

# Trinity Steeple Notes

## September 2020 News and Notes

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### Courtyard Worship

Trinity is excited to welcome members back to Sunday worship through our Courtyard Worship services. Worship will be at 8:30 and 10:30 each Sunday morning in the shade of the steeple in Trinity's beautiful courtyard. (In case of inclement weather, we will move onto the portico.) Attendance will be limited to 20 people – socially distanced by households, and require pre-registration. Worshipers are required to wear masks. (Additional services will be added as needed.)



These services (lasting around 30 minutes) will be mostly contemplative in nature since we will not be singing or speaking corporately. We will begin with a carillon prelude, followed by Confession and Forgiveness, the Prayer of the Day and appointed Scripture, along with a brief meditation. Prayers of the Church will be offered in a bidding prayer format. The Peace will be shared without contact or speaking, followed by a brief Eucharistic liturgy, with distanced Communion for those who desire it. Following the blessing and dismissal, members are asked to return silently to their vehicles.

Trinity is now accepting reservations by phone or email for Sundays from through September. You may register for as many weeks as you'd like and you may indicate a time preference. All registrations need to be confirmed in order to maintain safe numbers during the pandemic.

**Register with Pastor Alan by phone (727-543-3531) or email**

**([pastor@trinityreading.org](mailto:pastor@trinityreading.org))**. Reservations are first come, first served.

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# Parish News

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**Please do not attend if you are not feeling well.** (The bathrooms will be available, but we request that you avoid using them if possible.)

Our current goal, established by the Reopening Task Force and affirmed by the Vestry, is to begin indoor distanced worship no earlier than November 1. Please be aware, that due the volatile nature of this virus and the possibility of surges, all plans are subject to reevaluation to protect the health of our members and community.

Please contact Pastor Alan with any questions or concerns, as well as with any prayer requests (public or private) for you or your loved ones.

## Trinity Finances

Thank you for you faithful giving to support Trinity during this time of crisis. Offerings were strong through the first six months of the year, but have been falling off over the summer. Please do what you can to enable Trinity to remain strong in the mission God has given us to share.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Winter is coming! The need for warm hats and scarves will continue, as well as the need for soft shawls and lap blankets. If you like to knit or crochet, please consider helping. We have an easy pattern for hats (thanks, Carolyn Holleran) and we have yarn to share.

You can contact Deaconess Deborah to arrange for yarn delivery and/or a pickup of completed projects. Ginny Biniek and Ann Harnish continue to lead our ministry, and you can share your ideas for projects and recipients with them.

# Mission & Service

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## **Hunger in the Time of COVID-19: Life for Today and Hope for Tomorrow**

**When: Thursday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m. Central time**

**Where: Zoom virtual event**

**REGISTER NOW by contacting Dcs. Deborah  
(Registration closes on September 22)**



**Rick Steves**, guidebook author and travel TV host; the **Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton**, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and the **Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee**, bishop of the ELCA Northwest Washington Synod, invite you to an online benefit — the first of its kind — for ELCA World Hunger. Our goal is to raise \$250,000 to confront hunger in the time of COVID-19.

We are in a historic moment, facing a once-in-a-century pandemic and a global change in hunger unlike anything we have seen in our lifetimes. Domestically and internationally, hunger is increasing at alarming rates. At this event, you will learn about the unique ways ELCA World Hunger is responding. Our hosts will also discuss the ongoing root causes of hunger and poverty addressed in Rick Steves' recent special *Hunger and Hope: Lessons from Ethiopia and Guatemala*. And you will hear from ELCA World Hunger partners on the front lines of the current hunger crisis, who will tell you firsthand how your gifts make a difference.

We are called by God to share hope in this time of challenge. Join us to face this global hunger crisis head-on and to continue moving toward a just world where all are fed.

# Parish News

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## God's Work. Our Hands.— Operation Poncho

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is Sunday, September 13, 2020.

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. We build community in order to serve and love our neighbor. One way to build community is to provide basic items to help others survive and stay healthy.



Our friends at Common Ground Recovery Community need waterproof ponchos in order to stay dry, as many do not have shelter. The ponchos are much needed and would be greatly appreciated. Visitors at Common Ground come to pick up a to-go meal and toiletries on Sunday afternoons. We will share the ponchos at that time.

Reusable ponchos are \$5 each and we hope to purchase 200. You may donate any amount to the Poncho Project through Trinity, either online or through the mail – just designate Poncho Project on your gift. Thank you for continuing to support Common Ground Recovery Community!

- Michael Yesenko, Common Ground Pastoral Intern



## Learning Ministries

Our committee met in August to discern the next best steps for Sunday School. Since we cannot meet in classrooms, we plan to find ways to help our children connect while being safe. Please keep us in prayer as we continue to figure out ways to minister with our children during this pandemic.

# Mission & Service

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## VIRTUAL CROP Hunger Walk

It is urgent that we find new ways to engage our community to continue raising funds for our CROP Hunger Walk as the current pandemic creates increased need for food and resources for our local agencies and around the world. We are

encouraging small groups or individuals to WALK for this important cause. Walk in your neighborhood! Walk around your church! Walk in your home! Walk on October 11<sup>th</sup> or any time before then. We strongly encourage you to register for our Reading-Berks Walk by going online to [www.crophungerwalk.org/readingpa](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/readingpa) and following the instructions. Encourage your sponsors to donate online as well. Please feel free to contact us if you need help!

As in years' past, 75% of the money raised at our Virtual Walk goes to support Church World Service's mission to feed hungry people around the world by helping them develop self-sustaining methods of growing crops and raising livestock. 25% of the money raised will go to Helping Harvest (formerly the Greater Berks Food Bank), which provides food locally for those in need. Share information about the Walk with your Facebook friends and share the link for them to donate online. Helping Harvest reports they are serving more families than ever during this pandemic. Your generous support is much needed and greatly appreciated!

If you have questions or need more information, please call Dawn at 610-223-2305 or go to [www.crophungerwalk.org/readingpa](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/readingpa) OR check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Reading-Berks-CROP-Hunger-Walk-332030921042472/>



# Parish News

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## Tiffany Window Restoration Progress

Due to Covid 19, there have been some delays in our historic Tiffany window restoration project, but we are still hoping for reinstallation this winter or early spring.

These photos have been provided by Associate Crafts and Willet Hauser Studios of Minnesota, which is doing the restoration. They indicate that the work is now over 50% completed. This project is being funded by a bequest from Brian Trupp.





# Broadcast Schedule September 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 September

6:00 PM: First Friday—  
Understanding Religious Diversity:  
Moravian Church  
6:30 PM: Music from Trinity—  
Hickory Cathedral  
7:00 PM: Trinity Worship Service

## Wednesdays in September

4:00 PM: Trinity Worship  
5:00 PM: Music from Trinity—  
Hickory Cathedral  
5:30 PM: First Friday—  
Understanding Religious Diversity:  
Moravian Church

## Event Cancellations

Due to the pandemic, we have cancelled I Can meetings through the end of the year, the Greater Reading Mental Health clothing distribution, and the Christmas craft fair.



## 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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