**Update: April 20, 2020**

**From Pastor Mark Kvale**

Hello Trinity,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

I recently came upon a blog written by a fellow pastor who is also a spiritual director. Spiritual Directors help folks be in touch with God, and help people stay in tune with what God is up to in the world. This pastor asked three questions that I, in turn, am asking you to consider in all that we are going through right now:

-What are you learning about yourself right now?

-What are you noticing about the people around you?

-Where is God in all this?

Great questions for all of us to ponder! If you would like to share your thoughts about these questions, please email me! (pastor.tlcsparta@gmail.com)

**Here are some items for our Monday update:**

You can find all of our worships for this past week on our website. www.tlcsparta.org.

**Bulletins for Sunday’s worship and a recording are available on our website,** [**www.tlcsparta.org**](http://www.tlcsparta.org) **and in the resource box located outside of Trinity’s front door.**

**Morning Prayer:** We have been gathering for Morning Prayer on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8am on Trinity’s Zoom Meeting. If you would like to join us, please email Pastor Mark (pastor.tlcsparta@gmail.com) and he will send you an invitation. We would love to see you!

**Faith Formation:** We will be having Faith Formation on Wednesday night at 7 pm. If you are a Faith Formation Student, or small group leader, please contact Michelle for the zoom invitation.

**Those who do not have email or internet:** I am asking all of you to please check in with your family members and friends who are members of Trinity who do not have email. Ask how they are doing, if there is anything they need, and ask in what ways they feel we can help them keep connected with the congregation. Please let Pastor Mark, or any of our leaders know!

**Prayer Concerns:**

We pray for Roger Thorson, who is in the hospital in La Crosse

We continue to pray for Lisa Engh and family at the death of Lisa’s mother.

We pray for Ron and Karen Wall and family at the death of Ron’s mother last night.

We pray for all those who provide medical care.

We pray for those who are ill, both with Covid-19 and with other illnesses.

We pray for those who are lonely and having a hard time.

We pray for those who have been laid off, furloughed, or who have lost jobs.

If you have any prayer concerns, please contact Pastor Mark (608.487.2030 or pastor.tlcsparta@gmail.com)

**Bible studies:** If you are interested in being part of an online bible study, please email Pastor Mark (pastor.tlcsparta@gmail.com). He is planning on a study of the book of Acts.

**Sunday School at Home!**

While we are not able to be at our building for Sunday School, here is a great resource for our children and families to keep learning about Jesus. Please check out this website:

<https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/promos/family-sunday-school/?utm_content=126079066&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&hss_channel=fbp-128544820522453&fbclid=IwAR0a0m_ytZngd_T__IkfcmDAOYMeSd5jCxP_0HL6ikb16jC6vPbWEq2R9HU>

**Help Available!**

The Bread Basket Ecumenical Food Pantry, located at 114 N. Water St. in Sparta, is open from 10 am to Noon on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and again on Tuesday Evenings from 5-7 pm. **All with a need for food are welcome!** With the current covid19 issues, only workers are allowed into the pantry at this time. Those needing food are asked to fill out a form which is on a cart outside the pantry door. These forms let the workers know what type of perishable items each family needs. (All non-perishable items have been pre-packed). The pantry workers will fill the order and bring the items out. **If you know people who are in need of food but can’t get to the pantry, please let Pastor Mark know!**

 **From Michelle:** “I am sad & disappointed to let you know that it was decided at the national level last night, that due to COVID-19, all FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) Sports Camp through June are cancelled, & our camp at Luther College is one of them.  Refunds will be issued for those of you who have already registered, & the camp director will start working on that next week.  Please reach out to me with any questions you may have.  I will also be in touch with all of you to come up with ideas on how to keep our ministry of FCA going this summer.  Please keep praying that we will stand strong together living in faith over fear!  God is good all the time!  All the time God is good!”

**Our Watchword for the Week:**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.* 1Peter 1.3

Let us pray . . .

Lord, keeper of mysteries, shepherd of souls, why do we mean so much to you? Let us spend this day pondering how much you love us and striving to love others in response. Amen.

In the love of Jesus

Pastor Mark