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| **News & Notes****Trinity Lutheran Church****Springfield, Missouri** **July 19-26, 2020** |



**MISSION STATEMENT**

The family of Trinity Lutheran Church welcomes all people to share in the life of the Christian faith in worship, friendship, and service.

**OUR CORE VALUES**

Faithfulness to God’s Word . . . Integrity . . . Compassion . . . Family focused . . . Engagement in Service . . . Welcoming to all people . . . Fiscal responsibility & stewardship

**VISION STATEMENT**

The family of Trinity builds and nurtures the bonds of faith through love, learning, and sharing with others.

**OUR CRITICAL TARGETS**

Faithful Worship . . . Christian Education . . . Healthy Christian Homes . . . Caring Relationships in Christ . . Robust Community Connectivity & Outreach

**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

As He did in our Gospel text last week, Jesus in today's Gospel reading tells a parable to the crowds that He immediately explains to His disciples.  This one is called the Parable of the Weeds.  In this parable, a landowner sows good seed in his field, but during the night, an enemy of his comes in and sows bad seed that will grow into weeds.  The next day, the owner's servants realize that his enemy has sown the weeds and offer to pull them up for him.  He refuses, citing his concern that the wheat also would be uprooted if an attempt was made to pull up the weeds.  Rather, he would wait until harvest time, pull up the wheat and weeds together, store the wheat in his barn, and then burn the weeds with unquenchable fire.  Jesus then tells His disciples that this parable represents the final judgment: the field is the world, the wheat are those who believe in the true God, and the weeds are unbelievers.  God will wait until the last day to judge the world, but at that time He will give believers a place in His kingdom, while He will cast out the unbelievers to eternal suffering.

Jesus explaining this parable for His disciples definitely helps us interpret it, but it leaves little room to say anything else that He has not already said.  What else can we say about this parable, when He has already interpreted it for us?  There is one detail, however, that Jesus does not fully explain: the landowner's reluctance to prematurely pull the weeds for fear of damaging the wheat along with them.  Why might God be reluctant to allow His servants to remove the weeds from His field before harvest time?  Wouldn't that make things easier for the wheat to grow?  Perhaps it would, but the use of such aggressive tactics might also harm the wheat in turn.  How often have we heard about people who used to be Christians, but were turned off by the church's seeming oppressiveness and desire to force its views on others?  Whenever the church or individual Christians rigidly try to stamp out heresy or questions that people might have, it usually has the opposite effect that is intended.  People are turned away from the faith and leave the church.  Instead of trying to uproot the weeds, we should speak the truth in love to them, kindly and gently, knowing that the Word has the power to make wheat out of even the most stubborn weeds.

Our attitude toward unbelievers should be one of compassion and concern, rather than hostility.  We do not want anybody to be burned in unquenchable fire.  So we will not seek to pull up the weeds before it is time: we will not try to purify the church, or our country, or the world and make all bow the knee to Christian values.  Rather, we will continue to do as we have always done: proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and allow Him to lead those who hear it to repentance and faith.  We do not need to do God's job for Him before the appointed time.  He will do as He has promised, and we simply need to trust that He will indeed deliver.  We know that when Jesus returns, He will bring the wheat into His barn with Him.  Until then, we will allow Him to determine what to do with the weeds of the world, and be confident that He will do exactly what needs to be done.



**Our Trinity Family Stewardship – July 12, 2020**

*Limited capacity*

**Attendance:** 8:15 a.m. 72

11:00 a.m. 84

5:00 p.m. 44

Undesignated (General) Offerings $17,878.50

 Designated Gifts

 Debt Reduction $ 70.00 R&R Fund $ 10.00 Portals of Prayer $ 5.00 Brick Cleaning/Bell Tower $ 50.00

 E-Thermostat $ 100.00 World Relief $ 35.00

 Lutherans for Life $ 200.00 Total $ 470.00

 Total Gifts $18,348.50

**LUTHERANS FOR LIFE**

**School Supply Partnership**

We once again this year have the privilege of assisting one of our local elementary schools by providing supplies for their students.  Since our former partner school, Portland Elementary, has closed for this year, we have been moved to Sunshine Elementary, another school that is very close to our campus.  Since Sunshine already has had several congregations working with it, we have been asked to provide supplies for only the 4th and 5th grades this year, a total of 110 students, with 55 per grade.  This year we are encouraging Trinity members to**"adopt"** students to provide supplies for.  The supply list for each student is as follows: **(At the time of this printing we have 50, 4th graders and**

**24, 5th graders sponsored. There are 55 students per grade.)**

**Fourth Grade**

5 folders with pockets

Pencil pouch with holes for a three-ring binder

2 black and white composition notebooks (wide ruled)

Daily/weekly planner

**Fifth Grade**

5 tab expandable folder  (paper size)

Pencil pouch with holes for a three-ring binder

2 black and white composition notebooks (wide ruled)

Daily/weekly planner

There are several other supplies on the school's list, but these will be provided by Trinity's Evangelism and Mission Budget and a few Thrivent Action Teams.

**If you would like to adopt one or more students to provide supplies for, please e-mail the church office and specify 1.) how many students, and 2.) which grade level.**  This will help us keep track of how many supplies we have covered and how many more are still needed.  Supplies need to be brought to the church office by **Sunday, August 16**.

Remember: Check out the card display located in the church entryway. Assorted cards that are restocked regularly and each card is only 50 cents.

VBS Live - Cancelled

With the recent increase in COVID-19 cases and the City of Springfield's recent decision to require masks in places of public accommodation, Trinity's Board of Parish Education has decided to cancel our in-person Vacation Bible School for this year.  This was not a decision that was made lightly, and we held off on making it until the last possible moment.  Nevertheless, we believe that this is the right decision for the safety of our students and for their enjoyment of the VBS experience.

We plan on having some form of a virtual VBS this year, with the details to be determined very soon.  This will involve sending some materials home with families so that they can do the VBS activities in their homes together.  If you have already signed up for VBS at Trinity, your family will automatically receive the proper amount of materials.  If you would like materials but have not yet signed up, you still have plenty of time to do so.  Even though VBS will look very different this year, we believe that for our kids it will still be a fun time of growth in faith and knowledge of the Word of God.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Hagerman, Kayla Watson (our VBS Director), or the church office.  God's richest blessings be upon you all!

**Lutherans for Life**

Trinity members who would like to donate toward LFL can do so through your offering and it will be processed on their yearly contribution statement.  Non-Trinity members will mail their gift of love to Trinity with **LUTHERANS FOR LIFE PLAINLY STATED IN THE MEMO LINE**.  We will keep track of contributions and at some point, an official letter of thanks with a tax receipt will be mailed out.  The Rummage Sale is their major fundraiser to help locally and nationally and since it was not able to happen this year any contributions made to LFL are most appreciated.

**The 2021 LFL Rummage Sale will hopefully be June 24, 25, and 26th, 2021.**

If you have any of the following items: sweatpants, tops, warm socks, sweaters, hooded tops, warm caps, gloves, mittens, etc. please save them for Ruth Seboldt. She will collect these items and take them to **Rare Breed** in October. We will let you know when you can drop them off at church.

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Session 6 will be presented Monday, July 20, at 10:00 am, and Session 7 will be presented on Thursday, July 23, also at 10:00 a.m. (Sessions 6 & 7 cover the Person and work of the Holy Spirit, the doctrines of the Church, the forgiveness of sins, and the means of grace (Word and Sacraments).) After each session, the video is available on our website and on Trinity Facebook. You will also find the other sessions on the website Home page if you want to get caught up.

Week of July19-26, 2020



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| Today | **The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**8:15, 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Divine Services5:00 p.m. Senior High Youth |
| Monday | Church office closed until 1:00 p.m.10:00 a.m. Didache Class – Facebook Live5:15 p.m. Board of Parish Education (Woker Room)6:30 p.m. Church Council (gym) |
| Tuesday | 9:30 a.m. Pastor Marler with Missouri District Presidium meeting with Mo. Lt. Governor regarding future of nursing home care 6:00 p.m. Pickleball |
| Wednesday |  |
| Thursday | 10:00 a.m. Didache Class – Facebook Live |
| Friday | Church Office Closed |
| Saturday |  |
| Next SundayJuly 26 | **The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**8:15, 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Divine Services5:00 p.m. Senior High Youth |



Please plan on wearing a mask to church each week through October 14 as we continue to follow the guidelines from the

City of Springfield. As our leaders want us to still be able to physical distance as well we will continue to limit our attendance to 85 people per service, offer 3 services, and have a vocalist.