

TRINITY TIDINGS

A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

July, 2020

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For we walk by faith and not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Dear Members of the Trinity Family,

During the opening devotions of the January meeting of Trinity's Congregation Council, I invited each person to select a word that could be a prayer intention or focus for the coming year. My word was trust, specifically trust in God. When I selected the intention, my hope was that throughout the year God would strengthen and increase my ability to trust. Of course, at the time, no one had any idea how many opportunities I would have in the first six months of 2020 to trust God. I wish that I could write to you that my trust has increased, that I always have faith in God's provision, but that is simply not true. I still struggle to trust that God will provide for me, my family, and our Trinity family in these uncertain, unprecedented times.

I lie awake at night worrying that there will not be enough...not enough time, not enough energy, not enough money, not enough wisdom, not enough grace, not enough help and support. I worry about the decisions that must be made, the difficult work that must be done, the relentless pace of ministry in this time. I worry about doing ministry in ways that are new, different, and strange. I worry about providing for my family. I worry about acquiring the skills and abilities that will enable Trinity to move into an unknown future. My faith in God often wavers.

The passage from 2 Corinthians 5:7 is a comfort to me. I keep moving forward, keep taking the next step, not because I can see what the future holds or because I know the right thing to do. What I do know is that we cannot be still, that we cannot be content with current realities. We must continue to step forward in faith. We must take risks. We must be brave and bold. We must trust that God is with us - guiding us, sustaining us, and strengthening us. I am learning that we do not need to see the future in order to trust in the future. I am learning that we do not need to know when the world will be safe again in order to trust that the day will come. May we have faith, in both our individual lives and in our corporate life, to trust God.

Peace, love, and joy,



Pastor Susan Crowell

EVENT HONORING
Vicar Luke Delasin

Please join our Trinity Family on Sunday, August 2 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm
in the lot adjacent to the red canopy door for a Parade Reception Honoring

Vicar Luke Delasin

on his last Sunday of ministry at Trinity.

Safe, pre-packaged refreshments and drinks will be provided.

Cars should enter the lot via North Main Street.



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.

JULY WORSHIP

Midweek services will be premiered each Wednesday at 6:00 pm on July 8, 15, 22, and 29. There will not be a service on Wednesday, July 1. Sunday morning services will be premiered at 10:00 am on July 5, 12, 19, and 26.

GRACE BAGS

During the month of July, 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.

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

Continuing through July, Trinity, in partnership with Advoco, Table 301, and Francis Produce, is hosting "Nourishing Neighbors", a weekly event held on Wednesdays on the front lawn to provide a boxed lunch, fresh produce, and reusable masks to our neighbors at Towers East.

TRINITY STAFF RESTRUCTURING

After reviewing all staff positions in light of recent changes precipitated by the Covid19 crisis, the Executive Committee determined that adjustments needed to be made in four positions to better reflect actual time required to meet current ministry needs and to be faithful stewards of the congregation's resources. Positions that have been adjusted include the Director of Educational Ministries, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, Accountant and Social Media Manager, and Nursery Attendant. The Executive Committee will be closely monitoring congregational financial resources and changing ministry needs over the coming weeks to determine if further adjustments need to be made. All positions will be re-evaluated in three months

LCY ZOOM, MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION DAYS AND HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE DAY

LCY will continue to gather virtually via Zoom on Wednesdays in July beginning at 7:00 pm for games and highs/lows. Parents will be emailed login information.



Lutheran Church Youth

Middle School Mission Days: Youth who recently finished grades 6 through 8 are invited to help pass out lunches to our neighbors at Towers East on Wednesdays July 8 and 15. The group will meet at the red canopy door at 11:30 am and pick up time is 1:30 pm. Group size is limited to 5 youth per week. Those attending are asked to eat lunch prior to arrival. Contact Mandi Whitley with questions or to sign up for one of the dates.

High School Service Day: Youth who recently finished grades 9 through 12 will be doing yard work at a Safe Harbor shelter on Thursday, July 23 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. The group will meet at the church and travel by bus. Those attending should wear clothes that can get messy, closed-toe shoes and bring a mask, water, and sunscreen. The group is limited to 8 youth and those who plan to attend are asked to sign up with Mandi Whitley no later than Monday, July 13. In the event of rain, the event will be cancelled.

BACKPACK BUDDIES FOOD COLLECTION

Each week throughout the summer Trinity is providing a food box to twelve families in our neighborhood who rely on the Backpack Buddies program during the school year to feed their children. Donations of non-perishable food items will be collected at the red canopy door on Saturday, July 4 from 11:30 am to 12:25 pm. Items of special need include:

Peanut Butter

Pasta

Spaghetti Sauce

Dried Beans

Rice

Canned Fruit

Canned vegetables

Canned meat

Individually packaged snack items

Toilet Paper

Items may also be brought to the breezeway, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Many thanks for helping Trinity support and sustain this ministry throughout the summer.

THEOLOGY ROUNDTABLE

Theology Roundtable is a group which meets twice a month to discuss theology and faith. Currently the group is discussing the book *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr. If you would like to join this group, which is meeting by ZOOM, please contact Peggy Schotsch at schotsch@bellsouth.net.

BOOK GROUP

The Trinity Book Group, which is open to all readers, meets regularly to discuss books of all genres. 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.

COMMUNION BREAD DISTRIBUTION

Small loaves of home baked communion bread will be available on Saturday, July 4 from 11:30 am to 12:15 pm in the lot adjacent to the red canopy door. All are invited to come to the church on this day to pick up bread for home communion celebrations throughout the month of July.

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.

MUSIC MINISTRY

We thank all who have participated in our virtual music making during this pandemic. This way of serving in ministry is new and strange to all of us, and we have been on an intense learning curve. Our worship has been musically well-supported thanks to our vocal and instrumental soloists, who have led hymns and psalms and offered performances recorded here at church or in their homes.

All across the world, real-time musical collaboration has been halted to maintain physical distancing and minimize exposure to the airborne pathogens emitted by singing, talking and breathing. We know that our present “virtual” way of serving the music ministry at Trinity will continue through July. If you have not yet joined in on a virtual musical event, please consider joining us in the new way of serving the musical needs of our worshipping community. Contact Pastor Jim Parham and Henry Wilcox via e-mail jcparham@trinitylutheran.ws or hwwilcox@trinitylutheran.ws or phone 864-242-5702.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Women's Bible Study and Fellowship Group will meet on Thursday evening, July 2 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. Fabric is available for the masks. Contact Deacon Amy Brown at the Church Office if you can help with this project.

COMPASSION CAMP

Compassion Camp, Trinity's at home Bible School, will be held July 27-31. *Compassion Camp* will give students and families the opportunity to learn at home and in the Trinity online community. Print materials will be available for pick up at the church the week of July 20, and online activities will take place each day in a private Facebook group the week of the 27th. This will include videos and zoom calls. Activities will include crafts, music, Bible stories, yoga and outreach opportunities for children who are preschoolers through elementary school, and their families. Participants will be able to access the online activities any time of the day that works for them. Watch your email and the church website for registration forms or contact Deacon Amy Brown at the Church Office for more information.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation 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 KIDS 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 KIDS (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 oriented class. The class ends by 9:45, so participants can be ready for worship. Currently, the class is discussing the book *Practicing: Changing Yourself to Change the World*, by Kathy Escobar. Books available on Amazon, but participants do not have to read the book to attend.

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 online 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.



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 July. 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 July. Collections bins are available.

Dear Trinity Family,

It is hard to believe that my time at Trinity is coming to a close. July marks the last month of my time here, and it is hard to believe that it has already arrived. My time here at Trinity has been a fantastic experience, and I am beyond thankful for Trinity and everyone that has helped make this year a meaningful experience. This year I have seen myself grow and learn more about ministry and see a great example of how the church can have such a positive impact in a community. From getting to know everyone at the church and the Greenville area, teaching Bible Study and Sunday School, to Bingo events and serving meals, I have been able to experience many things that I will take with me in my future ministry.

My time here at Trinity is one that I am beyond thankful for. This entire year has been spirit led and has given me many lasting memories. Although it has not been a “normal” internship experience, it has been one that I would not trade for anything. I want to thank everyone for making this year such a valuable experience. I miss seeing all of you in person on Sundays, but I am looking forward to what this last month holds and where God will lead.

Peace,
Vicar Luke

In-Person Small Group Gatherings

Trinity will be hosting multiple in-person small group gatherings outdoors during the month of July. Those who wish to attend must sign up at least two days in advance. Please call the church office at 242-5702 Monday - Friday between 8:30 and 4:30 pm to RSVP. In order for a variety of people to have the chance to attend an in-person event, please limit your household to one or two events. Note that if it is raining, the event will be cancelled. All attending are asked to bring a tailgate chair, wear a mask, and practice physical distancing.

Morning Coffee: 8:30 - 10:00 am on the playground. Every Tuesday (July 7, 14, 21, 28) and Wednesday (July 8, 15, 22, 29) beginning on July 7. Limited to 8 people per event. Bring your own coffee.

Sunday Supper: 6:30 pm in the red canopy parking lot/front Lawn. Every Sunday evening in July. Limited to 5 cars per event. Bring your own dinner.

Social Justice Discussions: Thursday, July 16 on the front lawn beginning at 6:30 pm to discuss the book *Untamed* by Glennon Doyle. Limited to 8 people.

Thursday, July 23 on the front lawn beginning at 6:30 pm to discuss the Hulu series *Little Fires Everywhere*. Limited to 8 people.

LAUNCH: (A group for young adults in their 20's)Wednesday, July 29 on the front lawn beginning at 7:00 pm. Limited to 8 people. Bring your dinner.

WITHIN THE TRINITY FAMILY . . .

HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Jennings Cook, Bonnie Farmer, Debbie Jo Forbes, and Lara Wannamacher have been discharged.

ATTENDANCE FOR JUNE

Sundays	<u>6/7</u>	<u>6/14</u>	<u>6/21</u>	<u>6/28</u>
Onsite	5	7	6	5
Online devices	513	709	683	522
TOTAL	518	716	689	527
Midweek	<u>6/7</u>	<u>6/14</u>	<u>6/21</u>	<u>6/24</u>
Onsite	4	4	4	5
Online devices	264	258	607	804
TOTAL	268	262	611	809

OFFERING SUMMARY FOR JUNE

	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Needed for Budget	\$ 96,186	\$ 577,116
Given to Budget	<u>80,207</u>	<u>575,633</u>
Difference	\$ (15,979)	\$ (1,483)
PPP Loan Proceeds		\$ 122,837
Given to World Hunger	\$ 803	\$ 16,818



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

CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
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 Facility Manager
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Beth C. Oswald
 Nursery Attendant

JULY 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.

Carlie Balck - July 17

Al Banister - July 27

Collin Batts - July 6

Bev Bresette - July 4

Lynn Brown - July 28

Bryan Cegelis - July 31

Kelly Crowe - July 25

Eileen Finnern - July 31

Amy Forde - July 16

Lura Godfrey - July 21

Lewis Harmon - July 6

Leslie Kilstofte - July 23

Darlene Kleckley - July 7

Henry Lampson - July 22

Karine Lawrence - July 2

Caitlin Littlejohn - July 20

Harper McCaskill - July 12

Jon Moyer - July 14

RJ Phillips - July 7

Cathy Ragley - July 1

Mary Alice Reed - July 31

Helen Reetz - July 18

Jack Rice - July 1

Westyn Small - July 10

Jeanne Todd - July 25

Al Valenti - July 16

Donice Winslow - July 9

Layten Woodward - July 25

Carolyn Wyatt - July 19

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.