

spirit

NEWSLETTER

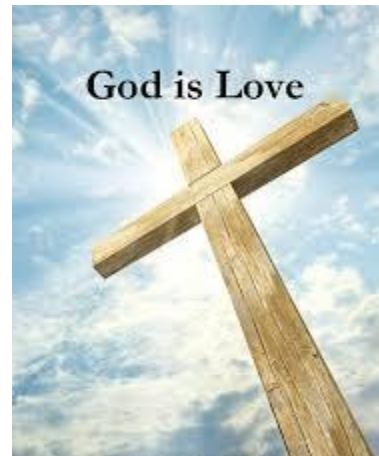
The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church
“Set Free to Serve One Another”
February 2019

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Office Hours:
Monday & Wednesday, 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



As we approach Valentine's Day, we are reminded of the ultimate love that God brought to life in Jesus Christ, and the very sacrificial love that motivated our Lord to live with us in our broken humanity, die with and for us, not to mention rise for us so that we may live forever.

But we also remember those who will find Valentine's Day a difficult time, to say the least: for those who wish to find love and believe they can never find it, for those who lost their beloved valentine after pro-longed illness, and those who cannot be home to see their loved ones because of military service or other work.

And yet, we know of the God Who knows how to bring love to all terrains of life. And we know that God empowers all of us to serve as that precious glimpse of love to those who desperately search for it. We know factions, despair, hatred may try to fill the void in our very hearts, but we know in the depth of our soul that only love can do that. May we continue to cling to that love on February 14, as well as every day throughout this life: the very love that promises life, even in the face of death. To the ultimate-loving God, be the glory forever and ever! Amen.



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	George Tomaselli
Bev Deitrick	Ed Uhlir
Joanne Loede	Trudy Weidman
Cathy Gallagher	Mardell Weiss
Richard Jakubcin	Clara Wilcox
Mary Phillips	Dave Wilcox
Hazel Schwab	

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.

- 1 Carol Dorsey
- 2 Norelle Gress
- 8 Ed Uhlir
- 12 Almut Zvosec
- 21 Jack Schwab



- 8 Sarah Bailey

*****We are currently working on updating our church directory for 2019. If anyone has any changes that are needed, please let us know.*****



*You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
For a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about your despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting —
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.*



There was this class I took in seminary, “Understanding Biblical Poetry” (at least I think that’s what it was called). I’ll be honest, there was minimal excitement that I had to contain going into the first day (let’s just say, poetry and I weren’t/aren’t, exactly, best friends). Nevertheless, we obviously had to take so many courses under the Biblical Studies focus; but, thankfully, my favorite professor from my prior time in college was going to teach. That, and I suppose plenty of the whole Biblical Scripture thing is written in poetry; so, I figured I might as well give it a shot.

I bring all this up, because a couple weeks ago, a woman named Mary Oliver died. You may have had zero clue unless you were best friends with poetry (or are friends with poetry-lovers), but, nonetheless, her poems took over social media for days in honoring her work. Now, I could lie to you and say that Mary Oliver and I were close, even in the sense of me reading her writings often (or even knowing the detail that she was born in Maple Heights, Ohio, of all places!). Instead, her death only further reminds me of the still-essential art that I...well, *still* take for granted.

She wrote the above poem, entitled, “Wild Geese.” We could read through the poem in several seconds and think nothing of it. She doesn’t give us any information, really. She doesn’t reveal some breaking-news story. She doesn’t offer some insider-information in terms of a certain product we should buy or avoid. She’s talking about wild geese, for crying out loud! What good can it do for us, even if we do call it a “work of art?”

Sometimes I worry about our overall Biblical studies department, as if the Bible is nothing more than an answer book; something that needs to be memorized as much as possible in order to better solidify ourselves for the faith journey: to give us all the needed information regarding “our” history, a fair share of...well, hopefully, we can still make it somewhat-breaking news in terms of God’s love for us, not to mention that coveted insider-information to make sure we get our spot in the heavenly Kingdom. In this way, the pastor and Bible study leader are the insider-news correspondents, so to speak, who are expected to give us all this life-or-death information that we better get down sooner rather than later.

But, perhaps, the Scripture is meant to be more inviting, more hospitable to our humanity, fuller of *our* story than we will ever give it credit for in this life. Poetry, usually, cannot be attached to a specific historical context for us to obtain an insider’s secret (it’s okay: it’s not meant to). The poets don’t provide some fine print underneath to help us understand it better (that’s okay too, it’s not like there’s meant to be just one hidden meaning to “figure out”). It’s almost as if you must sit there in the words. You must allow the poet to not just speak about wild geese, but to allow the possibility that a connection can be made...to your life.

You do not have to be good to be loved by God. You do not have to walk a hundred miles on your knees to some divine throne to convince God to give you a spot in the magnificent vista ahead. And no matter how rough life gets, the world will keep on turning: new days will keep on coming, new opportunities to experience God and the beautiful Creation; as if God will, stubbornly, keep on doing exactly that, because God loves you in

your imperfect-goodness just that much. Of course, God also says that you are never meant to be alone in this divinely-shaped “family of things.”

In the end, as Mary Oliver says in “Praying,”
*It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.*

Not all of us are gifted with words to somewhat depict the transforming beauty of God's grace-upon-grace-filled self. That's okay. You don't have to know all volumes of information. You don't even have to know the words to describe your feelings and your desires to the God Who already knows them anyway. This isn't a contest to get God to love us more than the day before, or more than someone else, for that matter (God's love is pretty well set across the board, whether we like it or not). You may even be the type who gets closer to God in a vacant lot than a field of blue irises. You may adore the poets or not. God, even Scripture, simply, beautifully, invites you to find your own doorway to experience the God Who knows more than just a few ways to bring the very love that saves us all to life. And, so, for the Mary Oliver's of the world, who unleash us to do exactly that, we give thanks to God indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad



Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 3, for our next congregational meeting. Like last time, we will gather at 5pm, starting with a pot-luck meal before continuing with the meeting. As always, we will provide the dinnerware, but just let us know if you plan on attending, and, if so, if you plan on bringing something to share (don't forget to bring your own beverage as well). This is a great way to re-connect with each other and to go over anything needed to discuss for our church family!

We now have Guest WiFi at the church!
Login: Triune Guest
Password: Triune4810



Our Monday afternoon Bible study group, continuing *Your God is Too Small*, weekly at 1pm. Newcomers always welcome (with more books available)!

Minutes of Triune Lutheran Church Council Meeting of 07 January 2019

Meeting opened at 6:19 PM with a prayer by Pastor Brad.

Minutes of last meeting of 03 December 2018 were reviewed having already been approved and published. There was an error in last minutes: pastor's continuing education session in Huron will be on 22-24 January and not 24-27 January.

Jack presented a draft of contract documentation for Willmann Hall rental with pricing (including for upper hall rental), reservation deposit (with requirements to qualify for return of deposit), general rules for rental, and proper identification and signatures of renter(s). These were discussed with suggestions by all present as to detail changes, and will be reviewed also by Linda Kirk.

Jack reported an end of year checking balance at \$7,182. and a mutual fund present balance at \$143,141. showing a decline under present market volatility.

Jack reported still no receiving of payment yet on the property tax refund from Cuyahoga County.

Dale reported that the pole-mounted security light in the yard area in back of the church has been repaired, and is now operative all night again. Also reported that WiFi is now available to all visitors on a separate username and password.

It was decided to bring Edith Schatt, after many years of service, to four weeks of vacation. Her service is not on a contractual basis.

Our next semi-annual congregational meeting will be, as directed by our constitution, on 03 March. It was decided to do the same as our last congregational meeting and have it, not after the Sunday service, but at 5:00 PM, with a pot-luck meal commencing at 5:00 PM and the meeting following.

The decision had been made that we would, as an outreach project, support the Lutheran World Relief program of supplying personal aid kits for distribution by LWR. It was decided that we would ask members to contribute items to be designated and signed-up for, and then to be packaged in individual units as a group activity. The time for the group activity is still to be decided. The idea of having it included in the 03 March congregational meeting was not entertained, because that would be too long a total session for some people.

It was decided that Lenten midweek services would be only an Ash Wednesday (5:00PM); not the following Wednesdays of Lent, nor Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.

Yet to be decided is whether there will be a Saturday service before Easter Sunday.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Next Meeting at 6:00 PM Monday 04 February 2019

Initial copies to attendees: Dale Kirk, Bonnie Piscak, Pastor Brad, Jack Schwab, Bill Weidman, and to Jan Piscak

Submitted 08 January 2019

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 WORSHIP @ 5 PM <u>TIM MIZE</u>
3 WORSHIP @11 AM	4 Bible Study @ 1 pm Council Meeting @ 6 pm	5 AA @ 7pm	6	7 AA @ 8 pm	8	9 WORSHIP @ 5 PM <u>PASTOR</u> <u>BRAD</u>
10 WORSHIP @11 AM	11 Bible Study @ 1 pm	12 AA @ 7pm	13	14 Valentine's Day AA @ 8 pm	15	16 WORSHIP @ 5 PM <u>TIM MIZE</u>
17 WORSHIP @11 AM	18 Presidents' Day Bible Study @ 1 pm	19 AA @ 7pm	20	21 AA @ 8 pm	22	23 WORSHIP @ 5 PM <u>PASTOR</u> <u>BRAD</u>
24 WORSHIP @11 AM	25 Bible Study @ 1 pm	26 AA @ 7pm	27	28 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.