



Weekly Update

Friday, January 1, 2021
Trinity Lutheran Church Tea, SD

"The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever." Isaiah 40:8

Dear friends in Christ,

In his short story, "Thicker than Liquor" Wendell Berry captures a conversation between a farmer father and his young adult son reflecting on a year of drought. Their talk takes place toward the end of the year as the father waters a weary cattle herd, and the pair look out over the parched fields of the beloved farm. The father says:

"Well, I've seen dry years before this, and I'll tell you something. It's so miserable you think you'll never get over it. You're ready for the world to end. But it'll be past. There'll come time when you won't think about it.' ...

*Looking at his father, Wheeler knew, and would not forget, that though they were surrounded by the marks and leavings of a bad year, they were surrounded also by the marks and leavings of good work, which for that year and any other proposed an end and a new beginning." **

When I read those words earlier this week, I thought about Trinity in 2020. We have faced tremendous losses among those we love as we've gathered as best we could to mourn the dead, give hope to the grieving, baptize and confirm the young, care for the hungry and lonely. We've prayed and offered thanks and challenged one another to step out in faith to love our neighbors. It was a droughty year. And we were blessed to be "surrounded by the marks and leavings of good work."

In the same way that we took for granted the wonderful things that happen when we can easily gather for worship; shaking hands, giving hugs, singing all four verses at the top of our lungs, gathering the crowds of little ones close for a children sermon, we also took for granted the quiet resiliency that had been built into the congregation by many years of good work.

As we close out one year and step with faith into the next, I am grateful for the "leavings of good work" that propelled us to quickly develop online worship services, generously fund our ministries, creatively respond to loved ones in crisis, expand our ability to provide food to our neighbors, find new ways to communicate with each other, and remain connected in a year where many forces in our world worked to set people against one another.

This year has reinforced my deep belief in the critical value of Christian congregations to our own spiritual health and to the wellness of our communities. 2020 was a difficult year, and it was a year where we could be the body of Christ together.

My challenge for each of us in 2020 is to make an intentional commitment to the continued health of our congregation so that the next generation can inherit a community of faith as resilient as the one that was passed on to us. I invite you to make weekly worship a priority for yourself/you're your family. If you cannot be present in person, be present virtually. We need each other as we are shaped and sustained by the Word of God. Pray for our community and world. Be generous and kind to your neighbors. Most of all I challenge you to step into 2021 with faith and with the hope that comes from the presence of Christ in all circumstances. God bless you all.

Peace and best wishes, Pastor Tom Opoien

*Berry, Wendell. "Thicker Than Liquor." *The Wild Birds: Six Stories of the Port William Membership*, North Point Press, 1995, pp. 11-12.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday—1-3 In-Person 8am & 10:30am Worship, On-Line worship at 10:30am

Tuesday—8:30am Preschool, 7pm Executive Board Meeting

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

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

Sunday—1-10 In-Person 8am & 10:30am Worship, On-Line worship at 10:30am 9:30am Sunday School

Offering Envelopes for 2021

The offering envelopes have been mailed. If you would like envelopes and do not receive them by the end of the year, please call the church office and I will mail some out to you. Thank you—Melody Rohrer, Office Manager—498-2343.

ATTENDANCE

Date	8:00	10:30
Dec. 27	30	70

Christmas Eve, 2pm—55, 3:30pm—154, 5pm—131, 6:30pm—83

CHURCH FINANCES

Week of Dec 28

\$10,000	Weekly Total Operating Expenses
<u>\$23,917</u>	Actual Weekly Total Giving
\$13,917	

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 January is Lutherans Outdoors



8am & 10:30am Worship

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church, Tea, SD

Teatrinity.org – 605-498-2343



2nd Sunday of Christmas

GATHERING

Call to Worship

L: The beginning of the good news. Let us worship the one who has been born to us, Emmanuel, God with us!

C: It is time to worship. It is time to praise!

L: We gather in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

All: Amen.

Song

Confession

L: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

L: Bold and holy one, life-changer,

C: You are constantly speaking into our lives, saying, "Now is the time!" Too often, we say, shhh, later. Not now. We are not yet ready. Give us more time. Forgive us for our acceptance of the status quo. Forgive us our unpreparedness and our timidity. Call us once again. Amen.

L: Grace is this: For every not-yet, God answers, yes, now. For every "I can't," God promises, "I will be with you." We are dearly loved, and forgiven, and challenged to start anew. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

C: Voice of heaven, speak in us this day. Stir our hearts with your Word. Let us find both our happiness and our power in you. Amen.

WORD

Psalm 148:1-4, 7-14

L: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

C: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

L: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars

C: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

L: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

C: fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

L: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

C: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

L: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

C: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

C: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Gospel Reading – Mark 1:1-20

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Sermon Deacon Christie Meier

Sermon Song

Apostles' Creed

Offertory

Prayers of the People

We pray for members and friends of our congregation: 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, Jami Atkin's dad – Kevin Roth, Tara Johanneson's brother-in-law, Jesse, Jessica Boone's mom – Sue Meyer. Rosalie Gerdes's sister JoAnn Breitbart, Joy Schuers and Gale Dannen's mother, Marjo; Morris Mechels, Troy Smith and Ellie Cordie while in active duty. Sympathy to the family of Carol Nepp.

Lord's Prayer

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