

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
725 SW Buchanan Street  
Topeka, Kansas 66606-1426

*NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT # 838  
TOPEKA, KS*

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

# Trinity Tidings

## SEPTEMBER 2016

### **STAFF**

Rev. J. Mamy Ranaivoson

*Pastor*

[pr\\_mamy@topekatlc.org](mailto:pr_mamy@topekatlc.org)

Cindy McGinnis

*Administrative Assistant*

[office@topekatlc.org](mailto:office@topekatlc.org)

Laurie Jackson

*Music Director*

Marcy Carlson

*Custodian*

[marcyrtpr@gmail.com](mailto:marcyrtpr@gmail.com)

### **OFFICE**

Trinity Hall, 725 SW Buchanan St.

Office Hours: 10:00AM-3:30PM Mon.-Fri.

Telephone: (785) 233-0767

### **WORSHIP SERVICE**

Sundays, 10:30 AM liturgical service of Holy Communion celebrated every Sunday

### **BIBLE STUDY**

9:15 AM Sundays in Trinity Hall Lounge

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Trinity Hall-725 SW Buchanan Street

9:00-10:15 AM (September-May)

Ages 3 through Adult

***The mission of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is to:***

- *worship God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,*
- *serve those in need, and*
- *reach out to share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ!*

**T**ogether in Community

**L**iving with Christ

**C**aring for Neighbors

# SEPTEMBER 2016

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY                                       | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY      | FRIDAY | SATURDAY  |
|---|--|--|--|---------------|--------|---|
| <b>EVERY SUNDAY:</b><br>9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>9:15 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>& CONFIRMATION CLASS<br>10:30 AM WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION |  |  |  |               |        |   |
| 4   | 5  | 6<br>9 am Quilters                             | 7<br>6:00 pm W&M meeting                                   | 8             | 9      | 10  |
| 5:30-8:30 pm Youth Group<br>7:30 pm Community Garden Work Meeting   | 5 pm Women's AA                              | 12:00 pm Area 6 Minister's meeting in Archison | 5:30 pm Women's AA   | 6 pm Men's AA |        |   |
| 11<br><b>Rally Day</b><br>Blood Pressure Checks after Worship   | 12   | 13<br>9 am Quilters                            | 14   | 15            | 16     | 17  |
| 7:30 pm Community Garden Work Meeting   | 5 pm Women's AA                              | 5:30 pm Council                                | 5:30 pm Women's AA   | 6 pm Men's AA |        |   |
| 18  | 19   | 20<br>9 am Quilters                            | 21   | 22            | 23     | 24  |
| 5:30-8:30 pm Youth Group<br>7:30 pm Community Garden Work Meeting   | 5 pm Women's AA                              | <b>October Trinity Tidings deadline</b>        | 1:30 pm Priscilla Circle Bible Study<br>5:30 pm Women's AA | 6 pm Men's AA |        | 9 am Sunflower Cluster Women of ELCA Annual Meeting, 1st Luth. Church |
| 25  | 26<br>9 am Senior Breakfast @ Cracker Barrel | 27<br>9 am Quilters                            | 28   | 29            | 30     |   |
| 7:30 pm Community Garden Work Meeting   | 5 pm Women's AA                              |  | 5:30 pm Women's AA   | 6 pm Men's AA |        |   |



PR. MAMY RANAIVOSON

Dear Trinity members,

I had the opportunity to be one of the voting delegates of the Central States Synod attending the **ELCA Churchwide Assembly** in Louisiana last month. I was so thankful to be part of this great Assembly as it is the primary decision-making body of the church. Before every vote on an issue, we prayed for the Holy Spirit to guide us. The daily worship services were enlightening and moving. The preachers were marvelous. Holy Communion was served every day and I was part of the worship service and giving out the bread at one of the services.

Somehow, I run into many familiar faces in members of the ELCA and people from abroad like Papua New Guinea or Africa and even a young man from my homeland of Madagascar and many fellow former missionaries. ELCA is really a global church.

By now, I hope you have received the newly compiled document titled, **“Called Forward Together in Christ for the sake of the world.”** This document is going to be the

priority of all the Congregations in the ELCA within their own context. The three expressions of the church as the Congregations, the Synods and the Churchwide organization will have to answer the question of **“Who are we? Who is God calling us to be? And what should be our top THREE priorities for the next five years?”**

There is sufficient information about the church’s history and background in this document. I found it very helpful in dealing with our particular situation. We have to determine our assets, our challenges and our opportunities. We need to respond to today’s context. We need to expand our views because the cultural and religious landscape in America and around the world has changed.

Finally, we need to prioritize our efforts as we cannot do and be everything. We need to make some strategic choices so we can concentrate our efforts and steward our human and financial resources in the right direction. We are clear that our congregation must grow and we need to have the mindset of maintaining that commitment to GROW in whatever we do. We need to think outside of the box and to act **CREATIVELY**. Let’s start doing something and see where God is leading us.

Peace,

Pr. J. Mamy Ranaivoson

**SPECIAL ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

- ◆ Rally Day is September 11. This is the day we kick off the new Sunday School year for kids. After worship, there will be an indoor picnic hosted by the Learning Committee. See page 6 for more details.
- ◆ So what is Quartermania? We will be giving it a try as a fund-raiser starting in October. See the Council Highlights on page 4 and an explanation of the event on page 5.
- ◆ The Task Force is asking for your input. See the note on page 11 and the survey on page 12.



725 SW Buchanan St.  
Phone: 785-233-0767  
E-mail: [office@topekatl.org](mailto:office@topekatl.org)



## SEPTEMBER 2016 WORSHIP LEADERS

| Worship Assistants    |                              |                 |   |   |                  |               |                              |   |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Date                  | Greeter(s)                   | Usher(s)        | Organist;<br>Choir<br>Director;<br>Keyboard | Flowers                                       | Acolyte          | Lector        | Altar Guild                  | Coffee<br>Host(s)                                     | Assisting<br>Minister | Presiding<br>Minister |
| September 4,<br>2016  | Susan Fitz                   | Howard<br>Reece | Laurie<br>Jackson                           |   | Jake Kennedy     | Linda Longren | Marilyn<br>Hypse &<br>Team 3 | Linda<br>Longren                                      |                       | Pr. Mamy              |
| September 11,<br>2016 | Donna Allen                  | Howard<br>Reece | Laurie<br>Jackson                           |   | Marcy<br>Carlson | Ted Murphy    | Marilyn<br>Hypse &<br>Team 3 | Rally Day   | Marsha<br>Ridinger    | Pr. Mamy              |
| September 18,<br>2016 | Ted Quast                    | Howard<br>Reece | Mitchell<br>Bean                            | Marilyn<br>Heckman (1)<br>Carol Marker<br>(1) | Bronwyn King     | Loni Reece    | Marilyn<br>Hypse &<br>Team 3 | Bob &<br>Janeen<br>Horton and<br>Curt & Jane<br>Lewis | Bob Horton            | Pr. Mamy              |
| September 25,<br>2016 | Duane &<br>Debbie<br>Pomeroy | Howard<br>Reece | Laurie<br>Jackson                           | Dr. Ann Reyes                                 | Zane<br>Kennedy  | Ted Quast     | Marilyn<br>Hypse &<br>Team 3 | Walt &<br>Helen<br>Laughlin                           | Vickie<br>Jacobs      | Pr. Mamy              |

BLOOD PRESSURE  
CHECKS  
**SEPTEMBER 11, 2016**



**REGULAR BLOOD  
PRESSURE CHECKS ARE  
GOOD FOR YOU!**  
Come to the kitchen after  
worship to have this  
important health check.

### General Information

#### OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open Monday thru Friday, **10:00 am to 3:30 pm.**

To be removed from the mailing list, please call 785-233-0767 or email [office@topekatic.org](mailto:office@topekatic.org).

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

**To share a prayer request** please contact Barbara Apps at 234-5130. She will contact Pr. Mamy and get the prayer chain started. If you want your prayer request included in our worship service prayers, please let Barbara know that as well.

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

Each vase is \$25. Please note “flowers” on your check and put it in the offering plate. Should you have questions or concerns, please contact Cindy in the church office, 233-0767.

After worship, you may take live flowers only home or to a friend. Please let Cindy know

- 1) if you will not be picking up your flowers after worship but sometime during the week or
- 2) if you do not want the flowers and prefer we donate them for you.

## SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### Birthdays

- 3 Moji Hassan
- 3 Ellen Irwin
- 3 Jack Wyatt
- 3 David Ralph
- 4 Michael McGinnis
- 6 Bob Horton
- 7 Laurie Jackson
- 12 Eleanor Jewell
- 14 Janice Greenlee
- 16 Elania King
- 18 Diane Bottorff
- 20 Roy O'Neil
- 21 Nathalie Kerr
- 23 Adam Heald
- 25 Jo Ann Howley
- 27 Dorothy Strom
- 28 Sarah Chelson-Ginter
- 29 Bill Walker
- 30 Dean McGinnis
- 30 Ethan Roesch

### Baptisms

- 1 Tony Ibrahim
- 1 Parker Jackson
- 2 Don Longren
- 4 Charlotte Blenden
- 6 Al Carpenter
- 7 Vickie Jacobs
- 7 Hudson Ralph
- 15 Mary McGinnis
- 16 Jake Kennedy
- 16 Zane Kennedy
- 16 Katelin Cain
- 17 Sandy Grubb
- 19 Brian McGinnis
- 19 Kasey Hiltgen
- 21 Whitney Gentry
- 22 Audrey Horton
- 23 Adam Heald
- 23 Janelle Meredith
- 26 Sherryl Coufal
- 28 Andy Winsor

### Wedding Anniversaries

- 9 Larry & Mary McGinnis
- 24 Junior & Liz Utech

## SEPTEMBER READINGS

*September 4 — Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost*

- Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- Psalm 1
- Philemon 1-21
- Luke 14:25-33

*September 11 — Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost*

- Exodus 32:7-14
- Psalm 51:1-10
- 1st Timothy 1:12-17
- Luke 15:1-10

*September 18 — Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost*

- Amos 8:4-7
- Psalm 113
- 1st Timothy 2:1-7
- Luke 16:1-13

*September 25 — Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost*

- Amos 6:1a, 4-7
- Psalm 146
- 1st Timothy 6:6-19
- Luke 16:19-31



ADULT BIBLE STUDY MEETS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:15 AM.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Sandy Grubb  
1135 NE Chester  
Topeka, KS 66616-1358

Cara Grubb

Brian McGinnis  
2009 McAlister  
Topeka, KS 66604-3431

Emily McGinnis  
2277 SW Romar Rd.  
Topeka, KS 66614-6067

Please make this correction to your address books. Tom & Mary Heald live on NORTHWEST Green Hills Road, not Southwest as was printed in the July *Trinity Tidings*. My apologies!



Youth Group is scheduled to meet September 4 and September 18, 5:30-8:30 pm.

## COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, JULY 19, 2016

- Diane Bottorff reported that Rally Day will be Sept. 11 with an indoor picnic after worship.
- The church kitchen ceiling lights will be replaced with LED fixtures, using money from the Olivene Albrecht memorial funds.
- Dean McGinnis reported that the new Christmas trees and storage bags have arrived.
- Air conditioners in the lounge of Trinity Hall and the new hallway are not working.
- It was approved to have them repaired using money from the Lee Lundquist bequest.
- Linda Longren reminded everyone about Doorstep's Christmas in July project.
- The Task Force has scheduled a congregational meeting for July 31, immediately after worship.
- Baker Welcome Luncheon will be Aug. 18.

## COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, AUG. 9, 2016

- Marcy Carlson was in attendance and presented information about Quartermania, a possible fund-raising event. After discussion, a three month trial was authorized, starting in October. An oversight committee will be named. (For more info on Quartermania, see page 5.)
- Cindy McGinnis announced that we have received an another \$10,000 from our Pumpkin Fest benefactor.
- Rally Day is Sept. 11.
- Boiler inspection has been completed and passed.
- Hallway air conditioner has been repaired and TH lounge AC is being repaired now.
- The elevator has been repaired again.
- It was decided that an AED unit is not feasible for use in our church.
- A suggested blessing box/little library box was determined to not be workable in our area.

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## LFACT EVENT SEPTEMBER 16

**DAVE ANDERSON and ROGER WALCK** will present a musical concert at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3625 SW Wanamaker Rd., on Friday evening, **September 16th, 7:00 p.m.** Dave and Roger's music is a blend of contemporary, gospel, hymns and lots of old-time Sunday School songs. The audience will also be invited to sing along. Dave, from Arizona, compiled "The Other Song Book" and "The Best of The Best". Dave and his wife Barbara, have trav-

eled world wide in their concert ministry. Roger, from California, is a skilled vocalist and guitarist and teacher. A free will offering will go towards Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, a specialized counseling ministry for wounded professional church workers and their spouses, which Dave, Roger and Barbara are currently involved with. This event is sponsored by Prince of Peace and Lutheran Fine Arts Council of Topeka. Reception to follow concert.

## WHAT IS QUARTERMANIA?

Here's how it works:

People purchase paddles (1st paddle is \$5.00/ or 3 paddles for \$10.00 & then \$2.00 for each additional paddle). Each paddle is numbered & has a corresponding marker with the same number. As the paddles are purchased, the marker is placed in the jar. No one has to bid on anything, nor do they have to bid with all of their paddles, when they do bid. For instance, I buy 3 paddles. An item comes up for bid at 2 quarters. If I choose to put 4 quarters in the cup on the table, I decide which of the 2 paddles I want to use.

It's a fun, light hearted way for vendors to sell product.

Vendors offer so much of their product for either 1 or 2 quarters.

Each vendor gives a brief introduction of the product they're offering.

The vendor will announce whether it's a 1 or 2 quarter bid (1 quarter bid = product value up to \$25.00, 2quarter bid= value over \$25.00).

Once the Vendor announces how many quarters the bid is, everyone who wants to, puts their quarters in the cup in the center of the table and holds up the paddles they're bidding with.

The Vendor draws a number. If the number drawn is one on your paddle, you have just won and the product. It's that simple.

The Vendors volunteer and take turns picking up the quarters quickly. The quarters go to the Vendor with the product just offered. (That's how they cover the cost of the product.) Vendors also keep a watchful eye of who's bidding how many quarters compared to paddles put into play. Everyone's pretty honest.

We play 2 rounds with a break after round 1 ends & all the vendors have done their presentations.

During the break, the concession stand is usually busy and people have about 15 to 20 minutes to shop with the vendors.

Just before round 2 starts, (if Councils approves) we draw the winning number on split the pot. Those tickets are \$1.00 each/ 6 for \$5.00/ 12 for \$10.00. Split the pot is just that. All the money taken in is counted. Trinity keeps 50% of what's collected & the winner gets the other 50%. Those pots usually total around \$200.

Marcy Carlson

## THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Jerry Chelson and Ed Bozarth Chevrolet for a \$500 check we received from the dealership in honor of their 50th anniversary! They celebrated with a charity giveaway and Jerry Chelson submitted our name as a potential recipient.

## WELCA NEWS

A new study begins for the fall months, titled "When God Forgives the Guilty". In September the lesson will be on "Jonah, and the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day". The study was written by The Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, a full-time Ph.D. student and Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of Fort Collins Co. We are looking forward to all of the studies for the next months. We'll meet September 21, 1:30 p.m. around the table in the library. This is your invitation! Welcome!

Also, we look forward the area Cluster meeting to be held at First Lutheran Topeka the last of September. Specifics will be appear in the Sunday bulletin when received.

Please see page 9 for an invitation to attend the 2016 Sunflower Cluster Women of the ELCA Annual Meeting on September 24. Registration begins at 9:00 am.



Have you designated your portion of the Dillons Community Rewards money to go to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church?



If you are a Thrivent member, have you designated Trinity to receive your Choice Dollars?

## BAKER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING NEWS

Thanks to all who helped welcome 44 new Baker University School of Nursing students at lunch on August 18. Your salads, desserts, and help in the kitchen contributed to the success of this event! Next Welcome Luncheon will be January 12.

The first Trinity Treat Day for the fall semester will be Monday, Sept. 26. Students enjoy baked goods, chips, pretzels, fruit, granola/cereal bars, anything chocolate! They pick up a treat during a class break. Bring three dozen of the item of your choice to the church kitchen on Sunday, September 25.



And don't forget to shop amazonsmile when you shop online!

Call Cindy in the office if you need help getting signed up for any of these!

# Rally Day Sunday, September 11

Sunday School for children resumes.

**THIS IS THE KICK-OFF OF SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR AGES 3 THROUGH GRADE 6. IT ALL BEGINS WITH BREAKFAST CLUB AT 9AM.**

**CONFIRMATION CLASS FOR ANYONE GRADE 7 OR ABOVE WILL MEET AT 9:15AM IN THE TRINITY HALL LIBRARY; THE ADULT CLASS WILL MEET IN THE TRINITY HALL LOUNGE. AFTER WORSHIP THERE WILL BE AN INDOOR PICNIC IN FELLOWSHIP HALL. THE LEARNING COMMITTEE IS SPONSORING THE PICNIC AND WILL PROVIDE CHICKEN (FRIED AND BAKED), DRINKS, AND TABLE SERVICE. WE ASK THAT YOU BRING A SIDE DISH OR TWO, SALAD OR DESSERT AND JOIN US FOR FOOD AND CONVERSATION.**

## PENTECOST PROJECT

Did you know there was a website titled "Finish Your Dissertation? People log on to the website from all over the world. It's for people working toward becoming a Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry or Education or whatever.

For those who determine to embark on this long journey, it means, usually, having attained a Master's degree. Then they put in at least three years of study in classes or research in a scientific laboratory or gathering statistics - all to enrich the world's body of knowledge in their chosen field. At the end, they are not yet finished. They must write a lengthy paper summarizing their findings - their doctoral thesis or dissertation - which will then be published for all the world to see. But here's the rub. Of all those people who complete all the hours - months - years of study, less than 50 percent finish that dissertation - and the findings that would have been published are lost to the world! Hence that website: "Finish Your Dissertation," designed to jump start them and coach them into getting it written.

A Trinity, we ask, "How are you coming on the Pentecost Project?" We hear, "It's in my head;" or "I know what I want to say, I just haven't put it on paper yet;" or "I've written it. I just haven't sent it yet."

Well, we're here to help you finish it (or START it). If you can't get the words down, we'll help you organize your thoughts. If you don't have a computer, write it - in pencil or pen or paintbrush. We've received several handwritten submissions and they're beautiful.

So, finish YOUR dissertation - uh - Pentecost Project. Time is flying! The deadline for submissions is September 25th. Don't let YOUR work go unpublished!

Please submit  
FOR PUBLICATION:  
HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS WORKED THROUGH YOU  
IN YOUR LIFE.

**Deadline: September 25, 2016**  
(2 weeks after Rally Day)

Please submit:

1. your narrative, poem, haiku, artwork, transcript, audio file, etc...
2. Please include your name and contact information (not for publication)
3. a one sentence prayer or scripture reference
4. email your submission (or drop off at Trinity office) to: JACKSONLK@aol.com
5. Questions? Need ideas? Need help getting it ready? We're here to help. Call us or a member of the Pentecost Project Task Force will be calling on you.

JULIE REEVES JLREV@aol.com  
PR. WALT LAUGHLIN WLHL@NETWORKSPLUS.NET  
LAURIE JACKSON JACKSONLK@aol.com

There is no limit on submissions. (Publication of submissions subject to editorial board review.) ALL Trinity members guaranteed publication of one submission. Submissions limited to: 250 words or less, one page of artwork (color will be dependent on available funding). Children are included and encouraged to contribute. EVERY Trinity member will be included in publication.

**SHARE THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
IN YOUR LIFE!**

JOY LOVE GOODNESS  
GENTLENESS KINDNESS FAITHFULNESS PATIENCE FORBEARANCE PEACE GALATIANS 5:22

**SHARE YOUR  
GIFTS OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT!**



## NEWS IN THE CONGREGATION

Betty Quarnstrom is currently at Brewster Place Rehab, room 302. She is there after a fall on Aug. 9 which resulted in a broken ankle and surgery.

Marsha Chelson is now at Presbyterian Manor PATH unit, room 16. She is recuperating from a fall and hip replacement.

Louise Kidd, a life-long member of Trinity, died on August 17, 2016. She had been living in Oklahoma for the past several years to be closer to family. Her funeral was here at Trinity on August 22.



## DOORSTEP NEWS SEPTEMBER 2016

It is hard to believe that summer is nearly over, and the kids have gone back to school! We have been busy at Doorstep helping clients, making improvements to our building and changing our clothing room procedures.

In August, we closed our clothing room and began working on a preventative procedure for bed bugs. We did not and do not have a bed bug problem. It is cheaper and easier to work on a preventative schedule than to wait for an infestation to occur. Our wonderful volunteers cleaned out the clothing room, keeping only the best items, and passed the remaining items on to the Rescue Mission. All of the remaining items had to be dried at a laundromat to remove any possible bed bugs or eggs. The clothing room has been treated, and dryers will be installed. All donations will now be put through dryers before being sorted in the clothing room. As you know, we cannot control the donations we receive, and this will be safer for clients, volunteers and staff. It has been a huge undertaking, but also a chance to give our clothing room a good cleaning. None of this was pos-

sible without the help of our dedicated volunteers!!! We will start taking donations again on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Please be patient with us during this time as this is a work in progress.

The building painting is coming along great! The south side is done, and the west side is half way done! The new signs are almost ready, and will go up as the painting is complete!

Please keep our Christmas Store in mind as you see school supplies and backpacks go on clearance! Each school aged child adopted receives new school supplies to start the second half of the school year.

Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, is the Nancy Perry United Way Day of Caring. We will have volunteers here to help put hygiene kits together. If you can donate soap, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, razors and shaving cream before the 16<sup>th</sup> we would greatly appreciate it!

Doorstep is open for donations Monday – Friday from 8am – 3pm.

# Faith Moves Mountains

**Women of the ELCA**  
**Sunflower Cluster Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, September 24, 2016**  
**First Lutheran Church**  
1234 SW Fairlawn Road , Topeka, KS  
(785) 272-5302

**Cost:** \$8.00 (at the door) which includes the registration fee and lunch.

Correct change is appreciated.

**RSVP:** To Carolyn Olson by September 18th at 272-6428.

or [colson3958@yahoo.com](mailto:colson3958@yahoo.com).

## **Speakers:**

**Kelly Stephens or Jill Shehi-Chapman, LifeHouse Child Advocacy Center**

LifeHouse is a nationally accredited Child Advocacy Center located in Topeka, Kansas and is a community based, not-for-profit agency designed to meet the unique needs of children.

**Bring a tangible offering for LifeHouse Child Advocacy Center.**

**Needed items include:** Juice boxes/Capri Sun/Bottled water

Child-friendly snacks: Fruit Snacks, Fruit Roll Ups, Individual Cookie Packs, Crackers, Goldfish, etc.

Small packs of crayons/miniature bottles of fingernail polish/stickers/hot wheels cars

**Lisa Youngquist, Central States Synod WELCA President (Invited)**

She will update us on the projects and happening in the Central States and the upcoming Tenth Triennial Women's Gathering.

Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA** 



## ELCA Churchwide Assembly

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly took place in New Orleans, LA August 7 through 14, 2016. We had 945 voting members present and here are the highlights of the decisions:

- Elected William B. Horne II of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Clearwater, Fla., vice president of the ELCA. He is the first African American to be the Vice President of the ELCA.
- Accepted the "Declaration on the Way," a unique ecumenical document that marks a path toward greater unity between Catholics and Lutherans.
- Approved AMMPARO – the ELCA's strategy to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.
- Approved the Ministry of Word and Service roster. Beginning Jan. 1, 2017, ELCA associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers will be a single, unified roster of Ministry of Word and Service. They will be known as "deacons."
- Approved the 2017-2019 budget proposal. The budget includes a 2017 current fund spending authorization of \$65,296,005 and a 2017 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$24.8 million; a 2018 current fund income proposal of \$64,057,220 and a 2018 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$25 million; a 2019 current fund income proposal of \$64,151,175 and a 2019 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$25 million; and authorizes the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.
- Approved various memorials – or proposals – from the ELCA's 65 synods. In addition to memorials considered "en bloc," the assembly separately approved the following: deepening relationships with historic black churches; toward a responsible energy future; repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery; peace with justice in the Holy Land; justice for the Holy Land through responsible investment; African Descent Lutherans; call to discernment on U.S. foreign and military policy; welcoming refugees; and supporting military personnel, veterans and their families.



## TLC Task Force Update

### WE NEED YOUR OPINION

**Congregation Participant Short Survey** – Please see other side of this page! We are asking for your input, this survey is designed to help us better understand your perception of Trinity's Missional Areas.

**Where did we get this survey?** Congregational Vitality Project, ELCA is found at the web address <http://www.congregationalvitalitysurvey.com>; take a look!

**Why should I participate?** Your opinion does matter; the more responses we receive back will help us identify our strengths and weaknesses better. This survey is not the only tool we will use.

**Do I have to be a member or attend regularly to complete this survey?** NO, everyone regardless of age or relationship, who has or had a memory of Trinity is encouraged to participate (good, bad or indifferent). Even if you live out of state and you are or have been a member. If you have visited Trinity, worshiped with us, or have been involved with one or more of Trinity's missions even if it was just once, **ALL opinions are very important** to us.

**What are we going to do with the information?** The survey will be collected and tabulated to help us determine the Missional Vitality of Trinity. This is a proven tool and will give us some vital information. The information collected will be confidential; there is some demographic information at the bottom of the survey that is optional; **you do not have to fill it all or any part in** if you do not want to. Results of the survey will be distributed and shared with you in future communications. **What does this survey mean and how will it help Trinity? Check out the web site:**

<http://www.congregationalvitalitysurvey.com/About>

**Thank You for your help as we try our best to keep Trinity viable as we move toward our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

Task Force committee members are Curt Lewis, Bob Kobbeman, Bob Horton, LaVell Winsor, Dean McGinnis and Pastor Mamy Ranaivoson. Since our first meeting we have been brainstorming, identifying what our strengths are and ways that we can remain financially viable and able to keep our mission at Trinity vital and give us all a sense of belonging.

**Please return the survey to the church as soon as you can we plan to have some results by the end of October 2016.**

**Your envelope and stamp is appreciated or you can drop it off in the box at Trinity Hall or in the narthex.**

## CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY PROJECT



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

### Congregation Participant Short Survey

This short survey is designed to help congregational leaders understand participant perceptions of key missional areas. Please mark inside the box that best represents your perception of the congregation. *Please do not mark between boxes. (e.g. Marking 1,2,3,4, or 5 is okay. Marking between 3 and 4 or 3.5 is not okay)*

|   | Poorly        |   | Some-what |   | Great     |
|---|---------------|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| How well do these phrases describe your congregation? | 1             | 2 | 3         | 4 | 5         |
| <i>Example</i>  |               |   | X         |   |           |
| Worship nurtures people's faith                       |               |   |           |   |           |
| Deepens people's relationship with God                |               |   |           |   |           |
| A clear sense mission                                 |               |   |           |   |           |
| Excitement about the congregation's future            |               |   |           |   |           |
| Always ready to try something new                     |               |   |           |   |           |
| A positive force in the community                     |               |   |           |   |           |
| Works for social justice/advocacy                     |               |   |           |   |           |
| How well does your congregation...                    | Hardly at all |   | Well      |   | Very Well |
| Incorporate new members into congregational life      |               |   |           |   |           |
| Seek out and use the gifts of members of all ages     |               |   |           |   |           |
| Build strong, healthy relationships among members     |               |   |           |   |           |
| Manage disagreements in a healthy respectful manner   |               |   |           |   |           |
| Address social concerns (helping those in need)       |               |   |           |   |           |
| Equip members to share their faith with others        |               |   |           |   |           |
| Interact with the local community                     |               |   |           |   |           |
| Help members live out their faith in daily lives      |               |   |           |   |           |

**Demographic Information:** *Tell us about yourself.*

**Your role in the congregation:**  Active participant  Lay leader  Rostered leader called here  Visitor

**Your age:**  under 18  18-24  25-34  35-44  45-54  55-64  65-74  75+

**Your ethnicity:**  White/Caucasian  African American  African National  Amer. Indian/Alaska Native  
 Asian  Latino/Hispanic  Arab/Middle Eastern  Multiracial  Other

After collecting the completed surveys, the congregation's survey administrator can then enter the information at [www.congregationalvitalitysurvey.com](http://www.congregationalvitalitysurvey.com). Results of this survey will be presented as a PDF report which may be used to complete the new congregational life items on the Annual (parochial) report.