



Weekly Update

Friday, April 17, 2020
Trinity Lutheran Church Tea, SD

Dear beloved of Trinity,

In college I took a class on Death and Dying. It was based largely on the stages of grief developed by Elizabeth Kubler Ross, psychiatrist and author. The human experience of grief is real and life changing. But grief isn't only associated with death. Any significant loss can cause grief.

We, as a community, have experienced much loss: the end of the school year moved to elearning; social distancing; isolation; job loss; job changes; cancellation of graduation in the tradition we know it; open houses for our graduates; no spring concerts; no worshipping in person; not seeing family members and much more. These examples leave us wide open for grief to enter in.

Here are the stages of grief we may experience, not necessarily in this order or even

Denial – a feeling that this just can't be true.

Anger – “This is not fair!” “Why did this have to happen!”

Bargaining – “If only the virus had never happened.” “If only we had done something different, then we wouldn't be in this situation.”

Depression – (not clinical depression) feeling the weight of the loss and turning inward, feeling sadness, worry, regret.

Acceptance – coming to the realization that you've reached a sense of peace; being able to see that life will continue but it may be a “new” normal. You have allowed yourself to feel the grief and have used coping skills to plow through it, not around it.

I hear your fears, your uncertainties and your worries. They are real and should not be suppressed. Talk to someone about what this experience is like for you. Help your children to find expression through words, songs, pictures and play. We need each other during this time but most importantly, we need God. We need to cling to the promises of His presence and the gift of His peace. Let Jesus' breath strength and calm into you.

We are Trinity strong and we will get through this. We will gather together again and have such a big celebration, that joy won't be able to be contained. I long for that day.

For today, my friends, breathe deep the breath of God and know that you are loved.

Peace be with you,

Deacon Christie

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday—4/19 10:30am Worship via Facebook Live

Wednesday—4/15 7pm Sr. High meets via Google Meet

Sunday—4/26 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 or Deacon Christie Meier at 605-521-5459 christie@teatrinity.org

Trinity Worship on YouTube:

If you are not a Facebook user or would prefer to experience worship on a smart tv, you can follow this link to the Tea Trinity Lutheran YouTube channel. The recorded live stream worship service is uploaded each Sunday afternoon. If you normally attend worship on Wednesday evenings, you can keep the same routine by using this YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGexzJBs0uQ&t=8s>

Week of April 5	Week of April 12	
\$8,500	\$ 8,500	Adjusted Weekly Total Expenses
\$4,829	\$12,551	Actual Weekly Total Giving
0	\$ 1,302	Thrivent Choice Giving
-\$3,671	\$ 5,353	

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

Thank you to the faithful church council who has been meeting regularly via Zoom. We are all grateful for their dedication.



Approved Abbreviated Council Meeting Minutes follow:

March 10, 2020

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Nikki Wilken.

Secretary's Report A motion to approve the minutes was made by Maggie and seconded by Kristi. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report Balances as of 3-9-2020

General, \$20,960 Improvement, \$28,305 Rental, \$7,579 MetaBank, \$20,928

A motion to approve the treasurer report was made by Steve and seconded by Clarissa. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Auction April 4th. 5:30 meal, 6:30 auction.

Staff positions – Timing and financing. Communication and Wednesday night coordinator job descriptions.

New Business:

Covid virus guidelines. Follow the Dep. Of Health and Tea school recommendations.

Church service – Communion first Sunday of the month at the rail. No intinction. Offering plates will be placed at the back of the church. Hand sanitizer will be placed throughout the church. No sharing of the peace.

IT position. Tommy moved and Kristi seconded to pay a \$500.00 bonus to David Anderson.

Pastor Reports:

Pastor Tom Opoien - 4 baptisms, Befriender class, Crossroads conf., Foster communities of hope.

Deacon Christie – Milestone ministries, 6th grade books of the bible, VBS prep work.

Board Reports:

Property: Bid for parking lot repair and seal. Spring cleanup April 4th 9:00am. J & R will do HVAC service work.

Education: VBS June 8-11th evenings.

Outreach: New Member April 19th orientation.

Stewardship: No report.

Worship: Signage for gathering space.

Senior High: No report.

March 14, 2020

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Nikki Wilken.

New Business:

Don moved and Tommy seconded to approve the attached Covid -19 Response plan.

Clarissa moved and Kristi seconded to cancel church activities for March 18th, 22nd, and 25th.

Deacon Christie closed with prayer.

March 15, 2020

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Nikki Wilken.

New Business:

Develop Covid-19, Community Response group.

Move auction to May 9th.

Pastor Tom closed with prayer.

April 3, 2020

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Nikki Wilken.

New Business:

Apply for Paycheck Protection Program

Dave moved to apply Derek seconded. Motion carried.