



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
421 North Main Street
Greenville, SC 29601-2090

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GREENVILLE, SC

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HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

On Maundy Thursday, April 9, a thirty minute worship service will be available online via the Trinity website beginning at 6:00 pm.

On Good Friday, April 10, a thirty minute worship service will be available online via the Trinity website beginning at 6:00 pm.

On Easter Sunday, April 12, worship will be live-streamed at 10:00 am.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE PROGRAM

The pastoral and program staff is in the process of organizing a congregation care program with the goal of building and nurturing connection and relationship among Trinity members. All members as well as stakeholders will be receiving an email in the near future about this program that will help us stay connected as we continue to practice physical distancing during the pandemic.

CONGREGATION DISCUSSION

All members of the congregation (youth and adults) are invited to watch *Little Fires Everywhere*, an eight episode limited series streaming on Hulu. The series is based on a recent best-selling novel and explores a variety of social justice issues including racism, sexism, xenophobia, and abortion. A congregation discussion will be scheduled in the coming months.

MORNING WATCH DEVOTIONAL

Trinity members are encouraged to subscribe to and watch *Morning Watch* on Facebook, which airs at 8:00 am every weekday. The brief video devotional is led by North Carolina pastors Matt Canniff-Kessecker and Jesse Canniff-Kuhn. There is also *Morning Watch Kids* which airs at 8:15 am.

TRINITY TIDINGS

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*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.
Refrain from Canticle of the Turning*

Dear Members of the Trinity Family,

I am learning a lot about my family as we spend more time together at home. While I have always known that I have "high-maintenance" tendencies, I am learning that all three of us (Mark, Elizabeth, and me) are toilet paper snobs. I never thought much about it until toilet paper became scarce. We are Charmin people - one of us prefers "ultra-strong," another "ultra-soft," and another has no preference. I have a feeling that the day is coming soon when we will be happy and grateful for the simple joy of having toilet paper, regardless of the brand. We may even come to appreciate the large, industrial size roll that came home with Elizabeth and her roommate when they decided to hunker down with us, a roll that looks suspiciously and alarmingly like the property of Furman University.

The plight to obtain toilet paper reminds me that toilet paper just might be a powerful sign of our shared humanity. We all need it - regardless of our gender, race, sexual orientation, or economic status. During these days of fear, isolation, anxiety, and separation, I am more aware than ever just how much we all have in common with each other, that all of us are in this together, that life is changing, and, as the hymn proclaims, "the world is about to turn." I am aware that some of us have more resources in which to manage the crisis and that some of us are really struggling, but all of us are doing our best to cope with the fear, loneliness, and anxiety of these days.

My hope and prayer is that, on a daily basis, we will be more mindful of our shared humanity, of the fact that God loves and values all of us equally, of the responsibility we share to love and care for one another, and, that when the world is a safer place, we will be closer and stronger as a community of faith. My love, prayers, and care are with you in these trying times as together we continue on this journey of faith.

Peace, love, and joy,

Pastor Susan Crowell

COUNCIL NOTES

At the March meeting of the Congregation Council, the council

- learned that expenses for February were \$4,980 less than projected;
- heard a report from the Executive Committee noting that the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary does not have a student to place at Trinity next year and as a result Trinity will not be participating in the internship program during the 2020/2021 academic year. The plan is to resume involvement in the 2021/2022 academic year;
- learned that due to the decrease in the number of parking spaces needed downtown, Lanier Parking will no longer be managing the lots at Trinity;
- learned that Tom DiAntonio, Amanda Mast, Donna Potts, Franklin Sease, Philip Wessinger, Deacon Amy Brown, Pastor Parham, Deacon Mandi Whitley, and Pastor Crowell will be serving as voting members at the South Carolina Synod Assembly in Columbia on May 15 -17. Vicar Luke Delasin will also be attending as a visitor;
- learned that Lani Wise will be retiring in the Spring from her position as Accountant and Publications Coordinator and that Henry Wilcox will be joining the staff as Accountant and Social Media Manager and that Julie Reid will be joining the staff as Publications Director;
- learned that the website has been updated; and
- spent a 90 minute session with Greg Campbell beginning the process of establishing a Mission, Vision, Values statement for Trinity.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

A live-stream only service will be provided at 10:00 am each Sunday during April. Questions about accessing the service can be directed to the Church Office.

GIVING TO TRINITY

Please help us to continue to shine the love and light of Christ into our community and world by supporting Trinity's ministry through your regular giving and special offerings. Online giving is available by texting TLCGIVE to 73256 or by following the *Online Giving* link on the homepage of our website, www.trinitylutheran.ws. Offering my also be mailed to the Church Office.

COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

United Way of Greenville County has launched the COVID-19 Community Relief Fund to assist Greenville County's most vulnerable neighbors with the resources they need during this critical time. The COVID-19 Community Relief Fund will focus on supporting local nonprofit organizations working in areas identified as having high numbers of affected individuals, and those who are working with the most vulnerable populations in these areas to help respond to the physical health, mental health, and economic impacts of the pandemic. Donations may be made on-line at www.unitedwaygc.org or checks can be mailed to United Way of Greenville County, 105 Edinburgh Court, Greenville, SC 29607 and marked Community Relief Fund.

GRACE BAGS

During the month of April, Grace Bags containing simple pop-top food items will be available in the Breezeway for parishioners to pick up during the week, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, to keep in their cars or in their homes to give to folks in need of a simple meal.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief is working to prevent the catastrophic spread of the coronavirus for our most vulnerable neighbors in countries like Uganda and Democratic Republic of the Congo where health systems are not prepared to handle an outbreak of this magnitude. Contributions can be made online at donate.lwr.org or by mailing a check to Trinity designated for Lutheran World Relief.

CONGREGATION BOOK DISCUSSION

A discussion of *Grace Will Lead Us Home: The Charleston Church Massacre and the Hard, Inspiring Journey to Forgiveness* will be rescheduled. Members and friends are encouraged to this read this book that calls for work for racial justice.

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

Reaching out to the most vulnerable in our community, in partnership with *Table 301* and *Advoco*, Trinity is handing out 300 boxed lunches and simple pantry items to our neighbors at Towers East and our homeless friends living on the street on Wednesdays, March 25, April 1, April 8, and April 15 at 11:00 am on the front lawn of the church.

Continuing during the month of April while schools are closed, Trinity's Backpack Buddies feeding program is partnering with other helping agencies including YouthBase, Mosaic, Poe Mill Achievement Center, and volunteers at Stone Academy, to continue providing food bags to children. Approximately 200 bags are being packed at Trinity and being delivered directly to children's homes each week.

During the month of April, all are invited and encouraged to bring food donations to Trinity for the food pantry at United Ministries as well as other community food pantries. Deliveries of non-perishable food items can be made on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm by ringing the bell at the double glass doors and leaving donations in the Breezeway. A Trinity volunteer will deliver donations.

WITHIN THE TRINITY FAMILY . . .

HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Marilyn Koerber has been discharged.

BAPTISM

Brady Robert Hegarty, son of Casey and Amy Hegarty

DEATHS

the brother of Sheely Miller
the father of Bob Kressler

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Paul Miller to St. Paul's Church, Greenville, SC

ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH

	<u>3/1</u>	<u>3/8</u>	<u>3/15</u>		<u>3/22</u>	<u>3/29</u>
9:00	123	105	88	Onsite	17	10
11:15	<u>124</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>62</u>	Online devices	1,648	561
TOTAL	247	213	150	(through 3/30)		

OFFERING SUMMARY FOR MARCH

	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Needed for Budget	\$ 96,186	\$ 288,558
Given to Budget	<u>61,122</u>	<u>314,071</u>
Difference	\$ 35,064	\$ 25,513
Given to World Hunger	\$ 862	\$ 12,873

Scripture Passages to Comfort, Sustain, and Encourage during these days of fear, uncertainty, and worry

Be still and know that I am God.

Psalm 46:10

Come to me all who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. My yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

Do not fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

Philippians 4:6-7, The Message

**Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.**

Isaiah 41:10

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

For the layers of comfort and convenience that surrounded our lives and that we never considered a blessing but always just took for granted, forgive us.

For we who must grieve in isolation and not in community, comfort us.

For we who care for the sick, protect us.

For the ability to turn off the fear-mongering and unhelpful commentary and worst-case scenario click bait, strengthen us.

For the times when we are all out of creative ideas for how to get through this with cooped up kids, inspire us.

For we who are now cutting our own bangs at home, guide us.

For the grace to allow ourselves and others to just be less productive, shower us.

For the generosity needed from those of us who have more resources, empower us.

From our own selfish inclinations, deliver us.

For just being your children, none of whom have done a global pandemic before, love us.

For the days ahead, accompany us.

God unbound by time, help us to know that you are already present in the future we are fearing.

Amen. (Nadia Bolz-Weber, March 29, 2020)

Good and gracious God, we give thanks for Jesus, the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

Remind us this day that the light of Jesus shines brighter than our fears about money, food, safety, illness, and security.

Remind us that the light of Jesus shines brighter than our concerns about what we will do tomorrow, or next week, or next month.

Remind us that the light of Jesus shines brighter than our struggles with anxiety, depression, addiction, loneliness, and isolation.

Remind us that you are the light of the world and that your light can and will dispel all darkness.

Shine in our world, in our lives, and in our hearts that we, like you, might bring light and love into the darkness of our homes, our communities, and into this world that you made and love.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

