



Trinity Lutheran Church
605-498-2343
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TRINITY CONNECTION

JANUARY 5, 2024

Dear Beloved of Trinity,

I love music in a variety of ways. I love worship music. I love live concerts. I love YouTube videos. One thing that is common in the music world is the use of preludes. A prelude is an action or event serving as an introduction to something more important yet holding its own importance. A prelude serves its own role yet is most always connected to what comes after it.

So in worship, we hear Dawn, Joann or Gail play a music prelude as everyone enters the sanctuary. The music sets the mood for worship. At a concert, we hear a band or group prior to the headliner. Each of these preludes serves an important role yet is connected to what comes after it.

This week in scripture we read about John the Baptist who came before Jesus, proclaiming repentance and baptism. John is most definitely connected to what comes next. John is the prelude for Jesus.

John the Baptist was a gregarious, unorthodox preacher. He wore camel hair and ate locusts with honey. People may have regarded him as “unusual” yet there was something that drew people to him. That “something” was the good news that a Messiah was coming. John admitted he was not worthy of even tying his sandal.

For many in the first century, John was the one who introduced people to Jesus, the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Who is the person who told you about Jesus? Who was the “prelude” in your faith life? Jesus is the real deal. It is all about Him. John’s humble role was to point to the real deal. He set the example for us. We are to point to the real deal, also, through our words, deeds and actions. Be proud to be a prelude. It is an important role.

Blessings to you,
Deacon Christie.

Church Calendar

Tuesday, January 9

6:30 pm: Men's Breakfast
8:30 am: Preschool (3 & 4 yr olds)

Wednesday, January 10

8:30 am: Preschool (Pre-K)
5:45 pm: Band Rehearsal
6:30 pm: Worship
7:15 pm: KFC - 5th & 6th Grade, Confirmation,
High School Youth

Thursday, January 11

8:30 am: Preschool (3 & 4 yr olds)
11:15 am: Meals on Wheels Delivery
5:30 pm: TOPS

Friday, January 12

8:30 am: Preschool (Pre-K)

Sunday, January 14

8:00 am: Worship
9:15 am: Coffee and Cookies; Sunday School;
Adult Bible Study; Budget Information Meeting
10:30 am: Worship (online and in person)
6:30 pm: Financial Peace University

Monday, January 15

Due to the holiday church office is closed
8:30 am: Preschool (Pre-K)

Tuesday, January 16

6:30 pm: Men's Breakfast
8:30 am: Preschool (3 & 4 yr olds)

Upcoming Important Dates

Jan. 28: Trinity's Annual Meeting
Jan. 26: Date Night Daycare
Feb. 17: Chili Bingo

Attendance

Wednesday, Dec. 27. No worship due to
holiday break
Sunday, Dec. 31
New Year's Eve Day
9:00 am: 138

Church Finances

Week of December 31, 2023

Total Operating Cost: \$13,205

Actual Total Giving: \$10,608

Difference of: - \$ 2,597

Outstanding Expenses: \$ 0

January Globe Offering \$ 36

Total operating cost represents all expenses including staff costs, benevolences, supplies, outreach, and our mortgage payment. If you have questions regarding the budget, please contact Margaret Larsen at 605-351-8561.

Ways to Give

Envelopes: In-person or Mail to the church

Online Giving: www.teatrinity.org/donate

Venmo: teatrinity

January Globe Offering

LUTHERAN OUTDOORS

Prayer Requests

- Sharon Nelson ▪ Bonnie Wolthuis ▪ Sonia Ensz
- Ken Kahl ▪ Greg Myrmoe ▪ Ray Kelly
- Debbie Jensen, Jacob Jensen's mother
- Melva Hilmoe's brother & Sarah Hilmoe's uncle Fred Tidemann
- Gordon & Dorothy Fritz's son Carl
- Delores Wells' brother-in-law, Jerry Boellaard
- Amy Kuhnert's family member, Jeremy Josephson
- Melva Hilmoe's friend, Fred Carpenter
- Doug Mette sister and brother-in-law, Gene and June Neises
- Dawn Arp's mother, Darlene Sheeler
- Rex & Clem Boyd's sister-in-law, Dodie
- Sympathy to Melva Hilmoe for the passing of her niece's husband, Michael Crowley
- Sympathy to Leo and Linda Dannen and Paul and Joy Schreurs for the passing of Leo's sister and Joy's aunt, Marge Sauerstanley

Financial Peace University

January 14 - March 17
6:30-8:30 pm
9 week course
in the Fellowship Hall

The Board of Stewardship is happy to offer ten full scholarships to members of Trinity for the Financial Peace University seminar. **The class will meet for nine Sundays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning on January 14 in the Fellowship Hall.** At the first session, digital codes for the scholarships will be distributed. Call the church office to register or if you have questions at 605-498-2343.

Here is the description of the seminar from the Financial Peace University website:

When debt isn't holding you back, nothing can stop you from living the life of your dreams (yeah, that one you're thinking about right now). And here's the good news: You can get there. You just need a plan that works.

That's what you'll learn in Financial Peace University. FPU is the nine-week class that teaches you step by step how to pay off debt fast and build wealth for your future.

Stuffy financial class? Not here. FPU is full of energy, easy-to-understand lessons, and real-life examples of people just like you who have taken control of their money. And the best part? You'll experience the class with a group of people who will encourage you and hold you accountable every step of the way. That's what makes FPU so life-changing! In fact, the average FPU graduate is debt-free in two years or less!

Dave Ramsey's been teaching commonsense, biblical money principles for almost 30 years. And they work. Just ask the nearly 10 million people who've taken FPU and never have to worry about money again.

You're next. Ready?

In Financial Peace University, you'll learn how to:

- Take control of your money
- Attack debt with a vengeance and pay it off fast
- Save for emergencies
- Choose the right insurance plans
- Invest wisely and build wealth
- Give generously (the best part)

If you have questions, contact the church office by calling 605-498-2343.

Budget Information Meeting & Annual Meeting

Budget Information Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 14
9:15 am
in the Fellowship Hall

Trinity's Annual Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 28
11:30 am
in the Sanctuary



National Youth Gathering Parent Meeting

Wednesday, January 17
8:15 am
Gathering Space



This is an informational meeting for all parents and youth that have youth attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Please plan to attend as we continue



WELCA Bible Study

Thursday, January 18
1:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall

Please join us for a faith filled bible study, a short meeting and refreshments! All are welcome!.

Tea Community Food Distribution

Thursday, January 18
5:00 - 6:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church

If you need help with food, or know someone who does, call the church office at 605-498-2343. Registration is required each month. Due to limited supply of food, we will only be accepting 140 registrations. Registration will then close and we will no longer take signups.

Milestone Ministry

Kindergarten Milestone—Learning to Pray
Sunday, Jan. 21, 9:15 am - Lesson #2

Celebration: Sunday, Jan. 28 at 8:00 or 10:30 am or Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 6:30 pm

Join Deacon Christie and learn about how prayer is essential for a faith life. Come learn how to pray for our own needs and the needs of others!

2024 Offering Envelopes

Available to pickup in the Gathering Space!

If you are not able to pick up your offering envelopes please contact the church office at 605-498-2343 and we can mail it to you.



Lutheran Preschool registration now open!

3 & 4 year olds
Tuesday/Thursday
8:30 - 11:00 am

4 & 5 year olds (Pre-K)
Monday/Wednesday/Friday
8:30 - 11:30 am

Trinity Lutheran Preschool 2024-2025 registration is now available. We are a Christ-centered preschool with play based learning program. Our themed lessons and virtue focus will enrich the whole child by incorporating all learning styles and senses. Learning outcomes will enhance a child's spiritual, social-emotional, physical and intellectual development.

Call the church office for more information or to register.

Mission Endowment Fund to Update Bylaws

We are fortunate to have various avenues at Trinity for financial gifts to be directed toward ministry. One of those ways is through our Mission Endowment Fund. The interest earned from gifts to this fund goes toward ministry projects at Trinity as well as in the Tea area communities and beyond.

At the congregation's annual meeting to be held on January 28, 2024, updated bylaws for the Mission Endowment Fund will be presented for consideration. Thank you to Kathy McHenry from Lutheran Planned Generosity in South Dakota, members of the Mission Endowment Committee, and members of the church council for input in this revision process. If you would like to view the proposed bylaws, you can pick up a copy at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering space.

If you have questions, contact the church office by calling 605-498-2343.

Hospitalizations / Life Changing Events

Did you know that the hospitals do not notify the church or pastor if a member has been admitted, even if you've been asked about your church membership upon arrival? Pastor Tom and Deacon Christie want to be there to support you or your loved one in a time of sorrow or joy.

Please notify the church when:

There is a hospitalization in your family.

There is a death in your family.

You would like a pastoral visit.

There is a birth or adoption.

Someone becomes home bound.

Someone becomes unemployed.

Trinity Lutheran Church, the body of Christ, wants to bring you Christ's love in all the seasons of your life. You may contact either Pastor Tom or Deacon Christie by calling 605-498-2343.

Winter gear is available and accepting donations!

Items most in need:

- Adult coats (sizes XL, XXL, XXXL)

- Kids boots (all sizes)

- Kids coats and snow pants (all sizes)



Board of Outreach is collecting new and gently used cold weather gear in the east entrance of the church and is available to the public. We are currently collecting coats, jackets, snow pants, hats, gloves, and boots that will be made available to our neighbors in the community. Used items are accepted, but please launder before you drop them off. We accept new items as well. Simply drop off the items in the bin in the Gathering Space. If you have questions, contact the church office at 605-498-2343

January Food Pantry Donation: Cake Mix and Frosting

With the raising cost of food the Food Pantry has seen an increase in clients. Feel free to pick up an extra item or two when shopping to help those in need! In the month of January we will be collecting cake mix and frosting. Donations can be dropped off in the Gathering Space. If you have questions or would like to make a monetary donation, please contact the church office or call Ruth at 605-321-7325.

January Globe Offering will support Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota

During the month of January, the ministry partner we will be supporting with the Globe Offering is Lutheran Outdoors in South Dakota. Thank you to Taylor Van Emmerick for giving a temple talk in worship this Sunday, January 7 to talk about the impact of Lutherans Outdoors. Taylor is a member of Trinity who is a student at the University of South Dakota who has worked as a counselor at NeSoDak Bible camp during the last two summers. NeSoDak is one of three Lutherans Outdoors camps. The other two are Outlaw Ranch near Custer and Klein Ranch near Isabel.

The following is from the Lutherans Outdoors website:

Lutherans Outdoors: Where faith becomes life.

What We Do: At Lutherans Outdoors we provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to connect with one another. These connections allow each person to explore and play in a nurturing environment, which leads to a stronger faith foundation, discovering personal gifts, developing new skills, as well as building life-long relationships. Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota is dedicated to quality faith experiences and hospitality for youth and adults and has been for more than 65 years.

Our Mission: Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota welcomes all to explore and experience Christ's love in community and creation.

Our Vision: We are your first choice for dynamic and innovative Christ-centered ministries: many sites, many seasons, many experiences.

Each camp follows the standards set by the American Camp Association (ACA).

LO staff is well-trained and offers signature hospitality.

LO camps include diverse sites and programs.

LO camps promote spiritual and personal growth.

Core Values: *We Promise To:*

- *Explore Faith*
- *Welcome All*
- *Build Leaders*
- *Care for ALL Creation*

Summer is coming soon and Trinity's youth loves to attending Lutheran Outdoors' camps!

