

# Trinity Steeple Notes

## July 2020 News and Notes

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### **An Invitation to Backyard Worship**

We have begun offering “backyard” worship services at members’ homes, with conversation, prayer and Communion. Worshipers are physically distanced by households and safety precautions are rigorously observed. Although it’s not the same as being together at Trinity, these services have been very much

appreciated. We would like to include as many members of our Trinity family as possible, while knowing that some will be unable to participate due to quarantines or health concerns. These gatherings are weather-dependent and are limited to twelve participants. They will be offered at various times throughout the week. You need an invitation to attend, but all who want to be invited will be contacted and will be included at some point.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOST:** Contact Pastor Alan by phone (727.543.3531) or email ([awolkenhauer@trinityreading.org](mailto:awolkenhauer@trinityreading.org)) to talk about a date and time. You may invite your own friends and family, up to 11 total (pastor counts as the twelfth), and any spaces left over will then be offered to members who have expressed interest in attending. Hosts are responsible for setting up chairs in their yard, socially distanced by households, providing a table as an altar and a small trash can. Pastor will provide everything else.

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# Parish News

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND: Contact Pastor Alan by phone (727.543.3531) or email ([awolkenhauer@trinityreading.org](mailto:awolkenhauer@trinityreading.org)) and you will be added to the invitation list. As services are scheduled, members on the invitation list will be contacted until available spaces are filled. Please respond to your invitation promptly to secure your space. Guests are asked to wear masks, to arrive promptly, and to depart in a timely manner for the safety of those involved.

NOTE: In case of inclement weather, outdoor worship services may sometimes need to be rescheduled. If so, all participants will be notified of an alternative date or time. If you are in doubt, call or text Pastor Alan.

## A Prayer from Pastor Alan

The Psalmist writes:

<sup>13</sup> Turn, O Lord! How long?

Have compassion on your servants!

<sup>16</sup> Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.

<sup>17</sup> Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—

O prosper the work of our hands!

(Psalm 90, selected verses)



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How long? How long until we can worship together in our beautiful Nave?

How long until we can sing together and hear our choirs?

How long until we can open the doors to our ministries of food and welcome?

How long until we can share the peace, embrace each other, or share a cup of coffee?

How long, O Lord?

How long until we can hug our family members?

How long until all our neighbors can get back to work?

How long until quarantines are lifted at Care Centers and hospitals?

How long until we can safely eat out and travel?

How long until we can live in community?

How long, O Lord?

How long until there is racial justice?

How long until thoughtful conversation replaces shouting and name-calling?

How long until discrimination and hatred are replaced with love and respect?

How long until God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven?

How long, O Lord?

As we wait, we turn to you, O Lord.

In your mercy, turn to us and help us.

Give us eyes to see your presence even now.

Give us ears to hear your promises.

Use our hands, our voices, our compassion, to do your work.

Forgive us our sin.

Unite us in your Spirit.

Make us generous and grateful.

Let your favor be upon us, O Lord.

Prosper the work of our hands.

Let our lives praise your name.

Amen.



# Parish News

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## What is going on?

### Invitation to “Dialogues on Race”

Covid-19. Black Lives Matter. Travel bans. There is so much going on in our world, and it is difficult for me to process everything well, especially when I cannot worship with our Trinity community. Maybe you feel similarly.

The anti-racism movement is not new; some aspects that are emerging, however, may be unfamiliar to many of us. Learning about the bombing of Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Juneteenth, personal stories, and more give us a small glimpse into what has been omitted in many of our history books. And you may say to me, “But Deaconess Deborah, ALL lives matter.” And they do. BLM lifts up the systems that negatively affect our siblings who are Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC). It can be compared to the parable of the lost sheep. When Jesus went to help the one in danger, the 99 didn’t matter any less, but that one at that time needed more attention and care.

If you are like me and need a place to process and pray, 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.

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To sign up, please contact me at [dgraf@trinityreading.org](mailto: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!)

## **Vestry Notes**

Trinity's Vestry met via Zoom on June 8. After reviewing congregational health and vitality, the vestry engaged in a discussion regarding reopening public activities. It was decided to work in conjunction with the recommendations of the West Berks Mission District and NEPA Synod and to appoint a Task Force to review protocols, procedures, and timelines. It was determined that the July wedding of Katie Norton and Herb Stine could proceed as an outdoor service with a small, physically distanced guest list, with a fuller ceremony possibly next year.

It was decided to postpone the congregational meeting and to make interim appointments of those nominated to serve on Vestry, subject to ratification when the congregation next meets. Steve Welz and Hannah (Seiple) Long were appointed to new three-year terms, Darryl Jeffries was re-appointed to a second three-year term, and Reagan Rosenbaum was appointed to a second one-year term as Youth member.

Pastor reported on Backyard Worship, with plans to offer small Communion services in members' backyards as the pandemic continues. Vestry was supportive of this idea.



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## Pastoral Acts

Trinity has held graveside services for members who have gone to their everlasting rest:

Helen Roberts	Charles Evans Cemetery, May 14, 2020
Grace Detwiler	Augustus Cemetery (Trappe, PA), May 15, 2020
DeVere Lichtenwalner	Forest Hills Cemetery, May 19, 2020
Dorothea Fritz	Yocum's Cemetery, June 7, 2020
Warren Tobias	Hains Cemetery, June 20, 2020

## Vestry 2020-21

We thank these members of Trinity for serving on vestry and leading our congregation. Please hold them in prayer and offer thanksgiving for their service.

Steve Hofmann	Hannah Long	Reagan Rosenbaum
Darryl Jeffries	Jen Mazur	Jenn Smith
Amy Litvinov	Eric Rosenbaum	Steve Welz

Special thanks to outgoing Vestry members Sue Shellong and Nancy Everson.

## Cookies Needed!

Café Esperanza is the new pay-as-you-can eatery run through Hope Lutheran Church. Until the café opens, they welcome donations for their Meal Distribution Days (Tuesdays and Thursdays.) Cookies and dessert bars that can be packed in small bags are the easiest. And we can pack them

for you if you don't have the bags. Contact Deaconess Deborah for information.





## **Ways to Stay in Touch Remotely in Addition to Video Worship**

- Sunday**      9:30 AM: Zoom Coffee Hour (contact Dcs. Deborah for invitation)
- Tuesday**     Email prayer group (also sent later by US mail to those without email)
- Wednesday**   Musical reflections with Karen Eddinger (Facebook)



- Occasional**    Devotional with Pastor Alan (Facebook)  
                      Devotional with Dcs. Deborah (Facebook)  
                      Interactive Activities (Facebook)  
                      Other communications (email and mail)  
                      Virtual Youth and Family Activities
- Monthly**        Steeple Notes newsletter

Watch for other opportunities to share the life of Trinity in this time of isolation and, if you find that something enriches your spirit, share it with your friends and family.

# Broadcast Schedule July 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](http://www.trinityreading.org) or on our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch](http://www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch).



## Sundays in July

6:00 PM: First Friday: Religious Diversity-  
The Moravian Church

6:30 PM: Music from Trinity: Fall Festival  
of the Arts Youth Gala

7:00 PM: Trinity Worship Service

## Wednesdays in July

4:00 PM: Trinity Worship

5:00 PM: Music from Trinity: Fall Festival  
of the Arts Youth Gala

5:30 PM: First Friday: Religious Diversity-  
The Moravian Church



## **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](http://WWW.TRINITYREADING.ORG)**