

Adoration Evangelical Lutheran Church

# ETCETERA



...Our Mission Continues

## *Important upcoming Sundays ...*

### Consecration Sunday / All Saints' Sunday

*November 3*

Saints are those individuals who reflect God to us; some are with us now and some live in God's fullness. On November 3, we will celebrate the lives of the saints in our life who have gone before us. We will also celebrate Consecration Sunday; a day when we will make a solemn offering back to God, in the midst of the assembly, of some of the gifts that God has bestowed upon us. And then, we will all sit down to feast together from God's bounty in our fellowship hall! Watch for your invitation!

### Habitat for Humanity Presentation

*October 13*

Brian Sonderman, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity will be here to preach and share the vision of the Habitat mission during worship.

### Reformation Sunday

*October 27*

In October 1517, Martin Luther is believed to have begun the Protestant Reformation by critiquing some of the practices of the Church. But that was only the beginning of the Reformation that continues to this day. On Reformation Sunday we continue this holy tradition of celebrating the church's practice of looking reflectively at itself in order to continue to spread the message of Christ Jesus most effectively.

#### **INTERIM PASTOR**

Rev. Debra Trakel  
Office: 414-281-0414  
Mobile: 414-339-9266  
Email: revdebra@aol.com

#### **STAFF**

Lori Hamilton.....Secretary  
Office: 414-281-0414  
Email: adorationelca@hotmail.com

Barb Regent.....Music Director  
Email: regent@execpc.com

Janet McGinty.....Choir Director  
Email: jlmcginty@tds.net

#### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday ..... 9:00-2:00

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# Consecration Sunday Is Coming!

Our congregation's Council and Stewardship team have selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

*New Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, November 3, we are asking our members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, charitable, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Everyone who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. We will do this in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Stewardship team and Council. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

The Adoration Stewardship Team

**Please join us for worship and a celebration luncheon on November 3rd !**



## Habitat for Humanity Presentation

On Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, Adoration Lutheran will have the privilege to welcome Brian Sonderman, Executive Director of Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity, to join us for worship. In addition to providing information on Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity and the current Midtown 100 initiative, Brian will be providing the sermon for the day. Brian has a master of divinity and served as a minister for 12 years in the greater Milwaukee area prior to taking on his current role with Habitat. There will be a free will offering that day to help support the mission of Habitat for Humanity, which is to provide families with an affordable path to safe, stable housing. So far this year, volunteers from Adoration have served by hanging siding and installing sub-floor for the Thrivent sponsored home located at 1924 N. 30<sup>th</sup> Street. Adoration's next build date is scheduled for Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will be working on the "punch list", which means putting the finishing touches on Bler Dah & Ku Wah Paw's home. If you are interested in participating in the build, please register at <http://thrivent.mkehabitat.volunteerhub.com/> If you are unable to physically help with the build, I encourage you to prayerfully consider a donation on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Jessica Hodgson

## A word from the Pastor...

You know, when you hang out in a church for a while and listen, you hear a lot of interesting things. I have been listening to all of you now for ten months and occasionally I hear some rather interesting theological comments. I said this to someone recently and they asked me what I meant by that. The long answer would take more space than we have in our newsletter. But the short hand answer is that for many reasons, some just about poor use of language, we perpetuate some faulty theology in the church. Here are some examples:

\*“Two become one.” In a marriage, two do *not* become one. Hopefully what happens is that two independent and healthy individuals choose to join their lives together. We hope further that their love for each other spills over into the world. But they do not fuse into one person, or one way of thinking. That’s bad theology and bad psychology.

\*“God takes us into heaven when our time comes,” or its variation, “God must not have wanted him yet,” or “It was part of God’s plan for him to die now.” First, there is not one appointed time for everyone’s death. We die when we die for many and varied reasons. Old people die. Young people die. Babies die. Some deaths are arguably more tragic than others. And God does not “take” us into heaven. God *receives* us into God’s love and grace when we die, but God is not a great body snatcher who “takes” people when God wishes to do so. There is no biblical warrant for that theology but we say it as a means to provide comfort.

Still, one person’s comfort then is another person’s pain. Why did God “take” one person and not another? The answer is that God does not take people at all. God receives us, lovingly, gratefully and finally.

\*“If you have doubts you are not a good Christian.” On that one, really? Really? I know of no thinking, biblically-based Christian who does not doubt. If you listen to the Psalms at all you hear the people of God struggling with their faith. They get angry. They are confused. They doubt.

We are not God. As human beings we see the world and our role in it only partially. So, of course, we doubt. We don’t have all the pieces of the puzzle. Only God does. Blessedly, in the Lutheran Church (ELCA), access to the sacraments does not depend upon passing a theology test or being able to explain any of the Creeds. And God remains lovingly close whether we doubt, or not. Good Lord, did folks in the early church doubt!

One of the ways that we stay out of bad theology is by talking with one another about what we believe and why, and by looking to Scripture to help us understand who God is and who we are before God. Those are discussions well worth having!

With love, Pastor Debra



### Wall of Crosses

*A special thank you to Gloria Becker for her new addition to our cross wall. While traveling to Door County she purchased a metal cross at the Rusty Rabbit Shop in Ephraim, WI. The owner of this little boutique shop was the former principal of her grade school in West Bend, WI. After his retirement 22 years ago, he opened this shop. Each year when she travels to Door County she makes a point to visit him and reminisce about the “good ole” days. He always has a nice selection of Christian crosses for purchase. Thank you again Gloria for your gift to Adoration.*

## M.E.T. Update...

The MET Team is approaching the end of our assignment. We only have to complete two more tasks – the “cottage meetings” which requires your involvement and the final report, the Management Site Profile or MSP.

Lately, we have been busy putting the raw data together to find trends and areas of both strength and concern. Here are some of our findings so far.

The *Timeline* – showed us both our achievements and our pitfalls. Some of the reasons for why we are where we are today.

The *Survey* has provided the most information.

### **We also learned that we have some concerns.**

We have a significant lack of leadership. We do not have a good sense of mission. We have problems with change. We are fiscally weak. We have trouble with conflict management. We seek greater inspiration from worship.

### **We also have some strengths.**

We are spiritually strong. We have a sound functional facility. We are welcoming of visitors. We are caring of people in crisis.

How did we come to these conclusions? **You told us**, collectively, honestly and unvarnished in your responses to the survey. The survey was completed by a number of respondents greater than 100% of our average weekly attendance. That is considered an exceptional number. Statistically, that suggests both accuracy and reliability.

The fact that I found to be the most informative from the survey was that this congregation thinks we are on the **cusp** of either going forward in growth and prosperity or continuing in decline. In survey speak we “are vital and currently viable but not sustainable”. We are at a point of making necessary changes or continuing in decline. Which way will we go? It depends on decisions we are about make.

The MET Team also *canvassed* businesses, organizations and residents *in our area*. The primary takeaway -- they basically told us we are **invisible** to them. The *Map* told us we are more of a neighborhood church than a destination church. 60% of our congregation lives within 3 miles of the church. When these two facts are combined, it is expected that our primary growth should come from the neighborhood but we are invisible to our neighbors. This realization could help us find a pastor with the matching strength for the evangelism we need.

The MET canvassing also revealed changes occurring in our community. We seem to be experiencing a slow but gradual decline. There are more free and reduced lunches in the schools and more people benefiting clothing drives. Another person described the decline with this not so elegant but very impactful quote “people are less afraid of doing stupid stuff.”

This information does not include every bit of information we have but it gives you a good outline. We don’t have everything we need to complete the MSP but we are close. The “cottage meetings” will provide the information we are lacking to complete the MSP. This information will also come from you. Please sign up for a meeting if you have not already done so. We need your input. This will be your best chance to tell us “what you really think”.

When the cottage meetings are completed, the MET can finish writing the MSP and send it to the Synod. When the Call Committee receives names from the Synod then those candidates will be interviewed. This is a lot of information and with it, I believe we can create an MSP that will be attractive to a number of pastors.

Bob Yersin—MET Chairman



# OUR ADORATION FAMILY



## BIRTHDAYS

10/02	Kathy Imp
10/02	Michael Ziolkowski
10/03	Jayne Bednar
10/03	Sophia Cwiklinski
10/05	Anand Kumar
10/13	Jessica Hodgson
10/18	Donald Weinert
10/20	Avery Johnson
10/21	Nicholas Cwiklinski
10/24	Tyler Lang
10/26	David Cason
10/28	Janette Kumar

## ANNIVERSARIES

10/09	Justin & Natasha Sneesby
10/19	Joe & Joani Bettin
10/21	Sean & Janet McGinty
10/25	Jay & Kerry Lindahl

## AAA Members

Mark your calendar for our next meetings and events:

### October 1

Pizza Lunch at Noon with meeting to follow

### November 5

Meeting at 1:00PM (Jerry from Deli Delight)

### December 3

Christmas Party entertainment (Pam & the Accidentals) at 11:00AM, potluck lunch at Noon

With Heartfelt  
*Sympathy* Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Lazaris family and friends of Betty Lazaris. Betty died on August 31. Pastor Debra officiated a Memorial Service at Adoration Lutheran Church on September 8.

*We pray that God will continue to comfort all who mourn.*

## Pastor Appreciation Day - Sunday October 27

Our (Interim) Pastor is a called, ordained, servant of God who shepherds the members of Adoration with loving kindness, faithfulness and leadership. This day is set aside to honor the calling to one of the most precious of assignments- the spiritual well-being of His flock. Please plan on attending this special service. Thank you. Evangelism Committee

## Church Fundraiser

On Reformation Sunday, Oct. 27th, our coffee time snacks will be provided by Breadsmith bakery. Help yourself from the variety of breads, scones, coffeecakes, etc. You will be provided with a price list and an order form. You will then have until November 13th to submit your order and payment. You may pay with cash or check made out to Adoration. No credit or debit cards can be used. All our orders will be freshly made on Nov. 20th. Breadsmith's truck will deliver everything to church early afternoon. I will be at church to assist with the pickups. The following week Breadsmith will send a check to Adoration for 20% of the total sales for our General Fund. If you think the prices are high, remember this isn't something you do every week. And, it is a fundraiser for our beloved church. If you don't eat a lot of sweets, they make wonderful gifts and if you think the items are too large for 1 or 2 people to eat, everything freezes well and can be removed and eaten as desired. Any questions, please contact Kathy Imp at 414-588-6917. Thank you for your generous support of this fundraiser.

Love and a Blessing, Kathy Imp

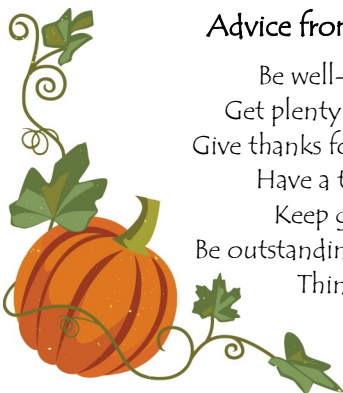
## Quotes by Martin Luther

*"From the beginning of my Reformation I have asked God to send me neither dreams, nor visions, nor angels, but to give me the right understanding of His Word, the Holy Scriptures; for as long as I have God's Word, I know that I am walking in His Way and that I shall not fall into any error or delusion."*

*"Our good works do not generate righteousness, rather our righteousness in Christ generates good works."*

## Advice from a Pumpkin

Be well-rounded.  
Get plenty of sunshine.  
Give thanks for life's bounty.  
Have a thick skin.  
Keep growing.  
Be outstanding in your field.  
Think big!



# Church Council Highlights

## Here are some of the items discussed at the SEPTEMBER Church Council meeting:

- ♦ The Children's sermons are now scheduled and will occur the first Sunday of the month.
- ♦ The new Call Committee will consist of 6 members. One of the members needs to be from the MET Committee.
- ♦ All committees need to be addressing their budget needs before the Annual Budget Meeting. We will be having sweet / savory snacks this year instead of a lunch.
- ♦ Tom Nowakowski, George Becker and Bob Yersin have started installing and staining the windows in the interior doors of the church. The following doors will have window installation: Pastor's outside door to the hallway, the counting room, the nursery, the Martin Luther room, the Katie room, and Lori's office.
- ♦ The Evangelism committee would like to sell T-shirts for \$10. These would be black in color with a shallow V-neck with the wording of "Adoration". We can use these T-shirts at outside events. If you would like to purchase a T-shirt you need to fill out an order form and then a shirt will be ordered for you.
- ♦ The Special Gifts and Memorial committee gave approval for a Meru plaque to be put in the entryway of the church. Also for four white bricks to be placed in the walkway. These items will be donated by members of the Partnership committee. Sean McGinty moved to authorize the Partnership committee to purchase the plaque and bricks, Gloria Becker seconded the motion.
- ♦ We are still looking for volunteers to make coffee on Sunday mornings.
- ♦ The "We Love Our Church" auction will take place on December 8, 2019.

**For more information on any or all of these items, please check the complete Council minutes posted on the kiosk in the Gathering Space or contact one of your Council representatives.**

## Adoration's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat

Where: 3840 Edgerton Avenue, Greenfield

When: Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> 4-7 PM



Event coincides with City of Greenfield Trick-or-Treat.

Stop by if you are in the area to enjoy fun games, check out the decorated trunks, and of course... collect candy!



# Social Ministry

## **Divine Intervention** *A food and encouragement ministry to the homeless in the Bay View area.*

A special thank you to Jim & Wendy Haas for volunteering to prepare and serve dinner to our homeless neighbors on September 20.

Also to Jim & Judy Goodwin for serving this ministry on October 18.

## **Thrivent Builds Habitat for Humanity** *Together, we build better lives.*

Here is your chance to give back to the community. Volunteers are needed from 8:30AM - 3PM on October 26 (finishing tasks). Volunteer information sheets are available at church in the gathering room. See Jessica Hodgson for questions.

## **Neighborhood Outreach Program** *Linking Older Adults with a caring community.*

### Volunteers needed:

Jesus showed us how to care for others. One opportunity is to help older adults with rides to errands such as shopping or to doctors appointments. Volunteering is at your convenience. Simply call the Neighborhood Outreach office at 414-488-6929 if you would like to help.



## **Ascension Food Pantry** *One Church, One Body, One Spirit, Serving All People.*

Thank you for your generous gifts of non-perishable food items. Each month we have been filling our shopping cart. Together we are reaching out and helping those in need. Thank you to Ted and Mardy Lazaris for delivering our gifts of food each month.

## **ELCA World Hunger** *Reaching Communities in need.*

Year-to-Date Offerings of \$ 1,810.00 Thank you!

## **You're Invited**

**Tuesday, October 8  
5-8 PM**

### **Welcome Dinner and Worship for the Meru Delegation**

The Greater Milwaukee Synod has invited Bishop Elias Kitoi and seventeen others from the Diocese of Meru to be with us from October 8-22, 2019. Adoration is hosting the welcome dinner for all the delegates, host families, members of the Synod Partnership committee and YOU! I hope you will join us in welcoming our brothers and sisters in Christ from Meru and the Greater Milwaukee Synod with a spirit of openness and hospitality. A brief worship service will follow the dinner. The time frame is of course dependent on their arrival at O'Hare (2pm), customs, and traffic back to Milwaukee, so I ask for prayers and patience. Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex, so we can get a count for dinner.

Karibu, all are welcome!

## Adoration Lutheran Church

3840 W. Edgerton Avenue  
Greenfield, WI 53221

**Phone:** (414) 281-0414

**Email:** adorationelca@hotmail.com

**Website:** adorationlc.org

**Facebook:** facebook.com/  
adorationlutheran

**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Debra Trakel

### Worship Times:

Sunday Morning.....9:00 AM

Wednesday Evening .....6:15 PM

## OCTOBER 2019

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# OCTOBER 2019

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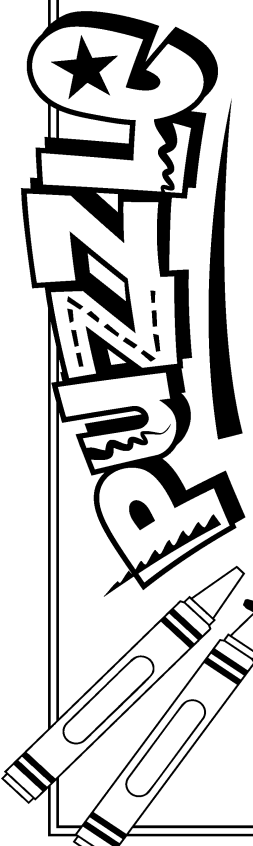
### Mission Statement:

*Living in God's love we share the good news of Jesus through spirited worship, serving God in our daily lives, creating a welcoming space to all, providing outreach, educating the young and old, and creating worldwide partnerships.*

### Reconciling in Christ:

*Adoration Evangelical Lutheran Church identifies itself as a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation and publicly welcomes all persons to full membership and participation in the ministry we share without regard to race, ethnicity, social status, ability, gender identity or sexual orientation.*




## KIDS PAGE




# Puzzle

## Harvest hunt

*Directions: After unscrambling each leaf's word, follow the vine to complete the Bible verse.*





John 4:35

James 3:18

Galatians 6:9

Peacemakers who sow in \_\_\_\_\_ reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18, NIV

Let us not become \_\_\_\_\_ in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9, NIV

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the \_\_\_\_\_!

They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35, NIV

Answer: peace, weary fields