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## VISION STATEMENT

Trinity Lutheran Church is a community inspired by God  
to share Christ's good news by what we say and do.

SEPTEMBER 2021

## FROM THE PASTOR

What does it mean to be Lutheran?

“I was born and raised Lutheran”, I have heard people say. Often that means: I have German ancestry, my parents went to a Lutheran Church and I was baptised in a Lutheran church. All gooden schtuff – ja?

To start with – nobody is baptised Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic or otherwise. We are all baptised into the Christian faith – we are all one in Christ. Yes, membership of a particular congregation and denomination follows baptism – but baptism itself is into the joys and promises of Christ followed by a commitment to a life of discipleship.

So maybe it is attending a Lutheran Sunday School that makes you Lutheran? But having attended a Presbyterian Sunday School, I can tell you that we learned the same stories that our Lutheran Sunday School children are learning now (creation, Joseph and his coat, Moses and the ten commandments, Jesus’ birth, his life, crucifixion and resurrection). I’m sure there are many more that you would add to the essential stories list.

So, what does it mean to be Lutheran?

Like many and most Christians, we claim the Apostle’s and Nicene creeds to be true statements of what we believe, so the creeds alone do not define our Lutheranism. We do have another statement of faith that truly is a mark of Lutheranism. The Book of Concord is the authoritative collection of what defines us as Lutheran and it contains the Augsburg Confession, the Catechisms of Martin Luther, the three creeds and more. The Augsburg confession is the key document defining Lutheran doctrine, yet that is a document that tends to only get studied by seminarians, pastors and scholars. Yet many of you know the three marks that would summarise what is means to be a Lutheran:

- Word Alone: we lift scripture above traditions and human constructs of what we believe.
- Faith Alone: we lift up the gift of faith to be all that we need to receive forgiveness through Jesus.
- Grace Alone: we cannot earn God’s love and forgiveness in anyway – it is God’s gift to us.



These are good and true statements – and here we stand and we can do no other.

Being Lutheran means being part of a Lutheran congregation and being part of a larger Lutheran Church body – for us that means the Eastern Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. While we fully agree that faith and grace alone is enough, we can also see marks of faithfulness and discipleship by how we respond to the gifts of faith and grace. We could simply respond “I’ve been saved by grace and I don’t need to do anything else” or we could respond “I’ve been saved by grace – Wow! Thanks be to God! Now, how can I help others though my love for Christ?”

*Pastor Sten*



Back to School is almost upon us and the heat and humidity of the last few weeks will be starting to turn into perfect warm days and cool evenings. I pray you have been able to get outdoors and for everyone to be able to be out and about and enjoy the sunshine and visiting with friends and family.

COVID-19 has not gone away and everyone must remain vigilant but hopefully with more and more getting vaccinated it will diminish and be a virus that can be controlled with an annual booster shot. No guarantee but we can hope and pray.

### **RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP**

It is with extreme pleasure that Council was able to reopen the church on August 15<sup>th</sup> for in-person worship services. We still need to wear our masks through the entire service and continue to follow the Middlesex Health Unit and Ontario Government guidelines. We do not, however, have to register in advance. You must, however, sign in when you arrive providing your name and telephone number.

Pastor and the Worship Team have worked hard to get Trinity to the point where our in-person services are able to be watched by those at home via Zoom on the day of the actual service. While the service is also being posted to YouTube for the following week’s online service, it is wonderful to be able to start sharing the in-person service with those at home.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

On September 26<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our Annual Meeting so we are compliant with both the government guidelines and Synod’s. If you have not already advised Annette as to whether you will be willing to attend the meeting in person or if you would like to join online via a link that would be sent to your email, please do so. If you could please call and/or email the church and let Annette know your preference, it would be greatly appreciated. We are praying the numbers do not skyrocket and we will be able to have more at the church and will be able to see everyone at the meeting. The time for the meeting will be announced after Council has held its September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Thank you to everyone who have responded to Annette’s request for birthday and/or Anniversary wishes for members of our congregation. I know they are well received by those we deliver them to. Please, continue to let Annette know if you have a special birthday or anniversary coming up. We would love to celebrate the occasion with you, even if only via email or a card.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, please let Annette know and she will get in touch with me. You are always free to reach out to me directly. My phone number is in the Church Directory.

~ Deb Pepers  
Council Chair



At this time, we are still planning on holding an Anniversary worship service on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and to serve bagged sandwiches and sweets after the service and have some reminiscing and looking back at the last 100 years. At this time, Bishop Susan Johnson will be delivering the Sermon as long as plans do not change. We look forward to seeing everyone and anyone who has every attended Trinity at this service. Watch your email for further details.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold our Anniversary Dinner but will be doing so in 2022 when hopefully there will be no restrictions and we can plan in advance.

## **MUSIC AT TRINITY**

Greetings everyone!



As you know by now, we are back to Trinity for in-person worship. We are still required to wear masks and accommodate all the Covid protocols, but we can still worship with enthusiasm. Note that during the oppressive temperatures of the heat wave we do have air-conditioned for your comfort.

### **TRINITY CHOIR:**

We hope to regenerate the choir program again in the future. However, at the moment with all the Covid protocols, we will have to wait a little longer until matters improve. Hopefully that will be soon.

### **CALLING ALL MUSICIANS:**



Do you play an instrument or sing? Being that we are back to in person worship, we are looking for musicians to be part of our worship services that are on-line and for in-person worship.

Feel free to speak to me or contact me with your thoughts or ideas at 519-686-9393 or by e-mail [rossmcdonald.music@sympatico.ca](mailto:rossmcdonald.music@sympatico.ca)

He who sings or makes music, pray twice!  
~ Ross McDonald  
Director of Music



## **Canadian Lutheran World Relief**

## **EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI EMERGENCY APPEAL**

CLWR invites you to pray for the people of Haiti, and to consider making a gift as we join leading Canadian aid agencies – through the Humanitarian Coalition – in launching an appeal to raise funds and rush emergency assistance to those affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

With numbers expected to rise, it is so far reported that more than 1,400 people were killed and over 6,000 injured by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that devastated parts of the country on Saturday. Hundreds are still missing, thousands of families have lost their homes and schools, bridges and other vital infrastructure were destroyed. Rescue efforts are being further hampered by tropical storm Grace, all at a time when the country is already grappling with acute poverty and food insecurity, political unrest and COVID-19.

In response to this disaster, CLWR's partners on the ground are already responding by helping ensure emergency shelter, sanitation, hygiene and trauma care for those affected.

Please pray for those affected and for the partners and community members who are rushing to bring help and comfort.

**CLWR is accepting donations** now on its website at [clwr.org/Haiti](http://clwr.org/Haiti). Donations can also be made by calling our office at 1-800-661-2597 (Monday to Thursday, 9:00-16:00 CDT) or by mailing a cheque to 600-177 Lombard Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0W5, or a cheque to Trinity Lutheran marked, "*CLWR Haiti*"



## **CELEBRATING IN SEPTEMBER**

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Nancy Manners (2)

George Cooper (10)

Graham Waddell (16)

Rosemary Christensen (21)

Pat Kirk (27)

Ted Reinhard (30)

Kirby Schell (4)

Carol Schell (11)

Marie Gray (16)

Sue Pillsworth (23)

Nancy Magguilli (27)

David Silverthorn (5)

Heidi Coughlin (16)

Ingrid Kornmuller (20)

Nick Hohnstein (27)

Jodi Kaufman (30)

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Marianne & John Vbranch (1)

Pat & David Kirk (20)

Sharon & Marlin Wentzell (20)

Heidi & Lawrence Coughlin (15)

Julia & Dennis Liska (20)

Belated Congratulations to Lois & Roy Merkley who celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary last month.



## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 26 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Copies of the Annual Report were emailed/mailed out to everyone back in February.

If you would like another copy, please just let us know.

Your input at our Annual Meeting is important.

Please let us know if you plan on attending in person or via Zoom.