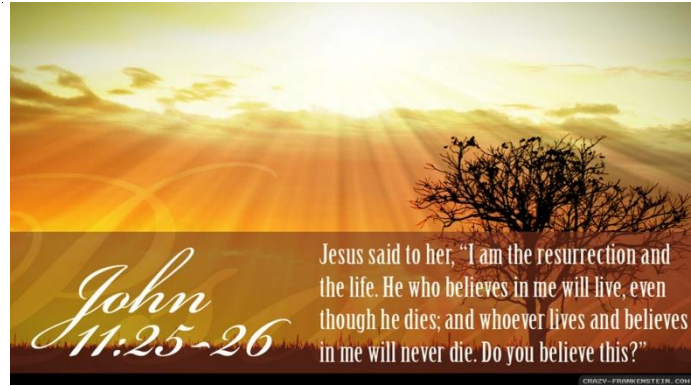




Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Tidings

March to
April 2020



Currently, there are no activities scheduled in the sanctuary, All Saint's Hall, or church grounds. As soon as we are given the "all Clear", we will resume worship and activities.

The past few weeks, emails have been sent out for the Lenten Devotionals and for the Sunday Remote services. The services/bulletins can also be found on our church website at www.holytrinitylbi.com and on the church's Facebook site, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, LBI. It is great to be able to still be connected to each other through the Spirit.

The Palms and the Easter flowers orders were cancelled as the florists are deemed non-essential businesses, and they also would have difficulty in getting our flowers from the wholesale distributors.

If you would like a directory, for reaching out to fellow members during this time, call or email Dawne Thumhart, at 609-290-0632 or dmthumhart@gmail.com.

The Memorial service for Donna Albert that was scheduled for March 31st, will be rescheduled at a later date.

The Celebration of Life for Sandy Medford, who passed on March 20th, will be scheduled at a later date.

The week for Family Promise, being hosted at HTLC, has been postponed. Currently the 2 families are being housed at Lighthouse Alliance Church in Little Egg Harbor, in order to limit the contact of volunteers to families and to lessen spread of the virus, especially to the new baby. The Family Center on Route 9 in West Creek is also closed and being run remotely. You may make a monetary donation to Family Promise to help defer the increased costs of housing them in one location. The website is, Family Promise of Southern Ocean County.

Mike and Judy Heuberger, Kathy Minto, and Dr. Bill and Carol Power welcomed new grandchildren into their lives these last few weeks. All babies and their families are doing well. We extend them all health and well wishes for these new bundles of joy.

We continue to pray for all those listed weekly on our church prayer list as well as all those who are deemed essential workers and must continue to work outside the home during this time. We also pray for also those afflicted with the virus and those families who have experience a loss due to the virus

From your Church Council –

Regarding financial matters, "we are grateful for your support of our church, which is accomplished by-and-large through your steadfast utilization of our Member Envelope Program. At this most uncertain of times members are simply asked to maintain their personal savings plan for this year's donation. We should be alright in the near term as our major creditors, the utilities, are providing all of their customers with relaxed payment schedules. However, our sustained solvency relies as much this year as in years past upon our members willingness to donate in 2020 what they've pledged. Once we return to our practice of meeting for regular worship services, your donations will be welcomed. If you are like some of us, and are tired of watching the Member Envelopes pile up on your kitchen table, just sent them to Kathy Minto, HTLC Church Financial Secretary, 41 Eventide Drive, Barnegat, NJ , 08005.

Christian Education

With our dedication to the CDC's recommendation for social distancing, many of us are finding our days a bit unsettling. While we can finally "slow the jets" that normally propel us through our days, we also have much more time to amble about our home, muddled and uneasy. Much has been written about strategies we might use to quell our questions and concerns. That said, however, we can utilize well-documented ways to stay connected with others *as well as* focused on our faith. Here are several ideas and Biblical references that might help you!

1. When you first wake up, offer a ***prayer of thanksgiving*** for the night of rest and pray that you find opportunities to sense the Holy Spirit at work in your life and your community.¹⁶ *Rejoice always,* ¹⁷ *pray constantly,* ¹⁸ *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (I Thessalonians 5:16-18)*
2. Establish a recurring time when you might ***spend moments alone with God*** throughout the day. Return to your favorite scriptures or learn what the Bible has to say about you are going through. Go to *Bible Gateway* (biblegateway.com) and type in the key word you wish to reflect upon as well as the version of the Bible you'd like to reference. The site will then post its search results and you'll be able to read those selections that address the concern of your heart! WOW! *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. (John 4:8)*
3. ***Take good care of yourself*** physically and emotionally. Rest and balance the ways you are staying informed.. Above all, stay alert for signs of love and comfort from God. *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)*
4. ***Pray for and reach out to members*** of our faith community. While we are blessed to have access to telephone and digital communication, it's the loving thoughts that bring people together that are most important! *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. (John 13:34)*
5. Make a commitment to yourself to ***get outside for a walk*** around your neighborhood. And while on your walk, be intentional in searching out for new signs of growth, evidence of God's loving hand! *The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:12)*

6. Finally, *end your day in prayer*, giving thanks for all things! *Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. (Philippians 4:16)*

The Examen Prayer (by St. Ignatius Loyola) provides an easy way to enter into this spiritual exercise. It looks like this:

- a. Find a quiet time and place, then reflect upon God's presence throughout your day.
- b. Review your day with gratitude, noting its moments of joy and previously unforeseen gifts.
- c. Pay attention to your emotions. What might God have been saying to you?
- d. Choose one feature of the day and pray about. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to something during the day that might be important.
- e. Look toward tomorrow and the Grace God has in store for you!

Amen!

Prayer Ministry

Now, more than ever, we need to pray for one another. It has been a trying few weeks and the prayer requests keep coming. As a world we are reeling from this surreal situation. I have said several times lately that I feel like we are living out a Steven King novel. However, this is **not** fiction. This is very real! Daily we look at the statistics, and measure how we are doing against the rest of the world, United States and the rest of NJ... We are blessed to live in this beautiful place and to have such a wonderful church community, but as we have unfortunately seen, this can change in a heartbeat!

So, in that light, please pray for the following:

Our brothers and sisters in Christ at Zion Lutheran, Barnegat Light

All those affected by the Corona Virus

Those on our parish prayer list:

Dawne, Frank, Alice, Jean, Bev, Pat, Robert, John, Sandy, Candy, Mary Ellen, John C. ,

John Jr., Dick, Dot, Dennis, Bobby, Carol, Tim, Kathy E., Jackie, Phyllis, Pat, Alice,

Michelle, Carol, Family of Sandy Medford, Cody, Bob, the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church, Barnegat Light, Ann , Irene, Mary Ellen T. and her family , Lynn , Emmett, Dot ,

God is good! Be safe!

Kat Leifeste
