



Weekly Update

Friday, May 29, 2020
Trinity Lutheran Church Tea, SD

Dear beloved of Trinity,

We have been in quarantine for 2 1/2 months. It is getting old for many people. But for others the soft start to opening has been a safety net. We recognize that we are all over the spectrum. We are all Trinity and want what's best for Trinity.

I've been thinking a lot about this as the boards and Council have discussed a plan to phase back into in-person worship. I'm proud of the Council's efforts to be diligent, compassionate and dedicated. It has not always been easy but it has been worth it.

We have been physically apart but spiritually together.

That being said, I am reminded of the church season we are beginning. It is the season of Pentecost, a time in the church when we celebrate the Holy Spirit descending on the Apostles and other believers. From that point, believers were sent out to spread the Good News. Even without our building as our physical vessel, the Good News has still been happening all over the place. The building may have been closed but the church was still sent out.

Thank you faithful people of God, for persevering and holding the faith. Your efforts did not go unnoticed. You have inspired me and affirmed the fact that we are the body of a Christ together.

Be at peace,

Deacon Christie

Men's breakfast to resume

On Tuesday June 2, the Men's breakfast Bible study will resume in person gathering at 6:00 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. There are a few modifications that have been put in place.

1. You are welcome to arrive at or after 6:00, but please do not arrive before 6:00.
2. The table is set up to accommodate social distancing. Please sit in the chairs that are placed at the table.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Tom.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

Thursday—6/4 4-6pm Covid Food Giveaway

Sunday—6/7 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.

COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

Since we had a successful first food give away through our Covid-19 Food Response, the team has decided to offer it every first and third Thursdays on the month. Our next food give away will be Thursday, June 4 from 4:00 – 6:00pm at Trinity Lutheran. We are happy to be partnering with Feeding South Dakota as we can have access to their commodity food boxes. We are still in need of monetary and food donations as we supplement the commodity boxes with additional food items. Thank you for your faithful support of the Food Pantry and in particular, the Covid-19 Food Response. It fills a need for many families during this pandemic.

<u>Week of May 24</u>	<u>Month of May</u>	
\$ 8,500	\$34,000	Adjusted Weekly Total Expenses
<u>\$11,138</u>	<u>\$36,171</u>	Actual Weekly Total Giving
\$ 2,638	\$ 2,171	

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

Returning to In-person Worship

In the last several weeks the Board of Worship has been hard at work designing a plan for us to get back to in-person worship. Last Tuesday night your Church Council unanimously approved the proposed phased plan. I appreciate the hours of work they've volunteered and their dedication to the safety of our congregation. Our phased approach, which gradually gets us back to large gathering worship, was created with guidance from the White House, CDC, SD Department of Health, and the ELCA.

Our initial in-person worship phase will offer three different options. If you are a high risk individual or are not feeling well, please stay home and utilize option 1.

8:00am Live-Stream

Worship via Facebook Live is moving to 8:00am for the summer. A recording of the service can be accessed anytime via Facebook or late Sunday morning via YouTube.

8:00am In-Person

Attend the live-stream worship in-person. Sit every other pew (one empty pew in-between) and maintain at least 6' distance between families. We request attendees utilize the screens during worship and recommend wearing a face mask to this service.

9:30am Outside Tailgate

You're invited to sit on your tailgate, on lawn chairs next to your car, or remain in your vehicle. The service will be conducted from a platform and broadcast for all to hear. Order of worship bulletins will be emailed/mailed out prior to Sunday.

In order to help prevent the spread of illness the following steps will be taken;

- All high-touch surfaces (including pew backs) will be sanitized before and after use
- Hymnals and Bibles will be removed from the Sanctuary
- Sharing of the peace will be verbal with no-touch
- Offering will be collected using baskets at the back of the Sanctuary or the outside platform
- No communion (during this phase)
- No coffee hour (during this phase)
- Doors will be propped open
- We ask that hand sanitizer be used when entering the building (provided at each door)

We are a faith community that cares for and looks out for one another. As Jesus taught us in Matthew 22:38 "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" and in Matthew 25:40 "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Patience, grace, and flexibility will be necessary as we come together for worship in modified ways to lower the risk for everyone.

Watch your mailbox and Facebook for news on our first in-person worship date!

In Christ,

Nikki Wilken

Church Council President

Approved Church Council Minutes – May 12, 2020

Members Present: Nikki Wilken, Derek Gors, Tommy Pollema, Dave Poppens, Steve Oberle, Kristi McKinney, Maggie Saugstad, Clarissa Roemen, Don Lemley, Jenny Miller, and Carter McGregor.

Staff Present: Pastor Tom Opoien, Deacon Christie Meier

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Nikki Wilken.

Secretary's Report A motion to approve the minutes was made by Maggie and seconded by Steve. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report Balances as of 5-8-2020

General, \$56,082 Improvement, \$33,460 Rental, \$6,940 Meta Bank, \$27,108

A motion to approve the treasurer report was made by Steve and seconded by Kristi. Motion passed.

Old Business: PPP loan has been approved.

New Business:

Worship Update: Continue to use live stream and look for ways to meet in person and what it will look like.

Summer Office Hours: Remain the same.

Pastor Reports:

Pastor Tom Opoien - Working together with Deacon Christie, Tea area food pantry, T- Link, Tea school, and Feeding SD to provide food for those in need.

Deacon Christie – Covid-19 Response team handing out food on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month as long as needed.

Board Reports:

Education

- Possible SS guidelines for this fall.

Senior High

- High School meeting by Zoom.

Closing Discussions: Special Meeting May 26th 7:00pm

Next Month: Devotions Nikki. Next Month Meeting: Council meet June 9th 7:00 pm.

Secretary, Dave Poppens