

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER May 2020



Trinity Lutheran School

We exist to help families in Aberdeen and the surrounding communities by providing children with quality academic and Christ-centered education, in a loving and caring environment.

Trinity Lutheran Church

We exist to share the good news of life through Jesus with the world and to nurture believers in their faith, all to the glory of God.



WE SIMPLY HAVE TO TRUST HIM

Why?

It's a logical question. It can be a dangerous question.

Why did the Lord allow this pandemic to take place? Why is the Lord allowing the Coronavirus to cause various problems in our country including health troubles, economic hardship, and even death? Why isn't the Lord ending this pandemic?

Why?

People want reasons. They want good reasons—reasons that will make sense to their way of thinking.

But the truth is, God doesn't always give us reasons for why he does or allows something to happen. Sometimes, we just have to trust that the Lord has his reasons even though we don't know what they are.

The trouble is some people aren't satisfied with that answer. They look for and sometimes even demand specific reasons for why God is doing something. In some cases, people imagine that they can look into the mind of God and know the specific reasons God has for what he does.

Various people did it after September 11, 2001. They were sure that God allowed that day of tragedy to punish the United States for its sins. Some are saying the very same thing about Covid-19.

But the truth is, the Bible does not specifically say that God is sending the Coronavirus to punish the United States. Yes, the Bible says that on occasion God will send trouble to punish the wicked. But there is nothing in the Bible to assert or insist that this is why God is allowing this particular pandemic.

The Apostle Paul says, "For who has known the mind of the Lord..." (Romans 11:34 EHV)? We can't look into God's mind and know all the reasons he has for what he does. In the book of Isaiah the Lord says, "Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are

higher than your ways, and my plans are higher than your plans" (Isaiah 55:9 EHV). God is so far beyond us, that we can never understand all the reasons he has for what he does.

The Bible does tell us that God works for the glory of his name (Exodus 14:17), and the good of his believers (Romans 8:28). But he does not tell us the specific ways he does this. We simply have to trust him.

The Lord may have any number of reasons for allowing this pandemic. But he has not told us specifically what those reasons are. We simply have to trust him.

Might God use the Coronavirus to punish certain wicked people? Perhaps. But he has not specifically told us that he is, so I dare not insist that he is. Might God use this pandemic to lead certain people to repentance. I hope so. But I can't look into his mind and know that for sure. I cannot and I dare not say more than what the Bible plainly says.

I'd like to know all the reasons God has for allowing this pandemic. But he has not told me what they are. Instead of presenting my own personal speculation as if it is fact, I need to simply say, "I don't know all the reasons God has for allowing this. I simply have to trust him."

At times like this, it is good to follow Solomon's words. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5 EHV).

Pastor Rawerts

ANOTHER WORKER FOR GOD'S KINGDOM!

On May 16, Sarah Kjenstad will be graduating from Martin Luther College. Lord willing, she also receive a Divine Call that day to serve as a teacher in one of our WELS schools. We thank the Lord for blessing Sarah during her years of study. We also ask the Lord to watch over her and continue to bless her as she serves in the public ministry.

CALL DECLINED

After prayerful consideration, Miss Cassandra Schwark has declined the Divine Call she had received to teach grades 1-2 at St. Bartholomew's in Kawkawlin, Michigan. We ask the Lord to bless Miss Schwark as she continues to serve us here at Trinity.

2020-2021 PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

It's not too early to think about signing your child up for the 2020-2021 school year. We have already had inquiries and even several pre-registrations. We would like to be sure our members have enough time to sign up first. We offer a 5-day preschool, 3-day preschool and a 2-day preschool and your choice of morning or afternoon preschool. Aftercare will also be available. Please call the school (605-229-4697) to register your child.

CONFIRMATION

Due to Covid-19, we will not be having our formal confirmation service on May 10. When the confirmands have completed their instruction, they will be recommended for communicant membership in our congregation. Once

the Council has accepted them as communicant members, they will be invited to receive the Lord's Supper. The public questioning of the confirmands will be done online at a date yet to be determined. When we are able to hold public worship services again, we will choose a date for a formal confirmation service. The members of this year's confirmation class are:

Tristan Gosch

Cassidy Hardie

Jacob Leinen

Catharina Scott

Veronica Scott

David Van Veen

We pray the Lord will watch over them, bless them, and keep them faithful forever.

HYMNAL FUND

Northwestern Publishing House will be introducing a new hymnal in the fall of 2021. To prepare for the purchase of the new hymnal and other new materials that will also be available, we have started a hymnal fund. If you would like to make an offering toward the purchase of the new hymnal, please write "Hymnal" of your offering envelope.

OFFERINGS

Even though many church and school activities are being canceled, the ministry of our church and school is continuing. We are still making our contributions to missions. Teachers are still preparing lessons for students.

Salaries, utilities, and mortgage payments still need to be paid. We respectfully ask you to continue to set aside your regular firstfruits offerings. You may wish to mail them in or drop them off at church when you are able. You may also wish to do your giving online. The following announcement gives information on how to do that.

ONLINE GIVING

For those who wish to, you can make your offerings online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at www.trinityaberdeen.org,
- 2) Click on the orange "Online Giving" box,
- 3) Click on the "Create Profile" button, then
- 4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

If you have any questions, contact Al Kjenstad.

EASTER DVD

Our Synod has produced a special DVD about the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus entitled, "Come, Follow Me." Copies of the DVD are on the bulletin table and are available at a cost of \$2.00.

FREE IN-HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

For a limited time, Northwestern Publishing House is offering access to

free Christ-Light lesson PDFs to teach children at home. These Sunday school lessons are available for grades pre-K through 6th. Downloads for each age level include student lessons, teacher's guides, and copy masters that contain activities like songs, coloring pages, skits, and more for each lesson—everything needed for simple and familiar Sunday school lessons at home. In addition, the popular Bible Stories for School and Home is on sale for \$9.99, a savings of \$12. This easy-to-read collection of 102 illustrated Bible accounts is great for children in first to fourth grade to read with their parents. There's no better time to help parents assure children with these lessons that in good times and bad, God is always in control.

DISTRICT HISTORY BOOK

This year our Dakota-Montana District will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. To commemorate this event, our district is publishing "A Centennial History: The Dakota-Montana District 1920-2020". The book will be available for purchase this summer. A limited number of books is being published. If you would like to pre-order one or more copies of this book, please call the church office at 225-6081. The cost of the book will be \$15.00.

FINAL REQUEST FOR RECIPES

We have been gathering recipes only for *salads and desserts* to put into a Trinity Lutheran cookbook We will continue to take recipes until April 30.

We have someone who will print and bind it for us at no charge. If you are interested in contributing to the cookbook, please turn your recipes in to Penny. The recipes may be typed,

printed, or emailed to her. You may contribute more than one recipe in each category.

TRINITY LUTHERAN GRADUATES

The Trinity Lutheran Kindergarten graduates are:

Benjamin Andreasen
Caden Gelling
Ava Haessig
Triggvie Lien
Stella McFarland
Thulay Paw
Breeah Powell
Andrew Rawerts
Ruby Ulrich

Our Trinity Lutheran eighth grade graduates are:

Jacob Leinen
David Van Veen

Our Trinity Lutheran high school graduates are:

Truman Allam
Jada Jundt
Nickolas Krokell
Jasper Lien
Stephanie Van Veen

Our college graduate is:

Sarah Kjenstad from MLC

May the Lord continue to bless these young people now and forever.

AMAZONSMILE

If you shop at Amazon.com, there is a way you can support Trinity Lutheran School at the same time!

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support Trinity Lutheran School by shopping AmazonSmile!

You must START your shopping at this website: <https://smile.amazon.com> and follow the directions to get started. Our organization is listed as "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church." Make sure to select the Aberdeen address, as there are many "Trinity" listings. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Jessica Kjenstad.

ONLINE SERVICES

Worship services will be posted on our website, on YouTube, and our Facebook page, each Sunday. Simply go to our website, trinityaberdeen.org and click on 'Church Service Videos'.

GROCERY RECEIPTS

Thanks to all of you who have been saving the Ken's and Kessler's grocery receipts throughout the school year. Please continue saving the receipts through the end of May.

BOX TOPS



Please continue to save your "Box Tops for Education" throughout the summer. They can be given to Penny or placed in the box on the bulletin table.

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWSBYTES

God continues to richly bless Trinity Lutheran School! Here are some recent notes and news related to our school.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Trinity Lutheran School's last day will be May 8, 2020. We are planning to send yearbooks out the second week of May. All our Kindergarten and 8th grade students will be graduating. We are still in the process on planning exactly how we will do graduation. All things are going well with the school during these different times. God has truly blessed Trinity and especially our school families and those connected to our school.

May the Lord richly bless each student as they enjoy the bounties of summer, and bring each of them safely back this fall.

THANK YOU, COACHES



A special thank you to Al and Jessica Kjenstad, Becky Biegler, Amy Rawerts, Trista Dunsmoor, Dylan Duvall, Doug Klipfel, Mariann Klipfel, Cara Fonder, Matt Fonder, Rachel Duvall, Holly Novstrop for the countless hours you have devoted to our kids; coaching the kids in a nice, long and successful season. Your hard work is truly appreciated.

ETERNITY IN MY HEART

Blaise Pascal was a 17th-century French mathematician, physicist, and Christian philosopher. He said once,

"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.

Pascal was right. There is no meaning in the universe if you deny the Creator, no love in the universe if you deny Christ the Savior, and no wisdom in the universe if you deny the Spirit. King Solomon, speaking as "the Preacher" (i.e., "Ecclesiastes") wrote brilliant lines on the emptiness of life without God: "I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end" (Ecclesiastes 3:10, 11).

Even unbelievers believe in the afterlife and want to go to heaven, because that yearning to be reunited with the divine has been put in their hearts whether they realize it or not. Alas, they cannot fathom what God has done and with reckless abandon design their own roads to heaven, every last one of which is a dead end.

Don't live your life with a vacuum inside you. Let the Word of Christ fill your soul and spirit so that you may enjoy your eternity.

Pastor Mark Jeske
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HOLY COMMUNION

We are scheduling times where small groups of people may come to receive the Lord's Supper. We will be offering the Lord's Supper on May 7, 8, and 9.

We will be having brief Communion services every 20 minutes at various times throughout those days. We will conduct these services in the Fireside Room. We will invite 7-8 people to join us for each service. We are asking members to call the church office and choose a time when they would like to come to receive the Lord's Supper. We will be having Communion services at the following times:

**Thursday May 7 5:00 p.m. to
8:00 p.m.**

**Friday May 8 5:00 p.m. to
8:00 p.m.**

**Saturday May 9 3:00 p.m. to
6:00 p.m.**

Please call the church office at 225-6081 to arrange a time for you to come and receive the Lord's Supper.

May we also suggest that if you come to receive the Lord's Supper, this would also be an opportunity to bring your offering envelopes.

Please continue to check our website for more church and school information.