



Trinity Lutheran Church
605-498-2343
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www.teatrinity.org

TRINITY CONNECTION

JULY 14, 2023

Dear friends in Christ,

As a pastor and congregational leader, I spend a lot of time thinking about the individuals in our congregation and the ways we help one another to live out God's good promises in the world. Pastors have always thought about these things. Paul and the members of their congregations had a major issue to address, slavery. Some studies estimate that in the Roman Empire during Paul's time up to half of the people in empire were slaves.

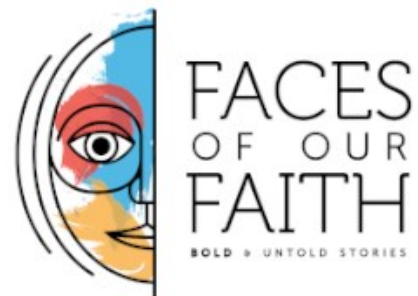
This Sunday morning, I will be preaching about members in the house churches in Colossae as they worked through a challenge to live out their faith while confronting slavery in their midst. The confrontation happens in a personal letter to a slave-holding leader in the Colossian church named Philemon. This letter about freeing his slave, Onesimus, and instead receiving him like a brother remains instructive about the importance of letting our core Christian values shape our actions.

About the same time that Paul writes to Philemon individually, he also addresses slavery to the entire congregation in his letter to the Colossians. Paul begins his argument that all actions of the Christian should begin with empathetic, self-giving, agape love. In Colossians 3, Paul addresses the people as God's holy and beloved chosen ones and instructs them to "clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds all things together." He gives these instructions immediately after he has reminded them that "there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!"

In the letter to Philemon, Paul urges him to make the right choice about freeing his slave with the words, "I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ." Paul knows that releasing Onesimus is a challenging and counter cultural decision for Philemon, but that it is also the right thing to do.

Acting in love sometimes takes courage. It was a good reminder for Philemon, and it's a good reminder for us.

Peace and best wishes,
Pastor Tom Opoien



Summer Financial Update

During the first half of 2023 we asked the congregation to make significant contributions to the "Under this Roof" campaign. You stepped up to the plate, and we exceeded our goal.

In part because of our big emphasis on the building campaign, our General/Operating Fund is currently under stress. The church council has approved taking out a \$50,000 line of credit loan from a bank to help us pay our bills through the leaner months of summer. We would like to pay this loan off as soon as we can.

Here are three ways that you could help.

1. Have an intentional conversation in your household about how you can help to support the operating expenses of the church and consider increasing your general giving if possible.
2. Since many of our members make financial gifts through automatic withdrawal, it is easy to forget about changing the amount given annually as your personal financial situation changes. If you would like to change your electronic giving amount, contact our Office Manager, Janita Holman, at 605-498-2343. She can help you with the process.
3. Make an additional one-time gift to the General/Operating Fund.

If you would like to meet with Janita in person to make any changes, she will be available in the Connection Room on Sunday mornings during July following the 9:00 worship service to help make any electronic changes. Also, feel free to stop by the church office to speak with her during the week. If you choose to meet in person, please have your banking information with you. Currently, the church pays the banking processing fees for automatic withdrawals. If you choose, you also could cover these fees.

Pay attention to the weekly financial update in the weekly Trinity Connections newsletter. This will show our progress toward repaying our loan.

Thank you again for your generosity to the congregation.

Sincerely,

Members of the Trinity Lutheran Board of Stewardship

Church Calendar

Summer Office Hours

8:30 am - 4:30 pm Monday - Thursday

8:30 am - Noon Friday

Tuesday, July 18

6:30 am: Men's Breakfast

11:15 am: Meals on Wheels Delivery

Thursday, July 20

11:15 am: Meals on Wheels Delivery

1:30 pm: WELCA Bible Study

5:00-6:00 pm: Tea Community Food Distribtuion

5:30 pm: TOPS

Sunday, July 23

8:30 am: Coffee and Cookies

9:00 am: Worship (online and in person)

July 23 - 29

High School Mission Trip - Wausau, WI

Tuesday, July 25

6:30 am: Men's Breakfast

10:00 am: OVER 55 Group

Upcoming Important Dates

July 26-27: Preschool Rummage Sale

July 30: Sunday School Volunteer Meeting

Attendance

Sunday, July 9

9:00 am: 174

Church Finances

Week of July 9, 2023

Total Operating Cost: \$13,205

Actual Total Giving: - \$6,966

Difference of: - \$6,239

Year to Date

Total Operating Cost: \$369,741

Actual Total Giving: \$239,512

Difference of: \$130,229

July Globe Offering \$ 80

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

Online Giving: www.teatrinity.org Click "GIVE"

Text Giving: (605) 777-7223

Envelopes: In-person or Mail to the church

July Globe Offering

SLOVAKIA MISSIONARY SUPPORT

Prayer Requests

- Linda Stucky
- Deanna Anderson and baby, Henry James
- Sonia Ensz
- Ken Kahl
- Greg Myrmoe
- Ray Kelly
- Dorothy Fritz
- Melva Hilmoe's brother & Sarah Hilmoe's uncle Fred Tidemann
- Michael Schmidt's uncle Larry Schmidt
- Jami Atkin's dad Kevin Roth

- Gordon & Dorothy Fritz's son Carl & daughter Margaret
- Delmer Otten's mom, Delores Otten
- Delores Wells' brother & brother-in-law, Roy Wells & Jerry Boellaard
- Amy Kuhnert's family member, Jeremy Josephson
- Larry Panning & Jo Garner's sister-in-law, Pam Panning
- Paul and Joy Schreurs' granddaughter, Quinn Grace



WELCA Bible Study

Thursday, July 20

1:30 pm

in the Fellowship Hall

Join us as we study Salvation Now—Christians Bringing Wellness
Following Jesus means expressing our solidarity with Jesus and
his mission, in all we do. Because Jesus is the bringer of salvation,
in his name, so, too, are we. Where there are wounds and
brokenness. All are welcome!

Tea Community Food Distribution

Thursday, July 20

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. Please register by Wednesday, July 19th

OVER
55

OVER 55 Group

Tuesday, July 25

10:00 am

in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for fellowship a short meeting, a guided tour around the city of
tea, a devotion and a potluck lunch! All are welcome.

Preschool Rummage Sale

Wednesday, July 26

7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Thursday, July 27

7:30 am - 1:00 pm



We are now accepting donations of new or gently used items including toys, small housewares,
men's, women's, kid's and baby clothing. **No appliances please.**
Donations can be dropped off at the church during business hours Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30
pm and Friday 8:30 am - noon. Please check in with the office prior to dropping off your donations.

Please have your donations dropped off by Thursday, July 20!

1K Youth Fun Run

Holden Jelen's Senior Capstone Project: 1K Youth Fun Run

Wednesday, July 26

6:00 pm

Tea Area Athletic Complex

No Registration or Entry Fee | Open to all kids Grades K - 6th grade

There will be a K - 2nd grade division, a 3rd - 4th grade division and a 5th - 6th grade division. Participants are encouraged, but not required, to bring a non-perishable food item donation for the Tea Food Pantry. (eg spaghetti sauce, dry pasta, canned goods). Cash and Venmo donations for the Tea Food Pantry will also be accepted on race day.



Lutheran World Relief school kits now available!

July 9 — Sept. 30

Back to school sales are starting and our Lutheran World Relief school kits are now available in the Gathering Space to pick up! Each empty bag has a supply list attached. Feel free to pick up a bag and purchase the supplies and return to the Gathering Space by the end of September. Contact the church office with any questions.

2023—2024 Sunday School Registration and Volunteer Signup

It isn't too soon to signup for next year, 2023-2024 Sunday School!

- Sunday mornings between worship services (9:15 - 10:15 am)
- First day of Sunday School is Celebration Sunday, August 20th
- Sunday School Ages: Pre-K to 4th grade

We are also looking for volunteers of all kinds:

classroom teachers, music leaders, occasional volunteers and junior teachers!

Call the church office to register or learn more at 605-498-2343!

2023—2024 Kids For Christ (KFC) Registration

Kids for Christ (KFC)

Wednesday evenings

7:15—8:15 pm

following 6:30 pm worship

2023-2024 KFC Registration is now open! KFC (Kids for Christ) Youth Group meets on Wednesday evenings during the school year - alternating 5th grade one week and 6th grade the next week.

These early middle school years can be challenging for kids to navigate. KFC offers an opportunity for them to come together to learn how to grow their relationship with God, learn how to grow their relationships with each other, and we have some fun along the way. We also provide various music, service projects, and volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

Call the church office to register or learn more at 605-498-2343!

2023—2024 Confirmation Registration

Confirmation
Wednesday evenings
7:15—8:15 pm
following 6:30 pm worship

2023-2024 Confirmation Registration is now open! Confirmation meets on Wednesday evenings during the school year and is for 7th and 8th graders!

Call the church office to register or learn more at 605-498-2343!



Trinity Lutheran Preschool registration is still 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 2023-2024 registration is available and we have a few openings left. 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.

July Food Pantry Donation: Spaghetti Sauce

Due to the raising cost of food the Food Pantry has seen an increase in clients in the past few months. We are featuring a monthly collection item. Feel free to pick up an extra item or two when out shopping to help those in need! In the month of July we will be collecting spaghetti sauce. 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.

Flash Back Friday: Trinity Preschool has so much fun learning about God as they prepare for kindergarten!

