

Trinity Lutheran Church
April 2020 Newsletter

EASTER
BRINGS HOPE!



Message from Pastor Eileen

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me" (John 14:1).

I believe that this is Lent-iest of all Lents we have ever had. Many times we fast during Lent as a spiritual discipline. Some may refrain from eating chocolate or French fries. Others take on a discipline of meditation or devotional time. This Lent we have added a fast from gathering in one building as the Family of God.

We fast from joining together in our building at 501 S. Washington. We fast from receiving God's precious gift of Holy Communion. We fast from fellowship. We fast from group Bible study in one room.

With that being said, we DO NOT fast from being the church. We DO NOT fast from worshipping God together online. We DO NOT fast from reading our Bibles and singing God's praises. We DO NOT fast from Loving God, and Loving Others.

As a pastor and as a Christian canceling public worship for an extended period of time flies in the face of everything I know and hold most dear. As a pastor I am responsible for conducting all public worship services where God's Word is proclaimed and the Sacraments are administered. As a Christian I need to hear the Good News of God's grace and receive that "soothing medicine" in Holy Communion (to quote Martin Luther in the Large Catechism). But at this time for all of us from the young to the very old we must practice "physical distancing" (a better term I think than "social distancing"), stay home, practice good handwashing, and more. We do not know how long this might last. I cannot and will not give a date when we can worship again in our building. The CDC and Minnesota officials will help us make those decisions.

BUT THERE IS GOOD NEWS AND HOPE!

If you desire the Lord's Supper please contact me and we can make an arrangement. You can message me on facebook, email me (ewoyen@gmail.com), or call/text my cell phone (330-962-9492).

I will be uploading bulletins/orders of worship to our Facebook page. In it, you will find the readings, prayers, YouTube clips to enhance our worship, and more. I will be doing Wednesday worship at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday

You will find a daily devotion online. I will provide a devotion every morning. I am taking Friday off as my Sabbath.

Our children are receiving special mail from Jill Hagen to help them grow in their faith and love of God.

We continue to provide our free Wednesday meal. It is a sack lunch. We distribute the meals at the office door at 5:00 on Wednesdays.

Members are beginning to call each other to check on each other and to offer prayer.

While we won't be meeting for public worship the ministries of Trinity will continue. Your offering is appreciated and vital. Please consider mailing your offerings or signing up for online giving.

Like the people of Israel in Exodus, things might look bleak but as God's people we know that Easter joy is coming. As Lutherans the church is defined not as buildings but an "assembly of all believers" (Augsburg Confession VII.1). For the coming future we will assemble via the Internet. This is different and new to all of us. We pastors didn't receive training for ministry during pandemics.

And remember "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change..." Psalm 46:2

So pray for one another, call up that neighbor and check on them, pray for our leaders, pray for those essential workers.

We may not be able to worship as a community on Easter Sunday. I promise that the first Sunday we are together in our sanctuary it will be Easter! We will sing God's praises! We will give thanks to God for his Son! We will shout Hallelujah! There might even be dancing in the aisles!

God is here and has gone ahead of us. Everything will be okay.

Worship with us online

You can find these services on Trinity's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/tlcal. They will also be posted to our website at www.tlc-al.org

Wednesday, April 1st at 5:30 PM

Sunday, April 5th at 9:00 AM – ***Palm Sunday***

Thursday, April 9th at 5:30 PM – ***Maundy Thursday***

Friday, April 10th at 5:30 PM – ***Good Friday***

Sunday, April 12th at 9:00 AM – ***Easter Sunday***

There will also be devotionals on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Finance Committee

As I write this, we are all feeling anxiety and stress with our current pandemic. I am sure most of you have noticed Trinity's larger presence with "virtual ministry" as we navigate our way through life as we know it. I do send prayer every night that our local, state, national and world virus infection numbers will start to decrease. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter is delivered.

Please consider setting up for online giving either on our website at www.tlc-al.org or at <http://myoffering.com/>. With our services being closed this is a great option for our financial support of Trinity. Mailing checks (never cash) to the church at 501 S. Washington Ave is an option too.

Until next month, God Bless.

February financial overview:	Total Receipts	\$29,155.30
	Total Disbursements	\$21,633.18
	Cushion	\$7,522.12

YTD financial overview:	Total Receipts	\$48,290.44
	Total Disbursements	\$48,213.68
	Cushion	\$76.76

s/ Chris Skogheim

When we are able to worship in our building again, we will celebrate Easter. We are once again giving you the opportunity to order Easter flowers through the church office to help decorate the front of the sanctuary.

Flowers need to be ordered by **Friday, April 10**

It is possible to bring your own plant. Information for this is on the bottom of the form.

In Memory of ... _____

In Honor of ... _____

In Celebration of ... _____

In Recognition of ... _____

(Wording for bulletin)

By: _____

Please check the plant you would like. Make it clear how many plants you would like. If you want one In Memory of and one In Honor of etc., ***please use different slips.***

Attach a check to this form made out to Trinity Lutheran Church. You can mail this to Trinity Lutheran Church,

501 S. Washington Avenue, Albert Lea, MN 56007.

_____ Lilies...\$11.00

_____ Mums...\$13.00

_____ Tulips...\$10.00

You may bring your own plant to the church. Please have your information that you would like to go in the bulletin to the church office by **Friday, April 10.** You could email it to office@tlc-al.org, or mail it to Trinity, 501 S. Washington Avenue.

Trinity Lutheran Church Women

Co-Chairs LeAnn Juveland and Linda Olson

Half-Baked By: Sarah Hupp From:

“God Always Has a Second Plan”

I’d had my Easter menu planned for weeks. Out of town company would fill our dining room to overflowing, so I’d decided to serve turkey. Plenty of side dishes, too. And deserts? There would be so many you could make a meal on sweets if you wanted to.

I put the turkey in the oven at breakfast time, to give it a chance to pre-cook, and turned my attention to the side dishes and desserts. Midway through the morning, my husband asked, “Is the turkey done yet? I don’t smell it cooking.” Hmmmm. My nose didn’t make out the familiar scent of roast turkey. Either. Had I forgotten to turn on the oven on?

No, it was worse than that. My oven had chosen that exact morning to die, right there on the spot. Company would be coming any minute. Expecting to put the finishing touches on an Easter feast, and all I could offer them was half-baked poultry.

Ultimately, the Colonel at KFC bailed us out on the hot food items, but the rest of the side dishes and desserts were great. Yet God took my ruined plans and gave us something better: a lot less clean-up, a lot more fellowship, and a lot of laughter when that half-baked bird became our Easter centerpiece.

As I am writing this, I can’t believe we are making plans for this wonderful time of year. We have so many opportunities to prepare for the Death and Glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, be sure to partake in this most “Holy” time at Trinity.



Family Faith Formation

During this time of worry and confusion our Sunday School programs are still in place. I am snail mailing our Sunday School lessons to the PreK-5 grades and also doing a YouTube program for our Pre-Confirmation students. We ask that the parents help out and do these lessons as a family. Keeping faith that this virus will be gone soon.

Also as an extra bonus I will be mailing a packet to the families of activities, games, songs on YouTube and suggested Movies.

I miss you all and pray that we stay strong in our faith, healthy and safe.

Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge Fishing Challenge

The Minnesota Fishing Challenge to assist people participating in the Long Term Treatment program is scheduled for May 30. My fishing partner, Bob Casperson, Long Prairie, and I are planning to again participate in this fund raising effort. Last year Trinity members contributed some \$1500 towards their support.

A special offering will be received Sunday, April 26. It would be wonderful if Trinity members would provide \$2000 or more this year. Checks can be made out to either MN A&TC with Team MC on the memo line or to Trinity with MN A&TC, Team MC on the memo line. You can get a pre-addressed, stamped envelope from me (at any time) if you wish to send your donation directly to Adult & Teen Challenge.

This has become an uncertain year for many of us. It is especially so for MN A&T Challenge and the long term program participants. Thank you for whatever you can do.

s/Darryl Meyer

Premises

Here are some items that premises committee has been working on this month of March.

Purchased and installed new water faucet in upstairs men's restroom.

Installed new shelf in pre-kindergarten Sunday school room for student work baskets.

Working on control wiring to get both boilers in sync with each other. They supply great heat to our building now, just working to get them in auto mode.

Looking at a summer project of replacing the steps to the back (East) door of Sunday school building. The steps are in very unstable condition and need to be replaced. We think we can salvage the platform. This is in the planning stages right now, waiting for nicer weather.

Snow plowing costs are way down this year compared to last winter.

With the church temporary closed, a lot of sanitizing has been going on. Some examples are top backs of pews, alter railings, door handles throughout the church buildings, stair railings, light switches, SS tables and chairs, extra work on the bathrooms, extra moping of tile floors.

If you have any concerns or ideas to improve the church building, contact Jeff or Steve on the premises committee, or any council member.

If you would like to receive your monthly newsletter via email, please call the church office at 373-2466 or send an email to office@tlc-al.org.

Council President

As I wrote in my article last month I was looking forward to the Lenten season and warmer weather. What a difference a month makes. Our world has been totally turned upside down because of the coronavirus and all of its ramifications.

Who could have imagined that schools, businesses, and events would be cancelled and the effect this would have on people's lives. What was social distancing? What is an essential business and when should we stay home?

Our last worship service in our church building was Sunday, March 15th. A decision was made the next day to suspend most church activities because of the ever changing coronavirus situation. However, this did not mean that we closed Trinity's ministry. We have just changed how we deliver it.

I hope most of you have been able to view our Sunday services and daily messages from Pastor Eileen. These can be seen either on Trinity's website or Facebook page. We are also using this medium to keep you updated on what is happening at Trinity.

It has been very uplifting to see who is viewing the church services, both as "livestream" and a recording. We may not be able to be physically together, but we definitely are spiritually. I can really feel the love of this congregation for each other.

Please keep each other in your prayers. Call people to say hello and ask them if they need anything. Let us know how Trinity can be of help. Our lives will eventually return to some sense of "normal." Hopefully this will be sooner than later. Stay safe.

Ron Petersen
Council President

Memorials Given in Loving Memory of...

Undesignated

Herb Sorenson

By Mary Ann Martinson

Jeanine Dahl

By Mary Ann Martinson

Undesignated

Herb Sorenson

By Steve and Linda Olson

By Barb Larson

Harlan Wittmer

By Scott and Ann Goodmanson

By Glen and LeAnn Juveland

By Friends and Family

By Karen Sorensen

Milt Haroldson

By Dick and Lorraine Anderson

Wednesday Night Supper

Harlan Wittmer

By Jean Pectorious

General Improvements

Harlan Wittmer

By Erllys Wittmer

Berthelsen Scholarship

Harlan Wittmer

By Erna Berthelsen

Boiler

Harlan Wittmer

By Marlin and Sharon Herfendal

Dale Drescher

By Allan and Nancy Halvorsen

Honorariums

Boiler

Bill Webster's 90th Birthday

By Anonymous

By Lyle Hinz

By Jan Drews

Baptisms

Zander Bettin-Utzka

Austin Moritz

Trinity's Mission Statement

We are a fellowship of believers in Christ,
sustained by God's Word, led by the Holy
Spirit and committed to God's vision of caring!

Dartball

The 2019/2020 dartball season is officially over. Trinity team finished with 24 wins and 9 losses which put us in 2nd place in the final standings. In the 20 years we have been in existence as a team, this is the best we have ever finished. We are excited about that.

The end of the season banquet was held at 1st Presbyterian church on Monday evening February 24th. The banquet started with a supper, short business / awards meeting, then on to the tournament. The top 6 teams play in a single elimination tournament. Since we finished 2nd, we had a first-round bye. We played Pickeral Lake in round 2. They beat us and went on to beat Lunder for the championship. It is a fun night with all the teams together for one last night of dartball.

We had four players with batting averages over .500 this season. Scott Stolaas, Paul Budd, Roy Bremseth, and Steve Honsey. Steve received a top 10 dart for finishing 8th with a .583 average. We played well as a team. Members of this years team are: Clarence Eggers, Darryl Meyer, Roy Bremseth, Scott Stolaas, Bruce Stolaas, Matt Cheever, Tyler Enderson, Alex Colven, Doug Ruble, Riley Ruble, Hal Dowling, Paul Budd, Harry Nyerhuis, Glen Juveland, treasurer, and Steve Olson, captain.

We had a team party at Pizza Ranch where we treat our wives and significant others to supper. We also have a team picnic planned for August. Stay tuned for more dartball news next fall.

Steve Olson, captain



Trinity Lutheran Church

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E-mail: office@tlc-al.org

Web Site: www.tlc-al.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tlc

Pastor Eileen Woyen

Pastor Eileen's email: pastor@tlc-al.org

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