

July 2020

Dear Friends,

In this newsletter you will see the plan for what I'm calling our "soft" reopening. It means that we are opening as thoughtfully and cautiously as we can. Please take a look at that page in this newsletter.

As I see it we have two options:

- 1) Remain completely closed until the pandemic ends, or
- 2) Open in a limited way, making the environment as safe as we possibly can

We decided on Option 2. It means that it's time to start to get back to church for in-person services.

I realize the plan is not ideal. Please know that the plan we've made was not done out of fear (we have nothing to fear), but out of care and love. We looked at recommendations and protocols from many sources. I have been in conversations with other pastors and church leaders. I've sat in on seminars via Zoom. There was a common theme through all of these: caution and care. Our reopening plan reflects that very well.

We cannot guarantee 100% safety. We will require those in attendance to wear a mask. We will only have certain pews open to maintain physical distancing. Families will be seated together. The service itself will be abbreviated, using the Service of the Sacrament from Divine Service Setting One, starting on page 160. There will be no singing. The service will be spoken. The words of the liturgy will be projected onto the screen in the sanctuary.

There's more to it but those are the basics. Thank you for your prayers and your patience. We are certainly in uncharted territory. Things are going to be different, but I'm confident that it's only temporary. If we all continue to do our part, like wearing masks in public places and maintaining distance from others, we can help lessen the impact of this virus. But always remember that the only constant through all of this is the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. His gift of grace for each of us never changes and never ends. This love compels us to love and serve our neighbor.

Please feel free to ask any questions you might have. I look forward to seeing you!

In Christ,

Pastor Hoag

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JULY 2020

Trinity will begin to reopen on July 5th

Please see the reopening sheet attached with this 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.

UPDATE

Update from Church Council President, Jeff McDonald.

As you will see in other parts of this newsletter, we are slowly moving toward reopening the church. I've had several people contact me about when and how this will happen and I am sure I speak for most when I say it can't happen soon enough. BUT, I am also aware of the risks associated with doing too much too soon, so I have been happy to defer to our re-opening committee that was formed to address this very issue. They have all volunteered for this committee and I want to thank them all for their efforts in helping us to open as safely and responsibly as we can. I am confident there are some who would prefer we return to normal sooner while others will find our reopening plans to be too aggressive for their liking. Know that we are looking to do what is best for our members overall and please bear with us as we identify and implement that path. There will come a day when we look back in wonder at how crippling this virus has been on our society at large, but as we see some states begin to tighten back down after opening, we are reminded that a conservative course has the best long-term chance of being successful. Please continue to tune in to our online services each week to help you through what is unquestionably a challenging time for all of us.

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I mentioned that church council continues to meet during the summer months (usually the months that we take off due to limited activities at the church) in response to the challenges and uncertainties of the ongoing pandemic. I also mentioned last month that we had seen an increase in online giving and that we were on the path toward recovering from the financial impact this pandemic had on us. I am very happy to report this month that due to a very generous month of giving in May, we actually have surpassed our 2019 giving on a year to date basis. Surpassed! And we haven't been in the building since the middle of March! I want to thank all of you who have gone out of your way to help keep our church financially solvent during this challenging time. We are just modestly under budget for the year, but we are very close to it thanks to the ongoing generosity of our members. Thank you one and all for your unwavering support of our church!

In closing, what sort of update from me doesn't involve the kitchen remodeling project? I'm soon going to need a new topic to discuss as we are very near the point of this project being completed at last. We expect a few finishing touches to be done in the next week or two and that we will call the Village back for a final inspection at that point. Our thanks once again to the tenacious efforts of our property directors on seeing this through to completion.



2020-2021 Trinity Pre-School

Pre-School Registration for September 2020-2021. Please tell your friends and neighbors. If you have any questions, please call the pre-school at 815.485.6973. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 per student. The tuition per month for the school year beginning September 2020, will be \$115.00 for two day students and \$145.00 for three day students. Children must have turned 3 by September 1, 2020.

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Member Updates:

Baptisms:

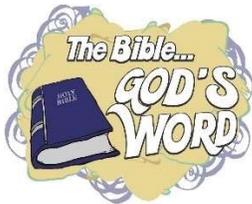
Michael Asher Macaluso – June 21, 2020

Samuel Elliott Gedvilas – June 26, 2020

Deaths:

Tom Clark – May 31, 2020

Millie Steinbrenner – June 28, 2020



All Bible Classes and Sunday School have taken a break for the summer. See you all in September!



We wanted to let you know that VBS this year will be virtual, with online videos and a craft packet you will be able to pick up at church. There is no charge for VBS this year. If you wish, and if you are able, we ask you donate to Morningstar Mission and/or New Lenox Food Pantry. Please sign up on our website so that we know how many craft packets to prepare.

Deadline to sign up for craft packets: June 19

Pick up craft packets: July 1-2

Videos ready online: July 6-10

We pray that you are doing well during these challenging times. If your family needs assistance or just needs to talk, please contact us. We care!

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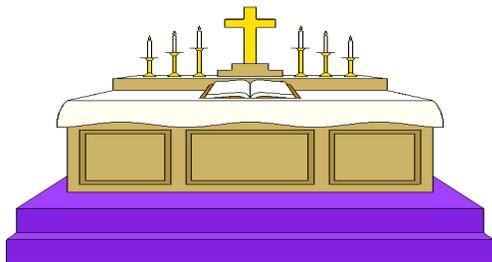
ALTAR FLOWERS: Flowers are placed on the altar every weekend to enhance and beautify the altar area in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding, anniversary, or in celebration of God's blessings. A 2020 flower chart showing open weekends is posted in the cabinet across the general church office. The flower order forms are attached to the cabinet. If you would like to sponsor flowers on a particular weekend, complete the form and place it along with a **check made out to Trinity Lutheran Chancel Guild** in the Chancel Guild mailbox in the church office. If you want a date already chosen, it may be possible to share the date and the cost with permission from the person who has already selected the date. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or (815) 485-9017. Flowers may be picked up after the 10:30 Sunday service. Thank you to all who participate!

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

Flowers for the week of:

July 5th – Tom and Wend Kaun in Thanksgiving of their many blessings

July 12th – Rita Larson in Memory of the men in her life: Terry, Fred, and Todd



Chancel Guild Schedule for July

July 5 – Sally Jackson / Debbie Crawford

July 12 - Debbie Crawford / Denise Buchanan

July 19 – Judi Donovan / Allene Bachmann

July 26 – Allene Bachmann / Rita Larson



“Thank you” to the mystery person who took the time and effort to pull all the huge weeds along the south side of the church building.

Another “Thank you” to Chuck and Sandy Peterson for planting and taking care of the beautiful flowers around our building.

Once again our building looks beautiful!!



St. Matthew's

We are continuing to support St. Matthew's Lutheran Church by collecting donations of non-perishable food items, 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 restroom in the church basement by the lift. Please place items neatly and in bags or boxes so they do not block the door.

Church Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 am till 2 pm.

Our organizations are on “summer break”



Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

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