

THE PIPER



SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

Trinity Lutheran Church

2221 North Oak Lane

State College, PA 16803

814-238-2024 www.trinitystatecollege.org

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH at 10:00 AM

SPECIAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE

w/COMMUNION AND MORTGAGE BURNING SERVICE

The service will be held outdoors in our outdoor chapel. Please bring your own lawn chairs and remember your mask.

We ask that you please adhere to social distancing. Family units may, of course, sit together, but please respect other member's personal space.

The church will be LOCKED.

A portable toilet will be available if you need it.

If the weather is questionable, this service will be cancelled. Please check your email or Facebook BEFORE coming to the church.

Wednesday, September 9th

Soups will be available for pickup between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm

Soups available this week:

Olive Garden Zuppa Toscana Soup (GF)

Chicken Rice Soup with 10 Vegetables (GF/DF)

Carolina Shrimp Soup (GF/DF)



GF - Gluten Free

DF - Dairy Free

TRINITY EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

YouTube Service w/Bulletin Emailed

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

LABOR DAY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

5:00 pm Trinity Wheelmen

5:45 pm Outdoor Zumba

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

11:30am-1:00 pm Soup Pickup

7:00 pm Zoom Vesper Service

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

10:00 am Zoom Bible Study

5:45 pm Outdoor Zumba

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

8:30 am Outdoor Zumba

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

10:00 am Special Outdoor Worship & Mortgage Burning Service with Communion

YouTube Service w/Bulletin Emailed

PRAYER LIST

TLC DISCIPLES

Jerry Wion, Carolyn Kresen, Carol Bernlohr, Dee Kiel, Bruce Lorich

TLC FRIENDS

Mark & Cora

Readings

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

The remaining Sundays in September, the 20th and the 27th we will also be having outdoor worship services held at 10:00 AM each week.

The church will be locked.

Please again bring your lawn chairs and your mask.

The YouTube service will be recorded during the 10:00 AM service on these Sundays.

AFTER the 10 AM service the recording will be edited and uploaded to YouTube. Once that is completed, the service will be emailed to the congregation.

Please be patient as we work through this new procedure.

Thank you.

Fall Worship & Bible Study Offerings

7:00 pm Monday Zoom Bible Study

7:00 pm Wednesday Zoom Vesper Service

10:00 am Thursday Zoom Bible Study

All of these will be scheduled on Zoom and you will need the Zoom link to join. Please email Beth at tlcoffice2@comcast.net or Pastor Ron at tlcrevron@comcast.net so that we can get you on the email list to receive the Zoom link to join each offering.

Monday Bible Study will start September 14th

Wednesday Vesper Services will start

September 9th (link will be sent to all)

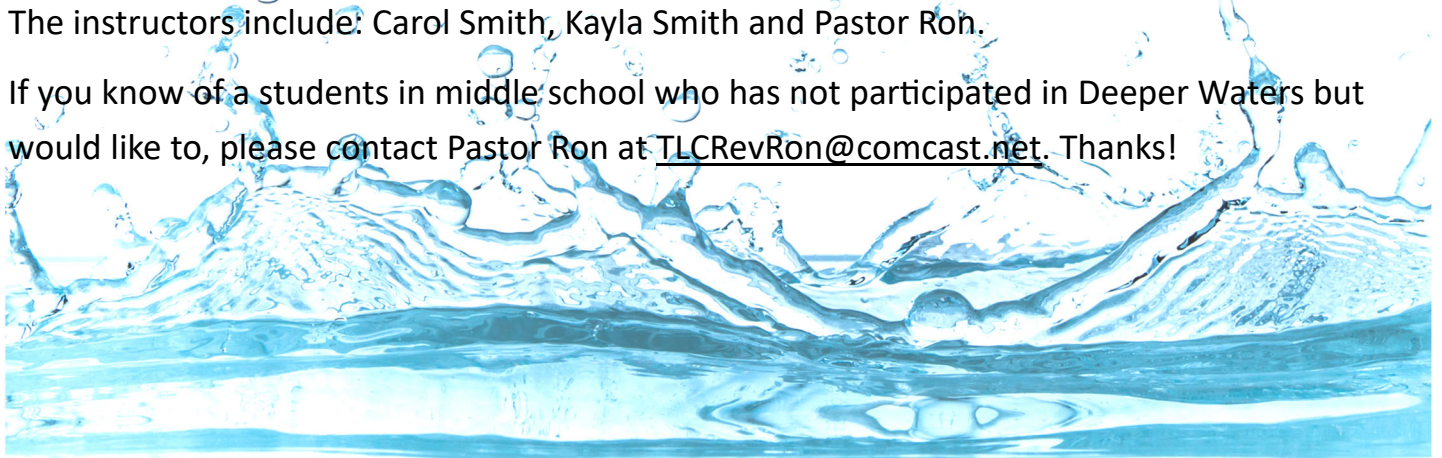
Thursday Bible Study will start September 10th

DEEPER WATERS - starting Sunday, September 20th at 11:00 am

As the fall activities resume in one form or fashion, we do the same here at Trinity. Though we practice infant baptism we invite young baptized disciples to make Public Affirmation of their Baptism once they complete a three-year study. That course is called Deeper Waters, so named to help participants delve deeper into the waters of their own baptism. Normally, students in middle school (grades 6-8) participate in Deeper Waters.

This year, the class will be virtual. Zoom class sessions will be on Sunday mornings. With Outdoor Worship being offered at 10 am, Deeper Waters will meet at 11 am. To date, these are the students I have registered for the class: Rowan Brownson, Sophia Card, Sydney Fletcher, Elizabeth Fryer, Gavin Humphrey, Lacey Sheaffer, Jonah Trout and Bryce Wenrich. The instructors include: Carol Smith, Kayla Smith and Pastor Ron.

If you know of a student in middle school who has not participated in Deeper Waters but would like to, please contact Pastor Ron at TLCRevRon@comcast.net. Thanks!



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

September 6, 2020

Beloved in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord, Jesus Christ!

One of my favorite stories from the Bible can be found in Acts 12. Peter, like others in the early church, had been arrested and locked in prison. Though he was chained and positioned between two guards, God sent an angel who told Peter what to do. When he stood the chains fell off. He wrapped his cloak around himself and walked out of the prison without any the guards noticing. Stories like this have always captured my imagination!

Though freed from one prison, Peter faced challenges from his supporters. Here's the next scene:

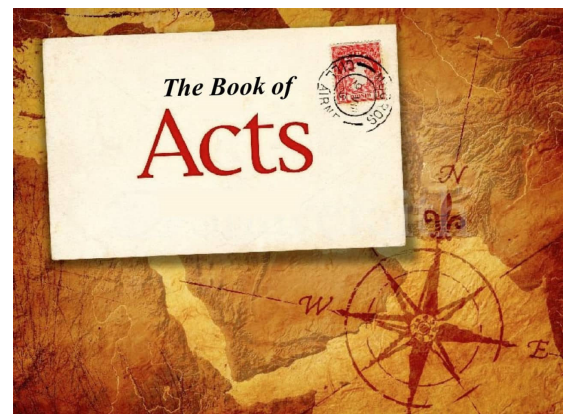
¹² As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. ¹³ When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ On recognizing Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. ¹⁵ They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel." ¹⁶ Meanwhile Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the gate, they saw him and were amazed. ¹⁷ He motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, "Tell this to James and to the believers." Then he left and went to another place.

As serious as we take the Bible, the humor here is hard to miss! Can you imagine the look on Peter's face when he identified himself to Rhoda, the maid, who failed to open the door but instead ran to announce him? You can almost hear Peter knocking, "Uh, anyone there want to let me in?! Anyone?! Anyone, at all!?!"

Like Peter, many disciples today may feel like Peter in this story. Our church facilities are closed. Doors are locked. They too may be saying, "Anyone there want to let us in?! Anyone at all!?!" COVID-19 has the church, like many businesses, closed. The virus spreads too readily, particularly among groups in confined spaces.

I would love nothing more than to follow the advice from the advent hymn which begins:

Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;
the King of glory comes in state;
the Lord of lords and King of kings,
the Savior of the world who brings
his great salvation to the earth.
So, raise a shout of holy mirth
and praise our God and Lord,
Creator, Spirit, Word. (LBW #32)



Toward that end, our first in-person worship will be Sunday, September 13, 10 am, in the Outdoor Chapel. Even there, face masks are required along with social distancing. Like you, I am eager to see everyone and to gather in community. Fortunately, we have no gate or fence, so we won't leave anyone standing out in the cold, like Peter! Council meets on September 15 and will consider next steps for worship.

Unfortunately, guidance and advice warrant continued caution, as the cases reported in Centre County continue to increase.

My brother is also an ELCA pastor. A few weeks ago, on a Sunday morning, as he and my nephew were out and about, he saw Roman Catholic Churches and some Community Congregations open for worship. He wondered if it might be time for them at First Lutheran to resume in-person, inside worship. Then he received a phone call from an older couple who belong to that congregation. The man is battling cancer, so he and his wife have been extremely careful to follow all the precautions regarding COVID-19, and still they both contracted the virus. He called with appreciation that the congregation was not offering in-person worship because if they had gathered indoors this couple would have attended and would have, no doubt, infected others.

Much as I, too, want to gather as a community of faith, I care too much for your health and well-being to risk spreading the virus.

So, thank you for understanding. Thank you for your continued support. Thank you for your prayers for me and our congregational leadership. Thank you for your continued witness to the Gospel, caring for your loved ones and neighbors. Thank you for wearing your mask, social distancing, and frequent hand washing.

Just as God rescued Peter from that prison cell, God is at work such that one day we too will be freed from this pandemic and we will be free to gather openly once more! Until then, may God bless you and keep you, may God make his face shine upon you and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

With Christ's Love,

Pastor Ron



A Note from the Webb Family

To our Church Family at Trinity:

We wish that you all could have seen our faces when we opened the mail, on the day the donation check from all of you in our church family arrived. We were honestly speechless for several minutes. And, if you know us at all (or ever sat near us in church when our kids were smaller), you know that this is an unusual occurrence.

We are overwhelmed by your generosity, and we promise to put your loving gifts to good use, to help with medical expenses and ongoing therapy. Rachel, Chloe and Olivia are all improving every day. There is still a lot of rehab to be completed, but we expect a full recovery for all three of our girls.

We are most grateful for the many prayers that were sent up, for healing. Our family is a testament to the power of prayer, and we know that we have been given a gift. We promise to pay the generosity forward.

With love,

The Webbs (Dave, Kelly, Julie, Rachel, Duncan, Chloe and Olivia)



On forgiveness ...

From READERS DIGEST

Some of these are included in the sermon for September 6.

“Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.”

—*Paul Lewis Boese, business executive.*

“Good to forgive; best to forget.” —*Robert Browning, poet*

“Always forgive your enemies—nothing annoys them so much.” —*Oscar Wilde, playwright and wit*

“But they’re family, and you forgive them, even if they are human equivalent of hyenas. Because that’s what you do ... Forgive.”

—*Kristan Higgins, novelist*

“If we really want to love, we must learn how to forgive.” —*Mother Teresa, humanitarian.*

“Once a woman has forgiven her man, she must not reheat his sins for breakfast.”

—*Marlene Dietrich, actress.*

“Resentment is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies.”

—*Nelson Mandela, anti-apartheid activist and politician*

“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.”

—*Lewis B. Smedes, ethicist and theologian*

“It’s said in Hollywood that you should always forgive your enemies—because you never know when you’ll have to work with them.” —*Lana Turner, actress.*

“It is very easy to forgive others their mistakes; it takes more grit and gumption to forgive them for having witnessed your own.” —*Jessamyn West, writer*

“Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude.” —*Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

“Men and women who can’t get over the past... That’s what ghosts are.” —*Stephen King, novelist*

“To err is human; to forgive, divine.” —*Alexander Pope, poet.*

“As long as you don’t forgive, who and whatever it is will occupy a rent-free space in your mind.”

—*Isabelle Holland, novelist*

“It is better for a leader to make a mistake in forgiving than to make a mistake in punishing.”

—*Muhammad, prophet.*

“Reject your sense of injury, and the injury itself disappears.” —*Marcus Aurelius, Roman emperor*

“In marriage, every day you love, and every day you forgive. It is an ongoing sacrament, love and forgiveness.” —*Bill Moyers, political commentator and journalist*

“The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.”

—*Mahatma Gandhi, Indian leader and activist.*