

# TRINITY TODAY!

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



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





# INTERIM PASTOR JEN HACKBARTH

## Shaping our Future—Next Steps in the Transition Process

Friends in Christ,

I'm honored to be a part of Trinity for this season of transition. I continue to learn so much from all of you, and I hold your trust with deep respect, especially as Trinity now looks to call two new pastoral leaders. Thank you for sharing your hearts with me and with the Trinity's Transition Team.

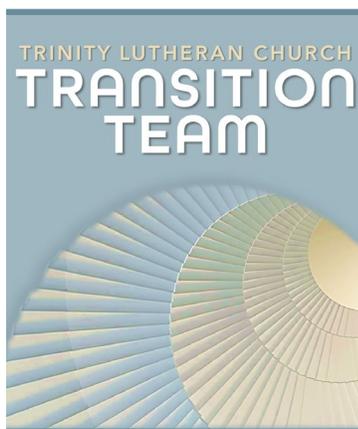
With the arrival of Pastor Kristine Stedje in mid-February, Trinity now has two interim pastors at once! We're thankful Pastor Kristine is here to support and partner with us during this time. Here are some updates about the transition process, especially as we move into a new phase in the interim time:

Your Transition Team has been meeting three times a month (for two hours each time) since late October. This is in addition to engaging in listening sessions with individuals and groups connected to Trinity (they have over 100 pages of notes from these sessions!). While there are common and recommended steps for transition work in congregations, each transition time is unique. We started our work with open hearts and minds, ready to learn about what Trinity needs in this time and place, and to adjust our priorities according to what we discover.

We have learned a lot, and we are ready to share our findings. The Transition Team is providing many opportunities for dialogue sessions in the next two weeks. At these sessions, we will share data from our congregational surveys and listening sessions. Participants will then discuss the major themes from the data and share their thoughts about important gifts and skills needed in the next Lead Pastor.



Scan here to register for dialogue sessions!



## Dialogue Sessions:

**Sunday, March 1:** online at 10am and noon

**Monday, March 2** from 6-7:30pm in downtown Stillwater

**Wednesday, March 4** from 6:45-7:45pm at Trinity

**Saturday, March 7** from 10-11:30am in downtown Stillwater

**Sunday, March 8** from 10:15-11:30am in Trinity River Room

We will present our final draft of the Ministry Site Profile to the council in April, then it will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, May 3 at 10am. At that gathering, everyone will have the opportunity to share their thoughts about the document before we send it to the St. Paul Area Synod, who will use the information in the Ministry Site Profile to identify potential candidates for the Lead Pastor position. The Council's goal is to have the Call Committee appointed in May so they can start their work soon after the Ministry Site Profile is presented to the congregation. (Once the Lead Pastor is in place, a different call committee will be formed to start the process of identifying the next Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation.)

Please continue to keep Trinity in your prayers during this time of change and opportunity. I'm excited to see who God brings into the Trinity community to walk alongside you all as your next Lead Pastor!

*Interim Pastor  
Jen Hackbarth*

# INTERIM PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION **KRISTINE STEDJE**

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## **Meet Our New Interim Pastor!**

Pastor Kristine Stedje was born and raised in Western Montana near mountains and lakes. She had a career in human resources as a training and development specialist. She graduated from Luther Seminary and had pastoral calls in Wisconsin and Iowa. She loves scripture, especially stories about Jesus and his disciples, and music, especially singing with choirs or within the assembly. She lives in Apple Valley and is looking forward to meeting members and friends of the congregation.

*Interim Pastor  
Kristine Stedje*



# Giving Summary

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. – Psalm 51*

As we begin these forty days of Lent, we hear again the familiar prayer of Psalm 51: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Lent invites us to return to God with open hearts and offers us a meaningful time to reflect on how our time, our

resources, our gifts, and even our words can serve God and care for one another.

In a season when divisions can feel deep, we are called to be a community that builds up rather than tears down – using the many gifts we have been given to encourage, to uplift, and to generously share the love of Christ.

## January 2026 INCOME VS EXPENSE.

- YTD General Contributions through January were \$579,327 (105% of Budget). 2024/25 YTD Giving was \$568,851.
- YTD Total Income through January – minus Missions – was \$740,802 (108% of Budget/\$49,431 from Endowment). 2025 YTD Income was \$735,947.
- YTD Expenses through January – minus Missions – were \$696,762 (102% of budget). 2024/25 Expenses were \$660,740. As of the end of January, Income vs Expense, we were at \$44,041. (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.
- As of 1/1/26, the current Council Operating Reserves balance was **\$61,875.48**

**MORTGAGE.** As of January 31, the Thrivent mortgage balance was \$1,534,565.

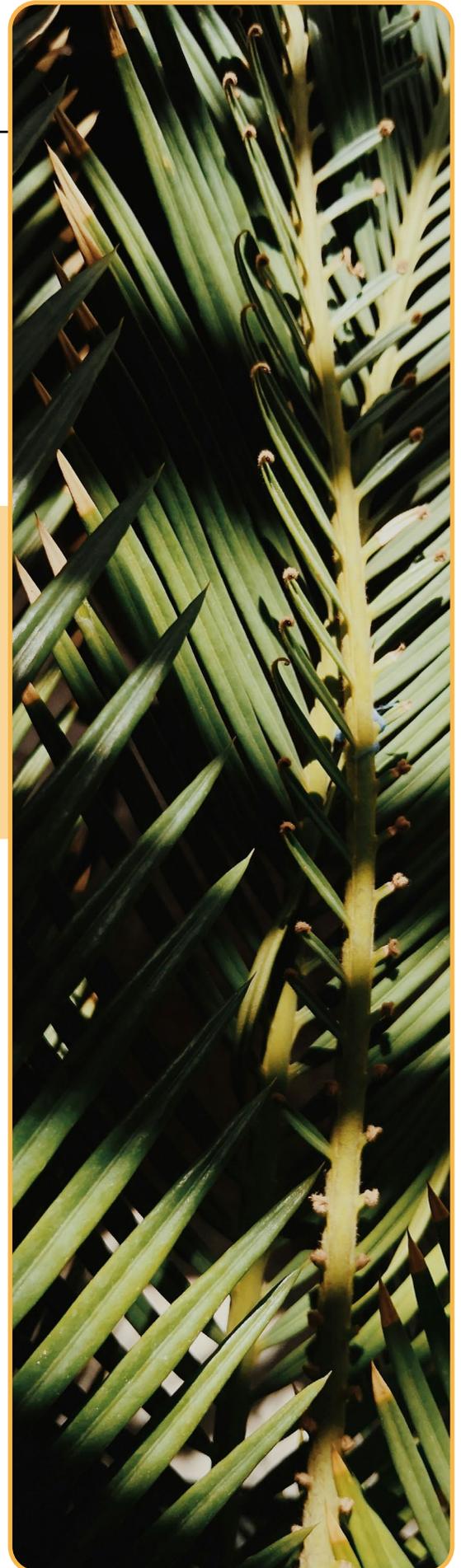
**2026 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:** As of January 31, there were 279 pledges totaling \$1,059,913.

**2026 COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN UPDATE.** Total CC amount pledged: **\$1,838,089.** Total contributions to CC received through 1/31/2025: **\$1,868,736.** Balance remaining CC pledges expected to be received before 3/31/2026: **\$200,181.** If you haven't yet completed your pledge or given, now is the time to join this exciting, future-focused work. Please 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.

I continue to be immensely grateful for all you do to help Trinity continue to grow as a healthy and vibrant community of faith.

Blessings to you in this holy season!

Sarah Kinsman, Parish Administrator





## 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.

Whether making new friends, playing creative games, or discovering ways to care for the earth, there's something meaningful (and fun!) for everyone.

Register: <https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/1317b910-e0dc-4dcd-be25-8a8f9e44e9e0>



## Comfort in Action: Hospice Kit Collection (Now–March 11)

Join us on Wednesday evenings as we collect supplies for Hospice Kits on behalf of Global Health Ministries (GHM). Donations may be dropped off in the River Room through March 11, and everyone is invited to help assemble the kits after Dinner Church on March 25.

These simple, practical items bring dignity and comfort to people around the world receiving end-of-life care — and support the caregivers who serve them.

### Hospice Kit Items Needed:

- Regular-size bath towels (approx. 52" long), new or gently used
- Washcloths, new or gently used (not microfiber)
- Bath-size bar soap, unscented (in original packaging)
- Toothbrushes (individually packaged)
- Pick-style combs
- Nail clippers (larger size preferred)
- Band-Aids
- Pure petroleum jelly (approx. 4 oz., jar or tube)
- Heavy-duty kitchen gloves (medium)



## Camp Wapo Summer 2026 Registration — Now Open

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://wlbc.com/trinity-stillwater>

## Save the Date: 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? 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).

For details and registration, visit <https://www.stpaulc.org/>.

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



**new&renewing**  
THE NEXT 150 YEARS

**2026 Comprehensive Campaign Update: Celebrating Progress, Preserving Our Campus, Strengthening Our Mission**

As we move through the final phase of Trinity’s Comprehensive Campaign, this is a fitting moment to celebrate the remarkable progress your generosity has made possible. While the financial milestones are encouraging, we know many members are interested in seeing how these gifts have strengthened our church, reduced our mortgage burden, and expanded our ability to support mission and ministry. The story of this campaign is best told through the improvements you can see – and the ministry they make possible.

The first project completed was the revitalization of the Drive-In area, a space that carries both history and heart for our congregation. The most significant step was removing the deteriorating screen and its outer shell, which had become both an eyesore and a safety concern. The metal framework, still structurally sound, was intentionally preserved to maintain a visual connection to our past and provide a backdrop to the stage. The old concession building, too damaged to repair, was demolished, and a small shelter was added to protect the electrical service equipment. Improvements to the projector building helped preserve it, and a permanent structure was installed to shade the refreshment area. These updates honor the legacy of the Drive-In while creating a safer, more functional space for future gatherings.

The next major project – one that required nearly two years to secure a contractor – was the restoration of the historic east façade of the church building. This work included tuckpointing, restoring the steps and railings, rebuilding the chimneys, and addressing other critical repairs that protect the integrity of our historic structure. To our delight, the project came in well under estimate, leaving approximately \$150,000 available for the next priority.



With those remaining funds, we are preparing to remodel the lower level restrooms near the gym and exploring options to add a restroom near the Worship Center on the main level. The lower level restrooms need updating, and the showers – no longer used – would require extensive reconfiguration to be functional in the future. Instead, they will be removed and incorporated into a new layout that includes a family/single occupant restroom alongside updated men’s and women’s facilities. We anticipate that this project will use all remaining campaign funds. The fourth project on our original list has already been completed using other funding sources.

Alongside these visible improvements, the campaign has also supported mortgage reduction, helping Trinity steward its resources wisely and freeing more funds for ministry. As our building becomes safer and more efficient, our capacity to support mission – both within our walls and beyond them – continues to grow.



As we approach the campaign’s conclusion on March 31, 2026, we ask those with outstanding pledges to complete them by April 1. For those who feel called and able, voluntary additional gifts are deeply appreciated and will further reduce the mortgage, strengthening our longterm financial foundation.

Thank you for your generosity, your faithfulness, and your belief in Trinity’s future. Together, we are celebrating meaningful accomplishments and preparing our church home for decades of ministry ahead.

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

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

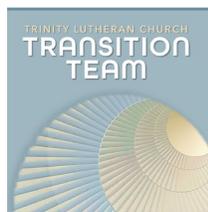
FAFA – Faith And Fellowship Affinity (elementary school age group)



### March 1. Part 2: 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.



### March 8. Shaping Trinity's Future: Next Steps in Our Transition Process.

Join the Transition Team to help shape Trinity's future. Learn what the team has been hearing from you and give input on what we have learned so far. Discuss how and why the most common themes are important to the being the community of Trinity and what gifts



we hope for for the next Lead Pastor. Sign up is helpful but not necessary for this dialogue session. Please note March 8th session will go until 11:30 a.m.

### March 15. Conversations with Pastor Jen and meet Interim Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation

Here is your chance to meet and learn about our Interim Lifelong Learning Pastor! As always, bring your questions, thoughts and concerns. It's always fun to see where the conversation takes us and get to know each other better.

**March 22.** No Forum this Sunday. Meet guest speaker, Mikah Meyer, in the Narthex. Read more in the Pride Justice article.

### March 29. Palm Sunday—No Forum and **One Service at 10AM**

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

# 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/>

# Lent & Easter Schedule



**Sunday, March 1** – Second Sunday of Lent  
The Good News is... great love for God and neighbor  
Luke 7:36-50 | Matthew 25:35-40  
9am – Trinity Choir, Trinity Youth Choir + Organ  
11am – Trinity Worship Band

**Sunday, March 8** – Third Sunday of Lent  
The Good News is... together, the impossible is possible  
Mark 6:32-44 | Ephesians 3:20-21  
9am – Trinity Choir + Organ  
11am – Trinity Worship Band

**Sunday, March 15** – Fourth Sunday of Lent  
The Good News is... protection and care for the vulnerable  
Matthew 19:13-15 | Deuteronomy 24:31-32  
9am – Trinity Choir, Oboe + Organ  
11am – Trinity Worship Band

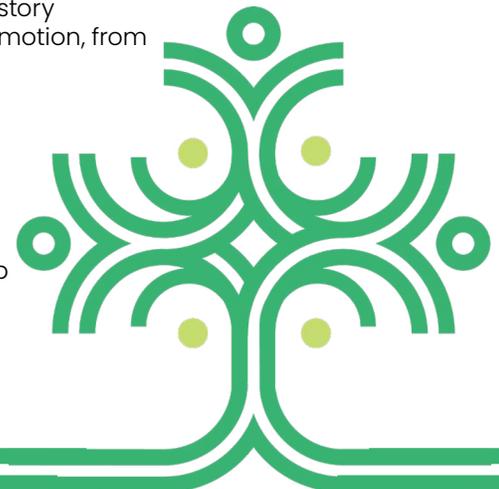
**Sunday, March 22** – Fifth Sunday of Lent  
At both 9 + 11 worship services we welcomes guest speaker and musician Mikah Meyer, a nationally recognized storyteller, adventurer, and creator of the Outside Safe Space symbol. Mikah will share his short film Canyon Chorus, offer special music, and host a table in the narthex between services for folks to learn more about his work.

**Sunday, March 29** – Palm Sunday  
The Good News is... inspiring us to act  
**10am – 1 Service Only** Featuring Trinity Choir, Organ + Trinity Worship Band  
Join us this Palm Sunday as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, lifting our voices with the crowd that shouted "Hosanna!" and waved palm branches in hope and praise. Together we enter Holy Week with gratitude, reflection, and a renewed openness to God's transforming love.

**Wednesday, April 1** – Maundy Thursday on Wednesday Dinner Church  
Dinner 5:30 pm, Service 6:15 pm | River Room  
Join us for a meaningful Maundy Thursday experience at Wednesday Dinner Church, our only program that evening featuring hand and foot washing and Stations of the Cross

**Friday, April 3** – Good Friday Worship | 7 pm  
Seven Last Words by Michael John Trotta  
Seven Last Words is a multi-movement choral journey through the Passion, which delivers a powerful and captivating story encompassing a breathtaking palette of emotion, from intimate tenderness to majestic triumph.

**Sunday, April 5** – Easter Sunday  
The Good News is... alive in the world  
7 am | Sunrise Worship (no livestream)  
9 am | Traditional Worship with choir, brass + organ  
11 am | Contemporary Worship with Worship Band



# Celebration of Pastor Peter



## Concert Series

### March 8 | Valley Chamber Chorale | 3pm

Requiem for Solace

In Requiem for Solace, acclaimed Norwegian composer Kim André Arnesen offers a deeply emotional and contemplative journey through grief, remembrance, and healing. Blending the sacred Latin texts of the traditional Requiem Mass with the poignant poetry of Emily Dickinson and a reflective anonymous English verse, Arnesen weaves a rich tapestry of sound that is at once reverent and modern. This luminous work is marked by lush harmonies, lyrical melodies, and a sensitive interplay between choir and orchestra.

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

### March 28 | Bemidji State Choir | 7pm

This performance will include a collaboration with the Bemidji Alumni Choir. Come hear music of Benjamin Britten, Hamid Mardkhanjari, Karen Siegel, Dan Forrest, Carlo Gesualdo, and many more! This performance will also feature a member of our BSU voice faculty, Dr. Cory Renbarger.

Tickets: No Tickets. Free will offering will be taken

# Racial Justice

Our Racial Justice Ministry Team begins March with the 5th and final Black History Month poster based on *Now Is The Time*, a study guide from the ELCA, displayed in the Narthex on March 1st. Its title:

## ***Where do we go from here as a church?***

This question brings to mind the prologue of Trinity's Sesquicentennial Yearbook (1871-2021) in which we look ahead to the next 150 years and commit to "build relationships with the BIPOC community, live the mission that we proclaim to love our neighbor—with Jesus' intent of loving those who do not look like us (a mostly white congregation), strive for equity that grows out



of love, not guilt, take action that leads to reparation and reconciliation, follow God's work of reconciliation in the world, seeking justice for all people and celebrating our diversity within Christ's unifying love."

We begin our 6th year reviewing the essential questions with which we began our work-- Not what should we do or what can we do, but will we do it? Our answer was and still is: Yes, with the help of God! We are excited to see how our lives and our church are transformed when we commit to this work.

### **We invite you to join us:**

- **March 8**, for the **Healing in Four Directions Pow Wow** at Johnson High School. Grand Entry 1 pm, Feast 6 pm. Contact Melissa May for information and carpooling [amayz@comcast.net](mailto:amayz@comcast.net)
- **March 14**, **A Simple Song: Who gets to speak for a nation?** Who dares to tell its story, raise its flag, and call its citizens to a more unified future. 7:30-9:30 pm at The O'Shaughnessy performed by The Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra and One Voice Mixed Chorus. Tickets are \$35. Free livestream is available, but registration is required.

Contact Ann [wolff701@msn.com](mailto:wolff701@msn.com) ASAP for sitting together, carpooling, or more information.

- In **supporting schools and families in District #834**. Contact Cornelius Rish [cornrish@gmail.com](mailto:cornrish@gmail.com) who spoke at the MLK breakfast.
- In generous **support of our local businesses**, whose owners and staff have been impacted.

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.

### **ABIDE READERS**

*How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States* by Daniel Immerwahr is the book chosen by the ABIDE Readers Group for Monday, March 23, 6:30-8:00 via Zoom. Goodreads describes it as "rich with absorbing vignettes, full of surprises, and driven by an original conception of what empire and globalization mean today. *How to Hide an Empire* is a major and compulsively readable work of history." Contact Ann at [wolff701@msn.com](mailto:wolff701@msn.com) for the zoom link. Join us. All are welcome.

# Pride Justice

## Peek-a-boo! I See You! Learning Together 101

"Peek-a-Boo! I See You!"



As the grandmother of twin two-year-olds, this game has been a constant for many months. Initially initiated by the adults in the room, it eventually became the twins who took the lead as they covered or closed their eyes, and waited to see and be seen. Who knew seeing and being seen could be so much fun!

Exploring the history of the simple but exciting game led to the Oxford Dictionary, where the phrase dates back to the 1600's. The game is considered developmentally crucial to infants as it helps them understand that objects continue to exist even when out of sight, a concept known as object permanence.

No matter the age, being seen is important to us understanding we matter and have value. At February 7th the Gray Area Thinking workshop at Trinity, facilitator Ellie Krug differentiated the words belong and matter, and the different experiences associated with each word. Ellie invited participants to think about places where we felt we belonged and then ask ourselves if we also felt we mattered in those spaces. It is an interesting exercise, including thinking about Trinity and how the community creates both experiences for people feeling they belong - and they matter.

In 2010, transgender ally and advocate Rachel Crandall Crocker, head of

Transgender Michigan, hoped to create a day where people could celebrate the lives of transgender people, while simultaneously acknowledging that due to discrimination, not every trans person can or wants to be visible. The outcome for 25 years is the celebration of the International Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31.

According to a 2025 survey from UCLA, over 2.8 million people now identify as transgender in the US, including an estimated 724,000 youth. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/aug/20/trans-people-us-data>

In 2025, then ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton shared a video message for Transgender Day of Visibility. The message includes Scripture, ELCA social statements, and current legislation which underscore our responsibility to these Beloved Children of God. But in the middle of the video, Bishop Eaton pauses and says,

*"I also want to take a moment and speak directly to you, our transgender and non-binary siblings in Christ."*

God's Beloved Children, created in God's image, are seen as they are

identified, named, and spoken to directly. This action says "you matter". You are encouraged to watch this four-minute video, and experience the value in being seen, while also learning about this important day. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ba526uFrc7Q>

One way for you to participate in the 2026 International Transgender Day of Visibility is praying this prayer written by Alissa Bender, Executive Director of Silver Lake Mennonite Camp, Ontario, Canada.

Being seen, and prayed for, transform both the person being prayed for—and the person who is seeing these beautiful Children of God and praying for them. Please join Trinity's Pride Justice Team in praying this prayer, wherever you are, on March 31.

Karen Gieseke (she/her) Pride Justice Team Chair

## DATE and TIME CHANGE!

**ART MUSEUM TOUR:** April 19 | 1 PM Tour. Queering Indigeneity - a multi-year, multi-generational project - that celebrates the vision and diversity of 2-Spirit, Native queer, gender expansive artists in the Upper Midwest. MN Museum of American Art, St. Paul. Limited space in tour. Registration required. Contact either Sara Wagner, [saraewagner@comcast.net](mailto:saraewagner@comcast.net) or Sandy Wendt, [sjwendt46@gmail.com](mailto:sjwendt46@gmail.com)

## Prayer – For International Transgender Day of Visibility

*Holy Creating One,*

*You are the God who calls us by new names*

*You are the One who sends dreams of unimagined future*

*You are the Word that became flesh and lived among us, beside us, and for us.*

*We give you thanks for your diverse creation that is constantly giving us glimpses of who you are.*

*We give you thanks for all that we learn about you through your beloved ones who are*

*transgender and gender-nonconforming,*

*those who dance with your Spirit beyond the binary of gender.*

*Thank you for those who have claimed new names,*

*those who have dreamed new futures, those for whom word and flesh have taken on new life,*

*among us, beside us,*

*and for a truer picture of all that you have called us to be as your people.*

*May we seek out such stories of faith,*

*hear their words of challenge,*

*echo these lives of transformation, and love as you love,*

*both our neighbours and ourselves, as you call us*

*and dream for us*

*and make your Word alive in us.*

*Amen.*

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# Missions and Devotions



## Trinity Scholarship Fund

The Trinity Scholarship Fund for higher education was established by the estate of Jeanette Johnson, and is awarded each year on the basis of academic status, co-curricular achievement, good citizenship and active involvement at Trinity. Read more and download application at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/youth/scholarship-fund/>. Scholarship and renewal applications must be received by Monday, April 1.



Applications due April 1



## Ash Wednesday



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

### Host a March Madness Party

Hey basketball fans, we know this is your favorite month and the Women's and Men's tourneys are right around the corner. Watch your brackets get busted while hosting a party, but here's the catch—No ordering in! Everyone brings a homemade snack and you make the main dish. Here are great recipes for the slow cooker: <https://cooking.nytimes.com/68861692-nyt-cooking/950138-best-slow-cooker-recipes>

### Bring Your Own Bags to the Store

As the weather warms up and we're out and about, it's a great time to bring your own bags to the store. Load them into the car and take them with you no matter what store you go to.

### Turn Off the Lights

The days are getting longer, so what better time to turn out the lights or better yet, NOT turn them on. Wait longer into the evening before turning on the lights, and when you're not in a room, turn them off. Make it a rule! If no one's in the room, no lights.

## 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!

## Ecumenial Worship - Ron Felsh

Sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church

First Wednesday of each month at 10 AM  
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 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 CHURCH  
**earth keepers.**  
Leave it better than you found it

## TRINITY CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL THANKS MEMBERS OF TRINITY'S HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE

In mid-2025, Trinity's Council invited three experienced people managers to serve on the Human Resource Committee, and we are deeply grateful for the time, care, and expertise they bring to this important work. The committee includes Jenn Swenson (Chair), Amy Slachta, and Debbie Beaudet—two human resource professionals and a small business owner whose combined experience has been a tremendous gift to Trinity.

As Trinity continues to grow and navigate increasingly complex employment requirements, the need for dedicated attention and specialized human resource expertise has become clear. Jenn, Amy, and Debbie have stepped into that need with generosity and professionalism, strengthening Trinity's ability to manage personnel well and remain compliant with state and federal requirements.

Their impact is already evident. The committee played a key role in helping Trinity successfully implement

the Minnesota Paid Leave program, which took effect January 1, 2026.

The Human Resource Committee advises the Lead Pastor and Parish Administrator on personnel policies, hiring and evaluation practices, and compensation and benefits guidelines; supports staff in applying these policies; conducts performance evaluations for the Lead Pastor; and investigates personnel matters as needed.

In keeping with Trinity's Human Resources Committee Continuing Resolution (adopted April 17, 2001), Jenn, Debbie, and Amy serve as voting members along with the Council President and Vice President. The Lead Pastor and Parish Administrator serve as non-voting members.

Trinity is thankful for the thoughtful leadership, wisdom, and faithful service of these committee members, and for the ways their work supports both staff and the wider congregation.

## Trinity Responds to Need in our Community



Starting January 13, 2026 members of Trinity and a few neighbors of members of Trinity brought food to Trinity to be delivered to our neighbors in need who were afraid of leaving their homes due to ICE activities. We delivered to a distribution center 12 miles from Trinity, who then sorted the food and brought it to our neighbors in need. Our food was delivered in early afternoon and most of the time was delivered to families the same day. We continued this project for seven weeks, delivering four days a week.

So many people brought food to Trinity. Some days we filled three cars full of groceries. (I considered 12 bags a load!) About 35 volunteers delivered the food to the distribution center. The youngest was 5 years old, the oldest was 80 years old.

Thank you to those who sent an email, called on the phone, visited with me at church or came to my home to tell me they wanted to help.

The Tuesday Book Club gathered funds and each week a member would shop and deliver the contents to Trinity. Neighbors gave friends money to purchase food.

Volunteers were in charge of each day pickup at church to deliver the food. Thank you.

Some gave cash for groceries. We are currently buying food for a family of six who have been in the United States legally for many years and own a business in the Minneapolis area, but are uncomfortable to leave their home, so are unable to work. Each Friday we deliver food to them, purchased by TLC members with a grocery list and will continue to support them as our gift funds are available. They are truly thankful and appreciative. This family does have a connection to Trinity and members asked us to help this family.

Thank you to all involved in helping our friends and neighbors. We thank God for our diversity.

Marie Liberda, Food distribution coordinator



## 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.

## Greetings Trinity Members!

The library is processing new books generously given by members of the church! A sincere thank you to all those who have dropped off books! I am working to get them on the shelves.

### I wanted to highlight a few:

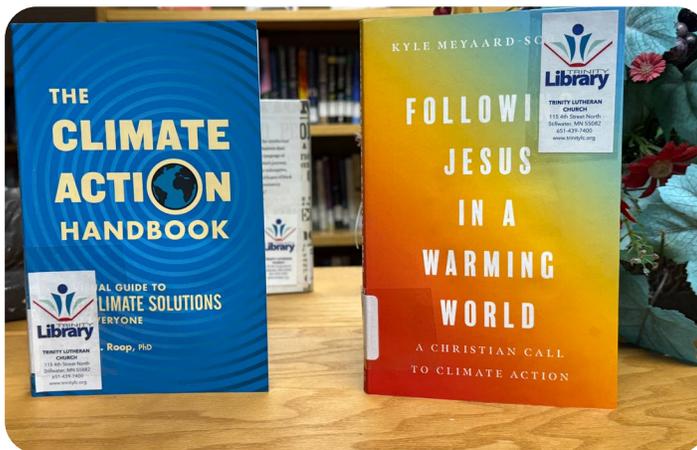
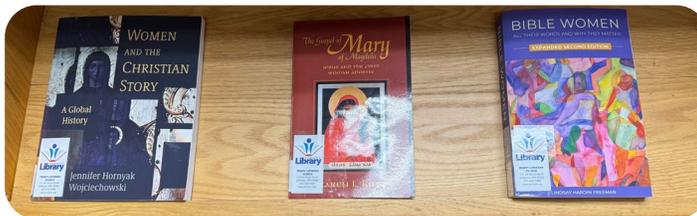
We have several new books on the role of women in the Christian tradition. They are on the shelves just as you walk in.

In preparation for Earth Day in April, I have a couple of books on climate. One of the books was written by a young woman from my former community of Appleton, WI. Her parents were beloved educators in our school district.

There are copies of the Christian Century as well to read in the library. As of yet, we are not able to check these out.

Stop by when you are at church and check it out! We are so fortunate to have such an amazing collection of books.

Sue Swanson



## Let's Go Events!

**LET'S GO** and Pride Justice invite you to tour Queering Indigeneity at MN Museum of American Art, 350 Robert St. N, St. Paul  
NOTE DATE & TIME CHANGE  
April 19, 1:00 pm  
RSVP to Sandy Wendt at [sjwendt46@gmail.com](mailto:sjwendt46@gmail.com) or Sara Wagner at [saraewagnercomcast.net](mailto:saraewagnercomcast.net)

**LET'S GO**  
SAVE THE DATE  
May 17, 2:00  
"Once Upon A Mattress"  
Lakeshore Players at Hanifl Performing Arts Center in White Bear Lake

## Grief Group

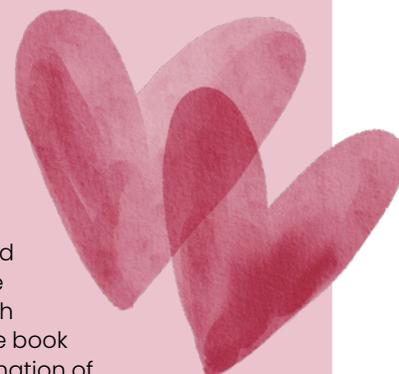
If someone you love has died and you are interested in a faith-based connection with others in a safe and confidential space to support you in your grief, please join us on Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 PM from Feb 3 to March 3 in the Trinity library. Led by Zanny Johnson, spiritual director and certified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

## Following our Hearts to Joy

Saturday, April 18  
9 am to 1 pm  
Location: Memorial Lutheran Church, Afton, MN  
Cost: \$40

Women of Trinity and friends—we hope you can join us for a half-day retreat on April 18! We will examine the ways strong and courageous women in our Scripture stories can guide us on our own faith journeys. Studying the women in the book of Ruth, we will explore the transformation of grief into hope and new life. We will also explore the passages in Ruth through the lens of artistic creativity and create our own art as a reflection of our strength and courage.

Led by Julie Luna, Artist and an Episcopal Priest. Julie is currently serving an interim position at Ascension in Stillwater and is facilitating art and spirituality workshops for local faith communities. Julie is married to Ernesto Luna, and they have two adult children, Elena and Benjamin. In her free time, Julie enjoys spending time with Ernesto, gardening, knitting, and bike riding. She and Ernesto live in Stillwater with their two dogs, two cats, and four chickens.



**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)

## Christian Sympathy

- Sympathy to the family & friends of **Jan Evensen**

## 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

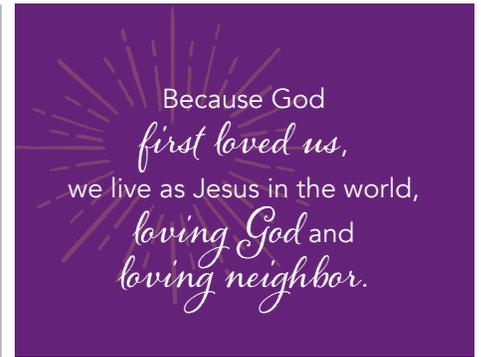
Trinity's traditional Sunday worship service is rebroadcast on channel 14 through Valley Access Channels (VAC) on the following days and times:

- 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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## EASTER GARDEN GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

**FORM AND PAYMENT MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026**



In the spirit of honoring or memorializing loved ones this Easter, we welcome donations toward the Easter Garden to be used to beautify our Worship Center this season. Names will be printed in the May issue of Trinity Today. **Online:** To make your donation online, scan the QR code with your smartphone camera. **In Person:** If you prefer, please stop in the church office Monday through Thursday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. with your cash or check and Jeannie or Linda will assist you in completing the form. **Mail:** Fill out the form and mail it with your payment to Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082.

**Easter Garden/Easter Worship (suggested donation of \$25):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_