

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.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15:7



Among the many things I have missed as we return to worship, (not seeing as many of you as usual for good reasons, not singing, struggling with an abbreviated service and awkward seating, Holy Communion, and fellowship restrictions). I also miss the opportunity to welcome visitors. I miss that people do not wander into worship for the first time. I miss that it is more difficult for you to invite friends and new people in Milaca to the fellowship, worship and faith we share. We have welcomed a couple children through baptism which is wonderful.

The Church is an open place, a welcoming place, and place of invitation and a community for extending the family of God. The biggest barrier, it is said, to entering a church is walking through the doors the first time. It feels risky for people, like walking into someone else's house unannounced, not sure if that's OK, or if people will stare, or if it is a place one wants to sit down and remain. When I have worshipped at places on vacation, I have felt that too. I do not know any names or faces. I do not know if they sing hymns or praise music, if it is projected or I have to use a book. I do not know their communion practice, processional, take from a tray prefilled or receive from a pouring chalice. The announcements are for others not me. And, will they spot me and single me out for welcome as a stranger. I belong to the family of God, but do I belong in this gathering of the family. Yes! But even so it is different. Even walking in public places like stores and malls, sidewalks and trails, encounters are shadowed by the uncomfortable moving to one side, waiting to let someone pass or being allowed to pass, and apologies for getting in each other's way. (There is a certain politeness about all that but the tentative barriers to interaction remain.)

Now the barriers to coming to worship by visitors are multiplied. My guess is that few who have not attended worship with a congregation are very reluctant to do so now. I miss them, those whom I have not met, whoever they are. I believe that they might have been coming if not for all this. I fully understand the reluctance, but lament it nonetheless. It has helped some, and I am gratified that the daily devotions shared via email and Facebook have reached a wider congregation than Trinity, friends, cousins, people whose names I do not recognize. Still I wish that I could meet them in worship if they desired to come.

It sounds cliché: now more than ever we need to be creative with Christian witness and invitation. Now more than ever our lives are our witness, the light of God shining through us so others can see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. Welcome strangers where you meet them. Welcome new people as you are able. Protect one another and project the love of God with kindness. It will probably be a while before visitors have the courage or feel the freedom to cross the barriers to someplace new. It may be a while before many of us are comfortable being together. Everything is tentative and in flux for a while.

In the meantime, we gather for worship Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM, at least through September, unless we start seeing 80-90 in worship and need to change, which may happen, who knows. All are welcome, however they or we come or not. We will keep trying and see how it goes.

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

Stewardship: God's World in Our Care

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Hurricanes, California wildfires, Corona virus, tornadoes, flooding, South Sudan, Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis, and protecting migrant minors are all being addressed by the ELCA. You can learn more, donate, and hear the call to pray at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>



Bishop Amy Odgren

At the 2020 Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly Pastor Amy Odgren was elected to be Bishop of the Synod. Amy follows Bishop Thomas Aitken who served the Synod for two 6-year terms. Amy served four congregations in Wisconsin and has served as Director of Evangelical Mission in both the Northwest Wisconsin Synod of the ELCA and the Northeastern Minnesota Synod. Amy grew up in Iowa and is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter and Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque IA. We offer Amy our congratulations, prayers and faithfulness. When the day permits we will extend an invitation to come visit. Thanks be to God.



Friday Bible Study

The Friday Bible Study that meets in the morning from 10:00-11:00 AM will resume Friday September 4th. The Bible study meets in the Trinity Room, as an opportunity to share the scripture Pastor Bauer intends to use for the Sunday sermon. The conversation comes from faith combined with instruction. Often it helps Pastor discern a good word to share with the congregation. The study is open to all. Masking, social distancing and disinfecting afterwards are required. Even so, come and share.



Council President

Hello Trinity Lutheran,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. I am keeping my section short this week in hopes that everyone will read it!

I want to ensure everyone understands the protocol in coming back to worship in the sanctuary. Last week we sectioned off the pews. Half of each pew, alternating right side and left side will be available. Each section that is available is for a family/individual living in the same household or for an individual who has come alone. Please do not share a section with someone outside of your household. By social distancing in this manner it will allow us to stay open so we can all come to worship together. Please do not be afraid to explain this to other members of the congregation or visitors as they may not have received the "memo." Please also remember there is seating available in the balcony.

If you have any questions or ideas, please reach out to myself, Pastor Tim, or anyone on Council. We are here to help and listen.

Keep your Light Shining Bright! You never know whose day you might brighten!

Kerri



**President's
REPORT**

Confirmation Conversation



A Confirmation Orientation email will be sent out the first week of September. Please read through the information. Classes will start September 9th at Trinity in the Fellowship Hall from 6:30-7:30 PM. There will be no meal prior to class. Because of the need for smaller groups we will need more (8-9) adult group leaders. We hope to have no more than 5-6 people at a table. Masking will be required as well as assistance disinfecting following each session. An option of working through the material at home as parent/student learning will be available. This year the themes will be stories from the Old Testament.

** 10th Graders being confirmed this fall (and parents) will meet briefly at 7:30 PM on September 16th. The purpose is to measure for Confirmation gowns, look at interview forms, and explain the process. Confirmation Sunday is October 25th.

Youth Summer 2021



Youth and parents met Sunday August 23rd to consider next summer's options.

- We talked about Youthworks and Christikon Bible Camp in Montana. Youth at the meeting expressed interest in a Care of Creation Backpack trip through Christikon. We have a credit with Youthworks for \$850 so a Youthworks Trip remains under consideration. We will meet later in September to make a decision.
- We have \$10,400 in the Youth account due to the fund raising for the canceled trip from this past summer. We raised \$1700 from the Garage Sale. Thank you.

TLCW Update

It has been a very challenging and interesting summer for all of us. We have had to make many accommodations to keep everyone safe and healthy during this COVID-19 pandemic. The following is an update on the scheduled events:

- These events are or were cancelled or rescheduled
 - Syttende Mai Luncheon
 - Spring Gathering
 - Summer Convention
 - The Triennial in Phoenix
 - The Fall Gathering
 - The cookie baking for the Lutefisk Supper
 - The Fall Fling that was to have taken place in September has been tentatively rescheduled for spring of 2020
- Our next meeting will be September 9th, 2020 at 11:30 AM. Our meeting will follow the state mandates. We will need to socially distance, wear our masks and use hand sanitizer before and after the meeting. After the meeting we will need to sanitize the areas we used as well as the bathroom. There is a clipboard in the kitchen that we need to sign for completion.



Becky

Trinity Lunch Group Update

It is unfortunate that we were unable to have our catered meal as well as no other meals for the lunch group! I have missed the group and I think others have as well. Right now, we are still on hold for any lunches. The grant we received for the catered meal was repurposed. We will plan a catered meal later and apply for a Thrivent Grant. Thanks for your patience! Hope to see you all soon!

Karen and Becky

Snack Pack Program

As of this time the program is on hold until further notice. We will inform when the program is able to resume in order to restock the shelves. Thank you for the support and pray for the children.

Miscellaneous Announcements

- The Lutefisk Dinner has been canceled for this fall.
- Worship through the month of September will be at 9:00 AM each Sunday in the sanctuary.
- 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>



Quilters

The quilters have been meeting on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:00AM. Please come if you feel safe and comfortable doing so. We do follow social distancing and wear masks.

The Growth and Renewal Quilt

Through this pandemic and the unrest in our state and nation, the Synod Assembly is meeting virtually. The silent auction will be an online auction being held around September 8th.

Remember the quilt? RuthAnn along with some help from the quilters made a beautiful quilt specifically for this Silent Auction. Check out the link below to see all the quilts and other items up for bid. Our quilt is called Growth and Renewal and was submitted by Bethesda Lutheran in Malmo. It is a spectacular show of quilts!

https://e.givesmart.com/events/iaK/?fbclid=IwAR2-FRwEtqLOUNWVbsPOxyxRsL_4qT7xWS0Vz8He33YsHfHw1k4arS2A_OU

