

October 2020

Pastor's Page

Friends in Christ,

I hope that this Tidings finds all of you doing well. Even though things are still far from normal, with school being back in session and outdoor worship taking place on Sunday mornings, it definitely feels like things are better than they were. Hopefully we can continue to go about most of our day to day activities moving forward safely.

As most of you know, we recently sent out a questionnaire regarding Sunday morning services this fall. Many of you have responded to that message. Based on the responses we have received so far, we are planning on resuming in-person worship services in our sanctuary on October 25th. Please read through all of the information that is included in this newsletter about the guidelines that will be in place for these services. Again, if you have any comments or concerns about worship please contact me. We are currently planning on one service at 9 am, but may need to adjust if we get more responses from those who would like to attend. We will still continue to record and post an online service every week as this will be a way for those who cannot attend physically to stay connected even when the pandemic ends.

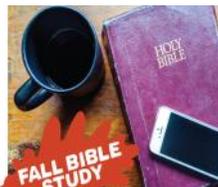
Confirmation has been another ministry of ours that has been greatly affected. We were unable to celebrate confirmation for our 8th grade class last spring, so we are having a service to recognize and honor them this fall. This service will take place on November 1st at 1 pm and is reserved for confirmands and immediate family only. We will record the service for extended family to watch.

We will also be taking this year to transition from a three-year confirmation program to a two-year program moving forward. This means that confirmation will look quite a bit different this year for those of you in grades 6-8. If you are in 6th grade, you can participate if you want to, but it's not required. We will have a 45 minute in-person check-in class later in October to discuss how we will move forward with some in-person classes and online options. We will also need to move the night we hold confirmation to Monday or Tuesday evening this year. If you have a scheduling conflict those evenings that's fine as I anticipate only meeting in-person a handful of times if possible. Beginning in the fall of 2021, confirmation will only include 7th and 8th grade students. 6th grade students will be involved in a leadership role for our Sunday school program in a sort of pre-confirmation way. Finally, any in-person confirmation activities will be optional this year.

Things aren't how we want them to be, but we trust that God is with us. This has been a challenging year and I thank all of you for your patience and support as we try to figure things out. I hope and pray that all of you have been strengthened and encouraged by Christ during the past several months.

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
- 2 Timothy 4:7*

God Bless,
Pastor Jon



Pastor Jon has begun a Bible Study on minor prophets. These videos are available weekday mornings on our facebook page and on YouTube.

A seven week zoom Bible Study began Thursday, October 1 at 9:30 am, and runs Thursday mornings at 9:30 am through November 19. (No Bible Study October 15 due to MEA break.) Please join us!

Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89668666229> to join the Zoom Meetings.

Meeting ID: 896 6866 6229 Passcode: 463067

Reply to this email or message Pastor Jon at pastor@trinitynorthbranch.org with any questions.

TRINITY TIDINGS

Trinity Lutheran Church



Join us at 9:00 am for Outdoor Worship 10/11 and Indoor Worship beginning 10/25

The guidelines for worship are listed below. If the infection rate in Chisago / Isanti county goes above 30/10,000, we may place in-person worship services on hold.

If you are sick, have a fever, present any COVID-19 symptoms, or have any underlying health conditions, please stay home. This includes staff and volunteers.

The doors will open 15 minutes prior to the service. Please enter and exit through the same outside door.

As you arrive, please keep a distance of at least 6' from those who are not a part of your household, this includes shaking hands or hugging.

There are only 35 places we could seat individuals or families due to distancing requirements. You must register by the prior Thursday evening at 5 pm. Stay tuned for registration links, or leave Julie a message 651-674-7047 to be registered.

There will be no fellowship or coffee hour gatherings before or after the service. If you want to speak at length to someone who is not in your household, please do so outside and maintain 6' distance.

We expect those attending to enter the doors and go straight to their seat in the sanctuary. An usher will direct you to your seat. We will be seating the sanctuary from front to back so you will not get to choose where you sit. You will be seated on one of the sides where you entered from. Please maintain a 6' distance between yourselves and anyone not in your household while entering. Appropriately distanced seating areas will be marked.

We are asking everyone to practice good hygiene, including washing your hands and limiting the number of surfaces/objects you touch. If you cough or sneeze, please cover your mouth and direct it into your elbow. We will have tissues in the pews and hand sanitizer at the entrances for you to use. If you use tissue, please throw them away.

Attendees are required to wear face masks the entire service. There will be no group singing or spoken responses as part of the service.

Communion will not be part of the service. We will have prepared communion kits for you to take home if you would like.

Our nursery and Playground are closed. Childcare will not be provided. The children's worship/busy bags will not be available. Parents are expected to ensure their children practice proper social distancing.

Restrooms will be open for emergency use only. Please plan accordingly if you are able to.

The service will be abbreviated. Sanctuary windows may be opened, so warm clothing may be needed.

Please contact Julie or Pastor Jon at 651-674-7047 with any questions.

Online Worship Services

One of the ways we have tried to stay connected is by including videotapes of a variety of individuals and families from our congregation reading scripture, leading the Lord's Prayer or sharing special music. Getting to "see and hear" other members of our congregational family is a highlight of the online worship service for many.

Please let Deb know if you'd be willing to participate in this way in our online worship services. Email her at: daulich@trinitynorthbranch.org and she will put you in the schedule and help you make your recording happen. Most people record their videos in their own homes/yards using their cell phone. If that isn't possible, we can arrange for another way to enable you to participate.



Thank-you for your continued support of the worship life at Trinity Lutheran!



Our weekly worship services are recorded in advance, and available at 6:00 am each Sunday on our facebook page and YouTube channel. They may be viewed any time, but if you'd like to watch "together" with others, tune in at 9:00 am!

Like Trinity Lutheran Church on facebook, and comment on our posts! Updates, Bible Study and weekly worship videos are posted frequently!



If you do not have email, and would like to receive a bulletin by mail each week, please call the office at 651-674-7047 and leave a message for Julie to add you to the mailing list.

Treasurer's Report

Statement of Income and Expenses

Month Ending August 31, 2020
Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch, MN

<u>Income</u>	August Actual	August Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Unified Giving	\$ 27,469	\$ 30,456	\$ 230,568	\$ 243,647
Loose Offering	\$ 139	\$ 708	\$ 3,288	\$ 5,667
Other Income	\$ -	\$ 46	\$ 4,980	\$ 9,867
Rent	\$ 325	\$ 292	\$ 2,210	\$ 2,334
Phoenix Operating Reimbursement	\$ 1,463	\$ 1,958	\$ 18,015	\$ 15,667
Special Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Regular Giving	\$ 29,396	\$ 33,460	\$ 259,060	\$ 277,181
<u>Expenses</u>	August Actual	August Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<u>General Expenses</u>				
Ministry Support	\$ 26,016	\$ 27,744	\$ 218,187	\$ 226,243
Church Property	\$ 3,167	\$ 8,586	\$ 51,894	\$ 59,356
Stewardship	\$ 140	\$ 108	\$ 668	\$ 867
Learning & Youth	\$ 48	\$ 825	\$ 1,793	\$ 4,600
Worship	\$ 287	\$ 492	\$ 1,361	\$ 3,933
Witness & Service	\$ -	\$ 17	\$ -	\$ 133
Sub-total General Expenses	\$ 29,657	\$ 37,771	\$ 273,903	\$ 295,132
<u>Mission Support</u>				
Synod Support	\$ 2,429	\$ 2,429	\$ 19,433	\$ 19,433
Missionaries	\$ 188	\$ 188	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Iringa Church Tanzania	\$ 92	\$ 92	\$ 733	\$ 733
Sub-Total Mission Support	\$ 2,708	\$ 2,708	\$ 21,667	\$ 21,667
Total Regular Expenses	\$ 32,366	\$ 40,480	\$ 295,570	\$ 316,799
Total Net Income - August 2020	\$ (2,970)	\$ (7,020)	\$ (36,510)	\$ (39,618)

August Income was \$4,064 under the August Budget
August Expenses was \$8,114 under the August Budget

YTD Income is \$18,121 under the YTD Budget
YTD Expense is \$21,229 under the YTD Budget

Net Income is - \$2,970 for the month
Net Income is - \$36,510 for the year

Please consider online giving

YTD Phoenix Rent Received \$113,153
Mortgage Balance as of 8/31/2020 \$318,722

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd J. Fisk
Treasurer

The church office is closed for the 'Stay at Home' order. Staff are working remotely, and can be reached by email or voicemail. See the back page of the Tidings for staff contact information.

See our website www.trinitynorthbranch.org **to give electronically** on a one-time or recurring basis. Select the date and frequency (one time, weekly or monthly) and designate the amount and fund (Unified, Building, Viking Vittles, Memorial or Other.) Changes can easily be made at any time.

Offering can also be mailed to Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 447, North Branch, MN 55056.

Children & Youth Ministry News

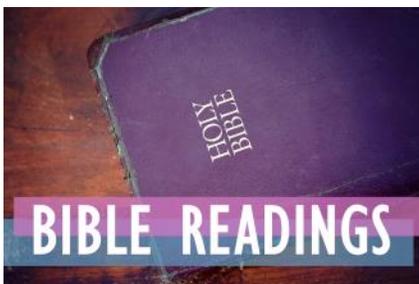
We were happy to celebrate milestones in children's ministry this fall while the weather was nice. Backpack tags were sent out to youth and we had a Backpack/Devices Blessing for students, staff, and families at the outdoor worship service on September 13 as well as online. We also celebrated the 3rd Grade Bible milestone and last years 5th Grade Sunday School Graduates with a milestone gift at the outdoor worship on September 27 as well as online.



We started family faith formation at home in September focusing on the Faith 5. This will continue into October as we focus on this for the first 6 weeks. The first take home kits for family faith formation will be ready the first week in October and will include lessons, crafts, and coloring pages for 4 weeks at a time. We will also have a community project each month in the kits that we can work on together while we are apart. Look for an email about a contactless pick up date and time outside of Trinity like we did for Summer in the Son kits. October will include rock painting that we will use to create a rock garden at the church. The November kit will include a Grateful pumpkin for each youth along with ornaments they can create at home and return one to decorate a Christmas tree in our church with ornaments from all of our youth and families. It's not too late to register and join in the fun this year. The registration form can be found online or you can reach out to skrosschell@trinitynorthbranch.org to sign up.

EDGE is kicking off our year meeting outside social distanced at Trinity. We hope to meet outside while weather permits.

We invite incoming 9th grade families and any other 9-12th grade families that are interested in joining EDGE to register or reach out to Marie at mray@trinitynorthbranch.org



Scripture readings for October 2020

Sunday, October 4th, 2020/Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serve as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

Psalm 80:7-15 Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine.

Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture. *(continued)*

Scripture readings for October 2020 continued

Sunday, October 11th/Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

Psalms 23 You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over.

Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

Sunday, October 18th/Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. Worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

Psalms 96:1-13 Ascribe to the LORD honor and praise.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

Sunday, October 25th/Reformation Sunday

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy. The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

Psalms 46 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.



Did you know?

Did you know that a portion of the rental monies that come in each month from the Phoenix Academy are directed to a Community Outreach Fund? These funds are held by Trinity Lutheran Church and are carefully and thoughtfully tended to by the Trinity Outreach Team.

So far, in 2020, donations from this fund have been made to the North Branch Food Shelf; New Pathways to house families in hotels or rental properties while not being able to be housed in churches and grocery cards for food for them; blessing bag items for youth, homeless and police officers; and our missionaries in Pawaga as they are on the front lines fighting Covid-19 there. Just this past month we were able to send money to ELCA congregations in Cedar Rapids, IA following the derecho that decimated much of the area in August. They continue to be on the front lines helping many who were underserved even before the derecho hit. Our gift will help them remove trees and debris from a severely damaged trailer court and then also help "shore up" some of the damaged trailers. They will also be able to provide food and school supplies to families in that trailer park who are in great need.

Even though we aren't able to gather "in person" as much as we would like for now, ministry is still happening in and through us! Thanks be to God!

Viking Vittles Update / Coat & Hoodie Drive

Viking Vittles is back this year serving students PK-5 with bags of food that are sent home the last day of school each week. This is available to any child who signs up for the program; there are no qualifications. Viking Vittles is available at the Education Center, Sunrise River School, and at the mall for distant learning students.

Viking Vittles has also started a new Care Closet at the middle school. Students will be able to shop for food to bring home to assist families that are food insecure. In addition to the food there will be personal care products as well as school supplies available.

These programs are made possible by the generous support of our community--in particular the American Legion Post 85, the Lions as well as many individuals, churches and businesses. In addition, we are fortunate to have received grants from Great River Energy, Operation Round Up, Walmart, Thrivent and the Initiative Foundation.

We are collecting hoodies for middle school students and winter jackets for children 4-10. If you have a new or next to new hoodie or jacket you would be willing to donate, they can be dropped off at Trinity Lutheran Church (Door 12) or the Middle School entry at door # 1 on Wednesdays from 9am-3pm.

We are always looking for volunteers to deliver the totes to the schools. If you would be willing to help out please email outreach@trinitynorthbranch.org.

If you would like to donate to Viking Vittles you can send a check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, P O Box 447, North Branch, MN 55056. Please note Viking Vittles in the memo line. Questions may be directed to Donna at 612-363-5072.

Vikings Vittles Packing

We are in need of people to pack Viking Vittles bags. Packing is at 10 a.m. on Wednesday morning at church and usually takes about 45 minutes if there are 2 people per table. We prefer that only people in the same household pack at a table. Masks are required. We use an online sign up form and sign up is for a table.

Go to [SignUp.com](https://signup.com/go/CPhKcVP): <https://signup.com/go/CPhKcVP> and select the week you would like to volunteer for. When signing up for packing food bags, you sign up for a table and can have up to 4 people from the same household helping. No registration or password is required. Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Mary Twitchell at 320-630-5040 and she can sign you up manually.

From your Council Chair



Fall is my favorite time of year! I love the changing of the colors and the splendor of creation as God's paintbrush continually highlights the gold, oranges and reds of the season. Every day brings a bit more color and this year they're very beautiful. We are blessed to live in an area with so many trees and color all around us to enjoy. I am constantly taking pictures, trying to capture the beauty I see but the photos can never quite do it justice.

It is a time of transition, and anticipation. Just as we all anticipate each new day with what God has in store for us personally, we as a church are in continual transition as well to see how we can continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a virtual world.

We have transitioned to on-line family style faith formation for Sunday School, we re-elected bishop Lull via Zoom at the Synod Assembly and continue to find ways to connect to each other outdoors, by phone, snail mail, face-time, zoom or email or other means we would not have tried before. I have been enjoying Pr. Jon's daily devotions. And for those of you who are available, don't forget to connect to the Zoom Bible study on Thursday mornings. Another new thing.

We are working to determine the safest way of worshipping together in the sanctuary. I know we all are eager for the pandemic to be behind us and things to go back to the way they were. But we all know that will take much longer than any of us wants or had anticipated. It is good to be together. I have enjoyed the outdoor worship (and I listen online to see if Pr. Jon changes his sermon) and seeing many of you there. Although it is sometimes difficult to identify people easily while wearing our masks.

I know there is something reassuring and comforting about being together in the sanctuary. Even if we can't sing. But, we need to be diligent about the health and safety of all our members and our staff. We will get there. We just need to be patient.

In HIs Grip

Ann Tanko, Council Chair

Path Program

Trinity is scheduled to host the Path Program in early November. Families are continuing to stay in hotels rather than moving from church to church. Because of the costs of the hotels, they currently have a maximum of 3 families. The hotel costs are approximately \$500/week/family. Trinity is hosting for two consecutive weeks, so there are \$3000 in hotel expenses, plus \$500-600 in meal expenses for those two weeks. If you would like to contribute towards the hotel and food costs, please note Path Program on the memo portion of your check, or in the "other" section if giving online. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!

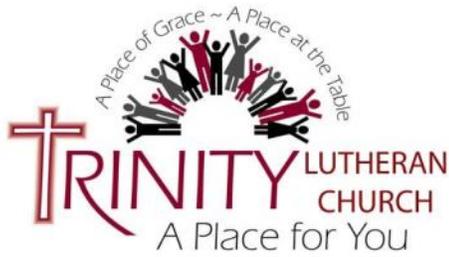


To the Cemetery Fund in memory of friends and relatives from Marlene Magnison

Undesignated in memory of Dolores Koch (mother of Karen Young) from Orv & Bev Otterness

Undesignated in memory of Alvin Wenzel from Ron & Diane Barsness

"Christ in Our Home" daily devotionals for October, November & December have arrived. We have both large and regular print books available. If you'd like a copy, email jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org or leave a message for Julie at 651-674-7047 to coordinate pickup.



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PO Box 447
North Branch, MN 55056

Return Service Requested

Mailing Label

October 2020

Partners in Ministry: The People of Trinity

Church Office: 651-674-7047 Church Fax: 651-674-7048
Church Office Hours: no scheduled hours at this time
Sunday Worship: available at 6 am Sunday mornings on our
facebook page and YouTube. See our website for links.
Church email: office@trinitynorthbranch.org
Church website: www.trinitynorthbranch.org
Pastor Jon Yurk Cell: 612-231-2111
pastor@trinitynorthbranch.org ext. 12
Sue Danielzuk, Church Administrator
sdanielzuk@trinitynorthbranch.org ext. 37
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Sarah Krosschell, Sunday School Coordinator
skrosschell@trinitynorthbranch.org
Deb Aulich, Director of Worship and Arts
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Julie Morgan, Church Office Manager
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Cheryl Immel: Financial Recorder
cimmel1@trinitynorthbranch.org
Tyler Olson: Sr. Choir Director
tolson@trinitynorthbranch.org ext. 15
Outreach Committee: Outreach@trinitynorthbranch.org

Roger Anderson, David Nelson, Rick Olson
Custodial & Cemetery Staff
Todd Fisk, Church Treasurer
Office Help: Judy Weiss 674-2710
Sharon Fairbanks 674-7311
Missionaries: Dr. Stephen Swanson family –
Tanzania
Our Sister Congregation in Tanzania—Pawaga

Church Council Members:
Ann Tanko, Council Chair
Linda Born, Council Vice-Chair
Dennis Aulich, Lucas Edson,
Kristen Johnson, Rosanne Johnson,
Erin Judson, Gary Porath, Vicky Trampe,

If you have an email address, but are not receiving our emails, please forward your email address to Julie at jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org. We are sending information and updates weekly via email, and want to reach as many people as possible. Thank you!