

THE RINITARIAN

SUMMER 2017

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Today I'm reflecting on a prayer that a colleague recently shared with me. It's written by a monk named Guigo the Carthusian, who lived and died in the 12th century. It goes like this:

Lord, how much juice you can squeeze from a single grape.
How much water you can draw from a single well.
How great a fire you can kindle from a tiny spark.
How great a tree you can grow from a tiny seed.
My soul is so dry that by itself it cannot pray,
Yet you can squeeze from it the juice of a thousand prayers.
My soul is so parched that by itself it cannot love;
Yet you can draw from it boundless love for you and for my neighbor.
My soul is so cold that by itself it has no joy,
Yet you can light the fire of heavenly joy within me.
My soul is so feeble that by itself it has no faith;
Yet by your power my faith grows to a great height.
Thank you for prayer, for love, for joy, for faith;
Let me always be prayerful, loving, joyful, faithful.

As summer approaches, I'm aware of how much I'm looking forward to a time when the pace of life is a little slower, a little more relaxed—perhaps you are too! But this prayer reminds me that all of my work and my rest is in God. It reminds me of the God we're dealing with—not a God who demands every last drop of energy in order to get by, but instead a God who is able to turn a formless void into a seething world of life.

Throughout the summer, we will walk together through a series of readings from Genesis that tell the



story of four generations of our great fathers and mothers in faith: Abraham and Sarah; Isaac and Rebekah; Jacob, Leah, and Rachel; and Joseph. The

theme of Guigo's prayer runs throughout every story: God constantly shows up in the midst of scarcity, and makes abundance:

God shows up in the life of a childless old couple and makes them the parents of a nation. God shows up in the life of a pair of warring brothers and makes peace and prosperity. God shows up in the life of a young man sold into slavery and, through him, saves an entire region from famine. These stories teach over and over that when we think there is no way, God shows up and makes one.

Where has God shown up in your life and made a way when you thought the doors were closed? Where do you need God to show up now? How can you reflect God by being or making a way for another person?

In all our work and all our rest this summer, may Guigo's last petition be ours too: as we seek the ways that God is making, let us always be prayerful, loving, joyful, faithful.

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

Pastor Larson

Summer Edition

This newsletter encompasses all our summer news and activities for June, July, and August. The editor is taking a nice, long summer break! Of course, we will continue to keep you updated through the Mini-tarian and weekly bulletin inserts.

If you have any questions about anything involving our church news and/or activities, please don't hesitate to call the office. Jan's summer office hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 9 AM – noon. Our phone number is 939-4998.

Continue Your Offerings through the Summer

We wait all year for those “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer” (as the old song goes), and then we fill them with vacations at the beach, camping trips in the woods and flying to far-off places. It’s no wonder that church attendance dips in the summer.

But while you are relaxing, your church continues to be busy – with regular worship, social activities, caring for sick and the homebound members, planning weddings, baptisms and funerals, and ministering to the hungry and homeless in your community. And your pastor and church staff still need to be paid, as does the electric company.

So, here’s the problem: The bills continue to roll in even when you’re away, and many congregants have not planned to keep their offerings current when they are on vacation. That’s why so many congregations face a cash crunch in the summer months.

But here are some ideas for how to help your congregation maintain its finances in the summer months.

Pay it forward: Your congregation would love to receive your summer offerings – or part of them – in advance. If you know you’re going to be away, plan ahead by offering more in the weeks in advance of your time away from church.

Make it up: Alternatively, when you get back from your time away, give a little more in the weeks that follow in order to make up for the lost weeks.

Use your envelopes: Are you a check-writing person? Then simply fill in advance your offering envelopes with your weekly gift. If you have a check in every envelope, then on any given Sunday you need only to bring that day’s envelope and whatever earlier Sunday envelopes are there.

Use banking bill pay: Lots of people find online banking services a convenient way to



pay their monthly car loan, mortgage, light bill and other routine expenses. Why not your church offering, too? Many online banking services will cut a check and send it to the church for you.

Enroll in electronic giving: If your congregation subscribes to an electronic giving service, such as Vanco, you can help by enrolling. Your offerings will go right to the church in the amount and according to the timeframe you specify. If your church does not subscribe to electronic giving, ask your leaders to explore some options.

Adjust your weekly offering: To calculate a weekly offering amount, most people take their annual donation amount and divide it by 52, since there are 52 Sundays in a year. The problem comes when they miss a Sunday and have to play “catch up.” To get around this, instead, estimate the minimum number of those 52 Sundays a year you are likely to be in church and divide your annual amount accordingly.

Of course, these methods are beneficial not only for the summer months, but also for the whole year through. Those who embrace giving as a spiritual discipline often find that their lives of faith are enriched and their sense of joy and fulfillment is deepened. Choosing a regular-giving strategy can help you to discover the joys of generosity.

--Rob Blezard

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Women's Banquet

Our annual banquet was held on Saturday, May 20 in our social hall. About 45 ladies were in attendance. This included women from Salem, Oberlin and St. Peter's, Highspire.

The tables were beautifully set and the mood lighting was just right! Everyone was there to relax and enjoy the evening.

Our meals (choice of chicken marsala or cheese tortellini) were served by at least a dozen male volunteers! The kitchen staff (including our cook, Lyn Clark) worked extremely hard to make it a night to remember!

The entertainment was top-notch! The group, *Seasons*, performed on their guitar, dulcimers, and harp. They played a wide variety of music and the ladies even got to sing along to some of the songs.



There were lots of door prizes to give out at the end of the evening! Many of our ladies walked out with floral arrangements, gift baskets, table toppers, and gift cards and, of course, their "scrubbies"!

We want to thank Gay Rezin for overseeing this endeavor and Lyn Clark who was our chief cook! They were amazing!

Thanks also to everyone who helped and supported the banquet. It truly takes teamwork to put an evening like this together!

Volunteers Needed

We need YOU to help with greeting, lay reading, and communion assisting for June, July, and August. The chart is on the bulletin board near the chapel. Please sign up for as many time slots as you are able! THE PARTICIPATION CHART IS practically BARE!

June Birthdays (*80 or older)

6th Michael Anthony
9th Luke Anthony
10th Lyn Clark
16th Tom Lupkie
26th Betty Flickinger *

July Birthdays

4th Doug Martz
8th ANNA GUYER (100!)
12th Darlene Martz *
13th Gay Rezin
15th Matt Krovic
17th Zachary Anthony
19th Judy Krovic
20th Marlene Radosevic
21st Lenny Bowling
Keith Kerns
23rd Leanne Sanders
26th Barb Kain
29th Anthony Radic

August Birthdays

8th Ken Smith
10th Jessika Radic
12th Paul Flickinger *
19th Pastor Larson
21st Anne Lentz
26th Barbara Brunner

June Anniversaries

2nd Keith & Maria Kerns
6th John & Nancy Brunner
11th Richard & Darlene Martz
14th Bill & Brenda Shick
28th Paul & Betty Flickinger

July Anniversaries

11th John & Rose Luzik
13th Robert & Dutchie Radosevic
27th Mike & Leanne Sanders

August Anniversaries

1st Steve & Deb Avery
4th Zack & Pat Szekeres
6th Spike & Kathy Spilker
16th Dick & Beth Defibaugh
24th Bob & Edie Carrillo

Thank You Notes

(see entire letters on bulletin board near Chapel)



Dear Trinity,

Every day, those of us who serve here have the opportunity to interact with students. They help us remember the hope of our baptism, and the grace of God at work. You also, with your generosity (*\$100 from the Humanitarian Fund*) help us remember what God's grace is doing in the world. We are surrounded by grace, and we are grateful.

Every gift for our mission helps to set our current students free from the debt of school. All gifts to the Seminary support our students who we are equipping to become the saints for the work of ministry.

Thank you for your stewardship in choosing the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

God's peace,
Rev. Dr. Zimmann
Gettysburg Seminary
April 27, 2017

Dear Trinity,

On behalf of the Humane Society board members, staff and shelter residents please accept our deep appreciation for your gift of \$25 (*from the Humanitarian Fund*). We must rely heavily on the graciousness of individuals, like you, and our community to help us fulfill our mission of caring for all animals. We know your gift will help those animals who are still waiting for their "forever" homes.

Best wishes,
Amy Kaunas
Humane Society of Hbg.
May 2, 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for your generous contribution in support of Goodwill Keystone Area (*\$30 from the Humanitarian Fund*). Your decision to support Goodwill Keystone Area makes our delivery of services possible in 22 counties in central and southeastern PA. The mission of Goodwill is to support persons with disabilities and other barriers to independence in achieving their fullest potential as workers and as members of the broader.

Thank you for spreading the Goodwill!

Sincerely,
John McHenry
Marketing & Development
May 10, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you for your recent donation to Christian Churches United. (*\$100 from the Humanitarian Fund*) This spring we have seen God's faithfulness in our various ministries to single moms, homeless men, those in prison, ex-offenders and others facing poverty. Your support helps these folks find new hope and new opportunities as they overcome incredible challenges.

With grace and peace,
Steve Schwartz
Director of Development
May 30, 2017

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$75 (*from Buck-a-Chick*) to support the mission and ministry of the ELCA through ELCA Good Gifts. Because of donors like you, these good gifts and the good news of Jesus Christ will touch the lives of many. Thank you for responding to God's call to walk with our brothers and sisters in Christ's name.

In God's grace,
Christina Jackson-Skelton
Mission Advancement

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children's Time in the Summer

There will be no Sunday School at 10 AM from June through August; it will resume in September. However, please bring your children to church as there will be a special time during summer worship called "This is the Day the Lord Has Made!" During this time, Pastor and the kids will talk about the amazing plants and animals that God has made that are blooming or burrowing or buzzing right outside our doors, and give thanks and praise for the ways God loves the world. Children are encouraged to bring in flowers, nests (abandoned ones!), feathers, and so on that they find—they might be the topic of the next week's "This is the Day the Lord Has Made!"



We will try to have an attendant for **nursery** duty each Sunday. We have only 4 lovely volunteers for this and so, during the summer, we may have some Sundays with no coverage. This shouldn't be a problem for any of our families with youngsters because there are **children's bags** available (ask a greeter). In these are crayons, pencils, activity sheets to match the day's lessons, and a snack to keep the kids busy during the service.

See you all in church!!

Joint Meeting for Churches' Co-op

The next meeting of the four Steelton-Highspire-Oberlin churches will take place on **Monday, August 7** at 6:30 PM at St. Peter's, Highspire. Anyone interested in hearing what's going on among the 4 churches is invited to attend. There is always a meal, followed by a brief Bible study and a general meeting.

Council Meetings

Regular meetings will be held the second Thursdays of each month during the summer. If you must miss a meeting, be sure to contact Jim Canning, our council president, beforehand to let him know.

Golden Agers

This group of youngsters will continue to meet during the summer on the 4th Wednesdays of each month. They usually have a meeting with snacks and Bingo involved! Pam Reider is the new "leader of the pack". Questions about the group? Ask Pam!

Youth Group

The most recent meeting on May 14th was held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Paxtang. We learned some fun improv games from Pastor Larson, what a hoot! (Thanks Pastor Larson for assigning me the task of acting out "Octopus taming"...) Our topic was forgiveness, and we talked about both forgiving others as well as accepting forgiveness. This is an area where we all have room to improve! Our next meeting is going to be on **June 11th at Reservoir Park**, where we will join Communities of Hope in doing some gardening as a service project.

(from Anne Lentz)

ODDS AND ENDS!

Paint and Enjoy!

Another fun-filled afternoon is being planned for Sunday, July 23 at 2:30 PM in our social hall. Connie Higgins will be here to guide us step-by-step through painting a beautiful picture worthy of being hung on a wall in your home! We've done two paintings so far following Connie's instructions: the sunflower and the modern nativity. Please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule at church as soon as possible. We must have a headcount so that Connie knows how much material needs to be provided. The cost is \$25, payable at the door.



Summer With or Without the Grill

Deb Bixler, professional cook, will be back on Tuesday, August 15 ready to share some fun with unique variations & tips on your summer favorites. She will serve BLT hot dogs, grilled pizza, chicken burgers, Deb's Spicy 3-Ingredient Sauce, grilled peach melba, and more! Recipes will be included! The cost for all this deliciousness is only \$10, payable at the door. There is a limit of 30 people so sign up in the vestibule as soon as you can! We'd love to have a full house!



Property Committee

There have been quite a few things going on behind the scenes here at the church!

The freezer in our kitchen hallway needed a new switch. Our spouting between the buildings needed repaired. We are installing a new electrical switch in the sacristy. A new thermos valve for the hot water heater will be installed in the near future. AND our alarm system is still not back to functioning properly at all times. Whew! There are a lot of issues to address!

Chapel Renovation Task Force Meeting

The group (Harold Cobb, Jim Canning, Doug Martz, John Michtich, Jan Holwig, Anne Lentz, John Schenfelt) met on Tuesday, May 30 at 6 PM in the social hall. Options are still being considered and estimates are still being worked on.

(from Jan Holwig)

Prayer Shawls

We are overflowing with prayer shawls! If you are in need of one for yourself or for a friend, please talk to Jan Holwig or Peg Bowling!

Gently Used Items

Be sure to check the *Gently-Used, Unwanted Items* table each Sunday. New things arrive weekly! The table is in the area beside the chapel. The items are free for the taking but if you would like to donate a few dollars, there is a box on the table for that purpose. All contributions go to the General Fund.

Summer Participants in Our Services

Date	Greeter(s)	Communion Assistants	Ushers	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Bulletins, Candles \$17	Flowers \$25
June 11	the people of Trinity	Judy K.	Mike Sanders, Ed Holwig	Spike Spilker	Grace Holwig	Martz	Rezin
June 18	"	?	Pat & Zack Szekeres	?	Karen DeAlva	Elizabeth Faul	Bowling
June 25	"	Jan H.	Ben Whittington, Mark Harkins	Jan Holwig	Ni'Shaun Ward-McMullen	Flickinger	Acri
July 2	"	Jan H.	Chuck Reider, Dick Schultheisz	Spike Spilker	Gabe Whary	Kline	Flickinger
July 9	"	Jan H.	Bob Emrich, Dick Martz	?	Grace Holwig	Gawel	Zeiders
July 16	"	Jan H.	Shelley & Mark Radic	Jan Holwig	Ni'Shaun Ward-McMullen	?	Krovic
July 23	"	?	Jim Canning, Bill Stickle	?	Brady Holwig	Holwig	Rezin
July 30	"	?	Carl Zeiders, Lenny Bowling	Spike Spilker	Karen DeAlva	?	?
Aug. 6	"	?	Ed Holwig, Harry Spilker	?	Grace Holwig	Stover	Alice Brown
Aug. 13	"	?	Mike Sanders, Ed Holwig	?	Gabe Whary	Flickinger	Flickinger
Aug. 20	"	Jan H.	Pat & Zack Szekeres	Jan Holwig	Zachary Anthony	?	?
Aug. 27	"	Jan H.	Mark Harkins, Ben Whittington	?	Karen DeAlva	Rezin	Rezin

Altar Guild for **June:** **Jan Holwig, Peg Bowling, Judy Krovic**
 July: **Shelley Radic, Anna & Carl Zeiders, Brenda Shick**
 August: **Jan Holwig, Peg Bowling, Judy Krovic**



Shut-ins and Those Who Need Our Prayers

The following are those who cannot get to church because of physical problems, etc. Please remember them with a card, a visit, and/or your prayers.

- Nancy Brunner* 2115 James Buchanan Dr., Elizabethtown 17022
- Darlene Martz* 97 Brompton Rd., Hummelstown, 17036
- Kathleen Michtich* S2 – 228A, Spring Creek, 1205 S. 28th St., Hbg. 17111
- Anna Guyer* 1020 N. Union St., Rm. 319, Middletown 17057 (Frey Village)
- Rene & Joyce Stickle* 224 Elm St., Steelton 17113
- Kathryn Schuech* 4805 E. Circle Dr., Hbg. 17111
- Jackie Day* 335 Wesley Dr. Apt. 601, Mechanicsburg 17055
- Cuni Enders* The Middletown Home, 999 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown 17057 (rm. 142)
- Kathryn Steigler* Rm. 116, Homeland, 1901 N. 5th St., Harrisburg 17102
- Bernie Campbell* 311 Freemason Dr., #550, Elizabethtown 17022
- Ray Stoner* S310-A, Spring Creek, 1205 S. 28th St., Hbg. 17111
- Fran Dubesky* 517 Kelker St., Steelton 17113
- Linda Lokey* 117 Lancaster Estates, Mt. Joy 17552

Trinity/St. Peter Partnership

Last month, the congregational councils of St. Peter's and Trinity voted to enter into deeper and more intentional conversation about how God is calling us into the future. The process began with a letter from St. Peter's, and Trinity answered with a letter of its own. We're sharing both of these letters with you below. If you have any questions, please know that Pastor Larson, Jim Canning, and all the members of Trinity's council are available for listening and conversation.

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May 18, 2017

Dear Pastor Larson,

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Last May St. Peter's extended an invitation to Trinity "to explore creative avenues of mission onto which God is drawing us." During the past year we have shared good food, Bible study, and conversation along with fellowship and worship opportunities. St. Peter's members who have attended these activities are now hearing God's call for our two congregations to engage in more in-depth and intentional conversations.

On May 9 St. Peter's church council discussed and decided to extend another invitation to Trinity's leaders and congregation to continue our conversations. On behalf of the St. Peter's church council I extend an invitation to Trinity to form a task group with the purpose of exploring ways to further our ministries through partnerships which could include the possibility of reorganizing administrative functions and sharing pastoral and other staff.

I envision a task group of individuals chosen and energized by the Spirit. It will be an opportunity to rethink ministry in our communities and how best to carry out our common mission under God's guidance. Through prayer, intense study and assistance from outside resources we will be able to view the gifts God has planted within our congregations and move forward together into a ministry that is born anew.

Please be in prayer about this invitation as we also will be.

In Service to Christ,
Pastor Hobart Utter
St. Peter's, Highspire

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May 23rd, 2017

Dear Pastor Utter and the St. Peter's Council,

Greetings in the name of our resurrected and ascended Christ!

The council of Trinity Lutheran Church was gratified to receive your invitation to intentional conversation about deeper partnership.

Though we circulated your invitation via email just last week in order to take a council vote on action, the Holy Spirit was surely moving before that happened; we held our own council meeting a couple of days after yours, and the discussion about shared worship opportunities led us into wondering whether the time was ripe for deeper, more sustained conversation with St. Peter's. Following this, and a positive vote from our council, the council of Trinity Lutheran Church is pleased to accept St. Peter's invitation into intentional discernment together.

We agree that a task force would be an ideal way to move forward in this process. We entrust the work of setting the makeup of this task force to our pastor and council president in the expectation that they will collaborate with you, and await their input on the formation of this group and the details of its first meeting.

In the gospel for this coming Sunday, Jesus prays: "And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." Through the good will of God, may our work together bear witness to the flourishing of this eternal life among us, and among all whom we are called to serve in Steelton and Highspire.

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

Victoria Larson
Pastor

Jim Canning
Council President