



The Messenger

Trinity Re-Entry Guiding Principles

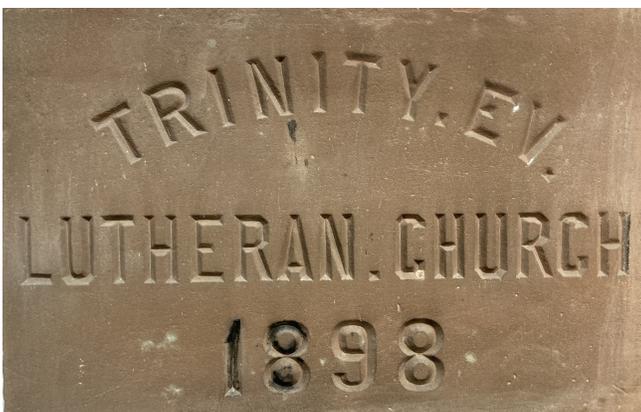
We will re-enter the church facilities with the following guiding principles at the forefront of our plans:

- **Safety and wellness** of our congregation's members and guests, including protecting the most vulnerable among us by limiting contact initiating practices
- **Compliance** with state, CDC and denominational guidelines for the reopening of faith communities
- Being **nimble and flexible** in implementation of an evolving plan
- **Offering hope** to our communities in this uncertain time
- Continuing to **provide pastoral care and supportive relationships** now and in the months to come *
- Providing the **continuity of prayer and worship**, whether gathered in person or via digital media
- **Providing concise and informative communication**

** The scope of this re-entry work is limited to that within our facilities. The Health Ministry Committee, Faith Community Nurse and pastors will separately develop guidelines for the visitation ministry of pastors, staff and volunteers.*



Additional information about Trinity Re-Entry Guiding Principles can be found in Pastor Bob's article on page three of this newsletter



The original church cornerstone is embedded in the west wall upstairs just outside of the narthex. It was laid in place on May 22, 1898 at the church building located at the corner of Crescent and Bostwick Streets in Grand Rapids.

Trinity to celebrate 125th anniversary in 2021 Committee forming to organize our celebration

On May 25, 1896, a small gathering of Lutheran flavored Christians met in worship for the first time as they dreamed of forming a new faith community in downtown Grand Rapids. By December 9 of that year the new congregation organized as a member of the General Synod and the rest, as they say, is history.

The heritage of this 125-year-old congregation will be celebrated in 2021 as we give thanks for all of those who have gone before us and as we embrace the mission God has in store for the people of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Pastor Linstrom is organizing a 125th Anniversary Committee to help us plan that celebration. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Pastor Linstrom directly or leave a message at the church office.

Procedures for Checking In at Trinity

As we get more comfortable being out and about in social situations again, we look forward to seeing more of our Trinity members and friends in the building. We know that there are many of us who will not be ready to be in enclosed public spaces for some time yet. There is a lot to consider and we need to be realistic about our individual circumstances and respect the decisions of others that may differ from our own. The safety protocols below are for those members who feel that they are ready to be in the Trinity church building in the near future.

With an abundance of caution, we are asking you to abide by the expectations below in order to do the best we can to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. After you come through the outer doors on the west side office entrance, you are asked to use the hand sanitizer placed in the entryway for your convenience. As you come through the second set of doors you will see a table to your right with the signage below.



You are asked to sign in so that we know who has been in the building during a specific time. But first, you should do a self-screening by answering two questions about your own health.

The poster pictured to the right is leaning against the wall on the table. Please read the questions carefully. It is very important to consider how you have been feeling and also the degree to which you may have had exposure to COVID-19.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH HEALTH SCREENING

PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING IN

1. In the past 14 days, have you been diagnosed with, lived with, or cared for someone with Covid 19?
2. In the past 48 hours, have you had any of the following signs or symptoms?



If you answered **"YES"** to any of the above, please come back to visit another time and consider checking in with your health care provider.



Questions can be directed to
Faith Community Nurse
Kristin Bradley at 616.560.4496



WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

PLAN

- Screening Check In
- Schedule/appointment
- Occupancy limits

CLEAN

- Sanitize hands as you enter the building.
- Wash hands.
- Wipe surfaces

COVER

- Wear a face covering as you enter the building.
- Cover sneezes and coughs.

SPACE

- Keep a 6 ft distance from each other.
- Follow directional signs and seating guidelines

PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE
616.949.2510

You will see information to read on the poster situated on the easel as well as information on the table. Wear your mask and take a sanitizing wipe with you to wipe off areas that you touch as you go through the building. Keep six feet of distance between yourself and other individuals or groups.

It may seem like you are being asked to do a lot just to be in the building! Once you have gone through these simple steps, the next time you visit will be a breeze. And, please keep in mind, that these temporary protocols are for your safety as well as the safety of Trinity members and friends.

A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom



Guiding Principles for Re-Entry at Trinity

In early May, a team was assembled to help us prepare to re-enter our facilities at Trinity. To some degree, that re-entry was likewise a re-entry into significant elements of community life together. The Congregation Council received the report from the Re-Entry Advisory Group at its May meeting and adopted the plan at its June meeting, shortly after the Grand Rapids region with improving COVID-19 conditions had entered Phase 4 of the MI Safe Start Plan. The Trinity Re-Entry Plan is a phased plan and is aligned with the MI Safe Start Plan.

Our re-entry has included opening the sanctuary for individual prayer and meditation, provisions for small gatherings for baptisms, weddings and small group meetings onsite, a return of staff to offices and the new monthly outdoor worship service with Holy Communion. With an abundance of caution, and with well-developed protocols for signing in, masking, distancing, and disinfecting as we enter church facilities, we are seeking to make our way through this time with grace and care for one another.

We do not know at this time when the Grand Rapids Region will enter Phase 5 in the MI Safe Start Plan, when small onsite "in person" worship services will be resumed in the sanctuary and Centennial Hall on Sundays, and when groups larger than ten will be welcomed to meet onsite, but for now we continue to proceed with the desire to support public health initiatives by our re-entry steps, caring well **for** one another in our separation **from** one another.

We recall that the people of Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years in their Exodus, and that the captivity of the exiled people of Israel in Babylon lasted for nearly 50 years. Even as we cry, "How long, O Lord," with people of faith throughout the millennia, our pandemic exile needs such context. We will get through this wilderness, exile time in our life as a faith community. It probably will not take 40 years. But for now, we wait.

The "Guiding Principles" on the cover page are from page two of the seven-page "Trinity Re-Entry Planning" document adopted by the Congregation Council in June. Meant to be a framework for an evolving re-entry in our life together at Trinity, our re-entry plan has been an effective tool in our first steps of resuming occupancy of our wonderful facilities on Fulton and Robinson on the east side of Grand Rapids. The "Guiding Principles" provide our foundation for the rest of the plan. If you would like to review a copy of the full "Trinity Re-Entry Planning" document, be welcome to reach out to me via email or call me at the church and I will forward it to you.

People of Trinity, I miss you! But I am grateful for the opportunity to sojourn with you through the uncharted waters of global pandemic. Together even in our separation, we are the Body of Christ in a time of some exile, but with the privilege of live streaming, Zoom, and other communications that have not served such situations before in human history. I am thankful for our community and its connectedness in a time such as this.

It is a privilege to serve as a pastor among the people of Trinity.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bob Linstrom

"Re-Zooming" Coffee Fellowship Time on Sundays at Trinity!



Be welcome to join us!

You are invited to our virtual Coffee Fellowship time after live streaming of Trinity's worship services. Supply your own coffee and enjoy visiting with Trinity friends as you relax at home. Click on the link in the Friday eBlast to join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/96547953581?pwd=MFVQREdwZEtBMDdNeFIFSnU2TjA4UT09>

Meeting ID: 965 4795 3581

Password: 420932

Council Corner

Trinity Congregation Council Members 2020-2021

Standing committees of the Congregation Council coordinate the mission and ministry of Trinity and provide their leadership in developing new programming. Committees have a Council committee person who acts as the liaison between the Council and committee.

If you are interested in contacting a Congregation Council member, please refer to information in the Trinity Directory or call the main office.

Executive Committee members and Committee liaisons are:

Congregation Council Executive Committee

President: Paul Crist

Vice President: Karen Unruh

Treasurer: Chris Engle

Secretary: Carol Butler

Congregation Council Members

Children's Ministry: Karen Unruh

Communications: Nicole Rodammer

Congregational Life: Eric Gohlke

Endowment Fund: Mike Mason

Fellowship: Amy Fox

Finance: Chris Engle

Health Ministries: Carol Butler

Hospitality: Jamie Kuntzman

Human Resources: Steve Heacock

Outreach: John Fox

Property: Mike King

Property: Rick Radke

Spiritual Growth: Brad Kessel

Stewardship: Amelia Crist

Worship and Music: Kate Bredwell

Youth and Family: Tess Lundgren

Youth and Family: Ryleigh Fischer
(Youth Representative)



Way back in April of this year I wrote the following:

If you are like me, I am getting a little stir-crazy with the Covid-19 lockdown. While I understand how important it is to continue to practice social distancing and the impact it is having on flattening the curve, it is springtime and Easter – a time of community and fellowship.

Little did we know we would still be dealing with Covid-19 and the real prospect that it will continue to impact our way of life for months, if not years, to come.

The uncertainty surrounding best practices for mitigating the spread of Covid-19 and how soon we can return to “life as normal” is frustrating and concerning. Combined with widespread protests occurring across the nation, this seems to be a pivotal point in this country’s history.

At this time, let us lean on the strength, passion and love of Jesus Christ. Let us turn to our church family and community to help us work through these issues and cultivate fellowship in the face of social distancing. Be assured your Congregation Council continues to meet monthly via Zoom to conduct the business of the church, and the church is in good financial position due to the continued generous giving of the congregation. First and foremost, in our Council conversations, is the safety of the congregation while balancing and understanding the need to fully reopen the church and resume regular worship services.

It is clear now that Covid-19 will not suddenly pass and “life as normal” will not suddenly resume. This will be a gradual process over many months with small steps to resume a “new normal” of life at Trinity. We are routinely watching the news and information coming from the state and turning to the many talented Trinity medical professionals when planning our reopening approach. Positively, we’ve begun gathering for outdoor services of communion, and I hope you will join us for fellowship on the Trinity lawn on an upcoming Sunday.

A bright and hopeful future is ahead, and we will work through these times together with Christ’s help and guidance. Please continue to pray for our country, our church, and the people of Trinity.

John 14:27 “I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So, don't be troubled or afraid.”

Grace and peace to you,

Paul Crist

Trinity Congregation Council President

New Trinity Weapons Policy available for review

In February of 2019, a new Church Security Task Force was established by the Congregation Council to provide a careful evaluation of programs and procedures that provide for the general safety and welfare of Trinity's congregation and community guests. Everything from assessing locations of fire extinguishers and exit routes in case of emergency, to reviewing our child protection policy and background check procedures, to a proposal for security cameras was under consideration. Some new and revised procedures have resulted, along with some very helpful signage around the building.

A weapons policy was also established and is available for review via Trinity's website. This new policy was very carefully crafted, consulting Michigan law, synod

recommendations and the support of a Trinity member who is active in law enforcement. The Council adopted that policy last spring and it goes into effect August 1, 2020.

When the Trinity congregation is able to come together again for "in person" gathering, the Church Security Task Force is planning to hold a series of forums after worship to both explain the policy and to answer questions about that new protocol in our life together. For now, if you have questions or concerns, be welcome to be in touch with Pastor Linstrom and he will seek to address your questions or concerns or direct you to a member of the Task Force.

Watch for a link to the Trinity Weapons Policy in eBlasts on Fridays in August.

Trinity Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals

Month of June 2020

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	87,753	101,826	14,073	16.0%
Total Expenses	86,932	78,538	8,394	9.7%
Net Income (Loss)	821	23,288	22,467	



2021 Fiscal Year-to-Date February 2020 to June 2020

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	465,520	587,820	122,300	26.3%
Total Expenses	472,268	413,261	59,007	12.5%
Net Income (Loss)	(6,748)	174,560	181,308	

A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe

In 1936 Langston Hughes wrote the poem "Let America Be America Again." It has been bouncing around in my head these days, particularly this portion of it:

O, let America be America again—
The land that never has been yet—
And yet must be—the land where every man is free.
The land that's mine—the poor man's, Indian's, Negro's, ME—
Who made America,
Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,
Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,
Must bring back our mighty dream again.



You can find the whole poem by typing in this link or googling it. <https://poets.org/poem/let-america-be-america-again>

I find this poem to be both somber and hope filled.

It is somber in its assertion that America is not the land it could be or that was promised to so many people. This has become crystal clear to us in recent months. Our country does not live up to the ideals we have of it or that it claims. Yet this poem is also filled with hope of what can be. It is filled with hope of what hasn't been yet, but what is growing. It was and is an honest reflection of how things are and it is also filled with aspiration of how things can be and, Hughes would say, must be.

Hope helps us get through even the worst of times.

Paul speaks of this in Romans 5:1-5, writing "hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (v5) Hope does not disappoint. Hope helps us get through the hard times by helping us understand that they do not have to last forever. There is light coming into the darkness. There is change coming. Sometimes hope is all we have.

We are a people of hope. We long for the world that Jesus taught us about to become a reality here and now. Not just when we are reunited in heaven, but here and now on earth. This is what we mean when we pray the prayer he taught us to pray, "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven." We long for that reality to break into our lives and let us live, as Langston puts it, in "The Land that has never been yet, and yet must be. The land where every man is free."

A prayer – Dearest Lord Jesus, Father God, Spirit, fill us with hope that things will not always be as they are, but as they could be. Help us to work for that dream to become a reality now. Amen.

Shalom,
Pastor Dan Schewe

Middle School Ministry Schedule

Confirmation classes resume on Sunday, August 30 at 3 p.m.

Families with youth in 6th through 8th grades, mark your calendars now! We begin Confirmation classes on Sunday, August 30 at 3 p.m.

The first session is for both youth and families. Join us as we ponder just what our faith means and how it is leading us to live.



Trinity's Prayer Tree Ministry



Prayer is making a difference in the lives of Trinity's adults and children. Our sixth annual Prayer Tree Ministry kicks off on Sunday, September 20. A letter and/or email will be sent in mid-August to parents and guardians of Trinity children ages in-utero through age 18, requesting permission to include them in this ministry. An email will also be sent to adult members who have participated in previous years.

The children's names received will provide an intergenerational opportunity for Trinity's adult members to pray for our younger church family members. If you have questions, please connect with Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life.

High School News - Hopeful Beginnings

As we walk through these strange and difficult times be reminded that we do not walk alone. God walks with us, and we walk with each other. Even if we are not physically next to one another, we are with each other. I do not know what the future holds, but I know we will walk to and through it together. Also know that I'm writing about these hopeful beginnings in the middle of July. By the time you read this everything may have changed!

Be sure to watch your email to see if things have been adjusted. - Pastor Dan



MISSION TRIP

Mission Trip Planning Meeting on August 12 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

Our high school community is still grieving about not being able to serve in Winchester, Kentucky, this summer. We are making plans for next summer which includes both a mission trip and ELCA Youth Gathering! Join the Youth and Family Committee on August 12 at 7 p.m. on Zoom to help us choose our destination for next year. Watch your email for additional information on date and location possibilities for the 2021 mission trip and a link to join the meeting. This information will also get you to the meeting:

Meeting ID: 854 0476 2961

Password: TLCGRMT



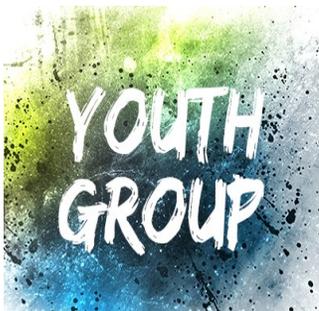
ELCA Youth Gathering! June 28 to July 3, 2021

Next summer we are headed to Minneapolis for the ELCA Youth Gathering! Every three years the youth of the ELCA gather to learn what it means to be church together and experience God in amazing ways!

Registration opens soon so watch your email for details on what is to come, or attend the August 16 High School Kick off meeting.

High School Kick Off Celebration – August 16 at 6 p.m.

All High School youth, their families, and friends are invited to join us for a kick off celebration on Sunday, August 16 at 6 p.m. at Trinity. This will be a great time for us to get together, share about our summers and hear about what is planned for this year and next summer. Currently we are planning this event to take place outside but, as you all know, plans can change! Let Pastor Dan know if you plan on attending so we can have enough food for everyone.



High School Youth Group Kick off – August 30 at 6:30 p.m.

High school youth group is scheduled to resume on Sunday, August 30 at 6:30 pm. This is a time for all high schoolers and their friends to gather and engage the world we are living in and how God is calling us to be present in it. Pastor Dan has some great plans for this year that he is excited to share with you.

Tai Chi at Trinity



Tai chi is often described as 'meditation in motion' or 'movement in motion.' The martial art of tai chi is all about slow, rhythmic, meditative movements designed to help you find peace and calm. Tai chi addresses the key components of fitness – strength, flexibility, and balance. In addition, Tai chi can reduce stress and anxiety, while improving concentration and coordination. Tai chi can be easily adapted for anyone of any age - from the most fit, to people who use wheelchairs, and those recovering from injury or surgery. Best of all - it can be done outdoors and physical distancing can easily be maintained.

Meet us in the East parking lot and try Tai Chi for yourself. August classes are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 10 a.m., weather permitting.

Contact Trinity member and instructor, Xristina Kuhlmann, with any questions at 616.719.6961.

Suggested donation is \$3/class or \$20/month.



There has never been a better time to focus on your health and wellness!

Stephen Ministry

COVID-19 and Stephen Ministry

Our team of Stephen Ministers is always ready to reach out a helping hand and listening ear when a member or friend of Trinity is experiencing a difficult time. In addition to situations such as grieving the loss of a loved one, battling a chronic illness, going through a divorce or separation, facing the loss of a job or a myriad of other stressors, we now find ourselves in the midst of a pandemic!

Our lives have changed in ways unimaginable a few months ago, impacting people in various ways. Some people are experiencing added stress such as living alone, being socially isolated in their homes due to age, physical disabilities, lack of family living nearby and other situations causing anxiety.

If you or someone you know is finding it hard to cope with this new reality, we urge you to consider asking for one of our Stephen Ministers to walk beside you. Trinity's Faith Community Nurse, Kristin Bradley would welcome the opportunity to answer any questions.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Entering the Narrow Gate 2020-2021

School of Spiritual Formation - Year-long Program “Entering the Narrow Gate” Hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church

This course is open to anyone who would like to explore the classic elements of monastic, spiritual and contemplative life to discover how this ancient wisdom, learning and spiritual practice might be understood and lived in new settings and life today. The program offers a reflective personal and transformative process for all who desire a deeper life in Spirit and more intentional living of the Christian life. The rich and inspiring teaching is centered on the saints, mystics and spiritual teachers of the Christian centuries, personal contemplative prayer practice, lively conversations, and living of a personal Rule of Life.

Required books (may be purchased on Amazon.com at reduced cost) Required editions:

The Wisdom Jesus by Cynthia Bourgeault;

The Rule of Benedict. Ed., Timothy Fry Liturgical Press, 1982;

The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality by Ronald Rolheiser,

The Cloud of Unknowing translated by Carmen Acevedo Butcher, 2009;

The Spiritual Life by Evelyn Underhill;

Joan of Arc by Mark Twain – with trial proceedings included; Publisher: Ignatius Press; 1st edition (September 1, 1989)

Recommended books:

The Deeper Journey by M. Robert Mulholland, Jr

The Universal Christ by Richard Rohr

Course Requirements:

- Attendance at all sessions
- Preparation for each session, required readings (short background and/or readings from the original writings of each spiritual teacher) and journal questions emailed to participants prior to each session. Participation in class discussion is expected.
- Participation in a four-day silent directed retreat during the year is encouraged – Dates TBD
- Participants are encouraged to have a spiritual director during the year
- Those completing this first year may apply for an 18-month Formation Program & Practicum for becoming a Spiritual Director. Program begins September, 2021 at Christ United Church, DeWitt, MI.

Program Schedule for 2020-2021:

9/10/2020 Gospel according to John
Paschal Mystery and Spiritual Journey

10/8 Mothers & Fathers of the Desert
Contemplative Prayer & Approaches to God

11/12 St. Benedict and St. Scholastica
St. Hildegard of Bingen

12/10 St. Francis & St. Clare
Meister Eckhart

1/14/21 Beguine Women’s Movement
St. Catherine of Siena

2/11 Julian of Norwich
Cloud of Unknowing

3/11 St. Teresa of Avila
St. John of the Cross

4/15 St. Ignatius of Loyola
St. Oscar Romero

5/13 St. Joan of Arc
Evelyn Underhill

6/10 Dorothy Day
Thomas Merton

Entering the Narrow Gate 2020-2021

School of Spiritual Formation - Year-long Program "Entering the Narrow Gate" Hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church

We will follow the ELCA Synod Church guidelines for health safety in a time of Covid19 and adjust accordingly. We will proceed with registrations at this time. Participants will be notified in late August if postponement of the program to a later time is necessary.

Tuition: \$600 (50% due with registration and 50% due in February)

Make checks payable to: Dominican Sisters with Narrow Gate on memo line of check)

Mail completed registration form with payment to:

Trinity Lutheran Church
2700 Fulton St. E Grand Rapids, MI 49506
Staff Contact: kris.baker@tlcgr.org 616.949.2510 x 110

Facilitator, Sister Nancy Brousseau, OP
Email: nbrousseau@aol.com Cell: 616.560.4580

Program Facilitator: Sister Nancy Brousseau, OP, D.Min. is a Dominican Sister of Grand Rapids, MI. Nancy served as the Director of the Dominican Center at Marywood in Grand Rapids for five years and was Director of Spirituality Programs there for six years. Prior to those years, she was Director of St. Joseph Educational Center in Des Moines, IA. Sr. Nancy has an MA in Religious Education, a M.Div. from St. John's (now Sacred Heart) Seminary in Detroit and a D.Min. in Spiritual Direction from the Graduate Theological Foundation and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. She offers retreats, spiritual direction, workshops and programs in prayer, spirituality and spiritual formation.

Ten Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; one Thursday per month from September to June
Dates in 2020: 9/10, 10/8, 11/12, 12/10 and Dates in 2021: 1/14, 2/11; 3/11, 4/15; 5/13, 6/10

Coffee available; please bring your lunch/beverage; snack to share if you wish



_____ **Please mail this bottom portion with your check** _____

Registration: Entering the Narrow Gate Trinity Lutheran 2020-2021

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Supper Forum series on Race to be scheduled in 2020-2021

Before the tragic deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd in the winter and spring of this year, Trinity's Spiritual Growth Committee had identified issues around "Race in America" as the topic for a Sunday evening Supper Forum series in 2020-2021. Although we are not yet able to schedule those forums on the parish calendar, Pastor Linstrom has agreed to facilitate that series, possibly beginning in the fall of 2020. Using a curriculum published by 1517 Media entitled "Dialogues on Race," we will gather on a series of Sunday evenings to read, listen and learn together as we confront issues of race and racism in our world.

The "Dialogues On" series is designed to create a trusting environment for small groups, engage in conversations about local and worldwide issues, turn conflict into community, and build lasting relationships. The curriculum will include reading about a weekly topic, gathering in small groups to discuss what we've learned, watching a video featuring a leading voice, and sharing ideas with the wider group. In this series we will consider topics such as the social construct of race, the Bible and race in America, anti-blackness, the erasure of Native American stories, the intersection of race and gender, and the problem with rushing to reconciliation. Contributors to the curriculum include Rozella Haydée White, Lenny Duncan, and Jim Bear Jacobs.

Watch for more information about this Supper Forum series in the fall of 2020.



Trinity Re-Entry Plan Updates

As August arrives in west Michigan, we continue in Phase 4 of the MI Safe Start Plan, and Trinity's first stages of programming in re-entry, as conditions have improved in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, include the following:

The church **sanctuary continues to be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** for individual prayer and meditation. Check-in protocols are established and those who wish to come onsite are required to wear a mask and enter by the west side office entrance only.

Church staff are increasingly onsite. Phase 4 includes the directive "safer at home," but we continue to see more of our Trinity leadership team onsite at the church.

We have enjoyed two **outdoor worship services with Holy Communion** (wafer only) on the church lawn in June and July. We will be gathering again on the west lawn on **Sunday morning, August 16 at 11 a.m.** Live streaming of worship at 9:15 a.m. continues weekly, but the plan for a once-a-month outdoor communion service continues this summer, aligned with the governor's indication that outdoor gatherings of up to 100 are being permitted. This is a brief, spoken service of Holy Communion – plan to bring a lawn chair or blanket, to bring masks for all and to keep distancing between family groups. The rain date will be August 23.

Depending on progression of the pandemic and the MI Safe Start Plan, monthly outdoor worship services may additionally be scheduled in September and October. Those plans will be announced in the September issue of this newsletter.

Onsite **small groups and meetings for up to ten inside the building and up to 100 outdoors** are now possible to schedule at Trinity. Call the church office if you would like to schedule your Trinity program onsite – masks, distancing and all other safety protocols will be required and only the west side office entry will be unlocked for access to the building.

Michigan has not yet transitioned to Phase 5 state guidelines, when small Sunday worship services will be possible at Trinity. We will be proceeding with abundant caution as we lay the groundwork for that possibility – watch for details in upcoming communications.



Trinity Travelers making plans for sojourn to Holden Village



It was during Holy Week in April that we received word that Holden Village would be closed to visitors for the summer of 2020. Like many destinations nationally and globally, the village Board of Directors acted out of an 'abundance of caution' to protect visitors and staff by fully refraining from their summer of 2020 program.

Trinity had a delegation of 52 hoping to make the journey together in late July of this year to Holden Village and that extraordinary mountain valley in the Cascade Mountains of Washington state. As we began to adjust to the cancellation of our plans, quite a few of those 'Trinity Travelers' proposed that we consider rescheduling for the summer of 2021. An information meeting was held on July 19 after the outdoor worship service to begin that exploration.

If you would like to learn more about the prospective 2021 trip, contact Pastor Linstrom and he will include you in planning this summer and fall. Those interested in the prospective trip to Holden Village in 2021 will begin the reservation process by October 1.

BEHIND THE SCENES *at Trinity*



Quiet Care of Sacred Space: Property Committee, Bill Bruin

The Trinity Property Committee serves a key role in the regular repair and operational needs of our facility to create sacred space for spiritual growth, worship, hospitality and fellowship here at Trinity. Bill Bruin can be found quietly fulfilling this mission painting various interior locations. He has offered countless hours of sweat equity alongside Eric Golke in clearing trees and invasive brush from our TLC property.



Bill joined Trinity in 1946. His immediate family includes his wife, Patricia, daughter, Elizabeth and son, Carl. We have enjoyed Bill in joyful song within the Trinity choir, as both a soloist for many years and within the beautiful chorus. Bill enjoys the satisfaction of the "final result" after interior painting, completing repairs and lawn/property maintenance. Bill enjoys snowmobiling and motorcycling. He also enjoys Patricia's marvelous cooking.

With a humble spirit of dedication, Bill has offered endless time, energy, and dedication to the maintenance of our beautiful indoor and outdoor spaces here at Trinity. He inspires us to engage in the important work of creating and maintaining this sacred space.

How to get involved in this ministry:

The Property Committee has many opportunities to serve including clearing out debris and dead trees on the west side of the property, painting classrooms and upcoming larger interior and exterior projects. Please consider contacting Roger Marks at 616.897.0086 or at marksrj@comcast.net to explore volunteer opportunities within the Property Committee which meets at 6 p.m. on the first Monday of every month.

Note: The purpose of *Behind the Scenes at Trinity* is to praise God and to encourage others to use their special abilities to serve Him. Although people featured here have been reluctant to be highlighted, they've agreed to be published to encourage others to experience the joys of serving. If you would like to suggest people to feature in future articles, please contact Cathy Olson at (cawolson@gmail.com) or Pastor Karen.

We Celebrate Christophe Muganza - U.S. Citizen!



Perseverance, patience, faith, hard work and much prayer has resulted in our friend, Christophe Muganza, finally becoming a U.S. citizen! Our Trinity family has been blessed beyond measure to have Christophe and Benita in our community of faith.

This is a big step in their journey, but much is yet to come. Be welcome to send congratulations cards/texts/well wishes.

Christophe and Benita Muganza
4957 Bringham Ln SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
616.334.5664

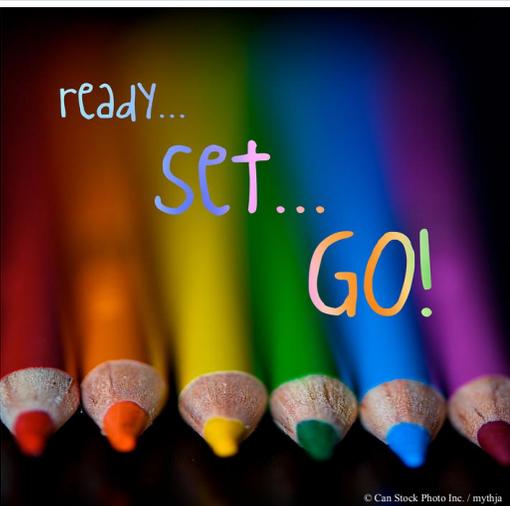
Dinner Groups - because life is better in community!



As we move into the fall and as we continue to work towards re-entry, Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life would like to see how many folks would be interested in participating in this year's Dinner Groups.

Dinner Groups are one of the favorite activities at Trinity. Groups of about six to eight people meet three times over the course of the year for a night of food, fun and fellowship at a fellow member's home. Dinner Groups are held one evening during the weekends of October 16-18, January 15-17 and April 16-18. Contact Angela Davis, to express your interest in Dinner Groups.

Supplies being accepted for Congress Elementary School



As a church family, we hope to once again supply much needed items for use by the students and teachers of Congress Elementary School. While it is uncertain at this time just exactly what school will "look like" in the fall, the students will still need to have school supplies. The shopping list below indicates the specific items needed to begin the school year.

Please consider picking up some of these supplies and bringing them to Trinity. Your donations can be placed in the large plastic labeled barrel located in the entryway in the main entrance on the west side of the church building. The collection of supplies will go through August.

- tissues
- hand sanitizer (large pump bottles)
- glue sticks
- crayons
- pencils
- sanitizing wipes

August Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations!

August 1

Spencer Olson
Rob Peters
Paul Smith
Angie & Terry Brace (50)
Mary & Bob Hamilton (50)
Marcia & Chas Schaner

August 2

Kieran Blair
Drew Bradbury
Ally DeStefano
Alissa Pupel
Colton Wright
Kim & Chris Engle
Mari & Mike Franz

August 3

Carrie Boer
Bill Bush
Ben Keller
Marilyn & Tom Fredrickson

August 4

Mandi Ezell
Roger Perham
Dale Sommers
Amy & David Fox
Phyllis & Chuck Schadler
Courtney & Andy Steketee

August 5

Bret Kendall
Joey Preston
Brenda & Kevin Conway
Bethany & Michael Dunning
Sheree & Paul Smith (25)

August 6

Jacob Beld
Kathy Fuger
Larry Petrick
Carrie Wygmans
Kim & Mike Danielski
Charmayne & Michael Mulligan

August 7

Lynn Begin
Kyan Hantle
Dan Pollert
Joanna & Chris Waite

August 8

Aidan Cole
Kathie Fetting
Anne Meeuwssen
Nick Salasky
Gail & David Mester (50)
Erica & Michael Spalding

August 9

Owen Budzyn
Joshua Kendall
Alex Mochel
Kristen & Roy Lamprich

August 10

Drew Flemming
Ann Gooch
Carol Hendricks
Julieanne Lee
Shelley & Ron Mishler
Kim & Lance Owens

August 11

Carson Brang
Melody Ditchcreek
Brittany Fischer
Andrew Luders
Patricia Stevens
Sylvia Stouten
Amy & Andrew Beuker
Mary & Paul Kuhlman
Marilyn & John Leese

August 12

Lynn Grzelak
Joshua Peterman
Jane & Don Smith
Joan & John Walls
Sandra & Bill Westveld

August 13

Karen Betz-Griewahn
Mike Fessenden

August 14

Bill Dewitt
Ander Perkins
Isabell Swain
Liz & Bob Dever
Susan & Kenneth Vanden Bout

August 15

Lance Childers
Lisa Gavranovic
James Heaford
Brendan Moglia
Nancy Morrison
Suz Schalon
Matt Seyffert
Darrell Yeager
Lynn & John Hagenbush

August 16

Carly Anderson
Luke Ezell
Michelle Hall
Sheri & Mike Mason
Maya & Jay Rosloniec

August 17

Jane Ashby
Holly Grzelak
Natalie Swain
Natalie Yeager
Gayle & Mark Rohde
Jennifer & Steven Salasky
Lynda & John Schuen

August 18

Shirley & Steven Kleiman
Lois & Mike McCardell
Jacqueline & Jason Riegling

August 19

Debbie Lown
Debbie Potter
Heather Worsfold

August 20

Michael Sytsma
Spencer Waite
Marci & Josh Anderson
Cindy & Bob Burchfield
Beth & Gordon Engstrom
Kris & John Fox

August 21

Larry Biser
Ruth Ann Evans
Callan Hughes
Kathryn Stoll
Carrie & Phil Lamb
Tami & Chad Saum

August 22

Mark Baker
Cade Lewkowski
McKenna Malvitz
Ausma Pupel
Thea Taylor
Robin Walker

August 23

Bob Burchfield
Elwyn Griewahn
Joe Iaria
Ryan Kulas
Carol Welz-Gustafson & Eric Gustafson
Katie & Doug Moga
Karen & Mike Unruh

August 24

Donna Alkema
Doug Moga

August 25

Izzie Anderson
Kay Hahn
Gayle Rohde
Mike Vander Baan
Nancy & David Morrison

August 26

Andrew Beuker
Carter King
Andy Pupel
Robert Swain
Lynn & Paul Getzin

August 27

Lulu Gavranovic
Gail Mazurek
Nancy Scott
Sandy & Don Kishman (60)

August 28

Peter Crist
Scott Hall
Anne Larson
Cathy Olson
Mandi & Dave Ezell
Annette & Frank Remsburg
Bridget & Brian Rieth

August 29

Joel Cairns
Barb & Bob Crossman
Laura & Jim Krug
Lindsey & Jim Mooney
Roger & Joan Perham

August 30

Connie Frazier
Ailee Van Hagen
Sarah & Andrew Pfeiffle
Sammye & Tom Zollman

August 31

Beth Hall
Kate Krug
Mark Lothschutz
Benjamin Mielock
Joseph Robach
Cheryl & Don Bushman
Elisabeth Degener & Paul Crist
Donna & John Linsey

If you have a special milestone birthday or anniversary, please contact the main office at Trinity to let us know!

Trinity is Live Streaming our Rejoice Service - How do I find it?

We are streaming our 9:15 a.m. Sunday "Virtual Worship" service on YouTube. To find it, do the following:

- Follow the home page link to "Virtual Worship" on Trinity's website, select "video" to be connected to the stream.
- OR
- Go to YouTube, either by opening the app on your phone or by visiting the webpage on your computer.
 - Search for 'Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids.' The first option should be one with a picture of our cross tower.
 - When you click on it you will be brought to our channel. If the service is live (from about 9:10 to 10:20 a.m. on Sunday morning) there will be a video with 'Live Now' on it.
 - Simply click on the video and you will be connected to the stream.
 - We also save past services in a play list called 'Rejoice Worship,' so you can view a past worship service at any time. (On Sundays it may take a couple of hours from the time worship ends until the time that YouTube makes the video available).

If you have a YouTube account, please subscribe to the Trinity channel. This will allow our videos to show up in your video feed and when we reach enough subscriptions allow us to change our YouTube url.

Please Note: We are on GRTV!

Our Sunday services are being broadcast on GRTV channel 25! Our services air on Sundays from 11 a.m. to noon. The broadcast is a week behind, so this Sunday's service will air next week. Find us wherever you find GRTV!



2700 Fulton Street East
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616.949.2510 tlcgr.org

Office Hours: 7:30AM - 3:30PM (M-F)



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Mission: *Trinity Lutheran Church is a dynamic family called by God to nurture each other in our daily journeys of faith and to joyfully increase our response to all people in need, sharing God's gifts of love and grace.*

Staff

Direct Dial:
616.949.2510

(then dial extension #)



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Church, gr

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