

TOGETHER IN
Spirit



STAYING CONNECTED DURING COVID-19



Trinity Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

April 22, 2021



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God's work. Our hands.

THE PASTORAL
Installation
OF PASTOR CHARLES THOMPSON

Sunday, April 25 at 2 p.m.
Drive-In Service by
Bishop Anne Edison-Albright

Trinity Lutheran Church
709 W. Beckert Road
New London, Wis.

Drive-in service with communion.
Masks and social distancing required.
Note: No 10 a.m. drive-in service held on April 25.

Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA

709 W. Beckert Road | New London, WI 54961

920.982.5833 | TrinityNewLondon.com | trinity.newlondon@gmail.com

Pastor Chuck Thompson [920-273-5105](tel:920-273-5105); pastorchuck11@gmail.com; pastor.trinitynewlondon@gmail.com

Secretary: Amy Van Dreel trinity.newlondon@gmail.com

Children's Faith Formation Coordinator: Madalyn Simonis familyfaith.trinitynewlondon@gmail.com

Trinity Calendar

April 25 - May 2, 2021

Sunday	Adult Bible Study Worship Sunday School Story Time Drive-In Worship - <i>Installation</i>	8:30 AM (church) 9:00 AM (Facebook or YouTube) 9:00 AM (church basement) 9:00 AM (church library) <u>2:00 PM</u> (church parking lot)
Monday		
Tuesday	Community Meals Packing	4:00 PM (church)
Wednesday	Community Meals Distribution Confirmation Class (in person) Confirmation Class (virtual)	5:00 PM (church) 6:00 PM (church) 7:00 PM (Zoom)
Thursday	Bible Study Quilting Carport Clutch Scrip & coffee sales	9:00 AM (church) 10:00 AM (church) 6:00 PM (church) 6:00 PM (church)
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday	Adult Bible Study Worship	8:30 AM (church) 9:00 AM (Facebook or YouTube)

IT'S BACK!

Story Time

**Newborn
- 3 years**

Bring your little ones to the library during Sunday School at 9:00 AM.



COVID UPDATE - Data from Wisconsin DHS for Waupaca County

March 31 to April 13

148/100,000 high but no significant change in cases.

23.8% fully vaccinated.

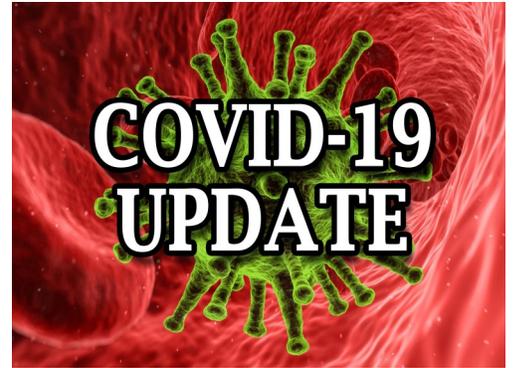
High activity level.

April 7 to April 20

117/100,000 high but shrinking number of cases.

26.8% fully vaccinated.

High activity level.



Our COVID Task Force has met and updated our reopening plan. We continue to look at ways we can gather together and keep everyone as safe as possible. The council has accepted the revised plan. The first step will be having weekly outdoor worship. When we get to “medium” activity level we will add limited indoor worship as well. While it’s been a long haul medical experts continue to encourage everyone to not let our guard down yet. With the number of vaccinations going up there is a hope in the near future of being able to loosen more restrictions. Stay tuned!



Joy of Giving for April Synod Assembly Offering

Each year the congregations of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin collect a special offering that is presented at the Synod Assembly. The Synod Assembly will be attended by Randy and Carol Cleveland via Zoom. **This year’s donations will be entirely designated to AMMPARO.**

The ELCA, as a church in the world, has committed to **AMMPARO**. It was envisioned to ac-

company children, today and in the future, who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and inter-related reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

Please prayerfully consider your generous gift to this ministry.



Drive-in Worship Volunteers Needed!

- Volunteers to distribute Holy Communion, collect offerings, and greet people.
- Volunteers to help set up the sound system. Training will be provided.

If you would like to be added to our list of volunteers, please notify the church office.



Registration for New London Community Garden plots is now open!

Register online
at www.newlondonwi.org,
call 920-982-8521,
or stop by the
Parks and Rec Office
215 N. Shawano St.,
New London

Fee: Residents/Non-
Residents \$15/\$20.
Open for use May 15-Nov. 1.

GET YOUR SHOVEL!

Plant Exchange/ Giveaway

Share your yard and garden plants and seeds!
Or come and find a treasure to take home.
No donation needed.

If needed, pick up pots and markers for labeling at
Trinity, by the front doors. Drop off donations
at the lower level garage from May 21 until
exchange/giveaway begins. Label your plants
with plant name and growing conditions.

There will be a donation jar to support the
Community Garden program with seeds and plants
to sow in unused garden plots for the Food Pantry.

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021
10:30 AM TO 1 PM (OR UNTIL ALL GONE)
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
LOWER PARKING LOT

Questions may be directed to:
trinity.newlondon@gmail.com; 920-982-5833



Sunday School

April 25

**meet downstairs
9:00-10:00am**

BRING A FRIEND
WEAR OLD CLOTHES



*Calling all
graduates!*

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES:
SEND A PHOTO OF YOURSELF, WHERE YOU
ARE GRADUATING FROM, DEGREE IF
APPLICABLE, AND FUTURE PLANS TO
[FAMILYFAITH.TRINITYNEWLONDON@
GMAIL.COM](mailto:FAMILYFAITH.TRINITYNEWLONDON@GMAIL.COM)

We want to recognize you!





Community Meals Committee could use YOUR HELP

The Community Meals committee met this month. One of the items discussed was the offering of meal deliveries. There is a transportation issue in the New London area that the New London ThedaCare Community Health Action Team (CHAT) is trying to address. The committee realizes that there are some in need of meals but do not have the transportation to participate in our meals. The committee decided to not formally offer meal deliveries because they wanted to stay true to the advertisement of "Grab and Go Meals". Also, the committee is trying to

keep the number of volunteers needed to serve a meal at minimum in order to sustain this ministry. It is felt that organizing deliveries would require a large volunteer base. However, we already have some members that are bringing meals to those in need in the New London area. ***We would like to encourage Trinity members to deliver meals to New London residents that are in need that don't have the transportation to participate.*** To do this, we ask that you enter the car line to get the meals.

We would, also, appreciate your help in spreading the word to those in need in New London on Trinity's free community meals. **We are serving tacos on Wednesday, April 28, from 5 to 6 pm.**



ThedaCare®

Medical Center-New London

Trinity has received a check for \$1000 from ThedaCare Medical Center – New London Endowment Fund grant program in support of our "Grab and Go" community meals program. The grant program is "dedicated to supporting and enhancing community health, health care outreach, education, patient care, rehabilitation and wellness services that contribute to a better quality of life for those living in the area."

"ThedaCare - New London Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan" identifies many needs in the New London area. Through Trinity's "Grab and Go" community meal program, we hope to address the following two needs identified in the "plan":

- Access to healthy food
- Outreach to vulnerable populations

Trinity's Community Meals committee is very thankful for this donation!



prayer requests

- For wisdom and courage for government leaders
- For peace for our country during this time of transition
- For front line workers in health care, emergency response, and essential services
- For school staff, students, and families

Healing for:

- Amy Kuehl - recovering from surgery
- Dawn Simonson - sister of Mike Simonson, cancer
- Tina Bartelt - medical issues
- Mardell Schoenbeck - mother of Carol Cleveland, health concerns
- Cindy Wolford - cancer
- Kathy Feeney Rueckert - friend of Sue Luba, medical issues
- Helen Massey - health concerns
- Jackie Janke - health concerns
- Dawn Haag - cancer treatment
- Gerald Schroeder - health concerns
- Ginger Massey - relative of Helen Massey
- Anna Roberts - cancer
- Sam Ives - health issues

Those in the military:

- Ryan Mashack (Kuwait) - nephew of Joanne Judas
- Shane Borree
- SSGT Zachary Abel

Email or phone your prayer requests to be included in the weekly news.



Service of Word and Prayer

The readings for the week:

First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Psalm: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel: John 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Sermon Notes 4/25

Who do you think you are?

Who died and made you boss?

When Christian Herter was governor of Massachusetts, he was running hard for a second term in office. One day, after a busy morning chasing votes (and no lunch) he arrived at a church barbecue. It was late afternoon and Herter was famished. As Herter moved down the serving line, he held out his plate to the woman serving chicken. She put a piece on his plate and turned to the next person in line.

"Excuse me," Governor Herter said, "do you mind if I have another piece of chicken?"

"Sorry," the woman told him. "I'm supposed to give one piece of chicken to each person."

"But I'm starved," the governor said.

"Sorry," the woman said again. "Only one to a customer."

Governor Herter was a modest and unassuming man, but he decided that this time he would throw a little weight around.

"Do you know who I am?" he said. "I am the governor of this state."

"Do you know who I am?" the woman said. "I'm the lady in charge of the chicken. Move along, mister."

Sometimes power can get to people's heads.

That was the problem with the Jewish leaders who challenged Peter and John's authority.

They had just healed a crippled man.

They were getting popular with the people.

Religious leaders saw them as a threat.

They were rocking the boat. in the name of Jesus.

Caiaphas and Annas' jobs as high priests were to keep the people in line.

The Romans were in charge and the high priests were not to allow anyone to cause unrest. We need to be careful here: the Jewish leaders opposed Jesus but not necessarily the common people. Unfortunately, there has been anti-Semitic interpretations of the text which blame "the Jews" for rejecting Jesus and then his disciples. It was the Jewish leaders who were collaborators with Rome.

First Jesus upset the apple cart.

They thought they got rid of him.

But now his followers are picking up where he left off.

Peter and John are questioned about where they got their authority.

The answer is clear: from Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

It was not about them: it was all about Jesus!

Jesus was the boss and nobody could stop him.

Peter, filled with the Spirit, states that there is no other name under heaven by which people are saved.

Jewish leaders tried to put a lid on this Jesus movement but there was no stopping it.

Notice Peter is clear it's all about Jesus and not him.

It is still this way.

It is not about us. It's all about Jesus!

The success of the church depends on Jesus!

We are not the boss even when we like to think we are in charge.

This is Christ's church.

That's the good news!

God is God and we are not!

We can trust in Jesus, who died for us and rose again.

We are in his hands.

Who do think we are? We are Christ's church.

He is in charge! Thank God!

