



September

The In Touch

Volume 50, Issue 9

Our Mission: To Seek, Know, Love and Serve Christ in all Persons and in all Creation

Ramblings from the Rev.....

Two Sundays ago, the girls and I had the opportunity to go to the church I attended in my youth. A testament to Holy Trinity, Linnaea was all about going to church - beyond excited - wouldn't have missed it. She has been to that church before. Even so, she boggled at the number of people, at the powerful organ music, at the formal vergger leading the procession and at the ushers who firmly prevent advancing to the communion rail before the assigned time. As near as I could tell she didn't even consider the idea of dancing in the aisle. I'm not sure if that was because the boomy organ music didn't strike her muse or because she was afraid she might be whisked away by the ushers at the command of the vigilant vergger. Just the same, she clearly enjoyed herself. As lovely as the liturgy was, however, it was not the liturgy which caught her interest. She had caught sight of red and white balloons - dozens of them.

The seasons are changing. It's less obvious in Ohio than the nippy air makes it here, but back to school looks the same everywhere. My old church was having its own back to school celebration - back to Sunday School. The balloons were an enticement to return. Linnaea anticipated her balloon riches throughout the service and took off for the back the moment the music released us. She snatched her balloon largesse and made to escape, but the balloon person insisted she take an additional gift.

With each balloon came a laminated prayer card with suggestions for praying together with the family. In addition to suggestions for what parents and children each might say specifically, it included this mnemonic for extemporaneous prayer:

A: adoration

C: confession

T: thanksgiving

S: supplication

It's a useful tool for the people of the book (the Book of Common Prayer, that is), seemingly unable to pray without something in our hands to read - something telling us the appropriate words and sentiments to express at the proper time and place. As useful as that mnemonic is, the words of encouragement included at the beginning of the card stuck with me more than anything else: "5 minutes a day [of prayer] will help form life-long discipleship."

Henri Nouwen said, "Prayer is the center of the Christian life. It is the only necessary thing. It is living with God in the here and now." Our lives are busy and full. Much as physical exercise is soon jettisoned from our lives in the face of competing demands on our time, the simple, necessary act of prayer can often be reduced to an afterthought in our lives - if we think of it at all. We can so easily forget that prayer is not about doing or saying the right things at the right time. It is, at its core, about relationship. Pause for a moment and consider. Consider what your relationship with your spouse or your friend, or your child, or your neighbor would be like if you never spoke, never paused to think of them, never thoughtfully communicated with them in any way. As Barbara Brown Taylor wrote, "To say 'I love God, but I do not pray much,' is like saying 'I love life, but I do not breathe much.'" To pray, in some form - it need not be formal words, it need not be in "ACTS" form or from the BCP, it need not be words at all - Thérèse of Lisieux called prayer "a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy" - but to consciously, thoughtfully pray in some form changes us, strengthens our relationship with our Creator, with the very Ground of our Being.

As the air changes, as the crisp notes creep into the breeze, as the oranges and yellows begin to paint the leaves, as the pace of life shifts and turns - remember those 5 minutes a day, or 30 or 60 or 2 - remember those few moments in deliberate communication with God that can change you, change who you are, what you will do, what you can do. Remember, "[Prayer] does not change God. It changes me." (C.S. Lewis)

May God's blessings be upon you and upon all your moments...

Sam



- 9/6 ~ Parker Wright (son of Alan & Kate, grandson of Georgeann & Andy)
- 9/8 ~ David McKee
- 9/13 ~ Karen Tveit
- 9/18 ~ Carol Stillar
- 9/19 ~ Brittany Klatt (Corrin)
- 9/22 ~ Lynn Naeckel
- 9/22 ~ Carole Johnson
- 9/25 ~ Andrew Strand
- 9/29 ~ John Shewchuk
- 9/30 ~ Bob Stone
- 9/30 ~ Dixie Juel (daughter of Donna Day)

- 9/4 ~ Jon Reuter
- 9/18 ~ Linda Krieger (Tveit)
- 9/26 ~ Andrew Noland
- 9/30 ~ Grace O'Kane



- 9/3 ~ Lee & Carol Grim
- 9/4 ~ Byrne & Carole Johnson
- 9/16 ~ Alan & Kate Wright
- 9/21 ~ Doug & Celia Tanem



Schools back in... Watch for Kids!

Dear God,
Help me spend today 
with a *Smile* on my face,
Love in my heart, 
Joy in His grace, 
and my *thinking cap* on all day.
Amen

September 2015 Sunday Service Lay Responsibilities

Dates	Celebrants	Acolytes	Lectors & Lessons	Greeters
6 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 15 th Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Samantha Crossley Rev. Lynn Naeckel Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee	Mike & Tricia Brennard	Mike & Tricia Brennard
13 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 16 th Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Samantha Crossley Rev. Lynn Naeckel Deacon: Melanie Mattsen	Melanie	Georgeann & Andy Wright	Georgeann & Andy Wright
20 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 17 th Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Samantha Crossley Rev. Lynn Naeckel Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee	Kay Herman Lee Grim	Gary & Carolyn Davison
27 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 18 th Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Samantha Crossley Rev. Lynn Naeckel Deacon: Melanie Mattsen	Melanie	Ragna Godtland Melanie Mattsen	Donna Day Karen Walls



September 2015



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 Altar Guild
						Flossie
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.		 9:30am Coffee Landing Team meeting 6 pm				Carolyn Helen
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	<i>Ruby's Pantry Register 4:30 Dist. 5-6:30</i>			MDG Dinner 5:00-6:30		Carolyn Helen
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	Vestry 7:00pm	Newsletter Deadline				Mavis Tricia
27	28	29	30			
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.			Messy Church 5-7 pm			

