



Weekly Update

Friday, January 22, 2021
Trinity Lutheran Church Tea, SD

I love teaching Confirmation for our 7th and 8th graders. They are attentive, respectful and smart. Last night we talked about "How to connect with God". Zach Gors gave a great opening devotion to introduce the topic. He spoke about how important personal connections are to our daily life. So it is with God.

I began the lesson stating that we can connect to God through prayer, through praise and through gratitude. (there are more ways but I choose 3 to begin)

When I asked what prayer was, the common answer was, "talking to God". They get it. Coming to God with our joys, our sorrows, our worries, our everyday lives connects us to the Creator. And we know God hears our prayers. Scripture is full of examples and promises such as, Lamentations 3:55-56 I called on Your name, Yahweh, from the depths of the Pit. You hear my plea: Do not ignore my cry for relief. You come near when I call on You; You say: "Do not be afraid." Prayer can be done at anytime, for anything and anywhere.

Another way to connect with God is through praise. He is worthy of our praise. Psalm 148 says that all Creation praises God. We give praise to God by acknowledging he is the Lord and Creator of all. We honor him by using the gifts he gives us - gifts of compassion, musical abilities, athleticism and service. Most importantly, we praise God for the gift of his son, Jesus. Jesus is our savior and Lord - the only one who saves.

The third but not definitive area of connection is gratitude. We talked about how important it is to give thanks for all we've been given. And we've been given a lot! We talked about our standard of living compared to world standards. We named out loud things we are grateful for.

We closed our Confirmation lesson by standing in a large circle around the room, assuming an attitude of prayer and each student lifted up something they are thankful for. The prayer petitions were beautiful and heartfelt. If you feel like the youth of our area are lacking in any way, last night's class proved that they have depth and understanding.

When I thank God, I thank him for middle school students who navigate difficult pandemic times with confidence and grace. Praise God.

I am also grateful to God for the many ways you, as a congregation, reach out to others, inviting, caring and rejoicing. What a gift you are!

We all crave connections. As humans, we are dependent on human and divine interactions. We were made to be in relationship with each other.

Examine the ways in which you connect to God. I invited the students to think of a time of day when they will intentionally connect to God - something to remind them to talk to God, like when they brush their teeth or ride to school or hear an emergency siren.

Thank you, people of God, for the many connections you make. We are the body of Christ. I Corinthians 12:12 says, "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."

Jesus Christ is our connector. Pray, praise and give thanks.

In gratitude,
Deacon Christie

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday—1-24 In-Person 8am & 10:30am Worship, On-Line worship at 10:30am, 9:15am 1st Grade Milestone, 9:15am Annual Meeting, 9:30am Sunday School, Adult Sunday School, 11:45am—Drive Through Communion.

Tuesday—6:30am Men's Breakfast, 8:30am Preschool, 9:30am Blood Pressure, 10am Over 55

Wednesday—8:30am Preschool, 6:30pm Worship, 7:15pm KFC 5th grade in person, Confirmation 7th grade in person, Sr. High

Thursday— 8:30am Preschool, 5:30pm TOPS

Sunday—1-31 In-Person 8am & 10:30am Worship, On-Line worship at 10:30am 9:15am 1st Grade Milestone, 9:30am Sunday School, Adult Sunday School

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30am

Hello! My name is Molly Sittig. I am the new Sunday School Director at Trinity Lutheran. All of my life God has placed a passion on my heart for teaching children about the Good News of Jesus' love. I am so honored to be working with your children for the remainder of the year! Due to COVID-19 we will be continuing the rotating schedule for in-person and online Sunday School. The schedule for the following weeks for in-person Sunday School is below. I look forward to seeing what God has in store through Trinity Lutheran Sunday School!

January 24th: Kindergarten

January 31st: Pre-K

ATTENDANCE

Date	8:00	10:30	Wed
Jan10	58	97	73

CHURCH FINANCES

Week of Jan 18

\$10,625 **Weekly Total Operating Expenses**

\$ 8,383 **Actual Weekly Total Giving**

\$ 2,242

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 Pol-
lema 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 Globe Offering for January is Lutherans Outdoors

Preschool Registration



Trinity's Preschool Registration is now open!

Spots are limited so please sign up as soon as possible We will provide your child a faithful journey in Preschool!

To register go to the church website or Preschool Facebook page!

MILESTONE MOMENT

First graders will meet on Jan 24 and 31 for our lessons and Sunday, February 7 or Wednesday, February 10 for our celebration. Registration link -

<http://bitly.ws/b3Qf>

Annual Meeting

Our 2020 Annual Meeting will be held on 1/24/21 at 9:15am in the Sanctuary. If you prefer to attend via Zoom—the link is shorturl.at/muKX6

Drive Through Communion

Sunday, January 24th from 11:45 to 12:15 Pastor Tom and Deacon Christie will be serving Holy Communion in a “drive-through” setting. If you would like to receive Holy Communion, simply drive to the south entrance of Trinity and we will be set up to serve you in your vehicle. Both be wearing masks and will sanitize our hands between each car.



8am & 10:30am Worship

Sunday, January 24, 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church, Tea, SD

Teatrinity.org – 605-498-2343



3rd Sunday After Epiphany

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

L: God has been revealed to us.

C: We are the people of the Lord!

L: The master steps into our lives

C: And prospers the work of our hands.

L: God has been revealed to us.

C: We are the people of the Lord!

L: We gather in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

All: Amen.

Song

Confession

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

Pause for silence and reflection.

L: God of light,

C: You light a fire within us and ask us to shine, but we are quick to hide and make excuses. We shrink from challenges, avoid responsibility, and deny the goodness of your creation. We seek hollow praise and then don't believe it. Forgive us for hiding our God-given light and remaining self-absorbed.

L: Children of God, never fear, for you have always lived in the mercy of your creator. Hear the words of absolution and believe them: you are forgiven, you are made whole, you are restored to God. Hallelujah!

All: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Wondrous God,

You turned fishermen into disciples, teachers, and healers. Transform us in the ways which serve you best, and lead us fearlessly forward in faith. Amen.

WORD

Psalm 90:14-17

L: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days

**C: Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.**

L: Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

**C: Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!**

Gospel Reading – Luke 5:1-11

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Sermon Pastor Tom Opoien

Sermon Song

Apostles' Creed

Offertory

Prayers of the People

We pray for members and friends of our congregation: Joseph Opoien, Mike Westall, 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, Jessica Boone's mom – Sue Meyer. Rosalie Gerdes's sister JoAnn Breitbach, Troy Smith and Ellie Cordie while in active duty.

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

SENDING

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!

Postlude