

June 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

I pray that this letter finds you safe and well!

There has been very little of this pandemic time that has been enjoyable. We've mostly been told what we should and shouldn't do and where we should and shouldn't go. Life is now approached with care and caution, especially those of us who are vulnerable to a severe case of COVID-19. Now that things are starting to loosen up a bit, many of us find ourselves suspicious and leery that this virus is ready to pounce on us at the slightest mistake.

What does this mean for our church? It will take some careful and thoughtful planning to open our doors and conduct services again. Many churches throughout the nation have suffered heavy losses. Many pastors who opened up their churches early are now deceased, as are many of their parishioners. We want to make sure we can be as safe as possible before we open again. Currently, I'm putting together a committee to explore recommendations and protocols from the English District, the State Health Department, and the CDC.

We will open our doors as soon as we can. But we will do this with care and love for the well being of all. It will be a little bit strange as things will feel unusual. I don't know how long it will last. But it will be temporary. I pray that the Lord will give all of us wisdom and patience to get through all of this safely. One thing is for sure: the love of Jesus never changes. It is constant and renewing. The Spirit of Christ lifts our hearts and reassures us of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

I pray the Lord's blessing for you and for all of us. Please be careful and safe. And take heart! We will be together again.

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag



Updates from our Church Council President, Jeff McDonald

Church Council has now conducted our April and May council meetings virtually, having to make adjustments to the normal method of operations just like everyone else. These meetings have actually worked rather well, but we do look forward to the resumption of our in-person council meetings as soon as that is allowed. While council typically takes the summer months off, we do plan to continue our monthly meetings at least for now. We hope to eventually be talking about reopening the church, and the process of identifying a committee for this purpose is underway.

I do want to thank our members for their extraordinary generosity during this time. We saw what I considered to be an understandable drop in giving in March just as the church was forced to close and our transition to online services occurred. But by April, we made up some significant ground, including much more use of our online giving platform (see our website for details). In total, we went from a 15% deficit through the end of March to less than a 2% deficit through the end of April. which means our April 2020 giving actually *exceeded* our April 2019 giving! I am sure I sound like a broken record when I say this, but the generosity of our members never ceases to amaze me.

I mentioned last month that I hoped we might have approval of the kitchen remodel project very shortly. Well, only recently did we get approval of our plan to make some changes to the kitchen in order to meet all of the code requirements of the Village. It is estimated that these changes will take about another month to complete, so hopefully by this time next month, we will have this project both completed and approved. Our thanks again to our property committee for their tenacity in seeing this project through despite innumerable obstacles.

We are as anxious to get back into Trinity as all of you, but we do want to make sure we reopen in a manner that is as safe and responsible as possible. Trust that we will get back to normal just as quickly as that can be accomplished. In the meantime, please continue to observe our services online and thanks once again to all who continue to give so freely. We look forward to the day we can get together and swap stories about how we survived the pandemic to the best of our abilities.



Thank You – The family of Ken Oldendorf would like to thank the members of Trinity for all the cards, prayers, and memorial donations that have made in Ken’s name.



Fannie May Candy Bars: Fannie May Candy bars are still available, with the proceeds going to the Chancel Guild. They are on the counter in the church office. Cost is \$1.00 for each. Please leave your payment in the gold envelope.



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 for three day students. Children must have turned 3 by September 1, 2020.



Chancel Guild Meeting – We will resume our meetings on June 6th in the church gym at 9 AM. We will be cleaning the Chancel area. Please join us if you feel comfortable in coming out. Please remember that masks and social distancing will be required.



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 refrigerator will be disposed of after 2 weeks.



We are continuing to support St. Matthew's Lutheran Church by collecting donations of non-perishable food items, as well as household good. Please place the food items in the

collection box by the parking lot door. The household items should be placed in the old bathroom located by the lift in the church basement.



Portals of Prayer for July through September 2020 will be available in the Narthex and also on the hallway table by the middle of June.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9-2.