

THOSE WHO DREAM



Dear friends in Christ,

This morning I went into the sanctuary to take a photo of the candle of peace that we will light to celebrate the second Sunday of Advent. As always, the natural lighting in the sanctuary was lovely, so the picture that is shown here turned out well. My task completed, I turned my back to the candles, turned off the ceiling lights, and went back to my study. About fifteen minutes later, in a flash of memory, I realized that I had not extinguished the candles.



Walking back into the darkened sanctuary, the candles of hope and peace shone even more brightly. For the last few days, I have been working on this Sunday's sermon about peace. I've been looking on line at the dozens of wars and conflicts that are currently taking place around the globe and listened to news that is far from peaceful; and, to be honest, this sermon has been more difficult to write than some.

Returning to the sanctuary to see the blazing candle of peace that I had carelessly turned away from, I experienced the gospel of peace. Just because we turn away from the peace of Christ does not mean the candle has gone out. The peace of Christ in our hearts and in the world burns even when we have turned away from it.

The still burning candle makes me think of Martin Luther's explanation of "Thy Kingdom come" in the Lord's Prayer. Luther reminds us that, "God's kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us."

This Advent season I pray that the God of peace may come to us.

Peace and best wishes,

Pastor Tom Opoien

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday—12-6 In-Person 8am & 10:30am Worship, 9:30am In-Person and On-Line Sunday school, On-Line worship at 10:30am, 11:30am Baptism,

Tuesday—8:30am Preschool, 7pm Boards, 8pm, Church Council meets.

Wednesday—8:30am Preschool, 6:30pm Worship, 7:15pm KFC 6th Grade in person, Confirmation 7th Grade in person, Sr. High.

Thursday— 8:30am Preschool, 5:30pm TOPS

Sunday—12-13 In-Person 8am & 10:30am Worship, 9:30am In-Person and On-Line Sunday school, On-Line worship at 10:30am

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

December 6 – 4th grade In-Person Sunday School | Live stream for all other grades at home – 9:30 a.m.

December 13 – 3th grade In-Person Sunday School | Live stream for all other grades at home – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School will resume on January 10th with 2nd grade In-Person.

Needed: New and gently used winter gear

For many years the Board of Outreach has collected new and gently used cold weather gear that is kept at the church and made available to the public. Trinity is currently collecting coats, jackets, snowpants, hats, gloves, and boots that will be made available to our neighbors in the community. Used items are accepted, but please make sure to launder them before you drop them off. If you are out shopping and see a good deal on new gear, we're happy to accept that, too. Simply drop off the items in the marked basket in The Gathering



**Winter
Gear**



GIVING TREE

Thank you for your generosity with either taking a paper or virtual tag. Your gifts will brighten a child's Christmas. We've been given abundantly and giving helps us share that abundance.

If you haven't had a chance to participate in the Giving Tree but do not want to go buy a physical gift, you may donate monetarily. Please indicate that your gift is for the Giving Tree.

If you took a tag please return your gifts to the church, unwrapped and with the tag number on it.

Thank you again for your generosity.

ATTENDANCE

Date	8:00	10:30	Wed 6:30
Nov 29	37	59	0

CHURCH FINANCES

Week of Nov 29th	Month of November (5 Sundays)	
\$10,000	\$50,000	Weekly Total Operating Expenses
<u>\$11,055</u>	<u>\$40,840</u>	Actual Weekly Total Giving
\$ 1,055	\$ 9,160	

This one number represents all expenses including staff costs, benevolences, supplies, outreach, and our mortgage payment. If you have questions regarding the budget, please contact Tommy Pol-
lema. **Ways to Give:** Online Giving: <https://teatrinity.breezechms.com/give/online>
Text Giving: (605) 777-7223 Envelopes: In-person or mail to the church

Our Globe Offering for December is Lutheran Social Services

8am & 10:30am Worship

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Trinity Lutheran Church, Tea, SD

Teatrinity.org – 605-498-2343



2nd Sunday in Advent “Those Who Dream”

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Installation of Befrienders (10:30)

Call to Worship “PEACE”

L: John the Baptist said, “Prepare the way.”

So family of faith, how do we prepare our minds for worship?

C: We silence the inner critic. We let go of busy thoughts. We make space for God to speak.

L: How do we prepare our hearts for worship?

C: We open ourselves up to be moved.

L: How do we prepare our bodies for worship?

C: We take in the scent, sight, and feel of this space. We breathe in God’s mercy. We exhale God’s love.

L: How do we prepare our souls for worship?

C: We bring our full selves into this space. We trust that even now, God is here.

L: Family of faith, what we practice in worship, we must live out in our daily lives.

So prepare the way. Let us worship the Holy God.

Song Video “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” by Casting Crowns

Candle Lighting Liturgy

L: I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day, Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat, Of peace on earth, good will to men.

L: And in despair I bowed my head: “There is no peace on earth,” I said,
“For hate is strong and mocks the song, Of peace on earth, good will to men.”

L: Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: “God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on earth, good will to men.”

All: So today we light the candle of peace.

Light candle.

B: May this light be an invitation to keep awake.

All: May this light be our invitation to be Advent people—people who dream of peace. Amen.

Confession

C: Holy God, I wish that peace was something I could buy. I wish that peace could be ordered in a subscription service, found on a map, downloaded in an app, or voted for in a ballot. I wish that peace was as easy as a one-time choice. However, what I have found is that peace involves everyday decisions over and over. So today I confess, in front of this community of faith, that I need your help in this Advent season. Prepare the way for greater peace, and teach me how to be a part of it.

L: May God forgive you. May God’s guiding hand surround you. May you know comfort. May you know peace.

Prayer of the Day

C: God of Peace, We must admit, there are a million things on our minds. We would like to be as focused as John the Baptist—preparing the way, gathering the crowd, spreading the word of your arrival. Maybe then we’d know peace.

However, more often than not, we are a swirling compilation of grocery lists, text messages, e-mails, and over-referenced to-do lists.

So today, we ask for your help in preparing the way. Could you start with our ears, and then maybe move to our hearts? We’d like to hear you more clearly. Maybe then we’ll know peace. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

WORD

First Reading – Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

L: LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

C: You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

L: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.*

C: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

L: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

C: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

L: The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

C: Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Second Reading – 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel Reading – Mark 1:1-8

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Sermon Pastor Tom Opoien

Sermon Song "King of Glory. King of Peace"

Affirmation of Faith

L: We believe in God.

All: We believe that God has dreams for humanity.

L: We believe in the Holy Spirit.

All: We believe that the Holy Spirit comforts us when our dreams turn to nightmares.

L: We believe in Jesus.

All: We believe that Jesus walked this world to wake us up, Inviting us to be the church in the world.

L: We believe in dreams.

All: We believe in the power that dreams have to show us a new way.

L: So in this Advent season,

All: We are those who dream and those who wake up. May it be so. Amen.

Offertory

Prayers of the People We pray for ...Jim Weinkauf, Alma Gors, Ron Seim, Steve Jelen's dad – Gene and brother – Jamie, Sarah Hilmoe's uncle Fred Tidemann. Jerry & Dianne Werness's son in law – Doug Madetzke, Shirley Oltmann's sister, Linda Goulet, Jami Atkin's dad – Kevin Roth, Tara Johanneson's brother-in-law, Jesse, Jessica Boone's mom – Sue Meyer. Rosalie Gerdes's sister JoAnn Breitbach, Troy Smith and Ellie Cordie while in active duty.

Installation of Befrienders (8:00)

Blessing

SENDING

Sending

L: God is good.

C: All the time.

L: All the time.

C: God is good.

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude