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| |  | | --- | | **Trinity Messenger**  August 2023 Issue 3 |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | | *Alleluia. I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope. Alleluia.*Psa. 130:5 | |

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| |  | | --- | | Liturgy is Not a Recipe for Worship  “The Lutheran confessions describe the church in terms of the worshiping assembly. ‘It is also taught that at all times there must be and remain one holy, Christian church. It is the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel’ (Augsburg Confession, 7). Assembly expresses well the nature of the church as *ekklesia*, a biblical term for the church that has at its root the meaning ‘called out.’ The common pattern of worship underscores this understanding of the church: The Holy Spirit gathers people of God around Jesus Christ present in the word of God and the sacraments, so that the Spirit may in turn send them into the world to continue the ingathering mission of God’s reign” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, pew edition, pg. 6, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2006).  This citation, taken from our cranberry-colored hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW), serves as a reminder to those of us who gather for worship that the liturgy through which we are called to participate as a worshiping community, in God’s life-giving activity, takes place within a gathering of God’s faithful people and serves as an outward expression of our faith. Our liturgy is not simply a script that keeps us from getting lost in the service. Its intentionally assembled parts, when fully understood, are a means of helping us better appreciate our relationship with God and develop in our faith.  To reacquaint us with the meaning of our liturgy and its importance for our faith lives, Donna Nace will be sharing with us, through a multi-session educational opportunity, her vast knowledge of Lutheran worship and its central importance for us in understanding and living out fully our relationship with our Creator and each other. The first session will begin on Sunday, September 10 shortly after worship. I cannot encourage you enough to take your faith life seriously and make time to be present for this opportunity to grow closer to God through a clearer understanding of the beautiful gift that has been given to us through our liturgy. It’s a gift waiting to be unpacked and joyously explored!  Yours in Christ,  Pastor Mark | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | | **August Stewardship: Konde Diocese – Our Partner in Ministry**     You may or may not know that each of the sixty-five synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has been linked with a Lutheran companion synod or church body outside the United States with which to partner in ministry and provide each other support through prayer and opportunities to engage with each other. We in the Lower Susquehanna Synod have been blessed with the companionship of the Konde Diocese, which is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). The Konde Diocese at present boasts a membership of over 125,000 members in seven church districts. Within these seven districts there are more than 100 congregations that are served by 160 pastors and 200 evangelists, who are serving God’s people and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ, which they have been faithfully doing since 1977.     The operative word in beginning to understand the nature of this ministry partnership and its benefits is “companion.” Each of our synods/diocese and the congregations that make up these bodies are called to serve our neighbor and share the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ. Doing so, no matter if one is part of a congregation in Ephrata, Pennsylvania or a congregation in a village in the Konde Diocese, we can offer encouragement for each other’s challenges and celebration for the joys. Through this relationship the work we have been called to do becomes easier and more meaningful because we know there are siblings in Christ offering mutual support. Such a relationship also provides the opportunity to learn from each other through correspondence and the sharing of ideas. This is especially relevant as we in this nation struggle with shrinking congregations and a waning interest in organized religion, while Christian churches in Africa and other less developed parts of the world are experiencing a boom in persons embracing the Gospel and its grace-filled message.     During the month of August the Konde Diocese will be our stewardship focus, and I encourage all of us to prayerfully consider how we as a congregation can be actively engaged in a relationship with the diocese and its individual congregations—supporting their ministries as they support ours. To help us deepen our connect we are working with our synodical liaison with the ELCT to link Holy trinity with a congregation in the Konde Diocese with whom we can personally have contact and grow our relationship congregation to congregation. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |

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| |  | | --- | | ﻿  **Summer Camp**  Thank you for your ongoing generosity in support of outdoor ministry through your giving to both the Lutheran Camping Corporation and the camper fund of Holy Trinity. Your generosity has once again made it possible to send three extremely excited youth to camp this summer at Camp Kirchenwald. The cost of one week at camp averages $600 per camper, which for many families is cost prohibitive, especially if you are trying to send more than one camper. To help continue this important ministry, which changes young lives for the better, please consider giving once again as the Spirit moves you so we can continue to provide youth with the camp experience. To do so, you are invited to use one of the *Camp Fund* envelopes located on the table in the Gathering Area and either place it along with your donation in the offering plate or mail it to or bring it by the church office. Please write *Camper Fund* on the memo line of your check. Again, thank you for your faithful generosity!! | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Office Hours: August 14-18**  We recommend you call the office prior to stopping in to ensure hours have not changed﻿.  **Office Phone: 717-733-4134 Pastor's Cell: 315-317-8517 Donna's Cell: 717-669-7831** | |

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