

The logo for the newsletter, featuring the word "spirit" in a large, white, lowercase, cursive font, with "NEWSLETTER" in a smaller, white, uppercase, sans-serif font below it. The background is a dark blue gradient with a faint, stylized starburst or compass rose pattern.

The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church
“Set Free to Serve One Another”
July 2020

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Office Hours (remotely)

Worship (resuming July 11 & 12):
Saturdays 5PM (contemporary)
Sundays 11AM (traditional)

Ministers.....All People
Pastor.....Brad Ross
Administrative Assistant.....Jan Piskac
Organist.....Edith Schatt
Council President.....Dale Kirk
Council Vice-President.....Bonnie Piskac
Council Secretary.....Bill Weidman
Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

As you may have already read in e-mails previously sent out, or will read so below, we are hoping to re-gather for our first in-person public worship in almost four months(!) on the weekend of July 11 and 12. But, we might have to prepare ourselves for a bit of awkwardness: Communion elements and worship bulletins will be placed beside our seats before the service, chairs will be placed so many feet apart and we won't sing together (that might get Bach, Luther, among others to roll in their graves). Let's be honest, it may not seem like worship at all for some of us.

It reminds me of an image that is often brought up to think about worship: that it's almost like a play (or a musical, when we could, actually, sing safely indoors). If we were to consider such a metaphor, we would envision us as the actors on stage, performing this scripted-out pre-planned production with some dialoguing, monologuing, story-telling, etc., all while God sits in the audience (or maybe we'd go along with this more if we say God's up in the heavenly-level balcony seats). And with our Lutheran liturgical background in worship, we're almost convinced worship has to be done in a certain way. Otherwise, that God audience member, will turn into an intense theater critic to rival the beloved Siskel and Ebert, giving us two thumbs way, way down into the deathly abyss.

Now, the standard comeback to this image is that God is, actually, the divine actor on stage with us as the audience, as we witness God's stories brought to life in readings from Scripture, witness God's in-flesh mercy through Communion, witness God's empowerment in Baptism, witness God's grace from the engaging Confession & Forgiveness, and on and on. But is it possible that God encourages us to get on the stage right along with the Divine playwright/actor/producer? That God envisions we have a role to play on the world's stage. And better yet, no matter how many lines we mess up, no matter how many times we forget to move the divine prop of compassion and mercy



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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



stage-left, no matter how much the whole worship production may feel it collapses even below the orchestra pit level: God is never going to leave the stage. God is never going to leave us! God is never going to stop appreciating seeing us doing our part. Worship isn't so much about us speaking precisely or standing up perfectly; it's about recognizing the One who setup the world stage to begin with, who gave us all we need to do our parts well, who gave us some rather great children of God to work with, too.

So, no matter how worship appears the next few weeks, months, who knows how long...rest assured, God's love is not going to stop as we fuddle through our lines or mess up our steps. The already-produced Gospel is going to remain the same no matter where we worship, how we worship, including whether we sing or not. Worship will feel different for us, and yes, God appreciates those moments when worship can inspire us to be even better disciples of Christ for the sake of the world. However, maybe this rather new part of the stage will make us dig even deeper into the purpose of worship, into looking beyond the usual script, into seeing the whole stage, not to mention always keeping in mind the One who insists on not being a distant audience member, but right on the very level that was special enough to die and rise for, for whole world to enjoy. Thanks be to God, indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad





We ask you to keep the following sisters and brothers in Christ in your prayers:

Jenny Adams
Rosa Arias
Bev Deitrick
Cathy Gallagher
Norelle Gress
Richard Jakubcin
John Kurtz
Jean Kurtz
Matthew Loede
Tim Mize

Mary Phillips
Hazel Schwab
Courtney Spencer
Cicellia Taurus
George Tomaselli
Martha Wasson
Mardell Weiss
Clara Wilcox
Dave Wilcox

If you wish to send any cards, please send them, or drop them off, to the church office, and we will be sure to deliver them.

15th Heidi Bailey
22nd Clara Wilcox
22nd Bill Weidman
25th Aaron Bailey
28th Alan Siggelkow



19th Dave & Edith Schatt

Stay tuned for more details about the Monday Bible study coming back together soon!



June 17 Council Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM, and attended by Jack Schwab, Pastor Brad, Dave and Edith Schatt, and Dale Kirk.

In his financial report, Jack disclosed the following: our checking account balance is \$482, Thrivent account balance is \$134,926, and our stocks holding balance is \$90,495.

Jack, also, announced that he had recently renewed the paperwork for our Workers' Comp. account, which is held by the Tarken Company.

Dale confirmed that Gordon Jardy is now being paid \$300 bi-weekly as a salary for maintaining the interior of the building, as well as lawn-mowing and landscaping. It was, also, confirmed that our office manager, Jan, continues to be paid through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Regarding property maintenance, Jack mentioned that the outer shed in the back parking lot is really starting to deteriorate, and would need attention soon.

Along with that, Dale reminded that we need to get an estimate on the trimming of trees in the old unused playground on the south side of the church, as the branches are now rubbing against and possibly damaging our sanctuary roof.

The council then discussed the potential re-gathering for worship at Triune. Pastor Brad reported that, of the member responses he received from his email survey, most members had no preference between drive-in and indoor Willmann Hall services, save a couple of members with certain health issues. Pastor pointed out that the one major difference would be that we could sing and speak together when we're outside, but it is not advisable to do so indoors.

Pastor reported that about three-fourths of the ELCA congregations around Cleveland have started to worship together again, most with drive-in services to allow singing and less worries about ventilation.

The general consensus at this meeting was that Triune should conduct indoor worships in Willmann Hall, aiming to start the weekend of July 11 – 12. That presented a number of issues to be addressed, which were discussed.

They include:

An entrance which would be separate from the exit from Willmann Hall, seating arrangement inside, musical accompaniment by Edith in the hall, new Communion protocol, a 30 minute maximum length of service, service elements which would be dropped to maintain physical distancing (offering and sharing of the peace), hand sanitizing stations at each door, and post service cleaning after every gathering.

The direction of the discussion, then, focused on the cleaning aspect, especially in regard to every Saturday 5 PM service, every Sunday 11 AM service, and the two AA group weekly meetings.

Jack said that, through his employer, he could get spray equipment with a disinfecting solution that could be sprayed on tables, chairs, restrooms, etc. He said that, after spraying, you would not touch it and let it air dry, and the result would be hospital grade effective. In that scenario, Jack could spray the hall and bathrooms after each Saturday 5 PM service, and Dale could do so after each Sunday 11 AM service.

Since we weren't sure of the status of the AA groups and if they were actually meeting during the pandemic, Dale said he would reach out to each, gather info, and then report back to council.

The meeting ended at 6:55PM. These minutes submitted by Council President Dale Kirk. Kirk out.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is responding to this pandemic here in the United States and around the world, including:

- Across the United States, LDR is providing support for ELCA World Hunger's Daily Bread grants, which are supporting congregational feeding ministries as they do the critical work of providing those who are in need in their communities with food.
- In New Orleans, LDR is aiding the expansion of Bethlehem Lutheran Church's community meal program, which targets the at-risk population who are impacted at this time.
- In Southern California, LDR is supporting Care Connection Network, a social ministry organization, to serve older adults and people who are home bound by delivering food and essential supplies, in collaboration with congregations in the Pacifica Synod.
- In China, we helped provide medical supplies including ventilators, protective face shields, disposable gloves and more, as well as daily necessities such as food.
- In Italy, through the ELCA's companion church, the Chiesa Evangelica Luterana in Italia, LDR is providing Betania Evangelical Hospital in Naples, Italy, with support and medical gear and supplies.
- In Palestine, LDR is working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jerusalem and the Holy Land to provide food and necessities to families whose livelihoods have been impacted.
- In Sierra Leone, we are supporting the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone so the church can participate in a national response plan with the government.
- LDR is also working with the Lutheran World Federation and the ACT Alliance to support their global responses.

Minneapolis Congregations Serve Neighbors, Work Toward Racial Justice



Two Minneapolis congregations, Calvary Lutheran and Holy Trinity Lutheran, were in the epicenter of protests and social unrest that followed the killing of George Floyd by police on May 25. The two congregations—only about 3 miles apart—met the situation by showing up for their community, serving their neighbors and calling for justice.

“We are one block south of where George Floyd was murdered by police,” said Hans Lee, pastor of Calvary. “We knew that there would be an outcry following the murder and began preparing immediately to respond in a way that we hoped would support those experiencing rage and grief.”

Calvary set up a community table outside the church building to offer first aid to people during the initial protest on May 26 and has since been providing food, drinks, masks, hand sanitizer, parking and a sign-making station for people on their way to protests or to visit the memorial for Floyd.

Calvary also operates a food shelf that Lee said had already increased its output since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and has ramped up even more in the weeks following Floyd’s death.

Lee said Calvary, which was featured in *Living Lutheran*’s January 2020 lead feature “Unpacking white privilege,” has been “working on dismantling white supremacy for quite some time” and that, in many ways, Calvary was ready for this moment.

“The work we do is twofold—to look inward as a congregation on how we are complicit in white supremacy and to walk alongside, and be led by, leaders of color in the larger work, like is happening now,” Lee said. “Sometimes it is through tragedy that a faith community gains more clarity about its mission; this is such a moment for Calvary.”

Felecia Boone, a longtime member of Calvary and vice president of the Minneapolis Area Synod, agreed with Lee: “I think people are energized in a way they hadn’t been before, and I think people who were weary or tired of having this conversation around race on a regular basis now understand why we were doing what we were doing.

“It’s a matter of doing work together—shoulder to shoulder—and also doing that self-work to be aware and understand where bias comes from, how you can mitigate that and understand when it’s happening, and then move it out of the way so we can move forward toward the beloved community people say they want. It’s time to live our values and not just talk about our values.”

Lee said the congregation’s hope and prayer is that this will be a turning point for the country. “It seems like people are listening in a new way, but no one engaged in this work expects it to be easy,” he said.

“This is going to be a really long ride to get to justice and equity because it took many, many years to build up the systems of inequity and injustice,” Boone said. “Get your rest, fill your cup—it’s going to be a long one. I think we can do it; we’ve been primed to do it.

A new reality

Ingrid Rasmussen, a pastor of Holy Trinity, said that after social unrest arose in the area following Floyd's killing, she got a call late one evening from a neighborhood organization partner asking if Holy Trinity would consider offering its church as a medic station site for protesters.

Rasmussen said the congregation served that role for a couple of days and nights, primarily responding to protesters who suffered tear gas exposure and other forms of trauma on the streets.

After a few days, the medic station had to be relocated to a different church down the street after the nearby 3rd Precinct police station was burned and the congregation was warned of a possible gas explosion.

"After our medic responsibilities were done and the situation in the neighborhood changed dramatically, we looked around and realized that all of the grocery stores and basic necessity stores were burned and no longer operable," Rasmussen said. "We went from being a food-rich community to a food desert overnight. We've been operating as a food distribution center since then."

Thousands of donations, volunteers and users of the distribution site have come to the congregation.

Angela Khabeb, a pastor of Holy Trinity, said the needs have been shifting weekly and the congregation is exploring all of its options, in addition to raising \$100,000 to help provide direct care for people in the community.

With all of the generosity that has poured into Holy Trinity, Khabeb thinks there can be a larger takeaway. "One thing that I hope will happen is that people will begin to embrace the theology of abundance and to release the need to police black bodies," she said. "We're not giving them this food; we're sharing the abundance that God has already blessed this congregation with. ... And I think that [theology of abundance] can go a long way to dismantling white supremacy."

Similar to Calvary, Khabeb said the congregation was ready for this moment of response. "Holy Trinity has a reputation in the Longfellow community and the nation, and even globally, as being a congregation that is cheerfully progressive, and we seek justice in all things," she said. "We're working on racial equity, namely, and dismantling white supremacy in our congregation. ... [We] were already poised to be on the front edge of fighting injustices in our society."

Khabeb said Holy Trinity is one of few buildings left standing in the neighborhood after the social unrest, and that "these burned-out buildings are really just a metaphor for some of the hearts of black people and what we've been through and go through daily. They look demolished on some days."

Rasmussen shared a similar message with the congregation about the destruction being a symptom of inequality.

"When we start to focus on physical destruction, we start to lose sight of the fact that it arises out of generations of inequality and it is sparked by the brutal murder in broad daylight of a black man who couldn't have even been jailed for the offense people are accusing him of," she said. "Our want is not to return to normal, because normal was inequitable. Our want is to build a new reality together moving forward."



July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7 AA @ 7pm	8	9 AA @ 8 pm	10	11 Worship @ 5pm Tim Mize
12 Worship @ 11am	13	14 AA @ 7pm	15	16 AA @ 8 pm	17	18 Worship @ 5pm Tim Mize
19 Worship @ 11am	20	21 AA @ 7pm	22	23 AA @ 8 pm	24	25 Worship @ 5pm Pastor Brad
26 Worship @ 11am	27	28 AA @ 7pm	29	30 AA @ 8 pm	31	



If you have something you would like to put in the newsletter, please let us know by email, written letter, phone call or stopping by the office.