



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church & School



Trinity Tidings

Volume 18, Issue 2
June 2021

Gathering In His Name

The tape is gone. The hymnals are back in the pews. We can shake hands again if we want to.

It's starting to get back to normal, but we still have a long way to go. And when we're done, we still won't be the same.

I think that's a good thing. I think we'll better appreciate being able to worship together. Being able to share our joy and our hope with our Christian family. Singing together. Praying together. Encouraging each other. Even dressing up a little because it's a special occasion. It all lifts our spirits and gives us a sense of community.

I think we'll recognize what a blessing our church facility is. I know we all love our living rooms and our comfy chairs (and *air conditioning*). But this is *God's House*. Here we dedicated to his service. Here we hear his voice. Here we worship. Here we serve.

There is a difference between visiting family via video chat and visiting family in person. It's the same with gathering as the family of God. The online services are nice, but there is a difference when you gather in the love of our Savior.

There are some things missing. We can't celebrate Holy Communion over the internet. We can't greet old friends in a video service or make new ones in online church.

There are some advantages to online church, though. That's why our



1501 Thomas Street
Marinette, WI 54143
715-732-9868
Trinitymarinette.com

Mission Statement:

"Lighting the Way"

John 8:12: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Matthew 5:16: let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

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online services are here to stay. It's a special thing to make the effort go to God's house. But it's a lot easier to get your family to gather around the TV. It can be intimidating to step into God's house. And, for some, the effort just doesn't seem worth it. So worshiping online is a great first step into the arms of our Savior. But I don't think it can replace the real thing.

God is still present and his word is still powerful. But the sacraments are missing. And so are his people.

Later in this newsletter, we outline our return to normalcy. I'm looking forward to worship without restrictions. And I miss being with so many of God's people.

I know it won't happen all at once. And I know that it won't be exactly the same. I don't think it should be. We need to grow in our appreciation for God's blessings and for each other. We need to find ways to make our worship even better – both in person and online.

Many of you have seen me on Youtube® over the past few months, but I haven't been able to see you, or hear your voice, or be encouraged by your smile. Let's meet again – God's house.

*I rejoiced with those who said to me,
"Let us go the house of the Lord!"*

Rev. Jon E. Leach

Vacation Bible School 2021

Mark your calendars now. July 19th – 23rd 9am-12pm. Rocky Railway VBS the main message kids will learn is that through life's ups and downs, "Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through". Climb Aboard for Mountains of Fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. Each day at Rocky Railway VBS, kids track through field-tested rotations that reinforce relevant Bible Points and immerse kids in new adventures.

Climb aboard for...



The best week of the summer!

New friends • Amazing experiments • Creative games Super-fun snacks •
Surprising adventures • Incredible music

Trinity Lutheran VBS

VBS will last from: **July 19th thru July 23rd**
Each day's fun begins at: **9:00 AM**
The VBS day ends at: **12:00 PM**

For more information or to register please call the Church Office at: 715-732-9868

Register online: [Trinity Lutheran VBS online registration](#)

Church is hard

Church is hard.

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgement.

Church is hard for the pastor's family, under the microscope of an entire body.

Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.

Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.

Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.

Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.

Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.

Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child.

Church is hard for the person singing worship songs, overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics.

Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.

Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man.

Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love.

Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.

Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.

Church is hard for the sinners.

Church is hard for me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress.

However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives.

But, here is the beauty of church—

Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.

Church is a body.

Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints.

Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.

Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.

Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.

Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.

Church is a lesson in faith and trust.

Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.

Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.

Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.

So even on the hard days at church—

The days when I am at odds with a friend, When I've fought with my husband because we're late once again. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I've longed for a baby to hold, or fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away.

I'll remember, He has never failed to meet me there.

Jacob Waldron

EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8)

We believe this scripture serves as an appropriate summary of MLC's *Equipping Christian Witness* comprehensive campaign. God has blessed us abundantly in all things! Yes, God is ready, willing and able to bless us abundantly in the future. We will have all that we need so that we can abound in every good work as we "train a corps of Christian witnesses" to "meet the ministry needs of WELS."

Equipping Christian Witnesses is a celebration of God's goodness to our synod not only through 25 years of MLC ministry, but really recognizing over 150 years of the unconditional gospel in our midst. Pray boldly that we use this celebration to recruit with vigor countless Christian witnesses. Pray boldly that we do all we can to give every student who seeks to train for Gospel ministry the opportunity and financial support to do so. Pray boldly that we strengthen our ability to improve our campus facilities to provide an environment that will enhance recruitment, learning and retention.

Send pledge form and contribution to:

Mission Advancement Office

Martin Luther College

1995 Luther Court

New Ulm MN 56073

Please accept my gift to EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES

RECRUITMENT



I'd like to recommend _____ of
(church/school) _____ as a prospective
student at Martin Luther College. I will continue
to pray that the Lord of the Church inspire more men and
women to dedicate their lives to full-time gospel ministry.



mlc-wels.edu/go/recommend



☐ **Campaign Gift:** A general gift
for all aspects of the campaign

☐ **Student Assistance:** Financial aid for students through the
Congregational Partner Grant Program



☐ **Student Facilities:** New residence hall and current dorm
renovation

AMOUNT

☐ **One-Time or Initial Gift \$** _____

☐ **Recurring Gift \$** _____ made
☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually

☐ **Pledge \$** _____ given according to the following schedule:
Beginning date: _____ Ending date: _____
\$ _____ made ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually
☐ I will pay automatically by EFT or credit card (see below).
☐ I will pay by check or other asset. Please send me reminders.
Or pledge online at mlc-wels.edu/pledge.



PAYMENT METHOD

☐ Check made payable to Martin Luther College.

☐ Electronic funds transfer *Please enclose a voided check. Taken on the 15th.*

☐ Credit card *For security, make credit card gifts*

- Online: mlc-wels.edu/donate

- By phone: 507.354.8221 ext 295

- By text: Text CAMPAIGN to 507.223.4344

☐ Appreciated assets (stocks, IRA distributions)

*For assistance, please contact MLC (507.354.8221)
or WELS Ministry of Christian Giving (800.827.5482).*

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Church: _____ Date: _____

Martin Luther College 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm, MN 56073

News from the Board of Education

2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR ENDED MAY 28

TLS had a very good year, despite the challenges of the pandemic. Students were able to attend school every day to receive face-to-face instruction. The health and safety measures practiced by staff and students throughout the year really paid off. The Board approved offering the option of mask wearing during the last 2 weeks of school.

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR!

Contact our school office (715-732-2956) to learn more about Trinity Lutheran School, take a school tour, and/or talk with Principal Josh Danell.

WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM FOR FREE TUITION:

The online application window closed on April 15, 2021. We received 29 student applications for the 2021-22 school year. We currently have 21 school choice students enrolled at TLS, so this is a substantial increase of school choice students.

2020-21 GOAL ASSESSMENT

94% of WELSSA standards were deemed to have been satisfactorily met by the February 21-23 on-site team. TLS is on track to become a nationally accredited school this fall.

Faculty has identified online and hard material Social Studies resources, including textbooks, that were approved by the Board at the April meeting.

The pandemic has created some challenges with strengthening relationships among school and church; concentrate on more communication via the website, social media, school newsletter, church newsletter, TADs related communications, school sign, and with voters at quarterly meetings.

TEACHER COLLABORATIVE WORK THIS SUMMER

In an effort to continue improving our school's educational services, teachers will be collaboratively working on the following tasks this summer, in addition to individual classroom preparations for 2021-22:

June 7-11: develop list of classroom supplies, books, and materials; reorganize storage upstairs and in the resource room, organize novel sets; develop Tech Plan; Social Studies staff development regarding new instructional materials.

June 23-25: school library update; return-to-school plan; develop School Improvement Plan.

July 6-8: continue school library project; training in CPR, mandatory reporting, BBP, AED.

August 9-13: curriculum review process for the 2022-23 school year.

NEW SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM FOR 2021-22

The TCI social studies curriculum that the faculty studied and chose is aligned with the Wisconsin State

Social Studies Standards and addresses Trinity's need for a cohesive social studies curriculum across all grade levels. The TCI social studies curriculum consists of engaging, ready-to-use lessons that promote hands-on learning through interactive activities such as inquiry projects, debates, and experiential exercises. It also provides the resources (customizable assessments, interactive presentations, digital resources) that teachers need to differentiate instruction to effectively support the learning needs of all students.

PART-TIME UPPER GRADES TEACHING VACANCY

The Board is working on several options to fill this vacancy so our principal has release time to do administrative work. District President Zank and the Synod are continuing to search for potential candidates. Many thanks to Pastor Tesch, Kelly Danell, Beth Kamps, and Deb Mathey for filling-in during the 2020-21 school year.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Tim Baneck (chairman), Kris Charapata (treasurer), Paul Kamin (secretary), Todd Thayer

2021-22 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Given the congregation's approval of suspending the Bylaws for 2 years, new criteria are being developed for future Board members. Current thoughts include a 5-member Board, with men and women able to serve (except for the Chairman) and up to one non-congregational member being able to join. If anyone would like to provide input for the new criteria, please contact Tim Baneck at 715-330-5250.

Stewardship Committee

The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Stewardship Committee meets once a month to find more ways to encourage God's people to serve Him with everything they are. We are working on a few things to support our congregation.

- **The Scrip Program**

This is a great way for our members to support the work of the church financially. It costs us almost nothing and the

companies from whom we buy the Scrip happily send a percentage of what we purchase to our church. The Scrip Program has already generated more than \$1000 in the last few months and will generate even more as more of us get involved.

The proceeds from the program go to the church budget (25%), the TLS Scholarship Fund (25%), and for scholarships (50%).(25%).

Thank you to all who have participated in Scrip.

Thank you to Polly Baneck for all the time and skill she pours into the program!

- **Adopt-a-Bill**

We've run an "Adopt-a-Bill" program before with success. We're going to see if we can do it again. We plan to put some copies of recent bills on the table downstairs so we could look at them and take care of some ourselves. Before we can make that happen, we're going to work with our treasurer and our bookkeeper to make sure we aren't creating more problems than we're solving and to make sure our communication is solid.

- **Matching Funds**

Several members of Trinity have expressed an interest in participating and supporting this program. It's a chance for us to double our offerings to the Lord. We already have a generous gift of \$4000 dedicated to this program.

As always, we urge our members to support Trinity out of love with your Time, Talents, and Treasures.

George Dumke (chairman)
Mike Beaumont

Board of Elders

The Worship Service Vote Is In! - 76 people responded to our Worship Service Survey and there was a clear majority. 44 of us want to go back to one service, 29 wanted to stay with 2 services, and 3 people wanted whatever was easiest for Pastor (Thank you!). The Board of Elders met last Wednesday and voted to go back to 9:00AM services starting in our new fiscal year, on Sunday July 11. We considered starting on July 4, but decided to not to change on the holiday weekend. Visitors might not hear of the change and we didn't want to disappoint them

Return to Normalcy: - We decided to start returning the elements of the service that were removed during the COVID restrictions. Here's what you can look forward to:

1. Connection Cards - Beginning this Sunday, June 6, we will no longer have someone at the information table checking people in and out. We will use our connection cards to register for communion, receive prayer requests and information requests, and contact information changes. Thank you so much for filling out the connection card every week! When guests see all of us filling out the cards, it encourages them to share their information with us so we can reach out to them with God's Word!
2. The Pew Envelopes are back on June 6.
3. Communion - We will go back to communion at the communion rails on July 11.
4. Collection - We will begin to use the collection plates for our traditional offering collection on July 11.
5. Full Worship Service - We will return the parts of the liturgy that were removed due to COVID: The Psalm, the General Prayer, the sung responses, and the fourth hymn.
6. Children's Sermons will return on July 18.
7. Our Lectors, Cantors, & Greeters will return to service as soon as we can get them scheduled.
8. Our Choirs and Singing Groups will start to practice again. We look forward to their enhancing our worship and glorifying God with us again soon!

The Church Picnic: Vote Is In! - 55 people weighed in on our annual Church Picnic. 35 of us voted to hold it again this year. 17 voted to wait a bit. Of those 55, 17 wanted to have the picnic in the school gym and 20 wanted to have it off site. We'll forward your wishes to the council.

Small Group Bible Studies: - We're gearing up to hold small group Bible studies (organizing, recruiting leaders, finding materials, and scheduling). We're hoping to start again at the beginning of the school year.

New Hymnals: - Our synod is producing a new hymnal! Has it really been 28 years since the last one came out? The new hymnal offers a comprehensive set of resources to cultivate a rich worship life in Lutheran churches, schools, and homes. We have a lot to look forward to in our new hymnals.

1. The new hymnal retains the best of old hymns (from our current hymnal and supplement) while making room for new treasures.
2. A complete and flexible musical psalter. The new psalter features multiple musical settings in a variety of styles for all 150 psalms.
3. A singer's book. More hymns are set in straightforward and familiar four-part harmony, making it easier for people to sing in harmony.
4. The blessing of digital resources.

- a. Christian Worship: Service Builder will streamline the work of worship planners and church offices.
- b. Musician's Resource (downloadable files for involving a wide variety of instrumentalists)
- c. An app that brings hymnal resources to smartphones or tablets for various personal and family uses.

For extensive additional information, visit christianworship.com.

Thanks to generous donations, we will be able to provide the new hymnals as soon as they come out! The new hymnals are expected to be available this fall.

A Note from the Principal's Desk

Greetings!

TLS is officially on summer break! We were blessed to be able to finish the school year in person just as we started - and we thank God for that. Thank you to the many others who also played a part in the success of the school year - thanks to all our TLS families, to the members of the congregation, the faculty and staff of TLS, to our Board of Education, and everyone else for supporting and guiding the school through this school year!

Our school year wrapped up on Friday, May 28th. As temperatures got warmer and warmer, we struggled with opening our classroom windows from time to time because of the construction happening on Colfax Street. We will be very glad once the new sidewalks are in and the road is paved!

This summer, our staff is already planning ahead to next school year. Other minor projects will also be tackled this summer, including organization of storage spaces, deep cleaning of facilities, waxing of floors, and maybe even some minor painting.

We are already looking forward to beginning next school year closer to the "normal" of what we have been used to in the past. Our teams will once again be able to participate in the athletics we offer. We also hope and pray that we can continue on with the church and school picnics and other similar events!

Lastly, congratulations to our 2020-2021 8th grade graduate Landen Kerkstra!

God's blessings to you all!

Exploring Stewardship

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (EHV)

'Now concerning the collection for the saints, do as I directed the churches in Galatia to do. ²On the first day of every week, each of you is to set something aside in keeping with whatever he gains, saving it up at home, so that when I come, no collections will need to be carried out.

Regular Giving

The apostle Paul is speaking to the Corinthians about two of his greatest passions: providing for the ministry of the Word and caring for the poor. Paul is particular about the principle of regular giving; he asks the Corinthians to set aside a certain amount every week in proportion to each person's prosperity, so that the money will be ready and available when he arrives. This principle is still valid today.

Once we establish the importance of giving to God first, we need to set up practical ways to ensure that we are faithful in our resolve. Often, we have good intentions, but are tripped up by a lack of discipline in our method of giving. We can order our lives to set aside a portion of our money for God, a portion for our savings, and a portion for spending. We can enter it into our budget or fill out all the envelopes every month. We can separate money to be given to God from household expenses. Or we can establish automatic withdrawals from our checking account or credit card to make sure that our offerings go directly, and faithfully, to God's work.

Giving systematically is the key to faithful giving. Give regularly, preferably on the same schedule that you get paid. This takes giving out of the realm of mood. We don't give just when we feel like it, or just when our heartstring have been plucked by some dramatic and sentimental appeal. We give when the time comes, regardless of our mood. Regularity takes a lot of the pain out of giving.

Regularity also saves us from self-deception. If we give nothing for a time, and then for a heartstring appeal we give a hundred dollars, we deceive ourselves that we are very generous. But if that's divided into two dollars a week, not many of us can claim great generosity from such a gift.

THINK ABOUT IT

- What is your method of giving? Could you make it more consistent and regular?
- Why is thinking about money and giving sometimes painful?
- How can you grow in maturity in the area of giving?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Father, you are the most generous giver of all.

Your giving isn't sporadic or hit-and-miss; you bless me all the time. Teach me to give as you give, with an open heart and open hands.



**American
Red Cross**

Community of Giving

TRINITY EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL BLOOD DRIVE

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4TH 2021
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL GYM
1216 COLFAX STREET • MARINETTE, WI**

But if we walk in the light, just as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.
1 John 1:7

FOR AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (715) 732-9868
OR CONTACT THE RED CROSS

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

Church President

In April, the congregation voted to suspend Trinity's Bylaws and in order to adopt a new organization structure. This new structure only includes 8 elected officials rather than the 30+ we have now. This new structure includes an elected official for the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Go Coordinator, Gather Coordinator, Grow Coordinator, and Trinity Lutheran School Coordinator. On June 27th, we'll be holding a special election meeting to vote in the nominees. Please pray and consider nominating yourself for one of these positions. You may be receiving a call in the near future by myself or Pastor to ask if you would like to be a nominee. Again please pray for our congregation and those looking to lead this new organization for a successful transition for the church and the volunteers. If you are interested in learning more, please call myself, Nathan Schmiede, or Pastor with any questions.

Next, a survey was sent out to the congregation asking about the possibility of a church picnic. As we are exiting COVID, I'm really looking forward to gathering with my fellow brothers and sisters, and it seems you all feel the same as well. The council will look at a few different dates for a picnic later this summer and will be calling upon volunteers to help organize the event. If you are interested in leading the event, or help with the event, please let me know.

Lastly, our next congregational voters meeting will be held on July 18th after church.

Josh Ehlers