



Update from Jes Sherborne, Council President – September 23, 2020

Dear friend in Christ,

It's only been a few months since my last letter to you, but it feels like a year has passed. Here's a quick overview of how our church is doing.

This is a great time to (re-?) commit to Sunday worship. It's better than ever!

Could your spirit use a boost? Do you feel disconnected? Over the summer, I didn't make it to our online worship service nearly as much as I used to. And I have to tell you: it's left me feeling a little empty. I need that connection to the body of Christ.

If it's been a while since you joined us for Sunday worship, this Sunday at 9:30 is the perfect time to come back:

- You can show your support for our new confirmands and welcome them.
- We're using a much higher quality camera and microphone setup, so the service should be easier to see and hear than ever before.

We're starting to see the financial impact of the pandemic

We're lucky that so many of our members have continued to give faithfully to Trinity. We also received a \$69,000 forgivable loan under the federal PPP program, and we have not tapped into those funds yet.

We continue to keep our staff employed at their pre-pandemic levels, and we've managed our other expenses carefully, so we are still in good shape financially.

But we have seen a noticeable drop-off in giving, particularly over the past month.

- If you can, please make sure your giving is up-to-date with your pledge.
- If you're one of the lucky ones who is doing well, I'd ask you to consider giving a little extra to help cover for a member who might be struggling.

Many of our members have switched to our new online giving platform, and you can give easily online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=971797>

We continue to follow Illinois' health policy and ELCA guidelines.

While we all hoped that things would be different by now, we're committed to keeping everyone safe and following expert guidance. It looks like online worship will be the norm for some time.

Nonetheless, we are finding ways to get smaller groups together—safely—through small gatherings, outdoor worship, and social events. I encourage you to check them out.

We are supporting our Mission Possible partners more than ever.

Our church remains healthy while many of our partners are struggling, so council voted to allocate additional funds (about \$6,900 in total) to especially needy mission possible partners as well as the Metro Chicago Synod and the ELCA.

We feel very strongly that God wants us to use our resources to help those who need it, and this is a great opportunity to demonstrate our faith and values.

In summary, Trinity is healthy and continues to do God's work. It's even stronger when we worship together.

All of us on staff and council are working and praying hard to keep our church healthy and vital. I'm proud to serve with such dedicated and faithful people.

Please know that we're here for you. If you need help or have ideas to share, please let us know.

Peace,

Jes Sherborne

Council President

jes.sherborne@gmail.com