



Church Newsletter
June 2020

The Parish Messenger

Mission Statement

We are a Christian community rooted in God's love growing in Christ through reaching out and serving.

Worship Times

Georgetown

Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Sept.-May

Trinity

Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:15
a.m. Sept.-May

Contact Information

Pastor Diane
Home: 715-822-3553
Cell: 715-702-1240

Georgetown
PO Box 86
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Office: 715-857-5580

Trinity
2502 E. Grenquist Lake Ln.
Cumberland, WI 54829
715-822-3001



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Pastor Diane House by

"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." Romans: 18-25

Wow! As I read through these verses in Romans about resurrection and new birth, I am pondering how this applies so well to the place we find ourselves today, May 22, 2020. I find myself trying very hard to cultivate patience and hope right now.

How about you? Are you trying very hard to be patient, to find hope right now as you navigate online learning with your kids, or take extra precautions against contagion when you have to go in to work, or when you have to go out to buy groceries or other necessities? These are scary times made scarier by the uncertainty of what decision is the right decision to make. I was encouraged by this letter issued by the six Bishops of Region five which includes our synod. I found the clarification very helpful:

May 14, 2020

Pastoral Message regarding the WI Supreme Court Safer at Home Ruling from Six Bishops

Bishop Jim Arends, Bishop Paul Erickson, Bishop Katherine Finegan, Bishop Gerald Mansholt, Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson, Bishop Peter Rogness

Dear friends in Christ,

On May 13, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court lifted the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Safer at Home extension. However, nothing has changed in our level of concern about contracting and spreading the coronavirus via worship and other gatherings in our churches.

The court decision was based on a contested legal point, and not on any change of the need for caution and safety that the pandemic has brought upon us. Counsel from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a wide range of additional medical experts, the ELCA's guidelines, and other government entities continue to stress the need for restricting all gatherings to under ten people and attendant safeguards such as distancing, masks, etc.

In the midst of confusion after the court's ruling, we ask that you remain steadfast in taking precautions to not contract or spread the virus. Please follow the counsel and recommendations stated in the May 12, 2020 ELCA document, Considerations for Returning to In-person Worship.

We in the Church need to continue to be guided by scripture, our theology, and the best scientific knowledge we can gather. We stand in unity to prioritize the safety and the well-being of all of our members as we continue in community.

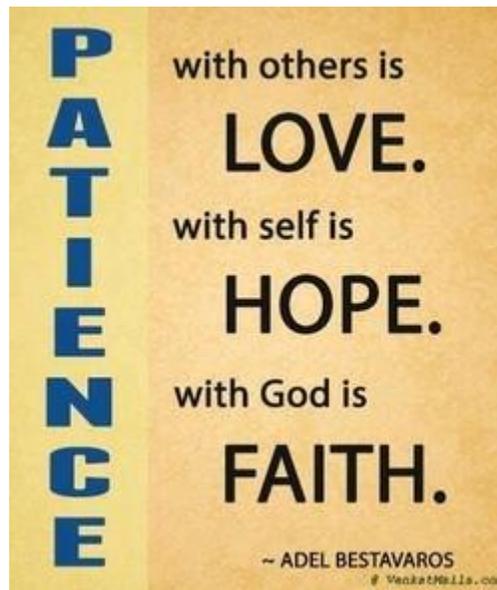
Yours in Christ,

Bishop James Arends La Crosse Area Synod
Bishop Paul Erickson Greater Milwaukee Synod
Bishop Katherine Finegan Northern Great Lakes Synod
Bishop Gerald Mansholt
East Central Synod of Wisconsin
Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Bishop Peter Rogness South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Our future may feel uncertain. We don't know exactly when we can return to worship as we have known it. In the meantime while we suffer physical separation we can use this time to renew relationships through other, maybe timeless communication methods such as a phone call conversation or a cheerful message sent through the reliable US postal service! Who doesn't love getting real mail?

Place your hope and faith in the resurrection to new life that is ours through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Holding on to that promise gives us patience and hope for whatever happens in the future!

Blessings, Pastor
Diane



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

God's Work. Our Hands.

May 23, 2020 Dear Pastors, Deacons and SAMs serving in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Yesterday, May 22, 2020 the President of the United States declared that churches should reopen immediately and that churches should be considered essential businesses. In response I'd like to highlight a few key thoughts that many of you already know but bear repeating:

1. St. Paul writes in the letter to Galatians, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male and female, we are all one in Christ Jesus." In the same way we are neither Democrats or Republicans or Independents we are all beloved children of God. As spiritual leaders we are to care for the health and well-being of all people. A pandemic is a health crisis not a

- political situation. Because of the separation of church and state, the government cannot prevent us from worshipping, or order us to worship, at any time.
2. Yes, the church is essential. The Church has never shut down. The church is not a building. It is the people of faith. We know we are essential, but it is not essential to gather in person at this time. I encourage you to continue to offer online worship opportunities.
 3. It is not recommended for our congregations to gather at this time. I recommend you put together a team or committee that will prepare your building and congregation for a time in the future when you can safely gather. The Badger Bounce Back plan limits gatherings to 10 until we enter phase 2. In phase 2 gatherings are to be under 50. We are currently in phase 1. Badger Bounce Back Plan
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02653a.pdf>
 4. Once we are able to safely gather, follow the ELCA guide for Returning to Worship. We are encouraging social distancing procedures sitting 6 feet apart and avoid practices which can contribute to spread of the virus such as communion, singing, shaking hands, or passing offering plates.
https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Returning_to_In-person_Worship.pdf
 5. Undeniably, it would be a blessing to gather, but reports from across the country have shown congregations that have gathered have also become hotspots of the coronavirus, multiple deaths in a single congregation. We don't want that to happen in our synod. St. Peters, an ELCA congregation in New York lost 44 members to the Coronavirus.
 6. Take time to prepare for face to face worship. Do what is necessary to put in place policies and procedures so that members of your congregation can safely gather. Continue online worship. It is dangerous to rush back to in person worship without a plan.
 7. Many have asked about outdoor worship. While it is safer to gather outdoors because there is more space, there are still risks. It is difficult to

enforce social distancing, keep people in their cars or 6 feet apart. Singing and communion are particularly risky even outdoors.

Dear friends, as leaders of the church, when faced with making decisions, I encourage you to keep asking, "What would love do? How can we best love our neighbors? How can we keep our members safe?" I am praying for you all. I trust that you will do what is best to care for your congregation.

In Christ, Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Announcements

Trinity Air Conditioning Update:

Air Conditioning has been installed at Trinity and is mostly paid for! Fundraising was going to be necessary for the amount not covered by other gifts. That amount was around \$2,700. Thanks to a generous donation of \$1,000 we now have only a \$1,700 deficit. Since we can not meet together in groups for fundraising activities the church council would very much appreciate your consideration of making a gift to cover this remaining expense. Thank you!

Bible Study Tentatively Scheduled for June *Jonah:* *Whom Does God Regard?*

Wayne Kendrick will be leading a bible study on Jonah starting Monday, June 1st. Because of the precautions necessary to meet together this study will meet outdoors! At 9:30 am the Bible study will be held at the resort home of Marvel Nielsen, Hunky Dory. At 7:00 pm the Bible study will meet on the grounds of Trinity Lutheran Church.

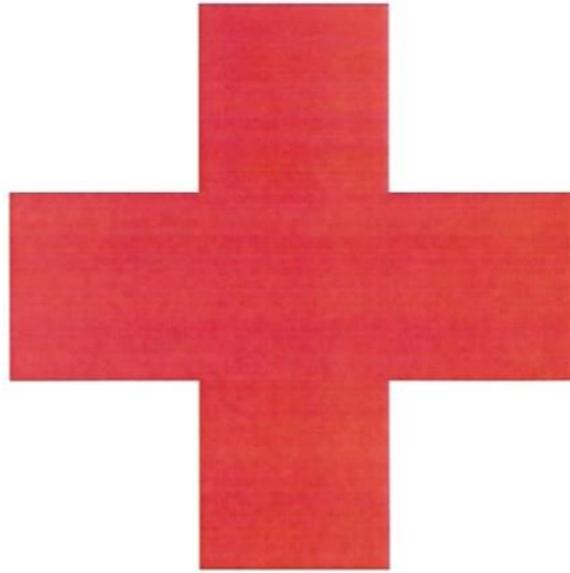
Bring a lawn chair and your bible. Please contact Wayne if you plan to attend at 715822-3082.



Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Balsam Lake Community
Located at
Georgetown Lutheran Church

877 190th Avenue/County Road G
(Fox Creek)

Monday, June 15, 2020
12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Balsam Lake WI to schedule an appointment.



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

©2016 The American National Red Cross



Luther Park Bible Camp Update

Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek, WI has recently taken on a BIG project, and they need our help! This last Fall they broke ground and got to work on their new Ministry Center. Throughout the seasons, LPBC was able to finish the outside and upstairs portions of the Ministry Center; completing the sanctuary, kitchen, bathroom, and several other rooms. However, they have yet to complete the lower level, which is going to be housing for recharges and retreats in the offseason, and a large variety of people (ranging from campers to pastors, to staff members) during the summer months. Camp was relying on the funds from this summer's programs to be able to complete the lower level, but now because of COVID-19, they have closed until August. Camp is asking for help through donations and prayers to complete this building in time for recharges and retreats scheduled to take place during the colder months of the year. This way people won't have to worry about traveling from building to building in subzero temperatures, as everything will be able to take place in the Ministry Center. Luther Park is our camp, we are one of the many churches that own it. Please help if you can they need us now more than ever!



Inside the Ministry Center (unfinished, now finished) Outside the Ministry Center (main entrance)

Trinity Church Council Minutes

May 19, 2020

Members present: Steven Anderson, Kathy Grenquist (Treasurer), Pastor Diane House, Debbie Wickstrom, Christine Anderson, JoAnn Sellent, Robin Denver and John Gall.

Opening devotions using the text for Jesus Ascension and command to wait. We are also called to wait and see what God is doing in this pandemic. We wait with uncertainty trusting that “the tomb is empty and Jesus is alive”.

Meeting called to order by Steve Anderson.

Secretary’s Report: Secretary’s report from March and the joint council meeting from April were read. Motion to accept the secretary report from Trinity’s council meeting in March as written was made by Robin Denver and seconded by Debbie Wickstrom. Minutes accepted by council.

Treasurer’s Report: In general, we are “holding our own” but since there was no Easter offering things are close. Summary for the month of April shows the following:

Income	\$7815
Total expenses.....	-\$7538
April balance.....	+ \$277

Motion to accept the treasure’s report was made by JoAnn Sellent, seconded by Christine Anderson. Report accepted by council.

Pastor’s Report:

- Newspaper ad will be changed to invite people to join worship on Facebook Live at 10:30 Sunday mornings.
- Pastor Diane will take June 14th as a vacation day. Wayne Kendrick will preside. Continued thanks to Gretchen Frendt and Sherry Doornick for leadership in worship and technology.
- We have received the free VBS curriculum. A discussion was had about ways to use this while still maintaining distance to protect children and families from the Coronavirus.
- Pastor on the Porch seems to be going well.
- Pastor Diane encouraged council and all members to find ways to reach out to one another with physical cards, phone calls, social media connections, etc.

Old Business:

- **Air Conditioning:** The air conditioning has been installed! We are waiting for the electrician to hook it up. There are 4 exterior units located outside the bell tower and the patio area. It has been paid for in the following way:
 - \$5000 memorial for Fred Buccholz designated for air conditioning
 - \$5000 from Elsie Marklund’s estate (At the annual meeting, the congregation directed the council to spend the remaining memorial for items on the wish list)
 - \$2500 raised by Palt Dinner

- The congregation will raise the remaining amount. \$1000 has already been donated, leaving \$1600-1700 that is still needed.
- Thank you to the congregation for their generosity!!
- **Church Mutual sensor:**
Church Mutual insurance has provided sensors to detect water and temperature that are unusual in the building. If there is a problem an alert will be sent to the council president. The base unit is installed in the library window. Two sensors have also been put in the building (one in the furnace room floor and one on top of the announcement kiosk).
- **Roof leak:** There was a small leak in the roof over the furnace room. It has been fixed.
- **Egress Window:** The parsonage's egress window has been ordered and is expected to come in June. Chad Anderson will install as soon as window comes in.
- **Parsonage Work:** After the egress window is installed the congregations will need a work day to finish the inside and outside landscaping. Most likely this will be in July and volunteers will need to be scheduled in shifts as needed for physical distancing.
- **Paycheck Protection Loan:** Trinity applied for and received money to enable us to pay the pastor's salary and utilities. This money must be spent in the next 8 weeks and the treasurer will keep documentation so that we can apply to have the loan changed to a grant when that option becomes available. If we cannot transfer to a grant, the loan is for 1% interest over 2 years.
- **Lifetouch Photo Directory:** Directory pictures have been postponed until summer 2021.
- **Mission of the quarter** (April- June) will be Luther Park Bible Camp's capital campaign.
- **On-line giving:** Trinity will set up on-line giving through the ELCA's Tith-ly app. Steve will contact Brian Wickstrom to put it on the web-site. A link will be added to the Facebook page as well. People will have 3 options to which to donate at this time: 1. Offering, 2. Mission of the Month, 3. Endowment Fund. This app allows people to donate using a credit card or direct from their bank account.

New Business:

Worship and COVID-19: A long discussion was held about Trinity's worship over the coming weeks. The council weighed the risks to vulnerable adults and our desire to be together again. The NW Synod of Wisconsin has provided guidance for congregations to consider, as well as the Badger Bounce Back plan for Wisconsin and the ELCA and Federal guidelines for meeting in groups. All of these recommend that churches be cautious in order to protect those over 65 and those with underlying medical conditions. When we finally are able to meet together we will need to maintain some preventative measures such as:

- Extra cleaning and sanitation of our meeting space
- No coffee fellowship
- Families sit together, but remain 6 feet away from other families
- Face masks
- No congregational singing (this spreads droplets)
- Communion will be very closely regulated (distance, sanitizer, individual cups, masks for the communicant, etc).
- Stay home if you are sick or feel uncertain about meeting

The council decided to follow Bishop Skow-Anderson's recommendations for caution and not meet in person for the next few weeks. We will continue with Facebook Live worship services in order to protect one another.

We will monitor the situation as the rest of the state "opens up" and see if cases continue to increase in our area or if they start to decline. Once we do slowly begin to hold worship we will be cautious and follow the above practices.

The following weekly routine will remain in place:

- Sunday morning worship is shared via Facebook Live on Georgetown's Facebook page at 10:30am. Christine reposts directly to Trinity's Facebook page. ○ Gretchen Frenndt e-mails the link to the Youtube video of worship sometime after the service is over.
- A mid-week devotion and ideas for worship at home are being sent out via e-mail. ○ "Pastor on the Porch" is recorded on Wednesday and is posted on Georgetown's and Trinity's Facebook pages.
- Bulletins and inserts are available in the church entries for anyone who wants to pick them up.

At this point, small groups of less than 10 may meet together with precautions. Bible study will be held outside with 6 feet between participants. If anyone does not feel well, they are asked to stay home from any gatherings.

Connections: All members are encouraged to find ways to connect with one another with phone calls, cards or other creative methods. Especially those without internet communication. Please contact anyone on the council with ideas if you have them.

Confirmation is continuing virtually as well. They are currently working on an assignment and Pastor Diane will meet with them on social media to discuss after the due date.

Wi-Fi is being explored for church. Christine will check on the cost with Century Link.

Motion to adjourn made by Robin Denver and seconded by JoAnn Sellent. Meeting adjourned. Closed in prayer.

Next Trinity council meeting will be at Trinity on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:30pm.
Minutes submitted by Christine Anderson



Georgetown Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2020

Present: Stacy Bergmann, Sherry Doornick, Tim Frendt, Gretchen Frendt, Judy Gammel, Tom Levi, Keith Ward, Dennis Weiss, Pastor Diane,

Absent: Stephanie Fansler



The meeting wa

Pastor led devo

Secretary Rep

Treasurers R

as of April 30
coming throu
deposited on May
It carried unanimously.

Pastor Diane gave her report and calendar.

- The Laker ad was changed to say follow us on Facebook and watch Sunday service live at 10:30 a.m.

- Pastor is taking June 14 off.
- We will be handing out 20 homeless pack on Friday, May 29.
- VBS curriculum was ordered. Need to make plans on VBS for 2020.
- Pastor wants the council and other congregation member to remember those who do not have access to Facebook and watch Sunday service and to reach out with phone calls and cards. Sherry Doornick will send an email to Shepherd Group Leaders to get the word out.

Old Business

- Church Mutual Insurance Claim: The church repairs are complete – new roof and siding! There are a few spots to touch up and an electrician has been contacted to get the outdoor lights installed.
- Church Directory: Plans for the church are put on hold due to COVID-19. Will try to be rescheduled for 2021.
- Parsonage Egress Window: The material has been ordered and will likely be installed in June.

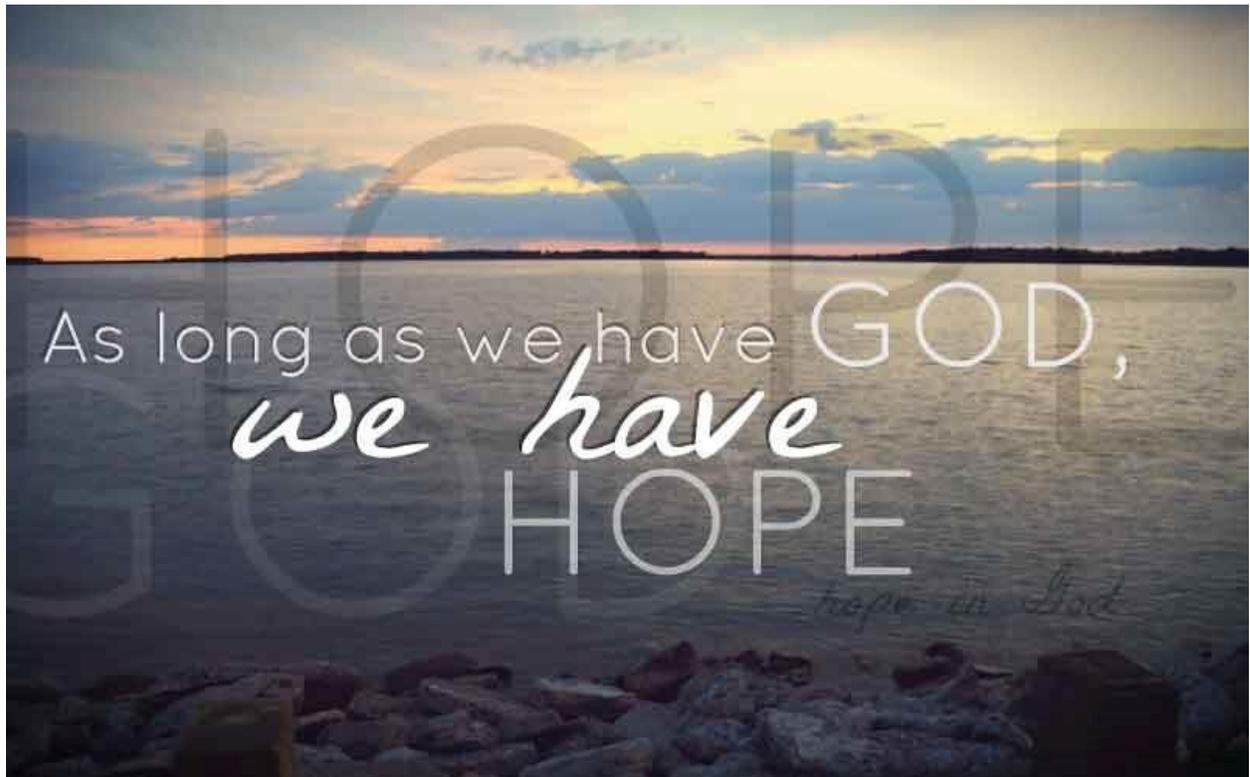
New Business

- Reopening Church for Service: The council had a lengthy discussion on reopening the church for in-person service. After deliberation, the council decided they have an obligation to protect the congregation and we will not open the church for in-person services until there is a downward trajectory of COVID-19 cases.
- Building Use: For the same reason as not reopening the church for in-person services, the council also decided that no other group activities will be allowed in the church facilities. Sherry Doornick will contact Jim Rennie regarding his request to resume his Judo classes.

Other Business

- We need to repair the window on the east side of the church that has a hole in it. Water is getting in it.
- Steve Hansen is making a cabinet to store the new video equipment.
- Sherry Doornick will be researching stuff to restrain the front doors of the fellowship hall.

The next council meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 18 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.



Georgetown Financial Report

Income & Expense April 2020 - Apr 2020
4/1/2020 through 4/30/2020

5/26/2020

Page 1

Date	Account	Num	Description	Memo	Category	Tag	Clr	Amount
BALANCE 3/31/2020								72,198.79
4/1/2020	Checking	EFT	S Diane House	April 2020 s...	--Split--	--Split--	R	-2,189.05
4/1/2020	Checking	DEP	Amazon	Audio equip...	Miscellaneous...		R	211.00
4/3/2020	Checking	DEP	Bluebird Ho...		Miscellaneous...		R	60.00
4/5/2020	Checking	DEP	S	04/05/20 Of...	--Split--	--Split--	R	1,325.00
4/5/2020	Checking	DEP		04/05/20 Of...	Offering:Bruc...		R	49.50
4/8/2020	Checking	DEP	Thrivent Choice		Miscellaneous...		R	328.00
4/12/2020	Checking	DEP	S	04/12/20 Of...	--Split--	--Split--	R	850.00
4/12/2020	Checking	DEP	Endeavors A...		Missions & Y...		R	41.25
4/12/2020	Checking	DEP		04/12/2020 ...	Offering:Nan...		R	48.55
4/13/2020	Checking	5178	Sherry Doorn...	1st quarter	Office Expen...		R	-375.00
4/13/2020	Checking	5179	Polk Burnett		Church:Electric		R	-270.75
4/13/2020	Checking	5180	Lakeland Co...	Bill 1/2 to Tri...	Church:Telep...		R	-99.28
4/13/2020	Checking	5181	Countryside ...		Church:Prop...		R	-247.29
4/13/2020	Checking	5182	Church Mutual	yearly	Church:Work...		R	-372.00
4/13/2020	Checking	5183	Church Mutual		Church:P & ...		R	-1,013.00
4/13/2020	Checking	5184	Lakeside Lan...		Church:Snow...		R	-150.00
4/13/2020	Checking	5185	Waterman S...		Church:Garb...		R	-69.00
4/17/2020	Checking	DEP		04/12/2020 ...	Miscellaneous...		R	192.75
4/19/2020	Checking	DEP	S	04/19/2020 ...	--Split--	--Split--	R	625.00
4/21/2020	Checking	EFT	S Portico	April 2020	--Split--	--Split--	R	-1,297.60
4/22/2020	Checking	5186	**VOID**Marco	Repair copi...	Office Expen...		R	0.00
4/25/2020	Checking	DEP		donations fo...	Church:Telep...		R	200.00
4/26/2020	Checking	DEP	S	04/26/2020 ...	--Split--	--Split--	R	785.00
4/28/2020	Checking	EFT	Amazon	Audio equip...	Miscellaneous...		R	-52.72
4/29/2020	Checking	5188	Built Strong E...	P & C Claim...	Miscellaneous...		R	-49,661.74
4/29/2020	Checking	EFT	Amazon	Audio equip...	Miscellaneous...		R	-10.54
4/30/2020	Checking	5189	Marco	Repair copi...	Office Expen...		R	-662.66
4/1/2020 - 4/30/2020								-51,754.58
BALANCE 4/30/2020								20,444.21
TOTAL INFLOWS								4,716.05
TOTAL OUTFLOWS								-66,470.63
NET TOTAL								-51,754.58