



## Weekly Update

Friday, September 18, 2020  
Trinity Lutheran Church Tea, SD

***(I'm happy to share a good news update related to the following letter. I wrote it Thursday morning and the print edition was mailed Thursday afternoon. That evening about 10 o'clock I received news that my COVID-19 test came back negative. I'm grateful and relieved. Below is the original letter.)***

Dear friends in Christ,

I owe my daughter five dollars. We have a deal in our house that if anyone in the family gets mentioned by name in my sermon, I need to pay them a user's fee. Yesterday, I called my daughter at college to ask if I could use her name in my Wednesday sermon to explain why my preaching face was projected on the wall instead of me standing in the pulpit. I was preaching via Zoom from my kitchen table because Olivia tested positive for COVID 19.

After being home for a visit over the weekend, she returned to college Sunday evening to be informed that her good friend had tested positive. So began the informal process of contract tracing. By Tuesday, Olivia had tested positive and by Wednesday I was tested myself. The good news is that Olivia only has minor symptoms so far and will be in a two-week quarantine at Southwest Minnesota State University. The staff there is treating her with great thoughtfulness and kindness. For that, I am deeply grateful. So, until I get my results back, I've been at home sitting in Zoom meetings, studying, and being careful.

As we all know first-hand experience usually changes our perception of things. When a person in love practices loving acts, the love becomes deeper. When a person both believes in the power of prayer and then sits down to pray, the relationship to God feels closer. When a person professes faith and then acts in faith, the faith becomes concrete. About ten years ago after I had major surgery and a week in the hospital, my appreciation for challenges of being a patient and a caregiver deepened. I think that experience improved my bedside manner in hospital visits.

Even though I personally have no physical symptoms and am hoping that my test result comes back negative, I now have experienced the fear of being told that someone I love deeply tested positive. My thoughts also began racing about where I had been over the weekend. Had I socially distanced in worship on Sunday? What extended family members had I seen? To be honest, there have been quite a few worried people in my world these last few days. I've been praying and falling back on meaningful scripture passages. I have found Psalm 46 to be very helpful.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea." Psalm 46:1,2

God is our refuge even when we feel a little bit out of control. Thank you for your prayers.

Peace and best wishes,          Pastor Tom Opoien

## Church Calendar

Sunday—9/20 8am and 10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary, Facebook Live at 10:30am, 9:15am 3rd Grade Milestone in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday—6:30am Men's Breakfast, 8:30am Preschool, **9:30am Blood Pressure screening, 10am Over 55 -Business meeting at 10:00. For the potluck the members will be going to McKennan Park. We will go to enjoy the beautiful flowers and scenery.**

Wednesday—8:30am Preschool, 6:30pm Worship

Thursday— 8:30am Preschool, 5:30pm TOPS, 7pm Scout pack meeting

Sunday—9/27 8am and 10:30am Worship in Sanctuary, Facebook Live worship at 10:30am

## SAVE THE DATES

**September 18 – Confirmation registration opens.** There will be more information available later. Confirmation will be offered either in-person or virtually. Safety protocols will be observed.

**October 4 – Sunday School begins.** Please register for either in-person or virtual Sunday School. <https://teatrinity.breezechms.com/form/e144e3> More information will be sent out as we get closer to the date. Safety protocols will also be observed.

## Wanted: Tech Volunteers for Sunday Morning

We are looking for two groups of volunteers:

Camera operator for our livestreaming at 10:30am. (training provided)

PowerPoint operator – sit at the sound board and advance powerpoint slides during worship (8:00 or 10:30)

If you want to be part of the Tech Team on Sunday mornings, please email Maggie Saugstad [maggie.saugstad@gmail.com](mailto:maggie.saugstad@gmail.com) or Deacon Christie [christie@teatrinity.org](mailto:christie@teatrinity.org)

**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, snow-pants, 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.

## Week of September 7

**\$10,000 Weekly Total Operating Expenses**

**\$ 12,474 Actual Weekly Total Giving**

**\$ 2,474**

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.

## 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 September will go to Tea Area Backpack Program**

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Worship – 6:30pm

Confirmation – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders - will be offered virtually and in-person. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will meet alternately on Wednesday evenings beginning on Oct 7 (8<sup>th</sup> graders) and Oct 14 (7<sup>th</sup> graders). On the virtual night, students will zoom in to participate in the large group presentation then have a Google form with questions to fill out.

Register here...<https://teatrinity.breezechms.com/form/e144e36>

9<sup>th</sup> graders – information will be coming to you soon about a mini retreat on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation Sunday is October 25. We will offer 2 services in the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> at 1pm and 2:30pm.

Register here...<https://teatrinity.breezechms.com/form/b64340>

KFC – this youth group is for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. They meet on alternating Wednesdays beginning Sept 30 at 7:15pm. A parent meeting night is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept 23 at 7:15pm at the church.

High School – this youth group is for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. They meet on Wednesday evenings after worship.

## Zoom Book study on Forgiveness

Over the last couple of weeks Deacon Christie and I have been preaching on the “forgiveness chapter” of Matthew 18. Thank you for the conversations that have arisen from these sermons. Because of these conversations, I’m going to try something I have never done before. If several people are interested, I would like to lead an online book study using Lewis Smedes’ excellent book entitled, *The Art of Forgiving: When you need to Forgive and Don’t Know How*. It isn’t an especially long book, about 170 pages. If you are interested, please send me an email at [tom@teatrinity.org](mailto:tom@teatrinity.org) and we’ll set a time that works for all of us and discuss the best way to get copies of the book. We will plan to use the Zoom meeting format for these discussions. It will probably take three or four sessions to work through the book. Here is a description of the book from Amazon.com

*“If you are ready to make peace with those who have hurt or betrayed you, there can be no finer road map than this book. Lewis Smedes brings true forgiveness, ‘God’s own gift,’ within the capacity of every wounded person, even in circumstances when only hate and vengefulness seem possible. His inspiring and thoroughly practical book leads you through the three stages of forgiveness and helps you understand*

- *Why we forgive (often the person who benefits most is the forgiver)*
- *What we do when we forgive (perhaps not what we expect)*
- *Whom we forgive (only those who directly wrong us)*
- *How we forgive (we start by owning our pain).*

*Using many dramatic examples drawn from life, this wise author illuminates, step by step, the healing path to peace.”*

Peace and best wishes, Pastor Tom

## Proposed Amendment to the Trinity Lutheran Church Constitution

At the semiannual meeting to be held on October 18, 2020 the following amendment to Trinity Lutheran church’s constitution will be presented.

“Be it resolved that Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church amend the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions by addition of C10.08 of the Model Constitution for Congregations, stating:

**C10.08** This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meeting may be provided electronically.”

## **Sunday School Coordinator**

We are so grateful for the gifts Patti Goehring has brought to the position of SS Coordinator. She has handed in her resignation after 5 years of service. Thank Patti when you see her.

The new position will be a 10 hour a week position. (see attached position description)  
Please send resumes to Deacon Christie at [christie@teatrinity.org](mailto:christie@teatrinity.org).

## **Sunday School Coordinator Job Description**

### **Introductory Statement:**

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church seeks to engage all people in meaningful educational opportunities. The Sunday School Coordinator will be the lead staff person in ensuring quality education.

### **Qualifications:**

The Sunday School Coordinator must see this position as a ministry to and with the people of God known as Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Commitment comes from an understanding of God's love for us and God's desire for us to continually expand our understanding of the Bible, Lutheran theology, and how God's work is integrated in our daily lives. A willingness to grow in faith and in this position as the educational life of Trinity evolves is a requirement.

### **Description of Responsibilities**

#### **The Sunday School Coordinator will:**

1. Plan, organize, execute and evaluate Trinity's Sunday School program in coordination with the Pastoral staff and the Board of Education.
2. Coordinate all recruitment efforts for Sunday School teaching positions.
3. Be a member of the Board of Education and attend all BOE meetings.
4. Develop Sunday School curriculum and create a master schedule of curriculum topics.
5. Coordinate the integration of music into the Sunday School education schedule.
6. Coordinate with rostered staff, the BOE, Family and Youth Ministry on the integration of Faith milestones into the Sunday School curriculum schedule.
7. Collect receipts from teachers for reimbursement of supplies in coordination with the office manager.
8. Communicate at least monthly with rostered staff as to the progress, evaluation and any other pertinent information regarding Sunday School activities.

### **Accountability:**

The Sunday School Coordinator will be responsible to Deacon Christie. Opportunity for review and goal setting will take place periodically. An annual review will be given and goals will be reviewed and set for the coming year.

# 8am & 9:30am Worship

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Trinity Lutheran Church, Tea, SD

Teatrinity.org – 605-498-2343



## 16th Sunday After Pentecost

### GATHERING

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Call to Worship

L: Come to us with your steadfast love, O God,

**C: that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

L: Praise to the blest and holy Trinity, one God,

**C: who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection.**

L: Let us enter worship with thanksgiving and praise.

**C: We gather in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen**

#### Confession

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

P: Merciful Lord,

**C: You show us how to live as your servants, yet we act as though your teaching applies to everyone else but us. We pass judgment on others, devalue ourselves and disrespect your creation. Show us the way back to the path which leads to life, and help us repair the damage we have caused to our relationships, ourselves and this earth, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

P: Thank God we are forgiven, and all things are being made new through Christ. Your grace is enough to cover us and make us whole again, to live and serve another day. Let us rejoice that our God is full of mercy as we are gathered to worship and scattered to serve. Amen.

**Song** "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" ELW# 712

#### Prayer of the Day

L: Holy Lord,

**C: You are merciful, just, and gracious. Make us grateful recipients of your generosity and joyful dispensers of the same lavish benefits to those who depend upon us. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

### WORD

**First Reading** – Jonah 3:10-4:11

**Psalm 145:1-8**

L: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name for ever and ever.

**C: Every day I will bless you, and praise your name for ever and ever.**

L: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

**C: One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.**

L: On the glorious splendour of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

**C: The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.**

L: They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

**C: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**Second Reading – Philippians 1:21-30**

**Gospel Reading – Matthew 20:1-16**

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** Deacon Christie Meier

**Sermon Song** "Revelation Song" solo by Shannon Dancler

**Apostles' Creed**

**Prayers of the People** We pray for members and friends of our congregation: Joann Olson, Ron Seim, Steve Jelen's dad – Gene, 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.

**Offertory**

**MEAL**

**Holy Communion**

**Words of Institution**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Distribution**

**Communion Blessing**

**Blessing**

**SENDING**

**Sending Song** "Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone"

**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!**