



Weekly Update

September 10, 2021
Trinity Lutheran Church
Tea, SD

Dear friends in Christ,

Remembering the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, I looked through my files and found the church newsletter article that I wrote in October 2001 after I had returned from a wedding in Washington D.C. The words brought me back to those sad and complex days. Here is that letter.

October 30, 2001

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Last Friday morning Gail and I boarded an airplane bound for Washington D.C. For months we had been planning to attend a happy event, the wedding of a friend at little Georgetown Lutheran Church. The preparations were routinely familiar, purchasing airline tickets, making hotel reservations, writing a list of sites we wanted to see in our nation's Capital. All of the plans were made before September 11. What was once routine now became anything but? To cancel the trip and disappoint a friend? What it?

We went. The routine of the airport was different from what we had known before. Armed National Guardsmen, bomb sniffing dogs, random searches. I'm guessing that for most of us on the airline flight into Washington, it was our first flight into that city since the new world began on September 11. We were silent as we flew over the Pentagon and saw the gaping hole in its side. We were noticeably relieved when the wheels of the aircraft touched the ground. I'm not sure if seeing the weapons in the hands of Military Policemen at the airport calmed by anxiety or made me more anxious about the changes, we as Americans face.

Anxiety. The root of the word means to cause pain by squeezing or by suffocation. Related words are angina, the pain one experiences during a heart attack, and angst, the discomfort that people sense when trying to find their place in a confusing world. How do we deal with the anxiety of attack warnings or even the worry of opening the mail? Two Bible passages come to mind.

The first is from Luke 12:24-25. "Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!" In the midst of anxiety and worry, we are called to remember that we are not cast adrift in a sea of worry. Instead, he that had control of the wind and the water has not forgotten us. When a toddler feels worry, that child will cling to a parent. Adults experience times when we long for that same assurance. Our Lord give that assurance in the reminder that we are not alone in our struggles.

The second passage is from James 1:2. "My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing." When our trust is tested, we are to count it a joy. What a strange saying. Yet, we know from experience that trials can produce endurance. My prayer for each of you is that God will give you the gift of endurance when you feel that squeezing of anxiety creeping upon you.

I'm glad that we went to the wedding. Ironically, the reception was held at a restaurant on the top floor of a hotel within sight of the Pentagon. As we toasted the memory of those lives lost, we took comfort in the friends and family gathered near. Joy and loss were tangled together, and I couldn't help but wonder if this is what it felt life to be a bird.

Peace to you,
Pastor Tom

Attendance, Sunday—153

CHURCH FINANCES

Week of September 5

\$10,625

\$ 5,358

\$ 5,267

Total Operating Expenses

Actual Total Giving

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 Pollema at 321-3057. **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 September Globe offering goes to Feeding South Dakota Backpack Program Support

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday—In-Person 8am & 10:30am Worship; Online worship at 10:30am; 4 year old Bible Milestone

Monday—8:30 am Preschool; 7:00pm Celebration Sunday Meeting

Tuesday—6:30am Men’s Breakfast; 6:30pm Council Meeting

Wednesday—8:30am Preschool; 6:30pm Worship, 7:15pm KFC-5th Grade Orientation

Thursday—1:30pm WELCA Bible Study; 4pm Food Giveaway (signup on Facebook or call the church); 5:30pm TOPS

Friday—8:30am Preschool

Sunday— In-Person 8am & 10:30am Worship; Online worship at 10:30am; 3rd grade Milestone

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. Earlier this week when the



first cold snap hit the office began getting phone calls asking about jackets. 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 Space at church. Thank you.

Affordable Home Repair & Preservation

- House painting
- Safety modifications
- Minor repairs
- Grab bars
- Yard clean up
- Handrails
- Weatherization
- Anti-slip strips



Need a helping hand? Our awesome volunteers are ready and eager to get to work, but we need your fall projects! Habitat’s Neighborhood Revitalization program offers low-cost repairs and improvements to qualified homeowners. Call 605-274-6284 to learn more!

We are going to begin a new 6 week Bible Study on Oct. 4 at 7 pm. in the Fellowship Hall. Please e-mail or call the church office to sign up by September 20. It will be Prayer and Listening by Jan Johnson. Contact Kathy Otten with questions. 359-1273.

Questions?: Please contact Janita Holman at info@teatrinity.org for any office related questions.

FAREWAY & HY-VEE GROCERY SCRIP CARDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Everyone needs groceries! Why not use your weekly, bi-weekly or monthly trip to Hy-Vee or Fareway to help fund your camp account. How it works: 5% of your purchase will go into your camp account. For example, you purchase \$100 gift card, you will receive a \$100 gift card and \$5 will go in your camp account. Scrip cards are available on Sunday morning through the worship teams or during business hours Monday - Friday in the church office. Grandparents/Family members/Friends? YOU can still help. Just buy your grocery gift cards from the church and assign your profits to your favorite family or youth's account.

MILESTONE MINISTRY

4 year old Bibles – Sunday, September 12 at either service, we will be handing out story bibles to our 4 year olds. If you have a 5 year old who did not receive one, you are invited to come forward also.

3rd Grade Milestone lessons – Sunday, September 19 and 26, It's Bible Time! Come learn about what the Bible is all about. Receive and Bible and decorate a Bible cover. Meet Deacon Christie in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15am. Blessing Sunday is October 3rd.

Prayer requests for members and friends of our congregation:

- Stewart Franzen
- Mike Westall
- Steve Jelen's dad – Gene and brother – Jamie
- Sarah Hilmoe's uncle Fred Tidemann
- Jami Atkin's dad – Kevin Roth
- Melissa Jelen's mom – Janice Myrmoe
- Shelly Johnson's mom – Gloria Beukelman