

Dear Members of the Trinity Family,

Worship matters. Our life together matters. You matter. In order to manage the stress, confusion, uncertainty, disappointment, anger, fear, and general angst of these days, we need each other. We need God. We need the solace, encouragement, and inspiration that we find in worshiping together as God's beloved people. Our hearts and souls long for the joy, peace, hope, and comfort that is found when we gather together to worship and praise God.

As more is learned about COVID-19, the more we understand the danger and risk of being physically together in community. Because of these risks, the only people who will be present in the Sanctuary tomorrow morning for worship will be staff, a handful of choir members, and Henry Wilcox who will be making the magic of livestreaming happen. It is painful for me to write this, but no others will be allowed to gather in the Sanctuary. So, that means that we shall worship together in the only way we can. Tomorrow morning at 10:00 am we will all gather around our computers (perhaps in your jammies with a cup of coffee or hot tea in your hand) and we will worship together. You really can wear anything you want! We will thank God for the blessings in our lives. We will ask God for help and guidance. We will find comfort and hope in the life we share as God's beloved, precious children. **To join us online for worship tomorrow, just go to Trinity's Facebook page, or go to [www.trinitylutheran.ws](http://www.trinitylutheran.ws) and click the icon at the top of our homepage to be directed to our Facebook page where you will find the video starting at 10:00 am. You do not need to have a Facebook account to view our page and watch the live video stream.** A bulletin as well as pages for children to use during the service will be available shortly on our website for you to download and print.

There are several things you need to know about worship tomorrow. First, and this is also difficult to write, Holy Communion will not be a part of the service. In order to keep the folks gathered in the Sanctuary safe, we will be practicing "social distancing". This is not possible while celebrating and receiving communion. Because of Trinity's passion for inclusion, our staff also cannot imagine celebrating the sacrament with a small handful of people when the majority of you gathering with us from your homes would not be able to participate.

In this time that we are away from each other, I am very concerned about each of you and your health and well-being. I am also very concerned about offerings that we rely on to make ministry happen, to pay our bills, and to continue to provide resources to those in need. This ministry is counting on you to continue your giving practices during this time. Online giving is available by texting TLCGIVE to 73256, or by following the

link on the homepage of the website, [www.trinitylutheran.ws](http://www.trinitylutheran.ws). Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office.

Adjustments will also be made to our practice for sharing the peace. Instead of shaking hands or embracing (those of you gathering from home who are joined by family should absolutely hug each other), worshippers at home and in the Sanctuary are encouraged to use their cell phones to text a message of peace to friends and loved ones or to share the peace later in the day by calling someone to share a message of peace. This is a time when using your cellphone in worship will be a great blessing.

Thank you for your patience with us and for your care for me and my colleagues as we work to find ways to stay connected with you. It is my great joy and honor to serve as your pastor. I look forward to being together tomorrow for worship. May God surround and fill you with peace, comfort, and hope this day.

My very best to each of you,  
Pastor Susan Crowell