

Trinity Lutheran Church

A welcoming faith community
living together in God's love to
share the joy of Jesus Christ.

TIDINGS



NEW Summer Worship SCHEDULE

Starting in July, Trinity will be experimenting with a change in the Worship Schedule.

Weekend Worship

* Saturday 5 pm Praise - IN PERSON indoor

* Sunday 10:30 am Praise - ONLINE | Meeting ID: 894 3735 9149 | Passcode: 408538

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89437359149?pwd=a0l1VjEwclhiK2paaEd2QXBtTmVkZz09>

* Sunday 10:30 am Traditional - IN PERSON outdoor—no nursery available

↗**In an effort to be better stewards, we need to move worship time to share Joshua our AV tech and equipment with St. Paul's who will worship in the same outdoor space from 9-10. Thank you for being flexible!**

* Service will continue to be available on Vimeo

* No Adult Forum during these 3 months

What to Expect

* Communion will be celebrated

* Please wear face mask over BOTH nose & mouth by all attendees - to protect our vulnerable & youth

* Social distancing must be maintained to ensure a safe experience, stay with your family group

* Please wear your name-tag so we know who you are

* For outdoor service: ●come through the west side via the Memorial Garden, ●bring sun protection – hats, umbrellas, sun screen, etc., ●bring your own chairs—if bringing a chair to church would be difficult or unsafe for you, we will provide one, and ●we welcome you to sing or hum!

Anti Racism Menu

Earlier this spring TLC focused on anti-racism, where we crafted a menu of “weekly specials”. For those who may have missed the menu or want to use it again, it is now up on the Trinity website [HERE](#).

TLC book Group

On **Monday, July 5 at 9:30 am**, the TLC book group will meet via Zoom to discuss *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown whose memoir describes growing up as a black, female Christian. In August our selection is a memoir of a young woman working in the predominantly male steel industry: *Rust: A Memoir of Steel and Grit* by Eliese Colette Goldbach. See the [TLC website](#) for the Zoom information.

To see the list of the Book Groups schedule click [HERE](#).

Questions? Call Nadine Hunt at 970-825-3730.

Young Adults Goes Hybrid

July 12 at 7 pm | See TLC website for Zoom link

Calling all young adults! There is no age limit, if you feel young at heart, this includes you! This is a time to be together, build community with games, fellowship, and study because community matters and because having friends your age matters. This is a safe space to explore your faith and develop local friendships. Bring your drink and snacks and join via Zoom or in the Memorial Garden of at Trinity.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



301 E. Stuart Street
Fort Collins, CO 80525
www.trinitylutheranfc.org

Facebook: /TLCfortcollins

Phone: (970) 482-1226

Fax: (970) 482-0817

Preschool: (970) 221-9852

After Hours Emergency:
(970)-400-7252

OFFICE HOURS

MON-THURS 9 am – 3 pm

WORSHIP TIMES

SATURDAY: 5 PM

SUNDAY: 10:30 AM

Senior Pastor

Rick Reiten

pastorrick@trinitylutheranfc.org

Education & Family Minister

Deacon Katie Kline

katie@trinitylutheranfc.org

Office Administrator

Deana Andrist

office@trinitylutheranfc.org

Financial Manager

Debbie Schwartz

dschwartz@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Communications & Volunteer Coordinator

Amanda Backsen

amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Choirs & Saturday Worship Leader

Paul Falk

paul@trinitylutheranfc.org

Church Musician

Carrie Hansen

carrie@trinitylutheranfc.org

A/V Techician

Joshua Moore

TLC Preschool Director

Brenda Harju

bharju@comcast.net

Reverend Rick's Reflections

Why doesn't the church have a U.S. flag?

It was a simple question, and yet probably more than can be addressed in a newsletter article, or a single sermon, or even an adult forum.

The history of flags in the church (or in church bulletins, newsletters, and announcements!) elicits a lot of emotion, both positive and negative. Flags, just a piece of fabric, hold a lot of power.

Flags in the sanctuary are relatively new phenomenon, dating back to 1915 and World War I, as a tangible sign of loyalty and unity. The origin of the Christian flag, often displayed with the U.S. flag, dates back only to 1900. Often these flags started in the sanctuary, were moved to the narthex (gathering area), maybe to a fellowship hall, and eventually removed. (Rev. Ryan Pryor has more at this link if you are interested missionhillsla.com/blog/why-our-church-doesnt-have-an-american-flag).

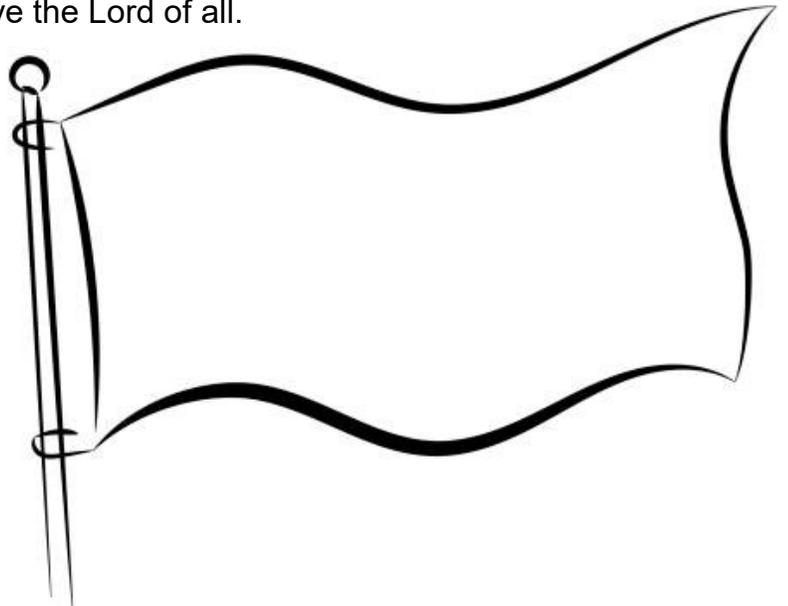
But why were flags re/moved? Because, God is bigger than any one nation, or any one religion, and God has little to do with Christian Nationalism.

Flags are removed because they do not represent us as Church. Flags are divisive, full of political and social dynamics. We may be a Christian church in the U.S. – but we have people part of our community who are not from the U.S., nor or Christian. Also, the meaning of flags can be interpreted differently by different people. Even the meanings change over the course of history – such as with the Nazi and Confederate flags. The KKK waves the U.S. flag and stands behind it, but I don't stand behind the KKK. The same is true for the January riots at the U.S. capitol. What some may view as freedom, others may see as dominance. We are not always represented by the flag that is flown.

God has no flag and no anthem. Flags are removed from our eyes and minds because God is not represented fully in those symbols. We don't pledge allegiance to a flag, or a nation, or the government, but to God. We are citizens first and foremost of God's kingdom (Philippians 3:20), and not a country. We don't sing *God Bless America* or *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, we sing *All are Welcome* (ELW 641) and *This is My Song* (ELW 887). The place where God is represented and present for us, have been and will always continue to be in the bread and wine, the water and the Word, and the people gathered.

So even on these patriotic celebrations like Independence Day, we are reminded that we are people in the world, but not of it – not consumed or distracted by once-a-year holiday celebrations. Because we celebrate the holy day every time we gather - to continue to do what we always have done – listen, sing, pray, eat– and go in peace to love and serve the Lord of all.

Peace, Pastor Rick



Your GIFTS In Action

Homeward Alliance, Neighbor to Neighbor, & Habitat for Humanity

Homeward Alliance (previously known as Homeless Gear) operates the Murphy Center for Hope on 242 Conifer Street, the central location for 20 organizations offering more than 40 different services for people facing homelessness, as well as other programs which provide basic needs.

Some highlights in 2020 include:

- 1,170 children served through drive-thru Family Resource Fairs and the new Family Food and Children/Teen Closet.
- 300+ people secured permanent housing, including 85 children.
- 63 families prevented from falling into homelessness through prevention services and housing retention funding.

Despite Covid-19, in 2020 they helped more people escape homelessness than in any other year. For an impressive listing of their services and accomplishments, visit their website at www.homewardalliance.org.

Neighbor to Neighbor has for the last 50 years given people in Larimer County who are facing an imminent risk of homelessness an opportunity for a stable home. Their programs include counseling people who are facing foreclosure on their home; helping people find housemates to provide extra income; first month's rental assistance, utility assistance, and money management.

In the last six months, Neighbor to Neighbor has distributed over \$1,000,000 in emergency assistance to people at risk of becoming homeless. It was possible, in part, because of over 610 individual contributions from community supporters.

See their website www.n2n.org for more information, and ways you can support their program.

Habitat for Humanity builds affordable homes in all 50 states and 70 international countries. Each local office selects families in its community who meet income criteria, purchases building sites, and spearheads fundraising. To offset administrative costs, local habitat offices manage a ReStore which sells donated items (visit the ReStore in Fort Collins at 4001 S. Taft Hill Road).

Each family must put in 500 "sweat equity" hours (250 hours if a single parent) by working on their new home or in the ReStore. The family must also save for a down payment. Habitat carries the zero percent mortgage and payments cannot exceed 30% of the homeowner's income. The payments are placed in a locally administered fund which goes toward future construction.

In Fort Collins, Habitat is the only organization which is building affordable homes but, as elsewhere, construction costs have increased—lumber costs have doubled. Presently, there are 11 homes under construction and, depending on weather and availability of materials, Habitat hopes to close on at least eight of those homes in 2021.

In addition to constructing homes in the United States, a portion of Habitat's unrestricted funding goes to building homes in other countries (for every home built in this area, an average of three homes can be built internationally).

For more information contact Stephanie Dugger or Ron Bend or visit Habitat's website at www.fortcollinshabitat.org.

When you give to Trinity, you give to
Homeward Alliance, Neighbor to Neighbor, & Habitat for Humanity



Birthdays



Layne Nielsen	7/1	Linn Zink	7/7	Ronda Simmons	7/20
Aida Schmidt	7/1	Carrie Hansen	7/7	Daniel Burgoon	7/20
Michele Rose	7/1	Jalen Foster	7/7	Amanda Riedel	7/20
Kristian Houck	7/2	Daniel Frye	7/9	Judy Flatley	7/21
Lynne DeLozier	7/2	Curtis Kline	7/9	William Foos	7/21
Nathan Fosse	7/2	Hunter Nowles	7/10	Jim Laird	7/21
Finnegan Sauer	7/2	Andrew Zuniga	7/10	Thomas Sersen	7/22
Vernon Sunset	7/3	Bob Waltermire	7/12	Ethan Jurgenson	7/25
Andrea Sauer	7/3	Samantha Schueler	7/12	Rufina Kaltenberger	7/26
Naomi Jurgenson	7/4	Mary Armstrong	7/14	McKenna Dugger	7/26
Lee Lamb	7/4	Alexis Dryg	7/14	Steven Simske	7/28
Steven Cobb	7/4	Richard Morton	7/15	Robert Drews	7/29
Tiffany Helton	7/4	Cody Hopkins	7/15	Blake Knipple	7/29
Palmer Andrist	7/5	Alex Fairbairn	7/16	Denise Faulkner	7/31
Marlene Schild	7/6	Kennedi Mize	7/16	Marissa Hopkins	7/31
Sophia Gorsky	7/6	Janet Morton	7/19		
Kristal Schwartz	7/6	Bethany Jackson	7/20		

Anniversaries

Patricia & Donald Heyse	7/1	Debbie & Gary Schwartz	7/17
Cheryl & Tim Dolan	7/5	Theresa & Rocky Knutson	7/19
Nadine & Milan Cain	7/6	Joanne & Vernon Sunset	7/20
Susan & John Stark	7/6	Pat & Reid Jacob	7/21
Pam & Wally Jacobson	7/9	Katie & Kevin Dryg	7/22
Bethany & Reuben Jackson	7/11	Lindsay & Rick Reiten	7/23
Betty & John Wagner	7/12	Kaitlin & Matthew Thompson	7/28
Margaret & Jim Frye	7/15	Jeni & Scott Makinen	7/29

2021 Ministry Fund Plan for the month of May and for year-to-date as of May 2021

	May	Year-To-Date
Receipts:		
Offerings	\$23,727	\$ 157,525
1) Building Use	2,817	14,194
Total Receipts:	26,544	171,719
Expenditures:		
Operating and Support	26,228	139,534
Ministries	7,083	42,971
1) Benevolence/Gifts (Synod, Sky Ranch, etc.)	1,085	1,996
Total Expenditures:	\$34,396	\$ 184,501
Receipts less Expenditures:	\$ (7,852)	\$ (12,782)

JULY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
4 10:30 am Outdoor Worship 10:30 am Online Worship	5 9:30 am Book Group 6 pm Property	6 5:15 pm Soc/Eco Justice
11 10:30 am Outdoor Worship 10:30 am Online Worship 11:45 am Faith Formation	12 4:30 pm Exec Council 7 pm Young Adults	13 4 pm Finance
18 10:30 am Outdoor Worship 10:30 am Online Worship	19 6 pm Council	20
25 10:30 am Outdoor Worship 10:30 am Online Worship	26	27 6 pm Joint Eco Mtg

**PULL ME OUT! HANG ME UP!!
PUT ME ON YOUR FRIDGE!**

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 5 pm Saturday Praise
7	8	9	10 5 pm Saturday Praise
14	15	16	17 5 pm Saturday Praise
21	22	23	24 10 am Nancy Foster Funeral 5 pm Saturday Praise
28	29	30	31 5 pm Saturday Praise

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Assisting Minister

July 3/4 Vicki Volbrecht / Lindsay Reiten
July 10/11 Bonnie Bend / Rich Fennig
July 17/18 / Gerry Olsen
July 24/25 Ron Splittgerber / Margaret Wick
July 31/Aug 1

Welcome Table

July 4 Liz & Paul Johnson
July 11 Nancy Harrison & Gerry Olsen
July 18 Shelley & Rick Aust
July 25 Michele Rose & Jill Rose

Highlights from Current Council Minutes

Finance Report:

- Receipts to the end of April 2021 were \$145,175, with expenditures of \$150,105 for a negative balance of \$4,930.
- The cost of the organ MIDI project has increased by \$600 due to an increase in the cost of the speakers. The deposit of 50% from organ repair accrual and from the Ministry Opportunity Fund has been sent to the organ technician. Trust has approved payment for a third of the project.
- A suggestion had been made to increase the figure for the value of our property on financial reports. The treasurer indicated that the valuation of the property should remain at what it was when the sanctuary was added until such time that the property might be sold; thus the figure in the financial reports provides the cost basis. The building, however, is insured for replacement value in the amount of \$5 million.

Summer Worship Schedule beginning June 5/6:

- Saturday 5:00 p.m. worship in the sanctuary; based on usual Saturday attendance, the assumption is that attendance will not exceed 50. This service will be videoed.
- Sunday 10:00 a.m. worship outside. Bring your own chair; masks required; chairs will be distanced; and no congregational singing at the beginning of the summer.
- Sunday 10:30 a.m. Zoom worship using the video of the 5:00 p.m. Saturday service

COVID Policy: The recent statement from the CDC significantly relaxed requirements for wearing masks and distancing. Because both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals will be a part of worship, we will maintain both distancing and mask requirements for worship, but we will recommend to our church partners that for outside gatherings of fifteen or less, both masks and distancing are optional.

Announcements:

- Council will meet via Zoom in June.
- Pastor Rick is retraining and reinvigorating the program for home communion visitors.
- The Faith Partners Vision Team will report on their work at a Zoom meeting on May 27. The vision portion of their work is completed, and they are ready to move to the next task.
- The Property Committee has met with FFH to discuss rotations returning to TLC in September, and is looking at maintenance issues that need to be done before reopening the building.
- Hospitality/Evangelism is looking at signage, decluttering (especially in the foyer), some cleaning and convenience issues, and the church website.
- The office staff is working on a draft of an organizational chart to help committees understand what may be under their purview. .

Respectfully submitted, Nadine Hunt, Council Secretary

Complete minutes of Council meetings are available in the Church Office.

President's Perspectives

Dear family and friends,

I am often asked how I can be both a scientist and a Christian. The answer is easy you cannot have one without the other. I look around the world that God has created, the beauty, the unique differences, and the miracles of different forms of life and I know there is a Creator. A creator with a good sense of humor I might add, just think about the Grand Canyon, then the Bad Lands and so on. I believe God gave us the ability to think and reason so we can understand the world around us.

In an article from "compelling truth.org" the author states "Faith in God and belief in science will never contradict if God, in fact, exists and is the creator of the universe. If God is the creator of the universe, and there is ample evidence that He is, then science is just knowledge or a system of knowledge covering general truths about his creation. If God does not exist, then faith and science will contradict since science is the search for facts about the cosmos. For those with faith, however, science can be one of our greatest forms of worship."

I have heard from various sources that those who do not believe that faith and science go hand in hand, have a basic misunderstanding of both God and reason and therefore Science. In an article by Peter Doumit in September 2010 he states "The clearest and most direct formal expression of the relationship between faith and science that I have found is expounded upon in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 159:

Faith and Science: "Though faith is above reason, there can never be any real discrepancy between faith and reason. Since the same God who reveals mysteries and infuses faith has bestowed the light of reason on the human mind, God cannot deny Himself, nor can truth contradict truth. Consequently, methodical research in all branches of knowledge, provided it is carried out in a truly scientific manner and does not override moral laws, can never conflict with faith, because the things of the world and the things of faith derive from the same God. The humble and persevering investigator of the secrets of nature is being led, as it were, by the hand of God in spite of himself, for it is God, the conserver of all things, who made them what they are."

Science is simply our attempt to understand how our world works. God made all things, plants, animals, light, matter, and us. There is nothing unbiblical about the scientific method. Let's take the book of Genesis, it is the attempt of humans, inspired by God, to explain the universe. Therefore, in my mind, Genesis is the first recorded scientific journal. We honor God when we work to understand his amazing creation. In doing so we learn more about his power, wisdom, and elegance. Science when effectively used, confirms faith in a Creator and illustrates the awesome work of God.

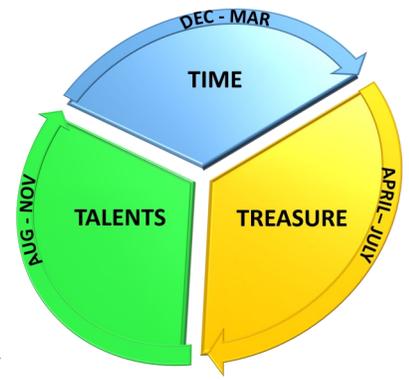
This year we have experienced in a big way the work of scientists, through the development of the Covid 19 Vaccine. While it is a new type of vaccine for humans, scientists have been using it in animal research for several years. Livestock and animal research done properly and with the best interest of the animal in mind is a big part of the advances in the medical field. I urge you to use the scientific facts about the vaccine and not fear and get vaccinated. Scientists have done their research to know that it is performing well and protecting the masses. May we all get back to a more social life and be comfortable in the knowledge that science through God is working to protect us. Faith guides science to conquer many problems and gives science context. I believe the best scientists are those who understand there is a Creator, God.

God Bless all, have a great summer!

Betty Ann Petitjean-Wagner, Congregation President

Stewardship

Thank you Trinity! We celebrate with God our commitment to the ministry going on in this space and time. For the ministry in 2021, we have received intent statements totaling \$182,380, coming from 55 families. Your generosity totals 41% of our Ministry Funds Plan (\$442,000). Though not all of our families submit intent statements, we feel great about what has come in and how it compares to previous years. Trinity continues to be financially healthy, and we are confident in the remaining gifts. If you would still like to offer a statement of intent, you are invited to do so and we will add it into our totals. And, if you are not in the practice of intentional consistent giving, will you consider \$5 a week? All of the gifts from our community are essential to continue the work into which God calls us.



For where your treasure is, there your heart is as well. Matthew 6:21

This year we have shifted a bit on how we are communicating stewardship to the congregation, breaking our year into three focus areas of Time (Nov-Feb), Treasure (March-June), and Talent (July-Oct), paralleling our liturgical year. We spend TIME together, dwelling in community, worshipping, praying, reflecting, from Advent, through Christmas, and into Lent. This leads us into the Easter season and summer months, when we share our TREASURE commitment to God's ministry. This leads us to the fall to celebrate community relationships, small groups, and your gifts and skills TALENTS.

Look for a Gift registry that will help you to discern where your talents and volunteering may be used to God's glory.

Remember that not only does God's Church have a mission – but God's mission has a Church – and it is you. Thank you.

Trinity Stewardship Team



Nappie Wrap

Did you enjoy the Nappie Wrap Sessions at church? Well here's your chance to help the community during Covid! Trinity is hosting a wrap session on **Sunday, August 1** at approximately **11 am**, following in-person worship. Come join us! If you would like to add a donation, you could donate diapers (sizes 4-7), pull ups, GoodNites (overnight diapers), and/or diaper cream. We invite all 301 faith partners to join us.



The heart, hands & feet of God

Thank someone who has lived out their faith by sharing their gifts and made a difference in the church OR community, please email Amanda, amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org.



Dear **Friends**, Thank you so much for your donation of \$223 in support of Homeward Alliance and its continuum of basic needs services, housing-focused case management, behavioral health and employment programs and initiatives, including the Murphy Center of Hope. ~ Pam Brewer

Dear **TLC**, As this school year comes to a close, I write to tell you that I will not be continuing on as LuMin Congregational Ambassador next school year. I feel so, very blessed to have been able to connect with Trinity. Thank you for being so welcoming, kind, and supportive. I look forward to continuing to worship and be in community with Trinity in the future outside of an Ambassador position. ~ Peace, Katie Nieuwlandt

Dear **Friends**, Trees, Water & People (TWP) is so grateful to have you and your team supporting our effort to improve lives by helping communities protect, conserve and manage their natural resources. Trinity Lutheran Church's generous contribution of \$279 to TWP helps us build resilience and self-sufficiency in Indigenous communities across the Americas, providing their next generations with hope for a bright future. ~ Sebastian Africano

Dear **Friends**, Your generosity of \$112, along with that of many other, helps ISAAC continue to make a significant difference in the lives of immigrant communities in Northern Colorado. In addition to your financial support, we are also pleased to know that 301 Faith Partners, of which you are part, has recently discerned a path toward greater direct involvement in the work of ISAAC. ~Bobbi Hargleroad

Dear **Trinity**, Thank you for your donation of \$391 to Teaching Tree especially during these uncertain times. You helped us respond to our community's need for greater access to affordable, quality child care. We opened 6 new classrooms this year, which more than doubled our capacity. ~ Tara Streeb

Dear **Trinity**, Thank you so much for your donation of \$279 to Crossroads Safehouse! Your contribution makes our life-saving work possible, and we deeply appreciate your partnership in supporting our community's victims of domestic violence. ~Jacqueline Tiley

Dear **Trinity**, You just did a great thing! Your donation of \$168, is helping to move Karen from the hardship of chasing an affordable rent to the strength, stability, and self-reliance she'll have as a homeowner. ~ Mara Johnson

Dear **Trinity**, Outreach Fort Collins, Colorado Nonprofit Development Center (CNDC) would like to thank you for your gift of \$279. The mission of CNDC is to maximize the impact of nonprofits through fiscal sponsorship to enable all Colorado communities to thrive. CNDC fulfills its mission by providing comprehensive fiscal sponsorship to the charitable groups (Projects) it accepts, which includes financial management, administrative oversight, coaching, and technical assistance. ~ Angela Schreffler

Dear **Trinity**, Thank you for your gift of \$670 to ELCA World Hunger. Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love. ~ Rev. Robin Brown





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301 E. Stuart St.
Fort Collins, CO 80525
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