

Church Newsletter July 2022

The Parish Messenger

Mission Statement

We are a Christian community rooted in God's love growing in Christ through reaching out and serving.



Contact Information

Pastor Diane
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YOU ARE INVITED TO INTER-GENERATIONAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

We are still in need of people to host a simple meal (sandwiches, chips, fruit, pizzas, brats/hotdogs, etc.) We do have one \$250 Thrivent gift card available to purchase food and supplies. If you would be willing to help please let Pastor Diane, Christine Anderson, or Gretchen Frendt know.

Join in as we study the "Tree of Healing" curriculum from ELCA World Hunger. "Tree of Healing" VBS is a chance for children and adults to consider what health means and how God invites us to share in the building of a just world where all can enjoy the gifts of God's creation. The program offers a broad understanding of health and wellness.

Each day includes skits, games, crafts, and snacks. We will hear stories about health and wellness from the Bible as well as learn about our neighbors around the world! We will talk about the work of congregations around the world as they adapt to meet the growing and changing needs of their communities.

VBS will be offered on Wednesday evenings the week of **July 18-22 from 5:30-7:30 pm**. We will meet at alternate church sites on this schedule:

Monday, July 18-Georgetown
Tuesday, July 19-Trinity
Wednesday, July 20-Georgetown
Thursday, July 21-Trinity
Friday, July 22-Georgetown

We start at 5:30 p.m. with a light supper provided. If you would like to volunteer to serve the meal let Pastor Diane know. ***If you are a Thrivent member and would like to apply for an Action Team card to support VBS, let Pastor Diane or a council member know. Thanks!***

Please come and bring your family! Please invite a friend to come and bring their family! Invite a neighbor to join us!

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?"
Luke 14: 25-28

On a first reading of these verses one might think, "Wow! Jesus sure knows how to break up a crowd!" We might wonder what attracted people to follow Jesus and listen to his teaching. Maybe his miracles drew that crowd who became curious to see more miracles. If so, then we know why Jesus has to be clear about the cost of following him as a disciple. It will take quite a serious commitment.

In these summer months we enter the church season of "Pentecost" or "Ordinary Time" as it is sometimes called. I prefer the term "Pentecost" with its reminder of the actions and work of the Holy Spirit, which to me, is anything but "ordinary." Our gospel texts will be dwelling in Luke's gospel and we will consider together the demands of discipleship.

According to my Lutheran Study Bible, the Gospel writer of Luke goes to great lengths to point out the Jewish character of all the central actors in this story and to emphasize how the coming of a messiah fit into ancient Jewish beliefs and expectations. Luke begins and ends in the temple with the backdrop of the tension produced by living under Roman occupation.

Jesus is presented as an obedient-if sometime puzzling-Jew. As the gospel story develops, it becomes clear that God is acting for the good of all creation, for Jews and Gentiles together. The Jewish faith has always expected that when God's glory is revealed, all people will see it. That is the point of Luke's story: the Messiah is good news for all people and all of creation.

I like that Luke's gospel begins and ends in the temple. It makes me ponder about how our own stories as baptized children of God begin and end in the church. We enter and become part of the church in our baptism and we end our story covered in and claiming the promises made to us in our baptisms at our funerals. So, our stories begin and end in the temple/church, too. That is why I truly believe it is so important to gather together regularly for worship to hear again and again the story of Jesus. To be part of the sacrament of Holy Communion that strengthens our bodies and spirits to follow through on the commitment to carry the cross into the community and love and serve our neighbors with the same sacrificial love that Jesus share with us. This takes quite a serious commitment and may require us to make choices about our priorities.

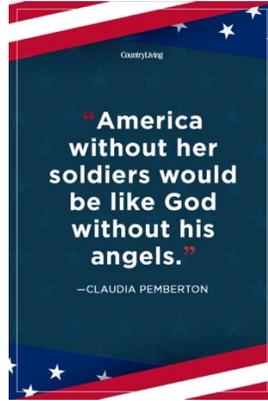
Jesus calls to consider the cost. We may have to make some costly choices. The good news for us is that we do not shoulder that cost alone. The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community and inspires us to bear the cost of discipleship with prayer and encouragement. Consider these words by Charles Ringma from a devotion on the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

"Discipleship does not mean that we live a life of deprivation, but rather a life of appreciation., thankfulness, and sharing. It is only the person who has drunk deeply at the well of life who can voluntarily lay aside things for the sake of others. But even then, one needs to return again and again to be filled, stimulated, and encouraged. Discipleship is not throwing blessing away in order to be able to identify with the poor and needy. It is draining others in to share in the blessings that God gives."

Pastor Diane

Announcements

No Bible Study on Monday July 4th! Enjoy the holiday!



Vacation

Pastor Diane will be on vacation from July 25-August 11. If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Mikayla Koop either on her cell phone at [715-207-5173](tel:715-207-5173) or the Bone Lake Church office at [715-472-2535](tel:715-472-2535).

A Thank You from Charlotte Peper:

What a perfect day in May to celebrate a life well lived. Thanks to all who helped, to my family for all their duties as well as the gifts to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. Thank you for the gifts purchased for the new facility by the Salvation Army that hopefully will be completed late fall. My wish for food, fun, and fellowship did happen. Thank you for church service with Pastor Diane and George singing "Sunrise, Sunset," to Sherry for playing, and for singing The Lord's Prayer. Thank you for the surprise of Bruce Peper's solo of blessing! Thanks to the church for the plant and thanks to church family, friends, and relatives for attending and adding to the good time of the celebration!

Gift's are not always wrapped with bows.

Gifts are the people we know — Thanks for be a gift to me! Blessings, Charlotte J. Peper

July Birthdays

*(note: baptismal birthdays are marked with *)*

Tom Levi	7-9
Alison Anderson	7-10
Richard Anderson	7-15
Steve Anderson	7-20
Judy Kelch	7-26

There is a notebook available at Trinity and at Georgetown to record birthdays/ baptismal birthdays by month. Questions can be directed to Lacy Sellent.

Georgetown Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2022

Members Present: Stephanie Fansler, Sherry Doornink, Judy Gammel, Bruce Peper, Nicole Norlund, Keith Ward, Dale Jensen, Roberta Hansen, Treasurer, Pastor Diane House.

Members Absent: Felicia Braastad, Ryan Braastad.

The meeting was called to order by Keith Ward.

Prayer and Devotions: Pastor Diane read a devotional.

Secretary's Report: A correction was made to the minutes of the May 12, 2022 Georgetown Church Council Meeting as follows: Trustees Report ... "removing river rock from the edge of the new pavement" was changed to "removing crushed rock from the driveway". A motion was made and seconded to approve the corrected minutes of the May 12, 2022 Council meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: We started the month with an opening balance of \$9,727.65. The offering for the month was \$8,428.00 which included an anonymous donation of \$3,000.00 on May 1, 2022. After deducting expenses, the closing balance on May 31, 2022 was \$14,214.82. That results in a Net Operating Fund balance of \$5,700.00. The expense of the dishwasher for the parsonage was taken from the Memorial Fund. We have not received a bill from the electrician for repairing the outside electric panel. Our ad in the Laker was revised to include our street address. The Annual Budget will need to be revised based on the actual salary for Pastor Diane and the cost of her benefits. The value of the stock that was donated was \$3,876.14 as of May 31, 2022 and will fluctuate with the stock market. Steve Hansen will continue to monitor it's value.

Pastor's Report:

1. The proposed dates for VBS (Vacation Bible School) have changed and will be held Monday through Friday, July 18 through July 22 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Monday, Wednesday and Friday will be held at Georgetown and Tuesday and Thursday will be held at Trinity. We are looking for donations of time and/or funding to provide for the boxed supper for each family member. Thank you to Tom and Mary Lou Levi for the donation of a Thrivent gift card of \$250.00 to be used toward that effort.
2. Pastor Diane will be on vacation for 2 weeks from July 23 through August 11. While Pastor Diane is on vacation, Wayne Kendrick will lead worship and preach and Pastor Mikayla Kopp from Bone Lake Lutheran will be on call for pastoral emergencies.
3. There will be a funeral at Trinity on Monday, June 13 for Jan Clark. Visitation for Denise Heinz will be held at a Funeral home in Farmington.
4. Georgia Palas's birthday is June 26th.
5. Our joint church service with Trinity on June 26 will be held at Trinity at 10:00 am and will be a contemporary service. Pot luck lunch will follow along with a softball game. Trinity and Georgetown will each recruit their own teams and George House will umpire the game.



6. As of July 1, the IRS is raising the mileage reimbursement rate to 62.5 cents per mile.
7. The dishwasher was installed at the parsonage on Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.

Council Member Reports:

Elders: The new facility use contract was sent to Jim Rennie but we have had no reply. A new form has been provided for signing out tables and/or chairs which includes the statement that a donation would be appreciated for the replacement of equipment.

Deacons: Working on recruiting players for our softball team. Looking for ideas to invite people to participate in VBS this summer.

Trustees: The electric panel is up and working. The movement of black dirt around the parking lot went very well with 6 volunteers. Thank you to Dale for accessing the black dirt and Nicki for the use of her tractor. They will finish with river rock donated by Sherry and Butch. We still need to find a pole for the outside light. Bruce will ask an electrician to check on all of the lights.

Old Business:

1. Revisit COVID – no changes needed at this time.
2. Building use request – no new information
3. VBS schedule – reviewed
4. Electric panel & parking lot – done
5. Ball team for June 26th – working on recruiting players
6. Other old business - none

New Business:

1. 2022 Performance Evaluation. The review form to evaluate all ministries of the church was passed out with the plan to discuss the items on the form at our July Council meeting.
2. Outdoor service at Hunky Dory. We need to discuss the possibilities with Marvel.
3. The annual site visit to check on our water system was held and found everything to be okay.
4. Church service to bless the animals. There was discussion about combining Rally Day for Sunday School on September 11 with an outdoor service to bless the animals.

Open Discussion: There was discussion about what Council member duties are and how we can mentor people to raise up leaders from the congregation.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judy Gammel.

Next Georgetown Church Council Meeting: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Georgetown Lutheran Church			
Treasurer's Report			
May 1 -31, 2022			
<u>Opening Balance May 1, 2022</u>		\$9,727.65	
<u>May Income</u>			
Offering	\$8,428.00		
Savings Account-Blacktop Fund	\$32,366.40		
Blessing Bucket	\$100.00		
Youth Activity Fund	\$10.00		
Building Use Fee	\$100.00		
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	\$41,004.40		
		\$50,732.05	
<u>May Expenses</u>	\$36,517.23		
<u>Closing Balance May 31, 2022</u>		\$14,214.82	
Budget for 2022	\$67,621.70		
Needed Weekly	\$1,300.42		
<u>Offering Through May 31, 2022</u>	\$24,486.00		
Budgeted offering to date	\$28,609.24		
Ahead/Behind Budget	-\$4,123.24		
<u>Offering:</u>			
	1-May	\$3,832.00	
	8-May	\$760.00	
	15-May	\$1,688.00	
	22-May	\$1,093.00	
	29-May	\$1,055.00	
<u>Fund Balances</u>			
Youth Activities Fund	\$3,787.81		
Memorial Fund	\$4,471.69		
Blacktop Fund	\$0.00		
Blessing Bucket Fund	\$255.32		5/31/22
Funds totals	\$8,514.82		
<u>NET OPERATING FUNDS</u>	<u>\$5,700.00</u>		
Savings Account - Blacktop Fund	\$38.63	(\$4.00 interest)	\$42.63

