

August 2020

Dear Friends,

The ongoing pandemic will end. Eventually. This is true in spite of what it looks like right now. But if we continue to do our part by wearing masks in public, maintaining physical distance from those outside of our households, and washing our hands, this virus can be put down all the more quickly.

As you know, we are continuing to meet in a limited way at church to partake of Communion. I am aware that some of you will not attend because of the risk involved and I completely understand. In light of that, I want to **offer in-home Communion to you** if you so desire it. I will take all of the necessary precautions to help keep you as safe as possible. I will wear a mask. I will maintain distance as much as I can. And I will use hand sanitizer and wear disposable gloves.

But here's the catch...I will require you to wear a mask, maintain distance and use hand sanitizer as well.

Of course, I can't guarantee 100% safety. But if we work together and look out for each other, we can minimize the risk.

I will be more than happy to come to your home and distribute the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to you. To arrange this, I ask that you contact me. There are 3 ways to do this:

- 1) Call me at 815-600-1968 (Leave a message on my voicemail)
- 2) Text me at 815-600-1968 (You'll need to text who you are)
- 3) Email me at [douglashoag@gmail.com](mailto:douglashoag@gmail.com)

I'm looking forward to hearing from you! I pray for the Lord's continued grace and blessing in Christ Jesus for you and your loved ones.

In the Name of Jesus,

Pastor Hoag



## August 2020 Newsletter

**Ushers:** The usher schedule for the soft reopening is the same as the regular year usher day/time schedule. The exception is the time frame. Early service ushers (8:00 am) will serve at the 10:00 am service and the regular late service (10:30 am) ushers will serve at the 10:45 am service. Duties will be much less and modified to keep social distance (See reopening usher duties on the reopening sheet attached). Ushers will serve more as guides for seating and seeing that masks are worn and social distances are maintained. If ushers are uncomfortable with serving for the reopening services, please contact the church office and let us know if you will not be comfortable ushering on your regular Sunday.



### **Sunday School**

As of now, we have not determined if Sunday School will be reopening in September. We will make the announcement later in August. Please check our church website from time to time to see if the decision has been made. You can also call the church office.



### **Updates**

**Updates from Jeff McDonald, Council President:** There is nothing new to report on the kitchen this month. It remains mostly complete, but we have encountered some delays in the last phase of this project that remain unfinished as of this writing. I remain hopeful that this project will soon be completed once and for all, but we are the mercy of some outside vendors at this point and it remains mostly but not completely done. Perhaps the saving grace here is that we are not yet able to congregate at the church anyway, so this added delay is not preventing us from using the kitchen - the pandemic is. I look forward with great anticipation to the day when neither impediment exists.

Now, I have a call to action for you. I am nearing the end of my 10th year of serving on church council, with the last eight being the council President. It has been a labor of love to preside over such a wonderful group of volunteers and to serve the church and our congregation in this capacity. But as with all good things, they eventually must come to an end. My current two-year term ends in January of 2021 and I will not be running for re-election this year.

On a personal level, we are planning to split our time between New Lenox and Valparaiso, with Valparaiso eventually becoming home for us. We have loved raising our family in this church and we intend to stay around for the foreseeable future, but we plan to spend more time in the Valparaiso community going forward and eventually move there permanently. I don't have a specific time frame for this move, but it could be within my next two-year term so I am stepping down as council President to prevent any need for a mid-term replacement should that become necessary.

I ask that you prayerfully consider serving on church council in the coming year. We have a great group of people who volunteer in this capacity and each person brings their own unique perspective to the council. With a group like the one we have, the role of council President is actually easier than you might think. I would be delighted to discuss this with you if you are even remotely interested in hearing more about what this entails. I can tell you from first-hand experience that the last 10 years of my membership at Trinity have been the most fulfilling and that is because I had a chance to get more involved and help with the running of the church as a member of church council. That same chance is now available to you.

I look forward to speaking with all interested parties about this and I will assure you a smooth transition into this role based on the team we have in place now. And I will never be too far away to help should that ever be needed. But the time for me to step down has arrived, and I look forward to helping our new President get up to speed. Please contact me, Pastor Hoag or the church office for more information.



#### MEMBER UPDATES FOR JULY 2020

##### Baptisms:

Jackson Bayles (July 25,2020)



**Church Humor:**

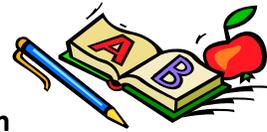
A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus"!



Preschool News and Information



**2020-2021 Trinity Pre-School begins on Tuesday, September 8th.**

**Spots still available for both 3 and 4 yr olds - please tell your friends and neighbors!**

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 per student. For the school year beginning September 2020 the tuition per month will be \$115 for two-day students and \$145 for three-day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2020. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973. Pre-School begins on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.



I ♥  
**MEETINGS**

**Please watch the website for any meeting dates.**



**Please watch the website for Bible Class dates and times.**



### **Chancel Guild:**

We invite all women of Trinity to come visit our meeting and find out what we are about. We are a devoted, fun group of ladies who enjoy giving a little time to our church in a meaningful way.

The next meeting is September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.



**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Chancel Guild canceled altar flower orders from the end of March through June during the Covid-19 "Stay at Home" restrictions. Now that Pastor has started his "soft opening," Chancel Guild is once again ordering flowers. We are making up the canceled orders on Sundays that have not yet been spoken for. Those of you who had flower orders canceled will be contacted in the order the flowers were canceled starting with the end of March orders. Presently bulletins are not being printed, so the occasion for sponsoring flowers will be noted in upcoming newsletters. The make-up orders along with present orders have filled our 2020 calendar. We will not be taking any more altar flower orders for the year. Watch for a new 2021 calendar to be posted this fall. Thank you for helping the Chancel Guild keep fresh flowers on the altar. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Purnell at [purnellk51@hotmail.com](mailto:purnellk51@hotmail.com) or (815) 485-9017.

Flowers left in the gym will be disposed of after 1 week.

Altar Flowers for the month of July and August:

July 19<sup>th</sup> Steve and Rita Tinker in Honor of Damon, Caton, and Brandy for the great joy they bring.  
Diane Sewing in Memory of Kyle McWilliams.

July 26<sup>th</sup> May Schrank in Memory of Paul Schrank.  
Jan Falk in Thanksgiving for her loving Trinity Church Family.

August 2<sup>nd</sup> Jennifer Kojro-Badziak in Honor of her son, Jakob's birthday.

August 9<sup>th</sup> Carol Oldendorf in Memory of her granddaughter, Danielle McDonald.  
Rex and Jan Toepke in Celebration of their Wedding Anniversary.

August 16<sup>th</sup> Judi Donovan in Celebration of her great granddaughter, Chloe's birthday.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> Steve and Cindy Spiess in Celebration of their Wedding Anniversary.  
Doug, Jan, and Kristin Schlak in honor of the Confirmands.

August 30<sup>th</sup> Dunn and Niemann-VanderVeen Families in Thanksgiving of their many Blessings

### **Chancel Guild Schedule for August**

August 2 – Rita Larson / Denise Buchanan

August 9 - Denise Buchanan / Robin Krol

August 16 – Robin Krol / Jennifer Mudrock

August 23 – Jennifer Mudrock / Judi Donovan

August 30 - Judi Donovan / Doris Bay

**Chancel Guild is sorry to report that we are canceling the Salad Luncheon usually held in October.**



**Pill Bottle Recycling** – Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, we can no longer collect the empty medicine bottles. The charity they were going to will not accept them currently. Please recycle them. When safe to do so, they will be collected again.

Thank you



St. Matthew's. We are continuing to support St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Chicago by collecting donations of non-perishable food items (see list of requested food items on the poster next to the collection box), as well as household goods. Please place the food items in the collection box by the parking lot door. The household items should be placed in the old bathroom next to the lift. Please have items in boxes or bags as it is then easier to transport.



**Relay For Life** - In past years the members of Trinity have been very supportive of the New Lenox Relay for Life. This year there will not be the usual Relay for Life Event. In its place luminaria will be on display at the New Lenox Commons on Saturday, August 15 from 4:00 until dusk. The bags are \$10 each. If you would like, a bag to display in front of your house can be provided at no extra cost. Bags can be purchased through Jan Toepke (815) 485-2638, [toepkej@gmail.com](mailto:toepkej@gmail.com) or on the relay website ([www.relayforlife.org/newlenoxil](http://www.relayforlife.org/newlenoxil)). If you choose to use the website, where it asks who you support, please list Jan Toepke as participant so that the team will get credit. There will also be a raffle in place of the basket raffle. Tickets will be \$10 each or 3/\$25. the drawing will be September 11. There are some really nice prizes! Tickets can also be purchased through Jan.

## **2020 RELAY FOR LIFE NEW LENOX**

### **VIRTUAL LUMINARIA EVENT**

**AT HOME, WHERE  
CANCER HITS HARDEST**

**Join us on August 15<sup>th</sup> for this year's Virtual Luminaria event. Even though the Relay for Life event will be virtual this year, we will still be honoring our loved ones through a Luminaria Ceremony.**

On Saturday, August 15, 2020, Luminaria bags will be set up in the New Lenox Village Commons for viewing and for the silent walk/drive at dusk.

For each honoree, we will provide 2 Luminaria bags – one will be lined up in the Commons area on August 15<sup>th</sup> and the other will be taken home.

Then, on August 15<sup>th</sup>, light your bag up at home outside, honor your loved one(s) in your own way, and take a photo/video to share on social media.

**RELAY AT HOME, WHERE CANCER HITS HARDEST!**

**Luminaria bags can be picked up from one of the team captains/volunteers or delivered to you, if need be, prior to August 15<sup>th</sup>.**

We have reserved Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, with the village from 4:00 pm to dusk. We will have a table set up at the Commons where cars can pull up and purchase a bag for \$10.

Again, one will automatically be added to the Commons display as well as having the option to get a second one to take home.

Then at dusk, the bags will be lined up and lit along the Village Commons sidewalk for people to walk or drive around and see.

*There will NOT be a Luminaria Show at the Commons, only the bags on display.*

**ALL Luminaria purchases will be on display in the New Lenox Commons the evening of August 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Prior to the event, the Luminaria bags will be available for purchase for \$10, through our website, [www.relayforlife.org/newlenoxil](http://www.relayforlife.org/newlenoxil), or complete this attached form and drop off to Terrie Murphy or Maureen James.

For further information, contact:

Terrie Murphy at 815-212-4837 [murphsminions@gmail.com](mailto:murphsminions@gmail.com)

Maureen James at 815-341-4887 [mtjames8@aol.com](mailto:mtjames8@aol.com).

Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to seeing you on August 15<sup>th</sup> and seeing your pictures on social media!



If you do not presently receive our monthly newsletter electronically, but would like to be added to our email list, please email [tlcsecretary508@gmail.com](mailto:tlcsecretary508@gmail.com) or call the office at 815.485.6973

Church office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9AM to 2PM.

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Visit us on the web at [www.trinitynewlenox.org](http://www.trinitynewlenox.org)

