

Trinity Steeple Notes

August 2020 News and Notes



Reopening Task Force

Trinity is blessed to have a dedicated and capable team addressing issues of safety and reopening. Our group includes three medical professionals -- Kelley Crozier, and David and Megan Zobian; an epidemiologist -- Kristen Sonon; a retired hospital chaplain -- Mark Christy; a special ed teacher and our new congregation president -- Jen Mazur; and Trinity staff members -- Pastor Alan Wolkenhauer, Deaconess Deborah Graf, and Minister of Music Karen Eddinger. In addition to being experts in their fields, they are all committed and prayerful members of Trinity. We thank God for their service.



After prayer and study, it has been determined that we are not comfortable offering indoor worship at Trinity at least through October. Because of the age and risk factors of so many in our congregation, the poor air flow and ventilation in our building, and the volatility of this virus, we believe it is important to proceed with great caution in an effort to preserve the health and safety of our members and the community at large. We are blessed to have excellent resources for remote worship and meetings and a staff dedicated to staying in touch through various means, so that we can continue being the church, even without meeting in our building.

At the same time, we share the longing to be together again in person and are planning new ways of safely gathering in alternative settings. A survey is being sent to all members to determine the most helpful ways of moving forward and meeting our need to be together in ways that are safe and responsible. Please see the related article on outdoor worship on page 2.

Parish News



Outdoor Worship

Trinity continues to offer **backyard worship** in diverse locations and at various times. These casual services include Holy Communion, scripture, and prayer. Participation is limited to twelve, worshipers are distanced by households and are asked to wear masks. Please call Pastor Alan (727-543-3531) or send him an email (awolkenhauer@trinityreading.org) if you would like to host or attend.

A survey has been prepared for the congregation regarding **regular worship in Trinity's courtyard** (or portico in case of inclement weather). We envision welcoming around 20 (masked) worshipers at these scheduled services. To maintain safe numbers and provide adequate seating, we will take reservations for these services. We plan to provide enough opportunities for everyone who desires to attend to be able to do so on a regular basis. These regular services will likely begin August 30. You may register for a single service or for a regular time slot by contacting Pastor Alan by phone or email as noted above. Registrations will be open beginning August 11. Watch your emails or mailings for updates and times. Unfortunately, there will not be singing or corporate speaking in our initial phase. Communion will be offered.

As with all public outings, please do not attend if you are feeling ill or if your health is compromised. If you are in a high risk occupation, talk to Pastor Alan about what special arrangements can be made to meet your spiritual needs. Of course, our broadcasts will continue to provide opportunities for remote worship.

Vestry Notes

(These are not official minutes, but a brief summary of proceedings.)

The Vestry met via Zoom for an organizational meeting on July 13.

Condolences were extended to Eric and Reagan at the death of Eric's mother, April Rosenbaum.

The following officers were elected:

Jen Mazur, president

Steve Hofmann, vice-president

Eric Rosenbaum, executive member at large

Amy Litvinov, secretary

Franki Aitkin, treasurer

Committee liaison assignments:

Eric Rosenbaum, Property

Darryl Jeffries, Worship and Music

Steve Hofmann, Learning Ministries
& Personnel

Amy Litvinov, Learning

Jenn Smith, Media and Evangelism



Church Leadership

Steve Welz, Mission and Service

Hannah Long, Member Care

Franki Aitken, Finance

Jen Mazur, Fellowship

Reagan Rosenbaum, Youth

A report from the Reopening Trask Force was received and affirmed.

Recommendations for scholarships and loans from the Education Endowment Committee were approved.

The May Treasurer's Report indicates that income exceeded expenses for the period and year-to-date. We are grateful for the faithfulness of Trinity's members in this time of pandemic.

Parish News

A Note from Common Ground Pastoral Intern Emily Papke-Larson

Dear Trinity Lutheran,

Thank you so much for your help in collecting personal care items for Common Ground. Covid-19 changed the way we imagined this project but your support and generosity were such a gift!

Thank you and God bless,

Vicar Emily, Common Ground Pastoral Intern

2019-2020



common
ground
recovery ministry

*May
God
Bless
our
Marriage*

Congratulations to Katie and Herb

Congratulations to Katie Norton and Herb Stine, who were united in marriage at a small wedding in Trinity's courtyard on July 18. They look forward to a larger and more festive celebration when it is safe to do so. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their life together as husband and wife.

Parish News

Trinity Face Masks

Remind people of Trinity as you safeguard their health! The Evangelism Committee has 100 3-ply black cotton masks with Trinity's logo imprinted. They are available to members while supplies last and will be distributed at outdoor worship services and upon request (contact the office). Masks are machine washable but should be air dried. (These masks are a bit heavy and may not be ideal for those who experience breathing problems.)



FRIENDS  CHRIST

Invitation to “Dialogues on Race”

If you are looking for a place to process and pray about anti-racism, consider joining the 8-week small group “Dialogues on Race.” We will meet every **Tuesday online via Zoom from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. beginning on July 28**. We will watch a short video together and have time for conversation. (If the group is large, we will break up into smaller groups for deeper discussion and sharing.)

Participants will receive a book to help them prepare for each week's topic.

To sign up, please contact dgraf@trinityreading.org or 610-374-4861 ex. 26.

(For those who do not have computer access and are still interested in the dialogues, please call and we will figure out a way that a small group can meet and be appropriately physically distant!)

Trinity Garden Club

We give thanks for those who have been donating their hard work, creativity, and plants to beautify Trinity's courtyard and garden. Check out a video tour on our Facebook page!



Along the Church Street side of Bard House, Trinity's gardeners designed a walkway of stone pavers, river rocks and shade-friendly plants donated by Anita Dolak. Throughout this summer, the Garden Club has weeded, deadheaded, designed, dug, raked, watered, and planted. Their work days end with dirty hands and happy hearts.



Trinity Garden Club

Garden Club helpers include Annie Harlin (Garden Club Coordinator), Mae Sunderland, Anita Dolak, Tama McConnell, Carol Miller, Rachel Gambone, Eric Rosenbaum and Bill Norton. If you want to join the team, contact Annie Harlin.



Trinity's gardeners removed old shrubbery from the courtyard side of Bard House and placed new plantings. Stop by and enjoy the beauty of God's creation creatively and lovingly tended by Trinity's Garden Club.



Broadcast Schedule August 2020

All of our programs listed below can be watched on Comcast Channel 190 (in the Reading Hospital, Channel 80) or online at any time at www.trinityreading.org or on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch.



Sundays in August

6:00 PM: First Friday—

Non-Verbal Clues in

Interpersonal Communication

6:30 PM: Music from Trinity—

Jacqueline Wilson, piano & organ

7:00 PM: Trinity Worship Service

Wednesdays in August

4:00 PM: Trinity Worship

5:00 PM: Music from Trinity—

Jacqueline Wilson, piano & organ

5:30 PM: First Friday—

Non-Verbal Clues in

Interpersonal Communication



Affirmation of Welcome

Trinity Lutheran Church is recognized by Reconciling Works as a "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation which welcomes all LGBTQ+ persons into all facets of congregational life.

Learn more at <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/>.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

527 WASHINGTON STREET, READING, PA 19601

(610) 374-4861 WWW.TRINITYREADING.ORG