



## Weekly Update

Friday, August 21, 2020  
Trinity Lutheran Church Tea, SD

Dear friends,

I have been wondering how we will look back on 2020 fifteen or twenty years from now. Surely this year will have affected each of our personal stories differently. Some will ache from the loss of loved ones; others will think about challenges related to school or the stress of job changes. Still others will only remember the run on toilet paper. For most of us, though, we will likely look back on these months as a time of quick, deep, and meaningful learning.

Several years ago, I had a conversation with a friend who had worked for nearly thirty years as a financial planner. During those years he had helped hundreds of people plan for their retirements, but one theme came up repeatedly as older, financially well-off couples reflected on their early married lives. It is not that they were nostalgic for the years when they were financially strapped, working hard to keep food on the table and the children in shoes. However, most of them looked back at those stressful years as a time when they were forced to rely on each other. Most of the couples cherished those challenging years as an energetic time when they learned to love each other amid hard work and uncertainty.

One of the areas of deep learning that I have had in recent months is why we have Christian congregations in the first place. During easier times I sometimes lose focus about why we work to gather newcomers and long-timers together in Jesus name. The late teacher and theologian, Kent Knudson, repeatedly reminded ministers and lay people that congregations are gatherings of believers who are sent out. The faith community worships and learns together, and then goes out into the world. Our purpose at Trinity Lutheran Church is not just to get people into the pews and money into the offering plate. It is to equip followers of Jesus to serve with joy in his name.

This fall the people of Trinity will be repeatedly hearing and experiencing the theme "Gathered to worship, scattered to serve." These simple phrases will be guiding each of the ministries of the congregation as we live into the next stages of responding to the pandemic. Whether you gather to worship in person or in digital form, I encourage you to be intentional about making time to gather with your congregation to hear the Word, give thanks for God's blessings, and to support your brothers and sisters in Christ by your presence. Then I encourage you to take heart and courage to go into your important work of prayer and service in your own settings. Whether you are a school worker or a grandparent praying for the world, you are scattered to serve.

None of us would have chosen to have COVID-19 enter our world. Yet, I pray that we may have the wisdom to learn and serve, and that down the road when we've entered easier times we'll look back at 2020 as a time when we learned to be grateful for the life that our Lord has given us. We are deeply blessed that we are gathered and scattered.

Peace and best wishes,

Pastor Tom Opoien

## **Church Calendar**

Sunday—8/23 8am Worship via Facebook Live, Sanctuary at 8am & 9:30am worship

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

Wednesday—8:30am Preschool

Thursday— 8:30am Preschool, 6pm TOPS

Sunday—8/30 8am Worship via Facebook Live, Sanctuary at 8am & 9:30am worship

## **Globe Offering**

We will begin collecting for our Globe Offering ministries this Sunday and beyond. These are important ministries that have been put on the back burner during this Covid pandemic. The Globe Offering container will be placed in the gathering space by the coffee serving counter. Please add your donation at any time prior, during or after worship. Thank you for your generosity.

## **School Supplies**

Friends, your generosity donating school supplies and/or adopting a child to purchase school supplies for, has not gone unnoticed. I cannot adequately express the gratitude of the recipients when they come to pick up their supplies. I am so proud to be part of a congregation that honors service to others as a sign of discipleship. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

**Watch for a special Weekly Update in 2 weeks with information on Fall Programming at Trinity.**

## **Week of August 2**

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

**\$ 8,357 Actual Weekly Total Giving**

**\$ -1,643**

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 August will go to ELCA Disaster Response**

# 8am & 9:30am Worship

Sunday, August 23 2020

Trinity Lutheran Church, Tea, SD

Teatrinity.org – 605-498-2343



## 12th 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

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

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

L: Patient God,

**C: You have taught us all we need to be your faithful people. And yet we persist in going our own way, doing our own thing, and minding our own business when we ought to be about the business of your kingdom. Forgive our selfish neglect of others and bring us back into wholeness with our brothers and sisters. Amen.**

L: God is merciful, patient, kind and forgiving. We have been pardoned for all that we have done, and all that we have overlooked. May we give now as we have received: generously and extravagantly, in the way of our loving teacher, savior and Lord. Amen.

Song ["Beautiful Savior" ELW #838](#)

#### Prayer of the Day

L: God of truth,

**C: You reveal the truth to us, even when the world hides it. Show us how to live as your faithful followers, who stand firm in your promises and live in the hope of new life, for the sake of Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

**First Reading** – Isaiah 51:1-6

**Psalm 46 video**

**Second Reading** – Romans 12:1-8

**Gospel Reading** – Matthew 16:13-20

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**                      Deacon Christie Meier

**Sermon Song** “Waymaker”

**Apostles’ Creed**

**Offertory**

**Prayers of the People**

We pray for members and friends of our congregation: 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, Shirley Oltmann’s sister, Linda Goulet, Jami Atkin’s dad – Kevin Roth, Tara Johanneson’s brother-in-law, Jesse, Linda Stucky’s Cousin – Linda Ash, Troy Smith and Ellie Cordie while in active duty.

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Blessing**

## SENDING

**Sending Song** “Go, Make Disciples” ELW#540

**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!**