



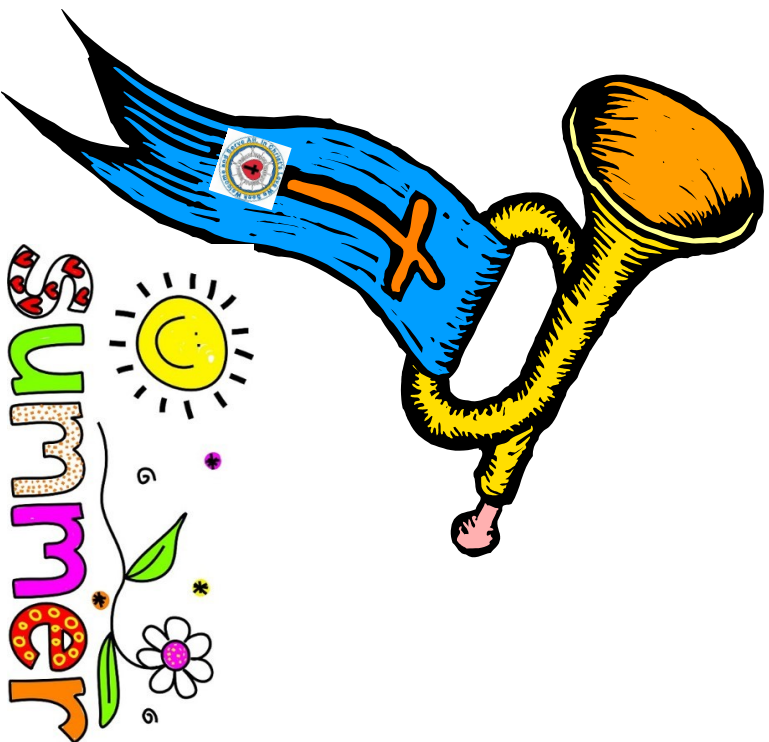
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Road
Pittsburg, Ohio 45358

Our Mission:



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

TRINITY TRUMPET



July/August 2016

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY
**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH of PITTSBURG**

(A Mission Congregation of the ELCA)

P.O. Box #64 - 8520 Oakes Rd. - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358

Phone: 937-692-5670

Email: secretary@pitsburgtlc.org

Website: pitsburgtlc.org

Pastor Mel Musser - 937-626-7100 - pastor@pitsburgtlc.org

Furlough 2017

Early next year, we plan to visit the USA. The goal is to connect with our support team, serve at our home church, get and give training, and prepare for another 3 years in Thailand. We will also need to raise additional financial support before we can return to Thailand.

We are currently praying that God would provide people who can partner with our ministry in the following ways:

- **Praying**

We actually believe this is the most important thing you can do. If God is not at the center of this ministry, our efforts are worthless. Please pray for HIS work to be done.

- **Spreading the Word**

Would YOUR church, small group, or Bible study be interested in hearing about what God's been doing here and praying for us? Could we come and share with them? If you think they may be interested, please let us know.

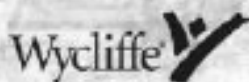
- **Giving**

This year our ministry has taken some financial hits. Yet each time there is a need, God has graciously and faithfully provided through unexpected one-time gifts. Amazingly, on several occasions God has used strangers or individuals who had no way of knowing that there was even a need! We are so, so thankful for the ways that God has used these individuals to stand in the gap. He has asked us to pray for our needs, and time after time, He has met these needs. We are still praying God will bring individuals or churches who can join our team and help stand in the gap for the next few years. If you feel God leading you to be a part of our financial team, either short-term or long-term, please talk with us.



Excited about ice cream? Nope, these smiles came from eating bugs that our neighbors picked out of the ground! Apparently it's a true delicacy.

Sometimes making friends here means trying new foods and customs. The girls loved the experience. Nate and I, on the other hand, still prefer to get our protein from chicken. ☺



Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.

Colossians 3:23-34 (NLT)

Cheeseman Updates

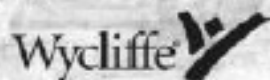
Training for Translators

One of our greatest joys in ministry, has been helping local Bible translators receive training. Through our organization, 14 scholarship students are currently working on a linguistics degree at the university where Nate works. Many of these men and women will go on to help with Bible translation or language development in their home countries after graduation. Our role is to help these students settle in and help them with logistical and financial needs. This summer we've welcomed 4 new students, along with assisting the 10 others.

- Please pray for perseverance and protection for these courageous young men and women who sometimes face persecution from their home countries. Pray God would be glorified in their work.
- Since so many different languages are spoken among this group, training is conducted in English. Pray for clear communication and understanding.
- Pray for wisdom and cultural sensitivity for us as we interact with students from very diverse communities.



We're thankful for the chance to serve local Bible translation students. God is using them to reach communities that we would not be allowed to enter.



Please do not distribute without permission.

For financial partnership send a check to: Wycliffe USA, PO Box 628200, Orlando FL 32862-8200.

Attach a note saying: "for the ministry of Nate & Ivy Cheeseman account 248577."

Or go to <http://www.wycliffe.org/Partnership.aspx?mid=FCA44A>

For prayer partnership: Contact us directly: nateandivy@gmail.com <http://nateandivy.blogspot.com>



The Sacrament of Baptism

1 Kyle Ressler
4 Brooke Chapman
4 Kimberly Harleman
4 Tess Tauscher
7 Lucas Witters
10 Elainah Nickol
12 Shane Warner
14 Doris Lephart
14 Elizabeth Long
15 Kyle Fledderjohn

16 Morgan Canan
17 Landon Muhlenkamp
20 Layni Ressler
22 Lori Mattox
22 Peggy Didier
23 Christi Jasinski
24 Steve Hesler
25 Lance Witters
25 Mackenzie Canan
27 Hayley Harleman

4 Terri and John Thobe
5 Kenneth and Carla Hesler
5 Rebecca and Andrew Aelker
6 Dean Jr. and Deborah Thompson
9 Jerry and Becky McMullen
9 Josh (Joshua) and Kami Schmitmeyer
11 Brooke and Christopher Chapman
20 Ronnie and Donna Bridenbaugh
29 Terri and Mark Brumbaugh
31 Pam and Danny Myers



August

Happy Birthday

1 Christi Jasinski
1 Tony Garwood
2 Melanie Musser
6 Nakyven (Ky) Cool
8 Katelynn Burrell-Troutwine
9 Caleena Hesler
10 Cassandra Creech
10 Diane Warner
10 Landon Muhlenkamp
12 Charlotte Payne
12 Claire Hein
12 Niki Angles
14 Deb Sease

17 Lisa Garwood
19 Jean Singleton
22 Rick Myers
23 Holly Wright
24 Eric Rich
25 Aiden Myers
26 Dean Thompson
27 Michelle Heckman
28 Jeremy Netzley
29 Becky McMullen
29 Craig Cotner
30 Brenda Tauscher



1 Angela Morelli	13 Cory Campbell	24 Mark Groff
3 Prudence Musser	13 Neville Hughert	25 Landon Tauscher
3 Steve Hesler	14 Bradey Hesler	26 Emma Hein
5 Steven Angles	14 Shane Warner	26 Gabriel Zderad
7 Eldon Erdmann	14 Trevor Musser	27 Ethan Tauscher
7 Matt Erdmann	15 Hudson Rich	28 Emily Spalding
8 Hannah Nickol	17 Joyce Hofacker	28 Mackenzie Canan
8 Jill Witters	20 Brittani Groff	28 Noelle Murray
9 Lucas Tauscher	20 Troy Troutwine	28 Tammy Merzke
11 Emily Jordan	22 Peggy Didier	29 Kristen Sarver
12 Amber Thacker	23 Tony Baker	30 Aimee Nelson
13 Cory Campbell	24 Colton Troutwine	30 Kristen Garwood
	24 Doris Lephart	30 Marge Warner

1 Mark and Pamela Oswalt
9 Sarah and John Beard
11 David and Marge Warner
12 Shannon and Kraig Ressler
16 Jennifer and Adam Hemmerich
18 Sharon and William Grice
19 Bradley and Miranda Harleman
20 Aimee and Tommy Nelson
20 Tommy and Tommy Nelson Jr.
23 Kevin and Linda McKibben
25 Rick and Nonnie Myers
30 Melissa and Joseph Sagan
30 Shawn and Beth Thompson



2 Sandra Williams
2 Terry Warner
9 Lucas Tauscher
13 Danyelle Cool
16 Nychelle Cool
16 Sarah Jasinski
18 Sarah Beard
20 Shawn Thompson
24 Matt Erdmann
25 Jonathan Brandon
27 Stephanie Kossler
28 Misti Snider
28 Nonnie Myers

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Minutes

July 12, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Eldon Erdmann.

Devotions were led by Pastor Mel.

Minutes were read.

Motion made to accept by Kevin McKibben, seconded by Bev Erdmann. Motion passed.

Treasurers Reports

Benevolence—Synod was short this quarter

Building Fund—NR

Financial—NR

General—NR

Trinity Troops—\$950

Sunday School—\$500

Motion made to accept treasurers' reports by Marge Warner, seconded by Katherine Obringer.

Reports

Pastor's

Suggested to purchase the oil Christ candle when needed next time which cost approximately \$265 and then only need to purchase oil, symbols & etc. versus the beeswax candle which cost approximately \$114 each time

Trustees—All done

Secretary—NR

Flower Chart—Shirley Rhoades is now taking care of this.

150th—Hoorah!!

Old Business

Sunday School Picnic offering—this was questioned as to where it goes & it now goes into General Fund as there is a budgeted amount for Sunday School.

New Business

Bulletins

Pros & Cons of different sizes were discussed. The size used at our 150th celebration service would make it easier for Katherine.

Trinity Troops

The Arlings have stepped down from being leaders for this group due to the activities of their children being in conflict.

Need someone to lead this group!

Revive OHIO

Darke County is going to be their focus beginning August 7th. The kick-off will take place at EUM Church in Greenville. Each team will consist of 4 people and "Revive OHIO" is asking for 16 churches in Darke County to be host churches. These churches will be responsible for supporting the teams going out in the field, and it was decided that we would volunteer to be a host church.

Compensation for using sound system was discussed since someone needs to be present to operate this. Research will be done on this.

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Caleena Hesler, seconded by Kevin McKibben. Motion passed.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Roxanne Groff

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE IS
MONDAY AUGUST 15

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Minutes

June 14, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Eldon Erdmann.

Devotions were led by Mark Oswalt.

Minutes were read.

Motion made to accept by Kevin McKibben, seconded by Andy McKibben. Motion passed.

Treasurers Reports

Benevolence -- \$195.00 & will probably have enough to pay this quarter

Building Fund -- \$4500

Financial – NR

General – NR

Trinity Troops -- \$1000

Sunday School -- \$600

Motion made to accept by Bev Erdmann, seconded by Andy McKibben. Motion passed.

Reports

Pastor's – Printed report

Christian Education – Bible School is all set, but could use some helpers
150th

Still about half of the envelopes are left for "Filling Plates & Potholes"

There are mugs and notecards still available for sale

Let the committee know if there is someone that still needs an invitation

Old Business

Plaque in Winnie's memory

Parking lot will be finished

New Business

Newsletters should still be mailed to those who prefer

Bids for painting sanctuary are being accepted

Motion made to adjourn by Mark Oswalt, seconded by Shirley Rhoades. Motion passed.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



If you are interested in purchasing flowers for the altar, please sign up on the flower chart located on the bulletin board next to the secretary's office door. Or you may call me at 937-737-0097 and I will see that your name gets added to the chart. Please indicate the occasion for the flowers, such as- birthday, anniversary, special occasion , in memory of, to the glory of God, etc. I will order the flowers and the church office will bill you. The cost of a

pair of altar vases is \$35.00 and the cost of the centerpiece is \$28 00. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Thank you,
Shirley Rhoades

“Time to Revive” Is Coming to Darke County!



When you think of a revival does your mind immediately jump to one of those old fashioned big tent events where pastors handle snakes and people are “miraculously” healed of lifelong afflictions? That’s where my mind went when I first heard about reviveOhio Darke County. If not a “Big Tent” event, then what is reviveOhio all about? I’m glad you asked!

A couple of months ago we had spies living among us for several days. Most of us never knew they were here. These spies came to assess the people of this land to see if the harvest was ripe for revival. They met with some random people around Greenville and Darke County. They met with pastors from all across the county. They met with business leaders and owners and they met with the mayor of Greenville. These spies were sent from an organization called “Time to Revive.” Their vision is to see the body of Christ revived by making disciples to impact cities and transform the nation.

The spies came to see if the people in this area have three characteristics that indicate we are ripe for revival. They look to see if we are hungry for the Word of God. They look to see if we are a humble people capable of repenting. Finally, they were looking to see if we were able to unite into one people in mission. Their goal if they find these three characteristics is to come and walk alongside the congregations and help us learn to reach out to our community. They provide a proven method of outreach that spreads the love of Christ to people from all walks of life. Their team comes into our midst and walk with us into the streets and by-ways, the businesses and factories, the farms and the homes of everyday people and simply ask to pray for them.

The spies have found Darke County to be the hungriest place they have ever visited. In their initial Pastor meeting the response from Darke County Pastors was larger than any place they had ever been and they have started revivals in large and small cities, including Dallas Texas and recently in Indiana where the movement has spread from Fort Wayne to 19 towns and villages.

This is not a big tent event, in fact it’s not an event at all. reviveOhio is a movement to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the streets and businesses of our region. As I’ve talked about this topic I’ve heard many people ask how this is different from “Jehovah Witnesses” knocking on doors. From what I’ve seen so far the biggest difference is this movement first listens to the people. When you meet a new person you ask them if you can pray with them and then ask what they need to pray for. So you start by listening. The “Other” evangelism folks start out by telling you what you should believe or even what you must believe in order to be saved. That’s a big difference.

The decision has been made by the Revive Team and the majority of Darke County Pastors to start the reviveOhio Movement on August 7th. I have attended a couple of meetings and have a couple more coming up. I will keep you posted on how this develops and what opportunities you have to get involved.

I ask you to read my Pastor’s Perspective article if you are wondering why this might be a good movement to become involved with. If we want to live more fully into our Mission Statement, which states: In Christ’s Love, We Seek, Welcome, and Serve All, this reviveOhio Movement just might be one way for us to become a congregation that seeks out people to invite into a relationship where we can welcome and serve.

Please keep the Revive Ohio movement in your prayers and look them up on the internet at <http://www.reviveoh.com/>. I’ll keep you informed as this movement gets underway.

\$ FINANCIAL NEWS FROM JUNE 5, 2016 - JULY 24, 2016 \$

Current Operating Budget per week: Budgeted giving is **\$1,543.00/** Per Week

Benevolence Budget Per Week: **\$341.54**

Building Fund: No budgeted amount. The restroom project is paid in full.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
06/05	\$ 4,485.00*	\$ 475.00	\$ 50.00	49
06/12	\$ 1,871.00*	\$ 125.00	\$ 10.00	49
06/19	\$ 1,370.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	34
06/26	\$ 657.00	\$ 00.00	\$ 00.00	40
07/03	\$ 1,353.00	\$ 155.00	\$ 50.00	47
07/10	\$ 4,216.50*	\$ 240.00	\$ 135.00	201
07/17	\$ 1,090.26	\$ 190.00	\$ 25.00	45
07/24	\$ 1,618.00*	\$ 1,380.00*	\$ 25.00	58

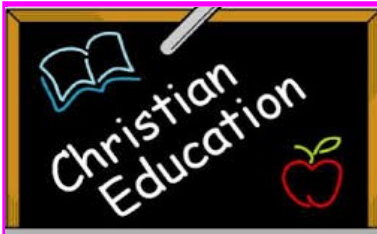
* Denotes Sundays we met or exceeded our budgeted giving.

Figures printed in red are those amounts not meeting budgeted giving.

Current total includes both envelope giving and loose funds placed in the offering plate.

Benevolence funds come from member's envelopes who designate an amount specifically for the Benevolence fund in the appropriate box.

Building Fund has no set budgeted amount and is sustained solely, (or should we say souly) by individual members' generosity, who give.



Christian Education Team News

Thanks to the adults who came out and helped with Bible School. Sometimes we had more adults than kids. The kids who participated had a great time!!!! We discussed having next year's Bible school at 6:30 - 8:00 pm to give parents a chance to make it home from work and perhaps have dinner. We also discussed having Bible school the week of July 23 - 27 rather than on Wednesdays in July. Let us know what you think. By the way, if you missed the petting zoo, it was phenomenal. Thanks to all who shared animals and fencing!!!

Rally Day will be on Sunday, August 28 and include some of the following: a blessing of the backpacks, a giant gutter sundae, a balloon launch, food, and more. Details coming soon!

With much excitement we are announcing the 2nd Annual Halloween Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 23 from 6:00 - 7:30pm. The evening will include decorated cars and/ or trucks, game stations, a bouncy house, Halloween music, a picture taking station, food, door prizes, and more. Please let Marge know if you want to sponsor a game or enter a decorated car or trunk. This event was highly supported by the community last year, so a better turnout is expected for this year. **WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

Future events will be the St. Nicholas/Santa Claus happening on the evening of November 27. The Christmas program will be on Dec. 18 this year.

Thanks for your support. Marge Warner, Christian Education Leader
Call 623-2544 with ideas and/or questions.

August Health Tips

Summertime Natural Disasters

Before Thunderstorm and Lightning

- Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage during a severe thunderstorm.
- Postpone outdoor activities.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- Get inside a home, building, or hard top automobile (not a convertible). Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.
- Remember, rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. However, the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal.
- Shutter windows and secure outside doors. If shutters are not available, close window blinds, shades or curtains.
- Unplug any electronic equipment well before the storm arrives.

Before a Tornado

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or to commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information. In any emergency, always listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.
- Look for the following danger signs:
 - ❖ Dark, often greenish sky
 - ❖ Large hail

Before a Tornado (con't)

- ❖ A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
- ❖ Loud roar, similar to a freight train.
- If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately

Preparing for Extreme Heat

- Install window air conditioners snugly; insulate if necessary.
- Check air-conditioning ducts for proper insulation.
- Install temporary window reflectors (for use between windows and drapes), such as aluminum foil-covered cardboard, to reflect heat back outside.
- Weather-strip doors and sills to keep cool air in.
- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes, shades, awnings, or louvers. (Outdoor awnings or louvers can reduce the heat that enters a home by up to 80 percent.)
- Keep storm windows up all year.
- Listen to local weather forecasts and stay aware of upcoming temperature changes.
- Know those in your neighborhood who are elderly, young, sick or overweight. They are more likely to become victims of excessive heat and may need help.
- Be aware that people living in urban areas may be at greater risk from the effects of a prolonged heat wave than are people living in rural areas.
- Get trained in first aid to learn how to treat heat-related emergencies.

Source: Ready.gov

Smoking

Stress-How you deal with stress may affect other, established risk factors for high blood pressure or heart disease. For example, people under stress may overeat or eat a less healthy diet, put off physical activity, drink, smoke or misuse drugs.

By keeping your blood pressure in a healthy range, you are:

Reducing your risk of your vascular walls becoming overstretched and injured

Reducing your risk of your heart having to pump harder to compensate for blockages

Protecting your entire body so that your tissue receives regular supplies of blood that is rich in the oxygen it needs

Information obtained from the American Heart Association's website.

For more information on Blood pressure- visit <http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/>

Together we live into the mission of sharing God's grace.

Parish Nurse

PJ Musser MSN, RN, BC, CNRN

Blood pressure Screenings are the third and fourth Sundays of the month in the adult Sunday school classroom immediately following church service.



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That's right! It's school kit time!

Each School Kit contains the following:



Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper

One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.



One pencil sharpener

One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)



Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band.

Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band



One box of 16 or 24 crayons

One 2½" eraser





NOTES FROM YOUR PARISH NURSE

Understanding Blood Pressure

This article appeared in February 2014's Trumpet. I have had a number of individuals ask questions about blood pressure, so I thought I would submit this article again.

High blood pressure is known as the silent killer since there are often no warning signs. Blood pressure is the force of blood pushing against blood vessel walls.

The top number, systolic, is the higher of the two numbers. This measurement is the pressure in the arteries when the heart beats (when the heart muscle contracts).

The bottom number, diastolic, is the lower of the two numbers. It measures the pressure in the arteries between heartbeats (when the heart muscle is resting between beats and refilling with blood).

This chart reflects blood pressure categories defined by the American Heart Association

Blood Pressure Category	Systolic (Top Number)	Diastolic (Bottom Number)
Normal	Less than 120 and	Less than 80
Prehypertension	120-139 or	80-89
High Blood Pressure Hypertension Stage 1	140-159 or	90-99
High Blood Pressure Hypertension Stage 2	160 or higher or	100 or higher
Hypertensive Crisis Medical Emergency	Higher than 180 or	Higher than 110

Your physician may want you to maintain a BP specific to your health needs.

Your physician will want to get an accurate picture of your blood pressure and chart what happens over time. Your blood pressure rises with each heartbeat and falls when your heart relaxes between beats. Your BP can change from minute to minute with changes in posture, exercise, stress or sleep. About one in three (33.6%) U.S. adults have high blood pressure.

Risk Factors that contribute to high blood pressure

Heredity

Advanced age- Blood vessels lose flexibility with age.

Lack of physical activity

Being overweight- Losing as little as 10 to 20 pounds can help lower your blood pressure.

Poor diet- A diet that's high in calories, fats and sugars and low in essential nutrients contributes directly to poor health as well as to obesity. In addition, there are some problems that can happen from eating too much salt. Salt keeps excess fluid in the body that can add to the burden on the heart. While too much salt can be dangerous, healthy food choices can actually lower blood pressure.

Drinking too much alcohol- It can also cause heart failure, lead to stroke and produce irregular heartbeats. If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation. If you drink, limit your alcohol consumption to no more than two drinks per day for men and one drink per day for women. One drink equals a 12-ounce beer, a 4-ounce glass of wine, 1.5 ounces of 80-proof liquor, or one ounce of hard liquor (100-proof).

From Your Congregational Council

The President's Perspective



July

Congratulations to all of our recent graduates. It was great to see their accomplishments and acknowledgements pop out of the newspapers and to think that our Church and their involvement in Church hopefully added to their success and they stay active in God's work throughout their lives.

As we enter the vacation mode of the summer, please remember that our church activities continue throughout the summer and that our monetary commitments remain the same. Please help and pray for us to keep God's work at Trinity moving forward.

A good portion of our Church repair list has been completed. What was not accomplished gives us future projects to keep the Church property up to date.

August

What a grand celebration the 150th was! The committee certainly did a fantastic job and we should all be so very appreciative of their hard work. Remember to thank Portia Boord, Peggy Didier, Bev Erdmann, Andy McKibben, PJ Musser, Pastor Mel Musser, Katherine Obringer, Judy Ulrich, and Marge Warner. Also thank Linda Baker for the beautiful handmade bookmarks. July's Vacation Bible School also required much effort. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way. It is all of these things that give us a chance to serve God and live out our Church motto to seek, welcome, and serve all.

Let's continue this work in August. ReviveOHIO:Darke County is something new for us to explore. There are several ways that we can be of help from preparing meals to offering lodging to being active in the daily process of offering personal prayers. Is God Calling you? And don't forget the Great Darke County Fair as a chance to reach out. Maybe one of you has a new idea or mission for us to try. The filling Plates and Potholes project was a new idea and we only have 27 of the original 150 envelopes left to fill!

I'll see you in Church as with God's help we continue to seek, welcome, and serve all.

Eldon Erdmann



MILLER'S TAVERN

*Wednesday, August 10, 2016 - 12 Noon & You're Invited to
Miller's Tavern - 15 N. High St, Arcanum, Ohio 45304*

Please let Shirley Rhoades know if you are planning to attend by Monday, August 8. Phone 937-737-0097 or simply let her know before or after worship service. All women are welcome to join us. Bring a friend or family member. There's always lots of fun, good conversation, and lots of laughs! Come join us in the fun!

June The Trinity Trumpet 2016



My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:27)

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the one who invites to follow him, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen. We put a lot of emphasis on being a "Welcoming Church" around here and it's a good thing to welcome friends and visitors alike. We try to have our friendliest folks watch for new people and we make sure we introduce them to at least 3 or 4 different people to help them feel comfortable. We make sure the bulletin has everything you need in order to worship instead of requiring people to shuffle back and forth in one or more hymnals. I believe we are a congregation that has hospitality as a core value and we're good at it! Our congregation and our worship services are, and should be, a

great source of pride. God has worked and continues to work mightily in our midst.

We've definitely got the "Welcoming" part down pat, but now I want us to think about how we can transition into becoming not just welcoming, but also a "Seeking" and "Inviting" congregation. You see being welcoming only takes you so far. Welcoming people into our midst requires them to first find us and then to become interested in what we're doing enough that they make the supreme effort to show up at 10:30 on Sunday morning. If we're primarily a Welcoming Church, we rely on chance circumstances to bring people to us so we can then welcome them. Do you see how passive that approach is?

When we take welcoming from passive to active you become a seeking and inviting congregation. I know, I know you're thinking active means YOU might actually have to do something and that is exactly correct. If you agreed with my earlier statement that our Church is a place and a people that you are proud to be associated with, then why wouldn't you want to invite others to come and follow the same Christ we find so fulfilling? When I go to a movie, even a mediocre movie, I tell at least 4 or 5 people what I thought about it. Who do you tell when you go to a movie or any other entertainment event? Now I'm not comparing Church to entertainment, but I'm sure you see the obvious analogy. How many people have you shared your Church experience, that you are so proud of, with? If you are like most Christians you have never shared your Church life and experience with anyone, much less invited them to come to Worship with you. Please don't feel guilty, feel inspired to make a change...

So, here's the summer challenge I have for every member of Trinity. Between now and Rally Day on August 28th tell at least 3 (three) people something about your church or the people in our congregation that makes you proud or happy or has changed your life. Then invite them to come and see for themselves. Invite them to come with you to worship or come with you to help at the FISH Pantry or invite them to come to help with Vacation Bible School. Whatever your most fulfilling aspect of this community might be, invite three people you know to come and experience that aspect with you.

I know it will be scary at first, but the more you do it, the easier it gets, I promise. May God give each of us the wisdom to discover what it is that this Church does that makes our lives better and more complete and then give us courage to share our experience with three or more friends and acquaintances. May these seeds of invitation bring a harvest of visitors so we can flex our "welcoming" muscles. May God bless each and every one of you as you spread God's love where ever you go, amen.

In Christ's love let's Seek, Welcome, and Serve all,
Pastor Mel