

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
725 SW Buchanan Street  
Topeka, Kansas 66606-1426

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



# Trinity Tidings

**June 2020**

## STAFF

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## OFFICE

Trinity Hall, 725 SW Buchanan St.  
Office Hours: 10:00AM-3:30PM, Mon, Tues., Thur.  
Noon to 5:00PM Wednesday  
Telephone: (785) 233-0767

## WORSHIP SERVICE

Cancelled until further notice.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Cancelled until further notice.

***The mission of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is to:***

- *worship God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,*
- *serve those in need, and*
- *reach out to share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ!*

Together in Community  
Living with Christ  
Caring for Neighbors

**In place of our calendar this month (since we are all supposed to stay home), here are some important items of which to be aware during this time of Covid-19.**

## **We worship.**

Starting June 14<sup>th</sup>, Trinity will be hosting our own online worship service. It will be posted on our Facebook page just like you have experienced in our partnership with First Lutheran. June 7<sup>th</sup> (Trinity Sunday) will be the last joint service in partnership with First and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will be our special guest preacher delivering a sermon from Chicago for all the ELCA congregations across the country.

Do remember our Mid-Week Prayer Services on Zoom at 6:30pm on Wednesdays. This service is live and we always have a wonderful time checking in with each other about our lives during these times. The new meeting ID is **78285849958**. If you would like to join us and still do not understand Zoom, please call or email Pastor Andrew and he will be more than happy to help get you set up!

## **We meet.**

Pr. Andrew will contact committee members to arrange a time to meet on Zoom. Some of us — well, me anyway — will be learning as we go. Here's a link in case you want to read up a bit beforehand:  
<https://zoom.us/>



## **We give.**

Unfortunately, any time we as individual church members, are not in the pews at church, we forget that expenses continue to accrue. And during this prolonged and unknown period of closure, we are undoubtedly worried about many things. So please remember Trinity financially just as you would when we are gathered on Sunday mornings.

The best and easiest ways to submit your offering at this time are:

via US mail

drop off at the office (there is a mail slot on the north side of Trinity Hall)

set up an autopay service from your bank (if you need help with this, please call the office)

<b>OFFERING, ATTENDANCE, and FINANCIAL STATUS</b>						
Date	General	Other	Total Weekly Income	Average Weekly Expense	Weekly Income Minus Average Weekly Expense	Attendance/ Communion
April 26	\$3,595.00	\$500.00	\$4,095.00	-\$2,792.00	\$1,303.00	0
May 3	\$4,263.00	\$0.00	\$4,263.00	-\$2,792.00	\$1,471.00	0
May 10 & 17	\$3,175.80	\$9.50	\$3,185.30	-\$2,792.00	\$393.30	0
May 24	\$3,960.00	\$0.00	\$3,960.00	-\$2,792.00	\$1,168.00	0
The money shown in the "Other" column is restricted and not available for our general fund.						
			Income	Expense	Behind/Ahead	
		Apr 2020	\$13,163.90	-\$12,288.80	\$875.10	
		Jan. - Apr	\$40,283.07	-\$42,945.27	-\$2,662.20	

“Every hand that we don’t shake should become a call that we place. Every embrace that we avoid must become a verbal expression of warmth and concern.” - Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky

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June 2020

*"Now if a deadly pestilence strikes, we should stay where we are, make our preparations, and take courage in the fact that we are mutually bound together so that we cannot desert one another or flee from one another. This is a time that God uses to test our faith and love — our faith in that we may see and experience how we should act toward God; our love in that we may recognize how we should act toward our neighbor." Martin Luther in 1527 to the pastors of Breslau facing the Bubonic Plague*

Our society is starting the process of reopening regardless of not finding a way to halt the virus, produce a vaccine, or create herd immunity. We are going out into a world where we are still estimating 4-5% of Americans have gotten the virus (primarily in major urban areas) and settling with the tragedy that even with that small amount of cases overall, we have already reached 100,000 deaths in our nation alone. That fact can seem crazy when faced with the reality that in our own setting, we have yet to really see the virus hit like it has in other places (even within our own state as the Kansas City suburbs and Wichita were both hit far greater than Topeka.)

For our churches opening up in the Central States Synod, Bishop

Candea has asked that each congregation create a plan for moving forward before opening their physical spaces. Spanning two states with congregations in both urban and rural contexts, the Synod knows that each of our congregations are going to be welcoming people back into the church building in different ways. Some congregations will be worshipping online for longer periods of time, some are trying worship outdoors, and others are having multiple small services during the week to allow for cleaning and social distancing. We are all tackling this challenge and wondering what our church will look like during this uncertain time.

Therefore, I hope you will take time to look at the plan created for our congregation. In various meetings with Synod leadership and with valuable insight from Church Council, this plan will help us move forward by using the best guidelines provided by the ELCA and the Synod. I would like to stress that this is a "working" plan. This means that moving forward we might need to change parts or adapt to what is happening. For instance, we would love for the virus outbreak to continue to decrease everyday

moving forward, but that most likely will not be the case and it will look more like a wave. So we might get to our second benchmark but have to move back to the first if there is a spike. The key for us moving forward is to remember to be flexible, to be in communication if you do not understand, and to be a people full of grace for none of us have the answers to what our future holds.

Yet, what we can take hold of is the words of Luther during his experience with a pandemic. To keep close during these times our sense of Faith and Love. Faith in God that God will carry us through these times and give our leaders the insight to make just decisions for the good of all people. Love that is bounded by the promise that we have made as Christians to love our neighbors and to care for the least of these in our society during these times. Luther reminds us that regardless of the times, we have to keep in the center of our lives faith and love to have any hope for the future.

Peace of Christ,





# Trinity Tidings

June 2020

## June Celebrations

### Birthdays

- 1 Kyra Bennett
- 4 Charlotte Blenden
- 5 Duane Pomeroy
- 7 Meranda Bennett
- 7 Camdyn Ralph
- 7 Carsyn Ralph
- 12 John Carlson
- 14 Vickie Jacobs
- 19 Mary McGinnis
- 20 Becky Carter
- 26 LaVell Winsor
- 27 Asher Klamm

### Baptisms

- 1 Rachel Heald
- 4 Liz Utech
- 7 Donna J. Allen
- 17 Ronnie Longren
- 20 Shane Pomeroy

### Wedding

#### Anniversaries

- 25 Howard & Loni Reece
- 26 Curt & Jane Lewis
- 30 Josh & Heather Klamm

## June Readings

### June 7—The Holy Trinity

- Genesis 1:1—2:4a
- Psalm 8
- 2nd Corinthians 13:11-13
- Matthew 28:16-20

### June 14—2nd Sunday of Pentecost

- Exodus 19:2-8a
- Psalm 100
- Romans 5:1-8
- Matthew 9:35—10:8[9-23]

### June 21—3rd Sunday of Pentecost

- Jeremiah 20:7-13
- Psalm 69:7-10[11-15]16-18
- Romans 6:1b-11
- Matthew 10:24-39

### June 28—4th Sunday of Pentecost

- Jeremiah 28:5-9
- Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
- Romans 6:12-23
- Matthew 10:40-42

## Greetings.

Pr. Jim Martin called recently and he sends a greeting to all.

He served as an intern here many years ago and has fond memories of the people and time he spent here at Trinity.

We have also received a greeting from Shar Sandquist. She says the cases of virus have been low in her county and there no cases where she lives.



to Parker Jackson on his graduation from Topeka High School and Cole Wells on his graduation from Washburn Rural High School. Joe Ranaivoson

also graduated from high school in Wisconsin.

Rosie Nichols is finishing her BS in Political Science at Washburn University and has begun working full time for the Kansas State Dept of Commerce in International Trade.

Congratulations also to Bob & Janeen Horton upon their retirements from the Seaman School District. Pam Kobbeman has retired from USD 501.

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

**President**  
Curt Lewis  
633-6661

**Vice President**  
Ted Murphy  
817-0372

**Secretary**  
Shelley Andrews  
554-3005

**Treasurer**  
Bob Kobbeman  
478-0381

**Members**  
  
Laurie Jackson  
224-9683  
  
Howard Reece  
221-8992

**Council Meeting Highlights, May 11, 2020**

- ◆ B&T Roofing will proceed with roofing & gutter repairs that have been approved.
- ◆ Community Garden will be continued with new coordinators.
- ◆ Phase 1 of building cleaning is finished.
- ◆ 150th anniversary celebration will be delayed to December 12 & 13.
- ◆ Re-opening plan was presented, discussed & suggestions made. Pr. Andrew revised plan & sent out within one week of meeting.
- ◆ Ted Murphy measured pews & determined that 50 to 60 worshippers can be accommodated. Immuno-compromised & those over 65 years are still advised to stay home during the initial re-opening phases.
- ◆ PPP funds have been applied for & should be deposited by now.
- ◆ Seven small memorials funds may be used to pay for roofing & guttering repair; families will be contacted for permission to use funds this way.
- ◆ August 5th Sunday Special will be for quilters; Nov. 29 Pastor's Discretionary Fund.
- ◆ Laurie suggested a letter of thanks be sent to 1st Lutheran for allowing use to join them in online worship these past weeks. Shelley agreed to write the letter.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!!**

Our 15th anniversary celebration, originally planned to take place in August, has now been delayed to December 12th and 13th, to coincide with our St. Lucia Day celebration.

This date is still tentative, due to the current health crisis and will be reviewed at the October church council meeting.

Due to the date change, some of the original events may not be possible.

Please mark these days on your calendar and pray that we will be able to meet and celebrate again soon!





## Doorstep News – June 2020



With the COVID-19 restraints on everyone, Doorstep has continued to provide services to our neighbors in need through phone intakes. We have been assisting with food, rent, utilities, prescriptions, dental and gas vouchers. We know we will continue to see more people in need as this continues, and we try to get back to 'normal'. We appreciate those who have donated food and/or money during this time to help Doorstep. The staff and food room volunteers have continued working to help our neighbors.

We are working on opening the clothing room on limited days, and by appointment only, and taking donations. Once we have something in place we will update our volunteers, board members, coordinators, member congregations and the public through our Facebook page... Doorstep Inc.

Please Like and Follow us for the most up-to-date information.

### Save the date...

In July, Doorstep will combine our Summer Cash Bash to raise \$20,000 and matching funds, Christmas in July to collect donations for our adopted families, and the Envista Cares Challenge where Doorstep is the charity in July!

We will have one food sale fundraiser this year! We plan to take orders for Cinnamon Rolls and Tamales September 11<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, with delivery the weekend of October 16<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars to stock your freezers!

Doorstep's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Run is Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at Lake Shawnee. Plan to join us in getting some exercise around the lake, and raise funds for Doorstep this October. The walk/run has been moved to a Sunday afternoon this year in the hopes of competing less with other events during that time of year! Mark your calendars!!



## Trinity Lutheran Church Plan for Operations And Worship During the 2020 Pandemic

“God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in time of trouble.

Therefore we will not fear...”

**Psalm 46:1-2**

### Introduction

This document is intended to be a guide for reopening the church building and resuming our life as a congregation during this ongoing pandemic. This guide has been brought together considering the guidelines provided by the State, the Synod, and ELCA. As the situation develops, this guide will be amended to the regulations of our state or church governing bodies. This guide will follow phases of reopening that are dependent on declining case numbers as required by our Synod and ELCA guidelines.

### **(14 Days of Declining Cases)\***

- Office will resume normal business hours
- Make available Zoom abilities for community groups that cannot meet.
- Groups of 10 or less are allowed meetings in building if they are church related such as council and committees. All in-person meetings are required to have sign-in for contact tracing.
- Worship
  - ◊ Online partnership with 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran or other online format

### **(28 Days of Declining Cases)**

- Groups of less than 10 are allowed to meet in building including community organizations with contact tracing.
- Worship
  - ◊ Online worship format continued
  - ◊ In-person worship on Wednesday afternoons (garden/parking lot worship) possibility with face mask and social distancing plan
  - ◊ Those 65 or older or with health concerns are asked to stay home



June 2020

### (42 Days of Declining Cases)

- Worship
  - ◊ Worship on Sundays (Service of Word)
    - ◆ Instrumental music only
    - ◆ Face mask required
    - ◆ Safety pathway
      - \* open door path (entering by new annex)
      - \* washing or sanitizing hands to enter
      - \* 6-foot spacing in pews by family/individual
      - \* all pews sanitized after worship
    - ◆ Safety during worship
      - \* self-serve bulletin station
      - \* offering plate is not passed
      - \* peace by waving to neighbors
    - ◆ Those 65 or older or with health concerns are asked to stay home
    - ◆ This service will become the recorded online service. Recorded on Sundays and posted by that afternoon.

### (56 Days of Declining Cases)

- Return to Normal Operations (This does not mean that everything will return to how it was before. We will follow guidelines as set by church and state to maintain safety of our members until a vaccine has been produced. We will just be returning as much as possible to normal operations and worship at this point.)
- All community groups are allowed with safety plan and contact tracing.
- Possible limitations on worship during this time
  - ◊ Any of the limitations given for previous services apply.
  - ◊ Those 65 or older or with health concerns are welcomed
  - ◊ Return to Communion
    - ◆ Receive by aisle (to avoid multiple contact by altar railing)
  - ◊ Return to congregational singing
    - ◆ Start with 4-6 person choir for vocal music for a period
    - ◆ Congregational singing will be reintroduced once safe again.

\*Days will be determined by data provided by Shawnee Co Health Department. Congregation will receive notice of our count of days by email for every 7 day period.