



Weekly Update

Friday, July 10, 2020
Trinity Lutheran Church Tea, SD

Dear friends,

This Sunday, you'll have the opportunity to hear a sermon based on the Parable of the Sower. That's a subtle reminder that you can worship online at 8:00 via Facebook Live or in person at 8:00 or 9:30. The parable that Jesus tells goes like this.

"Listen, A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" Matthew 13: 3-9

As of now, I'm not exactly certain what I'll preach, but I'm grateful for the help I receive each time I prepare a sermon. My preparation begins with our Tuesday morning men's breakfast where we talk about what people hear in the scripture. This week a man pointed out that the harvest varies even in the best of soil. I had never noticed that. Interesting. Later in the day, I met with a couple of other ministers to look at the same passage. One of them was going to preach on "The Muddy Middle" and talk about how to live faithfully after the excitement of being new to the faith fades and we learn to trust God in the muddiness of our lives. That was a helpful comment, too.

Now, I'm reading that scholars have many opinions about what Jesus is trying to tell his disciples. Some say that the sower is God and that Jesus is the seed that is scattered on all people, the hardhearted and the receptive alike. Others say that the sower is Jesus and that he is contrasting ways of living that bring true life and those that bring shallowness or even death. One of my favorite ideas is that this parable should be called the "Parable of the Ground" because most of the emphasis is on types of soil.

Proclaiming the good news is never a solitary act. By the time preacher says utters a word, there has already been a community effort of speaking, listening, studying, and prayerful interpreting. The deep well of scripture continues to speak to us through the generation because the deep spiritual challenges are the same. Shallowness, lack of endurance, and unexamined priorities that quietly choke us are not new. Thankfully, scripture also provide the healing cure. John the Baptist told us that in Jesus, the Kingdom of Heaven has come near. Our hope is in Jesus and the way of being that his kingdom brings.

Together we work toward cultivating good soil where Jesus' way of faith, hope, and love can take root. It is good to remember that those seeds are not planted individually in a neat row. Instead they are scattered generously by the handful into the world by a generous God.

Peace and best wishes,

Pastor Tom Opoien

Church Calendar

Sunday—7/12 8am Worship via Facebook Live, In Person Worship in the Sanctuary at 8am & 9:30am worship

Tuesday—6:30am Men's Breakfast, 7pm Board Meetings

Wednesday—6:30pm Trinity plays softball in Lennox

Thursday— 1:30pm WELCA Bible Study on "Just love in a nation" (Exodus 1) , 4pm Covid Food Giveaway, 6pm Church Council

Sunday—7/19 8am Worship via Facebook Live, In Person Worship in the Sanctuary at 8am & 9:30am worship

Large COVID Food Response Delivery this week

Because of a new, generous allocation from the United States Department of Agriculture, the Tea COVID Food distribution this week is especially substantial. This Thursday, July 16, from 4:00 – 5:00 a refrigerated truck will be in Trinity's south parking lot providing boxes of meat, produce, and dairy to anyone who has been affected by the pandemic. Volunteers will be available until 6:00 if you can't arrive until after 5:00.

If you or a neighbor could use this food, please come. This same set of food items will also be distributed on the first and third Thursdays in August. Feel free to come and share this food with people in your neighborhood if you don't have a need yourself. To sign up call the church office at 605-498-2343 or register online at www.cutt.ly/lyxn5KK

New members, we haven't forgotten you!

Usually, Trinity hosts a reception of new members in the spring. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, our new member reception was postponed. If you are new to the Trinity community and are planning on becoming a member, know that we haven't forgotten about you. The Board of Outreach will be hosting a new member gathering in the fall. Though a date hasn't been set yet, know that all our newcomers are important to us, and we'll keep you informed.

Financial Update

Week of July 5

\$8,500 Weekly Total Expenses Adjusted for Virtual Only Church

+\$1,500 Additional Expenses for Benevolences and Programs

\$10,000 Weekly Total Operating Expenses

\$ 4,532 Actual Weekly Total Giving

\$ 5,468

During our time of virtual only church, expenses were adjusted, including pausing our benevolences. As we resume our giving, restart programming, and community outreach our total expenses will increase. 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

8am & 9:30am Worship

Sunday, July 12, 2020

Trinity Lutheran Church, Tea, SD

Teatrinity.org – 605-498-2343



GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

L: We call to you, come!

C: Come into our presence, Lord.

L: We praise you for your presence in our lives.

C: You love all that you created.

L: Let us enter worship with thanksgiving and praise.

C: For you are God alone and worthy of our praise.

Confession

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen**

Pause for silence and reflection.

L: Most merciful God, **C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart: we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Song "Amazing Grace"

ELW #779

Prayer of the Day

L: Holy Lord,

C: You scatter your word far and wide. Make our hearts fertile ground to receive it, grow it, and share its fruits with all who need to hear it, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

WORD

First Reading – Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:9-13

L: You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

C: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

L: You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

C: The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

L: the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

Second Reading – Romans 8:1-11

Gospel Reading – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-22

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Sermon Pastor Tom Opoien

Sermon Song “Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil” ELW #512

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, Jami Atkin’s dad – Kevin Roth, Tara Johanneson’s brother -in-law, Jesse, Troy Smith while in active duty.

Lord’s Prayer

Blessing

Sending Song “Beautiful Savior”

SENDING

ELW #838

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!