

Ziegels Lutheran Newsletter ***May 2022***

*The May Newsletter is sponsored by the
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We are grateful for our members' financial support. In March, the contributions to our general fund totaled \$16,977.73 and our expenses totaled \$20,982.61. Our 2022 monthly budget total is \$18,887.00. Please give as you are able to support our ministry.

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## **Sponsors Are Needed**

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**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).

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Lutheran Council Meeting

Lutheran Council meeting was held on April 11.

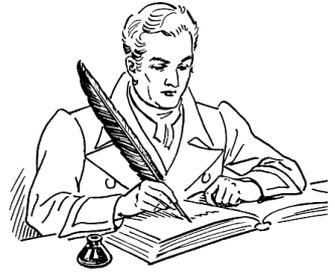
- Discussions were held on the NEPS and the Treasurer Report and the Steeple Bill.
- Synod Assembly on June 10 and 11.
- God's Work our Hands – September 11, 2022
- Council Members – Another number of Council Members are in need. Discussion will be held with Lutheran Members.

The next Lutheran Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 9.

Again, it is written. . .

Beginning in the late Fall of 2021, the presidents of the Consistory, Lutheran Council and Union Council, along with the pastors examined the “Articles of Agreement” in detail. Actually, we refer to them as the “Articles of Agreement”; they refer to themselves as “A Relationship Between Two Congregations in a Union Church.” That difference is the kind of the thing that we mostly discovered, because the document is something different than what we have grown to think it is. (I will keep referring to it, however, as “the Articles” because that’s what we call it these days.)

Our examination proved interesting. Almost from the beginning we saw that the Articles were designed for a Union Church designed in the 19th century, updating itself into the world of the late 1980s. The community of faith that it imagines is one in which two distinct and vibrant congregations



are sharing all the space and **just a little bit** of the program. That community of faith, from thirty to forty years ago, is not the reality in which we find ourselves. Much of what the Articles talks about is about different people living in a different time going about life together in a different way.

For instance, the Articles imagine a world in which each congregation has its own committees working on similar issues – two worship committees, two stewardship, evangelism, and Christian Education committees (plus a separate Sunday School committee which is different than either of the congregations’ groups). Each congregation even had its own choir. The Union Council is viewed, by the Articles, mostly as a coordinating committee between the two congregations. The Property Committee is empowered to make sure the shared building and maintenance work is coordinated; and the Shared Ministry is empowered to make sure the programs and building use of each congregation are coordinated so as not to hinder each other.

To see the difference between the time when the Articles were written) and now, we can look at the use of the Church kitchen. In the late ‘80s, there were simmering feuds (No one threw anything; but there were occasional frayed nerves, I’ve been told.) about who used the kitchen, when and how. The Articles address rules for making sure people respected the use of the kitchen, and other programs that were going on during kitchen use. For instance – don’t hold a congregational luncheon or bake sale or what have you during the other congregation’s worship.

Although some effort might go into editing, amending, or reforming the “Articles” in the near future, today I have a different purpose. Looking at this document from the early ‘90s makes me realize how much the Church (across our country and world) has been changing over the past several decades. There have been hundreds of books about how it’s changing, of course. But the ways we have adjusted to new realities since the articles were written makes clear how much we live in a different reality.

In our current “Relationship between two congregations in a Union Church,” for instance, virtually all of the programming that goes on is carried out as a Union effort. Except for the Lutheran Social Services Committee and the UCC ITB, every working committee of the Church exists as a Union Committee. We share more of our ministry than we engage in individually. More critically, however, we find ourselves in very uncharted waters as we sail out from the time of COVID.

Already, before the pandemic, people were re-evaluating what it means to be engaged with a faith community. People have to work longer hours on more days than in the ‘60s. Our schools schedule more activities without regard to Church activities. Society has downgraded the merits of being “a member” in any kind of organization. We (the Church) were, already, figuring out how to proclaim the good news of God’s love shown in Jesus Christ in a different reality than most of us had grown up in.

The pandemic threw us into an even more altered reality. We are sorting out how to use electronic media more effectively. We are evaluating what works in person. We are discerning how to communicate more effectively. We’re doing it all, while understanding that people have grown even more distant from church life as it existed in 1950, 1970 or even 1990. We still have a mission to spread God’s love. Whether we want to or not, we probably must change how we do it.

Change is daunting, since we are always uncertain in how to proceed, and what will come. But reading the text our forebears have left us helps us to understand we are not alone. They did what they needed to do in their own time – re-wrote the rules to make it work – and then took the journey in faith. We, like they, live in interesting times, and face difficulty. But we, like they, walk with trust in God, as pilgrims together. And someday, our children in faith, may read the documents we leave behind; and they’ll know that they’re a different community of faith than we were, but also that they have their own journey to make.

--AWM

Prayer List

Please pray for our members and friends:

Linda Folck
Carol Merkel
Marlene Evangelista
Clarabelle Dengler
Deanna Quay
Derek Green
Jerry Miller
Tammy Bauer
Lena Fox
Beth Lamkin
Drena Merkel
Kirstin Wert
Jason Fronina
Gloria Herber
Anna Masters
Veronica Leibensperger
Michelle Quier
Annabelle Koplín
Sherri Lauer
Dennis Rothermel
Dave Purugganan
Brad Heintzelman

Nancy Kleinsmith
Forrest Merkel
Grace Zimmerman
Arlene Snyder
Laila Loch
Arline Lahn
Perma Miller

Military Members:

Garth Ritter
Connor Smith
Dale Host
Chris Owens
Jessica Thomas
Ben Beitler

Deb Smyth
Donna Hartman
Megan Koch
Walt Marsteller Jr.
Karen Feeley
Mary Alice
Jim Satterwhite
Kenny Gaskill
Barry Gerz Sr.
Gloria Gerz
Raymond Geiger
Irene Brightbill
Richard Bender
Charlie Hurry
Mark Toomey
Nancy Mintzer
Peggy Hoffman
Frances Plank
Stephen Plank
Pat Shreck
Bill
Lorraine
Aiden Hirschmann
Bruce Watt
Darlene Merkel
Frances Plank
Christopher Gerz
Connie Bittner
Timothy Wessner
PA Henry Distler

Family of:
James Ferguson