

Trinity Lutheran Church
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Address Correction Requested

Pastor Tom Opoien
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2019
SUMMER
Newsletter
June, July, August



I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

I've been thinking a lot about the abundance of God's love. As I write, we are still in the Easter season, following the highlight of the church year, Resurrection Sunday! Imagine what it was like for Jesus' followers to walk with him, hear him preach, watch him heal and perform miracles.....Jesus didn't hold back anything. He loved fiercely, he preached with passion and he healed tenderly. He also admonished, rebuked and flipped tables. Jesus was (and is) the real deal.

God sent his only son into the world to redeem the world. That is the greatest example of love we've ever known. That is the greatest example of abundant love we've ever known. So, what do we do in response to that abundant love? We, also, live and love fiercely, preach the good news with passion and care for our neighbors.

Recently, our daughter and husband accepted a call to Bratislava, Slovakia. (Our son-in-law is a pastor.) We are so proud of them for accepting God's call to become Global Missionaries. They will serve an international church there for 4 years. Mixed with the happiness, is sadness. Eastern Europe is a loooooong way away and not only will it be our daughter and son-in-law be so far away but so will 2 of our little grandsons.

Abundance....how do I feel God's abundance when I'm already feeling sad about the goodbyes. Well, I turn to scripture to find comfort and peace.

Joshua 1:9 ⁹ I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Deuteronomy 31:8 ⁸ It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

God's presence is abundant. He is with us always. When we move to Europe, he is with us. When we stray, he is with us. When we are experiencing our greatest joys, he is with us. When we are in our deepest valleys, he is with us. When we are living our ordinary lives, he is with us. Praise God for his abundant love and grace. And as for our daughter's family? They have embraced God's call.

James 1:22 ²² But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says.

Yes, my friends, I can say with confidence, that God is good, all the time and all the time, God is good. He has blessed us beyond measure by giving us the gift of eternal life. Things of this world are important and joyous and mournful but our eternity is the ultimate gift of a God who loves us so much that he gave his only son. That is love piled on top of grace, piled on top of forgiveness, piled on top of patience, piled on top of steadfastness.....I think you get it.

My heart is full of gratitude.

Christie

summer worship times

**Worship at
8am and
9:30am from
Memorial Day
until Labor Day**



Save the Date!

**Backpack Sunday 2019 will be
August 18th!**

**Enjoy Summer, and mark your calendars for this
annual Back-to-School celebration!**

Invite friends and neighbors!





You are invited to a pulled pork Barbeque meal at Pastor Tom and Gail Opoiens' home to celebrate the work of Lutheran Social Services on Friday, June 14 at 6:00. This event is a part of an important Capital Campaign designed to strengthen and expand the ministry of LSS and a time to enjoy some time together in the Opoiens' garden. After the meal leaders from LSS will give a presentation about future ministry plans, and you will be invited to prayerfully consider making a financial commitment toward this the *Campaign for Hope*.

The *Campaign for Hope* is an initiative that will fund much needed capital investments in Aberdeen, Rapid City and Spearfish, as well as the Campus on East Bank in Sioux Falls. The Campaign for Hope also will establish an Endowment for Sustainable Families which will ensure successful continuation of LSS Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption Services into the next century.

1. Endowment for Sustainable Families

2. Aberdeen New Beginnings: kitchen, occupational therapy, outdoor recreation
Endowment to fund local capital needs

3. Rapid City & Spearfish

New Alternatives: occupational therapy, outdoor recreation
Canyon Hills Center: dining room, outdoor recreation
Regional office: remodel
Endowment to fund local capital needs

4. Sioux Falls

Remodel and finance 2nd floor to accommodate multiple services and statewide administration

5. Statewide

Evidenced-based practice training fund

Please RSVP to Pastor Tom email at tom@teatrinity.org or by phone or text at 605-440-2784. For more information about the *Campaign for Hope*, you can also go to www.lsssd.org

Communi-Tea Picnic – June 12 5:30 – 7:00pm

You are invited to a picnic to kick off Tea Pot Days. Trinity hosts this community picnic of hamburgers, hot dogs and other picnic food. At the picnic, the fire department, a police officer and a school bus will be there for kids to meet and explore vehicles.

Kids can enjoy inflatables and there will be an ice cream truck with reasonably priced desserts. The Blood Mobile will also be present from 4-7pm.



I would like to extend an invitation to all of the Trinity members and friends to come and help celebrate my service of ordination at Trinity on Sunday, June 9th at 3pm. It is fitting that I return to Trinity for this celebration since all of you were instrumental in preparing me for this next step in ministry. Five years have prepared me to come back to where I was sent from. Pastor Greg Johnson has agreed to preach the message and Bishop Zellmer will perform the ordination. A pie and ice cream reception will follow the service in the Trinity fellowship hall. Thank you for this opportunity to thank you! Tom Stadem

After 29 years of service at Trinity Lutheran Church, Ruth Anderson has decided to retire. We give thanks to God for Ruth and for her work as our custodian for so many years. Next Sunday, June 2, we will recognize Ruth with coffee and fellowship at 9:00 following the first worship service. Thank you Ruth!



In worship on June 2, we will be taking part in a service of *Farewell and Godspeed* to our preschool director, Megan Lanphere. Megan, her husband Nick, and their four children are in the process of relocating to Wisconsin. We are grateful for Megan's faithful work in the development and launch of our very successful preschool ministry. Thank you, Megan and God bless your travels. Please join us for coffee and fellowship at 10:30am following the 9:30am worship service.