



Weekly Update

Friday, May 1, 2020
Trinity Lutheran Church Tea, SD

Dear Beloved of Trinity,

Two weeks ago when I wrote the newsletter article, I wrote about the very real feelings of loss and grief during this Covid-19 time. A couple of weeks have passed and there still are very real feelings of loss and grief but I have noticed something emerging.

Amidst the loss, there is joy springing forth, much like spring is bursting forth. Like new buds on the trees, I read on Facebook about how families are getting out hiking and walking.....a kind of bursting forth from the house.

I commend you for finding ways to make the best out of "being stuck at home". Many of you are finding creative ways to reach out to family and friends. You are still practicing and honoring the social distancing yet getting out and seeing other humans. Keep posting on social media ways that you are connecting with others. I see the joy arising and feel it's effects.

We were created to live in community, some of us extroverts even more so than others. What a wonderful world God created. We have learned from each other and grown as a community....as a nation....as a world. I have a feeling that we will see some changes as we recover and get back to normal. But change can be good. I have seen and read and learned from you these following things:

1. it was a time to reconnect with family
- 2.it was a time to play all the games in the cupboard and learn new games
3. it was a time to cultivate artistic talent
4. it was a time to try something new
5. it was a time to cook together and eat together.....actually sitting down at the table together.
6. it was a time to worship together in the living/family room
7. it was a time to embrace sweat pants and yoga pants and be proud of it.
8. it was a time to think of others - those who contracted Covid-19,, those who were isolated, those who experienced a death in their family.
9. it was a time to realize that the most important people in this world are not high paid athlete and actors but instead teachers, first responders, delivery and transport people, medical staff, etc.
10. it was a time to remember to thank God for the many blessing he's given us.

My friends, we will be back together again to worship and be in community together but I am so proud of you for continuing to be the body of Christ outside the walls of the church. You have shown me love, understanding and service to others as we have been physically separated. We are strong because of the grace God has given us. We are loved whether we are physically together or socially distanced. We proclaim at the end of our service that God is good....there are no disclaimers on that....He is good all the time! When we return, we will boldly proclaim that and really mean it!!

Peace and blessings to you, Deacon Christie

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday—5/3 10:30am Worship via Facebook Live

Wednesday—5/6 7pm Sr. High meets via Google Meet

Thursday—5/7 4-6pm Covid Response Food Giveaway

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

CONTACT US!

Pastor Tom and Deacon Christie have been having many meaningful conversations with members and friends of Trinity via phone and computer during these last few weeks. Please feel free to reach out to your ministers. We love you and are happy talk and pray with you in your joys and sorrows. Please let us know if:

*There is a hospitalization in your family

*There is a death in your family

*There is a birth or adoption

*Someone becomes homebound

*Someone becomes unemployed

*If you are experiencing financial distress

*There is a cause for sorrow or a cause for joy

Hospitals don't notify the ministers that a member is in the hospital, even if they ask your church membership when you arrive. So please let us know if you or a family member is in the hospital.

Please do not hesitate to call Pastor Tom Opoien at 605-440-2784(cell) tom@teatrinity.org or Deacon Christie Meier at 605-521-5459 christie@teatrinity.org

COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

A team has been formed, representing Trinity Lutheran Church, the Tea Area Food Pantry and tLINK to provide supplemental food during this Covid pandemic. This team will umbrella under the Food Pantry but will function as a separate, additional food source. We are also linked with Feeding South Dakota as they will provide supplemental boxes. Thank you for those who have generously given to the Food Pantry and Covid-10 Food Response. We are able to schedule our first food distribution on Thursday, May 7. A registration process preceded the distribution.

Week of April 26

\$8,500 Adjusted Weekly Total Expenses
\$11,388 Actual Weekly Total Giving
\$2,888

Month of April 2020

\$34,000 Adjusted Monthly Total Expenses
\$36,195 Actual Monthly Total Giving
\$2,195

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

Unapproved Church Council Minutes – April 14, 2020

Treasurer's Report Balances as of 4-8-2020

General, \$17,920 Improvement, \$33,320 Rental, \$6,940 Meta Bank, \$20,211

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

A motion was made by Steve and seconded by Clarissa to use the Paycheck Protection Program. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Maggie and seconded by Clarissa to pay the first quarter of the SD Synod benevolence pending approval of the Paycheck Protection Program.

Old Business:

New Business:

- Tommy moved that we change Pastor Tom's housing allowance to \$35,000.00 for 2020.
- Kristi seconded. Motion passed.
- Deacon Christie with the Covid-19 pandemic has decided to take her sabbatical the summer of 2021.
- Talked about combining the Community picnic and church auction later this year.
- Looking to improve our live streaming services.
- Food Pantry will look at expanded services.

Pastor Reports:

Pastor Tom Opoien - Working with Deacon Christie and staff on how to continue our ministry during this Covid-19 outbreak.

Deacon Christie – Thanking Carrie Corner preschool, Patti Goehring Sunday school, and Maggie Saugstad high school for continued virtual education.

Preparing final confirmation lessons via You Tube video.

Board Reports:

- Property
Looking to install the boiler this summer.
- Education
VBS cancelled. Online Sunday School.
- Outreach, Stewardship, Worship, Youth & Family – no reports