

# TRINITY TODAY!

Because God first loved us, we live as Jesus in the world.  
May 2026 | volume 51, issue 5

Mortgage Burning at  
the Comprehensive  
Campaign Celebration  
April 26, 2026



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**LinkTree QR Code**  
Scan this code to see what  
is happening at Trinity!  
Virtual viewers click [HERE](#)  
for access to LinkTree





# INTERIM PASTOR JEN HACKBARTH

Friends in Christ,

The pastoral transition process at Trinity is moving into the next phase! The Call Committee for the Lead Pastor position was appointed by the Trinity council in April. Here are the names of those who agreed to serve in this important role in identifying Trinity's next Lead Pastor: Jenn Swenson (chair), Lisa Bien-Sinz, Bob Boyd, Gary Cross, Annika Gossai, Britta Levenhagen, Zach Michalk, Diane Sauers and Michael Switzer. The council is excited and confident in their ability to work together on behalf of Trinity. They will begin their work on May 13, when they will have an orientation with St. Paul Synod staff.

The Call Committee will begin their process by getting to know one another and building trust. Call Committee members spend intense time together doing crucial work over several months, and it requires honest sharing and respectful listening. They will be in deep discernment together, inviting the Spirit's guidance at every step, and will prayerfully seek a pastor who will serve as an administrative guide, head of staff, encourager of lay leadership, communicator, preacher, worship leader, teacher, and

who will walk with the congregation through personal and communal moments of joy and despair. It is a complex and holy task.

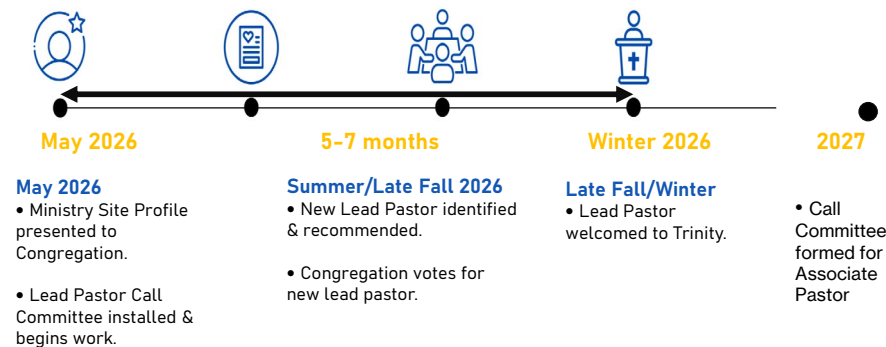
This also means the prayerful work of the Transition Team is almost finished. They have worked extraordinarily hard over the past six months, meeting almost every week in addition to spending many hours listening to Trinity members and friends. The past month they have been finalizing the Ministry Site Profile, and will present it to the congregation between services on May 3. They are eager to receive your feedback. The members of this team are: Penny Catlin (co-chair), Gary Cross (co-chair), Dick Edstrom, Sabrina Fay, Keith Rediske, Kris Torma, and Ann Wolff. We thank them for their dedicated service! They have enjoyed the opportunity to deepen their connections with the congregation. They too have done holy work.

Trinity has experienced a lot of staff transition in the past year. All three pastors on staff (Pastor Chris, Pastor Peter and Visitation Pastor Rich Larson) experienced calls to new ventures in a span of nine months. If you feel unmoored by the changes this brings, you are not alone. Yet Trinity is resilient. In the middle of all this transition, we celebrate an extraordinary conclusion to the Comprehensive Campaign, moving into a new future debt-free. We watch the wonderful Trinity staff continue their faithful work. Members and friends serve with joy and dedication. God is doing extraordinary things through this congregation.

We've taken a breath together between settled pastors, taking advantage of the pause to reflect on who we are and where God is leading Trinity. Thank you for your patience during this time of self-study. Your contributions helped to create the Ministry Site Profile, which will guide the Call Committee in their work to identify a pastoral candidate who will walk with Trinity into a bold new future.

Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers, and pray also for the pastoral candidates who will consider a call to Trinity in the coming months. It's an honor to serve among you.

## TRINITY CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE Lead Pastor Call Process



### TRINITY CALL COMMITTEE



Jenn Swenson, Chair



Lisa Bien-Sinz



Bob Boyd



Gary Cross



Annika Gossai



Britta Levenhagen



Zach Michalk



Diane Sauers



Mike Switzer

# INTERIM PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION KRISTINE STEDJE



On the day of Pentecost, Luke writes in his letter, the Acts of the Apostles, that “without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force – no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them (The Message, Eugene Peterson).”

This is not the first time the Holy Spirit has made an entrance in scripture. The Spirit was there at the very beginning “brooding like a bird above the watery abyss,” so it is recorded in Genesis. And the Spirit showed up, according to Luke, at the annunciation of Jesus birth. Mary is told by God’s angel, “the Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Highest hover over you; therefore, the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God.”

At Jesus’ baptism, Luke shares that the Holy Spirit, like a dove descending, came down, and along with the Spirit, a voice: “You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life.”

So, the Spirit has been brooding, coming, hovering and descending, throughout scripture. In our own baptism we are made children of God. The Holy Spirit calls us out of our baptismal waters to serve God and live in communion with the

people of God. We are sent from our baptism into the world to bear God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world. But how do we do that?

We do that by giving ourselves away. We do that by serving others with our gifts. We do that by listening to our hearts and what gives us joy and what moves us to act, for the sake of others. Our spiritual gifts are those things that call us to serve our neighbor.

Each of us have been given spiritual gifts which are unique and are God’s gift to the world. We make a difference by choosing to give what we have been given. What is it you love about serving God? Go do that, that is your spiritual gift to all the world! That is your spiritual life, coming to life!

*Interim Pastor  
Kristine Stedje*



# Giving Summary

**“Well done, good and faithful servant... you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.” – Matthew 25:21**

**NOW WHAT?** For the past three years, God has richly blessed the faithful work of this congregation through a successful comprehensive capital campaign. With grateful hearts, we offer thanks and praise for your generosity and trust in God’s provision. Together, we met our mid-tier goal - raising nearly \$2 million through consistent, faith-filled giving. And through an extraordinary anonymous gift that fully retired our remaining mortgage, the aspirational goal of the campaign was also realized, leading us to this remarkable moment of freedom and opportunity.

As we step into this new season - no longer constrained by mortgage debt - we do so with great humility and gratitude. We commit ourselves anew to prayerful, faithful stewardship, seeking God’s wisdom as we shape the coming budget year and discern how best to serve God’s purposes. Trusting that God is still at work among us,

accomplishing more than we could ask or imagine, we give thanks for the journey that has brought us here. Thank you, Trinity, for your faithful hearts and generous spirits.

**MAR 2026 FYTD INCOME VS EXPENSE.**

- FYTD Contributions were \$846,067 (109% of Budget). 2024/25 YTD Giving was \$831,439.
- Total Income - minus Missions and Anonymous Gift - was \$1,052,580 (110% of Budget). 2024/25 Income was \$1,160,414 (\$98,636/ERC).
- Total Expenses - minus Missions - were \$958,674 (100% of budget). 2024/25 Expenses were \$940,410.

**MORTGAGE.** On April 14, a check for \$1,422,407.85 was mailed to Thrivent to satisfy the balance of the mortgage. The balance of the anonymous gift restricted by the donor - \$124,261.88 - will remain in Trinity’s Operating Reserves.

**OPERATING RESERVES.** Current Balance: \$225,505.89.

**FACILITIES.**

- The Facilities Team met on Tuesday, April 7. We are currently purchasing a new dishwasher for the church kitchen. The cost of the unit is approximately \$12K. We will also be replacing the existing water heater and water softener - to new, on-demand units.
- Facilities did a walk-through of the east side lower-level bathrooms as part of the last CC project. We intend to convert those bathrooms into 3 “family” bathrooms.
- We also met on the status of our furnaces/HVAC. Our main issue may be replacing the rooftop unit. It was also recommended that we establish a reserve building fund.

**May God’s Spirit continue to lead Trinity. Thank you for your faithfulness. To God be the glory—now and always!**

**Sarah Kinsman, Parish Administrator**

**New & Renewing Comprehensive Campaign.** God has richly blessed the faithful work of this congregation through our New & Renewing Comprehensive Campaign. Through faithful and consistent giving—and the careful stewardship of every gift entrusted to this campaign—we reached our campaign goal, raising nearly \$2 million. Thank you to all who gave, prayed, and supported this effort in countless ways. Your faithful hearts and generous spirit have made this moment possible. To God be the glory! Following is a financial recap of the Comprehensive Campaign:

COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN RECAP				
	Income	Interest Accrued	Expenses	Balance
Mortgage Reduction 70%	\$ 1,372,373	\$ 11,046	\$ (30,105)	\$ 1,353,315
Deferred Maintenance 20%	\$ 392,107	\$ 3,156	\$ (8,601)	\$ 386,662
Missions 7.5 %	\$ 147,040	\$ 1,184	\$ (3,225)	\$ 144,999
SPAS 2.5%	\$ 49,013	\$ 395	\$ (1,075)	\$ 48,333
<b>TOTAL Campaign \$s</b>	<b>\$ 1,960,534</b>	<b>\$ 15,781</b>	<b>\$ (43,007)</b>	<b>\$ 1,933,308</b>



# Easter Garden

## IN HONOR OF:

Trinity Music  
Family & Friends  
Our Family  
Grandchildren  
– Ava & Elise Karlstad & Parker & Harrison Reis

## IN MEMORY OF:

Sherman Danielson  
Donald Steinmetz  
Reno & Marlene Carlson; Ralph & Sally French  
Steve Wolff; Dave, Dorothy & Steve Parkhurst  
Kathleen Felsch  
Barbara E.G. Holthouse  
Skip Welke  
Larry Kogl  
Helmuth & Marcella Reinke; Bob & Irene Huber  
Jan Evensen  
Dick & Audrey Jeans; Jim Holcomb  
Our Parents – Ed & Lois Studtman  
Ethan Alejandro Gutierrez  
Nicholas Haase  
Reid & Carol Johnson  
Susan Chopra  
Connie Rome

## GIVEN BY:

Don & Judy Loe  
Jeannie  
Ken & SuzAnne Olson  
Bob & Dawn Boyd

## GIVEN BY:

Yvonne Danielson  
Sandi & Family  
John & Pat Reinke  
Ann Wolff  
Felsch Family  
Gary Holthouse  
Welke & Rogness Family  
Ann Wolff  
John & Pat Reinke  
Carolyn Minor  
Randy Jeans  
Nancy & Family; Sally  
Emily, Steven, Matteo, Micah & Asher  
Aaron, Melissa, Jackson & Audrey Haase  
Gossai Family  
Mom & Dad Herbst  
Her Family -- Dick, Stuart, Kelly & Amy



# Grateful Hearts Generous Lives

“Feeling Gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” ~ William Arthur Ward

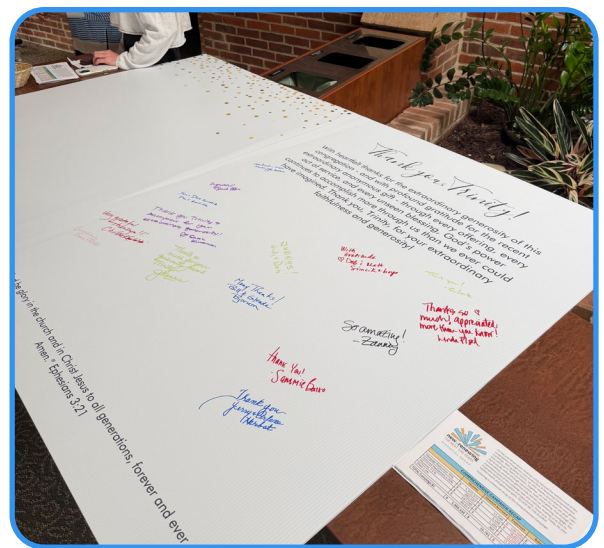
I write this just hours after Trinity’s Capital Campaign Celebration—and my cup is overflowing with gratitude. I am grateful to God for the Comprehensive Campaign Team, our staff, and the individuals and families who offered gifts of prayer, time, expertise, and generous financial support, enabling us to reach our aspirational goal. Even more, I give thanks for the new and renewed relationships that have grown through this campaign—blessings that are truly beyond measure.

Trinity is also deeply grateful for memorial and tribute gifts at Easter, Christmas, and throughout the year. Each gift lifts up our loved ones with deep respect, blesses the giver with joy, and strengthens the mission we share.

If you would like to join the Gratitude Writing Team that sends handwritten thank you notes to people who have honored their family and friends with gifts to Trinity, contact Ann Wolff at [wolff701@msn.com](mailto:wolff701@msn.com) Thank you!



## Comprehensive Campaign Celebration!





### Wednesday Night Volunteer Appreciation

With grateful hearts, we invite all Wednesday night volunteers to join us for a special thank-you meal in your honor. From Faith Lab and Confirmation to Dinner Church and everything in between, Wednesday nights are possible because of your generosity of time and spirit.

This gathering is our way of celebrating and thanking those who have served this year on Wednesdays—we hope you can join us!

Kindly RSVP at <https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/573bb5a7-9ec2-474e-8ed2-4ed67b77a9e5> by **May 13** and let us know of any dietary needs. (see graphic attached)

### Vacation Bible School 2026

June 15–19 | 9:30–11:30 am

Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs  
Get ready for an unforgettable week at Vacation Bible School 2026 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater! This summer at

Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs, we'll explore how God calls us to care for one another — and for the whole creation.

As we look around the world, it's clear that compassion matters more than ever. During this special week, kids ages 3 (fully potty-trained) through Grade 5 will discover what all living things need to flourish — shelter, food, water, air, and community — and how we can respond with kindness, gratitude, and care for the earth and for each other.

Grounded in Psalm 104, we'll explore the beautiful interconnectedness of God's creation — humans alongside the more-than-human world. Through music, storytelling, games, hands-on crafts, and outdoor exploration, campers will grow in awareness, wonder, and joy as co-sustainers of God's good world.

Register: <https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/1317b910-e0dc-4dcd-be25-8a8fce44e9e0>

### Milestone Makeup

Did you miss celebrating a Faith Milestone this past January? You're not alone—and it's not too late!

If your family would still like to mark a special milestone like the Baptism Birthday Party, Bible Discovery, Worship Orientation, or Communion Preparation, we'd love to make space for that in a more personal way. One-off Milestone gatherings are available to schedule over the summer.

To set something up, reach out to Sarah Olson at [solson@trinitylc.org](mailto:solson@trinitylc.org). Let's find a time to celebrate your child's faith journey in a way that works for you!

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### There's Still Time to Register for Camp Wapo Summer 2026

Seeds (grades 1–3): June 19–21

Weeklong Youth Camp & Roots (grades 4+): June 21–26

Please use our Trinity-specific link to register: <https://lwlbc.com/trinity-stillwater>

### Attending Camp Wapo? Save the date!

Join Sarah Olson from Trinity and Jess Peterson from Our Savior's for a Camp Wapo Meet & Greet at Mabel's in Bayport (293 3rd St N) on Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30 pm.

Come connect with other campers and families from the Stillwater area, ask any last-minute camp questions, and start getting excited for our shared camp week June 21–26.

Ice cream is BYOM (Bring Your Own Money)—we'll bring the camp spirit!



### BIG NEWS from Camp Wapo!

Looking for a fun, low-pressure way to try camp this summer?

Camp Wapo is introducing Explorers Camp—a special one-day (with optional overnight!) experience for kids and their parents who've completed grades K–6.

#### What to expect:

- A taste of the classic Camp Wapo experience
- Flexible option to stay overnight
- Perfect "first step" into camp life

Saturday, June 13, 2026

Curious? Ready to explore? Check here for all the details:

<https://lakewapo.org/programs/explorers/>

### Registration Open for W.O.W. Camp 2026! (August 10–14)

Looking for a joyful, faith-filled place for your elementary-aged child during the last week of summer break? W.O.W. Camp is a fantastic way to wrap up the summer with friends, fun, and meaningful experiences before school begins.

After hosting the inaugural camp last year, we're excited to share that W.O.W. Camp 2026 will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (609 S. 5th Street, Stillwater).

Register at: <https://www.stpaulc.org/wowcamp2026>

Questions? Contact CYF & Outreach Director Jenny Brelje at [jenny@stpaulc.org](mailto:jenny@stpaulc.org) or (651) 439-5970.

### Thanks for joining us for our annual Easter Eggstravaganza!

We loved celebrating the Easter season alongside our LADC (Lake Area Discovery Center) partners.



# SUNDAY faith FORUM

**May 10 No Forum. One service Sunday - Youth Musical**

**May 17 Guilt, Shame, and Getting Free with Rev. Emmy Kegler—return for Part 2**

A core belief of Christian faith is our need for salvation; in Lutheran



terms, we might say “we are bound to sin and cannot free ourselves.” Take a quick look at the headlines, our social media, or even in the mirror and we know we’ve fallen short of where we -- and God -- wish we were. But what happens if our guilt turns into an inescapable self-hatred? How do we keep our human desire to do better from telling ourselves we’ll never be good enough for anything? Join renowned author, speaker and pastor, Emmy Kegler, for a discussion on faith, guilt, shame, repentance, and repair.

We’ll explore prayers and practices that help keep us accountable without making us afraid to act. Emmy will also do a short review of part 1 on the theological, psychological, and sociological concepts of guilt and shame, from Augustine of Hippo to Brene Brown. It is not necessary to have come to Part 1.

Sunday Forum will return in Fall. Contact Penny Catlin at [PCatlin@trinitylc.org](mailto:PCatlin@trinitylc.org) if you have suggestions for next season or would be willing to be part of a planning team for next Fall (1-2 meetings/year).

## Sunday Faith Forum

Sundays at 10 a.m. - River Room - Between worship services  
**Living Well in Shared Sacred Community—The Jesus Way.  
Bring Your Curiosity and All Are Welcome !**

### May 3 Transition Team Presents Results for Final Ministry Site Profile

The Transition Team will present the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) for Trinity. The MSP is the document that introduces who we are as a congregational community, our strengths, hopes, challenges and areas and desires for growth. It also gives the characteristics Trinity desires for the lead pastor, especially their gifts and the tasks we want them to be responsible for. The MSP will be used to guide the Call Committee in their work. It will be available for any pastor looking for a new call and for the Synod to use in helping us with the call process.

Come hear what the Transition Team has learned from you through surveys, listening and dialogue sessions and your addition sharing. This is also an opportunity to ask questions and give feedback in preparation for the next step in the call process.



**FAFA Build Birdhouses!**

# Worship & Music

## Spring Musical

The Trinity Youth Choir will be presenting their Spring musical "Storms" by Mark Burrows on Sunday, May 10th at the 10AM Service.

We all go through storms in our lives. Whatever happens Jesus is with us - God's love never leaves us! No matter the storm, we are always loved and are never alone!!

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you."  
Isaiah 43:2



## Trinity Drive-In Schedule

at St. Croix Hilltop Drive-In 1433 Main Street, Houlton, WI 54082

**May 24** - Drive In Kickoff

**June 7** - Roxy's Waffle Truck

**June 14** - Walk, Bike, Run Sunday

**June 21** - Pride Sunday

**June 28** - World Refugee Sunday

**July 5** - Camp song Sunday

**July 12** - Jazz Band Sunday - Special Musical Guests: Rented Mules Jazz Band

**Aug 2** - Puerto Rico Celebration Sunday

**Aug 16** - Blessing of the Backpacks

**Aug 23** - Blessing of the Animals

**Sep 6** - Last Sunday of the Summer

**Sep 13** - TrinityFEST back at Trinity

## Concert Series

### May 3 | Valley Chamber Chorale | 3pm

Music & Mind: Music has been fundamental to every human civilization—woven into rituals, healing practices, celebrations, and daily life. But why do we have music, and what makes it so powerful? From our biological evolution to our mental, physical, and spiritual well-being, music plays a profound role in shaping the human experience. Science confirms what cultures have long known: music heals. It reduces stress, improves memory, supports emotional wellness, and even aids recovery from illness and injury.

Tickets: <https://www.valleychamberchorale.org/tickets>



We celebrate Mother’s Day in May, a day when we honor and express thanks for the mothers in our lives and the vital role they played in nurturing, guiding, and shaping us – and in so doing, shaping society.

The modern version of Mother’s Day was initiated by Anna Jarvis in the U.S. in 1908 to honor her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, who worked to improve public health and foster reconciliation after the Civil War. Jarvis campaigned for the holiday’s recognition, which President Woodrow Wilson declared in 1914 as the second Sunday in May.

*The Bible often uses maternal metaphors to describe God’s compassion, guidance, and nurturing presence; to illustrate God’s tender care, patience, and protective instincts toward God’s creation, just like “mothers” care for theirs. “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.” – Isaiah 66:13*

For many of us, who we honor on Mother’s Day goes beyond biological mothers and even women. Rather, we honor and give thanks for all those persons in our lives who have “mothered” us and shaped who we are today – grandparents, adoptive parents, stepparents, aunts and uncles, teachers, nurses, neighbors and more.

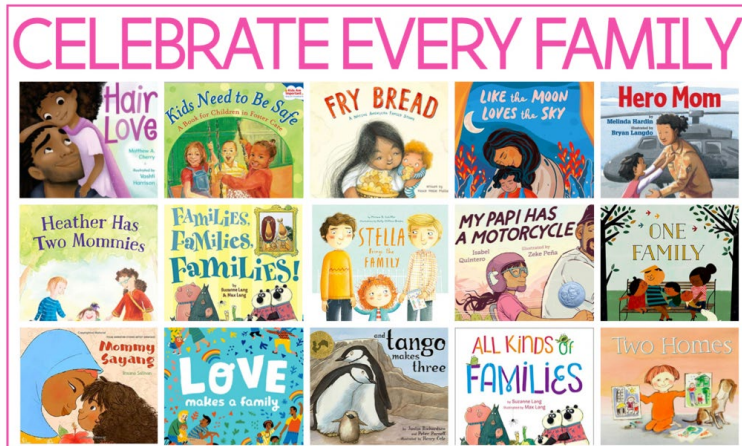
By shaping us, by instilling core values and behaviors, our “mothers” inevitably shape society. This is where fostering inclusivity begins, where nurturing anti-biased, antiracist children start. Children who grow up to be inclusive, equity-minded, anti-biased, and antiracist adults. Adults who welcome and appreciate everyone in God’s beautifully, diverse creation.

Consider the Canadian nonprofit, Mom’s Against Racism, who seek to leverage this influence:

*We believe that as moms, and those in mothering roles, we have the power to change the world through the relationships we build with “our” children. We have the power to shape the next generations. We have the power to end racism where it starts – in the home.*

*There is no role in this world that has more influence over the future than a mothering role. Together we can choose to stop breathing hate and fear into our next generations and instead foster within them acceptance and love. Together we can choose to instill values of social justice – access, inclusion, equity, diversity, participation, and human rights – into the hearts and minds of our next leaders.*

*Together, in our children, we can build an equitable world for our descendants where everyone is valued.*



Honor Mother’s Day in May by considering the invitations that follow.

**1. Honor National Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Relatives (MMIWGR) Remembrance Day in May.**

Trinity will be uplifting this concern at Sunday worship on May 17.

- a) Attend worship on May 17 and wear red. Among many Indigenous people, red holds spiritual significance. Some believe red is the only color spirits can see. By wearing red, we make ourselves visible to those who have been taken saying, “we see you; we remember you; we will not stop fighting for you.”
- b) Pray for MMIWGR and their families during May.
- c) Learn more about MMIWGR by listening to Indigenous voices. The ELCA offers resources on its website at [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women](#).
- d) Support Indigenous-led organizations working on this issue. Donate to or volunteer with them such as Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center in Minneapolis.

2. Participate in the 6th Annual Rise and Remember Festival to remember the murder of George Floyd. The festival is on May 23-25 and details can be found at [Rise & Remember Festival – Rise and Remember](#)

3. Attend a Cinco de Mayo event to support our Mexican American neighbors and honor their heritage and contributions to our community. The event on St. Paul’s westside have activities from May 1 – 3. [West Side Fiestas – Community. Culture. Pride.](#)

Amen to that. Happy Mother’s Day!

**Claudia Swendseid, Racial Justice Ministry Team**

# Pride Justice

## The Gift of Seasons and New Activities—Learning Together 101



There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: Ecclesiastes 3:1

According to the Library of Congress website, <https://www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/about/>, the first Pride march occurred on June 28, 1970, in New York City. This single event launched celebrations of all kinds in the month of June in communities throughout the United States. In 1999, June was officially designated as Pride month, as more and more celebrations occurred. In 2025, people across the country participated in 500 different celebrations, and Minnesota claimed over 20 of the Pride month events. Each of these events centers around the belief and understanding that every one of God's children deserves human dignity and is celebrated for who they are created to be.

Beginning in 2023, a new season of justice ministry and activities launched as Trinity's newly formed Pride Justice Team offered opportunities to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community. This included Sunday and Wednesday learning opportunities; a TrinityFest booth; large-group artistic activities like banner making; hosting art museum exhibit tours; participating in the ValleyWide Pride Fest, and inviting presenters such as Arnold Dahl-Wooley, Ellie Krug, and Mikah Meyer, to share their stories at Trinity.

In 2025, the Pride Justice Team felt called to a new season of celebrating

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and hosting Pride-centered opportunities outside of Trinity's walls. In March and November 2025, the team partnered with Mike & Kat's Other Place Coffee Shop in, Stillwater, who generously opened their doors on a Friday evening as the team invited anyone from the area, near and far, to gather for delicious coffee, tea, and treats, and celebrate, meet new and known friends, learn about other Pride partners, and share time in a community centered in allyship, advocacy, and hope.

As the Pride Justice team listened to the hum of conversation at all these various events, a frequent question arose:

### Why doesn't Stillwater have a Pride celebration event?

The team began exploring if another new season was emerging, and the team and Trinity had an opportunity to launch a Stillwater Pride celebration for all ages? And the answer was YES! Through conversations with Trinity's council and staff, followed by ongoing collaborative conversations with other area churches, businesses, non-profits and individuals, the first Stillwater Pride Ice Cream Social is being held on June 16, 5:30-8pm, Trinity's green space!

**Stillwater Pride Ice Cream Social At Trinity.** Mark your calendars now as the season of Pride month, ice cream treats, and summer fun are about to begin! A variety of activities for all ages, live music,

four food trucks, and more will fill the green space! Bring your family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors, from near and far!

Interested in being a sponsor or volunteering? Contact Karen Gieseke, Trinity Pride Justice Team chair, at [stillwaterpridealliance@gmail.com](mailto:stillwaterpridealliance@gmail.com)

### Trinity Pride Month activities

**Tuesday, June 16—Stillwater Pride Ice Cream Social, 5:30-8pm, Trinity Green Space, 115 N 4th Street Stillwater**

**Saturday, June 20, ValleyWide Pride Fest, 10am-4pm—Lake Front Park, Hudson WI - Trinity Booth**

**Sunday, June 21, Pride Worship Sunday, services at Trinity and Drive-In**

God has made everything beautiful in its time. God has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. Ecclesiastes 3:11-13

**Karen Gieseke, Pride Justice Team**

See flyer back page



An inclusive, free Pride celebration with music, activities, and fun for all ages  
Allergen-friendly food truck options available for purchase for everyone

GREEN SPACE • 115 N. 4TH STREET • STILLWATER, MN

5:30-8 PM

**June**  
**16**  
2026



Hosted and Sponsored by Stillwater Pride Alliance - A collaboration of area businesses, non-profits, churches, and individuals  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL: [stillwaterpridealliance@gmail.com](mailto:stillwaterpridealliance@gmail.com)

# Missions and Devotions



**We are truly blessed!!!!**

Happy Spring... now is the time to explore the

Trinity library for books for your summer reading time, vacations, or weekend jaunts.... I recently attended the Twin Cities Church Library Association meeting at St. Michael's Lutheran in Bloomington. Our own Colleen Baldrice was the featured speaker on her book, *The Tree-Spirited Woman*. I am delighted to share with you that our library is so fortunate to have the amazing support of our church leadership, our council and the congregation. Not all other churches are as fortunate and so I thank you...This library is to be a resource for the congregation; we have devotional and other religious books including scriptural studies, the role of the church in the world, BUT we also have fiction, contemporary books on racial justice, climate change and so much more. There are also issues of *Christian Century* and *Living Lutheran* available.

Check us out when you are at church...just turn the light on if no one is there. It is YOUR library and always open. Thank you for your support in this ministry of Trinity.

**Sue Swanson**

## The Four Pillars of Missions Team:

1. Refugee Resettlement & Inclusion- (includes anything to do with Refugees)
2. Housing Insecurity- PIT (Point in Time), Washington County Emergency Housing, and Tiny Homes (Settled).
3. Global Companions - Tanzania related (Hospice kits, our sister congregation in Mwatasi, our new sister congregation in Ilomgombe, travel and other companions, perhaps in the Gaza Strip.
4. Local Companions - Any local organizations that the Missions Team may be involved in such as food drives, Feed the World funds for Baby Enfamil at Valley Outreach, Community Thread, Solid Ground, Family Means, etc.

## Men's Bible Study

Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.

**Boutwells Landing, Skyview Conference Room**

Galatians 5:1 "For Freedom Christ has set us free"

Beginning on April 2nd we will begin a discussion of the Book of Galatians. We will rediscover the basic bedrock of our faith and freedom! Join us on the exploration of new life in the Spirit!

## Ecumenical Worship

Sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church

First Wednesday of each month at 10 AM at Boutwells Landing Town Hall Chapel

## Mental Health Matters

NAMI is offering a Super Week of education for parents and caregivers. Many of the offerings can be done from the comfort and safety of home, and some have associated CEU's, in addition to a big in-person Super Saturday. Details in the link.

<https://namimn.org/superweek2026/>

Dear Trinity community,

Here are your Earth Keeper T.I.P.s (Thoughtfully. Intentionally. Purposefully.)

### *No Mow May is Here!*

As we head into Spring, remember the pollinators! Not mowing (or doing a high cut if we get a lot of rain) allows wildflowers and grasses to flourish, which in turn supports pollinators. This enhances biodiversity and provides essential resources for bees, butterflies, and other pollinating insects. Learn more here.

<https://completegardening.com/12-ways-no-mow-may-really-helps-pollinators-thrive/>

### *Capture Your Water in Rain Barrels*

Collecting rain water in rain barrels gives you free water for watering your plants and gardens. Easy to purchase from Washington County!

<https://www.washingtoncountymn.gov/2813/Compost-Bin-and-Rain-Barrel-Sale>

### *Take a Walk!*

Now that we have our beautiful Minnesota weather back, take advantage of it and enjoy it while it lasts. Get out and walk! Skip the car and walk to your errands and appointments. Bring a backpack and reusable bags with you for those trips to the store or library when you have a reasonable load to carry. Enjoy!

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**EARTH KEEPERS.**  
LEAVE IT BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT



### When Disaster Strikes

Your partners on the Trinity Missions Ministry Team are excited to share that we recently allocated \$10,000 to support the work of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), an organization under the umbrella of the ELCA that dedicates 100% of donations to domestic and international disaster relief. \$5000 of our gift is designated for work in the Middle East, and \$5000 of our gift is unrestricted, allowing LDR to apply the funds where most needed.



### Sharing God's Hope and Healing

Supporting Communities Through the Cycle of Disaster

Since 1973, [Lutheran Disaster Response] has remained grounded in our mission to share God's hope, healing and renewal with people impacted by disasters. We recognize that every disaster is local and that community leaders and organizations are best equipped to address needs following a disaster. We accompany partners worldwide across the disaster cycle—response, recovery, mitigation and preparedness—providing financial support, technical assistance, advocacy and networking. This work is relational: we stand with communities, congregations, and synods, social ministry partners, community-based organizations, tribal nations, companion churches and ecumenical partners. (<https://www.elca.org/how-we-serve/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>)

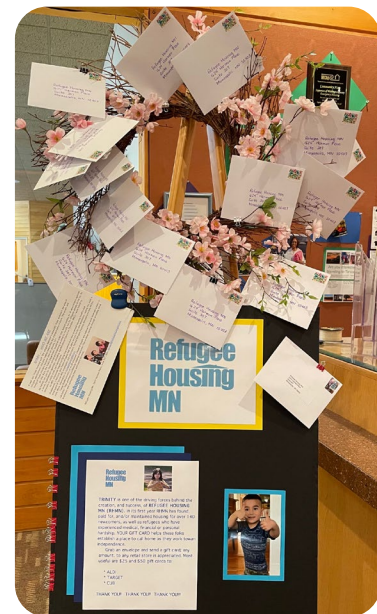
**Kristy Bjerk, Beth Payne, Spike Carlsen**  
Missions Team

### SPRING INTO SPRING; SPRING FOR A GIFT CARD

The Trinity congregation has opened hearts and pocketbooks in support of refugee resettlement—especially over the past 4 years. There continues to be a real need for food and household goods to assist refugees while they establish their home base in Minnesota. And providing gift cards is one of the most convenient ways to help

Refugee Housing MN (RHMN) provides a trusted conduit for getting those gift cards into the right hands. Look for the RHMN "Spring Wreath" in the narthex, pluck a stamped envelope, drop in a gift card or two and send it off. Gift cards to Target, Aldi and Cub foods in \$25 and \$50 amounts are especially welcomed.

Our newcomers thank you.



### SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR ... YET SO DOGGONE DOABLE.



This photo, taken in 2011, shows the foundation for the new Bomalong'ombe Secondary School Science building. How exciting! The photo below, taken in 2025 shows the progress made on the science building over the last 14 years. How unsettling.

But that's about to change—with the help of Bega Kwa Bega, the Iringa Diocese and Trinity and other of St. Paul Area Synod (SPAS) companion churches. Completing the science building at Boma and two other secondary schools is top priority for Iringa Diocese this year for 3 important reasons:

- 1) Boma—when the science building and laboratory are complete—will be able to expand its curriculum to include forms 5 and 6; currently it can only accept students up to form 4.
- 2) Currently the students at Boma are without a dedicated classroom for science lectures and hands-on learning; critical for an education in today's fast moving world
- 3) Without a science building and lab, Bomalong'ombe and other schools risk being uncertified by the Tanzanian government; leaving hundreds of students without a certified school to complete their education.

**The goal is ambitious: To raise \$50,000 for the three projects by June 1st.** The Trinity Missions team has allotted \$2,500 for the project and a donor has committed an additional \$2,500. We're asking members of Trinity to contribute another \$2,500 (bringing the total to \$7,500) so we can assure this dream becomes a reality. You can send a check to Trinity with "Boma Science building project" in the memo line. Donations are tax deductible. Address is Trinity Lutheran Church, 115 4th St N, Stillwater, MN 55082.

The teachers and students of the Iringa area thank you.





**Accountability Belonging Inclusion Diversity Equity**  
**Accountability Belonging Inclusion Diversity Equity**

Diversity is God's creation.  
Equity is God's justice.  
Inclusion is God's family.

**SUMMER READING INVITATION**

explore Trinity Library's ABIDE Collection located in the Narthex

fiction & non-fiction, children's books, chapter books, Young Readers' editions  
"I had no idea!" was my conclusion after every book.  
I have so much to learn and to unlearn, and most importantly, why? Because..

**Accountability, Belonging, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity**  
are the values that Jesus taught, in word and in deed, time and time again.

**A few suggestions:**

Read Until You Understand: The Profound Wisdom of Black Life and Literature by Farah Jasmine Griffin Call Number: 810.9 GRIF

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent by Isabel Wilkerson Call number: 305.5 WILK

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer Call Number: 305.897



**Let's Go Events!**

LET'S GO and Pride Justice invite you to tour Queering Indigenuity at MN Museum of American Art, 350 Robert St. N, St. Paul

**Join us for an afternoon at the theater.**

Sunday, May 17, 2:00 pm  
"Once Upon A Mattress"  
Lakeshore Players at Hanifl Performing Arts Center, White Bear Lake \$23 per person  
RSVP to Randy Propp by texting 651-238-5153



**yogadevotion**  
practicing in the Presence

THURSDAY MORNING  
**YOGA**

Join Sandy on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am at Trinity Lutheran in Stillwater in person, or virtually, for a mat/chair yoga class that incorporates strengthening poses and balancing poses.

**Tuesday from 9 - 10AM CST**

This 8-week session runs from: **1/8 - 2/26/26**

Register at: [yogadevotion.com/classes](http://yogadevotion.com/classes)





**Celebrating Seniors Summer Event!**

All Trinity seniors are invited to the River Room for a short worship service with communion, then an afternoon of fun and fellowship with your Caring Friends and Trinity's pastors.

Wednesday, June 10; 2-4pm.  
No cost or RSVP necessary--

Questions? Contact [zjohnson@trinitylc.org](mailto:zjohnson@trinitylc.org)



## Christian Sympathy

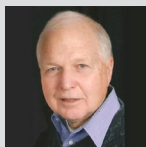
- Sympathy to the family & friends of **SuzAnne Olson**

## Baptisms

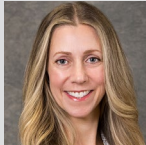
- **Leo Daniel Brand**, child of Jake & Miranda Brand
- **Greta Susan LeClair & Ella Anne LeClair**, twin children of Katelyn & Jordan LeClair

## Congregational Council

Our congregational governance calls for an elected council and includes the Interim Pastor, Jen Hackbarth and Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation, Peter Weston Miller. Parish Administrator, Sarah Kinsman is also on council as a non-voting, ex officio member.



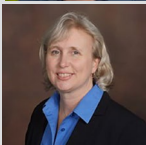
**John Hodler**  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT



**Kirsten Parker**  
COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT



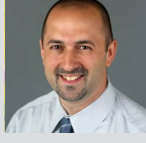
**Shane Brockhus**  
COUNCIL SECRETARY



**Jill Longnecker**  
COUNCIL TREASURER



**Bill Bjorum**  
COUNCIL MEMBER



**Bryan Barts**  
COUNCIL MEMBER

## Worship On TV

Trinity's traditional Sunday worship service is rebroadcast on channel 14 through Valley Access Channels (VAC) on the following days and times:

- Sundays at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
- Mondays at 7 a.m. & 1 p.m.

## Office Hours

The church office is open the following hours or by appointment.

Monday–Thursday  
9 a.m.–5 p.m.

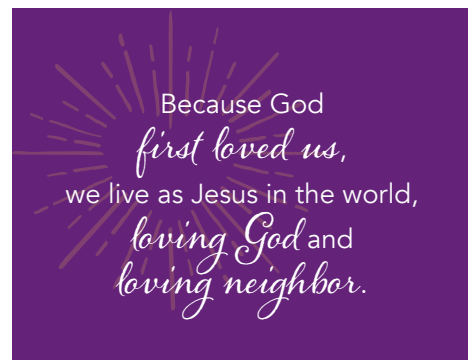
## Attendance

### March

1: 9 AM-192. 11 AM - 80. Online- 726.  
8: 9 AM -153. 11 AM - 76.  
Online - 546.  
22: 9 AM -134. 11 AM - 82.  
Online - 399.  
29: 10AM - 345. Online - 710.

### April

5: 7 AM - 70 9 AM - 612. 11 AM - 307.  
Online - 512.  
12: 9 AM - 133. 11 AM - 91.  
Online - 670.  
19: 9 AM - 171. 11 AM - 123.  
Online - 843.  
26: 10 AM - 261  
Online - 466.



## Core Values

Engaging Worship  
Radical Hospitality  
Authentic Community  
Lifelong Faith Formation  
Compassionate Action

## Inclusion Statement

Read our Inclusion Statement at:  
<https://www.trinitylc.org/our-mission>

All submissions featured in Trinity Today are subject to change based on space available

# TRINITY TODAY!

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An Inclusive, FREE  
Pride Celebration with  
music, activities, and  
fun for all ages.

Allergen-friendly food  
truck options available  
for purchase for every-  
one!

**TUESDAY JUNE 16 | 5:30 - 8 PM**

GREEN SPACE | 115 N 4TH STREET | STILLWATER MN