

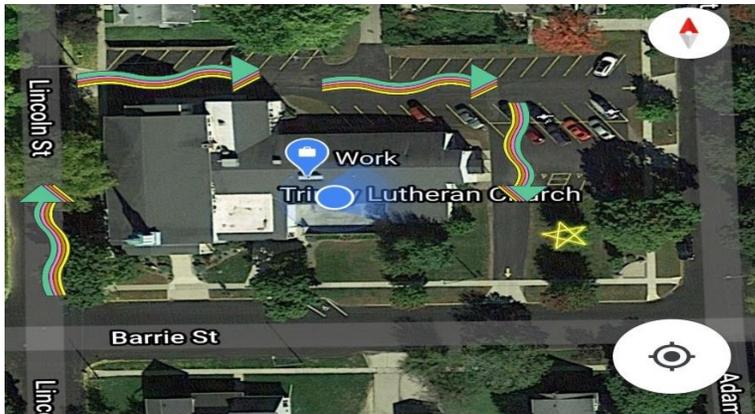
# 6/18 Tidings

## Drive Through Communion: Sunday, 6/28, 9 – 10 am at Trinity!

Communion is a sacred gift to us from God. Jesus commanded that we “do this to remember” him and still serves as the host of this meal. Come. Receive this gift, be strengthened by the love and sacrifice of Jesus, be renewed. To prepare yourself for receiving communion, please worship online with us at 8 am.

Pastor Amy and Pastor Dan will be stationed in the parking lot ready to distribute blessed elements of juice and wafer, the body and blood of Jesus. All you need to do is roll down your window!

1. Even with mask and glove precautions, there is some element of risk to this. If you feel unwell or are hesitant in any way, please stay home. Jesus loves you!
2. Enter the church parking lot of Lincoln Street and wrap around the building (arrows). Parking lot attendants will direct you to stations where Pastor Amy and Pastor Dan will pass communion to you through your window.



Please note: the church will be closed and bathrooms unavailable.  
Gluten Free Wafers available on request

Yes! You can bring your offering to communion.

Yes! You can bring your quarters for Guatemala to communion.

Yes! You can bring your pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House to communion.

## **LWR School Kits**

Ruth Circle will be collecting school kits, supplies and or a monetary donation towards needed supplies again this year for LWR. We ask that if you feel comfortable shopping for the supplies that you would make a complete kit and bring to the church on drive thru communion Sunday or another day to be announced. Ruth Circle deeply appreciates your help in providing these much needed school kits. It has been a difficult year in every sense for our communities locally nationally and globally.

School Kits items:

4-70 country spiral notebooks

1 ruler with centimeters

1 pencil sharpener

1 blunt scissors

5 unsharpened pencils with erasers

5 black or blue pens

1 2 1/2 inch eraser

Again thank you for your help. If you have questions contact Stephanie Beran ([sfberan@charter.net](mailto:sfberan@charter.net)).

## **2020 BISHOP ELECTION**

There will be a Special Meeting of the Synod Assembly on Saturday, August 1, 2020, at multiple locations, connected digitally, for the purpose of electing the next bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and other german business as deemed necessary.

**Please consider joining Pastor Amy in the work of our synod's Racial Equity Team.** The Racial Equity Team would like your help in creating an anti-racist network throughout our synod in order to foster collaboration and action. We know many of our congregations are already doing important work – book studies, speakers, dialogue, advocacy – and we believe we can and must do more together. Our goal is to identify a Racial Equity Liaison at each congregation. Fill out this form to get your congregation involved: <https://bit.ly/scswraciaequity>

**PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR.....**Judy Almquist, Marsha Anderson, Sandy Anderson, Nick Bee, Linda Doerr, Kim Hannan, Renee Jensen, Ron Kemmerling, Bob Kyle, Phyllis Lang, Steffani Liebel, Rick Liebel, Dan Morrow, Pam Nicholas, Debbie Pierce, Tom Pomraning, Violet Prust, Paul Reed, Tim Sawyer, Denny Stark, Shelley Scheurm, Ruth Smithback, Karen Weber, Donna Weeks, Aryzone Zick, Donald Zuehlke and those we name silently in our hearts.

## **Resources for Anti-Racism Work**

[Doing our anti-racist homework \(specifically for those of us who are white\)](#): Often times the emotional labor and burden of racial justice work falls on people of color. For real change to happen and as an act of care for our siblings, white people need to take ownership of their anti-racist education. There are many good books and blog posts about racism and white privilege. Organize a group in your church (or partner with a nearby church) to “do your homework.”

A few good resources for congregational discussion:

### **• Church specific resources:**

- Consider studying the [Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent](#)
- [“On Behalf of Our Children: Wisconsin’s Racial Disparities and the Call of the Gospel”](#) – a Study Guide from the Wisconsin Council of Churches
- [ELCA Racial Justice Resources](#)

### **• Books:**

- [SCSW Racial Equity Bibliography](#)
- Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson (Book & Movie) – Stevenson spoke at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. His memoir is a good introduction to systemic racism in our criminal justice system. The book was turned into a movie. The movie is free to rent online for the month of June on YouTube, iTunes, and Amazon Prime Video.
- Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US by Lenny Duncan
- The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James Cone
- White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism by Robin DiAngelo
- How to be Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi
- A list of [31 Children’s books to support conversations on race, racism, and resistance](#)

### **• Movies:**

- Emanuel – [Study Guide for Discussion](#)
- Just Mercy
- A Time for Burning – About a Lutheran pastor and church in the 1960s in Omaha that tries to cross the race divide with simple dinner meetings between members of two Lutheran churches, one black and one white.



# Daily Faith Practices

## Sunday, June 19-25 (A) – Romans 6:1b-11

**Focus:** *Walk in the Newness of Life*

### **word of life**

**“Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”** (Romans 6:4 NRSV)

Read Romans 6:1b-11

The Apostle Paul has a fond habit in his writing of raising rhetoric questions followed by a sharp rebuttal. This passage in Romans begins with a classic example of this writing technique. Paul asks, “What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it?” (Romans 6:1-2 NRSV)

1. *How would you respond to Paul’s question concerning continuing in sin so that God might have something to do—extend grace?*
2. *How do you explain people who call themselves Christians but don’t try to live as Christ?*

Paul understands the Christian life as a radical encounter with death. The death of Jesus on the cross changes all things and makes all the difference. Lives are transformed. A new creation comes into being from death. But for Paul, it is more than death; it includes being buried with Christ. It is about death as well as burial, so that clearly new life comes only by the grace of God.

The question is raised by Paul, “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:3-4 NRSV) This passage is the only reference to baptism in the book of Romans, but it is critical.

3. *Describe what it means to walk in newness of life.*

Baptism unites us with Christ in his death and his resurrection. “For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will be certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.” (Romans 6:5 NRSV) This passage is often read at funerals, for it gives us hope. There is something beyond the grave.

Paul does not fill his letter to the Romans with fluff and casual chatter. Instead, he calls and commissions followers of Christ to claim this newness of life extended through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. The old self has died in baptism. Sin and death no longer have dominion. Thus, it is inconceivable to Paul how a person who has been changed by the death of Christ could remain unchanged.

4. *How does life change when we follow Christ?*
5. *Is it easy or difficult to walk in the newness of life provided by Christ? Explain your answer.*

Followers of Jesus are expected to live changed lives. No longer enslaved to sin, we can choose to live in new ways—the ways of Christ. Is it easy? Certainly not! Is it obvious? Certainly not! The ugly power of sin lays claim on us with each breath. But we are not alone in our struggles to walk in the newness of life provided by Christ. God’s grace shall be sufficient for the journey. God’s gift of the body of Christ shall provide encouragement. We can remind each other of being united once and forever with Christ in our baptism. Thanks be to God!

## **Word among us**

At 85-years young, E.J. would wake at 5:00 am to prepare for an early morning walk. She yearned to meet the dawn of each day. As she walked and looked at the sun on the horizon, E.J. would say to herself (and any companions who dared to wake up so early), “Oh, what a wonderful day to be alive!”

1. *When you woke this morning, what did you say?*
2. *What might God have in store for you today?*

Paul uses the image of walking in a newness of life as a way to describe the journey of a Christian. This simple imagery is easy to understand. Infants can’t walk until their legs are strong enough to hold up their bodies. It takes time for infants to learn to balance their upper body on their small feet. But the joy of a toddler who learns to walk is contagious.

Hopefully, we learn to walk in the newness of life provided through Christ. It takes a certain maturity of faith to grasp the gift of new life given to us in baptism, but maturity of faith is not about a chronological age. Children have the capacity to receive the gift of God’s grace with such beauty, grace, and zest. Sometimes as we age, we can become tired and burdened by life. As we age, it can be a struggle to walk in the newness of life.

3. *What lessons about faith have you learned from children?*
4. *In your own life, was it easier to walk in the newness of life when you were younger or now?*
5. *What prevents us from walking in the newness of life today?*

Paul reminds us that as Christians we are not to be walking dead and going through the motions of life. Our time on this earth is more than eating, drinking, and sleeping. Life is more than passing a good time (a phrase used in Louisiana). Life is also more than the burdens and challenges we encounter on earth.

6. *What might you say to someone discouraged about life?*

## **faith practice in daily life**

### **Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed**

Paul writes powerful words in Romans 6 as he reminds Christians of the first century (as well as Christians today) of the radical act of baptism uniting the baptized with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. “Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4 NRSV)

We can proclaim that good news through our words and actions. By the grace of God, we are changed. It is the opportunity of a lifetime to live out that change each day of our lives.

7. *What (and who) inspires you to walk in the newness of life?*
8. *What do you do each day to help you remember to walk in the newness of life in Christ?*

### **Prayer**

God of the universe, you have claimed us in baptism and made us your own. Help us to daily walk in the newness of life provide by you. Amen

### ***last word***

Each morning, slowly take five steps and claim the newness of life.