

The logo for the newsletter, featuring the word "spirit" in a large, white, lowercase, cursive font, with "NEWSLETTER" in a smaller, white, uppercase, sans-serif font below it. The background is a dark blue gradient with a faint, stylized starburst pattern.

***The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church***  
***“Set Free to Serve One Another”***  
***April 2018***

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Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 10AM – 1PM

Worship Schedule:

Saturdays 5PM (contemporary)

Sundays 11AM (traditional)

Ministers.....All People

Pastor.....Brad Ross

Administrative Assistant.....Jan Piskac

Organist.....Edith Schatt

Council President.....Dale Kirk

Council Vice-President.....Bonnie Piskac

Council Secretary.....Bill Weidman

Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

“Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!” That’s our usual rallying cry as we gather to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. We’ve said the same words for quite awhile now, and yet, they somehow manage to never get old whatsoever. There’s a burst of energy that comes with them. There’s a needed dose of new life and perspective-altering hope when we shout them to fill an entire sanctuary and beyond.

We obviously wouldn’t mind a little extra divine help, after all, with all of what’s going on around us: in our own life circumstances and plenty of...not-so-great news around the world. The Great News of Jesus’ eternal triumph, quite honestly, could not get here soon enough. But through that Great News of Jesus’ Resurrection, God almost uses it as a pinball machine: to unleash us into our life circumstances and the world around us with a contagious joy and hope that can never be taken away from us.

So at Triune, we’ve decided to do something with that Great-News-contagious-excitement. We’ve decided to bring it to life to others, including those we may often forget about in our communities. Starting this month, we will be putting together gift baskets for the teachers at Highland Drive Elementary School. You will find more information below in our newsletter, but this is an opportunity for us to do ministry even in our own homes, by putting together gifts of appreciation for people who play a pivotal role in shaping our community, including its future.

Christ is risen for this, after all. It’s not just about an eternal life guarantee. It’s also about empowerment. It’s about not obsessing over our own fate, and instead focusing on how we can serve one another for the better. It’s about setting us free for ministry. It is what the church was meant to be all about from the beginning. It’s who we are as the living body of Christ for the sake of the world. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,  
Pastor Brad



Find us on Facebook at:  
Triune Lutheran Church



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## Gift baskets for Highland Drive Elementary School Teachers

### *Why are we doing this?*

The church is always about doing ministry not only for its own members, but for those near and far beyond the walls of the church. This is also a way that people can do ministry in their own homes by putting these gift baskets together at their own pace. This does not require immense planning or coordinating with everyone's busy schedules. This can be done at your own leisure in the next month.



### *How do we sign up?*

Just let Pastor Brad know that you would like to participate, and he will give you the name of one (or however many) teacher(s) from the school.

### *What should be included in this basket?*

Perhaps the best idea may be something like the picture above, similar to what might be given during the holiday season, while keeping in mind the perishability of any food items included. It would also be helpful if you wrap the basket in a clear wrap, of sorts, to ensure all items stay inside the basket during transport. Since we are planning on giving these baskets toward the end of a school year, it is probably best *not* to give the teachers school supplies. You could also include gift cards, but we also ask you include a note or letter of appreciation. We ask you keep the total cost (including potential gift cards, if you so choose) to \$50 at most.

### *Why should we include a note or letter in the basket?*

This provides an added personal touch of appreciation for the teacher to know he or she is valued by people beyond the school system. We ask that in your note or letter that you write how a teacher impacted your life, or how a teacher made a difference in someone you know, or, if you were a teacher yourself, or know a teacher, how you saw first-hand teaching making a difference. This is not meant to be a way to convince the teacher to come to Triune, though. This is not about getting more people to come for worship. This is about ministry. Feel free to sign your name and Triune Lutheran Church at the end of your writing, and then put the teacher's name on the outside envelope, so that the teacher may find his/her respective gift basket.

### *When do we need to complete these by?*

We plan to deliver these baskets to the school during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 7-11), so please bring your basket to the church no later than Monday, May 7.

*Lest we forget our wider church's motto is: "God's Work. Our Hands!"*

# Prayer Request



We ask you to keep the following sisters and brothers in Christ in your prayers:

<b>Jenny Bennett</b>	<b>Trudy Weidman</b>
<b>Richard Jakubcin</b>	<b>Gary Weiss</b>
<b>Bertha Nickler</b>	<b>Mardell Weiss</b>
<b>Hazel Schwab</b>	<b>Clara Wilcox</b>
<b>Ed Uhlir</b>	<b>Dave Wilcox</b>

If you wish to send any cards, please send them, or drop them off, to the church office, and we will be sure to deliver them.

- 2 Dave Schatt
- 8 Tina Schwab
- 10 Bonnie Piskac
- 15 Kyle Schwab




*Ambassadors*  
for **Christ**  
- 2 Corinthians 5:20  
**June 8-9, 2018**  
**J. S. Knight Center, Downtown Akron**

Triune is looking for those interested in serving as voting members representing our congregation at the annual Synod Assembly. This is a great way to learn about the wider church and see all the ministry that is being done through support of congregations just like us! Please let Pastor Brad know by April 30. All expenses will be covered.

## THE 2018 CHARTS FOR FLOWERS & ETERNAL CANDLE

ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR SIGN-UP BY THE MAIN ENTRANCE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO FILL IN DATES FOR SPECIAL MEMORIES  
THE FLOWERS ARE \$15.00 PER WEEK & THE ETERNAL CANDLE IS \$10.00 PER MONTH



## **Minutes of Triune Lutheran Church Council Meeting of 05 March 2018**

Meeting opened at 6:06 PM with a prayer by Pastor Brad. Minutes of last meeting of 05 February 2018 were reviewed, having been previously approved by email.

Jack reported a checking account balance of \$9,324 and a Thrivent Mutual Fund Balance of \$156,470. It was noted that both balances change continuously with checking activity and market conditions. At this time, Dale pointed out that Jack had changed the lighting ballasts in Willman Hall and noted the brighter illumination.

Jack presented information on wall mounted speaker brackets applicable to Willmann Hall, which would make for a safer and neater installation with less on the floor. SGCC will be contacted to ensure their agreement with this change before action is taken.

Bonnie presented information on present and near-future Willmann Hall rentals, and scheduling to enable planning of Triune member presence for security. Bonnie estimated that rental inquiries were motivated mainly by word-of-mouth references. She also noted that recent better housekeeping was an advantage in making our facility attractive.

Inquiry will be made as to the billing details for advertising in the local magazines of our immediate area suburbs. This is also to see if paid ad is required to maintain listing among local churches directory.

Pastor announced that he will be conducting monthly services with Edith Schatt at The Oaks of Brecksville.

Some unwanted sounds from our organ will lead us to inquire a source of service for it. Edith will make the contact.

It was decided to make inquiry to the congregation to find if anyone might be interested in attending the annual Synod Assembly in Akron. This rather than aggressively seeking attendees.

It was decided to leave slips in the form of pads left in pew slots for visitors to fill out, if they desire.

Inquiry will continue as to a source for repair of the blistering wall covering in Willmann Hall. The accomplishment of this repair at minimum cost turns out to be quite challenging.

Plan is developing for a "teacher appreciation" outreach to 15 teachers at Highland Drive Elementary School with gift baskets for tentative delivery 11 May coinciding with Teacher Appreciation Week.

Pastor indicated that degree of preparation required to make us a blood drive venue may be impractical.

Pastor discussed possible means to analyze the effectiveness of Facebook usage for advertising.

Pastor announced Good Friday service to be at 5:00 PM Friday 30 March with no Saturday service the next day and with Easter Service on Sunday 01 April at our regular 11:00 AM time. No Maundy Thursday service.

Meeting closed at 7:00 PM

**Next Meeting at 6:00 PM Monday 02 April 2018.**

Initial copies to attendees; Dale Kirk, Pastor Brad, Bonnie Piskac, Jack Schwab, Bill Weidman, and to Jan Piskac.

Submitted 07 March 2018

## *The Three Nails*

There's a great tradition on British radio. At 7:48 a.m., six mornings a week, a religious leader speaks live for two minutes and 45 seconds on BBC Radio 4 about an issue in the news and its theological significance. It's called "Thought for the Day," and it attracts around 6 million listeners (albeit most of whom are brushing their teeth or dropping children off at school). I fancied a go from when I first tuned in at age 12, so I was delighted to be asked five years ago; since then I've become a regular.

Not long ago I was finishing a meeting with a colleague when my phone rang. The voice said simply, "Sam"—and immediately I was transported back to my early days in ordained ministry, more than 25 years ago. He was a firefighter. He started coming to church about the time I began in the parish. He was in my first adult confirmation class. I ushered my colleague out and sat down intently to hear what had triggered this call—rapidly processing the range of terrible events that might be about to cascade down upon me.

"I heard you on the radio this morning and thought I'd leave a message—I never expected you to pick up the phone," said my long-lost parishioner.

"I'm so glad I did," I said, before adding, nervously, "Is something the matter? Is your wife, daughter, son . . .?"

"They're fine," he said, to my relief, and then updated me on 20 years of news since we last spoke. After a gratifying 15 minutes I interrupted and said, "Hey, this is great, but it's mid-Tuesday morning, and I need to . . ." And I went back to being busy and important, to justify ending such a joyful interruption.

Ten minutes later the phone rang. It was him again. "I was so surprised you picked up, I forgot what I really meant to say. It's taken me a long time to get back in touch. I have a confession to make."

I paused. "Well," I said, "I'm in the business. Take your time."

He didn't seem too daunted, for a man about to bare his soul. "Do you remember your first Easter at St. Luke's?" What a wonderful question. It was 1992. I was overjoyed to be in the thick of parish life. There's a lot I could say—but what did he mean? "Two weeks before Easter, at the Sunday service, you gave each one of us three nails. You said, 'Put these somewhere where you'll be close to them every day. And on Easter morning, bring them back with you and put them in the font and celebrate what those nails really mean.'"

I was scratching my head about the nails, but by the time he finished I was thinking, *Hmmm, I used to do that kind of thing. I'd almost forgotten. I wish I still did that kind of thing now.*

"How 'bout that," I said. "Tell me about your confession."

"The truth is, I never brought the nails back."

This is the point where, if it's a face-to-face conversation, you look over your glasses and say nothing and just make an encouraging nod to indicate you're really listening. But on the phone you can't do that, so I said, "Go on."

"When I took the nails home," he said, "I knew what I wanted to do. The next day, I took them to the fire station. I picked up my firefighter's overalls and I sewed each one of them into its own pocket across my chest. And then I gave each one of them a name.

"The first one, the largest one, I called Faith. The second one, the rusty one, I called Courage. And the third one, the twisted, almost broken one, I called Hope. And from then on, for the next 20 years, every time the bell went and we jumped down the chute into the fire tender to go out on a job, I would put my hand on my chest. My hand would cover the pocket with the first nail, and I would say, 'Be close to me, I need you with me.' I would move across to the second nail and would say, 'Give me the strength to do what I need to do

today.’ And then I’d find the third, twisted, smaller nail, and I’d say, ‘Help me make it through to live another day.’

“I kept those three nails in my overalls until six years ago when I retired. And when I heard your voice on the radio, I thought it was time to tell you why I never brought them back that Easter Day.”

I was silent for about as long as you can be silent on the phone without making your companion nervous. I was in awe.

Twenty-five years ago I’d had an idea for a way to help members of a congregation get a glimpse of Christ’s passion. Turned out one of them spent the next 20 years living resurrection every day. There I was thinking I was in the thick of ministry. Turned out the Holy Spirit took the stumbling, forgetful gestures I made and, through the wonder of the paschal mystery, embodied salvation without me ever knowing it. There I was thinking going on the radio was my chance to preach the gospel to the nation. Turned out it opened the door for someone far more faithful, courageous, and hopeful to preach the gospel to me.

And what is that gospel? That Jesus donned the overalls of our flesh and, though we were hard as nails, painstakingly sewed us into his heart that we might be close to him, be safe around him, and dwell with him forever.

- The Rev. Samuel Wells (Vicar, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London); author of *Learning to Dream Again* and *A Nazareth Manifesto*

## Monday’s at 1:00 PM

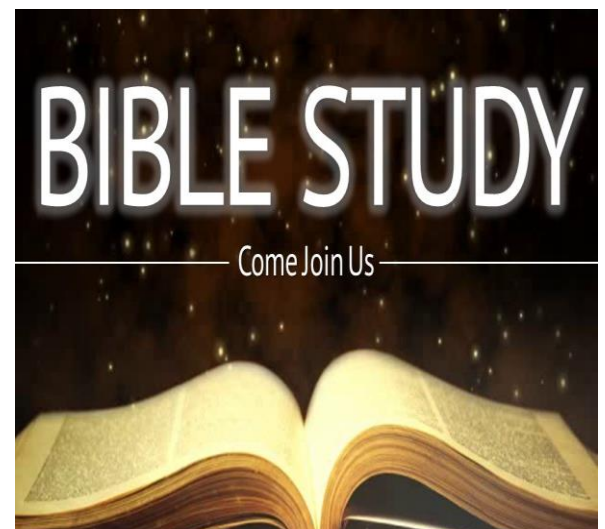
We’ll will be finishing up John’s Gospel on March 26  
and start our next study/discussion on Monday, April 9.

MEETING THE SPIRIT will be our next topic.

Who is the Holy Spirit?  
How does he change our lives?  
How does he work in the world?

We will examine these and other critical questions. We will see that the Spirit of God is eager to work in our lives to draw us closer to God.

To order a study book, contact:  
The Church office 440-526-3676  
Triune948@sbcglobal.net



Hoping to see you then...Bring a friend! Always welcoming new participants!

*Just FYI...as we do our best to impact locally through our gift baskets for teachers, for example, we are part of a wider church that makes its impact well beyond the borders of this nation, reaching out to children of God everywhere.*

## Young Adults in Global Mission



The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program invites ELCA young adults ages 21-29 into a transformative, year-long journey in international service. As they offer themselves in service, ELCA young adults are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors. They share in the journeys of companion churches and organizations in one of nine countries around the world.

A year of service through the Young Adults in Global Mission program invites young adults to become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, providing critical support to ministries and projects in communities of need. It also invites volunteers into a journey of self-reflection, providing space to consider their sense of identity, God's work in the world, and their place within it all.

Young adults serve in the spirit of accompaniment, walking alongside global companions in a manner that practices mutuality, interdependence and solidarity. Areas of service include, but are not limited to, health and development, congregational ministry, human rights, education, homelessness, addiction recovery, women's issues and children and youth. All site placements provide opportunities for young adults to confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith.

Candidates for Young Adults in Global Mission apply to the program at-large rather than to a specific country. Applicant preferences are taken into account but the final decision about where volunteers serve is made by Global Mission staff and YAGM country coordinators in mid-April. Current YAGM country programs include: Argentina/Uruguay, Australia, Cambodia, Central Europe, Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, Senegal, Southern Africa and United Kingdom.

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together.

To learn how you can support Young Adults in Global Mission, visit:

<http://elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Church/Global-Mission/Young-Adults-in-Global-Mission>

# April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>WORSHIP</b> <u>@11 AM</u>  Easter W.H. Rented 3-9pm	2	3  AA @ 7pm	4  Council Mtg. @ 6pm	5  AA @ 8 pm	6	7  <b>WORSHIP</b> <u>@ 5 PM</u> <u>TIM MIZE</u>
8 <b>WORSHIP</b> <u>@11 AM</u>	9 <b>Bible Study</b> <u>@ 1 pm</u>	10  AA @ 7pm	11	12  AA @ 8 pm	13	14  <b>WORSHIP</b> <u>@ 5 PM</u> <u>PASTOR</u> <u>BRAD</u> W.H. Rented 1-7pm
15 <b>WORSHIP</b> <u>@11 AM</u>  W.H. Rented 3-9pm	16 <b>Bible Study</b> <u>@ 1 pm</u>	17  AA @ 7pm	18	19  AA @ 8 pm	20	21  <b>WORSHIP</b> <u>@ 5 PM</u> <u>TIM MIZE</u>
22 <b>WORSHIP</b> <u>@11 AM</u>  Earth Day	23 <b>Bible Study</b> <u>@ 1 pm</u>	24  AA @ 7pm	25	26  AA @ 8 pm	27	28  <b>WORSHIP</b> <u>@ 5 PM</u> <u>PASTOR</u> <u>BRAD</u> W.H. Rented 11am – 5pm
29 <b>WORSHIP</b> <u>@11 AM</u>	30 <b>Bible Study</b> <u>@ 1 pm</u>					



If you have something you would like to put in the newsletter, please let us know by email, written letter, phone call or stopping by the office.