

Trinity **SONRISE** News



Trinity Lutheran Church

on the Sunrise Side of Michigan

2021

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AZZAM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

King Solomon wrote in his book of Ecclesiastes that there is a time and season for everything under heaven. Sometimes people know when the time is right, and other times someone tells us. We run into trouble, however, when the announcement of a new time or a new season seems arbitrary, especially when people cannot seem to agree concerning it.

Everyone was ready for 2020 to be over hoping that 2021 would bring a time for finally getting out, a time for rebuilding, and a time for reuniting. What we have discovered however is that certain obstacles seem to still be in the way for all that to happen. We learned last week that the doctors who work at the CDC have come to the conclusion that the various vaccinations are sufficiently effective post two weeks, that fully vaccinated individuals should be able to move about safely without wearing a mask, either indoors or outdoors. And yet there remains many obstacles that prevent us from putting that into practice, especially here at church. We are still, for example, expected to follow social distancing in the building – which means that we must stay six feet away from people who are not in our “social bubble.” Friends who are fully vaccinated can sit together, where friends whose vaccination status is unknown or who have not been vaccinated must stay six feet away from each other. On the other hand, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has announced that we are on a trajectory that would make it safe to increase indoor capacities to 50% across the board with no limits on outdoor gatherings by June 1st. In one month, or on July 1st, we are told, that all restrictions, including mandatory six-foot distancing and mask wearing will be removed except in certain medical settings.

What does this mean for us at Trinity? The Church Council has been following state guidance all along and so that guidance suggests that we are still limited in what we can do together. Socials and dinners indoors may have to wait until July 1st when all restrictions are removed. That being said, some among us may still not feel they are ready to resume every activity as it was before the pandemic. They may still feel more comfortable distanced from others or still with their face covered at worship. While one person might be more than ready to get on with things, another might still be moving forward cautiously.

In the days and weeks ahead, the Church Council will look and listen to what is happening around us, we will seek advice from those who have our best interest and safety at heart, but then finally we will have to decide which benchmarks we will follow in order to fully open up.

As of now, those of you who are not fully vaccinated are still expected to wear a mask at worship and are encouraged to distance yourselves as we have been doing in the pews. Those who believe they are ready to remove the mask and are fully vaccinated are encouraged to sit on the right side of the church. Until capacities change, which seems to be July 1, we will still be required to open every other pew. Please also respect those who may still be more comfortable masked at worship and honor their personal decisions. As the body of Christ, we accommodate one another out of respect for Him who served us and died for us. Let love lead you and be patience during this time as you have been.

Thank you to all of you who have sent cards and gifts to honor my birthday. Thank you also for your prayers and expressions of concern regarding my arm surgery and Kathy’s stress fracture of her foot.

In Christ, Rev. Timothy Azzam

STEWARDSHIP

Guided by the Eyes of the Heart

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke about two treasures (Matthew 6:19-20). We either seek “*treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal*” or “*treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*” We are all treasure seekers because we either want to enjoy treasures on earth or treasures in heaven. Our choices, decisions, and actions are dictated by what we hold dear. What we treasure dictates how we think about ourselves and our relationships with others and most important with God.

So, what is your treasure? What causes you to love the treasures or the things of this world or the treasure that God offers? Why do some of us follow one path and others a different one? God gives us two eyes to see, and they are an enormous help for our existence. However, they do not provide help as to which treasure we serve. In his book *Redeeming Money*, Paul David Tripp suggests that we have another pair of eyes and those eyes are eyes of the heart. This set of eyes makes up an important part of our vision system. He wrote:

The eyes of the heart are always envisioning something. They are always fixed and focused on some hope, some dream, something you value. What the eyes of your heart envision will shape what your physical eyes look for and notice. Your physical vision is not neutral. No, it is guided by the eyes of your heart...What, for you, is the treasure dream that shapes the way you see your world? What physical things get your focus because they connect to the treasure that has already commanded the focus of your heart?...The treasures of your heart will always shape the way you see.

Later in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “*No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money*” (verse 24). Jesus is telling us that either God or money will be our treasure and become the master in our hearts. We are told that we can’t serve both God and money. In this verse, Jesus points out that money above everything else can keep our hearts from making Him their treasure. We can say that no heart is free. As Jesus said, we either seek treasures on earth or in heaven.

As sinful people, our hearts are inclined to seek treasures on earth. Only with God’s Word working through the Holy Spirit can the grip that money and material things have on us be broken. In our prayers, let us ask God not only to give us good eyesight, but, more important, to give us even better vision with the eyes of our hearts so that we can clearly see the treasures in heaven which will give us joy and peace on earth and life eternal with Jesus.

-Bill Davis, Stewardship Chair



Here We Stand

June Mission of the Month Here We Stand Campaign

Here We Stand is a five-year campaign of the LCMS Michigan District that when completed will assist the Michigan District to carry out its mission and ministry to the fullest. Here We Stand provides a unique opportunity for the congregations and members of the Michigan District to bestow a wonderful thank offering as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The financial goal of Here We Stand is \$10,000,000 - - \$3,000,000 to Professional Church Worker Scholarships, \$3,000,000 to Innovative Missional Ministry, \$3,000,000 to Michigan District Endowment, and \$1,000,000 to International Ministry. This is the final year of the campaign.

You can use a mission envelope that can be found in your envelope packet. If you already support a mission, please continue to do so by designating that particular mission by name on a Mission envelope.



In Our Prayers



Joan Abney, Eugene Azzam, Mary Douglas, Ella Jean Durfee,
Wayne Fortney, Shirley Frink, Chris Gresens,
Bill Ruckel, and Richard Tack

Homebound:

Alice Dettmer – Medilodge

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 his eternal rest the soul of Richard Fitzgerald on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. A private funeral was held at Trinity on Saturday, May 22, 2021 for Richard and his wife Phyliss who passed away on December 8, 2020. Please keep the Fitzgerald's family in your prayers.



It pleased the Lord to call to her eternal rest the soul of Joan Peacock. A funeral service was held at Buresh Funeral Home on Wednesday, May 26, 2021. Please keep Joan's family in your prayers.

It pleased the Lord to call to her eternal rest the soul of Almyra Pruitt, the mother of Henrie Fortney. Pastor Azzam presided over the funeral service which was held at Gillies Funeral Home in Lincoln on Sunday, May 23rd. Please keep Henrie and her family in your prayers.

Burning Bush (Eunoymus Alatus) Planted in Memory of Lee Dawley



A Burning Bush was recently planted out in the front of the church in memory of Lee Dawley. Lee passed away on May 20, 2020.

The family wishes to thank everyone who remembered Lee with a memorial donation. Some of the memorial money was used to plant this bush, which will serve as a living tribute to Lee.



Altar Flowers

The beautiful flowers on the altar on Sunday, May 23rd were given by Ann Dawley in memory of the passing of Lee Dawley one year ago.



**May 30th through
September 5th**

Worship Services Times
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study
9:15 a.m.

Bible Study Opportunities



- Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. – Please let us know if you plan to attend when you call in for worship.
- Tuesday Morning Men’s Bible Study at Burger King 8:00 a.m.
- Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study meets in-person at 9:30 a.m. in the Sunday school wing.
- Thursday Morning Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. – In-person in Sunday School wing. Please use the side entrance.



Using Church Rooms

In November, the Church Council approved the use of rooms for Bible study groups, quilters, TLCW meetings, etc. The church currently remains unavailable to outside groups or for social functions. **PLEASE REMEMBER** if you plan to use a room for a church function, you must submit an updated request form for approval by the Head Trustee. Forms are available in the church office. The person signing the form will be responsible to ensure that the room(s) and restroom(s) are cleaned and sanitized after each usage. A cleaning checklist is attached to the request form, and cleaning supplies are provided. The church adheres to current requirements and/or recommendations of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. At the present time that means that a maximum of 4 people allowed at one time in the quilting room and a maximum of 16 people allowed at one time in the Bible study rooms. Social distancing guidelines must be followed, and facial coverings must be worn by anyone not fully vaccinated. The Church Council will re-evaluate our policies as changes in rules and guidance emerge.

Church Extension Fund

Interested in Reaching Out With Interest?



Phil. 2:4: *“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*

You can help fulfill this passage by reaching out with your interest in providing facilities for ministry. Want to find out how your investment in Church Extension Fund earns interest but also builds for Christ? For more information, call 800-242-3944.

T.L. C.W. News



Garage Sale

T.L.C.W. announces that their "After Covid-19 Lockdown" garage sale will be held on Friday, July 30th and Saturday, July 31st.

As you clean, dust, wash, and polish your home, attic, closets, garage, and pole barns, set aside those unwanted but useable things you find for our garage sale.

More information about drop off dates and times will be forthcoming.

A Great Deal on Greeting Cards

Fathers' Day is Sunday, June 20th. Find a great deal on a card for your loved one. T.L.C.W. is selling Fathers' Day cards and Graduation cards for 50¢. You can find the cards on the tables in the fellowship hall. In addition, there are two children's quilts for sale as well as gift bags, dish cloths and cookbooks. Just put your money in the metal box located on one of the tables.



T.L.C.W. Meetings

Trinity Lutheran Church Women (TLCW) meets in-person at the church on the third Tuesday of each month. All ladies are invited to attend.



Bell Choir Notes

The Bell Choir, under the direction of Donna David, will resume practice as soon as Covid-19 restrictions make it safe to do so. If you are interested in playing in the bell choir, talk to Donna David.

Thank you to Susie and Jim Manning for their dedication in beginning and sustaining the Bells of Glory over the years!

Thank You!

A great big thank you to everyone that showed up on Saturday, May 15th to help clean up the memorial garden and spread cedar chips! Your efforts are appreciated more than you know!



Congratulations Anna Roy



Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate Anna Roy! Anna graduated from Oscoda High School on May 23rd and is the recipient of the AuSable River Canoe Marathon Scholarship. Anna will be attending SVSU this fall to study Marine Biology.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

James Dennis	6/1
Chris Hock	6/3
Scott Phillips	6/3
Barbara Weiss	6/3
Zachary Abee	6/5
Edna Rainey	6/6
Alyssa Phillips	6/7
Carol Wenzel	6/7
Samantha Travis	6/9
Jesika Robinson	6/12
Beverly Niedermiller	6/13
Mary Wherman	6/13
James Kuerbitz	6/14
Judith Howey	6/16
William Davis	6/18
Elizabeth Roy	6/18
Duane Foerster, Sr.	6/22
Miranda Evans	6/24
Cheryl Ogden	6/24

Happy Anniversary

Frederick & Christine Rogel	6/5
Duane & Margaret Foerster, Sr.	6/6
Steve & Cheryl Ogden	6/6
Ronald & Karen Kaiser	6/19
Lou & Miriam Kuhlmann	6/29

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
 Roger Tack - 989-293-8050
 Ron Weidenfeller - 724-7701



Church Council Meeting
Thursday, June 10, 2021
2:00 p.m.



Tuesday, June 1, 2021
2:00 p.m.



Ushers Needed

We are looking for people to serve as ushers at both services. Tasks are to greet people with a cheery good morning, offer hand sanitizer, keep the line in the entryway moving, and direct people to available seats. A sign-up sheet can be found on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

CHURCH FUNDRAISER – SPARTAN NASH DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS PROGRAM



Through the Spartan Nash Direct Your Dollars Program our church can earn \$1,000 per year simply by collecting \$150,000 in eligible receipts from Family Fare or any of the more than 160 Spartan Nash owned retail stores or fuel centers in nine states. A container is provided in the fellowship hall for collecting your receipts.

QUIZ

1. What are the names of Lazarus' sisters?
2. What were the religious leaders called who continually tried to trap Jesus with their questions?
3. On what day did the apostles receive the Holy Spirit?



Taking an aspirin at the first sign of a heart attack can be a lifesaver.

You are tallest the first thing in the morning.

The wedding ring goes on the ring finger because it is the only finger with a vein that connects to the heart.

HUMOR



DEADLINE



The deadline to submit articles for the July Newsletter is June 20, 2021

- Answers to Quiz**
1. Mary and Martha (John 11:1-3)
 2. Pharisees and Sadducees (Mark 10:2)
 3. Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)