

Spiritual Tips for Not-So-Ordinary Days

Prayer has an ebb and flow. Sometimes we have a deep sense of God's presence and sometimes we cannot even imagine that God exists. Sometimes we have deep feelings about God's goodness and love, and sometimes we feel bored and distracted. Sometimes our eyes fill with tears and we wish we could stay in our prayer-place forever, and sometimes our eyes wander to our phones to see how much time we still need to spend in prayer.

We nurture a fantasy both about what constitutes prayer and how we might sustain ourselves in prayer. What often lies at the center of this misguided notion is the belief that prayer is always meant to be interesting, warm, and bringing us spiritual insights.

Here is an analogy that might encourage you when you are struggling with boredom and the sense that nothing meaningful is happening. Imagine you have an elderly mother who is confined to a nursing home. Every night after work, for one hour you stop and spend time with her, helping her with her evening meal, sharing the events of the day, and simply being present. I doubt, except maybe for a rare occasion, you will have many deeply emotional or even interesting conversations. On the surface your visits will seem mostly routine. Most times you will be talking about trivial everyday things. "the kids are fine." "Abby comes next week." "No, we didn't get much rain." Given that you are busy and preoccupied with many pressures in your own life, it is natural that you will sneak the occasional glance at the clock. However, if you persevere in these regular visits with your mother, month after month, year after year, among everyone in the whole world, you will grow to know your mother the most deeply and she will grow to know you the most deeply. That is because at a deep level of relationship, the real connection between us takes place below the surface of our conversations. We begin to know each other through simple presence. Prayer is the same. If we

pray faithfully every day, year in and year out, we can expect little excitement, lots of boredom, and regular temptations to look at the clock. But a bond and an intimacy will be growing under the surface—a deep, growing bond with our God.

Join the prayer team for Sunday morning prayer at 8:30 am via Trinity Conference Call: 551-240-6279. We hope to hear your voice.

Loving Your Neighbor... Deacon Patty

I hear from a lot of people who are anxious and angry—many want to resume their lives with fewer or no restrictions and re-open their businesses, while others are afraid that we are re-opening too soon and that they or their family members are going to be at grave risk. Unfortunately, it seems that instead of coming together to support and help each other during this time of crisis—people are taking sides.

Here is my perspective as a medical professional and a member of a medical family. I think many people have fallen into the idea that social distancing was meant to stop the viral spread. It wasn't. It was meant to SLOW the viral spread while we put medical infrastructure in place. It is not perfect, but it's better than it was 8 weeks ago.

A vaccine is most likely a ways off. At some point people have to be exposed to begin building herd immunity. We will likely experience a serious increase in cases after re-opening. Ideally, that exposure is controlled and calculated, in phases, (like we are doing in Illinois) to allow our medical community to respond adequately and reduce the number of severe or fatal cases. This is where we are at the moment.

Whether you feel like things will be opening too soon, or not soon enough, we were never going to social distance the virus into nonexistence. You now need to proceed as your health, your finances and your conscience allows. If you are medically

vulnerable, stay home if you can and do not be afraid to ask for help. If you are not, or if your financial vulnerability outweighs your health concerns, you need to move forward in ways that continue to protect yourself, and the elderly and medically vulnerable around you.

We all need to remain calm. One thing that allows us to do this is humility. I acknowledge that I am making decisions based on my understanding of complex subjects and my own personal health and financial situation. I am not all knowing (don't tell my husband), always right, and an expert in all fields. I am a learner. I learn new information each day. We can make different choices from our neighbors and still be a supportive community. We can love our neighbor as we learn and evolve in our understanding of these issues with patience and kindness for one another.

My advice, and what I try to do is—be kind. Be kind to those who choose to continue self-isolating and wearing masks. They likely have vulnerable family members or are vulnerable themselves. Be kind also to those who are hurting from a job loss, or from anxiety at not being sure how they will keep their families fed and clothed. There are no perfect answers or solutions. We do not know what will happen in two weeks or two months, but if we come together a bit more, if we are a bit kinder and little slower to judge, we can find a way to navigate through this together, and maybe even come out stronger on the other side.

Electronic Correspondence

If you do not receive the newsletter, Friday Notes and other church updates electronically and would like too, please contact Karen Anderson at kanderson@tlcmoline.org so that your email can be added to the distribution list and be sure to visit us at www.tlcmoline.org

Trinity Graduates



Liam Haskill
Rock Island High School

Nick Fox
Augustana College

Olivia Lyman
Purdue University

Amber Mraz
Augustana College

Maggie Roehrs
Illinois State University

Carolyn Wehr
Illinois State University

Lisa Wehr
Western Illinois

*These graduate names were those available or reported to the church office by May 27th.
Congratulations to all!*

Hunger Ministry

The Trinity Hunger Ministry continues to help Ray Milem and the Smoking Pyro's feed people who need meals. Trinity and others have been supplying food while Ray and his group cook and distribute meals each night. Thank you for your monetary donations, including a generous grant from the Trinity Memorial Committee! Your compassionate response to the community is a blessing. If you would like to learn more about how our organizations are working together to provide food, you may contact Theresa Scott at 309-762-7446.

TLC Book Club

June Book Club is on Tuesday, June 16th at 11:00 a.m (via Zoom) to discuss 'This Tender Land' by William Kent Krueger. Zoom call-in information will be available prior to the meeting. If anyone needs some "coaching" to join (via Zoom) contact Jane Bahls at 309-236-4272 or Julie Blew at 309-876-5890.

Women of Trinity (WELCA)

The Women of Trinity is in search of a new president. Please contact Jan Peterson at 309-523-2009 or Cindy Wildermuth at 309-206-0140 if you are interested in serving in this role. We welcome you to join our board!

Children's Ministry.....Amy Roehrs

Children's Education

We are heading into uncharted territory: We are converting the weeklong VBS to a **3-day Virtual** VBS. We will look at attendance before we go live with this program, but we are ready as our wonderful volunteers have helped to convert the crafts and content to a deliverable and visual format.

Contact Amy Roehrs 309-269-6607 or email a_roehrs@aol.com to volunteer. To register a child for VBS, follow the link - <https://forms.gle/XjSwYK7KXGCLand06>.

CEMT (Children's Education Ministry Team)

The team worked to deliver 45 Faith bags to the families associated with Trinity. If you know of anyone that would benefit from a drop off, please contact Amy Roehrs. First communion class instruction is on hold until Fall.

Confirmation

We are waiting to get together again and finish this year. The kids are working on children's object lessons for presentation.

Birdies for Charity

Birdies for Charity is a program that can enhance your stewardship to Trinity Lutheran Church.

When you make a charitable gift to TLC through Birdies for Charity, the Birdies Bonus Fund will supplement your gift with a guaranteed bonus of 5%. Your gift and the bonus will then be received by the Church on October 30th.

Congregation members are encouraged to give 2, 3, 4 or more months of their 2020 stewardship through the Birdies for Charity program. Our goal this year is for \$100,000 donations.

Birdies pledge forms are now available online at <https://birdiesforcharity.com/donor>, or will be available in the Church Office once the building re-opens. All Birdie pledge forms must be received by the Birdies for Charity office by Friday, July 10.

Donors are encouraged to choose from 3 options: 1) use the Birdies for Charity online donation link directly (see above); 2) complete and return a printed Birdie pledge form to the Church Office; or 3) mail a completed Birdie pledge form directly to the Birdies for Charity office in East Moline. For options 2 and 3, the program encourages checks (payable to Birdies for Charity) be submitted together with the pledge forms. However, pledge forms may be submitted alone, and then donors will receive a statement from Birdies after the tournament of the pledge amount due.

Be sure to reference Trinity Lutheran Church's birdie number: **1328**

Global Mission

Hello Trinity Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Global Mission funding team of the ELCA, I would like to thank you for your sponsorship of Mawien Ariik, Carrie Ballenger, Stephen Friberg and Daudi Msseemmaa. Most of the churchwide office staff are working remotely to reduce the spread of the coronavirus and to keep our staff healthy. Your missionary sponsorship makes a large impact to spread God's love throughout the world and we greatly appreciate your commitment.

We pray that you stay safe during this pandemic and ask that you please pray for all our missionaries as they are our hands doing God's work. If I can be of any further assistance, please contact me by email. I generally work on Monday and Wednesday.

Peace,

Diane Wilk

Global Mission Funding

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631-4101

Spring Hope

(Art and Linda Milton)

Stark branch. Redbud blooms
Pushed by sun-glow spring green leaves
New, but it is not

Hollow sponge at elm
Miracle fungus in shade
Delicious treat or ?

We encourage you to submit your Haiku (three lines, 5 syllables, 7 syllables, 5 syllables) for future publications to Tari Weeks at lornadoom@mchsi.com.

Adopt a Spot

All of our garden spots have found their families. We thank Sarah Circle, Esther Circle, Ruth Circle, Linda Milton, Judy Johnson, Norallene Able, Karen and Paul Neder, Tom and Cindy Ribbeck, Brett & Kathy Johnson, Bob and Julie Blew and Craig and Patty Tillman for their tender care to Trinity's gardens.

TerraCycle

Are your TerraCycle bags filling up at home? We continue to collect recyclable items in the shed in Trinity's parking lot every Tuesday from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. In order to assure safety for all, we ask everyone to wear a mask and to enter, one at a time, through the sliding door on the North side of the shed. Drop off/your sorted stuff in the appropriate tubs and exit through the East door. Gloves are available, if you need them. Please do NOT leave recycling outside of the building - anything left outside will go into the dumpster. If you can't drop off between 3 and 5, contact Karen - 309-517-6972 or kneder@msn.com - to make other arrangements. Check out Trinity's Facebook page or <https://www.facebook.com/recycleqc> for updates. Thanks for recycling, everyone!

Show Local Support

We encourage you to visit and support our local businesses. To help us identify businesses of Trinity members and family, please submit the name of the business and contact information to Karen Anderson at kanderson@tlcmoline.org

Happy Father's Day!

Happy Summer!

