

TRINITY *news*

JUNE-JULY 2020

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Spring Grove, MN 55974
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Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



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



YouTube

Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove

Office hours:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Wed: closed

Sundays at Trinity

9:15 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Fellowship *Suspended*
10:30 a.m. Sunday School *Suspended*

Listen live on **KVIK 104.7 FM**
www.kvikradio.com

Saturday Worship

5:00 p.m. *Suspended*
1st and 3rd Saturdays each month

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Willy Leafblad, Handbell Director
Jean Ellingson, Pianist/Organist
Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist
Mark Udstuen, Praise Band Leader
Rick Sundet, Technology Lead

"I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth." – Psalm 121

The Trinity COVID-19 Response Team* met on Tuesday, June 16. Based on the best advice from medical experts, guidance from our synod leaders, news of outbreaks in churches that have resumed in-person worship, and the trends we see happening as the virus circulates in Houston County, we made the prudent decision to continue worshipping online and via the radio only.

So, suspension of all in-person worship services and activities in the church building will continue through the end of July. On July 12, 19, and 26 we will hold outdoor worship in the lawn area just north of the church including cars parked in the lot. See the back page of the newsletter for more details.

The Trinity offices are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 - 4. We ask that you wear a mask and maintain at least 6 feet of physical distancing if you have business in the office. We have revamped our office door to help with the distancing. Please keep visits to those of necessity. Thank you.

These decisions are made based on the following:

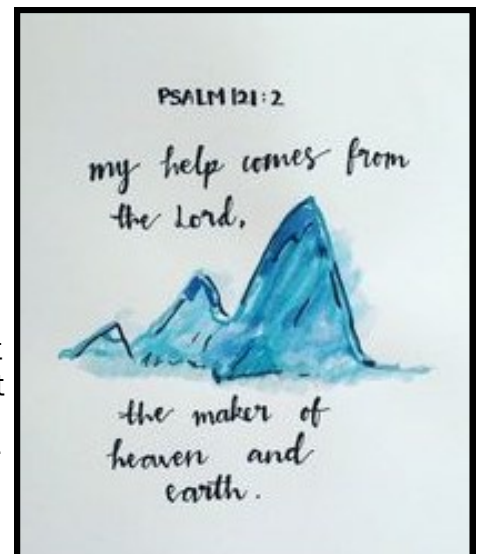
- The virus has not appeared to peak in Minnesota nor in Southeast Minnesota as yet. We listen to the best advice from our health professionals in limiting the spread of the coronavirus.
- A comprehensive COVID-19 Preparedness Plan is being created to meet state and local guidelines and recommendations and to prioritize the health and safety of our members, staff, and community neighbors.
- We trust in God's promises and witness to our faith by obeying Christ's command to welcome all, to look after the most vulnerable among us, and to love our neighbor as Jesus first loved us and as we love ourselves.

Please keep in mind two additional things:

- We are the Church of Jesus Christ **because of who we are and what we do**, **not** because of where we gather.
- **The church is not closed!** Our ministries continue through rich online and radio worship and drive-through communion, continued care for each other through a variety of means, and outreach to those in need via the our Food Pantry, calling ministries, and more.

God bless you!

*Response Team: Pr. Elizabeth Hermeier, Pr. Lane Zaffke, CYF Director Bekah Leafblad, Council President Saundy Solum, Marlene Deschler, Gary Wilhelmson, Anne Scheetz, Mary Zaffke, Rick Sundet, Jean Ellingson, and Rachel Udstuen



*“Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story, here you touched him, saw his glory. ...
Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.”
from “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” (ELW543)*

Beloved Trinity family,

“Go, My Children ... “ was the last hymn we sang together, facing one-another in love, the last time we worshipped here in person on March 15. That was a blessed day! We saw Theodore John Leafblad baptized and heard his grandpa give an awesome sermon. We heard wonderful music from the Leafblad/Sandgren family singers. We shared fellowship after worship.

I would never be so bold as to state that worship as a congregation doesn’t matter. “Here” is where we do all the things listed above. We learn. We hear. We sing. We console. We celebrate. We share. We love and are loved. And these things matter greatly. It is worship and fellowship from which we draw much of our strength, and that strength enables us to leave the sanctuary and go into the world to share God’s love and grace.

These months have been challenging. But they have also been exciting. Our YouTube channel and Facebook Live channels reach many people who haven’t worshipped with us in a long time or ever at all. Many people who had resisted some of these new technologies now embrace and appreciate what they can do. Our calling tree has reached our “81 over 80” folks twice, and our little pantry is constantly replenished.

I can’t express how much I miss you. It is definitely not the same preaching to a tablet as it is seeing your beautiful faces in the pews each week. And it was a tremendous blessing to see so many of you at our drive-through communion on Sunday, May 31. I am confident of several things:

- ~ If we are a church that welcomes all, that takes care of the least of God’s children, that loves our neighbor as ourselves, we must continue to worship as we have for at least the next month.
- ~ Much of the work of the church happens outside of the church building.
- ~ We will be together again.

And SURELY
I AM with you
always
TO THE very end
OF the age
MATTHEW 28:20

During June and into July, as we continue online and radio worship, outdoor worship, and drive-thru communion, we will be working on a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that will aid us in resuming limited and adapted in-person activities. This may occur over a period of time in phases. But I put my trust in God who is working through us to make all things new.

Jesus made a promise: “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20b)

May God bless and keep you. May God shine a light on you. May God look on you with favor and give you peace. † Amen.

~ Pr. 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), or stop and talk (at a safe distance 😊) when she’s out walking Greta.

This column is a reprint of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's June 2018 column in Living Lutheran.

WE KNOW THE TRUTH

Father's Day is in June. Let me tell you a little bit about my dad. His name was William Frederick Eaton. He was born in 1924 to an Irish Catholic father and a German Lutheran mother. (There were always going to be potatoes and cabbage in my future.) My father was a child of the Depression. Like thousands of his generation, he enlisted in the army during World War II. An Army Air Corps officer at age 20, he flew B-24s and served in North Africa and Italy.

My father, who had an amazing sense of humor, told my brothers and me stories about his time in the army—about the training, the friends he made and the not-quite-regulation antics they pulled. These were 20-year-olds, after all. Only once did he speak about an actual combat operation, and then only briefly. War is about killing, and those we send to serve carry that with them for the rest of their lives.

After the war and newly married, my father and mother built a life together. They bought their first house. My father went to night school and earned his bachelor's degree. One of my fondest childhood memories was when my mother allowed me to stay up late so I could see my dad when he came home from night school. He was the first in his family to graduate from college.

My father was a man of integrity and courage. He grew up in a working-class family, and he worked hard for everything he earned. He served his country; loved my mother, brothers and me; raised a family; served his church; and was involved in the community.

June is also the month of Juneteenth, the celebration of the emancipation and the end of slavery in the United States. President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. It wasn't until June 19, 1865, that the news reached Texas, the last state that had slaves. Finally, at least officially, freedom was granted to all. We know that African descent people took their place in local, state and national leadership and elected positions, including Congress. This was a time of great hope and possibility for our country as former slaves became citizens and worked alongside European descent citizens to rebuild the nation. But it was short-lived.

Almost immediately laws were put in place that restricted African Americans' access to economic advancement, voting, education and property ownership. We know the dreadful history of the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and the horror of lynching.

My father's family had only arrived in 1863. My mother's family would not come to America for another half century.

Here is where my father's story and that of the not-yet-realized emancipation of African American people intersect. After World War II our government enacted the GI Bill that made benefits like college tuition and low-interest home loans available for veterans.

My father's bomb group had a fighter escort squadron. It was the job of these men to protect pilots like my dad. They were the Tuskegee Airmen, the Red Tails. They were also brave men who served our country and, after the war, came home to start families and build a life. They served in the same war, wore the same uniform and flew the same missions, but they were barred in practice from the benefits of the GI Bill because they were African American.

This is white privilege. It doesn't diminish my father's courage and service. It doesn't mean that white people don't sacrifice and work hard. It does mean that the system favors white people. We didn't create this—we inherited it.

Now that we know about it, we have to do something about it. Americans love fair play. We've been taught that everyone should have an even chance. Now we know the truth. Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32). It might hurt, but it brings liberation. **We are not free until all of us are free.**



Southeastern Minnesota Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



May 29, 2020

To the People of God in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod,

I've woken up the past few mornings with a heavy heart. The first things I do most mornings are read the Bible and read the news; what I'm reading in the news is making me weep.

I want to talk about the killing of George Floyd.

I try to be careful in all the news I watch and read. I try to stop and hold onto whatever objective information there is. I asked myself after learning of George Floyd's death *what do I know?* And what I know is this: a black man lies on the ground with a white man's knee on his neck and the black man dies. **And what I know is this:** if George Floyd was my husband or brother or son, I would have fallen into a million little pieces by now. I would have simply dissolved into an abyss of grief.

I also know this: that one of the men I most respect, admire and love has dedicated his life to working for the good of our nation as a law enforcement officer. I know that job has brought him to battles against evils most of us are blissfully unaware of. Unaware because he does what he does.

I know that this is not an either/or situation. I know that I can both be angry in response to George Floyd's cruel death as I join my voice with those who call for justice *and* I can know there are those who serve in law enforcement who do their work with integrity and compassion.

I know this: that one of our central beliefs as Christians is that all people are created in the image of God. All people have inherent dignity and worth. I know that every single life matters and George Floyd's life was worth just as much as mine.

I know that God is just, even as we live in an unjust world, and that "he has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

I know that my words are not enough and I need to do the work of turning the convictions of my faith into action.

I know that the destruction associated with some of the protestors is disconcerting. And I'm asking you not to fixate on the destruction brought by some and instead focus on the truth that we are all called to participate in the work of justice. We're going to need to figure out a way to work together.

And I know as a white woman with a certain amount of privilege, how easy it can be to dismiss something as untrue because it reflects truth that is uncomfortable or outside my experience. So, I'm asking us to listen and to believe the words our siblings of color speak even when those words are hard to hear or tell us of a world we know nothing about. Listen.

Dear people of God, I believe with my whole heart that we are the people who can work for justice. We are the people who meet, in all our need, at the foot of the cross, the very place where death begins its transformation to life.

Oh that the Spirit of God would blow through each of us so that we may indeed do justice, and love kindness and walk humbly with our God.

In Christ,

Bishop Regina Hassanally

LISTEN. RESPECT. PRAY.

The ELCA is providing links to numerous resources for us to learn more about the history of racism and inequality in the U.S. But the best things we can do are to **listen** to our neighbors, be **respectful** of their experiences, and **pray** for guidance.

Below is just a partial list of the many resources shared by the ELCA. Use this link to see the complete list.

bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES

Books to read:

Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower by Dr. Brittney Cooper

Heavy: An American Memoir by Kiese Laymon

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Raising Our Hands by Jenna Arnold

Sister Outsider by Audre Lorde

So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo

The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century by Grace Lee Boggs

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo, PhD

Films and TV series to watch:

13th (Ava DuVernay) – Netflix

American Son (Kenny Leon) – Netflix

Dear White People (Justin Simien) – Netflix

If Beale Street Could Talk (Barry Jenkins) – Hulu

Just Mercy (Destin Daniel Cretton) – Available to rent for free in June in the U.S.

King In The Wilderness – HBO

See You Yesterday (Stefon Bristol) – Netflix

Selma (Ava DuVernay) – Available to rent for free in June in the U.S.

Podcasts to subscribe to:

1619 (New York Times)

About Race

Code Switch (NPR)

Intersectionality Matters! hosted by Kimberlé Crenshaw

Momentum: A Race Forward Podcast

Pod For The Cause (from The Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights)

Pod Save the People (Crooked Media)

Seeing White

Lutherans and Netflix

The ELCA has found itself in the Netflix spotlight recently. The Netflix series *Sweet Magnolias*, written by ELCA member Sheryl Anderson, began streaming May 19 and features a fictional ELCA congregation. The main characters turn to their church for the community, grace and support that Lutherans can count on. Meanwhile, the Rev. Noah Hepler of Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement appeared on season 5 of *Queer Eye*, with his congregation and his mindset getting a makeover from the Fab Five. Give these great Lutheran-featuring shows a watch!

BRIGHT SPOT: DONATION DRIVES

(from the SEMN Synod)

For you were called to freedom; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' *Galatians 5:13*

We are synod – together! On Thursday, June 4, an emergency request by Minneapolis and St. Paul ELCA congregations for food and personal care items to distribute within communities deeply impacted by COVID-19 and the recent social unrest was put before the people of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. In less than 36 hours – by noon on Friday, June 5 – over two dozen SUV-sized loads of donated items were transported from seven synod drop-off sites to three Minneapolis and St. Paul central distribution sites sponsored by neighborhood ELCA congregations.

For the North Minneapolis community where only one grocery store remains open, your food offerings filled not only hungry stomachs; they also brought messages of hope and 'love of neighbor.' As the need for food is ongoing, our synod has entered into an accompaniment relationship with a North Minneapolis ELCA congregation as they accompany their local community! Additional opportunities for SEMN congregations to creatively respond to our neighbors' food insecurity will be shared in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you, people of God, for your generosity!



Pastor Elizabeth delivered a car full of donations from Trinity to a drop-off site in Winona.

PRAYER APP FOR CELL PHONES

Prayer connects us.

There is something beautiful and exciting that happens when we see God answer prayers. As we see prayers answered, our faith gets stronger, which in turn causes us to pray even more and feel even more empowered to share what God is doing.

Echo Prayer is an app available for download in the App Store or Google Play Store, that will help you keep track of your prayers, share your prayers with others, help remind you to pray, and give you the space to pray. We give you the ability to connect with each other and with God through prayer.



Echo Prayer
Echo Prayer



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, photos
- **YouTube:**
Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove
-video recordings of worship, Bible Stories with Bekah, short messages from Pr. Elizabeth
- **Instagram**
-photos, updates
- **KVIK 104.7FM**
- Sunday worship service, updates
- www.kvikradio.com

MAY 13, 2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Meeting held via Zoom conference call.
- Facebook Live and YouTube are continuing to be used for worship services.
- Bekah continues to record “Bible Stories with Bekah” and placing them on the our YouTube channel.
- Discussion about when to hold First Communion, Senior Recognition Sunday, and Baccalaureate services; dependent on in-person worship begins.
- Day Camp and VBS families have been notified that hopefully these activities will be rescheduled for sometime in August.
- Bekah is putting together a survey for Confirmation students, parents, and mentors about how they thought Trinity U went this first year.
- Youth activities that were once held at Bekah’s house will be moved to a room at the Trinity Center. The ping pong and air hockey tables will be moved to this room.
- Worship Team met and discussed in-person worship safety precautions and discussed that when services resume in-person, there will be no paper including bulletins and hymnals. They shared that the National Association for Music Education stated it is not considered safe to sing in church even with face coverings on.
- Trinity applied for the Paycheck Protection Program (support for COVID-19 affected employees) and Economic Disaster Loans for small businesses. Hourly employees at Trinity had their hours reduced since March 15; the PPP will supplement their pay for hours unable to be worked through July 7.
- Radon mitigation at the parsonage will be done by American Waterworks.

Motion passed: To purchase equipment for video recording worship services. Currently, Rick Sundet has been letting Trinity use his equipment. Equipment to be purchased includes: laptop, video camera, open broadcaster software. (Purchases of screens and monitors for paperless services will be addressed in the future.)

Next Meeting: June 10 at 7:00 p.m. via digital conference call. Complete minutes are on Trinity’s website.

JUNE 10, 2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Meeting held via Zoom conference call and in-person in the Fellowship Hall with attendees wearing masks.
- Facebook Live and YouTube are continuing to be used for worship services.
- Education Team is talking about having some sort of Day Camp/VBS in August. The situation will be assessed more at their July meeting.
- A youth room is being created at the Trinity Center. Bekah is working on cleaning out furniture and supplies. She has talked with some 9th grade students who would like to help decorate and set-up the room.
- Bekah continues to record “Bible Stories with Bekah” and placing them on the our YouTube channel.
- Care Ministry Team has been busy packing HIP supplies for 13 children. They will continue packing supplies during the summer. They have also been replenishing the Free Little Pantry at Trinity.
- Confirmation surveys have been returned by mentors, students, and parents. From the input, the Education Team has decided to continue Trinity U concept with some adjustments.
- Since Good Earth Village cancelled all camps this summer, Trinity’s current 7th grade youth that would have gone to Confirmation Camp this year will go next year along with next year’s 7th grade youth.
- The ELCA Youth Gathering is in Minneapolis next summer. Bekah is the Gathering Synod Coordinator for the SEMN Synod. Updates regarding the Gathering will be given as they are available.
- Radon mitigation work is being conducted at the parsonage.
- The Communication Team did a second calling to Trinity members over 80 years old.
- Trinity’s president, Saundy Solum, met with a group of other congregational presidents and the SEMN Bishop to discuss COVID-19 and options for returning to in-person worship. We will be following health organization guidelines.
- The Constitution committee is in the process of reviewing and updating Trinity’s Constitution documents with changes provided from the synod. Trinity’s committee reviewed our structure and will bring a proposal to the council to return to 10 teams with 10 team leads as part of council.
- As part of Council leadership diversity learning, council members will be reading “Dear Church” by Lenny Duncan to help address racial inequality. Council members are purchasing their books and about 20 minutes of each monthly meeting will be spent discussing the book and its topic.

Next Meeting: July 8 at 7:00 p.m. via digital conference call and in-person with face coverings.

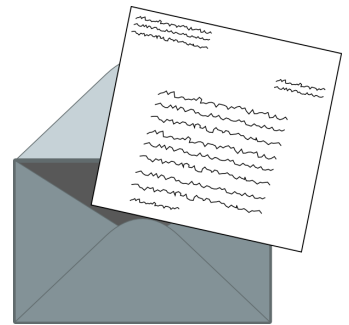
Complete minutes are on Trinity’s website.

DEAR FRIEND IN CHRIST LETTER EXCHANGE PROJECT

Women of the ELCA are a community and during this time of not being able to meet in person, this unique letter-exchange project is a way to stay connected.

How does it work?

1. Write a letter. Use the “Dear Friend in Christ” salutation. Fill a page or two, however you are inspired. Among other things, please share your thoughts on these questions: How is your faith in Jesus Christ sustaining you during the global pandemic? What words of encouragement can you offer the person who receives your letter?
2. You can handwrite or type the letter.
3. You could include a drawing, a photo, or a recipe, anything that fits into an envelope.
4. Offer up a prayer for the recipient.
5. You may include your mailing address in the letter if you do not wish to remain anonymous.
6. Print and sign the Dear Friend in Christ release form. If you don’t have access to a printer, please use our online form. We cannot exchange letters without a release.
7. Mail your letter and signed release form to Dear Friend in Christ, Women of the ELCA, 8765 W Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631. Deadline for mailing letters to the churchwide organization is October 15, 2020.

**What else do I need to know?**

When you write to Dear Friend in Christ, your letter will be swapped with a letter from another writer. They will get your letter; you will get their letter. The exchange is anonymous (unless you provide your contact information), so you can share as little or as much information about yourself as you like.

Dear Friend in Christ is open to all participants, although writers under 18 must have parental consent. A release form is needed with each letter. A release form can be downloaded and printed or filled out online. Visit, www.womenoftheelca.org/special-initiatives/dear-friend-christ to find the form.

Letters are paired at random, and we will try to match participants with someone in a different geographical part of the ELCA. Women of the ELCA staff read all letters before the exchange happens. Letters will be mailed to participants on a rolling basis, beginning in June 2020. We will continue exchanging letters received through All Saints Day, November 1, 2020.

WELCA ELEVENTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION

Women of the ELCA’s executive board voted to postpone the organization’s convention and gathering until August 2021. The executive board met by video on April 25.

“We are postponing not canceling,” said Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Women of the ELCA. “We hope that everyone who is currently registered will come next year,” Bushkofsky said. “And if they aren’t able to come, they could gift their registration to someone else.”

The Eleventh Triennial Convention scheduled for July 14-16, 2020, in Phoenix, Arizona, is rescheduled for August 3-5, 2021. The 2020 “Just Love” Gathering, scheduled for July 16-19, 2020, is rescheduled for August 5-8, 2021.

Staff will be working out final arrangements with the Phoenix businesses and communicating directly with all who are voting members-elect for the convention and who have registered for the gathering. Postponing the convention means that the current executive board will serve another year until “replacements are elected and installed,” Bushkofsky said. Then, the board elected in 2021 will serve a two-year term. For the 2023 convention, “we would be back to our three-year cycle. That works best with the Churchwide Assembly, the Youth Gathering, and the rostered leaders’ event.

FREE ONLINE BIBLE STUDY — FACING YOUR GIANTS

Receive a FREE digital download of Chapter One of Facing Your Giants, beautiful printables, and a character profile on King David, plus get FREE access to 5 teaching videos with Max Lucado. These teaching videos will be available for free now through July 27. No additional registration required. www.biblegateway.com/landing/facing-your-giants-sign-up

FACE MASKS FOR LWR

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) was founded 75 years ago to help neighbors around the globe who lost everything during World War II. From that initial ministry, LWR grew to serve millions of people worldwide in their time of need.

Today we face a new international crisis: the global coronavirus pandemic. Now it's our turn to rise to the historic challenge before us and serve our neighbors who are most vulnerable. COVID-19 is now reaching some of the world's poorest communities, where families can't work from home or have groceries delivered. Many don't have the option of social distancing or even a way to wash their hands. If these communities can't slow the spread, many, many lives are at risk.

As part of our global response to COVID-19, LWR is collecting cloth face masks to send to vulnerable communities. If you've been looking for a way to make a difference, now is your chance! The cloth masks you sew will provide love and protection to neighbors in need halfway around the world – reducing transmission and saving lives.

Thanks to many of you, we already met our initial goal of 75,000 masks, but the need remains great. Will you help us make 75,000 more cloth face masks? More information about how to make and ship masks for this project, visit Lutheran World Relief's website, <https://lwr.org/masks>

**IDEAS FOR FAMILIES FOR THE SUMMER**

Schedule “curiosity days” – Curiosity is one of the highest virtues, but just like any muscle, curiosity can atrophy if not exercised. Have everyone in the family write down one thing they're curious about and book a day to go explore it together. Then reflect on it afterward over a favorite meal.

Schedule in catnaps – “And on the seventh day God finished the work that God had done, and rested...” Genesis 2:2. Plan family catnaps. Lie around the living room and sleep (or even just rest your eyes) for however long you want. 30-40 minutes is a good average.

Timeless power of gratitude – “Give thanks in all circumstances...” 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Gratitude really is a powerful thing. Get together as a family and talk about what you're grateful for, maybe write things down and put them in a jar. Counting your blessings is something that will never get old.

Teach each other something – It's empowering to showcase, celebrate, and pass on our gifts. Plus, it increases our connection to each other. Everyone in the family grows when we do this. Make a short list of your top gifts that you may be able to teach to the rest of the family. Then schedule in afternoon workshops that the family can attend together hosted by the “expert.”

Fill up each other's buckets – There are two types of behaviors we can choose to exhibit: bucket-filling or bucket-dipping. Kindness (bucket-filling) is often contagious. Have the kids create actual buckets for the family. Then, make slips of paper available. When someone does an act of kindness for someone else, write it down and put it in their bucket. See how close you can get to having your bucket filled by the end of summer. Make a family tradition every week or two where everyone gets to read from their buckets and feel the love spread.

Ideas courtesy of Salt Project from “Guide to Summer Self-Care.”



CLASS OF 2020 SENIOR VIDEO – Bekah put together a short video of Trinity's 2020 graduating seniors. The video can be found on Trinity's YouTube Channel. The plan is to have a Senior Recognition Sunday (likely just for seniors and their families) on Sunday, August 2. Congratulations to these youth!

[Click here](#) for the link to the video.

Need a Guide to Understanding the Bible? Pastor Len Liptack has put one together!

The Bible is big! It contains 2 testaments, 66 books, 1,189 chapters and more than 30,000 verses. And all those books, chapters, and verses are meaningful to us at different times in our lives and depending on what is happening around us. Sometimes it's hard to know where to find just the right passage for how we're feeling, even for pastors.

But Pastor Len Liptack, our neighbor at Faith Lutheran of Blackhammer, has put together a beautiful, theologically sound "dictionary" that offers a relevant summary of the message in each of the 66 books. With his permission, we've printed the dictionary here. Thank you, Pastor Len!

LIFE LESSONS FROM THE 66 BOOK LIBRARY WE CALL THE BIBLE

Genesis: Despite humanities efforts for harm God can and will work for good in the least expected places through those who typically have the least power.

Exodus: Freedom from oppression will prevail because God and God's creation are stirred up against oppression, and the powerful often intensify suffering.

Leviticus: God seeks to help us find relationship and reconciliation through the special use of things we use everyday.

Numbers: Be careful what you wish for, you may not get what you expected.

Deuteronomy: When times are good, don't forget the lessons learned when you knew that God was on your side.

Joshua: A little faithfulness can do a lot, but be sure you don't use God's plans for your own selfish gain.

Judges: Be careful what you wish for, and remember that God can keep the march of promise and freedom going forward even when those who act in God's name act reprehensibly.

Ruth: Kindness overrules propriety, and the boldness of the powerless will bear fruit.

1 Samuel: Beware of the trappings of power, and don't underestimate God's ability to work through those from whom the powerful expected little.

2 Samuel: Even the mighty can have a great fall, so don't forget to admit when you are wrong.

1 Kings: It's possible to be too wise for your own good because excess wealth can easily erase the blessings gained through wisdom.

2 Kings: Faithful and wise leadership is not something that should be taken for granted.

1 Chronicles: We all come from the same source, and worship is one of the loftiest activities humans can be a part of.

2 Chronicles: No matter how you try to put a positive spin on corruption there will ultimately be consequences (but don't forget, there is always hope).

Ezra: Our stories are the most sacred part of the past we carry with us.

Nehemiah: Sometimes you need to have a trowel in one hand for rebuilding and a sword in the other because those established in power can easily become jealous at the fortunes of those who are rebuilding their dignity.

Esther: Sometimes you need someone in power to risk it all by speaking out for the oppressed and by calling out the oppressor.

Job: Being theologically correct does not make one right, so it's best to sit with those who are suffering rather than try to offer explanations for their suffering.

Psalms: Open your heart to God because the creator of the universe is not threatened by your honest expressions of pain and is ever ready to be there to offer comfort and hope. Alleluia!

Proverbs: The wisdom of knowing the right thing to do with the knowledge you have far surpasses the accumulation of more knowledge.

Ecclesiastes: Since we have no knowledge of the future or control of the past, remember to live in the God-given present.

Song of Solomon: If you want to glimpse a fraction of God's love for humanity, watch two people who are head-over-heels in love.

Isaiah: A new shoot can grow from a stump that was presumed dead.

Jeremiah: Beware of surrounding yourself with 'yes men', because it can be so easy to use God's blessings of the past as an excuse to ignore the right thing to do in the present or to think that there are no consequences for what you've done in the past.

Lamentations: Vent your pain to God; the creator of the universe can take it.

Ezekiel: Don't think you can box in God because in doing so you are either deluding yourself that you can control the divine or despairing that your predicament is beyond God's reach.

Daniel: Sometimes your faith may require of you the courage to defy the powerful, and when you are called on to do this remember that kingdoms and empires will come and go, but God's rule never ends.

Hosea: It's a good thing we aren't God, because if we were, we would have given up on humanity a long time ago.

Joel: Fearful events cannot stop God's Spirit.

Amos: Don't forget that in God's justice people are more important than things.

Obadiah: *Schadenfreude* may be a universal human reaction, but that still doesn't excuse you when you gloat over another's misfortune.*

Jonah: God is soooo much more gracious and forgiving than we are, and sometimes we resent God for that.

Micah: Come on man; you know the right thing to do!

Nahum: God is not happy with wicked oppressors!

Habbakuk: Sometimes we just can't wrap our head around how God works in the world, that's why the faithful need faith.

Zephaniah: We're pretty lucky God doesn't undo the gracious decision to create the universe.

Haggai: Don't feign poverty when you live in big houses.

Zechariah: Do not despair, God's plan for how to rule far exceeds what we experience from incompetent rulers.

Malachi: God does not want all show and no commitment from his leaders.

Matthew: If you want to know what God wants, listen to Jesus.

Mark: God's idea of leadership and service could very well look like failure and weakness to the world.

Luke: God brings down the mighty by lifting up the lowly, so stop what you're doing and get on board with God's plan (P.S. That's a good thing, because we are all lowly in some way).

John: If you want to know what God's love is like, take a look at Jesus.

Acts: Don't underestimate the creativity and power of the Holy Spirit because she will definitely surprise you!

Romans: If you think you are upright while others are fallen, look again; we all need God to lift us up

1 Corinthians: Build up one another instead of puffing yourself up.

2 Corinthians: Stop bragging about your strength; God's power is made perfect in weakness.

Galatians: Come on, it's grace! Faith in the crucified Christ and making value distinctions among people are not compatible!

Ephesians: Jesus shows us the primacy of God's grace and works to break down walls, so no bragging or wall building allowed.

Philippians: So much depends on how you look at things: Jesus showed power by giving up power, and what seems like misfortune may actually be an opportunity and a reason for joy.

Colossians: Don't shortchange who Jesus is and what he has done; after all, he is the image of the invisible God and everything was created through him.

1 Thessalonians: Don't lose hope when hope seems delayed.

2 Thessalonians: Don't obsess over whether Jesus has returned yet because you'll know it when it happens.

1 Timothy: Teach what is right, hold leaders accountable, and never forget to have genuine humility.

2 Timothy: When you pass on your values you don't need to worry whether you've done enough in your life.

Titus: Beware of professing God with your words but denying him with your actions.

Philemon: Seeing others as children of God will change how you treat them.

Hebrews: The stories and people of the past can guide and encourage you in the present.

James: Intellectual agreement is not the same thing as faith.

1 Peter: Just because you lack worldly success and popularity does not mean that you are not precious in God's sight.

2 Peter: Delay is a sign of God's gracious patience, not of God's neglect.

1 John: As Jesus is God embodied in flesh, love for one another is the embodiment of faith in Jesus.

2 John: Don't let teachers of bad theology lead your church astray.

3 John: Don't be so cautious of outsiders that you forget to be loving and hospitable.

Jude: Take seriously the dangers of corrupt theology.

Revelation: No matter what comes, God will ultimately defeat those who seek to destroy goodness, and when that fully happens heaven and earth will become one. Come Lord Jesus!

P.S. These are some of the many nuggets of wisdom we can learn from each book of the Bible. Do not mistake this list for a complete theology or a comprehensive statement about each book.

*Schaudenfreude is a German word meaning, "Joy in the misfortune of others."



June 21-July 4	Janna Myrah
July 5-11	Ruth Johnsrud
July 12-25	Melissa Wold
July 26-August 8	Bethany Bergsgaard
August 9-22	Mary Newgaard
August 23-September 5	Greg Wennes

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.

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"GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER" FREE WEBINAR SERIES

This webinar series is a new initiative of CEDA's Harvest Entrepreneur Network program in partnership with the Houston County EDA. The series aims to provide practical information for farmers throughout the state of Minnesota and beyond. We know farmers are very busy and we hope this series will be able to provide actionable insights to help grow their businesses.

To learn more about these free webinars and to register, visit www.eventbrite.com and search *Growing Stronger Together*. Questions? Contact the Houston County EDA office at EDA@co.houston.mn.us or (507) 725-5836. These workshops are free thanks to the generous support of the MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development, the Southern MN Initiative Foundation, and Merchant's Bank.

Tuesday, June 23 from 5-7pm

Direct Marketing for Farmers with Lisa Klein, of Hidden Stream Farm and Dover Processing, Sara George of D & S Gardens and Market Manager for Red Wing, and Wabasha Farmers' Market, and Rachelle Meyer of Wholesome Family Farms.

This event will feature several farmers who have successfully marketed their products directly to consumers, as well as other channels such as restaurants, groceries/co-ops, and other wholesalers. Panelists will share what has worked and what hasn't, and how their marketing strategies have changed over time.

Tuesday, June 30 from 10-11:30am

Grant Money for Farmers: How to Maximize Funding to Grow Your Business with Kristine Jepson, farm business owner, grant proposal writer, and SBDC consultant.

*Learn about grant programs available to farms and how to identify products and projects within your business that may be eligible for funding. We'll also cover common application requirements, deadlines, and best practices. *Bonus! Attendees will be eligible to register for a FREE one-on-one consultation with presenter Kristine Jepsen after the webinar.*

Wednesday, July 1 from 1pm - 2pm

Farmers Get Creative During Pandemic with Megan Roberts of the University of MN Extension and Ryan Brixius of the US Department of Agriculture.

Join us for a conversation about the current state of agriculture during a global health crisis, learn about resources to offset any negative impact, and dream about creative solutions for the future.

Friday, July 17 from 10-11am

Ask a Lawyer: Navigating the Legal Structure of Your Business with Rachel Armstrong, founder and Executive Director of Farm Commons.

Setting up the right business structure for your farm or business can seem daunting. The truth is that it's quite straightforward and we'll show you how! We will walk through the options and decision-making factors, recognizing that each owner will make the decision that works for them. Stick around for the checklist of steps to make sure the benefits of an LLC or corporation are there for you when you need them. Wondering what an operating agreement is for? That's on the agenda, too.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY –LA CROSSE The Restore is open again with limited hours, Thursday–Saturday 11am-4pm. They are accepting donations during these store hours. All customers and staff are required to wear face masks. As a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity, they are holding a raffle for a 1953 Ford pick-up. Tickets are \$25 each and include coupons for local stores. Drawing is October 24 at the Habitat ReStore, need not be present to win.

SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE: During the COVID-19 pandemic, the ELCA churchwide organization is here to support its members, schools, centers, congregations, synods, and partners. For prayer, support, and answers to questions, call 800-638-3522 and press#4 or via email: HereToServe@ELCA.org

LITTLE FREE PANTRY Do you know someone that needs a little help with food or toiletries? Please let them know that Trinity has a Free Little Pantry in the lower level — enter using the southeast door on Main Street. Please remember to use hand sanitizer prior to picking up items. A bottle is directly inside the door.



Drive-thru communion
Communing together yet apart was a heart-warming experience.

On Sunday, May 31, we held our first drive-thru Holy Communion. More than 120 people communed "together."

What a blessing!





◀ A new look for the sanctuary? No, not really! Pews were removed temporarily to clean and re wax the floor.



◀ Work in the parsonage basement is being done to help with water seepage.

◀▼ Where did our prayer ribbons go? Pr. Elizabeth has something special planned. This one had a wonderful message.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship together in the beautiful outdoors!

Sundays July 12, 19, and 26 at 9:15 a.m.

Weather permitting, the outdoor service will take place in the lawn just north of the church building and will also utilize the parking lot for those who would like to stay in their vehicles. Check KVIK 104.7FM, and www.kvikradio.com for updates by 8 a.m. each Sunday morning.

If you choose to sit on the lawn, please bring your own chairs; spots will be marked to ensure physical distancing. Masks are strongly encouraged to be worn. Please park on the street or the north driveway.

If you choose to worship from your car, please enter the parking lot from Main Street and follow the ushers' directions to a spot. You can listen on the radio or roll down your window to hear it through the sound system set up in the lawn.



Senior Recognition Sunday: August 2. Watch for more details!