

The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church
“Set Free to Serve One Another”
February 2020

Address:
4810 West Mill Road
Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Phone: 440-526-3676
Website: triunelutheran.com
E-mail: triune948@gmail.com
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



Find us on Facebook at:
Triune Lutheran Church



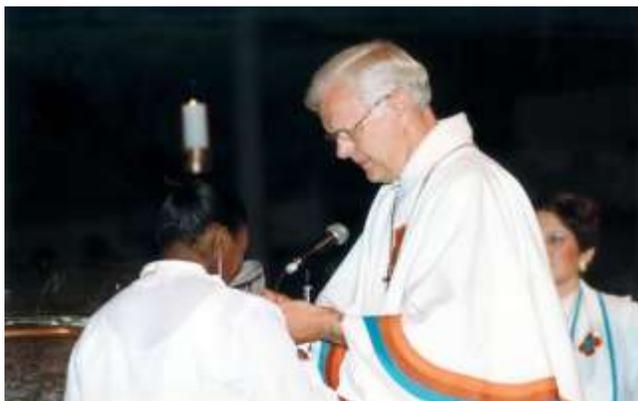
**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Sisters & brothers in Christ,

A couple weeks ago, our Presiding Bishop Emeritus Herbert Chilstrom died at his home in Arizona. Now, I would be lying to you if I said I knew the man at all, heard him speak, or even knew he existed until...seminary, maybe? I didn't know anything about an "ELCA" until high school, when I ventured off to my first ELCA Youth Gathering in St. Louis in 2000. My only church-world, so to speak, was the local congregation I worshiped in, participated in youth group activities, sang in choirs, played in bell choirs, and, perhaps, paid some attention when it came to Sunday school classes or even the Confirmation sessions. Denominational identity wasn't a big deal at all.

Of course, my worldview was somewhat limited through those years: its limits being the confines of a county in northwest Ohio, and perhaps ranging to family in the Columbus area. That's, really, all the world I knew when the "ELCA" started to get its denominational bearings in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Oddly enough, not too far from where my grandparents lived, where the limit to my perspective on the world resided, is where the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America came to birth, in a sense, with its Constituting Convention in Columbus in 1987. No pressure, first Presiding Bishop Herbert Chilstrom: just try to mesh the Lutheran Church in America, the American Lutheran Church, and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, with all the traditions, heritages, perspectives on how church should be run, not to mention all of us Lutherans loving the whole *change* thing, to begin with. Sure, you'll have hundreds of staff helping you out around Chicago working on card tables, out of cardboard boxes, to help you do the whole no-pressure-at-all transition thing, but there's gonna need to be a leader; there's gonna have to be someone to reassure God's activity through the chaos, there has to be comfort and authenticity all at once. No pressure at all!



Newly elected Presiding Bishop Herbert Chilstrom serves Communion during the ELCA Youth Gathering (1988) in San Antonio, Texas.

I found this article online from the *Chicago Tribune* published on October 23, 1987, when Presiding Bishop Herbert Chilstrom, at 55 years of age, was formally installed the week before. It's rather odd, interesting, reaffirming, in a sense, how much the church's role remains the same for many in our joint ministry effort known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as it was for our first Presiding Bishop.

"I'm for a high profile," he said in an interview. "You can't really escape it if you take the Scriptures seriously and if you take the life of Christ and study it carefully. Immediately, you recognize you must be involved in the world."

That involvement, the bishop said, is likely to focus on an array of complicated and painful issues that often lead to animated and divisive discussions within religious bodies in the U.S.

"We have to ask questions about what it means to be a Christian church in the 1990s and the years that follow," he said. "We have to ask ourselves: What do we do with the AIDS question? What do we do with the peace issues? What about the economy?"

Bishop Chilstrom does not profess to be an expert on all of these matters, but he insists upon the church's responsibility to take part in the national discourse on such controversial questions.

"You have to speak difficult words," he said. "People forget that Jesus got killed. He said some very unpopular things. And we are in the risk business (in Christianity). We have to decide if we are willing to take the risk."

Again, I haven't been in the thick of ELCA-awareness all that long in the grand scheme of, even, a short history, but I would say we've taken the risk. And yes, we could most certainly do better on a variety of fronts in this "risk business" we call being the church in the world. We've taken risks in plenty of decisions made not just in Churchwide Assemblies, but in individual congregations, that have led to mass exoduses of members. We're not willing to sit on the sideline on a variety of issues, not just in terms of ivory tower theology or carpet colors or altar placement; but on issues that directly impact people's lives beyond the church building. "[We] recognize [we] must be involved in the world."

And yet, as the ELCA was in the midst of 25th anniversary celebrations, Presiding Bishop Emeritus Chilstrom wrote in our *Living Lutheran* magazine:

When the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was formed nearly 25 years ago, we deliberately included the word "Evangelical" in our name. We did so to make it known that anyone who embraces that fundamental focus on Jesus Christ is welcome to be a member of one of our congregations: old, young, Democrat, Republican, Independent, African American, Caucasian, Hispanic, straight, gay, single, married — yes, anyone. We are different; yet held together in Jesus Christ. What identifies us is not our position on a political issue or our stance on a complex moral question where we have inevitable differences of opinion. No, being "evangelical" is simply to trust completely in Jesus Christ. ("Recapturing 'evangelical'" March 14, 2012)

Again, it remains just as true, and yes, we could most certainly do better.

I never met the man, but I hope we, daily, reaffirm our call to be in the "risk business" of ministry, the same rather risky business that our Lord took part in that led to his very death. It's not a *Lutheran* thing, after all; it's a *Christian* thing. And whether Luther said it himself or not, "[We] can do no other. God help [us]! Amen!"

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

Prayer Request



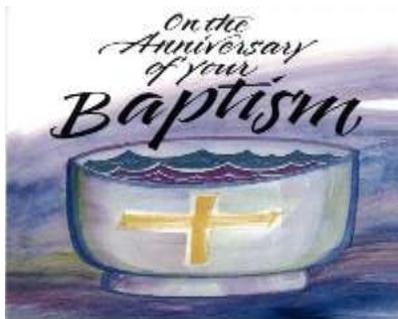
We ask you to keep the following sisters and brothers in Christ in your prayers:

Jenny Adams
Bev Deitrick
Bill Deitrick
Cathy Gallagher
Richard Jakubcin
John Kurtz
Jean Kurtz
Matthew Loede
Marlin Loede

Tim Mize
Mary Phillips
Hazel Schwab
Courtney Spencer
George Tomaselli
Martha Wasson
Mardell Weiss
Clara Wilcox
Dave Wilcox

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
- 12 Almut Zvosec
- 21 Jack Schwab



- 8 Sarah Bailey

“The mountains and the hills may crumble, but My love for you will never end...so says the LORD who loves you”

Isaiah 54:10

Thank you!

Sisters & brothers in Christ of Triune,

I just wanted to express my sincere appreciation by your overwhelming generosity, yet again, with the humbling Christmas gift you gave to me. Saying, "Thank you!" doesn't seem to satisfy the level of your kindness, but I am forever grateful to be part of this joint ministry we call Triune, and I look forward to another year of working together in bringing the Greatest News to life in whatever way we can. Thank you!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

We begin our journey of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 26 at 5pm. We will receive an imposition of ashes before receiving the, still, reassuring forgiveness, grace and mercy that will sustain us throughout Lent and for all our life in holy Communion. Join us as we take on this spiritual journey together!

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*



We are asking well in advance of Good Friday, April 10, for those who wish to attend, if you prefer a 1pm or 5pm service. Please contact the church office to let us know your preference by March 13.

Monday Bible study/discussion group will continue to study and discuss Paul's letter to the Romans through February, March and April.

JOIN US ANY TIME!
Monday's @ 1:00 PM



Just Enough Real Estate

My first Ash Wednesday as a father, my little boy greeted me. “Color?” he asked. He grabbed my hand and pointed toward the table where crayons, paper and scribbles waited.

But there wasn’t time for coloring that morning, or so I thought. I was already dressed in my collar, ready to head into the office to prepare for a day of sackcloth, ashes and repentance. What pastor has time for coloring on Ash Wednesday? Life and death were at hand.

Many people would pass out ashes that day. Some churches would do it on street corners and at bus stops, reminding people of their mortality as they headed to work. I’m sure there is meaning for many in those public acts, but somehow I couldn’t justify just smudging people as they went about their day and have that be it.

Ash Wednesday can turn into simple piety when done on the fly. I feared there wouldn’t be enough time to do the act justice, and time is that precious real estate Ash Wednesday seems to take silent stock of.

While holding some merit, I now realize how my objection to “ashes on the go” was a bit foolish. As I come upon this Ash Wednesday, having buried some of those people I had previously marked on that day, I realize the only real estate we need is that small portion of skin just above our eyes.

Take your ashes as you can, I say now, because Ash Wednesday isn’t so much about time as it is about timelessness—how we are marked with the cross of Christ forever.

The oil we use for mixing the ashes on this solemn day is the same used to anoint the head of the newly baptized, marking the cross on their foreheads. It’s the same oil used to bless the hands of our new members, anoint the head of the sick and grace the head of the dead.

The oil, in that same sign, is the connective tissue that ties all those moments and people into that death and resurrection we remember with repentant hearts on Ash Wednesday.

When I mix oil in those burnt palm fronds—the burnt Hosannas we sang on the previous Palm Sunday—and mark that cross on those foreheads, I’m really just coloring in every single cross that was and will be marked there throughout their Christian journey: in baptism, mission, sickness and death.

That very old mark on that ever-aging real estate of skin reminds us that God doesn’t abandon us in life or death. God doesn’t abandon us whether we’re shouting Hosanna or feeling cursed and repentant. God never abandons us.

My son was right, of course. We would color that day, though it wouldn’t be how I’d expected it. With tears in my eyes, I colored in that little cross that had been made by his grandfather in that same oil at his baptism. I colored in the only real estate he’d ever need—that sign of the cross that marked him with the promise of God forever.

What pastor has time for coloring on Ash Wednesday? All of them, it turns out.

- The Rev. Tim Brown (originally published in *Living Lutheran*, March 6, 2019)

Congregational MEETING



please join us!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 1, 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 are currently working on updating our church directory for 2020. If anyone has any changes that are needed, please let us know. Hoping to have them out by mid-February. There is a copy if you need to check the information we have. Thank you*****



God, I pray for my prayer life to become vibrant and strong in this season of Lent. I pray that Your voice, even though a whisper, would ring loud and true in my life.

I pray for the courage and boldness to follow wherever You lead me, to love and serve whomever and however You invite me.

Amen.



Minutes of Triune Lutheran Church Council Meeting of 13 January 2020

Meeting opened at 6:03 PM with a prayer by Pastor Brad.

Minutes of last meeting of 14 October 2019 were briefly reviewed. There was no meeting in December of 2019 as congregational meeting covered business of that month.

Jack presented a year-end report covering our mutual fund with Thrivent, and, also, the brokerage account that was established with Thrivent to handle the equities portion of the Messinger bequest. The cash portion of the bequest was placed in our checking account.

The 2019 year-end balance of our mutual fund was \$146,476.38. Year-end balance of the brokerage account was \$102,989.88. Checking account balance is, approximately, \$7,200.

There was discussion of means of tithing a portion of the bequest. It was concluded that the best method was to place dividends from the equities into a cash fund from which to make these contributions. Thrivent will be instructed to do this and the recipients to be decided at congregational meeting(s). It will take a few yearly quarters to reach 10% of the balance.

Decided to obtain quote to trim tree that is crowding our roof on the south side of the church.

Jack reported replacement of thermostats in both the sanctuary and Willmann Hall.

Bonnie reported four current Willmann Hall rental inquiries and possible follow-up on an inquiry for a week-long rental for a technology educational program for children.

Bonnie, also, indicated contact with a new caterer, who would like to serve as a reference for catering for Willmann Hall renters

There was discussion of possible means to provide large type hymn sheets or hymnals.

Pastor presented us with a sheet that lists his planned vacations and continuing education events through 31 October of this year. This same sheet lists special service event dates and congregational meeting date of 01 March.

These was discussion of ways of observing our 60th anniversary and who should be invited. Tentatively planned for Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM

Next Meeting at 6:00 PM Monday 10 February 2020

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 WORSHIP @ 5 PM <u>TIM MIZE</u>
2 WORSHIP @11 AM	3 Bible Study @ 1 pm Worship at Oaks @ 3:15 pm	4 AA @ 7pm	5	6 AA @ 8 pm	7	8 WORSHIP @ 5 PM <u>PASTOR BRAD</u>
9 WORSHIP @11 AM	10 Bible Study @ 1 pm Council Meeting @ 6 pm	11 AA @ 7pm	12	13 AA @ 8 pm	14 Valentine's Day	15 WORSHIP @ 5 PM <u>TIM MIZE</u>
16 WORSHIP @11 AM	17 Presidents' Day Bible Study @ 1 pm	18 AA @ 7pm	19	20 AA @ 8 pm	21	22 WORSHIP @ 5 PM <u>PASTOR BRAD</u>
23 WORSHIP @11 AM	24 Bible Study @ 1 pm	25 AA @ 7pm	26	27 AA @ 8 pm	28	29 WORSHIP @ 5 PM <u>TIM MIZE</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.