



Weekly Update

Friday, May 22, 2020
Trinity Lutheran Church Tea, SD

Dear friends,

There are many, many things about the Trinity faith community for which I am thankful. One of them is the dedication and skill of this congregation's leaders. During the last few weeks, the leadership conversations have revolved around how and when to gather together physically for worship. Your leaders have been watching the statistics and guidance that have been coming from the South Dakota Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I am grateful for the work, study, and deep discussions that are taking place. The Board of Worship has been developing recommendations about the safest ways to gather. This Tuesday the Church Council will be having a special meeting to decide what indicators we will use to decide when to begin physically gathering for worship.

One of the reasons that we switched from a monthly to a weekly newsletter is to keep the congregation informed in a situation that changes rapidly. Keep reading this weekly letter, and you will be up to date. One addition to the newsletter will be the weekly prayer list. Please pray through this list as we remember before God those in special need. My personal prayer is the same as yours', that we will be gathering together relatively soon. We all know that we will not be going back to "normal" for a long time, but with wisdom and creativity I am certain that our congregation will find ways to be together physically while continuing to offer on-line connections.

This week I was reminded of a hymn that has been comforting as we make decisions about our life together. The first verse of *Breathe on me Breath of God* reminds me that we trust God's Holy Spirit to be as close to us as our own breath as we make decisions for the sake of our neighbors.

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.*

Again, thank you to the Church Council and Board of Worship for your work.

Peace and best wishes,

Pastor Tom Groen

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday—5/24 10:30am Worship via Facebook Live

Monday—5/25 Church office closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday—5/26 7pm Special Church Council meeting

Sunday—5/31 10:30am Worship via Facebook Live

PRAYER LIST

We pray for members and friends of our congregation: Jim Olson, 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, Troy Smith and Teri Schlunsen while deployed. Sympathy to Dwight Buus and family in the death of his wife, Margaret.

SUMMER CHANGES

Due to Covid-19, we have made some changes to our summer programming.

Board of Education cancelled Vacation Bible School. We will use the 2020 theme next year.

Youth and Family Board wants you to know that Lutherans Outdoors has cancelled all summer programs. Youth who were going to camp should have been notified of this change.

Board of Worship and Music has met many times to create a proposal for Church Council to review and approve pertaining to in-person worship. We will always keep the congregation aware of any changes.

Thank you for your dedication to Trinity through financial gifts and gifts of support and encouragement. We care about you and look forward to seeing you in person.

Week of May 17

\$8,500 Adjusted Weekly Total Expenses

\$8,121 Actual Weekly Total Giving

- \$ 379

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