

# The Epistle

May 2018

Sharing God's Love  
Together



A PICTURE IS  
WORTH  
A THOUSAND WORDS  
BUT MEMORIES  
ARE PRICELESS

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## Random Notes: Upcoming and More

I decided that I would begin this article with a few updates on things that are happening around the church as we conclude the Easter Season and move into Pentecost and Summer. The first three Sundays this month still belong to the Easter Season, but that third Sunday, May 20, is the Day of Pentecost.

As we get closer to that celebration of the Holy Spirit, our focus increasingly becomes that of the mission of the church: to love and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We individually and collectively ask the question of how to do that. How are each of us called to use our particular gifts and interests to love, serve, and share?

Besides that seasonal focus, we also have a number of things going on around the church property. First, we recently discovered that the toilet in the pastor's study was leaking and had damaged the floor. That floor has been torn up and is being replaced even as I write this article. (I am trying to get this taken care of quickly since it has made my office more of a mess than usual!)

Work around the new front walkways and entrance of the church is also ongoing and we hope to finish up most of that this month. What still needs to be completed is primarily everything that still has the orange temporary fencing up. Along the covered walkway that links the church to the office building we will install a railing onto the cinder-block wall to keep people from falling. For the small area next to the parking lot near the lounge we will be raising the ground level enough to make that area

safe. Besides those things, we also need to install the bottoms of the planters so that we can actually put plants in there, and we will be running an irrigation line to simplify the process of watering.

Speaking of plants, the community garden is beautiful and surely will only become more lush as the growing season continues. It was wonderful to have lunch there on Earth Day (April 22) and I look forward to the next Garden party later in the season. Be sure to take a look at the garden as it continues to grow. Thanks to Matt Schulz and all the gardeners!

This last Saturday the women of the church gathered at the Elks Lodge for their annual luncheon. I joined them for that event and I was so happy to see about 40 people present to hear Esther Prabhakar and have some fun with raffle of gifts (I received a lap quilt). People brought family and friends to come with them for this fun and uplifting gathering. Here's what I also took away from the event: this was an excellent example of deliberate evangelism, of inviting, welcoming, and sharing faith.

One final random note: have you seen the movie "Come Sunday" on Netflix? This movie is based on the life-story Carlton Pearson, a fundamentalist Pentecostal mega-church pastor who has a major shift in his theology. It is well-worth seeing as it helps raise questions about what is at the core of Christian faith in our time.

In the grace and peace of Christ,

Pastor Clark

**ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCES**

<b>Income</b>			
Offerings	\$7,636	\$10,002	(\$2,366)
Building Use	\$3,627	\$3,608	\$19
Faith Giving	\$1,352	\$708	\$644
Misc Income	\$527	\$500	\$27
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,142</b>	<b>\$14,818</b>	<b>(\$1,676)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$17,076</b>	<b>\$15,041</b>	<b>\$2,035</b>
<b>Loan Principal</b>	<b>\$612</b>	<b>\$612</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>March Net</b>	<b>(\$4,546)</b>	<b>(\$835)</b>	<b>(\$3,711)</b>

  

<b>YTD 2018</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Diff</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Offerings	\$24,740	\$30,035	(\$5,295)
Building Use	\$10,856	\$10,825	\$31
Faith Giving	\$1,972	\$2,125	(\$153)
Misc Income	\$1,718	\$1,500	\$218
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$39,286</b>	<b>\$44,485</b>	<b>(\$5,199)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$46,644</b>	<b>\$45,773</b>	<b>\$871</b>
<b>Loan Principal</b>	<b>\$1,806</b>	<b>\$1,806</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>YTD Net</b>	<b>(\$9,164)</b>	<b>(\$3,094)</b>	<b>(\$6,070)</b>

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**



Debby Love-Sudduth



Susan Smith



Dave Fleischman  
&  
Jillian Santillanez



Todd Weber

**WOMEN'S LUNCHEON**

Fun, Fun, Fun, Laughter and amazing speaker and wonderful raffle prizes



## GARDEN PARTY

Yummy food, great conversation and a wonderful gathering was had at our Garden Party Sunday, April 22nd.



Thank you everyone for all the delicious nutritious cuisine.

## SERVICE COMMISSION

### GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD

#### Fish farm

Give your neighbor a fish, and they'll eat for a day. Give your neighbors a community fish farm, and they'll eat for a lifetime. A fish farm begins with a pond, training and a few fast-growing fish, such as tilapia. Very quickly, the pond teems with enough fish to provide healthy meals for families in the community.

**\$250** Community fish farm



We're trying something new. We would like to give a congregational gift to ELCA Good Gifts, and we're going to raise \$250 for a fish farm. There's no time limit, so the "giving bowl" will be in the narthex until we reach our goal.

We've received thank yous from The Nest, Community Human Services and Mt. Cross. They're posted in the lounge.

And thanks to all who brought underwear and socks for "Seats and Feet".

May's I-HELP is full. Next opportunity will be Wed. June 6th. Thank you.

Your Service Commission



- 1** We give thanks to God for the diverse cultures, languages and heritages of our Asian and Pacific Islander brothers and sisters in Christ and pray for the leaders, growth and vibrancy of Asian congregations, ministries and multicultural congregations throughout the ELCA.
- 2** Continue to pray for the people and communities in Puerto Rico and other areas of the Caribbean involved in long-term hurricane recovery work, especially restoring safe housing, power and clean water; give thanks for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response and its partners to bring God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.
- 3** Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Rocky Mountain and Southeastern Pennsylvania synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.
- 4** Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Northeastern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area and Southeastern Minnesota synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.
- 5** Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Arkansas-Oklahoma, Southwestern Texas and South-Central Synod of Wisconsin synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.
- 6** Pray for God's forgiveness and patience – for ourselves, our church and society – in these times when, too often and easily, we allow differences of opinion and life experience, hostility and vengeance to create rifts in our relationships and communities, that the Spirit will help recenter our lives in Jesus' commandment to love each other as God has loved us.
- 7** Pray for the service and witness of the 11 young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program; the Rev. Rachel Eskesen and Zachary Courter, YAGM country coordinators for Central Europe; and the Rev. Anne Morawski serving with our companions in Hungary and Serbia.
- 8** Give thanks for the rich partnership and relationship we have with the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. Pray for their church and ask God to further our respect for one another and work together sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.
- 9** The call to believe and be baptized is for all people, without exception or favoritism. We ask God to help us see the Spirit at work in the people around us and to be welcoming, encouraging, bold witnesses to the gospel.
- 10** *Ascension of Our Lord* We were not left alone and helpless when Jesus ascended into heaven; we are assured of God's blessings and the power of the Holy Spirit stirring and equipping us to share the good news of the gospel, grow the church and care for our neighbors in need.
- 11** Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Southeast Michigan, New Jersey and Metropolitan New York synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.
- 12** The ELCA Guardian Angels program, with its welcoming congregations, synods and volunteers, physically and spiritually accompanies migrant children, single-parent families and adults through their immigration court processes. Pray for migrants who often navigate confusing and complex situations, that they find hope, confidence and companionship for moving forward, resettling and discovering welcoming faith communities.
- 13** Pray we grow – throughout life – in faith and understanding of that to which we give witness and testimony: God's love for us and the eternal life we have received through Jesus Christ.
- 14** Pray the Spirit is with us and in us as we live our faith together and embrace our church's values of forgiveness and reconciliation; dignity, compassion and justice; inclusion and diversity; courage and openness to change; and faithful stewardship of God's creation and gifts – values grounded in faith, our biblical and Lutheran confessional sources and our love of God and neighbor.
- 15** Pray for those who are doing God's work in the world in partnership with the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argenti-

na and Uruguay: the seven young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program; Krystle Moraska and Ignacio Madrussan, YAGM country coordinators; and Alberto (Gustavo) Driau, regional representative for South America.

**16** Pray our church takes to heart the invitation to discuss and share input to the draft of the women and justice social statement to create a statement that reflects the word of God, our theology, the values of our church and concern for gender-based equality and equity in the world.

**17** Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Northern Great Lakes, Pacifica and Saint Paul Area synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

**18** We ask God to help us support and reassure students who are experiencing anxiety, weariness or self-doubt while preparing for and taking exams and finals, that they will know they are not alone in life and that our true identity and value is wrapped up in God's unconditional love.

**19** Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Southeastern Iowa, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin and Oregon synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

**20** *Day of Pentecost* Pray we are all filled with the Holy Spirit to speak and act boldly in the world giving witness to God's love and the good news of Jesus Christ – a gift to people of every nation, culture and circumstance.

**21** Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

**22** Lift up in prayer ELCA rostered women of color, women who serve faithfully throughout the church; give thanks for the families, mentors and supporters who journeyed with them, and pray other women of color – of all ages – are also surrounded by people who invite, inspire, encourage and equip them for lives of service and ministry.

**23** Give thanks for the thousands of young adults beginning their training and service at ELCA camps and retreat centers across the country; pray their faith, enthusiasm and care inspire the lives and stir the faith of children, youth, adults and families.

**24** Ask God to grant us wisdom, curiosity and discernment in our conversations about science and technology issues in our society and world and to further the work of the Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology to expand awareness and promote conversation about the implications of science and technology for Christian faith and life.

**25** Pray for young adults who are finishing their formal education and discerning their vocation and future, that the Spirit will inspire them to use their faith, gifts and passions for the well-being and benefit of our neighbors, communities and world.

**26** Give thanks for the gift of the Spirit present and at work in the world and our lives – helping, renewing, energizing and guiding us revealing God's truth, will and wisdom.

**27** *The Holy Trinity* We profess through our creeds and teachings our belief in the triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever; at the same time, we confess we have questions about the mystery of the Trinity. Pray our wondering, curiosity and even uncertainty drive us to prayer, studying Scripture and conversation with one another while still trusting that we are children of God – loved just as we are, questions and all.

**28** *Memorial Day* Remember and give thanks for women and men who have served in the military and sacrificed their lives for the sake of justice, peace, freedom and the well-being of our country, other nations and people who suffer oppression and injustice in the world.

**29** We are a church active with doing God's work in the world. Pray that congregations, youth and adults involved in summer service-learning experiences, volunteerism and community projects are guided by God's vision of peace, justice and compassion in the world, a spirit of accompaniment and long-term partnership, mutual respect and hope.

**30** Pray for the service and witness of ELCA missionary Jeffrey Martin working in partnership with the Lutheran Church in Great Britain and the 12 young adults in the Young Adults in Global Mission program serving in Scotland and England with the ecumenical program Time for God.

**31** Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Western North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Greater Milwaukee and Indiana-Kentucky synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

# MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 I-Help 5:30am	3 Christ in Our Home Noon	4	5
6 Worship Service 10:00am	7	8 Altar Guild 1:00pm  Service 3:45pm	9	10 Property 9:30am  Christ in Our Home Noon	11	12
13 Worship Service 10:00am  Mother's Day	14	15	16 Council Meeting 12:00-2:00pm	17 Christ in Our Home Noon	18	19
20 Worship Service 10:00am Day of Pentecost	21	22 Dagny Circle 1:00pm	23	24 Christ in Our Home Noon	25	26 Men's Breakfast 8:30am  Work Day
27 Worship Service 10:00am	28	29	30	31 Christ in Our Home Noon		

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Jeff Nagel	5/11	Delores Heyl	5/20
Carolyn Hawes	5/13	Rosa Lopez	5/24
Vicki Raskin	5/19	Helen Edwards	5/31

## ANNIVERSARIES

Clark & Rosa Lopez-Brown	5/16
Michael & Diolinda Johnston	5/20