we host a praise time, and then 1:00 PM is auction time. This fundraiser plays an integral role in helping with expenses at camp, raising monies for special purchases, as well as making camp financially accessible for anyone who wishes to attend. Mark the date and join us. Come for lunch, stay for the auction and enjoy our beautiful location along the shores of Wood Lake. This is a great opportunity to bring your kids back to camp to say hello to their favorite counselors, play games, and - weather permitting - swim.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries has been a wonderful partner as we work with and adapt its curriculum, "The Jesus Way," as our summer theme. Each year Lutheran Outdoor Ministries creates curriculum that is widely shared and adapted to fit the context of many different and diverse Bible camps throughout the country. We are pleased that written evaluations this summer have been consistently positive from both parents and campers alike.

One way we are seeking specific feedback is through a partnership with the Effective Camp Research Project:

<https://www.vibrantfaith.org/project/ecrp/>

Through the project we are receiving extensive input from campers grades 5- 9 on the impact of their time at camp. Camper responses provide valuable information on how various Bible Camps across the Midwest impact youth.

We also offer an opportunity for all adults to provide input through a completely confidential online survey which you can access at:

<https://www.research.net/r/LutherPoint2016> We truly value your wisdom, perspective, suggestions, and prayers for Luther Point. Every response provides valuable information as we listen, learn and improve everyone's camping experience. Blessings, Scott and Liz

**Join us on
Wednesday, August
17th at 5:30 pm** to
make greeting cards
and have an outdoor
worship around a
bonfire.
See Deb Henry for
more details!



MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2016 Date	Offerings Received	Weekly Ministry Planned Spending	Above (Below) Planned Spending
1/1-6/19	\$71,459	\$83,705	(-\$12,246)
June 26	6,582	3,338	3,244
July 3	1,540	3,338	(-1,798)
July 10	1,440	3,338	(-1,898)
June 12	2,002	3,338	(-1,336)
Simply Giving	2,465		2,465
TOTAL	\$85,488	\$97,057	(-\$11,569)

*Thank you for all the ways you give to God through
Trinity and the ministries we do together!*

Confirmation Classes resume Sept. 7th

All 6th-8th graders are invited to attend!

Look for an orientation mailing at the end of this month.
(Please call the church office if you do not receive one)
Some important confirmation dates to put on your calendar:

Wed. Aug. 31st 7:00 pm Guide training & huddle
Wed. Sept. 7th 7-8:30 pm Orientation for parents
& students

Wed. Sept. 14th 7-8:30 pm Confirmation Class

Students will be studying the New Testament this year.

Small Group Guides NEEDED!

CONFIRMATION SMALL GROUP GUIDES ARE NEEDED! Guides are adults who love God, like kids, and are willing to spend a year learning, serving, and playing with a group of 4-6 young people. Guides attend confirmation, share small group times, and take their carload of young people on various fellowship and servant events that the group plans together. If that sounds like a job description you'd love, please call Pastor Mike. **Guide training will be Wed. Aug. 31st at 7:00 p.m.**

JUMPSTART!

Jumpstart! is a great way to start your day with coffee and prayer. We have decided to extend our meetings through the summer months. We meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 9:00am in the church library. Come join us as we share daily devotions and various materials along with personal issue discussions.

For more info, see Vera Grant.

**Tuesday Community
Supper @ Gethsemane,
Baldwin in August 2nd,
5:00-6:30pm!**

JOIN IN THE FUN!

Bid on beautiful quilts and other artesian items made by groups and individuals. If you've already got enough quilts, consider offering financial support to our "Needs and Wants" fund.

Schedule for Sun, Aug. 7

11:00 Worship
Silent Auction begins
Farmer's Market opens
Pig Roast
12:30 Praise Time led by
Summer Staff
1:00-3:00 Craft & Quilt Auction!
Kids' games & Activities

Money raised at this important fundraiser goes toward everyday expenses as well as helping campers come to camp. Every dollar raised helps Luther Point

Interested in Donating?

Monetary donations are always accepted, as well as donations for the live auction, silent auction, and the quilt/craft store. We appreciate gifts of all kinds as well as prayers for our ministry!

Luther Point Bible Camp & Retreat Center

11525 Luther Point Rd, Grantsburg, WI 54840
(715)689-2347 Fax: (715)689-2348
Email: info@LutherPoint.org

Monday Morning Mom's

Are you in for learning about God, his plan for us as Mom's, meeting new Mom's, making amazing friends, and having your kids meet other cool kids? It is open to anyone, multi-generational, so if you know another mom.... please invite her to be a part of our group...We are meeting on Monday mornings, starting on September 12 at 9am in Trinity Lutheran Church's Fireside Room. It will be a 6-week study, working through Beth Moore's bible study on Living Free. We will be learning about how to pray scripture, God's Glory, false strongholds, learn about the 5 key benefits for every believer. **Please RSVP, with Jamie or Becky, so that we can order the correct amount of books by August 31.** Or if you have any questions please contact Jamie McCulloch (themccullochs2008@gmail.com) or Becky Fowler (fowlera@frontiernet.net). We look forward to you joining us in our motherhood journey.

Adult Small Groups

SEVERAL ADULT SMALL GROUPS ARE MEETING and growing in faith together. They study the Bible, engage in lively and caring conversations, pray, and serve together. The groups' meeting times are:

Hope Study - 2nd Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room, using the WELCA "Gather" Bible study. Facilitated by Pastor Mike.

Jumpstart - 2nd & 4th Wednesday's of the month at 9AM in Trinity's Library, using various Bible studies. Facilitated by Vera Grant.

Yadda Yadda Prayer Group - Tuesday mornings at noon at the home of Irene Burch, American Heritage Care Center, Apt. 111.

Men's Breakfast Club - Saturday, August 13th & 27th at 9:00 a.m. at Hardee's in Baldwin. Facilitated by Peter Gazelka

Bulletin Sponsors

August 7th BULLETIN: WELCA: thankful for the beautiful weather!
 August 14th BULLETIN: Jill Foster wishing Samantha, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
 August 21st BULLETIN: Todd and Deb Henry in honor of Gabby's 18th birthday.
 August 28th BULLETIN: Roger and June Lindquist thankful for family and the blessings He has given us.
 Lois Koosmann in honor of Jamison Koosmann's birthday.
 Arnie and Bev Jacobson celebrating their 51st wedding anniversary.

2016 Bulletin Sponsors

Betty Johnson is looking for bulletin sponsors! They are still only \$8!
 See Betty at Church or email her at alsgal63@baldwin-telecom.net.

Thank You,
Sponsors

T-Shirts for Sale!

Youth
 sizes are
 now
 available!!

Small-
 X-large



Show your Trinity Pride!

Get your Trinity T-shirt NOW!

Sizes are: Adult small to 3XL

Cost is \$12.00

Contact Deb Henry to purchase or fill out the order form at church!

Proceeds will go to the Sign Marque fund!



Like Trinity Lutheran, Hammond, WI to get updates and photos of what is going on at church!

9th Graders to be confirmed

9TH GRADERS WILL BE CONFIRMED ON OCT. 23RD.

Important dates for 9th graders and their families to remember are:

Sun. Sept. 11	10:30 a.m.	9 th Grade Confirmation Service Planning & Gown Measurements
Sun. Oct. 16	10:30 a.m.	Confirmation Practice & Stole Making
Sun. Oct. 23	8:00 a.m.	Confirmation Photos
	9:00 a.m.	Confirmation Service
	10:15 a.m.	Confirmation Reception

Please keep Trinity's 9th graders in your prayers as they prepare to say "Yes!" to their baptisms.

Building Fund Shortfall

Trinity's Building Fund, which covers the cost of the Education Wing and the new metal roof on the worship and fellowship areas, is beginning to run short. So far this year we have received about half of the \$2,909 monthly mortgage payments from designated offerings plus another \$400 per month dedicated from the rent for the 4-year-old Kindergarten. That means we have been running about \$1,000 per month short, and have used up most of our reserve funds. The current mortgage balance is a bit under \$375,000. The new space has been a great tool for education, confirmation, quilting, community ministries, and much more. Please prayerfully consider renewing, increasing, or beginning planned giving to Trinity's Building Fund.

Create-n-Sip



Pictures from the Create n' Sip held on July 20th.

Picture credit to: Wade Gardner & Betty Johnson

SPRING ON OVER FOR PIE

Thank you for making the Pie and Ice Cream Social a big success!



Thanks to all who donated their time to help at the event as well as those who took time to make pies and donate.



THE GENEROSITY PROJECT, a synod-wide inter-generational workshop exploring God's generosity, is from 9-1:00 p.m. on Sat. Sept. 24th at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. Designed to bring all ages together to offer their generational gifts, it is for everybody. Grab your kids, your parents, your neighbors, and your grandkids and come for a day of relationship building and creative activities. Contact Pastor Mike to register and for more information.

Ministry Team Reports

Education – Kelly Browning, Chair

Hello Sunday School Families –

I hope everyone is having a great summer. We are getting geared up for Vacation Bible School, which will be August 1-4. Please see the Registration Form in the newsletter or at the Communication Table. VBS will start with dinner for the family at 5:30pm with the activities beginning at 6:00pm and wrapping up by 7:45pm.

VBS 2016 is “farm-tastic!” In this summer’s VBS, your children learn that Jesus gathers us together! They’ll look into the Bible, God’s Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts where Jesus graciously gathers us together to be with Him with His abundant provision and saving protection, now and forever.



Please mark your calendars for Rally Sunday which will be September 11th! If you are interested in helping with Sunday School, please let me know!

God’s Blessings to all!
Trinity Sunday School Staff

Youth-Darla Feyereisen, Chair

Youth Vacation Bible School Helpers Needed!! August 1-4 from 5:00-7:45pm.

The Youth Heartland Days Garage Sale will be Thurs, August 11- Sat, August 13. Thurs. and Fri. hours will be 8am-3pm. Saturday is 8am-12(noon). Clean-up after the Garage Sale until done.

Drop off dates starts August 1st.

Garage Sale Set-up is August 8-10th! Remember, NO ELECTRONICS or USED UNDERGARMENTS!!

Youth Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, August 13th from 7-11am. Breakfast prep starts at 5:00am!

Both the garage sale and breakfast are great ways to earn funds to go to camp, Christ Jam, GodStock or the National Youth Gathering!

Potential Youth Overnight on August 27 to celebrate the end of Summer!

Youth Facebook Group is up and running! Please like **Trinity Lutheran Youth, Hammond, WI** to keep updated on youth events and meetings!

Mission & Human Needs – Marti Peterson, Chair

Thank you to those who contributed items to the Food Shelf. Betty Johnson dropped off 41.2 pounds of food at the Food Shelf in July. Please continue to bring your food items for the Food Shelf as you come to church on Sunday.

Claire Stein at the Baldwin Food Shelf asked that anyone interested in working at the Food Shelf (about every 6 weeks) contact him. His number is 715-684-2464. Thank you: Dar Sittlow, Nancy Newman and Kathy Jensen for volunteering to help. Many hands make light work so I’m sure they would be glad to have even more volunteers.

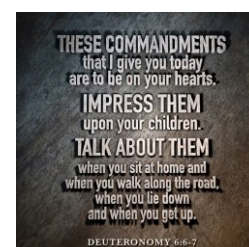
Thank you to all who went to Nilssen’s Super Valu and bought a brat from the Food Stand on July 8th and 9th. Proceeds from these sales went to this year’s Crop Walk. Thank you also Kathy for volunteering to help. Please prayerfully consider participating in this year’s Crop Walk. Anyone interested in walking, please contact me and I will get the information to you as soon as I know.

Thanks for all you do to fulfill our mission of “God’s Work, Our Hands. Marti

Stewardship – Scott Post, Chair

August 7, 2016

Theme: “Offering Our Time & Talents” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)
Building faith through Trinity’s education ministries,
Sunday School, VBS, Confirmation, adult ed.
Story teller: Education Chairperson



S'mores n' Songs

OUTDOOR CAMPFIRE WORSHIP WED. AUG. 17 AT 7PM. The Worship Band will lead music. Bring a lawn chair and the whole family for s'mores and songs, prayers and praise!



Have You Heard About THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS?

Since April, 5 Thrivent Action Teams have provided \$1250 in seed money for various Trinity projects - from the Little Red Shovel Meat Raffle to the Pie & Ice Cream Social! This month an action team will provide \$250 for groceries, advertising, and supplies for the Heartland Days Pancake Breakfast. Another action team will help to provide giveaway materials for the Heartland Days parade. Any Thrivent member can sponsor 2 action teams per year and receive \$250 seed money, up to 25 t-shirts, invitations, thank you's and lots more for each project. Talk to Pastor Mike or go to thrivent.com for more details.



ACTION TEAM

Heartland Days Pancake Breakfast

HEARTLAND DAYS PANCAKE BREAKFAST is Sat. Aug. 13th from 7-11AM at Trinity. The menu includes pancakes, Olson's Meats from Woodville sausage & bacon, fruit, coffee, juice & milk. Free will donations enable youth to earn their way to youth gatherings, Bible camp, service projects and many other youth program events. Youth and adult workers are needed for all shifts on Saturday 5:30-9 a.m. & 8:30-11:30 a.m. Workers earn work credits worth \$7/hour for future youth events. Sign up in the Fellowship Area.



Quilting

C
O
R
N
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R

Thank you for the sheets and fabric that was donated to Trinity's quilting missions.

The quilters meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 9 AM to tie quilts.

Help tie a quilt and see it displayed on the chairs in November, maybe even sit on that same quilt.

Join us on August 10th and 24th.

Everyone is welcome!!

Hammond Heartland Days Parade



Vacation Bible School kids are welcome to ride on the float and wave. We will be handing out water and other items along the parade route, so we will appreciate any and all help!! Please see Deb Henry or Sarah Pommerening if you are interested in helping!

CALLING ALL WALKERS!

Join us on Sunday, August 14th for the Hammond Heartland Days Parade! The parade starts at 12:30pm. Please be at Trinity by 12(noon) if you are interested in helping!

Trinity Council

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Minutes

June 6, 2016

Present: Kelly Browning, Rachel McHenry, Deb Henry, Mark Iverson, Darla Feyereisen, Kirk Hodnefield, Sarah Pommerening.

Others in attendance: Betty Johnson, Lois Worbes, Harold Moll

Absent: Scott Post, Wanda Johnson, Autumn Afdahl, Marti Peterson, Pastor Mike.

Kirk called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Kirk led devotions. We discussed Called Forward Together in Christ. We decided to bring this to Sunday's worship and get input from the congregation and Sarah will put the notes together and send to the ELCA.

Secretary's Report: The May 3, 2016 Council Minutes were reviewed.

Action: Motion by Mark to approve; Deb second. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Rachel reported the May 31 ending balance is \$2,652.80. \$250 was sent to the Synod for Benevolence. All expenses have been paid with the exception of some outstanding items to reimburse Pastor Mike. **Action:** Motion by Deb to approve. Kelly Second. Carried.

Building Fund Report: Rachel reported the May deposit was \$5,148.00. Claire stated \$3,000 was transferred from the Mission Investment Fund. Without that transfer we would be about \$761.00 short of making the building payment for the month.

Old Business

One Step & Good Neighbor Days Worship-June 5. Rachel reported only about 5 Trinity families there. She brought her iPad and the card swipe, didn't get any takers to use. There were a lot of people there, the tent was pretty full. Darla heard feedback from some of the older congregation members did not like being out of their comfort zone. One Step was good.

Comprehensive Ministry Review Feedback. What to do? Next Steps? Tabled.

Mission Teller-May 15. Not sure it was beneficial.

Facility Use Form. Flat fee regardless if member or not. A committee was formed to revisit and update the Facility Use Form. Darla Feyereisen, Mark Iverson, Betty Johnson and Sarah Pommerening will be meeting to propose

Background Checks. Sarah reported everything is in place for us to do background checks. Pastor Mike and Sarah have the authorization to initiate a background check when needed. Tabled until next month to decide when to run and where funds would come from to initiate the check.

4K Price & Lease update. The lease has been signed by all parties.

Christmas Eve & Day Services-tabled until October

New Business

Building Requests Received. Reviewed. (See Att. A)-

Synod Assembly Report. Claire attended with Pastor Mike and Bob Bodelson. It was her 1st time going. Normally is a 2-day event, but the event was one day and held at Trinity Lutheran in Eau Claire. Attendance doubled and were able to have corporate sponsors to cut cost down. Nothing new for ideas for Stewardship. Overall was good.

Malawi Famine Relief. Tabled until August.

Council & Committee Structure. Council feels this is a good idea. It should help bring new and fresh ideas. Need to check with Pastor Mike to see if he was able to meet with Pastor Keith from Zion to get more information.

Synod Mission Support Report. Tabled

Homeschool proposal. Michelle Johnson from the Hammond Library is requesting to use Trinity on Tuesday's (8:30-1:30) and Friday's (8:30-3:30) starting this fall for some Homeschool groups. The Council discussed the proposal. Sarah relayed that Michelle would be having the homeschool parents provide paper towels, toilet paper and cleaning wipes that would be given to the church to help offset the usage. **Motion made by Mark Iverson, second by Kirk Hodnefield:** Recommend charging \$75 per day use with cleaning checklist. No classrooms will be used. Will work out 3-4 dates that work for the church. If church is not cleaned to specifications, one warning will be issued. If a second warning needs to be issued, it will cancel their facility use request. Payment for usage: plan can be worked out if they would like to pay at the end of the week or twice a month. Should there be a funeral or wedding, the group would have to flexible in finding an alternate site. **Motion carried.**

Inactive List. Sarah reported it is a work in progress is should have a list of people for Council members to call for the August meeting.

Chicken Feed. Mark reported he has team excited about having another Chicken Feed. They have met and decided to hold the Chicken feed on Sunday, Sept. 18 after church. It is going to be a "Border Battle" Tailgate party. The Vikings play the Packers that night. They will be having another meeting on June 13 at 7:00pm. The money raised from the Chicken Feed would come back to the church.

Alcohol Usage Policy. Betty Johnson asked about the Alcohol Usage Policy. She has scheduled a Sip & Create for July 20 and would like to serve wine at the event. The event will for people age 18+. She said she would give tickets out to people and it would be controlled about how much people could have. Council wanted to check the bylaws and would get in touch with Betty.

July Meeting (July 4). Motion by Rachel to cancel July 4 meeting. Second by Kelly. **Motion passed.**

Other Business: Ariel Backes will be speaking about youth for the Temple Talk on Sunday, June 12 and Wanda will be speaking about Worship and Music on July 10.

Pastor's Report: No Report.

President's Report: Kirk reported he and couple others met with a Rep from the ELCA about our church finances. His take from the meeting is that we need to figure it out. Claire added that she talked with someone from Mission Investment about doing a debt reduction. She also is working on putting together a Capital campaign to help reduce the amount we owe on the building fund.

Committees

Youth: Darla is planning Valleyfair and a youth overnight for the youth sometime this summer. Annual Garage Sale is coming in August.

Church Properties: Mark reported Sunday clean-up went well.

Mission & Human Needs: No report.

Fellowship: Deb reported the directory is ready to go and is in the process of being printed!! We had cake for New Member Sunday and will be having cake for Mother's Day and Graduate Sunday. We have youth sizes as well as adult sizes for T-shirts, looking into going to a Twins game. We are making cards on May 15 and with help of the Sunday School we made 100 May Day baskets and disbursed them around the Village of Hammond.

Evangelism: No report.

Stewardship: No report.

WELCA: No report.

Worship & Music: No report.

Education: Kelly reported VBS will be Aug. 1-4. Her team will be meeting on Wednesday, June 29 at 6pm.

COMMUNION HELPERS

June 19: Robin & Katie Marx

July 3: Kirk

July 17: Rachel, Claire

TELLER VOLUNTEERS

June 12: Claire Yurek

July 3:

July 24:

June 19:

July 10: Claire Yurek

July 31: Deb Henry

June 26:

July 17: Claire Yurek

Motion to adjourn by Darla, Deb second. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

The gathering closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting is Monday, July 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Trinity

Recorded by: Sarah Pommerening, Church Secretary

Approved by: Darla Feyereisen, Council Secretary

Subject to approval by full Council on July 25, 2016

Summer Church office hours

Effective June 6:

Monday thru Thursday

9am-1pm

Friday's 9-11 as needed

Library News

CHECK THIS OUT!



Our church library has received recently many wonderful donations.

A huge thank you to all who generously donate their books to our library.

So take a moment to stop in and look at our new books or maybe find a must-read oldie but goodie.



Trinity would like to cut down on paper and postage costs by sending your newsletter via email. Starting this month, those who have specified wanting your newsletter sent via email will be receiving the November Newsletter electronically! This will help Trinity cut down on a lot of cost associated with printing and mailing the newsletters!

Council Opportunities



IN NEED OF: An Evangelism Chairperson. If you know of someone who would be interested in this Ministry, please let Pastor Mike or a council member know.

Message from Pastor Mike cont.

- The SRT affirms the fact that kids are good at inviting their friends to church events.
- The SRT affirms the desire purchase an electronic sign.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Hospitality and Fellowship**
- The SRT recommends that you train people to intentionally and **personally invite visitors to join them for coffee.**
- The SRT recommends that you are aware of closed groups and cliques in the congregation especially at coffee time. Encourage folks to sit with people they don't know very well and to **leave a chair open for a guest around the table.**
- The SRT recommends that following worship you invite members to take the next **three minutes to talk to someone they don't know very well.** Maybe give them a conversation starter. Invite them to take just three minutes before they go and talk to their old friends, to make a new friend.
- **New Members and Visitors (see trend report)**
- The SRT recommends that you stop using the guest book and go to an **information pad** that is passed down the row that everyone signs. Name, email address/phone, visitor/member.
- The SRT recommends that you create a visitor information packet or sheet and consider giving a welcome gift to all visitors. Like a coffee mug filled with your favorite candies and information about worship.
- The SRT recommends you print in the bulletin or put on the screen the pastor's cell phone and invite visitors to **text the pastor their names and contact information and prayer requests.**
- The SRT recommends that **every visitor is contacted within five days** of visiting. Thank them for visiting and invite them to come back. Treat them like royalty. Every visitor is a gift from God.
- **Sharing the Good News**
- The SRT recommends doing a book study on **How to Talk about Jesus (Without Freaking Out)** by Victorya Michaels Rogers and/or to invite Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson (DEM/Asst. to the bishop, NWS) to come and lead a class/forum on this topic and provide other helpful tools for evangelism.
- The SRT recommends that periodically you have members of the congregation **share their God Sightings** with the congregation either as a part of worship and/or a newsletter article. First in New Richmond has trained its members to share God Sightings at the end of every worship service.
- The SRT recommends that every church meeting begins with conversation about **God Sightings and/or Highs and Lows** followed by prayer that lifts up the God Sightings/ Highs and Lows. Continued practice will help members become more comfortable in talking about how they see God in their ordinary lives.
- The SRT recommends you **set a goal to grow your congregation** or AWA by 10% in the next 18 months. How will you accomplish this? What new behaviors will you use to accomplish this goal? Make a plan.
- The SRT recommends you put a "Welcome to Trinity" sign on the south side of the building. Put bulletin boards around the church with basic information about the congregation: Worship time/Sunday school time.
- The SRT recommends purchasing an electronic sign in the next 18 months.

Thank you to the Synod Review Team members, the council and other leaders who spent the weekend in conversation, and to all of you for your continued participation in this project of listening for God's leading. God bless our conversations!

~Pastor Mike

Taking Faith Home

www.vibrantfaithathome.org

Popsicles at the PlaygroundWebsite: <http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org/item/popsicles-at-the-playground>**By: Paige Evers**

Go to a playground or ball field in your neighborhood, and share refreshing freezer pops with children and adults. It's a great way to connect with your neighbors and strengthen a sense of community.

Activity Plan *Needed items: Bible, popsicles, cooler, ice*

1. Pray aloud to begin:

Dear God, thank you for time to play and serve together. Help us to be a blessing to the friends, old and new, whom we will meet today. Amen.

2. Have someone read aloud [Hebrews 13:1-2](#) from your Bible or from the text below:

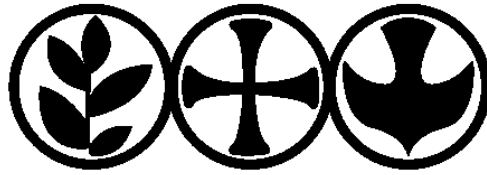
Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

3. Talk together about the meaning of the word hospitality. Acknowledge all answers. If these meanings are not mentioned, offer them during the discussion: being friendly, helping people, making sure people feel comfortable by giving them food or beverages or fun things to do, welcoming someone new.
4. Take turns telling what it means to you to be part of a neighborhood or community. Name ways that people in your neighborhood practice hospitality toward one another. (For example, putting out a neighbor's trash can if they're on vacation, going to a neighbor's house after school when your parent or caregiver is running late, or checking on elderly neighbors in extreme hot or cold weather.)
5. Explain that your family is going to offer hospitality to people who live in your community. Tell about the location you have chosen for this activity. Practice what you will say when you offer popsicles to the parents, grandparents, or caregivers you meet. For example: "Hi! I'm [name]. We live in the neighborhood. We brought some Popsicles® to share on this hot day. Would your child like one? Would you?" If they say no, accept it graciously and go ask another person.
6. Discuss other questions you might ask people who seem interested in having a conversation with you. For example: How long have you lived around here? How old are your children? Where have you lived before? Do you have family nearby? What are some things you like about our community? Help children be sensitive to people's desire to talk—tell them to be pleasant and move on if anyone seems shy or uncomfortable.
7. Load the Popsicles® or other freezer pops into a cooler with ice or cooler freeze-packs. Bring the original packaging along in case parents want to check for allergens. Go to your chosen location. Hand out the treats and have fun playing with your neighbors!
8. After you return home, take a moment to talk about the experience: Did you meet anyone new? What did it feel like to serve others? How did people react to the free gift of Popsicles® on a hot day? What do we have in common with our neighbors that we didn't know about before?
9. Read [Hebrews 13:1-2](#) aloud again and pray:

Thank you, God, for the chance to show hospitality to our neighbors. Help us to keep finding ways to be friendly with our neighbors and to share your love. Amen.

A U G U S T 2 0 1 6

Trinity Connections Newsletter



Trinity Lutheran Church



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Join us Sundays:

9:00 am Worship

10:15 am Coffee Fellowship

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED