

Ziegels Lutheran Congregation
Newsletter
January, 2018

*The January newsletter is sponsored by Ralph Wilhide
and Kim Lapp in honor of spreading the Word.*

It's Not What You Think... (or maybe it is)

One of my major faults, when I was a student in High School and College, was my tendency to procrastinate the writing of papers. Many times I would make a good faith effort at the beginning, only to decide, at some point, that I had gotten a good enough start to relax a bit (then a bit more) and then – where does the time go? – find myself rushing to get the paper done on time. In the end, I would get the assignment done on time, but it would not be as good a job as it could have been. I often had to take short cuts, or not fully consider all the ideas associated with whatever project I was doing. The assignment got done but it was a RUSHED job and not a GOOD job.

Now, even though you might think I'm talking about the bizarre way our government leaders appear to be doing their work these days, I am, instead, considering the work of our developing Exploratory Committee. As of this writing, we are just about done populating that committee (really, it's more of a task force) for Ziegels Union Church. The small(-ish) group will begin meeting in January to take a look at the future of our ministry in this place at this time. And, most importantly, **it's not what you think**. (or maybe it is I don't know)

To begin with, I must say, I am not unaware that we, as a church – members of both congregations – do like to hypothesize about current and future events. We develop theories about what is happening, and debate those theories in any location we populate together. In little groups before or after worship. In fellowship hours. In barber shops and diners. In twos and threes or in good sized groupings. By phone call and by text. “Here's what I think is gonna happen...”

So I know that people will have had discussions about what exactly an Exploratory Committee (or is it a task force?) will be doing. We have wondered, for instance, will we be two churches or one? Or two denominations or one? One church with two denominations? One church with no denominations? Will someone have to close? To move? To merge with someone else? Will staff get fired? Will everyone get fired? Will the Eagles get to the Superbowl? (Wait. Different task force.)

The reality is, however, that if we do good process – if we make sure we're doing a GOOD job and not a RUSHED job, we will not think very much about the outcomes of our explorations until we've considered more important matters. Like who we are and what our resources are. And who are neighbors are and what their needs are. If we can figure out why God has placed this odd assortment of people that is Ziegels in this particular place at this particular time, then we have a much better idea of what form would best serve us. But we can make no sensible, thought out, considered conclusions about who we are supposed to be, unless we know who we are now. And fully recognize all the gifts we have – in people and material resources (and history and viewpoints and all kinds of other things.)

So, really. Way before we get to the point of deciding which piece of office machinery is the most important one to keep, for instance, we have to decide what ministries it will be used for. And while it's not going to be the job of the Exploratory Committee (Group? Team?) to think through the use of every part of our resources, it will be their task to think about what makes us who we are. To note what our gifts are, our strengths, our talents, our assets, our characteristics. And instead of **directing** what kind of change **must** occur, they will, hopefully, suggest what kinds of changes will best serve who we are, what we might do, how we might serve God best in this place now and in the future.

Which is not something we know right now. Some of us (Many of us) have ideas about what that might be. Even I have my opinions. We think we know. But we also must acknowledge – as the very first thought – that God's idea is not what we think. God's ways are not our ways. God's thoughts are not our thoughts. Whatever we develop, as a group of several faithful Christians, meeting with limited preconceived notions, may end up being significantly different than anyone ever thought. Or. We might actually end up saying what somebody's been saying all along. Because one never knows with any God directed project.

What YOU can do is stay interested. 1) Pray for the people involved. (names to be released when we get our last “Yes!!”) (Any

minute now, I hope.) 2) Avoid speculating too much about what we're gonna end up with. 3) Answer any kinds of questions and questionnaires we get out to people in the congregation, with honest information. 4) Keep an open mind about the forms of Christian community, knowing that there is never just one right way to do anything. 5) Keep your eyes open when you're out in the community around our church – for the needs of the world around us, for signs that God is leading us, for hope springing up in unexpected ways. And share what you see.

And 6) pray for our church, knowing that God planted us in this field, on this ridge, a long time ago, and still has something to say to the world from this place.
-- AWM

Let us know if you have a need! Ziegels is one busy church but we are never too busy to BE the church! If you have been hospitalized, become ill, have a concern that needs spiritual sharing/guidance, or desire home communion, please call Lori and she will connect you with the pastor or make arrangements for a visit.

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.

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

Head Usher – Terry Oplinger

Worship Assistants – Kelly Lucarelli, Deanna Quay and Kim Lapp

Lay Readers – Kelly Lucarelli, Joyce Najarian, Kim Lapp

Mixing Board Operators – Andy Schopf, Ralph Wilhide, Kim Lapp and Jeff Quay

Our sincere thanks to our elected leaders...

David Grillo, President 610-928-3506

Kevin Taylor, Vice President 610-351-4321

Ralph Wilhide, Secretary	610-285-2537
Shawn Frederick-Beers, Treasurer	610-706-0184
Helen Gambler	610-298-3060
Keith Harwick	610-756-4308
Nadine Host	610-683-5704
Kim Lapp	610-468-4049
Terry Oplinger	610-462-5324
Michele Quier	484-661-6049
Paul Wolf	610-298-8989

The Church Council Installation will be held on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

... and to those who served thank you to Linda Hausman and Deb Todd whose terms expired at the end of 2017.

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.



Prayer List

“So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.” (Colossians 1:9, NLT)

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	Grace Zimmerman	Scott Becker
Tina Hoch	AnnaMae Meck	Nan Gernerd
Carolyn Smith	Lottie Berger	Brett Snyder
M a r l e n e Evangelista	Dayton Ritter	Peggy Hoffman
Gloria Hausman	Marie Leslie	Gloria Beers
Lee Merkel	Polly Loveland	Sonny Purugganan
Mildred Gehringer	Oscar Kleinsmith	Deborah Demko
Ray Hausman	Hilda Yeager	David Freeze
Clarence Hausman	Wyatt Newhard	Jackie Grier
Marstellar Family	Deb Ginder	Jeffrey Miller
Beth Harwick		James Ferguson
Carol Merkle		Pastor Michel
Megan Koch	Military Members:	
Paul Ruch	Ralph Haaf	

Earl Schrammel	Greg Meckes	
Dolores Shade	Luke Frisch	Family of:
Jason Clemens	Ben Beitler	Larry Ritter
Mike Bagenstose	Nick Millward	
Jen Keyser	Scott Esterly	
Joyce Schrammel	Garth Ritter	
Harold Gehringer	Dale Host	
	Christopher	
	Owens	

Mailbag

Dear Pastor Andy and friends of Ziegels. Many thanks for all the cards and prayers during my recent hospitalization and especially to Pastor Andy for his visit, prayers and love and support. It is good to know that in times like this, there are others that care.
Sincerely, Dolores Shade

Lutheran Council Meeting

The Lutheran Council meeting was held Monday, December 11. Highlights from the meeting included:

- Officers and Church council members will be installed on January 7.
- Linda Hausman and Deb Todd were thanked for their service on the Council.
- Caring Place is no longer holding their Christmas Sponsorship.

The next Lutheran Council meeting will be held Monday, January 8 at 7:30 p.m.