



# Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network

May 2010 Newsletter

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## Director's Comments by Tim Thorne

Until recently, when I went to the grocery store I used to make a point of pushing a cart or two in from the parking lot. It was my way of doing something nice for the folks that have to come out in the rain or snow and round those things up. And then one day I realized it wasn't nice at all – not in the long run – it was putting someone out of a job.

I look at the self serve check-out isles popping up at stores these days in the same way. Using this “convenience” to save me time is putting people out of work. If you are inclined to doubt that, then I invite you to try to remember the last time you pulled into a gas station and had someone come out and pump your gas, wash your windshield and check the oil.

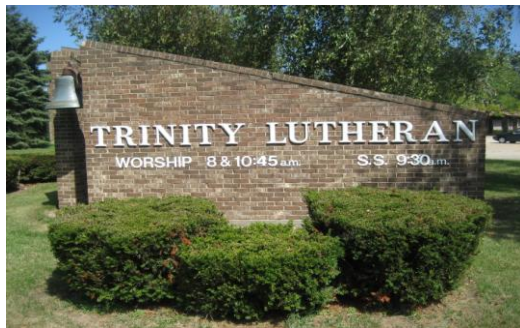
When I was a child my mother would drive our family car, a 1960 Dodge Pioneer, into Rudy's Esso service station and either Rudy or one of the other guys would come out and pump the gas, make small talk, take my mother's money and make change from a wad of bills they carried in their shirt pocket. For years I thought those guys were rich because I had never seen that amount of cash rolled up in such clear abundance. I remember that my mother ended that fantasy for me one day when I made some remark about the wealth of those otherwise soiled men!

Rudy's was a neighborhood gas station though at the time it seemed like a long way to go to ask one of the guys to fix the flat on my bike tire - but you could always get a pop for ten cents from the machine. Somewhere along the way Rudy wasn't needed

anymore and for a few years you could pump your own gas and then go in and pay and we still called it a service station because they continued to fix tires and change oil.



Things are better now in some ways, you can buy gas on Sundays, pay at the pump and if you want a pop you can get up to 44 ounces - 34 ounces more than we got out of the machine. Today, one of Rudy's guys, whom I recall was perhaps a bit slow, might be out there rounding up carts. Chances are good that he would be joining those legions of people who are out there in the parking lot with tennis shoes and a sweat shirt in the middle of winter who you'd like to help out by pushing a cart or two inside. But you see he wouldn't be one of “Rudy's guys,” then. Rudy's guys always had boots, a coat, often got a tip and had a party on Christmas Eve. In fact, Rudy's guys had names though it's been so long ago I don't remember them anymore.



**Host Church Update** by Sheldon Swartz  
 “In the beginning . . .” No, **Trinity Lutheran** has not existed from the beginning of time! But it has been a part of Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network since GIHN began giving local churches the privilege of hosting families without homes fifteen years ago. The volunteer coordinating work at TLC has been shared among many different persons over the years. It is now being done by Carol Borchelt and Kathy Brewton. Part of the coordinating is working with the coordinators of **North Goshen Mennonite Church** who provide meals and hosts for Mondays and Fridays and **St. Mary’s Antiochian Orthodox** who do the same on Thursdays. It is truly a shared experience among churches!



Trinity Lutheran Church

Volunteers for these churches vary from “one retired couple who has probably hosted every time since IHN started,” says Lori Martin of North Goshen (who coordinates along with her husband Kendel), to persons who are flexible and fill in wherever needed. No one minds hosting the evening, Lori Explains, “one volunteer always makes a meal of chicken breasts, mashed potatoes and gravy, homemade pie, and everything in between!”

Kathy Brewton of TLC points out that giving physical and emotional support to guests whatever the outcome is fulfilling. It is especially gratifying when guests are able to use that base of support to develop towards independence. It is also meaningful to provide the children of guests a bit of extra fun

and joy in the midst of an insecure time. On the difficult side, Carol notes the sadness when guests (like the rest of us) have trouble getting along with each other.



It’s good there is no age limit on being a coordinator because Mary Jo Luke is still serving in that role for St. Mary’s Orthodox at 90 years old! She mentioned that it is good to see the child and adult guests experience a bit of happiness despite their challenging situations. It is a good reminder that our circumstances are not the bottom line when it comes to our happiness.

As their own unique way of meeting the needs the past number of years Trinity Lutheran has a particular month in which its members are encouraged to contribute supplies for the weeks of hosting throughout the year - and to supply toys and appropriate children’s activities along with a small gift including basics like shampoo, toothpaste, etc., that guest families receive as a part of their welcome.



Each hosting church finds its unique way to welcome and serve the persons whom Christ welcomes into His care.

**So...thank you Trinity Lutheran, North Goshen, and St. Mary’s for your important part in serving Christ by welcoming those in need.**