



## Weekly Update

Friday, May 8, 2020  
Trinity Lutheran Church Tea, SD

Dear friends,

Yesterday I was honored to be in a meeting to plan the traditional Tea Area High School baccalaureate service. Even though we met via Google Meeting and the service will be edited from various recordings made by the seniors, the tone of the planning was very traditional. The students chose Bible verses and songs about faith and hope. Their optimism was infectious. One of the verses they chose seemed especially fitting during these unusual days and a good reminder for all of us. 1 Corinthians 16:14 says, "Let all that you do be done in love."

So many things are being done in love these days...taking out sewing machines and mak-



ing masks for the vulnerable, calling neighbors and family members, providing essential services, praying for others, reporting the news, making leadership decisions, planning hopeful worship services and meaningful remote celebrations, donating to food pantries, carefully planning how and when to reengage physically with others. I have heard so many hopeful stories of people caring for each other. One that I heard this week came from Trinity member Capt. Teri Jo Schlunsen who has been mobilized with an Army Reserve Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force in New York City. In the photo she is shown wearing a patriotic mask made by another

soldier's grandmother as a gift. More than 1200 Army Reserve medical professionals have been mobilized as a part of the Department of Defense response to COVID-19. In our acts of service, we are invited, "Let all that you do be done in love."

Yesterday, I heard a story from a member who works in agriculture who has become a listening ear to producers who are facing difficult choices in the COVID-19 related food chain stresses. He mentioned one young farmer enduring significant challenges who was working to remain creative and hopeful in times of rapid change. In the listening and the working we are reminded, "Let all that you do be done in love."

Thank you for all the acts of love that you are doing. Each act is a witness to the love that Christ has shown us.

Peace and best wishes,

Pastor Tom Opoien

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday—5/10 10:30am Worship via Facebook Live

Tuesday—5/12 7:30pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday—5/13 7pm Sr. High meets via Google Meet

Sunday—5/17 10:30am Worship via Facebook Live

## Virtual Worship

Trinity will continue with live-streamed virtual only worship through the month of May. After Memorial Day Church Council will re-evaluate, including then current guidance from the CDC, SD Dept. of Health, and the SD ELCA Synod. In preparation for a return to in-person worship services, Church Council and the Board of Worship are developing guidelines and worship practices, keeping the safety of staff, volunteers, and the congregation in mind. We are also working on advances in our steaming technology to improve sound and ensure an on-going live virtual worship experience. We are excited to be planning and look forward to the day when we can safely gather as the body of Christ in worship together.



## COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

The COVID Food Response had a successful first distribution at Trinity on May 7. Over forty families received boxes packed by Feeding South Dakota, the food collected at the Tea Cruise Nights, and Fareway gift cards that were donated by local businesses and individuals. The food giveaway will happen on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Please spread the word, and thank you for all of the help. To sign up for the May 21 giveaway you can follow this link. If you would like to make a monetary donation, checks can be made out to the Tea Area Food Pantry with a note in the memo for COVID Response. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1aXFN4km17pBCx78bVDZq8Sqbln7U1jCBzBmbLPxLrWc/edit>

## Deacon Christie's Sabbatical

This has certainly been an unusual time in history. As I planned my Sabbatical a year ago, I wasn't anticipating the situation we'd find ourselves in today. Because the gatherings I had planned on attending are cancelled and the plans my husband and I had for travelling won't be happening, I decided to postpone my Sabbatical until next year. Pastor Tom was gracious to extend this offer as it will also postpone his Sabbatical another year. Thank you to all of you for your inquiries and concern. I look forward to the day when we can all gather as the family of God.

## Tea Area High School Baccalaureate

It is Trinity Lutheran's turn to host Baccalaureate. Since we cannot gather as a large group, we have met virtually with the senior class officers and others to plan a prerecorded worship service. It will be posted on our website on Wednesday, May 13 at 7:00 pm. We invite you to join us as we honor God and the accomplishments of the senior class.

### Week of May 3

\$8,500 Adjusted Weekly Total Expenses

\$7,636 Actual Weekly Total Giving

**-\$864**

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