

Renewed in Grace

a joint newsletter of the co-op ministry
of Trinity, Steelton and St. Peter's,
Highspire

June 2020

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Are you frustrated? I certainly am with this Covid-19 stuff. I have to say frustrated but thankful that I and most people I know are blessed and healthy.

The last two months or so has also been very disappointing. The Renewed in Grace Co-op Ministry was making all kinds of plans. We were looking at Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Services. Even when we shut down in mid-March, who would have thought we still would be shut down in May? We had plans to do a Praise Band Concert, a program for Penn State Students, and Vacation Bible School in Memorial Park. All of that is on hold.

So, where do we go from here?

Our church councils (St. Peter's, Trinity, and Co-op) have all been working on this question. We have reached these conclusions.

The wisdom of our state, synod, and national church is we should not return to in person worship until we move into the green phase. I don't know when then will be and I know this decision only adds to our frustration, but the councils all believe this decision is in the best interest of everyone.

We also are learning when we do return to in person worship, it will not be like we have been used to. All three of our councils (two church and the co-op) are working on what are some of the things we will need to do. At least in the beginning, we will have no congregational singing, communion, and will be maintaining social distancing. We might also return wearing masks. Ugh!

However, the councils believe we really must be cautious and do everything we can to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We realized that everyone will not agree with the steps we will decide to take. While I appreciate and share a longing to return to worship, I also believe that we must do what is in the best interest of others. No matter what any of us personally desires, we must look to the best interest of all as we move forward.

So let's be thankful for health, for what we still can do (the online service), and for the time when we will return to worship together.

Pastor Mike

General Info

Offering

Even though church services are not taking place right now, the expenses of the church continue. Please be sure (if you are financially able) to send your contributions to the office, or when you return to services, please be sure to “make up” for the Sundays which you have missed *if possible*.

A Note From Your Presidents

We pray you are all doing well during these uncertain times. As Renewed in Grace Cooperative Ministry, we are continuing to serve our communities through our virtual services and our work as the Little Food Pantry at Trinity and St. Peter's Food Pantry. Both ministries are continuing to collect food and/or monetary donations so if you would like to donate, please contact one of our church offices for more information. In addition, please continue to send your offerings; our buildings are still in operation despite us not worshipping together. Thank you for the generosity of your gifts!

As we continue through these coming weeks, please remember that your councils and staff are discussing and developing plans for re-opening. Our buildings will not reopen until Dauphin County is in the green phase. When this happens, we will resume services when it is deemed safe and we have established protocol for both worship and cleaning of our worship spaces. This will all be done under guidance from medical officials, insurance, state government, and synodical leadership and will be an ongoing process. We all need to have patience, understanding, and grace with one another

as we find the best path forward to care for each other. Please continue to keep all your Renewed in Grace family in your prayers. If we can be of any assistance to you, let us know. We miss you all and will rejoice when we see your faces again! God is good all the time and all the time, God is good.

Peace,
Jim, Matt, and Stephanie

***Renewed in Grace* Cooperative Ministry Call Committee Update**

Grace and mercy to all of you. I pray that you are healthy and staying safe. I am happy to report that we have taken another step forward in the call process. The last update stated we were in the midst of waiting for the Mission Site Profile (MSP) to be approved and published. I can report that our MSP has been approved and is now published on the ELCA's list of current openings. We are definitely a little past 4:00 on our call process clock. That is exciting news! However, this means we are once again in a position of waiting. Now, we are waiting for names of possible candidates from the synod. We have also moved into a time of required confidentiality for the call committee. We will certainly continue to share as much information as we can, but there will be some details that will be kept in confidence. We value and appreciate the trust and support you have given us. And, we ask for your continued prayers as we move forward listening for God's voice and direction during this time. As always, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to any member of the call committee. Peace be with you all.

Patrick Hawkins 717-903-2987 (chairperson)

patrickhawkins5@msn.com

Georgia Beard 717-991-4801

geobeard@pa.gov

Lenny Bowling 717-561-4347

margarets1@comcast.net

Mary Hunt 717-344-1393

penguinqueen86@yahoo.com

Richard Martz 717-566-8343

Bob Tonkin 717-579-3879

rjtonkin1@comcast.net

Sponsors for Our Guatemalan Student

Hi, Pastor Mike and Trinity,

Thank you so much for continuing to support our project. We have paired you all with Xiomara (pronounced Zee-oh-mara). She is spunky, outgoing, and very "hands-on" in her approach to learning. I will be sharing updates of her and her classroom activities over the coming months. Thanks again!
David Tringali



We now have 12 sponsors for our Guatemalan student that we are sponsoring through David and Jenn Hope-Tringali's school in the country of Guatemala.

Please be sure to make out your checks to *Trinity Lutheran* with *Guatemalan student sponsorship* on the memo line. Put the check in an envelope, label it appropriately, and put it in the offering plate or mail it to the office. Please get your contribution in as soon as you can. That way, you won't forget! THANKS!

Our Sympathies

Ray Stoner, a longtime member of Trinity, died in May. Please remember his son, Don, and family.

To Pastor Chuck Utter and family whose mother died recently.

To Henry Hoover and family whose brother died recently.



Congratulations To Our Graduates

Graduate from Trinity:

Anthony Radic is graduating from Millersville University with a degree in communications.



Ryan Leahy, son of Sherry & Terry Leahy and grandson of Bob and Kay Sutch, recently received his Masters degree in Educational Technology from Wilson College. Ryan is teaching High School Math at Bermudian Springs High School. "Well done, Ryan! We wish you many years of success!"

If we missed any graduate please forward your information to either church office & we will recognize them in our next newsletter. Thank you.

Past Monthly News

Clean Up at Trinity

Ed Holwig organized a bank-weeding party on Saturday, May 2. He wants to thank Zack Szekeres, Mike Miller, Tom Lupkie, Jim Canning, Jan Holwig, and Pastor for their help. We tried to social distance as best we could! With all that help we were able to clean out the weeds in two and a half hours! Mike then sprayed additional weed killer and dug out a dead stump the following day, while Ed trimmed bushes on Monday. Tanbark was ordered and spread the following Thursday. So now our grounds look great, but y'all aren't there to see it!! If you get bored during this COVID quarantine, drive by and admire everything before the weeds grow back again!!



Upcoming Events

New Protocol for Entering our Buildings- Masks and Face Coverings

Because of:

- 1) The way Covid-19 is primarily spread, respiratory droplets
 - 2) The contagious nature of the virus
 - 3) We want to keep everyone safe
- Anyone entering Trinity or St. Peter's buildings is required to wear a mask or face covering.

Again, we want to keep everyone safe.

VBS Update

At this time there is only a tentative plan for VBS.

To the extent we can do anything, we will probably just do one evening in the park with a social event for kids and families.

Stay tune for more details as they become available.

Online Worship Continues

As of today, May 20, there is not definitive date to resume in person worship. However, our online service will continue on our congregational Facebook pages and on YouTube.

The service is at 10:15am and on June 7, Bishop Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church will be presenting the Sermon.

Farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Eza

Pastor Tonya Eza has been a dedicated and faithful servant as pastor of Salem and St. John's for these past three years. Pastor Tonya will be leaving us to take a new call. Please remember Pastor Tonya and the folks at Salem and St. John's in your prayers.

In Other News...

June Trinity Birthdays (*80 or older)

- 6th Michael Anthony
- 9th Luke Anthony
- 16th Tom Lupkie
- 26th Betty Flickinger *

June St. Peter's Birthdays

- 5th Warren Smith
- 8th Shanna Hawkins
- 9th Richard Deutsch
- 11th William Albright
- 12th Tina Spangler
- 15th Tori Spangler
- 23rd John Deasy
- 24th Stephanie Strauss
- 25th Scott Whary, III
- 26th Clydene Strauss
- 29th Karen Eichelberger
- 30th Donna Sipe



Memorial Gifts

Contributions have been received in memory of the following. We thank the contributors for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

In loving memory of Ray Stoner

John & Nancy Brunner

Bob & Maxine Wertz

Thank You

Thank you so much for the beautiful flower arrangement I received for my 90th birthday. I miss you all, but hopefully, this virus will go away and we once more, can get together at Trinity.



*If there are any additions/corrections to these lists, please email Trinity's office. **Those listed should be active or homebound members.***

Card Shower

Helen Bailey would like to have a "card shower" for her sister, Betty Flickinger, on her 90th birthday on June 26th. You may send your cards to:

Betty Flickinger

Frey Village

1020 N. Union St. Room #322

Middletown, PA 17057

Helen thanks you all for your thoughtfulness in helping Betty celebrate her birthday.

Trinity Shut-ins and Those Who Need Our Prayers

The following are those who cannot get to church because of physical problems, etc. Please remember them with a card, a visit, and/or your prayers.

Bold type indicates change of address or added member.

Alice Brown 71 Edenvue Road, 1802 Folkemer Circle Apt. 103, York, PA 17404

Nancy Brunner 2115 James Buchanan Dr., Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Bernie Campbell 100 Freemason Dr., Masonic Village, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Jackie Day 335 Wesley Dr. Apt. 601, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 phone 717-550-2495

Fran Dubesky 517 Kelker St., Steelton, PA 17113

Christine Miller Ecumenical Retirement, 624 Wilhelm Rd., Hbg., PA 17109

Katarina Schuech 4805 E. Circle Dr., Harrisburg, PA 17111

Rene & Joyce Stickle 224 Elm St., Steelton, PA 17113

Betty Flickinger Rm. 322, 1020 N. Union St., Middletown 17057

St. Peter's Shut-ins and Those Who Need Our Prayers

Nancy Crow Spring Creek Room 419, 1205 S. 28th St., Harrisburg, PA 17111

Warren & Esther Nelson 1018 Southfield Ct., Harrisburg, PA 17111

Della Lippert Manor Care Health Services, Rm 100, 1700 Market St., Camp Hill, PA 17011

Bruce Sauder 26 2nd St., Highspire, PA 17034

Mildred Lindsay Artis Senior Living, 150 N. 12th St., Lemoyne 17043

Betty Herb Middletown Home, Rm 338, 999 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown 17057

Barbara Hawkins Building 3, Rm 5, Ecumenical Retirement Community, 3525 Canby St., Harrisburg 17109

Geraldine Reider 277 Highland Rd., Hershey 17033



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

221 South Second Street
Steelton, PA 17113

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

240 Broad Street
Highspire, PA 17034

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

June 2020 edition of

Renewed in Grace

**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY!**

June 21



Renewed in Grace Co-op Ministry
Pastor Michael Seifried

Phone: 717-939-4998 (Steelton) or
717-939-3492 (Highspire)

Email: Trinitysteelton221@yahoo.com
stpeters240@verizon.net

WebSite: <http://www.trinitysteelton.org>

Current Worship Opportunity

Online service each week at 10:15 AM

Can be viewed via St. Peter's Facebook page or the link on Trinity's webpage.

Worship and Study Opportunities when we return to church

Sunday Church Services with Holy Communion:

Trinity (1st & 3rd Sundays): 10:15 AM

St. Peter's: (2nd & 4th Sundays): 10:15 AM

Monday Bible Study (at Trinity): 9:30 AM

Tuesday Bible Study (at Trinity): 6:30 PM

Wednesday Chapel Service (at Trinity): 9:30 AM