

The Trinity Trumpet September 2017

Trinity Lutheran Church
100 West Cherry St.
Fairbury, IL 61739

Sunday School 9:00am
Worship 10:00am

What is important
to the People of Trinity,
as discovered through
the LIFT process:

fostering active involvement

offering unconditional support

willingness to invest ourselves

being/becoming excited about our faith

making people feel welcome and accepted

Contact Information

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815-848-5884 (pastor's cell)

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email: FairburyTLC@gmail.com (note address change)

website: www.FairburyTLC.com

Trinity Council

Heather Masters, Vice-President

Acting President

Tess Popejoy, Secretary

Debbie Brandt, Treasurer

Pastor Tom Krieger

Gail Huling

Jimmy Vinson

Carl Tull

Liz Freeland

Katie Ricketts

Andrew Quain

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September 2017

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3 10am Worship NOTE TIME CHANGE!!	4	5 4pm Fairview Haven	6 9am weekly devotions	7 5 Addiction Recovery	8	9
10 9am Sunday School 6 th & up to food pantry 10am Worship	11 9am Sewing	12 6pm Garden Club	13 9am weekly devotions 7pm Council meeting	14 5 Addiction Recovery 7 WELCA Gen Mtg H: Susie Kukock & Dee Winterland LL: Aldora Hextell	15	16
17 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11am Congr. Meeting 4-6 Confirmation	18 9am Sewing	19	20 9am weekly devotions	21 5 Addiction Recovery	22	23
24 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	25 9am Sewing 7pm Community Welfare Clearing House @ TLC	26	27 9am weekly devotions	28 5 Addiction Recovery	29	30

September 17, 2017 yes/no congregational vote by ballot
Motion: The pastor may preside at weddings of people who are LGBTQ.

What follows are opinions on this motion, offered by some TLC Council members...

Liz Freeland

I think that if we say all are welcomed, then they should be. We are not asking the members to be part of the wedding, just asking that they can open their hearts to allow the others the same respect and let them be married by pastor, if that is their choice.

Jimmy Vinson

My answer to this is that I don't agree with it. I believe marriage is between man and woman. For that reason, I am choosing to remain impartial. If the majority wants to ask for acceptance, so be it. I want nothing to do with it.

Heather Masters

Not all of these are my own words. Here are some of the thoughts that come to my mind when reflecting on whether LGBTQ partners should be allowed to marry in our church:

- Keep an open mind and open heart.
- The Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
- Love God above all else and one's neighbor as one's self.
- We are all mortal sinners. Who are we to judge?
- ALL are one in Christ.
- Many LGBTQ people sincerely desire the support of other Christians for living faithfully in all aspects of their lives.
- What is our responsibility to ALL children of God?
- Imagine that you raised your child in the church. Our church, TLC. You remember the day that they were baptized. You remember their active participation in LYO and service projects. You remember their confirmation. You and other members of the congregation have shared communion regularly. The child grows older and has found a special someone that they want to share the rest of their life with. The only "issue": She brings home a girl instead of a boy. He has found his soul mate in another man. Does this relationship negate the life-long commitment to Christ that you have nurtured? Is the grown child still welcome at church with open arms and open hearts? Are they still baptized--yes. Are they still confirmed--yes. Are they still welcome to worship and commune with the congregation--yes. Nothing has changed in their lives other than announcing their sexual preference. If they would have brought home an opposite-sex partner, could they have married at TLC? Yes, and it wouldn't have mattered so much if they were a good match, monogamously committed, or even if they divorced 3 months later. The relationship likely would have been blessed with a marriage in the church as many people like to skim over some of the concerns or fail to discuss contentious topics. With a same-sex/gender partner, marriage cannot currently be given at TLC. It does not matter if the couple stays together for 20 years and are loving, life-long committed partners. Our current stand

condemns their relationship as ineligible, subpar, not deserving of the blessing of their marriage due to the choice in their partner. No one likes to think that they aren't quite good enough. Why would someone who is LGBTQ want to stay in our congregation when they will never be afforded the same blessings as everyone else? Do we really want to drive people away or are ALL really welcome?

I'll admit. I'm biased. One of my best friends since 7th grade came out as gay after we graduated. Was I surprised? Yes. Was he scared to tell me? Yes. Did I love him any less? No. Do I still want the best for him in every aspect of his life? Yes. He and his husband have been together for more than a decade. Actually, longer than my husband and I! They were married in their church after same sex marriages were legalized in Maryland. He serves as treasurer and music director for his congregation. His husband serves in any role or duty needed. They are active participants: they contribute, they serve, they support their brothers and sisters in Christ. They are also accepted, welcomed, and loved--they have found a home and family to worship with. Shouldn't we all be so lucky!

Carl Tull

This is a younger person's perspective and opinion. Older people in our congregation were raised with a different perspective and belief, whether right or wrong, and may not agree. Either way, the vote is going to severely impact our church and attendance/money will be affected.

Katie Ricketts

It is with an open heart that I, a member of the council of Trinity Lutheran Church, ask our valued members to show God's love to all of God's people. In doing this, even persons who identify as LGBTQ would have the same opportunities to have Pastor officiate and perform their marriage ceremonies.

Andrew Quain

I am not one to quote scripture and do not plan on doing that here. One can find Bible passages to fit either side of this argument. History has shown us that the interpretation of the Bible can change from generation to generation. To me it comes down to one simple question that I ask myself and I ask you the same: If one of my daughters were LGBTQ, would they be accepted by this church? The answer today is no.

In 1991, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America proclaimed that "gay and lesbian people, as individuals created by God, are welcome to participate fully in the life of the congregations of the ELCA." Twenty-six years later it is time that we followed suit on this matter and open our doors and services to all God's children.

At a time when people in this world are trying to divide people, my hope is that church can be a place to bring people together. Of my 33 years of ELCA membership, I have been led to believe that being Christian meant that the door is always open to anyone.

May these opinions be of value to you now, and as we gather on September 17.

Pastor Tom's opinion may be found at www.FairburyTLC.com Same-Gender/LGBTQ tab.

Seven score and twelve years ago our fathers brought to an end our nation's civil war, and for the Union's part: dedicated to the proposition that all people are created equal, whether their blood descent was European or African. And a mourning nation was relieved the fight was over.

Three score and twelve years ago our fathers and mothers brought to an end the second great world war, and for the Allies' part: dedicated to the proposition that all people are created equal. The Nazi's Third Reich had dedicated themselves instead to "**BLUT UND BODEN,**" the proposition that only blood descent rules the land, and as a result murdered over six million people because their blood descent was Jewish. And a heart-broken world was relieved that the fight was over.

Two score and thirteen years ago our fathers and mothers brought to an end the legal injustice based upon the proposition that all people are not created equal, when the Civil Rights Act outlawed discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, and national origin. And the nation believed the fight was over.

Two score ago next year our fathers and mothers realized they had forgotten those whose blood and soil had preceded ours, and only then were Native Americans granted the legal right to practice their own religion. And the first nations were relieved that the freedom to worship was theirs again.

Three years ago our fathers and mothers in Illinois passed into law the right to marry for same-gender persons, and the U.S. Supreme Court followed suit **two years ago**, dedicated to the proposition that all people are created equal.

This August the horrifying Nazi chant "**BLOOD AND SOIL**" called out again, this time from Charlottesville, Virginia, sadly upon the voice of Americans. The fight is never over for those dedicated to the proposition that all people are created equal, because there will always be those who do not believe we are.

"So God created humankind in God's own image, in the image of God, God created them; male and female God created them." Did our fathers who penned this, no less the God who did this, create them any less than equal? When God's incarnation, Jesus, died on the cross, was it for some people or all?

President Abraham Lincoln shared this excerpt on Gettysburg's bloodied soil, "**Four score and seven years ago** our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure...

It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us...."

There is a proposition, a truth, that we are created equal. TLC will give vote to that September 17 when deciding whether or not the pastor can preside at weddings of all people. Immanuel will soon start that discussion, and on another front, has just given thought to it as it relates to who may receive God's grace in our Lord's Supper.

It is not blood and soil that we stand by, but by the blood of the Lamb.

Change in worship time coming in September

During the Agreement with Immanuel Lutheran Church, Colfax, we will annually trade Sunday morning schedules. **Beginning in September, TLC will gather for worship at 10:00 a.m.** Once Sunday School begins, it will precede worship the hour before.

Congregational Meeting following worship Sunday, September 17

TLC Council voted to hold a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, September 17 for the purpose of discussion and a vote on whether or not to allow the pastor to preside at same-gender weddings. Supportive resources can also be found on the Same-Gender/LGBTQ tab on our website: FairburyTLC.com

The time leading up to and including September 17 allows TLC the opportunity to speak and listen to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, or to attack other's personal positions at the cost of our relationship as a people of God. May our discussion and prayer honor both our God and our neighbor.

TLC Council includes president Heather Masters, Carl Tull, secretary Tess Popejoy, Liz Freeland, Gail Huling, Katie Ricketts, Jimmy Vinson, vice-president Andrew Quain, and Pastor Tom.

Financial Stewardship Review

\$10,235/mo. needed for Jan-June budget

January	9,944.
February	6,050.
March	10,492.
April	10,081.
May	5,396.
June	6,495.

\$7,358/mo. needed for July-Dec budget

July	7,195
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7-31-2017 ASSET BALANCES

Checkbook	348. ⁹¹
Building Fund	275. ³⁶
Memorial Fund	129. ⁸⁶
Sunday School Fund	102. ²¹
LYO	1,348. ³¹
WELCA	2,307. ²¹
Kiper stock value	100. ¹⁷

July 2017 TREASURER'S REPORT Summary

2017 weekly ministry needs \$ 1,698.⁰⁰
(ministry needs = budget)

July weekly offering ave \$ 1,439.⁰⁰

Jan-July ministry needs \$69,899.⁶⁶

Jan-July expenses \$68,051.⁴⁷

Jan-July offering **\$55,653.⁷⁵**

transferred \$11,035.⁰⁰

+ other = \$73,508.³⁹

2017 offering short of ministry needs

Jan-July \$14,245.⁹¹

2017 offering short of expenses

Jan-July **\$12,397.⁷²**

average per month \$ 1,771.¹⁰

average per week \$ 399.⁹³



September Birthdays

1st Debi Donze
Renea Calvert
Christina Bounds
2nd Randy Stephens
Jaidan Ballenger
6th Sadie Maurer
9th Tom Seegmiller
10th Megan Ruiz
12th Kaci White
13th Wayne Maurer
14th Dave Thomas
Tammy Johnson
15th Bryce Vinson
Collin Vinson
Aiden Tipton
16th Kathy Bunting
Katie Huling
17th Jeff Nagel
Addison Bounds
18th Taylor Tull
19th Darlene Bahler
Aubrey Thomas
Zachary Thomas
20th Denice Masters
21st Phyllis Eilers
Tyler Studebaker
22nd Austin Trease
Sebastian Trease
25th Carol Bryant
27th Herb Miller
Trey Bazzell
28th Jake Fellers
Virgil Hulse
JoAnn Holmes
Karen Steidinger
29th Rhonda McClellan
Becky Bounds
30th Dylan Bazzell

September Anniversaries

2nd Shane & Dawn Kestner
6th Eugene & Terri Miller
9th Matthew & Penny Dawson
11th Chuck & Debbie Friant
20th Mike & Connie White
Jon & Diane Zimmerman
21st Jim & Ruth Winterland
Scott & Traci Bachtold
25th Gerry & Debbie Brandt
Tim & Mandy Hogan
26th Isaiah & Brooke Stork

*Making people feel welcome and
accepted ~* **September Ushers**

3rd LYO
10th John & Ruth Luttrell, Louis &
Betty Retter
17th Dale & Shirley Lorange,
Chuck & Gail Huling
24th Wayne Hammer, J.C. Aberle,
Mike Maffett, Carl Tull

Offering unconditional support

September Greeters

3rd Shirley & Virgil Hulse
10th Jeff & Melissa Nagel
17th Wayne & Kay Hammer
24th Sue Deaton & Joy Zimmerman

Excited about our faith

Acolytes, †Bearers, Gospel Readers for September

3rd Caleb Decker
10th Gabby Nagel
17th Noah Nagel
24th Korinne Maquet

Willingness to invest ourselves

September Lay Readers

3rd Kay Hammer
10th Sue Deaton
17th Wayne Hammer
24th Emily Wilkey

Offering unconditional support

Sept. Communion Assistants

3rd Jeff Nagel
10th Vickie Thomas
17th Gabby Nagel
24th Jake Maquet

Willingness to invest ourselves

Communion Cleanup/September

Sue Deaton (all Sundays)

Excited about our faith

Mowing in September

Aug. 20-Sept. 2 Dave & Vickie Thomas
Sept. 3-16 Carl Tull
Sept. 17-30 Louis Retter

Active involvement

Sept. Financial Secretaries

Gail Huling & Carl Tull

Making people feel

welcome and accepted

September Happy Our

All dates open

Prayer Concerns

...for those receiving nursing home care, and their families and friends

Good Samaritan Home, Flanagan: Joey Harding

Fairview Haven, Fairbury: Louise Allen, Gene Beal, Phyllis Eilers, Marilyn Kiper, Betty Niesmann, Mary Ruth Ricketts

Meadows: Wayne Rork

...for healing/health concerns, and strength for their families

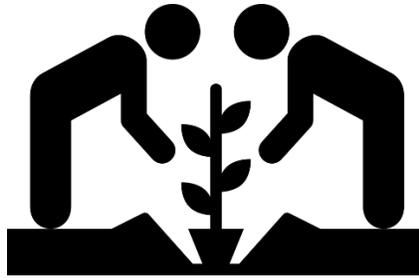
Toots Brown, David Clapp, Michelle Curl, Emma Rose Davis, Don Denkins, Brent Edelman, Dave Fehr, Ray Fehr, Kristen Fox, Randy Freed, Nan Hibsich, Virgil Hulse, Dennis Johnson, Dick Johnson, Matt Johnson, Sandy Lerdal, Pete McGhee, Edie Moulton, Elyssa Phillips, Vicki Phillips, Jessica Rathbun, Doug Tollensdorf, Tom Whitfill



The sewing group is asking for donations of supplies needed for the Lutheran World Relief kits which will be sent in October. Please note supplies that are still needed and those which are no longer needed.

	<u>Need</u>	<u>Don't Need</u>
School Supplies:	Notebooks Rulers Sharpeners Pens	Crayons Pencils Erasers Scissors
Personal Care Kits:	Bath towels Bath size soap	Tooth brushes Nail clippers
Baby Care Kits:	Sleepers Soap	Sweaters T-shirts Diapers Socks Hand towels Diaper pins

Donations may be left on the pew in the narthex. Watch the bulletins for updates. Thanks for your help!



Notes from God's Garden

God's Garden is in full production mode now. Our Father has seen fit to supply us with sufficient rain and sunshine to make the crops not only grow but flourish! We have green beans, LOTS of squash, some zucchini and cucumbers. The tomatoes are slowly ripening. Much too slowly for some of us, but this will happen in God's time, not ours.

We have seen an increase in the number of "customers" each week. This is due to word traveling around town (keep talking about our garden). I have also been contacted by the Physician's Assistant at OSF here in Fairbury. She wanted to know if she could tell her patients about our free garden. Of course the answer was a resounding YES!!! That is the reason we are here. I have also been in contact with the Healthy Families program through Livingston County and told them we are here for their clients as well.

We continue to take all the produce that is ready to the Food Pantry for distribution. This has been a most rewarding experience. Chuck and I were approached by an elderly lady there who said that she loves garden fresh produce but she can't garden any more. Yet another example of why we are here.

Last Saturday one of the visitors to the garden was a young mother. She told me that they have four people in their family and they were running low on food. Her Link Card didn't activate until later this week. We gave her some of everything that was ready and told her to come back if she required more later in the week.

We are in need of plastic grocery bags. These make it so much easier for folks to carry their fresh goodies home.

It is so exciting to see how God is using our humble garden to impact our area. If you would like to experience this for yourself please come by the garden any Saturday morning between 10 and 12.

Gail Huling
Humble Gardener

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Minutes from July 12, 2017

Present: David Hammer, Pastor Tom, Heather Masters, Andrew Quain, Liz Freeland, Carl Tull, Gail Huling, and Katie Ricketts

Absent: Jimmy Vinson & Tess Popejoy

David Hammer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Unable to approve June meeting (quorum was not present). Carl Tull moved that the May Secretary's Report be accepted as written. Liz Freeland Second. Motion carried. For July meeting, Katie Ricketts filled in as Secretary in Tess Popejoy's absence.

Treasurer's Report: Pastor Tom moved that the reports from May and June both be accepted as written. Carl Tull Second. Motion carried.

Via email - Pastoral Agreement with Immanuel Lutheran for 3 years became effective as of July 1, 2017. Andrew Quain moved that the agreement be accepted. Gail Huling Second. Motion carried.

Again this year, confirmation will be area wide (3 from each church in the Geo-Parish and Forrest Lutheran).

Sunday School teaching group has agreed to continue again this year. Tricia Creek will lead the group and make the schedule. Sunday School will begin Sunday, September 17, 2017.

Briana Smith of Immanuel Lutheran will be leading their LYO. Joint activities between both churches once in a while are a possibility.

God's Garden: Staff at OSF Fairbury have been referring their patients to God's Garden. Saturday hours seem to be more successful when 10-12.

LGBTQ Acceptance: Heather made a motion to vote as a council to proceed with discussion of same-gender marriage at Trinity Lutheran Church. Liz Freeland Second. Motion carried. Majority vote of council was YES. Council will put together information to give to the congregation to take to August 9 meeting. Congressional vote will be Sunday, September 17.

As per suggestion of Immanuel Lutheran, whichever congregation has earliest Sunday morning service will also have earliest Christmas Eve service. Andy Quain made a motion to accept. Heather Masters Second. Motion carried. Carl Tull moved that Trinity Lutheran accept the suggestion from Immanuel Lutheran to begin a new schedule starting September 3, 2017. Gail Huling Second. Motion carried. As of September 3, the schedule is as follows: Sunday School starts at 9:00 a.m. with church following at 10:00 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran will host a Halloween Dinner again this year on Tuesday, October 31 from 4:30-7:00. Menu will be the same as last year (hot dogs, chips, cookies, etc...)

Sunday, September 3rd: Happy Hour at 9:30 to kick off new schedule.

Carl Tull moved that the meeting be adjourned. Liz Freeland Second. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Ricketts (acting Secretary for July)
Heather Masters (acting President)



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Connect to Trinity:

www.FairburyTLC.com

(a simple, informative, up-to-date website)

The newsletter may also be found on this website.