

TRINITY TODAY!

Because God first loved us, we live as Jesus in the world
February 2026 | volume 48, issue 11

**LET'S
GO!**



**Water
Color 101
Workshop**

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LET'S GO! Events!

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INTERIM PASTOR JEN HACKBARTH

Friends in Christ,

A little over four years ago, in November of 2021, the Trinity Church Council gathered for a retreat at the Stillwater Library to vision for the financial future of the congregation. They reflected about Trinity's financial well-being and how they could free up funds from paying off debt to supporting mission and ministry. They realized that, at the time, Trinity was spending \$200,000 per year on mortgage payments and servicing debt—funds that could be spent on mission, deferred maintenance, and building a capital reserve. The council decided to pursue the possibility of a capital campaign.

After much thought, research, and prayer, the council decided to work with consultant Steve Olson of Olson Advancement to set goals and implement a campaign. At the 2022 Trinity Annual Meeting, the congregation voted to approve a three-year Comprehensive Campaign entitled *New and Renewing—the Next 150 Years* with three clear goals: debt reduction (70% of each gift), deferred maintenance (20%), and mission (10%). The initial pledge amount was tremendous and inspiring: a total of \$1,925,000 (with an additional \$65.5 thousand in designated gifts). By August 2023, \$739,558 in gifts had been received, which when combined with regular giving, meant mortgage payments were reduced by 15.3% in one year.

New and Renewing—the Next 150 Years is guided by the words of Ephesians 3:20-21: "Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." In the past three years, we've witnessed God's power at work through Trinity's generosity—far more than we could have asked or imagined.

In 2024 and 2025, Comprehensive Campaign donations continued to fund mortgage reduction, building projects and mission. Even with an expected interest rate hike in May 2024, the mortgage payment reduced slightly. Major repairs were done at the Drive-In, including asbestos removal, taking down the screen shell, and demolishing the concession building. The 3rd Street Heritage Chapel Exterior Restoration project (which included tuckpointing as well as chimney and steps repair), a significant milestone in the campaign, was completed well under budget. The campaign gifts will continue to impact Trinity's property. The next project will be upgrading the lower-level restrooms.

March of 2026 is the three-year mark of the Comprehensive Campaign, which is the closing of the original goal. Out of nearly \$2 million pledged, 92% has been received. It's impossible to overstate the ways it

has improved Trinity's financial status, its ability to fund mission now and in the future, and its properties. Your generosity in God's name has been incredible.

Here's what Trinity has accomplished together over the past (almost) three years:

- Debt Reduction: Our mortgage dropped from \$3,097,495 to \$1,560,108, protecting our budget from rising rates.
- Property Care: Major repairs at the Drive-In and the historic 3rd Street chapel.
- Mission Impact: \$125,317 dedicated to Trinity's mission efforts, including support for the St. Paul Area Synod's Planting Hope Campaign and the LSS Therapeutic Preschool.

As your Interim Lead Pastor, I tell this story with the clear knowledge that it will shape conversations with potential pastoral candidates. This coming summer, when interviews with Lead Pastor candidates are projected to start, the Call Committee will share about the Comprehensive Campaign with joy and hope, and pastoral candidates will know they are interviewing with a generous and visionary congregation. What a wonderful way to set up your next years of ministry, as well as the next 150 years.

As we approach the close of the three-year Comprehensive Campaign, we invite you to help us lower Trinity's mortgage to less than \$1.5 million:

1. If you have not already done so, please complete your Comprehensive Campaign pledge.
2. Consider a one-time gift toward the mortgage to reduce principal before the end of the campaign on March 31, 2026.

If you haven't given toward the campaign these past three years, you're warmly invited to give toward it. There is no minimum amount. Every gift is a blessing.

On Sunday, April 26, we will celebrate all we've accomplished in Christ through the Comprehensive Campaign. We'll join together for one worship service at 10am with an ice cream celebration following. In the meantime, you will enjoy stories of the campaign's success in worship and our publications.

The opportunity to give through the Comprehensive Campaign will not end on March 31, 2026. You can keep giving! As always, contact Parish Administrator Sarah Kinsman with any questions you may have

*Interim Pastor
Jen HackbARTH*

A Celebration

of PASTOR PETER'S MINISTRY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 | 10AM

Please join us for a special celebration/luncheon on Sunday, February 15th celebrating Pastor Peter's ministry following the 10AM Worship (one service). We welcome you to join us for this meaningful morning of worship, community & gratitude.

As we celebrate Pastor Peter's ministry at Trinity, we invite those who wish to honor him with a gift to consider one or both of the following:

- ✦ An Honorarium to our Local Immigrant/Refugee Partners. Donations may be made online at trinitylc.org/giving or by check written out to Trinity Lutheran Church. Please indicate in the memo line this is an honorarium for Pastor Peter.
 - ✦ A Gift to Pastor Peter's travel plans to Holden Village this summer.
 - ✦ Please make checks directly out to *Pastor Peter*.
- Cards/gifts can be mailed or dropped off at the church office.

Lifting My Eyes to the Hills (and the Valleys) and Setting Your Sights High

Dear Trinity Beloveds,

I have struggled so much with what to say in this final piece to y'all. It's a lot. I'm terrible with goodbyes or farewells, even if I am not going too far. It's grief and it's a measure of love.

Mostly, what I want you to know is my heart just overflows. My cup runs over. Goodness and mercy follow me and infuse me because of you.

The emotion of the Psalms sweep through me like the St. Croix, which I have learned is anything but still water.

Abiding. All-encompassing. Full to the brim. Agape love for you. God's love and my personal and pastoral love. It has been such a blessing to be with you through every hill and every valley.

I want to leave you with one final word of psalmy encouragement.

Lift your eyes to the hills and set your sights high.

God has never asked this church to play small.

Keep trusting that God can do infinitely more than you can ask or imagine.

So ask God for that. Be clear about your why. Don't settle for less. Keep setting your sights and your standards high. That is what leads to growth and transformation. It's where the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep and hearts open. It's where everlasting peace is found. It's what changes the world.

Refuse to compromise on love. For everyone. Beloveds, strangers and enemies alike.

Above all, continue to be absurdly Jesusian. Folksy and funny. Tiny hats and Lutefisk lobs. Rooted and neighborly and prophetic.

Thank you, thank you, thank you,

*Pastor
Peter Weston Miller*

Giving Summary

“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
- Joshua 1:9

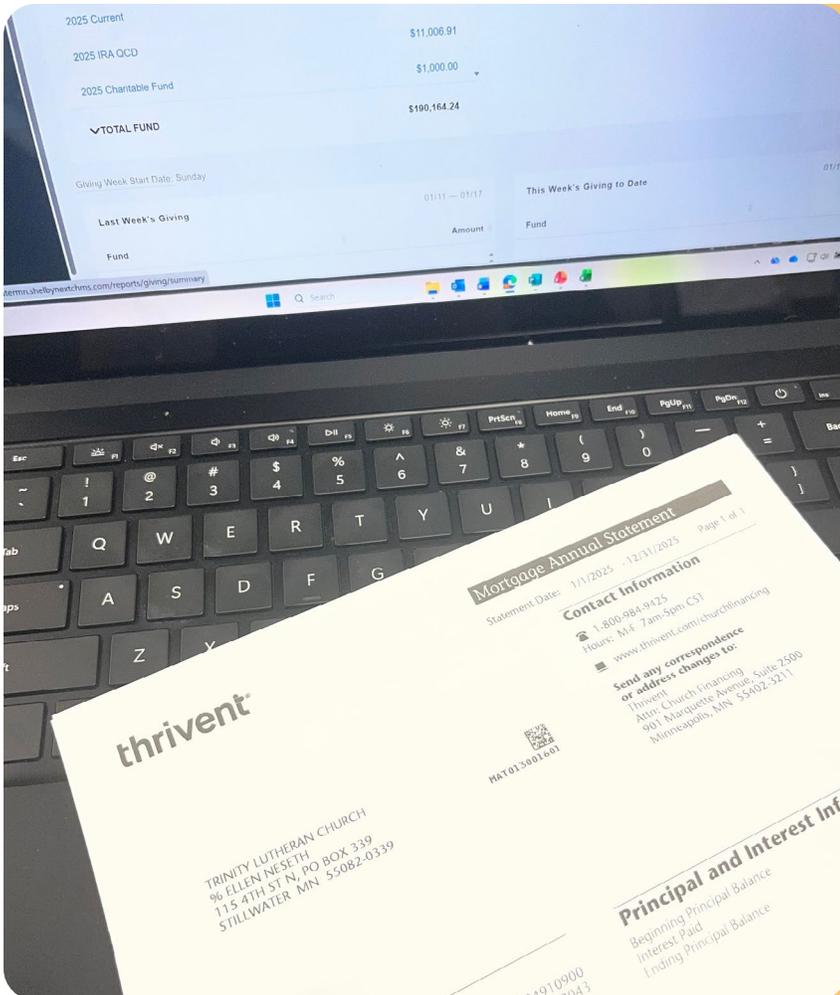
As we enter this sacred season of Lent, may these words from Joshua settle gently into our hearts: *“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* Lent invites us into reflection, renewal, and quiet courage—trusting that even in these challenging times, God walks beside us. Though these weeks may feel like a journey through the wilderness, we do not walk alone. Christ goes before us, lighting each step with hope, reminding us that every moment of surrender prepares us for resurrection joy. Just as winter gives way to the first signs of spring, our spirits are readied for new life, new growth, and new beginnings. Spring is coming. Hope is rising. And God is with us, wherever we go.

FINANCE.

- YTD General Contributions through December were \$414,895 (94% of Budget). 2024/25 YTD Giving was \$417,094.
- YTD Total Income through December - minus Missions- was \$564,369 (103% of Budget/\$49,431 from Endowment). 2025 YTD Income was \$563,614.
- YTD Expenses through December - minus Missions - were \$567,470 (104% of budget). 2024/25 Expenses were \$537,089. As of the end of December, Income vs Expense, we were at -\$3,101. (Elevator Insurance Claim: Payment received in prior fiscal year however repair complete and paid (-\$19,516) in October 2025.)
- As of 1/1/26, the FSB Line of Credit balance was \$0.

2026 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE.

As of January 1, there were 177 pledges totaling \$808,308 - and 78 increased their pledge for an increase of \$111,450. We are so grateful for your generosity. Let's continue moving into this year with hearts full of thanks, ready to grow, give, and serve!



MORTGAGE. As of 1/1/26, the Thrivent mortgage balance was \$1,560,108.

2026 COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN UPDATE. Total CC amount pledged: \$1,853,308. Total contributions to CC received through 12/31/2025: \$1,810,430. Balance remaining CC pledges expected to be received before 3/31/2026: \$223,426.

If you haven't yet completed your pledge or given, now is the time to join this exciting, future-focused work. Together, we are freeing Trinity's future for ministry and mission! Join us on Sunday, April 26, for a special celebration honoring the success and completion of our capital campaign. This milestone is a testament to the generosity, faith, and shared commitment of our Trinity family.

Thank you for all you do to help Trinity continue to grow as a healthy, vibrant, and flourishing community of faith. Your commitment nurtures a place where the Gospel takes root and blossoms each day.

Sarah Kinsman, Parish Administrator





new&renewing

THE NEXT 150 YEARS

Let's Celebrate Our Comprehensive Capital Campaign Success and Finish Strong Together!

In March 2023, Trinity launched a bold Comprehensive Capital Campaign to retire debt, complete critical maintenance, and invest in mission. Thanks to over 250 Trinity families, nearly \$2 million has been pledged, of which 92% has already received. Your generosity has been extraordinary – thank you!

Here's what we've accomplished together so far:

- **Debt Reduction:** We have cut our mortgage in half, dropping it from \$3,097,495 to \$1,560,108. This will protect our budget from the impact of any rising interest rates, and importantly, free up more of our resources for direct ministry and mission.
- **Property Care:** We completed major repairs at the Drive-In, where so many of us worship during the summer. We also finished tuckpointing in the historic 3rd Street chapel, which is a process of removing deteriorating mortar from brick and replacing it with fresh mortar. This helped preserve the chapel by ensuring its structural integrity.
- **Mission Impact:** We dedicated \$125,317 to Trinity's many mission efforts, including support for the St. Paul Area Synod's Planting Hope Campaign and Lutheran Social Services' Therapeutic Preschool.

Your generosity has been extraordinary – thank you!

As we approach the completion of the Comprehensive Capital Campaign (end of March), every gift matters. So, let's finish strong together – here's how you can help.

1. If you have any outstanding pledge to the Campaign, please fulfill it before April 1. About \$200,000 in pledges remain outstanding.
2. If you are able and interested, consider a one-time gift toward the mortgage to reduce our debt even further. You can do so via our website.

Finally, join us in celebrating this incredible journey on **Sunday, April 26**. We will thank God for our blessings, review our success, and enjoy special treats after the service.

Thank you for your generosity and for being part of this amazing community of faith. Together, we are freeing Trinity's future for even more ministry and mission!

With grateful hearts,

The Comprehensive Campaign Leadership Team:
Chris and Marilyn Johnson, Mike Karlsrud, Deb and Matt Simcik,
Claudia Swendseid and Clark Thurn



Lifelong Faith Formation

SUNDAY faith FORUM

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 !



Dinner Church & Wednesday Learning

Join us for Dinner Church, a community meal and worship service for everyone—families, singles, couples, and friends. Connect with the Body of Christ every Wednesday evening in the River Room. The night is a full schedule of faith and fellowship for all ages:

4:30–5:15 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal (Kindergarten –Middle School) – Choir Room

5:20–6 p.m. Children’s Faith Lab (Faith Formation for Ages 4–Grade 5) – Chapel

5:30 p.m. Community Meal Service Begins – River Room (Families with children in Faith Lab and staying for Dinner Church should grab food for the whole family during this time.)

6:15–6:45 p.m. Dinner Church (eat together, worship together) – River Room

6:45–7:45 p.m. Break into Small Groups:

- Middle School Confirmation (Grades 6–8)
- Adult Faith Lab

FAFA – Faith And Fellowship Affinity (elementary school age group)



February 1 & 8. Cultivating Care in Community Amid Transition with Rev. Cody J. Sanders, Ph.D

How do we turn toward one another in caring community through times of transition? For two Sunday Forums, Rev. Dr. Cody Sanders will walk with us in attending to the emotions of fear, sadness, and anger that often arise in times of uncertainty and liminality, and look at ways of cultivating grief, gratitude, and wonder related to the futures communities like

this one are moving into. We will attend to personal, communal, congregational, and larger social expressions of transition and change with an eye toward how hope is practiced in community.

Rev. Cody J. Sanders, Ph.D., is associate professor of congregational and community care leadership at Luther Seminary. An ordained Baptist minister, he previously served as a pastor in Cambridge, MA, where he was also a higher education chaplain at both Harvard and MIT. His most recent book is *Spiritual Care First Aid: An All-Hands Approach for Church and Community* (Fortress, 2025).

February 15 A Celebration of Pastor Peter’s Ministry. No Sunday Forum.



Feb 22 & March 1. Thinking about the United States after 250 Years with Dr Chris Gehrz

This year the United States is commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. While such anniversaries have historically brought Americans together around a shared past, this one will take place in the middle of fierce political debates about U.S. history. In this two-part class, historian Chris Gehrz will look back at past commemorations

and suggest strategies for how to think historically about our contested national past – and what role Christians can play in that remembering.

Chris Gehrz (PhD, Yale) is professor of history at Bethel University in St. Paul, MN, where he teaches courses on military/diplomatic, modern European, religious, and sports history. The author or editor of several books, including a spiritual biography of Charles A. Lindbergh, Chris also writes about history, faith, and education at Substack. He and his family attend Roseville (MN) Lutheran Church.

Questions, comments, concerns... contact Penny Catlin (pcatlin@trinitylc.org) or Pastor Jen (jhackbarth@trinity.org)

Intergenerational Game Night! Feb 27 – 6:00–9:00 PM



Back by popular demand we are hosting a game night at Trinity for Middle and High School Students and members of the Let’s GO! Group. It will feature large group games, board games, card games, Pickleball, and a very highly requested game of Sardines! Join us on Feb 27, 2026 from 6:00–9:00 PM for a night of games, fun, and time with friends. Pizza, snacks, and pop will be provided.

All are welcome, if you would like to register as an adult leader, please contact Dana at dkruse@trinitylc.org. Register with the QR Code

Worship & Music



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 a.m. Worship—Gathering in the Worship Center and led by choirs, organ and instrumentalists. Here you will participate with robed clergy and worship leaders. You will sing hymns, songs, liturgy and psalms from a worship book and hear a message relevant to our lives today.

11 a.m. Worship—Gathering in the Worship Center and led by a band incorporating a wide variety of contemporary worship music. The congregation engages in a time of praise and worship following the historic pattern of Lutheran worship (Gathering, Word, Message, Meal, and Sending.)



Online Options For Worship

Both services will be available online and livestream from our Worship Center at Trinity. Find worship online on our website at: <https://www.trinitylc.org/online-worship> and livestream on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/trinitylcstillwater/>

Worship Schedule

Feb 1:

- Micah 6:1-8
- Matthew 5:1-12

Feb 8:

- Psalm 112
- Matthew 5:13-20

Feb 15 - Celebration of Pastor Peter - 1 Service at 10 am

Matthew 17:1-9

Feb 18 - Ash Wednesday Dinner Church 5:30 meal - 6:15 worship

Feb 22 - First Sunday in Lent: The Good News is... so good it catches us by surprise

- John 2:1-11
- Matthew 13:31-32

Concert Series

Feb 22 | Trinity Worship Band Concert | 3:00pm

Led by Contemporary Music Leader Andrew Kreye, the Trinity Worship Band will present its winter concert titled "Jesus Have It All." The concert will feature some of the most popular Contemporary Christian Music of today with songs by Bethel Music, Elevation Worship, Audrey Assad, and others. Come for an afternoon of inspiring worship music

Your Transition Team is hard at work!

Now that they are almost done with listening sessions, they will compile and present the results of what they've learned at several dialogue sessions in February and March. At these sessions, you'll also have the opportunity to share your thoughts about Trinity's core values and the gifts and skills we seek in the next Lead Pastor.



Here is information about the dialogue sessions:

- Saturday, Feb 7 at Ann Wolff's home: 3-4:30pm (please call church office or email awolff@trinitylc.org to RSVP and get address)
- Saturday, Feb 21 at Trinity River Room: 10-11:30am
- Monday, Feb 23 at Sabrina and Dustin Fay's home: 6-7:30pm (please call church office or email sfay@trinitylc.org to RSVP and get address)
- Sunday, March 1: online at 10am and noon
- Wednesday, March 4 during Dinner Church: 6:15-6:45pm
- Sunday, March 8 during the Adult Forum: 10:15-11am

The Ministry Site Profile will be completed in April and presented to the congregation on May 3. As always, feel free to reach out to the Transition Team by emailing transitionteam@trinitylc.org.



Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent

Creative Resources for Lent-Easter

About this series

Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. As we crafted this series, we asked: what are the core, foundational concepts of Jesus' life and ministry? What makes each of these good news? Can we trust that the good news is truly good, even when it challenges us?

If we're being honest, we can easily distort or sanitize Jesus' teachings. Following Jesus leads to a richer, more expansive life, but it's not necessarily comfortable. We often describe Jesus' ministry as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground."¹ Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots, back to what grounds us: loving our neighbor, caring for the vulnerable, pursuing justice and mercy, and resting in God's unending grace.

The good news is extravagant, untamed, illogical, and persistent. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed that flourishes rapidly into a tree to shelter the birds. It smells like expensive perfume poured from an alabaster jar and like crumbling bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like children laughing and like stones dropped to the ground instead of violently thrown. It feels like feet washed with tender care. The good news is alive in the world.

We hope this series will provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. This Lent, may the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. Let the good news ground us. And let that good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/wordplay/radical-word-history>



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What good news do you have?

Ash Wednesday - Feb 18

Dinner 5:30, Ash Wednesday Dinner Church 6:15

Easter - April 5

At the right is more about the series

Racial Justice

February is Black History Month...

a time when we celebrate the achievements and contributions in history and culture by our neighbors of African descent.

Black History Month originated in the U.S. in 1926, founded by historian Carter Woodson as Negro History Week. Woodson, a prominent African American historian, aimed to highlight the overlooked achievements of Black Americans and to promote the teaching of Black history in schools. The week was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and Frederick Douglass (February 14), both of whom played significant roles in the fight for Black freedom and equality.

The observance evolved into BHM, notably pushed by colleges in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1976, during the U.S. Bicentennial, President Gerald Ford officially recognized BHM, encouraging all Americans to celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the nation.

BHM continues to serve as a vital opportunity to educate the public about the rich history and culture of African Americans, to reflect on past struggles, and to honor the achievements of influential figures throughout history. It emphasizes the importance of integrating Black history into the broader narrative of American history and culture—that is, Black history is American history.

But why lift up BHM at Trinity? Isn't this mainly a secular activity? Something that schools and governments handle? Well, not exactly. Consider, for example, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's (ELCA) Declaration of the ELCA to people of African Descent, passed on June 27, 2019.



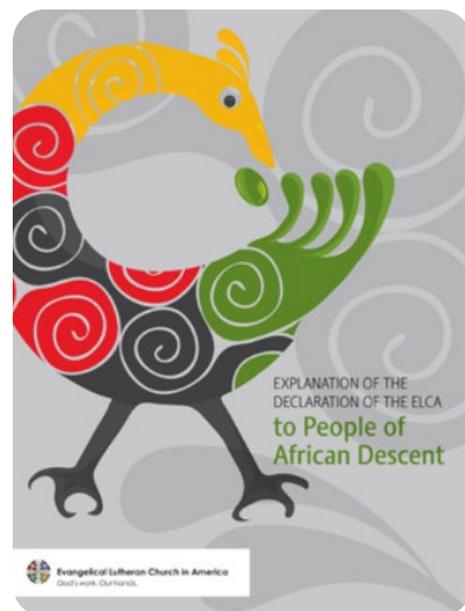
This document begins with Galatians 3:28:

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

After reminding us of our “oneness” as God’s people, the ELCA “apologizes to people of African descent for its historical complicity in slavery and its enduring legacy of racism in the U.S. and globally.” The document also urges action: “Beyond empty promises or well-meaning intentions, this church recommits to the work of racial justice, socioeconomic equity, and racial reconciliation. This apology is a recommitment to the process of right and equitable relations within this church, and the flourishing of Christ’s church universal. This recommitment means working toward a deeper understanding of slavery and its legacy, of institutional and structural racism, of white privilege, and of attitudes and foundations of white supremacy.”

It’s in this context that Trinity lifts up Black History Month.

Then there is Trinity’s own Statement of Inclusion. It begins by stating that: “God’s love is all inclusive.” Among the six statements that follow, we affirm this: “A commitment to inclusion and anti-racism is a core value of this community. Trinity is a justice-seeking community taking steps toward understanding and addressing the racial bias and systemic racism that is around us and within us.”



It's in this context that Trinity's Racial Justice Ministry Team invites you to participate in one or more activities to learn more about African American history and culture. Some activities include ABIDE Reader discussions on January 26 and February 23, Dinner Church on February 11, and a tour of the African American Heritage Museum and Gallery on February 28. For more detailed information on BHM activities at Trinity and how to participate, visit Racial Justice | Trinity Lutheran Church.

Pride Justice

Do Black and White TVs and photos have a 3rd color? Learning Together 101.

What do The Andy Griffith Show, The Dick Van Dyke Show, Perry Mason, The Twilight Zone, The Addams Family and The Munsters all have in common? These TV shows aired on the first TV my family owned. A Black and White TV. As a 5-year-old, my excitement of having a TV in our home outweighed my curiosity about the description and the inner workings of that TV.

Likewise, my Mom took photographs with a camera that produced black and white photos, which I eventually learned came from black and white film. Again, I was so excited to see the photos, which arrived in the mail weeks after they were taken, because the images provided



glimpses into the lives of family and friends who were important to me and my story.

Describing a TV or

photo as black and white creates an experience called duality. Stemming from the word dual, "consisting of two parts or elements", suggests that B&W television and photos have only two colors in their images. The black and white term does not describe anything about the people or their story in the photos or TV shows. As someone who loves color, and also believes people and their stories are amazing and

beautiful creations of God, the idea of only two colors invites me to explore more deeply! Looking closer I see many shades of white and black, including gray, in God's world. A trip to purchase to paint confirms that simply asking for white, black, or gray paint leads us to an endless number of possibilities!

In Genesis 1, God's creation story often uses a duality lens. Day and night.(v. 3-5) Land and seas.(v. 9-10) Sometimes three creations are described as in the sun, moon and stars. (v.14-18) Other times God's creations were so many and so diverse, the Genesis story seeks to capture all of the many with words like, "God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good." Gen 1:21

These verses invite us to use both current knowledge and our curiosity to imagine all the amazing differences within God's creation!

In daily life, we experience the dual images of day



and night, land and seas, and more. Between day and night is dawn and dusk. Between land and seas are marshes and bogs. Dawn and dusk, and marshes and bogs, begin to describe the gray area in the duality imagery in Genesis.

Exploring gray areas offers opportunities to learn more about God and God's creation. Have you explored Minnesota's own Big Bog State Recreation Area, a 500-square mile peat bog, with a mile-long board walk? So much diversity and beauty in this "gray area"!

To begin exploring gray thinking and stories, YOU ARE INVITED to Trinity on February 7, 10am-12noon, as Ellie Krug, nationally known facilitator and author, leads us in her Gray Area Thinking inclusivity presentation. Ellie offers an innovative toolset—Gray Area Thinking®—for interacting with diverse humans in mindful and compassionate ways in daily life activities.

Invite family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, small groups! Registration required.

Register at Trinity Events:
<https://www.trinitylc.org/events>

Questions? Contact Karen Gieseke kgieseke@live.com

Karen Gieseke, Pride Justice Team Chair (she/her)



Missions and Devotions

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH EARTH KEEPERS. Leave it BETTER than you found it

Dear Trinity community,
Here are your Earth Keeper T.I.P.s
(Thoughtfully. Intentionally. Purposefully.)

Show Your Love For Your Valentine By Giving To A Cause or Charity

Valentine's Day is the perfect day to show our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Donate to a cause or charity you feel strongly about.

Let's Start a New Tradition—No Red Meat February

From greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation to water use and pollution, meat production plays a significant role in the planet's changing climate. ([woods.stanford.edu/news/meats-environmental-impact](https://www.woods.stanford.edu/news/meats-environmental-impact)). Cutting red meat out of your diet for a month is a small tweak to your diet that makes a big difference. And it may just become a habit!

Sign Up For XCEL's 'Renewable Connect'

Lower those winter energy bills! XCEL offers a portfolio of renewable energy options that give you opportunities to power your home with clean energy at a low cost. Check it out here: mn.my.xcelenergy.com/s/renewable/renewable-connect

Men's Bible Study

Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.

Boutwells Landing, Skyview Conference Room

Studying of the Parables of Jesus.

- 3 weeks on the Parables of the Kingdom
- 3 weeks on the Parables of Grace
- 3 weeks on the Parables of Judgement

Jesus told parables because he wants YOU to figure it out! He and we want to know what YOU think. Come and help figure it out!

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/>



Trinity Lutheran Responds to Need

Thank you Trinity for responding to help our neighbors in need by purchasing food.

In the first week of ask, we have delivered to a church in the St. Paul Area Synod that is warehousing and delivering food to those who are afraid to leave their homes, afraid to put out their garbage cans, who have been unable to go to work for fear that ICE may show up. This church coordinates delivery to those in need. Thanks too for all of you that have volunteered to deliver the food. We appreciate you.

Trinity members have also purchased food for our Anuak families in the Stillwater area. We have long been supporters of these people, who spent many years in Refugee camps in Ethiopia, after fleeing their unsafe homeland. We hope to deliver food to these families once a week.

Trinity members also are supporting our neighbors and friends at Cimarron and Landfall. Employees at these two places accept food and disperse to those in need. We also hope to continue delivery to these families once a week at this time.

Food that is brought to the church is delivered the same day, Monday through Thursday. On the weekend food is stored and refrigerated as needed, for delivery on Monday.

Food in our green bin near the fourth street entrance at TLC is delivered to Valley Outreach each day that food is left there.

The need is great. Thanks for grocery shopping for those who do not feel safe to do so at this time. These pictures are of the first week of our food purchases for our neighbors.





Greeting and Thank You from Mwatasi

Dear Trinity Stillwater,

Happy New Year. I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am writing this letter on behalf of all Mwatasi members. We thank God that Christmas and New Year worship and celebrations went very well. Thank you for the scholarship funds. We had a very good meeting with the partnership committee to allocate the funds to different students on January 5th. All beneficiaries are happy and they appreciate this big support.

Your most welcome to visit Mwatasi.

Yours, Mwatasi Pastor Shem

East Central Conference Synod Assembly

Saturday, February 14 | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Location: Christ the King Lutheran Church, New Brighton

Register to represent Trinity as a voting delegate to the Conference Assemblies. Trinity is part of the East Central Conference Synod and may send 14 voting delegates, plus clergy, to the assembly.

Conference business includes:

- Nominations for bishop (each of the six conferences may nominate up to three candidates)
- Possible elections for Synod Council or conference committees
- Discussion of resolutions brought by participants; resolutions passed at the conference level move forward to the Synod Assembly for consideration

If you are willing to attend as a registered Trinity voting delegate, please submit your name to Linda Flood, by February 8. Linda will register all Trinity voting delegates at one time.

Your participation is an important part of Trinity's voice in the wider church.

Interested in joining Trinity?



Our new member process happens just twice a year, in the spring and fall. It's an easy 3 step process:
 1—fill our membership form (Scan QR Code)
 2—attend worship when we receive new members on March 8 at 9 or 11am, OR at dinner church on Wednesday, March 4.
 3—attend the corresponding new member class either at 10am on Sunday, March 8 or after dinner church on March 4.



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



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.

Acknowledge and commemorate BLACK HISTORY MONTH with ABIDE Readers in discussion of *I Am Nobody's Slave: How Uncovering My Family's History Set Me Free* by Lee Hawkins. We have so much to learn and unlearn about our past and our present shared history with Black peoples. It matters to us because Jesus told us over and over, to love and serve God by loving and serving the most marginalized and targeted neighbors, to put faith into action with justice and compassion. If you don't have time to read the book, find a discussion with the author on youtube then open your hearts and join us Monday, February 23, 6:30-8:00 pm via zoom. Email wolff701@msn.com for the link.



Let's Go Events!

LET'S GO and Trinity's Middle and High School students invite you to "GAME NIGHT" Friday, February 27, 6-9 pm, River Room Large group games, board and card games, pickleball and highly requested Sardines. Pizza, snacks, and pop provided

RSVP by Feb 22 to Sandy Wendt at sjwendt46@gmail.com If you would like to register as an adult leader, please contact Dana Kruse at dkruse@trinitylc.org

LET'S GO is promoting participation in the Racial Justice tour at the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery on February 28, 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. See additional information on the Racial Justice page.



**LET'S GO!
Water
Color 101
Workshop!**



Grief Group

If someone you love has died and you are interested in a faith-based connection with others in a safe and confidential space to support you in your grief, please join us on Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 PM from Feb 3 to March 3 in the Trinity library. Led by Zanny Johnson, spiritual director and certified grief educator. RSVP to Zanny at zjohnson@trinitylc.org

Baptisms

- **August George Defiel**, child of Natalie & Gordon Defiel

Christian Sympathy

- Sympathy to the family & friends of **Carl Baglio II**
- To the family & friends of **Sherm Danielson**
- To the family & friends of **Ed Linner Jr.**
- To the family & friends of **Ronald Churchill**

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 official 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

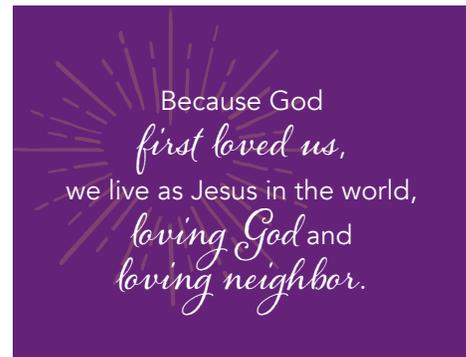
Trinity's traditional Sunday worship service is rebroadcast on channel 14 through Valley Access Channels (VAC) on the following days and times:

- 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.



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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Office: 651-439-7400; Fax: 651-430-2935

Email: info@trinitylc.org

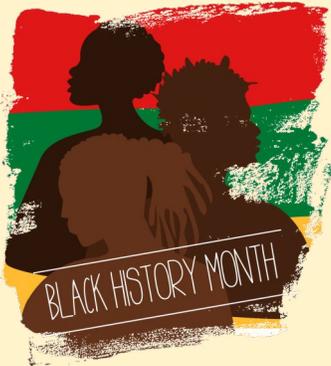
Trinity Today is available as a PDF at www.trinitylc.org (Click Media » Newsletter)

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Racial Justice Ministry Team is sponsoring Black History Month

February 11, 2026 | Dinner Church | 5:30 – 7 PM

RJMT will host Dinner Church! Activities planned include:

- Gallery of Black Heroes for all ages to explore and learn about, including quotes from black leaders and a brief quiz
- Information on the purpose of BHM
- Supplies for each participant to make a “Be the Dream” beaded bracelet. Posters/handouts with information about the ELCA’s Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent,” which apologizes for and acknowledges its role in slavery and ongoing racism.

February 22, 2026 | Sunday Worship. RJMT will host worship - providing greeters, hospitality, ushers, assisting minister, and treats. Information relevant to BHM will be available.

February 23, 2026 | 6:30 – 8 PM | ABIDE readers | Via Zoom.

Join ABIDE Readers to discuss the book, *I Am Nobody’s Slave: How Uncovering My Family’s History Set Me Free:* by Lee Hawkins. This devastating memoir is about the ties that bind, both familial and societal. Hawkins, an editor and reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, details the harsh realities of growing up in a middle-class Black family in Maplewood, MN with deep, unacknowledged ancestral wounds. These moral, psychological, and physical injuries drove his parents to inflict frequent beatings on their three children in the twisted hope that keeping them in line, and out of trouble, would protect them from a racist society. For the link, contact Ann Wolff at wolff701@msn.com.

February 28, 2026 | 10 AM – 2 PM | Minnesota African American Heritage Museum Gallery.

Tour the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery (MAAHMG) with the RJMT, followed by lunch. Opened in 2018, the MAAHMG preserves, documents and highlights the achievements, contributions and experiences of African Americans in Minnesota. This mission is carried out through exhibits, programs and events that educate and inform the public about the history, culture, and art of African Americans in Minnesota. The museum is free and accessible to all. For more information, please contact Ann Malwitz (malwitzann@gmail.com) or Gail Hovland-Wires (gailwires@hotmail.com).