

Wanamingo Lutheran Church

October 2017 Newsletter

AUGUST'S FINANCES

Income	\$3,335.00
Monthly expenses	\$3,179.83

YTD TOTALS

Year to date Income	\$42,203.56
From Building Fund	\$26,865.46
Mildred Erlanson Memorial	\$10,000.00
Year to date Expenses Paid	<u>\$72,757.19</u>

DIFFERENCE	\$ 6,311.83
------------	-------------

Pastor's Office Hours

Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00pm

At Trinity

Tuesdays 2:00 – 5:00pm

&

Wednesdays 9:00 – 11:00am

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Greetings!

This month marks a very special event in the life of the Lutheran Church. On October 31st we will celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. In the months leading up to this historic milestone I have been sharing with you some key insights from Martin Luther.

Two months ago I mentioned that, in virtue of our baptism, we are all priests. That is, we can all pray for one another and teach one another about Jesus. We do this through our words, yes. More importantly, we show others what it means to be a Christian through our actions. So, keep sharing the love of Christ with your neighbors through your words and your deeds.

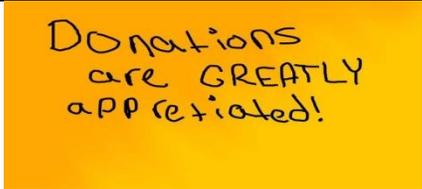
Last month we learned that we are all Saints and Sinners at the same time. We sin every day and are in constant need of God's mercy and forgiveness.

When we are sorry for our sins, confess them to God and seek His forgiveness, God forgives us our sins for Jesus' sake. A forgiven person who trusts in Jesus and follows Him each day of their life is a Saint. We will never be perfect people this side of heaven but, that doesn't mean we give up on our journey of faith with Jesus.

This month I'd like to share with you Martin Luther's idea of vocation. Vocation comes from a Latin word that means "calling." Each of us has a calling in this life. Some of us are teachers. Others worked at IBM. Some of you are farmers. Some raise pigs. Many of you work in hospitals or in other offices. I am a pastor. We each have been given gifts by God. God asks us to use these gifts to honor Him and to serve our neighbor. Whenever and wherever we do this- we are fulfilling our calling. We are living out our vocation. Rejoice in the gifts God has given you! Use them to help your neighbors and for the glory of God!

God bless each of you this month as we celebrate the ongoing reform of God's Church!

Pastor Christopher Culuris

<p>Sunday School Will gather at 9:30am (before Worship) for the month of October. Come join the fun!!</p>	<p>WELCA Will have their monthly Bible Study on Thursday, October 5th, 2:00pm at Heritage Hill. All ladies are invited to come!</p>	<p>Confirmation Will meet on Wednesday Oct. 11th & 25th at 4:30pm at Trinity. Students are required to attend the Marty Haugen concert on Oct. 4th. Bring your family too!</p>
<p>“We Must Plant the Church” Bible Study Will gather on Sunday evenings at 7:00pm at Trinity on Oct. 1, 8, 15 & 22. Everyone is welcome to attend!</p>	<p><i>Prayer Shawl</i> meeting will be on Tuesday October 10th 7:00pm at Irene Ree’s House. 540 E 5th St Wanamingo</p>	<p>Holy Baptism: Elliot Johnson, daughter of Kelly and Mitchell Johnson and great-granddaughter of Ray Hegseth will be baptized during worship on Oct. 1st. Come out and welcome our newest member!</p>
<p>Marty Haugen:  Reformation Concert- 7:00pm, Wednesday, October 4th at Trinity. We will gather for fellowship after the concert in Trinity’s basement. Spread the word!</p>	<p>Boy Scout troop 76 will have their annual “Build-a-Burger” fundraiser on Monday October 9th starting at 5:30pm at the Wanamingo Community Center. Come support our youth to help “Build” them up!!</p> 	 <p>The final ½ of the carpet payment of \$8,500.00 will be due to Prigge Flooring when the carpet is installed. If you would like to make an additional contribution towards the carpet it would be greatly appreciated! Thanks for all you do to support Wanamingo Lutheran!</p>

Church Council meets next at 6:30pm on Thursday- October 12th. This meeting will be followed immediately by a meeting of our Joint Parish Committee at 7:30pm at Wanamingo Lutheran.

Pastor Chris will be at the Synod offices on Tuesday- Oct. 17th to meet with the New Pastors for their theological education and; in Rochester for a training by the VA to work with Veterans and their families on Thursday- Oct. 19th. NOTE: Pr. Chris will not have office hours on Oct. 19th.



We want to thank **Brandon Dierks** for organizing our painting project here at Wanamingo Lutheran! And to all the Boy Scouts and members of Wanamingo Lutheran who helped with all of the painting, cleaning and moving things for this much needed project. Many Thanks to everyone that stepped up to help in any and all ways!



Trinity and Wanamingo members: You are invited to join the members of Holden and Dale in a monthly book group. Here are our books to read for the upcoming year! All church members in High School or older are invited to join us! We will be meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Holden at 7pm.

October: Ice Cutter's Daughter by Tracie Peterson

November: Unlocked by Karen Kingsbury

December: The Shack by William Young

February: Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly

March: Between Heaven and the Real World: Stephen Curtis Chapman

April: Book Thief by Markus Zusak

We will gather to learn more about Mental Health at Trinity on Wednesday- November 1st at 7:00pm. The Confirmation students are required to attend this meeting and it is open to members of our congregations. Please spread the word about this important issue that affects so many of our loved ones.



Interim Ministry: What is it?

By Rev. Emily Carson
carson@semnsynod.org

Interim ministry is an important and special time in the life of a congregation. Interim ministry refers to the months between the end of one rostered minister's call and the beginning of the next leader's call. During this time, the congregation and its call committee enter into a period of discernment. They seek guidance from the Holy Spirit about the kind of ministry to which they are called as a family of faith.

The Office of the Bishop partners with congregations throughout rostered minister transitions from beginning to end. Synod staff members begin by accompanying a congregation through the process of interviewing and selecting an interim leader. Interims have special training to enter into congregations in transition.

Rev. Susan Miller serves as an Assistant to the Bishop for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. She works closely with congregational call processes and the synod's interim rostered ministers. Miller shares, "Interim ministry is a specialized ministry. Most of our interims are trained in helping congregations to prepare themselves for a new chapter in their ministry...Interims are able to enter into situations quickly. They are called to love people and to provide space for people to consider their future."

The length of an interim varies by context. In general, interim ministry lasts less than a year. This is holy time.

One of the ways the synod supports its interim leaders and provides space for their continued leadership development is through the monthly interim gathering. Interim rostered ministers meet the third Thursday of every month at the synod office (Assisi Heights, 1001 14th St. NW, Rochester, MN) from 10:00AM-12:00PM. Miller says, "Monthly interim gatherings are a way that the

Office of the Bishop gains insight into what is happening in the lives of congregations in transition." These monthly meetings are also a time for interim leaders to discuss ideas, challenges, and concerns. Rev. Dr. Paul Meierding serves as the group's convener. He reflects, "Our monthly meetings of interim pastors give us the opportunity to continue to learn and grow. It is especially rewarding to see the excitement of interim pastors as they learn from each other how to deal with challenging situations in their parish settings. I enjoy helping to choose topics to discuss in our monthly meetings that will help interim pastors become more skilled in this specialized ministry."

Rev. Marie Anderson is a trained interim who serves in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. In reflecting about what she finds most energizing about interim work, Anderson shares, "An interim pastor is invited into the life of a congregation at a time when they are in the midst of so many different emotions and changes...it is an honor to travel through the time of transition with congregations and help them discern God's plan for their future mission and ministry."

Rev. Peter Soli also serves as a trained interim in the synod. He finds the experiencing enriching. "It is valuable and affirming for me to accompany and help guide [congregations] as they navigate through difficulties. I consider interim ministry to be a healing ministry where health, hope, and vitality to a congregation are restored and made new."

Bishop Steven Delzer served as an interim pastor at earlier points in his years of ministry. He is very grateful for the role of interim rostered ministers in our synod. He says, "I deeply appreciate the specialized gifts and skills that interim pastors bring to accompanying congregations through times of transition, reminding them of God's promise, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Are you interested in becoming a trained intentional interim? Does your congregation need interim support? Please contact Rev. Susan Miller at 507-280-9457 or miller@semnsynod.org.