

# Trinity *Tidings*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) | APRIL 2020

## WE MISS YOU

It sure is odd around the church building these days—especially on Sunday morning and Wednesday nights! Normally this place is so alive with worship and fellowship and programming and meetings and many other activities. We miss being able to see all of you in person and we look forward to the time when we will all start returning to in-person Sunday and Wednesday worship services, gatherings, programs and meetings.

We are immensely thankful for all of the encouragement this congregation has expressed to us over the past several weeks. We appreciate the text messages, emails, and letters that so many of you have sent to us. We are working to do the same for you and want you to know how much we care about YOU and how you are doing in this challenging time.

In order to be able to function we have had to move all of our worship services an online platform. I know these services sure feel different. It is rather odd to lead worship looking at a camera rather than at people.

But we trust that we are all coming together in the bond of the Holy Spirit. We know that for the foreseeable future we will have to come together for worship in this way. It means that this year for Holy Week and Easter we will be worshipping online. You will find information on these services in this newsletter as well as on our Facebook page and our website. We are planning some unique worship experiences as we celebrate the incredible Good News that **Christ is Risen!**

For those who do not have internet access we want you to know that we are working to develop options for you. We are mailing resources that you can use in your home. We know it just isn't the same as being able to tune into a service but we want you to know how much we miss you and care about you too.

We want to continue to minister with you. Thank you for the many blessings you offer. We love you all. Always remember: We are the church together!  
--Pastor Kari and Pastor Tim Vadis

“PINE”  
SUNDAY  
APRIL 5  
Online  
Service



Read more on page 3

Read more on page 3



GOOD FRIDAY Apr 10  
Online Tenebrae service



Online Worship Service April 12  
Read more on page 3

# Noontime Online with PK

*Wednesdays at Noon is ZOOM Coffee with Pastor Kari*



We give thanks to God for the online options we have for connection during this time of separation. We are trying to utilize as many outlets of communication that we can in an effort to stay connected.

You are invited to TAKE A NOONTIME BREAK with Pastor Kari. So let's talk about **ZOOM**.

Zoom is a face-to-face meeting that allows us to see one another on a smart phone or computer "Brady Bunch Style."

Its simple to download. Click on the link we send via email (or on our website: ComeToTrinity.com). If you don't already have ZOOM downloaded, you will need to accept the download. After that, the

link will take you to the "meeting." **This same link will work every Wednesday at noon.**

Drink a cup of coffee, share highs and lows, hear a word of Scripture and pray with Pastor Kari. It's a great way to "see" one another.

Our first Wednesday Coffee was a great check-in and helped us all feel like we were not alone. We've even seen answered prayers since then. It's a time of hope, community & encouragement!

Contact the office ahead of time if you need help with ZOOM. We will do our best to talk you through it.

*Tuesdays & Thursdays Noon Devotions on ZOOM with PK.*



On **Tuesdays and Thursdays at Noon** you are invited to join Pastor Kari & Faith Bartelt on **ZOOM** for a 10-15 minute devotion. Through Music, Scripture, and Prayer we are able to connect with God and each other in a meaningful way.

In order to get into the Zoom "meeting" you will need the ZOOM link that has gone out via email. Event links are reusable

and can be found on Trinity's website. "Devotions" have one Zoom link and "Coffee" has a different Zoom link.

We are using ZOOM to improve the quality of the music. Zoom allows Faith to sing and show her face without having to be in the same space as Pastor Kari.

The benefit of connecting

in real time is that your prayer requests and comments will be seen by Pastor Kari and she can respond to you & pray for you during the devotion.

We plan to post a video from the noontime devotion on Facebook for those who are unable to join in at noon.

If computers are not your thing and you are not online at all, please utilize the phone to make a call to the pastors or the office as we also check our messages there. Our hope is to continue to connect with you in meaningful ways.

## Those Without Computer, Email or Internet Access

We know that there are those in our congregation who do not own a computer or other electronic device and are not able to connect with us through the internet. We want you to know that we are keeping your needs in mind too.

We will be mailing devotional materials to you that you can use in your home. This will include a simple liturgy you can use in your home on Sundays. It provides the Bible readings for the Sundays in April and a set of reflection questions to help you connect with those readings. There will also be a few other devotional readings that you can use in addition to other sources you may already have.

Two members of our congregation have offered to help by calling those without a computer or email access to see if they have any spiritual needs or prayer requests. Ellen Leick and Ruth Aho have volunteered to help us make these contacts. If you have a pastoral need please let them know. They will work with the Pastors and relay any special needs.

You may also call the church office and leave a message or contact Pastor Kari or Pastor Tim on their cell phones.

# Holy Week and Easter Sunday

## **PINE SUNDAY April 5**

(Normally referred to as Palm Sunday) All four Gospels tell the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and then five days later of his crucifixion on the cross. This storyline shapes the tradition of Holy Week and begins on what is referred to as Palm Sunday. It is interesting to explore where this Sunday gets its name. For instance, Luke says nothing about any branches in his account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Matthew says people cut "branches from the trees" and Mark says they cut, "leafy branches." It is only in John's Gospel where we get a specific type of branch identified. John says, "they took branches of **palm** trees and went out to meet him." So, based on this reference, churches have traditionally used Palm Branches in their worship services to mark the Sunday before

Easter. Up here in the Northwoods we are at a Palm Tree deficit. Since the church cannot provide Palm branches like we normally do on this Sunday we are encouraging everyone to try to gather a few **Pine Branches** for this Sunday's service. This year we will begin Holy Week by observing "**Pine Sunday**" instead! We will use the pine branches as part of our online worship experience. If you are able plan to gather a few before Sunday morning.

## **GOOD FRIDAY April 10**

Our Good Friday online worship service is modeled after the Tenebrae Tradition that goes back to at least the eighth century. The service is presented as a ceremony progressing from light to dark. The word tenebrae is a Latin term and is literally translated as "shadows."

As each candle is extinguished in this service, it symbolizes the various shadows that surrounded Jesus and his cross just prior to his death. Our meditations will feature the last words of Christ.

## **EASTER SUNDAY April 12**

On Easter Sunday we will gather to celebrate through our online service. You are encouraged to make small Easter displays in your home around your computer/phone/television for when you join worship service online. You are also encouraged to still get some fun Easter clothes on, wear their hats, etc. Think about how you might set up ways to be with your families WHILE you are at the service. For example, you might tune into the service while also FaceTiming with grandparents or some other video chat option. Please join us online for Holy Week.

# The Help Desk: Technology Corner

*Helping you troubleshoot when connecting to our online service and gatherings. Common questions we often hear and suggestions you can try.*

**Q.** How can I connect to the online worship service?

**A.** We moving to **Youtube** to share our worship services. You can either connect to the service by going to our website:

**[ComeToTrinity.com](http://ComeToTrinity.com)** and clicking the link on the homepage or by using the link we send to those who have an email address. Either option should get you connected.

**Q.** The service is not coming up for me when I open my email. What should I be doing?

**A.** When you receive your email for you click the link in it. This is often in blue colored font. It can also change color when you hover you cursor over it. Once you click the link it will connect with a page

that has video of the service. Most of the time the video will start playing automatically. If it does not start playing you may need to click "play" in the bottom left of the video.

**Q.** Do I need to use a computer to connect to the on-line worship service or can I use my cell phone or iPad?

**A.** You can use any device that connects to the internet.

**Q.** What should I do when the church emails are going to my SPAM?

**A.** Please add **TLCNotifications@ComeToTrinity.com** to your email contacts to keep Trinity emails from going to your SPAM.

**Q.** I'm not receiving your emails.

**A.** Please contact the church office to let us know. We will resend any emails you missed and ensure we have your correct email address.

**Q.** How do I connect with the weekly devotions on Zoom?

**A.** Click on the link we send via email (or on our website: ComeToTrinity.com) If you don't already have ZOOM downloaded, you will need to accept the download. After that, the link will take you to the "meeting." **This same link will work every Wednesday at noon.**

If you are still having problems connecting you can contact the church office or one of the pastors.



# We Are In This Together!

*A pre-social distancing small group outing. This group took time to enjoy creation and fellowship with one another.*

One of the great ironies of all this Social Distancing is that it has isolated us into little pods and so we start to feel alone. But the reality is that we are staying home, keeping our social distance, and limiting our contact **BECAUSE** we are a community. We are isolating for the sake of ALL people. Especially those who are high risk. It would be selfish to ignore the possibility that togetherness could kill somebody or at least make them sick. **WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!**

There is something hopeful and beautiful about the world coming together at this time to say that individuals will make sacrifices for the good of all people.

And so here we are. In an uncertain time, not knowing how long this will last or how sick some people may become. There are economic concerns with so many people laid off and there are health concerns for those who are working. It is a challenging time and a bit surreal.

One thing that is clear to me is our need for one another. I'm an extrovert and I'm about to crawl out of my skin. Pastor Tim is an introvert and he isn't handling this much better. Human contact and a real connection gives us life.

And that's no surprise! As people of faith we've always known that God created us to live together. He designed us to thrive in community. We come together to share our gifts for the good of the Body of Christ, the Gospel and the World. We are a gift from God to one another. Its especially clear right now as we are



physically removed from one another's hand shakes, high fives, fist bumps and hugs. We are even missing out on seeing each others' facial expressions. **We are designed for connectedness and this reality is what drives me to be passionate about Small Groups.**

Small Groups aren't new. The first thing that Jesus did when he began his public ministry was to form a small group. He called 13 disciples (*which was maybe one too many*) and in that small group he was able to build relationships that would shape the Church forever.

Gathering in small groups gives us a chance to share ideas and go deeper into Scripture as well as deepen our relationships with each other. Creating a safe environment allows us to ask questions or share hardships without feeling embarrassed or insecure about our faith. Praying for

one another with intentionality helps to build one another up in love as we are called to do.

In this time of social distancing, our small group leaders are checking in with their groups via the phone and email to show their love and support of one another. Imagine if everybody was in a group right now—we'd have a great network to reach out to one another and pray for one another.

This fall we will open up our groups and start new groups. I hope you will consider attending a group-ing to try it out. See what it feels like for one 90-minute session. It may seem like a risk but it's a risk worth taking.

I am planning to lead a **Small Group Leader Training** in April. (*5 weeks starting April 19th*) I had some people sign up and so I will continue to offer that training but we will not meet in person (*obviously*). Instead, we will meet over **ZOOM**.

Leaders don't need to be Bible Scholars. Leaders don't need to do everything for their group, either. I'm looking for a few people who can commit to regular meetings and have the emotional capacity to care about the people in their group.

Please direct any questions about Small Groups or being a Small Group Leader to me. If there was ever a time to look forward to deepening our faith and our friendships its now. **Join me in life-change through small groups.**

—Pastor Kari

# From the Council President

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are living in a truly remarkable time. The weight of the emergency orders in response to COVID-19 are pressing hard on Trinity. We have had to make some difficult decisions regarding the ministry of this community. Our building has been closed. The outside groups that we have partnered with or hosted are no longer able to use the facility. We've had to make hard choices as related to our staff. Our custodian has been laid off, Marina and Pam are working limited hours and covering the bare essentials of their duties. Our Pastors have volunteered to take cuts to their pay to help with our financial situation.

We function on a tight financial plan as it is, and the reality of no in person worship services and a drop in our regular giving has greatly affected our congregation. We have been in contact with Thrivent Financial who holds our mortgage and have negotiated an interest-only payment option for three months, and that will help. We have taken measures in the building to save on energy costs. Praise God that we are still receiving regular income from the *Simply Giving* program, and some regular offerings are coming into the office, but we need the support of the congregation to continue with the mission and ministry of this community. To that end, we have sent out an appeal letter to the entire congregation. Please prayerfully consider your much-needed support of this congregation.

God is truly at work here! We see that in the passion of our Pastors who continue to find new ways to engage with the incredible people of this community. We hear of members helping other members and neighbors alike. We see His guidance in our leadership, and as we face each new challenge, He helps us find options and a path forward.

I pray and WAIT for the day when we can all gather together for worship and feel the power of worship! Please pray for this community, for our staff and especially our Pastors. We will get through this challenge, and we will be stronger for it.

Praise be to God,  
*Kevin Eggers*



## Stewardship Principles

Our giving is done first, as a joyful and faithful response to God's gift of grace in Christ.

And, our gifts are joyfully given that the ministries of one's congregation can grow and be vibrant in the proclamation of Christ and God's grace.

## Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Year-to-Date Through February 29, 2020

	<u>February</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Total Income:	\$28,392	\$171,569
Total Expenditures:	\$30,091	\$186,483

Thank you to all who have been making the extra effort to send in your offerings to the church office or using our online giving option on the website. We are also grateful for all who are enrolled *Simply Giving* and to those who are signing up to use *Simply Giving*. Your wonderful generosity it much needed and much appreciated! THANK YOU

## Gift and Memorial

Don and Cis Baker  
in memory of Helen Swanson  
designated to the Carpet Square Project.

**SIMPLY GIVING**  
is an easy cost effective way to give. This program is managed by Thrivent Financial Services and is set-up through our office. Giving options allow you to give weekly, bi-weekly or monthly and amounts are automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. More information and enrollment forms are available at the church office or on our website at [ComeToTrinity.com](http://ComeToTrinity.com)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Trinity Office Hours

Office hours at Trinity will be sporadic during this time of the “Safer at Home” order from the governor. We will just be performing basic office functions.

Please leave a voicemail if you have any comments, questions or concerns that are of a non-urgent nature.

As always, if you have an urgent need, please contact  
**Pastor Kari at 715-437-0770**  
**Pastor Tim at 715-437-0774**

Please let us know if you have an email address and have not been receiving emails from us. We are trying to keep everyone as connected as possible at this time of separation.

### • **RAFP**

Every second Monday of the month from 3pm-6 pm volunteers are needed at the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry to distribute, weigh, and carry food. If you would like to help, please sign up at the IOC table.

### • **RAFP — Senior Distribution**

On the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 11:45 am to 1:30 pm. Help seniors choose food items. For information contact Georgia Mielke.

### • **RAFP — Home Delivery Packing**

Every other Friday from 9:30 am to 11 am. For information contact Nancy Eisele.

### • **From the Office**

The calendar, serving schedule and birthdays and anniversaries can be found posted in the church gathering area or at the IOC table.

If you would like copies sent to you, please contact the church office Monday-Friday from 8 am to 12 pm by calling Pam at 715-362-4258 or emailing her at [tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com](mailto:tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com).

### • **Newsletter Deadline**

The Newsletter deadline is the *15th of each month*. Please email submissions to the office email [tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com](mailto:tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com) or drop them off in the church office Mon-Fri from 8:00 am-noon.

### • **Office Contacts**

Pastor Tim: 715-437-0774  
[tvadis@cometotrinity.com](mailto:tvadis@cometotrinity.com)

Pastor Kari: 715-437-0770  
[kvadis@cometotrinity.com](mailto:kvadis@cometotrinity.com)

Marina Benoy, Treasurer: 715-362-4258  
[mabenoy@cometotrinity.com](mailto:mabenoy@cometotrinity.com)

Pam Karoliussen, Administrative Assistant  
715-362-4258  
[tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com](mailto:tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com)

### • **Change of Address Request**

If your address, email or phone number has changed, please complete the form in the bulletin and drop it in the offering plate or in the church office. You can also email Pam in the church office at [tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com](mailto:tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com) or call 715-362-4258. Keeping our records current ensures you stay informed of the activities and programs here at Trinity.

## In Our Prayers—Sharing Prayer Requests

Prayer continues to be an important ministry we can all be carrying on in our homes. We are sharing prayer requests here of those we know about. There are several ways you can get us your prayer requests. You can email us, send a note by mail, call us or use our new prayer portal on the church website. We will continue to lift each other up and support one another in prayer.

### **Please pray for:**

- Expectant Mothers
- Those who lost their jobs
- People struggling to find their next meal
- Those still having to work around others
- Safety of healthcare workers

- For those who are out of work.
- For those who are sick.
- For peace of mind and heart in this time of anxiety and grief.

### **For those who are ill, facing surgery or other health needs:**

- Lee Rentmeester who is having a heart procedure on 4/6 (*from Bonnie Rentmeester*)
- Carol Anderson who is fighting cancer (*from Arlene Russell*)
- Judy Helmrick who is fighting cancer (*from Arlene Russell*)
- Loreen Lomax who is in hospice care

### **Grieving the loss of a loved one:**

- Ruth Carstensen, mother of Judy Zarm
- Dee Dee Counter, mother of Nancy Kotarski
- Dan Johnson, husband of Sue Johnson
- Liz Blanc, great niece of Harvey and Ellen Mathisen

### **Expectant Parents:**

- Jon and Jen Prod (*from Gary and Jane Prod*)
- Lauren and Jacob Randall (*from Joy and Jeff Schisel*)

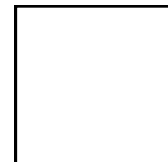
**The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.**

**JAMES 5:16**





Trinity Lutheran Church  
235 N. Stevens St.  
Rhineland, WI 54501



**Address Service Requested**

*Read our Newsletter on our website at  
[www.ComeToTrinity.com](http://www.ComeToTrinity.com)*



***Our Mission is to help  
people of all ages become  
active and engaged  
followers of Christ.***

We are a Lutheran congregation with a variety of ages, backgrounds and passions. We are a community striving to grow in our walk of faith with Jesus Christ to love and serve the world. We are a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (often referred to as the ELCA) in the Northern Great Lakes Synod. These relationships help us to share the saving message of the gospel in our congregation, in the Rhineland community, in our country and throughout the world. We welcome you to be part of our community and join us in the mission we share in Christ. For more information about Trinity Lutheran, to get involved in our ministries, or to learn more about becoming a member, please contact us.

Phone: 715.362.4258

Email: [tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com](mailto:tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com)

Website: [www.ComeToTrinity.com](http://www.ComeToTrinity.com)

You can also find us on Facebook