



# TRINITY HIGHLIGHTS

## JUNE 2020

*The monthly newsletter of  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Greencastle, PA*

Dear Family,

How are you doing? The uncertainty and chaos that characterize life today can sometimes leave us feeling drained and powerless. What keeps you grounded in these tough times? What helps to bring perspective? How are you taking care of yourself in mind, body and spirit? These are important questions; the stress is overwhelming for many of us.

Life has changed dramatically. The learning curve is steep as we adapt and find new, creative ways to connect. Challenges abound and we're expending a lot of energy trying to navigate. Habits and practices that helped us stay centered in the past may need to be deepened or changed going forward. It's important to stop and take the time for this important inner work. When our physical, emotional and spiritual buckets are depleted, we respond without love and compassion to life and the people around us.

Life for Jesus' disciples isn't easy either. Jesus ascends to heaven and they're left holding the bag. Jesus promises, though, they aren't going forward alone. He makes this promise.

*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;  
and you shall be My witnesses." Acts 1:8*

That day the Holy Spirit comes is called Pentecost. Jesus is clear. You will receive POWER. What power is He talking about? Of course, the power is God's power – love.

Some people are concerned because churches are closed. Trinity is definitely NOT closed. In fact, together in the crucible of suffering, we are learning more about what it means to BE church. We are connecting with each other in new and different ways – making phone calls; sending cards; Zoom meetings for teams, Bible study, prayer and Sunday School; video-taped worship services. We are feeding the needy via our Food Pantry box. We held a car parade to support Dick Miller after Judy's funeral.

The building is temporarily closed to protect the safety of our family and neighbors. Yet, CHURCH isn't closed when our hearts are open to love. What would Jesus have you do to love your neighbor in this time of masks, social distancing and financial insecurity? The Holy Spirit's power makes us witnesses of Jesus to those around us. That's actually our mission: Sharing Christ in Word and Deed. Love is HOW we witness.

So, the renewal team is asking for suggestions on ways our congregation at Trinity can minister to our neighbors during this time of upheaval. COVID19 hasn't changed our mandate to be part of God's work in the world. May the Holy Spirit set you on fire with a passion for Sharing Christ, living in love.

God bless you!  
*Pastor Barb*





## PARK AND PRAY AT TRINITY

Our Trinity Council prayerfully considered various suggestions and recommendations to gathering in person as Franklin County moves to the yellow phase in responding to the Caronavirus. The Council discussed many factors including the higher risk of spreading the virus when larger groups gather in confined spaces for an extended period

of time, the need for disinfecting the space after each service, the number of individuals in our congregation in the "high risk" group, etc.

**The decision was made to avoid using the building space and to gather in the parking lot for worship beginning June 14 at 10:00 AM.** We will begin slowly to give ourselves time to evaluate the situation and make changes as needed. **Our priority is the health and safety of our faith family and neighbors.**

### How it will look:

- Parking Attendants will wear masks, hand out bulletins and direct you to your parking space.
- For now, PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR. Eventually, we plan to move to sitting outside in lawn chairs but not yet.
- All access to the church will be locked except for the side door which will give access to the bathroom.
- All stalls will be taped off except for 1 stall and 1 sink in the men's and women's bathroom. Only 1 person may use the bathroom at a time. The bathrooms will be disinfected before and after each worship by the health team.
- Anyone entering the building on Sunday for any reason will wear a mask.
- The worship team will lead worship from the Portico. The service will be broadcast on your car radio. You will be notified of the frequency via email. It will also be published in the bulletin.
- The first few Sundays will be a Service of the Word with no Communion. The Worship and Music team is exploring ways we can serve Communion safely.
- The worship will also be taped and available on You Tube, the website and Facebook.

## PRAY FOR TRINITY

Each Thursday at 6PM we meet to pray for the congregation of Trinity Lutheran, Greencastle. We pray for the family and ask God's guidance as we move forward in renewal. Please join us via Zoom or set your phone alarm to pray from where you are.



**FEED THE HUNGRY**

## FEED HUNGRY FAMILIES

God invites those who are richly blessed to share what we have with those who are struggling. Many people in our community are furloughed or have lost their jobs because of the COVID19

Pandemic. We are the church who feeds the hungry. Please consider dropping by to place something in the food pantry box by the front door when you go to the grocery store. It is what Jesus would have us do.

## SUMMER BREAK

The last day for Confirmation Class and Sunday School is May 31. Please keep our Confirmation and Sunday School students in your prayers as they enjoy a summer break. We have been holding weekly classes via Zoom and appreciate their participation. Hopefully, we will be able to hold regular classes in the fall.



zoom

## VIDEO CONFERENCING: A WAY TO CONNECT

Until we can gather safely, we will continue to find creative ways to connect and gather with one another. Ministry teams, Council, Bible Study, and Prayer Services have been happening through Zoom. We have added a password, waiting room and lock to all meetings to increase security. Thank God for technology that is helping us continue to gather even though it is through the computer.



A way to stay grounded and find meaning in these chaotic times is to stay close to God. Let's use this time to deepen our relationships with God and one another.

Thursdays at 7 we are meeting by Zoom for Bible Study. The topic is: *People in the Bible*. We can use the examples we find to live more fully into who God is calling us to be. Join by your computer or dial in by phone. Call Pastor Barb (717-357-3150) or email her at revbarb.barry@gmail.com for the meeting ID and Password.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Worship & Music 7PM Zoom	4 Prayer Team 6PM <i>Bible Study 7PM</i> (both via Zoom)	5	6
7 <b>Trinity Sunday</b>  Worship Online	8	9  Finance 7PM Zoom	10  Council 7PM Zoom	11  Prayer Team 6PM <i>Bible Study 7PM</i> (both via Zoom)	12	13
14 Park and Pray 10 AM or Worship Online	15	16	17	18  Prayer Team 6PM <i>Bible Study 7PM</i> (both via Zoom)	19	20
21 Park and Pray 10 AM or Worship Online	22	23	24  ET Planning 7PM Zoom	25  Prayer Team 6PM <i>Bible Study 7PM</i> (both via Zoom)	26	27
28 Park and Pray 10 AM or Worship Online	29	30				



God has blessed Trinity with an abundance. Many of our family give time, talent and supplies behind the scenes so our work as the people of God can happen. Each month we will take some time to say thank you. You are appreciated! If you know of someone who should be on this list, call the office.

- Charlie Ford: Continues to mow the church grounds
- Hannah Ruffner: Assists with worship each week as Assisting Minister and Cantor
- Brandon Sidoli: Continues to videotape and edit Worship Services
- Members of our family who continue taking connection seriously by making phone calls and sending cards.
- Team Members: Council, Finance, Renewal and Joint ET planning who are adapting to meeting through Zoom.
- Members of our family who have taken up the challenge to tithe their stimulus checks.
- Members of our family who are filling the food pantry box each week.
- Members of our family who supported Dick Miller driving in the car parade and/or making meals.

## **JUNE SPECIAL APPEAL**

The special appeal for June is Trinity's Camp Fund and Youth Education Fund. The Camp Fund helps each year to send our members to Lutheran summer camps. The Youth Education Fund allows many of Trinity's youth to take advantage of opportunities to work and worship with other youth within the Lower Susquehanna Synod and surrounding communities. The Youth Education and Camping Funds are strictly based on outside giving and are not budgeted into the annual general budget. Please consider giving to help support these worthy causes. If you desire to make a monetary donation, please mark your envelope for "Special Appeal" or use the white envelope in the pew rack and mark it "Special Appeal".

## **WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?**

The Renewal Team continues to invite our family to notice God active in our lives.



The more we notice God in our lives; the more we'll see God as the anchor on which we stand both personally and as a family of faith. **Send us your God moments and we will share them next week in the Parish News.**

**Here are some ways our congregation saw God this week:**

- Just walking a couple of miles in the neighborhood.
- In the care of friends and neighbors while I've been ill.
- My granddaughter found out there was no tooth fairy and wrote her mother a note which said, "I'm growing up not but the real question is— where are all my teeth?"
- Saturday at a golf tournament for cancer. God blessed us with beautiful weather and we raised money for a good cause. I think God was in charge.

The Renewal Team is exploring ways for Trinity to serve its neighbors over the summer. What can we do to stay safe and care for our neighbors? How is God calling us to be Church to our community in this difficult time? Please email or call the Church Office with your ideas. The Team will be meeting in June to make plans.

## **THANK YOU NOTES**

From Gladys Coble:

*I want to thank my Church Family for the many Beautiful Birthday Cards sent to me. It was a wonderful surprise with the times we now live in. I received other gifts from friends and family. Everyone of you helped make my birthday a joyful and happy one. My Love to All!*



From Shirley Green:

*I wish to thank you all for my cards and prayers and a special thanks for Pastor Barb for her many visits and Communion she gave me. In God We Pray.*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

### ***A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP EATON***

In 1527 the plague returned to Wittenberg, Germany. Two hundred years earlier the plague had swept across Europe killing up to 40% of the population. Understandably, people were anxious and wondered what a safe and faithful response might be. In answer to this, Martin Luther wrote "Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague." In it, he emphasized the duty to care for the neighbor, the responsibility of government to protect and provide services to its citizens, a caution about recklessness, and the importance of science, medicine and common sense.

To provide care for the neighbor, Luther recommended that pastors, those in public office, doctors and public servants should remain in the city. Luther himself remained in Wittenberg to care for his people. He recommended that public hospitals be built to accommodate those with the plague. He condemned those who took unnecessary risks that put themselves and others in danger of contagion. Luther also encouraged the use of reason and medicine, writing, "God has created medicines and has provided us with intelligence to guard and take care of the body. ... Use medicine; take potions which can help you; fumigate house, yard, and street; shun persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence" ("Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague," 1527).

We are living in the time of the coronavirus. We are also living in the time of social media and constant, relentless news coverage. Many of our people have the same concerns as those in Luther's day. Many of our people are anxious. Luther's counsel, based on Scripture, is still sound. Respect the disease. Do not take unnecessary risks. Provide for the spiritual and physical needs of the neighbor. Make use of medical aid. Care for one another, especially the most vulnerable.

The churchwide organization recommends the following: Wash your hands, stay home when you are sick, wear a mask, consult your medical provider if you have symptoms. Bishops and pastors will provide [guidelines](#) for worship and church gatherings.

Luther also reminded his people and us that we should trust God's faithfulness and promises, particularly the promise eternal life. Paul writes: "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8).

In peace,  
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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## STEWARD YOUR *NEW* COMMUNITY

Like a caterpillar emerging from a cocoon to new life as a butterfly, we can steward our congregations and communities to awaken from Covid-19 to a more excellent reality that brims with faith, hope and love. Covid-19's hardship, deprivation and grief have inspired an outpouring of kindness, generosity, selflessness, neighborliness and courageous service. Suffering has given us a glimpse of what our communities can and should be, following Christ's two principal commands: love God and love one another. Our stewardship opportunity and challenge is clear: Can we cultivate this renewed spirit of loving neighborliness as a "new normal"? As our community's central, defining ethos?

The last several months have taught us much:

**Life is precious.** Everyone counts. No exceptions.

**We suffer together.** Shared pain creates strong bonds.

**Serving brings fulfillment.** Many sacrifice joyfully.

**We need each other.** We can't go it alone.

**We miss each other.** We require human interaction.

**Personal contact is sublime.** Nothing beats face-to-face.

**We are grateful.** Thank God for what we have.

**We are wiser.** We know what's important.

Covid-19 is receding, though slowly. Much pain lies ahead. Before it's through, the virus will claim more of our friends and loved ones. Many families will suffer economically.

But the virus is also teaching us anew how to be loving neighbors. As Covid-19 abates, we can deepen these lessons and steward our communities to live more closely aligned with God's purposes, to discover life abundant with joy, connection, fulfillment and generosity. With God's help, our congregations and communities can emerge from our Covid-19 cocoon to a more excellent reality, centered in faith, hope and love.

--Rob Blezard

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