

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”
May 2018

Address:

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Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Phone: 440-526-3676

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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,

The weekly Bible study group has shifted its focus to the Holy Spirit (see more information, invitation included, on page 5 below); that part of the Holy Trinity we Lutherans often don't talk much about. We're relatively comfortable with God the Father and God the Son in Jesus Christ. That should be enough, right? Sure, we'll "allow" mentioning of the Holy Spirit with baptisms and Confirmation ceremonies, and even on May 20th, when we celebrate Pentecost. Otherwise...we'll stick with the Father and Son. We'll let the Baptists and Pentecostals take care of the third part on behalf of the rest of us Christians.

Nevertheless, on Pentecost Sunday, we'll hear the story of a rush of a violent wind, tongues of fire, and outright mass chaos for the disciples and everyone else there, for that matter (Acts 2). But, evidently, God can work through a frenzy. God can do so with so many languages being spoken at once there in Jerusalem, with just as many people not having the faintest idea of what was going on. God will also work through readers in churches across the world on May 20, when they struggle to read through all the countries represented on the Day of Pentecost long ago (Acts 2:9-11), leading many of us to not have the faintest idea of just how far-reaching this God truly is still today.

That's okay, we don't have to figure it all out. God's got that taken care of, to say the least. That doesn't mean we shouldn't still have the conversations in Bible studies and wherever else, because, in such discussions, we may better grasp the universal reach of God, including through people we would belittle otherwise. Who's to say God hasn't found yet another unique way to reach them too? Who's to say the Holy Spirit ceased from operation in throwing our soul into a spiritual frenzy with amazement of God's continued activity in the world we never cease from complaining about? Well, evidently, God still loves it. And so the Holy Spirit will never let us forget that Great News for us all.

- Pastor Brad



Find us on Facebook at:
Triune Lutheran Church



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Prayer Request

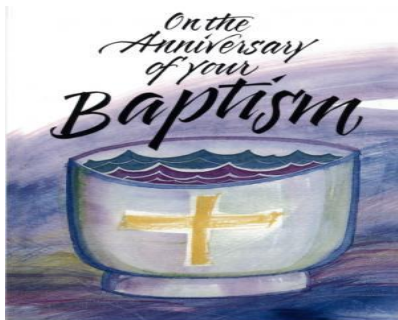


We ask you to keep the following sisters and brothers in Christ in your prayers:

Jenny Bennett	Gary Weiss
Richard Jakubcin	Mardell Weiss
Hazel Schwab	Clara Wilcox
Ed Uhlir	Dave Wilcox
Trudy Weidman	

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.

- 3 Charlotte Jackson
- 5 Jack Bailey
- 13 Evan Schwab
- 17 Dale Kirk



- 1 Carol Dorsey
- 11 Matthew Schatt



Minutes of Triune Lutheran Church Council Meeting of 04 April 2018

Meeting opened at 6:11 PM with a prayer by Pastor Brad,

Minutes of last meeting from 04 March were reviewed, not requiring approval, as that had been done by email previously in time to include them in *The Spirit*.

Jack reported a checking account balance of \$8,461 and a Thrivent Mutual Fund balance of \$159,095.

Jack reported near-completion of lighting updating, completion of the wall mounting of the speakers in Willmann Hall, and the remounting of the wall-mounting section with the greatest "blistering" problem.

On the speakers, Dale reported the potential sale of the tripods, which had been previously used for the speakers, to Dave Schatt.

Dale also reported the sale of the old altar, which had been stored in the basement, and then later, the accessories for the altar, for a total of \$300. These were sold to Mike Rinella for use at another church.

Bonnie reported that a Bridge Club had inquired about weekly rental of Willmann Hall from September-December. A complication is that they would want to store as many as 26 card tables for this weekly use. It is expected that their attendance would exceed the limit for our "upper room," but that the tables might be stored either there or in the basement area. While reasonable that the tables could be carried from either storage place, not so with chairs. However, enough chairs are available in Willmann Hall. It is agreed that it is not at all feasible to store the tables in Willmann Hall. So, it is agreed that an offer to rent Willmann Hall for this purpose should be on the basis that the tables be stored in the basement area or in the "upper room."

Bonnie reported that her inquiries resulted in a quote to clean out the grease trap for the kitchen sinks for \$100. Bonnie took the initiative to order this, to which all agreed. She learned that the trap had never been cleaned in the sixteen years since installation and a Sunday rental party group had suffered a complete blockage of the sink drains. Bonnie offered to be present at the time of the grease trap cleanout to take precautions against the area being messed up by the awful material being removed or by the pumping required.

Pastor Brad informed us that the number of teachers for the teachers-appreciation gift baskets should be more than originally indicated for a total of twenty-one. At the time of the meeting there were offers to supply ten of these. The activity was covered in *The Spirit*, and it was decided that an email should go to all to again describe the program and call for more volunteers.

Pastor also informed us that he and Edith will again be providing a service at The Oaks of Brecksville, this on 16 April. He also informed us that he will be attending a Pastoral Care Conference to be held at MetroHealth on Thursday and Friday, 17th and 18th of May.

Pastor instructed us as to the variations in coverage and timing of Facebook advertising and means of estimating effectiveness. It was agreed to increase our coverage from \$5 to \$10 per day for the four-day Wednesday through Saturday coverage, which includes a 10 mile radius, for an estimated reach to a number from 1680 to 1900 Facebook users. It was also agreed that charges should be transferred from pastor's to Triune's credit card for more direct handling of charges and accounting.

We were informed by Bonnie that Edith is organizing the floppy disc recordings she had made of hymns played for possible use if a substitute can not be found in her absence.

Meeting closed at 6:55 PM.

Next Meeting at 6:00 PM Monday 07 May 2018

Initial copies to attendees, Dale, Pastor Brad, Bonnie, Jack, Bill, and to Jan Submitted 05 April 2018

Learning to Embrace the in-between Time

Good Friday gives way to Easter. We live our lives on Holy Saturday.

For a while now, I've been living in a state of in-between. My daughter has turned 18 and left for college, but I'm still learning to say good-bye to my baby girl. My son has received a chronic migraine diagnosis, but my husband and I have not yet found him effective treatment. I have left the conservative faith of my upbringing, but progressive Christianity doesn't yet feel like home.

It hasn't been easy, this in-between time. I've wrestled and complained—hungry to arrive, to find closure, to move seamlessly from before to after. It's a familiar struggle for Christians. Though the life of faith is often described in terms of joyful arrivals and culminations, in reality we spend a lot of our time in between. Though we know that Good Friday gives way to Easter, we live our lives on Holy Saturday, waiting for the fullness of resurrection's promise to unfold. Sometimes it feels as if the whole planet is straining with impatience, yearning for something better. Sometimes I wonder if in-betweenness is the quintessential human condition.

In his poem "For the Interim Time," John O'Donohue describes in-between as a familiar place that no longer looks like itself. "Everything is withheld," he writes, "and the way forward is still concealed." Interim time, in other words, is disorienting. The God we think we know suddenly becomes unfamiliar. The paths we're used to walking grow strange. We wander and stumble, feeling lost, exiled, or punished.

Part of the problem is that our culture doesn't train us to navigate interim time gracefully. I'm primed to expect instant gratification in daily life. I can order just about anything and find it on my doorstep 24 hours later. I can send a message across the ocean almost instantaneously. I have 24/7 access to information, health care, nourishment, and shelter. In this cultural economy, a delay feels like a waste of time. A delay feels like a valid reason to doubt the love of God.

And yet in the Bible interim time is not only the norm, it's nearly a necessary human vocation. The pattern for God's people is a pattern of waiting. Adam waits for a partner; Noah waits for the flood waters to recede; Abraham waits for a son; Jacob waits to marry Rachel; Hannah waits for Samuel. The Israelites wait for deliverance. Jesus waits to begin his public ministry.

Maybe what we need is not an end to interim time but a greater willingness to mine its treasures. What can God teach us in the in-between periods of our lives that we can't learn at other times?

One thing I'm learning is to receive God as God really is. It has taken me years to recognize how my insistence on quick answers and easy resolutions distorts my perception of the divine. Waiting through interim times forces me to consider the possibility that God is wilder, less predictable, and less safe than my short-term needs and hungers dictate. It compels me to seek God's presence in lonelier, darker places—not merely in the light of arrival and closure. The God of the interim doesn't exist for my comfort; the God of the interim simply is. To accept this is both painful and necessary.

I'm also learning to accept reality as it is—to live intentionally in the life I have now, instead of putting my heart on hold until circumstances improve. "To receive reality is always to 'bear it,'" writes Richard Rohr, "to bear with reality for not meeting all of our needs. To accept reality is to forgive reality for being what it is." As I grieve the end of my daughter's childhood, as I walk with my son through chronic pain, as I stumble my way into a new expression of faith, I am compelled to receive reality with open hands—to receive, forgive, and cherish it—instead of pummeling it to the ground with closed fists.

Finally, I'm learning to accept who I really am. When my heart is clamoring, when the "give me, give me, give me" prayers are pouring out of me at a hundred miles an hour, I am clenched, unreceptive, and ungenerous. I lose the capacity to make use of my own resources. I become willfully helpless, and my thinking loses agency and nuance. Interim times force me to slow down, to listen, and to wait. They invite me to accept both my glory and my brokenness as gifts I can give back to God.

“Listen to your life,” says Frederick Buechner. “See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness; touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.” One of the great gifts of Christianity is that nothing needs to be wasted. Everything—every pause, every wait, every seemingly uneventful hour—is shot through with the sacred.

The end of O’Donohue’s poem warns us not to lose confidence during interim times, but to remain patient and open to renewal:

What is being transfigured here is your mind,
And it is difficult and slow to become new.
The more faithfully you can endure here,
The more refined your heart will become
For your arrival in the new dawn.

I hope that in-betweenness loosens us, frees us, transfigures us, and refines us. I hope it prepares us slowly and surely for the dawn that awaits. And I hope most of all that after each new arrival, we will venture boldly into the richness of the in-between once again.

- Debie Thomas

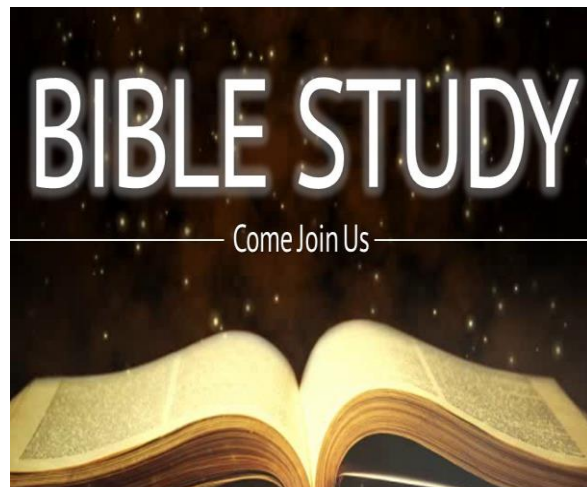
To read more writings from Debie Thomas, please visit the site for Journey with Jesus at <https://www.journeywithjesus.net/index.php>

Monday’s at 1:00 PM in Willmann Hall

The Monday afternoon study/discussion group has begun a new topic, **MEETING THE SPIRIT**. This will be our subject through June 18 (except for Memorial Day).

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 visitors and new participants!



From all of us at Triune,



May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 AA @ 7pm	2	3 AA @ 8 pm	4	5 WORSHIP @ 5 PM <u>TIM MIZE</u> W.H. Rented 11-5 pm
6 WORSHIP @11 AM	7 Bible Study @ 1 pm W.H. Rented 5- 11 pm	8 W.H. Rented 5 am- 11 pm AA @ 7pm	9	10 AA @ 8 pm	11	12 WORSHIP @ 5 PM PASTOR BRAD W.H. Rented 12-6 pm
13 WORSHIP @11 AM Mother's Day	14 Bible Study @ 1 pm Council Mtg. @ 6pm	15 AA @ 7pm	16	17 AA @ 8 pm	18	19 WORSHIP @ 5 PM <u>TIM MIZE</u>
20 WORSHIP @11 AM	21 Bible Study @ 1 pm	22 AA @ 7pm	23	24 AA @ 8 pm	25	26 WORSHIP @ 5 PM PASTOR BRAD W.H. Rented 6-12 pm
27 WORSHIP @11 AM W.H. Rented 3:30-9:30pm	28 Memorial Day	29 AA @ 7pm	30	31 AA @ 8 pm		



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.