



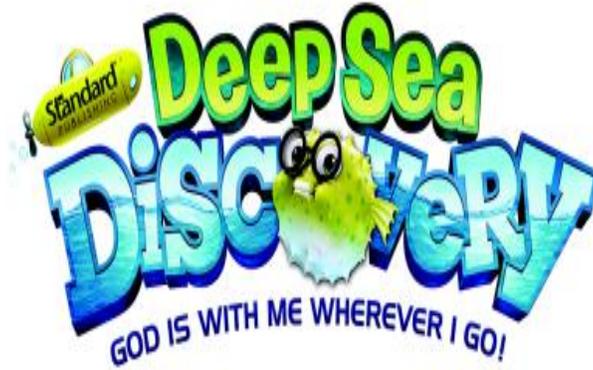
May, June, July, and August 2016

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass.
It's about learning to dance in the rain.



Youth Group Reverse Progressive Dinner

The Youth Group will be ending the year with a Reverse Progressive Dinner on May 15, from 4-8 pm. They need people to host a course at their home – dessert, main entrée, soup & salad, and appetizer. If anyone would like to help, please call Shannon Sanders at 814-462-5270.



Dive Deep into Adventure! July 18th – 22nd

We need **your** help to make this year's VBS a success. Please sign up if you can help with:

- Craft Leader and assistant
- Activity Leader and assistant
- Music Leader and assistant
- Science Leader and assistant
- Bible Lesson Leader
 - Preschool to K
 - 1st to 2nd grade
 - 3rd to 6th grade
 - 7th to 8th grade
- Kitchen Staff – We are looking for a few good men to help staff the kitchen and make dinner before VBS starts.

Any questions please contact Carissa Iszkula, Jessica LaFlamme,
or Leslie Foland

Please fill out and leave in the collection basket or Amy's office.

I am interested in helping with VBS.

Name: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Chuck's Chatter

At Tuesday night study we had an interesting conversation during which we talked our cultural (or maybe just human) predisposition to live in fear, and of how our economic and political systems prey on and stir up our fears.

I am kind of tired of all the anxious fearful concerns and especially of all the fear mongering. We are building a society founded on fear and self-protection. All the to-do about Target and transgendered people and restrooms was typical.

Why are we so easily spurred to fear?

Personally I have no fear about stepping into a public restroom and finding a gay man or a transgender person there. I don't get the fear.

And I just don't buy the party lines. Republicans say, "If the Democrats get elected, be afraid, be very afraid", and they name various bogey men we should fear. And the Democrats say, "if the Republicans get elected, be afraid, be very afraid," and they name various bogey men we should fear.

And I find so many of the fear based pronouncements of certain religious groups to be laughable. Think about the silly arguments religious groups have made to make us afraid...

- If we free the slaves the God ordained order of the races will be ruined and the economy of the United States will collapse.
- If we allow women to vote men will be removed from their God ordained place at the head of family and culture and America will become a weak second class country. This was said during the decade before America ascended to the top of the world's power structure.
- If we allow whites to marry blacks...
- If we let gays marry each other...
- If we allow transgendered people to use the "wrong" restroom...

Why do we always seem to need someone to hate?

Do we really think that serving an LGBT person in our café, or landscaping service, or even by providing them

a wedding cake is offensive to God? Doesn't Jesus tell us to love even enemies?

And why do we seem to find enemies everywhere?

Is our faith so fragile that we need the government to protect it by allowing us to discriminate against people who are different from us?

Really, why are we so afraid?

In the Bible the disciple John says, "There is no fear in love. Mature love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life is one not yet fully formed in love. We, though, are going to love. First God loved us, now we love. If we say we love God and hate others we lie. (I John 4:18-21)

I no longer think that Christianity is about being afraid of God's anger and about saying "no" to all the "wrong" things, but is instead about saying "yes" to all the right things.

I am trying to say "yes" to making friends, and building bridges between groups. In other words to share the love of Jesus with everyone I can.

I am trying to say "yes" to seeing the image of God in every person.

I am trying to say "yes" to the people Jesus said "yes" to. Women, children, the poor, the sick, the broken, the addicted, the sinners...

I am trying to say "yes" to generosity, to listening to those with whom I disagree, to seeing and celebrating beauty rather than pointing to every ugliness and hiding from it.

I am trying to say "yes" to trying to trust the God who called me to be most fundamentally about the naïve business of love.

So, while many Christians are be afraid and angry, I'm going to Target.

Love Ya - Pastor Chuck

And I'm only afraid of a couple of ya!

People to Pray for

Kiriam Kraut's uncle Elmer Peters passed away April 25 from cancer. Prayers for the family.

Safe travels for Lily O'Brien to Brazil.

Jo Ann Sturdivant had a defibulator put in. Prayers it will help the situation with her heart!

Sue Howland - was diagnosed with stage four cancer everywhere through her body. She just had a tumor removed from her brain. Prayers for her and her family.

Arlene Miller had an infection in her leg, and had to have her artificial knee cleaned out. She is now in Golden Living for rehab. Prayers for a speedy recovery.

Pam Durst is recuperating from emergency gall bladder surgery.

Julie Jarvi, Dolores Buell's daughter will be having hip surgery. The scheduled date was postponed.

Joy Stadler was diagnosed with breast cancer. She will be having a lumpectomy and is going through chemo.

Guy O'Brien had his prostate removed because of cancer, and is fighting a bad infection from the surgery.

Danielle Nies' mom Sharon had brain surgery, has grade 4 glioblastoma

Edie Leuschen - health issues

Nancy Pickens - health issues

Continued prayers for Hagan Hetz and his family

Joys

Sid & Marty Manchester are proud grandparents of a new baby boy – Declan Brooks was born on April 29!

Fred Ralph has his boot off (he had a broken toe) and is back doing what he does here at the church! We missed you Fred! Thank you for all you do!

Stephanie Borland's uncle Jack Bell had a cancerous tumor removed from his pancreas. The surgery went well and they believe they got all the cancer!

In a Different Voice

(A monthly column written and submitted by Judith Johnston)

Strange, interesting, weird, charming, scary—as America becomes increasingly diverse, we are confronted by more & more people whose ways are not our ways. Yet, God seems to have spoken to His children in many different places at very different times. Some of these diverse views will be featured each month to encourage a healthy curiosity about other spiritual writings and to open us up to possibilities for a larger spiritual awareness.

God is here and now, an ever present source of comfort and peace.

I pray this prayer of gratitude for my life as the days hasten toward my next experience. I rest in the knowledge of a loving God and a compassionate Universe that enfolds me and soothes me during this precious time of transition and transformation. I am at peace, knowing that all is well. I reflect on my rich and abundant life, and I give thanks. I bring to mind those I love, and I am appreciative. **From PrayerGoddess.com**

Secure in Your hands, use us as Your hands. Use us to share Your love with those not yet born, with those facing difficult situations, with those facing death, and with those who have made mistakes.

Secure in Your hands, spur our love into action that we might joyfully defend the work of Your hands, provide for those in need, uplift the sorrowing, and demonstrate the acceptance and hope that forgiveness brings. **From Lutherans for Life “Hands” prayer.**

I AM a fount of eternal love from the heart of the Buddha... I AM walking the way of the Buddha and the bodhisattva, dedicating my life to the salvation of all sentient beings on Earth and in all systems of worlds. Through sacrifice, surrender, selflessness and service, I give the gift of my life and being unto all who are awakening from the sleep of non-awareness. And through my example of compassion, kindness, mercy and love, I AM raising all life unto the eternal verities of divine bliss in God. I AM an active participant in bringing God's kingdom to Earth.

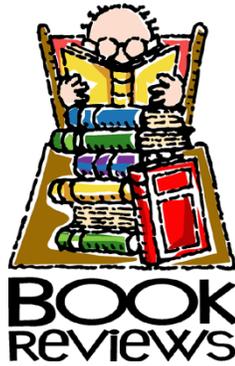
From Bodhisattva Prayer

Torah does not just command us to give to the poor but to advocate on their behalf. We are told in Proverbs 31:9 to “speak up, judge righteously, champion the poor and the needy.”

From Jewish Views on Economic Justice

‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

Jesus, Matthew 25:40



No Man is an Island

by Thomas Merton, *a.k.a.* Father Louis

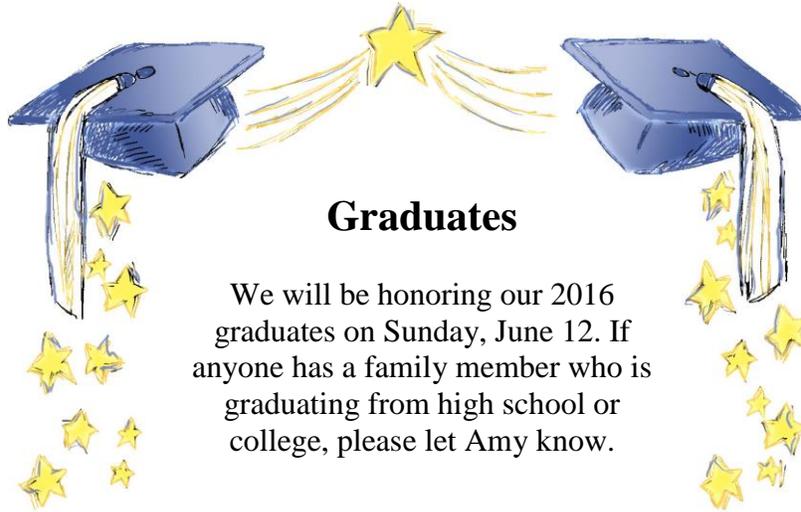
Thomas Merton was a Trappist monk, Catholic writer, mystic, social activist, and student of comparative religions (1915 -1968). In this book Merton celebrates and examines the spiritual life – the life of one’s real self, not a life of unreality or dreams but a spiritual life that makes us aware of our real selves and places them in the presence of God.

The title, taken from a line of poetry by John Donne, succinctly expresses our relationship with God and humanity—we are not created to live unconnected from either.

Merton challenges the reader to examine a number of approaches to salvation—Love, Hope, Pure Intention, Sincerity, Mercy in a catechistic format, numbering each mini-essay in each chapter. This is not done in the familiar question-and-and-answer style, but with profound probing and paradoxical challenges. Love is examined by questioning whom we love, how we love, and why, which evokes uncomfortable self-examination . Each chapter continues in the same vein, probing our doubts, our self-awareness, our willingness or lack thereof to wholly submit to God’s will for us and to seek a Christ-like life without pretensions.

While this book may be used as a daily reader,, it is not for a light pick-me-up inspiration. Merton’s observations push the reader to continually deepen self-examination, a process that must move slowly if is to be meaningful and productive.

Judith Johnston



Graduates

We will be honoring our 2016 graduates on Sunday, June 12. If anyone has a family member who is graduating from high school or college, please let Amy know.

Adopt an Area

Help is still needed outside around the church buildings. Thank you to those who came for Church Work Day.

There is a diagram of the outside areas in the Lobby. Please sign up if you can help in an area with weeding, mulching, and upkeep through the summer. Thank you for your help in making our church beautiful and a place to be proud of!

Jobs Available

Erie Homes for Children & Adults are looking for caring and dependable people for various positions. There are flyers with information on the table in the Lobby.

Interim Health Care is looking for PCAs, CNAs and HHAs. Call Marybel Abbott at 814-836-8836 or apply online at www.careersbyweb.com.

Remlee Zeiser is still looking for someone to babysit her kids 3 days a week. Please call her at 460-6520 for more information.

Golden Girls

The Golden Girls will meet on Wednesday, May 18, 5:15 pm at Serafini's.

Children's Sunday School

The last day of Children's Sunday School will be May 22. Watch for information on Adult classes that will be offered through the summer.



MAY

- 1 Bryan Tuten
Jared Hanas
- 2 Lucas Rhoades
- 3 Beth McAleer
- 4 Linda Tobolewski
- 6 Collin Crawford
- 7 Jean Joseph
Sherry Jarvi
- 8 Chuck Cammarata
Joe Nies
Austin Hughes
- 10 Luke Tobolewski
- 11 Arlene Miller
Fred Ralph
Emily Crawford
- 14 Karen Bryant
Patricia Goss
- 15 Ella Wagner
Carson Young
Jacob Hughes
- 16 Susan Lee
Barb Mucciarone
- 17 Brian McNally
- 18 Gavin Eberlin
- 19 Maddisyn Wirth
- 21 Jeff Sanner
Sydney Nelson
Claire Iszkula
Dan Weber
- 22 Amy Tessier
- 26 Lisa Dominick
Chris Whitman
- 27 Stephanie Borland
- 28 Susan Thompson
- 30 Heather Nichols

JUNE

- 1 Bev Solvedt
- 2 Richard Knight
- 3 Janine Sanner
Tere Borland
- 4 Willy Arce
- 5 Bonnie Krause
Sullivan Nelson
- 7 Karen Milewski
- 11 Amy Arce
Katelynn Twining
Mark Harmon
- 13 Barb Wingerter
- 14 Jesse Illig
Cameron Mando
- 15 Elaina Ward
- 16 Bob Boyd
- 18 Pat White
- 20 Liam O'Brien
Ryan Crawford
Aleks Zaytsev
- 22 Erin McNally
Lauren Scharf
- 23 Deb Pifer
Shawn McNally
- 24 Sharon Wheeler
- 25 Sally Junker
Annette Hutchinson
Jennifer Lewis
- 26 Don Wilson
- 28 Jim Getz
Danielle Nies

JULY

- 5 Bill McNally
Jayme Sanner
- 7 Ken Krause
Sydney Lee
Sam Lewis
- 8 Benjamin Zeiser
- 9 Michelle Miller
Jillian Rhoades
- 10 Halle Krieg
- 11 Linda McFarland
Boyd
Bob O'Connell
Madelyn Brosig
- 13 Gary Heath
Denise Miller
- 16 Ty Mando
- 19 Brian Borland
- 20 Sam Lee
- 21 Kris Russin
- 23 Bill Johnston
- 24 Ivy Iszkula
- 29 Nancy Pickens



AUGUST

- 2 Paul Simpson
- 3 Michele McNally
- 9 Remlee Zeiser
- 11 Marilyn Ferringner
Nicholas Adams
- 16 Mike Mucciarone
Tyler Nies
- 17 Emma Schwab
- 19 Michaela Schleicher
- 20 Kristin Miller
Amy Twining
Brian Thompson
Cindy Heidler
- 22 Steve Sample
Joe Weidenboerner
Jr.
Troy Schwab
- 24 Ron Ferringner
- 25 Ken Milewski
- 29 Benjamin Iszkula
- 31 Gina Case

Procrastinators

A pastor waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but many cars were ahead of the pastor at the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

“Sorry about the delay,” said the young man. “Everyone seems to wait until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.”

The pastor chuckled, “I know what you mean. It’s the same in my business.”



Running blind

Years ago, I worked at a summer Bible camp with my cousin Erik. As an evening staff meeting concluded, a sprinkle suddenly became a downpour. Counselors sprinted off toward cabins, while Erik and I, who didn’t supervise youngsters, debated whether to wait out the storm.

We opted to run for it, but being visually impaired, I soon realized the sheets of rain, added to the dark, hindered my view. “I can’t see!” I yelled through the wind to Erik. Immediately, he grabbed my hand, pulling me along. “It’s okay!” he shouted back. “I can!”

The sensation of running blindly yet feeling so secure became a metaphor for me about what I can handle and accomplish through faith. When I let God grab my hand and guide me, even when I’m running through dark, stormy times, I experience peace. For though I cannot see what lies ahead, I know God can.