



Ev. Trinity Lutheran Church

Activities Newsletter

August 2008

Message from Pastor Gramit



Encouraging a Christian Life Dynamic

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I hope your summer's going well, with a balance of the qualities which make the season special -- work, recreational activities, family time, and, of course, worship each Lord's day!

Such is a brief "rough sketch" of an active Christian's life, which in turn is ideally not simply a routine, but a dynamic. Just as not just one or two activities, but several, make for a complete summer experience (or any other season, for that matter), so the Christian life involves the Christian in several ways.

We've often heard of the threesome, "Time, Talents, and Treasure," under the bannerhead of "Stewardship." In the minds of many, stewardship equals "the church asking for money." To define the term this simply is, at best, to not do it justice, and at worst, to entirely lose focus on what stewardship is really all about.

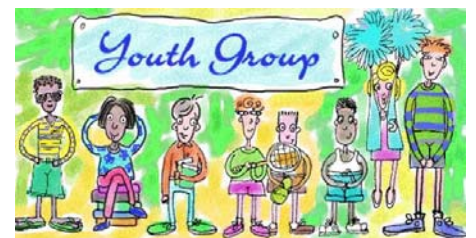
Remember, all three elements are important in the dynamic of stewardship, and it's hardly just about money. It's a well-known, and little (if at all) disputed, fact that, in the Old Testament, God's people were expected, even required, to submit ten percent of their income to the Lord's work (which, back then, generally meant the maintenance of the temple community). Today, in the New Testament era, this is no longer the case, the civil law of Israel no longer applying to us. We are not under a specific percentage rule as a concrete requirement. Still, sacrificial giving to the work of the Lord is fitting for the Christian.

What's "sacrificial," one may ask? "Sacrificial" does not necessarily mean "bankrupting." It also does not mean that there's nothing left for one's own personal enjoyment. But sacrificial DOES entail elements such as deliberate giving, generous giving, giving what could be used elsewhere for something of

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Youth Group

The Youth Group has lots of plans! Though 2 of our kids are going off to college and one has enlisted in the Army, there are still many kids left (and even some new ones) to continue on. Still enthusiastic from last Summer's National Youth Gathering in Florida, we're looking forward to the next one in New Orleans in 2010. Upcoming events include an Oktoberfest (a congregational favorite), ice cream and mini-golfing at Kimballs, Day in the Park, and an Ice Cream Social on Sunday School Rally Day. Interested high schoolers, who aren't yet a member of the youth group, are encouraged to come to a meeting or join us for any event. For more info, email us at TLCyouthgroup@gmail.com



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Calendar of Events

August

11-15 - 9:00 am to noon – Vacation Bible School
17 – Congregation Cook-Out - Following morning services: A fundraiser for LCMS World Disaster Relief fundraiser.

September

3 – Ladies Aid Meeting
6 – Day in the Park at Clinton’s Old Home Day
7 – 8:45AM Sunday School resumes
10:00AM Morning Worship ^{w/Communion}
After Service – Ice Cream Social

Service Times July & August

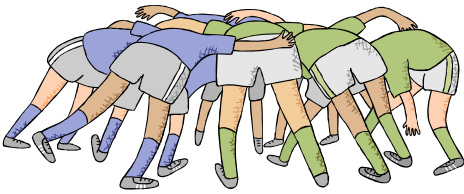
Sunday service 9:00AM

Service Times Sept - June

Sunday School 8:45AM
Sunday Service 10:00AM



Master Plan Committee and Other Updates:



The master plan committee continues to facilitate and support congregational activities at Trinity. Meetings are generally held the first Sunday of every month immediately after service and are open to any member.

Congregational gathering: The master plan committee is hosting a meal and gathering on August 17 after morning services on the church grounds. We've decided to reach out to those in greater need than us by making it a fund-raiser for LCMS World Disaster Relief. There will be no charge for the meal, but donations will be accepted toward LCMS world relief. We haven't picked the meal yet, but it'll probably be a BBQ and have a German touch!

Clinton Day in the Park: "Old Home Day" in Clinton's Central Park is September 6th. Trinity will be represented with an information booth and children's activities.

Church Roof: The roof is in need of repair. Early estimates are the cost will be \$100,000 to fix the bow and replace the shingles. We've established a fund towards this effort. Thank you to Kim Martin Smith for designing the "thermometer" in the narthex of the church to show our progress in raising these funds.



great

Ladies Aid Society: The Ladies Aid will resume their meetings in September with a get-together at the home of Connie Gramit at 6:00 PM on Sept. 3rd. Hot dogs and burgers will be served. Each lady is asked to bring a dish or dessert to pass. The Holiday Fair, which supports local and synodical charities, as well as our own church, is set for Saturday, November 15. All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend any and all of the activities.

Sunday School Rally Day:

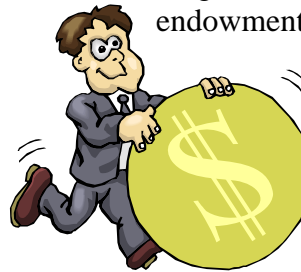
The youth group will be hosting an **Ice Cream Social** on September 7, after church, to kick off the Sunday School year. The youth group will be serving chocolate and vanilla with a variety of toppings. Sunday School is such a great opportunity! Classes are available for kids from age 4 through grade 8, as well as for the high school age kids. If you are a parent or grandparent or even great grandparent of eligible children, please encourage their participation. Kids are only young once and lessons learned in Sunday School are never forgotten. Pastor was heard to say recently something to the effect of, "It is very easy to know which youth participating in confirmation have gone to Sunday School since they were kids."

Choir news:

The choir will be starting up again after Labor Day and are looking for fresh voices!

Stewardship: The Trinity Voters voted to establish a stewardship committee at the July meeting. Look for more information about an upcoming program to learn how we can best use our time, treasure, and talents.

Endowment fund: A motion was passed at the July voters meeting to authorize the council to establish an endowment fund to benefit the general fund and projects. We'll be hosting a presentation on endowments this fall to provide information on endowment funds.



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significance, perhaps temporarily foregoing something of a nonessential nature that could wait until the next payday, or a number of other similar elements. Again, there is no one concrete rule of figures, items, etc. which fits everyone. Because there's one more element which is important in such sacrifice, and that is, joy. 2 Corinthians 9:7 reminds us, "God loveth a cheerful giver." The idea is not that one is coerced to give a certain amount, give up a certain activity, etc. to the point where there's resentment. Resentment should not be a part of the picture.

But, again, it is not just about money. There are other ways to contribute to the life of one's congregation, namely, through time and talents. Perhaps one cannot afford to give as high of a percentage to the Lord's work in terms of income, but CAN provide in the time and talents department. This, of course, is very welcome!

Of course, I seek to dispel the idea that stewardship is just (or even chiefly) about money. I also would like to speak of the whole concept in terms besides just the time-talent-treasure threesome we've heard over and over again, or, for that matter, the word "stewardship." Not that these terms and ideas do not apply; they do, and we will hear of them periodically.

But, could there be another, fresher, more inspiring way to address the subject?

Please look again at the title to this little note. By referring to a "Christian Life Dynamic," I believe we may better appreciate how the Gospel of Christ may generate a genuine response in the lives of all of our congregational family which, in turn, will contribute significantly to the life and vitality of our congregation. Because -- and I hope we all keep this in mind! -- everything we do and are as Christians, and as Christian family, is in response to our being the redeemed of Christ. So, that "Christian Life Dynamic" term is not just another term we use, but rather, a term we can say and MEAN it.

Our congregation has formed a Stewardship Committee, which already has several members and, yes, we are in the process of seeking (at least) a few others. While, again, the "treasure" part is necessary -- and the subject will be addressed in fitting ways -- our purpose as committee is not to be constantly, or exclusively, or even chiefly, asking for money. In fact, this will hardly be our most significant focus. Rather, what we will be seeking to do, first and foremost, is just as the title of this note suggests, "Encouraging a Christian Life Dynamic" in all of us.

We (that is, the committee) will be in touch with all of you soon. It's my prayer that, as the redeemed of Christ, we may reflect this incalculably blessed gift in a Christian life dynamic!

The Peace of the Lord be with You!

Pastor Paul Gramit

[Book Club - Continued From Back Page]

The first book is Leota's Garden by Francine Rivers. Here is the description from the back cover:

Once Leota's garden was a place of beauty-where flowers bloomed and hope thrived. It was her refuge from the deep wounds inflicted by a devastating war, her sanctuary where she knelt before a loving god and prayed for the children who couldn't understand her silent sacrifices.

At eighty-four, Leota is alone, her beloved garden in ruins. All her efforts to reconcile with her adult children have been fruitless. She voices her despair to a loving Father, her only friend.

The first meeting will be in September. Watch the church bulletin for the time and place. For more information contact Amanda (Mueller) Vega or Kathy Martin.

Vacation Bible School

VBS will be take place from August 11-15 from 9:00 am to noon each day and will be using the Sunday School summer material with the topic "Journey with Jesus." Registration is easy! You can get a registration form in church, pre-register on line on our web page at www.TrinityLutheranMS.org, or complete the form just before class. We'd love to have you, even if you can't make it every day. All kids ages 4 through 6th grade (completed) are welcome. Closing service will be Friday evening, August 15, at 7:00 PM.

Come see what it's all about!
Invite your friends and neighbors!

LADIES JOIN THE FUN!!!

We are starting up a chapter of the **Woman to Woman Book Club**. Each month the Book Club will feature a new book selection. Meeting times will include discussions and questions as well as a fun quiz about the book (and, of course, refreshments!). All you have to do is read the book and have fun discussing it with the group. Whether participating in the Book Club for the literary experience or for the opportunity to spend more time with friends, it will definitely be a rewarding experience!

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