

OPENDOOR

April 2019



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DOANE

As I sit down to write my article for the April newsletter, it is the 4th week of Lent. I always find it strange to be so immersed in one season and pause to write about what is coming in any way that makes sense. My wife will tell you I'm not good at multi-tasking. She's right. But it occurred to me as I thought about this article it must be the same for you.



Young Mr. Benner visits with Pastor Doane.

You are equally immersed in your Lenten discipline and to stop to think about Easter may seem like a distraction. But it can also be a strengthening vision of what God has in store for us.

Lent is the time for us to focus on the theology of the cross. Jesus becomes the paschal lamb; *"the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"* (John 1:29). The sinless One bears our sins on the cross and dies for our sake. In His death we are for-

given. During Lent we try to understand the depth and wonder of such sacrifice and love. We seek to understand what it means that now we must take up our cross and follow Him.

Easter is coming though. We get a glimpse of coming joy. It is the time that we greet one another with the triumphal blessing, "Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed. _____ (Word we can't yet say). All around us the World thinks we are crazy or just sad. The World believes this is all there

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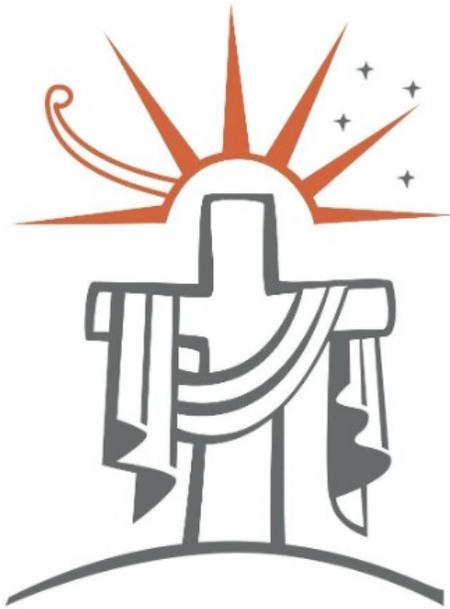
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A WORD FROM PASTOR DOANE

is. Once you're dead, you're dead, plain and simple. But that is a lie perpetuated by the evil one. Remember what Paul wrote to the Corinthians. *"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are all people most to be pitied"* (1 Corinthians 15:17-19). But we are not without hope. We have no need of the world's vain pity. This is the Truth. Christ has been raised from the dead. And because Christ has been raised we are made to be a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Our old self was nailed to the cross with Christ. It was buried with Him and just as Christ was raised by the Father, we too, are raised to *"walk in newness of life"* (Romans 6:4). What does this "new life" look like? It is a life grounded in discipleship and love. How can we be specific about this "new life" in Christ at Holy Trinity?

During the season of Easter Holy Trinity will be engaged in a process of "renewal". You could say it is an exploration of what this "new life" in Christ looks like in this place. The process has a name and you've heard it before over the last few months. It is known as the Clergy Renewal Project. It begins by sending me off for a time of rest, study and family. I will be away for 16 weeks beginning the Sunday after Easter, April



28th. There is only one service that day and you will send me off with your blessing. Your expectation of me is that I will return refreshed, rested and renewed. That is my purpose. That is my goal.

While I am away, Holy Trinity will engage in 16 weeks of renewal lead by the Mutual Ministry Committee. Pastors have already been scheduled to conduct worship and tend to pastoral responsibilities in my absence. But there will be specific opportunities for you to be involved in the renewal process. Holy Trinity needs you to be involved. I can't emphasize that enough. What do you think Holy Trinity will look like in 5 years ... 10 years? What do you want your Church to be to become? How can you be a participant to bringing a new vision to fruition? These are important questions that need all of our attention.

This is a critical time for Holy Trinity. We are in the midst of transitions that challenge us with opportunities to emerge stronger in our faith and committed to one another in the bonds of Christian love. Our ministry can grow and expand, becoming more vibrant, so that our neighbors and our communities are blessed by our witness and service.

When the sabbatical is over, we (you and me), renewed in faith will work together with a passion for the gospel and as committed disciples. It is an exciting time to be the Church. It is an exciting time to be Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Blessings to you as the contemplation and prayerful practices of Lent lead us to our joyful celebration of Easter.

Renewed in Christ— Pastor David

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have.

I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.” 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

them to give cheerfully, sacrificially, and proportionately to the cause of the church in Jerusalem is a test. He isn't testing their generosity, he is “*testing the genuineness of your love.*”

On the one hand, being generous with our money isn't necessarily an outgrowth of our love. We could be courting the favor of others. We could be buying ourselves a seat at the head table. We could be covering up our guilt over how we acquired our money.

On the other hand, our generosity is a visible action that results in gratitude on behalf of both the receiver and the giver. One is grateful for the support, the other is grateful to be in the position of offering their support. Giving and receiving lies at the heart of love.

We love, because God first loved us. We give, because God first gave to us. This is the way it is supposed to work.

How do you hear the word “test”? Whether we're talking about earning a passing grade on a test at school, or testing the internal structural integrity of steel (**a very complicated business**), isn't there something about the word “test” that makes our stomachs churn? Why is that?

Maybe it is about accountability. I like how Rick Warren plays with that word. He says that accountability means that others “have the ability to count on me.” Accountability means keeping promises. Delivering the goods. Aligning our words and our actions. Paul challenges the Corinthians to do what they have said they were going to do. To follow through in following Jesus.

Paul tells the Corinthians that his invitation for

When our love compels us to give, Paul reminds us that the measure of our gift isn't how much we give, it is how much we have left. This is why Christians cannot be legalist about tithing, about giving a flat 10% of our income. It might be equal but it isn't equitable. It might be simple but it isn't fair. Tithing takes food out of the mouth of someone living in poverty. Those few on the other hand could give 90% of their income and still have plenty left for very upscale necessities of life.

Paul's invitation to the Corinthians – and to us – isn't about the balance of our bank accounts, it is about balance within the life of a Christian community.

Pastor Kerry Nelson serves Faith Lutheran, Houston, Texas. Find his devotions here: <https://revkerry.com/>

MARCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report

Digging Deeper will not meet during Lent and the Pastor's Sabbathical.

Attended a Webinar on Attendance and Church Growth (Council discussed ideas to support growth in attendance)

A writing coach has been found

Community Events attended:

Lafayette Urban Ministry board of directors meeting Feb. 20

Toured Food Finders and made an appointment with the director

There is an opportunity for volunteering at one or both of the LUM/LARA Citizenship Classes on Tuesday, April 16 and Thursday, May 16. There is a sign up link on the LUM website

Treasurer/Financial Secretary Report:

CURRENT ASSETS

Total Balance Approximate: \$308,466

COMMENTS: Finance is working out details of Vanco Contributions

Summary: Month Two of the Calendar Year 2019 - Target Percent is 16.66%

INCOME:

February 2019: Loss \$4,172

- YTD Income 1% in line with projection)
- YTD Gain \$7

Current Envelopes:

Income for the month = \$21,428 which is \$3,155 below monthly need of \$24,583



Old Business

Renewing your Congregation Workshop— follow up is complete.

NorthEnd Community Center Volunteer Opportunities. Tom to work on finalizing the tour.

Food Pantry Collection- Discussion of ways to effectively support efforts to prevent hunger in our community; Plan a tour of Food Finders

New Business

Environmental Stewardship- Nita Cunningham led a discussion of additional ways we can become keepers of the earth, ever mindful that this is God's place. The environmental statement from ELCA was reviewed, and additional resources are available online. It was proposed and agreed to that a recycle bin be provided in the fellowship hall as a first step in our ongoing efforts to be stewards of the environment.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education – No report. VBS planning meeting is scheduled.

Worship - No report. Continua-

tion of Lenten Soup Suppers to be reviewed.

Youth -No report. A meeting is scheduled.

Outreach – No report. The committee will design information materials about cost effective ways to support food collection in our community. The clothing drive is scheduled for May

Evangelism –No report. The third presentation in the Interfaith Discussion Series is scheduled for Saturday, March 16 at 2:00 pm. Additional presentations and discussions focused on Interfaith Understanding are planned.

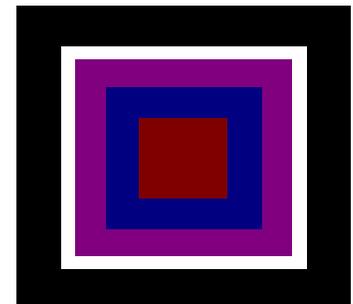
Technology –Report submitted. Two members have expressed an interest in helping with tech related items. The cables near the piano have been organized and rerouted.

Property - Report submitted. Chair sliders have been installed.

Mutual Ministry– No report.

Next meeting: Monday, April 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Carolyn Claussen



Holy Trinity Hospitality Dinner

Saturday, May 4th, 2019, 5-9PM.

...They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts...

Acts 2:46

5:00 – 5:45 Gather at HTLC for appetizers in Narthex

6:05 – 7:30 Small group dinners hosted in homes (guests to be grouped into parties of 4 to 6)

*See carpool note below

7:50 – 9:00 Dessert at HTLC in the fellowship hall

**Designed Host Drivers will carpool guests to dinner and return everyone to church for dessert.*

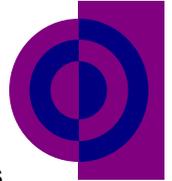
Childcare (as well as pizza, snacks and beverages) provided in the HTLC Nursery from 4:30 to 9:00. Bella Maglish and Mackenzie Jaegers—Caregivers.

SUMMER BUILDING PROGRAM

With the award of Lilly's Clergy Renewal Grant to Holy Trinity comes an opportunity for both the pastor and the congregation to reflect, regroup and recharge.

You are invited and encouraged, no , EXHORTED, to participate in the fellowship and faith formation activities planned. Making HTLC a God-centered, loving and vibrant church rests on each of us. The "building program" to equip us for renewal includes:

- May: Forgiveness and Reconciliation
- June: Faith Stories
- July/August: God Space



Study leaders will explore a variety of times and places to gather. Let's prioritize renewing and expanding our relationships to God and one another. Sharing your time, your stories of God's faithfulness and the gifts of humor, and hospitality with others is at the heart of following Jesus.

Renewal Word Search Challenge



Find these words

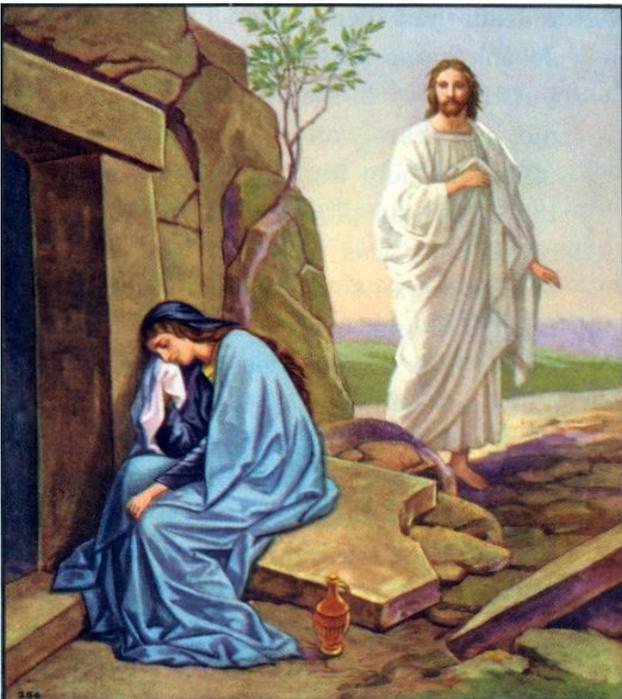
- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| Spirit Led | Renew |
| Begin Anew | Revitalize |
| Invigorate | Energize |
| Fresh Start | Hope |
| Reestablish | Joy |
| Resume | |

BISHOP GAFKJEN'S MESSAGE

Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. On the road to Emmaus, the first Easter evening [Luke 24:16]

New life rises from a stone-closed tomb and it goes unnoticed, unrecognized, unappreciated. The first visitors to the empty tomb assume that the body has been moved or stolen. One of them thinks the just-risen Jesus is the gardener. Others ask the traveling companion who comes up alongside them if he's the only one who doesn't know what awful things happened to Jesus in Jerusalem...and it turns out the companion is, in fact, Jesus.

This life is so new, so fresh, so unexpected that



no one sees it for what it is: world changing, life transforming resurrection. People just like you and me squint at the new life through old lenses, lenses clouded by long-held assumptions and colored by fear yet rendered obsolete the moment Jesus shed the shroud and left the tomb.

We are Easter people. We live on the far side of the resurrection of Christ. We proclaim for seven weeks: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Yet we so often walk through our days as if Jesus were still lingering in the tomb. Resurrection life is afoot in the world and, squinting through old lenses, we so often miss it.

Thankfully, this Risen One is persistent. He keeps coming up alongside us to give us new lenses to see the new life he offers. A sip of wine and a bit of bread...water and Word washing over us...forgiveness offered or received...a friend living in recovery day by day...a simple sunrise or the complexity of a relationship restored... these and so much more are signs of

resurrection and new life afoot in the world, so easy to overlook or mistake for something else. In, with, and under the mundane matters of our drudging days the Risen One comes near again and again to speak our name, open our eyes, stir our hearts, take our hands, and lead us out of dark tombs into resurrection light.

This Eastertide, may God's Spirit open our eyes wide with wonder to see new life coming near, open our hearts to receive it with hope and joy, and open our hands to share it with all we meet along the way. Christ, our companion, hope for the journey, Bread of compassion, open our eyes. Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning That all creation with you may arise.

[Susan Palo Cherwien, "Day of Arising," ELW 374]

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him. Mary Magdalene, first report from the empty tomb [John 20:2]

She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus...supposing him to be the gardener... Mary, weeping outside the tomb [John 20:14-15]

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Bob Montgomery serves on Council as well as the Outreach Committee. With recent changes in our community's food pantry landscape, he provides this update:

I wanted to take just a few words to speak to our mission of our monthly food collection. As you may be aware, over the past years we have collected food for local food pantries on the second Sunday of each month, alternating our support between LUM at St Johns, and the Tippy food pantry.

However the LUM facility has closed, leaving us with an opportunity to review how we use our resources for local hunger. With this in mind the Outreach committee and Council have looked at options, one of which showed a great potential to deliver more food purchasing power for our dollars invested. The Food Finders food bank can roughly provide a pound of food for only thirty cents. This means that three meals can be provide for every dollar given. There's a plus to this also, not only the canned or boxed foods be used, but fresh or frozen vegetables, fruits and meats can be provided.



So beginning in April envelopes will be provided in the bulletin on food collection Sunday as well as a collection box in the narthex, for support of the Tippy food pantry and Food Finders. Of course if you would prefer a food donation we will see that this is taken care of as well.

OPPORTUNITIES TO FELLOWSHIP AND GROW YOUR FAITH

Science & Religion led by Gretchen Freese & Jeff Greeley. Will meet 9:30am April 7, 14 and May 5 &12, room 101.

Forgiveness and Reconciliation led by Sue Davis and Diane Longdo. Weeks of May 9 ,26, Jun 2, 9. Times to be arranged.

Book Club Callout
Come join fellow readers Thursday April 25th at 7 pm in the lounge at HTLC. Bring a favorite book or a book you've recently read. Your ideas about how you'd like to see a book club happen are welcome.



May 1—24th

Family Promise

Clothing Drive

Outreach is sponsoring a clothing drive to benefit Family Promise.

- Each 13 gallon bag of clothing collected will be redeemed for \$5 vouchers for Family Promise guests to shop for needed items.
- There are white 13 gallon trash bags in coat room for you to take and fill.



LET'S CELEBRATE

APRIL	
3	Noon and 7pm Lent Service
10	Noon and 7pm Lent Service
14	Easter Egg Hunt
17	Trinitarians: Optician "Low Vision Aids"
18	Holy (Maundy) Thursday
19	Good Friday
20	Easter Vigil
21	Easter
25	Book Club Callout
28	10am Worship Together Clergy Renewal Sending Service
MAY	
1st - 21st	Clothing Drive: Family Promise
3	LUM Fun Follies
4	Progressive Dinner
15	Trinitarians: Trip to the Holy Land Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly begins
31	

*Please see details in other **Open Door** stories or watch for news in the **Epistle***

Happy April Anniversary

- 20 Don and Sue Lambert
- 24 Ken & Cheryl Suter

April Birthdays

- 1 Nell Kretzschmar
- 2 Christina Newell
- 4 Addi Bush
- 6 Ashley Deutsch
- 7 Amy Brown
- 8 Barbara Mussche, Ed Lausch
- 10 Matt Brown
- 14 Justin Woods, Kayleigh Juds
- 16 Lauren Wray
- 18 Sandy Meshberger, Jane Tolen, Hayden Ritchie
- 19 Brian Sumprer
- 20 Amy Wolaver
- 23 Betty Mennen, Lauren Ahlersmeyer
- 24 Kenneth Suter
- 27 Walter Lillo, Larry Back, Jonathan Hillery, Caitlin Hillery, Heidi Juds
- 30 Jon Swathwood



LUM Fun Follies

Join the good folks at LUM for the eighth annual LUM Good Samaritan Fund Follies. Invite a friend and get your tickets: <http://www.lumserve.org/programs/>

Answer Key: Renewal Word Search

B	E	T	A	R	O	G	I	V	N	I	E	R
F	R	R	E	S	U	M	E	M	L	Z	L	T
R	J	E	R	Z	M	N	M	K	I	T	Q	Y
E	V	J	E	M	I	N	A	L	E	P	O	H
S	J	Y	Y	S	T	G	A	E	R	W	M	V
H	D	O	Y	N	T	T	R	E	L	R	N	R
S	R	R	Y	B	I	A	O	E	V	O	L	E
T	P	Y	N	V	Z	P	B	F	N	T	Y	N
A	Q	Z	E	N	E	P	R	L	B	E	L	E
R	X	R	Z	N	K	E	O	Z	I	W	N	W
T	S	P	I	R	I	T	L	E	D	S	D	R
B	E	G	I	N	A	N	E	W	G	R	H	G

THE DREAM OF DR. BENJAMIN RUSH AND GOD'S HAND IN RECONCILING JOHN ADAMS AND THOMAS JEFFERSON

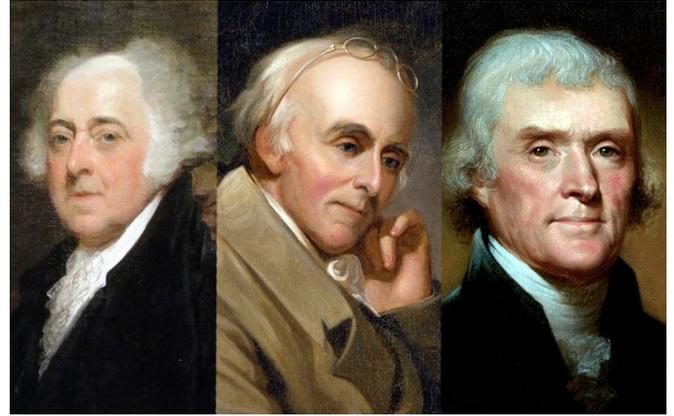
A story from history that underscores God's power when we pursue forgiveness and reconciliation. Find the full article <https://wallbuilders.com/benjamin-rush-dream-john-adams-thomas-jefferson/>

One of the more bitter aspects of the retirement of John Adams from the presidency in 1800 was the fact that several of those with whom he had early co-labored during the Revolution had become his fervent adversaries. This was especially true in the case of Thomas Jefferson who, although serving closely with Adams during the Revolution, had become one of his chief enemies during President Washington's administration. This feud not only deeply embittered Adams emotionally but it also troubled Dr. Rush, who was still a close friend of both Adams and Jefferson. One night several months after Jefferson's retirement from the Presidency in 1809, Dr. Rush had a dream about the two which he felt was important.

He wrote down an account of that *dream* and sent it to John Adams.

*In the month of November 1809, Mr. Adams addressed a short letter to his friend Mr. Jefferson in which he congratulated him upon his escape to the shades of retirement and domestic happiness, and concluded it with assurances of his regard and good wishes for his welfare. This letter did great honor to Mr. Adams. It discovered a magnanimity known only to great minds. Mr. Jefferson replied to this letter and reciprocated expressions of regard and esteem. These letters were followed by a correspondence of several years in which they mutually reviewed the scenes of business in which they had been engaged, and candidly acknowledged to each other all the errors of opinion and conduct into which they had fallen during the time they filled the same station in the service of their country. Many precious aphorisms [truths], the result of observation, experience, and profound reflection, it is said, are contained in these letters. It is to be hoped the world will be favored with a sight of them. . . . These gentlemen sunk into the grave nearly at the same time, full of years and rich in the gratitude and praises of their country."*¹

At the time this letter was written, Jefferson and Adams were still vehement opponents. None of what was described in this letter had begun to come to pass, nor did it seem likely that it ever would. Nevertheless, Adams received the dream from his dear friend with an open heart



and responded that he would answer a letter from Jefferson.

Shortly after Adams letter, Rush, who was also a dear friend of Jefferson, initiated a correspondence with Jefferson on the same topic, attempting to reconcile the two. Jefferson, too, listened to Rush with an open heart, and tentatively reached out to Adams with a gracious letter. Adams, as he had promised, did "not fail to acknowledge and answer the letter," and thus began a cordial renewing of a warm and sincere friendship between the two.

In retrospect, the amazing accuracy and future fulfillment of several parts of Dr. Rush's dream are absolutely astounding. As accurately described in his dream, Adams and Jefferson did again become close friends, and there did indeed follow the "correspondence of several years" described in the dream. Furthermore, the "world was favored with a sight of the letters" as entire volumes were eventually published which contained the letters written between those two in their latter years. Interestingly, seventeen years after his dream, they did "sink into the grave nearly at the same time" as the two men died with 3 hours of each other on the same day: July 4th, 1826 – the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence!

- **Pastor Keller's article, *Serving Each Other Through Forgiveness and Reconciliation*, will be made available on the HTLC website mid-April.**
- **Plan to join a discussion group in May and let God continue to bless YOU with new perspectives on forgiveness.**



Holy Week

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1005 North 21st Street
Lafayette, IN 47904-2296
Phone: 765-447-4205
E-mail: office@htlcweb.org

Maundy Thursday Worship	April 18 7pm
Friday Good Friday Worship	April 19 noon and 7 pm
Easter Vigil on Saturday Eve.	April 20 6 pm
Easter Worship	April 21 8:15 and 10:45 am
Easter Breakfast	9:30 am



You are Invited to Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 21st 9:30 AM—Fellowship Hall

Meal Served by HTLC Youth

Sponsored by Thrivent

Breakfast

Helpers are needed

- Set up & meal prep:
Saturday, April 20th 9 AM
- Cooks: Sunday 8 AM
- Youth servers: Sunday @ 9:30 AM
- Clean up Sunday 10:45 AM

Sign up on the Poster in the Narthex
or Welcome Sheet

Email www.holytrinitylafayette.com

**Coordinators: Connie & Dave
Krueger**

