



Trinity Lutheran Church
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TRINITY CONNECTION

AUGUST 25, 2023

Dear friends in Christ,

This Sunday we will be finishing our sermon series based on questions submitted from members of the congregation. There were several questions that circled around the theme of how to respond when we don't feel close to God. Here are several of the submitted questions that I've been pondering as I have been preparing this week's sermon.

Can you avoid feeling distant from the Lord at times in your life?

How do I know the Lord is speaking to me? What does God's voice sound like?

In sermons, we are often told, 'God is always with you.' When you are going through a difficult time in your life, what do you do when you don't feel God? And feel extremely alone?

When you feel God doesn't love you and you can't feel his presence...what do you do?

These questions capture feelings that many of us have had at some point. There are three scripture passages that I have been thinking about in response.

The first is Psalm 34:18 that says, "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." God walks closely with us especially when we are weak. Eugene Peterson translates this passage as "if you're kicked in the gut, he'll help you catch your breath."

The second is from 1 Corinthians 1 where Paul describes God's seemingly foolish choice to reach into humanity's darkest moments with the deep wisdom of God's presence even in Jesus' death on the cross. Our endurance comes not from our own strength, but through God being present at the points of our weakness.

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. 22 For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

(continued on the back)

Martin Luther described this wisdom as the theology of the cross which gives Christians the ability to trust in God's presence in all circumstances.

Finally, I chose the powerful scene in John 4 of Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well. He turns a conversation about physical water into an experience of living water that recharges and reorients her difficult situation into a geyser of grace. Her experience of the messiah becomes a witness to others.

Thank you for the questions. I look forward to responding more in depth this Sunday.

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 29

6:30 am: Men's Breakfast
11:15 am: Meals on Wheels Delivery

Thursday, August 31

11:15 am: Meals on Wheels Delivery
5:30 pm: TOPS

Sunday, September 3

No Sunday School due to tholiday
8:00 am: Worship;
9:15 am: Coffee and Cookies
10:30 am: Worship (online and in person)

Monday, September 4

Church office closed due to the holiday

Tuesday, September 5

6:30 am: Men's Breakfast
9:00 am - 5:00 pm: Bloodmobile

Upcoming Important Dates

September 16 - 22: Church Directory
Photo Sessions
September 20: Filipino Cooking Class

Attendance

Sunday, August 20

8:00 am: 94 10:30 am: 240

Church Finances

Week of August 20, 2023

Total Operating Cost: \$13,205

Actual Total Giving: \$ 8,841

Difference of: \$ 4,364

Outstanding Expenses: \$35,674

August Globe Offering \$ 284

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

August Globe Offering

FEEDING SD BACKPACK PROGRAM - TEA AREA

Prayer Requests

- Sonia Ensz ▪ Ken Kahl ▪ Greg Myrmo
- 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
- 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
- Dick & Alma Gors' friend, Joann Muller

Trinity Church Directory

Photo Session Dates:

September 16 - 22

October 1 - 6

October 10 - 14

Specific times are available at signup.



Trinity Lutheran Church Directory is coming soon! But first we need your photo, our photographer will be available for a variety of dates and times, pick a time that works best for your family! The directory won't be complete without YOU!

Signup is now available, call the church office for times and signup information. You can also signup after worship, look for the "Directory Photo Signup" table in the Gathering Space.

You will have the option to view and order your photos directly from the photographers website with no high pressure sales onsite. Plus, digital downloads will be available for purchase!

Printed church directory will be available to purchase or download the free photo directory app! This will allow you to have all your church friends contact info right at your finger tips either in print or on your phone for ease of access. If you have questions, please contact the church office by calling 605-498-2343.

Trinity Lutheran Blood Drive

Tuesday, September 5

9:00 am - Noon and 1:30 - 5:00 pm

in the East Parking Lot

We will be hosting a Blood Drive once again. The blood bank is looking for a big turnout to boost their low levels. Dairy Queen blizzard coupons will be given out to all donors in honor of the new Dairy Queen in Tea! Call the church office to signup!



Quilters Group

Wednesday, Sept. 6

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



Fall Women's Bible Study

September 11—October 2

Monday's at 7:00 pm

in the Connection Room

Join us as we study, Overcoming Doubt, it is a short four-week women's Bible study, Even though Christians believe, Christians also doubt. We can let doubt run us away from our Lord. Or, assured of His grace, we can run to Him with our doubts and grow stronger in faith. This course speaks, through God's Word, to some of humankind's common doubts about Him.

Sign up by Thursday, Aug 31st at the Welcome Desk or contact the church office.

Milestone Ministry

I love this time of year when Milestones begin. Milestones are a way for parents and caring adults to keep the promises made at Baptism. Milestones are “steps along the way” on a lifelong journey of faith. God’s promises are always kept, and grace is a gift we receive through Baptism regardless of what we do. Milestones help parents and children live into this gift and use it everyday. Trinity offers Milestones for 4 year olds through 12th grade. Deacon Christie teaches the Milestone lessons, meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Watch for a flyer in the mail when it is your child’s time for Milestone.

3rd Grade Milestone

Sunday, Sept. 10, 9:15 am - Lesson #1

Sunday, Sept. 17, 9:15 am - Lesson #2

Sunday, Sept. 24, 9:15 am - Lesson #3

Celebration: Sunday, Oct. 1 at 8:00 am or 10:30 am or Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 6:30 pm

It’s Bible Time! Join Deacon Christie and learn about what the Bible is all about.

Receive a Bible and decorate a Bible cover.



Lutheran World Relief school kits now available!

Return filled bags by Sept. 30th!

All bags have been picked up, thank you to everyone who donated. If you still have a bag that needs to be filled, please return it to the Gathering Space by Sept. 30! Contact the church office with any questions.

2023—2024 Sunday School Registration and Volunteer Signup

Signup for 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

Wednesday evenings

7:15—8:15 pm

following 6:30 pm worship

2023-2024 KFC Registration is 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

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

2023-2024 Confirmation Registration is 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!

Thank you for your generous donations!

A huge thanks to everyone who donated to the matching funds for the Tea Area Food Pantry! We have exceeded our goal of \$1,500 and are blessed to be able to provide food to those in need in our Tea community. On behalf of the Food Pantry board, we are very appreciative and grateful for your donations.

August Food Pantry Donation: Cream Soups

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 soups. 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.

Celebration Sunday was a huge success! Sunday School youth had a blast meeting their teachers, doing their service project and playing games. Plus our 4 year olds received their storybook bibles in worship!

