

A NOTE ABOUT WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

INVITATION TO CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION

Trinity Lutheran Church will commune together during the 9:00 am worship service on May 24, 2020.

Since we last communed on March 15, 2020, we have been so-called “keeping the fast” and refraining from organized communion. This is not unusual, as not so many years ago (*okay, in the ancient of days when I was a kid*) congregations would commune once a month or even quarterly—yes, four (4) times a year.

At the May council meeting, it was decided that Trinity Lutheran Church would resume communing together once a month, on the fourth Sunday of the month, for the foreseeable future. In May, the fourth Sunday is tomorrow, May 24. In June, the fourth Sunday is June 28.

You are invited to commune with your Christians brothers and sisters.

- **Please prepare yourself to receive Holy Communion through reflection and confession.**
- **Please have available some kind of bread and some kind of wine/grape juice or other consumable liquid.**
 - The specific type of element does not matter (Luther would call that adiaphora) – the bread could be a cracker, a wafer, a piece of wheat bread or wheat bread or pita bread (whatever). The liquid could be a small glass of wine or grape juice or apple juice or any type of beverage.
 - What matters is the belief that this is the Body and Blood of Christ.
 - What matters is the reverence of the Sacrament.
 - In the Lutheran tradition, the physical element does not change—it remains bread and wine, but the Body and Blood of Christ changes us. Real presence is key.
- **If at all possible, please join the worship online at 9:00 am on Sunday. The service will include Pastor Amy speaking the Words of Institution and leading the praying of the Lord’s Prayer.**
 - Please print or have available your bulletin available to follow along.
- **If you are not able to join online, and choose to commune at a different time/day, attached you will find a document for At Home Communion.**
- When giving the bread say, “The body of Christ, given for you.” When giving the wine/grape juice say, “The blood of Christ, shed for you.” Upon receiving the bread and wine, you may respond to the gift in some manner. Most people say, “Amen” or “Thank you” or “Thanks be to God”.

You may choose to refrain from communing, as you see fit. This is always true. You may choose to keep the fast. You may remain in your seat while others take part.

During the worship service, there will be special music offered during the distribution time.

There are several readily available “how to” guidance documents online, as well as attached to this email.

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

The church is anywhere people gather in Jesus' name.

The word "gather" simply means "assemble" or "get together" and "draw" or "bring closer". We gather in all kinds of ways—physically, mentally, and in the Spirit through Christ our brother. Earlier this month, Christians from around the country *gathered* for prayer. By the power of the Holy Spirit, individual Christians, large families, and entire congregations gathered united in prayer—for ourselves and the local community, for our nation and our leaders, for our world and the earth.

When we cannot and/or should not meet in a church building, God continues to be present in the creative and intentional ways we gather for worship. Weekly, I send out an email invitation—a call to worship, if you will—to click a YouTube link at 9:00 am (or 9:04...9:06 am for some of you—you *know who you are*) and to worship with the family of God called Trinity Lutheran.

For those known to be without internet access, and there are about 48 family units, the same bulletin is mailed 3-4 days prior and the invitation is the same—please open your paper bulletin at 9:00 am and read the liturgy, sing the hymns, and read the Scripture along with your Christian brothers and sisters at Trinity. Perhaps even pick up the phone and worship together. (Some even receive a copy of the sermon after the fact for reflection and personal edification.)

When you gather in Jesus' name, wherever you are, Christ is present. This is the promise. Therefore, your home is church, too. We teach our children this basic belief, that Christ lives in their hearts and is with them always. Church is not a building we tell our children; church is the people of God.

Holy Communion is a special meal we celebrate when we worship. The bread and wine are mysteriously *the real presence* of Jesus Christ, and we trust that Jesus is really with us in this meal. Martin Luther would say "in, with, and under" the elements. When we cannot gather for this meal in a church building together, it is acceptable to either:

- + 1.) Fast from Holy Communion until you can worship with others in your church building, OR
- + 2.) Use the liturgy in the worship service to celebrate Holy Communion in your home.

If you have questions about communing, please read the attached and contact Pastor Amy at 612-282-2275 or pastoramy@tlcmonticello.org.

See you in the Spirit for worship tomorrow at 9:00 am!

Pastor Amy