



TRINITY HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 2020

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

Dear Family,

We thought the whole Covid thing would be gone by now. Instead, here we are still concerned about masks, social distancing, and infection rates. We're worried about school, jobs, the health of the stock market and the normal ups and downs of living in the midst of it all. The information we hear on the news, Facebook and other social media platforms is confusing and contradictory. It's crazy making!

The Jews in exile in Babylon were in a tough time in their history. Defeated, the temple in ruins, a large number of Jews were deported to Babylon, captive after losing the war. In Isaiah, we hear God give words of comfort to the grieving people.

*Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I'm your God.
I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you.
(Isaiah 41:10 The Message translation)*

What's interesting is that the hard times continue. The Jews will remain in exile for a generation before returning to Israel. Yet, God promises strength and guidance and most importantly Presence. There's no need for panic or fear. God's got this!

Easy to say. Harder to live in the chaos. Fear breeds anger and we surely see that now. As followers of Jesus we have a choice about how we will respond to life as it is right now. We don't have to give in to fear and anger. There is another way.

Early Christianity was known as "The Way." The way of Jesus. The way of love. It is possible to meet anger and fear with love.

Living the way of love is impossible by our own unsteady will power. The way of love isn't living by a moral code or set of rules. Have you ever made New Years resolutions only to have them disintegrate by February? The way of love is a response to a relationship; a growing relationship with the One Who Loves Us First.

Spiritual practice is vital in these uncertain times when we're called upon daily to bend and find new ways to live and be in the world. Intentional daily spiritual practices of prayer, Bible reading, and meditation build up our spiritual muscles and give God a chance to get at us. Our hearts are transformed, and we have what we need to get through.

I invite you to explore a daily spiritual practice this coming month. Ask God's help in being willing to be willing. God loves you! God craves time with you. You may be surprised by the changes you see in yourself as a result.

God bless you in your journey!

Pastor Barb





september 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Prayer 6PM	4	5
6 Park and Pray 9AM	7	8 Finance Team Via Zoom 7PM	9 Council Via Zoom 7PM	10 Prayer 6PM	11	12 Outdoor Social 6PM
13 Park and Pray Youth Sunday 9AM	14	15	16	17 Prayer 6PM	18	19
20 Worship in the Sanctuary 10 AM	21	22	23	24 Prayer 6PM	25	26
27 Worship in the Sanctuary 10AM	28	29	30			



RETURN TO WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY **Sunday, Sept 20 (pending new information)** **Worship Will Begin at 10AM**

Guidelines for returning created by the Worship and Music Team and approved by Council are as follows:

♦ **If you have a temperature or are sick, please do not attend the worship service.**

- ♦ There will be no nursery.
- ♦ All materials have been removed from the pews.
- ♦ The worship space will be cleaned and sanitized weekly.
- ♦ The pews are marked by tape to ensure social distancing. Family groups may sit together.
- ♦ Ushers will be stationed in the entrance to the hallway near a table with bulletins and Communion kits. There will be masks available for those who forget theirs.
- ♦ Masks covering nose and mouth are required by all who enter the building.
- ♦ Hand sanitizers are available at the entrances to the sanctuary.
- ♦ Singing will be minimized.
- ♦ Unison speaking is to be at a reduced voice level.
- ♦ The offering plate will be placed at the entrance to the sanctuary. Collection plates will not be passed.
- ♦ Pre-packaged Communion kits with wafer and grape juice will be available at the hallway entrance. There will be trash cans at the exits as you leave.



Even as we look forward to gathering in the sanctuary on Sept 20, we will continue to provide worship online via the Website, You Tube and Face Book for

those who feel safer worshipping from home. Please like and share each worship service so we can have the widest exposure. This is one way Trinity Lutheran can "Share Christ in Word and Deed."



Sanctuary is ready for September 20

USHERS BOTH MEN AND WOMEN NEEDED!

Call Ralph Burdick (717-809-6299) to volunteer.

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God... (Psalm 84: 10)

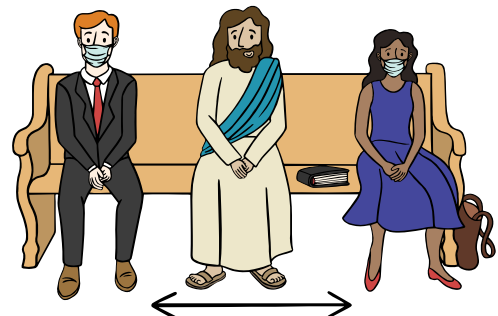


SPONSORS NEEDED

Sponsors are needed for the Altar Flowers on October 4, November 1 and 22. If you would like to sponsor the flowers on one of these Sundays, please contact

Sue Wunderlich.

LEAVE ROOM FOR JESUS



Please sit 6 ft. apart



Please join us for Youth Sunday at the Park and Pray Car Worship on Sunday, September 13 at 9 AM. Trinity Lutheran Youth listened to the Gospel, reflected on the theme, crafted prayers and chose music to help us meaningfully encounter Christ in our worship that day. Confirmation youth will be giving the sermon. Youth will provide leadership for the entire worship service except for Communion. Come and be inspired by their energy and creativity.

Pictures and bios of the Youth Advisors are now on the website. On the banner in the upper right hand corner of the first page of the website click on Ministries, then Youth Ministry and then ET Advisors. The weekly Zoom devotion is continuing on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM. Email Rachelle for the zoom-invite.



LET'S PARTY!

The renewal team meets regularly to discuss innovative and creative ways to help us connect with one another in these uncertain times. We are learning how to BE church rather than simply GO to church.

On Saturday, Sept 12, at 6PM, the team invites you to a S'more's Party outside in the parking lot. The team will provide the fire and fixings for s'mores. We will sit in safe groups, socially distanced, and get to see one another, have conversation and simply enjoy being the body of Christ.

This year we won't be able to do our traditional backpack blessing during worship. So, we're having a Backpack Blessing during the S'more's Party. Bring your school backpacks. Adults, bring your briefcases. We'll bless the backpacks and briefcases asking God's blessing on you and the work you're called to do in God's world.



Some of the school supplies donated by Trinity members



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.
- TruPrecision Lawn Care sent a team to trim and neaten the lawn.
- Ralph Burdick, Pam and Keith Arnold readied the sanctuary for in-person worship.
- Worship and Music Team working tirelessly to provide practical guidelines for safe in-sanctuary worship.
- Brandon Sidoli continues to provide sound for Park and Pray car worship as well as coordinating Facebook Live and downloading to YouTube.
- Dave Cline, Darrell Swart and Ivan Wingert who stepped in to do sound and Facebook Live the Sunday Brandon was unavailable.
- Zak Reynolds played the prelude for Park and Pray car worship.
- People of Trinity who continue to take seriously the spiritual discipline of tithing and connecting with one another. We are learning to BE the church.
- Ushers and Assisting Ministers who serve and help us encounter Christ in our Park and Pray car worship.
- Anonymous donation of Communion kits for worship.
- People of Trinity who donated food or school supplies for those in need.



Taking this opportunity to thank some of those who invested time, talent and energy, some since March, in producing the online services so many hundreds of people are viewing. Pictured you will see Brandon Sidoli who has invested literally hundreds of hours taping and editing and publishing the online services and has continued to be the main technician for Park and Pray. When we started having outdoor services June 28, Ivan Wingert sat alongside Brandon to learn the details of the equipment for having sound outdoors and Ivan did his first solo run on the sound equipment Aug. 16. I failed to get a picture of

Darrell Swart and Dave Cline setting up the camera for Facebook Live on Aug. 16. It drizzled during the service and Jess Swart kindly ran over with her umbrella and held it to shield the camera from the rain for the last half of the service. Scott Valentine has joined us as Assisting Minister in August and we are grateful to once again have him taking an active part. The other picture is of Hannah Ruffner, who also has invested many many hours recording the online services both as assisting minister and musically, and Zak Reynolds who you will be seeing more of musically. The picture was taken Aug. 23 when I had the privilege of accompanying them as they sang their beautiful worshipful duet "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked." I am looking forward to SEEING many of you when indoor services begin Sept. 20, Lord willing!



Scott, Ivan and Brandon



Zak and Hannah



midweek devotion. It will be posted on the bottom of the front page of the website after broadcasting on Facebook.

Take a minute to breathe and recharge. Join Pastor Barb on Thursday afternoon on Facebook for a

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL APPEAL

The Special Appeal for September is the Greencastle-Antrim Food Bank which is sponsored by the local Ministerium. Funds donated help to purchase food. Please mark your donation "Special Appeal".

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Trinity Lutheran Church
1186 Jason Drive, Greencastle, PA 17225

Rev. Barbara Barry, Pastor

Office Phone: 717-597-9348

Office Email: tlcsecoffice@gmail.com



The Spiritrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary voted to postpone their 2020 Membership Drive due to Covid-19. However, if you wish to make a contribution to the programs the auxiliary supports at Luther Ridge for 2020 please feel free to give your donation by sending it to Marjorie Dale, Auxiliary President, 235 Woodvale Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201 or Mary Jane Lindsey, Auxiliary Treasurer, 273 Cherry Lane Dr., Chambersburg, PA 17202.

GREENCASTLE-ANTRIM CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



The Greencastle-Antrim Christian Women's Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, September 22 from 9:30-11 AM in the pavilion at the Antrim Township Park. The speaker for the day is John Shelly. He has been a beekeeper for 50 years. We invite you to come and learn about God's amazing wonders of honey-bees - we can't live without them! Men are welcome!



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:

- Every night of my life I pray for St Jude's Hospital. Never before have I heard any details about St Jude's. Today I got a message that St Jude's sent 23 children home cancer free. I am so happy. That is a direct sign from God to me.
- I saw God in a flower plant that has been dead miraculously come to life and it is now blooming!
- My grandson got accepted at his first choice College.
- In the much needed rain we got!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class will begin on October 6.

- Students will assemble in the sanctuary.
- We will wear masks and socially distance.
- Please arrive at 8:45 so class can begin promptly at 9
- Class will end at 9:45 so everyone can prepare for worship at 10.
- Questions? Please call the Pastor.



STEWARDING THE COMMON GOOD

Jesus taught, *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* —**Matthew 22:38**

In Genesis 4, God asks Cain the whereabouts of Abel, his little brother whom Cain has just murdered in a jealous fit. Answering God's question, Cain snarkily retorts, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The correct answer for Cain is, "Yes, you are your brother's keeper." And the principle applies to us, too.

Woven through Scripture is God's clear priority that we love and care for one another. The imperative finds clearest expression in the life and words of Jesus, who repeatedly teaches us to love everyone – friend, family, neighbor – even enemy. *No exceptions.*

Love for neighbor is a stewardship issue because we are responsible to care for all that God has entrusted to us, including community, relationships, and the welfare of others. Stewarding the common good is an essential component.

As North Americans, we haven't done a very good job of stewarding the common good because our culture teaches us to "look out for number one," as opposed to looking out for everyone. Consider how much of our political division and brokenness in criminal justice, education, healthcare, economics and government results from our thinking "what's good for me," rather than "what's good for everybody."

Stewarding the common good often involves giving up some measure of what would be good just for us. We sacrifice out of love to provide what is good for our neighbor. Is anything more Christian?

This year, especially as politics and division has embroiled and divided our country, study how the theme of loving our neighbor and stewarding the common good is woven through Scripture. What does it mean for you and the church? Think. Pray. Act.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com