

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.



In those days there was no king in Israel; all people did what was right in their own eyes. Judges 21:25

By the time you read this we may be entering into a time when it is uncertain who will lead this country, at the presidential, congressional, state and even city levels. It is certain that about half the people in America are going to elated and half disappointed, half may be angry and half may be defensive about the outcome, half may be gloating and half may be feeling a sense of despair. The issues we have been struggling with, the questions of unity and identity that divide us will not simply go away after the election. We are all thoroughly convinced of the rightness and the righteousness of our cause, our position. Indeed, these issues may be exhibited in even more passionate reactions. It's complicated, which is a cliché, but until we accept that the road ahead contains unsafe bridges, well its complicated.

I ask you to consider as people of God, followers of Christ, no matter where you sit on the political spectrum to prayerfully, gracefully, and compassionately consider your response. Many will simply do what is right in their own eyes and laud it over others, or react with anger. I do not think that is helpful, or healing, or useful, or unifying. Some may think, well I hope the other side hears that, or I will if they will. Again, I do not think this can be an if...then response, or a response of suspicion about others reactions. As people of God and followers of Christ we are called to treat others as we would want to be treated. The Apostle said, *If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.* That may be a stretch for me, and for you. The balance is that one will be suffering and another will be rejoicing at the same time, so humility and compassion will both be needed as we comfort one another and congratulate one another. Can that happen? We all have our doubts and skepticism. But even so, we are called.

On the one hand it is true that Christ is King. The festival of Christ the King Sunday is not much observed in the church but it is designated for November 22, the last Sunday of the Church Calendar. When Israel had no king, the people lamented and went to Samuel to demand a king like the other nations. Samuel did not want to give into their demands because he perceived it as a rejection of God as King in Israel. He himself was a judge, a kind of prophet-priest-leader who counseled the people. Samuel prayed about it. God told him to listen to the people and give them a king. Even so God was fully aware that the people had not rejected Samuel so much as they had rejected God. Samuel was right about that. God also told Samuel to warn the people that no king would be as compassionate or graceful as God,

nor would there be any assurance that a king would lead the people to a better life. Saul the first king certainly had problems, David the ideal king was faulty, and Solomon the wise king foolishly led the nation into idolatry. The history of kings in Israel was not a happy one. So, when all is said and done, voted on and inaugurated, we still must grapple with following God in Christ as we live together politically in this United/Divided States of America.

On the other hand, we will elect a President, Congress, Legislators, Mayors, etc. Nothing will change one way or the other immediately and the crises we fear will either be confirmed in our eyes or averted. Just the same our day to day lives will go on. Either way we are called to live the values that faith has taught us and that to which our own convictions have led. Live like you believe and think whether the politics matches up or not. Do the best you can for your neighbor in love and understanding whether the culture is wholly on your side or not. In all things be kind and patient. We may each need to pour some water on the flames of our passions.

This is the wisdom I have to offer. Love of neighbor is the faith I seek to live, even when my neighbor is characterized as an enemy or when my neighbor perceives me as being the enemy. Whether I can do this or not, whether you can accept this or not and follow through remains the question we each need to grapple with. On the way home from a far-off country Jacob wrestled with God about how he would meet his brother Esau. Jacob was all but certain that it would mean his death. Esau was more certain when they met that it would be about reconciliation and life together in some way or other. On the way home from a far-off country a young man wrestled with how to meet his father whom he had disappointed and a brother who was waiting in the fields. His father embraced him in spite of his failings and shame, the brother, well we don't know what he finally did. We may be the ones standing in his shoes as we meet each other on the way.

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

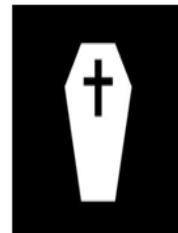
Stewardship: God's World in Our Care



There will be no community Thanksgiving service sponsored by the Ministerial this year. It hasn't been that well attended in the past, but just the same we have sought to acknowledge it as people of God living in one nation under God. Some might feel that 2020 has given us little to be thankful for, though of course we know that is not true, even so we may feel only the barest emotion of gratitude. Pastor will plan to record a Thanksgiving service. You likely will gather at a table with turkey and watch a football game. Expressions of thanks verbally, in gifts to those in need either through the church or through other organizations are still called for. Thursday November 19th is Give to the Max Day. Especially consider a donation to Camp Onomia. December will come with many more calls for gifts of love through Holiday Helping Hands, the Milaca Area Pantry, Salvation Army, and other charities. Be generous as an expression of gratitude and faith.

All Saints Sunday

For all the saints, who from their labors rest... November 1st we will remember those who have gone before us to the home of God: Joyce Horvath, Selma Erlandson, Marlene Mitchell, Roy Billmark, Lois Packard, Kimberli Berland and Sandra Marudas. Family or friends are invited to light a candle in remembrance and thanksgiving, in faith, hope and love. The service will be dedicated to the celebration of memorial and life.



Custodian Position Opening

We are grateful to Tammy Olson for serving Trinity Lutheran Church as custodian since September 2017. She has done a marvelous job. We are looking for a new person to fill the role of cleaning the Church facility and are open to people applying immediately. Please contact Pastor Bauer, the Church office or Kerri Steinbrecher. Thank you.



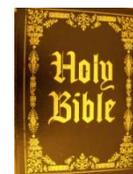
Phone Calling to Keep Connected

As we head into the winter from the extended months of COVID isolation we need to keep connected. We are setting up a calling list of members and are looking for people willing to make some phone calls simply to check in, see how it's going, and inquire if there are any particular needs. The thought is to have callers contact 8 people once a month for as much conversation as is needed. The calls may be short of extended. We would provide some simple feeder questions to start but the conversations would be open ended. If you are willing to make calls or have questions please contact Sue Nystrom 320-310-8750 or Pastor Bauer 320-362-0301.



Friday Bible Study

Bible Study meets Friday morning from 10:00-11:00 AM in the Trinity Room. The study is open to all. Masking, social distancing and disinfecting afterwards are required. Even so, come and share. No Bible Study on November 27th – Pastor is on vacation.



Council President

Hello Trinity Lutheran!

I hope this newsletter finds you all well! For myself and my family we are doing ok, rolling with 2020 doing the best we know how, as all of us are! I don't have a lot for updates, but do want to acknowledge the Church Council and our Pastor. The Council has done an extraordinary job of being available and talking through issues with the pandemic and doing their best to keep the church open, and advocate for safe activities that can help keep all of our youth active so they can continue to grow in their faith. As we all know, the current trend for COVID-19 is not trending in the direction we would like it to, but we know more than we did a few months ago and we will continue to do the best we can! So please, if and when you see one of them, be sure to thank them for their leadership through these times.

I also wanted to thank Pastor Tim. His leadership and faith through these trying times has been extraordinary. He is always looking to think outside the box to ensure we are reaching and delivering what is needed for TLC and the community. His passion and compassion go above and beyond and I am so grateful for that. He has been a calm in this storm. Thank you, Pastor, we are blessed to have you, please keep your light shining bright for all of us!

I am wishing each and every one of a Blessed Thanksgiving, and hang in there. Please remember to reach out if you need anything. We will get through this together.

Keep your light shining bright!!

Kerri

Miscellaneous Announcements

- Daylight saving time ends Sunday, November 1st at 2:00 AM. Make sure to set your clocks back one hour.
- Quilter's WILL NOT meet again till January.
- 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>
- Remember when placing orders with Amazon to begin by going to Smile.Amazon and select Trinity Lutheran Church as the organization you want to benefit. Thank You!



TLCW Tidbits



TLCW meet on October 14th with 6 women in attendance. The treasurer's report and secretary's report were reviewed and were approved with no revisions.

It is almost impossible to have any type of gathering where we did not have to share about COVID. It was shared that the numbers have been increasing in the county. We have a particularly great increase in the Elim Home both in patients and staff at Milaca. TLCW encourages all to keep those individuals in your thoughts and prayers.

The projects we have been involved with were reviewed. Our pill bottle collection topped 800 over the past few months. This was reported by Kathy Gillund.

We will be requesting the quilters to assist in our gifts to the members that are considered shut ins. We decided to give quilts this year as a gift from TLCW to express our thanks and to give them blessings from the women of the church. A list was developed and will be reviewed with Pastor Tim. These quilts will be labeled and delivered soon. These will replace the poinsettia distribution.

TLCW will be leading the annual Thank Offering service on November 29th. This is also the first Sunday in Advent so we will celebrate both occasions on that day.

Please pray for all those affected by COVID!

Becky Romosz, President TLCW

Keep in Touch!

Call or email the Church Office...

- ✓ If there is a change in your home address or home/cell number
- ✓ If you have a new baby in the family
- ✓ If a member of your family is hospitalized or ill
- ✓ If you would like a Pastoral visit or if any Pastoral needs arise

Church: 320-983-6420

Pastor: 320-362-0301

Church Office: trinitymilaca@gmail.com or Pastor Tim: ptmb1959@gmail.com

Wig's 60th Wedding Anniversary

The children (Curt, Karen & Kathy) of Robert "Bob" & Marilyn Wig are honored to announce their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Long-time Trinity members and Milaca teachers, they are currently enjoying retirement in Bloomington, MN. They'd love to hear from all their Trinity friends. Address correspondence to:

Bob & Marilyn Wig
Friendship Village
8100 Highwood Drive
Bloomington, MN 55438
(or Bob Wig on Facebook)



Holiday Decorating December 2nd

December 2nd at 6:45 PM the Youth Group will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. Thank you. It is a big job with trees, garland, lights, etc. If you would like to assist, they could use the help. Maybe there will be cider and cookies. The Church is so beautiful during the Holiday season. This year we need it more than ever. Contact Jennifer Tolzman 320-260-0257 or Melissa Elbert 320-492-3684 if you can help. Thank you.



Camp Onomia News

Give to the MAX - Thursday November 19th is the day of our annual online fund drive! We partner with thousands of other non-profits throughout the state of MN to say THANKS by offering a donation of support. During this COVID crisis, Camp Onomia has been devastated by the lack of program income. We are disheartened that we have not been able to provide summer camps for our kids and retreat weekends for our guests.



We long for the day when we can gather again to hear God's Word along the shores of Lake Shakopee.

So, go to www.camponomia.org and click on the donation link after November 1st to add your gift of Thanks.

Generosity is THANKS living!

Our Annual Quilt Auction is up and running online right now! Due to COVID we are selling off over 50 quilts, wall hangings, and baby blankies online! The auction ends on November 21st at 2:30 PM. We will be holding a LIVE streaming event through ZOOM on that Saturday beginning at 1:00 PM to show the quilts, share interviews, and listen to some great music as the bidding ends at 2:30. Stop on by that day, there may be a few other surprises in store! **BID NOW!**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84449855130>

Meeting ID;844 4985 5130

Never participated in a virtual auction? Not to worry! Frequently asked questions and help with registering for the auction is available on the camp website.