

TRINITY TIDINGS – COVID EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TOM

“I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME.” PHIL. 4:14

Dear child of God,

How are you?

This common greeting has become more challenging to answer during these days of social distancing. When I'm asked this question I want to say, "Exhausted, sad, hopeful, discouraged, afraid." Instead, I usually say, "fine." I shift between shell-shocked disbelief and confused bewilderment of our new reality. Grief combines with uncertainty and saps my energy. Things were going pretty well until Covid 19. Now what?

When the waters of the Red Sea closed over Pharaoh's army and the people of Israel saw the mighty work God had done and realized they were free, they launched into a song of praise to the Lord: "I will sing to the Lord for the Lord has triumphed gloriously." That moment of joy didn't last long. Soon, the harsh realization that their freedom had turned their world upside down left them wishing for a return to slavery. A return to the familiar. Faced with their new reality, I imagine they, too, asked: Now what?

The Lord responded to their cries with a promise: "I hereby make a covenant. Before all your people I will perform marvels, such as have not been performed in all the earth or in any nation: and all the people among whom you live shall see the work

of the Lord; for it is an awesome thing that I will do for you." (Exodus 34:10) In that promise, God enters their grief and bewilderment and transforms it into an anticipation of awesome things.

If only God made the same promise to us.

The gospel good news is that God *has* made that promise to you.

In baptism, God has done a marvelous thing rescuing us from sin and death and despair; joining us to Christ's resurrection. God promises to never abandon or forsake us. So now what? Take time to grieve as that is part of the creative process God is working in you. Be gracious with yourself and those you love. Be generous. Be thankful. Do the next right thing you feel is best that is loving and merciful and anticipate the awesome work of the Lord in your life.

Beloved members of Trinity, God bless and keep you in Christ Jesus our Lord. Follow recommended practices for staying healthy and be well. I'm looking forward to that day-whether it's in four months or fourteen-when we gather again as a faith community centered in the love of Christ and the love of one another. What an awesome thing that will be!

Love, Pastor Tom

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

REACHING OUT – MORE INFORMATION INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

Trinity is working to find new and creative ways of connecting with you so we can remain “together” while apart. Some of the things we’re doing include:

- 10:00 AM Robo-Call with daily scripture/devotion, M-Sat.....**Page 3**
- 12:00 Noon Devotional daily on Facebook
- Prayer Chain..... **Page 3**
- 8:00 PM Virus-Free Meditation with Pastor Tom every Tuesday, live streamed on Facebook and our web page (trinitykenosha.org)
- 7:00 AM Music posted on our Facebook page **Page 3**
- Thursday 7:00 PM Meditative music posted on Facebook..... **Page 3**
- Wed. virtual Music Rehearsals **Page 3**
- 9:30 AM Sunday Worship service via live stream on Facebook, webpage, or phone-in..... **Page 4**
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- Sunday School lesson/video... **Page 6**
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Trinity has probably never faced a greater challenge both financially or health-wise since this COVID19 pandemic struck early this year. To date, I am unaware of any member deaths related to the virus for which we are all grateful. Even though we have been unable to have in person worship services, every Sunday we are streaming worship services. In addition, we are using various means to contact members through daily phone devotions and a phone tree to senior members and shut-ins. I think this is why we have been able to remain in good shape financially. In April we collected \$7000 more than expenses. Early in May we received about \$34,000 from the Payroll Protection Program through the Small Business Administration. If we maintain a full staff for 8 weeks, we are eligible to have the loan forgiven. As you might recall, we had furloughed 4 staff members in March but now everyone is back to work.

Our current mortgage (three year balloon) with Tri City Bank (which we have been renewing for the last 9 years) was set to expire May 20. In early February we applied to the Mission Investment Fund for a 25-year mortgage with a 5 year adjustable rate and a lower payment than Tri City Bank. This was done because at that point we didn't know how giving was going to be affected by the virus. We were approved for the loan about 10 days ago but, in consultation with the Finance Team, we decided to stay with Tri City Bank for a number of reasons. The main reason was the fact that half of our current mortgage payment goes toward principal. In three years we could reduce our balance (\$542,000) by about another \$100,000. With the MIF loan we would be starting over again and the initial payments would be almost all interest like any other refinance loan. Also, Tri City Bank has been very good to us especially during the tax crisis. Better not to extend our mortgage and pay it off sooner since we are doing very well financially to date.

Thanks to all of you for your support and to the staff for their service during these difficult times. Your faithfulness is greatly appreciated.

Peace, Bruce

FACE MASKS AVAILABLE

Many volunteers at Trinity have been responsible for fundraising, procuring the materials, sewing and distributing face masks to those who may need them. We have already had one distribution amongst our parishioners, and more masks are available. If you would like a mask, or know of someone who is in need, please contact MaryKay Hahn at 262-515-5450.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like a person added to the Trinity prayer chain, please contact Kathy Baas at 657-7238 or kbaas15@gmail.com. Prayer chain members pray for those on the list during the week and they are included in the prayers of the church during Sunday worship. Unless otherwise requested, names will remain on the list for the rest of the month when we will start the list anew. If you would like a person continued beyond that point, please inform Pastor Tom or Intern Dalton.

A MESSAGE FROM DALTON

We are still in this border time of COVID-19, and it is hard. This newsletter highlights all the cool things Trinity is doing to stay connected, serve the community, and proclaim the gospel. Not to mention all the new ideas and innovations that are constantly being thought of and explored to further Trinity's mission. It's amazing what Trinity is doing, and I'm glad that we are able to lift up all these wonderful things, but that doesn't change the fact that this time is hard. It is a difficult challenge to live through these times. Trinity is here to support you. You are welcome to contact me via email or telephone, and we can set up a time to chat via telephone or video chat. God bless and stay safe!

DAILY PHONE DEVOTIONAL

Pastor Tom and Dalton have been providing a 90 second pre-recorded devotional Monday-Saturday at 10:00 AM. If you have not been receiving this call but would like to, please contact either Pastor Tom, ptom@trinitykenosha.org, Intern Dalton, druggieri@carthage.edu, or the church office at 694-5050.

MUSIC AT TRINITY

As with all the other ministries at Trinity, the music ministry is wading knee deep into new technology seeking meaningful ways to both connect and bring comfort during this time of pandemic. To that end, using simply an iPhone, I am recording contemporary songs for posting on the Trinity Facebook page every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday. I play and record traditional hymns on our organ that are posted on every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Additionally, I create a posting of one of my meditative original music pieces for every Thursday evening. And I am recording two songs for use during worship every Sunday to be played while lyrics scroll on the screen during the time we wait for singing to be allowable. Nine recorded pieces of music each week as we strive to create an ever-growing resource of encouragement through Word, meditation, and music that the congregation can access at any time.

Every Wednesday evening at 7:00 I am holding a virtual music rehearsal/visit that provides an opportunity for anyone interested in joining a chance to sing and check in about the happenings of life under stay-at-home orders. We laugh and we sing and we compare recipes and share stories. We're busy creating a linear video of *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* and are about to launch a music-ministry-song-writing project. Stay tuned

for the magic of a new song (or songs!) courtesy of the music ministry's collaboration project.

Things to keep watch for: First, the "ding-dong" ukulele choir will soon be making visits to our congregants' homes. Masks and outdoor social distancing are a must but not an obstacle for a uke song or two to help everyone sing through this time of isolation. Second, watch for the premiere episode of Parking Lot Hand bells; it will be a grand experiment and we'll share our results either way. So many ideas to explore are coming up!

If you would find solace in listening to solo piano renditions of traditional hymns, please let me know and I will be happy to drop off a wiped-clean copy of my *Always With Us – Hymns Of Faith* CD on your doorstep. Please let Kirsten in the church office know you would like a gift of this album. Stay well and stay safe.

Kerri Sherwood, Minister of Music

The WebEx link for virtual music rehearsals/visits is:

<https://churchadmin.my.webex.com/churchadmin.my/j.php?MTID=m6b97b41d6b2ef991c05f151b1cc85d32>

If you would like to phone in, the information is as follows:

The phone number to call-in **1-408-418-9388**.

Follow the voice prompts to enter the meeting number followed by the pound sign **628 763 136#**

You will then be asked to enter the access code followed by the pound sign **85337749#**

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers are still being put on the altar weekly. If you would like to make a donation towards flowers in memory/honor of a person or event, mail your check (\$15 per vase) to church with a

note. This also supports a local business, Strobbe's Flower Cart, during these challenging days. Following Sunday worship, flowers are delivered to homebound members to brighten their day and remind them they are loved.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE VIA TELEPHONE? THAT'S AWESOME!

Every Sunday, Trinity offers a live video stream of our worship service and virtual fellowship time (9:00am-9:30 and 10:30am-11:00) using the WebEx platform. If you do not have the internet, you may phone in to participate in the conversation before and after worship as well as listen to the service. Instructions are as follows:

Call: 1-408-418-9388.

Follow the voice prompts to enter the meeting number: 626 896 867, followed by the pound (#) sign.

Enter the password: 89682988, followed by the pound sign.

Try it! We've had wonderful conversations. If you prefer to only listen, that works, too!

DONATIONS

There are three ways to continue your giving to church during this time of no in-person services. They are as follows:

- Online giving—
<https://trinitykenosha.org/giving/>
- Mailing your offering: 7104-39th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53142
- Text giving: Text a dollar amount with dollar sign (ex. \$20) to **262-429-9785**. You'll receive a text with a link to the simple registration process to complete your gift. A receipt will be sent via text and email.

Thank you for your faithful support of Trinity!

BREWERS/CUBS GAME & BUS TRIP

The August 9th Brewer-Cubs baseball trip is still on schedule. Per Ryan B. (Blaine, not Braun) from the Brewer organization, the game is still set to be played on Sunday, August 9th. At this point, they are not cancelling or rescheduling the game as they feel baseball life should be back on track by then.

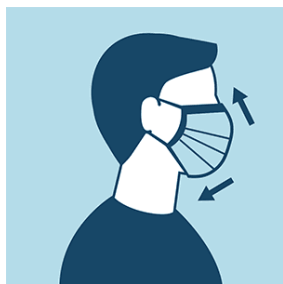
We currently have 11-eleven tickets available. I have extended the sign up and pay by date to June 14th. This will allow those who are on the fence to consider the trip. Cost again is \$49.00 per person which includes, ticket, transportation and light box lunch and beverages. Youth under the age of 14 will be allowed to "run the bases" at the completion of the game. IF there are changes to the date, I will be hearing from the Brewer organization and will update all. Feel free to contact me with any of your concerns.

Gayle Schwartz, Youth and Family. 652-8676
Gayleschwartz131@gmail.com

HOW TO WEAR A CLOTH FACE COVERING

Cloth face coverings should—

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape



CDC ON HOMEMADE CLOTH FACE COVERINGS:

COVERINGS:

The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

The CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

Should cloth face coverings be washed or otherwise cleaned regularly? How regularly?



Yes. They should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use.

How does one safely sterilize/clean a cloth face covering?

A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a face covering.

How does one safely remove a used cloth face covering?

Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

Content source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

I hope this note finds everyone in good health. Trinity's Sunday school ministry is busy! This is a list of what we are offering our students:

- Weekly virtual Sunday school lessons and videos.
- Weekly recorded stories with meaningful messages for the families to read/listen to together.
- Sunday School Adopt a Member - This ministry connects students and the elderly members of Trinity together. The children send letters and drawings asking them how they're doing and letting them know that we miss them. (Started 5/6/2020)
- Parent Zoom meetings to share ideas, vent frustrations and connect. (Started 5/6/2020)
- Student Zoom meetings to keep the kids connected. (Started 5/6/2020)

God Bless, Sandy

E-TIDINGS & BULLETIN

The e-tidings is sent out on a weekly basis to those people for whom we have email addresses. Included with the e-tidings is the bulletin for the week as well as the link for 'virtual coffee hour'. If you do not currently receive this email but would like to, please contact the church office at churchadmin@trinitykenosha.org.

FOOD DROP OFF DONATIONS

The first Tuesday of every month, from 5-8 PM, Trinity will collect food and/or monetary donations outside of the west parking lot doors. These donations are taken to the Grace Lutheran Food Pantry where almost 150 families come for food each week. Thank you for your generosity!

GRACE WELCOME CENTER - FOOD PANTRY

At this time, the food pantry remains open and they are helping more families than ever. To meet the needs of the Uptown Community, families are allowed to come every week (instead of monthly) for special boxes of food for families w/children. These boxes offer kid-friendly breakfast and lunch items. To help make this possible, the following items are needed:

- Canned veggies
- Ravioli
- Soup
- Instant Potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce
- Toilet paper
- Spaghettios
- Beef stew
- Mac & cheese
- Boxed dinners and side dishes
- Shelf-stable milk
- Paper bags and boxes

Items can be dropped off at Grace (2006-60th St.) Tuesday-Friday from 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM.

Additional volunteers are desired on Tuesdays at 9:00 AM. Volunteer opportunities consist of stocking food, packing food boxes, cleaning and mopping.

FOOD PANTRY (CONT.)

To maintain social distancing, only 30 volunteers can be on premises at one time. Unfortunately, if more than 30 are present, the director will need to ask some to leave. For more information please contact Joe Falduto at faldujd5@gmail.com or @552-2707.

NEW MEMBER SESSION VIA VIDEO

Just before the current “together while apart” situation, Trinity announced an upcoming “Trinity 101” session for individuals or families interested in becoming Trinity members. At this time we are still not able to meet in person, but a “Trinity 101” session will be offered via a videoconference in the near future. Please send an email to Joe Falduto @ faldujd5@gmail.com if you are interested in attending. Also, please indicate the best day and time for the session. Thank you from the Trinity Fellowship team!

PARTICIPATING IN GOD’S
MISSION OF LIFE

TRINITY AND SAFER AT HOME

On Wednesday, May 13th, the Wisconsin Supreme Court overturned the Safer-at-Home order by Governor Evers. In response to this order, local health officials recommend staying the course with safer-at-home practices.

For the foreseeable future, Trinity will continue to operate remotely. Our leadership team continues to discern how to faithfully return to in-person worship services and other building activities, relying on both public health experts and Trinity health professionals for guidance. In addition, Trinity will continue to develop creative and faithful plans for sustaining and growing ministry while providing regular updates as things change.

We will get through COVID-19 like we always have when confronted by challenges: together, centered in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit. Please share your thoughts and concerns with Council President Bruce Milne, Pastor Tom, Intern Dalton, or any council member.

God's blessings on your work and life.

CONTACT INFORMATION

<u>Minister</u>	Pastor Tom Smith, 287-8098	ptom@trinitykenosha.org
<u>Pastoral Intern</u>	Dalton Ruggieri, 540-352-0495	druggieri@carthage.edu
<u>Learning Ministry Coordinator</u>	Sandy Butler, 914-6275	smb4961@gmail.com
<u>Music Minister</u>	Kerri Sherwood, 496-9897	kerrianddavid1111@gmail.com
<u>Children’s Music Director</u>	Kristie Kruse	
<u>Church Administrator</u>	Kirsten Carson, 694-5050	churchadmin@trinitykenosha.org

Parish Council as well as the Finance Committee meet regularly via videoconference. Various task force teams are at work developing ministry approaches for this ongoing time of social distancing.

Trinity Lutheran Church
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