

TRINITY TODAY!

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



Letter from the Pastor Page 2
Advent/Christmas Photos Page 9
MLK Breakfast Back Page



INTERIM PASTOR JEN HACKBARTH

Dear Friends in Christ,

Transition Team Update

The Transition Team is working as quickly as we can (we've been meeting almost every week since October) and we are making great progress!

Thank you to those of you who filled out the congregational survey, participated in the adult forum on 12/7, attended a listening session, and met with Transition Team members. The Transition Team has been hard at work listening to your input about Trinity's strengths, where it can improve, and what your hopes are for Trinity's future. We so appreciate your thoughtful engagement in this process, as it helps us to learn what Trinity is looking for in its next pastoral leader.

The Transition Team's ultimate priority is to write the Ministry Site Profile for Trinity, a detailed document about the congregation that a pastoral candidate would use to discern their calling to interview for the pastoral position at Trinity. After the Ministry Site Profile is completed, the Trinity council will appoint the Call Committee, who can hit the ground running.

Our current task is to gather information from as many people connected to Trinity as possible through a congregational survey, forums, listening sessions, and individual conversations with the Transition Team. We're prioritizing listening to a variety of people—including (but not limited to) people of all ages, long-term and short-term members, people who are very connected to Trinity, people who haven't been as connected with Trinity in recent years, and people who are here in person as well as those who engage online.

This listening process serves two purposes: it gives the Transition Team current information from the congregation to include in the Ministry Site Profile, and it serves as a way for congregation members and friends to connect with one another, feel heard, and participate in the process. Once the new pastor is in place, the congregation will have ownership over the decision to call that pastor, and the congregation will feel connected and excited for new leadership.

In January, the Transition Team will also review current demographic information about Trinity's neighborhood and its connections with the community. After that is completed, the Transition Team will fill out the specifics of the Ministry Site Profile—what characteristics and gifts the next pastoral leader will need to possess to walk with Trinity into its future. Many of you have already shared your thoughts about this with us—thank you! As they move through the process, the Transition Team will decide if more detailed information needs to be gathered from the congregation, or if our initial listening sessions completed that task.

Since Trinity has come through a time of steady leadership over the past few years and has done a lot of wonderful work on its mission and vision, I estimate that

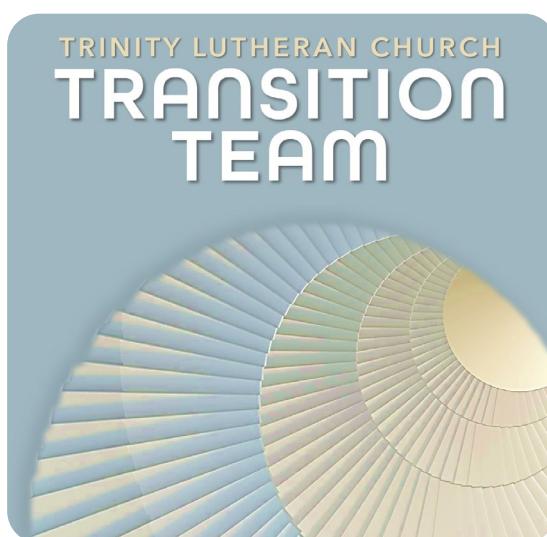
the Transition Team's work will only affirm the direction that Trinity is already taking. We are not starting from square one, but from a great foundation. Thank you for your patience with the process and for sharing your hearts with us.

Interim Pastor Jen and **Trinity's Transition Team**

Penny Catlin and Gary Cross,
Co-Chairs

Dick Edstrom, Sabrina Fay, Keith Rediske, Kris Torma, Ann Wolff

Please see Trinity's website for current information about the Transition Team!



*Interim Pastor
Jen Hackborth*

PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



Hope and Bravery in 2026

Happy New Year and Merry Christmas, Friends! I hope and pray that you have had a chance to savor the gift of Christmas again and the promise of God-with-us in Jesus. Born for you and me and for the world. To soak into your heart the depth of this Good News of great joy.

Despite all that is going on in the world, the personal and public griefs that we bear, Christmas reminds us that EVERYONE is cherished and Beloved of God. No exceptions. Fear is not the way. We are wired to be known in our souls. God bravely invites and courageously risks a new way of peace in the human family through sacrificial incarnate love. It's beyond amazing.

God's love poured out in the Christ child.

Which he calls us to sing. Calls us to speak. Calls us to dance and build community that is shaped by hope and brave love.

This is true in 2026 as it was in 2025 (and always has been), even as we turn the page to this new calendar. It's the message that moves us and animates our Christian faith anew every day.

Everyone is Beloved of God is the message that I need to hear in the Gospel over and over again, even as we stand at a point of loud voices and violent attacks on our immigrant and refugee neighbors.

I am grateful for the Trinity community embodying the message of Christmas and so many of my siblings and colleagues and community members who are challenging this rhetoric in Minnesota, in our nation, and also hyper locally. I heard it expressed beautifully and tangibly in

policy from Stillwater's Human Rights Commission. Fear is not our way forward. Love is. Clear and present love.

I also keep coming back to the brave words of Bishop Mariann Edga Budde (My Person of the Year) who told us almost a year ago as a Christian prophet in the Episcopal tradition:

"I ask you to have mercy"

"I ask you to have mercy"

Mercy is not weakness. It holds the power and mystery of God's hope and love. Mercy holds the power to connect us and what makes us human.

Mercy is Jesus enfleshed.

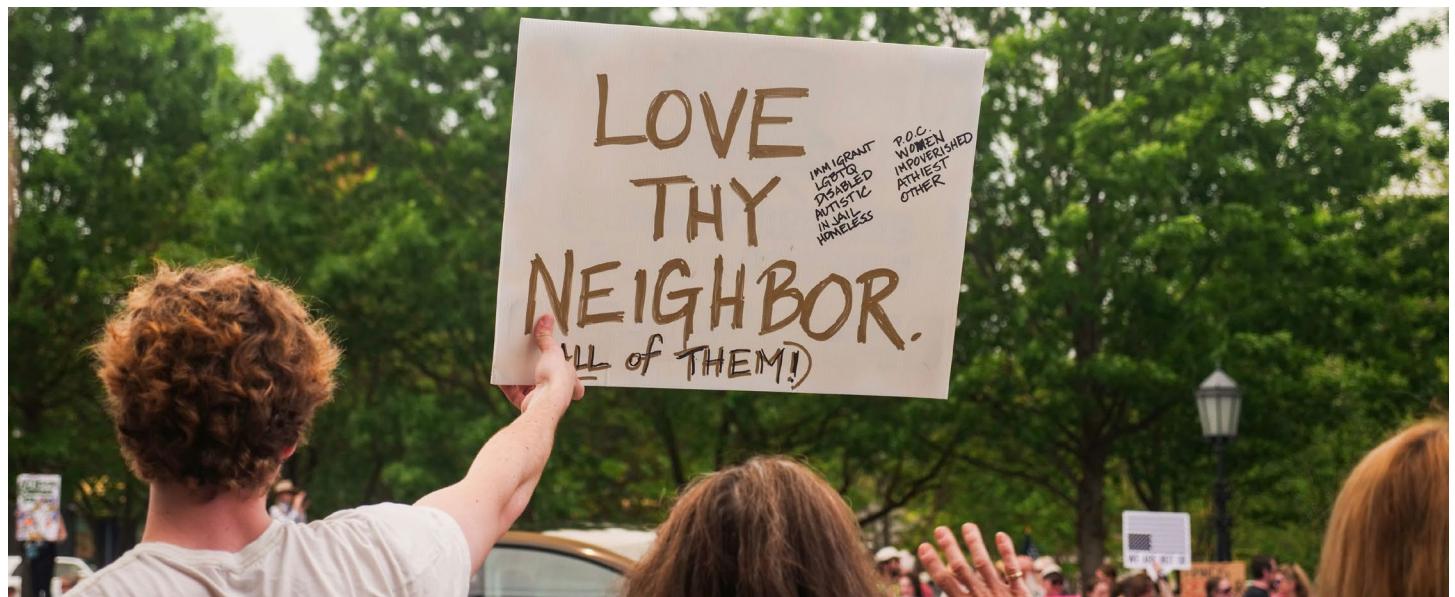
Bishop Budde reminded us too that courage and hope and bravery are contagious. When we see others dare to speak truth, extend kindness, stand up for the vulnerable, share their grief or pain or what they need, even simply taking the next faithful step, it gives us permission to do the same. It is the greatest power that we hold both for ourselves and for building Beloved Community.

So be brave, friends. Even when it is complicated. Even when you might not think you have all the right words. Trust your heart. Trust this community. Trust God.

Together, our faith can be a powerful source of hope, resistance, and courage that shapes the year ahead.

In Christ's Hope and Bravery,

Peter Weston Miller



Giving Summary

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus." – 1 Cor 1:4

Happy New Year, Trinity! As we continue to celebrate this beautiful season of light, joy, and hope, I am filled with gratitude for your faithfulness and generosity throughout the year. In 2025, we shared moments of celebration, faced challenges, and experienced growth – always rooted in the love of Christ. Looking back, we can see countless ways God has blessed us and guided us through every season. Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's embrace this new year together with hearts full of faith, gratitude, and expectation for all that God will do in and through us!

2025 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: **Total Pledged:** \$1,032,125. **Total Given:** \$1,034,280 (as of 12/10/2025). 100% has been given of the pledged amount.

FINANCE. This year, the traditional "summer slump" continued a bit into the Fall which did impact cash flow. Again, weekly giving/envelopes continue to become a far less common giving option. The online giving option continues to grow – as does annual gifting from an IRA or charitable fund – with most of those gifts arriving in January, February and March. To illustrate this – I am including the breakdown of 2025 pledges:

- Weekly: 35 pledges = \$130,252.
- Monthly: 181 pledges = \$523,973.
- Annually: 58 pledges = \$309,542.
- Other: 12 pledges = \$67,458.

2025/2026 FYTD INCOME VS EXPENSE.

- 2025/2026 YTD General Contributions through November were \$257,788 (77.5% of Budget). 2025 YTD Giving was \$244,155.
- 2025/2026 YTD Total Income through November – minus Missions- was \$375,556 (91.6% of Budget/\$49,431 from Endowment). 2025 YTD Income was \$375,050.
- 2025/2026 YTD Expenses through November – minus Missions – were \$432,627 (105% of budget). 2024 Expenses were \$420,699.
- As of 12/1/25, the **FSB Line of Credit balance was \$0.**

2026 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE. As of December 10, we have received 160 pledges totaling \$734,784 – and 78 increased their pledge for an increase of \$111,450. We are so grateful for your generosity!

2025 COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN UPDATE.

- **Total Pledged:** \$1,853,458. **Given to Date to Pledge:** \$1,683,220. (91% received). **Total Contributed** (all): \$1,755,594.

MORTGAGE. As of 12/1/25 the Thrivent mortgage balance was **\$1,584,550.**

2025 GIVING STATEMENTS. **2025 YTD Giving Statements will be going out via mail in the third week of January.** Please review your statement carefully and if there are any discrepancies, please contact me by phone at the church office or via email at skinsman@trinitylc.org. Thank you!

Again, thank you for all you do to continue to make Trinity a healthy, vital, and viable community of faith! Your commitment allows Trinity to be a place where the Gospel is lived out daily – in worship, in outreach, and in the quiet acts of kindness that often go unseen.

Sarah Kinsman, Parish Administrator

Trinity Financial Update: January 2026

Long-Term Debt Summary:	Nov 2025	Nov 2024	12 Month Difference
Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	1,922,708	2,655,486	
Increase (Decrease) since beginning of FY	(338,158)	(774,266)	
Long-Term Debt Balance - Current Month	\$ 1,584,550	\$ 1,881,220	(296,670)
Line of Credit Balance - Current Month	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

FINANCIAL NOTES

Happy New Year! It is always great to continue sharing good news. It feels the mortgage continues to shrink at an amazing pace. Every single gift and contribution makes a difference. Our collective efforts have strengthened the church's financial foundation, ensuring a more secure and sustainable future for generations to come. The significant reduction in our mortgage, along with the resulting potential to allocate funds toward other meaningful ministries, is steadily becoming a reality!

*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.

Submitted by Jill Longnecker, Treasurer

Lifelong Faith Formation

Faith Lab is on J-term this January

This January, we're trying something new! Instead of offering our faith milestone events as separate, one-off gatherings, we're creating a short J-term pause within our regular Faith Lab schedule. By holding these experiences during a time already set aside for faith formation, we hope to better support family rhythms while giving these important moments their time to shine!

Faith milestones help children and families experience God's love in memorable, meaningful ways—part of our shared journey of learning, blessing, and belonging.

During J-term, we'll create sacred space for:

Baptism Birthday Party

Celebrating our identity as God's beloved—named and claimed.

Wed, Jan 7 at 5:20 pm in the Chapel

All ages welcome; geared toward ages 3 & under. Youth helpers needed.

Register by Jan 2: <https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/16b0d66c-5e65-4c4d-9b29-c3523c4447df>

Bible Discovery

Exploring fun and engaging ways to interact with the full NRSV Bible.

Wed, Jan 14 at 5:20 pm in the Chapel

All ages welcome; geared for readers ready for a full NRSV Bible.

Register at: [link coming soon]

Worship Orientation

Learning the rhythms and meaning of lifelong worship.

Wed, Jan 21 at 5:20 pm in the Chapel

All ages welcome; geared toward ages 3 & under. Youth helpers needed.

Register at: [link coming soon]

Communion Preparation

Deepening our understanding of Holy Communion's mystery and history.

Wed, Jan 28, immediately after Dinner Church in the River Room

All ages welcome; geared for grades 1–3. Register at: [link coming soon] Parents/Caregivers should attend their child's milestone session with them. Please note: If your child is not participating (as a helper or participant) on any given J-term Wednesday, they may skip Faith Lab that night—Dinner Church and FAFA will continue as usual.

Registration open for the Mid-Winter Intergenerational Retreat

Grace is the gift that keeps on giving—even after Christmas morning! Join the Trinity CYF team and Zanny Johnson for our "Grace Escape" retreat at the end of the month. Step away from the routines of home and retreat together—whether as a family, a couple, or on your own—at Camp Wapo in beautiful Amery, Wisconsin.

We'll rest, play, and share time in devotion together. This retreat is for all ages and stages—from babies to grandparents, everyone is welcome! Registration opens at the beginning of January.

Dates & Schedule

- Arrival: Friday, Jan. 23, 2025, in time for dinner at 6:00 pm
- Conclusion: Sunday, Jan. 25, 2025, late morning
- Watch your inbox the week before for a detailed itinerary.

Cost

- Trinity Fee: \$25 per family (to help cover retreat supplies)
- Camp Wapo Fees:
- Adults (18+): \$100/person
- Children & Youth (3–17): \$65
- Family Max: \$325

Take a break, enjoy God's creation, and grow in faith and fellowship together!

Register: <https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/939ab5d2-b034-457b-a397-625ec3349136>

Registration for Camp Wapo Summer 2026 Opens January 15



Inspired by Matthew 19:26 – "With God all things are possible," the theme at Camp Wapo this summer is Wonder.

Campers will explore both meanings of wonder: questioning and awe by spending a week full of curiosity, questions, and the wide-open mystery of God's love. From "What if?" to "Here I am!" they'll discover that every question is a doorway to deeper trust, transformation, and relationship with God.

Start imagining the adventure now—summer at Camp Wapo is where faith, fun, and wonder meet!

Trinity's Wapo dates:

Seeds Weekend for completed grades 1–3 — June 19–21, 2026

Weeklong Youth Camp & Roots for completed grades 4 and up — June 21–26, 2026

Register at <https://lwbc.com/trinity-stillwater>

Winter FAFA Dates

Mark your calendars! FAFA will gather on Wednesdays in January: 7, 14, 21, and 28, and February 4, following Dinner Church. Please note that Wednesday, February 4 will be an Open Gym night.

Details are under wraps, but the next FAFA session promises curiosity, creativity, and caring connections—stay tuned!

MID-WINTER
Intergenerational Retreat
AT CAMP WAPO

JANUARY 23-25, 2026
Rest, play, devotions for all ages and stages!

WE ARE A GRATEFUL PEOPLE

2026 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: "WE ARE A GRATEFUL PEOPLE."

I scream, you scream, we all scream for....pie. Who doesn't love pie? Apple, Pecan, Pumpkin, French Silk, Banana Cream, Key lime— what is your favorite?. No matter the flavor, pie is something we enjoy together. It's baked and sliced up so that everyone can share. Pie is something that brings people to the table and brings us together. Maybe that sort of pie is not your favorite? What about pi? 3.14159265358979323846264338327 95028841971. This type of pi measures circles allowing us to find the area and circumference. It is constant, dependable, and never-ending.

If neither of those hit the mark, what about your stewardship pie? Each of us has a pie of our own that represents everything God has given us: our time, our talents, our treasures. Stewardship is just a matter of how we choose to divide up that pie. When we give a slice of our time to serve others, when we use our talents to lift someone's spirit, when we share our resources to support the ministry —we're offering a piece of our stewardship pie back to God. Just like a homemade pie, it often takes effort and great care, but must be shared. And just like mathematical pi, although challenging work at times, the results are infinite.

For those who already have donated their time, talents, and treasures to the stewardship campaign, thank you. For those who have even considered, thank you. One small piece of your pie goes a long way towards the ministry we share. We are so grateful for your generosity! Let's move into the coming year with hearts full of thanks, ready to grow, give, and serve!

This Stewardship season, let's all offer our own slice with gratitude, so that together we can share a stewardship pie big enough to nourish our whole community. After all, who doesn't like pie?

Thank you for all you do for each other, We are a grateful people.

Noah Schumacher

IN MEMORY OF:

Gail; Dale; Leo & Ardell; Eileen; Thomas; Ann J.
Donald Steinmetz & Children
Our Parents -- Ed & Lois Stutdtman
Ethan Alejandro Gutierrez
Our Dad
Jan Bruce; Dennis Gannon
Kathy Felsch
Barbara E.G. Holthouse
Irene & Elaine
Lois & Arthur Edstrom; Ruth & Norman Hilleren
Helmuth & Marcella Reinke; Bob & Irene Huber
Kathy Felsch
Nicholas G. Haase
Susan Langness
Reno & Marlene Carlson; Ralph & Sally French
Our Parents--Harold & Margaret Straka & Bob & Dorothy Hakenholz
Frankie, Evelyn, Nan & Darlene Peterson; Walter & Frances Schell
Dave & Dorothy Parkhurst
Lowell (Fritz) & Marilyn Schmoekel

IN HONOR OF:

Our Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren
Our Family
Ann Wolff
Vern & Jane Ryt; Sandy Cedergren

BUILDING FUND

Dick & Audrey Jeans – Dad & Mom
Reno & Marlene Carlson; Ralph & Sally French
Harold Segelstrom
Carole Zempel & Nancy Kroening
Helmuth & Marcella Reinke; Bob & Irene Huber
Kathy Felsch
Steve Wolff; Dave, Dorothy & Steve Parkhurst
Nicholas G. Haase
Susan Langness
Our Parents--Harold & Margaret Straka & Bob & Dorothy Hakenholz
Jim Holcomb

GIVEN BY:

Charyl Junker
Sandi Steinmetz
Sally; Nancy & Family
Emily, Steven, Matteo, Micah & Asher
Doug, Brad, Tom
Ghodes Family
Chris & Debbie Felsch
Gary Holthouse
Randy Jeans
Julie & Dick Edstrom
John & Pat Reinke
Felsch Family
Aaron, Melissa, Jackson & Audrey Haase
Wayne Langness & Family
John & Pat Reinke
Bill & Carol Straka
Roger Peterson Family
Bradley, Lesley & Kingsley Wolff
Sandra Schmoekel

GIVEN BY:

Roger Peterson Family
Ken & SuzAnne Olson
Bradley, Lesley & Kingsley Wolff
Sue Peterson

Randy Jeans
John & Pat Reinke
Marian
Jeannie
John & Pat Reinke
Felsch Family
Ann Wolff
Aaron, Melissa, Jackson & Audrey Haase
Wayne Langness & Family
Bill & Carol Straka
Randy Jeans

Christmas Garden



Lifelong Faith Formation



Dinner Church & Wednesday Learning

Join us for Dinner Church, a community meal and worship service for everyone—families, singles, couples, and friends. Connect with the Body of Christ every Wednesday evening in the River Room. The night is a full schedule of faith and fellowship for all ages:

4:30–5:15 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal (Kindergarten –Middle School) – Choir Room

5:20–6 p.m. Children's Faith Lab (Faith Formation for Ages 4–Grade 5) – Chapel

5:30 p.m. Community Meal Service Begins – River Room (Families with children in Faith Lab and staying for Dinner Church should grab food for the whole family during this time.)

6:15–6:45 p.m. Dinner Church (eat together, worship together) – River Room

6:45–7:45 p.m. Break into Small Groups:

- Middle School Confirmation (Grades 6–8)
- Adult Faith Lab

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



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 !



January 4. What Does Worship Mean to You?

With worship director, Clark Weyrauch and the Transition Team. Engaging worship is one of Trinity's Core values. As we go through our congregation's transition process it is important to hear from you, to learn what engaging worship means for you, and to imagine what may be possible and dreamed of for the Trinity Community and our neighbors. Clark will lead this important discussion as we discern our future direction in worship and its connections to calling a new lead pastor.

January 11. Lessons from the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre –

presented by Gary Cross, Trinity Racial Justice Ministry Team. We honor Martin Luther King Jr. this year on January 19 and will celebrate Black History Month in February. As part of the continued work of reconciliation Gary Cross will help us examine the infamous Tulsa race massacre in some detail and the Duluth lynchings. It has been common for the dominant group or race in a culture to use force to control others. At times that force has become violent, often out of control. We will look at how lynchings and sometimes race riots have been the result. Even though these events occurred a century ago, there are many lessons to be learned from them. It is important for us to recognize the seeds that led to events like Tulsa continue to exist today and what we must do about them.



January 18 & 25 Guilt, Shame, and Getting Free

with Rev. Emmy Kegler. A core belief of Christian faith is our need for salvation; in Lutheran terms, we might say "we are bound to sin and cannot free ourselves." Take a quick look at the headlines, our social media, or even in the mirror and we know we've fallen short of where we

-- and God -- wish we were. But what

happens if our guilt turns into an inescapable self-hatred? How do we keep our human desire to do better from telling ourselves we'll never be good enough for anything? Join renowned author, speaker, and pastor, Emmy Kegler, for two Sunday Forums on faith, guilt, shame, repentance, and repair. On January 18, we'll review theological, psychological, and sociological concepts of guilt and shame, from Augustine of Hippo to Brene Brown. On January 25, we'll explore prayers and practices that help keep us accountable without making us afraid to act. Attendance on 1/25 doesn't require attending 1/18 first.

Worship & Music



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 a.m. Worship—Gathering in the Worship Center and led by choirs, organ and instrumentalists. Here you will participate with robed clergy and worship leaders. You will sing hymns, songs, liturgy and psalms from a worship book and hear a message relevant to our lives today.

11 a.m. Worship—Gathering in the Worship Center and led by a band incorporating a wide variety of contemporary worship music. The congregation engages in a time of praise and worship following the historic pattern of Lutheran worship (Gathering, Word, Message, Meal, and Sending.)



Online Options For Worship

Both services will be available online and livestream from our Worship Center at Trinity. Find worship online on our website at: <https://www.trinitylc.org/online-worship> and livestream on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/trinitylcstillwater/>



Christmas Concert!

Jan 4 – Epiphany Sunday—Matthew 2:1-12
Jan 11 – Matthew 3:13-17
Jan 18 – John 1:29-42
Jan 25 – Matthew 4:12-23



Christmas Program.



Missions and Devotions

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

Dear Trinity community,

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

Start 2026 by going on a Consumption Diet.

The start of the year is a great time to go on a consumption diet. Try a [Low Spend January](#) and give your mind and wallet a break from consumption. The only rule is to buy only what is truly necessary. For example, buy groceries, but don't dine out. Spend time with family and friends cooking meals instead. Save those leftovers for lunch at work or weekday dinners and also make sure to compost the food scraps.

Join the Washington County Food Scraps Program-It's FREE to Join!

Food scraps account for [24% of solid waste in landfills](#). Put them to good use and compost them! Go to washingtoncountymn.gov/2969/Food-Scraps-Collection and sign up. The bags come to you for free (if you need a container, that's free too! Just go pick one up). All you need to do is put your food scraps in the bags and place the bag in your garbage each week. It's THAT easy!

Community Charging at Trinity Lutheran Church (CC at TLC)-Check out the EV Charging Station Project.

We're driving sustainability and a Green Stillwater forward by installing the first public use EV chargers in downtown Stillwater-creating an oasis in downtown Stillwater's charging desert and inviting our community and visitors to power up with us!

- Cleaner air (zero harmful emissions)
- Increased foot traffic to downtown businesses, leading to increased economic growth for Stillwater's small business community
- Enhanced brand image for Stillwater
- A public station for your use when you get your EV!

Check out details of the [project](#) on TLC's website by going to the Earth Keepers page under the 'Get Involved' tab. Consider a [donation](#) to the project to help us continue our efforts of promoting a strong local economy and a cleaner and sustainable environment.



Join Trinity

Interested in becoming a member of Trinity?
We would love to have you!

Please scan the QR code to fill out a membership form. Zanny Johnson,

Connections Coordinator, will follow up with more details about the upcoming membership classes. For your convenience, the classes will be held on the same day you attend worship: the Wednesday class will be immediately after Dinner Church, and the Sunday class will be between services at 10 a.m.

Men's Bible Study

Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.

Boutwells Landing, Skyview Conference Room

Studying of the Parables of Jesus.

- 3 weeks on the Parables of the Kingdom
- 3 weeks on the Parables of Grace
- 3 weeks on the Parables of Judgement

Jesus told parables because he wants YOU to figure it out! He and we want to know what YOU think. Come and help figure it out!

Mental Health Matters

As we head in to winter it is nice that NAMI, MN offers mental health classes that are easy to access via zoom and or as informational clips.

Education and public awareness play an integral role in NAMI Minnesota's mission to improve the lives of children and adults with mental illnesses and their families through changing public attitudes associated with mental illness. NAMI Minnesota offers over 30 different classes and provides vital information about mental illnesses, treatment, and resources through publications, presentations, and newsletters.

"Lunch Box Talks" are offered on the first Wednesday of the month, from 12:30-1:00 pm January through June. You can listen in from home or the office during your lunch break.

Check out the following [NAMIMN.org](https://namimn.org) website link.

Have you ever wished that someone would give you one solid skill that you could use with your child right now? Well, here it is. Join us for a 30 minute conversation that will focus on one practical skill each month for parents and caregivers that can change the trajectory of your relationship with your child. Included in your time with us, you will receive a brief introduction to the skill, be offered hands-on practice, and be provided resources to support you.

<https://namimn.org/education-and-public-awareness/classes/>
<https://namimn.org/education-and-public-awareness-classes-all-scheduled-classes/#:~:text=Wed%2C%20Jan%20,Zoom%20registration%20link>

CLOTHING DRIVE FOR THE JANUARY 29, 2026 PIT EVENT.

DO YOU HAVE EXTRA WINTER APPAREL THAT YOU NO LONGER WEAR? THE NEED IS GREAT IN STILLWATER.

This event helps those who are dealing with house insecurity and may need services.

Collection will begin now and go until January 26. Please bring your donated clothing to Trinity Lutheran and place next to the green Valley Outreach bin near the elevator.

Clothing will be made available on January 29 to those who attend. We will collect all age clothing and will distribute the clothes not taken to EHSB (for adults) or Refugees (adults and children) or Valley Outreach.

Donate Winter Clothing like...

- coats
- gloves
- mittens
- scarves
- shoes
- boots
- sweaters
- long sleeve shirts
- heavy socks sweatshirts

All will be distributed at the Winter PIT event on January 29 at First Presbyterian Church.





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









Trinity Library News!

Please take a minute to come to the library when you are at the church. We are on the lower level across from the River Room, just to the right as you go down the stairs. We really have a wonderful collection books for all ages and interests. We are working on access to the Trinity library catalog of holdings from your computer, mobile phone or tablet. This will provide ONLY the catalog of books, we are unable to offer checkout at this time virtually.

The Link is <https://opac.libraryworld.com>, the patron (YOU) then signs in to Trinity Lutheran, no need for password. This will only provide access to the catalog, you can't check out materials, that must be done in person.

I also want to highlight the Project Gutenberg website. This is a collection of 75,000 free epub and Kindle ebooks. You are able to download or read online. The website is www.gutenberg.org

Happy Reading in this new year of 2026!!!!

-Sue Swanson

Art for Sale!

Trinity member Elaine Fredrickson art for sale, generously donated by her daughters. All proceeds going to support Trinity's music and fine arts. Artwork may be purchased during office hours. Contact Linda Flood at lflood@trinitylc.org



Let's Go Events!

Watercolor 101 Workshop with Molly Birkeland

Thursday, January 8, 6-7 pm, River Room

Learn the basics of watercolor in our Watercolor 101 workshop. All supplies are included--just bring yourself and your imagination! To join, RSVP to Sandy Weber at stillweber@hotmail.com



Accountability Belonging Inclusion Diversity Equity

Accountability Belonging Inclusion Diversity Equity

Diversity is God's creation. Equity is God's justice. Inclusion is God's family. ~ Bishop Talbert Swan. Join ABIDE Readers for a discussion of Black AF History: The Un-whitewashed Story of America by Michael Harriot. The impacts of systemic racism on the Black community are manifold, but Harriot's focus on Black resilience and creativity in the face of oppression is a hopeful take on troubled American history. Read more at <https://www.supersummary.com/black-af-history>

The book is available with a 15% discount at Valley Bookseller, on the ABIDE Bookshelf in the Narthex, 973.04 HARR, and at local libraries. We hope you can join us Monday, Jan 26, 6:30-8:00pm via Zoom. For the link, contact wolff701@msn.com

Pride Justice

A New Year! And New Learning Opportunities Together 101!

Karen Gieseke (she/her) Pride Justice Chair

We are a church that is deeply rooted – and always being made new. Congregational renewal is a biblical journey in which ELCA congregations deepen their understanding of the word of God, expand their practice of the word in the world, and are inspired to share with others the beauty of the word. <https://www.elca.org/our-work/congregations-and-synods/renewing-congregations>

Always being made new! A New Year is a great time to commit to learning something new. The action of turning the calendar page signifies something new is about to happen! Pulling up a whole new calendar is doubly exciting as both a new month and year begin!

The Pride Justice Team enthusiastically invites YOU to multiple NEW learning opportunities in the New Year and invites you to reserve these event dates on your 2026 calendar!

The Learning events have varied topics, styles, facilitators, and locations.

Book Discussion: Becoming Nicole-The Transformation of an American Family

Four Weeks-Two options to join the discussion:

- Wednesday Faith Lab: Jan 21, 28, Feb 4, & 11, 6:45-7:45pm/ facilitator Pr Jen Hackbart OR
- ZOOM: Jan 20, 27, Feb 3 & 10, 6:30-7:30pm/facilitator Karen Gieseke
- See flyer to the right for more information and to register.

Art Museum Tour: Queering Indigeneity-MN Museum of American Art, St Paul MN

<https://mmaa.org/queering-indigeneity/>

- a multi-year, multi-generational project that celebrates the vision and diversity of 2-Spirit, Native queer, gender expansive artists in the Upper Midwest.

Two dates to choose from:

- January 24, 11:00am-1:00pm MN Museum of Art-Museum docent led tour (lunch following at St Paul restaurant, if interested) OR
- April 18, 11:00am-1:00pm MN Museum of Art-Museum docent led tour (lunch following at St Paul restaurant, if interested)
- Limited space in tours
- Registration required

Registration/Questions: Sara Wagner saraewagner@comcast.net OR Sandy Wendt sjwendt46@gmail.com

A collaborative ministry event between Let's Go, the Racial Justice Ministry Team, and Pride Justice Ministry Team.

Inclusion Training: Gray Area Thinking – Facilitator: nationally known facilitator, author, school board member Ellen (Ellie) Krug

Saturday, February 7, 10:00am-12, Trinity Lutheran Church

This very popular diversity and inclusion presentation provides a toolset ("Gray Area Thinking™) for how to interact with others who are "different" from "us."

<https://elliekrug.com/about/>

Registration begins in January. Watch for registration information soon!

Questions? Contact: Pr. Peter Weston-Miller pwestonmiller@trinitylc.org OR Karen Gieseke kgieseke@live.com

COME! All are Welcome! Invite your family, friends and neighbors! Rather than a winter season hunkered-down inside, join one of these opportunities and begin 2026 with the mindset of ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW!

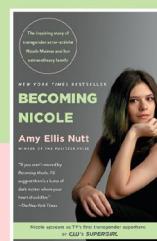
Reach out to: PrideJustice@trinitylc.org for any questions or comments



2026 PRIDEJUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP:

BECOMING NICOLE, THE TRANSFORMATION OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY BY AMY ELLIS NUTT



BECOMING NICOLE, THE TRANSFORMATION OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY.

The inspiring true story of transgender actor/activist Nicole Maines, whose identical twin brother, Jonas, and ordinary American family join her on an extraordinary journey to understand, nurture, and celebrate the uniqueness in us all.

Two options to join a discussion:

WEDNESDAY FAITH LAB:

6:45-7:45pm
January 21, 28, February 4, 11.

VIA ZOOM:

6:30-7:30pm
January 20, 27, February 3, 10.

The book may be purchased at Valley Bookseller, Stillwater. Cost for paperback \$20 plus a 15% discount when you mention being part of the Trinity book group discussion.

GRAY AREA THINKING WITH ELLIE KRUG

NATIONAL SPEAKER, TRANSGENDER WRITER AND "HUMAN INCLUSIONIST"



Join national speaker, transgender writer and "human inclusionist" Ellen "Ellie" Krug as she talks about organizational culture and culture change and conducts her highly valued human inclusivity training, Gray Area Thinking®. This training will provide an easy-to-understand toolset on how to be more welcoming of anyone who is "Other" in our society.

Saturday, February 7, 2026
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Trinity Lutheran Church

Registration for these opportunities will be available on the Trinity website beginning in early December: www.trinitylc.org





Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent

Creative Resources for Lent-Easter

About this series

Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. As we crafted this series, we asked: what are the core, foundational concepts of Jesus' life and ministry? What makes each of these good news? Can we trust that the good news is truly good, even when it challenges us?

If we're being honest, we can easily distort or sanitize Jesus' teachings. Following Jesus leads to a richer, more expansive life, but it's not necessarily comfortable. We often describe Jesus' ministry as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground."¹ Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots, back to what grounds us: loving our neighbor, caring for the vulnerable, pursuing justice and mercy, and resting in God's unending grace.

The good news is extravagant, untamed, illogical, and persistent. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed that flourishes rapidly into a tree to shelter the birds. It smells like expensive perfume poured from an alabaster jar and like crumbling bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like children laughing and like stones dropped to the ground instead of violently thrown. It feels like feet washed with tender care. The good news is alive in the world.

We hope this series will provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. This Lent, may the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. Let the good news ground us. And let that good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

1 <https://www.merriam-webster.com/wordplay/radical-word-history>



© A SANCTIFIED ART | SANCTIFIEDART.ORG

Baptisms

- **William Bruce Bright**, child of Cameron Bright & Mara Jezior
- **Arlo Edwin Glowe**, child of Mary Glowe

Christian Sympathy

- Family & friends of **Don Wright**

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 Brodchus

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.

Because God

first loved us,

we live as Jesus in the world,

loving God and

loving neighbor.

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 (February issue) are due Monday, January 19, to begin arriving in mailboxes Tuesday, January 20.

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



115 4th St. N • Box 339
Stillwater, MN 55082 • 651-439-7400

Periodical
Postage Paid at
Stillwater, MN
55082-0339



MLK BREAKFAST

Keep Moving Forward

SAVE THE DATE:

JANUARY 16, 2023

7:00 AM-9:30 AM



Harmony • Dignity • Respect



Keynote Speaker

Dr. George T. French, Jr., President of Clark Atlanta University.

Trinity Lutheran Church

115 4th Street North, Stillwater, Minnesota
55082

*Tickets are \$10. Please call
651- 430- 8800 to register*

