



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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March 3rd, 2021

Dear People of Trinity,

As cases of coronavirus slowly decrease in our county, Trinity will be resuming in-person worship each Sunday. Beginning March 14th, we will gather at 9am for a single service, which will be simultaneously available via Zoom at 9am. As we approach Holy Week at the beginning of April, we have planned for in person services, again simultaneously available via Zoom, at 7pm on Maundy Thursday (April 1st) and Good Friday (April 2nd). Easter Sunday will hold three opportunities for worship. The first service will be our traditional Easter Sunrise Service held at 6:30am with Zion UCC at Fairview Cemetery. The second service will be at 9am, in person and via Zoom indoors at Trinity. The third service will be at 11am, outdoors and in person at Trinity. For all services, as always, all are welcome to attend!

If you plan on returning to worship in person, please let us know by email (office@trinityarendtsville.org or myself) or phone for the first week. Letting us know ahead of time is not a requirement to come to worship, but we would like your help in making sure we are prepared for whatever numbers we may have as worship resumes. Additionally, some have inquired about the process for ordering Easter flowers. The order form is included on the back of the worship resources sent with this letter. Feel free to return the form to the office by March 13th, or to communicate your information by phone or email to the church office should you want to order flowers.

As the congregation is able to resume portions of in-person worship and ministry together, I want to encourage you to reconnect with each other, whether in person or by phone. As you do, prepare yourself. Prepare yourself to have grace upon grace with one another. Prepare yourself to listen, sensing when the conversation needs to talk about our collective experience and when the conversation needs to look forward for hope and renewal. Bend toward the needs of one another. It will take stretching, reaching, and remembering to recreate the rhythms of community we have sorely missed this past year.

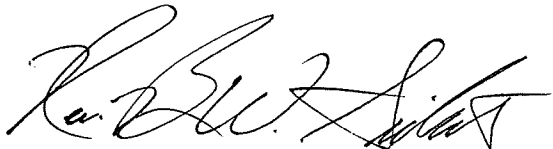
We have gone through, and are still going through, a time in this pandemic when the virus is not far off, but near. Family and friends, neighbors and community leaders have gone through the experience of covid, and many continue to walk through it. Loved ones have died. The Spirit sows seeds for the fruit of love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, and gentleness among the faithful. Trinity has long been a cultivator of these fruits. It is so important to share these fruits freely as we reconnect with one another, as we let ourselves grieve our experiences together, and as we begin to hope together.

Thank you for all the gifts you have shared throughout this past year. For time and talent, graciousness and wisdom. Right now, the congregation continues to stand on the gifts of its members and the community. Finances have been very tight as of late, even as we look for opportunities to continue to support the ongoing, fixed finances of continued ministry. If you are able, please consider supporting Trinity's ministry in this season of reestablishment and return. I share the realities of Trinity's finances with you not to create guilt, but out of respect. Trinity has always met the moment of financial need throughout its 240 year history; each of us as Trinity's members should be given the opportunity and privilege of meeting this moment, too. We have

come so far in this pandemic, together I believe we can arrive at the close of this pandemic – may God bring it soon – primed to serve the community that God loves.

Peace and blessings to each of you as our Lenten journey continues, and Easter morning approaches.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Siebert", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Ben Siebert

Joining Sunday Worship Online:

To join at 9am for Sunday Morning Worship, you can use any computer, tablet, or smartphone with the link provided on our homepage at trinityarendtsville.org.

OR

Use the following steps for any type of phone (landline included):

1. Dial: 1 301 715 8592
2. When asked, enter the Meeting ID: 868 3849 4181
3. If asked, enter the passcode: 271040
4. To be able to speak, press *6.
5. To stop speaking, press *6 again.