

# The Messenger

July 2020

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## From our Pastor

*O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ, who promised to bring us new life.

We are now in the earliest stages of returning to worship in person after three months of sheltering in our homes. Our first Sunday back in our beloved sanctuary was joyful and familiar, yet new and strange. It was strange to see everyone wearing masks; it was strange to not pass the peace or be able to greet each other from more than a distance. Yet the God who brings us new life brings us resiliency to weather the storms of life, and this is certainly one of them.

In the midst of this storm, we received a surprise gift a couple of weeks ago when the foundation established in the name of our longtime member Jean Harnett and her husband sent us a check for \$25,000. The intent of the foundation is that we use this money within this year, so our finance committee and council have been busy talking about how best to honor Jean's wishes for us.

The foundation stipulated that we use \$15,000 for building-related items. Our property committee, led by Ed Pitcher, is devising a plan.

The other \$10,000 is meant to be spent on outreach ministry, and we have decided that the entirety of that money will be spent on our response to the pandemic that has altered how we will all function for the foreseeable future. We will give \$2,500 of that to support the Good Shepherd Center's increased need for its feeding ministry, we will use some of it to upgrade our technical equipment to continue providing online worship necessitated by the pandemic, and we will establish a small pastoral fund to help to provide assistance to those economically hurt by this crisis.

We give thanks to the foundation for this grant, and we also remember Jean's stewardship toward her church, and the continued blessings that it brings to us.

You'll hear more about this in the coming months as we make more decisions about how we will steward this money given out of Jean's generosity.

As we move into summer and begin planning for the fall, we look to the blessings both large and small that we are experiencing through these days of change in our world. We pray, God open our eyes to the blessings around us.

Pastor Brenda +

## Coronavirus Q&A

### About worship

We will continue to worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. both in person and online. While we are back in the building on Sundays, we continue to offer live-streamed worship on both our website, [www.holytrinitygreenvillepa.com](http://www.holytrinitygreenvillepa.com), and our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityGreenville> for those who don't yet feel safe in returning to in-person worship.

If all goes well on Sundays, we plan to add our Saturday evening service on August 1. Saturday worship will begin in Trinity Hall downstairs, so that we will not have to add an overnight cleaning of the sanctuary before Sunday worship.

We will continue to offer daily Eucharist services in small groups of no more than 15 people for those who wish to return to the sacramental life of receiving Holy Communion without the risk of a larger gathering. See the schedule below. You are asked to call the church office to schedule a time.

### Worship in our church building

We will use the best possible guidance from the CDC and our state health department to manage the risk as we gather again in person.

Masks (except while communing) and social distancing will be required at all services during the week.

The liturgy at this time will be spoken only. There will be communion. There will be music, but we will be cautious and follow health guidelines about singing. If there is any singing, it will be minimal.

Other details of how we'll worship on Sundays:

- We ask you to use the front entrance to the church. Doors will be open so that door handles will not have to be touched. We ask that only people who need to use the lift or who need the smaller set of stairs use the Clinton Street entrance.
- We will use full-service bulletins. Hymnals and all other materials have been removed from the pews.
- There will be a location to place your offering as you enter the building.
- We will keep a record of everyone in attendance so that if someone becomes exposed to the coronavirus, you can be notified and we can give information to health officials for proper contact tracing.
- We ask that if you attend a service and become ill, you notify us and health officials

- immediately.
- One restroom, by the drinking fountains, will be available for use, and will be wiped down after each use. Our return to “normal” will emerge slowly over time as we watch how the Covid-19 infection rates move in Mercer County with the opening of many offices, stores and restaurants, and we will adjust how we worship to minimize health risks as much as possible.

### **Live-streamed worship**

As we return, we will continue to live-stream the worship for those who will not feel safe gathering in a larger group. It will look different, because we will begin to record from the balcony.

The worship will continue to be available on our website, [www.holytrinitygreenvillepa.com](http://www.holytrinitygreenvillepa.com), and our Facebook page.

### **Weekday communion services**

For those who do not feel safe being in a large group but want to return to receiving Holy Communion, we will continue offering daily services at which we will celebrate the sacrament. Services will be about 15-20 minutes. No more than 15 people can be in attendance at a service.

We ask that you call Tammy in the church office, 724-588-8870, to reserve a slot, so that we can keep the number of those in attendance below 15.

As with the Sunday gatherings, in accordance with the CDC and other health guidelines, masks (except while communing) and social distancing will be required.

We ask you to enter the church using the rear office entrance. Use the back hallway on the left (toward the sacristy) to enter the sanctuary. You will be directed where to sit. (We will be rotating where groups gather to make sure surfaces are cleaned.) If you use the elevator, we will open the Clinton Street door for any services for which the elevator will be needed.

Services have been scheduled for: each Wednesday at 7 p.m.. and each Thursday at 10 a.m.

We will continue to schedule daily services beyond the end of July if the need exists.

### **Where's the pastor?**

Pastor Brenda will be at the church on occasion, but will be working from home to isolate much of the time so that she can remain healthy for pastoral calls to hospitals or nursing homes or your homes if needed. If you need her, you can call, text or email. Her number is 814-881-8959 and her email is [bmartin983@aol.com](mailto:bmartin983@aol.com). If you need a pastoral visit for any reason, please call.

### **What about my offering?**

During this time of crisis, we are asking that the members of the congregation to continue your faithful stewardship, as the work of Holy Trinity is changing, but not ceasing and we need your support. A plate will be placed in the narthex on Sundays, and in the sanctuary during weekday liturgies. We are exploring opportunities for online giving on our website, and there is also the US Mail.

### **Where can I get information?**

We are setting aside a portion of our website, [www.holytrinitygreenvillepa.com](http://www.holytrinitygreenvillepa.com), to bring you information. We'll also provide links to information from the ELCA. Keep watching that space.

### **Will the church office be open?**

Yes, we continue to be open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays but we ask that you come to the office sparingly as we try to keep Tammy safe at work. Please call her if you have any needs or questions.

### **Will the church building be open?**

Yes. But we continue to try to severely limit access to the building, to keep those safe who are at work. We ask you to follow the following protocols so that we can track where people are in the building, and clean areas as appropriate.

The Building Will Be Open for Prayer: We want Holy Trinity to be a sanctuary for people who need sacred space where they can feel safe. We have decided to allow people into the building to pray as long as it's safe to continue this practice, but have established protocols to do this. The building is open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. If you would like to come into the church to pray, even if you have a key or fob, we ask that you call Tammy to tell her you'll be arriving. Ring the buzzer at the back and she will open the door. (Or you can use your key or fob, if you have one, to get in.) There will be a sign-in sheet at the back. Please sign in with date and time. There will be sanitizing wipes there as well. Please take one. (We know that you will want to go down the hall to say hello to Tammy. Out of an abundance of caution, we ask you to not do that.) Please enter the chancel area via the back hallway. Lights will already be on in the chancel. Sit in one of the choir pews or kneel at the altar. Take as much time as you need. Wipe down whatever surfaces you touch. We know that this might sound extreme, but we have many people in our congregation who are in high-risk categories, including those who are immunosuppressed. We want them to feel safe, as well, if they wish to come to the sanctuary for prayer.

### **If You Need To Drop Something Off**

If you have something to drop off at the church, please call Tammy and let her know your plans. She will buzz you in and have you drop something off at the back door, or she will meet you to accept it.

### **The Building Will Be Open for College Students**

We know that college students are continuing classes from home. Some do not have fast enough internet service because it is not available in all areas of Mercer County. We have invited students to come to the church and use our WIFI for their classes, or for taking tests. We are managing where they are in the building, so that we can keep those areas cleaned. We have a couple of students who have taken us up on this offer. If you need access, please ask Tammy.

### **The Building Will Be Open for Our Community Groups**

We have invited our AA groups to continue to use the building at this time, although they know this could change if we are directed in the future to close the building to all uses. We have just welcomed back our AA groups after Mercer County went green, and the groups have agreed to follow protocols that we have established that limit them to certain rooms, and they have agreed to help clean those rooms after their use. They are also keeping track of who attends the meetings, so we can help health officials with contact tracing should someone be exposed to the virus.

# Holy Trinity's History of Welcoming of Strangers

The Edward and Sophia Asino Family came to Greenville in the late 70's. Dr. Louis Almen, then president of Thiel College, was instrumental in arranging for the family to live on the campus of Thiel, in support of the ELCA's program to sponsor Namibians in US colleges. There was great conflict in their country; the Asino's were considered a threat to the South African government. Sophia's brother, Sam Nujomo was a freedom fighter leader and by leaving, the Asino's could not be held hostage by the government. The Asino's were educators in Namibia. They fled to the United States, leaving an older daughter, Elizabeth, who was attending a boarding school in an adjoining country and was considered safe. The Asino's were Lutherans because of the work of Danish missionaries that came to Namibia during colonial days. The family attended Holy Trinity during their time in Greenville.

Edward and Sophia Asino brought with them six children: Matti, Mika, Justina, Helvi, Erastus and Hiskia. They participated in the life of Holy Trinity, with Ed and Sophia attending the Adult Sunday Church School class, and their children were enrolled in Sunday School classes. Henry Heil recalled that while Ed was a quiet man, he spoke with wisdom when he offered thoughts during class. On the few occasions when Ed was not there, Sophia became more involved in the discussion.

The two older boys, Matti and Mika, were about the same age as Keith Massing and fished with him in the Massing pond.

A story that has been told often and in different versions is the one about Hiskia and B.J. Mozes. They told their teacher, Bonnie Long, that they couldn't come to Sunday School because they had dental appointments. With Bonnie watching them from the Sunday School window, they went to Central Park and sat on a bench, where they stayed until Lana and Laszlo Mozes picked them up.

Bonnie Massing responded to a request from church for help Sophia with gardening. Bonnie quickly learned that Sophia knew a lot about gardening, but needed a source of seeds. Pastor Roth recalls that Sophia spread seeds as if she were feeding chickens instead of planting in rows as we do.

One time when Sophia was at Bonnie's house, they were standing in the blueberry patch and a plane flew over. Sophia looked at Bonnie fearfully and said, "In my country when the planes come there are bombs." Another time Bonnie shared strawberry plants from her garden, digging up plants with a generous amount of soil so they would have a better chance of rooting. The box became too heavy for Bonnie to lift, but Sophia lifted the box and plonked it on top of her head and carried it to the car.

Even though they spoke English, knowing the English language is another story. Bonnie recalls what a broad education she got in understanding the difficulties immigrants face when living in the US. "Take the meat pork, for example. It's pig! But read the advertisements from the grocery stores that come to your house. There are chops and ribs and ham and sausage and roasts and loins and bacon."

The Asino's were appalled that Americans didn't make use of the organ meats such as the stomach, sweetbreads, liver and such. The Massings were able to save the innards from some of the beef they had butchered for them which was warmly received.

Pastor Roth confirmed Mika and Helvi in 1987. In laying of hands of the confirmands, Pastor prayed to give the confirmands "patience in suffering." He thought of how this particularly applied to Mika and Helvi so far from their home.

The Almen's hosted a luncheon for the family after church. The Asino family sang "A Mighty Fortress is our God" in their native tongue. The Asino's had been encouraged to seek asylum in the US, but if they did, they would not have been able to go back to Namibia. Pastor Roth became convinced that Ed and Sophia had a deep conviction that compelled them to want to return to their country. Ed was prepared to die in service to his country as a form of service to his Lord. Sophia, too, often reminded people that they would not be staying in America; it was not their home.

Namibia gained its independence from South Africa in March of 1990. Ed had flown home to vote in the election; the first president was Sophia's brother, Sam Nujomo. The Asino family left Greenville sometime after that, but the date is unknown. We learned that Mika earned a degree in journalism and became head of the new government's newspaper. Matti also became active in some role in the government. Justina married an Ambassador to the United Nations.

Those of us at Holy Trinity who knew the Asino family feel blessed to have learned so much about their culture and to have known them. We were inspired by the example of their faith.

Ruth Heil

## Holy Trinity Picnic

Our annual church picnic, scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 20, is now scheduled to be held at one of the shelters at Pymatuning State Park. We will give more details closer to the time.

We had planned to hold this year's picnic at Riverside Park, but Greenville Borough informed us in mid-May that the borough has cancelled all reservations at the park for the rest of the year.

## If You Travel this Summer:

**Summer Offerings:** Let us remember to be regular givers as well as faithful worshippers during the summer! Our congregation's life and ministry is year-round and requires sustained support.

**Before leaving for vacation,** give your offerings for the Sundays that you will be away from worship; upon returning from occasional absences, "catch up" your offerings. Offerings can be mailed to the church office. Regular giving is a practice of faithful discipleship.

**Upon returning from vacation,** turn in your worship bulletin from the church you visited while away so we may add you to our Trinity Travelers list.



My Dear Holy Trinity Family,

We are moving back to Montana at the end of July. Becoming empty-nesters, along with the COVID 19 virus, and Roy's mother living alone, all combined to help us make this decision. No, I don't have a Call there, but I have sent my info.

I can't tell you and your Pastors enough how wonderful you were to allow me to participate in worship services with you. This whole spring has been such a great time for me to learn alongside Pastor Brenda and Pastor Denny. Both of whom encouraged me during the TEEM program and now in my first call. Pastors Roth, Julia and Penvose have also been so gracious to me. What a wonderful place and people Holy Trinity offered for someone at the beginning of ministry!

Please keep us in your prayers even now as we pack and get the house on the market (What a job!). Pray for Grace Lutheran Church in Franklin as they begin a new chapter. And I'll be praying for you.

Love always,  
Pastor Judy Lamb

## Sunday School Teachers Needed!

Just a reminder to the folks of Holy Trinity: We are still looking for volunteers to teach our Sunday School children! Hopefully you have already seen the article, printed in several issues of the Messenger this year, discussing the need for more teachers and explaining the benefits of having a rotation of volunteers to share in the responsibilities. The Parish Education Committee is still planning to implement a schedule in time for the 2020/2021 Church School year. But we need your help! The more volunteers, the easier the teaching schedule will be for everyone to manage.

As explained previously, all class leaders are provided with access to teaching materials. In addition, the church will reimburse volunteers for the necessary clearances. Please contact Kris Abraham at 330.448.6135 if you can help. You can also talk to Pastor Brenda if you prefer.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to be a leader for the kids of Holy Trinity!

Kris Abraham, Parish Education Chair

## Giving Update as of May 31, 2020

Budgeted Year-to-Date	\$ 94,020
Received Year-to-Date	\$ 99,181
Giving Surplus Year-to-Date	\$ 5,161

## Reformed: Always Reforming

In the next several months, we will have a committee in place that will begin the process of leading us into our future. Their first task will be to design the process we will use in asking members of the congregation for their thoughts about what is important to us in our life together at Holy Trinity and what their dreams are for our future.

This committee will be chaired by Don Achenbach. You will be hearing much more about this effort, "Reformed: Always Reforming," throughout this year.

# Second Mile Giving for July - Relay for Life Hope Fest

Each month, we offer the opportunity for our members to reach out into the greater community to those who are seeking to minister to people with specific needs, through our Second Mile Giving – our financial gifts beyond our regular offerings.

## **What is Relay For Life Hope Fest?**

Relay for Life Hope Fest is a community and volunteer based event that brings together more than 4.65 million people across the world. Together they bring hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated. Teams gather together in a community festival format to celebrate the lives of those affected, raising valuable funds through food sales, games, and activities.

## **Where does the money go?**

Money raised through Relay For Life Hope Fest funds lifesaving American Cancer Society programs in cancer research, education, advocacy, and patient services. The society is the largest source of nonprofit, nongovernmental cancer research funding in the US, with more than \$431 million in grants in effect. It is also the home to numerous educational assistance and peer-support programs available to cancer patients and caregivers at no cost!

## **About American Cancer Society programs and services . . .**

Comprehensive cancer information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling 1-800-ACS-2345 or visiting their website at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

## **How YOU can get more involved?**

There are several ways to participate in Relay for Life. You can take part by making a donation, becoming a sponsor, volunteering to help at the event or starting your own team.

## **Where you can find more information.**

You can contact Holy Trinity member Barry Oman at 724-588-8556 or [lindaoman75@gmail.com](mailto:lindaoman75@gmail.com)

Second Mile envelopes can be found in the pew racks, or you may mail your contribution to the church office in an envelope clearly marked, "Second Mile Giving." All Second Mile contributions received during the month of July will be given to the designated cause.

# Good Shepherd Request for July



The Good Shepherd Center is our church community social service agency that supports the needs of many in the area.

The Good Shepherd Center's request for Holy Trinity for **July is personal care items (shampoo, soap, deodorant, etc.), and school supplies (in back packs if possible).** Donations may be placed in the marked box in the cloister.



**The Good Shepherd Thrift Store** is now open at 10 N. Water Street in Greenville (at the corner of Water and Shenango; in the former Gibson Furniture building)). Hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



# Good Shepherd Hot Meal Thank You

On Monday June 22, Holy Trinity helped prepare the hot meal for the Good Shepherd. Many thanks to the following individuals who gave of their time and talents for this effort: Marie Riley, Gretchen Minetti, Bonnie Massing, Mike Bradley, and Linda Armstrong. We served over 90 individuals a nourishing meal that will help to sustain them in these trying times. By Holy Trinity providing much of the food, cooking and serving this meal, it helped stretch the Good Shepherd food supplies.

Linda Armstrong

## July Birthdays

- 1 Lori McCann
- 2 Judith Bubeck  
Darla Swift  
Brad VanKanegan
- 6 Jill Murrin
- 7 Marge Stull
- 8 Christopher Shultz
- 11 Jake Miller  
Jane McCall  
Paul Yoos
- 12 Bobbie Marshall
- 13 Andrew McCall
- 14 Natalie Bubenheim
- 16 Sheryl Lanning  
Gloria Spargo
- 17 Ed Pitcher
- 27 Donna Brecht
- 28 Lisa Bates  
Michael Lineman
- 30 Linda Oman
- 31 Rusty Saverino

## A Message from Your Property Committee

With the church being closed for a period of time, we have completed several projects within the building. Two of the major projects include the cleaning and painting of the kitchen and the cleaning and painting of the main hall of Brath Hall.

Many other small projects have been done and I would like to thanks Beth Harpst, Jonathan Oros, Mike Bradley, and Linda Armstrong for their help.



Ed Pitcher,  
Property Manager

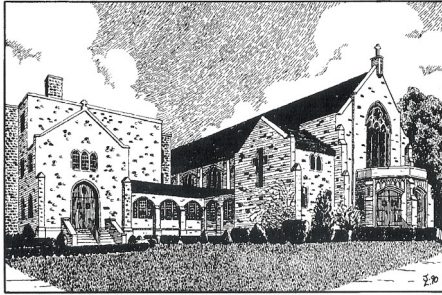
## July Anniversaries

The following members of our congregation are celebrating anniversaries this month. Congratulate them when you see them.



Ken and Fran Black	57 years	July 6, 1963
Bob and Gaye Gargas	47 years	July 7, 1973
Rich and Bobbi Marshall	30 years	July 21, 1990
Mark and Esther Wasser	42 years	July 22, 1978
David and Judy Leary	49 years	July 24, 1971
Mike and Erin McKinney	16 years	July 24, 2004
Rich and Denise Hall	37 years	July 30, 1983

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
of the Holy Trinity  
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**Staff**

**Pastor:**

Pastor Brenda Martin

**Director of Music:**

Maidene Hackett

**Office Administrator:**

Tammy Williams

**Sexton:**

Jonathan Oros

**Officers of the Congregation**

**Vice-President:**

Olivia Martin-Call

**Secretary:**

Marj Stubert

**Treasurer:**

Tammy Daniello

**Financial Secretary:**

Lana Mozes

**Council Members**

Linda Armstrong  
Mary Beth Bradley  
Tammy Daniello  
Debbie Faber  
Mary Larson  
Judy Leary  
Jim Martin  
Olivia Martin-Call  
Bob Massing  
Bob Olson  
Ed Pitcher  
Marj Stubert

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.