

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The irises are blooming in the backyard of the parsonage. Last year, I told this to the June Altar Guild members, so that they could gather some to place in the sanctuary. This year, I am telling you, so that you can stop by and take one home. Then, place your blossom in a vase or glass. Let it be a reminder that even though we are worshiping from our own homes, we are the body of Christ.

Today, we are joining together with other ELCA members and congregations from all over the United States for Trinity Sunday. On this day, we especially remember that we worship the one, Triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

A worship bulletin has been sent to you via email, along with this letter and the link to the sermon. Some portions of the service suggested that I choose between one of two options. Rather than to choose, I have included both options, so that those of you who will be watching an online worship service can follow along with the pastor.

As I've mentioned in previous emails, some of the ELCA churches in the La Crosse Area Synod are providing weekly online Sunday services. I would like to encourage those of you who have online access, to watch one of these worship services today. (For example, Peace Lutheran in Tomah with Pastor Dawn Lindberg, or Trinity Lutheran in Sparta with Pastor Mark Kvale.) The reason for my special encouragement to watch, is so that you receive as full a worship experience as possible.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will be providing the gospel reading and the sermon. Earlier this year, you may recall that I spoke about Bishop Eaton's four emphases that she initially offered to ELCA leaders in 2014. She stated, "We are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together, and we are church for the sake of the world."

During this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic, as we remember the death of George Floyd and the many protests against racism, inequality, and police violence, we pause. We pause to join together with other members and congregations of the ELCA to worship the one, Triune God. We pause to join together in Sunday worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ from the church universal. We pause to join together to remember all human beings throughout the world who are in need.

"We are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together, and we are church for the sake of the world."

Peace,

Pastor Cathy