

March 18, 2021

Dear Community of Holy Trinity,

It is time for something new!

Easter is the season to celebrate resurrection and new life! To embody that with our church practices, we are taking steps to gather in person and share in our faith.

**What is the latest recommendation from our leadership?**

On Monday, March 8, over 400 faith leaders gathered on Zoom for this month's Minnesota Department of Health Faith-Based Update. We heard current recommendations, a request for help communicating about the safety of vaccines, as well as examples of faith communities modeling best practices. Following this gathering, our leadership reviewed the current health facts, Scripture, and our particular vision, mission, and values at Holy Trinity. Our Risk Management Team and Council have made the decision that we remain in Phase 2 (online and outdoors) for the next month with steps to move forward in place.

**What does this mean for worship opportunities?**

Worship will remain online Sunday mornings at 9 am, but beginning Wednesday, April 14, we will launch/ a new weekly outdoor worship on Wednesday evenings.

**What can we celebrate?**

As we take steps forward, we have much to celebrate.

- Vaccines are gradually becoming available. In the words of our ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, "The vaccine is safe, it's effective, and it's being made available to many, many, many people."
- Construction of the administrative wing is completed and we are beginning to move in.
- The updating/remodeling of the fellowship hall and four bathrooms is all nearing completion.
- We have been able to stay connected with those who go to warmer places in the winter, students living in other communities, and those who are homebound.
- The weather is getting warmer, and we are excited to plan exciting worship opportunities outside including sharing the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism together.

**How can we help?**

Spread the word and invite others to online and/or outdoor worship! If you are comfortable volunteering to help with outdoor or online worship, please email/call Office Manager Jamie Bisek, (office@[holytrintyonline.org](mailto:office@holytrintyonline.org)/952-758-3513), to let her know how you'd like to help!

In God's love for you and this church,

Pastors Alicia & Ben Hilding