

News In and Around  
**Trinity Lutheran  
Church, Hamilton**

July/August 2020  
Volume 1, Issue 4



## Pastor's Message

John Parti is always one of the first to be online for the Trinity Sunday live service. He describes himself as not computer savvy, however, it actually only took him a few minutes to get the hang of how to use Zoom and now he really enjoys being part of the live worship each Sunday.

Like many other congregations Covid 19 has turned Trinity into somewhat of an online church. We primarily meet and worship using an internet based conference platform and social media. My goodness, just listen to this last sentence and you will realize how much has changed - including our language.

And while singing, praying, reading scripture and sharing a sermon on a computer screen is not what we want worship to be exclusively like forever, it is a huge blessing under the given circumstances. Online church is not the solution, but certainly a great tool to share the Good News with each other in 2020 and in fact many of you encourage us to make it an integral part of Trinity's ministry even after we will have returned to in-person worship down the road.

Jesus once asked his disciples to venture out into the world - and apparently these days into the virtual world - to share the gospel. And what we experience is that Jesus keeps his promise to walk with us a lot of previously untrodden paths and at times scary grounds to the end of the ages. God's possibilities and God's promises are always embedded in the new.

In light of this, the editorial team of "One in Christ," decided that it was time to dedicate this next edition to take a closer look at the pros and cons of the digital church.

Heide Lang, Trinity's music director will share with you how computer technology helps her to reimagine her ministry at this time, the communications working group has a few updates on what is happening with our website and Jackie Nunns has a few tips for spiritual resources available to you online.

Enjoy this July/August newsletter and as you do, keep in mind a healthy piece of advice the apostle Paul gives us: Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. Check out everything, and keep what's good.

***Blessings, Pastor Thomas and Daniela***



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

TB Update.....	2
Trinity Milestones.....	2
Meet Heide Lang.....	3
Online Devotionals .....	4
Online Resources Youth .....	4
Going to "Online" Church .....	5
Congregational Redevelopment .....	6
Trinity on the Web .....	7
The Back Page .....	8



## TRINITY MILESTONES

Happy Birthday to those members of Trinity turning 90 + this month. They are:

Eileen Forestall..... July 10  
Karl Stahl..... July 11  
Eva Trapp .....July 21  
Helmut Wilk ..... July 24  
Ilse Reizgys ..... July 25  
Jakob Treier.....July 31  
Richard Reining.....Aug 12  
Paul Blum ..... Aug 17  
Maria Eckstein.....Aug 23

We wish all of the above a VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY and God's Blessings for many, many more!



Happy 55th Anniversary to:

**Peter & Alice Seller** celebrating on July 24th. May God continue to bless your life together.

## VACATION TIME!

We wish our Pastors and Office Administrator restful and rejuvenating holidays!

Our Pastors will be away from July 1-21st. Zoom Services will continue on those Sundays while they are gone with coverage from Jackie Nunns and Bethan Riehle-Johns. Rev. Davis Kaneps will be covering for any urgent situations, so please call the office at 905-974-9878 if necessary. The mailings of the services will cease for the month of July due to the vacations.

Summer Office Hours begin **July 1-August 31st**. Hours are Wednesday to Friday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Carol-Ann will be away July 27-31. There will be someone checking the messages and the mail during that time.

## TRINITY TRANSITION BOARD

### CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNICATION BY BARB ALKEN



Trinity's Transition Board met again last Monday, June 22nd and moved forward on some significant items. As this communication is our consistent source of direct communication from the Transition Board, this will be somewhat longer than usual. Thank you for your patience, your support, and your feedback to the Board!

We are so very grateful for your continued financial support to Trinity. This has allowed us to continue our ministry through these times and move forward with our transition from three congregations to one. Please note that e-transfers are also possible now as a faster, more direct way to send a donation electronically, and you can find detailed instructions at the current operational website <http://www.stjohnshamilton.ca/>. Our web presence is being renewed and we will be launching a new Trinity website later in the summer.

A quick clarification to the information about signage changes at our sites. We felt this was important to avoid confusion in our community, and to promote a public awareness of our congregation as one entity. The signs at the Fennell site were changed without cost, and the other two sites will have a simple vinyl covering with Trinity Lutheran Church on it. We are always glad to receive feedback and are eager to answer questions from our members.

One of the most pressing concerns for our entire membership is the question of where we will find our future home as one congregation. We have been steadily moving forward in the process we have underway with Karen Bjerland and Pastor Joel Crouse with the Congregational Re-development Service. A timeline has been established with a focus on bringing well-researched recommendations to our membership with the best possible scenario for the future of our mission. Karen will be providing more detailed information in this newsletter—be sure to look for it!

And finally, last week the provincial government allowed churches to begin meeting in person, with restrictions. We have carefully reviewed those very tight restrictions and have found that this would mean only a very small portion of our membership would be able to participate in worship gatherings. Because we deeply value the fellowship we have together, we have decided to continue Zoom services that everyone can attend until September at the earliest. This follows guidance from the Eastern Synod and puts the health and safety of all our members before any other considerations. We know that many of you are participating via Zoom, some are reading the emailed versions and following the links sent out via email every week, and some are reading services in the mailings.

Let us keep living God's message, as this verse from 1 Corinthians 12 tells us:

***If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.***

***Stay home! Stay safe!  
And we will all be together again!***

## MEET— HEIDE LANG, Music Director

Submitted by Pastor Thomas Mertz

When asked about her favourite hymn, Heide Lang, Trinity's Music Director doesn't have to think long for an answer, but it is not what you might expect.

"I don't really have one," she says. "Every song I sing, every piece I play is my favourite at that moment." This brief statement speaks volumes to the person behind the Music Director. Experiencing and living music with all her senses is Heide's passion. And it's something she loves to share. Choir



rehearsals are a burst of creative energy and love for music that just draw one in. You should come and feel it for yourself sometime – or join one of the weekly choir meetings on zoom.

Heide is quite clear on this: music is meant to be experienced and shared in person, however, she is grateful that computer and internet technology allowed her to continue her ministry during the months of social distancing and with restrictions still in place that don't allow for singing together.

Being able to see the faces and hear the voices of her community are worth the extra time she needs today for preparing and recording worship music and dealing with a multitude of technical problems along the way. Crafting Music Sunday in 2020 certainly was a challenge, but also a huge opportunity. "It's amazing how technology allows us to connect with people everywhere and share the Good News with them."

That's another one of those remarks that are typical for Heide. Underneath all that passion, energy and drive to engage others is her understanding of music and her work at Trinity as a way to share the gospel. And it gives her away as the good Lutheran that she is. Luther always saw sacred music as a different way to preach the gospel and share God's love with the world. Music is an expression of Heide's faith in our amazing and infinitely good God.

It is her faith in a God, who gently guides our paths, that also brought her back to St. John's, where she had grown up, was baptised and attended German school. When the congregation hired her as the new organist in 2015, she brought with her many years of experience as music director in United Church of Canada and Baptist congregations. She remembers that she was only looking for supply work at the time, and when offered the position of Music Director had to pray over it before deciding to accept.

She is glad she did and so are we. Heide enjoys working as part of the larger Trinity team. She loves the community spirit and appreciates the deep respect Trinity shows for the different traditions within our amalgamated church. Heide was contracted as the new Music Director for Trinity Lutheran Church earlier this year.

Knowing Heide, I also knew that she inevitably would end our interview on an encouraging note. "I see so many people worship with us on Sundays, including youths. I am hopeful and excited about that and it makes me think, about the possibilities for our music ministry."

### BIBLES AND BAGELS VIA ZOOM!!

The Women's Bible Study that usually meets at Hughson St is now meeting via ZOOM during the COVID-19 crisis. The next Zoom Meeting is **Saturday, July 25th at 10:30 am**. The theme is "How will the world look different when the COVID restrictions are lifted?" If you are a regular member you will be sent the link to join, or you can email Jackie at [nunnsjackie@gmail.com](mailto:nunnsjackie@gmail.com) to send it. Alternatively, you can phone in 1-778-907-2071—Meeting ID: 839 4844 0950, Password: 792117

A meeting is also set for **Saturday, August 29th at 10:30 am** Meeting ID: 842 1695 2738, and Password: 767456

**The meetings for the Men's Breakfast at Hughson St will be suspended for the summer months and begin again at the end of September.**

### FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE ITEMS FOR SALE

Before the pandemic, our ladies of the Friendship Circle were busy sewing making a number of items that need a new home. **Contact Marie Stanat (289-919-0603)** if you are interested in purchasing from their inventory an item for yourself or a gift for another. They have the following items up for sale:

Aprons \$10, various sizes of quilts \$20-50, adult bibs \$8, neck warmers \$6. They also have fabric for sale for \$5/yard.

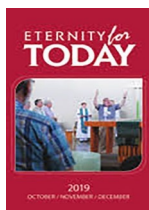
Transactions will be made at the Fennell location by appointment only. Proper COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed (e.g., screening, mask wearing, use of hand sanitizer).



## Interested in Online Devotionals?

By Jackie Nunns

Here are some good ones to try.



**Eternity for Today** is a daily devotional written by members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Receive daily notifications to your desktop or android device. Subscriptions are available for monthly or annual rates (currently \$8.95). <https://elcic.ca/EternityforToday.cfm>.

The print version is available through the congregation. The July-to-September issue has arrived. If you previously picked a copy up at your church site, please contact Carol-Ann in the office to arrange to get one.

**Lutherans Connect** is a multi-media online devotional that includes music, photography and prayerful reflection. The current series, Spirit of Restlessness, is published three times a week to mid-August. It is supported by the Eastern Synod. While the devotions are free, your donation helps to support the extended offerings that have been taking place in 2020.



To receive the devotions by email, write to [lutheransconnect@gmail.com](mailto:lutheransconnect@gmail.com).



**God Pause**

**God Pause** is a daily devotional written by alumni of Luther Seminary in Minneapolis. Writers reflect on Revised Common Lectionary texts and the church season.

To get God Pause delivered to your email every morning free of charge, go to <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/>.

---

## And online resources for the Youth/Young Adults...

---

### Connections for Young Adults (ages 17-35)

Kristina Kuhnert and Emily Savage are young Canadian, Eastern Synod Lutherans doing synod-wide and synod-supported Youth and Young Adult Ministry on the internet (for now!). You may have seen us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram (@ELCICyoungadults), on YouTube (on the "Young Canadian Lutheran" channel) or perhaps you have heard of the "35 Under 35" project about Young Adults in the Church.

To be part of Zoom gatherings for young adults, email Kristina at [kristinakhn@yahoo.ca](mailto:kristinakhn@yahoo.ca).

Bios of 60 young adults across the ELCIC are available at @ELCICyoungadults on FB, Twitter or Instagram, or go to <https://esyouth-elcic.ca/>

### Connections for Youth (ages 13-17)

Join Kristina and Emily for 'Youth Hang' or 'Campfire Night'.

#### **Youth Hang** Tuesdays 5-7pm EST

Sometimes, the best times in your life are just "chillin' with your peeps". That's what this is. Come for the whole time, come for 5 minutes, come and go as you can, but come hang with us, check in with your friends, chat about faith, life, and play some games.

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID 765 5999 4876

#### **Campfire Night** Every other Friday (June 5, 19, etc) 7pm-9pm EST

Missing camp? Missing CLAY? Every other Friday we are sharing stories, songs, and silly games, and toasting marshmallows (safely!!) Bring your cozy clothes and your fave camp snack.

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 898 5175 0750

## Going to “Online” Church!

“Going to Church” has taken on a whole new meaning in the last three months. Quarantine measures have forced us to think differently and find creative ways to meet and worship together with relatively high success. Many Trinity members can now attest to the convenience of joining a Zoom meeting on Sunday mornings. Its as easy as clicking on an email link and letting technology take care of the rest. For your Pastors, however, things are just a bit more complicated. Here’s an extremely exclusive peak behind the ‘cable mess’ of how we run and air our services each week.

When Trinity debuted the Zoom service, we remember seeing both our parents closely huddled together and preaching into their cellphone from our dinner table. This set up was neither comfortable nor optimal; so, we decided to try and improve it. After a couple of hours rummaging through our infamous “electronics box” and some top of the line Google searches we had ourselves a first functioning set up. Run through Fred’s personal laptop, we were able to find some software that allowed us to capture live video from our 10+-year-old DSLR camera directly to Zoom. Unfortunately, Audio turned out to be the bigger challenge. We started off with a single composite mic in the middle of the room graciously made available by Chris Mertz. We made it all the way through Easter this way, until we were fortunate enough to receive both advice and a generous donation by Jim Ridge. Now equipped with two wireless personal mics, we upped the audio quality tremendously. The whole set up is rounded off with a large (and heavy) TV to allow the Pastors to see multiple service attendees at once. Our various instruments are connected by a 30ft internet cable stretched out throughout the sanctuary to make up for the spotty WiFi that most of our churches boast.

The actual Sunday morning has become a whole family affair. While Fred accompanies the Pastors to church, Jon holds down the fort at home loading up the Worship Slides. Once all the equipment is checked, the service unfolds as normal. We both follow along with the service, Jon screen-shares and plays videos that allow us to sing and pray together. Fred mercilessly mutes all participants to reduce the amount of background noise on the call. Considering that we are a church that started from scratch when online worship became a reality, our arrangement has worked astonishingly well.

*Submitted by Fred and Jon Mertz*



### JULY SERVICES

Every week on Sundays,  
10:00 am

Jul 5, 2020 10:00 AM

Jul 12, 2020 10:00 AM

Jul 19, 2020 10:00 AM

Jul 26, 2020 10:00 AM

Meeting ID: 841 2887 8491

Password: 047029

1-647-374-4685 Canada

1-647-558-0588 Canada

### AUGUST SERVICES

Every week on Sundays,  
10:00 am

Aug 2, 2020 10:00 AM

Aug 9, 2020 10:00 AM

Aug 16, 2020 10:00 AM

Aug 23, 2020 10:00 AM

Aug 30, 2020 10:00 AM

Meeting ID: 814 9935 3573

Password: 314902

1-647-374-4685 Canada

1-647-558-0588 Canada

Be sure that your telephone contract allows for unlimited long distance calling in Canada, as additional charges may occur otherwise.

# How Congregational Redevelopment Services Will Help Trinity Move Forward

## ONE IN CHRIST

Trinity Lutheran Church continues its journey of transformational change to create new ways of being Christ's church in a world where Christianity is no longer the norm. Yours is a strong community of faith, which you have most recently demonstrated by amalgamating three congregations into one.

As good stewards of your resources, the next step for Trinity is to determine the site which the congregation will call home. To support that work, Trinity's Transition Board has contracted with the Eastern Synod's Congregational Redevelopment Services (CRS). As the Synod's Congregational Redevelopment Advisor, I am honoured to work with you, and I extend my personal congratulations on the success of your courageous work toward creating relevant, vital ministries that value and build on the traditions you love.



---

*As good stewards, the next step for Trinity is to determine the site which the congregation will call home.*

---

## WHAT DOES CRS DO?

- ◆ Helps congregations envision and implement renewed visions, including the goal of increasing financial sustainability.
- ◆ Provides unbiased discovery, innovative option exploration and sensible economic feasibility studies.
- ◆ Procures real estate, development and other expertise needed to create and implement a plan.

The work of congregational redevelopment spans three phases. CRS is working with Trinity on the first phase.

**Phase 1:** Taking inventory of a congregation's missional and capital assets to develop and present high-level go-forward concepts to the congregation for its approval. For Trinity, that means we will look at the possibility of a brand new site, while also assessing the suitability of each of the Hughson Street, King Street and Fennell Street sites. We will assess real estate options, income opportunities and potential partnerships. For example, some congregations choose to redevelop some of their property to build affordable housing or a community hub.

**Phase 2:** For Trinity, Phase 2 could be the sale of the properties the congregation cannot use effectively to fulfill its vision and mission. Trinity may also choose to redevelop a property as an expression of its vision and mission. If redevelopment of a property is the direction the congregation chooses in Phase 1, the next step is to build capacity through deep assessment of potential partnerships, governance options and a financial pro forma. The goal is to have all the information required to create a project brief for congregational approval.

**Phase 3:** When the congregation approves the project brief presented in Phase 2, CRS can oversee implementation of a redevelopment project in collaboration with congregational leaders. The degree of oversight and time horizons for completion of the project will vary depending on the complexity of the project and your in-house expertise. *(continued on page 7)*

## TRANSITION BOARD'S NEXT STEPS

The next steps over the coming months include:

- ♦ Affirm Trinity's vision statement. This is important because go-forward decisions are anchored in the congregation's vision for the future. We will build on the work you have already done to avoid duplication of effort.
- ♦ Confirm parameters of Trinity's ministry to ensure site selection meets worship, program and outreach needs.
- ♦ Consider whether a partnership with a local community service provider enhances ministry and/or redevelopment opportunities.
- ♦ Identify income opportunities; consider strategy for rental income or other income generation strategies.
- ♦ Understand the planning policy framework that applies to the use of Trinity's properties.
- ♦ Assess real estate options (all three properties plus any new potential sites); compare real estate options to ministry requirements and potential redevelopment opportunities to determine the preferred site.
- ♦ Develop a sales strategy.
- ♦ Communicate with the congregation on a regular basis to equip members with the information they need to make transformational decisions.

We look forward to working with you!

Karen Bjerland and Rev. Joel Crouse  
Congregational Redevelopment

*Trinity Invites you to:*

**A GERMAN AFTERNOON**  
**(via Zoom!)**



**Saturday, July 25th**

**2:00 pm**

***"The Amazing Adventures of  
Baron Muenchhausen."***

If you wish to receive the *link* via email please contact the office at  
**tlchamilton2020@gmail.com.**

OR

Dial by your location

1-647 374 4685 Canada

1-647-58-0588 Canada

Meeting ID: 860 2504 3499

Password: 565077

Be sure that your telephone contract allows for unlimited long distance calling in Canada, as additional charges may occur otherwise.

## Trinity Lutheran Church On The Web

We all know how important it is to find reliable and easy to access information when searching on the internet. Our church's web presence is no exception, and a working group has been re-designing Trinity's website.



We have been looking at excellent examples of church websites, choosing the most interesting features from each, and researching the best platform to create a design that works well on a computer, laptop, ipad, or phone. Our focus is on sharing our new life as Trinity with excitement and optimism for the future, and should be ready to launch later in the summer. Many thanks to Fred Mertz for his expertise and guidance to the working group!



## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Thomas and  
Pastor Daniela Mertz

### OUR VISION

**Together God has given us everything we need to be able to create a church that is a beacon of worship, care, learning, and service.**

*ONE IN CHRIST* is published under the auspices of the Trinity Lutheran Church. The Editorial Board is comprised of members of the congregation and the pastors. Submissions will be edited for clarity, positivism, adherence to our mission statement, constitution and the love of Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

Please make all submissions to Cathy Calvin by email before the 20th of each month to [decalvin1980@gmail.com](mailto:decalvin1980@gmail.com).

## THE BACK PAGE

### WORSHIP WHILE YOU WASH!

Here are some ways you can praise God in 20-30 seconds while you wash your hands!



**SING A VERSE OF A HYMN!**  
**THE DOXOLOGY**  
**MORNING HAS BROKEN**  
**BE THOU MY VISION**

**SING THE CHORUS OF**  
**HERE I AM LORD**  
**HOW GREAT THOU ART**  
**GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

**SAY THE LORD'S PRAYER**



## Trinity Lutheran Church

### Office

104 Hughson St N  
Hamilton, ON L8R 1G6  
905-974-9878

[tlchamilton2020@gmail.com](mailto:tlchamilton2020@gmail.com)

