

MISSIONS REPORT TO CONGREGATION COUNCIL - SEPTEMBER 2017

As members of Trinity Lutheran Church we are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American and responsible to be supportive of serving Christ as members of that larger body.

The ELCA is now in its fourth year of a 5 year campaign, Always being made **NEW**, for the ELCA and Lower Susquehanna Synod.

With less than a year and a half to provide Trinity's funds toward the ELCA goal of \$198 million dollars, it is incumbent upon the Congregation Council to determine Trinity's response to this comprehensive Campaign. Trinity's history has always been one of full support of our Greater Church campaigns.

A Missions/Social ministry event on July 12 was attended by 42 person for a facilitated discussion exploring "What is God's mission for Trinity" led by Pastor Jennifer Crist. A follow-up event - Diakonia & Desserts: Mission on the move - is planned for Wednesday evening November 8, in Fellowship Hall. The event will be open to the entire congregation with invitations in particular to all previous attendees, the last two new member classes as well as persons indicating interest but unable to attend the July 12 event.

Missions activities this summer included the hosting of Trinity's missionaries to East Africa, the Rev. Deborah and Joe Troester on July 29-30 as well as planning and implementing World Hunger Weekend and continuing the monthly sale of LWR Fair Trade coffee and other items.

Free will offerings were taken to cover the cost of the meals served to the congregation in May and July for our missionary visits. Funds collected at these meals will be sent to our Companion Synod, Konde Diocese, Tanzania for the purchase of pine trees. These pine trees will be harvested to provide lumber for furniture making as a long term self-help project. Each tree costs \$5.00. We will send \$500 for this project.

On August 5, the Missions team met in Trinity's kitchen to bake a variety of yeast breads for World Hunger. The bread "sale" donations for all donated breads totaled \$1, 189.50. A total of \$8, 232.01, including the bread sale, was raised during July and August. Gifts for World Hunger to date total \$11,346.02 from January through August 2017.

The ELCA has named 2017 as *Global Mission year* in honor of the anniversary of the Reformation. **October Global Church Sunday** will actually be observed at Trinity in the spring (our church calendar too crowded this October) as part of our Worship services, holding in prayer missionaries serving around the world. Every church in the ELCA has been challenged to provide gifts in commemoration of the 500th anniversary to support missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission.

A correction to the June Missions report to Council: **Bread for the World** letters will be prepared in connection with Trinity's THANKS and GIVING event in November, not in July as previously reported.

Signup for the Maine Mission Trip is now in process. Please contact Daryl Ackerman for information if interested in working on this mission. Dates are June 16-23, 2018. Trip orientation meeting is September 24 at 12:00 in the library. 2018 will be the 8th year of Trinity's work in Cherryfield, Maine.

An anonymous donor has given a gift of \$15,000 to be used for Missions. The Missions team has made the following designation for these funds: (Note \$500 increments in honor of the Reformation.)

Lower Susquehanna Synod - Always Being Made New	\$ 2,500.
United Lutheran Seminary - Operating Expenses	2,500.
Global Church	
Missionary Support	1,000.
South Sudan - New Church for a New Nation	1,500.
Young Adults in Global Mission	500.
International Leaders - Women	1,000.
ELCA Disaster Response	
International	1,000.
Hurricane Harvey	1,000.
LSS	1,000.
Communities of Hope - (Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund - LSS)	1,500.
Lutheran World Relief	500.
Eagle's Wings	500.
Rocky Boy's - designated toward new copier	500.

Missions has declined the assumption of the collection of LWR personal care kits from Women of Trinity. There will be no collection of personal items this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hunter, Interim Facilitator