

From the Organ Bench

Pastor Greg Shook



Dear Flock,

I write to you as the “Impatient patient with no patience.” You know the famous prayer, “Lord give me patience, but give it to me now!” I’ve been there. Patience is not something that we think about much, although I think most of us practice IMpatience quite well. In fact, I’m practicing it right this minute. I had this newsletter idea (as did a few others) that I should talk about patience. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but now the thoughts are not free flowing, like they were while I was driving an hour ago.

Recently I used the first several verses of Ecclesiastes 3 at a celebration of life. Take a few minutes, find a Bible, look up Ecclesiastes 3:1-14, and read it. (Don’t be impatient. I’m not printing it here!) There really is a time for everything under heaven, however it doesn’t mention patience. I think it is a “given” that we need to practice patience.

Our worship texts for August have had us in the sixth chapter of John where we encounter the Bread of Life. We experience this life-giving bread through symbolism and sincerity as people follow and gather around Jesus. I always get amused at the Old Testament reading from Exodus on one of the Sundays, where the people were complaining about Moses and Aaron. They were hungry and the food wasn’t coming fast enough. They were remembering the “good old days” in Egypt when the food was plentiful and good, and on and on they went. Can’t you just imagine? So impatience is nothing new for God’s people. In some way it’s refreshing that we don’t have the market cornered on impatience.

Society and technology have not helped our patience. Most of us will remember the black and white TV that had the dot in the middle of the screen that grew larger and larger before there was a hint of a picture. What about the tube radios? No remote controls for music players or TVs when I was growing up. In my early years I remember the wash cycle, which started with a wringer washer. We can be just like the Israelites in the wilderness when they forgot how God saved them in the exodus. We don’t always remember when God’s goodness came through for us. In

the times of smooth sailing, we tend to forget the bumpy and muddy waters.

Here are some verses to maybe help us with our patience:

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9) This verse is for those times when we grumble or worry that we are putting in way more effort than others and get frustrated. However, God promises us that staying the course and continuing the good work will be worth it.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11) I remember hearing my dad quote this. This verse assures us that God hasn’t brought us to a point only to drop us on our heads. God hasn’t forgotten about us, but, rather, everything we are going through is part of his agenda. And the most comforting thing about this verse is the reminder that God will be with us every step of the way, being our cheerleader!

“Jesus replied, ‘You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.’” (John 13:7) This gives us assurance that God has it all under control and knows the beginning and the end.

Continued on page 7.

CONTENTS

Communication and Evangelism	2
What’s Happening at TLC	3
September Calendar to Clip and Post	4
Your Deacon’s Report.....	5
Little Library Needs Your Donations of Books!.....	5
RIC Update.....	6
Outreach at TLC	6
September Birthdays and Anniversaries	7
September Thank You	7

Communication and Evangelism

Hunt Hardinge

Everyone knows the old question “if a tree falls in the forest and no one hears it, does it make a sound?” Likewise, a great many things are happening at Trinity these days but without communication we may miss our opportunity. We want to make sure as many people know about these things as possible and not just inside the church, but outside as well.

Our church community falls into unique and sometimes overlapping groups; believers, nonbelievers, members, non-members, active, inactive, homebound, hospitalized, computer literate, not so much and never touch it. Each group is unique in the type of information they (may) want and how they access it.

There are many ways we try to communicate at Trinity, a few of which are summarized below. However, I know there’s more we can do so if you have an idea how we can improve, please let me know. Also, don’t hesitate to let me know if you’d like help in spreading the word about something. I’ve listed my contact information below for your convenience.

WEBSITE TLCHAG.ORG

Type this into your Browser bar and make it a favorite (it’s not case sensitive). The TLC website is LOADED, repeat LOADED with information and is updated daily; calendar, directions, council minutes and a lot, lot, lot more. As far as pros and cons, it a computer thing.

NEWSLETTER

Mailed out monthly to all members of record, it’s also available on the website. It’s something you can touch, feel and read, but it only comes out once a month and only members get a copy, so its inside the wall.

E-MESSENGER/MINI-MESSENGER

Emailed every Friday, The information is more current but again, it’s a computer thing. The mini-messenger is similar but is a hard copy inserted into the Sunday bulletin each week. Great information, but you have to come to church to get it.

FACEBOOK

Our Facebook pages are *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church* and *Trinity Lutheran Church—ELCA of Hagerstown*

Maryland. Things posted to these platforms are immediately up-coming. Most people that use a computer are familiar with Facebook, twitter maybe not as much. We have two active Facebook pages. It’s a great way to keep in touch and especially see photos of our church community. I encourage anyone to post something that may be of interest, but play nice!

GROUP EMAIL

Similar to the e-messenger, we often send out group emails to everyone as needed. It’s easy, fast, and efficient, but not everyone reads their emails regularly or don’t use it. Again, it’s a computer thing.

VIDEO SLIDESHOW

Highlights of events and needs are shown on a TV in the foyer off Randolph Avenue. These are continually looped and available to all people coming in and out of the church. We’re hoping to add another in Fellowship Hall in the future.

In the end, perhaps the most important source of communication is us. As Jesus commanded, we have a responsibility to be intentional in seeking the word and intentional in spreading the word. Is there a combined service this Sunday? Tell somebody. Is there a great concert or a bible study coming up? Invite somebody. My contact information is: phone: 240-818-5633, email: *Hunt.Hardinge@gmail.com*.



MAY GRACE AND PEACE
BE YOURS IN ABUNDANCE.

2 PETER 1:2, NRSV

What's Happening at TLC



Jazz Vespers

On Thursday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m. we will begin a new adventure at Trinity Lutheran Church, in the form of a Traditional Evening Prayer service which makes use of chant, scripture, prayers, silence, and hymns to bring the presence of Christ into our midst as day gives way to evening. The only difference is that this setting of the vesper service uses the warm sound of American jazz music.

A highlight of the service is a brief teaching moment that will expand on the theme of the day, blending the sacred and the secular.

For this first presentation of jazz vespers, we will be joined by the resident jazz quartet of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter in Baltimore where this program enjoyed an eight-year run. These musicians are among the finest jazz musicians in the Baltimore area.

Invite some friends to join you for this blended service to wind down your day. A wine and cheese reception will follow the service.

Celebrating 150 Years of Great Food!

In preparing for Trinity's 150th anniversary, this month's recipe is taken from the 1995 *Cooking With Trinity Lutheran Church* cookbook. The recipe was submitted by a wonderful lady of the church who has been very active at Trinity since she became a member many years ago. She was in charge of the kitchen for many years and still volunteers in the Clothing Bank weekly: Vi Carlson.

Paul's Favorite Salad

- 1 (3 oz.) package lemon Jello
- 1 C Cool Whip
- 1/2 C boiling water
- 1/2 C chopped green pepper
- 1/2 C salad dressing
- 1 small onion
- 1 C cottage cheese
- 1 carrot, grated



Make the Jello following the instructions on the package. Mix in the other ingredients. This salad is pretty in a mold. Let set overnight in the refrigerator.

Annual Church Picnic

Our Annual church picnic will be held Sunday, September 9, at Washington County Regional Park, 20025 Mount Aetna Road, Hagerstown. The day will begin with a unity worship service at 10 a.m. The picnic will follow after the service.

The picnic is a potluck, so please bring a dish to share. Fellowship and Parish Life will provide beverages and paperware. Corn on the cob will also be provided. Please bring a tablecloth.

We will have games and bingo after lunch. If you plan to play bingo, please bring a small prize. Hope to see everyone there for this fun annual event!

BINGO! October 18

Come and enjoy Bingo, for all ages of the congregation, on Thursday, October 18,

Sponsored by Senior Ministry Team.

Potter's Bowl

The 27th annual Potter's Bowl will be held on 5 - 8:30 p.m. Sunday, November 4, at the Elks Club at 10063 Robinwood Drive. The Potter's Bowl, sponsored by Trinity and B'nai Abraham Synagogue, benefits the Community Free Clinic of Washington County, a medical safety-net clinic for citizens of Washington County.

Those attending get to choose and keep a soup bowl made and donated by area potters, and partake of soups, breads, coleslaw, fruits, desserts, and drink. Door prizes and a live auction

Trinity is in charge of desserts. We are ask for donations of homemade bar cookies. Please have them in the kitchen no later than 11 a.m. Saturday, November 4.

We are looking for people to go to the Elks around 1 p.m. on Sunday to help with centerpieces, putting out the bowls, et cetera.

To volunteer or to buy tickets, please call Sue Stull at (301)302-3761. A sign-up sheet for cookies will be available beginning mid-September. Thank you!

Your Deacon's Report

Peggy Hardinge

Greetings to my brothers and sisters in Christ! Since my first sermon on June 17, I tried to incorporate your heartfelt suggestions on how I might improve on my sermon delivery and/or content for my next sermon, that I delivered August 12. The suggestion I received most frequently was that of speaking from the heart as opposed to reading my "script" verbatim. This was music to my ears because this would align with my personality much better. So, this time, I made an outline of topics I wanted to cover and I followed my outline of prompting phrases, which felt perfect for my need to simply refer to the page for the next topic. Your feedback was affirming and helped to assure me that this was more suitable for both me and the congregation!

Going forward, please know that it is critical (to both you and me) that you continue to tell me what I might have done better. If I am lacking in content or delivery, then I am robbing your soul of enrichment and that is so counter to my desire for you. So, constructive feedback will be taken to heart and I will fix it for next time. I will receive suggestions with the love in which you gave it to me. You are my family and we're in this together.

Another aspect for consideration with respect to your feedback is that I serve as Trinity's liaison to the community. I will serve as pulpit supply when a replacement pastor cannot be located from our retired pastors or from the Gettysburg Seminary. I have agreed to supply in the pulpit for two Lutheran churches in the coming weeks: Beaver Creek on August 26 and Rohrsville on September 16, 23, and 30. I will still be here to serve as assisting minister on September 16th because the service starts at 8:45 a.m. at Beaver Creek.

I was able to attend my first weekly meeting of our local Lutheran pastors at Haven Lutheran Church in Hagerstown. The pastors meet every Thursday and discuss upcoming sermon topics. They also have a "check-in" and give one another an opportunity to be supported in the challenges of life and ministry. It was good to know there are more than "three legs" to the stool on which I now sit. I will continue to attend when I am not working at the hospital or out of town.

I am coordinating the homebound Lay Visitation and Communion outreach program. Those of you who visit and take communion to the homebound are critically important for them to stay in touch with Trinity. These folks can lead pretty uninspiring lives once they become confined to the room of a nursing home. We need more people to pay a monthly visit to one or two homebound members. If you don't want to give communion, that's okay, but people need to know we have not forgotten them. For more information, please call at (240)818-5683 or email me at pharding@tlchag or to update me on your visits.

Jena Staley and I continue with our Bible study for the

women at W House (an addiction treatment center). Attendance varies and no two nights are the same. Having a six-week workbook study is not as effective as we hoped. So we decided to go with a specific topic for the week such as hope, prayer, forgiveness, et cetera. We read every scripture that is listed on the topic in our Bible Concordance and follow those with discussion and a round-robin prayer. I make a miniposter for the topic of the coming week and it is posted that night. We continue to give Bibles to those who are without and we provide goodies each week, as well. Please pray for our efforts and for the women whose lives had been very difficult long before their addiction.

Lastly, part of my job description as deacon is to serve as the arms of Trinity reaching out to the community. I was given the opportunity to host some members of our county's Maryland Mediators for a continuing education session in Memorial Hall on August 15. The Community Action Council was very appreciative that Trinity was able to provide this perfect space for our session. We restored order and I secured the building before leaving.

A coordinator from the Maryland Mediation program is willing to come share information on this free service to the community, and I am working on getting her here for a 10 a.m. Sunday time slot. FYI: mediators volunteer their time and expertise to help settle disputes of any nature, including personal issues, child custody, business versus business, or whatever is needed. Binding documents are signed when an agreement is reached. I am a trained Maryland mediator. Stay tuned for more information.



"Little Library" Needs Your Donations of Books!

Judy Melby-Robinson

Trinity hosts a small book box outside the Randolph entrance for books to share with our neighboring families. We also have another one in the waiting room for Food and Clothing bank clients. We're really low on both adults' and kids' books, so please consider donating any you may have gathering dust in your home! The books are much appreciated by our clients. It's so fun to see little kids clutching their newfound books as they leave for home! Please drop them off to the waiting room or call Judy Robinson (301)491-1515 for pick up.

RIC Update

At the Leadership Workshop in July, we began a healthy discussion about the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program, about what it means to be a welcoming church, and where we would like to go from here. Nearly every church affirms they foster a welcoming faith community, and several even say so on their sign. We certainly believe that Trinity is a welcoming church, but I suspect that even so, we could probably be better. Looking closely we see a predominantly white middle class faith community that's fairly homogenous. While we have a number of gay members, there are few people of color, or of different ethnicities or earnings.

We believe that identifying ourselves publicly as an RIC congregation is a big step in becoming more welcoming. There are more than 800 Lutheran faith communities that specifically and publicly welcome the LGBTQ * community, but there is not a single one in Western Maryland. While RIC is specifically aimed at the LGBTQ community, we believe it can be a vehicle to the larger goal. It brands us for all to see as a welcoming community of believers. It says come inside, share God's love with us, you're welcome here.

While we are commanded to love (all) our neighbors as ourselves, we also need to openly discuss our fears; a possible change in the fabric or makeup of our church, our public perception, or perhaps the possibility of a few members leaving or transferring their membership. Thomas Merton wrote, "anxiety is the mark of spiritual insecurity." It is the fruit of unanswered questions."

We hope to present several opportunities in the coming months to learn more about Reconciling Works. We're trying to get representatives from nearby RIC congregations to come talk to us about their experiences, both before and after joining the RIC movement. We intend to have testimony from some of those that feel disenfranchised and what a welcoming church means to them. In the meantime, we will continue to make as many resources available to everyone as possible.

*Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer



Outreach at TLC June Habeck

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Please send or bring your overflow of garden fruits and vegetables to Trinity's Food Pantry!

CLOTHING BANK NEEDS

Currently out of toilet paper and always need toothbrushes, tooth paste (prefer the travel size), and deodorant.

NEW VOLUNTEERS FOR OUTREACH

If you signed up this year in our survey to help in the Food Pantry or Clothing Bank after work hours or evenings, you will be contacted this fall for preferred hours, procedure and choice of task. We are open to having flexible hours in the near future to accommodate both new volunteers and the working neighborhood.

EXPANDING THE CLOTHING BANK

Planning includes moving the current Clothing Bank to a new room on the first floor of the education building with more capacity for storing, sorting and displaying items. This will provide more space for our volunteers to work and for our guests to select what they need.

OCCASIONAL SUBSTITUTE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are asking for a handful of people to be learn the process and serve as substitutes for our regular volunteers in the Clothing Bank and Food Pantry on the occasion of sickness, travel or emergency situations. Contact June Habeck if you would be willing to be on this list of infrequent substitutes.



- 1 Thomas Holler
- 2 Walter Bell*
- 4 Kelley Anthony
- 5 Alecsander Griemsmann
- 7 Ralph Conrad
Phyllis Garrett*
- 8 Dylan Dopson
- 9 Thomas Allen, III
- 12 Frances Harshman*
Earl Stoner
- 13 Marion Hartwick*
Taylor Mayhugh
- 14 Susan Stull
- 15 Edward Wiebel, Jr.
- 17 Jane Guyton*
- 18 Donna Alexander*
Dennis Harne
Margaret Harrison
Jack Martin*
- 20 Jillian Markle
- 21 Marty Blake
Jennifer Dopson
Brian Herchenrother
- 23 Alexandra Rankin
Betty Wolf*
Marilyn Young
- 24 Richard Newman
Barry Oxendine
- 27 Linda Lemen*
- 28 Arleen Shuster
- 29 Susan Asmussen
Sarah Jones*
Charles Riley
- 30 Thomas Wilson, Jr.*

Anniversaries

- 12 Richard and Cinda Toms
- 28 Richard and Georgia Newman*

* Indicates over 50 or over

Thank you!

Dear Members of Trinity,

I am so very grateful for your support of me during the season of my setting apart as an Order of Saint Stephen deacon. If you were able to attend my May 5 service, you witnessed firsthand the efforts of many people from Trinity staff and membership to friends and leaders/clergy in our community. It made for a very spiritual and meaningful day for me. I felt so very blessed. I am truly humbled by those who attended, those who so generously donated money to fund the purchase of the red deacon stole with which I was bestowed during the ceremony and the incredible hors d'oeuvres you made for my reception! Please know how deeply I was touched by your involvement.

—Blessings, Peg Hardinge

Dear Trinity Members,

Thank you for the lovely bouquet of flowers that were delivered to me on my birthday. They were greatly appreciated. Thank you Inge for delivering them to me.

—Kirklyn Kline

“From the Organ Bench”

Continued from page 1

Patience is a two-way street. As we wait, ponder, and, yes, become impatient in our waiting and expectations, we can be doing something. We can pray, we can see where we might contribute to some initiative to help, and we can bond in community to help one another on the waiting journey.

Speaking of journey and patience, we are looking toward several new things in our outreach and music ministry: Jazz Vespers, beginning on September 6 at 7:30 p.m., and working toward a project of a young person's choir, Joyful Noize (yep, with a “Z”). Patience will be required. These things won't happen overnight. However, praying, looking where you might offer support, and supporting the efforts through your attendance (invite some friends to join you) will accomplish a great deal! It will keep you busy during the wait time and it will give you a sense of ownership and satisfaction when the projects are up and going. Think on it. Pray about it. Be a presence.

Patience in the Bible is a reoccurring subject that people like us wrestle to achieve. Moses and Joseph (and us!) can be successful in patience. A living example as to what might be accomplished. Just as the writer of Ecclesiastes speaks of seasons, God uses difference seasons of our lives to prepare us for what is to come.

May God grant us patience to better ambassadors in the world around us.

Soli Deo Gloria!—Pastor Greg

Trinity Lutheran Church
15 Randolph Avenue
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Phone: (301)733-2878 www.tlchag.org

Sunday Worship at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages at 9:55 a.m.
Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST

Food Pantry and Clothing Bank: (301)733-5651
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Washington County Literacy Council: (301)739-4208
Tuesday and Thursday: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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21740

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

