



Trinity Steeple Notes

October 2020 News and Notes



October 17. We Love...

From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, **October 17**, we will offer workshops for youth and adults to learn about current issues and how to help their congregations be more welcoming to LGBTQIA+ individuals & families. The

event itself is donation only (recommended between \$0 and \$20). All donations will be split between Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, LGBT Center of Greater Reading, and Queer NEPA. [Click here](#) to register and read more about the presentations, learn about the presenters, and access tons of curated pre-event resources. Speak to Deaconess Deborah for more information.

Supporting Common Ground

Thank you for participating in Trinity's face mask tie dye event and Operation Poncho for Common Ground Recovery Ministry. Thanks to your help, we have shared many ponchos and masks with our neighbors.



Parish News

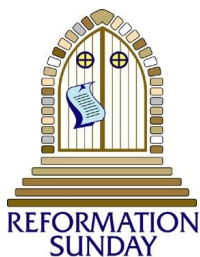
Courtyard Worship

In-person Courtyard Worship continues each Sunday morning through October at 8:30 and 10:30. With masks and physical distancing, members and guests gather for prayer, Scripture, meditation, and Holy Communion. Music is provided by the



carillon and occasional volunteers. In case of rain, we will worship on the portico. Registration is required. Contact Pastor Alan by phone (727-543-3531) or email (pastor@trinityreading.org) to register for one or more weeks.

When we are able to move indoors, we will continue to require masks and pre-registration to safeguard the health of our members, community, and staff. Watch your email and mailbox for announcements about November registrations and the possible beginning of indoor worship.



Reformation Worship Broadcast

For Reformation Sunday, October 27, we are pleased to offer our third service recorded exclusively from the homes of our members as a celebration of a key Reformation theme: the Priesthood of All Believers. Thanks to all who are preparing segments for this worship and to our Media Director, Matt Mellen, who brings it all together. The service will be broadcast and streamed at the normal times (see page 8). Invite your friends and family to join Trinity's family in worship that day.

Mission & Service

Vestry Notes, September 14, 2020

(These Vestry notes are a brief summary and are not intended to serve as official minutes.)

The meeting was called to order by president, Jen Mazur. August minutes were approved. The Vestry was apprised of the latest meeting of the Reopening Task Force and offered some suggestions for consideration. A Mutual Ministry Committee will be established for pastor, minister of music and deaconess according to the bylaws; Dcs. Deborah offered a resource to think about function and purpose; the three program staff members will come back with suggestions for their individual mutual ministers. Job description updates for Property Manager and Church Financial Administrator were presented by Personnel and were approved. A budget timeline has been established; initial budget requests should be submitted by staff and committees no later than October 9; requests should be based on the assumption that Trinity will be back in full operation for 2021. Pastor Alan gave an update on the apartment wall which is crumbling and impacting the parking lot; he has been in contact with the property owner and work has begun, but has now ceased; Pastor will follow up. Franki Aitken presented the July Treasurer's Report which was approved.

Trinity Finances

Through the first seven months, income remains slightly ahead of budget at \$471,477, while expenses are trending lower due to the shutdown, coming in at \$451,268. There has been a slight fall off of member giving in the summer which may or may not indicate a broader trend. We thank the members of Trinity for your continued generosity and faithfulness. We are blessed!



Parish News

Virtual Blessing of Animals

October 4, the Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, is traditionally associated with the blessing of animals. Trinity's Facebook page will provide an opportunity for you to submit a photo of your pet (or a favorite wild or working animal) so that we can thank God together for the gift of these creatures that mean so much to us and remember them in prayer. We will also include a photo montage of our animals at the end of our worship broadcast on October 11 as we join all creatures in praise of God!



All Saints Sunday

For our broadcast on **All Saints Sunday, November 1**, we will read the names of the members of Trinity who have died in the previous year and include a montage of photos. If you have other loved ones who have died since last All Saints Day (November, 2019) and would like them remembered in this service, you may submit their names (and, if you desire, a digital photo) to Rachel Gambone at

rgambone@trinityreading.org no later than October 13.

ChAOS (Catechism And Other Stuff) begins October 18, 6:30 p.m.

This fall seven youth from Trinity, Holy Spirit, and Christ Lutheran Churches will be learning about the 10 Commandments. Please keep Noah, Katie, Gabriela, Cheka, Sofia, Alex, and Tristin (and Pastor Katie, Pastor Rob and Deaconess Deborah) in your prayers as we meet virtually and navigate a new way of teaching and learning the catechism.

Mission & Service

CROP Walk 2020 - October 11

Meeting at Stonecliffe Park at 1:00 p.m.

Even in the middle of a pandemic, you can do something about hunger in our community and our world. Consider joining Team Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading by walking or supporting a walker.



An intergenerational service group from Trinity along with the Youth from ChAOS (Catechism And Other Stuff) will be walking together at 1:00 PM, meeting at Stonecliffe Park (1200 Monroe Street). We will wear masks and observe proper distancing, all while having fun being together. Contact Deaconess Deborah if you would like to walk with us (we have walker donor envelopes OR you can create your own donation page online.)

If you would like to give a donation, you can write a check to Trinity Lutheran Church (earmarked: CROP Walk), or you can give online supporting our confirmation kids at:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/readingpa/ChAOS?tab=MyPage>

In Memoriam: Dorothy Smith

Dorothy Smith entered the Church Triumphant on Saturday, September 19. We give thanks for her presence at Trinity and pray for God's comfort and healing for her family and friends.

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod



NEPA Synod Assembly October 2020

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 NE Pennsylvania Synod Assembly with the election of a new bishop will be conducted online. Trinity's voting members are Steve Hofmann, Pat Richter, Deaconess Deborah Graf, and Pastor Alan Wolkenhauer. The entire proceedings will be available online and visitors are welcome to view any or all of the Assembly.

Because the election of a bishop is by ecclesiastical ballot, and because lengthy online sessions are extremely fatiguing, the Assembly will be conducted on two successive weekends. The first ballot, on which the name of any pastor rostered in the ELCA can be entered, will happen on Friday evening, Oct. 16.

The second session will be held on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 18, at which time there will be a second ballot. The top seven candidates will be notified, vetted, and invited to come to The Lutheran Center the following Friday evening, Oct. 23, to answer questions prepared by the Election Team based on input from surveying the synod.

Then on Saturday morning, Oct. 24, a third ballot will be conducted. Saturday afternoon the three finalists will be introduced and offered an opportunity to address the Assembly. Following that will be a fourth ballot, and later a fifth ballot. (Note: a tie on the fourth or fifth ballot could result in a sixth ballot.)

Other business of the synod will be conducted throughout the sessions, including a presentation from our Churchwide representative (still to be determined), adoption of the spending plan and compensation guidelines, other elections, debate on various resolutions brought to the Assembly, and other traditional and/or required reports and presentations.

There will be an online worship service prior the beginning of the first session on Friday, Oct. 16; and the offering for World Hunger will be received through a “Donate” button on the synod website.

See the Assembly website for a detailed schedule and more information. <http://nepasynod.org/assembly-2020/>

West Berks Mission District Assembly

The West Berks Mission District Assembly met online on September 17. Pastor Rachel Dietz was elected as Dean. A budget was approved. Reports were received and anniversaries were recognized. Thanks to Pat Richter and Russ Diesinger who served as lay voting members from Trinity.

Do you have woodworking skills?

Advent Wreaths/Logs

We realize that the season of Advent will be very different this year, as worship will be subdued and many members will be unable to gather. Yet it is so important during this time of hardship, that we acknowledge and celebrate the season of hope and expectation which is Advent.

We hope to provide simple Advent centerpieces, featuring candles for the four weeks of the season, to all households who would appreciate one. We are seeking a woodworker who could work with the staff to design and create this devotional aid. Contact Pastor Alan if you could consider volunteering for this project. The cost of materials would be covered.



Broadcast Schedule October 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 October

6:00 PM: First Friday—

Religion, Gender, and Race: A Look at the
American Voter

6:30 PM: Music from Trinity—

The Snack Club

7:00 PM: Trinity Worship Service

Wednesdays in October

4:00 PM: Trinity Worship

5:00 PM: Music from Trinity—

The Snack Club

5:30 PM: First Friday—

Religion, Gender, and Race: A Look at
the American Voter



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

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