

# Trinity SONRISE News



Trinity Lutheran Church

on the Sunrise Side of Michigan

2019

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AZZAM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I had in mind a different topic for September, but before I begin writing, I lowered the flag to half-staff in honor of the souls that were murdered and injured in the mass shootings in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio. Every time something like this occurs, and such events occur far too often...things that should never occur, people will certainly ask the question, where is God. Jesus was asked such a question during his ministry and gave a powerful suggestion as to how we might respond. Here it is for your reading from the last verses of Luke 12 and the first verses of Luke 13

He (Jesus) also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? ...

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

Jesus was being reminded of two tragic events. The first was a terrible crime inflicted upon the Jews of Galilee at the time they were making sacrifice in the temple. In response to an uprising, Pontius Pilate had a number of them killed, while they were worshipping. There was so much bloodshed that it pooled together and spilled into the blood of their sacrifices. Pilate not only murdered worshippers but defiled their offerings as well. The second tragedy was the collapse of a tower which fell on 18 people at the pool of Siloam, killing them. This pool was a landmark outside the temple, in the city of Jerusalem...it is where Jesus had once told a blind man to wash the mud from his eyes. Jesus asks, was either the worshippers or these victims any greater sinners than those who were spared. The unspoken answer was, No! But, Jesus continued, unless you repent, you will all likewise parish. Jesus laid the blame on the ones to whom it belonged. All who do not recognize their own sin.

Somehow in our attempts to understand an event...we let ourselves believe that the victims share in the guilt of the perpetrator. And if the victims are believed absolutely innocent...then we blame God. The truth is that we are all guilty of sin, all guilty of death, and only live because of God's grace. The old saying... "But for the Grace of God go I," is likely appropriate here. As long as there is Evil...as long as we live in the world and not in Heaven, people will die at the hands of others, or for simply being in the wrong place at the right time. Such events should remind us to pray, to repent of our own sin, and find comfort and peace in the Grace of God in Christ Jesus who also died at the hands of Pontius Pilate, laying down his life, so that all who believe in him should not perish, but rise with him at the resurrection of the dead.

There is no divine purpose humans will ever be able to surmise when sin rears its ugly head and people die. But like the meaning of the wind and weather we have all learned to read...often better than the meteorologists, we can say that such acts call us to repentance. Such acts remind us that we are all sinners and need the forgiveness of God otherwise we will not just perish but die eternally. Until Jesus returns there will always be tragedies, less, we pray, rather than more, but thanks be to God, He gives us the Victory in our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

In Christ's Service  
Rev. Timothy Azzam




#140766491

- 9/1 Justine Alderete
- 9/4 Terri Westberg
- 9/5 Desearae Evans
- 9/6 Amer Foote
- 9/6 Frederick Rogel
- 9/10 Matthew Abee
- 9/21 Annette Inman
- 9/22 Jack Poland
- 9/24 Vicky Boyce
- 9/24 Rachel Koski
- 9/24 Melanie Seidel
- 9/25 Sue Welther
- 9/29 David Golm
- 9/30 Karen Kaiser
- 9/30 Melissa Ludeña



**Sunday School Begins  
September 8<sup>th</sup>  
9:15 a.m.**



- 9/2 Bill & Joyce Davis
- 9/12 Ryan & Kristin Bilbey
- 9/13 Mike & Melanie Seidel
- 9/30 Adam & Samantha Travis

# THANK YOU!

- Chris Paul for weeding the flowers
- Rodger & Charlie for mowing grass
- Jonalee Engstrom for watering plants



Thanks **AGAIN** from Harbor Lights Pregnancy and Information Center to all who so generously filled the baby bottles. About **\$475.00** was collected here at Trinity! Every penny counts in the effort to provide education and supplies to young parents and children in our community. All services of the Center are free to the clients served, and it is supported entirely by contributions from friends and donors.

Elders		
Sept. 1		Rodger Wenzel
Sept. 8	Communion	Mitch Davis
Sept. 15		Charlie Rainey
Sept. 22	Communion	Ron Weidenfeller
Sept. 29		

Ushers		
	8 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Sept. 1	Ted & Karen White	Fred Rogel Greg Pancost
Sept. 8	Lou & Miriam Kuhlmann	Henrietta Fortney
Sept. 15	Ted & Karen White	Ann & Lee Dawley
Sept. 22	Joan & Bradd Chisholm	Bruce & Mike Welther
Sept. 29	Lou & Miriam Kuhlmann	Bill Davis Mike Hohf

**PLEASE NOTE**

There will be NO Elders Meeting in September.  
The Church Council meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## 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

## STEWARDSHIP

Many people ask the question: "Why am I here?" The writer to the Hebrews gives a clear answer: that we may "serve the living God!" (Hebrews 9:14). The life Jesus lived for 33 years gives us a model of service to emulate. As Jesus lived to serve and extend His Kingdom, we are called to do the same. Jesus lived a perfect life of complete service to those He came to save, and His death and resurrection were His supreme acts of service.

Our desire to love and serve our neighbors is our response to the Lord's love for us. "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). To love is to serve; service is the natural outcome of love. Love is what gives us the energy and desire to serve. When we love someone with our whole heart, we want to continue to serve that person. The *agape* love of Christ enables us to love the unlovely as well. Our life of service is not offered as a way of receiving "more" of God's love. While God is pleased with our acts of loving service, they do not earn or bring His love. He already loves and accepts us unconditionally. Motivated by God's love for us, we offer our service as a deliberate gift to Him. Others will see God's love through us. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).



### September Mission of the Month Harbor Light Pregnancy & Information Center

The Harbor Lights Pregnancy & Information Center is a non-profit organization established in 2010. The organization provides services to women and men as they face the challenges of a pregnancy. They provide services to women, men and families of Iosco and all of the surrounding counties until their youngest child reaches the age of five.

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.

If you wish to be a regular supporter of the Center, you can do so by going to the website, [www.hlpregcenter.org](http://www.hlpregcenter.org). Click on "Donations and Giving" and follow the instructions. You can also contribute through Paypal. For more information on making your contribution automatic through your bank, call the Center at 989-305-6308. Thrivent members: remember that you can allocate your Choice Dollars to the Harbor Lights Pregnancy and Information Center.



### Here We Stand Campaign

A "By the Numbers" look at the  
(through August 7, 2019)

\$6,163,785.97 Total campaign gifts, pledges, and goals

\$5,596,710.43 Cash received which includes

\$500,000 CEF Matching Funds

\$471,278.63 Outstanding commitments (pledges)

1,383 Total Contributors

1,232 Individual Contributors

151 Congregations Contributing

41.3% % of Michigan District Congregations currently participating

11,113 Participants in the "Crafted By Truth" Bible Reading Program

1,621 Participants who have completed the Bible Reading Program

13,300 Attendees at the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Worship Service at the Breslin Center

\$1,246,643.98 Total given/pledged for Professional Church Worker Scholarships

\$2,479,068.97 Total given/pledged for Innovative Missional Ministry

\$ 927,788.58 Total given/pledged for Michigan District Endowment

\$1,414,487.52 Total given/pledged for International

### How Can YOU Serve at Trinity?

- usher
- greeter
- set up the altar
- teach Sunday School
- substitute teacher for Sunday School

In addition, there are two positions on the Board that are currently vacant: Evangelism and Social Ministry. Speak to the Pastor if you are interested, and he will direct you to the appropriate person.



#### Church Extension Fund

With a Church Extension Fund investment, you feel good knowing your money is serving the Lord, while earning a competitive interest rate. It helps build facilities in which people can be nurtured in the faith of Jesus Christ. For more information, call 800-242-3944.

# TLCW NEWS

As the air starts to get cooler, Trinity Lutheran Church Women will start putting together Lutheran World Relief kits, layettes, school kits, sewing kits, and quilts. TLCW is collecting items for these kits. Totes are in the fellowship hall for you to place items in.

Our monthly meeting and potluck will be held on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Bring a dish to pass, enjoy lunch and then we will assemble kits.



## Timberline Zone Fall Retreat September 14th

**Bambi Lake Retreat Center**  
3468 E. Robinson Lake Road  
Roscommon, MI

Guest Speaker  
Roeann Kusch

Ingathering of non-perishable food  
will be collected for the  
"We Feed Program"

\$20 registration due Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>  
Make check payable to  
LWML Timberline Zone  
and give to Carol Wenzel



## TLCW Annual Bazaar

**Saturday, November 16th  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

TLCW is renting out tables for their annual bazaar for \$20 for an 8-foot table.

**NO** baked goods, jellies, canned pickles, or candy can be sold at rented tables.

If you are interested in renting a table, contact Henrietta Fortney at (989) 739-5613 and leave a message, she will get back to you.

## September Devotions – Dori Dopp



I would personally like to thank Jonalee Engstrom for chairing the TLCW meetings on Tuesdays while I take my husband Wayne for his chemo treatments. You are an angel and a blessing to us!

Henrietta Fortney, President of TLCW



## Put Your Faith into Action – Get Involved with LWR

Once again, it's time to begin our annual LWR ingathering here at Trinity. LWR is a ministry of the ELCA, LCMS and individuals with partners in 35 countries. Its efforts help people around the world to improve health, provide shelter, improve education, grown or provide food, and assist with disaster recovery. This is an opportunity for us to renew our Christian promise and God's command to help our neighbors in need around the world. Last year, your gifts of love reached 601,144 people around the world. This year LWR expects a 15% increase in requests for Quilts and Kits. LWR knows that this will be a challenge, but with God all things are possible.

Following are the items we are planning to send to LWR this October, and pray you can assist as we minister to our neighbors in need.

**Quilts** – Quilts are one of the most requested items as they are used to provide shelter, warmth, used as a suitcase and may even serve as a home. LWR sent over 300,000 quilts worldwide in 2018. Come join the Tuesday Quilters at 10:30 a.m., or if you prefer to work at home, you can pick up some precut squares and sew quilt tops at home. They are also accepting new and like-new blankets measuring approximately 60 x 80 and standard twin size blankets.

**Personal Care Kits** – These are often given to people who must flee their homes quickly during war or disaster. They are also given to refugees to maintain personal hygiene and prevent disease. In 2018 over 190,000 such kits were distributed worldwide. Needed for these kits are dark color bath towels, bath size bars of soap, adult size toothbrushes, sturdy combs and metal nail files. We hope to put together 20 of these kits this this year.

**Baby Care Kits** – In refugee camps, hospitals and remote villages around the world these kits convey a warm welcome to newborns and their moms. In 2018 over 64,445 such kits were sent around the world. Each kit needs 2 wrapped bars of soap, 2 hand towels, 2 infant sleepers, 2 receiving blankets, 2 cotton tee-shirts, 2 pair of baby socks, cloth diapers, and 1 infant jacket or sweater. Thanks to Shirley Ellis and her sewing skills only the soap is needed to complete 50 kits. Therefore, we are in need of 100 bath size bars of gentle soap in original wrapper.

**School Kits** – These school kits may provide the only supplies children have when returning to school after the disruption of war or a natural disaster. Needed for these kits are: 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-rule paper, 30-centimeter rulers, pencil sharpeners, blunt scissors, ballpoint pens, box of 16 or 24 crayons, and unsharpened lead pencils. These items will be placed in a specially constructed drawstring backpack that has already been made. We hope to complete 30 school kits.

Again this year, LWR will not be accepting clothing of any kind. The collection of other items will continue until October 10<sup>th</sup> as items will be taken to Saginaw on October 14<sup>th</sup>. You will find specially marked boxes in the Parish Hall for your donations.

Cash donations are also appreciated as TLCW/LWR helps support LWR with shipping cost and the purchasing of any items needed to complete various kits. Just mark your envelope "LWR Ingathering" and place in the collection plate.

### Let's make this another Blessed LWR Ingathering Event

If you have any questions, please contact one of the LWR Coordinators  
Carol Wenzel – (989) 724-6800 or Shirley Ellis – (989) 739-3175