

# TRINITY CONNECTION

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA • 735 2nd St. SE • P.O. Box 249 • MILACA, MN • 56353

Telephone: 320-983-6420 Website: trinitymilaca.org Email: trinitymilaca@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinitymilaca

Volume 27, Issue 6 • June 2021

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 let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25*

I attended my first out of town face-to-face meeting in over a year, Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup>, the Heartland Conference gathering of pastors. Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> I attended the first out of town face-to-face meeting of a Pastor's Text study in Mora. The issue of meeting together after a year apart and Zoom is not COVID safety as much as it is expenditure of time. As much as people express a desire to see each other it is counterbalanced by reluctance to take the time needed to travel to and from and have lunch together. Meeting together which was so normal and habitual is affected by the new established norms of meeting remotely.

We are meeting together for Sunday worship. We are having Coffee Fellowship, and most other gatherings are permitted. There are some odds and ends still to be sorted through as we gather again as we usually have.

- We need people to reengage signing up for Sunday morning tasks: Greeting, Holy Communion, Reading Scripture, serving Coffee, etc. We are currently simply assigning those tasks on Sunday morning which is OK, but not optimal, particularly for Fellowship. We will try to do a better job of posting the signup sheet more prominently and announcing the need.
- We have not “passed the offering plates” in over a year. Church Council talked about this and for the time being we are continuing to simply make the offering plates available by the center aisle of the sanctuary. It has worked well as you have been faithful to put your envelope in the plate and as people have used the Give Lively platform. The one opportunity we miss a bit is the “loose” offering which has been used for property, roof, and Good Samaritan. Financially the congregation is healthy. Summer is coming which traditionally makes congregations financially nervous. Thank you for your faithfulness.
- Eventually we will need to consider when we can serve meals again. When is it possible to serve Funeral luncheons? Do we need to think about Lutefisk Dinner? Restarting these kinds of services/fundraising/fellowship events requires some planning.
- Later this summer we will need to consider the Sunday morning worship schedule. We have been holding one service at 9:30 for over a year and will continue to do so through the summer. Many have expressed the desire to have a single service on

Sunday. Just because of the way we came back to worship that has become our practice. Do we continue a single service? Can we balance the styles of worship, and groups leading worship?

- I am still very much interested in establishing an outdoor worship space. In the coming weeks I hope we can schedule a work day on the east lawn outside the Fellowship Hall to experiment with a space and then schedule a service (weather permitting.) Due to the cost of materials this year the plan is to use the space and imagine what could be.
- There may be other things we consider too. Meanwhile it is good to be free and hopeful for being together. It is good to welcome visitors and new members. It is good to see people who have kept safety and distance feeling comfortable with being together again. Thank you for your faithfulness through the year, for your sense of community and cooperation, and for the patience and peace that has allowed us to work together towards the Day that has come.

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

### Church Council

- Protocol guidance. We can keep opening up with caution. The virus is still present and vaccinations are highly recommended. Face masking for unvaccinated people is recommended.
- Discussion of receiving the Offering.
- Kerri and Pastor did a three-month evaluation with Don Hereau, custodian. We are grateful for the skill and care he brings to us.
- Received a Thank you Note from Pearl Crisis Center for Lenten Offering donation.
- Elim Home Chapel and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Holy Communion Service resumes in June.
- Finances remain good, 96.7% Giving/Income, 90.5% Expenses. We anticipate that will be changing as summer progresses and we return to activities and expenses.

### Stewardship: God's World in Our Care

The street project should soon be completed. Already curb and concrete edging looks better than what was. Once the street is completed, we anticipate the repaving of the front parking lot and striping of the front and back lots will be soon completed. We have been able to save a large anonymously donated gift to pay for the project. We take pride in our building and how we present our property to the community. We have a highly visible property from Hwy 23 and 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SE. It is not just the people of Milaca who see us, but also travelers whose first view of Milaca may be where we worship. The building and grounds are often as much as many people see of us. Thank you for the work and care, the support you give so we can present this aspect of the church to the community and those who travel by. We are still soliciting gifts to reduce the roof debt. Please use the Blue Offering Envelopes.



## Trinity Notes

- **Volunteer for Meals on Wheels Delivery.** This is an important ministry to those that are housebound due to age or disability. Need two separate drivers for Tuesdays and one driver on Thursdays. Pick up meals at Nutrition Center at 11:30 AM. Please call John Youngberg at 320-983-3159 or on his cell 320-362-1835. Thank you!
- **Trinity Men's Coffee Fellowship** – BYOC (Bring Your Own Coffee). We meet the second and fourth Thursday at 10:00 AM in the Trinity Room. All are Welcome!
- 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>

**Meals On Wheels**  
*So no senior goes hungry.*

## TLCW Tidbits

During the May meeting, we discussed the upcoming mini convention in September and the Fall Gathering in October and shared some good conversation.



It was decided to not meet in June or July this summer. We will resume our meetings in August and attempt to set up a calendar for the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022.

The August meeting is scheduled for the 11th at 11:30 AM.

The Craft and Bake Sale was a success! Thanks to all of you that brought goodies or crafts! It was very much appreciated. There is a table of crafts available for sale with a free will offering donation. Check it out! Also, we did put out 2 quilts that are a sample of what our quilters have worked on. These quilts plus others are available for sale. They are \$40 each. Either contact a quilter or the church office to pay for the quilts.

Thanks for all your patient and participation over the past year and a half! It has been a time of trial for us all.

Be safe and enjoy the summer!

Becky Romosz, TLCW President

## Save the Dates!

TLCW Meeting – August 11, 2021

Synod Gathering – September 11, 2021, in Grand Rapids

Mini Fall Gathering – October 9, 2021, in Pequot Lakes

## Youth Backpacking Trip to Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp



This summer we are sending 10 youth and 2 adults to Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp for a mountain backpacking experience. The one issue we are experiencing is difficulty in securing transportation. Vehicle rentals are in short supply as are many other things as we come out of this year of COVID. We are looking for a couple of minivan/suburban vehicles for July 17-24/25. If you know of something available or would be willing to let us, use a vehicle (for which we have funds to compensate) please contact either Pastor Bauer (320-362-0301) or Chris Nord (320-980-8016). Thank you.



### Day Camp at Trinity & Preschool VBS at Zion

**Register kids by June 15<sup>th</sup>**

so appropriate staffing can be planned for.



The dates for Trinity & Zion Day Camp and Preschool VBS this summer are July 19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>. Day Camp for kids who have finished K-6th grade will be led by Camp Onomia counselors at Trinity from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM and Preschool VBS will be led by Sarah Larsen at Zion from 6:00-7:30 PM each day. Costs for Day Camp are \$35/child with a \$50 max per family. Preschool VBS is free.

VBS and Day Camp Registration form, COVID policies, and Day Camp Parental Release forms were mailed the beginning of May and are attached to this email. **Please Register by June 15<sup>th</sup>!**

### Community News

**“This Side of Heaven” Country Gospel Sing-along** on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM at the Milaca Evangelical Free Church. Come and enjoy the Gospel music and fellowship. Questions call Dan at 983-6592.