

The Tower

September 03, 2020



TRINITY
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Through God's Love We Grow and Serve

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Dear Church Family,

I would like to share my latest thoughts about in-person worship and doing ministry during a pandemic. My thinking continues to evolve based on the latest science and data, the feedback of our congregation and learning from what other churches are trying. Every pastor and congregation is trying to figure out how to be the church right now. We do not have a clear and simple road map. The church leaders, staff and I are striving to "do the next right thing" based on our knowledge and the leading of the Spirit.

Lately, the number of active cases of Covid-19 reported by the Reno County Health Department has spiked upward and then came back down repeatedly. Despite the roller coaster ride in the number of cases, I am still in favor of holding in-person worship for three reasons:

- 1) The majority of the cases are contained in the prison.** While I am concerned for the health of the inmates and the staff, the fact remains that they are not attending worship at Trinity.
- 2) Church members are reporting to me that they feel safe in worship.** During the seventeen "Meet Michael" meetings, I heard from many people that they feel comfortable returning to worship because of the safety measures we are following.
- 3) We are learning to live with Covid-19.** I am coming to understand that the number of active cases is going to go up and down for the foreseeable future. We can remain open for worship with strict safety measures, smaller attendance and inviting people to stay home if they are sick, vulnerable or uncomfortable attending.

I am open to your feedback and certainly understand if you do not feel comfortable coming to the church building right now.

Blessings, Pastor Michael

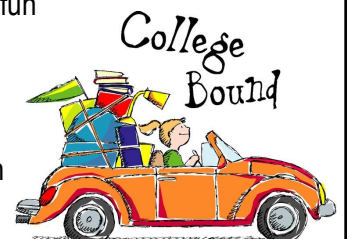


SUPPORT OUR COLLEGE KIDS

Our college kids need our support this year more than ever! There are two ways you can help!

1. On Sundays, Sept. 6 and 13, we will be taking donations to help purchase the gift cards we send to our college kids at finals time in care of our entire church family.
1. Want to get more involved with a student personally? Contact Kerrie (kollenburger@sbcglobal.net) and Adopt-A-College Student. Pray for your student and send your student notes of encouragement, gift cards and fun surprises all year long.

These ministries are the last contact we will have with many of these students. They serve as important reminders to them of the importance of having a faith community as they head off on their own. Thanks in advance for your support.



WITH DEEPEST

Sympathy

TO: Brad Krehbiel in loss of his father, Bob.
TO: Nancy Reinert in loss of her mother.
TO: Nancy Burgess in loss of her mother



thank you

I would like to extend a sincere thank-you for all of the birthday cards (over 100) that I received for my 90th birthday. The postman was slightly dismayed, but I was so delighted! Marie Thode

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Children's Sunday school: As of now, children's classes will not begin again until we see how school goes. Most of our volunteer teachers are also in vulnerable groups. So, until we are sure we have enough teachers to properly distance our kids, we will not begin.

Youth Sunday School: We will be giving our Youth Sunday school classes a little bit of time to see how things go with school. Stay tuned for more details!

Faith Friends/GAP/Children's Music: We are planning on beginning Faith Friends and GAP at the beginning of October like we usually do, however, that will also depend on how things go with local school districts. Children's Music will also be looking at how things go at schools.

Youth Group: We will be having a parent meeting on Sunday, September 13 at 5:00 PM in the basement. (Use the southeast door and go down the steps). Any parent is welcome to attend to hear more about our plans for the year, but we would especially encourage 7th grade and new parents to attend. We will start Youth Group on Sunday, September 20 at 5:00 PM.

Small Groups: Our Youth Group format will be changing to more of a small group model for awhile (come to the above meeting to find out more) but we will allow God's Team to meet if they can meet outside. We will be giving you more information about this as it gets closer.

Worship: We started back in-person worship! We will continue to have services at 8:45 AM (Sanctuary-Traditional) and 10:45 AM (Warner Wing-Contemporary) for the time being. Children will need to sit with their parents and will NOT come up to the front for the Children's Moment. Social distancing, masks and temperature checks will be required. There will NOT be a nursery or Busy Bags at this time.

Kindergarten/3rd Grade Bibles: We WILL give Bibles to our Kindergarten/3rd Grade students this year. Please let Kerrie know (kollenburger@sbcglobal.net) if your student plans to receive a Bible. Date to be determined.

Other Youth Info: Youth Ministry Team, our annual Summer Mission Trip and Youth Music are all on hold right now and will be scheduled ASAP!

Join: Our Children's Ministry Facebook group: Kids & Families @ Trinity.

Connect with us!

Facebook: TUMC Hutch Youth

Twitter: @TUMCHutchYouth

Instagram: tumchutchyouth

Web: www.trinityhutch.org/youth

Subscribe: To the weekly E-Scene by e-mailing Kerrie@kollenburger@sbcglobal.net



SALTHAWK COMMUNITY SUPPORT NEEDS SUPPLIES

Many thanks to all of you who have given financially to support the Salthawk Community Support program, our ministry outreach to Hutchinson High School and Hutchinson Middle School 8! This important program helps to address the issues our local students are facing. With the learning environment being very different this school year, there is a special need for **3-ring binders, backpacks, and washcloths** at Hutchinson High School and Hutchinson Middle School 8. If you are out shopping, please consider picking up some of these items and dropping them off at the church Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

Or, if you prefer, you can write a check and someone else will do the shopping for you. Direct your check to Salthawk Community Support - or to Trinity UMC and note "Salthawk" in the memo. Together, we are making a positive difference in our community - one student at a time. Thank you!

TRINITY'S TREASURES SHOE DONATION

Trinity's Treasures is accepting donations of gently used shoes to finish up our fundraiser! We are just over halfway to our goal of 2500 pairs! Due to COVID-19, our fundraiser got cut short last Spring, but we are ready to start AGAIN! Any type or size of shoes can be accepted as long as they are in "good/gently used" condition. You may drop off in the church office Mon thru Fri between 8 AM and 5 PM. Help us meet our goal! Thank you SO MUCH for your generosity!

Shoe
Drive
2020



BENEVOLENCE FUND SPECIAL OFFERING SEPTEMBER 27

News of the increasing poverty level in our community continues to concern many of us. Efforts to curb this increase are being made by numerous churches and organizations, including our own with the Circles of Hope Reno County initiative and the Salthawk Community Support program. The success of these programs lies a great deal in our partnership with other groups and churches. Working together to meet these needs has proven to be an effective game plan. Emanuel Lutheran Church has a staff member who coordinates the requests for financial assistance. An important way our church family can support this effort is to provide funding. At the end of September, our Benevolence Fund Special Offering will be directed to Emanuel Lutheran Church as a show of support for the important service they are providing in our community. Please note "Benevolence Fund" on your check or cash envelope. Thank you!



CONGRATULATIONS, RANDY!

We're proud to announce that our very own Randy Doerksen, Coordinator of Music Ministries, was named as one of the recipients of the Davis Foundation Teacher of the Year awards at the Hutchinson Public Schools annual opening convocation on August 18! Not

only does Randy provide wonderful leadership to our music ministries here at Trinity, he does a great job as full-time music teacher at Lincoln Elementary. Congratulations, Randy, and thank you for your effective leadership and witness, both inside the walls of Trinity and in our community!



WATCH OUT!!!

When lights are flashing,
don't be passing!!!

When will this Covid thing ever end so we can get back to normal? Have you asked this question? I believe that we are grappling with the reality that "normal" is going to look a whole lot different in the future. As we slowly resume face-to-face worship services at Trinity, we are still waiting to begin adult Sunday school classes until mid-September and children and youth ministries until later in the Fall. There are too many unanswered questions that unfold day by day. In the process of dealing with the pandemic, the need for peace is paramount. The Hutchinson area Pastors have put together the following statement: "The faith leaders in the Hutchinson area would like our community to know that we have been, are, and will be praying for you during this pandemic season. We encourage all to remember that there is peace that surpasses all understanding and we encourage you to share with your family and friends that the churches welcome you to come experience peace in the midst of the pandemic."

Our faith choices are not dependent upon our circumstances which is something Christians can count on. In closing, I was touched by a devotional from Sarah Young's book, "Jesus Calling", that reads "knowing God intimately is like having a private wellspring of joy within you. This spring flows freely from My throne of grace, so your joy is independent of circumstances." Truly, the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Blessings,
Pastor Kim



SAFE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL REOPENING

Our adult Sunday School classes will begin meeting on-site Sunday, September 13. The nursery will not be available and children and youth Sunday School will NOT reconvene at this time. The number one priority is to open limited spaces in the building effectively and safely. Some Sunday school classes will be requested to move to a different temporary location so that they can socially distance. In addition, you will be asked to use designated restrooms only.

COVID-19 requirements for adult Sunday School:

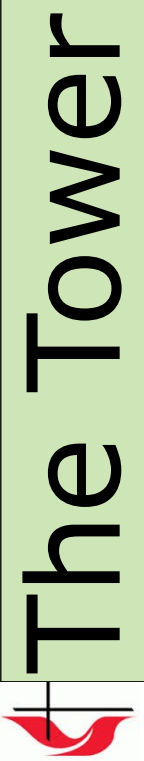
- Classes will meet at 9:45 AM on Sunday mornings.
- Everyone is required to wear masks and socially distance.
- No food or drink will be allowed. The coffee bar area will be closed.
- You will need to clean your classroom at the conclusion of your class (cleaning supplies will be provided).
- You will be asked to use designated restrooms in your part of the building only.

Thank you for your cooperation as we begin to reconnect face-to-face and continue to be diligent in our safety precautions.

Please let the church office know if you are going to be, or have been hospitalized. Call 665-5547.




Trinity United Methodist Church
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 620-665-5547



www.trinityhutch.org (tumc@sbcglobal.net)

RETURN SERVICE
 REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER 03, 2020

**WE WILL BE CLOSED ON
 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, IN
 OBSERVANCE OF** 
Labor Day

Nonprofit Org
 US Postage
 Paid
 Permit No. 60
 Hutchinson, KS

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER GIVING CORNER

WILL BENEFIT 1ST CALL FOR HELP

Suggested donation items are:

Please consider giving donations to First Call For Help in September and October in the Giving Corner found in the foyer of the traditional worship service and near the entrance of Warner Wing. They are needing these personal hygiene items. Thank you!

Personals Program:

- Full size dish soap
- Full size shampoo
- Full size bath soap
- Full size hand/body lotion
- Full size toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Paper towels
- Disposable razors
- Toilet paper
- Full size laundry detergent
- Kleenex - regular size boxes

Homeless Program:

- Travel size shampoo
- Travel size bath soap
- Travel size hand/body lotion
- Disposable razors
- Travel size Kleenex



We're Back!

Welcome to worship at Trinity! **Great news!** We are open for on-site worship. Join us for our 8:45 AM traditional worship in the sanctuary and our 10:45 AM contemporary praise worship in the Warner Wing east building addition. Please wear a mask and be prepared to be seated at a safe distance from others.

We will not be having Sunday School classes for children or youth until later. Adults will start mid-September. If you are not yet comfortable attending in person, please stay home. We will continue to record our 8:45 AM worship service and make the video available online later in the day on Sundays. We are unable to record our 10:45 AM worship service at this time, pending an upgrade to our audio/visual equipment in that area. **Hope to see you soon!**