



A Message from Trinity's Church Council

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope this issue finds you well and taking each day with grace and compassion for yourself and others. During this time apart from each other, the leadership at Trinity has been working to maintain the church and as many ministries as possible. We thank you for your financial support and encourage you to continue. Our bills are being paid. Any Building/Property issues have been handled. We have been very successful providing meals to the community through Feed My Sheep, meals prepared and served at SA Cafe, donations to the Food Pantry, and the Ham dinner kits distributed for Easter. Many thanks to everyone who organized, donated time and provided items to make these ministries a reality. And many thanks to all of the members of Council and our volunteers, who have used this time to keep Trinity up and running. This is no easy feat. A special shout out to Justina Kane for her tireless efforts to expand our technological capabilities. We are so thankful for her expertise. We are also grateful for the time, energy, and guidance Dean Gail Wolling has showered upon us! We are most especially thankful for her steadfast sharing of God's message through Facebook & Zoom.

Hopefully, you have been able to take advantage of our new online worship services. We broadcast on Sundays using Zoom and Facebook technology. Dean Gail offers Thursday Bible Studies and a few virtual coffee hours. If you haven't already seen them, several services and Bible Studies are still posted on our webpage and can be viewed. Please look for the Tidings article in this issue listing our upcoming online opportunities and our website and Facebook presence.

We understand that not everyone has a computer or a Facebook account and we are staying connected with those who don't through email and US Mail. If you know of someone who hasn't been receiving the Tidings, please contact either Ann Maher or Justina Kane.

Did you know that you can use your phone to connect to our services? You won't be able to see the service or Bible Study, but you can hear everything by dialing 1-646-558-8656. Following the prompts, enter meeting code 3158666474 and password 13350.

NYS and Herkimer County are beginning to allow more (MASKED) face-to-face contact with each other, and Trinity's council is actively planning ways to safely return to worship at church. However, **Council has decided that the earliest that might happen is September 1st**. The list of requirements we need to juggle is large and complicated. We wrestle with all of the needs of our at risk members as well as the needs of those without known risks. I'm sure as Christians, you want to demonstrate your love for our worshipers and leaders, by giving Council the time we need to prepare the safest, healthiest environment we can for all. We will keep you posted as we have more news. In the meantime, we are excited to offer **two opportunities this summer to join in Holy Communion**. Look in this issue for an article from Dean Gail Wolling describing our plan.

I encourage you to keep the faith. God is with us, through our time of rest & reflection, through our time of boredom, through our times of worry, illness, and grief. He is our rock and comfort, now and always. Please remember to observe social distancing and to wear a mask. Even if you don't agree with the requirement, please recognize that by wearing your mask, you are demonstrating God's love for all of His children. We are all precious in His sight!

Yours in Christ - Risleigh Roche

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**Worship With Us
From Anywhere!**

Call on your landline phone, use your computer, receive a DVD, or receive a printed copy of the sermon!

Safe Use of Trinity’s Space During This Time

Thank you to those who have used our new Safety Procedures when in the church building. Since we don't clean the building after each person exits, compliance with safe practices is important. The latest CDC information indicates that the virus can remain airborne for many hours. Therefore, wearing a face covering is **MANDATORY IN ALL PARTS OF THE BUILDING**, even if you are ALONE! **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Please sign in on the form at the bottom of the stairs. Use the hand sanitizer. Don't touch your face. If you are with other people, maintain social distance.

COMMUNION OPPORTUNITY

To gather at the table..... It has been a long time since we were last able to gather at the Lord’s table to share a communion of believers in the one body and blood of our Lord Jesus. Although God’s Word continues to feed me as it has throughout my life, and I continue to be shaped by the form of our liturgy, I too long for that time when we can gather again around a table and become one in Christ’s living presence.

In consultation with the Council, I believe we have developed a way for us to gather in small groups to not just receive Holy Communion, but to be *in communion* with one another.

Sat. July 25 at 10 and 10:45 and 11:30

Sat. Aug 22 at 10 and 10:45 and 11:30

I will be present at Trinity to preside at 3 short services of Holy Communion which will be held in the Fellowship Hall and limited to 8 individuals each. Seats at the tables will be marked off; please go directly to your seat and wait for the whole group to assemble.

Only 8 people (of all ages) will participate in each of the 3 gatherings. You **MUST** register ahead of time so there is no overflow and so that we can trace who was present. We will begin taking reservations on July 10th on a first come, first serve basis. Please call Phillis Becker at 315-866-2379 to reserve your spot.

Please do not come if you are experiencing any symptoms (cough or fever, or have been exposed to the same). **MASKS are required.** Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance. I will be the only person handling the communion elements. The surfaces will be cleaned between each group.

You will enter from the Henry St entrance and exit through the kitchen. The service will be 15 minutes and will include a short reading, the Communion liturgy and prayer. The bathrooms will not be open. The elevator will be available.

We share in the responsibility to keep one another safe in these uncertain times. You wear a mask for the sake of your neighbor and they for you. The keys to safe gathering are small numbers, physical distance, masks, and self-policing. We are capable of all 4 of these. If, at the last minute, you develop symptoms or are exposed, please don’t participate.

I look forward, once again, to preside at our Lord’s table with you – to feed you and to be fed by you.

Pastor Wolling

Sharing and Serving

Thank you to everyone who continues to donate to the Food Bank!

Faith Formation/Learning

BOOK CLUB

A summer gathering of the TLC Book Club will take place on Friday, August 14th at 10:00 am in the Fort Herkimer Pavilion, next to the Fort Herkimer Church on Rte 5s. We will share books read during the pandemic!

FRIENDS IN FAITH

Thanks to all who reached out to others in lieu of our annual June luncheon. A few examples: calling out of state and even out of the country, friends we seldom saw and those we used to see regularly but not at this time, Trinity folks, and some who helped us out in times of need. It was wonderful to get feedback on what you all did!

We will think positive and look forward to a luncheon in October. Till then we have the peace that comes from knowing that God loves us and that God is always in control.

RACIAL JUSTICE AND ANTIRACISM WORK

As members of the ELCA, we believe that Christ's church is for all people. Many of us need and want to learn more about issues of racism and justice. A recent movie called "Just Mercy" gives good perspectives for discussion. Interested Trinity members are invited to watch the movie and then attend a discussion of the movie on Sunday, July 19th at 3:00 pm at the Fort Herkimer Pavilion, next to the Fort Herkimer Church on Rte 5. For more information, contact Sue Harkins or JoAnn Blaise.

Worship, Music and Prayer

BLESSINGS OF PRAYER

The prayer of the heart is the prayer of intimacy. It is the prayer of love and tenderness of a child (us) to Father God. Like the mother hen who gathers her chicks under her wings, we allow God to gather us to Himself, to hold us, to coddle us, to Love us.

"Love is from God for God is Love"

(1 John 4:7a,8b)

Prayer Notes: The old hymn says it all! "What a friend we have in Jesus" Oh what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer."

Prayer provides guidance for our decisions and power for service and ministry. Please pray daily for all ministries within our congregation, that each follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Thank you.

Have you been thinking of joining Trinity's prayer chain? The only requirement is being blessed by spending more time with Jesus. How awesome is that!! Prayerfully consider and speak to Phillis if so led.

In His Service,
Prayer Ministry

Stewardship

Thanks to everyone who has continued to mail offerings to church (443 Henry Street, Herkimer, NY 13350) or continue to use Simply Giving. The mission of the church continues throughout the pandemic. If you wish to receive more information about giving directly to Trinity through the Thrivent Simply Giving Program, please contact Wendy trinityherk@verizon.net.

Community and Outreach

Mark your calendars to do highway clean-up on Saturdays July 25th and September 19th at 9:00 am.

Our Church Family

Trinity Members In Need of Prayer: Irene Krupa, Steve Crane, Lorie Schrader, Shirley Miller, Sue Harkins, Rich Becker, Beverly Griffin

If you have concerns for the prayer chain or other personal/family matters, please call Phillis Becker at 315-866-2379.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Glenn Manning	Kim Fiato	Jerry Manning	Nellie Smith	Robert Becker
William Stack	Joshua Levi	Jeffrey Manning	Jackie Hinckley	Orrin Smith
Eliza Marusic	Ashley Christofaro	Rebecca Permutter	Caleb Hinckley	Rose Snow
Lillian Becker	Jackie Minter	Beverly Griffin	Dorothy Pryor	
Jeffrey Gross	Elizabeth Margaret Duga	Jacob Griffin	Ryan Risi	
Connor Farmer	Kyle Crandall	Barbara Marquissee	Kory DeLuca	

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Carol & Ralph Farrington	Pam & Carl Stafford	Daniel & Linda Engert
Justina & Sean Kane	Joanne & Richard Belcourt	Gayle & Peter Bunn
Stephen & Regina Osley	Kathy & Tim Farmer	Cindy & Joe Schrader

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Audrey Gebhardt	Edeltraut Salewski	Sheila Baker	Jacob Gross	Anna Becker
Leah Kane	Marillynne Koch	Hayden Guccione	Allison Baker	Susan Harkins
Kira E. Mizerak	Mildred Marusic	Doris Brown	Kayla Lynch	Russ Roof
Michelle Smith-Risi	Jason Stack	Mia Rigo	Shelly Vanderwerken	Jerome Madden
Kathy Kapusta	Kyle Alexander Rivers	Georgia Becker	Emma Rose Betti	Allen L. Schrader
Wayne Schrader, Jr.	Lane J. Walrath	Samantha Maguire	Gayle Bunn	

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Judy & John Sadlon	Risleigh & Patrick Roche	Jenna & Brian Macri
Georgia & Grant Becker	Susan Hayes-Manning & Gary Manning	Lori & Arnold Schrader
Jessica & Richard Bowman	JoAnn & Gary Blaise	

Congratulations, Graduates!

Wishing the best to the following High School Graduates:

Tyler DeLuca graduated from CVA and the VP Tech program at Herkimer County BOCES
Emily Madison and Raymond Savarese graduated from Central Valley Academy