

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



September 2020 Newsletter

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## When We're Stuck In a Mess

Lysa TerKeurst

*"Then the LORD said to me, 'You have made your way around this hill country long enough; now turn north.'" Deuteronomy 2:2-3 (NIV)*

We all have messes in our lives. Financial messes. Relationship messes. Health messes. Home messes. Business messes.

Messes that leave us feeling stuck. Like we may be stranded in this place of upheaval and unrest forever. I'm sure that's how the people of Israel felt as they were wandering through the desert. Stuck in a mess with no end in sight.

You've probably read or heard this story found in the book of Exodus. God had miraculously set the Israelites free from the oppression and bondage of slavery in Egypt. But their unwillingness to fully trust Him and their blatant refusal to take possession of the Promised Land left them in quite a mess. A 40-year, desert-wandering mess.

Thankfully, in the book of Deuteronomy, we discover their story isn't over. Change is coming. The children of the Israelites, originally released from Pharaoh's tyranny, are finally about to take possession of the land God said was theirs all along.

But before they move forward, Moses has everyone pause to look back. He knows he won't be going with them, so he wants to be sure to cement in their minds the faithfulness of God along their journey.

Moses reminds them of a time when they'd been stuck circling the same mountain for too long. God spoke into their wandering and let them know it was time to head in a new direction.

*"Then the LORD said to me, 'You have made your way around this hill country long enough; now turn north'" (Deuteronomy 2:2-3).*

It was a pivotal moment for them to remember. One where they had faced a life-changing choice. They could stay stuck, endlessly circling the same old place, or they could choose hope and head in a new direction with the Lord.

They could turn north.

I think this is the perfect time to pause and ask God if there's anywhere we need to "turn north" in our

lives. *Have we been circling the same messes for years and years, with no end in sight? Are there areas we know we need to change — but feel like it will require too much sacrifice?*

Here's a question we can ask ourselves right in the midst of our messes ...

*Am I letting this mess define me or refine me?*

The answer to this question is crucial.

If I let a mess define me, I will feel hopeless.

If I let a mess refine me, I will be hopeful.

If the Israelites had looked at their 40-year track record of aimless wandering and defined themselves as rebellious failures, they would have lost all hope and kept right on circling.

But because they embraced the correction and redirection of the Lord, they were able to turn around and move toward His promises with hope firmly planted in their hearts. It's time for our messes to stop defining us.

It's time to embrace the refining process and turn north.

So how do we begin to turn north? We replace our old thoughts with empowering truths from God's Word.

I call them "Go-To Scriptures." In other words, these statements can become our new patterns of thought. And these new patterns of thought will empower us for a new way of living. I'm sharing a list of some of my favorite "Go-To Scriptures" with you today in our Reflect and Respond section because I don't believe for one second that we have to stay stuck in our current messes.

May we hear the Father's voice, filled with grace and free from any hint of condemnation, declaring over us today, *"It's time to turn north, beloved."* And may we be found turning toward Him and moving forward with Him.

***Dear Lord, thank You for offering me hope. I'm choosing to believe today that I don't have to stay stuck in my messes, even if they are messes of my own making. I'm tuning my ear to Your voice today. I'm filling my heart and mind with the Truth of Your Word. And now, I'm heading in a new direction with You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.***

*Psalm 32:8, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." (NIV)*

*Psalm 25:12, "Who, then, are those who fear the LORD? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose." (NIV)*

## Church Council Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church Council met Monday, August 17, 2020.

Present: Jerry Dykstra, Jeff Engebretson, Tonya Standy, Lee Hanten, Mike Konechne, Spencer DeHaan and Tana Huizenga.

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Dykstra. Lee led with prayer.

Carla Lanz from parsonage committee met with council and went over what was needed at the parsonage, this year they would like to have new windows and siding, carpet the basement, paint the basement and stain the deck, also needed is a garbage disposal, they would also like to put some things on a five year plan, some of those items being remodeling the downstairs bathroom, kitchen and laundry room. They will be asking for volunteers to paint the basement or monetary donations to help with these projects.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

The secretary's report was reviewed, Lee made a motion to approve, Jeff seconded it, the motion carried.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

We reviewed the treasurer's report, we will be opening a new account as there was some unauthorized activity, this was caught, so there was no loss to the church. Lee made a motion to approve, Mike seconded it, the motion carried.

We also discussed using VANCO as an alternative way to give to the church and special projects, such as building fund, mission funds, etc. We would be able to give by ACH (automatic out of checking or savings accounts), debit or credit cards or text. Other churches in town have been using this and it has increased their giving. We will have information about this in the September newsletter and the bulletin, Mike made a motion to start using VANCO and give members this option for giving, Tana seconded it, the motion carried.

### TRUSTEE'S REPORT

SOUND SYSTEM: There is supposed to be a representative here Wednesday to meet with the worship committee and Jeff.

### DEACON'S REPORT

Tana said they have the pulpit filled for the next few Sundays and we have some speakers that are willing to do one Sunday a month.

SEARCH COMMITTEE: Jeff said the search committee has a candidate coming in September and we discussed the candidate that was here on Sunday the 16th.

### OLD BUSINESS

BASEMENT PROJECT: Summit Contracting will begin the basement project when it fits in their time line.

### NEW BUSINESS

Wendy was asking about a replacement article for the newsletter since Pastor Ron isn't here, Tana said she would take care of this.

It was suggested we have hand sanitizer available for servers to use before communion, at entry of sanctuary and at kitchen counter, Jerry will take care of getting these.

We will start having the offering plate in the narthex rather than passing it around.

Jerry adjourned the meeting.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya Standy

## From the WOW Co-Presidents

*Connie Kirsch & Gladys Kuipers*

When God?

We honked. Actually, we didn't honk, but I really wanted to. The woman ahead of us was ---- the slowest,-drive through ordered - ever!!!

Add this to the fact that we had hungry kids in the back of the car, and a close call with a police officer who was still behind us, and people in gloves and masks all around....and all this made me nervous. C'mon lady. Move it.

Is she ever going to go? What is wrong with this person?!

My eyes toggled between the rearview mirror and the car ahead, as I tried to identify the issue. I leaned forward looking for an escape. Tension rose in my chest.

When we "finally" reached the Chick-Fil-A attendant, she immediately informed me, "I am going to switch to the passenger side of your car for your order. The woman ahead of you was deaf so I needed to get close to her so I could hear her."

She was --- what? Deaf!

I couldn't believe it. In my impatience, I complained about a woman in need of -- patience. I felt horrible. Here, this deaf woman did a great job of "getting out" and I critiqued her for it?

You know, we never know what someone is going through. We never know what's happening behind the scenes of what we see: the details of their day, their history of hurt or their million reasons why.

But, God knows. He knows their quirks as much as he knows ours.

In retrospect, I wish I extended patience, instead of getting--- pushy.

Why? Because patience is never wrong. Even if it takes time. Even if it slows us down. Even if we listen longer. Even if we have to talk more. Even if we have to get out of our own mind and into someone else's. Even if we delay our own progress.

*"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)*

## WOW Treasurer's Report

<b>Balance on Hand June 17, 2020</b>	<b>\$ 4014.17</b>
Kathy Zander—Sr. Tea Speaker	\$ 250.00
Platte Food Center—Sr. Tea	\$ -113.48
Mason Funeral—Donation	\$ 500.00
<b>Balance on Hand August 19, 2020</b>	<b>\$ 4150.69</b>

### Bible Study Groups:

~**Pricilla** Bible study group will not be meeting

~**Martha** Bible study group meeting "to be announced - members will be emailed"

~**Hannah** Bible study group will be meeting Thursday, September 17 at 1:30 pm



*This too shall pass.*

**Trinity Women of the Word:** Although we have not been meeting as Bible Study groups for the last several months, we would like to encourage you to please keep our mission projects in mind. This would include soap, our Purse Project, Health Kits, Toilet paper, and non-perishable items for the Helping Hands Food Pantry In October. Many thanks to our quilting for the beautiful Senior quilts that were presented a few weeks ago. Thanks for your cooperation, the Mission Action Committee.

Patience is love. It quiets discontent. It softens its response. It lets go of personal agendas. It loves by the Spirit. It discerns how to go. It makes space for others' needs. It keeps a smile on its face. It pauses with the goal of lifting the other person up. It dismisses gripes.

It is kind to itself and to others. It extends grace. It remembers Gos's patience and kindness. It, then, can really love others.

*Taken from Girlfriends in God.*

# A BUSHEL OF BOOKS



Design a handy bag to tote your books this fall.

### What you need:

- Plain canvas bag
- Cardboard scrap
- Acrylic paints (2 colors)
- 2 small paper plates
- Apple
- Knife (and adult help)
- Foam brush
- Scrap paper

### What you do:

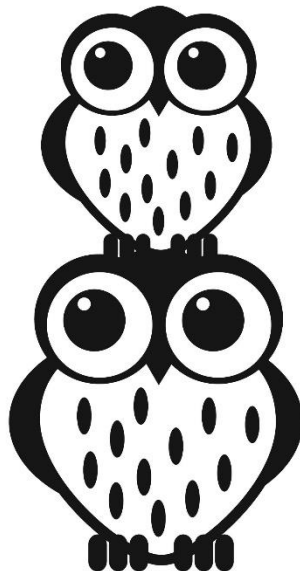
1. Lay the bag flat on a table, and place cardboard inside for protection.
2. Pour a paint dollop on each plate.
3. Slice the apple in half, keeping the core intact.
4. Brush a thin layer of paint on the cut side of an apple half. Practice making stamps on scrap paper.
5. Paint and stamp the bag with your final design. When dry, remove the cardboard.
6. Use the bag for school and Sunday school. Happy reading!

# PUZZLE

## WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

*Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.*

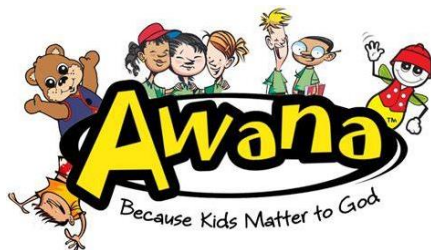


- |         |             |
|---------|-------------|
| school  | — ○ — — —   |
| paper   | — ○ —       |
| wisdom  | — — ○ —     |
| read    | — — — ○     |
| play    | — — — — —   |
| learn   | ○ — — — —   |
| grow    | — ○ — — — — |
| pencils | — — — — —   |
| pray    | — ○ — —     |
| art     | — — — — —   |
| student | — — — ○ — — |
| kids    | — — ○ — — — |
| apple   | — — ○ — — — |

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be \_\_\_\_\_ and successful.”

**JOSHUA 1:8, NIV**

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous



The whole family is invited to the Awana Fun Fair at Calvary Baptist Church on **Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 pm**. Awana is for kids ages 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Leaders and helpers still are needed.

## This Month's Birthdays



*\*Please remember these special 80+ Birthdays with a prayer, card or phone call*

9/2	Phyllis Daum	9/22	Henry Hegge	9/22	Bohden Schrank
9/4	Lee Hanten	9/16	Zachary Warejcka	9/23	Shirley Johnson
9/4	Jeremiah Konechne	9/17	LaDene Nelson*	9/23	Abigail Konechne
9/6	Jorie Nelson	9/18	Jay VanDerWerff	9/25	Kolbi Hoffman
9/7	Mick Warejcka	9/18	Skyler Hanten	9/25	Ryker Nachtigal
9/10	Kali Vanden Berge	9/19	Melody Olson	9/26	Kelly Weisser
9/13	Josie DeHaan	9/19	Toby Qualm	9/26	Sonny Qualm*
9/13	Wendy Wollman	9/19	Tony Schrank	9/29	Roxanne Van Zee
9/15	Ella Holter	9/21	Frank Cutler		

## Coffee/Cookie Servers

6 – Emily VandenHoek, Kendra VanZee, Kristi Wagner  
 13 – Lizzy Warejcka, Kendall Warejcka, Sharon Warejcka  
 20 – Wendy Wollman, Teresa Walz, Ila Vae Antonsen  
 27 – Cheri Antonsen, Bev Antonsen, Casey Bailey

## Ushers

6 – Scott Vanden Berge & Steve Spawn  
 13 – Randy & Foster Tegethoff  
 20 – Randy & Foster Tegethoff  
 27 – LeRoy Severson & Jason Huizenga

## Communion Servers

**\*\*Sunday, September 6\*\***

Mike Konechne  
 Spencer DeHaan  
 Brad DeVries



## Youth Group

**High School Youth Group** kick-off is Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7:15-9:00 PM at the North Park. They will usually meet at Trinity Lutheran Church from 7:15-9 PM.

**Junior High Youth Group** meet every Wednesday evening at Christian Reformed Church. 6:30-6:45 PM Food & hang out time. 6:45-8:15 Games, Teaching & Small groups

## Women's Retreat

**Women's Retreat at New Hope Camp:** We have rescheduled our time to focus on "Beautiful Things" with speaker Kim Krull to Sept. 11 & 12. To learn more about the retreat, there's pamphlets on the tables in the Narthex or look online at [www.newhopechristiancamp.org](http://www.newhopechristiancamp.org) and register to join us for a time of refocusing on the beautiful things of God rather than the ugly things of this world.

## September Mission Fund Offering

The **Mission Fund Offering for September** will be designated towards the building fund to complete the basement project. Please make checks payable to "Trinity Lutheran". This will be taken Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Sunday, September 13



### Sunday School Kickoff & Teacher Installation

During the worship service,  
we will be releasing balloons and praying over our year.

### First Day of Sunday School

10:45 - 11:45 a.m.

**\*\* Co-TEACHERS still NEEDED \*\***

**For all grade levels including Confirmation!**

Contact the Board of Ed if you would be willing to offer your time this year!



### Church Family Picnic & Games

Stay for a church family picnic and games at Noon

Serving burgers and hotdogs and fixings!

***Giving on your smartphone is easy  
and a convenient way  
to donate to our church!***

***It only takes a moment to set up an account.***

3 Easy, Convenient Options:

- ✓ GivePlus mobile app
  1. Download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play
  2. Find our church by ZIP code 57369 or by searching for our church's name.
  3. Donate!
- ✓ Text (833) 621-0580 and put donation amount in message field.  
Follow steps to register & give.
- ✓ Webpage – [www.tlclplattensed.org](http://www.tlclplattensed.org)

