HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2021

Dear Community of Holy Trinity,

As we give this COVID-19 update, we want you to know we continue to make decisions with great love for God, this church, and our neighbors. The Minnesota Department of Health meets monthly with faith-based leaders. We would describe our most recent call with three words- gratitude, patience and hope.

GRATITUDE: The call began with a word of thanks for the bold and responsible leadership of faith communities, and invited us to help with messaging around COVID-19 and the future vaccines.

PATIENCE: They acknowledged that there are currently, again, surges across the country. Fortunately, Minnesota has a downward trend in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. MN Department of Health expressed that there are still concerning Minnesota numbers. While it is hard to remain patient, they said it is not time to let our guard down. We need to continue to do all we can to prevent the spread.

HOPE: While it will still (in estimation) be a number of months before a large number of people are vaccinated, progress is being made. There are multiple vaccines available with more nearing final approval.

In the same way, at Holy Trinity we share gratitude for your care for the community, ask for your continued patience, and look forward to a future full of hope! Based on recommendations from our Risk Management Team and Church Council, we plan:

- to continue with online/radio worship for now (remaining in phase two of our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan). We plan to do this to allow time for COVID-19 vaccines to be administered and the threat of this virus to be mitigated.
- to prepare for a future hybrid worship experience. We plan to migrate from past office spaces into the new administrative wing over the next few months. We also anticipate the completion of the remodeling of the four bathrooms and fellowship hall. Following a deep clean of the building, we will focus our efforts into learning and installing the live-streaming technology for our long-term future of hybrid worship (in-person and online).

Our prayers continue to be with all in leadership making decisions, all who are ill, and those who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

In God's love for you and this church,
Pastors Alicia & Ben Hilding

1300 East Main Street
New Prague MN 56071
Email: office@holytrinityonline.org
Phone: 952.758.3513
holytrinityonline.org