



**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
605-498-2343  
info@teatrinity.org  
www.teatrinity.org

## TRINITY CONNECTION

AUGUST 18, 2023

Dear Beloved of Trinity,

We are in a sermon series entitled, “Questions I’ve Been Meaning to Ask”. We have asked you for questions about faith, scripture or topics you’ve struggled with. With all the questions we’ve received, we would need another month or two to tackle them all. Thank you so much for your insightful responses. I wish we could preach on all of them but due to time constraints, we needed to pair it down as we only had 3 Sundays.

Last week you heard about tithing. This week you will hear about “Is God real?” and “Why did Jesus die for us?” I chose these two particular questions because they are from children. They handed me their papers personally. I was impressed with the depth and sincerity of their questions, even though the answers are not simple.

Throughout the ages, not only children have asked these questions but scholars, atheists and everyday believers. There are times in our lives when our faith is strong and we can boldly say, “yes, I believe!”. And there are times in our lives when we wonder, “Where is God?” There were questions submitted that pertained to that, also.

To answer the question, “is God real?” involves blind faith. We cannot find the answer in text books or the internet (although some might try to convince you otherwise). Interestingly, the Bible makes no argument for the existence of God. Instead, the Bible assumes God’s existence from the very beginning...creation of the universe. “In the beginning, God...” Apparently, the biblical writers did not feel a need, to offer arguments for the existence of God. Revelation 1:8 says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.” God has always been. Hebrews 13:8 says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” We trust in his promises of presence from the beginning of time. That is simplified answer to a bold question.

As for why Jesus died for us, there is a story of a garden. God created a perfect world in Genesis. In Genesis 2 we see two distinctly created spaces – the garden of Eden and outside the garden. Choices made, forced humans out of the garden where death is inevitable. God even stationed a mighty cherubim with a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way back in. To reenter would be death. But death is not the final answer. Our God wants to be in relationship with us...we who are made in his image, we who are adopted into his family, so he provided another way.

The first few verses in the Gospel of John tells us of God, the creator, who joins us outside the garden. We’re told that God sets up his residence with and among us, by becoming human and joining us outside of Eden (John 1:14). By choosing to be with us, God is also choosing to experience death. In that sense, Jesus dies because we die.

God became a true human and experienced death. The Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians that Jesus was “made to be sin for us” even though he “knew no sin.” Jesus takes on the pain and death shared by all humanity. This is where the meaning of the cross takes on importance. This is God laying down his own human life with love for us—on our behalf and for our good. What a wonderful God we worship.

Wow, you people ask great questions! Thank you for participating with us in our sermon series. You are loved and appreciated.

In Faith,  
Deacon Christie

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### **Thank you from Deacon Christie**

Thank you to all who filled backpacks for our Food Pantry clients. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. You have provided children with a sense of security and inclusion as they began school with the same supplies as everyone else had.

## Church Calendar

### Summer Office Hours

8:30 am - 4:30 pm Monday - Thursday  
8:30 am - Noon Friday

### Tuesday, August 22

6:30 am: Men's Breakfast  
9:30 am: Blood Pressure Screening  
10:00 am: Over 55 Group  
11:15 am: Meals on Wheels Delivery

### Thursday, August 24

11:15 am: Meals on Wheels Delivery  
5:30 pm: TOPS

### Sunday, August 27

8:00 am: Worship; 4 year old Milestone  
9:00—12:00 pm Church Directory Signup  
9:15 am: Coffee and Cookies; Sunday School  
10:30 am: Worship (online and in person)

### Tuesday, August 29

6:30 am: Men's Breakfast  
11:15 am: Meals on Wheels Delivery

### Upcoming Important Dates

September 4: Church office closed due to holiday  
September 5: Bloodmobile

## Attendance

### Sunday, August 13

9:00 am: 234

## Church Finances

### Week of August 13, 2023

Total Operating Cost: \$13,205

**Actual Total Giving: \$14,299**

**Difference of: \$ 1,094**

**Outstanding Expenses: \$35,674**

**August Globe Offering \$ 159**

Total operating cost represents all expenses including staff costs, benevolences, supplies, outreach, and our mortgage payment. If you have questions regarding the budget, please contact Margaret Larsen at 605-351-8561.

## Ways to Give

**Online Giving:** [www.teatrinity.org](http://www.teatrinity.org) Click "GIVE"

**Text Giving:** (605) 777-7223

**Envelopes:** In-person or Mail to the church

## August Globe Offering

### **FEEDING SD BACKPACK PROGRAM - TEA AREA**

## Prayer Requests

- Sonia Ensz ▪ Ken Kahl ▪ Greg Myrmoe
- Ray Kelly ▪ Dorothy Fritz
- Melva Hilmoe's brother & Sarah Hilmoe's uncle Fred Tidemann
- Michael Schmidt's uncle Larry Schmidt
- Jami Atkin's dad Kevin Roth
- Gordon & Dorothy Fritz's son Carl & daughter Margaret
- Delores Wells' brother & brother-in-law, Roy Wells & Jerry Boellaard
- Amy Kuhnert's family member, Jeremy Josephson
- Larry Panning & Jo Garner's sister-in-law, Pam Panning
- Dick & Alma Gors' friend, Joann Muller
- Sympathy to Charis and Dave Poppens, in the death of Charis' father, Harley Kuper

## Trinity Church Directory

Photo Session Dates:

September 16 - 22

October 1 - 6

October 10 - 14

Specific times will be available at signup..



Trinity Lutheran Church Directory is coming soon! But first we need your photo, our photographer will be available for a variety of dates and times, pick a time that works best for your family! The directory won't be complete without YOU!

**Signup will now available, call the church office for times and signup information.** You can also signup after worship, look for the "Directory Photo Signup" table in the Gathering Space.

You will have the option to view and order your photos directly from the photographers website with no high pressure sales onsite. Plus, digital downloads will be available for purchase!

Printed church directory will be available to purchase or download the free photo directory app! This will allow you to have all your church friends contact info right at your finger tips either in print or on your phone for ease of access. If you have questions, please contact the church office by calling 605-498-2343 or email [info@teatrinity.org](mailto:info@teatrinity.org)

### Over 55 Group

Tuesday, August 22

9:30 am—Blood Pressure Screening

10:00 am—Meeting and Potluck Lunch  
in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for fellowship a short meeting, a presentation of St. Dysmas Prison Congregation, a devotion and a potluck lunch! All are welcome.



### Trinity Lutheran Blood Drive

Tuesday, September 5

9:00 am - Noon and 1:00 - 5:00 pm

in the East Parking Lot

We will be hosting a Blood Drive once again. The blood bank is looking for a big turnout to boost their low levels. Dairy Queen blizzard coupons will be given out to all donors in honor of the new Dairy Queen in Tea! Call the church office to signup!



### Fall Women's Bible Study

September 11—October 2

Monday's at 7:00 pm

in the Connection Room

Join us as we study, Overcoming Doubt, it is a short four-week women's Bible study, Even though Christians believe, Christians also doubt. We can let doubt run us away from our Lord. Or, assured of His grace, we can run to Him with our doubts and grow stronger in faith. This course speaks, through God's Word, to some of humankind's common doubts about Him.

**Sign up by Thursday, Aug 31st** at the Welcome Desk or contact the church office.



## Lutheran World Relief school kits now available!

### Return filled bags by Sept. 30th!

All bags have been picked up, thank you to everyone who donated. If you still have a bag that needs to be filled, please return it to the Gathering Space by Sept. 30! Contact the church office with any questions.

## 2023—2024 Sunday School Registration and Volunteer Signup

Signup for 2023-2024 Sunday School!

- Sunday mornings between worship services (9:15 - 10:15 am)
- First day of Sunday School is Celebration Sunday, August 20th
- Sunday School Ages: Pre-K to 4th grade

We are also looking for volunteers of all kinds:

classroom teachers, music leaders, occasional volunteers and junior teachers!

Call the church office to register or learn more at 605-498-2343!

## 2023—2024 Kids For Christ (KFC) Registration

**Wednesday evenings**

**7:15—8:15 pm**

**following 6:30 pm worship**

2023-2024 KFC Registration is open! KFC (Kids for Christ) Youth Group meets on Wednesday evenings during the school year - alternating 5th grade one week and 6th grade the next week. These early middle school years can be challenging for kids to navigate. KFC offers an opportunity for them to come together to learn how to grow their relationship with God, learn how to grow their relationships with each other, and we have some fun along the way. We also provide various music, service projects, and volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

Call the church office to register or learn more at 605-498-2343!

## 2023—2024 Confirmation Registration

**Wednesday evenings**

**7:15—8:15 pm**

**following 6:30 pm worship**

2023-2024 Confirmation Registration is open! Confirmation meets on Wednesday evenings during the school year and is for 7th and 8th graders!

Call the church office to register or learn more at 605-498-2343!

## Meal Train for Sonia Ensz and family: Shared by Kerri Plucker

Kerri Plucker has started a Meal Train for Sonia Ensz and family. Sonia is finally home and resting!! This was created to ease the burden of meal planning. Any support and help is very appreciated by the Ensz family! God Bless! Contact the church office for more details regarding the signup.

## August Food Pantry Donation: Cream Soups

Due to the raising cost of food the Food Pantry has seen an increase in clients in the past few months. We are featuring a monthly collection item. Feel free to pick up an extra item or two when out shopping to help those in need! In the month of August we will be collecting cream soups. Donations can be dropped off in the Gathering Space. If you have questions or would like to make a monetary donation, please contact the church office or call Ruth at 605-321-7325.

**Trinity's youth received a backpack blessing last Sunday.  
We hope everyone has a blessed year!**

