



The In Touch

Volume 56, Issue 4

Our Mission: To Seek, Know, Love and Serve Christ in all Persons and in all Creation

Ramblings from the Liturgist...

Celebrate Easter its full 50 days

Author: Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya

For the church, this is, in fact, still Easter. Easter is not meant to be just one sunny Sunday, marked by a hearty meal and pastel hues, but it is, rather, a full season of feasting. Each one of the “Great 50 Days of Easter” ought to be marked and celebrated as Easter. We are called during this season to find some way, every day, to celebrate and feast.

And if you really think about it, this makes a lot of sense. Easter is the central event of our faith. Christ lived, really lived, like each one of us is alive. Then Christ died, really died, like so many of our loved ones have died and like we, too, will one day die.

Then the unthinkable, the unexpected, the unimaginable happened: Christ was alive again, really alive – physically and spiritually, but also changed and transformed. Christ was alive in such a way that he can never die again.

This resurrection is a preview and a foretaste of what God has in store for all of us, all of our loved ones, and indeed, the whole creation and cosmos at the last day, and it is our assurance that God will do it.

It means that God’s victory of life and love has defeated all that tries to break down and destroy God’s children: the forces of hatred, violence, vengeance, sickness and death. In this way the resurrection transforms how we experience this life, even as in so many ways, we walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

The resurrection is now the light by which we live our lives, and sharing the news of it is the main reason we do everything we do in the church. That’s worth celebrating, vigorously, for at least 50 days.

In the church, we tend to do a pretty good job of observing the fast of Lent. We know how to examine what inside of us needs to be cleared out in order to allow more room for God to work in and through us. We’re usually pretty good at knowing what we need to turn around and make right in our lives. But I think we tend to not be so good at keeping the feast of Easter, where for 50 days we are called to steep ourselves in the unimaginable joy of the resurrection.

Lent reminds us that, as the collect puts it, “We have no power in ourselves to help ourselves,” (Book of Common Prayer, 218), but Easter reminds us that God does, God has and God will.

We celebrate this great and joyful fact for a full 50 days, because learning what it means to live in the light of the resurrection takes practice.

It takes us 40 days of Lent to really learn that we cannot save ourselves or our world, and it takes 50 days of Easter for us to be gripped and transformed by the fact that God can.

So what is your Easter discipline this year? How are you finding some way, every day, to celebrate and to feast? Jesus' final command to us was to go and make disciples.

We can only convince others to follow Jesus when our own lives shine with the light of resurrection hope and joy, and that can only happen when we've feasted on Easter's life-changing abundance.

Blessings, Georgeann

Springtime Prayer

Ralph Waldo Emerson

For flowers that bloom about our feet,
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet,
For song of bird, and hum of bee,
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

For blue of stream and blue of sky,
For pleasant shade of branches high,
For fragrant air and cooling breeze,
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!



Statement of intent to reopen Holy Trinity for in-person worship 3/21/2021

The following document outlines a plan for re-opening Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in International Falls, MN (HTEC) for worship in our physical space.

Permission was granted from ECMN on March 9, 2021, that it is deemed safe and appropriate for our congregation to reopen our church space. We intend to reopen on Sunday, March 21.

The reopening will not be implemented without full consensus of the Vestry in the best interest of the congregation. Our reopening plan will be revisited, adjusted and adapted as necessary as more information becomes available.

When the 7-day positivity rates are trending at or above 5% for Koochiching County, the church building will not be open to in person worship or general use.

All staff and volunteers are expected to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to entering the facility. Any staff member or volunteer who is diagnosed with COVID-19 must alert the priest or senior warden. All service participants will be made aware of the rules and procedures in this document.

COMMUNICATION

Signage will be posted at the entrance and throughout the building that people must observe a 6-foot distance from one another while inside the building to ensure that there is no physical touching between persons.

We will provide directional marked separate foot traffic routes from the entrance into the building, narthex and nave and on exit of the building space during and throughout worship to prevent bottlenecks. Six-foot distancing signs will be posted along the routes to and from the entry into the narthex and the nave and back. We will also follow examples of flow of entry/exit used in some local public buildings such as the clinics, hospital and Falls Good Samaritan Center in the remainder of the building.

We will also post the following signage: A. Hygiene signs in kitchens, offices, hallways or other easily visible areas. B. About mask use at building entrances and throughout the building. We will provide masks to employees, visitors and volunteers as needed. C. In kitchens, bathrooms and offices with instructions on sanitizing after use.

The congregation will honor the following guidelines when in the church building is being used for worship or any other reason:

- **Social distancing:** Maintain 6' distance from anyone not in your household
- Wash your hands frequently, and use hand sanitizer as needed.
- All staff, volunteers, parishioners and visitors will wear a face covering when on the premises.
- Clergy, lay ministers, musicians, and anyone else entering the building shall stay home if they have a fever, cough, or any congestion; or feel like you might be sick; or live with someone who is sick or exhibiting symptoms,
- **Stay home if you are at high-risk and are vulnerable to illness.**
- Two of every three pews will be blocked off on each side of the sanctuary.^{[[SEP]]}
- Maximum total capacity in the sanctuary will be determined by the total distancing guidelines.
- Common worship objects have been removed from the pews to reduce touching of hymnals, prayer books, and bibles.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the pews.

Ushers will wear masks as will:

- Offer hand sanitizer to people upon entry.
- Single-use printed bulletins will be placed on a table at the entry for congregants to pick up.
- Any visitor not in the church directory will be asked to provide their name and phone number to a dated attendance list.
- The offering plates will be placed at one central location at the appropriate time in the service.

Acolytes shall observe social distancing in the altar area, will use hand sanitizer, use their own robes and take them home to clean them.

Altar Guild members shall rotate biweekly and maintain social distancing if possible, in the sacristy. Otherwise only one person at a time shall be present in the sacristy at a time.

Passing the Peace shall occur without handshakes, and by encouraging the alternative of placing your hand over your heart and saying "Peace be with you." Social distancing of 6' will be maintained during this time.

Holy Eucharist: Communion shall be administered when the priest approaches one pew at a time, maintaining social distancing from others. Congregants will be instructed to receive their communion at the pew where they can adjust their masks briefly to consume it. The priest will administer the eucharistic host sealed in a recyclable cover. No wine will be distributed.

Music will continue as part of the church services played either electronically or by a masked musician in person. Until further notice congregational singing in the service is suspended.

Group Recitation by congregants is advised to be said quietly to themselves.

Coffee Hour is allowed only if social distancing can be practiced.

Funerals and Weddings: Weddings and funerals may occur upon approval of the vestry. The vestry will appoint a contact person for these events who will communicate the rules to those requesting to hold the event.

Eucharist Visitors and Pastoral Visits: Pastoral emergencies will continue to be handled by the priest. Eucharistic and pastoral in-person visits will be allowed under the guidance of the priest and residential guidelines.

Small Groups: Small groups, such as the vestry and total ministry team, may meet if social distancing can be practiced and augmented by Zoom or other electronic communication.

Office: The church office is a place of business for paid staff.

The secretary/treasurer's and total ministry team offices are the designated workspaces. These areas should be accessed only by these designated employees and volunteers. Vestry members occasionally need to access the offices.

Social distancing shall be practiced in these offices. Signs shall be posted outside each office with capacity limits. Persons using the office shall be responsible for sanitizing all accessed surfaces from keyboards to doorknobs before leaving the space.

SANITATION:

The facility shall be fully cleaned in accordance with the guidelines outlined in our approved Statement of Intent Reopening Plan.

*We will Continue the
Holy Trinity Services Livestream
On Facebook or our website: www.ifhtec.org
Sundays @ 10:00 am*

2021 Annual Meeting

**Will be postponed till Covid restrictions allow
We will need Vestry members**

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- 4/3 ~ **Andrew Kennedy** (son of Sara & Dale, grandson of George Schlieff)
- 4/4 ~ **Andy Wright**
- 4/16 ~ **Emma Mattsen** (daughter of Kelly, granddaughter of Melanie & Randy)
- 4/18 ~ **Randy Mattsen**
- 4/22 ~ **Bradley Davison** (son of Jim & Cori, grandson of Carolyn)
- 4/23 ~ **Bill T. Corrin**
- 4/24 ~ **Heather O'Kane** (daughter of Andy & Georgeann Wright)
- 4/29 ~ **Donna Day**
- 4/30 ~ **Angie Davison** (daughter of Jim & Cori, granddaughter of Carolyn)



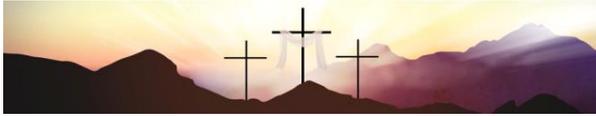
- 4/1 ~ **Madalynn & Thatcher Jenkinson**
- 4/1 ~ **Paul, Melanie & Gage Waskul**
- 4/14 ~ **Jay Noland**
- 4/15 ~ **Ladd Corrin**
- 4/17 ~ **Karen Walls**
- 4/19 ~ **Willie B. Corrin**



- 4/29 ~ **Emily & Adam Rasmussen**

April '21 Sunday Service Lay Responsibilities

Dates	Celebrants	Acolytes	Lectors & Lessons	Greeters
<p>4</p>  <p>Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Easter Sunday</p>	<p>Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim</p>	
<p>11</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 2nd Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim</p>	
<p>18</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 10:00 pm 3rd Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim</p>	
<p>25</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 4th Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen</p>	<p>Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim</p>	



April 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Altar Guild
					Good Friday	Tricia
4 Easter	5	6	7	8	9	10 Altar Guild
 Holy Eucharist 10:00		Vestry TBD				Tricia
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	<i>Ruby's Pantry 4:30 - 6:30</i>					Donna & Karen
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.		Newsletter Deadline				Donna & Karen
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.						