

Trinity SONRISE News



Trinity Lutheran Church

on the Sunrise Side of Michigan

2021

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AZZAM

On Christians and Congregations

The Church is incurably congregational. Wherever God calls people to faith in Jesus, he calls them into congregations.

The idea that "I can follow Jesus all by myself and worship him all by myself in a field" may represent rugged American individualism, but it does not reflect either Biblical teaching or historical Christian living.

Christians gather together in congregations.

Dan Kimball wrote a book *They like Jesus but Not the Church*. Barna publishes statistics about the demise of the Church and its congregations in America. Newspapers report abandoned church buildings repurposed as brew pubs.

Christians gather together in congregations.

Paul concluded his letter to the church of God in Corinth by writing, "*The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.*"

(I Corinthians 16:19) The writer of Hebrews warned Christians "*not to neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but to encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*" (Hebrews 10:25)

Christians gather together in congregations.

Parachurch organizations are fine. Preachers online or on TV or on the radio serve a purpose. Personal, private devotions and prayer are essential. But it is within the community of a local Christian congregation that God is at work through the Word and Sacraments to draw, gather, enlighten, equip and send his Kingdom people. We gather for worship, encouragement, admonition and service. We gather as a foretaste of the Kingdom to Come.

Christians gather together in congregations.

Plan to live out your Christian life within the context of a local congregation. Keep in mind the following four things:

- *Your congregation will not be perfect.* Like a family, as long as it is comprised of sinners, there will be problems. Do not expect more of a congregation (and its pastor!) than is possible. Work within your congregation to make it a center of love and forgiveness.
- *You must be present to experience the blessings God has in mind for his people.* You have heard it said, "You must be present to win?" Haphazard attendance and involvement at your local congregation *WILL* lead to dissatisfaction. Like all other relationships you will not experience *quality time* without *quantity time*.
- *A good local congregation takes work.* Indeed, the Kingdom is about grace, God saved us by his grace, but God worked hard at grace. A local congregation is a grace place. But to be such takes work. Be prepared to volunteer and serve. There are no bench warmers in the Kingdom.
- *Avoid church shopping and hopping.* Yes, you can find a "better" congregation. When you sit down for a Thanksgiving giving meal with your family, certainly there is a "better" meal available in another house somewhere in the neighborhood. But that meal would not be with your family, and the point of the meal centers on the gathering of the family not the culinary excellences.

Christians gather in congregations.

We live in a time of change. We should keep in mind that that is *always* the case. Things have always changed. The pace of change today may be a little faster, but the reality of change has not... changed. Within the change, there are certain things that don't. People need oxygen to live. Nutrition and eating are connected. The sky is blue. The sun is warm. The church is incurably congregational.

Christians gather in congregations.

STEWARDSHIP

Walking the Walk

As God's stewards, we are not only to "talk the talk" but "walk the walk" as well. Through faith, we know that God entrusts us with time, abilities, and resources and that He empowers us to use them in service for others and to extend His kingdom. When we "walk the walk," we not only continue talking but we put our talk into action. The Apostle John wrote, *"Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth"* (1 John 3:18). God's love compels us to serve and bless others not only in words but also in deeds. The Apostle James tells us *"But be doers of the word..."* (James 1:22). As God's stewards, we use all that He entrusts to us as instruments through which we show love to others.

In the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), we find a Samaritan who is "walking the walk." A Samaritan is traveling on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho when he finds a man along the road who had been robbed, beaten, and left for dead. If the Samaritan was just going to "talk the talk," he would have told the man who was beaten, "I love you, and I will pray for you." However, he "walked the walk" by stopping to help. Moved by compassion, he offered his time and talents by taking care of the man's wounds. The Samaritan went even further by putting the beaten man on his animal and taking him to an inn where he could be restored back to health. The Samaritan even used his own resources to pay the innkeeper for the man's care. He "walked the walk" by using his time, talents, and money to help a person in need.

The parable also illustrates two examples of people "talking the talk." Before the Samaritan found the robbed and beaten man, a priest and later a Levite saw the injured man but each walked away and offered no assistance. We can imagine that a priest and a Levite, in their preaching and teaching, would profess the importance of loving others, yet they failed to put their words into action.

As God's stewards, we seek opportunities to thank God for His love, forgiveness, and gifts by using our blessings in serving and giving to others. We are able and willing to help others because God's love within us overflows through us to others. May God help us all "walk the walk" and be the stewards we are called to be.

-Bill Davis, Stewardship Chair

August Mission of the Month Adopt a Seminarian

What difference can you make in the life of a seminarian. Now you can encourage them with your prayers and help make their preparation financially possible.

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.



Joan Abney, Ella Jean Durfee,
Wayne Fortney, Shirley Frink,
Chris Gresens, Ron Kaiser, and Richard Tack



Homebound:

Alice Dettmer – Medilodge

Military:

Jason Cooper
Courtney & Karina Pierce (Army)
Marc Stiller (U.S.A.F. – Sherman)



It pleased the Lord to call to his eternal rest the soul of Pastor Azzam’s uncle, Eugene Azzam. May the Lord grant the Azzam family comfort, peace and safety as they travel to Maryland for the funeral.



**Through
September 5th**

Worship Services Times
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study
9:15 a.m.

Bible Study Opportunities



- Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m.
- Tuesday Morning Men’s Bible Study at Burger King 8:00 a.m.
- Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study meets in-person at 9:30 a.m. in the Sunday school wing.
- Thursday Morning Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. – In-person in Sunday School wing. Please use the side entrance.



Ushers Needed

We are looking for people to serve as ushers at both services. Tasks are to greet people with a cheery good morning, offer hand sanitizer, keep the line in the entryway moving, and direct people to available seats. A sign-up sheet can be found on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

PLEASE NOTE

Please Sign-in for Worship

Please sign in when you attend worship so that we have a record of attendance and communion. The sign-in sheet is located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your cooperation!

Coffee, Snacks, and Building Usage



With Covid-19 restrictions being lifted at the present time, the Church Council voted to once again have coffee available in the Fellowship Hall. Please be respectful of your neighbors and sanitize your hands before pouring yourself a cup of coffee. Snacks brought in to share with others must be commercially and individually prepackaged.

At the same Church Council meeting it was decided that the building may be used for funeral dinners. However, until further notice, all meals served must be fully catered.

KNOWING WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR US, GIVES US DESIRE TO LIVE AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).



Please Be Kind

Now that Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, when you see someone masked please remember that people may have cancer or autoimmune diseases, people may have unvaccinated children at home, people may have high-risked loved ones they are protecting, people may have asthma and realized that a mask helps alleviate symptoms, people may be unvaccinated.

T.L. C.W. News

Trinity Lutheran Church Women (TLCW) meet in-person at the church on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to attend.



Thank you to everyone who helped out in any way with the TLCW garage sale! Your help was certainly appreciated. Thank you also to everyone who came to the sale to purchase and support TLW and its missions! All proceed from this sale go to support our Missions.



Lutheran World Relief 2021

Put your Faith into Action – Get involve with LWR

Once again, it's time to begin the annual LWR ingathering here at Trinity. This is our opportunity to renew our Christian promise and God's command to help our neighbors in need around the world. Due to the pandemic; 2020's ingathering was limited. So this year the need will be even greater as we become aware of health needs, need for school supplies, disaster recovery and efforts of war throughout the world.

Following are the kits and items we are planning to send to LWR this October and we pray that you can assist us in this ministry.

Personal Care Kits – These are often given to people who must flee their homes quickly during war or disasters. Items needed for these kits include dark color bath towels, bath size bars of soap, adult size toothbrushes, sturdy combs and metal nail files.

Baby Care Kits – In refugee camps, hospital, and remote villages these kits convey a warm welcome to newborns and their moms. Again, thanks to Shirley Ellis and her sewing skills, only bars of soap are needed to complete these kits. Therefore, we are in need of 100 bath size bars of gentle soap in their original wrapper.

School Kits – These kits may provide the only supplies some children have when returning to school after a 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, a box of 16 or 24 crayons, and unsharpened pencils. We hope to complete 30 school kits.



The collection will continue until sometime in October. You will find specially marked boxes in the Parish Hall for your donations. We have not received and specific information from LWR regarding shipping dates, but we will update your as information is received.

If you have any questions, please contact our LWR Coordinators: Carol Wenzel or Shirley Ellis.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Susie Manning	8/3
Jewel Beveridge	8/6
Karen Peca	8/7
Sue Pisarski	8/7
Lyle Boyce	8/9
Steve Ogden	8/15
Blake Roy	8/25
Heather Loyer	5/26

Happy Anniversary

Bradd & Joan Chisholm	8/7
Jack & Annette Inman	8/14
Neil & Judy Malson	8/22

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
Roger Tack - 989-293-8050
Ron Weidenfeller - 724-7701



Thursday, August 12, 2021
2:00 p.m.



Voters' Meeting
Tentative Date - Sunday,
August 29, 2021



Tuesday, August 3, 2021
2:00 p.m.

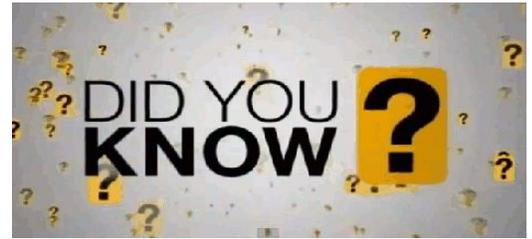
CHURCH FUNDRAISER – SPARTAN NASH DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS PROGRAM



Through the Spartan Nash Direct Your Dollars Program our church can earn \$1,000 per year simply by collecting \$150,000 in eligible receipts from Family Fare or any of the more than 160 Spartan Nash owned retail stores or fuel centers in nine states. A container is provided in the fellowship hall for collecting your receipts.

QUIZ

1. Who murders John the Baptist?
2. According to Paul's formulation in 1 Corinthians, which is the Greatest of the imperishable qualities?
3. Which Gospel is most concerned with the mystery and identity of the person of Jesus?



"The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci's and "Creation of Adam" by Michelangelo's are the most replicated paintings of all time.

There's a basketball court in the U.S. Supreme Court building. It is located on the top floor and is named The Highest Court in the Land.

Hearing is the fastest human sense. A person can recognize a sound in as little as 0.05 seconds.

HUMOR



DEADLINE

The deadline to submit articles for the September Newsletter is August 15, 2021



- Answers to Quiz
1. Herod Antipas
 2. Love
 2. John