

TRINITY *Echo*

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Pastor's Column
Jerome Evavold
"Staying Connected"

As the Apostle Paul said in Romans 8:38-39, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

We might add to that - neither the coronavirus, nor racism, nor white privilege, can separate anyone from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

At this time, we still feel the separation because we can't meet in the church for worship right now. We are doing our best to stay together through the internet and mail and phone calls.

In the book of Exodus, God's people were told to build a tabernacle for worship to take with them out into the wilderness. The tabernacle was like a tent that could be carried with. It would be a dwelling place for the presence of God. Even back then, a gathering place was important.

When my daughter, Kristi was on a study abroad program through Augsburg College in Cuernavaca, Mexico, Mary and I went to visit her. We were able to see and walk into a 500-year-old cathedral built during the time of Cortez. It was still there and there were worshippers kneeling in prayer as we entered the building. The experience was overwhelming to sense the presence of God there.

Worship sites are and always will be important. Even though God is everywhere, there is something special about entering a sanctuary and just feeling the presence of God.

In the meantime, while we can't meet in the church, God has promised to be with us wherever we are and maybe this time away causes us to stop and think about how important God's presence is in our everyday lives.

A virus can come and turn our lives upside down. At the same time ongoing racism has surfaced around the world. With the help of God, we pray we can put an end to both of them.

Pastor Evavold

Worship

Trinity Worship Each Week on Facebook Live and Zoom

Facebook Live: The sermon is given on our Facebook page every Sunday at 8am. “Worship at Home” goes live at 10am. You can watch these Live as they happen or go on the Facebook page at anytime to listen to the sermon and take part in the worship. We encourage you to share comments, welcoming one another to worship, sharing prayer requests, encouraging one another in faith.

Zoom Worship: Between 20 and 40 households join us on Zoom for Worship each Sunday at 11am. When you attend Zoom worship you can see the faces of others in our community. You can greet one another, participate in the prayers together, hear community members read scripture and watch the sermon. We would love to see your face on Zoom. You can join Zoom from a computer, ipad, or smart phone. You can also call into Zoom from a home phone. While you will not be able to see people on Zoom from your home phone you will be able to listen to the whole service as it happens as well as speak to people from your phone. If you are unsure about how to get onto Zoom, please reach out to Shivon or a member of the staff. We would love to help you find a way to join us.

Volunteer Opportunity: Worship Support:

We are seeking volunteers to help with the below Worship leaders. Please email Shivon if you are interested in serving in any of these ways:

Reader on Zoom: You are sent the scripture readings for the week and you read them live at 11am on Zoom.

Recorded Reader for Facebook: You record yourself reading the scripture readings for the week, using your smart device. You then text or email Shivon or Facebook share the readings and they are posted to the Trinity page for everyone to listen to.

Greeter on Facebook Live: Many people say hello in the comments during the Facebook Live. We would like to have a scheduled greeter each week to watch for these comments and respond welcoming them to the worship space. This would require you to be live on Facebook at 10am to respond as people share. Greeters could also check back later in the day to follow up with comments posted after the Live time.

Tech Link Volunteer on Facebook Live: Mallory Throne has been doing a tremendous job of serving in this capacity. Mallory copies and pastes the liturgy and links from the bulletin into the comments area of the Facebook Live throughout the “Worship at Home” time. We are in need of a few more volunteers willing to serve in this capacity when Mallory is unavailable.

Co-host/Greeter on Zoom: These volunteers would be made co-hosts on our Zoom platform. On Sunday mornings they would watch for people entering worship, click to allow them to enter and greet them as they come in, welcoming them to worship either out loud or in the chat box. Greeters would watch the “doors” throughout the worship service, allowing those in as they arrive and muting them upon entry.

Power Point Worship: It is nice to have a Power Point each week to guide us through the liturgy of the worship service. A power point can allow for larger font and include images that engage worship participants. Volunteers would take the bulletin and cut and paste the liturgy into a Power Point, creating slides for the different sections of worship. They can then insert color, format and images. You must have Power Point on your computer and be willing to attend Zoom Worship to run the power point the week you create it.

Worship

Lay Leader on Zoom:

In February we trained people from the community to serve as Lay Leaders, reading the liturgy and guiding participants through the worship service. We are now hoping to have Lay Leaders on Zoom.

Zoom Coffee Hour Host:

These volunteers would be made co-hosts on Zoom. They would enter the Zoom Coffee Hour space immediately following worship and click to allow people into the space as they enter Zoom. Hosts would then greet participants and make sure everyone is engaged in conversation. They would stay in the space until the last participant leaves, closing the Zoom room at the end of the fellowship time.

Prayer Requests:

Do you have prayer requests you would like shared with the community? Please email or text Shivon your prayer requests and they will be included in the email sent to congregation members with the Sunday bulletin and sermon. Prayer requests will be shared in prayers on Facebook Live and in the Zoom Worship.

Worship Update:

The Trinity building will remain closed until September 1 at the earliest. All staff continues to work at home. We know you long to be together. We know this a frustrating time. Please know that our desire is to be with you in person again as well. However, in caring for the well-being of all and in recognizing that church buildings and community spaces contain a unique challenge to preventing the spread of Covid, we wait patiently. We wait considering the best stewardship of resources and the best practices of care. We trust that God and the church community as the living Body of Christ can work beyond the building. Many of Paul's letters in the New Testament speak of the longing to be together and yet the continued encouragement in Christ that exceeds proximity and physical gathering. We ask you to be patient with us, to continue to support one another, to believe that God is at work in new ways.

A few notes:

The Outdoor Worship at Lester Park has been postponed until Summer of 2021. On Sunday, July 12 we encourage you to take your emailed worship service, your Facebook Live feed or your Zoom worship outside. Sit on your deck, park a chair in your yard, join us virtually for outdoor worship.

Silver Sunday is still scheduled for August. While it will not be in the building, it will celebrate the lives of those over 80. People in this age group will receive a special mailing. We will also be looking for volunteers to make special phone calls to these members on that Sunday in August. Please let us know if you would like to be part of this phone tree.

Living Lutheran

Living Lutheran Subscription

We are part of an international community of ELCA Lutherans. At our last Zoom Council meeting, we voted to gift subscriptions of "Living Lutheran" magazine to all congregation members. You will receive your first issue in August. It is our hope that this resource will encourage you and give you an opportunity to see God at work globally through the ELCA. Not only will you be able to read articles, pray the prayers, and take part in the devotions and learning independently, but we will also be using the resource as a launching point for forums and discussions. Watch your mailbox.

Updates and Opportunities

New Website:

Trinity is about to launch our new website. This upgrade makes a website a secure site, enabling us to do more ministry online. Community members will be able to link to our worship opportunities, connect with resources and give online. Check out www.tlcduluth.org It should go live in July.

Phone Messaging System

Don't forget, you can call the church phone line 218-724-9369 to receive weekly announcements and devotions. Press 2 for announcements and 3 to hear part of the sermon from Sunday.

Volunteer Opportunity: Intergenerational Mail Buddies

It is very exciting to receive mail. Getting a letter reminds us that we are not alone and gives us a boost to brighten our day. We are an intergenerational community. At this time we are unable to gather with those in different age groups. Let's continue to build our intergenerational relationships. If you would be willing to send mail to a younger or older member of the congregation, please email Shivon. She will connect you with an intergenerational buddy that you can send mail to, encouraging them and brightening their day. This is a great way to concretely impact someone's day.

Luther Crest Camp (Opportunities for all ages)

The Bold Transformational Faith program (BTF) was implemented in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The BTF will have a variety of components. All of BTF will be available through the Luther Crest website, Zoom, and Remind. First of all, there will be content that is accessible to all people (registered and not). This will be things like daily worship, camp activities, and more. Secondly, for registered participants, there will be weekly interactions with our summer ministry team. You will register for one day of the week throughout the month of July. At 10am you will gather for Community Unity (a group community building activity) and at 1pm you will gather again with the same group for Bible Dive (Bible study). These groups will be your "cabin" groups. Weekly itineraries will be sent detailing times of activities, dress up days, games, special events, and any other pertinent information for campers. There will also be family camp Bible studies provided on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. Tuesday and Thursday will be for all families. Wednesday for families with campers in 4th grade and younger.

Our theme for the summer is Go! Make Disciples! We will study Matthew 28:19-20 which says, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." We are committed to leaning into this great commission given by Jesus to his disciples even if "going" looks a little different right now.

Check out <https://www.luthercrest.org/register-for-bold-transformational-faith.html> for more information or to register. Trinity already has youth registered for the Tuesday and Thursday camp days.

Vacation Bible School

ALL ABOARD! Trinity is bringing "Rocky Railway" Vacation Bible School to homes.

If you register a "VBS conductor" will deliver your "Stay On Track" Resource Pack in July. It will include the music CD, crafts, games and science projects for the week. You will receive a schedule and be invited to tune in each day to Facebook Live and/or join us on Zoom the week of July 27-31. Kids will be able to interact with leaders and other kids online in various stations throughout the morning. For example, learn about your own science project from your kit as your leader teaches, play a round of Train Bingo using your provided cards, hear the Bible story and be part of acting it out, create your craft and show your teen leader. You will have the freedom to choose which times and stations work best for your kids. Facebook posts will remain up for you to use at your family's convenience if you are unable to join the Live feeds and Zooms.

The suggested donation is \$20 to be mailed directly to Trinity (1108 E. 8th St. 55805) marked VBS in the memo. We have ordered a limited number of resource kits so please register early to guarantee we can get you supplies. Hope you can join us for this new adventure in VBS. *Choo-choo* - "Jesus' power pulls us through!"

Want to volunteer to help with this year?

*We are seeking "Train Conductors." These volunteers will pick up and deliver the "Stay on Track" resource packs to homes. You will be assigned a day and time to drive to people's houses and drop off the kits in their front yards. You will be asked to wear a conductor hat and blow your train whistle when you arrive.

*We are looking for adults who would be willing to be storytellers on Zoom and Facebook live. We would also like to have adults willing to meet kids on Zoom and lead them through the craft for the day. We also need game leaders: be the caller for a round of train bingo, host a round of "Choo-choo that is you" and more. If you are interested, please let Shivon know and she will send you the link to the adult leader Zoom meetings scheduled for the week of July 20.

Teen Leaders – We still need you. Teens will participate online with the groups, leading by example. They will receive kits with supplies. We will be providing special opportunities for them to connect with and encourage their small group of kids.

Sunday School

Sunday School Summer Fun Adventure Kits for Preschool through Elementary Youth

While we do not typically have Sunday School throughout the summer months, we want to keep kids engaged since they aren't entering the building for worship. Beginning Sunday, July 12 kids will be invited to join us for Summer Sundays "Fun in the Sun". A kit will be dropped off at Sunday School family's doors prior to July 12. Each Sunday kids will be invited to take one of the items from the kit and watch the Facebook message that will be posted at 9am. The Facebook post will lead kids through a message that engages the object for the day. Throughout the month there will a few short "Zoom Get Together" times where kids can gather with their Sunday School friends and share their highs and lows, do a brief activity with one of the kit items and be held in prayer. The first Zoom Get Together is scheduled for July 12 at 1pm. Kits will automatically be delivered to the homes of children who were active in Sunday School this 2020 year. If your family was not able to join us for onsite Sunday School this past year but would like to receive a kit, please email shivon.miller@gmail.com.

Groups and Programming

Volunteer Opportunity:

We are seeking a few volunteers that would be willing to pick up and drop off “Fun in the Son” kits to Sunday School homes. Kits can be dropped off at your convenience the week of July 6.

Middle School Youth Nights

On July 10 and 24, Middle School Youth are invited to jump onto Zoom from 7:00-8:00pm for Devotions and Games Nights.

High School Givin’ Group

High School Youth are invited to join in Wednesday Nights “Givin’ Group” July 8 and July 29 from 7:00-8:00pm during the month of July. There are lots of ways for us to be “Givin’” to our community and world at this time. These evenings will be a time to check in with one another and support outreach opportunities in our community. Those who received “Givin’” funds last year will be encouraged to use their funds to engage the group in outreach opportunities.

Bingo Nights – When it rains, we Bingo

We had a terrific turn out on our first Zoom Community Bingo Night. We enjoyed a fun evening together, seeing faces and sharing in fellowship. Watch the weather. When it rains in July we will play again. Dust off your bingo cards, assemble your markers and watch for the Zoom link. If you did not take part in the first Bingo night but would like to receive Bingo cards to join in upcoming evenings, please email Shivon and she will get your cards in the mail.

Mask Makers:

Many community members are still busy at work making masks. If you would like to join these efforts or support these efforts financially, please email Shivon so she can connect you to the group.

Prayer Practice:

Imagine how our days would change if we centered our lives in prayer. We continue to encourage you to set your alarm for 5:17pm each day to pause and be in prayer. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 reads “pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Consider adding the below prayer to your daily practice:

*Lord God,
you have called your servants
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us
and your love supporting us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Financial Report

Financial Giving Update from Kathy Gilbertson

We are pleased to let you know that the last two months, our member giving is slightly ahead of last year. Thank you all for your continued gifts that are being mailed in, texting to give, and all of the automatic gifts. We hope to soon have on-line giving through our Web page up available also.

Good news! The parsonage has been rented and the Preschool has opened with strict guidelines from the State. As of July 1st, we will add these rents to our monthly giving. This will surely help cut into our expected end of year deficit, and keep up with our monthly bills.

Looking for a way to give to support Trinity ministry? We have launched our Text to Give program. Simply text the amount you'd like to give to 833-610-0635. Kathy will also continue to check the mail and make deposits weekly. Thank you for your generous giving that enables continued ministries.

TRANSITION UPDATE:

June started Pastor Jerome's move to part-time. Jerome now preaches twice a month. Shivon preaches the remaining Sundays. Jerome continues to be the contact for funerals, weddings and visitation. Shivon is currently taking three classes through Wartburg Theological Seminary. All classes are online at this time due to Covid. Shivon will have 7 remaining classes to follow as well as 400 hours of CPE and an internship prior to completing her certificate for ordination and being rostered for ordained ministry through the ELCA.

Announcements

BIRTHS

Enzo Hardin was born May 20, 2020. His parents are Ryan and Shannon Hardin. His siblings are: Reid, Stella and Nico.

Lorens Milton Bonnema was born June 2, 2020. His parents are Matthew Bonnema and Gwyneth Perry. His grandparents are Lyle and Brenda Bonnema.

Tatum Kathleen Myers was born May 13, 2020. Her parents are Paul and Jenny Myers. Her grandmother is Kathy Myers.



DEATHS

Toni (Erickson) Barrett passed away March 15, 2020. She is survived by her mother Dorlene Kenney and her sister Tammy Hanzlik and brothers Tom Erickson Jr. and Todd Erickson. A graveside service was held on June 19th at Sunrise Cemetery.

Donna Shepherd passed away May 20, 2020 at Mahtomedi, MN. Her funeral was held June 25, 2020 at Calvary Cemetery.



Witness Beyond

Witness Beyond Anti-Racism Resources:

“Our world is one where racial and ethnic lines are drawn and enforced. Our world is one where hostility festers along those dividing lines, often bursting out in violence. Our world is one where power and prejudice combine in bitter oppression.

But God has not gathered the Church as yet one more example of brokenness. The Church exists to proclaim Jesus the Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection mean freedom for the world. The Church also exists to teach the law of God, announcing that the God who justifies expects all people to do justice.

So, the Church must cry out for justice, and thereby resist the cynicism fueled by visions that failed and dreams that died. The Church must insist on justice, and thereby assure participation of all people.” – Excerpt from the ELCA Social Statement

The Witness Beyond Team, Trinity Staff and the ELCA urge you to engage the below Anti-Racism Resources:

Read the rest of the ELCA Social Statement on “Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture”

<https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/RaceSS.pdf?ga=2.37930464.252127591.1592749858-471852466.1582655862>

Join the ELCA “Together Here, NE Minnesota Synod, ELCA - FB Group”

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1991816557583036/>

Watch “I Can’t Breathe”: A CJM Memorial Documentary

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=933637283781889&ref=watch_permalink

Watch “Just Mercy”: This movie is streaming free on many platforms including Netflix, GooglePlay, iTunes, and Amazon.

Property

After 10 months being empty, a brutal, snowy winter, well over 50 viewings, and the completion of several projects inside and outside the house (replacing the deck boards on the backdoor deck to keep it safe, priming and painting three walls in the basement, replacing a panel in the kitchen, sweeping out the garage, we were finally successful in renting out the Parsonage again. There is a very nice family who has signed the one-year lease. They will be starting to move things in on June 27th, and their lease officially begins on July 1st.

The Trinity roof has been repaired. The cost to Trinity was about \$3400 to get it all fixed up. There were a few reasons why the roof leaked. One is that there was no frost barrier over a few parts of it, and also the original "horizontal" roof sections, where the original roofing was actually soldered tin, had begun to fail (It's given us about 100 years of service so I don't think it owes us anything). And also the insulation up in the Church 'attic' apparently wasn't thick enough in a few spots to prevent the snow from melting and turning to ice in the spring. Now that the roof has been repaired, we can begin the interior work once the Covid issues clear up to allow contractors access to the building.

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Property

We had our annual heating boiler inspection by the State inspector. We passed the inspection with flying colors!

With a minimum of people in the church on a regular basis, it appeared that there were some unwanted little guests in and around the church. We have addressed the issue, and believe that all the guests are no longer in or around the church building.

The front chain fence was repaired in a few places. The repairs were needed due to the fence's age.

The wind this Spring blew down a small section of the red fence behind the Parsonage along the alley. The section was stood back up and repaired.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Skadsberg
Property Chair

Birthdays

<u>July Birthdays</u>	<u>July</u>
Jan Culliton	1
Thomas Goar	1
Bradley Lewis	1
Cameron Pietrusa	1
Annelise Salmela	1
Ann Clark	2
Brittany Oestreich	2
Michael Kregness	5
Diane Hartley	6
Kenneth Sunnarborg	6
Ily Anderson	7
Adam Skadsberg	8
Edysen Tomaich	11
Jeffrey Hanson	14
Luca Oestreich	14
Stella Rae Hardin	18
Kim Overlie	22
Doris Thorsen	23
Gene Keyser	25
Lianna Bushnell	25
Nancy DeRosier	28
Carol Pearson	30
Quinn Anding	31
Robert Pietrusa	31
Sarma Stumbris	31



On-Line Readers-July

July 5—Jody Berquist
July 12—Jan Culliton
July 19—Heidi Johnson
July 26—Annelise Salmela

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