



The Beacon

July & August 2021

A note from Pastor Rick:

Siblings of Trinity,

“Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you’re in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ, before God our Father.” -1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (The Message)

I don’t know if I have taken the time to say with all my heart: thank you!

Thank you for being you! Thank you for loving and caring for your neighbors! Thank you for understanding, and doing what had to be done, no matter how hard it’s been! Thank you for doing the right thing and protecting the most vulnerable around us!

It has been a heck of a time these past 16 months of the coronavirus pandemic. You – people of Trinity – and you, siblings of Christ, as individuals and as families, have been asked to do what we would have never thought of in the ‘before times’ pre-pandemic. You were asked to stay home. You were asked to wear masks not just for your sake, but for the sake of others. You

were asked to keep your distance. You were asked to not sing. You were asked to not share the peace. You were asked to do all sorts of things, that, while they made sense in our heads, was painful, angering and frustrating in our hearts.

These past 16 months have been hard. For a few months, we could not even gather safely. Once we did, things were different. Sunday school was radically different, worship was different, council meetings were different; all sorts of things were different.

But even though we all have had times of anxiety, depression, doubt, anger, grief, sadness and more - you kept the faith. You kept the love and care for all of God's people in focus as we worked to keep all safe during this pandemic here at Trinity and in our community. You still supported your church through your gifts of time, talents, and treasure. You stepped up and worked and prayed and were just yourselves in wonderful and needed ways.

We are not through this pandemic quite yet. But it would have been so much harder to get through all of this had it not been for your unwavering faith in Jesus Christ and faith in each other, in what I believe to be our church's finest hour. We fed the community physically and spiritually. We shared life, and love and hope. Especially in the most difficult of times.

And for all of it, and I am sure I speak for Pastor Adam as he was here at the beginning of the pandemic, but I say thanks be to God for you! Thank you! You were enough in the eyes of God, and you still are, and you will always be!

Let's look forward as we learn how to be church post-pandemic, which won't be just getting back to 'normal' but learning how to best be the hands and feet of Christ in a world still desperate for hope. You just did it the past 16 months! Let's keep it rolling!

Blessings,

Pastor Rick MG



Every Sunday at **9:30** in-person and online (YouTube at *Trinity Akron*)

PANDEMIC PRECAUTIONS: UPDATE

Greetings Trinity,

[Jesus said] “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

-Matthew 22:39

At our June 8th council meeting, we discussed the evolving CDC and New York State guidelines around pandemic precautions. While we know that many who come to church are fully vaccinated, there are some who are not, particularly our youngest people under the age of 12. While the pandemic is by no means over (despite growing vaccination and low infection numbers), there is good ventilation that we can provide in the sanctuary in the summer months.

Keeping these things in mind, we are adopting the following updates to our worship pandemic precautions:

- Masks and physical distancing will continue to be required throughout the building for ALL persons – vaccinated and unvaccinated.
- There is an exception for fully-vaccinated persons – and only in the sanctuary – where masks may be removed once seated and physically distanced. When you leave your seat, please wear your mask.
- Singing as a whole congregation will begin again. Unvaccinated persons will need to remain masked to sing.
- Communion in the aisle (coming forward to receive the elements) will begin again. Everyone coming forward will need to stay physically distanced and wear a mask until you receive your communion elements, at which time you may briefly remove your mask.
- Masks will not be required for outdoor worship (ex.: Worship in the Park) but have a mask handy in case we need to move indoors or if you need to access indoor restrooms.
- These updates will take effect the weekend of our Sunday, June 20th worship service.
- The council and I feel that these updates are gradual but significant steps in moving towards life after the pandemic. We will still regularly monitor updates and adjust things as needed to best keep everyone safe from the coronavirus. Your faithfulness and honesty are greatly appreciated as we make these updates.
- I invite you to take a moment and reflect on what emotions this letter stirs in you. Some will feel frustrated that we are moving too slowly. Others may feel fear that we are easing restrictions in the slightest. My hope is that we all might give and receive grace. Grace for ourselves and grace for those who feel differently than we do. Grace for leadership that is trying its best to be faithful and grace for our community doing its best to proclaim the Gospel in thought, word, and deed. Let us love one another by extending the grace God has first given to us.
- We hope to see and sing with you in worship over the summer. There are several other opportunities for us to gather as community outdoors as well. And as always if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to a council member or myself, so you can be heard, and we can address things as needed.

Blessings,

Rick MG & the Trinity council

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Dear Congregation,

The Property Committee is writing to ask for help. Repairs & Replacements are needed around church and monetary donations are welcomed and needed.

- The **boiler** needs to have repairs, which will cost \$5000.00. Dale is currently doing research to see if we should replace the boiler with a new one, or repair the old one.
- The **steps and platform at the South entrance** of the building have sunk on one side, making it unsafe to enter the building. We don't have an estimate at this time. We hope it can be done for less than \$2500 so Council could approve it.
- The **third entrance to the parking lot** (the one near the clothing donation bin) needs repair. The estimate for the area will be for digging deeper, adding new, solid fill, and then a coat of blacktop.
- The **parking lot** is in poor condition. Two estimates were received, and both were more than \$47,000. It is obvious that we cannot afford this at this time.
- There are other areas that need attention, but these are the most urgent priorities at this time.

-Harold M. Gardner, Property Committee Manager

Property Meeting: Please join us

Join us **Sunday July 11th** following worship for a property meeting.
All are welcome!

Anniversary Planning Committee

We will be meeting next Thursday, **June 24th at 6pm** in the fellowship hall. Stay after the planning meeting for the campfire!

Phone Number Correction: Chiavetta's BBQ Chicken Presale

The number listed online and in our bulletins for the Chiavetta's presale at St. Johns in Williamsville is incorrect. Here is the correct number for the presale:

716-632-6557

UPSTATE NY SYNOD ASSEMBLY RECAP

The [Upstate New York Synod Assembly](#) was held virtually this year from June 3rd - 5th. Pastor Rick Mollenkopf-Grill, Ronda Lauridsen, and Jennifer Kleparek gathered in St. John's Hall and attended as voting members. A special thank you goes out to Donna Kumpf and Mary Lou Groff who provided hospitality, and to Pastor Rick for his technical assistance which made viewing and participating in the assembly possible.

The theme was "We Are Church, We Are Called 50-40-10." The theme was selected to focus on building an inclusive and diverse church and "with gratitude for those who have gone before, and hope for the future, the ELCA gives thanks to God in celebration of 50 years of Lutheran women ordained, 40 years of women of color ordained, and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals ordained and able to serve freely in the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. We have much to celebrate: 50 + 40 +10 + and beyond!"

Like all Synod Assemblies, the event consisted of prayer and worship services, special music, workshops, organizational meetings, and opportunities to learn about programs and ministries.

Highlights of the organizational meetings included electing a new bishop to serve a five-year term. Four candidates were called to run and, after five rounds of voting, the Rev. Lee Miller II was elected. [Pastor Miller](#) has served as the Dean of the Niagara Frontier Conference and as Pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Buffalo. Also elected were representatives to attend the [ELCA Churchwide Assembly](#) which will be held in Columbus, Ohio in August of 2022.

Updates on many programs and ministries were showcased including: [The Racial Justice Task Force](#) which was founded in the spring of 2020. Toolkits are available for any congregation and, hopefully, a complete curriculum will be added online soon and available for any church as well.

[Reconciling in Christ](#) focuses on and provides resources for how congregations can be welcoming and safe places for people in the LGBTQ+ community.

[RAIHN Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network which is now called Family Promise of Greater Rochester](#) is part of the national Family Promise program. Its goal is to help families who are homeless obtain permanent housing. The program in the Rochester area involves office staff and volunteers from numerous churches. Families spend weekdays at the office searching for work, completing schoolwork, etc. and then, when the office closes at 5:00, they are bussed to an area church which will be their home for the week. Families from the church volunteer to cook meals and eat and socialize with the families.

[Seafarers International House](#) is in New York City and was founded in 1873. Through the years it has undergone some changes and is now part of ELCA, but the focus has always been to help vulnerable people who arrive in the port of New York. Chaplains minister to people who are

away from home for long periods of time working on cargo ships which has been especially important during the pandemic. The organization also helps other people who arrive in port such as immigrants and asylum seekers.

SUMMER CAMPFIRE NIGHTS

Thursday campfires are being extended! Here are the dates: **July 8, 15, 22 & 29; August 19 & 26 and September 2**

PIES IN THE PARK: July 9th

‘Pies in the Park’ is back this year, scheduled on Friday evening, July 9th. We’ll need volunteers to make pies and coordinate the affair. Stay tuned for more info.

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

Mark your calendars for Worship in the Park at Russel Park in Akron!

The dates are:

June 27th

July 25th

August 29th

Worship at 9:30 am.

GRADUATION: JUNE 27TH

At our outdoor worship service at Russell Park on June 27, we will be recognizing the class of 2021! If you are a graduate of high school, college, earned an advanced degree, or if you have children that graduated from preschool or kindergarten, join us for worship as we congratulate you and lift you up in prayer.

RUMMAGE SALE

If you would like to participate on the planning committee, please contact the church office.
***Please try not to bring your items for the sale until we have a date set, and a plan for where the items will go.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mark your calendars: Rally Day will be September 12th!

Well, my friends, Trinity's Sunday School 2021-2021 has come to a close. As with many activities and gatherings this year, it has not been easy. Many thanks to the staff for meeting, discussing and preparing monthly "Sunday School To-Go" bags for pickup by the young people, and to the parents helping the students at home with their crafts, worksheets, suggested discussions, etc. that were sent home in their bags.

The staff will continue to meet throughout the summer to work out a lesson plan and schedule for the upcoming year. Although the current staff has agreed to teach again in 2021-2022, there is always a need for extra help: Substitute teachers, aides, etc. If you would be interested in working with the youth (ages 3 - confirmation) please contact Pastor Rick or any one of the staff members (Jane Dorr, Tracy Dorr, Ronda Krieger, Donna Kumpf.)

We pray that all students and their families will have a safe, enjoyable summer so we can all come together again on September 12th - Rally Day!!

God bless you and He is always beside you.

-Donna Kumpf

"God loves the sound of your voice - talk to Him often."

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will meet on **Sunday evenings from 7-9 pm on July 11 and 18, and August 1, 22 and 29.** You'll need your mask (if weather moves us indoors), a lawn chair and ideas for what we could do as a group. Depending on ideas, we may add some other happenings! We'll also need a couple of adults to be there as adult leaders as well.

2022 ELCA Youth Gathering meeting: For those interested in going to Minneapolis for the Youth Gathering next summer, there is an informational meeting at **11 am on Sunday, June 27th** at Town Line Lutheran Church, 1159 Town Line Rd. in Alden. Trinity and Town Line are joining together to go to the Gathering. Pastor Rick will be there right after Worship in the Park. Anyone interested in going to the Gathering needs to attend this meeting with a parent. See Pastor Rick if you have any questions.

Pastor's Summer Office and "Village Hours"

During the summer months (July through Labor Day), Pastor Rick's office hours will be 10 am-1 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On most Wednesdays, Pastor is switching up office

hours to be “village” hours. Sometime between 10-2, pastor will be walking the streets of Akron: exploring, meditating, saying hello, and getting to better know the people of the community.

If you live or work in the village, Pastor may stop by (he’d call ahead!). Or, if you’d like to meet up for lunch from one of the village eateries, we can do that. Or join him on a walk around the block.

Pastor’s “village” hours will be on July 7, 14, 21 and 28; August 18 & 25; and September 1st.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

❖ *The family and friends of:*

Michelle Brennan

Jim Thomas

Phil Wittman

Richard Wiley

Carol Bromstead

Margie Pohl

❖ *Amanda (granddaughter of Linda Finger) - prayers of healing*

❖ *Safe Travel for Jean Dolph*

❖ *Healing for Larry Reisdorf*

❖ *Healing for Carol Knoll*

❖ *JoAnn K. - patience and healing*

❖ *Dan Coakley - continued healing*

❖ *Jen Corbett - continued healing*

❖ *John Hager - strength*

❖ *Jen - continued healing*

❖ *Jurgen Arndt - continued prayers*

❖ *Dan - continued healing*

❖ *Linda Lawrie’s sister*

❖ *Rusty Bower - continued recovery*

❖ *Riley Finney - continued recovery*

❖ *Aliana Randall - continued prayers*

PULPIT SWAP: July 4th

Don’t miss Sunday worship on the Fourth of July: Pastor Rick and his wife, Pastor Serena from Town Line Lutheran Church in Alden, are switching places for the day! Come get to know Pastor Serena and hear the Word from a different perspective.

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Trinity's Mutual Ministry Team of 3-4 people gathers quarterly to be a support to Pastor Rick. This team offers feedback to pastor, helps pastor process his ministry efforts and is attentive to pastor's self-care. The team is also attentive to the congregation, offering insight they observe and receive that can help pastor grow in his ministry. The team is also a safe place to pass along any suggestions and feedback to pastor in a positive way.

The hope is that this team will further help in accountability and communication between Pastor Rick and everyone at Trinity. Team members are Pastor Rick, Annette Adamczak, David Hofmeier and Lisa Kaminiski. Feel free to reach out to the team if you have any questions or feedback.

COUNCIL

Council Meets at 7pm on:
July 20th
No meeting in August

AKRON-NEWSTEAD FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry is doing heroic work feeding our neighbors in the community! If you or someone you know is in need, here's when the pantry is open:

- Food distribution is on: July 6th, August 3rd and September 7th.
- Set up and distribution occurs between 8-10:30 am. Call Jean Dolph at 716-908-2306 or Sharon Waff at 585-599-3893 for details.
- ***Would you like to volunteer?*** Sharon at sjwaff@yahoo.com.
- To donate monetarily, please make checks payable to: 'Akron Newstead Food Pantry.'

OFFICE HOURS:

July & August scheduling changes:

Tracy: Please note the following days that will be substituted for
will be in June 30th not July 1st
Not July 13th
Will be in August 30th, not August 31st & September 2nd

Pastor will have "village hours" on most Wednesdays and will not be in the office:
July 7, 14, 21 and 28; August 18 & 25; and September 1st.

Pastor will be on vacation from August 3rd – 17th.

Tracy- Tues & Thurs from **11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Pastor Rick: (Please call to confirm availability) Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.

(Fridays are Pastor's day off.)

Pastor is available outside of these hours by phone at 716-465-1321. Hours are subject to change if emergencies arise.



Birthdays, Baptisms & Anniversaries



JULY BIRTHDAYS:

- 1st - Carrie Palizay
2nd - Katie Kaminski
3rd - Jessie Coffta
4th - Melissa Francis
Beckett Barker
5th - Alexandra Eckerson
Valerie Infanti
6th - Morgan Infanti
7th - Barbara Edgar
Diane Hurne
Jacob Kendziora
Kylie Adamczak
10th - Cameron Infanti
13th - Annaleigh Kittel
14th - David Hofmeier
16th - Jurgen Arndt
17th - Brandon Fix
Amy Morgante
18th - Wyatt Francis
22nd - Bryan Kern
Marissa Brege

July, Con't.

- 25th - Riley Polkowski
27th - Nicholas Greiner
Christine Johnson
28th - Michael Smith
29th - Bob Johannes
Kylie Adamczak
30th - Charles Hurne

JULY BAPTISMS OR ANNIVERSARIES:

- 21 - Tony & Lisa Kaminski
30 - Jim & Roberta Lobar

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

- 3rd - Amanda Morgante
10th - Isabelle Jones
Sophia Jones
22nd - Gordy Dorr
Luke Conschafter
23rd - Jacalyn Morgante
26th - Linda Lawrie
29th - Roy Bauer
Flo Goeseke
30th - Sharon Francis

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

- 16th - Pastor Rick & Pastor Serena's
anniversary
22nd - Pastor Rick's Ordination
5th - Norm & Sharon Waff

Trinity at - a - glance

July/August 2021

- **July 8th** - Sunday School Meeting at 11 am
- **July 11th** - Property Committee meeting following worship
- **July 25th** - Worship in the Park
- **July 22nd** - Sunday School Meeting at 11am
- **August 3rd - 12th** - **Pastor Jerilyn Brown is on call for pastoral care emergencies. 716-713-1997, grammiejer14@gmail.com**

- **August 13-17th** - **Pastor Mary Ellen Larson is on call for pastoral care emergencies. 716-208-3695 Melarson312@gmail.com**
- **August 15th** - Deadline for September Beacon
- **August 26th** - Sunday School Meeting at 11am
- **August 29th** - Worship in the park
- **September 12th** - Sunday School Resumes!

Campfire Nights: July 8, 15, 22, 29
August 19, 26
September 2

Youth Gatherings: July 11, 18 at 7-9 pm
August 1, 22, 29 at 7-9 pm

Be a beacon -seeking and reflecting the light of the Lord!