

July 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church — PO Box 65, Arkdale, WI 54613
Office: 608-564-7920, M-Th 9-2:30 pm Website: arkdaletlc.org
Pastor: pastor@arkdaletlc.org Secretary: churchoffice@arkdaletlc.org



From the Pastor's pen

Dear friends,

As you know we (the Church Council and me) have been trying to be responsible citizens by following CDC regulations. But it's confusing and frustrating. And I, like you, am tired of face masks. But I am still cautious. I have rights, but I also am aware that my actions affect others. So, I will wear a mask if I'm around a lot of people in closer quarters or those who are vulnerable. I will take it off if I am outside and am able to talk to someone without breathing on them.

I know we don't all agree on things, be it covid or singing or politics, LGBT, gun control, etc. And it's actually good to have differing viewpoints and to share experiences. This past year has been tough. And sadly, I have been called names, I have felt pressure to do things I'm not comfortable with, I have been bullied by those trying to get their own way. And I'm sure some of our church leaders could tell you the same. I realize some of this behavior is out of feelings of loss, fear and frustration with what 2020+ has brought us.

So, remember our primary citizenship is of Heaven – Philippians 3:20, "our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." In your conversations be aware of differing opinions. Don't assume others agree with you, just because they are silent. Be kind, be gracious. Let our words and actions reflect mercy and self-control. Proverbs 25:28, "Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness."

*Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Terri*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS TLCW!

Trinity Lutheran Church Woman will hold a meeting on **Sunday, August 22nd** between services at 9:15 am in the sanctuary. Masks will be required. The following agenda items will be discussed with possible action taken:

- Election of officers
- Upcoming events
- New business

If you have any items to add prior to the meeting, contact Terri Soley (Treasurer) (t_soley@frontier.com) or Kathy Kuss (Secretary) (info@kathykusscreative.com)

Sunday July 4th, one service at 8am, enjoy the parade at 10am!

Receipts wanted

The **TLCW receives 3.2%** for each dollar spent at A-F County Market this year! This helps with funding for items such as:

- * Scholarships
- * Bibles for our youth
- * Kitchen supplies
- * LWR Kit supplies
- * Devotion booklets
- * Camperships

Please place receipts in the box in the narthex or in the outside info box .

Thursday service changes

Call Amy in the office (608-564-7920) and reserve a seat to attend the Thursday worship service.

It begins at **10am, masks are optional if you've been vaccinated**, one hymn is sung and **25 seats** are available!

You can visit our website at: arkdaletlc.org and **view worship service from home**. There is a donate button on our website to make giving convenient.

Holy Humor

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was running late and couldn't find a space with a meter. He put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note, "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

Bible Moment– Daniel part 2:

Did you know that the saying “the writing is on the wall” comes from the Bible? We use this phrase when there are clear signs that a situation is going to become difficult or unpleasant. Like an omen. For example, “*After two breakups, I’m afraid, the writing is on the wall for this couple*”.

In Daniel 5, Belshazzar is indulging in a drunkenness and debasing sacred temple vessels by using them as wine goblets. Then a visible hand writes on the palace wall, 'mene mene tekel upharsin' (Peres). The translation seems meaningless, 'two minas, a shekel and two parts' or 'numbered, weighed, divided'. Belshazzar's guys couldn't make heads or tails of it, or wouldn't, out of fear of his retaliation, so the king sent for Daniel. Daniel said it meant:

Mene: God hath numbered Belshazzar's kingdom, and finished it.

Tekel: That Belshazzar had been weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

Peres: that his kingdom would be divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

So, the moral of the story: Belshazzar was so engrossed in his own sinful ways, that he couldn't see the warning signs, so obvious - they were written on the wall.

Effective immediately

8:00 am service—masks **optional**

10:15 am service—masks **required**

See page two for changes to Thursday service

Small groups that meet such as council, property, quilting, worship committee, Bible study, etc. can decide as a group whether or not to wear masks.

Sunday July 4th, one service at 8am, enjoy the parade at 10am!

Devotionals

Christ In Our Home large and regular print daily devotion booklets are available free of charge and can be found on the narthex table or in the outside information box to the right of the lower doors. Weekly email devotionals are available, email: churchoffice@arkdaletlc.org to get added to the list.

Doors

Ever leave your home knowing you had all the doors locked only to return and find one unlocked? Does it make you feel a little uneasy? That's how I feel when it happens here at the church. If you've been trusted with a key, you are trusted to relock the door. Please keep that in mind the next time you're here outside of office hours.

Thank you, Amy — Church Secretary

Flower care

05th: Dana Henriksen

12th: Gary & Karen Meunier

19th: Tom & Sharon Guzman

26th: Lloyd & Darlene Hovorka

Altar Guild: Penny Ross & Karen Meunier

Stewardship Moment

Observe an Eco-Sabbath: For one afternoon or an hour a week, don't buy anything. Don't use machines, don't switch on anything electric, don't cook, don't answer your phone and, in general, don't use any resources. It is a good rest for you and the earth.

Acolyte/Lector

04th: 8am-Myles Nawrot/Mike Willis
No second service, enjoy the parade!

11th: 8am-Nancy Hanson/Meagan Grabarski
10:15-Merrik Moore/Jeff Chase

18th: 8am- /Kurt Mikolite
10:15-Cody Hendricksen/Rick Searing

25th: 8am- /Mike Kuss
10:15-Matthew Pavelec/Krista Pavelec

Lawn mowing

05th: Greg & Terri Soley

12th: Ray Groskinsky & Tom Guzman

19th: Glenn & Peggy Quinnell

26th: Rick Searing & Hank Sauer

Garbage: John Pavelec

Food Pantry: Terri Soley

We are an ELCA church – It was brought up at our Bi-Annual meeting issues of the ELCA. There are some misconceptions and info taken out of context. Here is some information to help us understand our denomination better. First, there are over 40 Lutheran denominations in the USA, of which The ELCA is the largest of the Lutheran churches. The ELCA was officially formed on January 1, 1988, by the merging of three Lutheran church bodies: the ALC, the LCA and the AELC. We were ALC (American Lutheran Church) prior the ELCA. As of 2019, the ELCA has approximately 3.3 million baptized members with 8,972 congregations.

The ELCA constitution states: "This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life." Our confessional writings, that are based on scripture are found in the Book of Concord and include the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms (Martin Luther), the Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. *A copy is on the library cart found in the fellowship hall.* ELCA congregations make the same affirmation in their governing documents (*constitutions/bylaws*), and ELCA pastors and deacons promise to carry out their ministry in accordance with these teaching sources." [From the ELCA.org website].

Doctrines, such as 'we are saved by God's grace through faith', and confessional writings, such as the Apostles' creed, do not change. There are social statements, note these are not doctrinal and can change with time. These cover issues and topics such as LGBT persons, abortion and sexuality. Social statements are meant to inform and assist on topics with our current understanding of them, providing a broad framework to assist with thinking about and discussing various issues in the context of our faith and life. They start with a committee; their findings are given to congregations to study and to submit their input, then after needed changes, the document is brought to the synod assembly to be voted on, and then if passed, may go on to church-wide for approval. Again – not doctrine, nor within our constitution.

Now it was claimed that as members of the ELCA we pay for abortions. First know that the social statement on abortion says, "Human life in all phases of its development is God-given." And that parenthood is a vocation. It notes that, "Abortion ought to be an option of last resort." This document also recognizes that this is not a black and white issue; women and couples face realities such as rape, incest and medical conditions that threaten the life of the woman. So here is where I think this claim is coming from: I have BCBS insurance. If my doctor deemed that termination of a pregnancy was medically needed, the insurance would then cover some of those costs. And so, some would say, if the congregation pays for my insurance, then they are also funding abortions. Years ago, a vote was passed that medical issues of pastors, deacons, employees, and their families were private matters. I believe all life matters, from conception.

I am proud to be of the ELCA. I think it's wonderful that folks, members and non-members, are welcome to worship and receive Communion with us. With a church that comes together from a merger, each with its own factions and divisions, we are still family and do the work of Jesus Christ. And yes, there is room for all, all sinners, at our gathering table. Grace abounds.

Pastor Terri

Unapproved Council Meeting Minutes — June 7, 2021—5:30—7:30 p.m.

Present: Derek Pavelec, Monica Wallendal, Garret Gould, Danna Peterson, Marge Edwards, Pastor Terri, and Anne Gibault. **Excused:** Meagan Grabarski.

Meeting Called to Order by Ken Bork at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor's Opening Devotion: Psalm 107 How is the experience of losing your focus similar to wandering in the desert? Have you lost your focus and how did you get it back? What distractions keep you away from your focus?

Lori Henthorne Shared Her Thoughts and Notes

Council Discussed Lori Henthorne's Notes:

Pastor shared out what the ELCA is and what social statements are, how social statements are created and decided on
Social statements are voted on by people at the synod and local conventions. We send people to those conventions regularly.
Follow up with sharing this out to the congregation and in the newsletter
Discussion will continue

Pastor's Report:

Shut-In Visits: 10 visits, calls were made or notes sent to 6 people

At Rest: 4 funerals; At the Font: none; At the Altar: none

Other: Continue calling and texting members and sending birthday cards
Continue writing Wednesday's weekly e-devotion
Continue posting the weekly worship video

Treasurer's Report: Went through report Motion to Approve: Danna/Marge

Secretary's Report: Motion to Approve: Derek/Garret

Set the Next Meeting Date: Next meeting is Tuesday, July 13, at 5:30 p.m.

New Business:

Local Benevolence—\$2,300 remains

Council Positions:

Postpone until next month as we look for 2 more positions are filled
Council induction date—wait until other members are added

Church Security:

Doors have been left open
Add reminder to the newsletter

Fundraising

Rummage Sale will not take place this year
Continue Script Card fundraiser, Amazon Smiles
Look at both a community builder and fundraiser at the same time

CDC Guidelines

Where are we at?

1st service masks optional 2nd service masks required and still social distancing with revisiting next month Beginning Sunday, June 13, 2021: Motion: Marge/Danna

Small Groups: If small groups agree within themselves not to wear masks they can omit masks: Motion Marge/Garret ****continued on next page****

Ramp Hill Project: Fundraising Committee and Timeline
 Property Committee will determine what to do with the hill until the project is completed
 Add the flyover presentation to the beginning of the service presentation—Mike
 Add a collection box near the display for fundraising and put out in the front of the church
 Table timeline discussion until next month in order to get more information: Pastor Terri/Anne
 4th of July Parade
 10:00 in town on July 4th
 Still don't know if we can hand out candy or coupons
 Wait until next year
 Consider the Homecoming parade in the fall
 Other: Emergency Exit Plan Reviewed by Pastor Terri

Other Reports:

Education Ministry: Confirmation is done for the year. Email was sent to parents asking about their preferences for VBS and Sunday School for the fall. Families were interested in having a one night event for VBS this year.

Outreach: nothing to report

Property Committee: Meeting is June 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at church

Worship Committee: nothing to report.

TLCW: Graduation quilts were presented last Sunday. They were beautiful!

Endowment Committee: nothing to report

Landscape Committee: nothing to report
 Motion to Adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Motion: Marge/Derek

Closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted, Anne Gibault—Council Secretary



Ramp hill - Above is a beautiful low maintenance design with the purpose of eliminating the dangerous mowing of grass. This design is directly across from the park used by many people and is a “call to worship”. This design was approved at the May congregational meeting. If you would like to make a contribution to this future project, please make your check payable to the church and specify “ramp hill” in the memo line.

KFC - Kids for Christ

- ★ **Sunday School** doesn't meet – but watch for something in the mail.
- ★ **Volunteers needed** to plan a one night kids event at church. Please contact Pastor Terri.
- ★ **Bible Verse:** “Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:20.
- ★ **Activity:** Gratitude Collage. Go out and take 10 photos of things God has done or given you that you are thankful for OR cut out pics from magazines. Make a poster with the photos and put on it “God is Good” or “I thank God for”.
- ★ **Table Talk:** Why is it important to say, ‘thank you’?
- ★ **Prayer:** Thank you God for all that grows, Thank you for the sky's rainbows,
 Thank you for the stars that shine, Thank you for these friends of mine,
 Thank you for the moon and sun, Thank you God for all you've done! Amen.

Safety Suggestions: Mother nature can be unexpected:

- 1- Have a list of your credit cards and their phone numbers kept in a safety deposit box, along with a copy of your will, birth/marriage certificates and mortgage/property papers.
- 2- Know where you would go in case you have to evacuate. Have a plan for a night – for a week.
- 3- Review where to turn OFF gas/propane, water, and power, etc.
- 4- Have in **one** place (*so you can grab & go, a backpack*): flashlight w/ new batteries, extra phone charger, extra set of car keys, bottled water, blanket, leash if you have a pet, & a pair of old shoes. Optional items: Band-Aids, granola bars, ‘pop-top’ canned tuna or beans, (spoon) pocketknife/multi-tool, hard candy, hand warmers, sweatshirt/pants, socks, space blanket, hat, & radio. If there is an infant, a few diapers & two scoops of formula. (Replace food as needed.)
- 5- Find a USB flash drive that attaches to a keychain; put on the flash drive all your emergency contacts: kid's #, parent's #, neighbor's #, & phone #'s for medical, auto & home insurances. Add your medical/prescriptions info [Do not include your social security #]. Attach it to your keys with your grab & go items. You or emergency-responders may need this info.

July Church Calendar

- 04th:** 8:00 Worship—parade begins at 10am
- 06th:** 8:30 am Quilting; 6:00 pm Bible Study
- 11th:** 8:00 & 10:15 am Worship
- 13th:** 8:30 am Quilting; 5:30 pm Council; 6:00 pm Bible Study
- 18th:** 8:00 & 10:15 am Worship
- 20th:** 8:30 am Quilting; 10:00 am Worship mtg; 6:00 pm Bible Study
- 21st:** 9:00 am Newsletter Articles Due
- 25th:** 8:00 & 10:15 am Worship
- 26th:** 6:00 pm Property meeting
- 27th:** 8:30 am Quilting; 6:00 pm Bible Study