



Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

September 2020

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A message from Pastor Debra:

A few weeks ago, the banner, *"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go to the house of the Lord,"* found its way into our worship space. I had not seen this banner before and wondered where it came from. At the time, I remember asking God, *"Do you see this banner!"* "Why does this virus have to be one that prevents us from gathering as congregations, as faith communities, in person?"

There are times, like everyone, when I want God to give me answers to questions that either have no answers, or I already know the answer to. That morning I was demanding:

"God, I want your people back! I want to see them face to face! I miss them! Do something!"

I confess, we all have our moments with God when we want our will to be done. Temper tantrums generally are remarkably ineffective. God however does answer us. Sometimes it takes awhile, and sometimes it is immediate. Sometimes we need to stop yelling at God, or in anger ignoring God, long enough to hear God speak.

As I sat among the empty pews, I realized that I was not alone and that we as a church, a congregation, as a community of faith, are not alone. God is always with us. When we are unable to endure things on our own, God carries us. God sends us individuals and images of the divine, that remind us of God's faithfulness to us. These are the individuals and images where we see God's face during moments of distress.

I began to think of all the faithful individuals who crossed my path who had endured much in this world. They were individuals who seemed always to acknowledge the challenge, while looking for the best in every situation.

As I thought of those individuals, I found myself thinking of the first settlers who were instrumental in building this church. For them, the church was first and foremost a place of praise and worship to God. Our Creator God who had gifted them with all they had, and who in many cases had delivered them in more ways than can be counted. These were individuals who knew what it was like to be alone in a strange and hostile land. They endured drought, harsh climates, loneliness, depression, and war. In the face of these things, they remained faithful to God, they built up this community and they thrived.

It was a few weeks after I discovered the banner that I was speaking with Monika Zinn and asked if she knew anything about it. Monika told me that she had placed the banner there, it was an anniversary banner.

As I give thanks to God for God's mysterious ways, I continue to see how appropriate this anniversary banner is for us at this time. Even as God is with us, we also are gifted with the faith of those who have gone before us. Their courage and strength is part of our DNA.

So, when you are discouraged, I encourage you to see the thread of God's revelation running through our church family. A thread that connects us to generations of wisdom. Wisdom that reaches beyond the limited experience of any one person or group. See the grace of God, living and active, growing and transforming us through the generations into the future. Even and perhaps especially during difficult times and at this time. Let us be glad as we are able to return to our house of worship. Let us keep those of our membership who are not yet able to join us, close in heart, through prayer, until we are all able to meet together again.

Blessings and peace, Pastor Debra

We encourage you to look at our Trinity web page. (www.tlcstarbuck.com) The web page is updated regularly. Please check it out.

Attention Trinity Musicians:

This is an opportunity for members of Trinity (especially some of our young musicians) who enjoy playing the piano, guitar, or violin to sign up to play for our Sunday morning Worship service.

Do to the COVID 19 Pandemic we are unable to sing hymns or our liturgical responses when we gather for worship. So, we only need you to play before and after the worship service and through the hymns during worship. Pastor Debra will work with you so that you are able to play the hymns you are comfortable with. We hope this will give you an opportunity to use your special gift.



A note from our treasurer:

	Jan - Jul 20	YTD Budget
Total Income	\$74,462	\$83,534
Total Expense	\$74,872	\$85,498
Net Income	-\$410	-\$1,964

Our income would have been down over 50% to budget this month but thanks to a couple of large donations we ended up within 5% of budget. Thank you! Total income (including the \$10K in government assistance we received earlier) is down 11% so far this year but since we are underspending on expenses by 12%, we are slightly ahead of budget at this point.

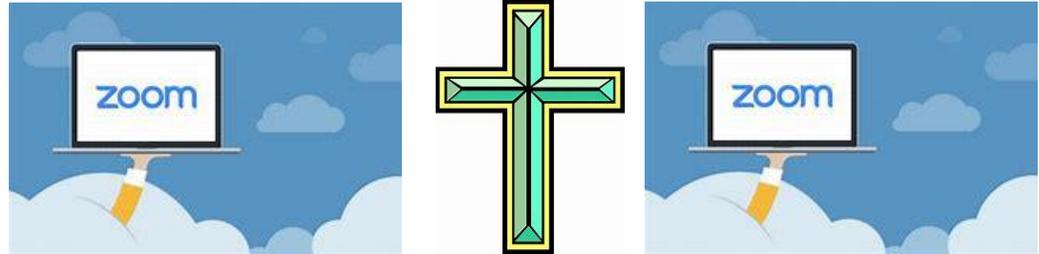
A message from the Editor:

If you ever have any announcements or other content that you would like included in the newsletter, please email me at briannahoude@gmail.com by the last week of the month to be included in the next month's newsletter.

Thank you!

-Brianna

Sunday Morning Worship:



We are very pleased to be able to continue offering a ZOOM worship service for those who are unable to attend the Sunday Morning Worship Service. The service will take place at **7:00 pm on Sunday Evenings**. I was glad when they said unto me.

"Let us go to the house of the LORD"

Sunday Morning Readings for the Month of September 2020:

September 6	Pentecost 14
First Reading	Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm	Psalm 149
Second Reading	Romans 13:8-14
Gospel	Matthew 18:15-20

September 13	Pentecost 15
First Reading	Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm	Psalm 114
Second Reading	Romans 14:1-12
Gospel	Matthew 18:21-35

September 20	Pentecost 16
First Reading	Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm	Psalm 145:1-8
Second Reading	Philippians 1:21-30
Gospel	Matthew 20:1-16

September 27	Pentecost 17
First Reading	Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm	Psalm 25:1-9
Second Reading	Philippians 2:1-13
Gospel	Matthew 21:23-32



Prayer is my key  in the morning
and my lock at night 

Trinity's Sunday School:



Due to the ongoing concerns surrounding the spread of the COVID 19 virus, we currently will not be having any in-person Sunday school at Trinity. We will resume mailing materials to our Sunday school age children on a weekly basis in September. In addition to this, please check out the weekly children's chats that are being uploaded to you tube. The link will come with your weekly e-mailed worship service and sermon. We hope this will be temporary so, please stay tuned for further information.

Living our Faith - Read: Bible Book Club



We have been invited into a year of reading the Bible!

This September, our National Bishop Susan Johnson has invited the members of the ELCIC to form a Bible Book Club. This year our Bible Study at Trinity will participate in this study.

A message from the Bishop:

Bishop Susan reminds us that September 2020 marks the second year of the Living our Faith initiative. Last year the emphasis was on prayer. In keeping with this, our congregation formed a prayer group. This year the emphasis is on study. Each month we will focus together on a different book of the Bible. We will begin with the book of Genesis. We will use the introduction taken from the Lutheran Study Bible, download the prepared questions and then join in the discussion with other members of the ELCIC who are also doing this study. Our study will begin on Wednesday September 16, 2020 in the parish hall at Trinity. ***Please remember to bring your mask.***

First in person worship service:



Our first worship service since March 15, 2020 was held on August 23, 2020. It was great to be worshipping together in person. Although there were some significant changes. Below you will find a few of those changes. These changes are based on Synod recommendations and Province of Manitoba guidelines and are designed to balance the safety of our congregation with our desire for in-person worship.

Some of the significant changes include:

- *Each person (family) will need to sign in prior to the service;*
- *Members are required to wear masks at all times during the service;*
- *Ushers will seat the congregation upon arrival in family units;*
- *All members are required to social distance with all people outside their family unit; and*
- *The congregation will not be able to sing during the service.*

Thank you to everyone who attended. We are grateful for your care and support of one another in adhering to the changes that are currently in place.

**I was glad when they said unto me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord”.**



A message of thanks:

To God's people at Trinity:

In this rather strange year we concluded that we could not really celebrate our fiftieth anniversary, but you certainly did, with the fine gift of the beautiful flower arrangement. We are very glad to be back among you, whom we have long counted as dear friends. Thank you very much. Thank you also for acknowledging the fortieth anniversary of David's ordination.

God's blessings.

Joan and David



A prayer for our students:



Dear God.

Thank you for the gift of education in every form.

As our children prepare to start a new year,

may confidence be their foundation,

may grace be their guide, and

may hope be their compass toward a bright future.

We pray that they will have eyes to see the needs of those around them and a heart to love well.

May they face each day with positivity, knowing that no matter what comes their way, they don't have to face it alone. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**