



Trinity Lutheran Church
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TRINITY CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 24, 2023

Dear friends in Christ,

Even though many of you will have finished the last of the Thanksgiving turkey by the time you read this letter, as I write Thanksgiving is still two days away. So, I have family, food, and gratitude on my mind.

One of my favorite Bible verses on being thankful is found in Colossians 3:15. "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." This translation is from the New Revised Standard Version which is the version that we read most often in worship and is the version I use in my daily reading.

However, I recently read this same verse in the New English Translation, which claims a slightly different emphasis based on a very close word by word translation from the original Greek language. In the NET, this same verse reads like this. "Let the peace of Christ be in control in your heart (for you were in fact called as one body to this peace), and be thankful."

For me, the biggest difference between the two translations is one letter. In the first we see the word hearts, note the "s" at the end of the word compared to the singular word heart without an "s" in the second translation. In the first version I hear an invitation to let the peace of Christ rule in our individual hearts and to be thankful because of that individual peace. The second implies a body sharing one heart! In the English language it is common to use the phrase to be "of the same mind" to describe agreeing with one another. Here we are invited to be "of the same heart." One living, grateful heart in the body of Christ.

The gratitude that we share as brothers and sisters in Christ of course belongs to us individually, but how much more wonderful that we are invited to be a community of grateful people. Gratitude is a core value that we share together. This power of this shared heart reminds me of the Zig Ziglar story about the single draft horse that can pull 800 pounds. One would assume that adding a second horse would double the pulling capacity. However, if a second horse is added and they are trained to pull together, they can pull over four times the load. Gratitude grows exponentially when we practice it together.

So, as we enter this season of many holidays may we all hear the words of Colossians 3:15. "Let the peace of Christ be in control of your heart, and be thankful."

Peace and best wishes,
Pastor Tom Opoien



Over 55 Group

Tuesday, Nov 28
9:15 am
Visit to Nora Store

Join us for a fun outing to the Nora Store for a Christmas sing along with Mike Pederson. We will meet at the church to car pool to Nora and stay until noon. There is no admission charge to the store but free will donations will be accepted to help defray the costs of maintaining the store. Afterwards, join us for lunch at the Pizza Ranch in Tea. All are welcome! *No meeting or blood pressure checks this month.*

Join us at Banquet West!

Wednesday, November 30
2:00 - 5:00 pm and 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Banquet West
710 N Marion Rd, Sioux Falls
(use northeast door)

Are you interested in doing a community service project? Do you want to give back to those in need? If so, join us as we serve those in need at Banquet West. We are need of 6 volunteers to prepare the meal and 15 volunteers to serve the meal.

Bring your whole family, 12 and older may serve in the dining room and kitchen! No open toed shoe for your safety and please dress in work appropriate attire. Thank you for your commitment to The Banquet ministry! Contact the church office to signup at 605-498-2343.

High School Youth Fundraiser: Christmas Bake Sale

Sunday, Dec. 3
9:00—11:45 am

Please help support the High School Youth as they are fundraising for the National Youth Gathering, in New Orleans in July 2024.

Calling all bakers! We are looking for donations of all baked goods! No time to bake? We accept store bought items too! Please drop off your items in the kitchen by Saturday, Dec 2 at 2:00 pm.

Christmas Tea and Concert

Sunday, Dec. 3
3:00 - 4:00 pm Christmas Tea Open House
4:00 pm Choirs and Bells



"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

A Christmas Tea Open House will be held to honor the memory of Marlyns Bergjord who helped host the Tea for many years.

Hy-Vee Scrip Cards Available: Limited Availability

We have a limited number of Hy-Vee Scrip Cards available. First come, first serve! 5% of the sales go back to the youth to help pay for the youth attending the 2024 National Youth Gathering or summer camps! Thank you for your continued support of Trinity's youth!



Volunteer Drivers Needed

Did you know that Trinity partners with Active Generations and are a host site for the meals to be picked up? The Meals on Wheels program consists of a hot meal delivered to client's door between 10:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Trinity Lutheran delivers meals every Thursday and we are looking for one or two more volunteer drivers. The route typically takes 30-40 minutes and all deliveries are in Tea city limits. Volunteer would deliver roughly every 2 months! If interested, contact the church office by calling 605-498-2343

Winter gear now 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

November Food Pantry Donation: Hamburger & Tuna Helper

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 November we will be collecting hamburger and tuna helper. 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

We had another successful night at Date Night Daycare. Watch your email for December's date coming soon!

