Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Grapevine
July 2020

5101 TANNER DR 307-682-4296 GILLETTE, WY 82718

VESTRY MEMBERS
Rev. Lin Davenport: Rector
Maggi McCreery-McCoy: Sr. Warden
Vivian Watson: Jr. Warden
Sheryl Matthews: Office Administrator/Treasurer
Dena Knox: Member
Taylor Moser: Member
Bobbie Rognmoe: Member
Ann Huskey: Member
Rollie Parkison: Member

Please contact any vestry member regarding your questions, concerns, or thanks

EMAIL ADDRESS: holytrinitygillette@gmail.com
Dear Family,

As we continue to weather this strange and confusing time in our lives, I'm so very glad that we are remaining faithful and continuing to model the behavior of Christ in our world. Thank you all for wearing your masks when you go out of your homes, when you do this you are showing everyone that you care not only for yourself but more importantly those you come into contact with. Our confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Campbell County are continuing to rise and it’s beyond time for all of us to realize how important it is for us to be cautious as we go about our lives.

I’m excited to let you know that Bishop Smylie has approved our plan for re-opening the church for services. Please read his plan in this Grapevine and note that the very first requirement is that we (Campbell County) have no new cases of Covid-19 for two (2) weeks. This is important for us to be mindful of as we move forward. All protocols are in place to protect each of us as we gather in person for worship.

I understand the desire to gather in person each Sunday, I feel the loss of personal connection too. I miss the vital piece of sharing Holy Eucharist with all of you, my church family. My heart aches with this feeling of loss also. I have been able to help fill this void by reading books that speak to my own spirituality. I recommend anything by Jake Owensby, J. Philip Newell, Henri Nouwen, Richard Rhor or any other theologian that you respect. I also research scripture and maybe even more importantly, I attend the ZOOM Daily Prayers that are offered. I have taken the time to think about the importance of gathering together in prayer and found that although I can’t have Holy Eucharist with you all, we still pray together and worship God in beautiful ways that honor Him and feed our own spirituality.

When we hear people talking about the importance of being in the church building, I get it. But I also realize that the majority of Holy Trinity is in the “vulnerable” category for Covid-19, including myself. I thought about the “what if’s” on reopening before our number of cases diminished and the one that stood out for me was this: When I think of the people that I have had the blessing of sharing worship with during this past two and a half years, who would I be willing to not see in the pew ever again? If one person was infected because of this service and died, how would I feel when I came back into our beautiful church?

We have this one chance to get this right, to keep each other safe. As your Rector and your friend, I want to be able to spend the next years of my life with you all. Your Vestry is working very hard on solutions that will enable us to do this. As the numbers in our county continue to rise, I urge you to be patient with those of us who are making these decisions. We are following all CDC, Wyoming Health Department and Diocesan guidelines.

If you haven't joined us in a ZOOM service, please do try to join in. You don't have to use a computer, if you have a “smart” phone you can even use your video to join in and see everyone. If you only have a “land line” you can call in and listen and talk with us all, we just won’t be able to see each other. The information on how to do these services is included in this Grapevine with the schedule.

Another thing that I feel has helped me is a prayer that is out of A Prayer Book for the Armed Services, its title is; Communion by Intention.

Though I am far from church and sacrament, I invite you into my heart, blessed Christ. As I look to the horizon, I know the whole world to be bread lifted in your sight to be made holy according to your will; and all the life running within it to be your blood poured out for healing and reconciliation.
You are the hose at the banquet of my life, and every day you feed me with yourself in love. Grant this prayer to be my Communion with You by my intention, and desire, to make me holy as You are holy. Amen.

I pray that this might help you as it has me.

May God continue to be in our lives whether we are together or apart from each other. May His peace be wrapped around us all as we traverse this path together. May His blessings continue to shine in our lives and may our hearts and eyes be open to see and experience them.

Love to you all,

Lin+

Senior Warden’s Report

May God’s grace be with you and protect you as we continue dealing with the Covid-19 infection in our community. I had hoped that we would be able to hold services in the church by this time but with new Covid-19 cases still appearing in our community we need to follow the Bishop’s guidelines and err on the side of caution protecting the vulnerable or those with compromised immune systems.

Here are the highlights from the vestry meeting of June 9th that was held via zoom.

Unfinished business:
1. Follow up lightning strike: we had the organ installed on June 9th. The outside cross on the west side of the church has been stained and reinstalled with new lighting. Everything has been completed so we are now waiting for the insurance company to close the claim. (Since the vestry meeting the insurance company has closed the claim.)

2. Second Covid 19 Grant: Holy Trinity completed a second grant to the Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming and submitted it 5/27/2020. We actually had two requests called Plan A and Dream Plan

B. Plan A requested the following for a total of $11,740.
   - Council of Community Services $3,000
   - Gillette Abuse Refuge Foundation $2,000
   - Medicap Pharmacy Discretionary Fund $1,000
   - Medical Hill Pharmacy Discretionary Fund $1,000
   - Petroleum Engineers Society $2,000
   - Gillette Reproductive Services $1,000
   - Edible Prairie Project’s Summer Weekend Meals $1,740

Dream Plan B requested the following for a total of $24,000.
   - Council of Community Services $5,000
   - Gillette Abuse Refuge Foundation $3,000
   - Medicap Pharmacy Discretionary Fund $1,000
   - Medical Hill Pharmacy Discretionary Fund $1,000
Since the vestry meeting we have been approved and given the amount for Plan A. Press Stephens said that after June 12th the Foundation would consider funding the difference between Plan A and Dream Plan B ($12,260). We are waiting to hear if we get any more money to distribute before we distribute the Plan A amount that we have received. The Foundation has been very generous in helping communities in Wyoming with Gillette being one that has benefited greatly from monies received. We need to keep the Foundation members in our prayers. And, thank God for guiding us during this time of need.

New Business:
1. Re-opening questionnaire: Lin and Maggi had worked on answers to the questionnaire sent from the bishop that the vestry reviewed. The vestry discussed the answers and decided to wait for the meeting with our diocesan clergy representative, Fr. Joel Dingman to finalize the answers. Our meeting will be June 16th at 5:30 P.M.
2. Re-opening of the office: Lin has sent a request to the bishop to see if we can re-open the office. That would mean that Nancy would start working at the office from noon to 2 as she had been doing prior to Covid-19. We are awaiting approval from the bishop.
3. Uprising Collaborative grant: we had been asked to help with funding by the group who is in Sheridan. At this point we need more information before making a decision.
6. Meetings: a) next vestry meeting—July 11th, time and place to be determined; 2) special meeting with Fr. Joel Dingman—June 16th at 5:30 P.M.
7. “Forgiveness” of one month’s assessment during Jubilee Year: Sheryl stated that we are in good financial standing and we may not need to ask for skipping one month’s assessment (the forgiveness). We will look at this again in September.

I know that the restrictions from Covid-19 that we are being asked to follow have caused isolation and moodiness as well as frustration. I know that it is hard to understand why we cannot “open” the church and resume services. Looking at where we have been and where we will need to go, I think we need to prepare ourselves for a different style of service when we can meet again in the church. New information about the coronavirus is being learned at a rapid rate but there is still a lot of unknown information. Our bishop feels that the safety of each one of us is important and we should not become reckless by endangering anyone to exposure of the virus if we can prevent the exposure. We are our brother’s keeper. We are to be servants to each other. We are to love and take care of each other. I leave you with the words from 1 Peter 4:10. “God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies.” May we use our special gifts from God to serve each other, now and always. May we encourage and lift each other up using the strength and energy God supplies knowing that He will guide us where He wants us to go. With Him all things are possible! Thanks be to God!

Your loving servant in Christ,
Maggi McCreery-McCoy, Senior Warden
SERVICES OFFERED VIA SOCIAL MEDIA DURING COVID 19
Zoom meeting on computer, smart phone, ipad or by telephone: Log into Zoom.us, click on join a meeting type in 307-921-4717 password 368496, for land lines call 301-715-8592, then add number & password above

SUNDAY: 11:00 A.M. Morning Prayer or Service from the Diocese (shared) followed by fellowship
MONDAY: 11:30 A.M. Morning Prayer
TUESDAY: 11:30 A.M. Morning Prayer
WEDNESDAY: 11:30 A.M. Morning Prayer
THURSDAY: 11:30 A.M. Morning Prayer
FRIDAY: 11:30 A.M. Morning Prayer
FRIDAY: 7:30 P.M. Compline or Contemplative service

The Episcopal Diocese of Wy has additional services each week, check out the web site - www.wyomingdiocese.org and also you can watch services on youtube.

These services are a wonderful way to stay in touch with each other, worship together, catch up on everyone’s life, hear their voices and see faces. It’s not as nice as a hug or hand shake but it works.

REOPENING OF HOLY TRINITY, GILLETTE

Bishop John Smylie has given guidelines for reopening the church during the Covid 19 crisis. Each congregation is to meet with their Diocesan liaison to review and answer the questions. The liaison will then meet with the bishop who will grant permission to reopen. The main concern during reopening is that vulnerable parishioners are not put at risk of getting the infection.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR RE-OPENING—GILLETTE
*No new Covid-19 cases for at least 14 days
*Local hospital has sufficient capacity to treat patients requiring hospitalization
*City/State is able to test people with Covid-19 symptoms
*Campbell County is able to conduct active monitoring of confirmed or suspected cases and their contacts
The vestry met on 6/16/2020 with Fr. Joel Dingman our liaison to answer questions required by Bishop Smylie. Questions were reviewed and answered.

1. What have you learned during this time when we were not able to gather? How does this learning impact your future offerings? We have learned that there are those in the congregation who are willing to try new ways to worship via social media (Zoom, You Tube) while others really want to get back inside the church to worship. For future offerings it has helped us consider continuing some form of worship via zoom after we resume worship in the church.

2. Are there practices that you have learned or experienced during this time of separation that may be given to lay leaders in the congregation? Holding Friday night contemplative services; when reopening the church we plan to ask for volunteers to help with the service.

3. How many people does your worship space hold, with people wearing masks, in family groups or singles, sitting six feet apart in all directions? Using the measuring tool of six feet between persons/families the space will hold 20 individuals or 30 with family units. Our typical Sunday attendance prior to the Covid-19 outbreak was 25-35. Six-foot length noodles will help with six foot spacing between people.

4. How will you cap your attendance at or below the number allowed in each phase? We can cap our attendance at 20 individuals or 30 with family units, and, if needed, open appropriate spacing as overflow in our adjoining parish hall.

5. Will you need to limit the number of people serving in your worship service, lectors, acolytes, worship leaders, multiple clergy etc. so that more people may be able to attend and participate in the congregation? We will limit the number of people serving to the priest, worship leader and the musician to play music. Lectors will read from their seat in the pews wearing their masks.

6. How will the greeters and ushers help monitor adherence to attendance and other guidelines? There will be one greeter and one usher. The greeter will greet parishioners at the door, take their temperatures and ask them to sign the contact log. The usher will show people where to pick up the bulletins and guide them to a seat with appropriate social distancing. Pews will be blocked off to ensure appropriate distancing. If the person is not wearing a mask or face protection, a mask will be offered to wear. If the person refuses to wear the mask he/she will not be able to enter the church.

7. How will you discourage a receiving line after church? Remind everyone during announcements to keep a safe distance from one another and to move quickly outside after dismissal. The usher, starting with the people in the back pew, will guide them to the greeter who will lead them outside. The usher will empty the pews starting at the back of the church leaving the priest, worship leader and musician to be the last ones to leave the church.

8. How will your readers, ushers and all leaders model masking and physical distancing? All people attending will be given a mask if they have not brought their own masks and will be instructed to wear it while in the church.

9. If offering outdoor worship opportunities, how will you ensure safety equal to or greater than indoor worship? If we hold an outside service we will guide the people to follow social distancing following the rule of six feet between people and to wear a mask.

10. Do you have masks and cleaning supplies needed to clean the common spaces? Yes. We have cleaning supplies and will post signage of the CDC approved cleaning protocols.
11. Will you have masks for parishioners or visitors who come to services without their own mask or face covering? Yes

12. How will you ensure the cleanliness of the following items and space? We will post the cleaning protocol and guidelines in appropriate areas.
   • Worship leaflets/bulletins, prayer books and hymnals—we will provide disposable worship leaflets/bulletins; prayer books and hymnals have been cleaned and removed
   • Areas where smaller groups gathered during the week, for example Bible studies and outreach meetings—areas will be cleaned immediately after each use
   • Office space, classrooms, sacristy—cleaned before and after use of the space including door handles, desktops, keyboards, etc.
   • Kitchen—closed for the time being
   • Restrooms—cleaned and disinfected before and after the service; poster posted to ask a person who uses the restroom to spray toilet seat, door handles, sink and fixtures before leaving the room; only one person at a time may use the restroom
   • Altar, pulpit & lectern—cleaned by the Altar Guild before and after the service
   • Piano/organ—cleaned by the musician
   • Pews, chairs & tables—cleaned before and after the service by the usher and greeter
   • Parish hall—vestry meeting only with 10-11 people wearing masks, practicing social distancing, using hand sanitizer; disinfecting the tables and chairs before and after the meeting (minutes, agenda and financial reports will be sent via email)

13. How will you ensure the sanitation and safety practices for the following people and their activities?
   • Altar Guild—one member, Guild room disinfected prior to and after each service
   • Sunday school workers and children—will probably not meet inside until September; will meet outside during the summer weather permitting; would follow disinfection guidelines; playground equipment will be disinfected after each service
   • Greeters/ushers—wear face masks, welcome people in safe, no touch manner, observe social distancing
   • Acolytes—none at this time
   • Choir members—not meeting
   • Money counters—after the worship service one vestry member and one member of the congregation who has been trained to count will count the money following social distancing practices and washing their hands before and after counting; the vestry member will then make the deposit

EMERGENCY PLAN:
Attendance sheet by name will be made for each service; if a member becomes Covid-19 positive or in a household with a positive or suspected positive person, our church services will be discontinued. All attendance records will be made available to Public Health authorities and the Diocese of Wyoming.

COMMUNION PROTOCOL:
Communion protocol established by Bishop Smylie will be followed when communion is part of the service.

July Birthdays
Rebecca Morrison - July 5
Wade Watson - July 8
Mary Appel - July 18

July Anniversaries
Justin Lay & Meredith Duvall - July 2
Rev. Lin going the extra mile staining the cross

Wade helping renew the cross

thanks & bless you, Wade

Lights, stained and sealed

Holy Trinity’s Lovely New Organ installed June 9
Vivian would like to invite the whole Holy Trinity family to this celebration and memorial of her dear Son Steven’s life - please come and share a special time with Vivian, Wade and family. Call your friends and car pool together up the mountain.
Bless our nation and unite all the people in love and understanding
Happy 4th of July

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
5101 Tanner Dr.
Gillette, WY 82718

"Following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Loves, Serves, Leads and Follows where God calls.”