



## **Pastor Kari's Pen:**

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I haven't been sleeping well lately. I have always been able to sleep soundly, all night. Even during the years when I was getting up in the night with little kids, I could crawl back into bed and be out as soon as my head hit the pillow. But since the middle of March when COVID-19 changed our whole world, I wake often wake up in the night and worry. I've never really thought of myself as a worrier, although I do have to admit I have a good imagination and can dream up the worst-case scenario. But those imagined worst-case scenarios didn't keep me up at night. I knew that I was being silly and there is no reason to worry.

But now I find myself awake in the night, worrying about the world, and unable to go back to sleep. I looked up the definition of worry and this is what Webster's Dictionary says:

Worry:

1a: mental distress or agitation resulting from concern usually for something impending or anticipated : ANXIETY

b: an instance or occurrence of such distress or agitation

2: a cause of worry : TROUBLE, DIFFICULTY

I don't like to think of myself as a worrier, I'm trying hard to not be one. But still, I wake up in the night with what I can only identify as "mental distress." I wake up with so many people and situations on my mind; so much hate, suffering, division, hopelessness, selfishness, fear... Telling myself not to worry hasn't been very effective, so instead I've begun reminding myself to pray.

In his letter to the early church, the Christians in Philippi, the Apostle Paul wrote:

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. *Philippians 4:4-9*

These words to those early Christians, and to us, remind me to not worry but to be with God in prayer and to find peace in knowing the love and care our gracious God has for me and for the whole world. And these words remind me as well that I am sent out into the world to be for others the good news of Jesus. When Paul says to keep on doing what we have learned from him, he is reminding us to continue to serve God's world with love and mercy so that whoever we meet will experience the love of Jesus for them.

So, I wonder... how, in these days with the volatile political climate, the racial tension, the uncertain economy, the effects of climate change, not to mention a worldwide pandemic defining our daily reality, how do I faithfully hear and act on these words from Paul. How do I rejoice in the Lord? How do I know the peace of God's gracious care?

All I can do is to what the Apostle Paul says, "Keep on doing the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you." All we can do is to keep on trusting in God's gracious and merciful love for the whole world and keep serving the world with the same life-giving love of Jesus.

So, rather than the popular song from the 80s "Don't Worry, Be Happy" which is pretty useless advice, I say to myself and to you, "Don't Worry, Be for Others the Love of Jesus!" I don't say that to be flippant, but to remind us that it matters that we are out in the world loving, serving, caring, forgiving, and welcoming, The world needs what we have to give, the gracious life-giving love of Jesus for you and for me and for all.

In that same love,

Pastor Kari

## 9am Livestreamed (Drive-Up Communion to follow) & 10:30am In-Person

In-person worship has begun & will continue for the foreseeable future. With our space, we are not in any danger from exceeding the 90 to 100 capacity in our worship space under our current guidelines. Nonetheless, we want to work on the habit of making sure that if/when we approach that capacity, we can also make other plans for additional services.

### 9am Livestream—with Drive-Up Holy Communion

This service features a fuller complement of music with hymns being sung by a smaller ensemble, special music, etc. etc. We DO need your help in singing hymns for this service. If you would like to be a part of the masked ensemble that helps with hymn singing, please let us know. Running the camera and setting-up and running the broadcast tech are also options to help out on Sundays.

### Some features to note about our in-person service:

Seating is spaced according to the recommended 6-foot physical distance recommendation. Chairs can be move to accommodate your family, so long as we maintain that 6-foot perimeter. All "handleables" have been removed--i.e., hymnals, pencils, offering plates. While offering plates are not being passed, we do have both the offering plates and the giving I-pads stationed in the back to receive your generosity. Probably the biggest adjustment in this worship service is the lack of congregational singing and responses. It's not that there's NO music--it's just being handled by a single singer. (Singing and congregational response continue to be activities that are discouraged by medical professionals, due to the enhanced "aerosolization" that takes place.) .We are working on some creative ways to build up our congregational participation, so as with everything else related to covid-19, please be patient and flexible!

Thanks for your understanding and patience.

Pastors Mike & Kari



## OFFICE HOURS

- **Monday: 9am – 1pm** Liz only, except for Council Mondays (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month), when at least one pastor will be present. (Mondays are typically the pastors' day off.)
- **Tuesday – FRIDAY (BEGINNING THE WEEK AFTER LABOR DAY): 9am – 2pm** Liz will mostly be present in the office. At least one pastor will be in at least TWO of those days.

### OTHER THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT OUR MODIFIED OFFICE HOURS:

- After posted hours, your call will be directed to a voice mail box, and someone will return your call as soon as is possible.
- We will continue to encourage you who might be in higher risk categories to stay home and conduct business by phone.
- Pastoral emergencies can still be directed to either Pastor Mike or Pastor Kari by contacting them directly on their cell phones.
- **PLEASE, out of care for our staff, do not come to the office for any reason.....if you are feeling ill or exhibiting any kind of respiratory symptom (coughing, sneezing, etc.);...if you have knowingly been exposed to Covid-19;...if you have a compromised immune system (chemotherapy patients, etc.); or...if you are at a higher risk of exposing others (i.e., nursing home employees, etc.).**

**IF YOU DO COME TO THE OFFICE...MASKS ARE REQUIRED.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING, PATIENCE, AND SUPPORT**



## Technology Fundraiser

Wonderful news, with the generous gifts from many people as well as very generous gifts to the Memorial Fund directed to technology upgrades, we have reached our Phase One goal



to permanently install the equipment to LiveStream all services. Thank you to everyone who has helped out. In person worship is now happening while following the recommendations of the CDC and MN Health Department. Now we are moving into raising the funds for Phase Two.

**Phase 2** is our long-term vision for adding visual elements into worship. This will allow us to move away from printed materials and move toward pre-recorded announcements, preaching illustrations, adding seasonal color and art, music, etc. The goal for this phase is to have it available for the Christmas season.

### Phase 2 Goal: \$15,000

#### Equipment Needed:

- 2x 98" projection screens
- 1 65" Leaders monitor
- Mounting poles
- Hardware and cabling

If you want to be part of making this happen, please give online or mail your gift to the Church office at 111 6th ave N. Princeton, MN 55371. Be sure to mark your gift for Technology Fund.

## MASKS ARE STILL AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CHURCH

As we continue to look forward to a day when we can gather for in-person events at the church, it seems highly likely that masks will continue to be a part of our practice for the foreseeable future. While not 100% effective—there probably isn't anything that is—when it comes to slowing the way that the coronavirus is spread through airborne aerosol spray that we human simply naturally emit when we speak and certainly when we cough, sneeze, or even sing, the introduction of a barrier simply makes good sense. This is true whether we are talking about a quick trip to the grocery store or whether we are talking about a worship service.



We have a handful of masks for both adults and kids at Trinity and have requested more. If you are in need of one, please contact Liz in the office (763)389-2671

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE MISSION & MINISTRY GOD HAS GIVEN OUR CONGREGATION!!

We continue to be astounded and grateful for your generosity! Our faithfulness to God's calling, even in this time, is to be responsible for our financial commitments, not least of which include our ministry partners (like the Synod and Camp Onomia); our buildings (including, of course, our mortgage on Trinity Crossing); and of course, our staff! Be we cannot be faithful to that calling without your trust and faithfulness in your generosity.

### There are still any number of ways to give:

- **By Mail**—we have a reliable process for making sure that all offerings are out of the building every single day and deposited right way. It is safe, even with our mostly shuttered building.
- **Drop Off**—If you are out and about, there is a mail slot to the right of the front doors. You can safely and securely drop your gift off there.
- **On-line**—go to our website ([www.trinity-princeton.org](http://www.trinity-princeton.org)) and look for the picture of the offering plate like the one above. This is THE most efficient way of signing up for Simply Giving, which is administered by Vanco, one of the most secure e-commerce companies in the industry.
- **Automatic Withdrawal**—Contact your bank.
- **By App**—Both the Apple and Google Play app stores have a free app called "GivePlus." Once downloaded to your device, *simply search for "Trinity Lutheran Church, Princeton, MN"*; follow the directions for registering; and set-up your giving in whatever way works for your faithful generosity, one time, recurring, or whatever.



**THIS COMING SUNDAY --LABOR DAY SUNDAY—SEPTEMBER 6:** Over the last few years, we have observed Labor Day here by inviting our worshipers to “come dressed for work: wear or bring something that is indicative of your work, either what you currently do or what you formerly did.” We have had realtors, farmers, former switchboard operators, cooks, housekeepers, mechanics, carpenters, teachers and more come to worship with tools and items indicative of their vocations. **All of these places are where our daily callings as followers of Jesus are lived out**—which is not what “Labor Day” is about exactly, but it give us a way to “baptize” Labor Day and make it our own!



Obviously, the pandemic has given us some challenges to work around, BUT...

**...IF YOU WILL BE PRESENT FOR OUR IN-PERSON WORSHIP (10:30am)** please be encouraged to do as we've done in the past: wear or bring something that is indicative of your work, either what you currently do or what you formerly did.

**...IF YOU WILL BE WORSHIPPING WITH US OVER OUR LIVESTREAM (9am), please send us a photograph of you in your work gear or uniform; maybe even of yourself AT WORK.** Pastor Mike would like to be able to use it as a part of his sermon on that Sunday! THANKS!!

**GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY OUTDOOR SERVICE AT MARK PARK—SEPTEMBER 13:** Join us for



**God's work.  
Our hands.**

our 10:30 service at Mark Park!! We will have boxed to-go lunches available to all, until gone, with smoked chicken, coleslaw & chips. Please bring your own chair. “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday has been an ELCA-wide reminder that the missions and ministries of our congregations are best lived out in service to the world and communities in which

we are planted. We have sent hundreds, if not thousands, of school kits to needy children across the globe. We have sent volunteers to help with routine clean-up at the Princeton Pantry. We have done roadside clean-up throughout the community. We have hosted a free hot dog stand—just ‘cause! **Again, the pandemic has caused us to rethink how we do “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday.**

**So we want to encourage you to be present and active in our community in service-oriented sorts of ways.** Know a roadside that could use a little TLC? (Tender Loving Care? Or Trinity Lutheran Church?!) GO AHEAD AND DO IT. Are there other projects you can undertake in your neighborhood? At your school? **Go ahead and BE God’s Work through YOUR Hands—AND, send us a photograph of your project so that we can celebrate and bless our efforts!**

**BACKPACK BLESSINGS—SEPTEMBER 20:** School will have been going for a couple of weeks by the 20<sup>th</sup>, but we’ll set aside time during our worship services (Livestream & In-person) to pray for and bless our students, teachers, and school staff. **Whatever that ends up looking like, PLEASE SEND US A PHOTOGRAPH OF...**

**BACKPACK  
BLESSING**



- **...YOUR KIDS HEADING OFF TO SCHOOL OR TUNING IN FOR THE DISTANCE LEARNING; (COLLEGE KIDS TOO!!)**
  - **...YOU TEACHERS & YOUR CLASSROOMS; AND/OR**
- ...YOU SCHOOL STAFF DOING YOUR THING—SUPPORT; COUNSELING; FOOD SERVICES...ANYTHING THAT IS HELPFUL TO THE TEACHING/LEARNING ENDEAVOR!**