

TRINITY CONNECTION

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Pastor Bauer, servant of Jesus Christ at Trinity Lutheran Church; grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:5

Happy New Year! The cartoon of an old man with a tattered sash of 2020 leaving as a baby arrives wearing a new sash with 2021 on it would be a hopefully apt image for now. You will see many variations of it I'm sure. 2020 wore out, became bent over, and could have left about five months ago. It had to wear on to the end, but now 2021 brings hope. Whether that hope will be fulfilled is somewhat up to us. In some ways this year won't be over until March 16th when this all began, and by which time the vaccines may be seeing wider distribution. I encourage you to get the vaccine when it becomes available. I intend to without fear or suspicion, with confidence and with joy.

There are so many things I hope for as the calendar turns. I hope to see you for the annual meeting January 31st. I hope to see you in worship. I hope to observe Lent and celebrate Easter with you. I hope to see a repaved, restriped front parking lot, full of cars. I hope that maybe we as a church will consider an outdoor worship space with a fire pit. I hope to meet with confirmation students again and get to know Pastor Sarah Larson of Zion better. I hope to go to a restaurant. I hope to take a trip, I do not care where. I hope ... I hope... I hope...

New beginnings are about hope. When new beginnings happen is a bit arbitrary. January 1st as a new beginning may be less significant than April 4th, *The Resurrection of our Lord*, as a celebration of New Life, Spring, and taking of masks like rolling a stone away from a grave. The Apostle Paul says, *Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Romans 5:1-5.* We have suffered. We have endured. Hopefully our character has become more resilient and compassionate so that hope born of suffering and endurance may disappoint no one. The Apostle also writes, *For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:24-25.*

The writer of Hebrews agrees, saying, *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1.* Even with the best of hopes, even with visions of what we want, what we anticipate, we do not know, we hope, we believe. We hope, we believe with patience. We hope, we believe with assurance and conviction. We hope, we believe with the love of God in Christ which suffered and endured and show us character for living with hope.

Happy New Year! Even if we have to wait until March 16th, or April 4th, or June, faith, hope and love will lead us to better days.

Keep the faith. Say your prayers. Love like Jesus. Pastor Tim Bauer

Stewardship: God's World in Our Care, The Annual Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church

The Annual Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church will be held January 31st. At this time, we are hoping to meet in the sanctuary at 10:30 following a service of worship at 9:30. Other arrangements may need to be made, so stay tuned. The Church Council has proposed a budget for the coming year and is seeking one Church Council member and a youth representative. (For this position it is helpful, though not necessary, if this can be a parent and child.) Thank you for your faithfulness and support through the uncertain year we have been church together apart.



Church Council

- The Church Council will meet in early January to reevaluate when to have in person services.
- A new security system is being installed. There is an intercom to communicate with the Church office; a new lock system (same key) is being installed as well as other measures.
- Sue Nystrom and Randy Zimmer have completed three two-year terms on the Church Council. Thank you to each for your leadership and service. Lydia Bauer will take one of their spots as an adult Council Member. We are seeking another adult and youth for the Church Council.
- We have hired a new custodian, Don Hereau.
- In addition to a summer 2021 Backpacking trip to Christikon Bible Camp, a Youthworks trip is being planned for grades 9-12.



Confirmation

Confirmation lessons will resume January 6th. Until further notice they will continue to be recorded and sent out weekly. Once we are able to resume in person lessons, we will meet at Zion Lutheran Church at 6:30 PM. Stay tuned. Thank you for your faithfulness in attending to the classes.



Thank you

Special thanks to those who decorated the sanctuary for Christmas, our accompanists, praise bands, Bell Choir, Jen Taylor and our Sunday School kids for their Christmas program. Thank you to Keith Anderson and our other video, sound and projection technicians for your behind-the-scenes work. Our Altar Guild members for preparing the worship space. We appreciate all of you!



Thank you to those who donated gifts towards our Holiday Helping Hands Program. Your donations were well received! Please know that your efforts truly make a difference to those in need. A special thanks to Candy Jacobson and Dar Gould for making this Christmas giving happen each year.

Thank you for remembering our Milaca Wolves Snack Pack Program! Your donations are appreciated!

What a joy to have such good help with delivering Meals on Wheels. **Thank you to John Youngberg for coordinating the drivers and helpers.**

Trinity News & Notes

- 2021 offering envelopes may be picked up at the east entrance to the sanctuary.
- Annual Ministry Reports are due January 17th. Please have them in by then.
- The chart for signing up to provide Altar Flowers during the coming year is on the table in the narthex. Flowers or plants may be purchased or brought from home. A notice will be sent prior to the Sunday designated.
- A new safe and secure way to give electronically. Trinity has partnered with Give Lively to securely process your online donation. This transaction will appear on your bank statement as “Trinity Lutheran Church, Milaca MN.” The link is: <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/trinity-lutheran-church-milaca-mn>
- We are still collecting **orange** prescription bottles (remove the labels) and Teals grocery receipts. You may drop them off in the church office. Thank you!

