

May 2020

Dear Friends,

How are you doing?

That is the big question during this pandemic. Some are weathering it quite well. Others are really struggling. Now that the quarantine has been extended through May, the struggle is being heightened to levels we've never experienced before.

If you are not doing well in any way (financially, mentally, spiritually, physically) please let me know. There are resources that can be tapped to make sure that you are taken care of. I'm always available to talk, pray, read Scripture, listen...whatever it is you're struggling with. The Lord is always working in and among us and His Word endures forever. I'll communicate by phone, text, email, Zoom...any way your comfortable. But because of my own underlying health conditions I'm limiting personal visits to emergencies only.

Some of you have found creative ways to help other people during this time. Thank you for doing those things! Your God-given talents spread good cheer to those who are hurting. Some of you are in the medical field and helping people stricken with the virus. Thank you to you as well! Your efforts will be remembered for time to come. Some of you are essential workers. Thank you for what you do! You help keep food on our tables and materials we need for our homes. You are particularly vulnerable to the virus and are doing a wonderful job.

Some of us are sheltering in place because of age, immunity challenges, or underlying medical issues. Thank you to you as well! You might feel like you aren't contributing anything, but you are! By keeping yourself away from places where people gather, you are helping in stopping the spread of this virus.

We are all doing our part with what the Lord has provided. All glory, honor, thanks, and praise to Him for His provisions and for the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, crucified and risen! Take care of yourself and God's blessings to all of you!

Pastor Hoag

MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER



Confirmed in Christ

Confirmation has been postponed this year due to the Stay at Home order. It will be rescheduled once the order has been lifted and we can meet in larger groups again. Please watch the newsletter and the website for further information.



Our summer worship schedule is pending. We will update you as soon as we have more information.



Update from Council President, Jeff McDonald

Looking ahead to another month of lock down, I am a bit surprised to find that the feeling front and center in my mind is one of being thankful. While this virus has forced all of us to amend our routines in any number of ways, we have been able to continue hosting 'virtual services' on a host of different sites in hopes of giving our members a consistent message week after week. Special thanks to Pastor Hoag, Lori Hilger and Dan Bay for all their efforts at getting these services out to all of us. In a time of unprecedented uncertainty, it is a great source of comfort to be able to 'see' Trinity regularly and these three are making that possible for us.

In other unprecedented news, we held our first virtual council meeting in April, where we all dialed in and met from the comfort of our respective homes. Like everything else, this will be better once we are back in front of one another. But this worked quite well, and it gave us an opportunity to review the church's business as we do every month - just through a different means. Here again, I'm thankful that we were able to do this as opposed to just canceling the meeting.

Another source of considerable thanks is that our giving is doing surprisingly well despite our inability to congregate in person at Trinity. As luck would have it, we had just launched an online giving option in January of this year, never realizing that we might need it the way we have since the shutdown began. Our members have supported their church through many financial needs, and I was very pleased to see that giving (whether through the mail, drop-offs, or through the online platform) has been very generous despite the hardships that many of you are facing. Thank you to all who continue to support Trinity at this time. We all can be hopeful about this light at the end of the tunnel when things get back to normal, as the initial financial support we are getting suggests we will endure this shutdown period without any significant setback.

Now you know I wouldn't let the fact that our kitchen is done go unspoken as I am pouring out all of these things for which I am thankful. We have one last inspection to pass, and I am hoping that we might pass that by the time this newsletter goes out or shortly thereafter. But the main work on our year-long kitchen remodeling project has been completed and we are down to just a few finishing touches at this point. If you haven't seen the video showing our progress, including some before and after pictures, please check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vs-jBsOlq50>. While there were many people involved in making this project happen, I want to single out Jeff Lorenz, Dan Bay and Tom Buell for their tireless efforts and long hours spent getting this project completed for us. We continue to plan to have some sort of breakfast cooked in this kitchen once we are allowed to assemble in a large group, and we'll publish the details of that as soon as they are known.

I am hopeful that we will all soon be able to return to more normal lives than the ones we've been living for the last month and a half. Until then, I hope you are able to attend our virtual services and that things for you are as normal as they can be under these circumstances.

MEMBER UPDATES

Deaths:

Betty Ashcraft – March 25, 2020

Ron Lorenz – March 30, 2020

Bob Dickson – April 4, 2020

Ken Oldendorf – April 9, 2020

Peter Lynch – April 24, 2020



Bible Classes: Everyone is invited to join one or both classes! Classes are being held online. If you are interested in joining, please send Pastor Hoag a text or email and he will provide you with the link to join.

Wednesday Mornings at 8:30 a.m.
Thursday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Chancel Guild

Our May Meeting is being cancelled. We hope to meet in June.

Flowers were placed on the altar April 26, 2020, by Dunc and Allene Bachmann in Memory of their daughter, Sheri Sievert.



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.



Thank You – The family of Ron Lorenz would like to thank the members of Trinity for all their cards, prayers, and memorials given in Ron’s name.



Church Council The next meeting will be on Sunday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. *The meeting date has been moved from the 10th due to Mother’s Day. We may be meeting online once again.*



Social Ministry

Until further notice, our meetings are cancelled.



St. Matthew’s

Please continue to donate rummage and food. These items will be taken to St. Matthew’s periodically. Please remember that the new area to place rummage for St. Matthew’s is in the old bathroom in the basement next to the lift. Food items can still be placed in the bins outside of Pastor Hoag’s office.



Versiti Blood Center of Illinois will be having a blood drive on May 5, 2020 at Trinity Lutheran Church from 3 – 7 pm. If you wish to donate, you can make an appointment with Versiti at: https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5579683. They will accept walk-ins, but will be following safe social distancing procedures. If you are interested but still need more information on the protocols that will be used, please visit <https://www.versiti.org/illinois>.



Pre-School Registration for September 2020-2021. If you know of anyone who is interested, please have them 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.

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



Are you on Facebook? We are! “Like” Trinity Lutheran church – New Lenox, IL and receive up to date information on current and upcoming church events.”