



Weekly Update

Friday, March 27, 2020
Trinity Lutheran Church Tea, SD

Dear friends in Christ,

My wife has a faint, dime-sized scar on her left bicep, a small reminder of the smallpox vaccination she received as a child. My mother had a similar scar as do each of my older siblings. If you are reading this and are over 52 years old, you may be marked in a similar way. The scar is the result of the multipronged vaccination needle that was used for over a generation in elementary schools as young children lined up to be part of this public health response to a dreadful childhood illness.

However, I do not have that scar, even though I also was vaccinated for smallpox. My wife was one grade ahead of me in school and sometime in the year before I entered the vaccination line scientists had created a less invasive procedure that left no scar.

There are others who have scars for illnesses and diseases that many of us have nearly forgotten, family members or friends who walked with a crutch from polio or with heart damage from scarlet fever. Even though we individually may not carry the outward marks of illnesses that previously terrified our parents or grandparents, we now face an outbreak that reminds us of the fragility of our own bodies and the bodies of our neighbors. In such times we take courage as our faithful ancestors took theirs, from the fact that we have also been marked with the cross of Christ. God will provide for us in our affliction just as God provided for them. With endurance, wisdom, and courage may we respond to our own worries by placing our trust in God's healing presence and by caring for our neighbors by remembering their fragility as well.

This morning as I was reading my daily devotions, I was struck by the depth of the prayer that asked God to be our protector both inside and out. A few weeks ago, the words probably wouldn't have marked me, but today they did.

"Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep me both outwardly in my body and inwardly in my soul, that I may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen"

Know that Deacon Christie and I are praying for you as we all walk through these days trusting in God's presence.

Peace to you,

Pastor Tom Opoien

CARE IN CRISIS TEAM

We have seen many changes since the last newsletter went out. You may feel that your life has been turned upside down. We cannot gather to worship or to fellowship together. That is the hardest part of a pandemic....isolation, uncertainty and loneliness. To help us continue to be the church, the body of Christ, we have formed a team of volunteers with gifts of compassion and care. They have begun calling various members and doing a check-in. Their responsibilities will expand as needs arise. The leadership of Trinity cares for each of you deeply. If you have a concern, have a job loss, need a friendly voice, please call the church office. Melody, our Office Manager, is able to answer the church phone on her cell phone. Pastor Tom and I would always take a call from you, also.

I encourage you to do check-ins with your friend groups. Call someone from the congregation who you miss seeing on Sundays and Wednesdays. We look out for each other. We are stronger together than we are apart. Care for your neighbor. Peace, Deacon Christie

MILESTONE MINISTRY – DEACON CHRISTIE

I have given this some thought as I would normally be meeting with 4 different age groups in April and May. For 2nd graders – I will make a youtube video of the 10 commandments for you to learn at home with your parents (and siblings). For 7th graders – I will reschedule in the fall our talk about Honoring Our Bodies. For 11th graders – I will enter a virtual meeting with you this spring as we talk about “God’s Plan for My Life”. For 12th graders – we will celebrate with you whenever we can. Again, we care for you and recognize all your are giving up. As we move forward, I wanted you to know, we have not forgotten.

TEA CRUISE NIGHT – MARCH 28

Because of the great success of the first Cruise Night in Tea, it will continue again this Saturday (and perhaps beyond). But this Sat, March 28, is special in that everyone is encouraged to bring a specific food item for the Backpack Program. These would be foods easily prepared by students who may be home alone during the day. (canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, canned ravioli, Easy Mac microwavable mac and cheese, cookies, applesauce) There will be a drop off at the city park shelter on the cruise route.

BLOOD MOBILE IN TEA—APRIL 3

The Blood mobile will be in the Trinity parking lot on Friday, April 3rd from 9am—11am and 12:30pm to 3:30pm. If you would like to make an appt. to give blood, please call Trinity at 498-2343 or email melody@teatrinity.org.

Financial Update for the week of March 22

\$8,500 Adjusted Weekly Total Expenses

\$3,458 Actual Weekly Total Giving

-\$5,042

Adjusted weekly expenses are what it costs to operate our church during the current pandemic. It does not include costs for any 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