

TRINITY *news*

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 East Main Street; PO Box 188
Spring Grove, MN 55974

507.498.5291

www.trinitysg.org



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



Instagram

[trinitylutheransg](https://www.instagram.com/trinitylutheransg)
[trinityyouth203](https://www.instagram.com/trinityyouth203)

Office hours:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Wed: Noon – 6:00 p.m.

Sundays at Trinity

9:15 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Listen live on KVIK 104.7 FM

www.kvikradio.com

Saturday Worship

5:00 p.m.

1st and 3rd Saturdays each month

STAFF

Elizabeth Hermeier, Lead Pastor

trinitysr@springgrove.coop

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lane.zaffke@gmail.com

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Gary Wilhelmson, Custodian

Scott Solberg, Choir Director

Rachel Storlie, Organist/Pianist

Willy Leafblad, Handbell Director

Jean Ellingson, Pianist/Organist

Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist

Mark Udstuen, Praise Band Leader

Rick Sundet, Technology Lead

HOLY WEEK

Although we can't worship together during Holy Week, we have things planned for this most holy time in the Christian church:

◆ The glorious Christ the King service with the Thankful Brass ensemble (times five!) from November is now available to watch on our YouTube channel, search for "Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove."

◆ Watch for a message from Bekah about how kids can "chalk up" the sidewalk in front of the church during Holy Week.

◆ Beginning Monday, April 6, we invite you to "let our prayers rise up" to God via colorful ribbons! If you're out walking or driving by the church and you'd like to offer a prayer, just tie a ribbon to the railing by the cross in front of the church. Go ahead and attach a prayer request to your ribbon if you'd like. **Please bring your own ribbon** and continue to use physical distancing recommendations when you stop by.

◆ Maundy Thursday (4/9) and Good Friday (4/10) services: on Facebook Live at 7:00 p.m. and then posted to our YouTube channel to watch at your convenience.

◆ Easter Sunday (4/12): The Worship Team is making a plan for our worship service. Details will soon be posted on Facebook, our website, and on 498-HOPE.



WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED TO TRINITY



- **498-HOPE (4673)**
-short daily messages and updates
- **498-AMEN (2636)**
-daily devotionals
- **www.trinitysg.org**
-news, updates, info
- **Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove**
-updates, music, worship, info
- **YouTube: Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove**
-video recordings of worship, Bible Stories with Bekah, short messages from Pr. Elizabeth
- **Instagram**
-photos, updates
- **Zoom app**
-Confirmation, meetings

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39 (NRSV)

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Easter People!

Three weeks ago, I had never heard of “Zoom.” Now I Zoom every day. (Zoom, by the way, is a magic internet thingy that lets us have meetings wearing our comfy clothes, in our own homes, with other people wearing their comfy clothes, in their own homes.) We have team meetings using Zoom. We have Confirmation using Zoom – with 45 people attending! Bekah uses Zoom for 3:16s and Middle School Game Night. Thursday we had our council meeting using Zoom.

Three weeks ago, I had never used Facebook Live. Now I (and Rachel S. and Bekah) record something on Facebook Live several times a week. Despite my intense fear of anything that looks like a camera. I don’t think Bekah and Rachel mind the camera at all. Check it out!

Three weeks ago, Trinity didn’t have a YouTube channel or a phone line dedicated to messages of HOPE. As of this writing, we have 12 videos on YouTube and I record a new 498-HOPE message every day. Check it out! Check it out!

Three weeks ago, a team of blessed people led by Jean Ellingson started calling every member of the congregation to check in, starting with the “81 over 80.” Pastor Lane checks in with the folks he visits on a regular basis as well. Some of the circles are sending “Round Robin” email chains, complete with embedded hymns.

So much has changed in the last three weeks. But there is one thing that cannot change: Though we may feel separated from one-another, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

The COVID-19 pandemic means we cannot be together right now as we used to be. As we want to be. As we hope to be. Especially during Holy Week. Especially on Easter Sunday. But God calls us, at this time and in this place, to love our neighbor in new and challenging ways. Right now, caring for our neighbor means staying at home more, washing our hands more, hand-sanitizing more and keeping our distance – at least 6 feet. Right now, caring for our neighbor means trying out new technologies that help us connect in new and interesting ways. Right now, caring for our neighbor means attending church on the radio, on Facebook Live and on YouTube.

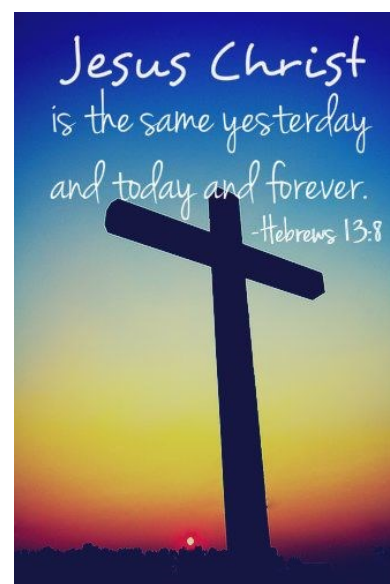
We will likely not be together for some weeks. But when we are back together, we will have a mighty Easter celebration. There will be trumpets and organ and voices and alleluias. Maybe we’ll even dig up some lilies. (Not literally, of course.)

I want to close this letter with a quote from Bishop Regina Hassanally of the Southeast Minnesota Synod of the ELCA:

Remember this, dear People of God: it is the same God who called Abraham into an unknown land, who led Moses and the Israelites through wilderness and into promise, who worked through politics and circumstance to save God’s people through Esther, and who tore through the heavens to proclaim Jesus as beloved Son that is with us still today. It is the same God. Our realities may change. God does not.

The promise is sure: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

God bless you, Pastor Elizabeth



Please don’t hesitate to contact Pr. Elizabeth

at home (498-3837), via email (trinitysr@springgrove.coop), or on her cell phone (651-605-5037).

FROM PASTOR LANE

We've talked about God talking to Adam and Eve and God talking to Moses. So this month we will listen in when God talks to Elijah.

We are going to pick it up near the end of the story, but let me tell you what happens to lead up to it. In Kings 18 and 19, Israel as a whole had once again become unfaithful. Elijah wants to prove that God is Almighty and the God of Israel. He challenges all the prophets of Baal (a pagan religion that the Queen Jezebel adhered to). It is like the World Series, Stanley Cup, Super Bowl and whatever they call the Basketball Championship, all into one. Winner takes all. Loser gets killed. It is a very exciting story that would make a blockbusting movie. Elijah, our hero, wins and kills the other guys. Queen Jezebel sends a warning to Elijah that she will see him killed. Elijah runs for his life into the wilderness.

Elijah goes a day's journey into the wilderness. There he is ministered to by Angels of God to prepare him for a forty-day journey. He ends up at Mount Horeb in a cave. God comes to him and says, "What are you doing here?" Elijah tells the story and God tells him to go outside the cave because He is about to pass by.

Outside the cave there is all sorts of chaos happening – a great wind, an earthquake, a fire but God is not in them. And then the sound of sheer silence. It is in the silence that God asks again, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" And Elijah tells the story again. Then God lays out a plan for Elijah.

Sometimes life has all kinds of storms, troubles and business but God is not in them. It is in the silence after the chaos where God speaks to us. When we take time to go out and meet God. When all the chaos falls away, we may hear a plan, an idea, a comforting thought or just Grace. God is there.

~Pastor Lane

HOW TO SOCIALIZE DISTANTLY: TIME TO GET CREATIVE.

Adapted from an article by Ruth Graham, Slate magazine

Plan a virtual dinner party. My family usually eats dinner with the same friends in our town once or twice a week. So we decided to cook the same meal in our respective homes, then set up a laptop on each table and Skyped while we ate. You could also "go out" to eat together by ordering takeout or delivery from the same restaurant in your area. You and your dinner companions can even assemble early via video chat to pore over the menu together.

Check the neighborhood Facebook page (for us it is —"Caring for our Neighbors, Spring Grove Area"). Even if you normally don't like Facebook [it's] a useful social resource right now.

Start a book club. Book clubs in normal times are 95% solitary reading anyway. Pick a book as usual and move the discussion to Zoom or FaceTime. Or join a larger virtual club, like fiction writer Yiyun Li's new three-month reading of *War & Peace*.

"Tour" some museums or "visit" a national park. The British Museum and the Louvre in Paris are among the museums that offer some form of virtual tours. So do five major national parks, via Google Arts & Culture.

Talk on the phone. Historians say this was once a popular method for staying in touch with far-flung friends and family members. Contact your service provider to learn more about this technology and whether it's right for you.



YOUTUBE How-To

This is where you search for our channel.

Click here to go directly to our channel and see all of the videos that can be watched.

Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove
45 subscribers • 10 videos
Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation for all. It is a church enlightened by its past with strength and vision for the future.

March 17 2020
Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove • 250 views • 2 weeks ago
March 17, 2020_bells will chime.

Lent 5_4-1-20
Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove • 1 view • 21 hours ago
New

msg 3-25-20
Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove • 57 views • 1 week ago

SUBSCRIBED

This button shows that I have subscribed to Trinity's channel. It was red and said "SUBSCRIBE" when I first came to this page, before I clicked it. The "bell" next to the button has also been selected/clicked (so it is solid colored) which means that I will receive notifications when new videos are posted on this channel.

FACEBOOK How-To

This is where you search for our page.

This is Trinity's Facebook page. Click "Like" and "Follow" to see our posts on your timeline page.

Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove
@TrinityLutheranSG

ALL are welcome!

Like Follow Share

Sign Up

Create Live Event Offer Job

Write a post...

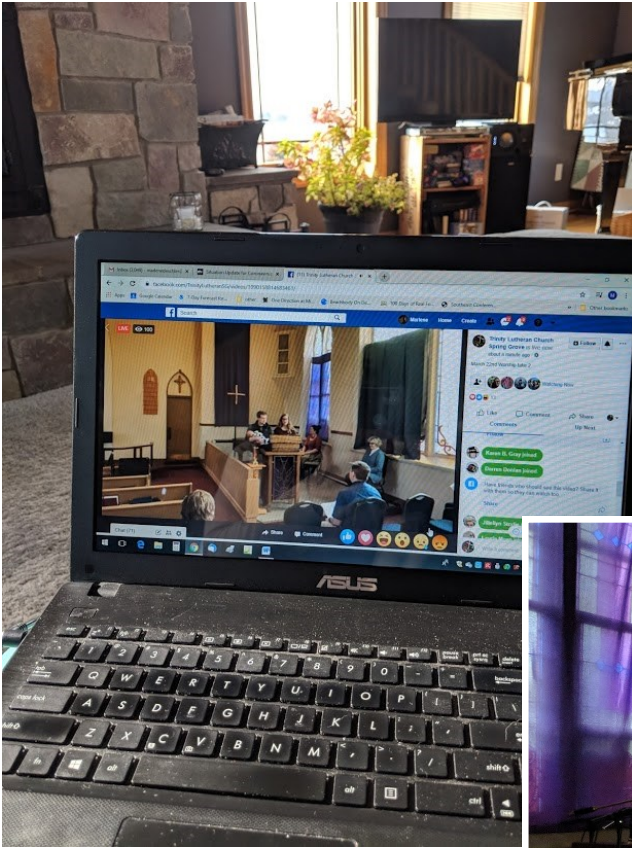
Photo/Video Get Messages Play with Fri...

Boost an Instagram Post
Reach more people and get more reactions, comments and shares

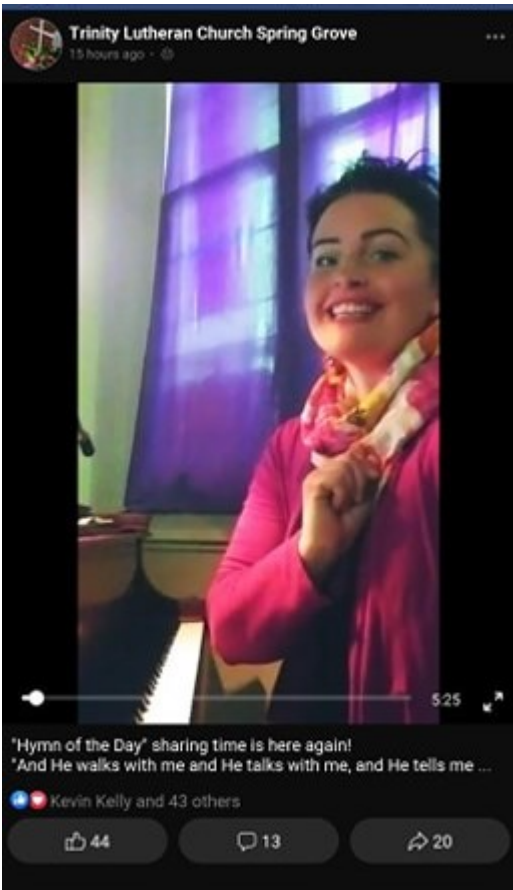
Reach People Nearby
Set your location and reach customers in your area

Suggested Groups

- Caring for our Neighbors, ...
609 members • 60 posts a day
Join
- C&C Backroad Bling
880 members • 10 posts a day
Join
- Spiritual Warfare Conferences
8.3K members • 50 posts a day
Join
- SG BOYS YOUTH...
38 members • 3 posts a week
Join
- Park Rapids Assembly of Go...
230 members • 10 posts a day
Join



▲ Families are still at worship! Flat families, that is! Have you sent your family in? If not, email Bekah: bekah@trinitysg.org



▲ Watching worship on Facebook Live at home.

▲ Our sanctuary looks a bit different now while we make adjustments to record worship.

► Our last in-person worship was a beautiful service including the baptism of Theodore Leafblad.



▲ Rachel Storlie has been recording a hymn or song on Facebook. Go to our page to listen to this beautiful music!

Holy Week Bingo!

Although we can't worship together in-person during Holy Week (April 5-11), there are still ways your family can participate in Holy Week activities at home. You can play this Bingo game.....begin on Palm Sunday, April 5, and tackle a few boxes each day. Aim for a blackout bingo (all boxes covered)! Have fun!

<p>Lent is 40 days. Count out 40 of something. What did you find.... M&Ms? Cheerios? Legos? Raisins? Crayons? Floor tiles? Pens and pencils?</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday Jesus had a special meal with his friends. Call a friend or family member.</p>	<p>Jesus was arrested and the guards led him to prison. Take turns leading each other around the house or neighborhood.</p>	<p>Good Friday Jesus hung on the cross. How many crosses can you find in your house? If you can't find one, make one!</p>	<p>Easter Sunday The women went to the tomb to put spices on Jesus' body. Find something that smells good in your house.</p>
<p>Palm Sunday Find something green like the palm branches to wave. Parade around your house or neighborhood yelling "Hosanna."</p>	<p>Jesus washed his disciples' feet. What can you find to wash today?</p>	<p>The disciples all ran away. How fast can you run? Go outside and run or walk..</p>	<p>It was a very sad day when Jesus died. What are you sad about today? Talk with a friend about it.</p>	<p>What did the women find in the tomb? Find an empty Easter egg. Take turns hiding and finding it.</p>
<p>Jesus rode a donkey. Can you find a donkey in your house? Or a similar animal? If not draw one.</p>	<p>Make a placemat or put out placemats on your table to remember the Last Supper.</p>	<p>FREE SPACE</p>	<p>When Jesus died, the sky grew dark. Find a very dark place in your house. Turn off the light. Very slowly count to 3. What will happen on the 3rd day?</p>	<p>Everyone is so happy that Jesus is alive. Take a Dance Break with a favorite song. Everyone dance!</p>
<p>Read the Holy Week and Easter story from your favorite Children's Bible or Bible.</p>	<p>Jesus said to love one another. Make a heart. Hang it in the window where others can see.</p>	<p>Peter denied Jesus 3 times before the rooster crowed. Crow like a rooster three times.</p>	<p>When Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple was torn in two. Find some paper and tear it up. Can you make some art with the pieces using glue?</p>	<p>Sing your favorite Easter song. Or make one up!</p>
<p>Purple is the color of Lent. Find something purple to wear today.</p>	<p>Jesus went to the garden to pray. Where do you like to pray? Put a flashlight or candle there to remember the light of Jesus.</p>	<p>Pilot washed his hands. Wash your hands while singing Jesus loves me. How many times did you wash your hands today?</p>	<p>Jesus' body was put in a tomb. A big rock was rolled in front to keep Jesus in. Go on a rock hunt. Do you want to decorate your rock?</p>	<p>Find a way to tell someone that Jesus is alive. Sidewalk chalk? Phone call? Make a butterfly to keep or send?</p>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF TRINITY AND ITS MINISTRIES

Thank you so much for your continued support of Trinity and our ministries during this time when we can't be together.

We have options to receive your offering during this time when we will not be gathering at the Trinity building:

- ▶ **ELECTRONICALLY:** via our website, www.trinitysg.org. Click on the "Contribute" link on the ride-side of the page.
- ▶ **BY MAIL:** Trinity Lutheran Church, 203 E. Main St., Spring Grove, MN 55974.

Remember — **sponsorships for the radio broadcast** (\$100) or **Missionary for a Day candle** (\$40) can also still be done. Do you have a certain date in mind? Give us a call, 498-5291, and leave a message or send us an email, trinity@springgrove.coop.

And don't forget that from now through June 30, 2020, Thrivent will be providing an extra \$1 for every \$2 donated for the first \$1 million in donations made through www.Thrivent.com. Donations must be made online through the Thrivent Choice Giving Platform. Search for Trinity Lutheran Church and click "Make a Personal Donation" to get started. **You don't have to be a Thrivent member to take advantage of this generous gift match!**

ONLINE YOUTH ACTIVITIES 3:16s is on Wednesdays from 8-10 p.m. and Middle School Game Night is on Fridays from 7-8 p.m. Bekah will send out an email on Tuesdays with codes to join each group via Zoom. There will be a time of check in, where youth will share their peaks (good things), pits (bad things), praises (who/what gets a gold star), and prayers from the last week. Then we'll play games together! Bekah will have one to two games planned. Are there any games you would like to try while we are physically distanced? Bring your ideas to the group or let Bekah know ahead of time. Contact Bekah, bekah@trinitysg.org.

CALLING TREE Lead by the Communication Team, people will be calling our members to check in on them during this unusual time of social distancing. Would you like to be one of the callers? Let us know in the office.

BEARY PATCH Enrollment for the upcoming school year at Beary Patch Preschool will begin in May. Current students may enroll from May 1-15. New students may enroll beginning May 16 until classes are full. Classes are considered full with 10 students per group as licensed by the state of Minnesota. Questions? Contact Beary Patch Preschool teacher, Bethany Bergsgaard at (507) 450-3812. Enrollment forms are on Trinity's website.

MARCH 11, 2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- April 1 marked Pr. Elizabeth's two year anniversary at Trinity.
- The Root River Conference pastors met on March 10 with a presentation on church safety by Fillmore County Sheriff DeGeorge. Trinity has a Safe Church Policy.
- Empty Bowls event was a huge success; \$1,200 was raised.
- Property Team tested the parsonage for radon and results came back with elevated levels. They are collecting information on abatement procedures and options.
- Worship Team is looking at possible summer worship at Trollskogen Park.
- Update from Facilities Planning Committee: an initial presentation was given by Weiser Brothers and architect during a March 10 meeting. Even though the vision was met, the Committee felt the plan was oversized for our needs. The architect will reduce the footprint and redraw the plan.
- An All Team Retreat is tentatively planned for August 2.
- Beary Patch update: in October, the council voted to charge Beary Patch 10% of their gross tuition as the maintenance and utilities fee. Prior to this vote, Beary Patch gave an annual donation. Spring and fall programming and tuition fees have been set for Beary Patch.
- Response to the COVID-19 virus outbreak: beginning Sunday, March 15, there will be no offering plates passed, they will be at doors instead; communion ushers will be giving people hand sanitizer. (since the meeting, in-person worship and activities have been suspended until further notice.)

Next Meeting: held remotely on April 2 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Complete minutes are on Trinity's website.

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
...
GENEROUSLY

ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER IS THE FIFTH MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

Editor's note: Christian discipleship is a lifelong journey of living out and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ so that others may believe. Over several issues, we have and will describe the seven marks of discipleship found in "Lessons for Today's Disciples" written by Valora K. Starr. You can find the resource by visiting welca.org/resources and searching for its title.

Encouraging others is work disciples can only do in community. This lesson will examine Jesus' example of encouragement as a natural part of teamwork and motivation to get the job done. Encouragement from others at just the right moment speaks volumes. It can mean the difference between giving up and knowing you're okay. The receiver knows someone cares and feels that she matters. Just as Jesus encouraged Peter to walk on water, we also are called to encourage others to stretch beyond what they think they can do. Encouragement in the faith community is not just a pep talk: It is an affirmation and blessed assurance of what God can do in our lives.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11–24. Jesus left a trail of "encouraging" accounts for the disciples and the early church. This mark of encouraging is meant to be practiced in community. The practice appears to be about how we treat others, but it has less to do with others than it does with the change that occurs in ourselves. The act of encouraging another places the encourager in the other's shoes. A deep sensitivity for the other's situation and circumstance is important, and you make a conscious decision to let your actions be guided by the Holy Spirit. Your words of encouragement have a two-fold effect—they are affirming for the other and faith-building for you.

Reflect on the ways we are called to encourage others. Make a list and explain how you would carry out each one. Hint: There are 11 more directives in verses 12–18.

Respond: Describe how you are encouraging others.

Personal Reflection This reflection will help you assess your practice of encouraging others. Be as honest and open as you can so that you get an accurate picture of where you are and where you want to go with this practice.

Assess the basics. Take a quick read of your practice of encouraging others.

- When do I encourage others?
- What prompts me to encourage others?
- Whom do I encourage?
- How do I encourage others?

Remember that when we encourage others, we are ourselves encouraged. Our faith grows and the community benefits.

Reprinted from Spring 2020 Interchange of Women of the ELCA

Trinity Women keep busy with activities of encouragement and action. We will return to Love Day, the last Friday of the month when the church deems it safe and encourage others who have never joined us in the past to come and be a part of a terrific group of women. Our day typically begins around 9 a.m., some come and go throughout the day. We break for coffee and goodies around 10:30 a.m. with a meeting about all the WELCA activities of Trinity and the Synod. We each bring a sack lunch for our noon time break. Can you believe around 3 p.m. we have some special ladies bring in a light lunch and of course more socialization. In between these breaks we sandwich previously made tops with fillers and bottoms to complete about 15 quilts for the needy in our local communities as well as LWR. A person does not need to sew, many of us sit or stand around the quilting frame and tie knots to hold the three layers together. If you would just like to observe we invite you to join us for the laughter, conversation and love that every LOVE DAY brings to us.

Coronavirus Conversations Milestone Moment

For a Small Group or Family Gathering



Growing People in Faith when at Home and Away

“and talk about them when you are at home and when away, when you lie down and when you rise.”

— Deuteronomy 6:7b

A follow-up for the Coronavirus Conversations Milestone Moment can be done with caring conversations and prayers during the remaining time that social activities, schools, and worship are canceled. It gives family and friends the opportunity to build and strengthen relationships and talk about the importance of recognizing God in this moment.

An important step after experiencing the Four Key Faith Practices in a small group or home setting is to bless and equip friends and families by using faith practices daily as an intentional step to encourage faith traditions in the home.

A suggested resource for continued caring conversations:

[Taking Faith Home](#)
[Taking Faith Home Cards](#)
[For Everything A Season Book](#)

Additional Milestone Modules and Moments can be found at:
www.milestonesministry.org



At the heart of equipping people for their lifelong faith formation are the Four Key Faith Practices: Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions. They provide an opportunity for people to learn, experience, and grow in their faith together. The next page is a discussion guide handout to assist with the conversations.



As you gather together, begin by sharing a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your lives and then use the outline below to talk about faith and God's presence in this moment.



Caring Conversations

Discuss these thoughts and questions:

- What concerns you about the coronavirus pandemic?
- With restaurants, gyms, and theaters closed, how do you spend your time?
- When worship services are canceled, in what way can you worship in your home?



Devotions

Read the following:

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Matthew 6:25-30 (NRSV)

- What message do you hear in this reading related to the affect the coronavirus has had on our lives?
- How has the coronavirus impacted your faith life?



Service

There are many who are elderly or immune compromised. During this time of the coronavirus pandemic, it is important they stay at home and be quarantined from others. In what way can you help a neighbor who may be in need of food or supplies at this time?



Rituals and Traditions

Pray together: The Lord's Prayer.

Conclude by blessing one another:

May God take away your worries and fill you with peace through Christ our Lord.



Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
— Philippians 4:6

Coronavirus Conversations Discussion Guide



Begin by sharing a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your lives and then use the outline below to talk about faith and God's presence in this moment.



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Discuss these thoughts and questions:

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CONTACT INFO UPDATE REQUEST

Now more than ever, it is important that we have up-to-date contact information for our members. Please take a moment to fill out and return this short form to us. Please submit info for each adult who has their own email and phone numbers.

A link to an online form of this info request update is on our website and was also included in our weekly Friday email.

Thank you for helping us keep our information accurate!



First and Last Name:

Mailing Address (street, city, state, zip):

Email Address:

Landline Phone Number:

Cell Phone Number:

Preferred Method of Contact (check all that apply):

landline cell phone (call) cell phone (text) email mail

Trinity sends a weekly email on Fridays with info about the upcoming weekend and week.

If you are not receiving it, would you like to: yes no

If you are a snowbird, please give us your winter mailing address and dates you are there:

Winter Address: _____

Begin date: _____ End date: _____

Trinity
Lutheran Church
203 East Main Street
PO Box 188
Spring Grove, MN 55974

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55974
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please note....
Following Gov. Walz's Stay-at-Home directive, all
Trinity activities are suspended through April 17.
This may be extended. Please check our website,
Facebook page, and signs on the door for updates.
You can still call the office and leave a message; we
will return your call. Office staff is working from home.

Be Still
AND KNOW
THAT I AM GOD

-PSALM 46:10