



## Weekly Update

Friday, April 24, 2020  
Trinity Lutheran Church Tea, SD

*<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink,<sup>[a]</sup> or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>27</sup> And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But strive first for the kingdom of God<sup>[c]</sup> and his<sup>[d]</sup> righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:25-33*

Dear friends,

A pair of doves recently reinterpreted this familiar Bible passage for me. I had been looking at a courting pair of doves that were routinely visiting our backyard feeder several times each day. They seemed peaceful and contented with their lives. Until they suddenly were not!

While I was looking out the window, one of the birds frantically careened onto our deck. It was missing most of its tail feathers and looked to have a bite mark on its neck. Later in the day, I found the missing feathers in our compost pile where I could reconstruct the violent scene. Apparently one of the neighborhood cats had stalked the bird while it was feeding in the pile. Fortunately for the bird, it was a split second faster than the cat. Minus a few feathers, it escaped with its life.



When Jesus asks his followers to look at the birds, I used to think he was pointing to their worry-free lives. If God gives birds a good life, God will also give one to us. The predicament of the doves reminds me that even though birds may look worry-free, their world is not. Cats still prowl, and storms still come. More specifically the passage seems to be saying not to worry about things that are out of our control. Today’s worries indeed are enough for today. It is better to hold onto our lives gently and with gratitude.

You all continue in my prayers as you walk through your unique uncertainties. This passage from Matthew 6 might be a good one place on the nightstand or tape on the refrigerator. Some truths we need to remember again and again.

Peace and best wishes,  
Pastor Tom Opoien

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday—4/26 10:30am Worship via Facebook Live

Wednesday—4/29 7pm Sr. High meets via Google Meet

Sunday—5/3 10:30am Worship via Facebook Live

## CONTACT US!

Pastor Tom and Deacon Christie have been having many meaningful conversations with members and friends of Trinity via phone and computer during these last few weeks. Please feel free to reach out to your ministers. We love you and are happy talk and pray with you in your joys and sorrows. Please let us know if:

\*There is a hospitalization in your family

\*There is a death in your family

\*There is a birth or adoption

\*Someone becomes homebound

\*Someone becomes unemployed

\*If you are experiencing financial distress

\*There is a cause for sorrow or a cause for joy

Hospitals don't notify the ministers that a member is in the hospital, even if they ask your church membership when you arrive. So please let us know if you or a family member is in the hospital. Please do not hesitate to call Pastor Tom Opoien at 605-440-2784(cell) [tom@teatrinity.org](mailto:tom@teatrinity.org) or Deacon Christie Meier at 605-521-5459 [christie@teatrinity.org](mailto:christie@teatrinity.org)

## Senior Recognition

Trinity Lutheran is proud to recognize our seniors of the graduating class of 2020. We acknowledge that this is a difficult time for them as so many big events of their high school career were cancelled or postponed. We grieve with them but also celebrate with them. To honor them, we will highlight our seniors on our Facebook page and in our newsletter. Watch for it next week. Congratulations, seniors! We love you. **11** *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11*

### Week of April 19

\$8,500	Adjusted Weekly Total Expenses
<u>\$6,524</u>	Actual Weekly Total Giving
-\$1,976	

Thank you for your continued support of our Trinity ministry. Adjusted expenses are what it costs to operate our church during the current pandemic. It does not include costs for any benevolences or programming we have paused. Without in-person plate offerings for the foreseeable future we ask you to find other ways to give.

- On-line Giving: <https://teatrinity.breezechms.com/give/online>
- Text Giving: (605) 777-7223
- Envelopes: Mail to the church at PO Box 37 or slide under the church office door