**October 23, 2020 Update**

**DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN OUR WEEKLY UPDATES?**

If you do, please email our Administrative Assistant, Myrt, at office@tlcsparta.org.  Or, you can call her at 608-417-9265.

**HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE FIRST TIME & THOSE RECEIVING BIBLES**

When children are baptized at Trinity, we ask the following of the parents and sponsors to help their children grow in the Christian faith and life by; bring them to the Word of God, and the Holy Supper, and place in their hands the holy scriptures. This is asked so that their children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ, care for others and work for peace.

And at baptism, we who are members of Trinity are asked to promise to pray for and support the children, their families and sponsors on their journey of faith. At worship this Sunday, Reformation Sunday, both parents and us as members of Trinity celebrate two significant milestones in the faith journey of our children.

Seven of our young people will be taking part in **Holy Communion for the first time**. Those doing so are**: Addyson Harris, Colton Harris, Dylan Morrow, Jillyian Kirchoff, Nolan Kirchoff, Addison Henthorne, and Lucas Walley.**

Also, six third graders will be receiving bibles, a gift from us at Trinity for them, placed in their hands by their parents. **Those receiving bibles are: Guthrie Gasner, Bentley Lueck, Garrett Oppreicht, Addison Henthorne, Brooks Intihar, and Jillian Kirchoff**.

Worship this Sunday will be live-streamed on our Facebook group page at 9 am, and also on our YouTube channel (search for Trinity LutheranSparta). We will also be posting a recording on our website.

Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone the Glory)

Pastor Mark

 **STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE**

How can you help Trinity’s Stephen Ministers?

 Pray for us

 Refer hurting people in our congregation or community to Pastor Mark

 Consider becoming a Stephen Minister

 Contact any of the Stephen Leaders—Pastor Mark, Ann Kvale, Jan Jenkins or Nancy Sikorsky.

**SCAM ALERT!!!!!**

I have learned that someone is sending requests in my name for eBay cards for people in the hospital. THIS IS NOT FROM ME! It is not my email account. It is a scam targeting pastors all around the Midwest. Please disregard the request!

Pastor

[Mark Kvale](https://www.facebook.com/mark.kvale?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZVvxiE9GZQCEKrWxRu75LJcNfM9W0rlqeWQgnt2Rzjr4b2Eq5ZYODgWu2cDFDeq_vWtNj8mCqmeWrRNs9YShXe-XVpp0S3ANhg2i7E175baAg&__tn__=-%5dK-R)

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

 9:00 am streaming on Trinity’s Facebook Group Page and on YouTube www.youtube.com—search for Trinity Lutheran Sparta.

 On our website [**www.tlcsparta.org**](http://www.tlcsparta.org)

**EDUCATION MINISTRY**

As Education Ministry continues to plan for formal Sunday school, you are invited to please fill out a registration form using this link: <https://forms.gle/6qh9aDyqwwRZ9bZt9>. If you are wanting more materials, there are resources in the box outside of Trinity or contact Missy Erickson at melissa.jane.erickson@gmail.com.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

\*\* Hello Trinity! We need your help. If you would, could you please use your phone, take a video of yourself, or your family and friends sharing, "The Peace of the Lord be with you!" We will be using your sharing the peace in worship on Sunday.

You may send your video to Pastor Mark at pastor.tlcsparta@gmail.com.

Thanks! Pastor Mark.

 **TRINITY RETURN PLAN STATUS**

 Trinity:

**This week shows the Covid risk level in Monroe County remains at Red, or extreme. The rate of new cases and percentage of positive tests continue to show a rapid increase in confirmed cases of Covid in our area.**

In response to the ongoing public health situation, we will continue the suspension of indoor, in-person group activities at Trinity through October 30, 2020.

Please wear a mask in public, wash your hands often, maintain physical separation, avoid large indoor crowds; care about others.

Lord, we pray for Your guidance and wisdom as we travel through this unfamiliar and risk-filled time. We pray for the health and safety of all.

Leslie D. Stanley

President

Trinity Lutheran Church

**FAITH FORMATION UPDATE**

Hello, dear Trinity families!  We have come up with a tentative plan for the start of our Faith Formation for grades 7 - 9.  Thank you again for your grace & patience as we work hard to be together growing in faith.

As I mentioned above, this is tentative as we all know how quickly things can change.  For October, November, & December, each grade will meet once a month in person on a Wednesday evening at Trinity for small group time.  Since your health & safety is of our utmost concern, zooming in will be made available if you are not comfortable meeting in person.  Pastor Mark will live stream every week from 7:00 - 7:30 (for all grades to watch), & then small group time will be from 7:30 - 8:00 (on your respective Wednesday).  On your week at Trinity, you will be able to watch Pastor Mark in person.  Here is the schedule:

  Wednesday, November 4:  7th grade @ Trinity **(to be held via Zoom)**

  Wednesday, November 11:  8th grade @ Trinity

  Wednesday, November 18:  9th grade @ Trinity

  Wednesday, December 2:  7th grade @ Trinity

  Wednesday, December 9:  8th grade @ Trinity

  Wednesday, December 16:  9th grade @ Trinity

We will be working out details in the next couple of weeks for where small groups will be meeting & important safety guidelines for us to follow.

Also, 8th & 9th grade small groups will be the same as last year, & we are working on the 7th grade small groups.  Stay tuned for more details to come!

 If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Pastor Mark or myself.

Remember we are ALL in this TOGETHER as the Body of Christ, & let’s continue to love, serve, & be kind to ALL of God’s people!  I continue to pray for each one of you & your families.

God’s love, grace, & peace to you -

Michelle

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

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

 We pray for Doug Dengel and family on the passing of Doug’s brother, Dave

 We pray for the family of Tre Ender

 We pray for the family of Gallis Schmitz

 We pray for the family of Gary Daines

 We pray for Kristine Tock

 We pray for Larry and Nila Larson and family on the passing of Larry’s brother, Roger

 We pray for the family & friends of Mary Leuck, upon Mary’s recent passing. Mary was

 a dear friend of Gary & Betty Peterson

 We pray for the family of Betty Isensee, who passed away on 9/22/20

 We pray for Ron Button

 We pray for Bob Emery, who is recovering from surgery

 We pray for Bryan Olsen who was in a tractor/dump truck accident on October 5th.

 We pray for Jeanie Woods, who is having an MRI on Wednesday.

We pray for Audrey Zebell’s cousin, Gary Richgruber, who is in the Veteran’s Hospital in

 the Twin Cities area battling leukemia

We pray for the family of Stan Bernette, who passed away on 10/19/20

We pray for Pat Hogan

**If you have any prayer concerns, please contact Pastor Mark at pastor.tlcsparta@gmail.com or Jonelle Intihar, our prayer group coordinator,**

**jonelle@the intihars.com**

**HURRICANE SALLY**

For an update on Hurricane Sally, and how you can help with recovery, please read this from Lutheran Disaster Response: <https://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/files/2020/09/hurricane-sally_49154424-2.png>

**STUDY ON MARTIN LUTHER’S**

***THE FREEDOM OF A CHRISTIAN***

Dear Trinity, I would like to invite you into a study of one of the most important writings of Martin Luther.

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton writes, “Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther wrote a treatise titled *The Freedom of a Christian*. In it, he offered his most compelling summary of the Christian life: In Christ we are completely free and at the same time completely bound in love and service to our neighbors. For Christians such as you and me, this has been our Lutheran way of telling the Christian story for 500 years. At the heart of our Lutheran theological tradition, we find the antidote to our despair.”

We will be beginning a study of this work in September. If you would like to take part, please contact the office (608.269.5081) or Pastor Mark (pastor.tlcsparta@gmail.com), and we will gladly share more information on how to take part.

Peace,

Pastor Mark

**RESOURCE BOX**

**All Kinds of Resources** are available in our resource center, right outside the front door of our building. In it you will find the latest editions of the **Living Lutheran** magazine, **Christ in our Home** devotional, past **bulletins, sermons, newsletters, family activities, etc. Help yourselves!**

**TRINITY 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.

**FOOD PANTRY**

The Bread Basket Ecumenical Food Pantry, located at 116 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!**

**LITTLE DRESSES UPDATE**

 To date a total of 818 pillowcase dresses have been donated-508 to Little Dresses for Africa with remainder now being given to Childrens' Vision International, located in Bangor. Both Spartans and community sewers have made this a great ad-hoc success.

 CVI makes annual summer trips to Amazon region and Guatemala and will accept many items of clothing, dolls and simply made 36"(or a bit smaller) 2-layered doll blankets, toothbrushes, hotel sized bar soap.

  CVI is also hoping for sewers to make totes to hold the dolls and blankets; folded-up newsprint pattern will be available by end of October at Trinity Lutheran's back door coat area.

  Fabric for the flat totes should be heavier cloth as pattern incorporates sides and handles and could be canvas, chino, jeans, tapestry samples, etc.  Donations for these continuing projects can be left at coat area, as well. Reclaimed elastic from old sheets is in need; even bedskirts are usable to make Little Dresses.

 Not only do these reclaimed/reused supplies help to clothe and give hope to God's neediest, it also reduces demand for water to manufacture new supplies and reduces landfills.

 To drop off supplies or have pre-cut kits delivered, call Sherry 269 4826.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING “GOD IS GOOD” DECAL**

**THAT YOU RECEIVED WITH  YOUR**

**OCTOBER TIDINGS**

Decal Application Instructions:

1.)  To ensure that the decal peels away from the paper backing and adheres properly to the

application tape, lay the decal on a hard smooth surface, squeegee across the entire surface of the decal with firm pressure.  You may also use the sharp edge of a credit card or rub firmly with your fingertips covering the entire surface.

2.)  Clean the area where the decal will be applied using a soft cloth dampened with alcohol or glass cleaner.  This will remove any wax, residue, oil or dust particles that will prevent the decal from sticking.

3.)  Carefully peel the application tape and decal away from the paper backing.  If the decal does not peel away from the paper backing, repeat step #1.  When you peel the application tape away from the paper backing the decal will adhere to the back of the application tape.  The paper backing can be thrown away.

4.)  Hold the decal in position and stick the top or one side holding the other side up away from the surface.

5.)  Slowly rub or squeegee firmly across the surface of the decal using the sharp edge of a credit card.

6.)  Remove the application tape by pulling gently in a downward motion.  If a part of the decal starts to come up away from the surface rub it back down onto the surface while the tape is still intact and press firmly, then proceed to remove the tape.  Only the pieces will remain on the surface giving the appearance of being painted on.