

# Trinity SONRISE News



Trinity Lutheran Church

on the Sunrise Side of Michigan

2019

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AZZAM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my last installment (June 2019) We talked about waiting for summer and pushing the season. Now our thoughts are focused on the heat... "Must it be this hot?" I often thought that the term Snowbirds, that is, the word which describes people who migrate south for the winter was all about people following the sun. What I now believe, however, is that snowbirds from Michigan are really a different breed. We are a people who migrate to escape the heat. We go "up north" in the summer and "down south" in the winter. And we only stay down south until it gets too hot and then we go up north again...and if it is still too hot we go north further. Many so called Snowbirds just want to be comfortable...neither shiver nor sweat.

As Christians, we also have a tendency to migrate into our comfort zones. We hate shivering and we tend to avoid sweat whenever possible. And I am not talking about how the thermostat is set in our sanctuary. I am talking about spiritual comfort.



The Laodicean Christians were one of 7 congregations in Asia Minor to whom the Lord had John the Apostle write while exiled on the island of Patmos. The Lord was concerned that they had become too comfortable in their Christian walk, neither hot nor cold. (Revelation 3:14-22) In fact, he would have preferred one or the other, because when people are not in their comfort zone they tend to want to move, to adjust, to make things better.

But as it was, the Laodiceans were happy doing nothing. They were successful from the world's point of view but were unable to show mercy to those in need. They were not growing, not shrinking, they were just trying to get along with each other and with their community. Being too hot for the Lord might draw attention to themselves, and in an environment where people were being arrested and killed for confessing Christ, they did not want that. On the other hand, they knew about Jesus and so they could no longer plead ignorance to God. I suppose it bothered them, just a little bit anyway, to simply blend into their secular and pagan society, now that they knew the way of faith. But attempting to maintain this balance was particularly repulsive to God... St. Paul warned them that to continue like this God would spew them out of his mouth.

I wonder if that is what happens in Christian congregations today. I wonder if the reason so many congregations are closing is because they have spent too long simply coasting with the times. When Christians were marrying and having large families, the church grew biologically. When in certain ethnically homogeneous neighborhoods congregations thrived, because the church was the social center of that neighborhood, congregations grew by association. But with a negative birth rate among the members of mainline protestant congregations for several years and the diversification of communities, the neighborhood congregation shrinks as people die and move away. If the congregation is spiritually lukewarm, their days are absolutely numbered.

What solutions are there? A spiritual revival? These are usually short lived. A new influx of people? They may be just as diverse as the community already and may have no reason to join a lukewarm church. Wait for church

members or our same denomination to transfer in? That might bring about numerical changes, but at what cost, the shrinking of the congregation from which they left. The answer is and has always been to love God above all else...even personal cost and love one's neighbors enough to tell them of Jesus and show them how He first loved them. For those in Laodicea, it was addressing the needs of the poor AND sharing the good news of Jesus. We talk about the things that are most important to us, we brag about them, we put our money behind them, we reorganize our lives around them, we even relocate for them. Are we spiritual snowbirds, who go to great lengths just to remain comfortable?

In Christ's Service

Rev. Timothy Azzam

## STEWARDSHIP ADVISORS

### Living Life at its Best

Jesus tells us that He came in order for us to have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). Just as we as parents are pleased and thrilled to see our children thrive and do well in their careers, with their families, and in their churches, our Heavenly Father, in a much more profound way, is pleased that we are experiencing **life at its best** in the years, months, and days that God has given us. We are His children and His amazing love for us was shown to us on the Cross where Christ won for us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life through faith in Him. This gift empowers us to live abundantly. It is God's desire that we live abundant lives. Just as we want the best of our children, He wants the best for us. He is so pleased when we walk by faith in ways of obedience, compassion, selflessness, and seek to follow His ways. By God's grace, we can be contented people, who live **life at its best** aware of His presence and enjoying the intimacy of His companionship. **Life at its Best** is the rich life that God wants for us.

In contrast to the abundant life that Jesus came to give us, we find Satan (thief) doing all he can to make us live life at its worst. *"The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy"* (John 10:10a). Satan comes to steal our joy, kill our faith, and destroy our hope. He attempts to separate us from Jesus, and he wants us to live lives of despair and gloom.

In this tenth chapter of John, Jesus tells us that He is our Good Shepherd. As our Shepherd, He feeds us, guides us, and takes care of our needs. He even lays down His life to us! What a humbling and staggering thought that Jesus the Creator of the universe wants to be our Shepherd! He wants us to be his children in spite of our sinful and evil ways. He invites us to follow him and to receive His affection and attention. He tells us that we, His sheep, know His voice and follow Him. As part of His flock or family, we acknowledge His authority and seek to follow His direction. Out of gratitude we attempt to live lives that please Him through our serving, witnessing, and giving. Because Jesus is our Good Shepherd we can live **life at its best**.



## STEWARDSHIP - Mission Support

August's mission of the month is

**"Adopt a Seminarian."**

You can use a mission envelope that can be found in your envelope packet or pick one up from the ushers stand at the back of the sanctuary to support the "Mission of the Month". If you already support a mission, please continue to do so by designating that particular mission by name on a Mission envelope.

~ Bill Davis

# TLCW



You are invited for food, fun and fellowship on

Tuesday August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 11:00am

HOA Club House in Villages of Oscoda

Bring a dish to pass

### *Trinity Lutheran Women's Annual Picnic*

Please plan to attend our annual picnic. Fellowship with your friends, enjoy some delicious food and a fun game or two. Bring a friend enjoy an afternoon get together. Update on happenings!

### Funeral Committee

July-August-September

Ruth Golm Chair

Karen White

Judy Malson

Sue Welther

Ann Dawley

### Altar Care

Terri Westberg

### Devotions

Henri Fortney

### Trinity Lutheran Church Women

TLCW/LWML

### Lutheran Women Missionary League

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen



11<sup>th</sup> Tom Wenthall

18<sup>th</sup> Rodger and Carol Wentzel in honor of their anniversary

25<sup>th</sup> In honor of Ruckle's 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

## Homebound

Alice Dettmer - Medilodge

Richard & Phyllis Fitzgerald



There is no Bell Choir practice in August. The Bell Choir will resume in September.

If you would like to join the Bells of Glory, please see Donna David or Susie Manning.



- **Charlie & Rodger** for mowing the lawn and keeping the church property looking good.
- **Jonalee** for setting up communion
- **Kathy Azzam** for filling in for the prayer chain during my absence when Wayne was in the hospital.
- **Thank you for all the cards** we received, congregational members you are a blessing to us, we truly appreciate your support!

--Henri & Wayne Fortney



- 8/3 Susie Manning
- 8/6 Jewel Beveridge
- 8/7 Karen Peca
- 8/7 Susan Pisarski
- 8/9 Lyle Boyce
- 8/25 Blake Roy
- 8/26 Heather Loyer

- 8/7 Bradd & Joan Chisholm
- 8/14 Jack & Annette Inman
- 8/20 Rodger & Carol Wenzel
- 8/22 Neil & Judy Malson

### Harbor Lights Pregnancy and Information Center

If you wish to be a regular supporter of the Center, you can do so by going to the [www.hlpregcenter.org](http://www.hlpregcenter.org). Click on "Donations and Giving" and follow the instructions. The mailing address is 310 Newman St., E. Tawas, MI, 48730. You can also contribute through Paypal. For more information on making your contribution automatic through your bank, call the Center at 989-305-6308. Hours are Wednesday and Thursday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. You are welcome to stop in for a tour at 310 Newman St., just a few doors east of the Post Office. Thrivent members: remember that you can allocate your Choice Dollars to the Harbor Lights Pregnancy and Information Center.

Volunteers at the Center are also needed. If you can spare a few hours of your time once a week to help, please call the Center, stop in during the hours listed above, or speak to Miriam Kuhlmann. It's rewarding work saving babies!

#### Ushers

<u>8 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
4 <sup>th</sup> Lou & Miriam Kuhlmann	Henrietta Fortney & Kathy Azzam
11 <sup>th</sup> Ted & Karen White	Ann and Lee Dawley
18 <sup>th</sup> Ruth Golm	Mike Hoff
Dave Sherman	Bill Davis
25 <sup>th</sup> Joan and Bradd Chisholm	Bruce & Mike Welther

#### *Elders*

4 <sup>th</sup> Communion	Ron Weidenfeller
11 <sup>th</sup> Communion	Mitch Davis
18 <sup>th</sup> Communion	Rodger Wentzel
25 <sup>th</sup> Communion	Roger Tack

#### *Know the Elders*

The Board of Elders concerns itself with the wellbeing and spiritual life of our congregation and pastor. Pastor Azzam and your Elders are happy and eager to hear from you!

They may be reached at:

Pastor Azzam - 739-4820

Mitch Davis, Jr. - 989-820-1469

Charlie Rainey - 724-6704

Roger Tack - 989-293-8050

Ron Weidenfeller - 724-7701

Rodger Wenzel - 724-6800

#### **Greeters**

<u>8 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
4 <sup>th</sup>	
11 <sup>th</sup>	
18 <sup>th</sup>	
25 <sup>th</sup>	

# Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar

# August 2019

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
<p>Secretary's Hours: Mon. &amp; Thurs. - 9 am to 2 pm            Pastor's Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm            Church Ph#: 739-9292            Pastor's Home Ph#: 739-4820 (anytime, day or night)            *P.N.(Parish Nurse) Ph#: 724-6800</p>													
<b>4 Mite Box Sunday</b> 8 & 10:30 am--Worship 9:15 am--Adult Bible Class 9:15 am--Sunday School		5		6		7		8		9		10	
8 & 10:30 am--Worship 9:15 am--Adult Bible Class 9:15 am--Sunday School				8 am--Men's Bible Class 9:30 am--Ladies Bible Class 10-Noon--*P.N. Office Hours 10:30am-2pm--Crafts & Quilts 6 pm--Elders Meeting		7 pm--Adult Bible Class		10 am--Bible Class		<b>Office Closed</b>			
8 & 10:30 am--Worship & Communion 9:15 am--Adult Bible Class 9:15 am--Sunday School		12		13		14		15		16		17	
Pastor on vacation Dave Wagner will lead the service				8 am--Men's Bible Class 9:30 am--Ladies Bible Class 10-Noon--*P.N. Office Hours 10:30am-2pm--Crafts & Quilts 11:00 --TLCW PICNIC		7 pm--Adult Bible Class				<b>Office Closed</b>			
18		19		20		21		22		23		24	
8 & 10:30 am--Worship 9:15 am--Adult Bible Class 9:15 am--Sunday School				8 am--Men's Bible Class 9:30 am--Ladies Bible Class 10-Noon--*P.N. Office Hours 10:30am-2pm--Crafts & Quilts 11 am - TLCW Meeting		7 pm--Adult Bible Class				<b>Office Closed</b>			
<b>Deadline for Newsletter &amp; Calendar</b> 25 8 & 10:30 am--Worship & Communion 9:15 am--Adult Bible Class 9:15 am--Sunday School		26		27		28		29		30		31	
				8 am--Men's Bible Class 9:30 am--Ladies Bible Class 10-Noon--*P.N. Office Hours 10:30am-2pm--Crafts & Quilts		7 pm--Adult Bible Class				<b>Office Closed</b>			