



# Trinity Tidings

Trinity Lutheran Church

35110 Division Rd Richmond MI 48062

July/August 2020

## **The Church has Left the Building**

Grace and peace to you as we enter the days of summer and continue to learn the new normal that we find ourselves.

Many of you may have seen me wearing a t-shirt with the above screen printed on it, “The Church Has Left the Building.” Early on in staying home and staying safe, I saw in a Zoom call, a bishop of one of the other ELCA synods wearing this shirt. I loved the message and asked where I could get one. Sometimes we get so caught up in the building that we forget the purpose of why it is there in the first place.

What would happen tomorrow if for some reason our church building was devastated by natural disaster? Would we cease being the church? NO, we would not. We would not because the church is the community that comes together in support of the Body of Christ. While the building holds many memories for us, God is not confined to the walls of the church.

These past few months, we have been challenged to find God in different settings. Places where we have been quarantined and even those places we have found as we begin to emerge from the stay home orders. Perhaps, the emergence of COVID-19, has opened new doors for the church to discern who we are and what we are being called to do in our community. We have connected with new families through worship and expanded our reach through the use of technology.

I am excited to see where God may be leading us to next as a congregation. A year ago, we had no idea what we would encounter this year. Yet, through it all, God has been with us as we continue to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and I pray as we move forward that the Holy Spirit open us up to new and creative ways of being the church in the world today.

*Peace,  
Pastor Alex*



July 2 – Kosette Bartels

July 3 – Jim Braun

July 7 – Lance Pitcel

July 10 – Sue Olson

July 12 – Scott Dobberowsky

July 13 – Trent Kulman

July 14 – Evan Plonka

July 23 – Kayla Gross

July 24 – Keith Bartels

July 24 – Karil Zurakowski

July 28 – Linda Rowe

July 29 – John Plonka

July 29 – Judy Whelan

July 31 – Joe Rhein

August 2 – Joseph Daugherty

August 4 – John Tonkovich

August 4 – David Edgington

August 5 – Melissa Small

August 7 – Leni Fistler

August 9 – Asthton Hollenbeck

August 10 – Rosalie Rowe

August 11 – Kerry Graham

August 12 – Kennedy Walsh

August 17 – Karen Hawke

August 19 – Rebecca Kulman

August 19 – Matt Rix

August 22 – Kiera Hartman

August 23 – Preston Corneillie

August 23 – Tracy Walsh

August 24 – Christopher Graham

August 25 – Louanne Plonka

August 29 – Chase Kulman

August 30 – Richard Kuechenmeister

August 30 – Ray Small

July 5 ..... Fifth Sunday of Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalms 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12 ..... Sixth Sunday of Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalms 65:[1-8] 9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19 ..... Seventh Sunday of Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26 ..... Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalms 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 2 ..... Ninth Sunday of Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

August 9 ..... Tenth Sunday of Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalms 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

August 16 ..... Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalms 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

August 23 ..... Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalms 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

August 30 ..... Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalms 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

Many of you have been longing for the time when we can worship together in person. Thank you for those that took the time to fill out the Worship Survey. As a congregation we are not of one mind as some are ready to return right away and some are not yet ready. We are a community together and to engage the most people for in-person worship, the Worship and Music Team is preparing four outdoor worship services. Communion will also be a part of the service.

We are committed to the 4th Sundays of June 28, July 26, and August 30 to gather together outside for worship. We will continue to offer online worship for those Sunday's and the other Sundays throughout the summer. For those that do not have the ability to watch online, we will be providing the service recorded on a DVD. Of course, this can change, and as it does, we will continue to be in communication with the congregation.

You will be expected to follow social distancing guidelines and wear face coverings. You may also choose to stay in your car as we will have the FM Transmitter set up so that you can listen on your radio.



If you haven't already be sure to like our Facebook page: Trinity Lutheran Church and subscribe to our YouTube channel: Trinity Lutheran Church, Richmond Michigan



- ♥ To everyone that has maintained or given extra over the past few months. It is a reflection of the strength of the church. Our faith will carry us through this!
- ♥ To the Plonka family and others that have contributed to the health and beauty of the gardens around the church.
- ♥ Don Plonka for helping out in a time of need at the parsonage when the hot water heater decided to quit.
- ♥ All that have participated in worship these past few months to help make it engaging.
- ♥ The entire congregation for taking the church out into the world and proclaiming the Good News where you are at.

## Continuing Education

As professionals, pastors are expected to be involved in continuing education yearly. Part of Pastor Alex's continuing education this year was his trip to the Holy Land in January. This trip was paid for out of his own pocket. Due to our smaller budget, Trinity is not quite up to synod recommendations for a continuing education budget. An additional continuing education opportunity has presented itself to allow Pastor Alex to become a better preacher by working with a sermon mentorship program over the next year. This is an in-depth one on one opportunity that is not offered in seminary. The cost of the program is \$3490. **Thank you to the four families that have already committed to helping.** This continuing education opportunity will assist Pastor Alex in becoming a better pastor and preacher which will benefit the congregation. If you are interested in supporting this opportunity, you can make an offering to the church with a notation that it is for continuing education.