

The Trumpet

September 2020

INVITE * EQUIP * SEND



Pastor Mike's Mash:

This is not the first time that the people of God have faced crisis and challenge and have figured out (a) how to remain faithful to God; (b) how to maintain the practices that sustain that faith (i.e., worship, Bible study, etc.); and (c) how to adapt to the situation brought about by crisis.

This past Sunday, we heard the texts from Exodus 12 and 13 that reminded us of Moses' instruction about keeping the Passover. To this very day, people who are Jewish observe, keep, and remember the Passover. They gather with their immediate families, with their extended relatives, with their close friends. They light candles and eat a formal, celebratory meal together.

However, since the Temple no longer stands in Jerusalem and since the Jewish people extend far, far beyond the Holy Land, Passover and its sacrificial lamb have changed. In fact, except for perhaps some small representational portion of lamb, most Passover meals don't follow the by-the-book prescriptions that we hear in Exodus. For example, they no longer live with the little lamb for 4 days before making the Passover sacrifice. (In fact, there is no Passover sacrifice.) Most thankfully of all, there is no mandate anymore about roasting it head, legs, inner organs and all!

Jews all over the world have adapted to crises and changes in their Passover observations. In Turkey, the artichoke figures prominently in their meal, even though you'll find no mention of it in all the rules and regulations associated with the original Passover. In Spain, many Jewish families enjoy a hearty, fragrant chicken pot pie of sorts, which is of course, different from what we hear in Exodus today and doesn't even include lamb at all. In Russia, a popular Jewish Passover breakfast food are latkes—a pancake of sorts—made from cottage cheese and the same flour used to make the flatbread. There's not even any mention of Passover breakfast in the Bible! And there certainly isn't any mention or regulation of the amazingly rich desserts that come from the Italian Jewish traditions!

But what has not changed at all are the stories that are told for Passover by which people who are Jewish remember God's action in the past. What has not changed at all is *the meaning* of the modern Passover meal itself by which people who are Jewish faithfully remember God's presence for them today in the present. What has not changed at all for Passover is how the arc of memory and faith from the past and in the present extends hope into the future. That is, we remember what God has done in the past so that we can recognize God's steadfast presence with us in the present and have our faith and hope sustained for the future. In fact, of all the words in Scripture that lay out for the Jewish people all the rules and regulations for Passover—how to prepare the lamb; what kind of bread to use; who can and can't attend—the heart of the Passover is found in these words from Exodus 13: *On that day tell your children, 'I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.'* (13:8) And this—the meal, the memory, the words, all of it—is a gift from God to sustain his people, especially in trying times. I suspect this past spring's Passover, though different no doubt, was quite at home during the earliest lockdown of the pandemic.

But, of course, the point of all this isn't just to learn about the ancient rituals of Passover or the interesting Jewish foods from all over the planet. **The point is to proclaim to you that God has continued to provide this memory of the past to sustain us in the present and give us courage and hope and faith for the future, even as we adapt to changes and crises.**

Sunday after Sunday we gather to receive the Lord's Supper in some way, shape, or form, even though our contemporary circumstances have demanded that it be different than it was a year ago. (But then again, it was different already from the way it was for Jesus and his disciples.) Some on Sunday—though I'm still curious to know who you are and how this has been working for you—have bread and wine at home and use set-aside plates and cups or glasses to remember Jesus; his suffering, death, and resurrection; and his presence and promises for them. Some drive up and share in this modified togetherness, and it has been a JOY to share a few moments together there. Still others gather here in this place, whether outdoors or in. Week after week, day after day,

Pastor Kari and I continue to reach out with this same gift, to “catch” people we haven’t seen in a while when they drop by the office, or who are here for doing whatever it is they’re doing to serve God by serving others. We’ll continue to reach out to our homebound and elderly, to figure out safe ways to bring this gift from God to them. We’ve used the traditional elements and serving ware that have served this congregation for decades. We’ve used our portable kits that are part of our regular tools. And we’ve used these hermetically sealed, all-in-one vessels for bringing not just viral free bread and wine but the very presence of God’s loving presence revealed most clearly in Jesus then and most clearly in Jesus through this bread and wine now.

If it has been a while for you to have received Holy Communion...

Or been a part of worship...

Or been a part of your congregation in some meaningful, faith-growing way...

...it is time for all of us together to figure out how to adapt and make some changes.

Please note any of the ways listed above to receive the Lord's Supper.

Please note the various ways our Sunday morning worship services are being offered.

Please note the various ways that small group Bible studies are being offered.

Stay tuned for more.

And be mindful of the ways God comes to you with the good news assurance of grace, mercy, and love through Jesus FOR YOU.

—Pastor Mike



OFFICE HOURS

- **Monday: 9am – 1pm** Liz only, except for Council Mondays (2nd Monday of the month), when at least one pastor will be present. (Mondays are typically the pastors' day off.)
- **Tuesday – FRIDAY: 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



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

Info about early Fall Worship Schedule for the foreseeable future:

SUNDAY MORNINGS

* **9am Livestream Service**--broadcast on Facebook Live from our Centrum Sanctuary with a drive up communion following.



* **10:30am In-person Service**--as long as weather allows, we will hold this service in our Crossing parking lot, mainly because we can SING!! Please bring your own folding chair. (Please note: we will try to push "as long as weather allows" as long as we possibly can-

-PLEASE DRESS ACCORDINGLY. We're MINNESOTANS!! Quilts and blankets are **PERFECTLY APPROPRIATE**. Stay tuned to our Facebook page (and here), as well as our website for any "day of" weather-related announcements. We will do our best to make these decisions early in the week, but as we try to opt to be together and to sing, it is possible that we might hold off in deciding until the morning of. In the case of inclement weather--rain or s**w--we will move into the sanctuary where singing and group speaking will be limited. Thanks for your flexibility and for your concern for your neighbor in wearing masks while we are together.)

Stay tuned for other seasonal weather worship updates as we figure this all out.

—Pastor Mike & Kari

The Return Of The Sacrament Of Holy Communion—3 Options

1. AT-BUT-NOT-IN YOUR HOME:

- Pastors Mike & Kari will be in touch with you or call today to bring your Holy Communion to you in a safe, physically distant way from at least 6 feet away.
- We will be masked, for sure, and would be traveling both with cloth masks that you can have if you need as well as disposables that would be used during our time of Communion.
- We will be travelling with sanitary, pre-filled cups of wine and wafers.
- For your safety, we would not be entering your house. But can we meet you on your front step?

How about in a shady spot in your yard? We'll be traveling with a collapsible TV tray where we can place the bread and wine and step back while you receive those signs of God's loving presence with you through Jesus.

- Liz will be helping the pastors by phoning you to see if she can arrange an appointment. **Or, you may call ahead to arrange an appointment: Office: 763-389-2671 Pastor Mike: 763-333-4499 Pastor Kari: 701-509-3005**

2. DURING OUR LIVESTREAM WORSHIP:

- **We want to approach this way of receiving communion under these extraordinary circumstances in a reverential and worshipful manner.** We suggest that you use a plate and cup that you would set aside for this particular purpose throughout the current situation of the pandemic.

- Similarly, you will need to gather your own bread and wine or grape juice. Regular bread or crackers are just fine. The color of the wine or grape juice doesn't matter.
- At the end of our livestream broadcast, the Pastors will gather us through the Words of Institution that remind us of this great gift for our lives of faith, *"In the night in which He was betrayed, Jesus took bread and broke it..."*.
- Further instruction will take place during the service. **But 'Holy Communion' becomes Holy Communion with the words you see and hear proclaimed to you, "The body and blood of Christ, broken FOR YOU."** At that point, share the bread and wine with the others in your household. Or, receive it by yourself in the faith that the Word says what it truly IS: the presence of God's love in Jesus FOR YOU.

3. DRIVE-UP COMMUNION AFTER OUR LIVESTREAM WORSHIP:

- At the end of our livestream broadcast, the Pastors will gather us through the Words of Institution that remind us of this great gift for our lives of faith, *"In the night in which He was betrayed, Jesus took bread and broke it..."*.
- **As the service concludes, you are invited to drive to the church where the pastors will meet you on 6th Avenue.** The elements will either be the sanitary pre-packed units or traditional wafers and cups prepared by the Pastors while masked and gloved.
- The pastors will remain curbside until about 10:30am.

The Care for Creation Team is offering regular suggestions and information about how we can be stewards of our environment. Please use the information that is helpful to you to care for what God has given us.



PRACTICE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Sustainability is probably not the term we think about the most when we go on vacation. However, it actually should be as it's imperative that we decrease our travel footprint and ease the pressure on countries, places, and people who are swamped by tourists in this season. Sustainable tourism means:

- Minimize waste – no littering, opting for reusables
- Protect the natural environment – keep it clean and beautiful, follow the rules and regulations
- Don't exploit the people and animals – research touristy programs beforehand and make sure it does not hurt other beings (which means, no elephant rides)
- Supporting local businesses – local restaurants and accommodations over big chains
- Buying local specialties instead of mass-produced souvenirs
- Walking a lot, using public transport, and using a car as a last resort

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.

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) 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.

