

# Sharon Lutheran Church's Monthly News: July 2013

## A Note from Pastor Doll:

As we head full on into summer, the days change and patterns change. Town changes. Our daily travel changes. Worship even changes. I have been thinking about change and have had the joy of talking with graduates about successes, accomplishments, failures, and lessons. I have shared in conversations and heard speeches about life lessons, foundations, and striving after new goals and direction.

I don't want to ask, "What stays the same during all the change around us?" but rather, "What is it that grounds us, centers us, in order that we might walk in the midst of change?" In the midst of change that is sometimes difficult or produces suffering; change that at times produces great joy and hope; change that at times might frustrate us or cause us anxiety.

As you think about this question for yourself, I offer you a prayer for contemplation. That which unifies everything for me, that centers me, is my relationship with God and my faith, that grants a larger perspective even in times when I cannot see clearly. May this prayer give you a moment to re-center.

Lord, breathe into me your breath of life.

Breath that revives;

Breath that catches mine;

Breath that calms.

Breath that fills my soul with life,

that regenerates and renews,

that restores tired muscles,

that breathes compassion and mercy deep within.

You are my center.

Your arms my resting place;

Your strength my core that frames my passion, my drive, my striving.

In You I am connected beyond myself, to others and to the world.

Connections that draw on my best gifts;

Connections that make a place for me;

Connections that challenge me to see more than my needs

but ways that I can be a vessel for pouring out your grace.

Lord, breathe into me your breath of life.

You are my center.

In You I am connected beyond myself, to others and to the world. Amen

## *The Ridge: The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg*

“Interweaving,” “Woven together in Christ”!

These are phrases shared daily in word and song at the recent USS Assembly held at Susquehanna University. These are phrases mirroring so much of the essence of our Seminary at Gettysburg- its life, its purpose, its people!

Dr. Richard Carlson of the Seminary at Gettysburg led us in our Assembly Bible Study, and the interweaving of USS Clergy, lay leaders and visitors opened up a rich opportunity to catch a bit of the fire of the beloved, gifted LTSG Professor and Theologian. Among the crowd at the Assembly those days were some of his former students, including now highly respected pastors, teachers as well as some current students of the Seminary. The gift of this time of studying God’s Word together was a time of bonding, of binding and of bidding us all there to cherish and reconsider what it means to be “in Christ.”

Bishop Robert Driesen, a Gettysburg graduate, was re-elected for another term as Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. He led us in the Holy Eucharist, and we celebrated the Ordination of a LTSG graduate, Richard A. Adams. In the not too distant future, others of us will follow as a part of new programs, still in their organic formative states. Hopefully, it will be my joy to be a continuing part of that evolving TEEM Candidacy program. In the meantime, pray for our Church at large, for those small churches, especially those without pastors now, who will benefit most from these evolving part-time processes with which the ELCA and our Synod wrestle.

Our Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg plays a role in this evolution. And, we, too!

Blessings. **Carol Black**

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### *From Vicar Rick:*

It was a privilege to facilitate the discussion at the Tuesday Morning Bible Study for two weeks in June filling in for Pastor Doll. During one of those sessions, a couple of participants expressed an interest in learning more about how “Lutherans” study and interpret the Bible. The request was just what I wanted to hear!

As an intern I am required to complete an internship project. I wanted my project to be something that would benefit Sharon now and hopefully in the future. In consultation with Pastor Doll, I decided that my project would focus on adult education and discipleship. While the entire project is still in the planning stages, we do know when and how it will begin.

Beginning in September, Sharon will offer a seven-session course called “The Lutheran Course.” The course will feature sessions on “How to Tell the Difference between the Law and the Gospel,” “Five Things You Should Know about the Lutheran Reformation,” and “How to Read the Bible.” The course will also examine what the Lutheran Confessions say about the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. It will also name the three most rebellious things Jesus did. The course will feature large- and small-group discussion as well as short video lectures by current and former seminary professors.

This course is great for “new” Lutherans as well as those who want to refresh their catechetical memories! If you are interested in taking this course, tell me when the best time to attend would be for you. It could be during Sunday school time or a weekday morning or evening. If enough folks are interested we may even offer the course more than one time during the week. So, let me know what time is best for you. Send an email to [rwhite002@luthersem.edu](mailto:rwhite002@luthersem.edu) or call the church office or let me know after worship.

God's blessings to you and your family for a wonderful, fun-filled summer.

# MINISTRIES for CHILDREN, YOUTH & TEENS

Youth & Family Ministry Director

Robin Kunkel 374-8444 [robinkunkel@gmail.com](mailto:robinkunkel@gmail.com)

## TO PARENTS – WHAT YOU ARE DOING MATTERS!

Blog post from *I Am \*That\* Mom*

You are doing something really, *really* important. I know it's not easy. I see you with your arms overflowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring. Really tiring.

I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant car seat and the diaper bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them.

And I see you with your toddler and your preschooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you *beg* your child to just sit, to be quiet as you feel everyone's eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way.

I know you're wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is *so* important.

When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn't about Bible Study or personal, quiet contemplation but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won't be empty in ten years when your kids are old enough to *sit quietly and behave in worship*. I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. They are learning that worship is important.

I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines, and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of pretzel bags and the growing pile of crumbs I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone she's never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his communion wine out of the cup determined not to miss a drop of Jesus. I watch a child excitedly color a cross and point to the one in the front of the sanctuary. I hear the echoes of Amens just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning to read try to sound out the words in the worship book or count his way to Hymn 672. Even on weeks when I can't see my own children learning because, well, it's one of *those* mornings, I can see your children learning.

I know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but I want you to know, *it matters*. It matters to me. It matters to my children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people... and even on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that *their* worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are *enough* right here and right now as members of the church community. They don't need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly timed depending on who you ask) cries and whines *are* a joyful noise because it means they are present.

I know it's hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family - with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy – are not simply tolerated, you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.

**SPARK CHILDREN'S BIBLES:** The Sunday school children are able to sign out their Spark bibles for the summer. Contact Robin Kunkel before you take them home.

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**CARNIVAL NIGHT = PARABLES OF JESUS: AUGUST 10 from 5-7pm**

Our annual Carnival Night will be held in Sharon Lutheran parking lot on August 10 from 5-7pm. The theme this year is the Parables of Jesus. We are seeking teams or individuals to host a booth at the carnival. Please give it prayerful consideration to be a part of ministry to our neighbors.

Contact Robin Kunkel [robinkunkel@gmail.com](mailto:robinkunkel@gmail.com) or 374-8444.

Booths:

Refreshments - Fellowship Team

Lost Coin Sandbox – Christian Ed

**Pick a Duck Pond - ?**

**Story Time - ?**

Library Table – Mary Hummel & ?

Lost Sheep Craft – Prayer Shawl Team

Cotton Candy & Popcorn – Cub scouts

Dunking Booth – Boy scouts

Balloon Blaster – Social Ministry

Live Music – we need suggestions

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**CAMP MOUNT LUTHER SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS**

Summer camp is not only an adventure in the beautiful hills in the Mifflinburg area, but an experience that lasts a lifetime! Sharon is happy to announce we are able to sponsor three levels of scholarships for 2013.

- Level 1 = all campers from Sharon Lutheran will be awarded a \$100.00 per camper scholarship
- Level 2 = 3 first time campers from Sharon Lutheran will be awarded half payment of camp fee
- Level 3 = 1 full scholarship of a Sharon Lutheran camper on an as needed basis

Contact Robin Kunkel 374-8444 [robinkunkel@gmail.com](mailto:robinkunkel@gmail.com) to seek scholarships.

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**POOL & PICNIC @ KUNKEL'S: JULY 21 @ NOON**

FOR TEENS: Join us at the Kunkel's for a summer picnic and refreshing dip in the pool. There will be many choices in activities, such as Bocce ball, Frisbee, badminton, volleyball or sitting and chatting. Keith & Robin will provide the protein, you just bring the side dishes and desserts. Sign up on the Youth bulletin board or contact Robin at 374-8444 or [robinkunkel@gmail.com](mailto:robinkunkel@gmail.com) or on Facebook.

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**"BACK TO SCHOOL" FAIR: COLLECTION IN JULY**

We will be collecting items to fill back packs for the "Back to School Fair" sponsored by the Snyder County Children and Youth Services. We will collect them from July 1-31. Place them in the box in the lobby or give them to Robin Kunkel. The items needed are:

new backpacks

3 ring binders (1 to 1 1/2")

filler paper for 3 ring binders

colored pencils

markers & highlighters

pencils & pencil sharpeners

pencil boxes (plastic or fabric)

notebooks (single & multi-subject)

rulers

crayons

erasers (block & pencil top)

construction paper

scissors (safety style)

folders with pockets & inside fasteners)

book covers

Post it notes

lunch boxes

pocket tissues

hand sanitizers

"Daily assignment" notebooks

graphing calculators

Elmer's glue (bottle & stick)

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**ELCA YOUTH GATHERING 2015: DETROIT, MICHIGAN-Sept. 29 = Introduction Meeting**

Here we go again! The next ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in Detroit, Michigan on July 15-19, 2015. It is time for us to look forward and plan for this future trip. Any youth that has completed ninth grade by June 2015 is eligible to attend. We will have an Introduction Meeting on Sunday, September 29 at noon in the What's Brewin' Room.

Any students and parents interested in learning more about the trip should attend.

## ***SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE***

Committee members met on Tuesday, June 11, 2013.

Continuing to focus on the events and schedule for the entire year, much of the teams discussion was on the upcoming months to year end.

Many thanks are expressed to Don Harnum for chairing the Social Ministry committee for a number of years. Don's representation as a member of the board of directors at Haven Ministries from Sharon is important to mention. Don also served as the regional coordinator for Prisoner Visitation and Support and his continued service in this area, if possible, would be greatly appreciated by the team and Sharon. Thank you Don and we wish you much happiness with your future plans.

The committee will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. We look forward to working with Pastor Doll on possibly enhancing or modifying the Social Ministry team's mission in conjunction with Sharon's Care team proposal.

In August, we will sponsor a booth at Sharon's Carnival Night. The team will again have a "balloon burst" with the message centered with the theme of "Parables of Jesus." So get ready to "pump up your faith" by visiting our booth.

Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, the team will begin collecting items for "Personal Care Kits" for **Lutheran World Relief (LWR)** to be displayed during Blanket Sunday in October. Starting in August, allows time to collect one (1) item per week for the kits. A labeled basket will be placed in the entrance lobby and the item for that week will be announced as we approach the August 18<sup>th</sup> date. Items included in the collection will be:

**One light-weight bath-size towel (dark color preferred);**

**Two bath-size bars of soap;**

**One adult -size tooth brush in its original package;**

**One sturdy comb (no packaging);**

**One metal nail clippers (no packaging).**

By collecting one item per week, the collection will end September 15<sup>th</sup> allowing enough time to collect fill-ins and assemble the kits for Blanket Sunday. (Contacts: Carol Bradford and Grace Housley)

Ongoing matters of Social Ministry: **Global Missions and Support for Missionaries;** Volunteers for **Haven Ministry** (overnight); **Collection of food for Haven Ministry first Friday of the Month** (sign-up sheet on bulletin board-Contact: Paul Grimes); **Collect food** for distribution to **Selinsgrove Area Christian Counsel (SACC) Food Bank.**

For now, we would like to share this statement by Albert Schweitzer:

**"Many have discovered helping others to be the most enduring therapy, for it's the burdens you help another to bear that make your own seem light."**

**Sharon's Social Ministry Team**



### **Relay for Life Report 2013**

As many of you know, The 'Rose of Sharon' team sponsored by Sharon Lutheran Church participated in the Relay for Life event held at Susquehanna University on Friday, May 31 from 3 pm thru Saturday, June 1 at 3 pm. Twenty-seven members were walkers and they, as well as others, gave donations totaling **\$2,800.00**.

As Team Leader for the Relay for Life event this year, I would like to thank all those who participated, either by walking

and/or giving a donation. Shirley Rowe was our Team Leader of this event for many years, maybe as many as 20 years. **Shirley, thank you for being our "guiding star" for our church!**

**Maureen Ries**

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Many thanks to all those who provided meals, gave rides and came to visit, and especially prayers for healing.

**God Bless, Grace Cote**

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Thank you for welcoming us in the fall to your community of faith. It was inspiring getting to know your church family and share a little bit of our ministry with you. Know that we are praying for your ministry and that you may experience the power of the Holy Spirit as we have while on the road.

In Christ,

**Katie Sowers, from New Vision**

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I want to thank Sharon Lutheran Church for your hospitality the many times you've been called on to open your doors to the friends of Old Governor Snyder.

**Sincerely, Emily Johnson**

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### *We Remember in Prayer.....*

Neil Aucker, Dale Bickhart, Don Bower, Amy Bush, Joni Campbell, Pat Campbell, Sue Catherman, Grace Cote, Patty Cote, Holly Daubenspeck, Jasmine Elsasser, Teresa Flynn, Wade Ganns, Markye Greenawald, Colin Grube, Mary Haddon, Helen Hannah, Suah Harris, Mitch Himmelberger, Jeremy Hoffman, Robert Hoffmann, Grace Hollenbach, David Holmes, Jr., Valerie Holmes, Kendra Hoover, Nancy Hummel, Shirley Johnson, Kathy Kerstetter, Paul Kerstetter, Destany Kile, Beatrice Kissinger, Harvey Kreamer, Jr., Jennifer Merrill, Dale Morse, Susan Mull, the Purnell family, Tina Reichenbach, Linda Remler, Ernie Renninger, Laurie Riggs, Miranda Sandstrom, Riley Schwalm, Dorothy Shambach, Amy Sitler, Jim Smiley, Brenda Sprenkle, Wendy Stauffer, Robert Stetler, Rev. Cathy Stevenson, Rick Sweigart, Steve Twitchell, Eugene Walter, Weiser family, Linda Wetzell, Ken and Chris Whitebread, Gary Wydell, James Yerger

**Deployed in Military Service:** Lee Bonawitz, Josh George, Kimber Kreamer, Ryan Kuster, Matthew Sharp, David Spurling, Jake Tomko



Jaegers, Chris 7/2  
 Schlingmann, Elizabeth 7/2  
 Kramer, Lauralee 7/3  
 Wenrich, Jane 7/3  
 Herb, Joe 7/4  
 Romig, Jeremy 7/4  
 Kunkel Jr., Keith 7/6  
 Scholl, Jordan 7/8  
 Fogle, Abigail 7/9  
 Regel, Rita 7/9  
 Kemberling, Courtney 7/10

Bonsall, Marissa 7/11  
 Metzger, Wyatt 7/11  
 Walter, Gene 7/12  
 Wieseman, Miriam 7/13  
 Harrison, Carol 7/15  
 Doll, Rebekah 7/16  
 Black, Carol 7/17  
 Dunkelberger, Harold 7/19  
 Hummel, Kody 7/19

Miller, Deana 7/21  
 Fisher, Edward 7/23  
 Sassaman, Philip 7/24  
 Aungst, Jessica 7/25  
 Miller, Caleb 7/27  
 Culbertson, Paul 7/29  
 Gautsch, Linda 7/30  
 Winey, Doug 7/31



**Income 1/1/2013 through 6/16/2013**

Income Needed: \$145,384.00  
 Income Received: \$137,822.00  
 Shortfall \$7,562.00



**Simply Giving**

One way to share your financial resources is through our Simply Giving Program. “Simply Giving” is a confidential, no charge, automatic withdrawal program. It allows you to give generously to the church on a regular basis (weekly, monthly or bi-monthly) without the hassle of offering envelopes and check writing. You can give through a checking or savings account. “Simply Giving” helps the church by establishing a consistent flow of funding, and it helps you, the contributor give faithfully and conveniently.



**Leave a Legacy for Ministry and Mission: You can give to ministry and receive payments for life.** Make a gift of appreciated securities or cash and receive and income tax deduction and payments at an annuity rate tied to your age. The ministry or ministries of your choice will receive a wonderful gift. For more information call Pr. Greg Kramer at the Lutheran Planned Giving Office at 570-374-2044 or call the ELCA Foundation, 800/638-3522, ext. 2970 or visit our website at [www.elca.org/fo](http://www.elca.org/fo).

# *Worship Volunteers*

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Cantor/CA</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>
<b>July 7</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	
	Gary Aucker Jack Spigelmyer	Courtney Kemberling	Fred Hooper	John + Roseann Stetler	Sue Pennay	
	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	
	Dave +Audrey Deckard	Olivia Dunkle	Don Housley	Tim + Teresa Berger	Theresa Kuster Tori Doll Casey Reiland	
<b>July 14</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	
	Don + Aundra Weirick	Aaron Weirick	Alma Pauling	Don Bottiger Terry Kissinger	Lowell Leitzel	
	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	
	Robin + Jamie Fedder	Sarah Fedder Emma Kalcich	Kirk Hanson	Todd + Laura Aungst	Dawn Doll Dave Deckard Don Housley	
<b>July 21</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	
	Charles + Sue Hummel	Wyatt + Vance Metzger	April Metzger	Paul Culbertson Jack Spigelmyer	Alex Pennay	
	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	
	Harley + Marjorie Freed	Hannah Doll	Joyce Kuster	Robert + Romane Dagle	Bob Bradford Doug Hassinger Keith Kunkel	
<b>July 28</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	
	Michael + Kathy Keeney	Megan Keeney	John Pendley	John + Roseann Stetler	Dawn Doll	
	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	
	Jim + Linda Gautsch	Jessica Beaver	Nancy Murray	Buzz Savidge	Philip Riggs Eric Rowe Maureen Ries	