



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

## TRINITY CONNECTION

DECEMBER 22, 2023

Dear Beloved of Trinity,

Blessed and Merry Christmas to you. I am grateful to you for your shared ministry. We are the body of Christ and we are working toward the common goal of helping people connect to Jesus. It is a privilege to proclaim the good news together. I look forward to continued ministry with you in 2024.

Thank you to those who took a tag from the Giving Tree this year. The Giving Tree began after the ministry with Corn Creek Reservation came to an end in 2017. That wonderful ministry ended, and I knew it was important to provide another opportunity for service. The concept of the Giving Tree began in my previous congregation, so it was an easy transition to bring it to Tea and partner with the Tea Area Food Pantry for a client base. Together, we provided gifts to children in the area. This past year, we had more families than we've ever had. More families meant more children. I eliminated the cleaning supply tags so we could concentrate on gifts for children.

You are such a generous congregation. Gifts started to pour in. It takes a little time to sort gifts, making sure there is equality between siblings. This year there were many needs for shoes, boots, coats and socks. A non-member benefactor gave a generous gift of money so I could purchase these items. I was also able to use some coats from our coat drive. Richard Holland helped me find new donated coats. Skyla Thomas helped me label areas to begin the sorting process. Emily Seeman helped me sort and purchase gifts for a couple of families who registered late (that happens every year).

When it comes time for families to pick up their gifts, they are filled with gratitude. Most of the families we purchase gifts for are single moms and are the working poor.

Matthew 25 says *"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,[a] you did it to me.'* "

May the grace of God shine upon you this Christmas, filling your heart with love, peace and the joyous spirit of the season. May his blessings be a source of comfort and inspiration, guiding you into a new year filled with hope and faith.

In peace,  
Deacon Christie

## Church Calendar

### Monday, December 25 - Tuesday, January 2

Due to holiday break, no preschool.

### Tuesday, December 26

Due to the holiday, no Men's Breakfast and the church office will be closed

### Wednesday, December 27

Due to holiday break, no band rehearsal, worship, KFC, confirmation and high school youth

### Thursday, December 28

11:15 am: Meals on Wheels Delivery

### Sunday, December 31

Due to holiday, no Sunday School and Adult Bible Study

8:30 am: Coffee and Cookies

9:00 am: Worship - 4th Sunday of Advent

### Monday, January 1

Due to the holiday, church office closed

### Tuesday, January 2

Due to the holiday, no Men's Breakfast

### Upcoming Important Dates

Jan. 15: Office is closed due to the holiday

Jan. 14: Financial Peace University

## Attendance

Wednesday, Dec. 13. Sunday, Dec. 17

6:30 pm: 113

8:00 am: 102

10:30 am: 152

## Church Finances

### Week of December 17, 2023

Total Operating Cost: \$13,205

Actual Total Giving: \$52,472

Difference of: - \$39,267

**\$25,527 received toward the \$25,000 Matching Gift Challenge**

**Outstanding Expenses: \$15,674**

**December Globe Offering \$ 364**

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](http://www.teatrinity.org/donate)

**Venmo:** teatrinity

## December Globe Offering

### **GLOBAL BARNYARD**

## Prayer Requests

- Stan Oltmanns ▪ Bonnie Wolthuis
- Sonia Ensz ▪ Ken Kahl
- Greg Myrmoe ▪ Ray Kelly
- 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



## Quilters Group

Wednesday, Jan. 3  
9:00 am  
in the Fellowship Hall

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

## Financial Peace University

Starting January 14, 2024  
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.

## 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.

## \$25,000 Matching Challenge Met!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the \$25,000 matching gift challenge that began in November. On Sunday, December 16, we went over the \$25,000 in designated matching donations needed to receive the entire challenge gift.

Because of this successful matching challenge and other generous gifts to the general/operating fund over the last several weeks, we have been able to pay off the \$20,000 bank loan that was taken out earlier this year and will finish the year with our general/operating fund in the black.

Thank you for your generosity!

## 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

## December Food Pantry Donation: Canned Fruit

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 December we will be collecting canned fruit. 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.

**The Sunday School youth did a great job in the Christmas Program.  
Thank you to everyone who made this possible!**



**Trinity Preschool had a great time at their Christmas Program,  
party and special guest, Santa!**

