

# Weekly Bulletin - Trinity Lutheran Church of Freistadt!

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## TRINITY'S WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

October 31 – November 6, 2020

### A Message from Pastor Carl

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“Jesus is on His throne.”

When I was a vicar, I heard those words too many times to count. It was a favorite phrase of my supervisor, one of the best pastors I have ever met. If you asked him how he was doing, more often than not his answer included that sentence. It might be a stressful season where he was spread too thin, but still, “Jesus is on His throne.” He might be coming out of a tough counseling situation, but still, “Jesus is on His throne.” In good times and bad, no matter the circumstances, he would smile and say, “Jesus is on His throne.” And then he might add a phrase about the good cereal he had for breakfast or some other trivial matter, as if that were reason enough to explain his perpetual joy.

Jesus is on His throne.

In spite of a strong aversion to social and mass media in all its forms, I have not been able to ignore all of the inflammatory rhetoric surrounding this election. I was (not really) surprised to read that if Joe Biden is elected, the return of Jesus will be woefully delayed and God's plan for humanity set back by hundreds of years. Of course, I have it on good authority that if Donald Trump is elected, humanity will be plunged into an age of darkness that God, Himself, will be unable to penetrate.

Fortunately, I know something that many people seem to have forgotten. Jesus is on His throne. The suggestion that God's power could somehow be thwarted by an election that goes awry is ludicrous, and God laughs at it (see Psalm 2).

Do not misunderstand me. Elections have consequences. My ballot is already mailed, and I certainly do not want to suggest that you shirk your responsibility to vote. Jesus on His throne uses His people to be His hands and feet in this world, and a vote cast in Christian concern for the wellbeing of our neighbors is an act of love. But the real tragedy would be if the servants of the King became so preoccupied with a contest for power that they stopped hearing the call of their King to love, to serve, and most of all, to place their trust in Him, not in any human ruler.

And so when I wake up this week and see the results of the election, I'll pray for our elected leaders and then I'll get on to other important questions like, "What will I be having for breakfast?"

My King is not up for re-election. Jesus is on His throne.

## News & Information

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### **WORSHIP OPTIONS**

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Please Note: The extension of Wisconsin's mask mandate prevents us from offering a mask-optional worship service for the time being. However, because of the growth of our indoor worship service, we intend to move ahead with the new schedule. Because the Governor's mask order includes a broad range of exemptions, we are asking that those for whom exemptions apply *attend our Sunday morning services*. This will allow those who are particularly concerned about the effects of Covid-19 to be comfortable in worship on Saturday evening, knowing that all those present will be wearing masks.

***We anticipate that the 5, 8, and 10:45 schedule will continue for the foreseeable future.***

#### **Saturday Evening | 5:00 pm | Anchored Worship**

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In the sanctuary; **Mandatory masks** and **social distancing** rules will apply; *We are highly suggesting that if you are not able to wear a mask due to health reasons that you please attend one of the services on Sunday morning.*

#### **Sunday Morning | 8:00 am | Anchored Worship**

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In the sanctuary; **Masks encouraged** and **social distancing** rules will apply; *If you are unable to wear a mask due to health issues, please refrain from attending the Saturday evening service.*

## Sunday Morning | 9:20 am | Anchored Worship

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In the sanctuary; **Masks encouraged** and **social distancing** rules will apply; *If you are unable to wear a mask due to health issues, please refrain from attending the Saturday evening service.*

9:20 am service through November

## Sunday Morning | 10:45 am | Connected Worship | Starting Nov. 8th

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In the gym; **Masks encouraged** and **social distancing rules will apply**; *If you are unable to wear a mask due to health issues, please refrain from attending the Saturday evening service.*

## Trinity

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### ***Worship Options:***

### ***Introducing Anchored & Connected Services***

For many years, Trinity (along with many other congregations) has offered two worship styles, usually labeled as traditional and contemporary. These two are generally distinguished by the style of the music, and people have chosen to attend one or the other based on their personal musical taste. While most people simply make the most of the opportunity to worship regardless of how well the music fits their personal preferences, this can become a stumbling block that unintentionally communicates that worship is actually about my own taste, instead of being about the God who is worthy of our worship. One very large church expanded on this to the point of offering seventeen different styles, each intended to appeal to a person's musical taste.

Beginning on **November 8**, Trinity will worship in two distinct formats with more than just the musical style to distinguish between the two. Resources for worship in homes will continue to be provided.

### ***Anchored Worship***

The 5 pm Saturday and 8 am Sunday services will continue to utilize the familiar liturgies, hymns, and creeds that reach back through two millennia of Christian history and anchor us to the timeless truths of God's Word. We will call these two services **Anchored**

## **Worship.**

You will make the most of Anchored Worship as you come to appreciate the deep meanings contained in the traditions of our church. From the order of the liturgy to the physical posture of the pastor and congregation, almost every element of the service has a meaning that goes deeper than what is visible on the surface. You will also find that the words of the hymns and the liturgy itself continually deepen your understanding of God and His relationship with His people.

### ***Connected Worship***

Our 10:45 am Sunday service will experience a transformation, and will join our worship in the home resource in being interactive, with a focus on connecting God's people through discussion of His Word. This service will take place in the gym, around tables, and will include times of silence as well as times of discussion to support deep reflection on God's Word and application of God's Word in our lives. We will call this service **Connected Worship**.

There are two ways to make the most of this opportunity to worship. Most worshipers will choose to sit at tables and take advantage of the opportunity to be in discussion and prayer with fellow believers. However, it can also be beneficial to take advantage of those times to connect directly with God, and so worshipers may also choose to sit apart from the tables and to use those interactive periods of time to ponder His Word and come to Him in silent prayer.

### ***The Lord's Supper***

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated every week in all services. The Anchored Service will continue to use the traditional elements, and Connected Worship will initially use prepackaged elements. We intend, eventually, to commune using elements reminiscent of our Maundy Thursday services in each Connected Worship service.

### ***Masks and Social Distancing***

Our 5 pm service on Saturday evening is intended to provide a comfortable environment for those who are most concerned about the danger posed by Covid-19, and so we will continue to ask worshipers to wear masks on Saturday evening. We encourage those who are exempt from the mask mandate to worship on Sunday morning instead. Seating in all services is socially distanced.

### **Connected Service**

#### **Sunday Mornings at 10:45 in the gym**

## **Begins November 8**

Last Spring, many Trinity families discovered an unexpected blessing as they worshiped God in their living rooms. In spite of everything that we lost in not being able to gather our congregation for worship, there was still a richness to that time together and in God's Word, a richness that Paul described in Colossians chapter 3: *"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God."*

In many ways, worship in our living rooms resembled worship in the early church. There was an intimacy as God's people gathered, and the hearing of God's Word was coupled with conversation. And so it should be no surprise that the Word of Christ was dwelling in us richly as we asked questions, learned from one another, and watched one another apply God's Word to our lives.

The purpose of every worship service is to receive the gifts of God and respond to Him in prayer and praise, and the Connected service is no exception. The service will still include singing, confession and absolution, scripture reading, sermon, prayer, and communion, but it will also include time for God's people to engage in conversation about the Word of God and to carry one another's burdens to the Lord in prayer. The Connected Service will recapture some of the best aspects of our in-home worship, but this time without having to sacrifice the joy of gathering together with the rest of the body of Christ.

### **Where is the Connected Service held?**

In the gym, with seating by families around socially distanced tables.

### **When is the Connected Service?**

10:45am on Sunday Mornings, beginning November 8th

### **What will be included in the service?**

Music (contemporary), Confession and Absolution, Scripture Reading, Sermon, the Creed, Prayer and the Lord's Supper.

### **How will we celebrate the Lord's Supper?**

Communion will be similar to outdoor worship, using elements that are gathered by worshipers before the service and then consecrated during the service.

### **What Covid-19 precautions will be in place?**

The seating will be socially distanced. Masks are not required by Trinity, but the mask mandate (and associated exemptions) apply until it expires or is rescinded.

## **Thanksgiving Food Drive: November 15-29**

Since the pandemic began, Trinity members have been generously providing non-perishable food and paper goods for our local LCMS food pantries. THANK YOU! Due to the economic impact of COVID-19, many more families now rely on food pantries. Our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive will help re-stock the shelves at Mission of Christ after their Thanksgiving distribution.

Here's how it will work: Take one or more of our yellow collection bags home with you on **November 14-15**, fill the bag(s) with non-perishable food items (no glass please), and bring the bag(s) back to church or school by **Sunday, November 29**. Place the bags in the designated area in the south church entrance.

You can also involve your friends, co-workers, and neighbors by providing them with a green NEIGHBOR version of our collection bag. Arrange for a pick-up date/time or follow the instructions on the bag and pick them up on **Sunday, November 29 after 12:00 noon**. We encourage you to give a green printed Thank You card, found in the Gathering Room, to those who contributed.

**Monetary donations** are also accepted. Clearly mark your envelope or check memo line with **Food Drive**.

Your generosity and prayers make a difference in the lives of many.

**By putting God's words literally into practice, you will find the life God has made for you! #redletterchallenge**

On this All Saints' Day we remember those who have come out of the tribulations of this life and who at this moment are gathered around the throne of God.

Michael Bartlett

Maxine Becker

Eileen Bessette

Eunice Dembeck

Ruth Geidel

Arthur Gutekunst

George Hackbarth

Roy Pingel

Daniel Radue

Elliott Schnackenberg

Gerhard Schoessow

Lester Tews

Lloyd Tupper

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020 12:00 PM**

**Held in Trinity's Gymnasium**

Agenda & Bios for those seeking election will appear in the November 15th bulletin.

**NOVEMBER FOOD BARREL**

Baby Food Jars, Formula, Cereal

Read the latest news and updates from our Director of Discipleship.

- Joining With Jesus Family Webinar
- Feed My Starving Children
- College Student Luncheon
- Small Group Update
- T3

## **Birthday and Anniversaries**

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### **November Birthdays and Anniversaries**

A printed copy of this calendar is available for those members who do not have internet capability. Please stop by the office for your copy.

## **Ask | Seek | Knock**

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*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. – Matthew 7:7-8*

Please take a moment to pray for the following:

For Missionaries: David & Rachel Baker, Rev. David & Shelee Warner serving in Spain

Our military, serving our country: Sarah Geidel (Reserves), Rebecca Guild (serving in San Diego), Akan Udoeyop (serving in Germany), Madison Kessel Lyon (serving in Germany), Nicholas Zanow (Charleston, South Carolina), Kurt Degner (WI National Guard), Mark Liedtke (Fort Lewis, Washington)

Continued Healing, Comfort & Protection:

Doris Kroeninger (recovering from a stroke), Dru Wyatt (recovering from surgery), Christine Geidel (battling cancer), Ken Steiner (recovering from a heart procedure), Marian Vorpapel (recovering from a fall and hip surgery), Shawna Geidel (successful cancer treatment). For all those we name in our hearts needed spiritual and physical healing.

Do you know of others for whom we should be praying?

Let us know by sending an email to [trinity@trinityfreistadt.com](mailto:trinity@trinityfreistadt.com).

**Office Hours | Monday - Friday | 8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

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