

Ziegels Lutheran Newsletter ***October 2021***

The October Newsletter is sponsored in honor of Chris Evangelista's birthday by his mom.

We are grateful for our members' financial support. In August, the contributions to our general fund totaled \$12,974.11 and our expenses totaled \$15,830.45. Our 2021 monthly budget total is \$18,853.00. Please give as you are able to support our ministry.

Nominations are now being accepted for the position of Church Council member. If you would like to nominate a member of our church family, please write their name(s) on note paper with the words "Church Council" and include it with your offering any Sunday morning or be in touch with Lori. All nominees will receive a letter informing them of the nomination along with a job description for the position.

~~~~~

## **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 \$18.00. Contact Sandy Rothermel at 610-966-0712 or [Sandyravon@aol.com](mailto:Sandyravon@aol.com).

~~~~~

Ann Raubenhold, October 2021

Its Halloween, time to be scary or corny,
all costumed up also acting the real phony.
Going Trick or Treating around door to door
receiving tons of candy, apples, and lots more.

Please do not eat everything in an hour
or your stomach will turn overly sour.

Now for this cause of why per reason,
get Chocolate Bunny, Jellybeans at Easter Season!

“Lutheran” Dachziegels

Early on in my time at Ziegels, I needed to figure out what 1) Lutherans actually are. At the same time, I needed to figure out what a 2) Union Church is and, as well, what 3) Ziegels Church is. They’re all different things. And all are important any time we need to define, for any reason, who we are – the Lutheran members of Ziegels Union Church. I’m fairly certain, I still do not know all the intricacies of any of those three things. But I know more.

For instance, I know (now) that baptism is incredibly important to Lutherans – more important, in fact, than it actually was to the Baptists (with whom I served for 6 years). I was not prepared for the spiritual language of water that flows through Lutheran liturgy. But now, I look for opportunities for us to remember our baptism and to thank God for the gift of it. Likewise, I was not quite ready for the shape of Lutheran worship – which proceeds with its own meaning: from confession of sin and receiving forgiveness, to hearing the word in several forms, to responding to the word in a variety of ways. The pattern of receiving grace may have varied parts but the order and flow are familiar, bringing vitality to those who come to worship.

As part of the order and flow of worship, I gradually have become aware (especially through experiencing it) of the importance of responding to God’s grace by coming forward. We approach the altar rail as a sign of approaching the throne of God’s grace. It is a sign of response – of gratitude for forgiveness and acceptance of the call of the Word. When we receive Holy Communion, in a Lutheran setting, we are saying “yes” to grace and “yes” to accepting Christ’s mission and “yes” to being part of a community of forgiven sinners come together before God.

I am grateful, therefore, that we are able once more to hold altar rail communion. It is a sacrament which, like baptism, defines us as Lutherans (even if one is a Lutheranized Moravian). Even with the changes to procedure that were necessary, sharing altar rail communion felt like a large sigh of relief. It spoke to our souls. We were Church together.

As we hold onto that feeling, we also remember that it is an important part of our identity to be a Union Church. We share our building with the United Church of Christ congregation. And we share almost all of our programming. Except for the Lutheran Social Services, all the working committees of our church are shared: Property, Worship and Music, Christian Education, Fellowship and Mission (encompassing the Response Team and Sewing); any other programs and activities are generally carried out as Union activities. We share, in effect, our present and our future.

Being a Union church can be a battleground of conflicts, when disagreements flare up over differences of opinion. But it can also be a strength. Our history shows, for instance, that when one congregation has faced a struggle, they have received support from the other congregation. And to the outside world, we have a chance to show that Christians are not intractable and petty, but capable of working together despite differences. Being a Union Church allows us to demonstrate that we are at our best when we are flexible and understanding.

We don't always exude flexibility and harmony, however. We do squabble, sometimes. And it has been hard for us to chart our way through difficult times, in the past and the present. The story of the Lutherans failing to unlock the Church for the Reformed congregation to worship in, because a (Reformed) friend of the recently fired Sexton did not hand over his key to the Church, for instance, is the stuff of local legend.

But through all the pitfalls and potholes that dominate the landscape of our 271 year history together, we have found our way. We have benefitted as well from being, specifically, Ziegels. We are people of faith who resembled the hard baked, overlapping clay tiles of the original church building – the “Dachziegel” tiles after which we are named. We have been stubborn, yes, but also tenacious. Unwilling to allow the trials we face to do more damage to us than rain sliding off the clay tiles on a roof.

In times of crisis, conflict, and adversity, we have done better when we have held together like those tiles. As we move together into the world beyond COVID, we will require the same resolute bond. Defined as Lutherans, yes, but as a Union in Christ as well, and as Ziegels, proof against the storm.

-- AWM

Lutheran Council Meeting

Lutheran Council meeting was held on September 13.

- Thank you letters have given to us for our Educational Grants and our Benevolences.
- Pastor Andy and Pastor Larry will be working together for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.
- On-line Worship will be given weekly by Pastor Andy.
- Lutheran Budget Committee work we be discussed by several Lutheran Council members.

The next Lutheran Council meeting will be held
on Monday, October 11.

Prayer List

Please pray for our members and friends:

Linda Folck	Nancy Kleinsmith	Deb Smyth
Carol Merkel	Deb Ginder	Collin Ober
Marlene Evangelista	Grace Zimmerman	James Ferguson
Clarabelle Dengler	Arlene Snyder	Walt Marsteller Jr.
Deanna Quay	Laila Loch	Karen Feeley
Derek Green	Mike Henry Jr.	Donna Hartman
Jerry Miller	Bryan Bachma	Mary Alice
Tammy Bauer		Jim Satterwhite
Lena Fox		Barry Gerz Sr.
Beth Lamkin		Gloria Gerz
Drena Merkel		Raymond Geiger
Kirstin Wert		Irene Brightbill
Jason Fronina		Dee Markell
Kim Lapp		Richard Bender
Dennis Roethermel	Military Members:	Pat Shreck
Anna Masters	Garth Ritter	Bill
Veronica Leibensperger	Connor Smith	Lorraine
Richard Keller	Dale Host	Darlene Merkel
Gloria Herber	Chris Owens	Frances Plank
Dave Purugganan	Jessica Thomas	Christopher Gerz
	Ben Beitler	Connie Bittner
		Peggy Hoffman
		Peg and Bill Angelo