



Olive Tree Newsletter

July 2023



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Minister's Musings



Thomas Fedorka, LLM

As God in Christ acts in and among us, how do we become and remain disciples? Our Gospel texts this year in the early months of summer (shortly after Pentecost) invite us to examine discipleship because Jesus Himself centers the life of discipleship.

Jesus calls the disciples (and us) to share the good news of the coming reign of God. This news may not be considered “good” for everyone who hears it! Jesus teaches us much about discipleship by how He responds to questions about who He spends time with (answer: sinners). Jesus calls, claims, and sends. This sending is ongoing. Discipleship necessitates a continual sending, accompanied by success, failure, and the need to innovate.

We also learn that discipleship has a cost. It can sometimes result in unexpected conflict and division. We learn that it’s difficult to accept the work of a disciple. This work is hard not only for the disciple, but also for those who might receive the disciple. How will this impact my life, my friends, my family? Discipleship is service to the least and usually done by the least likely candidates. When God calls us to innovate in the ordinary, try something new, we can look to the Gospel for inspiration.



Surprise!

Surprise July:

Look forward to something new in July. You’ll need to be here to find out exactly what. Some, we already know.

July 9th, we worship at Messiah with Christ the King.

I’m on vacation July 16th and 23rd. Pastors Dave Rinas and Tim Krick will be supply on those days. I have invited them to be creative. I can’t wait to find out what surprises they might have.

That leaves me with July 2nd and July 30th.

So, join us in July to see what surprises are in store for you.

Don’t worry, only good surprises. No bad surprises.

Boom-Chicka-Boom! (Fall Calumet Trip)



Submitted By Cindy Kaufman

Well, it's time for Gethsemane's Calumet Weekend getaway at beautiful Lake Ossipee and all are invited. This year's gathering is scheduled for September 8th, through 10th. Come join us for the weekend or come for the day on Saturday and join us for dinner.

Below are the Lodging Options and rates:

- o Conference Center (limited availability): \$220 per room plus per person meals
- o Campsites: \$60 per site plus per person meals
- o Weekend meal package: \$74/adult, \$37/youth

- o Heated Cabin: \$138/adult, \$69/youth (meals and lodging)
- o Unheated Cabin: \$106/adult, \$69/youth (meals and lodging)
- Children 6 and under eat and stay free

Call Julie at Calumet to register @ 603-539-4773.

Please contact Cindy Kaufmann with any questions or reach out to the Church Office.

Mary Martha

Submitted By Janine Danzi

Our May meeting was on the 11th and there were 14 members attending. We had our pound and penny auction. Wrap a pretty package weighing 1 pound of whatever you like and come on over. Our wonderful auctioneer was Monica Moquin, she did a fantastic job. The bidding started at .50 cents and soon we were bidding against each other with roaring laughter. The auction raised \$80.00

On May 19-21 was retreat to Calumet, (the 20th anniversary) in Freedom NH. The Bible Study this year was Mary & Martha sisters and friends of Jesus. We had a movie, Bible studies, skits and lively discussions. The sisters were both different and serving Jesus in opposite ways.

We learned that we all have aspects of them. Some more Martha's and some more Mary's in our spiritual being. Neither is more important than the other. Retreats give us time to rest, relax, laugh and learn. By Sunday we don't want it to end and wished we could stay longer. The fellowship brings us much closer to each other and our Lord. We returned feeling refreshed and uplifted.





Thank you to everyone from Gethsemane and our two sister churches, Christ the King and Messiah, who attended the Pride Festival in Nashua on June 24th. Thanks as well to those who attended the Pride Festival in Manchester on the 17th.

ReachOut Update

The outreach committee, now known as ReachOut, continues to offer free community meals the third Sunday of each month. We are changing the hours to 3-4 pm going forward. Our June meal of Pasta Primavera fed upwards of 60 people. We continue to bring hot meals to the unsheltered around Manchester, as well as feeding those who come to the church, and delivering meals to church members. We will also begin handing out snack kits to the unsheltered on Sundays when we do not serve a hot meal. We always need more volunteers, so if you would like to help with a meal, please contact Crystal or the Church Office.

We are also in need of items to support our food ministry, including granola bars, toaster pastries, meat sticks, cheese or peanut-butter crackers, Ziploc-type bags, brown paper bags, plastic utensils, and napkins. If you are able to provide any of these items, please drop them off in the basket provided in the cafe. Thank you for your continued support!

Cooperative Summer Worship

Come and get to know our partners in Christ this summer.

We are planning three shared worship services during the summer.

- Christ the King (host): which took place already on June 25
- Messiah (host): July 9 @ 9:30AM
- Gethsemane (host): August 6 @ 9:30AM



We worshiped at CtK on June 25th and plan to worship at Messiah on July 9th. Both CtK and Messiah will worship with us on August 9th. The Pastor/LLM will attend the host church and invite the congregation to join as well. Fellowship and merriment will follow. Those that choose not to travel can worship online.

We will be assembling Snack Kits as part of a service project when we host on August 6th. We are asking for donations of Snack Kit items (see the ReachOut update on page 5).



CtK Worship - Collaborate Service - June 25, 2023

Thank you to Pastor Kim Hestor and the congregation at Christ the King for your warm welcome..
Thank you as well to everyone who attended in person or online.

Synod Assembly Report

Submitted By Chris Kaufmann

The New England Synod Assembly 2023 took place on Friday June 9 to Saturday June 10th at the DCU Center Worcester, MA. The theme of the conference was "A Church Born in the Tomb: Death and Resurrection in the 21st Century Church". Cindy and I attended the assembly as voting members for Gethsemane along with Thomas.

Some of the many topics addressed were Synod committee update reports, review and approval of the 2024 Synod budget (approved as a deficit budget), presentation of the 2024 Bishop election process team report (Bishop Hazelwood is retiring after two terms as our Bishop), presentations on church collaboration projects across denominations and consolidating/merging Lutheran congregations around New England, N.E. Synod "AntiRacism Process Team report, Candidates for the School of Lay Ministry, and presentation on the 2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. There were also many workshops to attend, and exhibit tables from various organizations including ELCA World Hunger, Calumet Lutheran Ministries, Border Servant Corps, Women of the ELCA, scheduled trips to the Holy Land in 2024 and 25, Accompanying Migrant Workers 'AMMPARO', Sacred Allies Quilt Ministry, and many others.

In addition there were two wonderful full communion services on Friday night at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Worcester and at the end of the assembly including guest speaker Rev Darrell Goodwin, Executive Conference Minister of the SNE United Church of Christ.

Cindy and I are available to answer any questions about the assembly including information on participating in the Synod Bishop Profile selection process which is open to all church members. We also have copies of brochures and pamphlets from some of the organizations mentioned above.



July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:30am Collaborative Worship at Christ the King 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE	26 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS	27 7:00pm AA WB2B	28 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	29	30 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	1 10:00am AA No Name
2 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE	3 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS 7:30pm COMMUNICATIONS	4 7:00pm AA WB2B	5 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	6	7 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	8 10:00am AA No Name
9 9:30am Collaborative Worship at Messiah 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE	10 12:00pm MARY MARTHA 5:00pm AA HHE 6:30pm REACHOUT 7:00pm AA MNWS	11 7:00pm AA WB2B 7:00pm FINANCE	12 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	13	14 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	15 10:00am AA No Name
16 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 3:00pm COMMUNITY MEAL	17 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS	18 7:00pm AA WB2B	19 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	20 7:00pm COUNCIL	21 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	22 10:00am AA No Name
23 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE	24 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS	25 7:00pm AA WB2B	26 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	27	28 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	29 10:00am AA No Name
30 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE	31 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS	1 7:00pm AA WB2B	2 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	3	4 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	5 10:00am AA No Name

The Olive Tree

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