**Update: May 22, 2020**

**From Pastor Mark Kvale**

Hello Trinity,

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

**It is a big weekend for us at Trinity.** First it is high school graduation weekend for some wonderful people! While this milestone is not being celebrated the way we hoped, we are still so proud of all of you who are graduating! I would like to offer this prayer for you:

Lord God, we thank you for what you have done and will continue to do with our daughters and sons. Walk with them in life and keep their path clear. You see all: you know where the water is deep. Keep them from danger. Order their steps and guide their feet while they run the race of faith. May the good work that you have begun in them be brought to completion at the day of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

And then, this coming Monday is **Memorial Day.** Monday is a day we remember and give thanks for all those who have given their lives in service to others. Here is a prayer for Memorial Day:

Eternal God, we give thanks for all those who have shown the greatest love by laying down their lives for others. We especially thank you for those in our military throughout history who have sacrificed their lives for their fellow citizens and for us who came after. As we remember their service, keep us mindful of all those for whom this day is a burden, and send your spirit of comfort to them. Be present with all the women and men who are serving in the military today. Though they are at war let them live for the peace known only from you. Help us to be worthy of their legacy, and keep us mindful of their service, that in all things we may live our lives in praise and thanksgiving to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Things to share for Friday, May 22**

**Sunday Worship:** We will gather for worship on Sunday at 9 am with a livestream on Trinity’s Facebook Group’s Page. Please join us at 9, and then a bit later on our website

[www.tlcsparta.org](http://www.tlcsparta.org).

There will be a short worship on Free Conference Call at 10:07 am! Here is the some information:

**Daily Devotionals on Conference Call: Devotionals and Worship over the phone!** That’s right! We have signed up for a service called *FreeConferenceCall.com.* This bit of technology will allow us to provide our members without internet or computer the opportunity to be part of a special worship or devotional time by using their phones.

**Devotions are on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1:07 pm.**

**Worship on Sunday at 10:07 am.**

**Here is how it’s done: to join in our call,** please dial the number listed below, when prompted,

provide the access code followed by the #.

**Dial-in number (US): (978) 990-5185**

**Access code: 5984240#**

**To listen to a recording of our Sunday worship, or our Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Devotional: Call Playback Number: (978) 990-5096**

**Access Code: 5984240#**

**Reference number: 1 for Sunday worship, 2 for daily devotional.**

**Please note that it is a different number than the live call!**

**Let our members who do not have internet know about this opportunity!**

**Sunday School for this weekend:** Hey families, looking for a great Sunday School time for you and your children? Check out Family Sunday School from Sparkhouse! Here is the link for this weekend: <https://youtu.be/5TAL-fX0xvE>

**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!

**30 Days of Prayer: June 2020**

Speaking of prayer, I would like to invite you to help with something we are putting together for June! Here’s how it works: Everyday of June, a short Biblical verse and a prayer will be shared by members of Trinity on our Facebook group page, and on our website. If you would like to help, please email me (pastor.tlcsparta@gmail.com). Please list the day of June that would work best for you. I will send you the verse and prayer. Then, you will take a video of you or your family, reading the verse and the prayer. After this, you will email me the video with your phone, and I will post it on Facebook. **Let’s do this!!!**

**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, and let everyone know about our telephone worship and devotionals.

**A Thank You Note from the Ecumenical Food Pantry:** *Trinity Lutheran Congregation, Thank you so very much for your support of the Ecumenical Food Pantry. Cash donations allow us to purchase food items we are most in need of and support our mission to feed the hungry in our community. Your support is truly appreciated! Lori Ashcher—Board Member*

**Prayer Concerns: Please take some time to pray to God over these concerns expressed by your sisters and brothers of Trinity Lutheran.**

**These are prayer concerns as presented to me to share:** We pray for: Tim & Karen McClain as they mourn the death of Karen's mom, Pat Swartz.For Tim Steivang who is recovering from surgery; for Jeff Olson as he recovers from surgery; the family of Roger Thorsen, for Lisa Engh and family at the death of Lisa’s mother; for Ron and Karen Wall and family at the death of Ron’s mother; For Lenna Hanson, Jan VanWormer; We also For all those who provide medical care; for those who are ill, both with Covid-19 and with other illnesses; for those who are lonely and having a hard time; for those who have been laid off, furloughed, or who have lost jobs; for those returning to work;

*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. We are also planning a study/reading group base on Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s *Life Together.*

**Looking for a great family devotional? Then check out** [**“Pandemic Faith: A Family Devotional for Life During Covid-19.”**](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fs3.amazonaws.com%2Fmedia.cloversites.com%2Fcb%2Fcb0cd516-be94-40af-99bd-f2f2860b752e%2Fdocuments%2FPandemic_Faith_Devotional.pdf%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2DUFas_UEE4lwmdyB8Vswxk7cKqt5mgUd5jsKfVttPplJMhbJnoVkZWU8&h=AT0SYbTlc85FYnG9lCIn5P5yRPk4uMR7FPSauu-TJtTJrtGV-XYzcVcjtXOt-ZK3It2_qgc5NfWSZoV5U0tRBYgyCcndu_ghSSXwn70E32xvBwqqr0AwyDdfE8SJnkAwV1z_vwvtLdwG02FgavlJitldix2tRc0cB-sua7oQlsY0T9EwGpUqPgFCLGkQwRgpa-oC223NXAHnNpmh2pH3L8MnkLgdBVEhETLdHZyhhCoQ2TILPE2RkBgW_BGd4bw2LvVeB0PwZfMx8ZwdMya4r5eRLjx-OKEIIFi6YhRHlW-niar3nEwDb0Qjx7f5rYXq6bbtkGOQTP_nyQZZLuUDIRfazYAp_2l49xF2HodoYPP4eBvq6HpY5kqc6UBRnMkfzdu9QTWgIOVwJ17P2Oof5QXbU21cTg4sl4ZO5hd86w9pmUWUCng0Q-l5xpsJ-CJUTF2iWvP-QYziZvDy8I_YtFM7u9ULlfuWNjMVS3O4di0rLeNhrwuk-jN3xt-traxmcPWlnfgEZIrm_vTbFGMrD956c5ZRpxDJNVem0uSuTAek63gXivjlAxLCTIrQqKMEifKlEnKob3p-TcjQXcEDsu57RMr7eTghooBjZOxjL4u2z5dAJjaO_govwj82HuOULGdW5g2HJw-mUqMOOzEd6aQiFnAn)

**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!**

**Trinity Lutheran Helping Hands**

We have established a fund meant to help our members who are in financial difficulties. If you, or someone in our congregation is in some help, please contact Pastor Mark (608.487.2030 or pastor.tlcsparta@gmail.com) for more information.

**\*Note: There will not be an update on Monday due to the Memorial Day holiday. Updates will resume on Wednesday, May 27.**

**Our Watchword for the Week:** *Christ said, “I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”* John 12.32

Let us pray. . . Great Teacher, we know that our faith as Christians is a journey. Help us to grow closer to you each day through practices of prayer, worship, and acts of love for one another and you. In your name we pray. Amen.

In the love of Jesus,

Pastor Mark