

TIDINGS

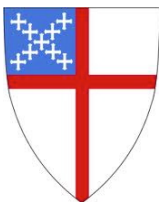
The newsletter of The Church of the Incarnation, Rt. 522, Mineral, Virginia.

What is a Lutherpalian?

The vestry met the last week of June, beginning the process of creating a new mission and vision statement for The Church of the Incarnation. During that process the question was asked, "Where did the idea of 'Lutherpalian' come from?" This article begins to answer that question.

In seminary one of the professors I respected the most, The Rt. Rev. Mark Dyer, was a key individual in the Episcopal-Lutheran dialog for "reunification," so I was aware of the ups and downs of coming to an agreement.

Upon arriving at The Church of the Incarnation and being asked by the vestry to help them figure out what God was calling them to be and to do, I assessed that God had brought



together Episcopalians and Lutherans to revitalize this congregation and live into a hope that began well over 20 years ago.

I began researching how other Episcopal and Lutheran groups were working and worshipping together and discovered the word "Lutherpalian." The Lutherpalian logo idea came from the combined Lutheran-Episcopal chaplain's ministry on the campus of

the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus.

God provides. God will provide what we need. God does not always provide what we are looking

for, what we expect, or what we want. An essential element in determining what God want us to be and how Christ is calling us to be His hands and feet in the world around us, is to embrace what God has placed before us. In our case we are Episcopal and we are Lutheran with a few others sprinkled in for good measure.

God has placed before us an opportunity that no other congregation in the Diocese of Virginia currently has. Many Episcopalians and Lutherans have worked very hard to pave the way for this type of joint ministry. I truly believe that God has called us together to experience and do some amazing things together.

The Rev. Jim Utt and I will present information on Wednesday July 18th on the process and the agreement that the Lutheran and Episcopal national governing bodies approved.

The remaining portion of this article

will provide you with resources on how you can learn more about our **Call to Common Mission**.

Discovering **who** we are, is the first step in determining **how** God is calling us to serve and **where** He is calling us to do His ministry.

How will we be God incarnate in the world? What happens when Episcopalians and Lutherans work side by side to provide hope and help in the world? I don't know – yet. What I do know is that: 1-God has brought this incredibly talented group of people together. 2-We care about each other and the community we live in. 3-The world is desperate to see coordination, communication and communion of people who call themselves Christians. 4-Many people before us have worked very hard, so that we can do the work God is calling us to do. 5-We have the willingness and the Spirit to seized this opportunity and we are an inspiration to others.



Please join me and the Vestry in being intentional and praying to God for clarity of discernment and fearless enthusiasm to create a vision and mission statement and long range plan that is worthy of the many gifts we have been give.

Lura

Mother Spice+

Wednesday**July 18th****5:30 dinner****6:00 Educational offering**

The Reverends James Utt and Lura M. Kaval

Called to Common Mission

Editor's Note: On Jan. 6, 2001, after 30 years of dialogue, the Episcopal Church and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, while maintaining their autonomy, agreed to come together to work for joint mission in the world and to allow clergy to move freely between the two churches. A "Called to Common Mission" series celebrates 15 years of Episcopal-Lutheran full communion.

[Episcopal News Service] By Richelle Thompson

Posted Dec 12, 2016. Most of the time, the Rev. Miriam Schmidt doesn't think about the differences in her union congregation of Episcopalians and Lutherans. Members of both denominations – and others in the small community of Big Sky, Montana – work together for common cause, sharing worship, meals and ministries.

But there are some challenges, Schmidt concedes. Among them: picking out beloved hymns – and with the same text and tune – for both constituents.

All Saints is among about 65 worshiping communities across the country engaged in Episcopal-Lutheran partnerships. These congregations and campus ministries are living into *Called to Common Mission*, an agreement between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to be in full communion, able to share clergy leadership and operate as blended congregations.

July**Birthdays**

Jacob Barlow 07

Abby Barlow 08

Mary Doyle Wood 14

Anniversary

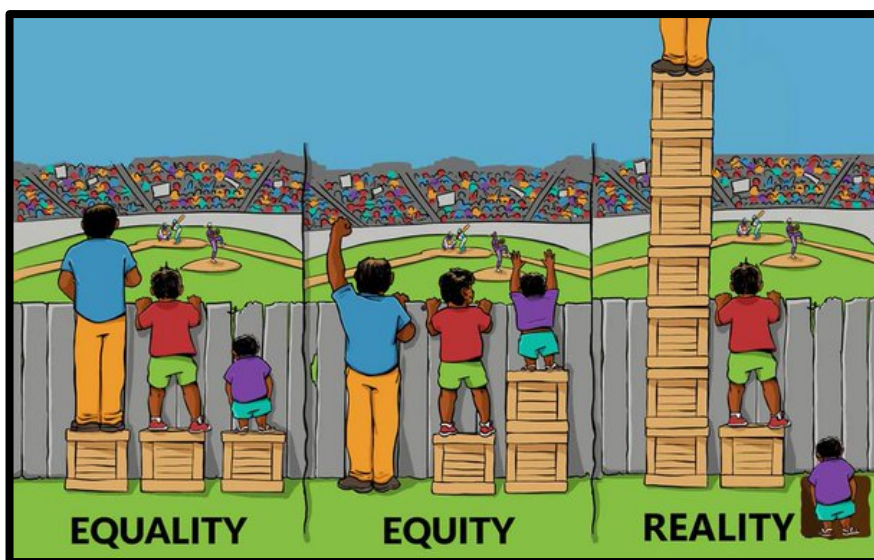
Jackie and Lloyd Holbert 27

**Thursday, July 12**

The Church of the Incarnation and the St. James youth group will visit Shalom farms for a service project to a nonprofit farm in Midlothian where food is grown to benefit low income communities. On Saturday, July 14th they will visit Treetop Zoofari. The zipline adventure.



I saw Asia this week. She hopes to be in church soon.



DATE	READING	READER
July 8	2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48	Pat Gibbons
Pentecost 7	2 Corinthians 12: 2-10	Wayne Gibbons
Holy Eucharist	Mark 6: 1 -13	Rev. Lura M. Kaval
July 15 VESTRY	2 Samuel 6: 1-5,12b-19 Psalm 24	Susan Utt
Pentecost 8	Ephesians 1: 3-14	Nancy Thomas
Holy Eucharist	Mark 6: 14-29	Rev. Lura M. Kaval
July 22 POTLUCK	2 Samuel 7: 1-14a Psalm 89: 20-37	Jane Keller
Pentecost 9	Ephesians 2: 17-22	Edwin Keller
Holy Eucharist	Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56	Rev. Lura M. Kaval
July 29	2 Samuel 11: 1-15 Psalm 14	Nancy Moser
Pentecost 10	Ephesians 3: 14-21	Maddie Madson
Holy Eucharist	John 6: 1-21	Rev. Lura M. Kaval
Altar Guild	Greeter	Acolytes
July 8 Eileen Smith Kathy Sergent	Pembroke Pettit	Andrew Mostrag
July 15 E. Smith K. Sergemt	Karen Guagliardo	Jacob and Abby Barlow
July 22 Pat Gibbons Nancy Moser	Kathy Mihoc	Andrew Mostrag
July 29 P. Gibbons N. Moser	Bea Matthews	Maddie Madison

VESTRY RETREAT # 1

The positive energy from our vestry retreat on 27 June has had me so charged that I have written enough versions of this summary to fill a magazine. I've been so attached to the computer that Nanny/Dot has stopped asking what I'm doing and just answers her own question with, "Yeah, you still writing that thing." Today it was, "Lord it awt to be a book by now." For this reason, I apologize for the delay in the newsletter- my fault, not Lura's.



I've widdled it down to a few topics from our open, honest and heart-felt discussions, so here we go...

1) Growth: Reviewed the chart made at coffee hour on 24 June titled "Why didn't God close this church?" Answers varied but many were linked to being present for the Town of Mineral, the community and that there is a mission for us. What made us grow? Visitors and returning members are greeted with smiles and conversation, and typically someone collects their contact info for follow up and they follow up. This speaks volumes to people, says they matter. The website and social media have given more visibility to who we are and what we do.

The Vicar's growth goal is one new family per month. We want to continue to grow but still maintain quality; It is more important than quantity.

2) Lutherpalians: Where did the term come from, is it official and what exactly does it mean? If some of us had questions, so must the congregation. Therefore, an info session

will be held for all on 18 JUL.

3) Ministry: Do we have it or are we a "family reunion" type congregation that only likes to come to church to eat and socialize? This term was in the book and we all agreed we are NOT this type of congregation. We have projects like The Front Porch Ministry and the ambulance. Funds raised via the FPM were donated back to the local community earlier this year, and ideas are on the table for the ambulance. We supported families during the holidays and the youth will volunteer at a food farm next week.

A potential goal for the coming fiscal year is to tithe 10% of our budget to outreach.

4) Outreach ministry: Who really needs our help in the community and how can we reach them? There are many elderly in the county that go unnoticed. Bill Thomas will research all those in need with Social Services. If anyone has names to recommend, please share with Lura or any vestry member. The question arose: "what is it that God is calling our church to do?" It was noted that in a congregation of around 50, there is such a high concentration of educators, health professionals and management specialists. A point for all of us to ponder... keeping in mind that we ALL have a gift to share!

5) Our church: "a great synergy" and "harmonious" were used to describe the feeling in the church. Everyone is so friendly. We genuinely enjoy each other's company and working together on projects. "Whatever we're doing to make that happen, don't change it!" says our Sr Warden Bill Thomas.

To have only picked five things out of so many... however, we invite curiosity to coffee any Sunday. Find a vestry member to chat with, ask your questions or share your ideas. Future retreats are planned for every two months and our next meeting is at the end of August. ~Susan T



GROUND BREAKING

Lee Street in the Town of Mineral
Please join us for this event!
Dessert reception at Mineral Baptist Church

AUGUST 3RD AT 7 PM

\$10,000 Giveaway Fundraiser



The Journey Home

Saturday, August 18

Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner at 6:15, drawing starts at 7 p.m. (will last until about 9 FYI)

Mineral Baptist Church Family Life Center

Purchase a ticket for \$100 and have a chance to win \$10,000 with other prizes given throughout the game. ONLY 200 tickets will be sold and each ticket includes a steak dinner with the fixings. An additional dinner can be purchased for \$25 each ticket, but doesn't include a chance on the money.

To purchase tickets, **contact Debby Read at (540) 894-5830 or Irene Luck at (540) 894-7993.**

The Church of the Incarnation



P.O. Box 307 Mineral 23117

Sundays 10:30 am

