

Ziegels Lutheran Congregation

Newsletter

June 2018

The June newsletter is sponsored by
Kelly and Tony Danner.



Are you, or is someone in your family graduating from high school, college or another educational institution this year? We would like to recognize our graduates in June. Please speak with Lori about your graduate's name, school and degree.



On Sunday, June 10 we will honor and bless our graduates as they move through this special time of accomplishment, transition, and change. We, as a community of faith, stand with our graduates, and support them as fellow believers in Jesus Christ. We hope you will

be able to be with us on June 10.

Educational Grant sponsors are needed. If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one, why not consider doing so by sponsoring an educational grant. Each grant will be \$200.00 and you are welcome to sponsor all or part of a grant. Please call Lori at the church office at 610-285-6157 for more information.

Educational Grant Applications are available on the desk in the Upper Narthex. Please return the applications to the main office by May 20.

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 *Simply Giving*® Program, endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union, is designated to help you conveniently make contributions to our Congregation. Through Simply Giving Program, your payments are made through a preauthorized withdrawal from your bank account.

Historically, summertime giving is low because of vacations and travel plans. Simply Giving helps you to continue to support our church when you are busy or out of town, and it helps us to continue to meet our monthly expenses. We encourage you to look into this program. It takes just a few minutes to set up a recurring giving plan, weekly or monthly options are available. Please speak with Lori Brawn for more information or an authorization form.

Give on Your Terms

You determine the frequency of your automatic payment – weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly. Your payment is deposited into Ziegels' bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account.

Easy Giving You Can Count On!

Convenience – Payment will still be made if you are out of town or on vacation.

Security – No lost or stolen checks. Environmentally and Wallet Friendly – Save on checks, envelopes and postage.

Sign Up and Start Giving

To participate, please complete our enrollment form that is included with this newsletter and return it to Lori Brawn in the main office.

The garden is mostly in. We spent the dry part of last Thursday getting our plants into the ground. What's left is the plants we grow from seeds. Notably, we will be putting in all our beans from seeds. (Fewer than last year, though; we had way too many beans last year.) We know, from our experience, that most of the bean seeds will germinate. We know that they will grow strong and healthy. We know that they will produce many beans. And, very predictably, we know what kinds of beans will be produced. We'll know what they look like and what they taste like and, even, the margin of error we have in picking them before they get too big. Bean seeds produce wonderfully predictably.

I imagine the same is true for the larger fields in production in the countryside surrounding Ziegels. The corn, soy beans, alfalfa and what have you, come up predictably. If there is adequate, but not too much, rain, if there is adequate, but not too much sun, if there are enough of the right conditions, and not too many diseases or bugs, by harvest the plants are in a predictable range of production. Even though I have little experience (and feel free to call me a rank amateur, because I am), the seas of corn stretching over the gentle hillsides are a witness to the predictability of plant growth in the right conditions. The plants are virtually all corn plants, all about the same height, all lined up neatly in their rows. Given all the other factors over which there is no control, it is a good thing that the corn planted in the Weisenberg area is so uniform and predictable.

The Church of the 1960s and '70s in which I grew up was likewise predictable. There was worship and study groups, bazaars and white elephants, Sunday school classes for all ages and Vacation Bible School in the summers. People from the neighborhood belonged – if not to our congregation then to another close by. And if someone new moved in, they would, at least, give us a look on a Sunday. There were always enough leaders of the right age and always enough volunteers to get things done.

And we had predictable calendars of events – not just Christmas and Easter, but Stewardship drives and mission collections. Though we were encouraged toward “evangelistic efforts,” there was little need to put



much energy into them. People would show up; we mainly concerned ourselves with mimeo-graphed flyers in doors every few years, and inviting our friends to stuff that was, predictably happening.

Our churches used to be like corn fields – or, given their sizes, at least like bean patches. In fact, our churches fit the model that populated the expectations about the land around our increasingly suburban life: they were like well-manicured lawns: straight and even and predictable. Even the occasional weeds that cropped up among our pews were part of the way things were: they were dandelions, for sure, but they were OUR dandelions. And so our churches needed some re-seeding from generation to generation, when the conditions were right, they would persist, year after year, filled graciously with the fruitful abundance of strong faith and its beneficial consequences. We wondered about growing stronger, and more effective, maybe, but never about survival.

We live in an age where just about every kind of predictable growth is in question. Sure, the corn and the beans, alfalfa and tomatoes, the winter wheat and the summer squash, they all still grow. The climate has not changed enough to knock our seasons completely out of whack (at least not as much as the fields I see when I visit my in-laws in North Carolina – but that's for a different time). But the expectations of how churches “live” in our time and place are under-going a shift in their predictability. We can, no longer, sow the predictable seed we grew up with – where everyday life was centered around a church community, and everyone was part of one somewhere. The rows do not fill up predictably with new growth.

Maybe we might think about the world around us. Maybe the model I have presented, as apt as it was in, say, 1973, is not helpful any more. I have wondered about the mown grass lawn for a while now, not only because the more dandelion that grows, the less rabbit food I must buy. I'm not sure that the abundance of grass around us is the healthiest plant life for us to promote in our lives. It certainly does not reflect the diversity of size, color and shape with which God fills our world. I have wondered about listening to all the many web-sites and companies and movements which give advice on how to plant a meadow.

The “Plant a Meadow” groups demonstrate how to replace a lawn, or other spaces, with a self-sustaining patch of flowers. Sowing a variety of wildflowers, and eradicating grasses, eliminates the need for mowing, grows food for our fragile pollinators, and creates beauty (of a sort). (It might also create hay-fever, but...) Moreover, the flowers, once begun, will regenerate themselves, either by dropping lots of seeds or because they are perennials. The catch, of course, is that we are used to the orderly predictability of a mowed grass lawn.

But what if we did not stick with convention? And what if we go back to talking about churches instead of lawns and gardens? Perhaps instead of thinking of the church as productive little rows of pews, we might think of them as the place where God’s wild beauty flourishes. Instead of a uniform patch of only one thing (a “Green Bean” Church, if you will, or a “Tomato Congregation”) we might seek out the bright colors that invite those not seeking God’s presence the way we were taught to. A “Wildflower Church” could be one where bounty of God’s love is enough to touch fragile creatures, flitting around the edges.

It might be difficult, of course, to be a church which cultivates its wildflower tendencies. Especially in farm country, we like orderly rows and the predictability of food crops. And wildflowers look like weeds. But it’s easy to recognize how varied our gifts and talents are, and how beautiful our many different kinds of mission are in God’s eyes. Truly, within the life of our joint congregations, we have been a wildflower meadow of God’s love for a while now. The real challenge, beyond getting by our corn row preferences, is finding ways to sow the wildflower seeds of our mission out into the world around us. How can our building, sewing, feeding, housing, caring, praying, teaching and other missions be sown into the fast growing, too predictably built up neighborhoods of western Lehigh County? If we find a way, we might not be able to predict the patches of wild beauty which spring from them. But it will be glorious.

--AWM



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
Beth Harwick
Ray Hausman
Jill Normandin
Marsteller Family
Carol Merkle
Megan Koch
Mildred Gehringer
John Beiber
Paul Ruch
Jim Macalush
Kristin Folck
Darlene Heintzelman
Deanna Quay
Shirley Raubenhold
Diane Acker

Wyatt Newhard
Deb Ginder
Dayton Ritter
Nancy Kleinsmith
Steve Parks
Polly Loveland
Tim Hoch
Mike Moyer
Luella Kocher
Kathleen Kleinsmith
Oscar Kleinsmith
Military Members:
Ralph Haaf
Greg Meckes
Luke Frisch
Ben Beitler
Nick Millward
Scott Esterly
Garth Ritter
Dale Host
Chris Owens

Deborah Demko
Jeffrey Miller
Brett Snyder
Peggy Hoffman
Gloria Beers
Sonny Purugganan
Jeanne Ennico
Terry Kearney
James Ferguson
MaryAnn Warren
RT DeBlis
Tim Zakany
Tom Bachman

Family of:
Donna Wilhide

Thank you.....

to the following people who assisted with our worship services in May:

- Head Usher – Ralph Wilhide
- Worship Assistants – Kim Lapp, Kelly Lucarelli, Aaron Green
- Lay Readers – Kim Lapp, Ralph Wilhide, Dave Frey
- Mixing Board Operators – Jeff Quay, Dave Frey, Ralph Wilhide, Andy Schopf

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 Council Meeting Minutes

The Lutheran Council meeting was held Monday, May 14.

Highlights from the meeting included:

- Thank you letters from Good Shepherd, Diakon and Pastor Andy.
- A motion was made to confirm Charlyze Bobbyn, Jenna Frey, Karissa Moyer and Kira Schafer. Interviews went very well.
- The Synod Assembly will be held on June 8 and 9. Those representing Ziegels Lutheran will be Lori Brawn, Jim Hemerly and Pastor Andy.

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The next Lutheran Council Meeting will be Monday, June 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Children's June Newsletter

I am a child of God,
And He has sent me here,
Has given me an earthly home
With parents kind and dear.

Lead me, guide me, walk beside me,
Help me find the way.
Teach me all that I must do
To live with Him someday.

I am a child of God,
And so my needs are great;
Help me to understand His words
Before it grows too late.

Lead me, guide me, walk beside me,
Help me find the way.
Teach me all that I must do
To live with Him someday.

I am a child of God.
Rich blessings are in store;
If I but learn to do His will
I'll live with Him once more.

Lead me, guide me, walk beside me,
Help me find the way.
Teach me all that I must do
To live with Him someday.

Summer Sunday
school
June 3
through June
24
10 a.m.

Vacation
bible school
June 18
through June
22

Music and
drama camp
August 6
through
august 10

Bear Creek
camp
July 16
through July
20