

Trinity SONRISE News



Trinity Lutheran Church

on the Sunrise Side of Michigan

2020

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AZZAM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With this edition of the *Trinity Sonrise News* we embark upon our first indoor worship service since our state's Safer at Home policy was enacted. Though the Governor's executive order never explicitly prohibited worship, non-essential businesses were shut down and people were encouraged to only travel to purchase groceries, visit the pharmacy, or their doctor. Non-essential travel would be construed as a misdemeanor and was punishable by a fine. In order to protect the free exercise of religion clause, the Governor later stated, "We won't enforce fines on people attending church." The possibility of opening churches, however, was greatly curtailed by strict Federal guidelines that doing so for many parishes was impractical.

Now that the Safer at Home policy has been lifted, and other businesses have been allowed to open up, many congregations are holding in person, indoor services under the current guidance which includes distancing, face coverings, limiting common touch items, such as hymnals, and cleaning, cleaning, cleaning. We open because we follow health department guidance because it shows love to our neighbor and it honors those God has placed in authority over us...for our good.

The text for July 5, the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost ironically contains these words of St. Paul:

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Galatians 5:13-14)

How do we gather together in a time when evidence suggests the possibility of contracting a very contagious and dangerous virus is still somewhat elevated? How do we express our rights as citizens of a nation which protects the right of peaceful assembly and has guaranteed to not interfere with the free exercise of religion while knowing that to do so in enclosed spaces, like the church building, may inflict harm on our neighbor? Who makes that decision and which value is greater?

The Bible also says, "Someone will say, "I am allowed to do anything." Yes, but not everything is good for you. I could say that I am allowed to do anything, but I am not going to let anything make me its slave." (1Corinthians 6:12) Good News Version

When our insistence on exercising our freedom overshadows loving our neighbor, then we show we are slaves to such desire. I may not like wearing a mask in a store or in church, but to protect my brother or sister in Christ I do so, and I stand 6 feet away from them. I may think following health regulations in the Lord's house is a bother, but if I refuse to follow them, I am breaking the 4th Commandment by dishonoring those God has placed over me for my good.

The kid that said to you, this is a free country, I can do what I want to do, was wrong. When the exercise of our freedoms put others at risk, then they are not really free because they are not receiving the same consideration we expect for ourselves. We are simply enslaved to a different tyrant, our sinful nature. God's love has made *us* free to not only worship him, he makes *our neighbor* free to do so without being put at risk. We are not only free to speak about a loving God, but we are called to demonstrate to one another what that Love does by serving and protecting those around us. Jesus sacrificed all so that we might be saved.

In His Service, Pastor Timothy Azzam

STEWARDSHIP

Called to Be Stewards



With a few spoken words, God created the world out of nothing. It was God's decision to let us have *"dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth"* (Genesis 1:26). Even though mankind did nothing to deserve this opportunity, we have been given a great honor and

privilege to care for His creation. God trusts us to have dominion over the works of His hands. Our caretaker role gives us purposeful lives.

Once we understand our identity as God's stewards, it changes how we look at everything around us. As stewards, we manage what has been entrusted to us. According to God's will and vision, we are managers not owners. As His stewards, we are to protect and expand what He has given to us.

We are not born stewards. However, by His grace, God transforms us into stewards who seek to follow His ways rather than our own. With changed hearts, we embrace His love and plan for our lives. God empowers us to put aside our need to be owners who are in control as we become His faithful stewards who seek to do His will. The love of Christ controls us. Transformed, we worship the Lord and live lives of faith, love, and obedience rather than living for ourselves.

As the Holy Spirit works in us through Word and Sacrament, transforming us into the image of Christ, we, in turn, will express more of His character. When we believe that God is present in our lives and trust in His power, we will, through faith, apply God's teachings to our lives.

Being a faithful steward is love in action. As Dr. Stephen F. Olford, a 20th Century Christian leader, said, Christ alone owns our eyes to view His world. He alone owns our hands to serve His will. He alone owns our feet to walk His way. He alone owns our minds to think His thoughts. He alone owns our hearts to love Him fervently. He alone owns our personalities to radiate His charm and glory. Failure to recognize this is a refusal to recognize His sovereignty.

May God continue to encourage and equip us to be His faithful stewards who have been shaped by His grace.

--Bill Davis, Stewardship Chair

Summer Missions of the Month

June

Here We Stand Campaign

A campaign that will assist the Michigan District carry out its mission and ministry to the fullest. The goal is to raise \$10,000,000 which will be used to fund:

- Professional Church Worker Scholarships - \$3,000,000
- Innovative Missional Ministry - \$3,000,000
- Michigan District Endowment – \$3,000,000
- International Ministry – \$1,000,000

July

Lutheran World Relief & Disaster Response (LCMS)

Lutheran World Relief is always responding to natural Disasters and humanitarian crises around the world.

When a disaster hits – whether it's a drought, tsunami or civil war – Lutheran World Relief works over months and years to help people recover and adjust to new realities.

August

Adopt a Seminarian

Adopt-A-Seminarian is a program of the LCMS seminaries where a congregation can support a seminary student for a year. All of the money sent to the student goes directly to the student for his needs.



Chris Exnowski, Wayne Fortney, and Bill Ruckel

Homebound:

Alice Dettmer – Medilodge
Richard & Phyllis Fitzgerald –
Oscoda Senior Condominiums

Military:

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



It pleased the Lord to call to her eternal rest the soul of Lorraine Boike on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Please keep her family in your prayers. A funeral service was held at Buresch Funeral Home on Saturday, May 23, 2020. A memorial service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church at a later date.

It pleased the Lord to call to his eternal rest the soul of Lee Dawley on Saturday, May 23, 2020. Please keep Ann and the family in your prayers. A memorial service will take place at a later date.

It pleased the Lord to call to his eternal rest the soul of Robert J. Perry on Saturday, May 23, 2020. Please keep Nancy and the family in your prayers. A memorial service will take place this summer.

A memorial service for Rodger Wenzel has tentatively been scheduled for August 9th at Trinity.

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. A voters' meeting has been tentatively scheduled for August 16, 2020 at 9:15 a.m.

CONGREGATION TREASURER NEEDED

After serving you for six (6) years as Congregation Treasurer, and with my current term expiring 9/30/2020, I have notified Church Council that I will not stand for re-election to the Treasurer position starting 10/1/2020.

I have agreed to provide training and transition services to the new Treasurer to assure a smooth transition of responsibilities. This can start anytime. While this may necessarily stretch past 10/1/2020, I am happy to do this given the importance of this role. However, the goal is to have a new Treasurer identified as soon as possible and prior to the June 2020 Congregation Meeting when elections for new officers will be held.

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone willing to serve the work of the Lord and the Congregation to become involved in this key position. If you have any interest, knowledge of bookkeeping or financial management, please talk further with me or any Council member.

Regards,

Bradd Chisholm, Treasurer email – bschisholm@trinityoscoda.org

Phone Number – (989) 525-6020

THE LORD PROVIDES

The Gospel lesson for our first worship service in months on Father's Day was from Matthew, chapter 10. That chapter contains the familiar reminder of how well our heavenly Father knows us when we hear "But even the hairs of your head are all numbered." And we are reminded, "Fear not" because we are valuable to our Father in heaven. A value we see in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

We have seen how valuable we are to our Lord during the past months of stay at home orders and national concerns. He cares and provides for us. We continue to show our Lord's love while showing love to others through the work of the church gathered at Trinity.

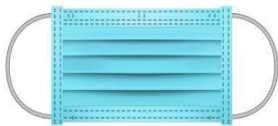
Our Lord has cared for His church at Trinity by providing for our financial needs through the generous support of our members during the past months. We are most grateful for this support of your church.

The Lord also provided a loan through the Payroll Protection Program administered by our national government that allows for businesses and churches to continue to support staff with regular salaries. Trinity qualified for a loan in the amount of \$22,555.00. This allowed us to continue to support our pastor and staff during the months of stay at home orders. The provisions of the loan allow for forgiveness when most of the loan is used to protect the salaries of our staff.

All Praise and Thanks to God!

Please

- *Wear a face mask*
- *Practice social distancing*
- *Do not enter if you feel sick*



Thank You!

Two Worship Services

Resumed on June 28, 2020
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Please pre-register by 12:00 noon the previous Thursday – Call 739-9292

Social distancing requirements limit us to the number of people we can accommodate in the sanctuary.

Thank You Pastor Azzam!

For providing weekly services and sermons on Facebook. During this global pandemic and Michigan's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, we were able to enjoy Pastor's sermons and his singing. Printed copies of the service and sermon are available to pick up in the entry way of the church. Newsletters as well as a variety of other information is also available for you to pick up. Trinity's weekly services will continue to be posted on Facebook. At-risk members are encouraged to stay home and worship online a bit longer.

THE DOORS OPEN AGAIN

Our Lord has cared for our church by providing people and funds to replace the two doors in front of the church. These are used to exit the building in case of an emergency and had become difficult to open due to rust and water damage. Thank you to Milton Clouse, Fred Rogel, and Ron Weidenfeller, who took the lead to get quotes, order the doors and pick them up. Then the doors were painted and installed. Other repairs were professionally done on the roof to prevent future damage.



**MANY THANKS TO
Milton Clouse, Fred Rogel & Ron Weidenfeller**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

6/1	James Dennis	7/11	Amanda Alvarez
6/3	Chris Hock	7/11	Cynthia Moran
6/3	Scott Phillips	7/12	Ronal Kaiser
6/3	Barbara Weiss	7/12	Ruth Parth
6/5	Zachary Abee	7/12	Ruth Parth
6/6	Edna Rainey	7/14	Steven Stewart
6/7	Alyssa Phillips	7/15	Ryan Bilbey
6/7	Carol Wenzel	7/15	Eric Dennis
6/9	Judy Dombrowski	7/15	Eric Dennis
6/9	Samantha Travis	7/16	Kayla Kerentoff
6/12	Jesika Robinson	7/18	Mark Faught, Jr.
6/13	Beverly Niedermiller	7/20	Joseph Hock
6/13	Mary Wehrman	7/25	Charles Durfee
6/13	James Kuerbitz	7/26	Margaret Foester
6/15	Paul Stewart	7/27	Renee Villet
6/16	Judith Howey	7/29	Ed Storms
6/18	William Davis	7/30	Gary Richter
6/18	Elizabeth Roy	7/31	Gary Richter
6/22	Duane Foerster, Sr.	7/31	Joshua Abee
6/24	Miranda Evens	7/31	Susan Barnhart
6/24	Cheryl Ogden	8/3	Susan Barnhart
7/4	Mitch Davis, Jr.	8/3	Susie Manning
7/5	Leisha Spencer	8/6	Jewell Beveridge
7/7	Mary Douglas	8/7	Karen Peca
7/7	Judy Malson	8/7	Karen Peca
7/7	Judy Malson	8/7	Sue Pisarski
7/8	Shirley Ellis	8/9	Sue Pisarski
7/9	Joy Garrison	8/9	Lyle Boyce
7/9	Joann Pancost	8/15	Lyle Boyce
		8/15	Joshua Cooper
		8/15	Steve Ogden
		8/25	Steve Ogden
		8/25	Blake Roy
		8/26	Blake Roy
		8/26	Heather Loyer
		8/28	Heather Loyer
		8/28	Elma Mertz

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

6/1	Paul & Terri Westberg
6/5	Frederick & Christine Rogel
6/6	Duane & Margaret Foerster, Sr.
6/6	Steve & Cheryl Ogden
6/8	Andrew & Beth Roy
6/19	Ron & Karen Kaiser
6/29	Lou & Miriam Kuhlmann
7/7	Bob & Kathy Boschma
7/8	Ronald & Joy Garrison
7/9	David & Ruth Golm
7/9	Michael & Kristine Ounan
7/16	Richard & Carolyn Jones
7/17	Marc & Amanda Alvarez
8/7	Bradd & Joan Chisholm
8/14	Jack & Annette Inman
8/22	Neil & Judy Malson
8/26	William & Kay Ruckle

Know the Elders

The Board of Elders concerns itself with the wellbeing and spiritual life of our congregation and pastor. Pastor Azzam and your Elders are happy and eager to hear from you!

They may be reached at:

Pastor Azzam - 739-4820
 Mitch Davis, Jr. - 989-820-1469
 Charlie Rainey - 724-6704
 Roger Tack - 989-293-8050
 Ron Weidenfeller - 724-7701

BABY BOTTLE BONANZA FUND RAISER



The Baby Bottle Fundraiser for Harbor Lights Pregnancy and Information Center, planned between Mother's Day (May 10) and Father's Day (June 21), **has been extended**. A basket of empty bottles is available in the church lobby. **Please consider picking up a bottle** to fill with your loose change (or bills, or checks!) There will be a notice of where and when to return the filled bottles.

Although the Center was not 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 started seeing clients again on June 17th. The Center continues to have usual expenses, such as rent, so it is fitting that we assist Harbor Lights in their efforts to provide education and supplies to young parents and families in our community.

Trinity Lutheran Church



**Update your
contact info!**

Trinity Lutheran Church would like to update the contact information we have on file for our members and friends. It is easy to forget to let the church office know if you move or get a new phone number or email address. Please take a moment to fill out this form and return it to the church office at your earliest convenience.

Name of Head of Household _____

Name of Spouse _____

Name of Child(ren) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

If you have an alternate address during the year, please indicate address below and the months you will be at that alternate address.

Alternate Address _____

Dates You Will be at Alternate Address _____

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION