



The Messenger



HOPE

Treasurers Finance report as of April 30,2020.

1. Investment Balances

a. Lutheran Church Extension Funds

- i. Maintenance \$31,970.81 Interest year to date 2020 \$ 96.91
- ii. Ministry \$66,699.81 Interest year to date 2020: \$207.45

2. Checking Account balance as of May 1, 2020 \$130,346.97

3. Offerings vs budget January through April 2020

Loose: \$1,503.69 Budget: \$ 2,929.00 \$1,425.31 below budget
Envelopes: \$35,522.50 Budget: \$38,516.00 \$2,993.50 below budget
Total Income: \$37,822.00 Budget: \$42,757.06 \$4,935.06 below budget

4. Expenses vs budget January through April 2020

Expenses: \$40,886.00 Budget: \$46,838.11 \$5,952.11 spent less than budgeted.

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Guidelines for the Resumption of Worship Services

Trinity Lutheran Church – Albany, GA

May 21, 2020

Almighty God, heavenly Father, give us grace to trust You during this time of great distress. In mercy put an end to the coronavirus epidemic that is afflicting many people around the world. Grant relief to those who are suffering, and comfort to those who mourn the death of loved ones. Sustain all medical personnel who are attending to the sick, and bless the efforts of those who are working tirelessly to discover a treatment for this disease. In these times of affliction and distress, strengthen us by Your Word and Spirit to continue steadfast in the one, true, saving faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen. (Credit: Rev. Timothy Teuscher, President, Lutheran Church-Canada)

It is fitting that we begin with this prayer, for it reminds us our heavenly Father is still in charge, even during times of great distress. Pray to Him frequently and fervently: He desires to hear from us, His dear children! In fact, it is during these times that we are driven deeper into His Word and toward a greater reliance upon Him and His provision. We yearn for His nearness, to receive the very body and blood of our savior, Jesus Christ, and all that it conveys to us frail humans: forgiveness of sins, salvation and life eternal. During what has been an extremely difficult time, not only for the Church but also for the world, we are reminded of just how great our reliance upon God is—or should be. All too often, when things are going well and the routine of our daily lives borders on the mundane, we are lulled into a false sense of security, thinking we are okay by our own efforts somehow. We lapse into a sense of self-confidence, which lately has been shattered.

It is with these things in mind that the Trinity Board of Elders and I have worked to determine the timing of our return to worshipping together on campus. Pentecost Sunday seems the right time. Our numbers will likely be few and there will be only Divine Service/Mass—no Sunday school, Bible study or fellowship hour. This is so we may continue to do all we can in order to help prevent the possible spread of this disease among our faith community. The guidance provided here—gathered from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Georgia Department of Public Health, the Office of the

Governor, the LCMS, the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS, and our insurance carrier, Church Mutual—seeks to make clear how we can begin to safely and responsibly resume spiritual care, including public worship services, as restrictions on gatherings are relaxed. As we begin this phased return to campus it is critical that we continue to observe certain protocols and practices recommended by various authorities—not only those of civil and health officials but also certain practices specific and unique to the Church.

One of these practices, effective immediately, is that *you should come on campus only for Divine Service on Sunday*. If you feel you have other business that requires you to come on campus, you must plan to be here on Wednesday mornings between 9:00-11:00 *and check in with Pastor*. This is in order to help keep our campus as sanitary as possible between Sunday services. **Strict adherence to these guidelines is required of everyone: if even one person fails to follow these protocols, there is the risk of unknowingly spreading this disease.**

Of necessity there will be other changes, some of which are briefly outlined below. Because the situation in which we find ourselves is very fluid, there will almost certainly be modifications to these policies in the coming days and weeks. The Elders and I will keep you fully informed as we move forward.

- Use common sense:
 - If you have a fever or feel sick, stay at home and worship online.
 - If you're in a high-risk category, please give prayerful consideration to continuing to view services online for now.
 - If you simply aren't comfortable coming to church, please feel free to continue to view services online.
- If you do wish to attend services in person, there are additional guidelines to which we must adhere:
 - Wear a mask – not only for your own safety, but also for others.
 - Wearing gloves is optional.
 - Maintain physical distance of at least six feet at all times.
 - Those living in the same household may be in proximity to one another, but should maintain six-foot distance from others.
 - Touch as little as possible:
 - Offering plates will be in the narthex – please drop your offering in without touching the offering plate.
 - The full service is printed in the worship bulletin – please don't touch the hymnals.
 - Share a bulletin only with those in your household.

- Use hand sanitizer frequently, but remember, it is not a failsafe – washing your hands with soap and water is the best practice.
 - Try to use the restroom at home:
 - Use the restroom at church only if absolutely necessary. In other words, *try to touch as little as possible while on campus.*
 - Use hand sanitizer on your way in/out of the building.
- Maintain physical distance even during worship:
 - During worship we must maintain physical distance of at least six feet between those not of the same household. This will mean skipping a pew here and there.
 - Ushers will help direct seating; please comply with their directives.
 - For Sharing of the Peace, do not move from where you are: simply acknowledge those nearby while maintaining physical distance.
 - Upon conclusion of service, we will dismiss by rows in order to maintain physical distance of at least six feet.
 - There will be no social fellowship before or after service.
- The administration of the Sacrament must also be modified:
 - At the conclusion of the Service of the Word, Pastor will go to the sacristy to wash his hands. Upon his return to the chancel we continue with the Service of the Sacrament.
 - Masks should continue to be worn until you are about to receive the Sacrament.
 - There will be only one, single file line in the center aisle, maintaining at least six-foot physical distance between those not of the same household.
 - We will not kneel at the altar rail: as you approach the chancel, lower/raise your mask, **cup both hands**, and raise them up in order to receive the host wafer.
 - Pastor will gently place the host into your cupped hands, being careful to not make contact with the communicant.
 - Communicant should immediately consume the host *before* returning to their seat.
 - Replace your mask after consuming the Body.
 - Communicants will receive only the Body, not the Blood.
 - The Dismissal will be given to the entire congregation upon completion of the Distribution to all Communicants.
- To minimize the risk of potential contamination, everyone should enter via the front door of the narthex and limit their movements. This is to assist with the sanitization process following each worship service. Upon the conclusion of each worship service, ushers and greeters will sanitize all areas utilized by worshippers during the service, to include:
 - Door handles
 - Surfaces in the narthex, pews, etc.
 - Restrooms
 - Other areas as necessary

It must once more be emphasized that strict adherence to these guidelines and procedures is required of everyone: ***if even one person fails to follow these protocols, there is the risk of unknowingly spreading this disease.*** In these unprecedented times, our highest priority remains the health, safety and well being of our members and guests. By taking a safety-first approach and utilizing the best data available we prayerfully hope, with the Lord's help, to be able to return to on-campus activities in a safe, deliberate, and measured way. At some point in the future we will, again with the Lord's help, return to full activities. I ask that you continue to pray for God's guidance not only in these things, but also for all those affected and for those who seek cures and treatments for this disease.

The Lord be with you,

Pastor

Pastor Hudson

Special Days to Celebrate in May

Baptismal Birthdays

1 Catherine Daugherty
4 Mary Lou Grebel
8 John Bonham
13 Marl Lynn McCracken
15 Corban Dwaram
22 Sachi Daugherty
22 Tad Daugherty
23 Michael Gage Logan
25 Lee Ann Burkart
28 Glenda Baker

Birthdays

1 Catherine Daugherty
1 David Walton
4 Mary Grebel
4 Cody Vinavong
5 Samantha Foulkrd
5 Wahn Vinavong
16 Bryan Grebel
24 Ricky Shepherd

Anniversaries

5 Wahn & Lisa Vinavong
13 Dolly & Sunil Thatpathri

Council Notes

Council members were addressed by text and email to retain the current slate of officers until such time as the current restrictions on gathering have been lifted for a length of time sufficient for us to have come back together as a faith community. This will allow the congregation to properly discuss rescheduling our annual voters' assembly, as well as nominating candidates for office.

All current council members voted yes to the preproposal. As a matter of record the following:

Pastor Douglas Hudson
President Gene Westenfeld
Vice President Mike Grebel
Secretary John Daughety
Treasurer Lynn McCracken
Elder Hugh Robinson
Evangelism Chair Glenda Baker
Trustee Chair Ted Soderberg
Trustee Marie Grebel
Trustee Sunil T
Social Concerns Chair Barbara Logan

Mite Boxes

These days most of us are not meeting in person and our mite boxes are starting to bulge! What to do?

Don't let those mite boxes sit there getting dusty. We only have a few months left in this biennium and we don't want to disappoint any of our grant recipients.

If you would like to mail a check, you can mail it to our Financial secretary, Linda Peters. Please include a note stating the name of your church, along with its city and state, so your donation can be credited appropriately.

Checks should be made payable to LWML FL-GA District and mailed to:

Linda Peters, Financial Secretary

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 11:00 AM - Worship Service with Holy Communion Live on Facebook	27			30	1 St. Phillip and St. James Apostles	2
3 11:00 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion Fourth Sunday of Easter DS- 3 Live on Facebook	4	5	6	7 National Day of Prayer	8	9
10 Mother's Day 11:00 AM -Worship Service with Holy Communion Fifth Sunday of Easter DS-3 Live on Facebook	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 11:00 AM -Worship Service with Holy Communion Sixth Sunday of Easter DS-3 Live on Facebook	18	19	20	21 The Ascension of Our Lord	22	23
24 11:00 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion Seventh Sunday of Easter DS-3 Live on Facebook	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 Pentecost 11:00 AM -Worship Service with Holy Communion The Day of Pentecost DS-3 Live on Facebook	1	2	3	4	5	6

Trinity Lutheran Church
1508 Whispering Pines Road
Albany, GA 31707
www.tlcalbany.org

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What We Believe, Teach and Confess

With the historic, universal Christian Church, we believe in one God, Who makes Himself known and works all thing through His Son Jesus, Christ; and in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, as confessed by the ancient Church in her creeds: namely, the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian Creeds.

We believe that all Scripture is given by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and that God is therefore the true Author of every word of Scripture – meaning it is without error.

We believe God comes to us and speaks to us through His means of grace – Word and Sacrament.

Accordingly, our worship is sacramental and liturgical, following the ancient custom and practice of God's Church on earth. By sacramental we mean that we observe Holy Baptism and Holy Communion as the sacramental acts ordained by Jesus Christ Himself during His earthly ministry. By liturgical we mean that the calendar of the Church Year centers around God's marvelous acts of salvation completed for us in His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Church Calendar is organized into three sections: Sundays and seasons, feasts and festivals, and commemorations. The Sundays and Seasons are Christmas/Epiphany, Lent/Easter, and Pentecost, followed by the Time of the Church. These seasons are marked by certain liturgical colors, with the five basic colors being white, red, green, violet or purple and black. Upon entering the nave – often called the 'sanctuary'- these colors are an instant reminder of where we are in the Church Year.

If you would like more information about our church, please speak with Pastor Hudson