

Handclasp

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH | JANUARY 2019
302 S 10TH STREET | ST. JOSEPH, MO 64501 | 816-232-8378 | WWW.FLCSJ.ORG

2019 – A Year of “Triple T” Growth

Triple T Growth?

Sounds like an economics forecast. And in many ways it is. We entered the year with each of us making a pledge to grow as stewards of our own Time, Talent, and Treasure. What we use, when we use them, how we use them, where we use them...all decisions we make every day concerning the Triple T gifts that God has placed in our hands.

Wrong and right questions?

TIME – Not what part of my time will I offer to God but, **HOW** is God present and directing all of my time?

TALENT – Not what talents shall I offer to God but, **HOW** is God present and directing all my talents?

TREASURE – Not what Treasure shall I set aside for God but, **HOW** is God present and directing all of my treasure?

Sounds like I need strength beyond my own self to my commitment to Triple T Growth for 2019. Thankfully, I am not alone. I have the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of brothers and sisters in Christ like you to support and encourage me in this endeavor. And you have my prayers for you. And the prayers of all who gather each week in worship to give our thanks and praise to Jesus who provides all that we need to live in new Hope and Joy.

I cannot wait to see what this year will bring. How about you?

See you in Worship,

Pastor Roger Lenander



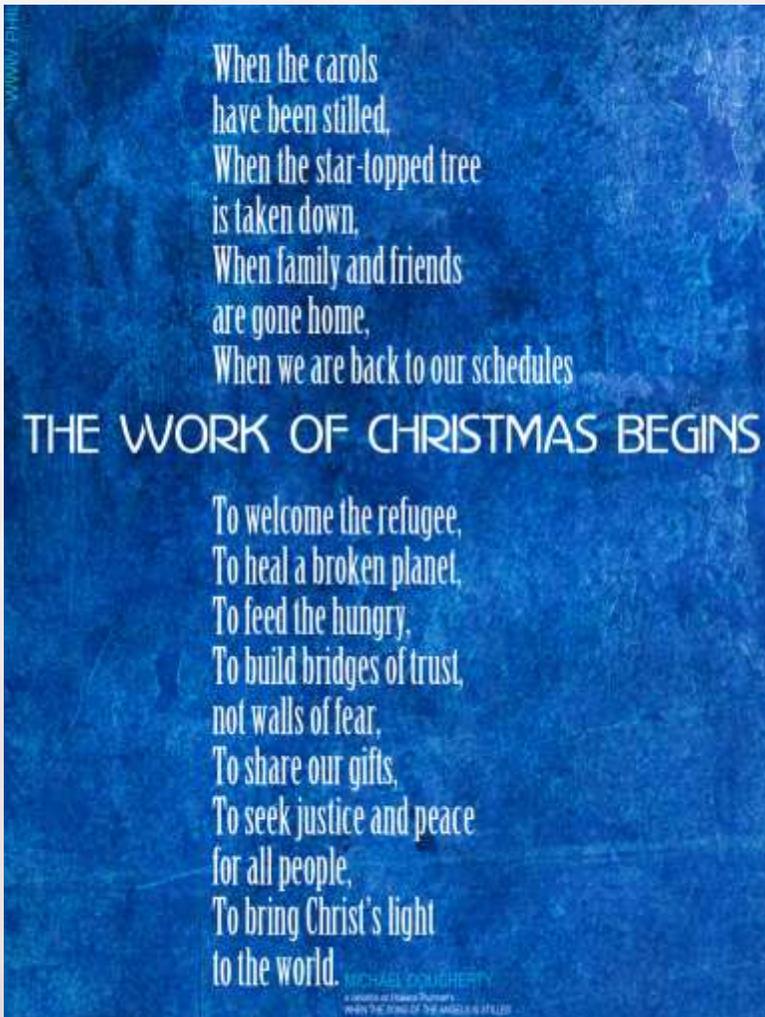
Philip Deng 1/1
 Noah Coyle 1/3
 Shelby Coyle 1/6
 Jim Bunge 1/7
 Joyce Stroud 1/9
 Noah Dennis 1/13
 Marcia Johnson 1/13
 Ashley Luthans 1/13



Linda Heeler 1/14
 Brenda Bass 1/17
 Jackson Knorr 1/18
 Diana Schmidt 1/18
 Laura Rivest 1/19
 Ann Newman 1/21
 Terry Cotton 1/22
 Lin Starks 1/24
 Philip Lewis 1/28

50 years of marriage

*Mel and Jo Eyberg
 January 27, 1969*



Treasurer's Report November 2018	
<i>Cyndee Simpson, Treasurer</i>	
November Income	\$15,042.40
November Expenses	\$16,928.26
Year to Date Income	\$184,639.20
Year to Date Expenses	\$193,116.41

From the News-Press published on
 Sunday, December 23, 2018:
Twenty Who Count

The Rev. Roger Lenander proved he is a champion for the poor and challenged in our community. The pastor at First Lutheran Church started Wednesday Night Free Dinner three year ago, in addition to his work with the

Crossing homeless initiative started by Danny and Twila Gach. He was instrumental in starting the Imagine Eleven Sunday concert series Downtown, eliciting the help of fellow pastors to bring free and uplifting music Downtown on Sundays.

In his humble, unassuming way, Lenander said his work is all part of his dedication to the St. Joseph community. "It's really been about embracing the heart of this community. It isn't anything that I have brought that wasn't here. It was simply becoming a part of what was already here in the community," Lenander said. Lenander added that he feels both honored and overwhelmed for being selected as one of the "20 Who Count" in the community. "There are so many who live out the same love for the community that I do," he said.

- Alonzo Weston

Roundtable

Dwelling in the Word

Phoebe Circle - Tuesday, Jan. 8th, 7 pm, TBA

Thursday Morning Bible Study - Thursdays at 10 am
at church

Online Bible Study - Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

Sunday School - Sundays at 10:30 am

Kids – End of the hall of the 2nd Floor

Adult – Fellowship Hall - Phil Hornbostel and Jim Pierce

Koinonia – 1st Floor Sunday School Room - Ron Starks
and Nadine Burns

Women's Bible Study – Library - Misty Coyle

Confirmation – Third Floor - Pastor Roger

Fellowship

Early Morning Breakfast - Tuesday, Jan. 15th
6:30 am, at Le Peep

Wednesday With Friends - Wednesday, Jan. 9th,
12 pm, TBA

Wednesday Café - Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
Starting Jan. 9th

Community Dinner - Sunday, Jan. 27th, 4pm
"Celebrating God's Gift of Community"

Service

Chancel Choir - Wednesdays at 7 pm

Archive Committee - Wednesdays at 9 am

2019 Annual Meeting, Sunday, Jan. 20th, 10:30 am
(snow date January 27th)

Leadership

Cub Scout Pack 26 - Tuesdays, 6:00 pm

Girl Scouts - Thursdays, 6:00 pm

Altar Guild - Thursday, Jan. 10th, 10:00 am Meeting

Congregational Council - Thursday, Jan. 10th, 6:30 pm

Adult Sunday Bible Studies in January

Sundays 10:30 – 11:30

Women's Bible Study – Meets in Library.

Led by Misty Coyle

Behind the text of Philippians stands a riveting story shared by Paul and the Philippian Christians- what we might call the "fellowship of the cross". How to apply biblical principles to our everyday lives?

The Year of Luke – Meets in Fellowship Hall.

Led by Jim Pierce, Phil Hornbostel

The first of a two book series (Luke-Acts) the writer begins with the Gospel of Jesus against the backdrop of the Middle East world in its religious and political foundations.

Crossways (Series 1 of 6) – Meets in Choir Room. Led by Pastor Roger Lenander

From Creation to the Transjordan - Follow the early events of God's people: Creation and the Fall, the Great Flood, the Call of Abraham, the Exodus from Egypt, and the Wilderness Wanderings. The stage is set for a divine "rescue mission" that was ultimately fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus and continues to involve each of us today!

Weekdays

Online Bible Study – uses zoom.us for virtual classroom experience. Meets Tuesdays, 7:00 – 7:45 p.m. Email rogerlenander@gmail.com for instructions on logging into the study site.

The Gospel Unhindered: A Study of Acts 1-7 – the writer of Luke continues in this second book of the series (Luke-Acts) describing the spread of the Gospel of Jesus into the world. Describes the courage of early disciples to live and speak of a new world order ushered in through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Bible Study – Group led. Meets in 1st floor classroom. Thursdays, 10:30 – 12 noon.

On January 2nd, the group will begin a study book about the parables.

MISSION SUPPORT

God's Story, Our Voices

Third Quarter, 2018

Gratitude – It can change the world.

There is a wave of gratefulness because people are becoming aware of how important this is and how it can change our world. It can change our world in immensely important ways because if you're grateful, you're not fearful and if you're not fearful, you're not violent. If you're grateful, you act out of a sense of enough and not a sense of scarcity and you are willing to share. If you are grateful, you are enjoying the differences between people and you are respectful to everybody and that changes this power pyramid under which we live.

- David Steindl-Rast

I am grateful for all the different congregations and communities and ministries of our synod that live out the reality that we are church together for the sake of the world. I am grateful for the mission support you share with the synod and the churchwide expression of the church that enables us to do more than any individual congregation could do on their own. I am grateful for your partnership, your generosity and faithfulness in being the church where all are welcome, the gospel is proclaimed, and we step out to be God's people of justice and compassion. So in gratitude, I simply want to say, "Thank you."

- Susan Candea, Director for Evangelical Mission



Advocacy - Connecting Faith and Public Life

As a synod we share 50% of the mission support received by congregations with the larger church which enables us to do the important work of advocacy.

As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. God uses our hands, through our direct service work and our voices, through our advocacy efforts, to restore and reconcile our world. Through faithful advocacy, the ELCA lives out our Lutheran belief that governments can help advance the common good. We work through political channels on behalf of the following biblical values: peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease. Together, we achieve things on a scale and scope that we could never do otherwise. When we act as a coordinated network of advocates and reach out to officials on relevant, timely issues, we effectively impact public policies.

Understanding that we are a public church and that the gospel is good news not just in the church but in the world, the Church in Society team of our synod strives to help us live out our baptismal promises to "care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace." To learn more about their work as well as see how you can sign up to be part of the advocacy network, please visit the synod website at www.css-elca.org/church-in-society or contact Peggy Schaefer at pbschaefer@sbcglobal.net.

**Congregational
 stewardship
 begins with a
 healthy
 understanding of
 gratitude and
 generosity. We
 have first received
 and therefore we
 give.**

In This Edition

- The Broader Church - Advocacy
- Synod Mission Tables - Lutherans Restoring Creation
- Congregations of the Synod Coming Together - The Gathering



**Evangelical Lutheran
 Church in America**
 God's work. Our hands.

What do we as the synod do together?

Mission tables (teams) such as Lutherans Restoring Creation carry out ministry on behalf of all of us.



All ages and stages. All races and faces. Every one of us treads on the common ground of our Earth home. Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission Table assists congregations and individuals to tread more lightly on the Earth and answer God's call to serve and protect all that God has made.

The 2018 Synod Assembly passed a resolution to encourage all congregations in Central States Synod to become Green Congregations with Green Teams to engage more fully in this ministry of Creation Care. LRC Mission Table offers workshops, educational events, congregational visits, and companionship with you as your congregation seeks to care for God's Creation.



Lutherans Restoring Creation, Creation Care Workshop

You can fill out a brief survey at:

www.css-elca.org/lutherans-restoring-creation

This survey will help the team compile a list of synod-wide green efforts. Please contact us if we can help you and your congregation in your Creation Care efforts!



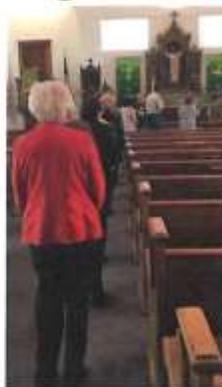
Gary & Jeani Anderson (Topeka)
Jane Meyerkord (St. Louis area)
Pam Western (KC area)
Larry Erickson (Manhattan)
Noni Strand (Salina)

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Creation Care Workshop Participants

Congregations of the Synod Coming Together - The Gathering



For the 4th year in a row, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cole Camp, MO and the area churches of Central Missouri hosted a day of faith formation and inspiration known as **The Gathering**¹. Members from 7 different churches attended throughout the day to hear from presenters, share food and conversation, participate in service projects and worship. This year's theme revolved around call: Where we've been called; how God calls us in our daily lives; how to listen for God's voice.

"Thanks for making this world a better place."

"Keep sharing your love with the world."

"You are a gift to the children you teach."

Those are just a few of the uplifting words that were written to people in our communities during lunchtime at The Gathering. Following a morning presentation hearing how God has been at work in the life of Mike Powell, William and Mary University head gymnastics coach,



participants were invited to write personal notes to people encouraging them in their callings, stuff backpacks with personal items for children living in the foster care system, and make a piece of

jewelry with a word of inspiration to take home with them. Tables were set up to write prayers and engage in conversation with others to listen deeply. Mike along with his wife Sharon, an immigration attorney, shared about the winding and messy paths he's had throughout his life; God's call took him to Tanzania, India, Syria, Jerusalem, seminary, and now to William and Mary. Sharon's call always rooted itself in humbly walking with God through growing up as a missionary child in Tanzania, serving in Lutheran Volunteer Corps, attending law school, and opening her own law firm working with immigrants and refugees.



Submitted by: Kimberly Knowle-Zeller

¹Knowle-Zeller, K. (2017, January 26). 'A Youth Gathering' - for adults Retrieved from <https://www.livinglutheran.org/>

Crossing Community Emergency Shelter Update

The Crossing Community Shelter opened October 15th to provide emergency shelter spaces for 45 men and women. Since opening:

- It has served over 200 persons.
- 15- 20 people have moved into permanent housing.
- 12-15 have maintained employment.
- Many have found a few days of sanctuary from dangerous and sometimes abusive situations.
- Health has improved with a full night's sleep and nutritious meals

Executive Director Dan Gach reports that there are 10-15 new residents each week. "These are people who are not homeless. They just find themselves in an emergency situation that is often temporary. Loss of work, unexpected expenses, broken relationships, health crisis; any of which can leave people stranded in our city. The need a shelter. That is what the need filled by the Community Emergency Shelter.

Recently, Mosaic Chef Jim Lloyd visited the shelter residents. As he served the evening meal each resident thanked him. Why? Because each meal is made possible by Chef Lloyd and his staff. It is the same food that was on the menu provided to Mosaic employees. As a result, delicious and nutritious meals are served the shelter residents daily.

Personal crisis has no season. It can occur anytime, anywhere, to anyone. We give thanks to the generous hearts and gifts of this community who are committed to be there to welcome them "home" to a place where they can rest and heal.

Go to crossing-outreach.org to learn how you can support this daily gift of providing "home" in a time of crisis for people in our city.

CarePortal Update

Since our launch in August, 2016, out of 132 churches in Buchanan County, 12 are active members in CarePortal. 177 out of 229 requests were met. We have served a total of 394 children and had an economic impact of \$124, 464. This is amazing for only being active for two years with twelve churches!

For this coming year, the Active Community (the 12 churches here in St. Joseph) is working to get the story of CarePortal out more into the community and to see about other churches joining the group. We are also trying to work harder in being ahead of the most common requests such as beds (Mattress Drive), bus passes, and food until SNAP benefits are in place. If you would like more information about how you would like to be more involved, please contact me, Misty Coyle, by email: mistycogle75@gmail.com or by my cell: 816-752-5742.

First Lutheran Church Council

Executive Committee

Pastor	Rev. Roger Lenander
President	Jim Farrell
Vice President	Jim Pierce
Secretary	Debbie Taylor
Treasurer	Cyndee Simpson
Financial Secretary	Joy Winters

Council Members

Carol Bunge	David Newman
Laurel Goforth	Jim Perry
Sylvester Heeler	Phil Hornbostel
Kris Langdon	Brenda Bass

Online Offering Scan to give!



Support Staff

Office Administrator	Misty Coyle	Custodian	Debbie & Larry Stafford
Associate Director of Music	Sharon Gray	Director of Music	Sharmyn Thompson
Sudanese Worship Director	Phillip Alier Deng	Central States Synod	Bishop Roger Gustafson