



Partners in Ministry

Serving God and others through
the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of
America

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

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Words from Pastor Kari's Pen.

*"For God is not a God of confusion
but of peace."*

- 1 Corinthians 14:33

Is it just me, or have things felt uncommonly confusing these past few months?

For some reason even the smallest shift in a forever inconsistent schedule has often left me wondering "am I obtuse, or are things just getting harder?" It's either my friends. Though often it feels a bit of both are true.

In trying to keep up with all the activities, invitations, and the vast number of loved ones we can become confused as to what our original task is. The more things we try to understand or accomplish at the same time the harder it becomes to keep a clear eye on why we were called to engage and go forth in the first place. (Maybe this is why I never got a May newsletter out... my most sincere regrets to you all for that lapse in my role.)

So I found myself trying to find clarity.

Trying to get more sleep. Trying to take the right vitamins. Trying to be efficient and then give myself grace when I overextend or miss deadlines. Trying to be more present, plan ahead better. And all it did was make me more confused. Why are we doing all these things? How do they help us love God, ourselves, and our neighbors better?

When we follow the agendas of the world - no

matter how well intentioned they begin - we are influenced by the world. And the world does not often have your wellbeing or peace as the top priority. It leaves very little room for peace, or grace. And mercy is often nowhere to be found. If you follow the world's agenda, we will be crucified by our inability to survive this world's standards and demands. And far too often the ways we gauge success and efficacy in the world can not be applied to our discipleship or ministries. Which is beyond confusing for many.

We are not called to follow the agendas of our culture or our world. We are called to follow God's Word of Life - Scripture. When we dwell in scripture and follow God's call to love and serve, the confusing things fade away and the peace of Christ's unshakable love for you opens up a way of peace.

You can't be all the things for all the people. You can't be present for every event. You can't love yourselves as God loves you if you do not respect your own human boundaries (rest, respect, wellbeing). But we can find peace that God does not demand we be anything other than humble repentant creatures. Lambs of God's own flock that Christ cares for. People who do their best until they know better and repent of the old and begin again as redeemed children.

It's confusing. Trying to keep up with the world. So, I pray this summer that we don't. Let's not do the rat race of following the world's itinerary for how we should live (over committed, burnout, cripplingly self-reliant). Let us live according to Christ's agenda. To be so closely linked to God that wherever our day leads us we may be bearers of God's peace. May we be so dependent on God's mercy and grace that no matter what we succeed at or what we fail at we may know Christ's peace around us.

I am not saying that we do not follow through on our callings to be good disciples in our various vocations and passions. But as you enter into the summer, if you find yourself confused, weighed down, overwhelmed, oppressed by the vastness of what lies before you... may these words bless you.

God is not a God that "misspeaks". God does not speak in codes to confuse you and cause you to stumble. God loves you and provides words of life to sustain you through long hours. Strengthens you for the roads you are journeying on. And God's words never apologize for bringing hope to the hopeless, love to the outcasts, resurrection of the dead, and redemptions to sinners like us. How good it is to be loved so completely by a God who is never confused. No matter how confused we may be.

Be kind and good to yourselves and those around you. You have been blessed to be a blessing. And I thank God for you!

Peace,

Pastor Kari Lee



Holy Trinity Prayer Change Coming Soon!

Change is an unavoidable reality in life. Sometimes it is welcome. Other times it is not. Sometimes we can control the changes, but most often we cannot.

Praise the Lord that we are adaptable beings. When we are faced with the realities of change, we can use humor to help us process. We should talk about the challenges and not just fixate on our feelings. We focus on our values and not our fears. Lastly, we accept our past by fighting for our future.

One of the big changes in our culture is how we communicate with each other.

Texts instead of phone calls. Social media messages instead of emails. The changes in how we communicate is not restricted to any specific age group. In fact, we still stream our services on Facebook because it's easier for our 60+ members to find it that way.

One of our biggest values as people of faith is praying for and with each other. Not just about what is going on in our lives, but praying for the sake of the world, our communities, and all of creation.

A few years ago, St. Andrew's updated their prayer chain methods. Holy Trinity is currently doing the same. Instead of using a phone call to communicate prayer requests, we will send out a group text. There will be a sign up sheet for those who would like to be on the prayer chain going forward.

We acknowledge that it is important for us to stay connected and prayerfully steward each other and our realities. But with each turn around the sun we must change the way we do this. Our value of prayer and communication has not changed. But the ways in which we do so are.

Continued on pg. 3

HAPPY Birthday FROM YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Staci Arnold (June 4th)
- Marcia Waugh (June 4)
- Marilyn Terlouw (June 5th)
- Charly Fenner (June 9)
- Jonathan Pettlon (June 9)
- Katie Neleman (June 11)
- Barb Freeborn (June 12)
- Bill Bennett (June 14th)
- Eva Peart (June 14)
- Mike Paulson (June 18)
- Deb Ford (June 19th)
- Brad Bowlin (June 22)
- Blake Sevenbergen (June 25th)
- Ruth Elzey (June 26)
- Russ Jones (June 26th)
- Sophie Bell (June 27)
- Denny Farland (June 27th)
- Joan Mason (June 28th)
- Runa Lee (June 29)

We can find humor in how fast things change. But we can also remember that with adapting comes a chance to find new joys in living into our values in this new way.

I want our communities to be ones that pray. Not just at the dinner table. But pray without ceasing that God be at work in this world and in our lives. I want our prayer chain to continue to be places where we hold with care and integrity the places in our lives that ache and groan.

It would appear our reality is that our value of prayer is no longer manifesting in long weekly phone calls to each other. Nor are they simply in text or social media comment reels. (Turns out snail mail is making a big comeback!!!)

I would like you to take the rest of this year to focus with me on why we pray - how we pray - when we pray - when we pray. You can anticipate suggestions, prompts, and most likely craft ideas on how we can fight for this value that we want to have leading us into our future.



- Beccy and Brian Ver Heul (June 9th)
- Pastor Kari and Logan Lee (June 26th)

HAPPY Anniversary FROM YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Bible Quiz

King Ahab, assisted by his conniving wife Jezebel, appropriated for himself something belonging to a man named Naboth. What did he take?

- A. Naboth's oxen
- B. Naboth's farm
- C. Naboth's vineyard
- D. Naboth's house



2024 St. Andrew's Lutheran Church - Service Helper List

updated 01/08/2024

Date	Greater	Lector	Candle Lighting	Comm. Asst.	Altar Guild
6/2/2024	John & Barb Freeborn	Doug Bell	Kahila Sharp	Vicky Bell	Carol Naeseth
6/9/2024	Carol Naeseth	Nancy Wright	Addi Collum		
6/16/2024	Doug & Jaci Bell	Teri Bowlin	Easton Collum		
6/23/2024	Nancy Wright	Jessica Winegar	Hudson Winegar		
6/30/2024	Brad & Teri Bowlin	Carol Naeseth	Jacob Bell		
7/7/2024	Mark Bell	Doug Bell	Peyton Sharp	Mike Paulson	Katie Neleman
7/14/2024	Todd & Melanie Sharp	Nancy Wright	Payton Bowlin		
7/21/2024	Marcia Goodrich	Teri Bowlin	Sophia Bell		
7/28/2024	Mark & Amy Collum	Jessica Winegar	Charly Fenner		

In April, our mission support to the synod was \$587. There was also a \$350 donation to ELCA World Hunger, \$300 for ELCA Disaster Response and \$140 was donated to the Jasper Co. Hunger Relief Team funds. Our mission support to the synod in May was \$1,094. There was also a \$350 donation to ELCA World Hunger, \$300 for ELCA Disaster Response and \$100 was donated to Lutheran Lakeside Camp.

Our monthly mission in April was for the Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach, and there were \$370 in individual donations, resulting in a total of \$870 with our budgeted monthly mission funds.

The mission chosen for May was for our Youth Fund. There are plans for some of our youth to attend a mission trip to South Dakota this summer, and our Youth Fund will be supporting this trip. In May, there was a total donation of \$570. Given that this did not get widely shared in May, if you would still like to donate to this mission this month, please feel free to do so. Please write "Youth Fund" on your check or offering envelope.

June's monthly mission is Lutheran Services in Iowa's Migrant Worker Hunger Relief program. The goal of the program is to meet the needs of immigrant families for food during the short period when they are settled in a new place and have not yet started earning income from their work. If you wish to donate to this mission, simply write "LSI" on your check or offering envelope.



Vacation Bible School

Place: First Lutheran Church 309 E. 3rd ST. N. Newton, IA. 50208

Dates: Monday through Thursday June 17-20

Time: 1:00-3:30 Pm

Open to ages 4-10 are invited to grow in faith as they play, learn, sing, and work to be menders of God's creation.

Ages 11-15 are welcome to participate as junior helpers to help get younger kids where they need to go between stations and be helpers at stations

There will be a light snack provided to those that participate. There will also be a variety of multisensory stations for kids to participate in

Please consider asking your child or grandchild or niece or nephew or neighbor attend and have them invite a friend or two or three!!

To sign up, fill out a VBS form place it in the offering plate , send an email to the church office , or give it to an usher.



If there are any adults who would also want to lead or assist at a station, please reach out to Allison Bartholmey at allison.marie.engel@gmail.com

Puzzle!

Use the list of names to identify each thankful Bible character. Then use the symbol code to complete Psalm 79:13, NKJV.

NAMES: Elijah, Naaman, Mary & Martha, paralyzed man, Jairus, Moses, Rahab, Hannah

 Led his people through the Red Sea.	 Jericho fell, but she and her family were saved.	 Her prayer was heard and she gave her son to God.
 Ravens brought him food.	 Cured of his leprosy, he worshiped God.	 Jesus brought his daughter back to life.
 Their brother was raised from the dead.	 Lowered through a roof, Jesus healed him.	 Jesus brought his daughter back to life.

WE ... W _ LL G _ VE Y _ _ NKS F _ EVE _ ;

WE W _ LL S _ _ W F _ _ Y _ _ _ _ _ ISE

_ _ LL GENE _ _ _ _ NS. Psalm 79:13, NKJV

Answer: C (See 1 Kings 21:1-16,)

FAMILY FEAST



Serve protein-packed waffles for a family breakfast on FATHER'S DAY or any special occasion.

What you need:

- Adult help
- Waffle maker
- Blender
- 1 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 6 eggs
- Cooking spray
- Diced strawberries
- Powdered sugar



What you do:

1. With adult help, preheat the waffle maker.
2. In the blender, add oats and cottage cheese. Crack eggs in a separate bowl, then add to the blender. Pulse to combine the mixture. Then blend on medium speed for 10 seconds.
3. Coat the waffle maker with cooking spray. Spoon about 1/3 cup batter onto the iron and close.
4. Carefully remove the waffle when it's golden brown. Repeat with remaining batter.
5. Top with strawberries and powdered sugar. Makes about 6 waffles.



Our Father's arms

As a young boy, J. Ellsworth Kalas had to visit the Mayo Clinic for tests. His parents, knowing their son was safe in the hospital overnight, slept at a nearby hotel. But Kalas was so lonely and scared that a nurse called his folks. Kalas, who later became a pastor, recalled what it was like to have his father arrive.

"I remember his dressing me there in the darkness," he said. "Then I remember getting on a streetcar, sitting way at the back as we rode to the hotel. He held me very close to him, his long, ungainly arm wrapped around me. And the little boy who had been so frightened was now at peace."

We all face trials that can seem overwhelming. "How good, then, to draw deeply on the resources of God!" Kalas said. "In him there is a peace which is greater than the trouble. How good, indeed, to burrow into a place of security, and to feel an arm wrapping strong about us and to know that it is the arm of our heavenly Father."

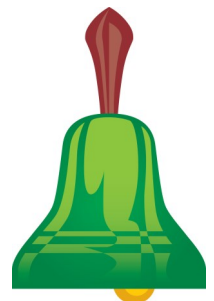
SUNDAY MORNING ASSISTANTS

	LITURGIST	READER
06/02/24	Wes Ranard	Sue Ranard
06/09/24	Vicky Bennett	Vicky Bennett
06/16/24	Devon Wolf	Devon Wolf
06/23/24	Staci Arnold	Staci Arnold
06/30/24	Ange Sevenbergen	Ange Sevenbergen
	USHERS/GREETERS	ACOLYTES
06/02/24	Bill & Vicky Bennett	Runa or Eloise
06/09/24	Bill & Linda Bennett	Runa or Eloise
06/16/24	Rhonda & Dalton Wolf	Runa or Eloise
06/23/24	Wes & Sue Ranard	Runa or Eloise
06/30/24	Bill & Linda Bennett	Runa or Eloise

Any questions contact Linda Bennett
Phone 641-218-1547

Christian symbol

BELL — A bell symbolizes the call to worship, reflected in the ringing of bells in many churches to announce or open a service. A bell also symbolizes the proclamation of the Gospel to the world: hence, the ringing of church bells at the close of some services as worshipers depart to spread Christ's good news in their daily lives.





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Worship Times are as follows...

St. Andrew's
9:00am Worship and
Sunday school,
10:00 Fellowship.

Holy Trinity
10:30 am Worship
Fellowship @ Holy Trinity
11:30 am.

