



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

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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

In an effort to stay connected, please consider extending birthday greeting to the following members. If you would like the church to know your birthdate please contact the Church Office to submit this information through Realm.

Hunter Balck — June 29
Barbara Beckford — June 28
Naomi Campbell — June 21
Suzanne Delap — June 12
Megan Finnern — June 2
Walker Fletcher — June 14
Ashley Forbes — June 10
Mark Godfrey — June 5
Brady Hegarty — June 12
(his first birthday)
Melanie Helling — June 22
Deirdre Hixson — June 19
Rick Horsfall — June 21
Ali Landreth — June 6
Cathie Landreth — June 16
Amanda Mast — June 7

Chris Mast — June 7
Michael McArver — June 15
Erin McCall — June 5
Megan McDuffee — June 2
Natalie McElhinny — June 4
Richard Moose — June 5
Todd Reichard — June 18
Thomas Rice — June 12
Mary Beth Ridenhour — June 9
Abby Sease — June 4
Anthony Stratton — June 9
Mary Valenti — June 30
Cathy Westbrook — June 11
Annie Whitley — June 21
Bob Whitley — June 13
Lance Wilcox — June 23

OUTREACH FOR GREENVILLE LITERACY

The Greenville Literacy Association is once again sponsoring the *Really Good, Really Big, Really Cheap Book Sale*. Books should be taken directly to the Greenville Literacy Association at McAlister Square. The sale runs August 8-9. More information is available at the Greenville Literacy Association website.

TRINITY TIDINGS

A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

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*Gently encourage the stragglers, and reach out for the exhausted,
pulling them to their feet.*

Be patient with each person, attentive to individual needs.

I Thessalonians 5:14 The Message

*Be kinder than necessary, because everyone you meet is fighting a battle
you know nothing about.*

Dear Members of the Trinity Family,

We are all experiencing loss, disappointment, frustration, fear, and worry in these days of pandemic living. None of us are being spared the negative effects of separation and isolation. While it is true that some of us have more resources at our disposal to deal with the challenges, none of us can escape the pain and heartache of these days.

I am also learning that none of us is performing at the top of our game during this pandemic. Our bodies, hearts, minds, and souls are under incredible amounts of stress. The gifts and abilities, talents and strengths that used to serve us well are no longer working in this new and ever-changing world. All of us, whether we like it or not, must constantly learn new skills. This extra effort is exhausting, and many of us are weary from the endeavor.

We seem to be more forgetful, less able to keep track of all the details, forgetting to respond to a text or email, taking several days to finish what used to be a simple task. There is one thing of which I am certain: We are all doing the best we can. Every single one of us is trying our best to adapt, change, and grow. Some of us are being more effective than others, but all of us are doing our best. I encourage you to be more generous with yourself and with others. Practice more patience, more kindness, more love, more grace, and more forgiveness as you relate to others. Give yourself and others the benefit of the doubt. Practice some self-love, some self-compassion.

Each and every one of us is a beloved, precious child of God. In these days of challenge and difficulty, let us find new and innovative ways to bless, encourage, and strengthen one another. With God's help and the love and care of this community, we will triumph over this crisis.

Peace, love, and joy,

Pastor Susan Crowell

COUNCIL NOTES

At the May meeting of the Congregation Council, the council

---received a report from the Treasurer noting information about the funds received through the Paycheck Protection Program and information about online giving;

---learned that on May 1 Henry Wilcox began serving as Trinity’s Accountant and Social Media Manager and that Lani Wise will retire from her position as Accountant and Publications Coordinator on May 31;

---learned following the meeting that the effort to establish a GoFundMe charity account to support the most vulnerable in our community was met with significant challenges. While Trinity is still partnering with *Advoco* and *Table 301*, these monies are now being handled through Mill Village Farms;

---received a report from Donna Potts, chair of the COVID-19 Transition Team at Trinity. Members of the team include John Beckford, Kay Cook, Melissa Kolb, Richard Moose, Mike Parker, Kerry Sease, Melanie Wessinger, and Pastor Crowell. The team is meeting weekly to determine when and how Trinity can reopen for corporate worship and small group ministries and activities. A weekly update from the team will be provided on the website; and

---agreed by consensus to meet again in August at the regularly scheduled time and likely during the summer at a time and date to be set later.



WORSHIP

Each week during June 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. There will be no in-person worship during June.

GRACE BAGS

During the month of June, 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.

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 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.

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

Continuing during the month of June 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.

During the month of June, 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

Bud Moseley, Alice Smith, and Wade Wallace have been discharged.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Tommy and Brenda Bridges to St. Paul’s Church, Greenville, SC

ATTENDANCE FOR MAY				
Sundays	<u>5/3</u>	<u>5/10</u>	<u>5/17</u>	<u>5/24</u>
Onsite	5	5	6	5
Online devices	<u>506</u>	<u>588</u>	<u>599</u>	<u>840</u>
TOTAL	511	593	605	845
Midweek	<u>5/6</u>	<u>5/13</u>	<u>5/20</u>	
Onsite	4	4	4	
Online devices	<u>388</u>	<u>333</u>	<u>325</u>	
TOTAL	392	337	329	

OFFERING SUMMARY FOR MAY
(DOES NOT INCLUDE OFFERING FOR THE LAST WEEK OF MAY)

	<u>MAY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Needed for Budget	\$ 96,186	\$ 480,930
Given to Budget	<u>73,124</u>	<u>497,300</u>
Difference	\$ - 23,062	\$ 16,370
PPP Loan Proceeds		\$ 122,837
Given to World Hunger	\$ 909	\$ 15,770

Where to Put Our Attention from Out of Solitude by Henri Nouwen

Somewhere we know that without silence words lose their meaning, that without listening speaking no longer heals, that without distance closeness cannot cure. Somewhere we know that without a lonely place our actions quickly become empty gestures. The careful balance between silence and words, withdrawal and involvement, distance and closeness, solitude and community forms the basis of the Christian life and should, therefore, be the subject of our most personal attention.

I do not know when we can gather together again in worship, Lord.

So, for now I just ask that:

When I sing along in my kitchen to each song on Stevie Wonder's Songs in The Key of Life Album, that it be counted as praise. (Happy 70th Birthday, SW!)

And that when I read the news and my heart tightens in my chest, *may it be counted as a Kyrie.*

And that when my eyes brighten in a smile behind my mask as I thank the cashier *may it be counted as passing the peace.*

And that when I water my plants and wash my dishes and take a shower *may it be counted as remembering my baptism.*

And that when the tears come and my shoulders shake and my breathing falters, *may it be counted as prayer.*

And that when I stumble upon a Tabitha Brown video and hear her grace and love of you *may it be counted as hearing a homily.*

And that as I sit at that table in my apartment, and eat one more homemade meal, slowly, joyfully, with nothing else demanding my time or attention, *may it be counted as communion.*

Amen. (Nadia Bolz-Weber, May 17, 2020)

BOOK GROUP

The Trinity Book Group, which is open to all readers, meets regularly to discuss books of all genres. On Thursday evening, June 18, the group will have a Zoom meeting to discuss *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. The next meeting will be on August 20 to discuss *The Wife* by Meg Wolitzer. Email Deacon Amy Brown at arbrown@trinitylutheran.ws to receive a Zoom invite to the meetings.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation (Sunday School) is taking on new forms during the COVID-19 Crisis. Zoom invites are emailed to the congregation as part of Pastor Crowell's end of week thoughts.

PRESCHOOL AND K5 CHILDREN meet on Tuesday mornings by Zoom at 9:00 am. Led by Deacon Amy Brown and teachers Mark Allen and Elizabeth Allen, this half hour get together includes show and tell, songs, stories, and special guests. Parents are welcome to join in.

GRACE PLACE CHILDREN (Grades 1-5) meet on Sunday mornings at 11:15 am on Zoom. Led by Deacon Amy Brown and other Grace Place teachers, this group gathers for show and tell, fun games, and prayer.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION begins with Coffee and Conversation at 8:45 am on Zoom on Sunday mornings, followed by a discussion of *Practicing: Changing Yourself to Change the World*, by Kathy Escobar. Books are available on Amazon. The class ends by 9:45 am, so participants can be ready for worship.

COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

United Way of Greenville County has launched the COVID-19 Community Relief Fund to assist Greenville County's most vulnerable neighbors and 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.



Lutheran Church Youth

DIGITAL LCY

Youth who just completed Grades 6 through 12, plus LCY advisors, are encouraged to attend weekly Zoom gatherings. The group will meet at 7:00 pm each Wednesday in June for about an hour for games, devotions, and highs and lows. Login information will be emailed to parents.

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK SUPPLY DRIVE

In an effort to refresh Trinity's IHN program and prepare to welcome guests for the next rotation in August, a supply drive will continue during the month of June. 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 through Friday throughout the month of June. Collections bins are available.

TRINITY'S 2020 COLLEGE GRADUATES

The following members are celebrating their graduation from college:

Elizabeth Allen — Furman University — BA, Elementary Education

Kaitlyn Bresette — James Madison University — BS, Communication Sciences and Disorders

Rachel Haltiwanger — University of South Carolina — BA, Elementary Education

Reagan Hoffert — Wofford College — BA, Spanish

Marshall Westbrook — Wofford College- BS, Psychology

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School at Trinity is one of the most fun weeks of the year, and hopes are high that it will continue to be so. The staff is watching guidelines and waiting to see how it might happen this summer. The date is July 27 - 31. Because the date is always late in July, this buys some time to make plans. In early June, curriculum publishers will release the online resources for churches that choose to have virtual Bible School instead of in-person. The hope is to make the decision by mid-June. In any event, **save the date**, as it will be a fun week whether in person or virtual!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Women's Bible Study and Fellowship Group will meet on Thursday evening, June 4 at 6:00 pm by Zoom. Participants will continue their study of the book *Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren. Contact Terry Morgan at 230-6252 or tfmorgan101@gmail.com for the Zoom invite.

MASK MAKERS

Do you sew? If so, you are needed to join in making masks for those in need in the community. In particular, we are making masks for our neighbors at Towers East and those in the Lutheran Homes of SC communities. Material is available for this project. Contact Deacon Amy Brown through the Church Office if you can help with this project.

TRINITY'S 2020 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The following members of Trinity are celebrating their graduation from high school:

Nicholas Dillon — graduating from Mauldin High School and will be attending the College of Charleston in the fall



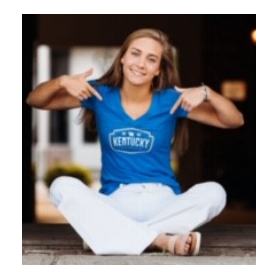
Sydney Hoffert — graduating from J L Mann High School and will be attending the University of South Carolina in the fall



Natalie Geiger — graduating from NEXT High School and will be attending the University of Chicago in the fall



Anna Havens Rice — graduating from Greenville High School and will be attending the University of Kentucky in the fall



Bo Wallace — graduating from the Fine Arts Center and Greenville High School, and, after a gap year, will be attending the Honors College at Colorado State



Mac Wallace — graduating from the Fine Arts Center and Greenville High School, and, after a gap year, will be attending the Honors College at Colorado State

MUSIC MINISTRY

As the congregation continues to worship online through this pandemic, music ministry at Trinity has turned to prerecorded and virtual performances to support worship. This is a new field for us and we are learning new things every day. We are greatly blessed to have the new sound and video system installed in the Sanctuary last fall, as well as the expertise of Henry Wilcox newly added to the staff to make the virtual performances sound and look as good as possible. We invite anyone interested in this field of music to join in this work. If you are interested in participating in our new virtual music community, please contact Pastor Jim Parham at jcparham@trinitylutheran.ws and Henry Wilcox at hwilcox@trinitylutheran.ws or phone the Church Office at (864) 242-5702.