

Trinity SONRISE News



Trinity Lutheran Church

on the Sunrise Side of Michigan

2020

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AZZAM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Another month has passed as we await the opportunity to worship together. I do not know about you, but I look forward to hearing any good news about a vaccination, a better treatment, a flattened curve... (and in case you do not know what that is, it refers to a graphic curve that shows a decline or flattening of coronavirus cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, indicators that the virus has run its course and the relative safety of coming out becomes stronger.)

I would like to share a couple of passages from God's word that may mean more to you if you feel as I do about all of this.

1. Matthew 24: 36 - 42 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

In January, no one knew what was about to befall us: everyone was going about their business, eating, drinking, marrying, etc. Jesus' words are to keep watch, for none of us know the day the Lord will return. All the more reason to watch, do what is God pleasing, and to remember that the Lord came to this earth to reconcile all humanity before God. Now reconciled, we live by faith in Jesus and in eager anticipation of his return.

2. 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

The old hymn by Norwegian Pietist, Hans Brorson, "I Walk in Danger All the Way." Defines the walk for Christians in any time and place. Notice the opening lines of each successive stanza, I pass though trials all the way, Death doth pursue me all the way. I walk with angels all the way, I walk with Jesus all the way and, My walk is heavenward all the way. We are in the Lord's hands if we are in or out. At the same time, however, it also behooves us to be smart about our walk and not tempt the Lord by being reckless.

3. Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Until that day, walk with Jesus, take heart that he suffered for you, and do not grow weary in waiting on God or serving one another.

In Christ, Pastor Azzam

Orphan Grain Train 7 Ways Orphan Grain Train is Combating COVID-19

This pandemic is attacking our communities, our country, and the world but **Orphan Grain Train Volunteers are SERVING BACK!** One of my prayers for this ministry is Psalm 90:17, "Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!"

Here are some of the ways the Lord has established the work of our hands in the fight against CV-19:

1. **42 hospital beds, 38 mattresses, 21 mattress toppers, 31 patient monitors, 10,000 gloves, boxes of isolation gowns and disposable bed pads** were delivered to a hospital overrun with CV-19 cases by our New England Branch.
2. **738 new hospital scrubs** were given to the Sedgwick County Emergency Management Office by our Wichita Branch.
3. **2,160 Mercy Meals** were delivered to a Salvation Army Food Pantry in Grand Island Nebraska by OGT's central Nebraska volunteers.
4. **A 40-foot container filled with medical equipment, solar ovens and humanitarian aid** arrived in Zambia two weeks ago that will help fight the spread of CV-19.
5. **All 27 of our OGT Branches and collection centers were sent kits to make reusable face masks.** The Maryland Branch has made **624 masks** and sent them to Hospitals and nursing homes in the greater Baltimore/ DC area.
6. **Hundreds of sanitary wipes** are being made in Norfolk, NE to be used by companies, gas stations, churches, grocery stores, etc., to sanitize anything frequently touched by people.
7. **Over 1,600 meals a week** are being distributed from our portable kitchen in Norfolk, NE to feed people who have lost income and are struggling to feed their families. (photo above)

Will you please help us continue sowing Gospel Seeds and meeting human needs with a sacrificial gift of cash, stock, securities, crops, IRAs or a gift annuity.

Three Ways to give:

1. Click on the **Donate Button**
2. **Mail your check to:** Orphan Grain Train, P.O. Box 1466, Norfolk, NE 68702-1466
3. **Call us toll free at (877) 371-7393**

Thank you in the name of our compassionate Savior,
Grant Schmidt
Vice President of Operations

Our Contact Information

Orphan Grain Train
601 W. Phillip Ave
P.O. Box 1466
Norfolk, NE 68701
(402)371-7393

STEWARDSHIP

Count your Blessings in the Midst of a Virus Pandemic

For many of us the Coronavirus national emergency is perhaps the biggest life-changing event that as a country we will face. Fortunately, our generation has missed the great depression and world wars which caused even greater lifestyle changes than what we are facing today. As we all know, this virus pandemic has caused the closing of schools and colleges, the cancellations of sporting events, and the job loss for many people. Many churches are no longer holding services, concerts cancelled, restaurants closed, vacations postponed, etc. The coronavirus has caused significant declines in the world's financial markets, decreasing the value of people's investments and retirement funds.

It is easy for people to become bitter and frightened in these circumstances and many will blame God. God's Word tells us of a better way. *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17). These verses give us actions that will enable us to overcome the worst circumstances. We aren't told just to "feel better" but to *"rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks..."*

There's a lot to give thanks for, too, when we're going through difficult times. God is with us, and He is control. What a joy we have knowing that we have God's presence and protection. We have God's strong and abiding presence through His Word and Sacrament. Each and every day, we have the opportunity to turn to God in His Word to be uplifted and refreshed even when the world around us seems to be closing down. Through the faith that God gives us, we know it is God's will that we rejoice in Him and seek His peace in the midst of this virus pandemic.

In the midst of this crisis, the church still continues its vital mission and ministry. Jesus tells us *"I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"* (Matthew 16:18). God promises us that nothing will overcome the Church because it rests on Jesus. The church is here to minister to the bitter, frightened, and doubtful. We encourage your prayers and ask you to continue your generous giving. The fear of catching the virus will keep many away from church, but we do ask that you continue your faithful giving as you are able. May God help us all during these challenging times be the light that He wants us to be.

--Bill Davis, Stewardship Chair



May Mission of the Month P.O.B.L.O.

The mission of P.O.B.L.O. is to meet the physical, social, and spiritual needs of Muslims and other immigrants and refugees in the United States by sharing the love of Jesus in practical and culturally relevant ways.

P.O.B.L.O. International Ministries is a non-profit, Christian organization that is passionate about sharing the love of Jesus with Muslims and other immigrants and refugees living in the United States. Unlike in the past, American Christians do not have to go overseas to do mission work – the mission field yard. P.O.B.L.O. International Ministries is responding to this change in demographics and revolutionizing the way the gospel is shared by engaging in cross-cultural missions and grassroots community outreach here in the United States and training and partnering with local churches.

--Bill Davis, Stewardship Chair

BUILDING FUND – DOORS

We need to replace the two doors in the front of our church near the altar area. The doors have rusted and are difficult to open. This is a special concern since those doors provide emergency exit from the building. We have also found that the flashings were installed incorrectly which allowed water to enter areas around the doors. This leakage requires that masonry work be done.

We are fortunate that several people who worship at Trinity have taken the lead in evaluating the situation. The current quotes indicate that the cost will be around \$5,000.00. Volunteers will be doing some of the work.



This is work that can no longer be put off. \$750.00 was included in the current church budget for the replacement of the doors. However, this will not cover the total costs. Additional funds are needed to complete the project.

We have a Building Fund, which is a restricted fund outside our operating budget. This fund is used to provide for unexpected expenses for the repair of our church building.

Please consider making a gift to the Building Fund to help pay for our new doors and needed repairs.

POSITIONS ON THE BOARD

Currently the following positions of our congregation and Church Council are open or up for election at the June meeting:

Vice President - Secretary - Treasurer - Financial Secretary
Chair of Parish Education - Chair of Social Ministry

Please consider serving God and His Church. If you have any questions, please speak with Dave Wagner, Pastor Azzam, or a member of the Church Council. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone willing to serve the Lord and the congregation to become involved in these key positions.

If you have any interest or knowledge of bookkeeping or financial management, please consider the position of Treasurer. Bradd is willing to train anyone who offers to serve as Treasurer. Please speak with Pastor or any Council member.



Two Worship Services Will Start When Church Resumes

Our regular schedule:

Worship Services

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Bible Study and Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

*Pending Safety Logistics

BABY BOTTLE BONANZA FUND RAISER



Harbor Lights Pregnancy and Information Center in E. Tawas once again hopes Trinity can participate in a Baby Bottle Fund Raiser between Mother's Day (May 10) and Father's Day (June 21). A basket of bottles will be available at the church on May 3, whether or not church services are held. **Please consider picking up a bottle** to fill with your loose change (or bills, or checks!) and returning it by Fathers' Day. Although the Center has not been open for clients, members of the staff have continued to keep in touch with them and offer assistance with supplies for their babies and young children on a parking lot pick-up basis. The Center also continues to have usual expenses, such as rent; so it is fitting that we use this time between two important holidays to assist Harbor Lights in their efforts to provide education and supplies to young parents and families in our community.

T.L.C.W. Garage Sale

As you clean, dust, wash, and polish your home, attic, closets, garage, and pole barns, keep in mind that the T.L.C.W.'s GARAGE SALE will be scheduled when all is clear.

Set aside those unwanted but useable things you find for the GARAGE SALE. If you don't want that stuff – most likely someone will buy it at our GARAGE SALE. Your "trash" could be someone else's "treasure"!



It pleased the Lord to call to his eternal rest the soul of Rodger Wenzel on Easter Evening, April 12, 2020. May God continue to bless Carol and family with his peace of the Resurrection News. A memorial service at Trinity will be planned at a later date.

Have
Faith
in
GOD



Chris Exnowski, Lorainne Boike, Wayne Fortney, and Bill Ruckel

Homebound:

Alice Dettmer – medilodge
Richard & Phyllis Fitzgerald

Military:

Jason Cooper
Courtney & Karina Pierce (Army)
Marc Stiller (U.S.A.F. – Sherman)
Nathan Boettge (Marines – Fortney)

