



Pastor's Message

Someone in our new neighborhood put a sign in their living room window:

“We will get through this together.” The 1. Letter of Peter to the early Christians puts it this way: “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” (1. Peter 4:10)

Social distancing has changed all our lives in the blink of an eye. But even in these trying times some things still remain the same. In many phone conversations you have shared with me how life giving your social network is for you. And how much you are looking forward to the day, when we can all come back together to meet in person for worship and our many church activities. We experience how our faith in a loving and compassionate God helps us tackle one day at a time in hope. Especially now we live in the promise: Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed.

Coming together as Trinity Lutheran has become entirely different from anything we would have imagined possible in March, but here we are and Trinity is very active and alive; more focussed too. Living through a pandemic together, we worry less about amalgamation. Instead we are grateful to have each other and simply be Trinity. There is still work to be done, but after this - we know, we can do it. It feels like a new church is quickly evolving out of our current challenges and that is not in the least because of the many “good stewards of the manifold grace of God, (who) serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

Thank you to our amazing volunteers for all they do to keep Trinity up and running at this time; for your continued financial support and for your participation in our online worship. Thank God for his manifold grace, for blessing us with one another and with an abundance of the gifts and skills so many of you are able to share. Thank God for our very own Trinity Pentecost experience.

This month's edition of Trinity's newsletter “One in Christ,” is about “Community.” Enjoy the interview with Jackie Nunns, Trinity's new volunteer Christian Education Coordinator and other articles exploring how God's spirit works among us and brings us together as Trinity Lutheran.

God bless you all and stay well

Yours Thomas and Daniela

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meet Jackie Nunns.....	2
TB Update	3
Trinity Milestones.....	3
Community in Isolation	4
How to Help our Community	5
Trinity Friendship Circle.....	5
The Back Page.....	6



COMMUNITY

MEET JACKIE NUNNS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR



Jackie Nunns

BIBLES AND BAGELS VIA ZOOM!!

The Women's Bible Study that usually meets at Hughson St is now meeting via ZOOM during the COVID-19 crisis. The next Zoom Meeting is **Saturday, May 30th at 10:30 am**, with the theme of PATIENCE. If you are a regular member you will be sent the link to join. You can also email Jackie Nunns at nunnsjackie@gmail.com and she will send you the link. Alternatively, you can phone in 1-778-907-2071—meeting ID#836-0192-9249, Password 092320.

MEN'S BREAKFAST VIA ZOOM!

The Men's Breakfast that meets at Hughson St. is also meeting via Zoom. The next meeting is **Saturday May 30th at 9:15 am**. The topic for that day is "God in our lives". If you are a regular member Pastor Thomas will email you the link or you can email him at tfrm58@gmail.com. Phone in for the meeting is 1-778-907-2071, meeting ID #811-6896-1582, Password 757201.

As we move into our new life as Trinity Lutheran Church, we look forward to working and growing together in faith. To help us forge this new path, we can draw on the support and leadership of our pastors, our committees and individuals as well. One of those individuals is Jackie Nunns.

Jackie came to us three years ago when she made the move from Waterloo to join her daughter and family who live here in Hamilton. Jackie brought with her a wealth of knowledge and experience that she is willing to share with us as we embark on this new phase of Lutheran life in Hamilton.

Jackie had a particular interest in learning how we, adults in particular, can grow in faith. She observed that traditional church activities (e.g. adult Bible study) alone weren't always meeting members' needs. She sought answers to questions such as: How are we taught to be Christians? How can Bible study be made more relevant? How can faith play out in everyday life? Her search for answers led her back to Waterloo Lutheran Seminary where she took her Master's degree in Christian Studies. Her research was focused on Adult Education in Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada congregations. During her studies, Jackie was able to visit and observe in various congregations. She sought out new ways of looking at the Bible as well as different ways of leading worship that would encourage a growth of everyday faith.

Jackie came to realize that Christian Education is a part of everything we do in our congregation and how we do it. Consequently, the content and the methods that we use in learning to be Christians needed to change in order that we might grow in stronger faith together. Never has this been more important for us as a group of believers than as we begin our journey as the new, cohesive congregation called Trinity Lutheran Church. Jackie maintains that as Christians we have all been called to be "ministers", not just when we're together in our physical place of worship, but as parents and grandparents, in our workplace, in every facet of our lives. That is what living your faith looks like.

Our Pastors Thomas and Daniela along with our Transition Board recognized the resource we have in our friend Jackie. Having a theological background coupled with her decades of experience as a facilitator in congregations, as a speaker and consultant for Augsburg Fortress and as a member of the national church's Faith, Order and Doctrine Committee, Jackie is eager to share her knowledge and experience to support our growth in faith in the Trinity fellowship. We are blessed to have Jackie Nunns take on this voluntary role of Christian Education Coordinator. We look forward to working with you Jackie!

Submitted by Emma Begert

TRINITY MILESTONES

Happy Birthday to those members of Trinity turning 90 + this month. They are:

Helmut Zabel May 8
 Hildegard Hofmann May 13
 Bernardo Mertins May 24

We wish all of the above a VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY and



God's Blessings for many, many more!

Happy 60th Anniversary to: **Barbara & Hans Weingartner** celebrating on May 28th. May God continue to bless your life together.



Trinity has a new phone number!

A new phone number and email address are the latest changes at Trinity.

The new phone number is:
 (905) 974-9878

This number will ring at all three churches. A new email address has been created for Trinity as well. All email correspondence can be sent to:

tlchamilton2020@gmail.com

TRINITY TRANSITION BOARD CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNICATION

by Barbara Alken

Greetings from Trinity's Transition Board! We have a few updates for you, but first we would like to say that after consulting with the Synod, we will be continuing in our responsibilities until we can hold our first congregational meeting. We may not know when that will be, but ask for your prayers and God's guidance to continue to move the work of Trinity forward during these extraordinary times.

Trinity Lutheran Church has been accepted by the Eastern Synod as a church based on our new Constitution and Bylaws! The next step is to put forward a resolution to request membership in the Eastern Synod, which has been done.

As information from Public Health officials and advice from our Synod come our way, we will continue to adjust our plans for worship. At this time, we will continue with virtual services through the end of May. Be sure to look for information via email on how log in via Zoom, follow along the service as written, or in the mailings that will be coming twice monthly.

You can phone in via Zoom each week if you don't have a computer. The number to call and put in your phone is listed below for the month of May (no charges are incurred for you to do this). All services start at 10:00 AM::

Date	Phone #	Meeting ID#	Password
May 3	1-778-907-2071	897-7359-3534	392440
May 10	1-778-907-2071	852-0248-4593	592115
May 17	1-778-907-2071	856-9388-3946	355864
May 24	1-778-907-2071	849-3777-5391	064779
May 31	1-778-907-2071	871-0876-0518	157422

The Transition Board finalized the responsibilities for the volunteer position of Christian Education Coordinator that Jackie Nunns will be doing. The focus of this position is to look for opportunities to open up new avenues of learning and growing in faith for all of Trinity's members, and the Christian Education Committee can begin forming now. If you would like to be a part of this, please contact the office at 905 974 9878 (remember all our previous numbers for the 3 sites are still operational—they are just forwarded through to Carol Ann).

We will also be looking for an Envelope Secretary, someone to enter the weekly donations into the system at church and distribute receipts and envelopes. Once again, if you are interested, please contact the office and Carol Ann will pass your name on.

The work of Trinity continues, even in lockdown, and we are blessed to have so many dedicated members willing to come together to become one, as the Amalgamation Committee envisioned:

***Together God has given us everything we need
 to create a church that is a beacon of
 worship, care, learning, and service.***

Stay home! Stay safe! And we will all be together again!

COMMUNITY IN ISOLATION

by Jackie Nunns

My nephew calls it "isolation education", his way of describing all the things we are being challenged to learn while we keep ourselves and others safe by staying home.

Some of us are learning new technical skills. Our pastors, musicians and other leaders are finding out how to hold worship and church meetings through on-line technology. Many of us are learning how to 'zoom worship'. Many have volunteered in new ways, for example to read scripture in worship online, and we see and hear them 'up close'. We speak of our concerns. And we can greet some of our fellow members in their homes.

It seems somewhat ironic however that just as the Trinity congregation begins to form a new community, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to be physically distant. What might we learn about being a community in this time of isolation?

Community in our congregation is about something more than just greeting those we already know at coffee hour. In isolation, community requires an intentionality that we might normally not realize. We have to pick up the phone, write a note or email to make contact.

Community is forming around care for each other.

Through the phone tree, I have had conversations with people whom I had not met yet, and these conversations go deeper than they would over coffee. I ask, "How are you? Do you have what you need during this time? Is there anything I or the pastors or the congregation can do to help? What challenges do you face in isolation?" Community is forming around care for each other.

My own experience of being homebound is teaching me compassion for those who are always homebound, not just during the pandemic. Since I live alone, I am used to being independent, looking after myself. Through various volunteer activities, the church and visits with friends, I usually have lots of social contact. Now I depend on my family to shop for me. I find the hours long, and I tire of my solitary activities. There are no hugs in isolation!



What do I really need to live well? What is important? Perhaps others are experiencing this kind of reflection too. I hear some people talk about the future when we can go back to 'normal', as if nothing will have changed, but I wonder. Will we value the community we find in our families, friends and the congregation more when restrictions are lifted? We may keep some of the new ways we have learned to stay in touch. Whatever we have learned about doing well with less will help the world. Perhaps our experiences will make us more compassionate toward those who are homebound or lonely all the time.

What will you want to carry forward from this time of isolation? How will it shape the new community of Trinity Lutheran Church?

During Social Isolation, How Can We Still Help our Community?

By Debbie Lindemann

These are trying times for so many people. The restrictions put on our lives by the COVID-19 pandemic have increased needs in our community and yet we feel like our hands are tied from helping due to social isolation rules. But there are still ways to help and here are some suggestions:

- 1) Have you checked on your neighbours, family members, and church members? Many people would welcome a phone call, email, or letter right now. If you are able to, offer to pick up groceries and other needed items for those who are homebound.
- 2) Consider letting essential workers know that you appreciate their efforts right now. A great project with your children is to make a thank-you sign to display on your lawn or in your front window. How about making a Twitter or Facebook message? Listen for announcements on the radio for times to make noise for our healthcare workers.
- 3) With so many people off work right now, food banks are experiencing a sharp rise in usage, while at the same time they are greatly challenged to bring in donations due to cancelled community events. Hamilton Food Share provides food to 12 local food banks and hot meal programs. Contact-free donations of non-perishable food and funds are still being accepted at their office located at 339 Barton Street. They are open Monday to Friday from 9 am – 4 p.m. You can also make a donation over the phone by calling (905) 664-9065 or by using this link: <https://www.hamiltonfoodshare.org/how-you-can-help/donate/>.
- 4) Consider signing up as a volunteer Crisis Responder for Kids Help Phone. They are on a mission to ensure youth are never alone as we all face an unprecedented global crisis. Our young people must feel help is close even though we are apart physically. Because Kids Help Phone is an e-mental health service, they can remain open for young people across Canada 24/7 without any face-to-face contact. Now more than ever, youth need you to give them a lifeline of help and hope! <https://kidshelpphone.ca/get-involved/home/>
- 5) Living Rock Ministries, located at 30 Wilson Street in Hamilton, provide youth-at-risk with support, education, and opportunities. These young people are affected by significant risk factors such as loss of family, poverty, substance misuse, and mental health. The programs and services provided by Living Rock help youth find ways to meet their basic needs of food, education, and shelter while offering opportunities for personal development, life-skills, and employment training. Monetary donations are welcomed at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/9518>. A list of needed products are found on this link: <https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/95303dc1/files/uploaded/needs%20flyer.pdf>.
- 6) As hard as it is for all of us, an important way that we together can help our community is by following our municipal, provincial, and federal health guidelines. If we do that, we can ensure that we get through this pandemic as safely and quick as possible.

Be safe everyone! We'll get through this and will be all the better for it.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO IF YOU ARE SELF-ISOLATING?

Now is a great time to go through your residences and purge. Open your closets, go through your drawers, check all those nooks and crannies. It is spring so it's time for a good spring cleaning. A lot of places are not accepting donations right now during the pandemic, but you can organize and pack unwanted items into boxes and bags, and hold onto them until we get the green light. Please do not send to a landfill. When our buildings open up again, Trinity Lutheran Church's Friendship Circle (located at the former Transfiguration) will happily sort through your bric-a-brac for their garage sales or to donate to various charities.



**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Pastor Thomas and
Pastor Daniela Mertz

OUR VISION

Together God has given us everything we need to be able to create a church that is a beacon of worship, care, learning, and service.

ONE IN CHRIST is published under the auspices of the Trinity Lutheran Church. The Editorial Board is comprised of members of the congregation and the pastors. Submissions will be edited for clarity, positivism, adherence to our mission statement, constitution and the love of Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

Please make all submissions to Cathy Calvin by email before the 20th of each month to dccalvin1980@gmail.com.

THE BACK PAGE

CALLING ALL WRITERS IN TRINITY CONGREGATION!

The “One in Christ” newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church is looking for submissions for its future publications. If you have an article or original poem you would like to submit—we would like to hear from you! Submissions of 500 words or less would be preferred

Please send any submissions (along with a photo of yourself if you have one) to either the church office email—tlchamilton2020@gmail.com or to the email of the editor, Cathy Calvin dccalvin1980@gmail.com. If you don't have access to a computer, you can either mail it to the church office or drop it in the mailbox at any of the three church locations.



Thank you for considering to contribute to the newsletter!

Trinity Lutheran Church

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