



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 309 • 38 North High Street

Arendtsville, PA 17303

717 • 677 • 8921

pastorbensiebert@gmail.com

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Dear People of Trinity,

How are you doing? I've spoken with many of you, and what I hear is that we are in so many different places. We are trying to make the best of it, and we are struggling. We are finding ways to connect and aching for the way things were. We are finding new life in outdoor worship, and drained not being in the sanctuary. We are upset and hopeful, we are calm and hopeless, and we are so very, very tired of it all.

I am too.

I am dreaming, quite literally, each night of being able to see us all in worship. I am dreaming of the conversations we need to have, conversations that fill us and give us faith for today and bright hope for tomorrow. I am dreaming of singing, and placing bread in your palm, looking each of you square in the eye and declaring that God has given God's own self to you. I have even had dreams of standing in the rear of the church, and shaking each hand. I miss it terribly, and I want it back badly.

This difficult road confirms the humanity of us all. It's easy in this duress for temptation to find a home in us. This temptation is amplified by lack of clarity in how to best address Covid. More than once, and I imagine I'm not alone, I have thrown up my hands in weariness and grief as I read new policy, reversals in policy, and the politicization of policy.

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”¹

In Christ, I have found hope, confidence, and peace. It's strange, though. This hope does not take away my frustration, but rather balances it against the promise that this too shall fade into the midst of time.² This confidence does not make me sure I will live, but makes me sure I need not fear death.³ This peace, it does not lead me away from the complexities of life, but toward them.⁴

The Council and I continue to do work to create a worship that fills the congregation with good things. We are introducing soloists and small groups as singers of the hymns and special music in worship. We are officially moving indoors on October 4th, 2020, beginning our 8am and 10:15am worship services that same day. The Council continues to work the conversation of corporate singing, of planning for Sunday School, and of figuring out how we can be a force of hope, strength, and good in a weary world.

Thank you. Thank you to each one of you. Even if you don't think I could ever be including you, I am! Each one of you has kept Trinity as a priority in your heart and in your prayers. Each one of you has supported

¹ John 6:68.

² Isaiah 40, especially verse 8.

³ Romans 14, especially verses 7-9.

⁴ John 6:25-70, especially verse 63, and Matthew 16:24-27

us in time, talent, and treasure. We have been able to make ends meet financially, and even as bills continue, we have hope for the days ahead in the strength of God's provision through your hands. Thank you for your prayers and for your questions and for your conversations. Thank you for everything you are as the people of Trinity. Thank you for being *you*.

May the peace of Christ with you always, and may God bring us back together in new and old ways.

Peace,

Pastor Ben Siebert