



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.trinitylc.org

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trinity TODAY

Because God first loved us, we live as Jesus in the world.

All mine are yours,
and yours are mine;
and I have been
glorified in them.

– John 17: 10



Trinity
we live as Jesus in the world,
loving God and
loving one another.
Online

We continue to be the church
in all circumstances.



LEAD PASTOR **THE REV. DR. CHRIS BELLEFEUILLE**

We continue to be the church

Friends in Christ,

As this newsletter arrives in your mailboxes we will have been under a stay-at-home order since March 28. Our beloved organist has died, losing his battle against COVID-19. Dave's death is a tremendous loss, more confounding by the distance that keeps us from grieving and remembering together.

Underlying that loss is a low hum of grief: We have not been together in our sanctuary since March 8. You are missing grandkids, neighbors, classmates and coworkers. Those of you who live alone have been especially isolated in the name of safety.

Our able state and federal leadership have made bold and life-saving decisions and have argued about whose right it is to make those decisions. And yet, we know Minnesota outcomes reflect the benefit of social distancing, staying home, shuttering church buildings and movie theaters. Saving lives is the least we can do to love our neighbor. And you have saved lives.

The road back will be a long one. Fred Anderson, retired Washington County Epidemiologist and Trinity member, assures us that this won't end quickly. It will be stutter steps back to anything resembling normalcy. (His article can be found on page 9.)

We won't go from closed doors to everyone back in the sanctuary. Which means that Dave's grand celebration of life is at some unnamable date in the future.

We aren't sure yet how we will navigate a slow return but have begun those conversations. Whatever the plan, it will continue to require of each of us grace, patience and generosity. We may be called on to shift our favorite worship times, where we sit in the sanctuary, who we sit near, how we receive offerings and share communion. Everything will change for a good while to come.*

And yet. You have done a holy and grace-filled job of being church throughout it all. You have made being your pastors and staff unbelievably

rewarding. You have "shown up" for worship and faith formation. You have supported Dave's family from a loving distance. You have been faithful financial stewards in an economically uncertain time for all of us. You have offered help and have sewn masks. You are making calls and sending cards. You have left "gifts" at the front entrance (see the front cover).

The church of Christ in every age has been called to new frontiers of leadership, witness and worship. In our unprecedented time, you have continued to bear witness to the irrepressible Gospel of the Risen Lord in the face of doubt, fear and uncertainty.

Trinity has a bright future. Jesus is calling us forward to continue to be the church. We will need every one of you as we make the journey together: your love, your engagement, your resources, your prayers, your pictures, your bright hope.

You, Trinity, continue to be a source of light and love. Thanks be to God.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In hope,

Pastor Chris

*Many of you have asked about the drive in. As this newsletter goes to print, St. Croix County in Wisconsin (where the drive-in is located) is following the state's original prohibition against all worship gatherings, including drive-in style. We will have an update from them by the end of April. However, to manage expectations, it is important to note that Wisconsin has extended their closing of most businesses until May 26. We will not open ahead of the end of a Minnesota Stay-at-Home order; nor will we open ahead of a Wisconsin Stay-at-Home order without express permission from St. Croix County. But when that is lifted and the county gives the go ahead, we hope to reopen the drive-in with a modified style to continue safe practices. Stay tuned!



RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In compliance with the best medical wisdom available, we have suspended all Trinity in-person activities, including worship, through the end of May. (An announcement about drive-in worship will be made by early May.) We encourage ongoing use of online gatherings for Faith Formation, Bible and Book Studies, Circles, Small Groups and more (see page 7). We will continue to offer livestream worship on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. and weekday Pause & Pray at noon on Facebook live (see pages 8-9).

With you, we eagerly await a return to in person gatherings in the future.

www.trinitylc.org > NEWS > COVID-19

Please also see page 15 for "How can you help?"

PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION
THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



Grace and Grief Brain

When working with families after the loss of a loved one, I have often commented about the normal feelings of being overwhelmed, circling, or floating through the multitude of decisions that lay before them. Things that used to be so easy to balance might feel impossible to accomplish or take significantly longer.

This is our brain on grief. Overloaded with thoughts of sadness, isolation, fear of the unknown, and the significance of those dearest to us. Grief Brain may affect our memory or our concentration or our mood. It's a reminder that we are emotional creations, as much or more than we are logical ones.

I've thought about and felt Grief Brain a lot in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, with so many of the people in my life processing the emotional weight of missing significant parts of their lives: loved ones, friends, jobs, milestone celebrations (retirement parties, baptisms, meeting new babies, weddings, graduations, Affirmation of Baptism). All of this wears us down, emotionally, spiritually and physically. And all of it is normal.

But here is the biggest reminder for me: the only way through grief and trauma is grace.

God's grace poured into us through the Risen Christ. Our God-gifted grace for each other. Our God-gifted grace for ourselves.

There is no way around or over-function over.

The only thing that helps when we are floating with Grief Brain is to breathe and remember that we are held by God's love.

May you continue to be held in and through and with God's abundant love,

Pastor Peter

One of my clergy colleagues recently shared this blessing (at right) from Jan Richardson that speaks to this grace when it feels like our world(s) are ending.



Blessing When the World is Ending

by Jan Richardson

Look, the world
is always ending
somewhere.

Somewhere
the sun has come
crashing down.

Somewhere
it has gone
completely dark.

Somewhere
it has ended
with the gun,
the knife,
the fist.

Somewhere
it has ended
with the slammed door,
the shattered hope.

Somewhere
it has ended
with the utter quiet
that follows the news
from the phone,
the television,
the hospital room.

Somewhere
it has ended
with a tenderness
that will break
your heart.

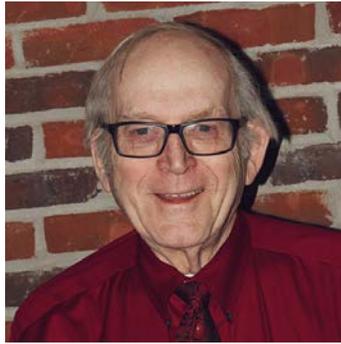
But, listen,
this blessing means

to be anything
but morose.
It has not come
to cause despair.

It is simply here
because there is nothing
a blessing
is better suited for
than an ending,
nothing that cries out more
for a blessing
than when a world
is falling apart.

This blessing
will not fix you,
will not mend you,
will not give you
false comfort;
it will not talk to you
about one door opening
when another one closes.

It will simply
sit itself beside you
among the shards
and gently turn your face
toward the direction
from which the light
will come,
gathering itself
about you
as the world begins
again.



Dear Dave,
 God only knows, I wish I could have told you this in person. I know we say this all the time about family and friends, but here I am with that dilemma.

Dave—you have been more than a colleague to me, you have been a dear friend, a soul mate, a mentor, a bass, and a confidant.

Your worship leadership is stellar; when I would say “what?” you’d say, “they want to hear this.” You were always right.

Whatever I brought out for the choir, you would master; we would laugh on Wednesday evening and give high-fives on Sunday morning. No one would understand that except the two of us.

When I needed to “vent” you were always there. Every job has that moment, doesn’t it?

I feel sorry for those who don’t have that person.

You were my bass section leader—you would faithfully sit through every choir rehearsal, singing absolutely every note correct, hoping those in front and around you would catch on. Then step up and add whatever glorious accompaniment was needed on the piano or organ.

When I had hair-brained ideas you would always say, “well, okay, I’ll give it a try.” You always, always let me be me—I sincerely hope I did the same for you.

There are so many memories—all good. We will talk about you forever. We will talk about when Dave was the organist as the very best of times. You are so loved by so many people. I am just one of them, but I feel myself truly blessed to have been a part of your life.

Rest in peace—I love you.

CC

by Carol Carver, Worship & Trinity Choir Director



Financial Note

Financially, total results for FYTD March 2020 place us ahead of last year at this time, showing a total surplus of \$48K, v. a \$34K surplus in 2019. Contribution Income of \$103K for the month of March 2020 is \$23K less than March 2019 (very strong March last year, including a couple of non-pledged gifts). FYTD our Contribution Income is \$12K higher than a year ago. Total Income is \$39K ahead of FYTD March 2019. Operating Expenses are up \$24K YTD v. last year at this time, a reflection of increased activity in Missions and Care ministries. Personnel Expense is only \$2K higher YTD than last year (2% Staff pay increase effective February 1). Our Line of Credit Balance still stands at \$0 as of April 20th!

Trinity Financial Update

March Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2020

	This Year	Last Year	'20 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	788,109	776,057	1,350,000	58%
Other Income	208,774	289,120	342,550	61%
Total Income	\$ 996,883	\$ 1,065,177	\$ 1,692,550	
less: Expenses	949,079	1,031,271	1,691,330	56%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 47,804	\$ 33,906	\$ 1,220	

Long-Term Debt Summary:

Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,410,152	3,598,306
Increase (Decrease)	(49,231)	(48,540)
Long-Term Debt - End of March	\$ 3,360,920	\$ 3,549,766
Line of Credit Balance - March 31	\$ -	\$ -

Easter: A Season for Gratitude

By Claudia Swendseid, Stewardship Team

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! I proclaimed these words, along with many of you, as I participated in Trinity's online Easter Sunday worship service. I proclaimed these words, despite the anxiety produced by living in a Covid-19 world. I proclaimed these words feeling deeply grateful for the gift of our Risen Lord.

For Christians there are certain events that are sources of continuing thankfulness, and Easter Sunday is pre-eminent among them. For Easter reassures us that while suffering is unavoidable—current case in point: illness, death, and economic devastation wrought by Covid-19—death is not final. The story doesn't end. In Jesus, God takes on our lot and our life; experiences all that we experience, including even death; and accompanies us through death into new life. Christ is risen and we are changed forever.

So, for me, the most fitting response to Easter, to my Risen Lord, is gratitude. Even in this age of the coronavirus when everything seems different, and grieving is on a roll.

Of course, I'm not at all grateful for the hurt, grief, and losses people are suffering. No, none of that. All the more reason to walk with Jesus who moves us from Good Friday to resurrection Sunday. For the leavening effect of practicing gratitude in the midst of hardship. Yes, all of that. So, over the 50 days of Easter, join me in the practice of gratitude. Here are some places to start:

God's presence and love. Paul reminds us powerfully in Romans 8 that nothing can separate us from God's love: For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation [read, Covid-19], will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

More time for prayer. The stay-at-home order has eliminated many activities that used to fill my days. So now I pray. Prayer which used to be displaced by busyness, is now woven throughout my day, connecting me to others, to God, to healing.

More time to check-in. It's a great time to check-in on each other. Especially those who fall into a high-risk group—like our Trinity elders via "caring friends." I have so appreciated friends who check in on me regularly, as I have appreciated time to check in with my loved ones, especially my mom, father-in-law, godmother, and aunt and uncle—all in their 90s.

Essential workers. It's taken a crisis like a Covid-19 world for us to acknowledge as essential and important workers that we have otherwise taken for granted and paid below their worth. To name just a few—grocery store workers (like my nephew Matt who stocks shelves at night), long-haul truck drivers, UPS and FedEx drivers, post office workers, agricultural and food industry workers, all of those enabling the hugely expanded online ordering and delivering services, financial services workers (like my nephew Josh who processes physical currency), technology support and customer service staff, and so many more. I am deeply grateful to those who continue to leave their homes to provide services that enable me to stay home and safe. Thank you.

Healthcare workers and first responders. What profound gratitude we owe to our first responders and those in healthcare who are working tirelessly and at great personal risk to respond to emergencies and to care for those who are ill—with corona virus and more. For your compassion, expertise and commitment in living your vocation to care for others, thank you.

The natural world. I try to take a walk every day in my neighborhood. Where it's easy to stay six feet or more apart from others walking, running or biking. I thrill at common sights: squirrels chase each other, a woodpecker hammers against a tree, cardinals sing, the sky a clear blue. While the human world turns upside down, the rest of God's creation welcomes spring.

Technology that connects. I have been known to bemoan the dominance of technology but not in these times. The smart phone, Internet, Skype, Facebook, meeting platforms like Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Zoom and others enables connectedness to friends and family, news, entertainment, books, meetings, volunteering, church.

GIFTS
MANAGEMENT

Congregational Council



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To reach all members of council, send email to council@trinitylc.org. More information including minutes and reports at www.trinitylc.org > WELCOME > WHO WE ARE > COUNCIL.

At this coronavirus Easter our understanding of how God works in the world is challenged. My heart breaks for my neighbor who has lost a loved one, who has lost their job, who is steeped in despair. But gratitude in its most remarkable manifestation is separate from circumstances. So, live into the resurrection, into gratitude. Alleluia. Christ is risen.



Group Spiritual Direction



Have you been hearing about spiritual direction and wonder what it is? Are you longing for a deeper connection with God and others in a safe space? Are you lonely? Worried? Feeling a need to be supported?

If so, group spiritual direction may be for you. Groups are forming in May, starting in June and meeting throughout the summer. We meet online through Zoom for an hour, every other week, for ten weeks.

Participants must have access to a computer, a commitment to attendance and confidentiality, and a willingness to share, be vulnerable and deeply listen to one another. Contact Zanny Johnson at zjohnson@trinitylc.org.

Prayer & Care Request Form



PRAYER & CARE REQUEST FORM

Because the church office is closed, please use the form on our web site to let us know your prayer requests, we appreciate hearing from our community when there is illness and hospitalization. Also, if you're in need of some help or if you are available to provide some help during this time, please let us know.

www.trinitylc.org > CONNECTIONS > PRAYER REQUEST



Saturday, May 9 10:30 am Gathering on Zoom

*Mark your calendars for the 5th annual
Trinity Women's Talk & Tea! All ages!*

Please join us on Saturday, May 9 at 10:30 a.m. for our annual Talk and Tea, this year gathering virtually on Zoom!

An Attitude of Gratitude: A Lesson Learned from 1 of 10 Presented by Trinity member and Pastor Kris Linner

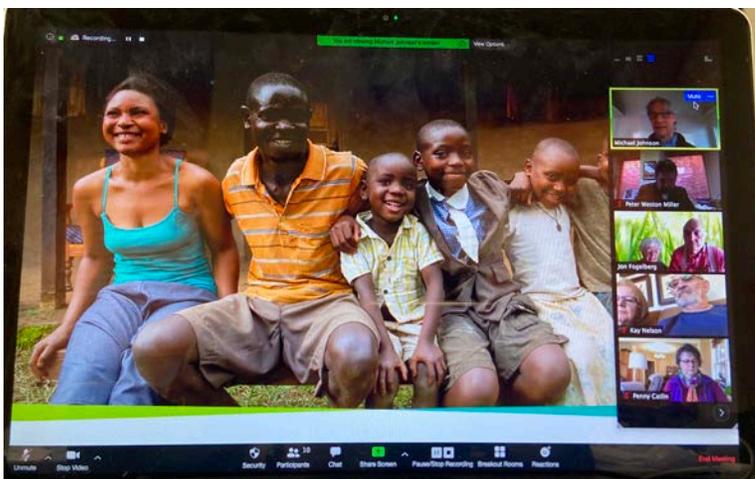
Join us for a first person narrative on a grateful leper, based on the biblical story of Jesus healing the ten lepers, followed by an engaging conversation on gratitude.

Kris is a mother, daughter, sister, aunt, friend, chaplain who loves to read, weave, write, walk and capture nature through photography. She values faith, cherishes relationships, enjoys nature, and practices gratitude.

Please RSVP to Zanny Johnson at zjohnson@trinitylc.org. You will be sent an email with the Zoom link and password to participate in Trinity's 5th Annual Talk & Tea.

*An Attitude of Gratitude:
A Lesson Learned from 1 of 10*
Presented by Pastor Kris Linner





Small groups and working groups at Trinity move online as our shared ministry continues! Meeting through Zoom:

Left from top – Solo 55 Plus, Couples Group, Adult Faith Forum

Right from top – Tired Men’s Troupe, Quilting Ministry Group, Congregational Council and Trinity staff meeting

Check with your small group leader or send an email to info@trinitylc.org to get connected.



We continue to be the church in all circumstances and our shared ministry continues!

We invite you to online worship and Faith Formation for children, families and adults. Our Trinity Online page also provides some music and care resources during this difficult time.

www.trinitylc.org > WELCOME > WHO WE ARE > TRINITY ONLINE

Worship Texts

Below are the scripture texts from the Revised Common Lectionary that will be used on the date listed to prepare the message for worship.

- May 3 **John 10: 1-10**
- May 10 **John 14: 1-14**
- May 17 **John 14: 15-21**
- May 24 **John 17: 1-11**
- May 31 **John 20: 19-23** or **John 7: 37-39**



PAUSE & PRAY EACH WEEKDAY AT NOON
Join us on Facebook Live each weekday at noon to pause and pray together as a faith community. We are the church in all circumstances. Our shared ministry continues.

www.facebook.com/trinitylcstillwater/



Holy Week and Easter morning at-home worship in the Hong home (top photo) and the Gossai home.

WORSHIP & AT-HOME HELPS

Join us as we worship together. We continue to be the church in all circumstances. Our shared ministry continues!

Sunday Worship

Please allow for a small time delay in livestream worship.

▶ Facebook Livestream at 9 a.m.

www.facebook.com/trinitylcstillwater/

▶ Trinity Online on our web site at 9 a.m.

www.trinitylc.org > WELCOME > WHO WE ARE > TRINITY ONLINE

▶ Watch on TV at 11 a.m. on local channel 18

Worship Helps

Download a bulletin (and announcements) for Sunday worship to view or print at home.

www.trinitylc.org > WORSHIP & MUSIC > WORSHIP > BULLETIN & HELPS

Watch on TV

Worship (a rebroadcast of our livestreamed 9 a.m. Sunday service) is broadcast on channel 18 through Valley Access Channels. Please note times have recently changed.

Sunday at 11 am

Wednesday at Noon & 6 pm

Thursday at Midnight & 6 am

Friday at 2 pm & 8 pm

Saturday at 2 am & 8 am

Coronavirus and Thoughts on Reopening Trinity

by Fred Anderson, MPH
Epidemiologist & Trinity Member

How does one begin strategizing on how to safely reopen Trinity and achieve a semblance of normalcy in absence of certainty? As a retired infectious disease epidemiologist, I am struck with numerous thoughts on this challenging and complex topic.

How do we strike the right balance between honoring public health best practices and wanting to be together as community again? As Governor Walz and his team develop strategies for the gradual reopening of Minnesota; we at Trinity are also wrestling with the same dilemma.

Far more individuals are infected with the virus than reported.

At present, there are approximately 2,600 reported COVID-19 cases in Minnesota out of an estimated 5.64 million Minnesotans. Far more individuals are infected with the virus than reported. Estimates suggest there are at least 25 asymptomatic and mild cases to every 100 reported cases. Symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals equally transmit virus.

Symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals equally transmit virus.

My training and experience tell me to develop strategies based on the knowns and take into consideration the known unknowns, AND then be prepared to quickly modify our plans.

We need to be prepared for a “new normal” when attending worship. We need to graciously accept changes to

our once normal practices and have patience when a preventative measure is modified yet again. As an example, coming to worship and practicing social distancing while wearing masks.

Family members will be able to sit together and then others spaced out in a prescribed manner. Our method of intinction and being handed a piece of bread will be modified. One option could be using individualized wrapped communion packets. Other routine things such as distributing bulletins, following along in the Bibles during the Gospel, using hymnals, and passing of the offering plate will need to be changed. Fortunately, we have the large screen for the order of service and music. Backs of pews will need to be wiped down between services.

We are fortunate to have an established drive-in church ritual that many of us participate in and enjoy. Staying in our cars or sitting right outside our vehicles on a beautiful sunny day is a safe and easy way to practice social distancing. We may need to give up scones and treats initially.

Strategies to reopen a business or house of worship requires thoughtful planning.

Strategies to reopen a business or house of worship requires thoughtful planning. They need to be practical, quantifiable, and dynamic. A myriad of contingencies and preventative measures must be carefully considered and implemented. Please be patient as the staff and council plan for our safe return to Trinity spaces.



Reading in All Circumstances

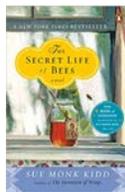
By Norma Wilson, Library Volunteer

We often read the caring expression, "Trinity continues to be the church in all circumstances." I thought of that statement as I was searching our Ministry Team pamphlet. I was led to various teams who help others in many circumstances. I wrote to some members and asked, "What are you reading?" Although we do not have access to our church library at this time, you will find many of the following titles in the Trinity Library when it is open for checkout.

Congregational Care

Trinity Connections Coordinator Zanny Johnson is an avid reader. She comments: "There are hundreds of books in the Johnson home... MANY bookshelves live here...but my own little library is a smaller bookshelf, that I call my elbow library. This bookshelf is located next to my patchwork wing-back chair. It is where I do my spiritual practice every morning, consisting of coffee, lighting a candle, journaling and reading from my elbow library."

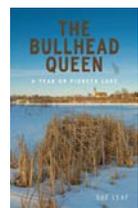
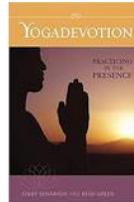
"Today I read something from Sue Monk Kidd's *When the Heart Waits, Spiritual Direction for Life's Sacred Questions*. This particular book is an older one, written in 1990, but Sue Monk Kidd is hugely popular right now. She has just released a novel called *The Book of Longings*, a fictionalized story of Jesus' life (if anyone has this book, I want to borrow it!). Sue Monk Kidd is probably best known for her book *The Secret Life of Bees*. (FIC KIDD) She is a soulful, wise, insightful author whose personal theology closely matches my own, one of freedom and joy in a life with Christ.



Other authors in my elbow library are Anne Lamott, Henri Nouwen, Richard Rohr, Parker Palmer, Joyce Rupp, Jan

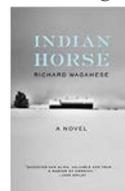
Richardson, Christine Valters Paintner, Thomas Merton, Chris Heuertz and Phileena Heuertz, to name a few. There is also a little red paperback book I return to often called *Riding the Dragon—10 lessons for inner strength in challenging times* by Robert J. Wick. This is a timely read—another one I highly recommend in our Covid-19 climate."

Sue Peterson is Trinity's contact person for YogaDevotion classes. Participants learn to experience God's presence as they practice yoga. Sue recommends *YogaDevotion: Practicing in the Presence*, written by Pastor Cindy Senarighi/Heidi Green. The book contains "weekly devotions to deepen your practice experience and create additional space for God to be present in your life."

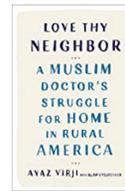


Green Team leader Sheila Maybanks recommends *The Bullhead Queen: A Year On Pioneer Lake* (508.7 LEAF) by Sue Leaf. Using scientific and spiritual views of nature, Leaf has written a collection of meditations on places she sees every day on Pioneer Lake in east-central Minnesota. Leaf contemplates how her relationship to nature has been colored by the Christian theology of her childhood. (upress.umn.edu)

Tuesday Morning Book Club reader Jerilyn Jackson frequently reviews books for the *Trinity Today*. Jerilyn has been reading several books including *Indian Horse* by Richard Wagamese, and says "an excellent novel about a Native American man who looks back on his tragic childhood in a Catholic residential home and his salvation by the game of hockey." She also read *Where'd You Go Bernadette* by Maria Semple, and says "a highly intelligent and eccentric woman has challenges in fitting into a conventional life as wife and mother. It was even more enjoyable by having seen the movie first. *The Secrets of Midwives* by Sally Hepworth, is a lighter read about a fictional family of women from three generations who practice as midwives. I am currently reading *My Life as a Rat* by Joyce Carol Oates."

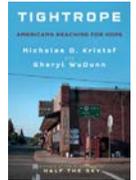


Joan Newman, Missions and Women's Bible Study states: "I thoroughly enjoyed reading *Love Thy Neighbor: A Muslim Doctor's Struggle for Home in*



Rural America (297 VIRJ) by Ayaz Virji. Pastor Peter knows the Lutheran intern, who was instrumental in getting his story out to the public."

Norma Wilson, Trinity Library Volunteer uses *Daily Texts from Mount Carmel Ministries* each day for Bible reading, meditation and prayer. "After traveling to Israel in November, I am drawn to read Bruce Feiler's *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*. (222.1 FEIL) However, I am also reading a group discussion book Pastor Chris recommended, *Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope*. (306 KRIS) Of course, there is my bookclub novel, *The Giver of Stars* (FIC MOYE) by Jojo Moyes."

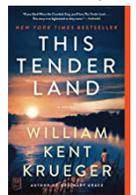


Worship & Music

Director of Worship & Music, Carol Carver is busy creating worship! She also is a reader who is currently "stuck in an era." Carol is reading *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson and says it's "a saga of Churchill, family and defiance during the blitz." Another recommendation is *The Things We Cannot Say* by Kelly Rimmer, a story that takes place in 1942 and present day.



Sara Wagner, Worship Arts Team Member and President of the Bayport Public Library Board is certainly drawn to books and reading. Sara says: "I am finally getting to *This Tender Land* (FIC KRUE) by William Kent Krueger. I read *Ordinary Grace* (FIC KRUE) several years ago, and couldn't wait for this book to come out. It is a novel about four orphans on a life-changing odyssey during the early years of the Great Depression. It is well researched by Krueger (MN author) and while parts are very difficult to read (oppressive Native American boarding schools), I am just now getting to their escape from that place."



The Library Volunteers are eager to welcome you when the circumstances allow us to gather once again. Find a good book! Your Bible will help you find sources of love, hope, trust, comfort, and praise through the lives and writings found in reading God's Word.



Outreach Mission Updates from our African Partners

"While optimism makes us live as if someday soon things will get better for us, hope frees us from the need to predict the future and allows us to live in the present with deep trust that God will never leave us alone."
– Henri Nouwen

Tanzania – Iringa Diocese including Mwatasi congregation

Tanzania, like most countries, is closed to outside travel and most U.S. citizens have been evacuated. As of April 16, there were 94 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 4 deaths announced by the Tanzanian Government. Deacon April Trout, current BKB Program Coordinator serving on the Saint Paul Synod's behalf in Iringa, made the decision in mid-March to remain in TZ instead of returning to the U.S. She sent us some news of the area.

Schools are closed and gatherings banned of 50 people or more. [Note: with schools closed, a gap in education and return to school for girls can become an extreme challenge in some families and cultures. Pray that this does not degrade the progress that has been made in Tanzania.] Religious gatherings were still allowed. April was told that the Tanzanian President believes people should be going to church in order to pray for a quick resolution. Handshakes have been replaced by an elbow or foot tap, wave of the hand, or a bow. April said they are not practicing strict social distancing but people are usually conscious of not getting too close to each other. She also said there are hand washing stations outside of stores, businesses, and churches and in some cases a security guard to ensure compliance.

The Diocese staff in Iringa and our congregation of Mwatasi is praying for us and asks for us to pray for them.

Mark and Linda Jacobson – ELCA Medical Missionaries

Mark and Linda were working at ALMC in Arusha, Tanzania when they returned in mid-March to MN because of the pandemic. Mark says, "More needs to be done! We realize that if the virus behaves like it has in the rest of the world, it will infect over half of the population and cause hundreds of thousands of deaths. And yet, for many in the Tanzanian culture, there is often a sense of resignation. Perhaps it is a sense of resignation born from familiarity with disaster from genocide to famine to HIV to daily carnage on the roads. As I contemplate the impact of COVID in Africa, I wonder if Africans might better survive this newest catastrophe better than we in the west. Their familiarity with not being in control has deepened their faith and reliance on God while we in the west are being devastated, not only by a virus, but the realization that we are not in control of our own destinies."

Mark is also a health advisor to Alight (formerly called American Refugee Committee) in Sudan and Somalia, and is continuing to work with our Lutheran team in Juba, which is the capital city of South Sudan. Mark and Linda report, "All three of these countries are not only ill prepared for a pandemic like COVID19, but they are also very new and fragile governments which have limited responses to the epidemic at their command. Alight country teams provide some health care for 1.5 million people in Sudan and half a million in Somalia. Our Lutheran Clinic in Juba, while small, is the nearest health facility for a couple hundred thousand people. We as Christians, are called to be both voices of hope and servants in doing whatever we can possibly do to mitigate this coming tsunami and to work for resilience in recovery." Please pray for all the people of these countries and for the health care workers who are caring for them. Keep the Jacobsons in your prayers.

May 2020 • trinity.today.

Unexpected Gift

by Penny Catlin

When Jesus was questioned, "What is the greatest commandment?" He replied, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all you mind, and with all your strength. The second is You shall love your neighbor as yourself. During our Adult Forum we have been trying to learn more about our neighbors, who they are and how we could be better neighbors. At times it's a challenge to not make judgement or assumptions when we view others only through our eyes. We want to do the "right thing" but it's not always easy to know.

While volunteering for The Warming Space at Trinity in February I learned a few things and benefited much from the experience. As a community we had an opportunity to meet members of our church, other churches and the local community. Connections were made with people different than us and yet we experienced how we are all members of one body. How do we best care for that body? With love and respect. The experience was a wonderful and unexpected gift received while loving our neighbor. Interesting. . .who benefited more?

Warmth, Shelter and the Unexpected

I thought my neighbor needed a place to sleep

They needed to be seen

I thought they need a place to warm

They needed a meal

I thought my neighbor needed a meal

They needed a friend

I thought my neighbor needed advice

They needed someone to listen

I thought my neighbor would see Jesus in my work

I met Jesus in my neighbor



ADULT FAITH FORUM
Sundays at 10:30 am
Gathering on Zoom



One & Done Book Group

Tuesday, May 19 at 6 pm

Book: *Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryn WuDunn

Looking for a low-commitment, yet thought-provoking book club? Check out the One & Done Book Club. We meet only once per book and then decide what's next. Everyone is welcome! If interested, contact Pastor Chris at cbellefeuille@trinitylc.org. You will receive an email with online gathering directions.

Adult Faith Formation continues as we gather on Zoom.

Join meeting here: <https://zoom.us/j/322442337>

Help getting started on Zoom: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac>

In honor of Earth Day and in partnership with Trinity's Green Team, Adult Faith Forum is please to present the following topics in May.

May 3 Katie Sickmann, Invasive Species Coordinator for St. Croix River Association, will talk about our beloved St Croix—how is it doing, how we can better care for it.

May 10 Trinity's own Angie Hong, Washington County Conservation District, will present on our surface waters—lakes and streams and how to care for them.

May 17 Peter Kilde, Executive Director of community action agency WEST CAP will talk to us on the topic of Poverty and Climate Change.



I was wondering . . . **Questions about God, Faith and the Bible**

Have you ever had a question about God? Do you feel challenged in your faith or have doubts? And what are we supposed to do with the Bible? You are not alone!

It's not always easy to ask a question. It feels too risky at times. We are afraid that we are the only one, that we look stupid or that our doubt will make us look bad. The truth is that being certain doesn't help us grow in faith. Questions or doubt can be the means by which our faith evolves, brings it to life. Being a community of wondering allows us to carry each other in our faith and relationship with God.

Remember Doubting Thomas? He had questions. His friends were with him as he struggled to believe that Jesus was alive. And Jesus returned to Thomas so he could get answers. So, what do you wonder about! Ask your kids, parents and friends. Let us know!

Here are a few questions to get you thinking about what questions you may have:

What is the Bible and why does it sometimes contradict itself?

Why do bad things and suffering happen, especially to good people?

What does it mean to be saved?

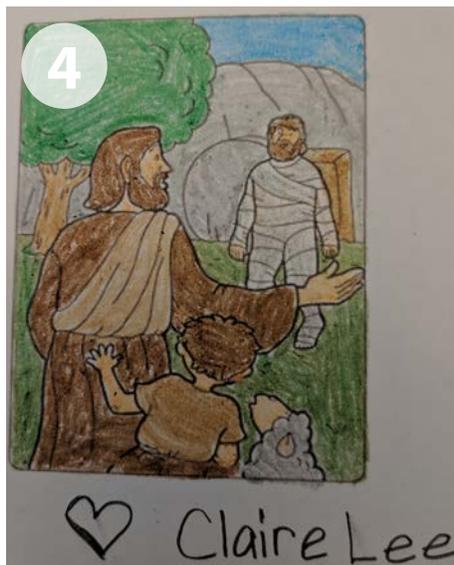
Is there a hell and how can a loving God send people there?

Is Jesus really the only way to God?

As we start to plan for next season's Adult Forum we would love to hear what questions you have or would like to discuss. Please check out the Trinity learning Adult Ed page to share your questions confidentially.

<https://trinitylc.org/learning/adult/adult-ed/>

Or contact Pastor Peter at pwestonmiller@trinitylc.org or Penny Catlin at pccatlin@juno.com or 651-485-8319.



PHOTOS

- 1 – Weston and Emma Ennen waving their homemade palms on Palm Sunday.
- 2 – The window decorations at Pastor Chris' house on Palm Sunday.
- 3 – The good 'ole days when we could be close and in person! This is Squiggles, Michelle Skjervold, Patrick Kooiker and Kasey Lyng leading a Sunday Faith Formation lesson.
- 4 – Claire Lee (2nd grade) drawing of the Bible Story of Lazarus.
- 5 – Grayson, Eva and Gavin Gropel showing gratitude for all the medical personnel... "their super heroes!"
- 6 – Wesley Dannhoff (1st grade) drawing of the Bible Story of Lazarus.



High School Puerto Rico 2020 Mission Trip Rescheduled to Summer 2021
 Due to COVID-19 safe social distancing guidelines as well as uncertainty surrounding airplane travel, Trinity's High School Mission Trip to Puerto Rico has been moved from June 27-July 4, 2020 to **June 19-26, 2021**.

The entire group of 57 kids and adults are very thankful to all who have supported and sponsored this important mission trip. All sponsorship and fundraising money will be held in a secure account and trip preparations will begin again in October.

www.trinitylc.org > LEARNING > YOUTH > HIGH SCHOOL

Easter Garden Memorials & Honors

EASTER FLOWER GARDEN

IN MEMORY OF:

Jack & Peggy Houston – Wonderful Parents & Grandparents _____ Lori & Patti Houston & Families
 Mary Ellen Cain _____ Ed; Robin, Phil & Grandkids
 Susan Mikkelson _____ Rich Mikkelson; Mark Mikkelson; Mary Curoe
 Darlene, Frankie, Evelyn, Nan Peterson; Frances & Walter Schell _____ Roger Peterson Family
 Family Members _____ Charyl Junker
 Carolyn-Wife, Mother & Grandmother _____ Dave Goulette & Family
 Leonard & Carol Malwitz; Rebecca Hansen; Wade Malwitz; Bob Doty _____ Ann & Clint Malwitz
 Our Parents _____ Bob & Dawn Boyd

GIVEN BY:

IN HONOR OF:

Children & Grandchildren _____ Roger Peterson Family
 Grandchildren _____ Bob & Dawn Boyd

GIVEN BY:

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS

IN MEMORY OF:

Neal McClellan _____ Gary & Lynn Schurrer
 Henry Brochman _____ June & Family
 Parents _____ Norma Johnson
 Oscar Peterson _____ David Peterson
 Parents _____ Fred & Dee Hertenstein
 Family Members _____ Charyl Junker
 Carolyn – Wife, Mother & Grandmother _____ Dave Goulette & Family
 Leonard & Carol Malwitz; Rebecca Hansen; Wade Malwitz; Bob Doty _____ Ann & Clint Malwitz
 Our Parents _____ Bob & Dawn Boyd

GIVEN BY:

IN HONOR OF:

Family _____ Gerrie Granquist
 Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren _____ Fred & Dee Hertenstein
 Grandchildren _____ Bob & Dawn Boyd

GIVEN BY:

Thank you to those who submitted their Easter Garden Memorials & Honors prior to worship being suspended at church, and gave their plants to beautify our online Easter worship!



If you haven't already, please take a moment to choose which of our email lists you would like to receive.

Sign up at www.trinitylc.org > NEWS

Weekly E-Newsletter: Sign up for our newsletter that is sent by email each Friday. Includes what is happening at Trinity on Sunday, that week and coming up. Other important information is included to keep you up to date on life in this congregation and the larger church.

Trinity Today Monthly Newsletter: Receive an email that links to a downloadable PDF of the Trinity Today newsletter which includes all the worship, service and connection opportunities for the coming month; as well as articles from the pastors and ministry teams to tell the story of our faith community. Also included are connections to our ELCA larger church and community.

Congregational Notices, Announcements & Events: Email notices are sent as needed and may include all-congregation events, church office/building closings, worship notices, staff changes and anything else we think you might want to know as part of our faith community.

Sympathy Notices for Members: With permission of the family, we will notify you by email when a member of Trinity has died. Usually includes a link to the obituary and memorial service details.

How can you help?

Many of you have asked what you can do to help during this pandemic. At this point we are collecting names of willing helpers to connect you with those requesting help. Our requests have been limited at this point but we expect them to increase. If you want to help with errands, outdoor work, etc., please contact Faith Community Nurse Kim Dahlgren at kdahlgren@trinitylc.org.

Some of you have asked about offering financial assistance to Trinity families in need. We certainly encourage supporting the fine, and ongoing, work of Valley Outreach. That is our usual practice. But these are unusual times. So if you find yourselves able to help financially, beyond your usual stewardship or support of Valley Outreach, please contact Pastor Chris at cbellefeuille@trinitylc.org.

Other things you can do to support our neighbors? Not everyone can do these things but if you have not been adversely impacted economically, here are a few ideas:

- Give money to Valley Outreach
- Pay your home cleaning people, hair stylists, manicurist or trainers for missed appointments, fully or even partially.
- Get take-out meals from locally owned restaurants, even once per week.
- If you are planning to make a purchase, check out our local retailers. Many have upgraded their online presence and would be happy to help you.
- Buy gift cards from local businesses, to use now or after they reopen.

Above all, observe the stay-at-home order!

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To family and friends of **Dave Goulette**

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Livestream on Facebook at 9 a.m.

Trinity Online at www.trinitylc.org at 9 a.m.

Watch on local TV at 11 a.m. on channel 18

Watch Worship on Valley Access Channel 18

Sundays at 11 a.m.

Wednesdays at Noon & 6 p.m.

Thursdays at Midnight & 6 a.m.

Fridays at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Saturdays at 2 a.m. & 8 a.m.

JOB OPENING

Trinity Lutheran Church
Stillwater, MN

Job Opening!

Trinity is seeking a Children and Family Ministry (Birth-Grade 5) Coordinator to help us live out our mission: "Because God first loved us, we live as Jesus in the world, loving God and loving neighbor." This position would accompany our families to cultivate faith at church, at home, and in the world. We would love to have you join our vibrant, caring, curious, Christ-centered community! Application deadline is now June 1. More details and position description on our web site.

<https://trinitylc.org/employment/>

Because God
first loved us,
we live as Jesus in the world,
loving God and
loving neighbor.



Read our full welcome statement at www.trinitylc.org > WELCOME > WHO WE ARE > RECONCILING IN CHRIST.

trinity TODAY

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Email: info@trinitylc.org

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ONLINE GIVING

YES! Keep Trinity financially strong.

STEWARDSHIP AT TRINITY

Our shared ministry continues! Trinity's financial commitments do not abate in these trying times. We continue to work together to keep our church family financially healthy. Please mail in your offering, sign up for direct deposit or give online as you are able. Visit our web site for electronic giving options including automated giving, give by text and smartphone app.

www.trinitylc.org > GIVING



Thank you!

Thank you to Dan Wilson of our Tuesday Guys who made Faye Wirtz very happy by fixing her bike so she can enjoy the outdoors during this time of social distancing. We ❤️ our faith community.



Need a mask?

Trinity's quilting ministry is making and distributing masks to our faith community.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued a recommendation that ALL people wear face masks when in public areas. Trinity's quilting ministry group is making and distributing masks for our faith community at no charge. We are offering one mask for every household member, prioritizing the need for those in a higher-risk category.

The 100 percent cotton fabric masks include some design elements that make it more protective:

1. a bendable and removable (for washing the mask) nose piece which creates a snug fit over the bridge of the nose,
2. an opening at the bottom which allows the user to add an additional filter (coffee filter, paper towel or polypropylene insert from an unused furnace filter)
3. fabric straps to avoid "elastic tugging on the ear syndrome."

Please fill out our face mask request form at www.trinitylc.org > CONNECTIONS > FACE MASK REQUEST. We will contact you when your mask(s) is ready and will provide a socially-distant drop off to you.

www.trinitylc.org > CONNECTIONS > FACE MASK REQUEST