

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

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Office Hours (remotely)

Worship (in Willmann Hall):
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 & brothers in Christ,

Here we are in the Reformation-themed month, when we try to consider how the church continues to reform hundreds of years after the one we claim to be THE Reformer (although the Hebrew prophets, Jesus, and some others have done their fair share of reforming as well) unleashed a tidal wave of organized religion alterations that Martin Luther himself did not envision. Nevertheless, this 2020 year has... well, given us no choice but to “reform” worship, face-to-face ministry in general, including how we do music.

That isn't to say music hasn't changed, to say the least, since the 1500's, for instance, when Luther wrote his fair share of hymns. We allow different instruments into the sanctuary to lead us in song, you can move with the music (although we Lutherans are still working on that), not to mention the language and focus of the musical texts have shifted over time; just to name a few. During this Reformation build-up month of October, the church, also, recognizes the work of another famous Lutheran hymn-writer, named Paul Gerhardt.

We don't use the majority of his hymns all that often. Our tastes in styles have...”reformed,” let's say, in a few hundred years, to put it mildly. His music may be a little drawn out for the majority of us 21st century singers, even if he is connected to nine songs in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal (although two are “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”). When it comes to our hymnals, though, the church goes through its fair share of alterations to keep with the times, in a sense, and one hymn of Gerhardt's that was in the good ‘ole green *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW), but not included in the ELW was “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me.”

My college choir director loved Paul Gerhardt, and absolutely adored this hymn. Even though he lived the majority of his life in the latter half of the 20th century, I often wondered if he was straight out of Reformation Germany. He wasn't the type that just put the music in front



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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

of us and directed us to sing. He made sure to let us in on the story behind it. Evidently, there was a reason why that text was written, why that music was shaped to convey a certain emotion to connect with that story.

About 400 years ago, Gerhardt served as a pastor in Germany during one of the most horrific wars in history, the Thirty Years War, when death seemed to reign as approximately one in every three Germans died. He would witness first-hand Swedish troops burn down his family's home and the church building, but the personal suffering did not end there. Four of his children died before they reached fifteen months of age, with only one surviving into adulthood. After thirteen years of marriage his wife died. His life, to most of us, would be synonymous with absolute despair. And yet, for some life-reforming reason, Paul Gerhardt managed to become, what many church musician historians believe, one of the greatest hymn writers in our church's history.

Shortly after the battles ceased from the Thirty Years War, Gerhardt looked upon the horrifying devastation of an entire nation and wrote the words to one of his most beautiful hymns, "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me" (as translated by another famous hymn-writer, John Wesley, into English):

*Jesus, thy boundless love to me
no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
unite my thankful heart to thee,
and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, thine alone, I am;
be thou alone my constant flame.*

*Oh, grant that nothing in my soul
may dwell, but thy pure love alone;
oh, may thy love possess me whole,
my joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
my ev'ry act, word, thought, be love.*

*This love unwearied I pursue
and dauntlessly to thee aspire.
Oh, may thy love my hope renew,
burn in my soul like heav'nly fire!
And day and night, be all my care
to guard this sacred treasure there.*

*In suff'ring be thy love my peace,
in weakness be thy love my pow'r;
and when the storms of life shall cease,
O Jesus, in that final hour,
be thou my rod and staff and guide
and draw me safely to thy side!*

October will, also, mark for many of us the six-month point of this virus "reforming" our lives, including how we sing (or don't) in public. And yet, the words on their own remain just as true amidst COVID-19, as well as plenty of justice-related issues, 2020 as they were in the aftermath of the Thirty Years War. May "[God's] love, our hope renew, burn in [our] soul like heav'nly fire," leading us to continue to reform our lives not just for our own spiritual benefit, but to better care for all of God's precious children, as if Jesus' love is, actually, truly, boundless, after all. Amen (so let it be, o God...so let it be)!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

To listen to a recording of "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me" from The Kantorei of Concordia Theological Seminary (Fort Wayne, IN): please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SQjWQeH5ww>



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

Bev Deitrick
John Kurtz
Jean Kurtz
Matthew Loede
Donna Matter
Mary Phillips
Gerry Praizner
Hazel Schwab

Karen Schrodell
Bill Stuehler
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.

- 12 Colin Schatt
- 26 Martha Wasson
- 28 Robert Jakubcin
- 29 Mardell Weiss
- 30 Ron Schroeder



- 17 Gary & Almut Zvosec

“THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS” by C.S. Lewis
is the topic for
Monday’s Bible Study @ 1:00pm
(We wear masks and practice safe-distancing.)

Questions? Contact
Triune Lutheran Church
440-526-3676
Triune948@gmail.com



Triune Council Meeting of Sept. 14, 2020, Minutes

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Brad, and attended by Jack Schwab, Bonnie Piskac and Dale Kirk.

Prior to the meeting, Dale and Jack discovered a scene in the lower basement of the church that looked like it had been ransacked. There were buckets, paint cans and other containers strewn about the area, mostly upended and on their sides. Fluorescent lightbulbs were laying on the floor in various places. And everywhere it was very wet.

After further examination, Jack and Dale came to the conclusion that the basement must have experienced a major flooding, as a result of the historic rainfall last Monday, Sept. 7th, which was Labor Day. There must have been at least a foot of water down there at some time, since the lower walls were still wet, and file folders in the lowest drawers of the file cabinets were wet and ruined. The evidence of the flooding was truly amazing...you might even say we had a flood of "Biblical proportions" in our own basement.

Our huge blaster fan, which was left and never picked up after the 2014 flood, was set up and will blow for several days to try and dry out the basement.

Jack then proceeded to give his Financial Report.

As of this date, Sept. 14, 2020: the checking account balance was \$2043. The balance of the Thrivent account was \$135,151 before Jack withdrew \$1151 this afternoon to pay bills. The balance of our stock fund is now \$95,890, an improvement of several thousand dollars from last month.

Jack reported he is still waiting for a callback from the tree service company to give us an estimate on trimming the two large trees in the old playground on the south side of the sanctuary. Jack also said he would look into replacing the motion sensor lights on the northeast corner of Willmann Hall that seem to be operating in daylight when they shouldn't.

Bonnie said she has received several inquiries about renting Willmann Hall for private functions. She said that each time, she asks the caller how many are expected to attend, and answer is always at least 60 people. She said she then tells them we cannot host such large gatherings due to Covid-19 physical distancing restrictions, and the council fully supports Bonnie's judgment.

The next semi-annual congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 15, 2020. In the past few years, we have held the gathering in the evening with a potluck supper, followed by the meeting. Due to Covid-19, Council decided this semi-annual meeting will be held immediately following the 11AM service that day, with no food or refreshment involved. Pastor said he will check with the Saturday evening worshippers, who will decide if they still want to have a Saturday 5PM service on November 14th.

The shipment of cups for Communion have arrived and are working out well for each worship led by Pastor Brad.

Gordon Jardy continues to keep the Triune interior clean, while Dale Kirk continues with exterior lawnmowing and groundskeeping.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2020, at 6 PM.

Submitted by Dale Kirk, Council President



Please mark your calendars ahead of time for our next congregational meeting, which will be Sunday, November 15. Due to COVID-19, we will not be holding a potluck meal before the meeting, and, instead, will begin immediately following the worship that Sunday morning. We hope you can make it!

Don't forget that we fall back one hour on Sunday, November 1!



**God does not need your good works,
but your neighbor does.**

- Martin Luther



OCTOBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 AA @ 8pm	2	3 Worship @ 5pm Tim Mize
4 Worship @ 11am	5 Bible Study @ 1 pm	6 AA @ 7pm	7	8 AA @ 8 pm	9	10 Worship @ 5pm Pastor Brad
11 Worship @ 11am	12 Bible Study @ 1 pm	13 AA @ 7pm	14	15 AA @ 8 pm	16	17 Worship @ 5pm Tim Mize
18 Worship @ 11am	19 Bible Study @ 1 pm Council Meeting @ 6	20 AA @ 7pm	21	22 AA @ 8 pm	23	24 Worship @ 5pm Pastor Brad
25 Worship @ 11am Reformation Sunday	26 Bible Study @ 1 pm	27 AA @ 7pm	28	29 AA @ 8 pm	30	31 Worship @ 5pm Tim Mize



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.