

August 2021 Newsletter

*1 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. 2 A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, **"Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today."** 6 So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. 7 All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." 8 Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." 9 Then Jesus said to him, **"Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."** Luke 19:1-10*

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Once when I was a child my mom got lost while shopping at the K-Mart near our home. We were in the women's clothing. I remember she was looking at pants. I was climbing through the circular racks the pants were hanging on. Then, when I crawled out, suddenly, she was gone. I had remained in the same place. She was lost.

I searched and searched for her. I tried to stay in the main aisles so she could see me if she was also looking, but I didn't find her. As coincidence would have it, I found her cousin, Jayne, who was one of the managers at the store. She offered to page my mom, which she did, and my mom appeared next to us at the customer service desk. Furious. She wasn't mad about the getting lost – me or her. She was mad that Jayne had paged her, that it was an embarrassment that we'd lost one another. She was upset that her parenting wasn't perfect, that her child wasn't perfect, that she couldn't look at pants and keep an eye on me at the same time. She was upset that someone, Jayne, had witnessed a weak moment. All because of getting lost.

We too are sometimes lost, and like my mom, we're a bit ashamed to admit it. We don't want to admit we need help or direction. We hide behind masks of strength when in reality we're shaking in our boots. We snuggle ourselves into comforting **organizations**, our congregations,

democracies based in tradition. We pretend we're in control because of our power structures, and the "way we do things." We measure success by our budgets and our attendance and the idea that our size or our age or our position matters. Right now the measurement we're leaning on the hardest is whether or not we've "returned to normal." But, our truth? We're lost. None of us have ever lived through, survived, and recovered from a worldwide plague before. God doesn't expect us to have all the answers; but, we sure do.

Our truth is that as Christ's Church we're not an organization, but a living and breathing **organism**. We are the living Body of Christ in the world. We're stretching, moving, and looking to get a better look at Jesus, just like Zacchaeus. Also like him, often we're just not tall enough.

The good news is, Jesus looks and sees **us**, just like he saw that little man in the tree! It's time we see that he sees us and give ourselves a break for not getting every little thing right all the time.

We need to expect and understand –

- That Jesus **is** seeing us.
- That **his** mission is among us. He **must** stay at our house. But, it's not **our** mission we work to fulfill; it's Christ's.
- That he wants to bring **new** life to our community, not old life.
- That we are a part of the global way **God** works in the world.
- That every tradition we hold dear is **less** important than this reality.

We have been found by a living Lord who makes all things new. Let's take a page from Zacchaeus' book and try to respond in new ways too. **Living** together in Christ's name calls us to be bringing new life in all that we do and say. We are **alive** because he lives. Let's claim this new perspective, like Zaccheus, and be creative as we continue to "return to normal," in our context. Christ sees and meets us in our unsettled reality and makes it all ok. I promise. ('Cause **he** does!)

In his love,

Pr. Susan

Our Mission: We are a family of Christian disciples committed to making Christ known while loving and serving God and neighbors.

Our Vision: To fulfill our mission, we will:

Worship through liturgy, music, prayer, and Sacraments;

Teach God's Word and nurture spiritual growth;

Serve and provide for those in need;

Witness to others by sharing the Gospel;

Celebrate with fellowship;

Return with joy what God has given;

Be active in our community and the Church.

Worship, Serve, Celebrate!



Bible Study will be on hiatus until August 16. When we resume Monday evenings thereafter at 6PM we will meet in



Bible Study

person at the church. You are invited to attend these gatherings either in person (with or without your mask, your preference) or on Zoom.

Zoom Meeting ID: **835 7623 4258**

Passcode: **Bible**

We'll continue to use Zoom as an invitational way to invite others who can't be with us in person for whatever reason, in whatever location. Please use your superpowers of evangelism (tell people you know) that they are invited to attend either way. Please join us!

We pray for our homebound members and for those battling injury or long-term illness, *especially: Phyllis Snyder, Jack Hinkle, Barry Jacobs, Christopher Teal, Luther Rinehart, Theresa McGee, Kim Smith, Logan Siekerman, Pr. Terry McCarthy and Pixie Henry.* If you know of any members needing pastoral care, please contact the church office. ****Please notify the church as soon as possible if someone you know is hospitalized.***





New Website and Communication Platform

Technology continues to advance and likewise Trinity needs to constantly update its technology to keep in step with these changes. We are pleased to announce that development of a new website has been completed and we will begin the process of installing new software from Faithlife to host our website beginning August 1. The process will take about 6 days to complete so our old website will not be available from August 1 – 7. We do anticipate our email to be down for a short period (hopefully only a few hours) during this period while we switch the internet domain. If you experience any email issues and need to reach Trinity's staff immediately, simply call the office 717-259-9125.

The Faithlife software offers many options not currently available. The new website is fully adapted for use on mobile devices through the Faithlife app. Simply download and install the app, create a log-on and password and you are ready to go. The software also has the capability to be interactive with social media platforms, establish groups (such as committees), set meetings, events, reserve meeting rooms, reserve equipment such as AV, initiate group chats, and other functions. Video Worship Services, sermons, bulletins, newsletters, and other relevant public documents can be stored and available on the website. Another powerful tool is a real-time interactive Church Calendar. Church meetings, events, etc. entered in the system will be automatically added to the church calendar. There are many other features, but we will start off with basic functionality and get through the learning curve. Once the new platform is live, more information will follow. STAY TUNED!

A special thanks to Jen Guiher and Pastor Susan who have been working diligently on this task the last few weeks.

Electronic Ministry Committee

The first meeting of the Electronic Ministry Committee was held July 7. During this meeting a consensus was reached that some form of ongoing Electronic Ministry is needed at Trinity to keep us connected and to reach out to those who may be unchurched. The first priority is to develop a plan for the immediate needs of Trinity to continue to offer on-line worship and Faith Formation classes in the coming months. Stay tuned for more information and further developments. And, your feedback as we plan is very welcome! Contact the church office with any thoughts or ideas. Thank you!



How can you serve Trinity?

Trinity is blessed with many talented individuals. As we emerge from being stifled by the constraints of the pandemic, we need people to take on active roles in our various ministries. As we mentioned in March, we consolidated some of our Council Committees (for now) to make more effective use of resources. We are also in need of Faith Formation Teachers for Post Confirmation students and K-2 students, and in the next few months we will be looking for new Council Members to fill 3-year terms for those who will be leaving Council. Many persons are active in multiple committees and ministries. There is no shortage of things you can do to contribute your time and talents. Here's just a few areas: Property, Audit Committee, Endowment Committee, Mission in Motion, Finance Committee, Council, Mutual Ministry Coordinating Committee, Faith Formation, Choir, Handbells, Lectors, Deacons, Ushers, Altar Guild. Plus, you can be trained to assist with and run our live streamed worship on Sundays! Call Bob King to volunteer!

Mid-Year Financial Report

The Finance Committee would like to provide a brief summary of our financial position at June 30. As you can see from the Treasurer's report below our "Current" income for June fell short by \$4,719 bringing us to a YTD shortfall of \$7,786 against budgeted income. Favorably, our expenses YTD are lower than budgeted (\$9,136) and as a result we have a YTD surplus of income vs. expenses of \$2,510. As we enter the second half of 2021, we do expect expenses to get back to a more normal level as the church is now fully operational. Also note that our insurance payments fall in the second half of the year, so we will see the impact of that expense as well. On the balance sheet, "Current" cash on hand to fund the church operating expenses is \$32,491. Memorial funds \$52,575, and Capital Improvement (Property and Equipment) \$24,104. The Finance Committee had recommended, and in June Council approved, the transfer of \$30,000 from Memorial funds as follows: \$15,000 to the Endowment Fund and \$15,000 to a second Capital Improvement CD. Those transactions were completed in July so the balance sheet for July will be reflecting those transactions accordingly. As you can see by the Property Improvement CD of \$60,187, we are taking steps to reserve funds for what we know will be some expensive capital improvements for the Bell Tower and for other repairs we know will be needed in the future. The plan is to continue to reserve these funds in low-risk instruments such as CD's. We would also like to report the Endowment Fund has done particularly well recently. The balance reported at June 30 is \$299,732 on a principal of \$175,000.



Our overall financial position at present is good. Obviously meeting our budget for "Current" income is critical for maintaining this position as we enter the second half of 2021. **We would like to thank everyone for continuing to support our ministries with your time, talents, and with your financial gifts.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of Council.

Friday, July 2, 2021

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Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Monthly Budget	Budget YTD	% of Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD+(-)
Income						
CURRENT INCOME TOTAL		\$11,753.66	\$91,051.15	\$16,473.00	92	(\$7,786.85)
BENEVOLENCE TOTAL		\$1,157.92	\$7,348.72*	\$1,000.00	122	\$1,348.72
Total Income		\$12,911.58	\$98,399.87	\$17,473.00	94	(\$6,438.13)
Expense						
BENEVOLENCE TOTAL		\$1,157.92	\$8,348.98*	\$1,100.00	126	\$1,748.98
WORSHIP TOTAL		\$483.97	\$2,228.56*	\$330.00	113	\$248.56
LEARNING AND YOUTH TOTAL		\$51.20	\$294.68	\$158.00	31	(\$653.32)
OTHER COMMITTEES TOTAL		\$171.60	\$1,042.33	\$338.00	51	(\$985.67)
SALARIES TOTAL		\$7,965.59	\$52,007.36	\$8,158.00	98	(\$1,017.64)
PASTOR'S BENEFITS		\$2,629.98	\$15,849.09	\$2,976.00	87	(\$2,388.91)
STAFF BENEFITS		\$241.58	\$1,615.52*	\$241.00	103	\$46.52
TOTAL SALARY AND BENEFITS		\$10,837.15	\$69,471.97	\$11,375.00	95	(\$3,360.03)
OFFICE/ADMIN/CONF/ AUTO TOTAL		\$1,350.60	\$4,314.91	\$748.00	82	(\$923.09)
UTILITIES TOTAL		\$1,336.33	\$7,702.56	\$1,259.00	93	(\$601.44)
MAINTENANCE TOTAL		\$181.60	\$2,485.90	\$708.00	59	(\$1,762.10)
INSURANCE TOTAL		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$58.00	0	(\$2,848.00)
Total Expense		\$15,570.37	\$95,889.89	\$16,074.00	91	(\$9,136.11)
Difference		(\$2,658.79)	\$2,509.98	\$1,399.00		(\$188.00)

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
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Assets

1.100.100	CHECKING ACCOUNT	
1.101.101	CURRENT CHECKING ACCT.	32,490.77
1.101.102	MEMORIAL CHECKING	54,574.81
1.101.103	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS CHECKING	24,104.47
1.101.104	YOUTH CHECKING	3,951.82
1.101.105	ENDOWMENT HOLDING ACCOUNT	1,570.26
1.101.106	RUTH'S HARVEST	6,708.99
1.101.107	LAUNDRY LOVE	610.71

Total CHECKING ACCOUNT \$124,011.83

CHECKING ACCT. BALANCE \$124,011.83

1.102.103	CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT-SABBATICAL LEAVE	4,591.12
1.102.104	CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT-CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	60,181.47
1.105.001	MISSION IN MOTION CHECKING	6,314.26
1.105.005	MISSIONARY SUPPORT CHECKING	1,058.56
1.105.009	W.E.L.C.A. CHECKING	1,665.15

TOTAL - OTHER BANK ACCOUNTS \$73,810.56

1.103.001	LAND	45,000.00
1.103.002	BUILDING	1,564,562.70
1.103.003	FURNITURE, FIXTURES,	26,598.91

OTHER ASSETS TOTAL \$1,709,972.17

1.104.001	ENDOWMENT FUND	299,732.17
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Total Assets \$2,133,716.17

Fund Balance

3.100.100	GENERAL FUND BALANCE	13,970.45
3.200.200	MISC. NON-BUDGET FUND BALANCE	21,637.97
3.400.400	ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE	(297.99)
3.999.999	Suspense Fund	2,098,405.74

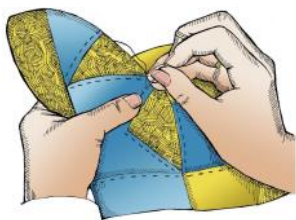
Total Fund Balance \$2,133,716.17

Total Short Term Liabilities and Fund Balance \$2,133,716.17

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

- The Learning & Youth Committee met on Thursday, July 22 and the following are important notes concerning Sunday School this fall:
- Sunday School will be held in person, following the guidelines as presented by the COVID Task Force. (All non-vaccinated persons are asked to wear masks, including children.)
- To allow for social distancing, the Sunday School classrooms will rearrange to allow for more space: Nursery remains, K-2 gathers in the parlor, 3-6 meets in the social hall, confirmation meets upstairs (narthex), Adult Sunday School meets in the sanctuary. Karen will utilize the music/choir room with the exception of Nursery as she will meet in their classroom.
- Sunday School will run 10:30-11:30 (while in person)
- To assist in planning, Lisa Miller will contact families for input regarding their comfort levels. Considerations will be made based on feedback to determine the need for an electronic option.
- The curriculum has been planned and matched to the church year calendar; two new Spark books have been purchased.
- **Rally Day (September 19, 2021)** will be in-person and includes a ***Ride, Roll or Stroll*** for all ages! Bring your wheels (bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, scooters, strollers, wagons, fancy cars...) as we make our way down to the community park for fun, play and a (bagged) picnic lunch. Decorations for your wheels will be provided.
- Teen Time was discussed and how that could possibly look. It was suggested that an adult would be needed to initiate the sessions and facilitate as necessary. The committee views that this should be a time of fellowship with their peers and allow the teens to suggest what they wish to do and achieve during this time. A few suggested activities/ideas discussed: assist with younger classroom activities, play games, crafts (tie dye, tie blankets), service projects (health kits for share shelf, assist with Lions Club or cemetery activities, rake leaves, shovel snow), plan fun church events.

KNOTTY KNOTTERS: The Knotty Knotters will continue meeting the second and fourth Wednesday of every month to make knotted quilts for folks in need. We will meet August 11 and August 25 from 2:00-4:00pm. If you can tie a knot, we hope that you will consider joining this group. Due to circumstances from this past year, there is a great need for quilts and blankets. The Knotters need many hands to work on this worthwhile project. If you have questions, contact Gay Weigand 717-476-8290.



Electronic Giving is a great way to support our congregation and its many ministries throughout the year! Your offering comes through even when you cannot attend worship. Simply sign up online through our church website or by contacting the office at 717-259-9125, or you can scan this code with your phone.



WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER SERVICE continues each Wednesday morning at 10AM in the Chapel. A link will be sent out for the service for those who cannot attend in person for whatever reason. This service is streamed only to the congregation's private Trinity Lutheran EB Fellowship Group on Facebook. Because of the sensitive nature of the joys and concerns that may be freely lifted up in this prayer service, the worship will not be made publicly available but will only stream to this closed group. Should you wish to become a member of Trinity's Fellowship Group, search for it on Facebook and click "join." Questions? Call Jen at 717-259-9125. Everyone is welcome to pray with us!

Pastoral Visits: Pastor Susan is scheduling visits; yay! She'll be coming masked to your home (even though she is fully vaccinated) so that she does not unwittingly carry illness from home to home. Feel free to call the church office to schedule a visit if you haven't heard from Pastor Susan yet.



MOVIE NIGHTS AT THE CHURCH THIS SUMMER! All children and youth, their families, and youth of all ages are invited to attend our MOVIE NIGHT for a good time! Here are the details:

Friday, August 13th,

7PM: Bring your sleeping bag, blanket and pillows for our Camping themed Movie Night outside on the lawn between the ramp and back door to the Social Hall/Annex. We'll light up the campfire to cook hotdogs, roast marshmallows, and make s'mores. Popcorn and drinks will also be offered. (In case of inclement weather, we'll camp in the Social Hall and change-up the menu a bit. No cancellation on account of rain.) SUGGESTED ADMISSION DONATION: One canned or bagged item for the Food Pantry.

WE'RE LEGAL TO SHOW VIDEOS! Trinity has recently purchased an annual video streaming license that allows us to legally display whole movies and/or clips at Trinity for educational, pastoral, ministerial, and entertainment needs. The license comes with a guide for using the service as well as some really good suggestions for movies' use in ministry. If you'd like to know more and are planning a Sunday School class, retreat, social event, etc., please contact Jen in the office and she'll hook you up! NOTE: We are NOT permitted to charge any sort of monetary admission, nor are we permitted to advertise specific movies as that is an infringement of the movies' promotional rites. We may advertise "MOVIE NIGHT!" or "Sunday School will feature a discussion of a popular movie, don't miss it!"



If you have questions or want more information, please see Jen Guiher in the office or contact Pastor Susan. Thanks!



Worship Assistant Schedule

Date	Assisting Minister	Lecturer
Aug 1	Jim Kline	Sue Clark
Aug 8	Ruthann Bowen	Gay Weir
Aug 15	Bob King	Louise H.
Aug 22	Jake Sharrer	Mary J.
Aug 29	Charlie Hoffman	Bob A.

Note: If you need to change the date you are scheduled to serve, please contact the church office.



Congratulations to Rachael & Cameron Pinkas on the birth of their baby-girl *Claire Marie Pinkas* born June 25, 2021. Claire is the granddaughter of Todd & Karyn Black and great-granddaughter of Janet & Mac McMaster.

Schedule for August 2021

Usher	Ushers
Hauser	Janet & Mac McMaster, Louise Haugh
Weigand	Kathy Kuhn, Linda Green, Mark Boyer
Haugh	Jay & Sue Smith, Allen Weigand
Jacobs	Rick Madsen, Bob & Deb King
Aims	Bob Aims, Judy Burgard, Leon Leas

Ushers on the list and arrange a swap. Please notify the church office of the change.



Congratulations to Jordan & Jennifer McSherry on the birth of their baby-girl *Elizabeth Ann McSherry* born July 4, 2021. Elizabeth is the granddaughter of Pat & Kim McSherry.

Support Outreach to Trinity's Visitors: Do you have an interest in donating your time and talent to assembling gift bags that can be handed out to visitors who attend our services? If so, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you've not participated in this ministry before but are interested and unsure where to start, you'll find a helpful handout with tips and ideas next to the sign-up sheet. Contact the church office with any questions.

SHARE THE HARVEST

As an extension of the success of our Sharing Shelf, Trinity will continue the Share the Harvest program. Anyone wishing to offer produce, flowers, etc. is encouraged to bring those goods and place them in baskets in the Narthex. This produce will be offered to anyone in the congregation. Donations received for these goods will be used to continue funding the purchase of food for the Sharing Shelf. Any goods left after the worship service will be placed on the Sharing Shelf for those in need of food.



Adopt a Senior Member in Need - We have senior members that need our contact. Please consider signing up to “adopt” a member by calling, sending cards, and visiting as you are both able. Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. If you have questions, please contact Judy Burgard or Dona Lerew. Thank you!



East Berlin Fall Festival will be held Saturday, September 11 from 8:00am—2:00pm. This community event has something for everyone. We will be looking for volunteers to participate.





The Annual Church Picnic will be held Sunday, August 22 at Mark Boyer's place, Plum Run Acres. The worship service will be held at the church at 9:00am as usual followed by Adult Confirmation Class at 10:30am. We will meet at Mark Boyer's Plum Run Acres at 12:00noon for lunch,

fellowship, and games for all ages. Please bring a dish to share, lawn chairs, and place settings for your family (drinks and meat will be provided). If your family would like to bring your own food instead of a covered dish to share food, please feel free to do so. We will be playing Bible Bingo again this year so we will need inexpensive wrapped gifts for children and adults. Hope to see everyone there!



On Sunday, July 11, **Addie Ryder** performed an impromptu song during Children's time on her ukulele, singing and playing "You are My Sunshine". Anyone (children or adults) who would like to take part in our Children's time should contact Pastor Susan.

Ministry Pages



Trinity Lutheran Church is offering free, non-perishable food items on the outdoor shelf located near the back doors of the church. Anyone needing food is invited to take what they need. And, everyone is encouraged to leave items to help others!

*"Share with the Lord's people who are in need.
Practice hospitality."
~Romans 12:13*

Food Pantry Changes: New Hope is bringing the mobile pantry from 3:00-6:00pm on Wednesday, August 4. This means that once again the guests will be able to shop for their food instead of getting a box of food. This also means that we will need more volunteers to help the guests with shopping and additional duties. Please consider helping if you feel comfortable doing so. We will also be offering the guests individually wrapped snacks such as cookies, brownies, pretzels, and fruit. If you would like to help in this way your donation would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Anita Madsen.





Laundry Love Ministry will be held Tuesday, August 10 from 5:30-6:30pm at the White Dove Laundromat in East Berlin behind Jim & Nena's. Guests will be provided with quarters and laundry soap to assist with their laundry needs. If you have questions or would like



to volunteer, please contact Judy Burgard (717) 259-9507. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We need two volunteers each month. **PLEASE bring in your quarters and drop them in the donation bin inside the back door vestibule.**

Trinity's Wellness Group

The Wellness Group will meet next on Tuesday, August 31, at 7:00pm. The topic will be prepping for significant days of remembrance - holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. when grief is involved. We will meet in-person and via Zoom.



The **National Night Out** is designed to bring neighbors together. Hamburgers, hot dogs, snacks and drinks will be available for purchase at the food tent. A variety of community partners will

be in the EBACC parking lot providing activities for your family to enjoy. Admission is free.

Artwork Worships the Lord

Dear Trinity Family, you are invited to submit your works of art to the glory of God and in service to the Lord. Sparked originally by a Facebook post where one of our parents showed some beautiful artwork created by his kids, this idea invites all the little folks who are still not vaccinated or worshipping in person to worship at home by creating art dedicated to God.

There are no guidelines for these pieces of art; may the Holy Spirit flow with the children and their crayons, markers, construction paper, glue, paint, etc. Submitted artwork allows our kids to continue in an active way to worship at home using their skills. And, we'll display the art around the worship space to remind in-person worshipers that our community is larger than it's looking right now.

But, why stop with the children? Are we not all children of God? Grownups, you should go for it too!



Pastor Is On Vacation

PASTOR SUSAN ON VACATION –

The McCarthy family will be out of town for vacation until Friday August 6th.

Pastoral emergencies should be directed to Pastor Jan Mills,

jmills4@hotmail.com, 717-816-8156. Pastor Jan will also be leading worship on Sunday, August 1st.

Pastor Susan is on Retreat during a continuing education event, the Summer Institute for Ministry, from Monday evening, August 9 through Thursday afternoon, August 12. Volunteers will lead Wednesday's prayer services in her absence.

Need a ride? Would you be willing to offer a ride to guests wanting to attend Trinity? We have some folks from New Oxford and East Berlin looking for a ride to worship on Sunday mornings. Please call the church office if you'd be willing to drive!





Now is the time we are looking forward to autumn... cooler temperatures, we gladly welcome! I would like to welcome back choir members on September 5 at 8:15am on Sunday. These many months have been difficult and so unusual in our life at home, work and church family. We rejoice that we are gradually gathering together to worship, sing, pray, and support so many needs. I encourage all who have an interest in adult choir to attend our short rehearsal each Sunday morning as we prepare special numbers reflecting the gospel. All who gave time to cantor and lead hymn-singing this year—THANK YOU! We would love to have you sing with the choir each week. Trinity Ringers will begin rehearsals in October. I look forward to our gatherings.

~ Karen Wire









August Birthdays



8-4 Laura Ryder

8-6 Brynn Nickey

8-8 Mike Brown

8-10 Tracy Smith

8-13 Ricky Kohler

8-13 Jay Smith

8-14 Emily Booth

8-15 Mitchell Eaton

8-15 Kim McSherry

8-16 Hannah McSherry

8-19 Cash Storm

8-23 Lisa Miller

8-29 Dona Lerew

8-30 Shirley Heltibridle



8-9 Rev. Jerry & Jill Strek ~ 63 Years

8-9 Allen & Gay Weigand ~ 46 Years

8-10 Jordan & Jennifer McSherry ~ 13 Years

8-11 Larry & Eva Boyer ~ 20 Years

8-23 Steve & Lisa Hoak ~ 24 Years



- August 2— National Ice Cream Sandwich Day
- August 4—National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
- August 10—National S'mores Day
- August 15—National Relaxation Day
- August 16—National Roller Coaster Day

Vacation Bible School



Stewardship of our leisure time

I commend enjoyment, for there is nothing better for people under the sun than to eat, and drink, and enjoy themselves, for this will go with them in their toil through the days of life that God gives them under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 8:15

Busy-ness keeps us from living with joy and peace in today's 24/7 world, but Scripture reminds us that this is hardly new. Ecclesiastes was written some 2,500 years ago! Ecclesiastes does not give license for mindless pleasure-seeking, but rather affirms that our hard work should be balanced with time for relaxation and enjoyment with friends and family.

Saints and mystics have long touted the need for rest and renewal. In the monastic tradition it's referred to as *otium sanctum* – Holy Leisure. Not just wasting our free time, but using it for renewal. As steward/disciples, we aim to use our leisure time wisely. Here are some ideas:

Keep the Sabbath: God actually *commands* us to stop working one day per week, as Exodus 20:8-11 makes clear. But there is no prohibition against leisure. (Why else would God give us a day off?)

Plan your vacation: Even if you're taking a STAYcation, *plan* your time for maximum rest and enjoyment.

Manage your schedule: Are you a slave to your appointment book, driven by *other people's* priorities? Put yourself first – scheduling in time for leisure. Even if it's just 30 minutes here and there!

Find an activity you like: What do you do just for you? Discover – or REdiscover – what brings you joy, then make time to do it.

Socialize: Friends and family make life enjoyable. Spend time with them.

Invest, don't waste, time: Many activities pass the time but don't give back much in renewal or refreshment. Choose activities wisely.

God expects us to work, but not work ourselves to death. Sabbath and leisure time provide means for us to find balance in our life, as well as friendship, love, renewal and purpose.

--Rob Blezard

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