



The Trinity Lutheran

Gathering in Faith, Living in Hope, Serving in Love
. . . Blown by the Spirit

Volume 76
Issue 3
April 2020

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I pray that you are all safe, that you are in good health, and that you are adapting to the changes that are being required to stop the spread of COVID-19. I pray regularly for all of you.

For the next several weeks, we will not gather together as a congregation. On March 17 the governor of Iowa made a proclamation prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people. While this prohibition goes against the very essence of the Christian church, the Lord has instituted earthly authorities to keep order and protect us, so we will obey the proclamation.

On March 17, the Congregational Council met and decided that all programs and events in the church building would be canceled until further notice. We will not gather for worship on Sunday mornings. However, on page 4 of this newsletter, there is a service for worship in your own home, along with a message/sermon for the week. These services and messages will be sent out every week for as long as our public gathering is suspended.

During this time of crises and change, it is important to stay devoted to God and also to care for those around us. Please remember that even though many things are closed, charities and social services are still serving people. The need for monetary donations has only increased. If you have been giving to a food pantry, the soup kitchen, or another charity, continue that giving. You can also take whatever money you would have spent on restaurants, movies, and shows and give that to an organization that helps people in need.

I also share with you this message, which was a part of a letter that Bishop Lorna Halaas sent to pastors on March 16:

Finally, I encourage you to consider how much time you spend on social media and listening to the news. Be aware of how an overload of information, judgment, and misinformation is affecting you and the people around you. Take time to go outside, read the Bible, and pray. Might we stop each day at noon and offer this prayer-

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this time of fear, danger, and trouble, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation and nations around the world with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

-A Prayer Book for the Armed Services"

I thank God for the protection that he has already given us--that the spread of COVID-19 has not been worse. I thank God for all the people who are working to protect people from this virus and those people who are caring for the sick. I pray that God would lead us all through this time of turmoil.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Scott C. Egbers



**TRINITY WILL NOT
BE GATHERING TO
WORSHIP UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE.**

**PLEASE USE THE
SERVICE IN THIS
NEWSLETTER TO
WORSHIP IN YOUR
OWN HOME.**

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FYI

• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Trinity's Church Council met Tuesday night to discuss what our church family needs to do in order to comply with the state and health department guidelines during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Discussion Items

- **Service Cancellations** - All worship services and activities are cancelled until further notice. This includes outside groups using our building during the week. Members and visitors are discouraged from coming to the church unless approved by staff.
- **Broadcast of Services** - We are planning to live-stream Sunday services and possibly a short Lenten devotion. These will be available on Facebook and the Internet for our members to view, as well as sending hard copies to those who do not have access to Internet/Facebook, etc.
- **Weekly Devotions** - Pastor Scott will develop devotions that can be sent out via the Member News or mailed to encourage families to come together in prayer, read the Bible, etc. We want our members to still feel a part of our Trinity family.
- **Congregational Shepherds** - We are asking for our members to volunteer to be "Shepherds" to a small group of our members, which would include calling them with information or just to see how they're doing, and if they need groceries or prescriptions filled and picket up, etc. Please contact the church office if you would be willing to act as a "shepherd" during this time.
- **Staffing** - All church staff will continue to be paid at this time. Pastor and Jane will work when needed, but were encouraged to stay home if possible. The church phone will be forwarded to either of their phones so people can still contact the church. It is advised that our members do not come to the church, but to call the church when needed. We are here for our members, but the staff needs to be safe as well.
- **Finances** - It is important that our offering continues to come in to keep our bills paid and our staff paid. We encourage our members to continue to give on a regular basis as if they were attending church. Members can set up Simply Giving or bill pay through their banks, or send in or drop off their offering in the mailbox during the day (no cash). Self-addressed, stamped envelopes will be provided to those who need them.

Our Council members will continue to monitor the situation on a weekly basis, and our members will be notified of any changes. Please be sure to read any communication that is sent via the mail or email so you can be kept informed.

POSTPONED!

The following events have been postponed:

- Pastor Scott's Installation Service
- Orders for Easter Lilies
- First Communion Class
- Camp Sunday

PLEASE NOTE:

Those who have the internet, but do not have a Facebook account can still view a live service at the church's Facebook link, as the link is free to view without a Facebook account. Please feel free to share the link with others who may not have a Facebook account.

If you have questions or concerns, or need prayer during this time, please contact Pastor Scott or Jane at the church office. They are available via phone and email to connect with you!

Stay tuned to Facebook, your email and your traditional mail for updates. We want to make sure that everyone has access to all of the information provided.



RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED: Pastor Dave Carlson, Charlotte Richards, Harold Stump, Ron Heaton

REMEMBER THESE IN PRAYER . . .

(Each week we pray daily for the members and friends of Trinity)

04/05 - Colin & Kim O'Shea and family; Chantel Pantoja and family; Reba Parkhill; John & Kerry Patterson and family; Kyle & Shawn Petersen and family

04/12 - Jason & Lorena Peterson and family; Linda Phillips; Diane Plum; Paul & Vicki Pollard and family; Wayne Porter, Jr.

04/19 - Chuck & Andi Prior and family; Dennis Rexroat; Karen Rhodes; Charlotte Richards; Solveig Runge

04/26 - Earl & Kathy Snyder; Russ & Jeri Snyder; Jim Sorvaag and family; Sharon Stafford; Barb Stansbury

PRAYER CONCERNS

Wayne Kroger
Ann Stump
Barbara Holtze
Ella Swanson
Diane Plum
Lennice Carlson
Merle Hanslip
Todd Calvillo

Doug Walker
Yvonne Church
Ardis Bosteder
Larry Kukuk
Mary Hansen
Solveig Runge
Dave Carlson
Ron Heaton

Bobbie Myers
Charlotte Richards
Maxine Durig
Shirley McLeod
Skip Meisner
Ken Cain
Marc Anfinson
Harold Stump

OUR SYMPATHY GOES OUT TO:

The family of Jeanetta "Nita" Larsen, who passed away a couple weeks ago.

We pray for God's continued comfort and peace for this family as they grieve the loss of their loved one.



The following projects will continue as part of our mission ministry, but please take note of a few changes:

Dollar Sunday offerings can be sent to the church via the mail or dropped off in an envelope in our mailbox during the day. This is an important ministry to our neighbors in December.

- * **Mid-Town Family Community Center** - They will continue to serve our neighbors with outdoor food pantries and are asking for nonperishable kid-friendly snacks for the kids out of school at this time. You can drop off your donations at our back door and Mid-Town will pick them up.
- * **Hy-Vee Receipts** - Please continue to save your receipts at home. **The receipts can be collected through April 30, 2020.**
- * **Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House** - Save at home and bring when services start up again.
- * **WARMING SHELTER**, located at 916 Nebraska Street, is a temporary emergency shelter during the winter months for those who are homeless. Give any donation directly to the Warming Shelter.
- * **Soles4Souls** - We have received a letter from Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon that they will no longer serve as a processing center for Soles4Souls. Unfortunately, changes in the past couple of years by the Federal Government in terms of allowing people with disabilities to work in sheltered work centers have led them to this point. The last day they will accept shoes to process will be Friday, May 1 (this may have changed now due to the outbreak).
- * **Soup Kitchen** - The Soup Kitchen has suspended their dine-in meal program until further notice. Dinner will be catered to the shelter each evening and to-go meals will be available every day at the kitchen. They are tentatively planning a 2-week shutdown to see where they are. Donations of bottled water and monetary donations are needed at this time.



**Order for Separated Worship
(in homes and streaming)
March 22, 2020 10:00 a.m.**

How to Use this Service: This order for worship is a way in which the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church can continue to worship, despite being unable to gather together. All members are encouraged to gather in their own household at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning and turn to God, using this order. In this way, we will have some level of unity, even though we are physically apart. The service can be led by an individual, or parts can be divided among those present. The message from Pastor Scott can be read and may also include a time for discussion. The suggested prayers may be used, but people are encouraged to include their own prayers as the Spirit guides them. If there are any questions, feel free to call Pastor Scott. He would be glad to give guidance and assistance. Also, this service will be live streamed on Facebook at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday so you will be able to follow along with the service below.

L=Leader **A=All**

Songs – You may begin by singing 1 or 2 of your favorite praise songs of hymns.

Greeting:

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit

A: Amen

Kyrie:

L: Lord have mercy,

A: Lord have mercy.

L: Christ have mercy,

A: Christ have mercy.

L: Lord have mercy,

A: Lord have mercy.

Prayer of the Day:

L: Let us pray,

A: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

Bible Reading: John 9:1-11

Message Printed on Page 5

Hymn: #779 - *Amazing Grace* (see page 6)

Prayers:

L: Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need:

- Lord, open our eyes to see you at work in the world. Give us sight to see you protecting us, providing for us, and delivering us from evil.
- Lord, protect us from disease and sickness and death. We see danger all around us, show us your saving work. We see pain and loss, show us comfort and renewal.
- God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: #768 - *Lead Me, Guide Me* (see page 6)

Blessing:

L: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

A: Amen.

Thank you to Pastor Scott, Amy, Shirley and all those who helped live-stream our service today.



Sermon for Sunday, March 22
Gospel Reading: John 9:1-11
10:00 a.m. Sunday Separated Worship
(To be read in member's own homes and
delivered by Pastor Scott Egbers via live streaming.)

On this fourth Sunday in Lent, we read another passage of scripture that has a baptismal connection. Jesus encounters a blind man and Jesus restores his sight. Jesus also encounters some Pharisees, who can see with their eyes, but are blind to who Jesus is. When we are united to Christ, in baptism, we are enlightened to see the world in a new way.

Some of you have experienced blindness and so you can hear this story with more empathy. Most of us have eyes that work fairly well. But even when we are not physically blind, we continue to have trouble seeing.

Just the other day, I went to my computer to open the document for this message, and I could not find it. There are many documents and files on my computer. They are in many different folders and even on different drives. I have not yet created an organized file system, so as I type things and create documents, they end up in different places on the computer.

I went to the folder where I thought the document was. But I didn't see it there. I went to the other folder where it might have been, but I didn't see it there either. Then...I panicked, because I thought I had lost it. I had lost everything that I had already typed! So, in a panic, I started to skim through the various folders, but it all just looked like a blur of files.

But then, I calmed down, I went back to the place where the document should have been, I looked carefully through each file name (not just skimming)... and there it was, right where it was supposed to be, hidden in plain sight.

I had a moment of "Aha, now I see."

The man who was born blind, encountered Jesus, his eyes were opened, and he had a moment of "Aha, now I see."

What do you see when you look at the world and when you look at your life? What are you trying to find? Have you found it? Do you see it? Are you searching frantically in a panic?

Our eyes must be opened in order to see clearly. We are born blind. We are born unable to see the true reality of who God is. We are born unable to see God's work in this world. It is only when our eyes are opened by the Holy Spirit, when we are born again, that we can truly see. Having our eyes opened is new life, and new life opens our eyes.

So what do you see with your eyes wide open? Do you see the light of Christ?

During this time of turmoil, with the COVID-19 outbreak, it is important to look at the world with our eyes wide open. It is important to look at the world with the light of Christ shining on it. It is too easy to be blind to God's salvation in the midst of sickness. It is too easy to see only darkness, crises, and impending doom. We can panic and start to frantically search for answers from social media, from the news, from stories that we have heard.

Instead, calm down and look carefully. Look and see who is really hurting and who is really in need. Look and see how you can support your neighbors and those around you, how you can call a friend who may be lonely and isolated, or offer to get supplies for people who are vulnerable and can't go out. See how you can send money to charities and food pantries to feed people who may be losing their jobs.

Most importantly, look and see that God is still God and that he continues to rule the world. Look and see that God is providing for you, that God is protecting you, that God will save you. Look and see that Jesus is Lord. He is the savior who we need, and he has come to shine light in this darkness.

Your eyes have been opened, so look around and see what the Lord has done. See what the Lord is doing right now. See how he is protecting you and protecting so many other people. See how he is guiding you and providing for you. See how, even if the world does fall apart, even if disaster does come, Jesus is saving you. Amen.



HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 22, SERVICE

Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've not less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Lead Me, Guide Me

Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to help me over my weakest hour,
Help me through the darkness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. (Refrain)
2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. (Refrain)
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am blind without thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. (Refrain)

JUST FOR KIDS!

Since the kids can't pick up a Children's Bulletin on Sunday mornings, have them check out the fun games online at games.childrensbulletins.com.

They will need to type in their Secret Code XXTGE7 and then they will be able to play Word Search and other games, as well as try their hand at coloring.

This secret code is unique to our church and allows SAFE and secure access to online games that reinforce the message for the week.

This can be a great way to pass the time during their at-home play in the weeks ahead.





Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Overview
 February 2020



The Trinity Finance Committee continues to meet monthly and monitor the financial position of the church. The Internal Audit should be completed this month and a review of the Financial Policies and Procedures will be conducted. Again, thank you for your ongoing support!

February 2020 and Year-To-Date:

Balance in Checking Account: \$84,658.40:

Of that amount, \$19,938.48 is for Designations/Restricted Accounts.

Therefore, \$64,719.92 is unrestricted.

Investment Accounts:

The designated balance is \$64,830.70 for the Dible Endowment and Building Maintenance funds.

(Will update this account quarterly)

The Baird Cash Reserve has a balance of \$50,155.20 (as of 1/31/20).

Building Loan balance: \$81,668.62 due in 2025.

For the month of February:

Received Income totaling \$21,724.25.

Expenses totaled \$19,314.18 (includes principal loan payment).

Net Income after Loan Principal paid is \$2,410.07.

YTD:

Received Income totaling \$38,338.11.

Expenses totaled \$35,103.46 (includes principal loan payment).

Net Income before the Loan Principal payment is \$5,869.52; after the Loan Principal paid is \$3,234.65.

As always, feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Christy Clark and Linda Phillips, Co-Treasurers

February Attendance/Offerings

Feb. 2	131	\$ 7,167.81
Feb. 9	268	\$ 3,257.00
Feb. 16	184	\$ 4,400.30
Feb. 23	185	\$ 3,148.00
Feb. 26 (AW)	111	
		\$17,973.11
	Other Income	\$ 450.00
	Total	\$18,423.11
	Building Fund Deposits	\$ 1,810.00

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church building is closed, so we are asking that members do not come to the church office unless it has been approved by staff or council. The less contact between one another the better during the next few weeks.

The Council decided that Pastor Scott and Jane are allowed to stay home when they have completed their work for the week. We do want our members to be able to contact the church if needed, so we are working on getting the church phone forwarded to Jane's cell phone; however, if that doesn't work, please call Jane at 712-490-3835, or if you need to speak directly to Pastor Scott, his number is 402-719-1786.



Do we have...

your @e-mail.address?

IMPORTANT messages will be sent out by email, as it is a fast and easy way to contact you. Please call the church office and let Jane know what your email address is OR email Jane at jane.olorundami@wisynod.org.

We will also be sending out important information via the mail to those who do not have email, so everyone will receive the same information. To cut down on the cost of mailings, we will use our bulk rate discount. We need 200 pieces to receive that discount, so you may receive information by email and/or regular mail to lower the cost. **Please open all mail received from the church so you can stay informed.**

THANK YOU!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION INSIDE.**

TRINITY'S STAFF

Pastor: Scott C. Egbers
Admin. Assistant: Jane Olorundami
Organist: Shirley Luebke
Praise Team Director: Amy Linder
Director of Choral Music: John Luebke
Handbell/Chime Choir Director: Kerry Patterson
Cherub Choir Director: Jane Olorundami
Amen Choir Director: Joanna Meehan

TRINITY'S LEADERS

Council President: Bill Burrack
Council Vice President: Dan Holzrichter
Council Secretary: Pam Cook
Co-Treasurers: Linda Phillips, Christy Clark
Mission Chair: Jeri Snyder
Spiritual Growth Chair: Pam Cook
Property Chair: Russ Snyder

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