



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

## TRINITY CONNECTION

JULY 28, 2023

Dear friends in Christ,

One of the helpful things about being exposed to Bible stories as a young child is having my experience and understanding of the stories grow along with me. The fiery furnace is one example.

The summer after fourth grade I remember sitting in one of the brightly lit Sunday School rooms at the Lutheran Church of Dell Rapids for Vacation Bible School and learning about King Nebuchadnezzar and the giant gold statue he had built of and for himself. I can still remember the picture of the statue in our children's story Bible. All the names were fun to say in that story, Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. When the three young Israelite men were ordered to worship the idol, they refused and were tossed in the furnace heated seven times the normal lava-like temperature. When they were miraculously saved, they were heroes of faith! Go team, go! It was a great adventure story for a ten-year-old.

Many years later as a seminary student I learned that the fiery furnace story took place during the Babylonian exile when Jerusalem was leveled and most of the Israelites were taken to Babylon in chains. Scholars think it was in Babylon that Jewish people began meeting in synagogues since they could no longer gather in the destroyed temple in Jerusalem to worship. At that time much of the Hebrew Bible was compiled into the form that we recognize now because the people had to find ways to keep their religious identity in a foreign land. Thus, the stories like the fiery furnace were hero stories, but they were also stories about maintaining their core identity as people of God. The story gained another layer when I learned in Daniel chapter one that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had their Hebrew names taken away from them. Their Hebrew names were Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The Hebrew definitions of their names add to the importance of what is happening to them. Hananiah: God is gracious, Mishael: Who is like God, Azariah: helped by God. God indeed was helpful and gracious to them in their time of crisis. God was with them even in the fire.

Knowing who you are is important. You are a child of the living God. That fact gives us courage no matter how old we are.

Peace and best wishes,  
Pastor Tom Opoien



## Church Calendar

### Summer Office Hours

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

8:30 am - Noon Friday

### Tuesday, August 1

6:30 am: Men's Breakfast

11:45 am: Meals on Wheels Delivery

7:00 pm: Executive Committee Meeting

### Wednesday, August 2

9:00 am: Quilting Group

### Thursday, August 3

11:15 am: Meals on Wheels Delivery

5:30 pm: TOPS

### Sunday, August 6

8:30 am: Coffee and Cookies

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

### Monday, August 7

11:15 am: Meals on Wheels Delivery

### Tuesday, August 8

6:30 am: Men's Breakfast

11:45 am: Meals on Wheels Delivery

6:00 pm: Church Board Meetings

7:00 pm: Church Council Meeting

### Upcoming Important Dates

August 13: Blessing of the Backpacks

August 14: All Band Rehearsal

August 20: Celebration Sunday

## Attendance

### Sunday, July 23

9:00 am: 184

## Church Finances

### Week of July 16, 2023

Total Operating Cost: \$13,205

**Actual Total Giving: \$33,460**

**Difference of: \$20,255**

### Year to Date

Total Operating Cost: \$382,946

**Actual Total Giving: - \$287,835**

**Difference of: -\$108,316**

**July Globe Offering \$ 404**

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](http://www.teatrinity.org) Click "GIVE"

**Text Giving:** (605) 777-7223

**Envelopes:** In-person or Mail to the church

## August Globe Offering

### **FEEDING SD - TEA AREA BACKPACKS**

## Prayer Requests

- Linda Stucky
- Deanna Anderson and baby, Henry James
- Sonia Ensz
- Ken Kahl
- Greg Myrmoe
- Ray Kelly
- Dorothy Fritz
- Melva Hilmo's brother & Sarah Hilmo's uncle Fred Tidemann

- Michael Schmidt's uncle Larry Schmidt
- Jami Atkin's dad Kevin Roth
- Gordon & Dorothy Fritz's son Carl & daughter Margaret
- 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

## Quilters



### Quilters Group

**Wednesday, August 2**  
**9:00 am**  
**in the Fellowship Hall**

Join us as we continue to work on putting together more quilts together for Lutheran World Relief. No sewing or quilting experience is necessary. All are welcome

### Matching Gift: Tea Area Food Pantry

**Now—August 18**

The Tea Area Food Pantry will be matching donations up to \$1,500 due to a generous anonymous donor. Funds will be matched from now until August 18. Donations can be dropped off in the church office. Please make checks out to "Tea Area Food Pantry". Thank you for your generosity!



### Meal Train for Sonia Enszt and family: Shared by Kerri Plucker

Kerri Plucker has started a Meal Train for Sonia Enszt and family. Sonia is finally home and resting!! This was created to ease the burden of meal planning. Any support and help is very appreciated by the Enszt family! God Bless! Contact the church office for more details regarding the signup.



### Lutheran World Relief school kits now available!

**Now — 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

2023-2024 Sunday School is right around the corner!

- 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.

## **Thank you from Trinity Lutheran Preschool!**

Thank you to everyone who donated items and that came to shop at the Trinity Preschool Rummage sale this past week! It was a huge success and can't thank our volunteers enough for all their hard work. Proceeds will go to Trinity Lutheran Preschool to help pay for supplies and activities for the students. We can't wait for next year!



## August Food Pantry Donation: Cream of Mushroom & Cream of Chicken Soup

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 August we will be collecting cream of mushroom and cream of chick soup. 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.

**Over 55 Group enjoyed a wonderful tour of the city with special guest, Kevin Nissen, City of Tea Planning and Zoning Administrator.**

