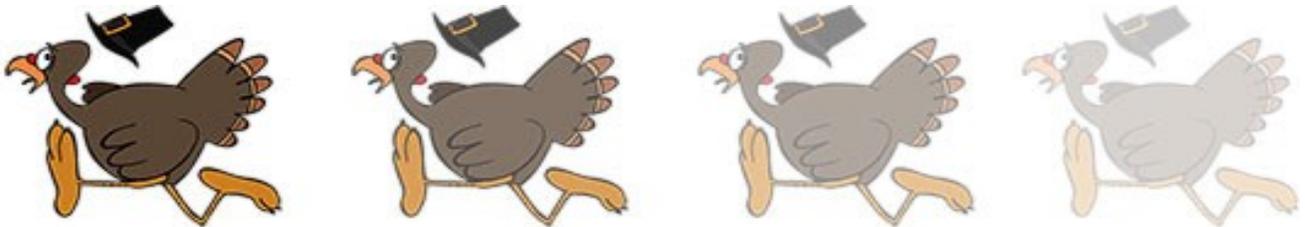


Trinity Lutheran Church
PO Box 37
Tea, SD 57064
Return Service Requested



Save the date for our Annual Turkey Supper!

It will be held on Saturday, November 2nd
from 4-7pm

Dear friends,

We rebuilt our backyard deck last spring for the minor reason that the old one fell off the house when a few of our friends were standing on it. Yikes! Good thing it was only two feet off the ground. When I started dismantling it, the problem became clear. The supporting posts were placed directly in dirt with no foundational concrete at all. So, wanting to be an honest citizen, I obtained a building permit and found out the appropriate depth of foundation in our climate is 42 inches. That didn't sound all that deep until I started digging. Trust me, 42 inches is surprisingly deep when you're using a spade to dig and your arm to scoop. It also takes an awful lot of hand-mixed concrete to fill that hole. Have you ever mixed concrete by hand? Whew! At that moment I realized why my predecessor went the easy route. Foundation work can be dirty, tiring work.

Foundations are also invisible when the work is done. Now that the deck is complete, a person would need to lay on his belly to see the supporting posts, and still the concrete foundation is invisible. But, trust me. It is there. This deck will not fall off the house.

If you spend much time in church at all you will hear language about foundations. Our children sing about the wise man who built his house upon the rock. In the last few weeks the gospel lessons have talked about a man planning to build a tower would logically start with a good foundation. The parable of the prodigal son explores the foundations of love that build families even when conflict and deep difficulties arise.

Perhaps one of my favorite references is in Paul's letter to the Colossians when he invites this diverse community of Jesus followers to make Christ the foundation of their lives.

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up on him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." (Colossians 2:6,7)

In this passage faith in Jesus is the connection that ties the deck to the foundation, the house to the basement, the tower to the bedrock of our lives. Jesus Christ is the foundation. Having our lives anchored to him not only makes us grateful but also allows us to abound with thanksgiving! What greater gift can we give ourselves, the people we love, and even people we don't even know than a foundation that truly supports?

Taking time to do the seemingly invisible work of encouraging faith is the most important thing we can do. Thank you for managing your lives to include activities that strengthen faith. Make time to worship God, to read scripture in order to learn more about God's work in the world, to pray, to serve your neighbor in Christ's name. Perhaps the most challenging thing about these tasks is that it is sometimes easier not to do them. However, it is in this spiritual foundational work that keeps the deck of our lives from falling off the house. In fact, we build a deck that can be danced upon! A place abounding in thanksgiving!

Peace and best wishes, Pastor Tom Opoien

Confirmation Ministry

We are happy to share that over 100 students are enrolled in Trinity's confirmation ministry this fall. This number includes all the students in the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades. Please pray for the ninth-grade students as they write their faith papers in preparation for Confirmation Sunday which will be celebrated at the 10:30 service on Sunday, October 27.

Each Wednesday, the seventh and eighth graders gather after worship for a large group lesson taught by Pastor Tom, Deacon Christie, or Karla Gors. Following each lesson, the students break into discussion groups of four or five led by adults from the congregation. Thank you to the many adults who have volunteered to be an important part of this mentoring and community building process.

Milestone Moment

In September, our 3rd graders received new NRSV Bibles. We spent time understanding what is in our Bible and practiced how to look up verses. They celebrated on September 29.

Also, on September, our 4th graders began their lessons on what God has to say about money and how we can be good stewards of all he has given us—our time, our money and our possessions.

Milestone Ministries umbrella under the Youth and Family Board, chaired by Kristi McKinney. We thank this Board for their hard work and diligence.

Sabbatical Leave

The Executive Board has granted me a 12 week sabbatical, for rest, renew and academic study. After every five years of service in a current call, the synod recommends that a sabbatical be given from six weeks to three months with full pay, in lieu of two weeks continuing education time. The minister is expected to return to the present call for at least one year following the sabbatical.

The Executive Board is helping me prepare a plan which I will be happy to share with you. I am grateful for this opportunity.

Deacon Christie

Meet with your new bishop and synod staff for “Listen, Learn, and Care” sessions during the month of October. Bishop Constanze Hagmaier and her new associates are eager to meet with members of the South Dakota Synod to learn what is happening across the synod in your communities. All rostered ministers, lay leaders, and congregational members are invited to attend any one of the following sessions:

All events are 6:30-8:00 PM local time.

10/3 - Trinity, Vermillion
10/6 - First, Mitchell
10/10 - Bethlehem, Aberdeen
10/13 - Joy Ranch
10/15 - Ascension, Brookings
10/22 - Calvary, Rapid City
10/24 - WestSide, Sioux Falls



OCTOBER 2019 - SEVEN LOCATIONS

The Banquet

Trinity Lutheran will be serving the evening meal at The Banquet West on Tuesday evening October 29, 2019. The Banquet is a food ministry in Sioux Falls with 2 serving locations. One is downtown Sioux Falls and the other -"West" is at the fairgrounds. We need 5 volunteers at 4:45PM and an additional 20 at 5:15PM. They also request 5 to follow the food van from the west location downtown to help unload after serving. We work until approximately 8:00PM. You are invited to eat with the guests. If you would like to volunteer, or have questions, please see the sign up sheet on one of the clip boards near the church office. You may also contact Margaret Larsen at 605-351-8561 mjlarsen55@aol.com. Thank you in advance

Reformation Ninety 5K

Sign up today for the Reformation Ninety 5k, Saturday October 26, 9am. This is a fun Run/Walk of 3.1 miles throughout the heart of Tea, SD, as we celebrate the Reformation which began by Martin Luther. We're going to step up our game this year and not only celebrate the Reformation but initiate Soctober as well! We'll be collecting donations of socks for Church on the Street. Socks are the most requested item at homeless shelters across the nation. We want to help make a difference. Any monetary donations will also go to purchasing socks for Church on the Street.

Join us for this awesome event! Sign up by October 18!! Cost is only \$30! (Registration goes up to \$35 on Oct 1). Questions, contact the Race Director atsammoe@gmail.com. Sign up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/SD/Tea/RefNinety5K>

