

MINISTRY GUIDE



Finding Your Place(s)
in 2025-2026

WELCOME

Welcome to our shared ministry at Trinity for 2025-2026! During this time of transition in Trinity's life, we continue to offer opportunities to serve, learn and grow together as we live out Trinity's core values of engaging worship, radical hospitality, authentic community, lifelong faith formation, and compassionate action. This guide is our effort to summarize the multitude of ways you can connect with others, share your gifts and grow in faith. If you have an idea or passion that you'd like to try, please contact the people listed in this guide or simply let me or another member of the staff know your thoughts. Trinity is deeply committed to helping each person grow and to foster a loving and hospitable community. Have fun exploring these pages.

In Christ's peace,

Interim Pastor Jen

Following each description is the contact person(s) name and information.



CORE VALUES

- Engaging Worship
- Radical Hospitality
- Authentic Community
- Lifelong Faith Formation
- Compassionate Action

WELCOME STATEMENT

Trinity Lutheran Church is a faithful community in the heart of Stillwater.

We seek to be a church grounded in the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In doing so, we intentionally educate ourselves in becoming more effective advocates for all of God's people.

We embrace those of strong, uncertain, or undiscovered faith.

We embrace all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions.

We embrace every age, family structure, race, ethnicity, physical and mental capacity, and economic circumstance.

We believe all people have been created in the image of God, and therefore have valuable stories and infinite worth.



OUR TEAM

PASTORS

The Rev. Jennifer Hackbarth,
Interim Pastor

- 651.323.1328
- jhackbarth@trinitylc.org

The Rev. Peter Weston Miller
Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation

- 651.323.1332
- pwestonmiller@trinitylc.org

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Carol Carver, *Organist*
• ccarver@trinitylc.org

Sonia Esch, *Children's Choir Director*

- Contact the church office

Phil Kadidlo, *Worship & Technology Coordinator*

- 651-323-1318
- pkadidlo@trinitylc.org

Clark Weyrauch, *Director of Worship & Music*

- 651-323-1330
- cweyrauch@trinitylc.org

Isaac Newcomer, *Audio Engineer*
• isaac.newco@gmail.com

FAITH FORMATION

Dana Kruse, *Youth Faith Formation Coordinator*

- 651-323-1324
- dkruse@trinitylc.org

Sarah Olson, *Children & Family Faith Formation Coordinator*

- 651-323-1340
- solson@trinitylc.org

CONNECTIONS & CARE

Zanny Johnson, *Connections Coordinator*

- 651-323-1341
- zjohnson@trinitylc.org

Open Position, *Visitation Pastor*

- Contact the church office

Open Position, *Faith Community Nurse*

- Contact the church office

OFFICE & ADMINISTRATIVE

Linda Flood, *Ministry Support & Registration Coordinator*

- 651-323-1301
- lflood@trinitylc.org

Megan Gaul, *Interim Communications Coordinator*

- 651-323-1320
- mgaul@trinitylc.org

Sarah Kinsman, *Parish Administrator*

- 651-323-1314
- skinsman@trinitylc.org

Brenda Schumacher, *Accounting Coordinator*

- 651-323-1310
- bschumacher@trinitylc.org

Jeannie Wendorf, *Office Manager*

- 651-323-1302
- jwendorf@trinitylc.org

Open Position, *Wedding Coordinator*

- Contact the church office

BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

Tom Hosek, *Lead Custodian*

- 651-270-4411

Anne Mikesh, *Custodian*

- Contact the church office

WORSHIP

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly at both Sunday morning services, and everyone—without exception—is invited to receive the bread and wine. Both worship services are also livestreamed on Facebook and available online on our website.

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.)

One Worship Service

A few times a year we offer only one worship service on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. to come together as one body of Christ.

- *Sept. 7* – TrinityFEST
- *Nov. 16* – ALL-IN Fall Worship
- *Dec. 14* – Children's Advent Program
- *Dec. 28* – Lessons & Carols
- *Feb. 15, 2026* – Drive-Indoors
- *March 29, 2026* – Palm Sunday
- *May 10, 2026* – Youth Musical

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Children are always welcome in worship! Here are a few ways we strive to support young families on Sunday morning.

Grace Spaces

Grace Spaces are inclusive spots around our Worship Center and Narthex for children (and anyone else!) to play, color, and be included in worship comfortably.

Calm Lounge

The Calm Lounge is located in the Chapel adjacent to the Worship Center and is available for children accompanied by a caregiver who are in need of a diaper change, a feeding, or a friendly space to work through a big feeling. Worship is livestreamed so caregivers aren't cutoff from worship.

Worship Bags

Located near all four Grace Spaces, these bags are geared toward different ages (look at the tags) and include books, activities, crafts, and fidgets to keep little hands busy.

Sunday Open Gym

The gym is open for families in between worship services on Sundays at 10 a.m. Playing is a great way to connect with other children! Faith Forum for adults happens simultaneously next door for parents who wish to attend while their child(ren) play. (see page 16).

WORSHIP



WEDNESDAY WORSHIP 5:30 p.m. Dinner Church

God is calling us back to the table. Eat together and worship together in the River Room. Dinner church is for EVERYONE—not just for a mix of families of different ages—but also a great time for singles, couples, and friends to join in the Body of Christ at Trinity! Community meal service begins at 5:30 p.m. and worship begins at 6:15 p.m. Worship is followed by faith formation opportunities for all ages.

First Dinner Church & Fall Preview Night

Wednesday, Sept. 10

Families, please attend your selected program together at your usual time to meet other participants, meet staff and volunteers facilitating the program, and receive a preview of the year to come. We'll all meet in the middle for Dinner Church with meal service beginning at 5:30 p.m. and worship at 6:15 p.m. (Faith Formation details begin on page 9.)

Wednesday Evening Schedule

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)

Summer Worship

8:30 am at Trinity

10 am at the Drive-in

Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend

In the precious months of summer, Trinity offers both indoor and outdoor worship options on Sunday mornings. Join us at 8:30 a.m. indoors at Trinity or at 10 a.m. outdoors at the Drive-in in Houlton, Wisconsin where you may worship from your car or lawn chair.

WORSHIP

MUSIC

Music has a rich tradition at Trinity and is an important part of every worship experience. There are many opportunities to share your talents and connect with God through music.

Trinity Choir

Carrying on the long tradition of choral music in Lutheran worship, the Trinity Choir offers adult singers a unique way to deepen their spirituality. We sing September through May for the 9 a.m. worship service and on major festival days, and also participate in occasional concerts. Using your God-given talents to benefit the entire congregation's worship life.

*Rehearsals Wednesdays, 7-8:30 pm
Worship Center
Clark Weyrauch, Director*

- 651.-323-1330
- cweyrauch@trinitylc.org

Youth Choir

The Trinity Youth Choir welcomes all interested singers in kindergarten through middle school. We sing in church one Sunday a month.

*Rehearsals Wednesdays,
4:30-5:15 pm in the Choir Room
Sonia Esch, Director*

- wisokiwi@msn.com

Worship Band

This high-energy volunteer group of instrumentalists and vocalists leads worship at the 11 a.m. contemporary service. The slate of musicians rotates weekly and works around an individual's personal schedule. Typical instrumentation is keyboard, acoustic and electric guitar, bass and percussion. Sheet music (mostly chord charts, not typically notated music) and audio

recordings are provided ahead of time. Schedule an audition today!

*Rehearsals Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm
Worship Center
Andrew Kreye, Leader*

- andrewkreyemusic@gmail.com

Instrumentalists

If you play an instrument please share your gifts at Trinity!

Clark Weyrauch, Director

- 651-323-1330
- cweyrauch@trinitylc.org

WORSHIP HELPERS

Radical Hospitality is a core value at Trinity. Many volunteers engage in creating a place where everyone feels welcome!

Assisting Ministers

Lay people serve as assisting ministers. Ordained people serve as presiding and preaching ministers. The assisting minister offers prayers, helps to serve communion, and assists the pastor in any other ways needed. People age 10 and above are invited to participate.

Clark Weyrauch

- 651-323-1330
- cweyrauch@trinitylc.org

Audio Visual Team

Trinity's worship services and concerts require several technicians to keep things running smoothly each week. People in junior high and up are invited to get trained on our audio/video and screen presentation systems. Volunteers are encouraged to help on a regular basis to reinforce familiarity with the equipment and procedures.

Phil Kadidlo

- pkadidlo@trinitylc.org

WORSHIP

Communion Bread Bakers

Our savory communion bread is baked in our very own kitchen! This team bakes every 4-6 weeks, with day and time varying according to peoples' availability. The session is usually 1.5 hours and involves making and rolling dough, and cutting bread into pieces.

Susan Carr

- gogriswald@msn.com

Fine Arts Team

This team incorporates art in all its many and various forms into our life at Trinity.

Sara Wagner

- saraewagner@comcast.net

Flower Ministry

Altar flowers give glory to God, beautify the Worship Center and honor an important person or event in your life. When you give the flowers, your commemoration is shared with the congregation in the worship bulletin. Please provide at least 10 days advance notice.

Clark Weyrauch

- 651-323-1330
- cweyrauch@trinitylc.org

Hospitality Ministry

This inter-generational ministry fosters community by welcoming everyone and initiating connections. Volunteers serve as Greeters at the door, Ushers in the Worship Center, and as the Coffee Crew and Treat providers to offer refreshments, helping to make our shared mission and ministry possible.

Greeters & Ushers:

Eric Trosdahl

- etrosdahl@hotmail.com

Jana Grove-Collyard

- janazl3@comcast.net

Coffee Crew & Treats:

Sara Dowling

- sarabdownling@yahoo.com

Drive-In Greeters/Ushers:

Jill Longnecker

- jnjlony@msn.com

Communion Servers

Participate in worship by assisting with communion serving, set-up, or clean-up. Serving is an honor and we are always looking for new assistants. You can sign up to serve only or you can sign up to set up or clean up. Instructions are provided on the sign-up site or an experienced volunteer can guide you the first couple of times you volunteer.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/Trinity-communion-signup> to view the available slots and click on a button to sign up.

Kay Nelson

- 612-850-1135
- kaynelson@comcast.net

Worship Arts Team

Advent – Christmas – Epiphany – Lent – Easter – Pentecost – this is the group that transforms the Worship Center for each season. They work with fabric, plants and flowers, banners, and more to bring worship visually to life.

Clark Weyrauch

- 651-323-1330
- cweyrauch@trinitylc.org

Thursday Tidiers

This is the group that prepares the Worship Center and Narthex for worship. They make sure everything is ready to welcome family (members) and friends (visitors). New volunteers welcomed and needed!

Corrine Schmidt

- funkygrandmapunky@gmail.com

GIFTS MANAGEMENT

Our church isn't built on the gifts of a few, but on the willing hearts and hands of many who volunteer and give their time and talents to make who we are and all we do possible!

Facilities Team

The Facilities Team's goal is to plan for maintenance, upkeep, and future use of our building and grounds. We oversee maintenance projects at Trinity, determining what can be completed by volunteers and what requires a professional contractor.

Mark Gieseke

- mkgieseke@msn.com

Helping Hands Team

The Helping Hands Team helps with things at Trinity behind-the-scenes in ways that may not be seen, but would certainly be missed if they didn't exist! Volunteers assist by doing light construction and repair projects around the church.

Ron Hagen

- ronbohagen@yahoo.com

Chuck Newman (Nov. – May)

- Chuckjoan.newman@comcast.net

Stewardship Team

Is God calling you to help sustain and grow Trinity's life-affirming ministries? The Stewardship Team's goal is to emphasize, promote, and engage this congregation in an understanding of the stewardship of our lives as a response to God's grace. You are invited to join our Stewardship Team who leads the fall campaign and giving drive.

Noah Schumacher

- noahschumacher@yahoo.com

CHILDCARE & PRESCHOOL



Lake Area Discovery Center

Trinity partners with Lake Area Discovery Center (LADC) to provide a preschool and childcare. LADC strives to support parents and children through a

creative environment that promotes and teaches Christian values, honors diversity and fosters fellowship within the total community. The center at Trinity opened in 2006 due to the high demand in the Stillwater area. Trinity houses LADC's largest Pre-K classroom and indoor gym. It is also home to a beautiful new outdoor community playground.

- www.ladcfamilies.org
- ladctrinitystillwater@gmail.com

FAITH FORMATION – CHILDREN & FAMILY

Worshipping as a family lays the foundation for lifelong faith. Since mornings are often best for little ones, we encourage families with children from birth to age three to build the habit of worshipping together on Sunday mornings. At Trinity, we're committed to making worship as welcoming and accessible as possible for young families.

Sundays At-a-Glance

- **9 a.m. Worship** in the Worship Center with Grace Spaces and the Calm Lounge available in the Chapel
- **10–10:55 a.m.** Open Gym for children (caregivers can stay in Gym or attend Adult Faith Forum)
- **11 a.m.** Worship in the Worship Center with Grace Spaces and the Calm Lounge available in the Chapel

Open Gym and Adult Faith Forum begin Sunday, Sept. 14.

Please see page 4 for additional ways we strive to support young families on Sunday morning.

- See Page 4 for Children in Worship.
- See Page 5 for Dinner Church.
- See Page 6 for Youth Choir.

Register at: <https://www.trinitylc.org/children>

More information and scholarships are available.

Contact Information:

Sarah Olson

- 651-323-1340
- solson@trinitylc.org

FAITH LAB

- Ages 4 – Grade 5
- Wednesday evenings
- 5:20–6 p.m. in the Heritage Chapel

Join the faith formation exploration through Faith Lab, a dynamic program designed for children from ages 4 through Grade 5. Every Wednesday evening, we come together to explore biblical stories through engaging activities, meaningful art, and interactive discussions. Using materials from Illustrated Ministry, our sessions focus on listening, reflecting, and sharing God's love in a supportive and creative environment.

In response to the busy schedules of today's families, we've shifted our faith formation to Wednesdays, giving families flexibility and easing the weekend rush. Start your Wednesday with Children's Choir led by the talented Sonia Esch, where children learn to lead worship through music (email Sonia at wisokiwi@msn.com to indicate interest in participating). Then, transition into Faith Lab with Sarah Olson and dedicated volunteers, right before Dinner Church. Head to Dinner Church next, a unique meal and worship experience that fosters intergenerational dialogue, celebrates shared joys and challenges, and nurtures our faith community.

Following Dinner Church, check out one of the many options available for every age and stage, like FAFA (Fellowship & Faith Affinity group for elementary ages), supervised Open Gym*, Middle School Confirmation, or Adult Confirmation.

**Please note that supervised Open Gym is not a form of childcare or nursery care—parents must remain onsite and are responsible for their children at all times.*

FAITH FORMATION – CHILDREN & FAMILY

Wednesday Evening Schedule

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)

Weekly Dinner Church begins Wednesday, Sept. 10. Please attend at your usual time as a family. We'll all meet in the middle with Dinner Church! Meal service begins at 5:30 p.m. with worship beginning at 6:15 p.m.

FAFA (Faith & Fellowship Affinity)

Is your elementary-aged child ready to make deeper connections with peers and explore their faith in unique ways? If so, a FAFA (Faith & Fellowship Affinity) Group might be a great fit! Sign up for the sessions throughout the year that spark interest for your child. This group meets directly following Dinner Church until about 7:45 pm. Check the Trinity Today or email Sarah Olson for the latest FAFA offering. The Gym is also open until about 7:45 pm for any children needing a place to land on Wednesday nights.

Register at: <https://www.trinitylc.org/children>

OTHER FAITH MILESTONES & HAPPENINGS

Fall Harvest Fest

Wednesday, October 29 at 5:20 pm. In partnership with Lake Area Discovery Center (LADC).

As we embrace the beauty of autumn, we invite you to celebrate the bounty of God's blessings at our Fall Harvest Fest! Come together for a joyful evening filled with uplifting activities, heartwarming fellowship, and a chili cook-off. Let's give thanks for the abundant gifts we've received and enjoy the vibrant colors and flavors of the season. Bring your family, friends, and a grateful spirit as we rejoice in God's goodness. Look for registration in mid September.

Children's Christmas Program for Ages 4–Grade 5:

Program Sunday, December 14 at the 10:00 am service (one service that morning).

Look for more information in October.

Mid-winter Intergenerational Retreat at Camp Wapo:

Friday, January 23 to Sunday, January 25 (2026).

Take a break from the routines of life at home and retreat together as a family, couple, or on your own in a beautiful winter setting. We'll rest, play, and have time for devotion together. This retreat is all for all ages and stages! Look for registration in November.

FAITH FORMATION – CHILDREN & FAMILY

Milestones in January (please register for each Milestone separately, all begin at 5:20 pm and conclude before Dinner Church):

January 7: Baptism Anniversary (geared to ages birth to Kindergarten). Get out the party horns and hats – it's time to celebrate all of God's beloveds welcomed into the family over the past year with a Baptism birthday party!

January 14: Bible Discovery (receive a NRSV Bible, geared to grades 2-5). This class is for children ready to graduate from the Spark Story Bible and develop skills to engage with their new NRSV Bible. We will also recognize children who have completed this class with a blessing in worship.

January 21: Worship Orientation (geared to ages birth to 3). Worship shapes even the littlest hearts – as we bring our children to worship, they begin to recognize God's voice through the familiar rhythms of song, prayer, and Word. This orientation helps families create meaningful worship habits at home and in church, offering practical tools to help your child feel engaged, included, and at home in God's presence.

January 28: Communion Preparation (geared to grades 1-3). Trinity welcomes all to the table to partake in Holy Communion at any age and all levels of understanding. But, if you sense that your child is eager for a deeper appreciation and understanding of the history and mystery of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, your family might be ready to join Sarah Olson and the pastors for Communion Preparation. Learn how to bake your own communion bread

and discover the gift of love and belonging we receive in Holy Communion.

Easter Eggstravaganza (look for registration in March):

*Saturday, April 11 at 10:00 am.
In partnership with Lake Area
Discovery Center (LADC).*

Easter isn't just a day, it's a season – it's a way of life! Enjoy celebrating Easter Sunday as a family, then the following Saturday, families are invited to join us for our LADC partner event where we'll enjoy festive Easter activities to celebrate the good news that Christ is Risen! (Look for registration in March.)

Baptism

Generally, baptisms happen at either service (9:00 am or 11:00 am) on the first Sunday of each month, or at the 11:00 am service only on other Sundays of the month.

Baptism is foundational to a life in Christ and is the most natural beginning point in the lifelong journey of faith. It is through baptism that we are first received into the Christian community, named and claimed as children of God forever. Through the water and word, we receive God's love, forgiveness and peace. So everyone involved in this important sacrament understands and takes those promises seriously, Trinity offers baptism preparation. Every family scheduling their first baptism at Trinity is required to complete the Baptism Milestone kit and have a follow-up conversation with a pastor. Parents, and sponsors when possible, are asked to complete this milestone in advance of the date set for baptism.

Jeannie Wendorf

- 651-323-1302
- jwendorf@trinitylc.org

FAITH FORMATION – YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION (CONFIRMATION)

Grades 6/7/8

DATES TO KNOW:

- **Wednesday, Sept. 10:** First Dinner Church and Parent/Child Orientation
- **Wednesday, Sept. 17:** First regular session of the year
- **Sunday, Oct. 26:** Confirmation Day for 2025 9th Graders
- **Friday, Nov. 14:** Middle School Overnight Lock-In at Trinity
- **Wednesday, Dec. 17:** Final gathering before Christmas break (off Dec. 24 & 31)
- **Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2026:** First session back after Christmas break
- Winter activities TBD
- **Wednesday, April 29, 2025:** Final Confirmation session for the year
- **Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026:** Confirmation Day for current 8th graders (more info to come)

6/7/8 Confirmation Basics

We are excited to welcome all 6/7/8 graders and their parents/ caregivers to our Confirmation Faith Formation Milestone! We use the word “milestone” because Confirmation is just one stop on a lifelong faith journey.

- See Page 5 for Dinner Church.

Register at: <https://www.trinitylc.org/youth>

More information and scholarships are available.

Contact Information:

Dana Kruse

- 651-323-1324
- dkruse@trinitylc.org

What Confirmation is (and isn't)?

Again, Confirmation is a milestone, it is not a graduation. It's a celebration of growth and what's next in a life of faith. Also known as “The Affirmation of Baptism,” basically, it's also an opportunity for Christians to affirm for themselves in front of their faith community the growth that they have made in the promises that their parents, sponsors, and congregation made for them at their baptism. They are encouraged to take on the faith that was and continues to be gifted to them through God's never-ending grace and love.

Wednesday Night Schedule

God's people have always celebrated the physical and spiritual nourishment of what happens around the Table. We are excited to continue with Wednesday night Dinner Church. Weekends are busy. Patterns and rituals, including worshipping as a family, have been hard to reset post-pandemic. Dinner Church offers a different kind of space to build on Trinity's values of dialog and discussion, room to accommodate our whole bodies, mingling with multiple generations, and a chance to lift our shared joys and challenges as followers of Jesus.

Schedule

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.)

FAITH FORMATION – YOUTH

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)

Confirmation Structure

Our system is a large-group/small-group set up, with a large group presentation followed by small group check in and conversation about the topic taught. Each child is placed in a small group of about 6–8 kids with a friend or two and a caring adult leader. We strive for much more than simply instruction—we want kids to learn, of course, but we also want kids to connect with each other in small groups and share the highs and lows in their life. In short, we want our program to be about ministry as much as instruction. The parts of our process:

Learning – We cycle through the basics of the Old and New Testament, Martin Luther and the Small Catechism, Jesus, the hot topics in Christianity and more, depending on the year. We teach in engaging ways that cover all learning styles: art, music, video, skits are all involved to help get our teaching across.

Service – Various times during the year, groups will have the opportunity to gather for a service event or other fun event as a small group or with another small group. If we want a child to learn how to be a servant, we think it best to help them serve! In the past we've been part of meal packing, fundraising, mission trip support, and other various events.

Play – In a small group, fun experiences bond you together and allow you to tell good stories about one another. With this closeness comes more honest conversations in small group. Each year groups hold events for fun in which small groups can participate. We also are planning lock-ins, retreats, and other various events for all our kids to enjoy together.

Home – We do believe that parents/caregivers need to be a central part of the adolescent Confirmation journey. We don't want to run another "drop off" program where parents/caregivers are not called to be a part of the process. Various studies show us that no one is a bigger influence on the faith of a child than a parent. We do realize that planning intentional time to talk about faith and life can be a tough and even uncomfortable proposition. We equip and partner with parents and caregivers with the time, motivation, and the tools to begin regular faith talk in the home. We send out a weekly email with updates on what we are covering at 6/7/8 Confirmation and include questions to help guide some regular caring conversations. We also schedule various "All-In" sessions during the year so parents and caregivers can get together with other adults for practical advice from various professional theological and child development specialists. In short, we don't want to replace a parent as an influencer of faith for the child. We want to partner together with parents, so kids have the most positive and powerful Confirmation journey possible!

FAITH FORMATION – YOUTH

9TH GRADE FAITH FORMATION

Confirmation Day and Entry into High School Ministries Ninth grade is when we get closer to the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Day milestone and participation in high school ministries! Ninth graders have learned much and enjoyed their time in Middle School Confirmation (hopefully!) and all of this leads up to Confirmation Day on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025 and High School Ministry after. Here is a quick peek at how the last part of the Confirmation Milestone and High School Ministry is going to look.

Dates to know:

- **Wednesday, Sept. 10:** 9th Grade Dinner Church/Parent-Confirmand Overview: Dinner Church begins with food at 5:30 p.m., worship at 6:15 p.m., and an overview of Confirmation Day from 6:45-7:45 p.m. This gathering is for parents and Confirmands to get up-to-speed on the whole Confirmation process.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 17 and Onward:** Help out on Wednesday nights: volunteer to be of service in the Gym with the younger kids, helping set up Dinner Church, or even sit in as a high school helper in a Confirmation small group – service hours will be reported for those who help regularly. Let Dana know if you're interested
- **Sunday, Sept. 14:** Meeting (required) – We plan to have an important gathering to have some fun together, as well as talk about Confirmation Day. Dinner included. A 6 p.m. start and 8:30 p.m. finish.
- **Sunday, Oct. 5:** Small Groups Meeting (required) – We will also gather as small groups (parents need not attend) from 7-8:15 p.m. to go over projects and last-minute Confirmation Day details.

- **Sunday, Oct. 26:** Confirmation Sunday – Confirmation Day is in the Trinity Worship Center on Sunday, Oct. 26. Families can choose to attend either the 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. service this day. Details on this service will be coming. We will be sending out a link so you can let us now which service you'll be attending.
- **Friday-Saturday, Nov. 14-15:** Overnight Lock In at Trinity

Confirmand Responsibilities

A) Finish a stole to be worn on Confirmation Day

B) Complete the Faith Project packet. Your faith project consists of these parts:

1. Choosing a Confirmation Bible verse
2. My Faith Reflection questions
3. Creative project (art, essay, poem, video, song, etc.)
4. Share your creative project with your small group in person
5. Hold a brief "what's next" chat with Pastor Peter, Pastor Jen, or Dana. This is an exciting time and water stop on your faith journey! Please let us know if we can be of any assistance.

- See Page 5 for Dinner Church.

Register at: <https://www.trinitylc.org/youth>

More information and scholarships are available.

Contact Information:

Dana Kruse

- 651-323-1324
- dkruse@trinitylc.org

FAITH FORMATION – YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY GRADES 9-12

Welcome to High School Ministry at Trinity! We believe that high school ministry shouldn't be about youth doing programs, but youth doing ministry, and what we offer gives you a chance to serve not only locally, but globally! Wednesday Night Focus Along with Sunday worship, Wednesdays will be a weekly focus of action and ministry activities. A newly refreshed and reformed Youth Ministry Leadership group of high school students will also chart the course of events and topics of conversations.

Wednesday, Sept. 18 and ongoing

– Help out on Wednesday nights: Volunteer to help with open gym, in the kitchen, as a part of the clean-up crew, or be a small group co-leader in Grades 6/7/8 Confirmation small group – there are options for you to help and make a difference! Service hours will be recorded for those who help regularly. Please let Dana know if you're interested.

Sunday, Sept. 28 (2nd & 4th Sundays of the Month) – High School River Worship: High school students are invited each Sunday night from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for River Worship in the Youth Center. Bible study, other discussions, games, large group/ small group. Come build some faith muscles, ask good questions, and make some connections with others!

Friday-Saturday, Nov. 14-15 – Overnight Lock-In at Trinity

Sunday Worship & Service Opportunities

Come to church on Sundays! Our congregation needs your vibe and voice on Sunday mornings. You can also plug in and help on Sundays as a gym attendant, worship assistant, greeter, usher, communion server, AV team member, part of the worship band—whatever you feel called to do! Sunday's offer a wealth of opportunities to be of service to our local congregation.

Summer 2026 Ministry Opportunities (Dates TBD)

We're going back to Puerto Rico for another summer mission trip in 2026! Organizational meetings with up-to-date details will begin in early 2026, including a calendar of events leading up to the trip, costs, travel specifics, and sponsorship guidelines. The trip is open to all students who have completed at least one year of high school (grades 9-12).

- See Page 5 for Dinner Church.

Register at: <https://www.trinitylc.org/youth>

More information and scholarships are available.

Contact Information:

Dana Kruse

- 651-323-1324
- dkruse@trinitylc.org

FAITH FORMATION & LEARNING



SUNDAY FAITH FORUM

- Sundays at 10 a.m.
- River Room
- (between worship services)

Faith Forum will start up again beginning September 14th. The theme for this year is Living Well in Shared Sacred Community—The Jesus Way. What does it mean to be in community? What communities do you belong to? Who are we as the Community of Trinity? As we move through this time of transition, what do we dream to be?

In our exploration of community we will be bringing back Stump the Pastor and adding Stump the Council—a great opportunity to ask questions and express your hopes and concerns. We will have speakers on topics of faith, the Bible, Pride and Racial Justice, current social events of concern, history, immigration, care of creation and Health and Well-being. All of these can help us relate to our understanding of what is necessary to being a community of love, compassion and seeing each other as a Child of God.

Bring your curiosity and join us Sunday mornings or watch recorded sessions. Watch for details in the Trinity Today, This Week at Trinity email blast or the Bulletin.

Pastor Peter

- pwestonmiller@trinitylc.org

Penny Catlin

- pccatlin@juno.com

Adult Faith Lab

- Wednesday Evenings
Following Dinner Church (see page 5)
- 6:45-7:45 pm
- Living Room

With the conversations alive in our country right now, let's use this time as an actual faith lab.

This fall we will take a topical approach and explore events, issues, and policies from the lens of our Christian faith. Learning and practicing together, supporting and equipping each other to live a vibrant, courageous, and informed faith in challenging times.

We will meet in the Living Room each night that Dinner Church meets, unless there is an all-in event!

Interim Pastor Jen

- jhackbarth@trinitylc.org

FAITH FORMATION & LEARNING



Trinity Library Team

The Trinity Library is located on the lower level of the church. Library volunteers work cooperatively with ministries of all ages and strive to provide resources that encourage the study of God's Word and the growth of each person's relationship with God. The children's section includes board books, picture and chapter books, both Christian and secular, which help kids see God in all parts of their lives.

The adult non-fiction section contains a variety of topics, such as Christian living, self-improvement, marriage, parenting, family life, autobiographies, and women's issues. The fiction section, both Christian and secular, grows constantly through recommended purchases and current Book Club donations. There are a variety of resources available to assist with daily needs including: grief, theology references, Biblical concordances, Bible study materials for individual or small group use, LGBTQ, gratitude, hobbies. The Trinity Library is also fortunate to have a large Hazelden Recovery Resource collection.

If you have ever thought it would be fun to help out in the Library, join us!

Sue Swanson

- 920-428-1718
- scs003@aol.com



Abide Readers

- Meets for book discussion on the last Monday of the month from 6:30-8 pm
- On Zoom

ABIDE Readers is a monthly book discussion via Zoom that explores themes of Accountability, Belonging, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity. The authors write in a spirit of hope, the stories call us to put our faith into action, and the discussion is always interesting and motivating. The Trinity Library's collection of ABIDE books is located in the Narthex. It includes Young Readers' editions that adults looking for a shorter, simpler version often appreciate. There are also books for young children. All ABIDE books can lead to important family conversations. Everyone is welcome to join any of our discussions, the 4th Monday, 6:30-8:00 pm.

Ann Wolff

- wolff701@msn.com

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



Bridge for Trinity

- First Monday of the Month
- 8:45–11:45 a.m., Boutwell's Brownstone A Community Room, 5450 Nolan Pkwy.
- \$5/Offering to Trinity

Join us, the first Monday of each month, 8:45–11:45 a.m. at Boutwell's. Advance notice is not necessary. Just come when you can and bring friends for a morning of casual, fun bridge with men and women of all levels. Players of all levels are welcome!

Ann Wolff

- wolff701@msn.com



Diggin' In

"Diggin' In" is a group for those who enjoy keeping the grounds beautiful, inside and out. If you have a green thumb or simply love to garden, this team is for you! We nurture Trinity's indoor and outdoor gardens and welcome all who want to help.

Sandy Wendt

- 651-470-1902
- sjwendt46@gmail.com

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

Earth Keepers

The Trinity Green Team is now known as Earth Keepers, and our mission is simple: Leave it better than you found it. If you have a calling to help with sustainability and the environment, and want to contribute to positive changes and actions, this is the team for you!

Scott & Jill Kneeskern

- kdkdesign4@gmail.com



GROUP spiritual
direction

Group Spiritual Direction

Six-session series offered various times throughout the year

"Spiritual direction is like a lazy river... slow moving, unexpected and fluid, while still boundaried. It is a safe place to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit through guided centering prayer, scripture, silence and the sharing of others." Spiritual Direction Groups meet 6 times, about every other week, or as the group decides. Group sizes are from 3 to 6 people. We offer group spiritual direction series at various times throughout the year. Bring a commitment to attendance and confidentiality, and a willingness to share and listen.

Zanny Johnson

- 651-323-1341
- zjohnson@trinitylc.org

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



LET'S GO is a ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church that celebrates ALL people by offering a wide variety of activities. These activities offer a community where people can be who they are, knowing that we are ALL God's beloved.

Upcoming Events

Stillwater Trolley Tour

- Monday, October 13
- 11:00 a.m.

Rivertown Inn Social

- Sunday, October 13
- 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Caroling

- Thursday, December 11
- 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Watch for details in bulletins and email blasts.

Team:

Randy Propp, co-chair

- rapropp56@gmail.com

Sandy Wendt, co-chair

- sjwendt46@gmail.com

Jill Longnecker

- jnjlony@msn.com

Randy Nelson

- Randy.Lynn.Nelson@gmail.com

Sandy Weber

- stillweber@hotmail.com

Men's Bible Study

- Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.
- Boutwells Landing, Skyview Conference Room

Pastor Steve Hokonson leads a men's Bible study. The Bible study meets on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Skyview Conference Room located on the second floor of Boutwells Landing main building located in Oak Park Heights. Invite your friends and neighbors, as participants are from Trinity and other area churches.

John Hodler

- johnhodler@gmail.com

Racial Justice Ministry Team

The Racial Justice Ministry Team works to lead Trinity in living out its core value commitment to inclusion and anti-racism by building awareness of racial bias and systemic racism, by growing relationships with God's children of all races, and acting with faith to fight racism. The team meets monthly and sponsors justice-related events and speakers at Trinity, as well as promotes and attends events in our community. If you have a heart for this work, join our team!

Gary Cross

- garyc1042@gmail.com

Solos Plus

Solos Plus is a group for single individuals age 55 and better.

This group is a shared social group with First Presbyterian, and includes a walk/hike group, book club, shared meals and other activities.

Nancy

- 651-332-6284

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



Pride Justice Team

All God's Beloved children are created in the image of God, their Creator!

Everyone has infinite worth, and a unique and valuable story! Every family system, from single to multi-generational; from one caregiver to several caregivers is valued! Every gender identity, every gender expression, and every sexual orientation is valued! Commitment to inclusion is at the heart of the Pride Justice Team ministry, as we seek to be ally, advocate, and support for our LGBTQIA+ siblings.

Watch for upcoming opportunities: intergenerational speakers and facilitators, creative art experiences and exhibit, multi-week book discussion on *Becoming Nicole* by Amy Ellis Nutt, collaborative social and learning events with other St Croix Valley churches, the 2026 Valley Wide Pride Fest(6/20/26), and more!

Our ministry and work call us to be Jesus' hands and feet for our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Friends and neighbors are included in the opportunities offered, so invite them too! Watch for information on upcoming opportunities. For more information or if interested in joining the team, contact!

Karen Gieseke

- kgieseke@live.com

Trinity Golf Group

- Thursdays at 10 am
- Applewood Golf Course

Every Thursday during golf season and weather permitting, we play at Applewood Golf Course. Open to everyone who likes to golf! Tee time 10 a.m. Hope to see you there.

Gene Kelm

- 651-439-1374
- gene.a.kelm@gmail.com



TRINITY TIRED MEN'S TROUPE

For busy men who want to connect with God and each other

Trinity Tired Men's Troupe (TTMT)

One of Jesus' most overlooked miracles is having a dozen or so friends in his 30s. If you are looking for a little more community and connection, TTMT would love to have you join our roster. Some guys meet for coffee or for a beer at a local hangout. No prerequisites. Just abundant support, grace, laughter and God's love to go around.

Pastor Peter Weston Miller

- pwestonmiller@trinitylc.org

Tuesday Morning Book Group

- Tuesdays at 9:30 am

Join other women in friendship and lively conversation about fiction and non-fiction books covering a wide variety of topics and themes.

Penny Catlin

- 651-485-8319
- pccatlin@juno.com

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Women's Bible Study

- Tuesdays at 9 am, Meeting in the Living Room
- Begins Sept. 16, ends April 28, 2026

This year we are studying Jeremiah. We start with prayer requests, and pray together at the end of our study time. All readings are in class, so there is no homework, and all are welcome!

Lynn Schurrer

- 651-430-1632
- schurrer@aol.com

Joan Newman

- 651-230-2175
- chuckjoan.newman@comcast.net

Women's Retreats

Trinity strives to provide affordable, renewing retreats each year. Come for time away with other Trinity women to be refreshed, spiritually uplifted, make new friends and strengthen connections with those you already know! Stay tuned for details and dates.

Zanny Johnson

- 651-323-1341
- zjohnson@trinitylc.org

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

Anna Circle

Meets third Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Nancy Hokonson

- 651-334-4738

Dorcas Circle

Meets second Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Lois Walton

- 651-439-6948

Betty Wasmundt

- 651-439-0582

Leah Circle

Meets second Tuesday at 9 a.m. in the Community Room at Boutwells Building B

Sally Studtman

- 651-308-4767

Phyllis Paulson

- 651-275-5186

Marion Circle

Meets second Wednesday at 1 p.m. in members' homes

Pat Reinke

- 612-201-2900

Rebekah Circle

Meets second Monday at 12:30 p.m.

Mary Oswald

- 612-819-7465

Circle Leaders' Covenant

The purpose of this team is to ensure connections and help equip and support leaders so all women in Trinity Circles experience:

- Mutual care and love
- Atmospheres in which Jesus has an on-going opportunity to transform their lives
- Encouragement to serve in areas of passion and strength

Zanny Johnson

- 651-323-1341
- zjohnson@trinitylc.org

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Birthday Call Ministry

Every month, volunteers call and wish Trinity members a HAPPY BIRTHDAY on their special day. The birthday list is divided according to the number of volunteers and each call only takes a few minutes. No experience necessary, just a cheerful voice and a desire to brighten someone's day!

Jeannie Wendorf

- 651-323-1302
- jwendorf@trinitylc.org

Caring Friends/Celebrating Seniors

Caring Friends extend God's love by keeping in touch and strengthening connections with Trinity members age 80 and older. This ministry builds intentional, caring relationships, expressed through phone calls and sending cards through the mail. Caring Friends also host the Celebrating Seniors events, consisting of worship and a luncheon with entertainment. If you are interested in being a Caring Friend, contact Zanny Johnson.

Zanny Johnson

- 651-323-1341
- zjohnson@trinitylc.org

Funeral Hospitality Ministry

The Funeral Hospitality team offers comfort and support to bereaved families who choose to host a funeral luncheon at Trinity. Volunteers help set up and serve catered meals for funerals held at Trinity.

Lynae Olson

- 612-418-1513
- lynae.ke.olson@gmail.com

Dellzie Hodler

- 651-485-9902
- dellziehodler@gmail.com

Grief Coalition

Growing Through Loss
Grief Support Speaker
& Small Group Series

- Tuesdays, Sept. 23–Oct. 28
- 6–8:30 pm
- St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi

Growing Through Loss is an opportunity to receive grief support and learn more about grief in a group setting, free of charge. Each night includes a brief presentation by a grief educator, followed by small group time focused on particular kinds of losses. Attend a single night or the whole series. No need to register.

St. Croix Valley Grief Coalition

- scvgriefcoalition@gmail.com

Grief Group

Join us for a faith-based connection with others in a safe and confidential space to learn best practices when in grief, and receive spiritual support. Led by Zanny Johnson, Spiritual Director and Grief Educator.

Zanny Johnson

- 651-323-1341
- zjohnson@trinitylc.org

Knitting Ministry

- Fourth Thursdays, 10 a.m., Narthex

If you love to knit (or would like to learn), join us to make prayer and baptismal shawls, hats, mittens and other items, which are given to people in need in our community and throughout the world. Come whenever you can, or contribute what you make at home.

Lois Walton

- 651-439-6948

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



MMM! Make a Meal Ministry

Trinity's Make a Meal Ministry provides meals to folks during times when a little extra help and support is needed.

Zanny Johnson

- 651-323-1341
- zjohnson@trinitylc.org

Lucinda White

- lucindazehr@gmail.com

NAMI Events

Trinity partners with NAMI to provide resources for those living with or having a loved one with a mental health condition. NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. The NAMI Washington County Affiliate supports that mission locally by providing support groups, sponsoring community presentations, and by providing resource information on navigating mental health. Visit <https://namimn.org> and watch for upcoming events through Trinity's regular communication channels (newsletter, bulletin, email, etc.).

Jeneal Olsen

- NAMI Community Educator
- momjmo@comcast.net

Prayer Group

Trinity's Prayer Group prays for those who have requested prayers, prayer list is updated weekly. Group members are passionate about the impact and importance of praying for the concerns of others and the needs of the world. All prayer requests are confidential and only shared with permission.

Kim Dahlgren

- kdahlgren@trinitylc.org

Sunshine Ministry

Trinity sends a rose to our seniors on their birthdays when they turn 75, 80, 85, 90 and every year thereafter. The Sunshine Ministry is financially supported through the sale of dish cloths and hand-decorated kitchen towels. We welcome all embroiderers! Dish towels are provided and are available in the Church Office, or reach out if you need them delivered.

Carolyn Minor

- 651-491-9259
- carmin42@outlook.com

Zanny Johnson

- 651-323-1341
- zjohnson@trinitylc.org

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Bridge Tai Chi Chuan

- Mondays | 6:30–8 pm
- Gym | \$30/month

For people of all levels, Tai Chi offers an exploration of body, mind and spirit connections.

Benefits include:

- Mind/body awareness
- Energy level
- Flexibility
- Balance and coordination
- Concentration
- Lower back strength
- Reduce stress

David Teschler

- 612-991-5117

Trinity Piecemakers Quilting Ministry

Tuesdays from 2–4 pm, Room 109
Meets September through May

Make quilts to distribute to those in need through Lutheran World Relief and local groups, such as Bundles of Love. Everyone is invited—no quilting experience necessary. Join us every week or whenever you can. We meet in the lower level of the church in the “Quilting Quarters.” Donations of fabric and supplies also welcome.

Carolyn Minor

- 651-491-9259
- carmin42@outlook.com

Zanny Johnson

- 651-323-1341
- zjohnson@trinitylc.org



YogaDevotion

- Chair/Flow Combo Class
- Thursdays | 9 am
- \$11 per class
- Meeting In Person & on Zoom

Come and experience God's presence through the practice of yoga. Meeting in-person in the Narthex and online through Zoom—choose the option that works for you. All levels and abilities welcome!

YogaDevotion session dates:

- Sept. 11–Oct. 30 – \$88
- Nov. 6–Dec. 18 – \$66
(no class on Thanksgiving)
- Jan. 8–Feb. 26 – \$88
- March 5–April 29 – \$88
- May 7–June 25 – \$88
- July 2–Aug. 20 – \$88

Sue Peterson

- ToddlinSue2@aol.com

AA Meetings

- Mondays, 7 a.m. | Weekly Kickoff
- Tuesdays, 7 a.m. | As Bill Sees It
- Wednesdays, 7 a.m. | A Step Meeting
- Thursdays, 7 a.m. | The Study Group
- Fridays, 7 a.m. | Book of the Month
- Saturdays, 8 a.m. | Amigos III

These are open, non-smoking meetings and offer confidential support for people struggling with chemical addiction. Please use the 4th Street entrance.

AI-Anon

- Thursdays, 11 a.m.
- Saturdays, 8 a.m.

Open meeting for family and friends of people struggling with addiction.

OUTREACH MISSIONS

OUTREACH MISSIONS TEAM

The Outreach Missions Team supports the vision of Trinity: providing an environment where people of all generations can live as Jesus in the world, loving God and loving neighbor; participating regularly and utilizing their strengths; teaching about the Accompaniment model of mission and ministry. The team encourages healthy small group mission activities led by individuals with passions in varied areas. The team consists of ten individuals with three year terms, who have the fiduciary responsibility for all funds designated to missions.

Marie Liberda

- 484-577-7272
- mbvgro@gmail.com

Sandy Wendt, Secretary

- 651-470-1902
- sjwendt46@gmail.com

The opportunities in mission are many. Through discernment and prayer the Missions Team has recently decided to focus on four areas: Housing Insecurity, Refugee Settlement and Inclusion, Global Companions, and Local Companions.

HOUSING INSECURITY

The Emergency Housing Services Building is currently being built near the Washington County Government Center. It will house homeless within this next year. We will continue to follow their progress and help as they request.

Marie Liberda

- 484-577-7272
- mbvgro@gmail.com

Settled, Inc.

Trinity partners with Settled and through generous member gifts and memorials we have built three Tiny Homes for the Minnesota area. These Sacred Settlements prioritize sustainable housing, purposeful work and supportive community. Trinity members are proud to say that we were the first local church to support two homes and this last year we presented \$42,000 for a third Tiny Home.

Mark Weber

- 612-618-1509
- Markweber22@outlook.com

Point In Time

Twice a year a count is made of those experiencing homeless insecurity in our area. There are over 22 services that come to these PIT events to help as needed. Volunteers from Trinity help coordinating and serving those in need, whether it may be a haircut, sewing a zipper into a jacket, legal services, providing diapers, providing gift cards for food or fuel, feeding the hungry, talking to those who have questions and treating all equally and with respect. Your volunteer hours are needed.

Marie Liberda

- 484-577-7272
- mbvgro@gmail.com

OUTREACH MISSIONS

Refugee Support And Resettlement

Trinity Lutheran Church has a longstanding history of helping “newcomers” resettle in Minnesota. Initially these newcomers were primarily immigrants from Scandinavian and European countries in need of food, clothing, shelter, community and employment opportunities. In the 1970s and 80s, many of these newcomers were refugees from Vietnam.

More recently, Trinity has been involved in the resettlement of refugees from Afghanistan and other war-torn countries. It spearheaded a coalition of churches and other organizations a few years ago to help resettle a family of five from Afghanistan. Today that family is thriving.

This past year the Missions Team:

- Conducted fund-raising and “basic living needs” drives to assist the Minnesota Council of Churches’ refugee resettlement program when federal funding was abruptly cut in January.
- Organized Refugee Sunday in June featuring speakers from Vietnam, Afghanistan and Russia
- Helped establish and financially support Refugee Housing Minnesota, which in its first 6 months helped over 100 newcomers find or maintain housing. (refugeehousingMN.org)

We continue to establish relationships with other area churches, mosques and social organizations to help with refugee resettlement funding and create a core of volunteers.

GLOBAL COMPANIONS

Tanzania

The focus for Tanzania mission has three primary elements centered in walking alongside (using our Accompaniment Model of Missions) our Tanzania mission partners:

- 1) our companion congregation relationship with the Mwatasi Lutheran Church in the rural high country of the Iringa district of Tanzania
- 2) secondary school and college scholarships for students from Mwatasi. Scholarships are a critical need and are welcomed throughout the year in any amount. Secondary school scholarships average \$350 per student per year. We have been committed to sponsoring about 26 students each year from our partner congregation in Mwatasi.
- 3) The medical ministries started by the late Dr. Mark Jacobson (a son of this congregation) in Arusha. We also maintain involvement with partner organizations such as Iringa Hope (savings and loan agriculture cooperative), St. Paul Partners (water engineering), water projects in Mwatasi village, and Global Health Ministries. We work with Bega Kwa Bega, an agency of the ELCA Saint Paul Area Synod, to further our cooperation and relationship. We are planning a trip to Tanzania for the congregational members in Fall 2026 or Fall 2027. Look for information on our website.

Michele Hermansen

- 612-868-2255
- michele2255@gmail.com

Marie Liberda

- 484-577-7272
- mbvgro@gmail.com

OUTREACH MISSIONS

Disaster Relief

The Outreach Missions Team sends donations to disaster relief in various parts of the United States and the world via Lutheran designated organizations.

Also see Trinity Piecemakers Quilting Ministry on page 24.

LOCAL COMPANIONS

We support local agencies in the Stillwater area through our gifts of time, food and dollars. These include: Valley Outreach, Community Thread, Solid Ground, Family Means, Youth Advantage.

Angel Tree Christmas Gift Ministry

Each Christmas we provide gifts for children and grandchildren of those incarcerated. The prisoner requests who to give gifts to, then we purchase and deliver them in the local area (from East St. Paul to Somerset area). This is done through the Angel Tree organization. We also give a gift card to the caregivers. This has been a very positive and rewarding endeavor as each year we have more people wanting to give, than we have names received.

Wendy Worner

- 612-669-8109
- wworner@earthlink.net

Community Thread

Volunteers are needed for the many activities run by our local Community Thread. Consider being part of the Transport Team (providing rides to and from medical appointments, social visits and errands); the Call Companion Team (socializing from the comfort of your home by calling a new friend two times per month); the Home Help Team (assisting with indoor/outdoor tasks such as lawn care, small

repairs, house cleaning, pet walking, technology support); the Lawn Care Crew (adopting a yard to help with routine mowing), or annual one day events which include River Rally, Holiday Hope, and Rake a Difference Day.

- communitythreadmn.org/
- 651-439-7434

Feed the World

On Sunday mornings (as well as Wednesday Dinner Church) a globe is placed near the altar for cash to be offered during the worship service. This cash helps purchase Enfamil, a baby formula, which is then given to Valley Outreach to be distributed to families who need this to help their child grow and develop. This past year was the first time we began this ministry and we raised about \$2200.

Valley Outreach Food Shelf & Clothing Distribution

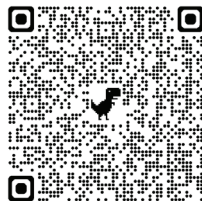
Donations of food, as well as personal hygiene items and clothing are needed all year. Volunteer opportunities can be found in both the food shelf and StyleXChange clothing store. There are a variety of days, time slots and tasks to choose from and an orientation session is also provided.

- <http://valleyoutreachmn.org>
- 651-430-2739

WAYS 2 SERVE – GIFTS, SKILLS & INTERESTS

Help us connect your gifts to our shared mission! Please fill out our Skills, Interests, & Ways to Serve Survey to share what you're passionate about. Your responses will help us find new ways for you to serve, with no long-term commitment required. Please fill out a form for each member of your household.

Scan the QR code to get started.



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