

Ziegels Lutheran Congregation Newsletter February 2018

The February newsletter is sponsored by Michele and Keith
Quiet in honor of our youth

Entered Eternal Life

Arlene Kuhns entered life eternal on December 29, 2017 at the age of 94 years, 4 months, 3 days. A service of thanksgiving for her life and the internment was held on January 6 at Ziegels Church with Pastor Andy officiating. Please remember her sons, Woodrow and Richard and their families and her extended family with your cards and prayers as they mourn her passing.

Let's Keep Our Information Up to Date! As we begin this new year we want to remind you to keep information on Ziegels Lutheran records correct.

- If you move, please give us your new address to save postage costs to resend mailings such as your newsletter. Please note that a change of address on the giving envelopes can take two months to update since they are printed ahead of time.
- If you disconnect your land line or get a new cell phone number, please give it to us so we can connect to you if need be.
- If you get a new e-mail address, please give us an update so we can contact you through a group mailing about special events.

You can call Lori at the church office, 610-285-6157 or email lori962@verizon.net.

If you are in the Hospital, please let us know! There are HIPAA laws about privacy. We only find out if you are hospitalized if a family member calls, or if you give your church name to the hospital at admittance. The Lutheran hospital code is 351.

The Fruits in the 21st Century

(My disclaimer: I am not writing about politics – though I am using a current political example. My point is not partisan, nor does it indicate one “side” is better than another. I am talking about a level of discourse which seems to be growing among many, in our society, of every ilk; I have hope that those claimed by Christ will resist using not just rude and disputed words, but, indeed, rude sentiments using any words.)

We've heard the he said she said on the most recent (it's January 17th) press feeding. The President might, or might not, have used a word that's gotten bees, either rightfully or not, in peoples' bonnets. Or not. Maybe he said it, maybe he didn't. Maybe, by the time you read this, it is old news (if it was news at all) that's been eclipsed by the next round of bad decisions and silly over-reactions by everyone and their uncles. But there's this: whether a certain word was used or not, no one is denying that one group of people was privileged over another, in the discussions, and that “tough language” was used.

Whatever the “tough language” was used, it has proven not to be constructive. The uproar following the meeting in which a derogatory expletive may or may not have been used has diminished our leaders' ability to solve a serious problem. Moreover, those who were on the receiving end of the tough language, have understood the implication of the language: the place they live is substandard, unworthy, deficient, second-rate, and so on. They hear the intention of the words that “people like them” are inherently inadequate.

We know there is a temptation, in our time of partisan bickering, to get called toward the worst sorts of human discourse. We are tempted to attack people and mischaracterize their positions, to use sarcasm and exaggeration. Our political discourse encourages us to choose a side and denigrate whomever is on the other one. We are tempted, in other words, to abandon the fruits of the Spirit listed by Paul in Galatians.



"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Paul was dealing with a differing reality than our own. He was aware that the Christians were a tiny minority with no power in society. They were a persecuted sub-group of a persecuted sub-group. The Romans and Greeks viewed the Christians as scum from a cesspool, not worth anything. And they, at one point, kicked them all out of Rome. Instead of calling for Christians to hate their opponents, to denigrate them and spit at them, Paul encouraged them toward more spiritual attitudes: peace, kindness, gentleness, self-control.

We cannot control how another person speaks or behaves. But we do have some the choice over what we say, and mean, over our words and implications. We can be loving and joyful (or try to be), and peaceful, patient and kind (if we try really hard). We can be generous, and faithful (with some work) and even speak (in our best moments) with gentleness and self-control. In other words, whatever our political position (or denominational affiliation), we can see and hear and read about someone behaving badly, and pray for God's strength not to do the same.

A first step in claiming the fruits of our Spirit might be to grasp how blessed we are. We are blessed to live in our country – a great gift of security and comfort. We are, even more, blessed to know our Loving God who bestows all graces on our lives. We have discovered we are children of the One who creates us, and redeems us and blesses us daily. And now we know that our family includes all others, who are also children of God. The early Christians could claim the fruits of the Spirit because they knew that the Romans, though their persecutors, were also children of God. We can claim the fruits of the Spirit, when we understand all other people, even those from struggling countries, to be children of God, too.

Ours is the challenge, as children of God, is to avoid the tough languages of our mean-spirited politics. Ours is the challenge to welcome the other children of God whenever we can. Ours is the challenge to speak lovingly to them and of them, with gentleness and kindness. It is our call, as Christians, to intend only good for them – to hope for their well-being, to celebrate their joys, to seek for their peace. It is our call to live into the Kingdom of God, where the fruits of

the Spirit are our daily bread, and God's love is the standard.

-- AWM

Thank you to the following people who assisted with our worship services in January:

- Head Usher – Helen Gambler
- Worship Assistants – Kelly Lucarelli, Deanna Quay, Aaron Green, Lori Brawn
- Lay Readers – Christa Taylor, Ralph Wilhide, Dave Grillo, Maynard Koplín

Sponsors Are Needed!

Can you help by sponsoring one of the following? It's a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one.

- **Altar Flowers and Piano Vases** – Contact Gloria Hausman at 610-285-6741.
- **Bulletins** – Cost is \$18 per week. Contact Sandy Rothermel at 610-966-0712 or Sandyravon@aol.com
- **Nursery** – Cost is \$34 per Sunday or \$17 per service. Sponsorship helps to cover the cost of the attendant. Please see Lori Brawn.
- **Lutheran Newsletter 2018**- \$40 per month. Sign up sheet on the Upper Narthex Desk.
- **Food Pantry Sponsor 2018** - \$70 per month.
- **Website Sponsor 2018** - \$30 per month. Sign up sheet on the Upper Narthex Desk.

Mailbag

Thank you to the Lutheran Council and the Congregation for the gift cards we have received for Christmas. We are truly blessed to be a part of this Church Family and we appreciate the support we received from all of you throughout the year. May this New Year be filled with Many Blessings.

Pastor Andy and Lori

The next Lutheran Council meeting will be held on Monday,
February 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Children's Page

Prayer List

Please remember the following people in your prayers. To add someone to our list of concerns, call the church office at 610-285-6157.

Our Members and Friends (Lutheran List):

Renee Miller

Tina Hoch

Carolyn Smith

Marlene Evangelista

Gloria Hausman

Lee Merkel

Ray Hausman

Clarence Hausman

Marsteller Family

Carol Merkle

Paul Ruch

Beth Harwick

Harold Gehringer

Earl Schrammel

Pastor Michel

Nadine Host

Kristin Folck

Jill Normandin

Megan Koch

Grace Zimmerman

Deb Ginder

Lottie Berger

Dayton Ritter

Marie Leslie

Polly Loveland

Oscar Kleinsmith

Wyatt Newhard

Military

Members:

Ralph Haaf

Greg Meckes

Luke Frisch

Ben Beitler

Nick Millward

Scott Esterly

Garth Ritter

Chris Owens

Dale Host

Scott Becker

Nan Gerner

Brett Snyder

Peggy Hoffman

Gloria Beers

Sonny Purugganan

Deborah Demko

Jeffrey Miller

James Ferguson

Family of:

Arlene Kuhns

Hilda Yeager

AnnaMae Meck

Lutheran Council Meeting

The Lutheran Council meeting for Monday, January 8 was cancelled due to the weather.