

Trinity Tidings

October 2020

"God stretches the northern sky over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing" Job 26.7

It may sometimes feel as if we are dangling midair, holding on for dear life, but God reminds us that He holds the balance of life in His mighty hands. This has been an unusual year, but there will always be new challenges, unprecedented circumstances, to which we must adapt by holding strongly to our faith. Though we have not been in the church building for a while now, we have been in each other's lives, some more than others, but everyone in prayerful ways. God is working among us every day. Christian artist Tauren Wells, sings, "There's a light you don't notice, until you're standing in the dark. And there's a strength that's growing inside your shattered heart. He's got a plan, this is part of it. He's gonna finish what He started" (God's Not Done with You). Regardless of a virus, people are going through other kinds of tremendous suffering from broken families, abuse and lost jobs to poverty, prejudice, and death. There will always be obstacles and opposition we must face. But we face them together. Jesus promises *"where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them"* (Matthew 18:20).

When we are of one mind in Christ, we can erase the lines in which we constrict our thinking. We are called to color outside those lines, move outside our comfort zone, which includes new ways to worship God. This is an exciting time for the church because God cannot be limited by time and space. Like the changing of seasons, signs of God's love appear everywhere throughout the year. Fall, which is in the air today, brings us a yearning for covering, a blanket of warmth which the SON offers no matter how many clouds are in our lives. Like a painted canvas with the master artist Himself, God brings together every color you can imagine with the promise new life will emerge come spring, even as its bright colors of orange, red, yellow and browns drift down upon us and embrace us with the movement of the Holy Spirit. Winter white landscapes remind us of baptism and God's ability to clothe us with compassion, forgiveness, respect, honesty and love, like a blanket of snow. Dormancy is a sign of recovery, a waiting period before we bloom again in newness. Is it possible church, as we know it, has become dormant, a little dull? Opportunity comes as Spring births a promise of new beginnings along with birds and blooms...another reminder that we get to start each day over...each day a clean slate. Once Summer is in full swing, colors of the rainbow burst under the warm SONshine nurtured by frequent cooling raindrops of eternal promise. The point is; Things. Change. Times. Change. If we hold on to the beauty of each season allowing love to guide us we will grow into vessels for which God created us.

Take hold of what is important and let adiaphora be the bonus. Adiaphora is nothing more than the extra stuff, good stuff, but not essential to our faith. Be strong, approach all obstacles, decisions and disappointments with grace. Michael W Smith sings, "He gave me wings so I could fly - And gave me a song to color the sky" (Grace).

Go color your world...your canvas is a clean slate and ready to take on the lines of a new created church. Let us fill it with love and compassion, bring alive all the things we desire for one another, fill this new blank slate, this new chapter in our lives with color. *"So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"* 2 Corinthians 5:17



Be safe, be well, be still, and hold on...God's not done with us yet!

Blessings, Pastor Cheri

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colebrook

Reverend Cheryl A. Korte, Pastor

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Pastor will be on vacation October 9-18. Please call Pastor Bob Ierien for emergencies at 717.679.1058.

Dear TLC Family and Friends,

You are invited to worship with us outdoors on **Sundays September 27 and October 4 at 9 am**. If cancelling due to weather we will send out email and phone prayer chain. The YouTube online worship service, in its entirety, will continue to be available each week.

When you come to worship please wear appropriate clothes for the season.

We want you to be comfortable and warm. Pastor and team will be in the Bandshell. Park your cars as you normally do and walk over to a spot on the grass towards the Bandshell. Please remain socially distanced for everyone's comfort. If you want to stay in your car you may park as close as possible in the field— similar to the annual picnic parking. We will have adequate sound system. There will be communion elements and masks available by the hand sanitizer as you enter the side parking lot.

We've added these policies and enhanced safety protocols to protect you and others during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- ✓ Basically, bring your own EVERYTHING
 - BYO chair
 - BYO mask
 - BYO snacks or coffee
 - BYO sanitizer
- ✓ Hand Sanitizer will be available upon entry and exit
- ✓ Mandatory mask policies
 - Masks will be given to you if you don't have one
 - Masks will be worn the entire time except for the moment of communion participation
- ✓ Social distancing procedures are in place at least 10 ft apart
- ✓ Though we cannot touch we have lovely foam hands that everyone can use to share peace and offer many AMENS.

Service will include most everything with the exception of singing and of course holding hands.

We hope to see you there. Be assured Trinity Colebrook is ready to care for you.

Pastor Cheri, Council and Worship Team, 717-606-8851



Reformation Sunday – October 25

Martin Luther said that the Bible and the teachings of Jesus can all be understood by three solas. **The three Lutheran SOLAS** (sola, Latin from alone) are core principles of the Reformation that guide Lutheran Theology to this day.



If you understand these three solas, you will be able to wonderfully explain what the Reformation was all about and what is the heart of the Bible as we understand it even today.

Sola Gratia Grace Alone

We are saved by God's grace alone and not by doing good works, believing the right things or behaving in a certain way. Indeed, we are not even able to participate in our salvation, because humans are and will always be sinful, part of the human condition we cannot escape. We completely rely on God in Christ to be graceful and save us even though we do not deserve

it. God's unconditional love for us is the reason for God's free gift of grace. Grace frees the Christian from all worries about salvation. It frees us up to do God's work with our hands in this world. We are called to pour the love we receive from God back into the world again and to become Agents of God's grace.

**God's work.
Our hands.**

Sola Fide Faith Alone

Faith comes from God through the Holy Spirit as you participate in the life of the church. Sometimes, you feel Christ's presence within your soul and life, and that is always a great blessing. Sometimes you feel nothing. Sometimes your faith is passionate and fervent. At other times you are full of doubts. Independent of what you feel and think, Christ is always with you, and his promise of forgiveness and salvation is for you.

Sola Scriptura Scripture Alone

Lutherans follow a man, Jesus Christ, not a book. The Holy Scriptures testify to the Word of God becoming flesh in Jesus Christ. The authority of the Lutheran church is rooted in the testimony of scripture. The Lutheran church reads that testimony through the eyes of the gospel, which is the good news of Jesus Christ who defeated death and bridged the gap between humans and God.

Wear red and celebrate our Lutheran heritage!

Why wear red? The liturgical color of this day is red, which represents the Holy Spirit.

Council is preparing a task force to consider when and how we might reopen indoor worship. Stay tuned.



Bill Calhoon, Pennie Freet, Wendy Hammer (Vice President), Dan Hardy (Secretary),
Jeff Keener (President), Rich Scanlon, Earl Smith, Jessica Writer and Tim Yeingst

FROM JEFF KEENER, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As you all know, our lives have been drastically disrupted over the past few months because of the corona virus. This is the worst health crisis of our lifetime, affecting every aspect of life. Since the virus is so easily transmitted, it is probably the most difficult time in the life of this church.

Since we have not gathered since March, some of you may wonder what Council is doing. Council continues to meet monthly with most of the time devoted to discussing opening the church for worship. The worship & music committee also held two meetings, devoted to the same subject.

Council had put together a possible scenario for an outdoor worship service for August 9. This included wearing masks, social distancing, communion (as we have been doing with the YouTube services), no singing and no fellowship time. We thought that it would be difficult to wear masks for the whole service because of the heat of this summer. We were concerned that someone might become ill. We asked ourselves, how many of you would attend?

We have gotten some guidance from Synod which we have been following. We have received some protocols for resuming worship that was discussed at our September council meeting. We ask for the congregation's patience and prayers as we face difficult decisions regarding opening the church. The most important thing that council considers is the safety of our members.

I believe the Pastor, Craig, Joe and those participating in the YouTube services have done a great job. These services are meaningful and are well done. Pastor Cheri came up with the idea of YouTube communion which has also worked out well.

Offerings continue to be received through the mail. A few weeks ago, there was a problem with mail going back to senders but this has been corrected by the post office. While offerings had started out strong, they dwindled in the early part of the summer. However, in August income was \$12,326 while the amount needed monthly to meet the budget was \$10,168. Thank you all!

In 2 Corinthians, Chapter 9, Paul says "each one should give, then, as he has decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause. As the scripture says, he gives generously to the poor, his kindness lasts forever."

At this point, we need to financially take care of our Pastor. We do that with offerings. So, if you are able, please remember the church with your offering. Another financial commitment that we made (in the budget) is \$2400.00 to Kiwira Coal Mine Congregation. Past uses of this gift have been paying pastor's salary and putting electricity in the pastor's house. Again, if you can, please consider Kiwira Coal Mine Congregation when you give your offering. These are deserving people who have so little.

The last question – when will we open church again? I think our answer is one that has been said before – we must follow the science. What can be guaranteed is that we will open the church again. It will be opened when it is safe for all.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Account Balances as of 9/2/2020

Account	9/2/2020 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Checking	7,053.02
Savings	34,341.00
Youth Savings	80.00
TOTAL Bank Accounts	41,474.02
Cash Accounts	
Mutual Fund	56,670.00
TOTAL Cash Accounts	56,670.00
Liability Accounts	
Building	- 1,908.33
Memorial	- 9,421.00
TOTAL Liability Accounts	- 11,329.33
OVERALL TOTAL	86,814.69



LWR School Kits

We are still in need of \$158 for shipping. Some stores still have school supplies on sale. Please consider purchasing some items for next year. When indoor church services resume, items can be placed in the container in the narthex. There is also an envelope attached for monetary donations. Thank you.



Christmas Stocking Project

Trinity will again participate in this ministry which provides filled stockings to nursing residents in the Lebanon area. More information will be given in the next Tidings.



Prayer Shawl and Quilt Ministry...

Will be meeting again monthly on third Sundays from 1:00-3:00 pm. Masks will be required. Everyone is welcome.



Change of Address

Samantha Lund
PO Box 294, Speculator, NY 12164

TIDINGS INFORMATION & ARTICLES

November Tidings Deadline: Sunday, October 18 – Items can be emailed to grannycalhoon@gmail.com or sent to Diane Calhoon, Westwood 2J, PO Box 125, Cornwall, PA 17016-0125.

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Sue Baney; Gavin Calhoun; Mike & Kassie Chapman; Ben Chicoria; Lori Colwill, Brenda Flory; Diane Haney; Carol Gingrich; Remington Hardy; Lou Harre; Katelyn Keener; Kelly Morgan; Jody Rice; Doris Savage; Nikki Scolet; Mary Lois Smith; Marlene Stehman; Bob Walborn; Kendra Wolfe; Mike



Grieving – The Family of Bob Sells (Barb Witmer’s brother); The Family of Mike Bowman; The Family of Chuck Shirk

Assisted and Skilled Care – Ellen Gepfer

Others in Need – Kiwira Coal Mine Congregation

First Responders – Abigail Romberger; Brad Yeingst; Dylan Yeingst; Tim Yeingst

Military – Matthew Buchmoyer; Todd Campbell; Roger Daub; David Martin; Sawyer Mundorf; Townsend Mundorf; William Rimmler; David Walborn; Andrew Yeingst



The family of Doris Bucks will hold a private graveside memorial at Trinity cemetery on Saturday, October 10. Doris passed away on April 22, 2020. May the family find comfort and peace blessed by endearing memories.

To have the Prayer Chain activated for a family member or friend in need of our prayers, please contact:



1. Pastor Cheri at 717.606.8851 to begin the prayer chain.
2. If Pastor Cheri is not available, call Barbara Hardy.
3. If Barbara Hardy is not available, call any other person listed.

Margaret Daub	717.964.3342	Lillian Minney	717.964.5032
Barbara Hardy	717.867.1286	Pennie Freet	717.269.3292
Karen Miller	717.304.7012	Connie Weirich	717.665.6448



Ellen Gepfer (Oct 8); Elwood Weaver (Oct 10); Ruth Beane (Oct 13); Diane Haney (Oct 15); Victoria Brooks (Oct 17); Lucrecia Hardy, Bob Walborn & Jessica Writer (Oct 18); Jeffrey Keener (Oct 23); Craig Korte (Oct 31)

Clyde & Connie Weirich (Oct 11)
Glenn & Janet Hoy (Oct 20)



FRIDAY ZOOM PRAYER SERVICE

How can we pray for you today? Contact Pastor Cheri or join in at 10:00 for prayer.

Connection: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/855957967>
Meeting ID: 855 957 967
No password required

Please Note: No prayer service on Friday, October 16.



Helping Babies is on Its Way

New parents in Appalachia will soon be receiving some wonderful baby needs from a very giving congregation in PA! A very large box filled with 28 sleepers, 35 receiving blankets, 36 pairs of socks, 26 bibs, 20 washcloths, bottles, rattles, lotions, powders, baby wash, spoons, teethingers and a few extra goodies were mailed out September 15th. Thank you everyone for helping with this outreach!

Time to “Dig Deep”

Social Outreach is starting an exciting new ministry. Our committee recently learned that **more than 2 million Americans** do not have access to running water. This problem is concentrated in communities of color, lower income people in rural areas and tribal communities. There is a human rights nonprofit organization, DIGDEEP, working to eliminate this problem. If you are interested in reading more about the problem and the organization, as well as watching a video segment from CBS Sunday Morning, you can visit their website at DIGDEEP.ORG. The cost to provide a 1200 gallon water tank, buried deep to avoid freezing and installation of basic plumbing and a means to heat water is \$4,500. Our goal (with no deadline) is to raise the money to do that. 100% of our money raised will go to this goal; a special group of donors cover operating expenses.

Our first fundraising event is a walk, bike, or rock(er) event. We want members of the congregation to get sponsors to donate money for the miles they will walk or bike or the time they will rock. Of course, you may also participate by being a sponsor. You may do your activity at any location you choose and on any date between October 1 and October 31.



Sponsorship forms will be emailed, mailed and also available in the Narthex at church.

Let's get started to help bring clean, running water to the families who need it most.



Let's Fill a Basket for the Lutheran Camp Auction



This Year's Theme... **“Home For Christmas”**



~ Suggested Donations ~

Music, Movie/s, books, candles, ornament/s, hot chocolate or cider mix, small nativity scene, mugs, holiday napkins, twinkle lights...etc!

Questions? Call Pennie Freet @ 717-269-3292

Thanks in advance for your donation!

Trinity Lutheran Church of Colebrook
58 Church Rd Manheim PA 17545



From Kiwira Coal Mine congregation showing the pastor, his family and their finished home.

God is good all the time, all the time God is good!



