

Trinity Steeple Notes

May 2021 News and Notes



Welcome Back to Indoor Worship with Holy Communion

Thanks to the growing availability of the Covid-19 vaccine and the protection it provides, Trinity has resumed spoken worship in the Nave each Sunday at 10:00 AM. Pre-registration is not required.

We will continue to broadcast pre-recorded services each week for those who cannot attend live services. For your safety and that of others, please observe the following:

- It is not required but is strongly advised that you be fully vaccinated before attending live worship (or any public event).
- Do not attend if you are not feeling well.
- Masks and social distancing are required.
- Conversations should take place outside in the Courtyard.
- Please call the church office if you develop symptoms or test positive after attending worship so that others can be notified to take precautions.

Pentecost Sunday May 23 – Wear Red!

We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, May 23. Martin Luther says that the Spirit “calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith.” It is the Holy Spirit which has been holding us together and strengthening us through these painful months of pandemic. It is our joy to give thanks this day for the faith and love that have sustained us through the Spirit of God. Traditionally, we wear red on Pentecost, so whether you worship in person in the Nave, or watch the service at another time, dress up for the occasion and join the celebration!



Parish News

In Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Michael Yesenko

Trinity has been blessed this year by the gifts and passion of Common Ground Intern, Michael Yesenko. In an extremely challenging time, he has worked with Common Ground Recovery Ministry at Trinity and at Atonement. In addition to supporting a weekly hot meal for Trinity's group, Michael has developed initiatives to provide basic needs for those we serve. His internship project has been a Recovery Worship lectionary which provides a wide range of worship ideas for other Recovery ministries. Michael's time with us concludes mid-May. We will miss his gentle spirit and love for God's people and we pray for God's continued blessing and guidance for this faithful servant of Christ. If you would like to contribute to a parting gift, please send it, marked "Michael Gift" no later than May 8 to: Common Ground Recovery Community, c/o Pr. Tom Scornavacchi, 5 Wyomissing Blvd. Wyomissing, PA 19610 .

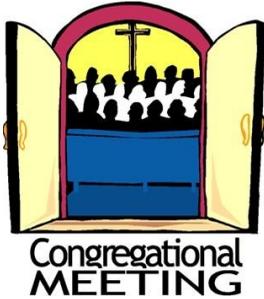


A note from Michael:

Hi! I am Michael Yesenko and I have served as the Intern for Common Ground Recovery Community. It has been a joy to serve in two recovery communities: in Reading and in Wyomissing. On Sunday afternoons I lead our team in Reading. We are in service with individuals and families, often living with food and housing insecurities. I am

amazed at the response we got when I created an Amazon Wish List. I lost count of the number of sleeping bags, tents, and toiletries that came pouring in. This has been life-giving to our friends. COVID changed the way our community meets in Wyomissing. Without skipping a beat, we found new ways to use technology to bring hope and healing to our community. My time at Common Ground has been a powerful learning experience that will inform my future ministry.

Parish News



Congregation Meeting June 6

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 email Deaconess Deborah at 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. All confirmed members are voting members.

Trinity Partners in Vaccine Clinic

Our congregation has been privileged to participate in the Vaccination Clinic sponsored by the Hispanic Center by providing our parking lot for drive-through vaccines for those who cannot wait in line or enter the building. Thanks to Trinity member, Megan Zobian, for her work at the clinic and for arranging this partnership.



Parish News

Vestry Meeting Notes, April 12, 2021

These notes are informal and do not constitute official minutes.

Trinity's Vestry met April 12 via Zoom. Following opening devotions, minutes of the March meeting were approved.

There was discussion of Holy Week and Easter services. Easter worship was offered as a beautiful pre-recorded broadcast, and included a virtual choir anthem and special brass numbers. Thanks was expressed to the staff for their efforts and creativity, not only on Easter, but throughout the pandemic. Easter was also celebrated live in the Courtyard with Holy Communion, with nearly 50 in attendance. The service and the opportunity to be together on Easter was very much appreciated. Indoor worship began April 11 and Vestry discussed some refinements for the safety and comfort of worshippers. 35 people attended the service.

In other new business, Steve Hofmann and Jen Mazur agreed to serve as voting members to the virtual Synod Assembly on June 4 and 5. The Annual Congregation Meeting was set for Sunday, June 6 at 10:45 and will include both a live and virtual option for members to participate. Discussion was held on the slate of nominees for Vestry and the open Treasurer position.

The HVAC audit project is continuing to move forward with Sitemiq, but there is nothing new to report at this time. Staff reports were received and the Treasurer's Report was presented. Giving is slightly ahead of budget thanks to the faithfulness of Trinity's members, including to some who have made annual contributions early in the year. Expenses are in line with the budget.

Pentecost Geraniums and World Hunger Gifts 2021



The church will be decorated with red geraniums for the Festival of Pentecost on Sunday, May 23, 2021. The geraniums will beautify the gardens of the church all summer. If you would like to honor or memorialize someone with flowers on Pentecost, please complete this form and return it to the church office: Trinity Lutheran Church, 527 Washington Street, Reading, PA 19601. Attention: Flowers. All dedications received by May 9 will be listed in the Pentecost Sunday bulletin insert.

I wish to offer _____ flowers (\$10 each) and/or \$_____ to World Hunger.

In honor of

In loving memory of

Given by

Parish News

Trouble the Water: Racial Justice & Reconciliation

A virtual conference on Saturday, May 22, from 9 AM—3 PM

Presented by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA



Registration is now open for the Trouble the Water: Racial Justice & Reconciliation event on Saturday, May 22. This is a completely virtual conference with our keynote speaker, the Rev. Cecee Mills, and featured speakers the Rev. Marsha Williams, Dr. Helen Davis, the Rev. Melissa Pohlman, and as both a workshop leader and preacher for

the event we have the Rev. James Thomas. This is a day of worship and workshops to better grow in our understanding of racial justice and reconciliation that is open to all people: Pastors, Deacons, staff, lay members, non-church people, etc.

Workshop topics include: a biblical view against racism, white privilege, how congregations can support communities during social unrest, & what implicit bias is all about. Register from the synod's website (nepasynod.org). Please join us for this important and timely event. A suggested donation for the event is \$25 per person.

Hostas Requested for

Trinity's Garden

Do you have an extra hosta plant in your garden or one that can be divided? The Trinity Garden club welcomes your gift of a hosta. They will be planted in the courtyard garden. If you have any questions call Annie Harlin at (610) 926-5488.



Parish News

Trinity Kids, Youth and Families – Picnic and Play Day

Sunday, May 2 at Grings Mill Recreation Area

(2083 Tulpehocken Rd, Reading, PA 19610) 11:30 a.m.

A time to reconnect with Trinity Friends. Bring a blanket, chairs, lunch, outdoor games... whatever you need for a picnic. We will observe safe distancing outdoors. After lunch there will be opportunities to take a walk, or ride bikes, or play washers or other lawn games.

Questions? Contact Jen Mazur, Meg Zobian or Deaconess Deborah

Raindate: Sunday, May 16 @ same time, same place

Education Assistance Applications Due May 15

Trinity is able to offer financial assistance to student members, some in the form of specific scholarships, but most through the offer of no-interest student loans. Applications are available to download from the church website at www.trinityreading.org. Click on 'Ministries' and then on 'Educational Assistance.' No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.



Interviews with Educational Assistance committee will be scheduled for early to mid June. After vestry consideration of the recommendations, all students will be notified. Those persons who are offered loans will then receive a repayment document to complete. Once that paperwork and all other requirements are met, a check will be disbursed by mid-August.

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 or on our YouTube channel at 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:

April 25 and May 2: Jill Haley, oboe/
English horn and her daughter, Dana
Cullen, piano

May 9 and 16: vocalist Maria Damore and
Lars Potteiger, piano

7:00 PM: Trinity Worship Service

Wednesdays

4:00 PM: Trinity Worship

5:00 PM: Music from Trinity:

April 28 and May 5: Jill Haley, oboe/
English horn and her daughter, Dana
Cullen, piano

May 12 and 19: vocalist Maria Damore
and Lars Potteiger, piano

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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