



115 4th St. N  
Stillwater, MN 55082  
651-439-7400  
www.trinitylc.org

January 2025  
volume 47, issue 1

# trinity TODAY

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



PHOTO: Women's Retreat in November,  
see more photos on page 11.

He came to Nazareth where he had been raised. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,

God's Spirit is on me;

he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor,  
Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and  
recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set the burdened and battered free,  
to announce, "This is God's time to shine!"

He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, "You've just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place."

– Luke 4:16-21 (MSG)



See names on page 6.





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



**2025 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Holiday Breakfast & Program  
Monday, Jan. 20**

**7:30-9:30 a.m.**

**River Room at Trinity**

**\$5 at the door, students are free**

Trinity is honored to be the host site again this year. Cost includes hot breakfast and coffee. The theme this year is One People: 35 Years of Community, Connection, and Celebration. This local event is sponsored by the Stillwater Human Rights Commission—this year featuring Trinity's own Rachel Schmeltzer speaking as the recipient of the Human Rights Award, leadership from the high school Student Leadership Council, and a livestream of keynote speaker Michele Norris from the Minneapolis Convention Center.

More information at the City of Stillwater website at: <https://www.stillwatermn.gov/Home/Components/News/News/751/15>

More about the program to be broadcast, featuring keynote speaker Michele Norris, at: <https://www.mlkbreakfast.com/>

## Expectations, expectations.

In the days before Christmas, I was part of several conversations about expectations. Expectations for family and gatherings. Expectations for gift giving and using the proper recipe for cranberry sauce. Expectations of growing old with friends, kids finding their way, people being reasonable. And, of course, the expectation and anticipation of the Christ child.

Pastor Rich gave a beautiful sermon at the Celebrating Seniors event in December where he reminded us that the coming of the Christ child promises something brand new. And he asked if we might look to Christmas with the expectation that something new is coming.

And now here we are, Christmas behind us. Some of us have new sweaters or e-bikes, new poundage packed around our waistlines. We have feasted and “fested” and worshipped and sung all the carols. We might consider expectations fulfilled. Or not. But when the new year dawns, the expectations that sustain us in Advent seem to get packed away with the Christmas decorations.

But what if? What if we moved into this new year with the same level of anticipation as we do Christmas? When God came to dwell with us, the God-with-us-ness didn't end there. God continued to surprise us in Jesus Christ. Surprised us by upsetting the expectations of some and fulfilling expectations that others had long since abandoned. Jesus was so very human and so much more. He was courageous and adventurous and reached far past the rules and boundaries that gave people the illusion of safety and control. He surprised lepers and women and little girls and centurions and the demon-possessed and paralyzed and blind and poor and bleeding and broken. He surprised them by healing their bodies and restoring their lives and

relationships—often by upsetting long held expectations for decorum and belonging. What a surprise was Jesus.

The coming of the Christ child is a great festival of light and hope and expectation. But it is not the fulfillment. It is the *beginning* of the fulfillment of expectation. God's work is never “complete” as long as mammals draw breath and planets orbit and fish splash and creepy things crawl and humans struggle to remember who we are. God continues to show up and surprise us and fulfill expectations we didn't even know we had.

So let the visions of sugar plums keep dancing, keep your eyes on the night sky, keep lighting candles and singing songs and eating together. God is not done with us yet.

Thanks be to God for that!

Happy New Year!

*Pastor Chris*

PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION  
**THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER**



## Saving and Savoring God's World

New Year Blessings, Trinity Friends.  
2025. How the days and years turn!  
A new quarter century marked.  
Millennia in the making. God's world  
still being saved and savored.

I heard this great quote recently on a  
segment on purposeful aging:

"Every morning I awake torn between  
a desire to save the world and an  
inclination to savor it. This makes it  
hard to plan the day. But if we forget to  
savor the world, what possible reason  
do we have for saving it? In a way, the  
savoring must come first." – E.B. White

Coming out of the Christmas rush and  
busyness, I appreciate these words  
so much.

Inclination.

Torn.

Save and savor.

God is so inclined to join our flesh and  
blood, torn as we are to save and savor  
the world.

Having young kids, I also resonate  
with the sense of every morning being  
torn awake and the challenge of plan-  
ning each new day. Not always certain  
what will need saving or what will  
be savored.



In the segment mentioned above,  
they were reflecting on the different  
ways that we continue to grow and  
contribute beyond our careers, give  
and learn in community, regardless of  
our age or giftedness. Folks who stay  
curious in saving and savoring the  
world will never be without purpose.

Thankfully, there were no specific  
restrictions on who this wisdom  
applies to, nor does it really matter if  
we shift from the end of December to  
January at any given time.

I see this a lot in God's people at  
Trinity across the ages, joining in  
Lifelong Faith Formation through  
an amazing mix of savoring and  
saving the world at the inclination of  
God-with-us in Christ.

As I reflect and look ahead to this  
year, I pray that we might be chal-  
lenged and torn to find equal measure  
of saving and savoring together.

I sincerely doubt that we will lack for  
abundant opportunities in both.

Happy 2025,

*Pastor Peter*

### PLEASE *note*

The Church Office is closed and staff  
are out of the office Dec. 26 through  
Jan. 1. The building will be open for  
worship. For pastoral emergencies, call  
651-439-7400 and follow the prompts.

Faith Lab, Confirmation and Dinner  
Church are on Christmas break, all  
Wednesday evening programming  
resumes Wednesday, Jan. 8.



# Financial Update

## Nov. 2024 – Fiscal Year to Date

Submitted by Jill Longnecker | Treasurer

Long-Term Debt Summary:	November 2024	November 2023	12 Month
Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	1,922,708	2,655,486	Difference
Increase (Decrease) since beginning of FY	(41,475)	(142,157)	
Long-Term Debt Balance - Current Month	<u>\$ 1,881,233</u>	<u>\$ 2,513,329</u>	<u>\$ (632,096)</u>
Line of Credit Balance - Current Month	\$ 47,300	\$ 39,500	\$ 7,800

### FINANCIAL NOTES - NOVEMBER, 2024

At Trinity's Annual Meeting on November 17th, our congregation approved our budget for the fiscal year of September 2024-August 2025. The budget will continue our second of a three year plan that was designed going into the 23-24 fiscal year. Due to strong giving and good expense management, we were able to finish the 2024 fiscal year in an operating surplus. The approved 2024-2025 budget reflects an optimistic outlook for continuing the positive giving momentum we've built over the past year and also sets the expectation for expenses to stay relatively flat year over year.

As we go into the 2025 calendar year, reporting on our long term debt progress will continue to be reported on a quarterly basis. My role as the Treasurer, along with the Finance Team, will continue to review and monitor our budget progress and support the Parish Administrator and Council. Other projects for the Finance Team in the upcoming year will be to review and implement the constitution and bylaw updates related to the financial roles (also approved at Trinity's Annual Meeting), as well as the re-establishment of a committee to assist with oversight of the Trinity endowment funds.

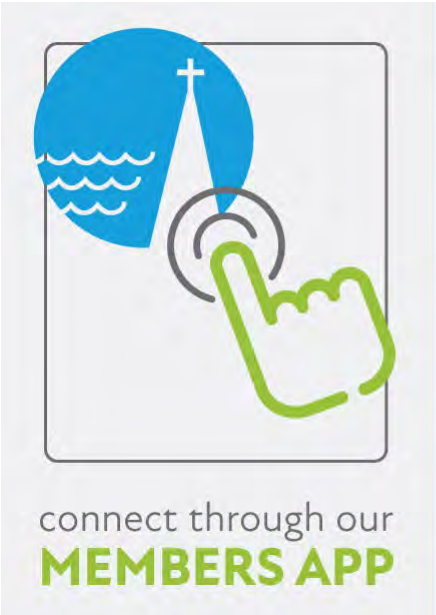
If you are interested in learning more about the Finance Team or have any general questions, please feel free to reach out to me at [jlongnecker@trinitylc.org](mailto:jlongnecker@trinitylc.org). Happy New Year!

**GET THE APP** – Visit: <https://shelby.ministryone.com/landing/7drB>  
This page has links to the Trinity app for both the App Store and Google Play. If you prefer, head to the App Store or Google Play, and search for: **TLStillwater** or **Trinity Lutheran Stillwater MN**. If you see a blue circle with our steeple (our logo), you've found it! Install the app (it's totally free). When installing, **allow notifications** to receive messages from us, such as weather-related changes to worship or events.

**GO TO PROFILE TO LOG IN** – Select the **Profile** feature and log in (to our secure member database with ShelbyNext) with your email address or cell phone number. A security code is required, choose to have it sent by email or text. You will get a notice if the email or cell phone entered is not affiliated with your account in our records. If you choose to **Edit Profile**, your saved changes will be submitted to Trinity for approval, this process takes a few days (the change is not instant). We will contact you if we have questions about any changes. Contact us at 651-439-7400 or [info@trinitylc.org](mailto:info@trinitylc.org) if you have difficulty logging in.

**THE PEOPLE FEATURE** – Once logged in, the **People** feature will be available. (You and all other users must be in Trinity's database to see this feature.) The following information is available in the app—only to those who are in Trinity's member directory: Name, Address, Phone, Email and Family Members. To propose changes to your information or visibility (opt-out), call the church office at 651-439-7400 or send an email to [info@trinitylc.org](mailto:info@trinitylc.org).

**EXPLORE THE APP** – Check out the features of the app, send us your questions at [info@trinitylc.org](mailto:info@trinitylc.org). Please note! For **Giving**, the **Give** tab is for your general giving and on Android this function is within the app; on Apple you will be taken out of the app and into Safari to give online. The **Donation** tab is for gifts outside of general giving. Easily view your past gifts under the **History** tab.



**Get info!** Check the calendar.

**Respond through giving!** Give online, view history of donations and manage recurring gifts.

**Get involved!** Sign up for events and to volunteer.

**Can't make it?** Watch worship live or anytime.

**Stay in touch!** Submit prayer requests and access our member directory.



# Financial Update

Sarah Kinsman | Parish Administrator

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" – 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Greetings Trinity!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** As we journey into this new year, I wanted to express my gratitude for your support of Trinity's ministries and missions in 2024. Anything accomplished through Trinity is largely due to your commitment to your faith - and your support and generosity. Thank you for living generously!

**STEWARDSHIP 2025.** As of mid-December, we are still on track to meet our \$1,330,000 annual giving goal for the 2025 stewardship campaign. Currently, we have 158 pledges totaling \$676,174 – and 35% of those pledges increased from 2024 to 2025 = + \$32,000.

**FINANCE.** As of November 2024, we are 25% through the budget year. As of the end of November, the balance on the Line of Credit is \$45,000. Following is a snapshot of our current income and expenses:

- 2024/25 FYTD Contributions were \$244,155 (18.5% of 2025 budget). 2023/24 Contributions as a comparison were \$288,310.
- 2024/25 FYTD Total Income—including Rent/Fees—was \$380,961 (23% of 2025 budget). 2023/24 Income as a comparison was \$472,138.
- 2024/25 FYTD Expenses were \$407,230 (24.5% of 2025 budget). 2023/24 Expenses as a comparison were \$402,612.

**MORTGAGE.** As of November 2024, our Thrivent mortgage balance was \$1,881,233—a reduction of \$41,475 which includes regular mortgage payments and principal only payments.

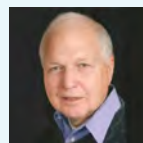
**2024 GIVING STATEMENTS.** 2024 Giving Statements will be going out via USPS the week of Jan. 20, 2025. Please review your statement carefully and if there are any discrepancies, please contact me via email at [skinsman@trinitylc.org](mailto:skinsman@trinitylc.org). Or call the Church Office at 651-439-7400. Thank you!

**THANK YOU** for all you do to continue to make Trinity a healthy, vital and viable community of faith!

## 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.

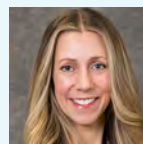
Our current congregational council includes the following Trinity members:



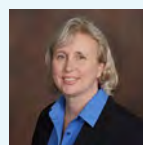
John Hodler  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Tina Swanson  
COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT



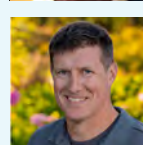
Kirsten Parker  
COUNCIL SECRETARY



Jill Longnecker  
COUNCIL TREASURER



Bill Bjorum  
COUNCIL MEMBER



Shane Brockshus  
COUNCIL MEMBER

Welcome to Shane Brockshus and Kirsten Parker who were elected to our Congregational Council at the annual meeting of the congregation on Nov. 17, 2024. Officers, as listed above, were appointed at a council meeting following the annual meeting. Thank you to Andrew Thelander for his service on council!

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

# Christmas Garden

## IN HONOR OF:

Sharon Longnecker \_\_\_\_\_ Gohdes Family

*We are so blessed to have Sharon in our lives! Our family loves ushering because of her!*

Our Children & Grandchildren \_\_\_\_\_ Roger Peterson Family

Our Family \_\_\_\_\_ Ken & SuzAnne Olson

Jack Nyenhuis \_\_\_\_\_ Gohdes Family

*We are so thankful to have Jack as an usher at Trinity! He inspires our family to get involved!*

## IN MEMORY OF:

Helmuth & Marcella Reinke; Bob & Irene Huber \_\_\_\_\_ John & Pat Reinke

Barbara E.G. Holthouse \_\_\_\_\_ Gary Holthouse

Tom; Leo & Ardell; Eileen \_\_\_\_\_ Charyl Junker

Doug Johnson \_\_\_\_\_ Doreen & Family

Ethan Alejandro Gutierrez \_\_\_\_\_ Emily, Steven, Matteo, Micah & Asher

Our Parents – Ed & Lois Studtman \_\_\_\_\_ Sally; Nancy & Family

Butch Schroeder Family – Bonny, James, Toby, Mom & Dad;

Arnold Steinmetz Family – Arnie, Van, Gerhardt, Kenneth \_\_\_\_\_ Donald & Sandi Steinmetz

Jenny Bernier \_\_\_\_\_ Bernier-Knoflicek Family

Ruth & Norman Hilleren; Lois & Arthur Edstrom \_\_\_\_\_ Julie & Dick Edstrom

Frankie, Evelyn, Nan & Darlene Peterson; Walter & Frances Schell \_\_\_\_\_ Roger Peterson Family

Nicholas Haase \_\_\_\_\_ Aaron, Melissa, Jackson & Audrey Haase

Connie Rome \_\_\_\_\_ Her Family – Dick, Stuart, Kelly & Amy

Reno & Marlene Carlson; Ralph & Sally French \_\_\_\_\_ John & Pat Reinke

Nick White \_\_\_\_\_ Eric & Lucinda White

# Outreach Missions Gift

## IN MEMORY OF:

Reno & Marlene Carlson; Ralph & Sally French \_\_\_\_\_ John & Pat Reinke

Skip Welke \_\_\_\_\_ Welke & Rogness Families

Harold Segelstrom \_\_\_\_\_ Marian

Don Lobitz; Tom & Esther Ammerman \_\_\_\_\_ Gayle Lobitz

Robert Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Darlene Parent

Carole Zempel & Nancy Kroening – Good Friends \_\_\_\_\_ Jeannie

Dick & Audrey Jeans \_\_\_\_\_ Randy Jeans

Helmuth & Marcella Reinke; Bob & Irene Huber \_\_\_\_\_ John & Pat Reinke

Nick White \_\_\_\_\_ Eric & Lucinda White

Jim Holcomb \_\_\_\_\_ Randy Jeans

## GIVEN BY:







## Celebrating Seniors

PHOTOS: Thank you Caring Friends for hosting our senior members for worship, lunch and entertainment on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at Trinity!



## worship TEXTS

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

Jan. 5 \_\_\_\_\_ **John 1:(1-9), 10-18**

Jan. 12 \_\_\_\_\_ **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

Jan. 19 \_\_\_\_\_ **John 2:1-11**

Jan. 26 \_\_\_\_\_ **Luke 4:14-21**







### **Men's Bible Study Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Boutwells Landing**

**Going on winter break!**

Pastor Steve Hokonson leads the men's Bible study which meets on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Skyview Conference Room located on the second floor of the Boutwells' main building located in Oak Park Heights. The group will meet on Thursday, Jan. 2, then will be on winter break and resuming on Feb. 27. Questions? Please contact John Hodler at [johnhodler@gmail.com](mailto:johnhodler@gmail.com).



The Light in Me sees and honors the Light in each of You

**YogaDevotion Chair/Flow Combo Class**  
**Thursdays 9 – 10 am | In-person and on Zoom**  
**Jan. 9 – Feb. 27 | \$88 for 8 classes**

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. Led by a trained yoga instructor, YogaDevotion is a practice of breath, prayer, and movement designed to encourage healthy living and a peaceful presence. For women and men of all skill levels and abilities. Beginners welcome!

If you have a guest, want to try a class or want to take fewer than a full session of classes, you can purchase one or more drop-in-tickets. Questions? Contact Sue Peterson at [toddinsue2@aol.com](mailto:toddinsue2@aol.com). Find more information and a link to register at: <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/care/yoga/>

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH **EARTH KEEPERs.**

Leave it BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT

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

Happy New Year! Here are New Year's Resolutions that you can turn into earth friendly habits. Let's resolve to take care of God's creation.

### **Washington County Food Scraps Program has expanded to curbside pickup**

The Washington County Food Scraps Program now offers curbside pickup! It's never been easier to eliminate food waste. Simply go to the website <https://foodscrapspickup.com/> or call 651-661-9393 to order your free compostable bags. All you have to do is place your food scraps in the bags, and put the bags in your garbage. It's THAT easy!

### **Manage your thermostat**

For every degree you turn your thermostat down in the winter, you will save 3% on your energy bill.\* Even though we predict you won't even notice it, how do you stay warm while doing this? Wear a sweater, sweatshirt, wool socks and stay cozy under a blanket. \*Source: DOE Energy Save website: [energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver](http://energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver)

### **Turn out lights in rooms not being used**

According to Energy Star®, the average home has 40 light bulbs. The cost to light your home accounts for about 20 percent of your electric bill, costing the average homeowner \$200 per year. When you're not in a room, turn out the lights and start saving money while you save electricity.

If you want more news on climate, here is a reminder of an excellent newsletter to sign up for. Katharine Hayhoe is a Christian Climate Scientist. Visit: <https://mailchi.mp/7369c9182283/talking-climate-now-in-your-inbox-10303526?e=a6cf65f636>

Questions about the Trinity Earth Keepers Team? Email Jill and Scott Kneeskern at [kdkdesign4@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:pwestonmiller@trinitylc.org) or Penny Catlin and [pccatlin@juno.com](mailto:pccatlin@juno.com). Read more at : <https://trinitylc.org/learning/adult/adult-ed/>

## Seeing & Knowing Others Through the Eyes of Jesus

### Tanzania Mission Trip Team Presentation

**Sunday, Jan. 5 | 10 am | River Room**

Join in a fun and fascinating presentation from our Tanzania trip participants as they share stories of their travels to Iringa, Mwatasi and Arusha. It's a great opportunity to get to know more about the people at our partner congregation in Mwatasi and across Tanzania.

### End-of-Life Decisions: What the ELCA Teaches

**Sunday, Jan. 12 | 10 am | River Room**

Dying is a universal, holy experience. Nearly everyone has a story about a "good" death or a "hard" death among those they love. The difference between these experiences rests in part on our understanding of our church's teachings on the end of our life. The ELCA published its Social Message on End of Life Decisions in 1992. Since then, much has changed in medical technology, in palliative care, and even the law on medical aid in dying. Come learn about and discuss these important issues and whether it's time for the ELCA to reconsider its Social Message on End of Life Decisions. Learn about one Trinity member's proposal to do so and offer your feedback.

Read the ELCA's current statement on End of Life Decisions (approved in 1992) at: <https://www.elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/social-messages/end-of-life-decisions>

Visit our website to download and read the Draft Memorial on End of Life Social Message at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/adult/adult-ed/>

### What Matters Most:

### Living and Dying with Dignity, Love and Compassion

**Sunday, Jan. 19 | 10 am | River Room**

We welcome the Rev. Kris Linner to continue the conversation of the humanity and holiness of living and dying. Young or old, we all have loved ones in the many stages of living and dying. What stories and connections matter most with our loved ones? What simple statements and connections can improve your life, heal relations and transform your understanding of dying with compassion? Kris Linner has a wealth of experience from working a total 37 years as a visitation pastor, in long-term care, and hospice.

### Stump the Pastors

**Sunday, Jan. 26 | 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.



## ABIDE READERS

NEXT BOOK DISCUSSION:

***The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy: And the Path to a Shared American Future* by Robert P. Jones**  
**Monday, Jan. 27, 6:30-8 pm via Zoom**

ABIDE Readers offers a great book to begin the new year. *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future* by Robert P. Jones, leading scholar and commentator on religion and politics, is very readable, relatable, and timely. It was written with a sense of urgency because "race and religion are absolutely at the heart of what is tearing this country apart."

I hope you can join us, Monday, Jan. 27, 6:30-8 p.m. on Zoom for an enlightening and hope-filled discussion led by Pastor Larry Johnson. For more information or the Zoom link, contact Ann Wolff at [wolff701@msn.com](mailto:wolff701@msn.com).

ABIDE Readers meets 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/>





PHOTOS: On Sunday, Dec. 15 the children of Trinity were thrilled to present the ancient story, retold in a new and fresh way: Station Good News. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it a special morning! All the children who participate in Wednesday evening Faith Lab had a hand in this creative expression which included weeks of fun preparation. Special thanks to Sarah Olson, Kristy Bjerk, Sheila-Marie Untiedt, Sara Wagner and Cindy Weckwerth.







PHOTOS: Thanks to everyone who participated in the "For Such a Time as This" retreat for women on Nov. 16 in Afton.





On Sunday, Dec. 8 the Outreach Missions Team had several tables with items on display of the some of the current ministries that we are sharing with others: Angel Tree, Tanzanian Scholarships Tree, Feed the World globe (buying formula for babies in the Stillwater area), a table of Tanzanian artifacts, a Swahili-English table, maps of Tanzania, Tiny Homes information and more! Thank you to everyone who stopped by to learn more, have a treat and the amazing response in giving. Trinity is a generous people!



Thank you for your gifts given to our Feed the World globe which is present at each Sunday worship service. Through these gifts we have purchased Enfamil formula to be distributed to families in need through Valley Outreach. We received \$325 in October and November and purchased the twelve containers shown in the photo above. Thank you for your generosity! Let's see how noisy we can make the offering each week as we continue to drop money into our globe.





# Trinity to participate in Jan. 23 PIT Stop Event

**What is the PIT Stop Event?** In conjunction with a federally-mandated annual "Point In Time" count of unhoused individuals and families, a special community event is scheduled at First Presbyterian Church – this year it will be Jan. 23. This event provides a variety of opportunities for those who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. In addition to a hot meal, visitors will be able to explore resources to help with housing, food, transportation, legal advice, mental health issues, vaccinations, winter clothing, hygiene kits, health insurance and much more. PIT Stop Events are held at Stillwater as well as Cottage Grove and Forest Lake at different times and places during the year.

**How is Trinity involved with the PIT Stop Event?** Trinity's Outreach Mission Team is supporting the event by contributing gas and food cards to be handed out, coordinating donations for winter clothing and menstrual hygiene items, as well as providing volunteers at the event.

**Can I contribute to the PIT Stop Event?** YES! Help is needed prior to Jan. 19:

- Cash to purchase food and gas gift cards or menstrual hygiene items (please make check payable to Trinity; memo: "PIT Stop." Place check in offering plate or mail to the Trinity church office. Trinity will purchase the cards and hygiene items and bring them to the event for distribution.)
- Winter clothing: Coats, hats, mittens, gloves, sweaters, socks (new or in good condition).
- Suitcases are also accepted (new or in good condition).
- Clothing and hygiene items can be placed in bins near the main entrance at Trinity (look for sign by elevator).
- NOTE: All donations will be accepted through Jan. 19, 2025.

**Can I help with the PIT Stop Event?** YES! Help is needed for the following:

- Volunteers are needed to collect, transport, display and distribute clothing and hygiene items at the event at First Presbyterian Church on Jan. 23.
- Volunteer callers are needed to make phone calls to collect data from homeless individuals for the PIT Count. Contact information and training will be provided.

**Who can I contact if I want to volunteer to help for the PIT Stop Event?**  
**Who can I contact if I have other questions about the PIT Stop Event?**

Jeff Anderson: jeffa409@gmail.com  
Marie Liberda: mbvgro@gmail.com





## LEARNING TOGETHER 101: **Days of LGBTQIA+ Remembrance**

Karen Gieseke (she/her) | RIC Team Chair

A common ritual in the month of January is a new calendar. The diversity of calendars in 2025 includes both paper and electronic versions. Some of us prefer one over the other, while others use both options, as we all hope to remember events of importance unique to us. We fill calendars with dates that matter to us. We often categorize dates, with some labeled required or practical dates, such as appointments and meetings, while other dates are celebratory like birthdays and holidays. Other dates are light-hearted and a more recent addition to calendars, such days to celebrate pets (National Cat Day—Oct. 29), specific foods (National Pickle Day—Nov. 14), or a beloved activity (National Picnic Day—April 23).

Some dates we choose to include under the category of *remembrance*, reminding us of an important event, person, or life experience. These may be personal to each of us, or they may be marked on the calendar as an opportunity for both individuals and communities to remember together a specific event, person or people, or concern in the world.

As I continue my learning as an ally of my LGBTQIA+ siblings, I am seeking opportunities to show support and solidarity for these beloved children of God on the days marked to remember their unique journey. Far too often I find myself learning about an LGBTQIA+ day of remembrance *after* it has taken place. In 2025, I am committing to learning in advance what days the LGBTQIA+ community is remembering, so I can show my support in whatever way deemed appropriate. One example of what this will look like in 2025 is Spirit Day on Oct. 16, a day to take a stand against bullying, especially bullying aimed against LGBTQIA+ youth. To show your solidarity and support, you are invited to wear purple. Read more at: <https://glaad.org/spiritday/facts/>

I can do that. I can wear purple as one action to show my support and care for my LGBTQIA+ siblings created in God's image. Will you join me? And if someone asks why we are wearing purple on Oct. 16, we can tell the story of remembering our LGBTQIA+ youth who are bullied. We can invite others, too, to join us in wearing purple, and thinking together what else we can do as Jesus followers, to love and live the way Jesus did.

In my quest to update my 2025 calendar with remembrance days linked to our LGBTQIA+ siblings, I discovered the GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) LGBTQ Community calendar, which lists a variety of days and the various ways to support our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Read more at: <https://glaad.org/reference/calendar/>. The GLAAD organization and website is a trusted source, containing current articles and information to support our learning, advocacy, and allyship efforts.

As we record and remember our varied life stories in our 2025 personal calendars, may we also choose to remember the life stories of our beloved LGBTQIA+ siblings, on the designated days of remembrance.





## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

### Sunday, Nov. 24

In-person Trinity 9 am	209
Live online views 9 am	94
Online views/week 9 am	144
In-person Trinity 11 am	98
Live online views 11 am	14
Online views/week 11 am	41

### Sunday, Dec. 1

In-person Trinity 9 am	190
Live online views 9 am	75
Online views/week 9 am	118
In-person Trinity 11 am	128
Live online views 11 am	25
Online views/week 11 am	66

### Sunday, Dec. 8

In-person Trinity 9 am	221
Live online views 9 am	84
Online views/week 9 am	137
In-person Trinity 11 am	103
Live online views 11 am	33
Online views/week 11 am	52

### Longest Night:

In-person Trinity 5 pm approx.	20
Live online views 5 pm	15
Online views/week 5 pm	37

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

## BAPTISMS

- **Grace Marie Adamson**, child of Justin & Mackenzie Adamson
- **Savannah Claire Birkeland**, child of Jory & Molly Birkeland

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To family and friends of **Donna Dielentheis**

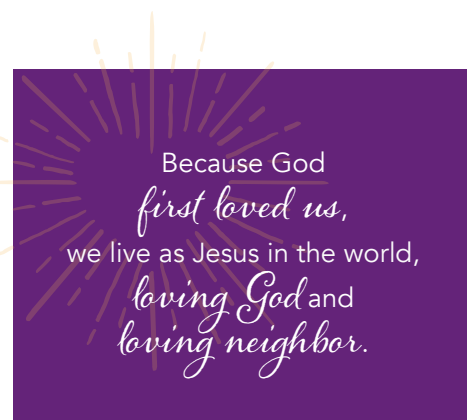
## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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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[www.trinitylc.org](http://www.trinitylc.org) (click NEWS)

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## Mid-Winter Intergenerational Retreat at Camp Wapo

Jan. 24-25, 2025

*Rest, play, devotions  
for all ages and stages!*



## Mid-Winter Intergenerational Retreat at Camp Wapo Jan. 24-25, 2025

Beat the doldrums of winter and take a 24-hour break from the routines of life at home by retreating together either as a family, a couple, or on your own at Camp Wapo, located in beautiful Amery, Wisconsin. We'll rest, play, and have time for devotion together. This retreat is for all ages and stages! From babies to grandparents, everyone is welcome! This retreat is led by Trinity staffers, Sarah Olson and Zanny Johnson.

Families meet at Camp Wapo at 5 p.m. the evening of Friday, Jan. 24 before dinner and retreat activities conclude by 3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 25. Please watch your email inbox the week leading up to the retreat for a more detailed itinerary.

To register, scan the QR code with your smartphone camera or visit the direct link at:  
<https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbnextchms.com/external/form/ab2e1c7b-9f61-42d0-8dda-e16e2fdfdb04>

Please register by Friday, Jan. 17.

