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www.trinitylc.org

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trinity TODAY

Because God first loved us, we live as Jesus in the world.



He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

– Luke 6:17-21 (NRSV)

PHOTO: Thank you to Jerry Nelson, Gene Kelm and Charlie Payne for their work on a new partition on the chancel (behind the Worship Band) in the Worship Center. The team reported a total of 146 hours in the design and build! More photos on page 4.



LEAD PASTOR **THE REV. DR. CHRIS BELLEFEUILLE**

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."

Can we even imagine Jesus' great Sermon on the Plain being lived out in real time? We see hunger, poverty, and grief all around us. It can be hard to find reassurance in promises when we want to see real, tangible action and solutions to the problems in our world. Some days it's easy to despair of ever getting a leg up as a community, state, or nation. Kind words won't fill empty bellies. Casseroles won't fill empty seats at the table. That much is true. And yet, as the people of God we know that kindness and casseroles matter in real and meaningful ways.

I heard two things in the past two days that have given me hope and focus for the coming year.

First, Pastor Kris Linner, in speaking at the Sunday Forum (watch on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odLMG__LSQc) about her experience as a hospice chaplain said, "Don't sweat the small stuff." And, "The small things matter." For me it landed as a reminder to not lose our way (or our relationships) over the things that don't much matter: like who gets grandma's casserole dish or how often the neighbor does/ or doesn't mow his lawn. And small things—like kind words, hot casseroles delivered to a doorstep, a smile, letting someone go before you, picking up a random piece of litter—matter. They matter to the person touched by them. They matter to those who witness them.

It may not change the frustration we feel with the political climate or with climate change, but it can lift a heart which in turn will lift the next heart. And strengthen us for the shared journey.

The day after Kris spoke, Trinity hosted the Stillwater MLK Day breakfast. Trinity member Rachel Schmeltzer was the 2024 Stillwater Human Rights Award winner and was afforded time to speak. She reminded us of Dr. King's wisdom: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." (Dr. King was citing an 1853 sermon by Theodore Parker, an abolitionist and Unitarian Minister.) The arc is long indeed but it bends in the direction of God's sacred dream of a time when we will all do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Then Rachel led the group in singing: "Put one foot in front of the other and lead with love." This song by Melanie DeMore is an anthem of encouragement when the days are long and the future uncertain. The verses are sung as a call and response offering promise and reassurance back and forth:

Don't give up hope. You're not alone. Don't you give up. Keep movin' on.

Lift up your eyes. Don't you despair. Look up ahead. The path is there.

I know you're scared. And I'm scared too. But here I am. Right next to you.

The great gift of living in community in the name of Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise that though we may struggle for hope, sit on the cusp of despair, or be scared, we are never, ever alone. We are here, right next to each other, every step of the way. And walking with us is the incarnate expression of the redeeming love of God, Jesus.

The keynote speaker from the Minneapolis MLK Day breakfast was author and journalist Michele Norris. She reminded us that we remain tethered because we all are one. Like it or not, we ALL are one.

And we all are one in the mighty name of Jesus.

With great love and hope,

Pastor Chris

Pastor Chris announces her retirement this May

Dear ones,

There is no easy way to begin so I will just begin.

This letter is announcing my retirement from my call as your lead pastor. I do so with a heart both light and broken. Ted feels much the same way.

Trinity, God has done marvelous work in and through you over the past 8 plus years. You moved through a time of healing, new transparency, and rediscovering your identity as the living Body of Christ. We experienced the strange reality of pandemic with a renewed understanding of neighbor love, creativity in ministry, and generosity of spirit for each other, church and civic leadership, and respect for the limits of the human body. Then came a time of clarity and imagination as we learned new things about being the church in a post-pandemic world, including new visions for worship, faith formation, and supporting families. And you boldly stared down a burdensome mortgage with a courageous three-year comprehensive campaign that is 80 percent complete two years in. The list can go on.

The time has come to begin imagining the next 3 to 5 year chapter. As I humbly admit that I don't have the stamina for that length of time, it's only fair that I step aside so the next team of leaders can accompany that sacred process.

In addition to making way for Trinity's next chapter of leadership, I have discerned a call to step into the next chapter of life. The demands of our families are changing. With parents needing a new level of accompaniment and our kids building their own families, we are longing for more spaciousness of time to be present with our beloveds. And to tend to our marriage and the adventures we hope to share. And to be honest, my body is aching for rest, which it needs if it is to serve me for decades to come!

My last Sunday will be May 18. Over the coming months you will learn more about next steps, we will make leave-taking a time of gratitude to God and a celebration of God's work in our midst, and I will endeavor to put into words what it has meant for Ted and for me to be part of this community.

In the meantime, there is love to share, gospel work to see to, and our God to rejoice in.

I continue to give thanks for your kindness, love, and sharing in the Gospel.

Will a full heart,

Pastor Chris

Lead Pastor

Celebrate Pastor Chris' ministry!

Change is disruptive, sometimes sad, sometimes happy, and it always seems to be challenging. Pastor Chris' pending retirement brings all these emotions as we thank her for the numerous gifts, personal time, passion, and leadership she has invested in Trinity's congregation and the Stillwater community's well-being.

As a congregation, our priority is to celebrate Pastor Chris' ministry and send her and her family off into a well-deserved retirement. This means that many Trinity members will be able to help plan and implement a great sendoff tentatively scheduled in May.

In the next few months, Trinity's Congregational Council will work in partnership with the Saint Paul Area Synod to ensure Pastor Chris' leave-taking is meaningfully completed and the initial steps for the interim pastoral phase are taken.

Importantly, for now, let's focus on celebrating Pastor Chris' ministry.

As you have questions, please contact any of the Congregational Council members.

Yours,

John W. Hodler

President, Trinity
Congregational Council

Congregational Council

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

Our current congregational council includes the following Trinity members:



John Hodler
COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Tina Swanson
COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT



Kirsten Parker
COUNCIL SECRETARY



Jill Longnecker
COUNCIL TREASURER



Bill Bjorum
COUNCIL MEMBER



Shane Brockshus
COUNCIL MEMBER

For more information about your council or to get in touch, please visit: <https://trinitylc.org/welcome/who-we-are/council/>



REMINDER: AED locations

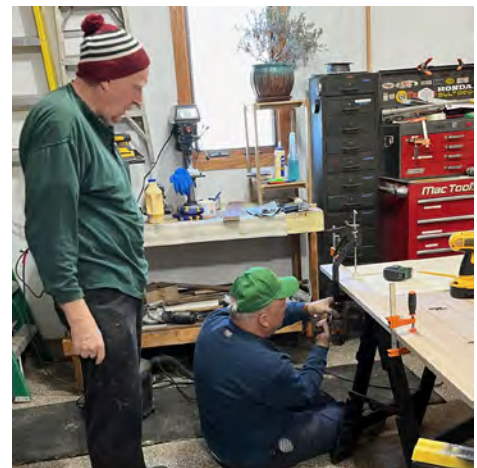
February is American Heart Month. So, we felt it fitting to remind you of the location of the AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) in our building. We have one available next to the kitchenette in the Commons. We also have an AED on the west wall in the Narthex just outside the Worship Center above the fire extinguisher and near the usher stand. It is proven that early intervention in a cardiac event saves lives. AEDs are extremely easy to use, follow the prompts. Generally speaking, an AED should be used when a person is unconscious (not responsive) and not breathing properly. Remember to also call 911, or designate someone to call when possible.



AED next to the kitchenette in the Commons



AED on the west wall in the Narthex just outside the Worship Center



PHOTOS: See cover.



Financial Update

Sarah Kinsman | Parish Administrator

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; in the Lord my heart trusts..." – Psalm 28:7

Greetings Trinity!

OFFICE REMODEL

I am writing this in the conference room—as all the office furniture has been temporarily moved into the hallways and the Commons. The painting is now finished, and the carpet will be installed this week. The Lord is my strength! No one enjoys the process—but we all look forward to the results. Thank you all for your patience! A special thank you to the Helping Hands crew for doing much of the heavy lifting of dismantling desks and moving all the furniture! It was herculean and I am so grateful for their help! As a reminder, this project was funded by a restricted private gift.

2024 STATEMENTS AND SHELBY

2024 EOY Giving Statements will be mailed out this week. In preparing statements, we have identified a number of issues with Shelby—primarily the syncing between Shelby Giving Online and Shelby CHMS—the database. So please let us know if there are any issues with your statement. We have been diligently trying to work through those issues including the following:

- Syncing online giving with other giving.
- Duplication of family members has been occurring in online giving. Shelby's "identifier" is a giver's email address.
- Syncing Primary in Household with giving by other family members (i.e. spouse, etc.).

2025 STEWARDSHIP

Thank you, Trinity, for your generous response to giving for 2025! There are currently 272 pledges totaling \$1,006,115. In 2024, there were 272 pledges totaling \$953,922—an increase of \$52,193!

DECEMBER 2024 INCOME VS. EXPENSE

- FYTD Giving through December was \$402,064 (93% of Budget). 2023 YTD Giving was \$393,275.
- Total Income—minus Outreach Missions—was \$563,892. (\$102% of Budget) 2023 Income was \$617,524. (\$60K in Council Designated Funds)
- Total Expenses—minus Outreach Missions—were \$ 541,958 (98% of budget). 2023 Expenses were \$592,283 (Audit/higher mortgage payment).
- As of December 31, 2024, the Line of Credit balance was \$40,675.

COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

- \$1,498,075 has been given of the pledged amount of \$1,911,959. (Shelby)
- 78% has been given of the pledged amount.

MORTGAGE

- As of 1/1/25 the mortgage balance was \$1,899,391.
- Monthly mortgage payment: \$14,289.

FACILITIES

We now have an estimate for the 3rd Street Project—tuckpointing, etc.—that is funded by the Comprehensive Campaign. This project is scheduled to begin Spring/Summer and will take most of the summer.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all you do to continue to make Trinity a healthy, vital and viable community of faith! Blessings!

Combined Governing Document Available to Download

Trinity's Constitution has been updated to bring it into compliance with the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America mandated language. The Constitution, By-Laws, and Continuing Resolutions are now combined into one document that facilitates access to these governance documents. The combined document was approved during Trinity's Nov. 17, 2024 annual meeting. You may download the approved document from our website at: <https://trinitylc.org/welcome/who-we-are/council/constitution-by-laws/>



worship TEXTS

Below are the scripture texts that will be used on the date listed to prepare the message for worship.

Feb. 2

1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Feb. 9

1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 16

1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

Feb. 23

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

TRINITY *concert series*



St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra
Tuesday, Feb. 18 | 7 pm
Worship Center at Trinity

Featuring:
Metro brass quintet
St. Croix Sound Wind Symphony
Stillwater High School Wind Ensemble
With Manuel Martinez, clarinet –
Barcelona, Spain
Free will donation requested.

Trinity Worship Band Concert
Sunday, Feb. 23 | 3 pm
Worship Center at Trinity
See next page.

COMING UP:

The Concordia Choir
Saturday, March 15 | 2 pm
Worship Center at Trinity

Experience one of America's finest choirs —seen nationwide on public television and heard in Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, and across the country —in concert at Trinity Lutheran Church. Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-concordia-choir-in-stillwater-mn-tickets-917446466077?aff=oddtcreator> (See below.)

COMING UP IN *worship*

Mark your calendars for Sundays with one worship service only at 10 a.m.

Sunday, March 2 at 10 a.m.

Drive-Indoor Sunday Worship (see back cover for more details)

Sunday, April 13 at 10 a.m.

Ecumenical Palm Sunday Worship at the Historic Lift Bridge (rain or shine)

Note: there will still be a short worship service at 9 a.m. indoors at Trinity on Palm Sunday

BIG NEWS! One worship service only on Sundays in May until the Drive-in begins.

Sunday, May 4 at 10 a.m.

First Communion & Blessing of High School Seniors, worship lead by Trinity Worship Band

Sunday, May 11 at 10 a.m.

Children's Musical (during the message), worship lead by the choir and organ

Sunday, May 18 at 10 a.m.

Celebration of Pastor Chris! Festival worship with band, choir, brass and organ

Sunday, May 25 – Summer Worship Schedule Begins

- 8:30 a.m. indoors at Trinity
- 10 a.m. outdoors at the Drive-in



THE CONCORDIA CHOIR

Michael Culloton, Conductor

CONCERT

March 15 - 2 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

ConcordiaTickets.com

"You MUST see this choir!"
Eric Whitacre

 **CONCORDIA COLLEGE**
MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

Trinity Worship Band Concert

Sunday, Feb. 23
3 pm | Worship Center

ALL MY LIFE
ALL MY DAYS
jesus have it all

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

No cost to attend, there will be a free-will offering to support music at Trinity.

Trinity Lutheran Church | 115 4th St. N in Stillwater | www.trinitylc.org | 651-439-7400 | info@trinitylc.org



everything [in] between

a Lenten series in Luke's gospel

Meeting God in the midst of extremes

Creative Resources for Lent-Easter

About this series

This series, inspired by the Narrative Lectionary (Year 3), allows the Gospel of Luke to guide us through Lent. Beginning with Jesus setting his face toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:51), the series flows through several familiar stories—the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the fruitless fig tree, the Lost Sheep, Zaccheus, and more. Many of these stories are well-known in both sacred and secular imagination, carrying cultural relevance and lore. For example, have you ever identified yourself as either a “Mary” or a “Martha?” The “Good Samaritan” title alone could reference a hospital, a charitable organization, a type of law, or a good deed. Perhaps you grew up singing “Zaccheus was a wee little man” in Sunday School. So many of these scriptures hold significance in pop culture, church history, politics, and everything in between.

As we studied these scriptures, we were struck by how Jesus’ ministry was rooted in relationships that disrupted the established social, political, and religious divides of his time. As modern readers, we sometimes lose the “shock factor” behind Jesus’ words, as his teaching tactics likely felt extreme for those in his context. He describes a stigmatized Samaritan as a good neighbor. He emphasizes the value of 1 sheep in a herd of 100. He dines with a tax collector who amassed wealth through extortion. While dying on the cross, he tells a convicted criminal he will soon find paradise. In these narratives, Jesus intentionally highlights the cultural and political polarities of his time to emphasize the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God. When we study these stories in their historical and cultural context, we see how they mirror the cultural and political divides many of us experience in our families, churches, and communities today.

This series is an invitation to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. Each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like “faith & works” or “rest & growth,” or “grief & hope.” We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity. We find that these dichotomies are false. We might begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white. We might find that God is present in between.

And so, this season, we invite you to look beyond black and white binaries and easy answers. We encourage you to notice the dichotomies that define our lives, but also imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. This theme may resonate with anyone who is in discernment or trying to find their way through an undefined space. It will speak to anyone who feels as if they are living in a divided world. It is for those who seek a spiritual life that engages with complexity instead of avoiding it. This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.



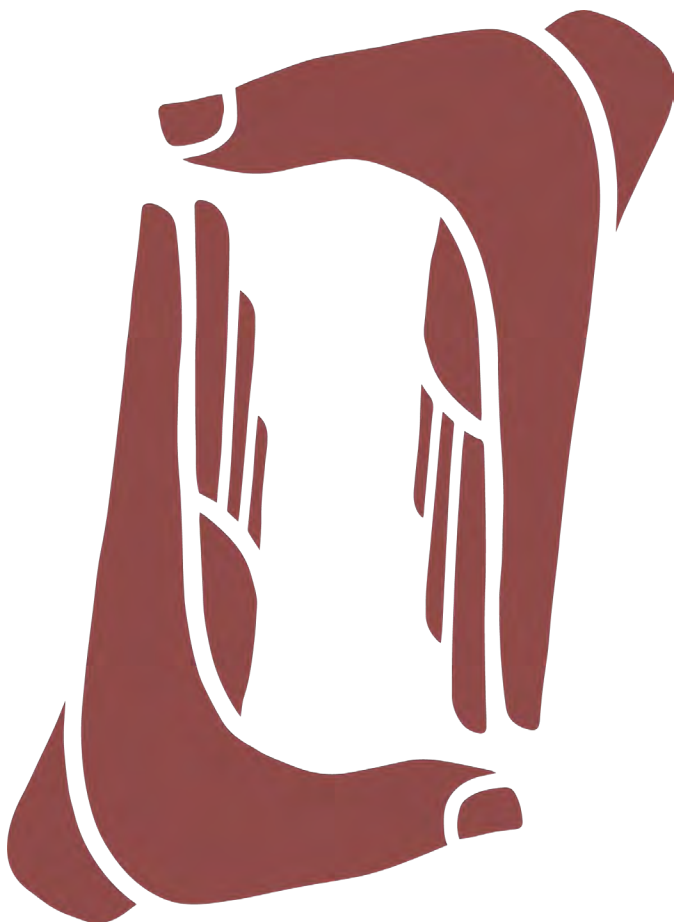
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Pondering “everything [in] between” as
we prepare for Lent & Easter

Ash Wednesday is March 5

Easter is Sunday, April 20

At right is a bit about our Lenten series
in Luke's gospel.





ABIDE READERS

NEXT BOOK DISCUSSION:

How the South Won the Civil War: Oligarchy, Democracy, and the Continuing Fight for the Soul of America
by Heather Cox Richardson
Monday, Feb. 24, 6:30-8 pm via Zoom

Heather Cox Richardson, professor of American History at Boston College, author of eight books, has 1.7 million subscribers, including many (maybe all) ABIDE Readers who read her daily newsletter. In *Letters from an American* she takes the day's news, simplifies it, gives historical context and parallels, tells how and why it came to be, and why it matters. As I write this, I have just read her Martin Luther King Day post. It is especially poignant.

In a Book Club Conversation with Jeffrey Sachs (easily found on YouTube), Dr. Richardson says that although the South clearly lost on the battlefields, it won ideologically. It won over the idea that all men, eventually all people, are created equal. She goes on to explain how "we ended up with a world that now looks very much like it's on the road to what the Confederates wanted to achieve... And I'm telling you, when I wrote that book [published in 2020], it truly never occurred to me that we would ever see the Confederate flag flying in the United States capital, and I'm telling you in all I have seen in my almost 60 years on the planet, that's the scene that nearly broke me, considering what I study."

Get her book from the ABIDE Bookshelf in the Narthex, Valley Bookseller (ask for the 15% book club discount), the public library, and/or watch her discussion(s) on YouTube. We welcome you to join our discussion via Zoom, Monday, Feb. 24, 6:30-8 p.m. Contact Ann Wolff at wolff701@msn.com for the Zoom link.

ABIDE Readers meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. Find the upcoming book discussion list and more information at: <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/connections/abide-readers/>



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

EARTH KEEPERS.

Leave it better than you found it

CLIMATE CORNER T.I.P.s Thoughtfully. Intentionally. Purposefully.

On Dec. 29 we lost a great humanitarian and friend of the earth when Jimmy Carter passed away. This month we pay tribute to him and his Green initiatives. February also brings the celebration of Valentine's Day. This year, skip the store bought stuff and try our Earth Keepers treats instead.

Honoring Jimmy Carter's Green Energy Legacy

Solar Panels – In 2017 Jimmy Carter leased 10 acres of his land in Plains, Georgia for a solar power project that produces enough electricity to supply about half the demand of his hometown. At the dedication event he told the crowd, "This site will be as symbolically important as the 32 panels we put on the White House."

If you are interested in solar panels for your home or business, here is a great place to start: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/homeowners-guide-going-solar>

Using Less Energy – Just as President Carter told us, turn down your heat and put on a sweater. You save energy and money! <https://www.energyhub.com/news/how-much-is-one-degree-worth>

Visit a National Park This Year – Near the end of his presidency, Jimmy Carter signed into law the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. It provided protections for 157 million acres of land through the creation of national parks, refuges and conservation areas. The legislation doubled the size of the National Park System.

Honor the legacy of Jimmy Carter by visiting a National Park (or more!) in 2025 and say thank you to him! <https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/national-park-system.htm>

Alternative Ways to Tell Your Valentine You Love Them

Here are some great alternatives to buying stuff for your Valentine.

Bake them a treat – Cookies, bars or a cake (make it heart shaped!)

Cook dinner for them – It can be as simple or as complex as you like. Don't forget the most important ingredient is love.

Create a homemade card or write a heartfelt letter – A store bought card can't express your love as well as you can yourself.

Questions about the Trinity Earth Keepers Team? Email Jill and Scott Kneeskern at kdkdesign4@yahoo.com.



Sunday Faith Forum 10 a.m. | River Room

At Trinity we believe faith formation is a lifelong endeavor. Questions? Contact Pastor Peter at pwestonmiller@trinitylc.org or Penny Catlin and pccatlin@juno.com. Read more at : <https://trinitylc.org/learning/adult/adult-ed/>



Seeing & Knowing Others Through the Eyes of Jesus & the Scripture

Stump the Pastors Sunday, Feb. 2 | 10 am | River Room

Bring your burning questions for our pastors. Ask about a sermon, theology, whatever is on your heart or mind. Our pastors love to hear from you and think about and discuss what is important to you. We all get to know each other a little better and may even get new ideas for living as beloved children of God.



The Old Testament for a Complex World with Cameron Howard Sundays, Feb. 9 & 16 | 10 am | River Room

Have you ever wonder if the Old Testament is relevant for us today? What if the Bible, which has come to us through a complex process, is just the resource we need to speak to the challenges of living as Christians in a complex world? In today's era of significant cultural upheaval, studying the Old Testament may seem impractical or irrelevant. In this two-week series we will work toward reclaiming the Old Testament as a vital resource for today's church, exploring how critical study of these texts might help us understand the Bible as dynamic testimony for our changing future.

Cameron Howard is Associate Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. She is the author of *The Old Testament for a Complex World: How the Bible's Dynamic Testimony Points to New Life for the Church* (Baker Academic, 2021) and is a frequent contributor to Working Preacher (<https://www.workingpreacher.org/>).



To be announced! Sunday, Feb. 23 | 10 am | River Room Stay tuned for details!



Trinity Scholarship Fund

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

**Applications due
April 1**



Summer Camp 2025!

Priority registration for Camp Wapo Summer 2025 is now open! Please note our typical Trinity dates have changed to accommodate the Stillwater School District's earlier start dates next fall.

- **Weeklong camp for completed grades 4-12 is the week of June 22-27**
- **Seeds weekend camp for completed grades 1-3 is the weekend of June 20-22**

Here is our Trinity-specific registration link: <https://lwlbc.com/trinity-stillwater>

You will notice that camp prices have increased this year. Please contact Sarah Olson at solson@trinitylc.org if your family needs financial assistance. We want every child to have the opportunity to attend camp without financial barriers.

<https://lwlbc.com/trinity-stillwater>

children & family FAITH FORMATION NOTES

SAVE THE DATES!

Is your child ready to take their understanding of Holy Communion deeper? Save the date for this year's **Communion Preparation class, open to all ages and stages, on Wednesday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m.** (immediately following Dinner Church). Registration opens in March.

Save the date for **Trinity's Vacation Bible School 2025 to take place June 16-20 from 9-11 a.m.** Theme and registration coming soon! If you would like to serve on the planning team and/or be a VBS helper, please contact Sarah Olson at solson@trinitylc.org.



Lake Area Discovery Center Now Enrolling Preschool Families for the Current and Upcoming School Year!

See how our Top-Rated, Faith Based Preschool Program is building bright futures for Minnesota's littlest learners, and schedule a tour at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/children/preschool>

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PHOTOS: Participants in Wednesday evening Faith Lab (ages 4 through Grade 5) shared a special Christmas celebration on Dec. 18.



SCREENAGERS

Elementary School Age Edition



FREE FAMILY EVENT

Wednesday, Feb. 19 | 5:30–7:30pm

Trinity Lutheran Church River Room

Healthy Screen Time Habits:

Explore research-based solutions for managing screen use.

Navigating Digital Challenges:

Address social media, video gaming, and early exposure concerns.

Audience: K–7 youth, parents, caring adults, & community members

Dinner included, Childcare Available

Collaboration of:



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

mkg
PARENT COACH



ASCENSION
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

REGISTER NOW



**Childcare Available
5 & under**



Read more and register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/screenagers-elementary-school-age-edition-february-19-2025-tickets-1146259796909>

Thank you!

Feed the World

This past month we were able to purchase 43 more ounces (than in the previous month) of Enfamil Baby Formula through your coins and dollars as you fed the world each Sunday and at Wednesday Dinner Church. Thank you for helping those to receive this product at Valley Outreach. They are so appreciative of your efforts.



Community Thread

For 54 years Community Thread has been hosting Holiday Hope which connects generous donors with families and individuals (some living with a disability) residing in Washington County who are experiencing financial hardship during the holidays. Thank you to all who shared an abundance of presents and gifts cards, and to those of you who volunteered to make this year's program a success once again. Because of you 894 households were impacted. That included 3,013 adults and children. In addition, grocery gift cards were provided to each household to guarantee a festive meal. Thank you for your incredible support of Holiday Hope!



Supplies for PIT Stop

Thank you to the many members and friends of Trinity who have donated winter gear for those in need at the Winter PIT Stop event, held on Jan. 23 at First Presbyterian Church. Volunteers from Trinity helped to set up and work at the event. Donations from Trinity included hats and winter caps, headbands, scarves, winter socks, thermal underwear, sweatshirts, vests, sweaters, jackets, coats, gloves and mittens for those in our community in need. Thank you. You do make a difference. The Outreach Missions Team also purchased 40 \$25 gift cards to Aldi and 40 \$25 gift cards to Kwik Trip (fuel only). Between 400 and 500 families were helped.

Tanzania Scholarships

The Outreach Missions Team thanks you for your generosity and care to help our students from Mwatasi, Tanzania to be able to study and continue their education. After primary school, students move to different boarding schools to complete their education. Last fall 13 of us from the Stillwater area and connected to Trinity Lutheran, visited one of these schools, Boma Long'ombe Secondary School. Many of you are familiar with this school as members of this congregation helped to build some of the buildings. We were warmly welcomed and thanked for the work you have done for our students. There are seven other schools that members of the Mwatasi Parish also attend and we have the privilege to help them attend these schools, through the Scholarship Tree during the Christmas season. Through your generosity, we collected \$20,523 to help our students. These young men and women are the future leaders of Tanzania and they appreciate the ability to learn, and they also thank you.



Our 2024 Tanzania Travelers

We meet every six weeks to enjoy each other's company, and continue to discuss the incredible opportunity we had and experienced in Tanzania this past October. We share our pictures, our stories and our ideas to continue to accompany our family in the Mwatasi and Arusha areas of Tanzania.

Gifts to Outreach Missions

The Outreach Missions Team at Trinity is actively challenged to follow God's example of love by collaborating with others to facilitate a world in which the basic needs of all people are met in an environment of peace with justice. We thank you for your gifts to the general Outreach Missions fund as well as to designated areas of our mission work. Your kindness and generosity helps us to discern where and how we can help our neighbors in need. Thank you.

Any questions or comments, contact any member of our team: Glenda Bjorum, Spike Carlsen, Eunice Fultz, Mike Johnson, Mike Karlsrud, Lynae Olson, Beth Payne, Mark Weber, Sandy Wendt and Marie Liberda, Chair (mbvgro@gmail.com). Pastor Peter Weston Miller attends our monthly meetings and helps guide us as we continue to serve.



"Aloha" Quilt

The Piecemakers meet each Tuesday to sew and make quilts for those in need. Coming soon will be another fundraiser and the quilt chosen for this event has been named "Aloha". Above is a sneak peak. This month you will also see quilts on display in the Narthex, as well as diaper bags and baby quilts, which we donate to Bundles of Love in the Minneapolis area.



LEARNING TOGETHER 101:

All People are Created in the Image of God the Creator

Karen Gieseke (she/her) | RIC Team Chair

When you think about the image of God, what comes to your mind? A physical appearance? A particular Bible story? Specific emotions? A painting or sculpture?

Trinity's new Inclusion statement highlights, "All people are created in the image of God the Creator and, therefore, all have valuable stories and infinite worth."

Did an image of *you* arise when asked to think about the image of God? The Inclusion statement is meant for you and each one of God's Beloved children and everyone's stories!

Trinity's Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Team is energized and excited by our shared work of creating spaces and conversations where ALL PEOPLE—especially those in marginalized groups with stories that are less known and familiar—feel loved, safe, and included. The infinite worth of all stories invites us into opportunities to humbly learn and support each other, no matter an individual's gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

The commitment by the RIC Team, and the commitment of the Trinity community through adopting the Inclusion Statement, opens doors both within Trinity and outside Trinity's walls. The RIC Team invites you to be a part of this gospel-centered journey by joining upcoming conversations and supporting all God's people.

The first space for conversation and learning hosted by the RIC Team is in March, in Stillwater. March 31 is International Transgender Day of Visibility, and this will be a centering point of both the fellowship and the learning. Neighbors, friends, and family are welcomed! Watch for details soon!

Menstrual Products in all of Trinity's Public Bathrooms

As part of the ongoing inclusivity and hospitality at Trinity, the RIC Team, in collaboration with the church council, the facilities team, and the church staff, have been pursuing offering free menstrual products in all of Trinity's public bathrooms, which includes those signed as women's, men's, and all-gender.

While researching this topic and related products, the following Inclusivity statement posted on the Aunt Flow product website, clearly states the importance of this shared work. We must recognize: "that not all women have periods, and not all people with periods are women. Approaching menstrual equity shouldn't be viewed solely through the lens of gender, but as a health issue that affects every person that has a period or knows someone with a period." (<https://goauntflow.com/inclusivity/>)

Trinity will soon have free menstrual products available in all its public restrooms. This is another opportunity to honor the dignity and infinite worth of all God's Beloved children.



MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Interested in learning more about our local NAMI Washington County affiliate efforts to educate, advocate and support mental health matters in our community? We are looking for volunteers to assist at local upcoming events. You would accompany an experienced NAMI volunteer at an information table. To learn more email Jeneal Olsen at momjmo@comcast.net. Read more about NAMI at: <https://namimn.org/>

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, Dec. 15 (one service only)

In-person 10 am _____ 204
Live online views 10 am _____ 111
Online views/week 10 am _____ 185

Sunday, Dec. 22

In-person 9 am _____ 117
Live online views 9 am _____ 67
Online views/week 9 am _____ 110
In-person 11 am _____ 112
Live online views 11 am _____ 32
Online views/week 11 am _____ 62

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

In-person (only) 11 am _____ 182
In-person 2 pm _____ 215
Live online views 2 pm _____ 58
Online views/week 2 pm _____ 95
In-person 4 pm _____ 654
Live online views 4 pm _____ 54
Online views/week 4 pm _____ 133
In-person (only) 9 pm _____ 265

Christmas Day, Dec. 25

In-person (only) 10 am _____ 80

Sunday, Dec. 29 (one service only)

In-person 10 am _____ 141
Live online views 10 am _____ 83
Online views/week 10 am _____ 121

Sunday, Jan. 5

In-person 9 am _____ 167
Live online views 9 am _____ 79
Online views/week 9 am _____ 137
In-person 11 am _____ 114
Live online views 11 am _____ 35
Online views/week 11 am _____ 75

Sunday, Jan. 12

In-person 9 am _____ 130
Live online views 9 am _____ 95
Online views/week 9 am _____ 189
In-person 11 am _____ 81
Live online views 11 am _____ 54
Online views/week 11 am _____ 88

Sunday, Jan. 19

In-person 9 am _____ 113
Live online views 9 am _____ 103
Online views/week 9 am _____ 190
In-person 11 am _____ 75
Live online views 11 am _____ 33
Online views/week 11 am _____ 120

NOTE: Online views in one week are one-minute or longer views.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To family and friends of **Anna Swanson**
- To family and friends of **the Rev. Dr. Dan Bruch**
- To family and friends of **Harold Buckentin**
- To family and friends of **Myrtle Janilla**
- To family and friends of **Allan Palmer**
- To family and friends of **John Weiss**
- To family and friends of **Paul Carlson**

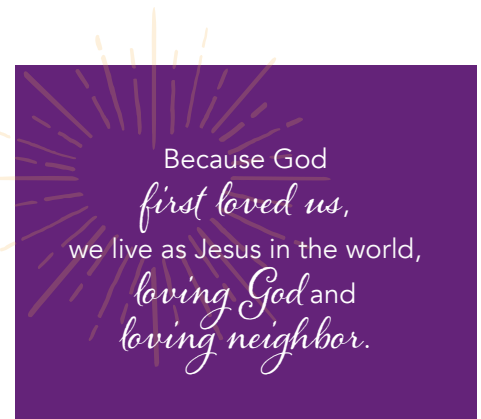
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open the following hours or by appointment.
Monday–Thursday | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

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.



CORE VALUES

Engaging Worship
Radical Hospitality
Authentic Community
Lifelong Faith Formation
Compassionate Action

WELCOME STATEMENT

Read our welcome statement at: <https://trinitylc.org/welcome/who-we-are/mission/>

trinity
TODAY

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Sunday, March 2 at 10 a.m.

(One worship service only this day.)

Drive-InDoor Worship



Think summer. Dress summer. Sing summer.