



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK SUPPLY DRIVE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, United Ministries/Interfaith Hospitality Network is unable to use local churches to house families resulting in the cancellation of Trinity's May hosting dates. Trinity has reached out to IHN and has confirmed that families are currently being well cared for and many of the assistance programs remain intact.

In an effort to refresh Trinity's IHN program and prepare to welcome guests for the next rotation in August, IHN coordinators and the Outreach Committee will hold a supply drive during the month of May. Many current supplies are worn, torn and outdated. Now is the perfect time to "spring clean" and replenish/replace these much needed supplies. Requested items include twin sheets, twin and full blankets, towels, bath mats, shower caddy (with holes), toiletries, lotions and soaps. Additional donations in good condition include toys for children, puzzles, blocks, art supplies and crafts, books, appropriate DVDs and board games. Used electronics in good condition will also be accepted to include TVs, DVR players, computers, gaming system/games. Donations can be dropped off in the Breezeway during office hours Monday - Friday throughout the month of May. Collections bins will be available. Please keep IHN and Trinity in mind as you clean out closets or shop online! Any donation is appreciated to continue this vital ministry.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The next IHN rotation is scheduled for August 30-Sept 6, 2020. Any members interested in hearing more about IHN opportunities or for questions regarding donations, please contact Amanda Cook at 864.-905-7940 or Lara Wannemacher at 864-630-5325.



TRINITY TIDINGS

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*Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends.
Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top.
Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead.
Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage.
Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.
Philippians 2:2-4, The Message*

Dear Members of the Trinity Family,

These long days of separation and isolation have a tendency to make us focus on our own needs, wants, and desires. When we are spending so much time alone in solitary pursuits, it's easy to turn inward, to become egocentric and selfish. It's easy to wallow in our own worries, fears, and concerns. I have also noticed that in these days of sheltering-in-place, everything seems to take longer than it once did. Acquiring groceries is a major effort. Making sure that we have the prescriptions, supplies, and equipment we need takes extra time. Suiting up with our gloves and masks and constantly reminding ourselves not to touch anything or get too close to anybody just to run a simple errand requires lots of extra thought. If we are not careful, we can become so focused on ourselves that we become blind to the needs of others.

This time of physical isolation is a good time for us to remember that we are called, in Christ, to be servants. Many of us enjoy a good amount of power, influence, and privilege in this life, but Christ calls us to be servants, to look beyond our own needs in order to focus on the needs of others. This looking beyond ourselves to the needs of others has the potential to give us new perspective and to bring hope and healing to others.

When we are focused on making sure that others have what they need, we have less time to worry about our own concerns. How can you bring hope and comfort to someone who needs a little help? How can you reach out in love to empower and encourage others? What small act can you do each day to ease someone else's burden? Focus your efforts on these pursuits and you will find meaning and blessing in these days of fear and uncertainty. Just imagine how we can change the world for good through our simple acts of kindness and love.

Peace, love, and joy,

Pastor Susan Crowell

COUNCIL NOTES

While the Congregation Council was not able to meet in person in April, two very important actions were taken.

1. On April 19 via an email vote, the council voted to finalize arrangements for a loan in the amount of \$122,837 as part of the Payroll Protection Program under the CARES legislation that was passed by congress in relation to the COVID-19 crisis. These monies can only be used to cover payroll and benefit expenses as well as utilities. As long as these and a few other expectations are met, the loan should become a grant and the debt forgiven. These funds have been received and deposited. These additional funds will be a huge help to sustain our ministry during these challenging times.

2. On April 25 via an email vote, the council approved the establishment of a GoFundMe Charity Account for *Connect for Good* and that all funds raised through this effort be placed in a Designated Account at Trinity for the purpose of purchasing food and services to benefit the most vulnerable in our community. Since the outbreak of coronavirus, Trinity has been partnering with Advoco (Marty Osborn) and Table 301 (Carl Sobocinski) to provide food to the most vulnerable in the Greenville community. Monies raised through this effort will enhance Trinity's efforts to provide food for the children involved in the Backpack Buddies program, for our neighbors at Towers East, and for others in the community who struggle with food insecurity.



WORSHIP

Each week during May there will be an online service at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings, as well as an online service at 6:00 pm on Wednesday evenings.



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 may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 N. Main St., Greenville, SC 29601. Please contact Kay Cook in the Church Office if interested in signing up for automatic bank draft.

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.

CONGREGATION BOOK DISCUSSION

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

WITHIN THE TRINITY FAMILY . . .

HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Ben Cline and Bob Schirmer have been discharged.

DEATHS

Thomas Pease, the brother of Barbara Beckford
Mike Wilson, the father of Susan Wilson

ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL

Sundays	<u>4/5</u>	<u>4/12</u>	<u>4/19</u>	<u>4/26</u>
Onsite	5	5	5	5
Online devices	<u>714</u>	<u>1,485</u>	<u>501</u>	<u>700</u>
TOTAL	719	1,490	506	705
Midweek	<u>4/1</u>	<u>4/9</u>	<u>4/10</u>	<u>4/22</u>
Onsite	5	5	5	5
Online devices	<u>606</u>	<u>527</u>	<u>511</u>	<u>364</u>
TOTAL	611	532	516	369

OFFERING SUMMARY FOR APRIL

	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Needed for Budget	\$ 96,186	\$ 384,744
Given to Budget	<u>108,590</u>	<u>423,836</u>
Difference	\$ 12,404	\$ 39,092
PPP Loan Proceeds	\$ 122,837	\$ 122,837
Given to World Hunger	\$ 1,988	\$ 14,861

A Prayer for These Days of Fear and Isolation

Holy God hear my intercessions,

For those who are giving birth alone;

for those who are grieving without their people;

for the beleaguered parents who ran out of creative ideas two weeks ago;

for those who don't know where this week's grocery money will come from;

for everyone who has watched the date of their wedding, or their graduation, or their birthday, or their dissertation defense, or their long hoped for vacation, or their family reunion, or the "non-essential" medical procedure they hoped would change their life, come and go;

for the exhausted and the despairing,

I ask that your comfort, your presence, and your peace be felt.

And if that's not possible, could you just nudge the right person to reach out and call them?

Just that Lord. Just that?

Holy God hear my praise:

For the animals who get to have their people home all day;

for a slow enough life that allows for baking and a garden and the use of cloth napkins;

for the comfort of sweat pants;

for the bursts of creativity that keep coming from artists and musicians and writers;

for the people on Instagram who are getting us through this:

DJ DNice's Club Quarantine who keeps us dancing,

for "fellow hunker-downer" Leslie Jordon who keeps us laughing,

for Jen Pastilof and her beautiful, crazy campaign to get grocery cards to those who need them who keeps us loving;

for the journalists who just keep going so we can be informed;

for the gratitude shown for health workers and grocery store cashiers and delivery folks;

for the 2 rolls of toilet paper my downstairs neighbors left as a gift for me;

for the things I no longer take for granted - I give you thanks.

Amen. (Nadia Bolz-Weber, April 26, 2020)

BOOK GROUP

The Trinity Book Group, which is open to all readers, meets regularly to discuss books of all genres. On Thursday evening, May 7, the group will have a Zoom meeting with Trinity member Megan Koon to discuss her novel, *Sweet Divinity*. The group will also meet on June 18 to discuss *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. Email Amy Brown at arbrown@trinitylutheran.ws to receive a Zoom invite to the meetings.



COLLEGE CAFFEINE AND CONVERSATION

Current Trinity college students are invited to grab some caffeine and join together on a Zoom meeting at 11:00 am on Wednesday, May 6. A link to the meeting will be sent out via text and email.



DIGITAL LCY

Middle school youth will meet via Zoom on Sunday, May 10 at 4:00 pm and high schoolers will meet the same day beginning at 5:00 pm. Meeting information will be emailed to parents prior to the gatherings.



Lutheran Church Youth

CHILDREN'S ZOOM GATHERINGS

Preschool/K5 children will have their weekly 30 minute Zoom get togethers on Tuesdays at 9:15 am. Elementary students will get together on Sundays at 11:15 am.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Until able to meet in person, Sunday School gatherings will be by Zoom. To be included, email Amy Brown at arbrown@trinitylutheran.ws. Links and invites will be sent out by email.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Bible School is scheduled for July 27 through 31, in person or virtual, so Save the Date!



FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

Continuing during the month of May 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 May, 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.



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.



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.



GRACE BAGS

During the month of May, Grace Bags containing simple pop-top food items will be available in the Breezeway for parishioners to pick up 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.

When asked which passages of scripture were sustaining them in these challenging days, our Trinity staff responded with the following:

Deacon Amy Brown – For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, neither heights nor depths – nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:38-39

Kay Cook – Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

Roy Cook – Indeed, I consider the sufferings of the present to be nothing compared with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Romans 8:18

Karen Craig – Pray always and do not lose heart.

Luke 18:1b

Pastor Susan Crowell – Fear not, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, and I will uphold you with my strong right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Vicar Luke Delasin – In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

John 20:19

Beth Oswald – How precious is your love! Whether creatures of heaven or children of earth, we all find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Psalms 36:7

Pastor Jim Parham – The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:5

Deacon Mandi Whitley – God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.

Psalms 46:1

Henry Wilcox – God will keep you from all evil; your life God will hold. God will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Psalms 121:7-8

Lani Wise – Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 14:27