

Trinity Lutheran Church
May 2020
Newsletter

Let your
FAITH
be bigger
than your
FEAR

It is the church's understanding that in-person worship may begin in the Second Tier Opening of our community. We would still need to maintain social distancing of 6 feet and limit participants to 50.

Therefore, when we reach this milestone, we will be offering in-person worship at 9:00 and 10:30 with a limit of 50 participants at each. When our number goes over 50, you may choose to worship in Jacobsen or Trinity Hall or wait until the next service. We will continue live streaming worship on Facebook and our website.

It is also highly suggested that masked be worn since water droplets produced through singing stay longer in the air. As we navigate this together, thank you for your patience and prayers. Watch for information on the date.

Day Camp is Cancelled. With all the uncertainty we are experiencing with the Covid 19 spreading we have decided to cancel our Day Camp with Okoboji scheduled for June. It saddens our hearts but we want to keep everyone safe and healthy. If the virus settles down and not as much of a threat, we hope to do something for the kids later in the summer. Our prayers are with you all.

Special love offering to go to MN Adult & Teen Challenge Fishing Tournament Fundraiser

Trinity members are asked to include a special gift for MN Adult & Teen Challenge's long term treatment program along with your Trinity offering – whether in their offering envelope, by credit card, bank transfer or however you donate. Include instructions how much should go to MN Adult & Teen Challenge. This is for the Fishing Tournament fund raiser as The Long Term program does not receive federal or state treatment funds for those participants and very little insurance coverage.

It could also be sent directly to MN Adult & Teen Challenge, 2424 Business 371, Brainerd MN 56401.

Credit it to Team MC #68. If anyone would like a stamped self-addressed envelope, contact Darryl Meyer at 369-4117 or rdijm@deskmedia.com.”

There are also some raffle tickets @\$20 - let Darryl Meyer know if you want some.

All Trinity member donations received **by May 18** will be matched 50 cents on the dollar.

Congratulations!



Graduates

Alexi Heavner

Riley Johnson

Sydney Nelson

Bailey Vinge

Lily Vinge

The scholarship committee would like to announce the following 2020 scholarship recipients:

High School seniors receiving scholarships:

Alexi Heavner- Wayne Larson Scholarship \$500

Bertha Wieks Scholarship \$500

Riley Johnson- Pechaceck Scholarship \$500

Bertha Wieks Scholarship \$500

Sydney Nelson- Trinity Scholarship \$1000

Bailey Vinge- Debbie Olson Scholarship \$500

Bertha Wieks Scholarship \$500

Lily Vinge- Debbie Olson Scholarship \$500

Bertha Wieks Scholarship \$500

Non-traditional students receiving scholarships:

Ty Nielsen- Berthelsen Scholarship \$1,500

Cindy Golbuff- Berthelsen Scholarship \$500

Committee members, Cheri Butler, Ashley Hovendick, Gayle Neist and Sheila Jensen.

A Message from Pastor Eileen

Dear Trinity Family,

This wasn't where we wanted to be for April. They say that April showers bring May flowers. I have also heard "April isolation brings May lives."

We are treading on a totally new path. We communicate with loved ones over the phone and over the internet. We fear going to places, like our church, that have always been a place of comfort and peace. We don't go to the grocery store or the park without some trepidation. We can't see people's faces because of masks for protection.

This is an odd time.

It was an odd time when the disciples found themselves hiding in fear after Jesus had been crucified. They, like us, didn't know what the future would hold. They had witnessed Jesus three days earlier die a horrific and painful death on the cross. They felt terribly alone.

Then Jesus entered into their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

Jesus enters into our midst, in our fear and says, "Peace be with you." Jesus walks with us in our fear, our loneliness, and our hurt. Jesus says to you and to me—"Peace be with you." This is truth that we can hold on to in these uncertain times. God's peace is with you. God's love is with you—through Jesus Christ.

So we shout! Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

We will not always be isolated in our homes. We will be together to worship soon. And in all this, Jesus gives you Peace.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Bible Study via Zoom

Pastor Eileen is doing a Bible Study via Zoom on Tuesdays at 11:30 and 6:30. If you would like to participate, please let the office or Pastor Eileen know.

Celebrating our High School Seniors

It has been an odd ending for the Senior year for our 5 Albert Lea seniors. We still pray for their educational journeys and give thanks for their accomplishments. Baccalaureate is/was scheduled for Sunday, May 17. If we do not have public worship on that date, Pastor Eileen will meet with the families via Zoom for their graduate blessing. We will also have a public blessing for these special young adults in our worship before they start their college experiences.

Daily Devotions via Facebook

Daily Devotions—Pastor Eileen is doing Daily Devotions every day (except Friday, her Sabbath) at 11:00 am on Facebook live on the churches Facebook page.

Worship Services

Worship can be found on Facebook Live at 9:00 am on Sundays on our Facebook page and on our website: www.tlc-al.org.

Confirmation Information

Our confirmation kids have a lot on their plate with distance learning and living through a pandemic with faith. Confirmation students and parents have a weekly check-in by text. They are doing OK and strengthening their faith. Our 9th graders are working on their faith statements.

Thank you to our weekly callers who are connecting with members: Kim Nelson, Nancy Jenson, Donna Oliva, Sheila Jensen, Cindy Golbuff, Ann Goodmanson, Jan Drew, Linda Bergland, the Heavners, Linda Olson, Leland Johnson, Gayle Neist, Andrea Jensen, Monica Nelson, Patti Yaw, Jody Nygaard, Patty Peek, Jean Pestorious, Sarah Lowe, Darcy Nielsen, Katie Jacobsen, Laurie Hovendick, and LeAnn Juveland.

Finance Committee

It is safe to say that these are unprecedented times, felt and seen by all. As I write this we have missed 8 services (Easter services and Sundays) at Trinity, and in the best interest of each and every one of us, this will be our new normal for the foreseeable future. Luckily, Pastor Eileen sent out messages a few weeks before things were shutdown, advising that we need to get ready to do live or taped sermons for our members. As most of you probably know that sermon has turned into a pretty nice “virtual service”. We have music, hymns, readers, trumpets, and a great pastor leading us through a true pandemic. For now Facebook Live will be our new meeting place for worship, I know it’s not “the same” as when we are together but the message, sounds and spirit can be found with a simple click or tap on most devices.

Again during this time, and continuing in the future please consider setting up for online giving either on our website at www.tlc-al.org or at <http://myeoffering.com/>. With our services broadcasting live, 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.

March financial overview:	Total Receipts	\$22,602.50
	Total Disbursements	\$26,005.87
	(Shortfall)	\$3,403.37
YTD financial overview:	Total Receipts	\$70,892.94
	Total Disbursements	\$74,219.55
	(Shortfall)	\$3,326.61

s/ Chris Skogheim



Pastor Ron Waters

ARE YOU REACHED OUT?

The lack of true outreach ministry and the need of it.

Streaming Online
Saturday
May 23rd
11 - 2 CDT
boldgathering.com

BG
BOLD GATHERING

Register Now

A gifted speaker at Bold Gathering - South Carolina will be Pastor Ron Waters. He is the Senior Pastor of Freedom of The Met (Non-Denominational Church). It is a ministry founded on the love and outreach of Christ. His mission through Christ is to reach the lost and looked over.

Register yourself for \$5 and watch from any of your electronic devices. Or, with current CDC guidelines, gather 8 (or less) men together and watch as a group for \$25. Register at boldgathering.com or text BGSC to 773-696-2597 and you will be prompted to register.

Council President

Our will and resolve have really been tested these last few weeks because of the coronavirus pandemic. We are faced with uncertainty, apprehension, and many what ifs. However, I am so impressed and thankful for the staff and members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Our ministry outreach looks different, but we still are church. It is uplifting to see the care and compassion that our Trinity family has for each other and also our community. Thank you all.

I know we all miss the in person fellowship that is so important to us. Be patient. Someday soon it will be possible for us to gather in our sanctuary and celebrate Easter. Stay safe and think good thoughts until then.

s/Ron Petersen

REMEMBER
THOSE WHO HAVE
SACRIFICED THIS

Memorial Day

Monday, May 25th

GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS,
THAN TO LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS. JOHN 15:13 NKJV



15 SOCIAL DISTANCING ACTIVITIES

for the Christian Family

The COVID19 Pandemic has hit and now we are living in a world of social distancing. Although this can be incredibly difficult for us, children especially are feeling the effects of their world being completely disrupted. To help them navigate this difficult time, we've put together a list of activities that can help you talk about these challenges and help them face the world with *faith, not fear*.

-  **1** Pull out a puzzle and hide the pieces in Easter eggs, then hide the eggs around the house. After the kids find all the Easter eggs, have them put the puzzle together. Then discuss how sometimes we can only see a small piece, but God knows the whole picture
-  **2** Do chores together as family, like making dinner, doing laundry or cleaning the house. Point out ways that each person contributes. You may want to talk people with essential jobs like doctors or police officers that still have to go to work and how important they are.
- 3** Serve Others! Look for others who may need some extra support at this time. Find ways to reach out to them by making them a treat or leaving a kind note.
- 4** Enjoy Nature! Take a walk or a bike ride outside and enjoy the fresh air. Talk about the beauty in the world that God has given us.
- 5** Have a mashup art challenge. Pick two objects like an animal and fruit, and then have everyone separate into a corner and draw what they think that thing looks like. Then have each person present their drawing to everyone else when they are done. Talk about how everyone has different perspectives!
-  **6** Create Mailboxes! Have each person decorate a manilla folder for their "mailbox" and then hang it on their door. Then provide paper and writing and coloring utensils so that everyone write notes to each other and deliver it to the mailboxes. Talk about the importance of communication, with family members, other people, and God.
- 7** Bond together as a family while having fun! Sometimes we just need time to decompress!
 - Movie night! Turn your living room into a theatre, complete with treats and popcorn.
 - Build a family fort with pillows and blankets
 - Pull out board games or card games and play together as a family
 - Try Indoor or Backyard camping, complete with sleeping bag and pillowcases. Make sure to include camping treats like hot dogs and s'mores.



15 SOCIAL DISTANCING ACTIVITIES

for the Christian Family

8 Learn something new! Watch a YouTube tutorial and let everyone try!



9 Have a talent show. Review the parable of the talents and talk about how we can develop more talents.

10 Make something with fuse beads. Talk about the importance of unity!

11 Have an impromptu photo session with the kids. Pull out Halloween costumes or different props so the kids can have some fun and just be silly! You can talk about how even when things are difficult, we can still have fun.



12 Play charades with different animals or characters from the Bible.

13 Construct boats from recycled trash, then test their seaworthiness in the bath or kiddie pool outside. Talk about how God can recycle us and use for different purposes.



14 Make Treasure Ice blocks. Take old ice cream tubs or container and add some toys and water. Freeze until solid. Then give the kids a variety of tools (salt, water, spoons, etc) to free the toys from ice. Talk about time and patience help us reach the blessings God has in store for us.

15 Create a scavenger hunt, with different clues and locations. You can even create a treasure map as a visual. Talk about the importance of work and actively seeking the Lord.

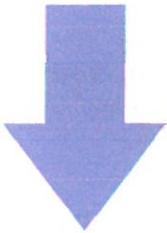
7 CORONAVIRUS QUESTIONS FROM KIDS

& HOW TO ANSWER
USING THE BIBLE



Use God's Word to help answer your children's most difficult questions during the coronavirus pandemic. As Christian parents, we want to answer their tough questions, of course, but in ways that will help kids build a stronger relationship of love with God.

Faith, trust, joy, strength and **patience** can replace fears and confusion through Bible verses.



Below are 7 difficult questions parents are facing among children ages preschool thru 12 about the pandemic, along with Biblical answers.

1

WILL GOD PROTECT MY
FAMILY FROM GETTING
THE CORONAVIRUS?

The best protection against the virus is doing what the authorities tell us. Wash your hands lots, don't get together with friends right now, and don't get closer than six feet to others when you do go out. God gave us people in authority who tell us how to act. Our family listens to authority and is obeying them very carefully.

Bible Verse: Romans 13:1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

2

I'M AFRAID MY
PARENTS WILL CATCH
THE VIRUS. COULD MY
PARENTS GET REALLY
SICK OR DIE?

People in Mom's and Dad's age group generally don't get very sick from the Coronavirus. It's like the flu. It's annoying and uncomfortable but the vast majority get better.

It's been said that 90 percent of the things we worry about never happen. The Apostle Paul encourages us to not worry about anything! But rather, speak to God and ask for his help using confidence.

Bible Verse: Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

3

WHY CAN'T WE GO TO
SCHOOL IF THE FLU IS
MORE SERIOUS?

That has to do with putting others before ourselves. We might not get seriously ill, but we could pass it on to those who are Grandma's or Grandpa's age or others with serious health problems.

If all those people got sick at once, the hospitals wouldn't be able to help them all. There could be people lying in the hospital parking lot! Like most everything, our behavior during the pandemic gets back to the second most important rule Jesus taught: Treat others how you would want to be treated.

Bible Verse: Matthew 7:12 In everything, then, do to others as you would have them do to you. For this is the essence of the Law and the prophets.

4

WHAT IF MY GRANDPARENTS CATCH THE VIRUS?

Your grandparents are in a group that is more prone to be hurt by this virus. The majority of deaths and serious symptoms are in their age group. They are our elders, and it's our job to be respectful of their health.

That's one of the reasons we don't visit them right now. It wouldn't be a sign of our love if we risked infecting them. However, their wisdom—their years of experience—means they are also more likely than most to think of all the details to keep themselves healthy.

Bible Verse: 1 Peter 5:5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

5

DID GOD MAKE THE CORONAVIRUS?

It's more accurate to think of it as God allowed the coronavirus. There are many places in the Bible where the forces of darkness tried to hurt mankind. But God ended up using the situation for good. The best example is how evil men killed God's only begotten son, Jesus. God used the situation to show us how we can all have eternal life, and the sufferings of this world will be forgotten.

God will use the virus for good. People will draw near to him because that's what they do when they are nervous or afraid. Families will get to spend time together. We'll all get to know even more things about each other—and about God!

Bible Verse: Roman's 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

6

CAN GOD STOP THE CORONAVIRUS?

He chooses not to at this time, but why would God make that choice?? One reason is that when people get scared, that's when they run to him. If they didn't get scared, they would forget about God.

It is a shame that people are stubborn and it takes a shock to make them turn away from wrong choices. But God uses bad events as a means to make good ends.

Bible Verse: Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

7

SO, WHY DOESN'T GOD FIX IT SO THAT ONLY BAD PEOPLE GET SICK AND DIE FROM THE VIRUS? WHY DOES HE ALLOW GOOD PEOPLE TO GET IT TOO?

It is true that God's own people don't escape natural disasters or plagues. But it's different for them. Another reason God allows for hardship and discomfort is that it makes his own children grow stronger.

Think of people in the army. They are required to go to boot camp. Boot camp is really tough. Without it, how well would soldiers be able to protect us? Not well at all. They would be weak. Think of us sort of in God's army, and when something bad happens, it's training us to gain more spiritual strength.

Bible Verse: Roman's 5:3-4 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.



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