

# Trinity Steeple Notes

## June 2021 News and Notes

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### Restrictions Eased for Our Life Together

Thanks be to God!

Due to decreasing cases of Covid-19 in Berks County and thanks to the large share of adult members of Trinity who are now fully vaccinated, the Reopening Task Force has recommended that restrictions for live Sunday worship and certain other congregational activities be eased beginning in June. Please use your own judgment regarding your own health and safety and make use of Trinity broadcasts and social media if you are uncomfortable with in-person events. The pastor and deaconess are available for home visits and to answer any questions.

**Do not attend in-person events if you are not feeling well!**

### Sunday Worship:

- We will continue to block alternate pews and restrict balcony seating, but we will no longer require worshipers to sit only with members of their own households. Larger families may use blocked pews in order to sit together.
- Those who are vaccinated do not need to wear masks but may do so at their own discretion. Those who are not vaccinated are asked to wear masks inside the building. We will use the honor system, trusting members to safeguard the wellbeing of the community.
- Continued caution is encouraged to protect those who are vulnerable or who have not been vaccinated (e.g., young children).

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- We will sing two congregational hymns and add some sung liturgy, gradually increasing these activities as conditions allow.
- We will continue to have hand sanitizer available and will retain sanitizing procedures throughout the facility.
- The Peace will not be physically shared nor will offering plates be passed through the summer months.
- Communion distribution will return to its normal place in the liturgy and will be served continuously at the front of the altar rail, with members reminded to exercise caution for the sake of others. Those who prefer to receive Communion following worship may speak to the pastor for private administration of the Sacrament.
- Worship leaders may be unmasked except for the Eucharistic Prayer (prior to the communion elements being uncovered) and during distribution of Communion.
- Vocal or instrumental soloists / small ensembles who are fully vaccinated may provide live music from the balcony at the discretion of the Minister of Music. We tentatively plan for choirs of vaccinated individuals beginning in September.



## Other

- Camera operators, ushers, altar guild, and greeters will gradually be called back into service. Acolytes, lay assistants and lay lectors will not regularly be used until the Fall.
- Meetings, classes, and other activities of vaccinated or masked individuals may cautiously resume.
- The church office will be open 9:00-3:00 Monday-Thursday. It is best if you call before coming in.

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Thanks to Jen Mazur, Dr. Kristen Sonon, Dr. David Zobian, Megan Zobian, Karen Eddinger, Deaconess Deborah Graf, and Pastor Alan Wolkenhauer for their thoughtful guidance as members of Trinity's Reopening Task Force. Along with Trinity's support staff and Vestry, they have been diligent in their care for the wellbeing of our congregation during the pandemic.



## Anne Richards Committal

**Sunday, June 20**

We will remember Anne Richards and lay her remains in Trinity's columbarium on Sunday, June 20, following the regular 10:00 service. The family has requested a short and simple committal, to which the congregation is invited. Since the columbarium space is small, please mask and be prepared to overflow into the Hintz Room.

## Sunday Security

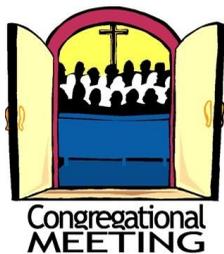
As Sunday attendance increases and the parking lot fills, we have resumed security coverage on Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:30. It's good to have Allen back with us to keep an eye on things and help members on their way into and out of church.

**Gentle Parking Reminder:** Our next door neighbors, the Society of Friends, are resuming their worship on Sundays at 10:15 AM. Please refrain from parking in their lot (surrounded by the stone wall).



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## **Congregation Meeting June 6**

### **Attend in person or online via Zoom meeting**

The Congregational Meeting of Trinity will be held at 10:45 AM on Sunday, June 6. Members may participate by attending the meeting live in the Nave following in-person worship or by joining the meeting virtually via a Zoom link. If you wish to attend by Zoom, please call Deaconess Deborah at (610) 374-4861 ext. 26 or email [dgraf@trinityreading.org](mailto:dgraf@trinityreading.org) and a computer or phone link will be sent to you.

This meeting will receive annual reports for the previous year, ratify Vestry appointments (made when there was no meeting in 2020), and elect new Vestry members for 2021. Printed copies of the agenda and all submitted reports will be available the week prior to the meeting. The collected reports will also be emailed to members. All confirmed members are voting members.

## **Vestry May 10 Meeting Notes**

*(this brief summary does not constitute official Vestry minutes)*

Trinity's Vestry met Monday, May 10 to receive reports, review financials and prepare for the June 6 congregational meeting. It was decided to make a gift of \$300 to departing Common Ground intern Michael Yesenko, thanking him for his partnership over the past year. The Reopening Task Force continues to meet and to update recommendations based on current trends. The Financial Report indicates that, while member offerings are slightly below the same date last year, we are ahead of budget for 2021 due to cost saving measures and a reduced budget.

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## **Congratulations to our graduates!**

**Mark Hofmann** will be graduating from Governor Mifflin High School. He will be attending Thomas Jefferson University in the fall 2021 in the Health Sciences program.

**Owen Redmond** will be graduating from Parkland High School. He will attend Lehigh Carbon Community College to study Computer Science.

**Joey Speece** will be graduating from Wilson High School. He will enter the Transitions Program at Wilson in the fall.

**Kathrine Graf** earned a Master of Arts Conservation of Cultural Heritage at Lincoln University, Lincoln England. She is currently self-employed and for the next 2 years will be working on conserving the Medieval Bishops' Palace next to the Cathedral in Lincoln, England.



**Lindsay McCanney** earned her Juris Doctor degree at the Chicago-Kent College of Law. She will be working at Ernst & Young as a tax attorney in Chicago.

**Julia Crozier-Christy** earned her Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing degree from Adelphi University. Her current plans include continuing to write and have her work published.

(If you have any graduation announcements/information that you would like included in a future Steeple Notes, please contact Deaconess Deborah at [dgraf@trinityreading.org](mailto:dgraf@trinityreading.org).)

# Parish News

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## Watch the Synod Assembly

The NE Pennsylvania Synod Assembly is June 4 and 5 and will be conducted virtually. Thanks to Steve Hofmann and Jen Mazur, who will be attending along with Deaconess Deborah and Pastor Alan. You may watch the sessions, including the installation of Bishop deForest, via YouTube livestream:

Worship/Plenary 1: <https://youtu.be/9NVmVOjDrMI>

Plenary 2: <https://youtu.be/rnOrfx4Lhts>

Plenary 3: <https://youtu.be/3DtCA58kaN0>

Plenary 4: <https://youtu.be/8beL3rHe5Ik>

Bishop Christopher deForest's Installation: <https://youtu.be/MoI8iouKYZ8>

## Thank You, Trinity Family

I want to express my gratitude to my Trinity family for the prayers, cards, notes, gifts, and words of support and kindness extended to me after my mother's death. The continued prayers and support the past years during her struggle with Alzheimer's Disease was also such a blessing. The foundation of love around my family, from this congregation, has been overwhelming. Thank you all.

—Donna Osborne

# Parish News

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## June Faith Formation Saturday

"Lord, Teach Us to Pray"

Saturday, June 12th at 9 a.m.—Register online by June 9

*Faith  
Formation  
Saturdays*

All are welcome to attend - a Zoom link will be provided two days before the event. Marlene Werkheiser, Pastoral Care Provider at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fountain Hill, and long-time member of the Faith Formation Resource Ministry Team, will lead our conversation on Prayer. Registration is \$5 and must be completed by Wednesday, June 9th. Click here to register or for more details about the session topic:

<http://www.cvent.com/events/faith-formation-saturdays-june-2021/event-summary-77352ad659184c8ba1f78ae9d750a8d5.aspx>

## Thank You Note

A sincere thanks to my Trinity family for your prayers, cards, phone calls and contributions to Trinity in memory of my husband, Donald. A special thanks to Pastor Alan, Deaconess Deborah, and Karen Eddinger for their visits which were a great help to me at this time. My family and I appreciate your kindness and concern.

—Peggy Bobb

# Broadcast Schedule

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). Worship videos are available online as of 7:00 AM on Sundays.



## Sundays

6:00 PM - First Friday

6:30 PM - Music from Trinity:

May 30: Duo Terlano, featuring husband-and-wife Johannes Dietrich, violin and Marie-Aline Cadieux, cello

June 6 and 20: New programs premier

7:00 PM: Trinity Worship Service

## Wednesdays

4:00 PM: Trinity Worship

5:00 PM: Music from Trinity

New programs per Sunday premier schedule

5:30 PM: First Friday



*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.*

## **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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