

Trinity Tidings

May 2, 2024

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What is the most meals served at a community meal?

I was asked this week, "What is the most meals served at a community meal?" I looked through our records. There were 225 meals served at the October meal in 2020. We came close to that number this past week by serving 223 meals!



Our next community meal is Wednesday, May 29. Grilled hotdogs will be served.



Donations needed for the March meal are:

- Healthy snacks (e.g. raisins, craisins, dried fruit, granola/protein bars, jerky, etc.)
- Desserts (packaged or homemade)
- PLEASE NO NUTS and NO ITEMS REQUIRING REFRIGERATION.

Place donations in the bin outside of church.

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday, May 5

- Adult Sunday School 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Story Time 10 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM

Monday, May 6

Tuesday, May 7

Wednesday, May 8

- Worship Committee 5:30 PM
- Confirmation Class 6:30 PM

Thursday, May 9

- Bible Study 9 AM
- Quilting 10 AM
- Comfort Crafts 5:30 PM
- Carport Clutch 6:00 PM

Friday, May 10

Saturday, May 11

Sunday, May 12 *Mother's Day*

- Adult Sunday School 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Story Time 10 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM

Click [here](#) for the most current calendar.

Click [here](#) for worship.

Office Hours:
8 AM - 12 noon
Monday - Thursday
Other times by appointment

Sunday, May 19

Capital Funds Campaign
Celebration Potluck

Sign up at the Info Center



Attention Families of 2024 Graduates.

We want to recognize all graduates of Trinity at worship on Sunday May 19th.

Send the following information to trinity.newlondon@gmail.com:
School/University, picture of the graduate, and their future plans.



To Proclaim the Good News of God in Christ through Word and Deed

Synod Assembly

East Central Synod of Wisconsin
May 17 - 18, 2024

Proclamation is at the heart of who we are. Through word and deed, the people of God share the good news of God in Christ! The Synod Assembly is the highest legislative body in our regional church. Gathered under the theme, "To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed," 114 Congregations just like ours will gather to conduct the business of the church. Our representatives will be nurtured, inspired, and challenged through words of proclamation. If you have interest in learning more about the business of the synod assembly, scan to QR code to read reports, consider resolutions, and more. Please pray for our voting members and send your insights and encouragement with them.

WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY

- Elections for 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Representation from the East Central Synod of Wisconsin and for synod council and committees
- Compensation Guideline recommendations for rostered minister compensation
- 2025 Synod Spending Plan
- Holy Communion hosted by Peace Lutheran Church - Bishop Anne, presiding; Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarra, Preaching
- Keynote Speaker, The Rev. Kerri Parker, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches
- Service project gathering support for Crossways Camps and offering designation - ELCA World Hunger and Bishop's Resource Fund.

REPORTS

Reports tell the story of our life together. The synod assembly receives reports from the Bishop and staff team, Vice President, Treasurer, Synod Committees and Teams, and Ministry Partners across the region, including a report delivered by Rev. Dr. Phil Hirsch, Executive Director for Christian Community and Leadership at the ELCA.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions enable this church to address broad policy issues or issues important to God's mission in the world. The following resolutions are before the synod assembly for consideration.

- 1 East Central Synod Members part of "50 Committed to \$50" raises awareness and support for ELCA World Hunger
- 2 Resolution to Encourage Participation in "Now is the Time" Study to Further the Work of Racial Equity
- 3 Action Encouraging The ECSW to Promote Education and Advocacy for Peace in the Holy Land
- 4 T.E.E.M. Candidate Voting Status at the ECSW Synod Assembly considers the voice and vote at synod assembly for those leading congregations while in seminary formation
- 5 Resolution to Support a U.S. Constitutional Amendment to Limit Money in Politics



East Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Scan to learn more or visit www.ecsw.org

- Pastor Mary Bauer & family - First English - Appleton; home fire
- Jeremy & Julia Martinson - friend of Amy Kuehl, Jeremy is recovering from surgery
- Pastor Paul Thompson - brother of Pastor Chuck
- Tony Krajna - friend of Dan Wesenick, cancer
- Jim Schmidt - friend of Dyreson's, recovering from surgery
- Shelley Langkau - cousin of Vigil's, cancer
- Bryan Price - friend of Vigil's, cancer
- Kristin - friend of Kelly Newton, health concerns
- Sue Luba - recovering from surgery
- Carla Fulcer - friend of Sue Luba, cancer
- Keith Krueger
- Mary Jo Driessen - friend of Wesenick's, cancer
- Paul Bock - recovering from surgery
- Brian Miller - health issues
- Trista Jo Westphal - health concerns
- Ginny Halverson - friend of Lehl's, recovering from a stroke
- Peter H. - friend of Dyreson's, leukemia
- Julie Smith - daughter of Jean Smith, recovering from transplant surgery
- Leslie Larson - uncle of Marta Wesenick, cancer
- Mike Loppnow - cancer
- Beth Cochran - friend of Dan Wegner, health concerns
- Kaden Wegner - grandson of Michael Wegner, health concerns
- Pastor Dean Desilet - friend of Pastor Chuck, health concerns
- Dixie Hill - health concerns
- Jill Maus - sister-in-law of Denise Knudsen, cancer
- Adam Lehmann - health concerns
- Dawn Haag - cancer



Scheduling worship leaders for the summer will begin soon. Are you currently volunteering but need or want to change your status in some way? Do you have Sundays when you know you will be unavailable or Sundays when you know you'd like to be scheduled? Are you not currently volunteering, but would like to share your gifts as a lector, usher, communion assistant, slides presenter, or live streamer?

Please notify the church office by Monday, May 13th.

Sunday School





Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Psalm 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;

lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁵Sing to

the LORD with the harp,

with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

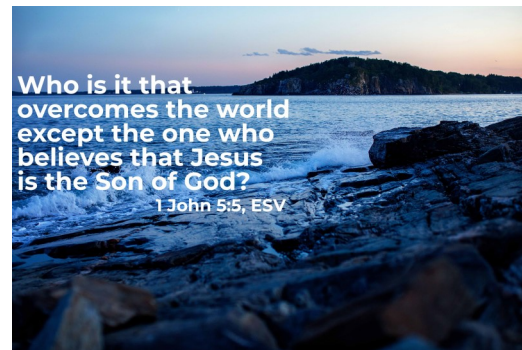
⁸Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

God’s children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God’s commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?



⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel: John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one an-



other as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you.

¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

Sermon Notes

Jesus said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

There's a story from World War I, of two friends who were inseparable. They had enlisted together, trained together, were shipped overseas together and fought side-by-side in the trenches. During an attack, one of the men was critically wounded in a field filled with barbed wire obstacles, and he was unable to crawl back to his foxhole. The entire area was under a withering enemy crossfire, and it was suicidal to try to reach him. Yet his friend decided to try. Before he could get out of his own trench, he sergeant yanked him back inside and ordered him not to go. "It's too late. You can't do him any good and you'll only get yourself killed."

A few minutes later, the officer turned his back, and instantly the man was gone after his friend. A few minutes later, he staggered back, mortally wounded, with his friend, now dead, in his arms. The sergeant was both angry and deeply moved. "What a waste," he blurted out. "He's dead and you're dying. It just wasn't worth it."

With almost his last breath, the dying man replied,

"Oh, yes, it was, Sarge. When I got to him, the only thing he said was, 'I knew you'd come, Jim!'"

This is true friendship. While most of us are not facing life or death situations such as this, we all know who our true friends are when the going gets tough. This is what Jesus means when he is talking about laying down one's life for one's friends: to be present for each other in times of threat and crisis. You know who your true friends are when you are facing a crisis. There are many who claim to be friends but when the going gets tough they are not there.

"Friends" on Facebook or social media may not necessarily be real.

I found this illustration kind of telling:



Many often judge themselves by how many "friends" they have on Facebook and how many "likes" they get on their posts.

Social media can be helpful in forming connections and sharing events.

However, Jesus offers us real, authentic relationship.

Note that Jesus does not say, "Lay down your life for me" but "for your friends." To be Jesus' friend is to be loved by him and then to love as Jesus has loved.

Jesus is not talking about transactional relationships. He is talking about something deeper.

A transactional relationship is a business one, where each person does things for the other, expecting to get something in return.

O Lord Jesus Christ, in obedience to your holy claim upon me, I give myself anew to you this day. All that I am, all that I have, to be totally used for your using. Take me away from myself and use me up, as you will, when you will, where you will, and with whom you will. Amen.

Have you ever heard “If you are really my friend you would do this?”

“I’ll be your friend if you do this or that for me.”

Jesus is talking about relationships based on genuine love that produce actions naturally.

Jesus is not a mob boss who demands loyalty and dumps you if you do not give him what he wants.

Jesus is talking about unconditional love.

Jesus’ love for us comes from the heart.

Imagine if on Mother’s Day we give our moms a gift and say “I’m giving you this because it’s Mother’s Day and this is what I am supposed to do and these flowers were on sale.”

I do not believe the response would be very favorable.

Jesus’ love for us comes straight from the heart.

Jesus has an unconditional love for us that produces joy.

We can live one another out of joy.

Living out the love of Jesus produces joy.

That is why when we accept that we have been accepted by Jesus we can live out his joy.

That’s what I experience here at Trinity.

I see the love of God put into action.

I see the joy of living out God’s love in the many ministries here.

I see people serving out of love and joy.

We lift each other up even when we do not feel joyful because Jesus’ love is much more than a feeling.

Jesus has chosen us to be his friends.

Through him we serve one another, out of love that comes straight out of the heart of our crucified and risen Lord.

Amen.



Serving at worship on Sunday

Ushers
Bill Krejcarek, Peter Kurth

Lector
Cherine Gagnow

Communion Assistant
Cherine Gagnow

Slides
David Newton

Livestream
Ron Flohr

Altar Guild
Carol Cleveland, Cindy Wolford