

Ripples of Faith 2020



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CIRCLE OF FAITH PARISH

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St. Peter, Ceylon, MN
Trinity, Welcome, MN
Waverly, Trimont, MN

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

| | |
|------|------------------------------------|
| 8/4 | Parish Council Mary Circle WLC |
| 8/5 | WELCA - StP |
| 8/20 | Articles due for September Ripples |
| 8/26 | Assemble Ripples |
| 8/30 | Pastor Eric's last Sunday |

Sundays— 8:30 am St. Peter, Trinity
10:30 am Waverly

Mondays: 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
First Lutheran, Trimont

Christ
The Way, the Truth,
and the Life.

JOHN 14:6

Staff / Email

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Anthony Christoffels - Lead Pastor | achristoffels@circleoffaithparish.org |
| Eric Midthun-Associate Pastor | emidthun@circleoffaithparish.org |
| Lisa Wohlhuter | lwohlhuter@circleoffaithparish.org |
| Eileen Morrow | emorrow@circleoffaithparish.org |

After 39 years serving Christ's church through ordained ministry, Pastor Eric has decided to retire at the end of August. Unfortunately, because of the current state of our world with the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be able to celebrate, recognize, and say farewell to Pastor Eric the way we would like to. In light of this, we have the following plans:

Pastor Eric's Last Sunday at COF

Sunday, August 30th will be Pastor Eric's last Sunday at Circle of Faith. Since Pastor Anthony will be on vacation on August 30th, the parish council has decided to cancel the 8:30 am worship service at Trinity. This allows everyone to be present for Pastor Eric's last Sunday. Pastor Eric will lead worship at St. Peter at 8:30 am and at Waverly at 10:30 am. Given the travel distance and many "Good byes", Waverly's service might start a little after 10:30. Trinity members are welcome to attend worship either at St. Peter or Waverly. However, due to the current restrictions, since St. Peter has a larger sanctuary, Trinity members are encouraged to worship at St. Peter.

A Celebration for Pastor Eric

In a normal situation, we would be throwing Pastor Eric a big retirement party, but because of COVID-19 the big party will have to wait. Thankfully, Pastor Eric has agreed to take a break from golfing for a day, to come to COF next summer for his big "post" retirement party! We might not be able to party right now, but he can't get away from us without a party! 😊

Looking Forward to September and Beyond

At the July parish council meeting, we discussed what our options are for September and Beyond. To continue being transparent with you, here are some options that we are looking into:

Seminary Intern

We have been working with Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA to be assigned a seminary student who would get hands on learning experience working in the parish part-time while also doing distance learning part-time. Before March, the program had more students than ministry sites. Now this summer, they have more sites than students. We have not ruled this option out; it is just looking less likely we will have a student assigned to us prior to September 2021.

Interim Pastor and Call Process

We could request to get a part-time interim pastor to fill the Associate Pastor position while we form a call committee and enter into the call process. However, due to the ongoing pastor shortage that is affecting many denominations across the country, our SWMN Synod has informed us that there are no interim pastors available; especially ones that are part-time.

Add a congregation(s) to COF

Before Circle of Faith was formed as a three-point parish, there were many other congregations that were involved in the initial conversation. The parish council decided to write a letter to be sent to the congregations who were involved in the conversation before. We will be making them aware that we are in the midst of a pastoral transition and would welcome a conversation if anyone is at all interested in revisiting a possible partnership.

In the Meantime...

We will be adjusting to having a temporary vacancy in the Associate Pastor position. This will mean that some things will look a little different as I work to faithfully serve you all as a solo pastor. The biggest change you will notice is the worship schedule starting in September. This schedule will be similar to how we have done the summer schedule in recent years.

| | St. Peter | Trinity | Waverly |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| September | Sunday 8:30 am | Wednesday 6:30 pm | Sunday 10:30 am |
| October | Sunday 8:30 am | Sunday 10:30 am | Wednesday 6:30 pm |
| November | Wednesday 6:30 pm | Sunday 8:30 am | Sunday 10:30 am |
| December | Sunday 8:30 am | Wednesday 6:30 pm | Sunday 10:30 am |

I will be doing continuing education August 24-26 and then I will be on vacation August 27 – September 7. Unfortunately, this vacation was already scheduled before Pastor Eric's announcement. And because of COVID-19, the pulpit supply list of individuals willing to lead worship in the building is extremely limited. Given this reality, the parish council has decided to cancel all worship services for Sunday, September 6th. We will follow the new September worship schedule beginning on September 13th.

Pastor Eric will be dearly missed. Please join with me in congratulating Pastor Eric on his 39 years of ordained ministry and wishing him well as he enters this new chapter in his life! Congratulations Pastor Eric!!

Dear friends at Circle of Faith Parish,



I am sure that most of you have heard by now that I am retiring at the end of August. I have enjoyed very much our time together. It has been good to serve as one of your pastors for the past 7 years. I have very much enjoyed working with Pastor Anthony and with our office staff, Lisa, Eileen and sometimes Jean and great leadership in each congregation. It is the right time for me to pursue some other things and not drive so much especially in the winter. I am glad I can retire with the Parish in good hands (staff and lay leadership).

I have appreciated your strong support and encouragement during these years. As you know, you have a good life in this good land. A big reason is because you are supportive of one another and of your communities. It has been a blessing to share some of that life with you.

These are not the easiest days to be the Church, (but they could be a lot worse – like times of persecution). As things continue to change around us we hold fast to Our Lord Jesus who promises to have compassion for us and be a good shepherd leading and protecting us. In addition we have the freedom in Christ to be ‘church’ in many different forms. Keep having fun together and enjoy the mystery and challenge of being leaven and light in the world. And receive God’s grace any chance you get.



In Christ,
Pastor Eric Olaf Midthun

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

| | | St. Peter | Trinity | Waverly |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 9 th Week after Pentecost | Sunday, August 2 nd <i>Altar: Green</i> | Worship w/Communion 8:30 AM | Worship w/Communion 8:30 AM | Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM <i>Available Online</i> |
| 10 th Week after Pentecost | Sunday, August 9 th <i>Altar: Green</i> | Worship w/Communion 8:30 AM | Worship w/Communion 8:30 AM | Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM <i>Available Online</i> |
| 11 th Week after Pentecost | Sunday, August 16 th <i>Altar: Green</i> | Worship w/Communion 8:30 AM | Worship w/Communion 8:30 AM | Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM <i>Available Online</i> |
| 12 th Week after Pentecost | Sunday, August 23 rd <i>Altar: Green</i> | Worship w/Communion 8:30 AM | Worship w/Communion 8:30 AM | Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM <i>Available Online</i> |
| 13 th Week after Pentecost | Sunday, August 30 th <i>Altar: Green</i> | Worship w/Communion 8:30 AM | Please worship at St. Peter or Waverly Today! | Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM <i>Available Online</i> |
| 14 th Week after Pentecost | Sunday, September 6 th <i>Altar: Green</i> | No worship services today! <i>Pastor Anthony is on vacation</i> | | |

FACE MASKS REQUIRED

In following Executive Order 20-81, face masks will be required for all indoor gatherings at Circle of Faith churches. This includes all worship services, meetings, and Bible studies.



GIVING OPTIONS

We know that this is an uncertain time for many of you. If this pandemic has put you in a financial hardship, please let us know how your church community can be of assistance to you. If you are blessed to remain financially stable throughout this outbreak, we encourage you to continuing giving to your church. Your offerings can be mailed to the church office (PO Box 328, Welcome, MN 56181) and your gift will be properly distributed to your respective church.

For Trinity and Waverly Members

You can make an online gift by going to: www.circleoffaithparish.org/give.



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Trinity Lutheran www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranwelcome
Waverly Lutheran www.facebook.com/waverlylutheran



Parish Council

July 21, 2020

Members present: Tim Peterson, John Borchardt, Marilyn Cheever, MaryAnn Frerichs, Jody Franck, Nancy Nordstrom

Council Presidents: Don Nordstrom

Pastors Anthony Christoffels and Eric Midthun

Meeting was called to order by Marilyn Cheever.

Pastor Anthony shared a devotion with the theme of Jesus telling us not to worry.

Secretary's report – Minutes from June 9, 2020 meeting, motion to approve by Nancy Nordstrom and seconded by Jody Franck, approved.

Treasurer's report – motion to approve by MaryAnn Frerichs, seconded by Tim Peterson, approved.

Pastor's report – Lisa's computer is in and nearly set up. It fell within the budgeted amount. Pastor Anthony found a place where once the parish was certified as a non-profit he has been able to save quite a

bit on the computer and software.

He had to get a new office chair as his broke.

He and Pastor Stephanie are meeting with other pastors to brainstorm what the fall will look like, especially for things like confirmation and Sunday school. He is looking at possibilities for Christmas services, wants to have plans for various situations in place (more or less restrictions)

Looking at how to handle confirmations services we postponed. May have to have separate services to meet guidelines.

Congregation reports – none

Old Business

Review of in person worship – going well, moving communion to the back working better than at the front with leaving right after. People are gathering outside to visit, this is fine since it is safer than inside. People have asked about singing if wearing masks. It was decided that speaking responses and singing would be okay so long as the person is wearing a mask. We will also try and have a soloist to sing the hymns. Cont. on next page.

New Business

Pastor Anthony's upcoming vacation – The vacation involves August 30, Pastor Eric's last Sunday and September 6. We have the challenge that with Covid there are only 2 possible people for pulpit supply. Service led by members is a possibility, there would be a sermon ready that could be read. It was decided that August 30 we will have just 2 services, 8:30 at St. Peter and 10:30 at Waverly. There will be no services September 6, we encourage everyone to seek out an online service as many are available. Pastor will see if Karen Koeder is available for a Sunday in October he has to be gone.

Pastor Eric's Retirement – How to celebrate? Pastor Eric is willing to come back so we can celebrate with him with fewer restrictions, it was decided this was the best option.

September and beyond – Pastor Anthony has continued to pursue the seminary student, interviewed one in May, they are not looking likely as there a couple options open to them closer to where they live. Before covid getting a student was looking good as there were more students than parishes looking to have them come, sadly now the opposite is true and there are more parishes looking for students than students. This option isn't totally eliminated, but it will take more time than before. There are no part time interims available at this time. It was decided we should reach out to area congregations, explain our transitions time, and see if there are any who might be interested now in joining the parish, we could possibly get to where a second full time pastor would be within the budget. We don't know until we ask.

Confirmation will be at Trinity when it meets. It was brought up that it needs a reset, old ways aren't working, need to find new.

Based on discussions from earlier meetings Pastor Anthony put several options together on how to handle worship in the time it is just him. A motion was made by John Borchardt to go with the option similar to what we have done in the summer of 2 services on Sunday and 1 on Wednesday, rotating like it did with the summer schedule, seconded by Nancy Nordstrom, approved.

Next meeting will be August 4, 2020 at 6:00 at Trinity.

Motion to adjourn was made by Tim Peterson, seconded by John Borchardt, approved.

Trinity Council

June 29, 2020

Members Present: Jon S., Todd W., Kelsey T., Jon T., John F., Pastor Anthony

Pastors Report: Beginning in Person Worship. Will be talked about later in the meeting

Secretaries Report from 1-28-20 passed. M/S/P Todd/ JonT

Treasures Report discussed and passed. Through 6-28-20 \$24, 277.60. Renovation Fund \$1382

Parish received a PPC loan for Payroll protection

Committee reports: none

Parish Council Report will be in New Business

Old Business:

- Siding work to be starting July 7th
- Glass block about 3 weeks out to do the work on that. End of July
- John B. is talking to Wes about the bathroom remodel
- Will check with the person doing the siding if he can replace some doors that need to be replaced
- Checking on cleaning the other siding that needs to be done

New Business:

- Farm Management: Verbally committed to let them use a portion of the basement. Pastor got a copy of a sample agreement to negotiate with them. Jon S. will start the agreement process. Will need to update basement thermostats to let them control the temp. M/S/P Todd/Kelsey
- Back to Church: In person Worship will resume 7-5-20. Guidelines and rules will need to be followed or they will be cancelled again. The 10:30 service will be streamed for those not comfortable in returning yet. Hand sanitizer, etc. will be available for use
- MRCI: The Fairmont site is being disbanded as of now, but they will work with us to figure things out. Will be similar to what we had before. Pastor will be meeting with them tomorrow to find out the new schedule.

To make things easier for the Financial Secretary, they will be given access to Bank Statements and deposits to view so that they can complete their duties in a better fashion. M/S/P John F/ Todd

Meeting Adjourned - Next meeting TBD

St. Peter Ripples



Next Meeting: Aug. 5th @ 9 am

Hostesses: Ann Wenzel & Elaine Krueger

Bible Study: In Session 2 “just love” led to Jesus acceptance of Zacchaeus and his being restored to his community. In Session 3 readers are challenged to examine what “just love” requires when injustice is done at the highest levels of government. In Exodus it tells of 2 midwives saving the lives of Hebrew babies.

We plan to go ahead and have this meeting with guidelines being followed for safety. Please plan to attend as this will be our last meeting with Pastor Eric before he retires.

The Okoboji Quilt Auction is still on with guidelines also. Viewing is Thursday, July 30: 4—7 pm & Friday, July 31 1-7 pm and Saturday 9—11:30 am, lunch in dining hall-11:30 am—12:30 pm. Live auction at noon.

Groups stay 6 feet apart from others groups and masks if this isn't possible. Online auction: www.okoboji.org/quilt.

As of now, I have not heard if the Ingham Hog Roast will be held. If it is, of course, donation will be needed.

More on our spiritual gifts: We cannot choose them. God bestows them upon us through the work of the Holy Spirit and they are there always. Examples are artistry, hospitality, music, knowledge, leadership, teaching, etc. They are meant to be used in our daily lives and in serving the needs of others.

Prayers for Tuesdays @ 2: 8/4 Lord, help us to use our spiritual gifts to further your kingdom. 8/11 Guide our live, Lord, to be to your glory. 8/18 Help us be aware of our brothers and sisters in need. 8/25 With a thankful heart we thank you for your love and mercy.

Please remember the need for Personal Care kits. 1 light weight bath size towel, 2 bars of soap, 1 sturdy comb, 1 metal nail clippers, 1 adult toothbrush. I got nice towels at Walmart for \$1.99. We have a surplus of toothbrushes already. Also we can always use items for school kits. The need seems to be never ending.

Next work duty: Group 1

August Altar care: Ann Wenzel

August Honorary Birthday: Ardis McKean—20th. (Ardis is now at Goldfinch Memory Care)

August Anniversaries: Darrel and Muriel Klenz—1st.

Dear Lord, we thank you that you are a God of love and justice. Open our hearts and minds to your wisdom to receive new insight and a new way forward in these times of conflict and challenge. Amen

Summer Blessings, Jeannine



Thank you all for the 80th Birthday Wishes. I had a wonderful day !! Muriel

Trinity Ripples

Update on renovation projects for Trinity, July 27

This week should see a flurry of activity as siding contractor has assured me he will be starting tear off on Thursday.

Basement window project will be starting once The materials on order come in.

Basement bathroom handicap update will also get started on this week.

John

Waverly Ripples

ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS

The Waverly Mission Endowment Fund is currently accepting grant application for mission projects and post-secondary scholarship. Any Waverly member is welcome and encouraged to apply. Hard copies are available at Waverly and through the parish office. You can also apply at www.waverlylutheran.org/endowment. This year we have around \$4,000 to distribute. What project can you image getting some funding support from your Waverly Endowment Fund?



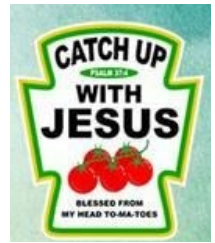
*****If you are down as a lector and are uncomfortable coming to in-person worship or coming up front to read at this time, please let either the office or one of the pastors know.

St Peter

| DATE | LECTOR | USHERS |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| August 2 | Ellie Plumhoff | Neil and Marilyn Cheever |
| 9 | Jordan Petschke | Larry R Schmidt / Larry W Schmidt |
| 16 | Jeannine Rasmussen | James and Aubrey Plumhoff |
| 23 | Jeff Petschke | Ronnie and Jane Leiding |
| 30 | Jordan Petschke | Jordan Petschke / Christian Petschke |
| Aug. 6 | No Service | |

Trinity

| DATE | LECTOR | USHERS |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| August 2 | Liz Stahl | Lonnie and Bob Moffitt |
| 9 | MaryAnn Frerichs | Larry Puhrman / Todd Williams |
| 16 | Deb Philipp | Nate and Sam Chukuske |
| 23 | Liz Stahl | Sun and Henry Borchardt |
| 30 | Service either at | St. Peter's or Waverly |
| September 6 | No Service | |



Waverly

| DATE | LECTOR | CHILDRENS TIME | ACOLYTE | COMMUNION ASSISTANT |
|----------|----------------------|----------------|---------|---------------------|
| August 2 | Gwen Matz | Pastor | Ushers | Don Nordstrom |
| 9 | Rosemary Atzenhoefer | | Ushers | Don Nordstrom |
| 16 | Tim Peterson | | Ushers | Don Nordstrom |
| 23 | Paul Gaalswyk | | Ushers | Don Nordstrom |
| 30 | Kelley Bettin | Tim Peterson | Ushers | Don Nordstrom |
| Sept. 6 | No Service | | | |



August Ushers: Steve Williamson, Troy Schmidtke, Todd Rathman, Jeff Matz
September Ushers: Bob Olson, Jim Sherman, Brian Clow, Don Nordstrom

AUGUST

Birthdays & Anniversaries

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| |  | | |  | | 1 Darrel & Muriel Klenz |
| 2 Gloria Martin Amy Morrow Todd Rathman | 3 Daylin Hartung Cody Leiding | 4 <i>Brian & Joanna Sandberg</i> | 5 Duane Daleske Chad Harder Jean Hatch Rachelle Kruse Brent Oechsle | 6 Joanne Sherman <i>Amanda & David Brosnahan 15</i> <i>Josh & Becca Johnson</i> | 7 Tobias Haugen <i>Abby & Troy Loveland 10</i> | 8 Becca Johnson  |
| 9 <i>Tom & LuAnn Peterson 45</i> | 10  | 11 Josh Petschke | 12 Diane Korte | 13 Jeff Matz Joe Newville Craig Senne | 14 Mary Thompson <i>Neil & Cara Hansen 10</i> | 15 Darrell Miller Mary Muller |
| 16 <i>James & Diane Korte 35</i> | 17 Joel Detert | 18 Doug Gerhardt Alex Winter | 19 Rhoda Ode- gaard Erin Schmidt | 20 Laurie Burmeister Ardis McKean | 21  | 22 Michael Casius |
| 23 Cynthia Roberts <i>Deanne & Paul Gaalswyk 45</i> <i>Doug and Tami Gerhardt</i> | 24 Wyatt Burmeister Heidi Clow <i>Keith & Sandy Winter</i> | 25 <i>Jeff & Gwen Matz 30</i> <i>Lonnie & Robert Moffitt</i> <i>Don & Marilyn Stelter</i> | 26 Brannon Paplow <i>Loren & June Schultz 69</i> | 27 | 28 Matthew Hansen Roger Rezac | 29 Becky Detert Leah Gerhardt Christine Hansen Leah Kruse Susan Rathman <i>Melissa & Braedy Lueth 5</i> |
| 30 Tom Lehmann Jeannie Rahm | 31 Neil Hansen |  | | | | |



August



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|-----------------------------|--|-----|--------|
| | | Parish Office Hours Mon.—Thurs. 9 am - 1 pm | | <p>"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."</p> <p>Micah 6:8</p> | | |
| 2 8:30 am StP & TLC 10:30 WLC Communion-all | 3 9 am Men's Bible Study First Lutheran Trimont | 4 6 pm Parish Council 7 pm Mary Circle—WLC | 5 9 am WELCA StP | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 8:30 am StP & TLC 10:30 WLC Communion-all | 10 9 am Men's Bible Study First Lutheran Trimont | 11 | | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 8:30 am StP & TLC 10:30 WLC Communion-all | 17 9 am Men's Bible Study First Lutheran Trimont | 18 | 19 | 20 Articles due for September Ripples | 21 | 22 |
| 23 8:30 am StP & TLC 10:30 WLC Communion-all | 24 9 am Men's Bible Study First Lutheran Trimont | 25 | 26 9 am Assemble Ripples | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 8:30 am StP 10:30 WLC Communion-all | 31 | | | <p>For the JOY of the Lord is your strength</p> <p>Nehemiah 8:10</p> <p>Jesus Christ My Saviour</p> | | |



Circle of Faith Parish
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If you have moved or are moving, please notify the church office so we are not charged postage expenses for Change of Address. Thank You !

ASIST
 Learn the skills.
Help save a life.

Suicide is preventable. Anyone can make a difference.

- Two-day workshop in suicide intervention skills
- Learn and practice a life-saving intervention model
- Widely used by professionals and the general public

ASIST's impact in 2016

87,567 participants 108,583 interventions

15,201 suicide attempts prevented

Common based on studies

ASIST works

Studies show that ASIST participants gain:

- Knowledge about suicide
- Skills to reach out
- Confidence to help save a life

ASIST changes lives

Odds of improvement after receiving an ASIST intervention (2013 study):

- ▲ 35% more hopeful
- ▼ 31% less depressed
- ▼ 46% less overwhelmed
- ▼ 74% less suicidal

ASIST is cost-effective

50:1 return on investment in decreasing long-term costs of suicide (2015 study)

Date: August 25-26, 2020
Location: Trinity Lutheran Church, Madelia
Hosted by: Watonwan River Conference
Cost: \$100

To inquire or register, call 507-848-5603 or email pastorchristoffels@gmail.com

Learn more about ASIST and see the evidence at www.livingworks.net/ASIST

ASIST TRAINING

Want to learn valuable life skills that could help you save a life? Then you may want to check out the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) workshop

August 25-26
Trinity Lutheran Church – Madelia
8:30 am – 4:00 pm (each day)

**Must attend both full days to receive credit*
Cost: \$100

**This is a discount price. Normal cost for ASIST Training is around \$300*

This training is for pastors, police officers, EMTs, teachers, administrators, health care workers, counselors, and anyone else who has daily interaction with people.

This event is sponsored by Watonwan River Conference – ELCA, SWMN Synod Endowment Fund, and Thrivent Financial.