

TRINITY TODAY!

Because God first loved us, we live as Jesus in the world.
April 2026 | volume 51, issue 11



NEW & RENEWING COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN

Celebration!

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 | 10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
AND RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Free To Serve + Free To Grow

CELEBRATE OUR FREEDOM FROM DEBT & THE FUTURE OF MINISTRY!

Join us as we gather with grateful hearts and *big* celebration to mark the successful conclusion of Trinity's Comprehensive Campaign! Join us for festive treats, warm fellowship, and a joyful time of praising God's overflowing abundance!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Letter from the Pastors Page 2 - 3

New & Renewing Update Page 6

Holy Week Schedule Page 9

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





INTERIM PASTOR JEN HACKBARTH

Friends in Christ,

Our Lenten theme for this year is Tell Me Something Good. The theme for the third Sunday in Lent (March 8) was “together, the impossible is possible.” We heard the words of Ephesians 3:20-21:

“Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

God surprises us with abundance and reminds us that we have more than we need. This was especially evident given the announcement I made in worship the previous Sunday, shared below:

The Comprehensive Campaign: New and Renewing—the Next 150 Years is guided by the words of Ephesians 3:20-21. The Comprehensive Campaign is built of the generosity of generations of people over Trinity’s first 150 years. In the past three years, we’ve witnessed God’s power at work through Trinity’s generosity—far more than we could have asked or imagined.

Every gift to the campaign over the past three years has been inspirational. On December 1, 2022, the mortgage balance was \$3,097,495. Three years later, as of today, March 1, the mortgage balance is \$1,534,565. Your gifts over the past three years have cut the total mortgage balance in half, and we anticipate that by the end of the month, at the close of the campaign, this amount will be even lower.

And your combined generosity has inspired a recent financial gift that will go toward debt reduction for Trinity. We’re delighted to announce that once we combine all your gifts at the close of the campaign at the end of March, this recent financial gift will cover the gap in our mortgage debt and allow us to pay off Trinity’s entire mortgage.

The vision of the Comprehensive Campaign has been to liberate Trinity’s future from a heavy debt load, which will ensure Trinity’s ability to be the church God needs us to be. These gifts not only pay off the mortgage; they allow us to expand our mission as we dream about the next 150 years,



and as we prepare our hearts for new pastoral leadership in the near future.

We will be thoughtful and generous with this abundance. We will trust that the Spirit will lead us forward in mission beyond what we can ask or imagine. Your bold generosity will continue to inspire a bold vision for the future. This is an unfolding story. More information will be shared soon about the specific ways we will use our abundance for future financial health of the congregation as well as mission. In the meantime, we celebrate all God has done and will continue to do at Trinity! Amen!

In November 2021, the Trinity leadership gathered at the Stillwater library to vision for the financial future of the congregation. Less than five years later, Trinity’s mortgage will be paid off. This story joins many other stories of abundance for this congregation.

Please put Sunday, April 26 on your calendars. We will mark the close of the Comprehensive Campaign with one worship service at 10am that morning, followed by a celebration.

Thanks be to God!

*Interim Pastor
Jen Hackbarth*

INTERIM PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION KRISTINE STEDJE



Jesus is many things, Lord and Savior, Christ child, healer, and he never misses an opportunity to teach! On the day of his resurrection, he met up with two sad and concerned followers. Luke writes in his gospel about their encounter with someone they did not at first recognize.

On the road to Emmaus, Cleopas, and an unnamed person, were walking together and discussing all the things that had happened during a week we now call Holy. While they were talking and discussing all of these events, Jesus came and walked with them, but they did not recognize him. Had he changed so much through death and resurrection that he was unrecognizable?

As Jesus joins them on their walk he invites them into conversation asking about “what things” had taken place in these days. Cleopas and his friend, told him about Jesus of Nazareth a prophet, mighty in deed

and word. They told the story of his being handed over to the chief priests to be condemned to death. And just this morning they learned that some of the woman went to the tomb and did not find his body. Jesus was not there. They shared with Jesus the whole story.

Jesus response to all this was surprising, “oh, how foolish you are, and slow of heart to believe.” Then he opened the scriptures to them, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, and he interpreted to them things about himself. I would have loved to have been part of that conversation! Would you?

They came to Emmaus and Cleopas urged Jesus, still not recognizing who he was, to “stay with them.” Jesus entered the house, sat at the table, took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened. And they said to each other, “weren’t our hearts burning when he opened the scriptures to us.” Jesus disappeared, and they immediately returned to Jerusalem, and told his disciples what had happened.

This wonderful resurrection story is the model for our worship. We gather with others on life’s journey, we greet one another, we hear the scriptures read and then interpreted, we share a meal and are sent out, back into the world to share the good of Jesus’ resurrection. May this Easter season find you modeling Jesus by greeting, sharing, encouraging and uplifting those whom you encounter along the way!

*Interim Pastor
Kristine Stedje*



Giving Summary

“Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” – Ephesians 3:20-21

TO GOD BE THE GLORY. As we reflect on the words of Ephesians 3:20-21, we give heartfelt thanks to God for the extraordinary generosity of this congregation—whose faithful giving has enabled us to substantially pay down our mortgage, complete muchneeded updates to our church building, and support meaningful mission work that extends Christ’s love into the world. We also rejoice with profound gratitude for the recent extraordinary anonymous gift—one that will fully retire our remaining mortgage. Through every offering, every act of service, and every unseen blessing, God’s power continues to accomplish more through us than we ever could have imagined. Thank you, Trinity, for your extraordinary faithfulness and generosity!

SAVE THE DATE! On **Sunday, April 26**, we will gather with grateful hearts and big celebration as we mark the successful conclusion of Trinity’s Comprehensive Campaign! Join us for festive treats, warm fellowship, and a joyful time of praising God’s overflowing abundance. Your bold giving has not only shaped this campaign’s success—it continues to light the way for a bold and vibrant future as we live out God’s purpose for Trinity. To God be the Glory!

COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN UPDATE. Currently, \$1,763,716 has been received toward our pledge total of \$1,838,089 (96%). Total campaign contributions of \$1,971,949 to date have been received.

ANONYMOUS GIFT. On Tuesday, February 17, we were notified of an anonymous gift to Trinity. The donor specified that the gift is to be applied to mortgage reduction. The donor also indicated that we could wait until all the CC monies are received – and the mortgage balance would be paid following the completion of the Comprehensive Campaign on March 31st. The balance of the gift – if any – will help fund our Operating Reserves per the donor. The gift – \$1,546,670 – was received on February 26 – and is currently in a money market account earning 2.5 % until the mortgage is paid off in April.

MORTGAGE. The current Thrivent mortgage balance as of March 15 is **\$1,507,752**.

COUNCIL DESIGNATED OPERATING RESERVES: \$98,635.

2026 STEWARDSHIP. Currently, there are 266 pledges totaling \$1,012,998 of the required \$1,300,000. In 2025, there were 279 pledges totaling \$1,015,273 and \$1,050,458 was received towards pledges. (103%)

FEB 2026 FYTD INCOME VS EXPENSE.

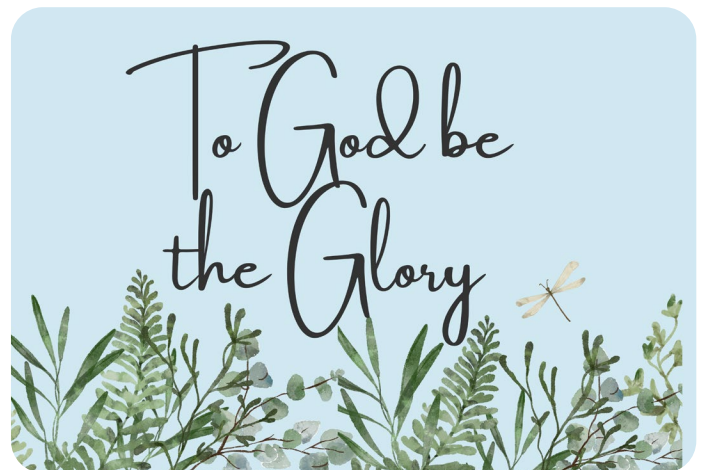
- FYTD Contributions were \$753,558 (113% of Budget). 2024/25 YTD Giving was \$706,202.
- Total Income – minus Missions and Anonymous Gift – was \$929,711 (113% of Budget). 2024/25 Income was \$1,018,116 (\$98,636 from the federal Employee Retention Credit program).
- Total Expenses – minus Missions – were \$810,485 (99% of budget). 2024/25 Expenses were \$812,806.

FACILITIES.

We are currently getting estimates for purchasing a new dishwasher for the church kitchen. Our dishwasher is 30+ years old and replacement parts are no longer available – and it currently does not sanitize properly. LADC will pay ½ the cost.

May the same Spirit who has guided and inspired Trinity – continue to lead us in hope, purpose, and joyful mission. To God be the Glory—now and always!

Sarah Kinsman,
Parish Administrator



Trinity Financial Update: February 2026 - Fiscal Year To Date

Long-Term Debt Summary:	February 2026	February 2025	12 Month Difference
Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	1,685,293	1,922,708	
Increase (Decrease) since beginning of FY	(177,541)	(127,243)	
Long-Term Debt Balance - Current Month	\$ 1,507,752	\$ 1,795,465	\$ (287,713)
Line of Credit Balance - Current Month	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Long-Term Debt Summary:	February 2026	Date TBD	NEW BALANCES
Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	1,685,293	1,685,293	
Increase (Decrease) since beginning of FY	(177,541)	(1,685,293)	
Long-Term Debt Balance - Current Month	\$ 1,507,752	\$ -	\$0.00
Line of Credit Balance - Current Month	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00

FINANCIAL NOTES - February 2026

Each quarter for the past two years, I have published the long term debt summary and shown our amazing progress as we watched the efforts of the comprehensive campaign slowly dissolve the burden of our long term debt. The collaborative energy, generosity and amazing blessings to the church have been truly inspiring. Before the publishing of my next update, the balance of our mortgage will be paid in full and our line of credit will also remain unused. I could not wait until the next report to put that amazing news into the table to show those fields with big wonderful zeros.

As we continue into the 2026 calendar year, dreaming will begin about what this new chapter will look like for our church. How will we inspire, worship and show up in the world as witnesses to what we as a congregation have accomplished together. Thank you again for allowing me to be the messenger of our progress and this positive financial news these past two years. If you are interested in learning more about the role of Treasurer, the Finance Team or have any general questions, please feel free to reach out to me at jlongnecker@trinitylc.org.

Submitted by Jill Longnecker, Treasurer

Fun at Faith Lab!

Just as God asked Abram to “trust the process,” we too put one foot in front of the other as we walk by faith. Interestingly, science also relies on a willingness to “trust the process.” Scientists often learn by trying things out— not with certainty, but with curiosity and thoughtful guesses—while learning new information along the way. This fun, simple science experiment with Skittles at Faith Lab (3/4/26) helped us think about what it means to trust the process, even when we are not sure what the outcome will be. Even when we don’t know what’s ahead, God goes with us every step of the way.





After nearly 155 years of faithful stewardship, prayer, and perseverance at Trinity Lutheran Church, we are overjoyed to celebrate the wonderful news: our church mortgage will be fully paid off.

This milestone marks the joyful culmination of our three-year Comprehensive Capital Campaign, launched to reduce our remaining mortgage debt. Throughout the campaign, we witnessed extraordinary generosity, deep commitment, and abiding trust in God's provision. Together, we cut our mortgage in half—and in a remarkable final chapter, a generous donor stepped forward to pay off the remaining balance, bringing us to this moment of celebration and gratitude.

Becoming mortgage-free opens an exciting new season in the life of Trinity. Freed from this financial burden, we can now dream more boldly about the future—how we will grow, serve, and expand our mission in the world. This is not just the end of a campaign; it is the beginning of new possibilities for ministry, outreach, and community.

We invite you to join us in celebrating this milestone on Sunday, April 26, following our single worship service at 10:00 AM. Plans are still taking shape, but you can look forward to a joyful time of fellowship, special treats, and meaningful moments together. More details will be shared soon.

For now, we give thanks—for the journey that brought us here, for the generosity that made it possible, and for the future that lies ahead. Let us celebrate together!

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

Vacation Bible School 2026: June 15–19 | 9:30–11:30 am

Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs

Get ready for an unforgettable week at Vacation Bible School 2026 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater! This summer at Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs, we'll explore how God calls us to care for one another — and for the whole creation.

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

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

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



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://wlbci.com/trinity-stillwater>

Save the date, campers!

Join Sarah Olson from Trinity and Jess Peterson from Our Savior's for a Camp Wapo Meet & Greet at Mabel's in Bayport (293 3rd St N) on Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30 pm. Come connect with other campers and families from the Stillwater area, ask any last-minute camp questions, and start getting excited for our shared camp week June 21–26. Ice cream is BYOM (Bring Your Own Money)—we'll bring the camp spirit!

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 or (651) 439-5970.



SUNDAY faith FORUM

Sunday Faith Forum

Sundays at 10 a.m. - River Room - Between worship services

Living Well in Shared Sacred Community—The Jesus Way. Bring Your Curiosity and All Are Welcome !

April 5. Easter — No Forum



April 12. Exploring and Caring for the St Croix Valley with Angie Hong.

Angie Hong is the coordinator for Minnesota's East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP), a local government partnership with 31 members in Washington, Ramsey, Chisago and Isanti Counties. She also shares her lovely voice singing in the Trinity Choir as well as enjoying gardening, and exploring

the outdoors. She also has written a wonderful book Exploring the St. Croix Valley: Adventures on and off the Water.

April 19. Lutheran Campus Ministry—Meet and Greet in the Narthex

April 26. One Service. Capital Campaign Celebration (No Forum)

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

Concert Series

April 9 | AMA Quartet + Camerata Brass | 7pm

International award-winning AIMA Saxophone Quartet joins Camerata Brass from the Twin Cities.

Tickets: Available at the door. \$20 suggested donation

April 19 | Star of the North Concert Band | 3pm

Join the Star of the North Concert Band for a lovely spring program of fine band music.

Tickets: Free

April 21 | Stillwater Choir Home Concert | 8pm

Always a fabulous concert. Enjoy a fabulous program from the wonderful Stillwater Concert Choir. An award ceremony takes place at 7pm before the concert to recognize graduating seniors.

Tickets: <https://cur8.com/projects/SAHSFINEARTS>

May 3 | Valley Chamber Chorale | 3pm

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

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

Worship & Music

Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 5th – 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

Sunday, April 12th – Psalm 116 | Luke 24:13-35

9 am | Trinity Bells

11 am | Trinity Band

Sunday, April 19th – Lutheran Campus Ministry Sunday

Guest Preacher from Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Minnesota

9 am | Trinity Choir

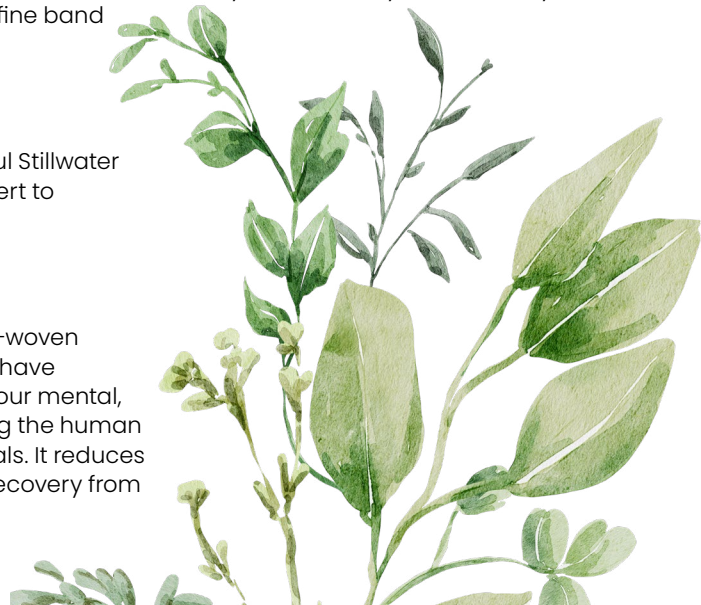
11 am | Trinity Band

Sunday, April 26th – 1 Service 10am

Comprehensive Campaign

Celebration Sunday

Trinity Choir | Trinity Band | Trinity Brass



Holy Week

AT TRINITY



SUN
MARCH 29

Palm Sunday One Service | 10 am

Join us as we follow Matthew's telling of events from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. Immerse yourself in the narrative of the Passion Story told through scripture and story.

WED
APRIL 1

Maundy Thursday at Wednesday Dinner Church Dinner 5:30 pm, Service 6:15 pm | River Room

Join us for Maundy Thursday at Wednesday Dinner Church, our only program that evening featuring hand and foot washing and Stations of the Cross

FRI
APRIL 3

Good Friday Worship | 7 pm

Seven Last Words by Michael John Trotta. Experience this multi-movement choral journey through the passion story. Featuring the Trinity Choir, soloists, and chamber orchestra.

SUN
APRIL 5

Easter Sunday

7 am | Sunrise Worship (no livestream)

9 am | Traditional Worship with choir, brass + organ

11 am | Contemporary Worship with Worship Band

SAT
APRIL 11

Easter EGG-Stravaganza Saturday, April 11

10 am on the Green Space (gym as weather back up) The Easter season continues long after Easter Sunday! Join us for games, crafts, and a snack! This event is free and open to all!



Racial Justice

Remembering Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Relatives

By Claudia Swendseid, Racial Justice Ministry Team

In May, our mother church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), encourages congregations like Trinity to honor the National Day of Remembrance for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Relatives (MMIWGR) on May 5, by raising awareness and advocating for an end to violence against Indigenous people.

Back in October 2025, we met Brenda Blackhawk, who shared her expertise on this topic at our Sunday Faith Forum. Brenda is an ELCA member and co-chairs the ELCA's MMIWGR Sub-Task Force. From her we learned that Native people in Minnesota as well as around the country have gone missing or been murdered at alarmingly high rates.

Data collected by the state's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) makes clear that Indigenous people are over-represented among missing person cases. Although Indigenous women and girls comprise less than 1% of the state's population, in any given month, about 15% of the female missing persons cases in Minnesota are Indigenous women and girls. Also, according to BCA 2024 data, Indigenous people accounted for over 4% of all reported victims of homicide in Minnesota, despite making up only a little over 1% of the population.

Jesus tells us that there are "no greater commandments than these" – to love God and to love our neighbor. He reminds us, through the Good Samaritan parable, that our neighbor is anyone created in God's image, anyone we encounter who needs our compassion and aid, that neighborly love transcends social, ethnic, and religious divisions, among others. And that showing love to neighbor involves practical action like helping, protecting, and serving, not just feelings or intentions.

So, as we seek to follow Jesus, let us show love to our Indigenous neighbors by honoring National MMIWGR Remembrance Day in May. The ELCA offers a range of suggestions and Trinity will be uplifting this concern at Sunday services on May 17.



1. Attend worship on May 17 and wear red. Why red? Among many Indigenous people, red holds spiritual significance. For some, red is believed to be the only color spirits can see, and by wearing red, we make ourselves visible to those who have been taken. It is a way of saying, "We see you. We remember you. We will not stop fighting for you."

2. Pray for MMIWGR and their families during May.

3. Learn more about MMIWGR by listening to Indigenous voices. The ELCA offers resources on its [website at Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women](#).

4. Join Women of the ELCA for a prayer vigil on May 5 from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm to honor MMIWGR Awareness Day. The vigil is written by Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy. Register to attend via Zoom webinar: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/event/a-vigil-for-mmiw>

5. Support Indigenous-led organizations working on this issue. Donate to or volunteer with them. One local example is Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center in Minneapolis.

Our Lutheran teachings and traditions call us to love our neighbors, to walk alongside those who are broken-hearted and disinherited, and to challenge social injustices, including the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous people. The prophets spoke it. Jesus lived it. And we as faithful people are called to carry it forward.



Pride Justice

The Plowshare Prayer at Trinity—and beyond Learning Together 101



The Plowshare Prayer video from Trinity's February 15 worship service is transforming hearts and lives near and far. The song lyrics are inspired by Isaiah 2:4:

[God] will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares

and their spears into pruning hooks. Trinity received notes and a gift from people who heard the music video and were grateful for how the lyrics and music transformed their hearts and hands.



If you were at worship or viewed the video, you may have similarly experienced your heart transforming. The author of Isaiah 2:4, written in 8th Century BCE, could not have imagined the continuing impact and transformation in 2026AD. Yet words, actions, and their impact have a way of living in hearts for generations.

Trinity Video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tv9T85vwe_o

April 2026 • Trinity Today

I was curious to learn about the author of the Plowshare Prayer, and the story of its origin. Author, singer and musician Spencer LaJoye wrote the song during the pandemic. LaJoye was working at three churches, and due to health challenges, needed to step away from the work. The last thing they wrote before they left was The Plowshare Prayer. Reflecting on writing the song, LaJoye shared:

"[the song] It's honest about my moral struggles and my pain, but it's also a love letter, and probably the most faithful thing I've ever written. It asks the question: what would a prayer sound like if it was used as a plowshare rather than a sword? A tool for growing new things in the most disregarded and traumatized places, rather than a weapon wielded by the institutionally powerful?"

"writing this song was such a pivotal moment for me because it felt like I was telling my absolute truth, with no filter (in a church context, no less!). Writing and singing it made me feel so many things: anger, freedom, peace, grief, joy...it was almost as though my body was yelling, through the song, "LISTEN TO ME!"

As often happen, life's challenges and stories reshape us to do God's work, using the unique talents God weaves into each of us. The description of the many and varied stories of God's Beloved Children are named in the song lyrics, so people feel seen and know they matter.

A prayer for the many.

The words in Trinity's current Inclusion Statement similarly name and see God's many and diverse children. <https://trinity-lutheran-church-982.thechurchco.site/reconciling-in-christ-process> Knowing you are prayed for, seen, and that you matter transforms lives, both the life of the person prayed for—and the person praying.

According to LaJoye's [website](#) bio, their story and absolute truth include being a singer/song writer with Midwest roots, a violinist with a theology degree, and is trans non-binary. Your story, and LaJoye's story have both similarities and differences, including that each of you is a Beloved Child of God. Jesus commanded you to love God and love neighbor. As God's hands, feet and tools in the world, we are each tasked with God's work, with whatever talents and resources we have.

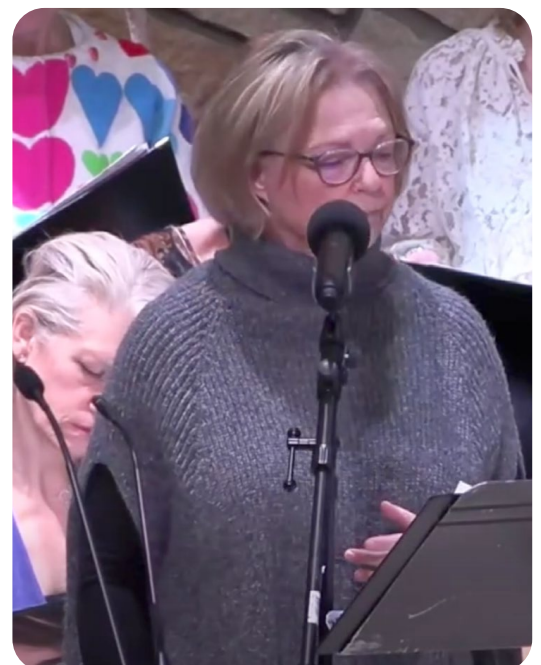
As Spring approaches and tools are prepared to help transform spaces for new growth, what will you do with your prayer as *"a tool to grow new things"*? How will you, as pray-er, and those you pray for, be transformed?

Thank you Robin Cain and Phil Kadidlo, as we offer a prayer of thanks for sharing your talents and transforming hearts with the gift of song and music!

Thank you Spencer LaJoye, for sharing your absolute truth, and your talents of music and songwriting, as you continue to transform hearts! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHQ9FoQC3BI>

Thank you to the author of Isaiah 2:4, for sharing words and an image that continue to shape and re-shape hearts, lives, and prayers.

Karen Gieseke, Pride Justice Team Chair



Missions and Devotions



Spring will be here soon.

Cleanup and maintenance of parking lot beds and other beds around Trinity will begin.

If you have a few hours a week to help keep our outside premises looking as good as we can, it would be great to hear from you. Don't worry; we aren't perfectionists; we weed as best we can while enjoying camaraderie and community too. Interest or questions, contact Sandy Wendt at sjwendt46@gmail.com



The Four Pillars of Missions Team:

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

Men's Bible Study

Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.

Boutwells Landing, Skyview Conference Room

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

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

Ecumenical Worship

Sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church

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

Mental Health Matters

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

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

Dear Trinity community,

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

Make April your Reduce and Reuse Month Use April to work on the Reduce and Reuse part of the Green Triangle. (special reading here about the origin of the Recycle logo:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recycling_symbol)

REDUCE: Take a week's pause (or try a month!) on consumption of non-essential things. Many purchases are driven by impulse, convenience, or marketing, rather than real need. Challenge yourself to only buy essentials for a determined period of time and see how it feels!

REUSE: Fast fashion, cheap electronics and disposable household goods may seem tempting because of the price, but they cost you and the planet more in the long run. We tend to throw it away too soon or replace it with a new one before it wears out or take the time to fix it.

After your consumption pause, rethink how you purchase. Buy quality items. They last longer and some companies will even fix them for free! Here's a list that covers many of the things you already are buying: Patagonia, Jansport, L.L. Bean, Aldi, Craftsman, Cutco, Darn Tough Socks, La Creuset, Lupine dog wear, Manduka yoga mats, Rainbow sandals, The Big Green Egg, Tupperware.

Lastly, when you are done with something, don't throw it away. If it's in good or even reasonable shape, donate it! You can donate locally to: Goodwill, Valley Outreach, ReStored Thrift Store, Stillwater Habitat for Humanity ReStore and Stillwater Public Library.

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

MISSIONS TEAM 2026

Upward and Onward ... together

There are tongue and cheek quotes “The trouble with life is you’re halfway through before you realize it’s a do-it-yourself project” (anonymous)

There are thought-provoking quotes: “I am more fortunate than others; I want to build a longer table, not a taller fence.” (Tamlyn Tomita)

And quotes that describe the Trinity congregation: “Service is what prayer looks like when it gets up off its knees and walks around in the world.” (Michael Graham)

Every day, members of Trinity get up and “walk around in the world,” donating time, energy, money, and talents to make the world a better place.

Valley Outreach needs food and helping hands? BAM! Trinity members arrive with carloads of food, supplies and volunteers. Students in Tanzania need 20 scholarships? BAM! Trinity members donate funds for 30. The disenfranchised need a welcoming place? BAM! Trinity opens its doors as a Reconciling in Christ community.

The quote “Everyone is on the Missions Team” is very true. And the ten “official members” of the Missions Team would love to lead the charge as the congregation tackles a few special projects in 2026.

SPONSORING ILLOGOMBE AS A SECOND SISTER CONGREGATION.

Trinity has sponsored Mwatasi, our companion congregation in Tanzania, for decades. This year Trinity will also be sponsoring a second congregation from the rapidly growing village of Illogombe, just down the road. Illogombe started as a preaching point connected to Mwatasi. Its membership has grown to where it has its own pastor and needs a partner congregation. Trinity has already been sponsoring students from this congregation—and Trinity’s generosity of past years makes us believe we can successfully sponsor two congregations. Contact Eunice for more information, eunicefultz80@gmail.com

SUPPORTING VALLEY OUTREACH AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.

During January, February and March, Trinity members have donated and delivered carloads of food and supplies to this local

organization—almost daily. The need is greater than ever and this vital work will continue. To help or find out more, contact Glenda Bjorum at bjorumsing@aol.com

SUPPORTING REFUGEE SERVICES AND RESETTLEMENT.

Trinity was one of the driving forces behind the creation of Refugee Housing MN (RHMN). Over the past year RHMN has helped find, keep and/or finance housing for over 200 refugees. RHMN—and Trinity members—have also been delivering groceries to those fearful of going to work—or stepping outside—due to the current political environment. RHMN continues to help those in need. And this year’s Refugee Sunday is working out to be something special. Want to help? Contact Spike Carlsen at Carlsen@usinternet.com

BUILDING MORE TINY HOMES FOR THOSE IN NEED.

Over the past five years Trinity has been instrumental in funding and building three Tiny Homes for those experiencing homelessness. Trinity is committed to building more. Tiny home “Sacred Settlements” at the Church of the Open Door in Maple Grove, Prince of Peace (location of Trinity’s first Tiny Home) and Heartwood Church in Oakdale all continue to grow and thrive. For more information, contact Mark Weber at markweber22@outlook.com

AND MORE. We welcome Kristy Bjerk as the newest member of the Missions Team. She explains, “One Sunday on my way to church I prayed for direction on how to best serve Trinity. That very day, on outgoing member of the Missions Team asked me to consider filling her position. I felt this was God’s answer!” Many other projects continue moving forward. Planning is underway for a mission trip to Tanzania in 2027 (contact Beth at beth.a.payne@comcast.net for more info.) There is a synod-wide funding drive (\$50,000) for completing the science lab at our beloved Bomalong’ombe, and one other, secondary school; with this. The Feed the World initiative to supply baby formula continues (look for the contribution globe at church or contact Marie at mbvgro@gmail.com) Plus we’ll remain active in supporting the Global Health Arusha hospice and Point-in-Time initiatives.

We thank you all for your generosity. And we welcome your input for future mission projects.



ILLOGOMBE ... our new second sister scholarship congregation



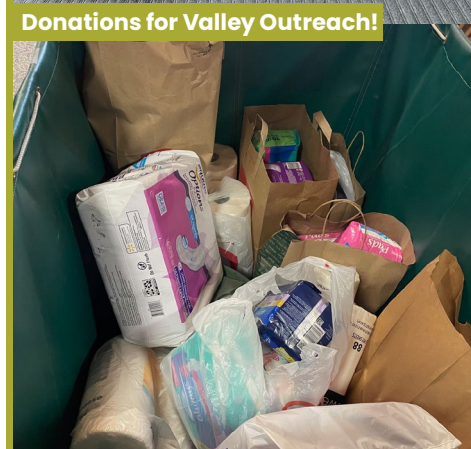
TINY HOMES ... Rita, Gary and Mark take a break



BOMALONG'OMBE Science Lab ... Finally, getting a roof (hopefully)



Donations for Valley Outreach!



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.



Let's Go Events!

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

NOTE DATE & TIME CHANGE

April 19, 1:00 pm

RSVP to Sandy Wendt at

sjwendt46@gmail.com or Sara

Wagner at [saraewagner@](mailto:saraewagner@comcast.net)

[comcast.net](mailto:saraewagner@comcast.net)

Join us for an afternoon at the theater.

Sunday, May 17, 2:00 pm

"Once Upon A Mattress"

Lakeshore Players at Hanifl Performing Arts Center, White Bear

Lake \$23 per person

RSVP to Randy Propp by texting

651-238-5153

yogadevotion
practicing in the Presence

THURSDAY MORNING
YOGA

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

Tuesday from 9 - 10AM CST

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

Register at:
yogadevotion.com/classes



Accountability **B**elonging **I**nclusion **D**iversity
Equity

Accountability Belonging Inclusion Diversity Equity

Diversity is God's creation.

Equity is God's justice.

Inclusion is God's family.

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 for the zoom link. Join us. All are welcome.

Christian Sympathy

- Sympathy to the family & friends of **Frank Stewart**
- Sympathy to the family & friends of **Barb Stene**
- Sympathy to the family & friends of **Sharon Jibben**
- Sympathy to the family & friends of **Lorenz (Larry) Kogl III**

Congregational Council

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



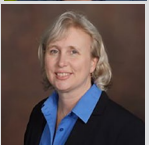
John Hodler
COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Kirsten Parker
COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT



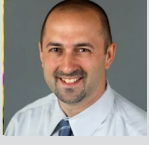
Shane Brockhus
COUNCIL SECRETARY



Jill Longnecker
COUNCIL TREASURER



Bill Bjorum
COUNCIL MEMBER



Bryan Barts
COUNCIL MEMBER

Worship On TV

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

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

Office Hours

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

Monday–Thursday
9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Attendance

January

4th: 9 AM-144. 11 AM - 75.

Online- 515.

11th: 9 AM -166. 11 AM - 93.

Online - 705.

18th: 9 AM -112. 11 AM - 59.

Online - 658.

25th: 9AM - 145. 11 AM - 116.

Online - 636.

FEBRUARY:

1st: 9 AM - 182. 11 AM - 60.

Online - 676.

8th: 9 AM - 160. 11 AM - 83.

Online - 584.

15th: 10 AM one service: 389.

Online - 563.

22nd: 9 AM - 139. 11 AM -70.

Online - 531.



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!

Publication Number: USPS 509650

Published once per month by Trinity Lutheran Church, 115 4th St. N, PO Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082

Editor, Design & Layout: Sammie Bonko

Some images from Canva

Articles for the next Trinity Today (May issue) are due Monday, April 20, to begin arriving in mailboxes Tuesday, April 28.

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

Email: info@trinitylc.org

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

Postmaster: Send address changes to Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082. © Copyright 2026 Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater, MN



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EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Saturday, April 11 at 10:00 am on the Green Space (gym as weather back up)

The Easter season continues long after Easter Sunday! Spread out the celebration of Christ risen with an all-things Easter party in partnership between Trinity Lutheran and Lake Area Discovery Center (LADC) on Saturday, April 11 at 10:00 am. Join us for games, crafts, facepainting, snack, and get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny! Weather permitting, this event will be outside on the Green Space with the Gym as backup. This event is free and open to all!

