

Dear friends,

Pastors are asked pointed questions at unusual times. A few weeks ago, I was bundled up watching a marching band competition when the man next to me asked the difference between a Lutheran and a Methodist. As I was waiting for the punch line, I realized it was an honest question. Without beginning a lecture and thus wrecking the marching band experience, I quickly talked about the connections between the Reformation in Germany and England and how the family tree of Protestant denominations came about.

Since that conversation in the rain, I've been thinking about some distinctively Lutheran ways of viewing the world that can be helpful. One of these has been described as Martin Luther's "Theory of the Two Kingdoms." Luther's understanding of scripture led him to teach that God works with two sweeping strategies in the world. The two strategies are summarized in 1 John 4:11, "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another."

First, God's love is shown to individual people in the work of Jesus Christ. As John 3:16 says, "For God so love the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." As we tell people this good news and invite them to trust this promise they are invited to experience the life that comes from God.

One writer has compared this work of evangelism to a lifesaving station that is built on a dangerous seacoast. Devoted members of the station keep a careful eye on the sea and are ready to put their boat in the water to rescue people who are drowning. Faith in Christ keeps us from drowning.

In the second strategy, God's love is shown as we serve others in our various stations of life. Family life, daily work, religious institutions, and politics are avenues where God's work can be done. God's love shown us in the first strategy inspires us to live out that love wherever we are. Of course, the institutions touched by this second strategy are going to be flawed. I've yet to encounter a perfect family, workplace, church, or political organization. However, God can work through each these institutions. We are called as people of God to bring our faith into these places as well.

I think this Lutheran understanding is helpful as we look at ways to let the faith that we hold dear lead us to action that impacts our neighbors for the good. This is a gift that came from thoughtful Christians thinking about how God interacts with the world. As I write this letter, we are preparing to celebrate Reformation Sunday and celebrate Confirmation Sunday with our 9th graders. I am grateful that Martin Luther pointed out many faithful ways to live out the good news of Jesus Christ.

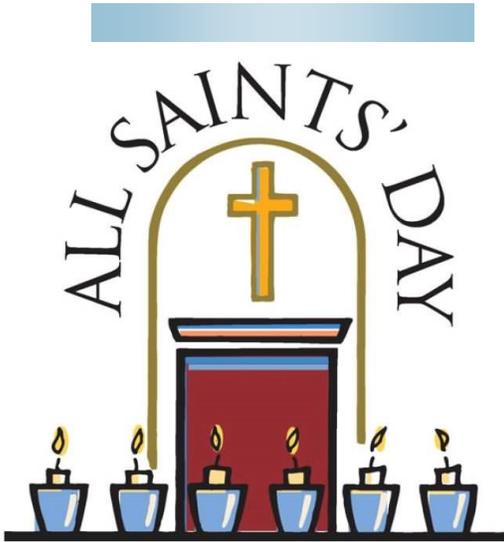
In each generation we pray to be faithful to the strong traditions of the past as we engage in the challenges of today. God continues to work in the world. I'm glad we get to be a part of it.

Peace and best wishes,
Pastor Tom Opoien



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ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 4

For the dead and the living in Christ

At the morning worship services on November 4th, we will remember that we are the body of Christ, united to both the living and dead in Baptism. With thanksgiving, we will remember all the faithful departed, especially those who have died since

last All Saints' Day. There will be candles that may be lit during communion for loved ones who have died. Then too, we will recognize those who have been baptized at Trinity this past year with small candles on the altar.

Please stop by our Wellness Committee table on Sunday November 11 from 9-11 in the gathering space for information on how to prevent colds and flu as we enter the cold weather season. We will have information on how to stay healthy using essential oils. Let's all "Shoo the Flu." Bring your questions.

Congratulations to our 2018 Confirmands

Brock Anderson
David & Nedean Anderson

Amber Aymar
Lisa Aymar and Jon Aymar

Brooke Deckert
Beth Deckert

Ryan Del Monaco
Heather Del Monaco

Gracie Dose
William & Michelle Dose

Connor Eimers
Kristi & Jeramie Eimers

Thaiven Ekthanitphong
Steve & Sei Anna Ekthanitphong

Cole Goodman
Jeff & Michelle Goodman

Cassidy Gors
Duane & Karla Gors

Chase Hansen
Kim & Janet Hansen

Hayden Hindberg
Chad & Roberta Hindberg

Braden Johannsen
Gary & Stephanie Johannsen

Sawyer Kokenge
Elliot & Linda Kokenge

Kaitlin Kuhnert
Mike & Amy Kuhnert

Gabrielle McConnell
Mark & Sharon McConnell

Ean Minnaert
Todd & Jenny Minnaert

Gerard Muller
Paul & Dawn Muller

Thomas Ostrem
Chad & Melissa Ostrem

Jada Peterson
Doug & Lisa Peterson

Annika Quamen
Kirby & Carrie Quamen

Rylee Rhead
Todd & Michelle Rhead

Kade Schentzel
Missy Schentzel and Craig Schentzel

Lance Spracklin
Tim & Caryn Spracklin

Hannah Temme
Jesse & Angela Temme

Andrew Tuohino
James & Jackie Tuohino

Maria Webb
Mike & Sarah Webb

Braeden Willson
Rusty & Jennifer Willson

Care Packages for College/Trade School/ Deployed Military Members of Trinity

A box of healthy/fun snacks is mailed to the above individuals the first week of December to arrive just in time for finals! A caring note from Trinity is also included in the box. Trinity strives to remind these individuals away from home for the first time that they continue to be our prayers. Please consider donating snacks and/or helping pack the boxes. We generally ship around 50 boxes. There is a sign-up sheet on the servant tower. In an attempt to keep the cost of postage reasonable, please consider snacks that are not heavy. Contact Anita Mohr or Marlys Bergjord for more information.



What can our FCN/Parish Nurse Jaime do for me?

I'm so glad you asked! As your Parish nurse, I can help you explore ways to cope more effectively with physical problems, emotional struggles, and stresses of day to day life. I can also help you understand diagnoses, test results, and medications. If you are looking for a healthcare professional, I can help with that too! I would be honored to meet with you. I will be available in the old 1st grade Sunday school room between services if anyone would like to set up a time to meet or just walk by and say hi. They can email me (jaime@teatrinity.org) or call/text 759-8892.

Holiday Scrip Cards

The Youth & Family Board will be offering Holiday Scrip Cards for purchase. Gift cards have become very popular Christmas gifts. Each vendor offers a different percentage rebate, which will go into the designated camp account of your choice. Order forms, instructions and a list of vendors is available in the gathering space at the podium. The first order deadline will be November 15 and will be here in time for Black Friday shopping. The last order deadline will be December 16. Any questions, please contact anyone on the Youth & Family Board. Laura Stewart, Deb Svanda, Kristi McKinney, Deonne Portner, Shantel Reisenweber & Christie Meier.



A Letter from the Treasurer

October 25, 2018

Dear members of Trinity,

As you know, each year the church council creates a budget to work from to cover the financial workings of the church. The council wanted to present an update to the congregation regarding our current financial status.

At the beginning of 2018 during the annual congregation meeting in January, the congregation agreed to an annual 2018 budget of \$462,045. This budget was an increase over 2017 expenses of 3% plus a \$21,000 increase to cover additional staff that was going to be added mid-year. At mid-year, it was determined that current revenue was not meeting the 2018 budget to allow for additional staff, so council voted to remove the \$21,000 from the 2018 budget.

After the most recent council meeting on October 8, revenue continues to not meet what is needed to sustain the 2018 budget and current expenses. The council agreed there was a need to borrow money from the bank to cover expenses throughout the remainder of 2018. Therefore, the church has borrowed \$10,000 against our current line of credit in order to cover expenses through the end of the year.

If anyone has any questions regarding the current financial situation with the church, please feel free to reach out to me, or any other member of the church council. Your financial support strengthens the congregation's ministry and is greatly appreciated.

Al Graue - Treasurer

Trinity's Financial Update

Anticipated General Fund Offering through Sept.. 2018:	\$305,325
Actual Offering General Fund Offering received through Sept.2018:	<u>\$259,308</u>
	- \$46,017
Anticipated Building Fund Offering through Sept.2018:	\$68,929
Actual Offering Building Fund Offering received through Sept. 2018:	<u>\$63,041</u>
	-\$5,886

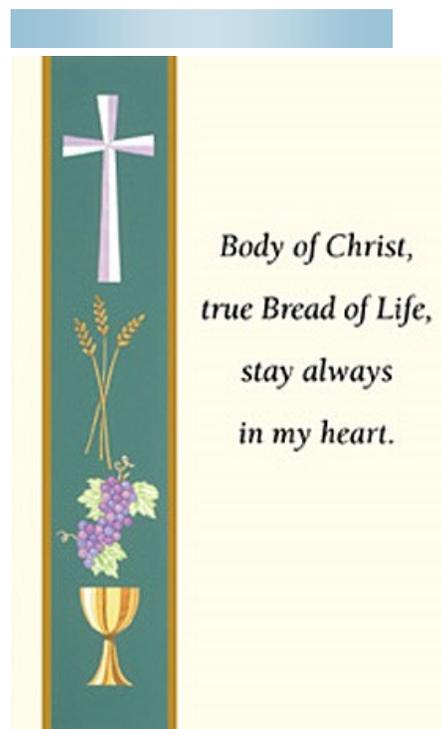
Milestone Minute

Milestones are a way for parents and caring adults to keep the promises made at Baptism. Milestones are “*steps along the way*” on a lifelong journey of faith. They give you the equipment you need for the road ahead.

God’s promises are always kept, and grace is a gift we receive through Baptism regardless of what we do. Milestones help parents and children *live into* this gift and use it everyday.

We have just completed our **5th grade** Milestone. They received their first communion on October 21st and 24th. Congratulations to them.

Beginning November 4, our **4th graders** will discuss what God has to say about money. They will meet November 4 and 11. On Sunday, November 18, we will celebrate with them in worship.



Circle Bible Study on November 15, 2018 at 1:30pm.
Turn, Turn, Turn: A time of faithful repentance. Focus Verse: 1 John 1:8-10

Trinity Preschool News

Having a preschool in the Trinity building has been a gift, but it is also a sensory experience for those who enter the building on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The delightful sound of children singing and the happy sight of contented children walking down the hall in a line is common. But one day in October, the senses of smell and taste also came in to play.

As part of a lesson about God’s creation, the children spent part of one crisp Tuesday morning picking ripe apples from the tree in the church’s community garden. They learned about God creating trees and apples and about God giving people the

ability to do good things with God’s produce.

After the apples were picked and washed, Mrs. Lanphere taught the children how to make applesauce. The lesson concluded on Thursday morning with the smell of cooking apples and cinnamon coming from the church kitchen. Pastor Tom and Deacon Christie were invited to join the children for snack time to eat their homemade applesauce. It was delicious, the children were proud of their work, and they were happy to share.

This and many other lessons happen each time the preschool gathers. Please remember to pray for this delightful ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church.





MUSIC MINISTRY – mark your calendars

Dec 2 - 6:30pm Men Sing, Bells Ring

Dec 8 - 7:00 pm Cantata

Dec 9 – 10:30am Cantata

Dec 16 – 10:30am Sunday School Christmas program

Trinity Lutheran Church
PO Box 37
Tea, SD 57064
Return Service Requested

