

Renewed in Grace

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

JULY 2020

Dear Partners in Ministry,



Renewed in Grace Co-op
Churches will open for worship
on July 19!

The church always stands ready to minister in the midst of challenges. The COVID-19 crisis has certainly been one of them. But after prayerful deliberation, both church councils have decided to open in-person worship beginning July 19th. I will try to explain this decision and accompanying decisions as briefly as possible.

- 1) We understand in-person worship is not for everyone. We have members who, because of respiratory issues and weaker immune systems, will not be able to join us. We understand this and will continue to do online worship with the goal of live-streaming of services in the near future.
- 2) The worship will be different from what we are used to. We are going to be cautious and do the utmost to protect our congregants. Therefore, we will require masks, use social distancing, hand sanitizing, and other protocols still recommended at this time. (Some folks may be under the impression that these steps come from a mandate from Bishop Dunlop and our Synod. Bishop Dunlap has only been listing suggestions as have the CDC, the medical community, and

other specialists. We are following these guidelines because we believe they are in the best interest of everyone.)

- 3) Some other changes you will notice will be the removal of all items in the pew areas, no communion, no passing the peace, no hymn singing, no passing the collection plates. The ushers will be seating people using social distancing guidelines. Worship leaders will also be wearing masks and adhering to social guidelines. The changes are to maximize safety. Please note that we are still worshipping.
- 4) You may wonder why July 19th was chosen. One reason is we believe that an earlier date was not the best time to begin due to the 4th of July holiday. Second, we will need time to prepare the church (removal of items, cleaning, and planning for that day).
- 5) We will have two services (at least in the beginning): 9:30 at Trinity and 10:30 at St. Peter's. Of course, we realize that we had planned to do joint services until at least the end of August, but given the social distancing issue, we felt two services were needed to accommodate numbers and provide for the time to clean. Members of both congregations may attend either

service and they should be considered as *Renewed in Grace* Co-op Services and not Trinity's service or St. Peter's service. We chose those times as they seemed to be the most convenient. Since the services will be shorter, we feel there will be enough lead time for the pastor and musicians to go from one church to the other.

- 6) We have plans to do adequate cleaning after the services.
- 7) If it becomes necessary (e.g. a spike in the illness numbers), we may have to cancel in-person worship.

Please know that our plan will be ongoing and there will be changes and modifications. If you have any questions please feel free to contact members of the *Renewed in Grace* COVID-19 task force –

Stephanie Strauss (Chair), Jill Hawkins (Secretary), Kane High, Richard Deutsch, Grace Hoover, Barb Kain, Matt Hunt, Jan Holwig, and Pastor Mike.

The challenges continue, but we stand ready to minister in our Savior's name,

Pastor Mike

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*.

Thanks to all who are mailing their offerings to St. Peter's and Trinity. Please continue to do so as your faithful stewardship is most appreciated.

Renewed in Grace Cooperative Ministry Call Committee Update

God's Peace to all of you. I pray that you are healthy and staying safe. During this time of stay-at-home guidelines, social distancing, facial protection, and church buildings being closed you



may think the work of the Church is on pause. Nothing could be farther from the truth. There are still plenty of ways that God has provided for us to continue God's work and to face the challenges ahead. In that light, I can report that the Call Committee is continuing the diligent work set before us. We are now in the process of receiving names from the synod and moving forward with the call processes. Now more than ever, we need your prayers of support and for discernment. As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the committee. Grace, mercy and good health 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

A Letter from Our Presidents

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As your presidents, we would like to reach out to you concerning the reopening of our buildings for in-person worship services. We would like to thank all of you for any input you may have given us as we developed plans and protocol for re-opening for in-person worship. Special thanks to the *Renewed in Grace* Co-op Council for their initial work in developing protocol and guidelines and the *Renewed in Grace* Co-op COVID-19 Response Task Force for their work to further develop and finalize the guidelines. These groups, along with your councils, were guided by medical guidelines, expertise, and knowledge; guidelines from state government and the Lower Susquehanna Synod Office of the Bishop; and other related resources. Beginning Sunday, July 19, 2020, the *Renewed in Grace* Co-op will resume in-person worship with a 9:30 service at Trinity and a 10:30 service at St. Peter's. We will be offering two services to help enhance social distancing practices; members may attend either service. Online worship services will continue to be offered.

Upon returning to in-person worship services, the *Renewed in Grace* Co-op will be following a set of protocol for both worship and cleaning of the buildings. There are a few guidelines we want to ensure you are aware of; you may review the full protocol printed in the newsletter. First and foremost, masks are mandatory for entrance. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided. Masks must be worn properly, covering mouth and nose. Ushers will be stationed at pre-determined entrances. Please be aware that ushers, upon entry, will ask if you read the sign concerning contact tracing and screening statements; your name will be recorded as attending the service to ensure contact tracing ability. Ushers will also seat and dismiss congregants to ensure adherence to social distancing. Our worship services will look quite different upon resuming, beginning with a shortened service. Out of an abundance of care for our congregations and to ensure the health and safety of all, there will be no congregational

or choral singing, communion, sharing of the peace, or passing of the offering plate. Upon reopening, use of buildings will be limited to worship services unless permission is given by the congregational council. No Admittance signs will be placed on doors for rooms not in use and gatherings should occur outside of the building. The buildings will be sanitized and cleaned using CDC-approved products before and after each service. The above mentioned guidelines are not inclusive of the full protocol, which is presented in the newsletter.

These guidelines have been implemented for everyone's health and safety and will be followed. We understand that not everyone is able or feels comfortable returning to in-person worship at this time and online worship services will continue to be offered until further notice. Please know that this will be an evolving process and changes may occur as new developments come, including discontinuing in-person services if necessary. Out of concern for everyone's safety, please stay home if you have been ill, in contact with someone who has tested positive or are displaying symptoms for COVID-19, or have had a fever in the past 72 hours. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please contact one of the church offices, presidents, or Pastor Mike. We continue to keep all of you in our prayers and we ask for your continued patience and grace as we navigate these uncertain times.

God bless,

Jim Canning (Co-Op Council President)

Matt Hunt (Trinity Council President)

Stephanie Strauss (St. Peter Council Pres.)

Recommendations from the Renewed In Grace Co-op COVID-19 Response Task Force

Worship Protocol

1. Ushers will be stationed at all entrances to open doors thus eliminating multiple contact with doors and door handles. Ushers will also seat people. For St. Peter's, there will specific entrance and exit doors in a systematic way.
2. No offering plates will be passed. Plates or baskets will be available for people to place offerings in.
3. As we reconvene our worship services, no communion will be offered.
4. We will not pass the peace in traditional ways. People should greet others but primarily with social distancing practices.
5. There will be no congregational singing. *For more information regarding returning to congregational singing, please view the video "When Can We Sing? - Nola's Notes" by the Moravian Music Foundation on YouTube. This video was utilized by the task force and councils in the protocol development process.*
6. Only Arthur or persons designated to play organs and pianos may be in those areas.
7. Masks are mandatory for entrance. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided. Masks must be worn properly, covering mouth and nose.
8. Prior to reconvening in person worship, we will send a letter indicating expectations. Signs will be put on entrances indicating requirements to enter for worship.
9. Congregants will be staggered in seating determined by ushers. Congregants will be dismissed by ushers.
10. Bathrooms will be used one person at a time.
11. Because of length of time in one place is a factor in the spread of the virus, services should be limited to 45 minutes in length or less.
12. Pastors and lay participants will read/preach from pre-determined locations in the sanctuary. Participants will maintain social distancing to avoid risk of droplet contamination.
13. Signs will be placed at entrances with screening statements. Ushers will ask, upon entrance, did you see the sign. A yes or no will

be given and names will be obtained and retained to ensure ability for contact tracing.

14. Upon re-opening, use of buildings will be limited to worship services unless permission is given by the congregational council. The water cooler at St. Peter's will not be used. No admittance signs will be placed on doors for rooms not in use and gatherings should occur outside of the building.
15. All hymnals and other accessories will be removed from the pews. Bulletins will be placed on seats to be used or they can be downloaded from computer files (using a hard copy or device) if people prefer.
16. Communication will occur with florist regarding safe delivery procedures.
17. Online services will continue indefinitely.
18. We will discontinue in-person worship services if it becomes necessary.
19. Attendance will be limited to safely maintain social distancing guidelines.

Cleaning of Building Protocol

1. Each building will have a supply of necessary PPE, cleaning supplies, and sanitizers.
2. After each service and extended use of building, a disinfectant spray will be used following proper protocol. Each congregation will determine how this will occur.
3. Individuals who will be cleaning will be trained or already have knowledge concerning proper procedures for disinfection. They will also wear proper PPE.
4. Anyone entering the building needs to sanitize or wash their hands upon entry and then disinfect the surfaces used prior to leaving.

*These protocols were originally created by the Renewed in Grace Co-op Council at their meeting on 5/18/2020. The original protocols were distributed to each council and then revised to their current state by the Renewed in Grace Co-op COVID-19 Response Task Force on 6/15/2020. Members include: Richard Deutsch, Kane High, Jan Holwig, Grace Hoover, Matthew Hunt, Barb Kain, Rita Pressler, Pastor Mike Seifried, and Stephanie Strauss; Also present as secretary was Jill Hawkins. St. Peter's Congregational Council approved the protocols on 6/23/2020 and Trinity's Congregational Council approved the protocol on 6/25/2020.

General Info

Worship with Us on Facebook

While we are practicing the needed “social distancing,” the *Renewed in Grace Co-op* continues to offer worship services on both Trinity and St. Peter’s Facebook pages. Thanks to our technicians: Brian Keyser, Pat Hawkins, Matt Hunt, and John Michtich.

We also thank our worship team of Brian and Bethany Keyser, Pat and Jill Hawkins, Steve, Clydene, and Stephanie Strauss, Rose Tonkin, Sally Schonewolf, Anne Lentz, Matt Hunt, and Pastor Mike.

Hill Paving at Trinity

The macadam hill in back of Trinity has been in need of repairs. On approval of Council, a contractor was hired (CPA Pavement Services on Derry Street in Harrisburg) to do the project at a price of \$8,102. The work consisted of patching, resurfacing, waterproofing the top edge of the parking lot, and replacing the bumper blocks. This should eliminate the water damage to that hill.



We also want to thank John Michtich for weeding the front flower bed and spraying the weeds on the upper banks. It’s quite a lot to take care of in the summer and we’re thankful that we still have able-bodied people to help!

Copier Situation at Trinity

We have been dissatisfied lately with the copier that we have been leasing from Doceo Copiers for the past several years. Our print quality has not been very “sharp” and the paper continuously gets jammed which causes our secretary, Barb, to have to do quite a few maneuvers to get it running again. The company has had to repair the machine many times and it’s still not getting the job done. Ron Kain recently negotiated a replacement copier from Doceo and Barb is looking forward to a “problem-free” work environment in the near future. We want to thank Ron for getting in touch with the company and getting this taken care of! Way to go, Ron!!!!

Trinity’s Little Food Pantry

The Little Food Pantry has experienced increased use since the COVID-19 situation. Currently it is being supported by money from the Humanitarian Fund. However, as we resume in-person worship, please consider donating canned or boxed goods especially items with meat like canned chicken and tuna. (Boxes of mac and cheese and cans of tomato soup are NOT very popular for some reason right now.)

If you don’t want to do the shopping yourself but still wish to help out, you may make a monetary contribution by check to *Trinity Lutheran* with *Little Food Pantry* on the memo line. Place it in an envelope and mark it accordingly. (Cash would happily be accepted too!) THANKS.

Humanitarian Fund Report

At Trinity, we are fortunate to have two funds set up for refugee and humanitarian works. Only the interest earned on each account is spent on appropriate requests. This month, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Humanitarian Committee sent contributions to organizations that directly help those in immediate need: the Salvation Army, Bethesda Mission, Christian Churches United, and the Central PA Food Bank. We also gave donations to our own Little Food Pantry and helped with a Benevolence payment to Synod. We are very fortunate that a past parishioner, Elizabeth Scheib Calhoun, blessed our congregation with the funds to set up these accounts. We try to use them to help as many of those in need of aid as we possibly can.

Congratulations to Everyone Involved!

As many of you know, Rose Tonkin (a member of St. Peter's) has been studying hard for the past few years to become an ordained Lutheran pastor. She still has a year to go, so right now she is considered a lay minister.

Since Pastor Eza's departure from St. John's and Salem, Rose has been called as lay minister for the two churches and has accepted! She began her duties in mid-June with the two congregations, has already been leading online worship with them, and will begin in-person worship on July 5. Salem will have worship services at 9 AM and St. John's at 10:45.

We want to congratulate both congregations on this partnership with Rose! It goes to show you that God has a plan and this is one of His true blessings!

New Grandparents!

We celebrate good news of the birth of a baby boy to Abbie (Morgan) and Roger Peng and daughter Charlotte, on June 18. We send congratulations to them and also to grandparents, Mark and Beth Morgan.

Additional congratulations to Syrhan and Carrie Biray on the birth of their daughter, Elouise Marie, (8 lbs. and 21 in.) on June 19. Carrie is the daughter of Rose and Bob Tonkin.

What blessings!



Thank You Note

Dear Trinity Church,

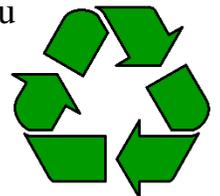
Thank you for the prayer shawl and for thinking of me and praying for me. I can use all the prayers I can get, with just having had a set-back. My faith in God is strong and my spirits are high. Thank you again. The shawl is beautiful.

Love,

Sandy Moore (friend of the Holwigs)

Community Aid

This organization is back up and running! Please remember the bin if you have things to donate. They accept clothing and small household items. Please do NOT let things lie on the pavement outside the bin! If your item doesn't fit into the bin, then it is probably something they wouldn't want anyway!



In Other News...

Trinity's July Birthdays (*80 or older)

- 4th Doug Martz
- 13th Gay Rezin *
- 15th Matt Krovic
- 17th Zachary Anthony
- 19th Judy Krovic
- 20th Dutchie Radosevic
- 21st Keith Kerns
Lenny Bowling
- 23rd Leanne Sanders
- 26th Barb Kain
- 29th Anthony Radic

St. Peter's July Birthdays

- 3rd DeEtt Fackler
- 7th Bernhard Kunz
- 8th Andy Jones
- 15th Amy Kennedy
- 18th Judy Kunzman
- 20th Susan Thomson
- 28th Patrick Hawkins
- 31st Randy Hoover

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

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

Carl and Anna Zeiders
Henry and Vicki Koller
John & Nancy Brunner
Robert & Maxine Wertz



Our deepest sympathies go to the families of Nancy Crow (June 15) and Tina Spangler (June 28) who have passed away recently.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday Worship Resumes at Trinity

Wednesday worship will resume at 9:30 AM on July 22. Along with *Renewed in Grace* guidelines, we will not have singing, communion, or passing the peace. There will be a Service of the Word with a liturgy, readings, a sermon, and prayers.

Come join us.

Sunday Fellowships

We will not have Sunday fellowships until further notice. Once we're back to "normal", we will continue our monthly meals. If you are interested in sponsoring one of the monthly fellowships in the future, please contact Gay Rezin (717-741-1344) for Trinity or Sally Schonewolf (717-265-3342) for St. Peter's.

Renewed in Grace VBS Update

At this point, because of coronavirus concerns, VBS is "on hold". We are not sure how to proceed with the plan to do a program in Memorial Park, Highspire. However, we are still open to the possibility of doing something, even if it is a one night type event. We will provide any updates as we have them.

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.

Red 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 PA 17057

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

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 (717-533-3506)



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

221 South Second Street
Steelton, PA 17113

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

240 Broad Street
Highspire, PA 17034

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*July 2020 edition of
Renewed in Grace*



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>

Worship and Study Opportunities in July

Sunday Church Services:

Trinity (beginning July 19): 9:30 AM

St. Peter's: (beginning July 19): 10:30 AM

Monday Bible Study (at Sally Schonewolf's home): 9:30 AM

Wednesday Chapel Service at Trinity (beginning July 22): 9:30 AM