

trinity TODAY

BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US, WE LIVE AS JESUS IN THE WORLD.

OCTOBER 2026

VOLUME 51 ISSUE 10





interim lead pastor *jen hackbarth*

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.
-1 Peter 4:10-11

I continue to reflect on the time I spent in Puerto Rico in July with our high school group from Trinity. We stayed in a local Methodist congregation and had the opportunity to participate in an Elderly Vacation Bible School. This was a new program for the congregation. They held it for five mornings in a row (Monday-Friday) at the church. They weren't sure if they would have any participants, but they wanted to offer a time of learning, community and fun for their older members and friends. One of the women who participated told her friends she was going to "church camp." The first morning a handful of people participated yet more came each day.

The theme for the week was "Echoes of Wisdom." Throughout the week, almost all our youth had the opportunity to participate in the program. We started the morning with devotions and songs, then there was a lecture on wisdom and Scripture from either the church's pastor or a local seminary professor. We took a break for a snack, then continued with crafts and a workshop. Members of the Trinity group led several activities, including a presentation on internet safety, watercolor painting, and chair yoga. My favorite part was when we had

conversations across generations. One morning we all wrote down our answers to three questions:

- Who is the wisest person you know and why?
- What is a mistake you've made, and how did God use that mistake to teach you?
- What is the best part of being your current age? How does God use your age to bless the world?

We gathered with the entire group and shared our thoughts. We heard stories from the older members about their parents, who taught them how to be faithful and trust in God through hard times. The kids shared about how their parents helped them make decisions when they were struggling. Everyone shared about times they judged someone too quickly. We all shared about the wisdom we experience at every age: the kids talked about their openness to new ideas, and the elders discussed their long perspective on life. We talked about the hard parts of life; when a loved one is dealing with addiction; when we are lonely; when we are grieving; when we feel insecure. We shared tears and hugs. The Holy Spirit moved among us, and it was a sacred time.

Trinity's Stewardship theme for this fall is "Overflowing Grace, Compassionate Love." Trinity's mission statement is, "Because God first loved us, we live as Jesus in the world, loving God and loving neighbor." In July, 25 high school students and 8 adults took a week out of their summers to spend time in Puerto Rico. They were challenged to live together in a small space, sharing rooms and bathrooms. They painted in the Puerto Rican summer heat and humidity.

They chose to go out of their comfort zones and live and serve generously in God's name, sharing their time, energy and gifts. This is stewardship! Each person expressed their faith through their God-given gifts. Some sketched stencils for watercolor painting, others danced and played with VBS kids for hours, others led presentations and demonstrated chair yoga, others taught crochet, others helped to keep our group organized. God was glorified through it all.

Of course, we received more than we gave during our time in Puerto Rico. Not only did we delight in sharing God's blessings in our lives, but we were also blessed to experience the joys of the Puerto Rican community as they challenged us and helped us to grow in faith. We grew closer to God and through this experience.

God promises that when we give ourselves away, we aren't left with less, but more. We receive health, joy, purpose and growth. Our trip to Puerto Rico was supported by the generosity of Trinity friends and members, who helped fund the cost. As you think about practicing generosity in your life, start with gratitude for God's overflowing grace. God's grace gives us power to show compassionate love to others, both as a congregation and as individuals.

Our Stewardship materials will be available in early October, and you will hear Trinity members share their experiences with generosity in worship during October as well. Stewardship Sunday will be on November 22. Praise God for overflowing grace and compassionate love.

Interim Lead Pastor Jen Hackbarth

Pastor Jen

Pastor Jen Hackbarth



interim pastor of lifelong faith formation

kristine stedje

Anytime Jesus went anywhere, he walked. Well, sometimes he rode a donkey. Like when he and his parents fled Bethlehem after his birth and journeyed to Egypt, so that they would not be harmed by King Herod. And then, there was that time when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt the week of Passover, just days before his death, and before he died and then rose again. But other than that, we do not have stories where Jesus did not walk everywhere he went! Jesus was on the move. We know of the towns and places he visited in all four gospels. Born in Bethlehem, traveled to Egypt, came home to Nazareth where he grew up.

When he was twelve years old, Jesus and his family journeyed to Jerusalem for the Passover, as was the custom of faithful families. His mom and dad assumed he was walking with the crowd from Nazareth, but after traveling a couple of days, they realized Jesus was not among the walkers heading home. Very concerned, they returned to Jerusalem. And where did they find Jesus? Sitting in the temple, talking with the elders, as if Jesus had right to be there, gaining knowledge and learning from those who knew scripture well. Can you imagine the conversation on the walk back to Nazareth with his parents? Whew, perhaps it started with, "how could you" and went on from there!

After Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, he journeyed into the wilderness where he spent forty days, a nod to the

Israelites who journeyed forty years in wilderness after they were freed from slavery in Egypt. Wandering through the desert searching for the promised land, where they would one day make their home.

Three times in scripture we know Jesus and his disciples journeyed to Jerusalem for the Passover. Faithful Israelites would make this journey, as did their ancestors so long ago. As they journeyed each year, they remembered. God promised there would be a lamb who would save them.

Jesus also journeyed to the cross. Dying so that we might live. On Easter Sunday morning, he appeared to his disciples, and then he went for a walk. He met up with friends discussing all the things that happened the week of Passover as they walked to Emmaus. As they walked, they talked with Jesus who opened the scriptures to them. When they arrived at their destination, they invited Jesus to have a meal with them. The friends eyes were opened when Jesus presided over the meal. And they ran back up the hill to Jerusalem to share the good news with Jesus disciples.

We too journey through life one day, one experience, one opportunity at a time. Each and every day we walk with Jesus. In faith we learn to trust in Jesus' love, caring and compassion. All of life's journeys provide opportunities for us to learn and grow in faith.

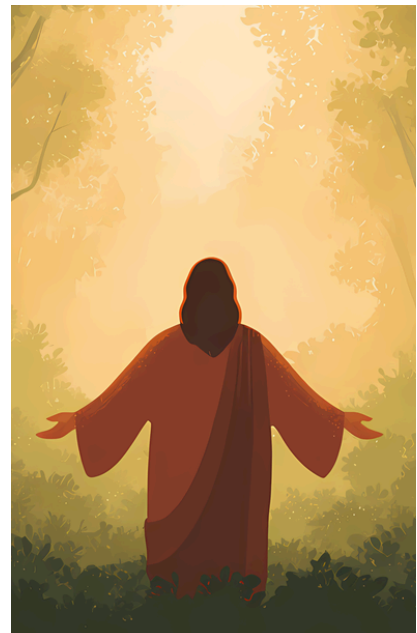
The Christian journey includes being in community. We gather for worship, we gather to study scripture, to learn about the Trinity. The Christian life is not a solitary journey.

We journey together, with all of the baptized from the past and in the present. We search, as we journey, for what we already have....the presence of God. And, we are accompanied by the faithful, surrounded by those who are in need, so that we may be of service to others. In this way we are continually upheld by the Triune God, for whom this congregation of journeying pilgrims is named.

Trinity Lutheran is on the move. Awaiting with joy new leadership, preparing for a new journey in which we will encounter the world just outside our doors.

Pastor Kristine

Pastor Kristine Stedje



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10-11



OVERFLOWING GRACE, COMPASSIONATE LOVE.

As we close another fiscal year, we give heartfelt thanks to God and to the Trinity community for your faithful generosity. Through your ongoing support, we reached 99% of our fiscal year goal, contributing over \$1,300,000 toward the mission and ministry of Trinity. We celebrate not only what was given, but the spirit of commitment and faithfulness behind each gift.

When we talk about stewardship, it is important to remember that stewardship is about much more than finances. Stewardship is really about engagement and commitment to the mission of Trinity. It is the way we respond to God's call by sharing our time, talents, prayers, presence, and resources in service to Christ and one another. This year's theme - **Overflowing Grace, Compassionate Love** - beautifully reflects what stewardship looks like in action. God's grace continually overflows into our lives, and that grace inspires us to extend compassionate love to others. We have seen this lived out in countless ways, from worship and fellowship to outreach ministries and mission partnerships, including the recent mission trip to Puerto Rico.

The mission trip theme verse reminds us: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 4:10-11. These words remind us that every member of the Trinity family has been gifted by God for a purpose. Each act of service, every prayer offered, every hour volunteered, and every dollar shared becomes a reflection of God's grace at work through Trinity. Together, we are not simply supporting a church budget; we are actively participating in the mission of Trinity, sharing Christ's love and transforming lives for the glory of God.

2026 FISCAL YEAR END INCOME VS EXPENSE.

- 2026 FYE Contributions were **\$1,316,842 (99% of Budget)**. 2024/25 FYE Giving was \$1,282,948.
- Total FYE Income - minus Missions and Anonymous Gift - was **\$1,583,723 (96.5% of Budget)**. 2024/25 Income was \$1,709,618 (\$98,636/ERC).
- Total FYE Expenses – minus Missions – were **\$1,556,649 (95% of budget)**. 2024/25 Expenses were \$1,489,680.
- Operating Reserves: \$109,961.

STEWARDSHIP. We have planned a SPECIAL Legacy Giving Presentation and Lunch for Thursday, October 29 from 11am to 1pm in the River Room. We will start with a presentation by Tharan Leopold, Gifts Officer and Endowment Specialist for the ELCA Foundation. Followed by lunch. We are asking people to RSVP.

FACILITIES. Emergency phone for the elevator has gone bad – per code - need to install a cellular emergency phone – approx. \$78/mo.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your commitment to the mission we share. Through God's grace, we continue this journey together.

Sarah Kinsman

**Sarah Kinsman,
Parish Administrator**

WELCOME OUR NEW CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER KATIE O'NEALL ECKEBERGER!



Katie O'Neill Eckeberger
Contemporary Worship Leader

Hello Trinity!

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and worshipping with you on Sunday mornings.

Singing in church has been a part of my life since I was in the second grade, and I have been so fortunate to continue this work throughout my life with many wonderful faith communities like yours.

I hope you won't hold it against me that I grew up Methodist ;) But I love every chance I have to work and worship with my ELCA denominational "cousins", and I don't doubt we'll share fun and meaningful moments together in the days to come.

I keep busy with 2 kids, doing music in all the ways I can, and spending time with my wonderful girlfriend, but I'd love the opportunity to get to know y'all! Please introduce yourself to me some upcoming Sunday - I'd love to meet you.

Katie

CONCERT Series

Oct 3 | Collaboration Concert | 7:30 pm @ Trinity

A special Collaboration Concert featuring Valley Chamber Chorale, Music St. Croix, and the St. Croix Jazz Orchestra. This free concert is always a highlight to the start of the concert series. More information at: <https://valleychamberchorale.org/>

Oct 23 | St. Croix Sounds, Metro Brass + SAHS Wind Ensemble | 7pm @ Trinity

Another wonderful collaboration concert between these fine ensembles. Enjoy an evening of fine instrumental music! Tickets available at the door.

Oct 25 | Cantus | 2pm @ Trinity

What are you grateful for? It's a deeply personal question, yet there are undoubtedly overarching themes, like the joy of breathing in fresh air, savoring a recipe passed down through generations, and cherishing moments spent with those we love.

In **Simple Gifts**, Cantus weaves together personal stories of gratitude along with beloved tunes including "How Can I Keep From Singing" and "Lift Every Voice and Sing", timeless classics from Jean Sibelius and Jennifer Higdon, and contemporary gems by Bobby McFerrin and Sydney Guillaume. Tickets: cantussings.org



Oct 30 | St. Croix Valley Opera: By Special Request | 7pm @ Trinity

A Hauntingly Fun Fundraising Concert with Co-Founders Megan and Obed, and Friends! Tickets and more information: <https://www.scvopera.org/by-special-request-concert>

UMD and Stillwater HS Choirs in Concert Oct 27 - 7:30 @ Trinity

The University of Minnesota Duluth University Singers, directed by Christopher Mason, will present a short fall concert in collaboration with the award-winning Stillwater Choir, directed by Angela Mitchell. The concert is free and open to the public.

ONE SERVICE SUNDAYS.

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

- Dec 13 – Children's Advent Program
- Dec 27 – Lessons + Carols
- Feb 7, 2027 – Drive-Indoors
- March 21, 2027 – Palm Sunday
- May 2, 2027 – Youth Musical

WORSHIP TEXTS.

Sunday, October 4th | 19th Sunday after Pentecost

9 am | Trinity Choir | Organ | Trumpet
11 am | Trinity Worship Band
Worship Texts | Psalm 80 | Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday, October 11th | 20th Sunday after Pentecost | Indigenous People Day

Guest Preacher | Pastor Larry Johnson
9 am | Trinity Choir | Organ
11 am | Trinity Worship Band | Trinity Youth Choir
Worship Texts | Psalm 23 | Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 18th | 21st Sunday after Pentecost

9 am | Trinity Choir | Organ
11 am | Trinity Worship Band

Sunday, October 25th | Reformation | Confirmation Sunday

9 am | Trinity Choir | Trinity Brass
11 am | Trinity Worship Band | Confirmation Sunday

Sunday Service

9 AM

Traditional Worship

10 AM

Learning Hour

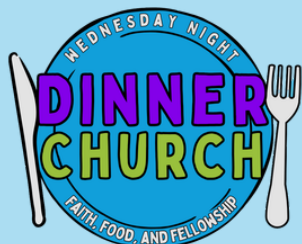
11 AM

Contemporary Worship

SUNDAY WORSHIP.

9 AM 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 AM 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.)



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. Questions? Contact Pastor Kristine Stedje at kstedje@trinitylc.org

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) – Location TBD

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

SPECIAL DINNER CHURCH OFFERINGS:

Parent and Children Monthly Faith Formation: Wednesday nights this Autumn.

October 21: Merri Guggisberg, Parent Coach
In this Together: Building Emotional Connection That Lasts

November 18: Trinity Lutheran Stewardship Team
Stewardship at Trinity: Your gifts matter

December 16: Trinity "No Fuss" Christmas Program. *Where everyone gets a part in the Christmas story!*

SUNDAY FAITH FORUM.

October 4. Discovering Your Spiritual Type with Pastor Jen (part 2).

Have you ever wondered why certain worship styles fill your soul while others leave you cold? Just like the Myers-Briggs system helps us understand our everyday personalities, Corinne Ware's *Discover Your Spiritual Type* helps us map our spiritual personalities! Pastor Jen will lead us in taking the "Spirituality Wheel" test and discovering our unique styles. Come learn how we can grow closer to God and better support one another as a spiritually diverse congregation.



October 11. "We're still here!" Indigenous People of Today with Will Raymond. Will Raymond, (Lakota) is an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and also Anishinaabe Bois Forte. A 2021 Graduate of Stillwater Area High School, Will is an artist and creative strategist for Tiwahe Foundation. Tiwahe is a Native run community foundation that creates pathways for American Indian people to reach their goals on their own terms. Join us to learn more about Indigenous People today.

October 18. Your Money Is Making a Difference. Is It the Difference You Want? with Sabrina Fay, financial advisor and Trinity Member. Your money is making a statement about what matters to you. Every dollar you spend, invest, and save helps shape the world around you. This interactive workshop will explore values-based investing, values-aligned banking, and other ways individuals can use their financial resources to support the causes and communities they care about. Join us to learn how your money can do more than grow. It can advance the values you believe in. Come ready to explore how your money can help build the kind of world you want to see.

October 25. "Peace of Mind" with Eric Oustland, PrePlan Consultant, Bradshaw Funeral Home. Not everyone likes to plan ahead, but preplanning your funeral arrangements not only gives you peace of mind about your final wishes being honored, but alleviates some of the stress and burden your loved ones are going through as they experience the grief associated with loss. Eric will cover the benefits for preplanning, preparations and options for services and financial planning, and the importance of sharing your stories and wishes for your families and loved ones. This is a great opportunity for family members at any stage of life. Bring your questions!

Questions, concerns, suggestions...contact Penny Catlin (pcatlin@trinitylc.org) or Pastor Kristine Stedje (kstedje@trinitylc.org).

ONLINE OPTIONS FOR WORSHIP.

Both Sunday worship services will be available online and livestreamed 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>

SUNDAY SCHOOL

For our youngest members Sunday School will be held between worship services each Sunday where there are two worship services. We will begin our class at 10:15 am and conclude at 10:45 am. Join Pastor Kristine in the LADC classroom in the lower level. Simply follow the footprints you'll encounter on the floor. Parents and their children are welcome, especially pre-school and grade school children. We will hear stories of Jesus as he heals, restores and forgives God's people. We will create a picture or a memory to remind us of God's love throughout the week.

MONTHLY PARENT GATHERINGS

On October 21, we will gather in the River Room, where everyone, parents, grandparents, and kids of all ages, are welcome to come for a meal beginning at 5:30 pm. As a group we will gather for devotions, and communion following our meal.

At 6:15 pm we will welcome Merri Guggisberg, a parent coach, who will talk with us about Building Emotional Connect That Lasts. Merri will lead us in conversation about what families and kids are facing today including stress, overwhelm, and the pressure to keep up. This session will create space for open conversation, reflection and shared understanding across generations. Merri provides practical approaches to help children and adults build a stronger circle of care within their families and church community.

On October 28 LADC, will be back for their Fall Harvest chili supper. Come and enjoy a bowl of chili and stay for the fun and games!



FAITH LAB

Faith Lab (for children ages 4 – grade 5) will gather on Wednesday afternoons from 5:20 -6:00 pm, in the Library. This month we will take a break on October 14 for MEA. Following youth choir, Pastor Kristine will lead lessons on stories of Jesus and his love for us.

ADULTS

Adults of the congregation, you have multiple opportunities for lifelong learning this autumn season. The Adult Faith Lab on Wednesday evenings will be exploring Biblical Translations and a Video Documentary, 1946, with Pastor Jen. Bible studies for men and women will continue during this autumn season, check with your particular group leader to learn when and where to show up!

And on Sunday mornings, between worship services, join the conversation as the Adult Forum offers a variety of interesting topics this year under the theme: **Sacred Practices, Service, and Stories: Connecting with God and One Another.**

Pastor Kristine, Interim Pastor for Lifelong Faith Formation

If you need to register your child or youth, here is the link!

Faith Lab:



Confirmation:



UPCOMING WEDNESDAY EVENING ALL-IN EVENTS

October 21: Merri Guggisberg, Parent Coach
In this Together: Building Emotional Connection That Lasts

November 18: Trinity Lutheran Stewardship Team
Stewardship at Trinity: Your gifts matter

December 16: Trinity "No Fuss" Christmas Program. *Where everyone gets a part in the Christmas story!*

FALL HARVEST FEST & DINNER CHURCH, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28 | 5:00 PM

All are welcome to gather for an evening of fall fun, fellowship, and faith as we celebrate God's abundance together! LADC and Trinity families and friends are welcome to dress up and wear costumes. We will also enjoy a variety of crafts, games, and activities. We'll gather for a blessing before transitioning to a Chili Cookoff and Dinner Church beginning at 5:30 pm. If you would like to submit your chili, **please contact Pastor Kristine by Wednesday, October 21 to sign up!**



HIGH SCHOOL Ministry

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Calling all 9th graders and families! The countdown is on for a huge milestone in your faith journey:

Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) is coming up on **Sunday, October 25**, at the 11:00 AM service. Detailed information and next steps have already been sent out to households. If you haven't received yours, please email Dana at dkruse@trinitylc.org so we can get you everything you need. Ready to celebrate? We can't wait to surround our 9th graders with love, prayer, and blessing as they take this exciting next step! **Reserve your spot by scanning the QR code to register your student!**



High School Ministry is back! Join us as we kick off a full season of faith, fun, and community.

Upcoming Events:

- Oct 11: Pumpkin Painting & Costume Contest
- Starting October 4: High School Bible Study on Sunday mornings between services in the Youth Room, complete with snacks and an iced coffee bar!

How You Can Help! Can you lend us a portable fire pit or serve as an adult leader? Let us know! Questions? Email Dana at dkruse@trinitylc.org.

YOUTH

Beginning in the month of October, confirmands and high school youth are invited to join Dana Kruse on **Sunday mornings** between services in the Youth Room. Dana will provide intriguing glimpses into what it means to be a child of God in today's world. You can plan on exploring an interesting topic each week. Bring your curiosity and your questions.

High School Youth gather on Sunday evenings for fun events and serious conversation. Contact Dana for more information so you can be part of the group!

If you need to register your child or youth, here is the link!

Faith Lab:



Confirmation:



JOIN US OCT 11!

PUMPKIN PAINTING & COSTUME CONTEST



WOMEN'S RETREAT - SAVE THE DATE!

It's All Holy
Trinity Women's Retreat
November 21, 9am to 1pm
Memorial Lutheran, Afton

Join us for our annual fall women's retreat!

Author, podcaster, and ELCA pastor Natalia Terfa will be our speaker, leading us in reclaiming the pieces and parts of our lives, with the blessed assurance that it all counts: it's all holy.

Natalia asserts that whatever it is you are doing, if it is done with love, it is enough.

About It All Counts:

A fiercely compassionate and deeply personal exploration of faith, doubt, and the sacredness of everyday life. A down-to-earth and snarky invitation to readers of faith looking to shed shameful and constrictive theology for a more expansive and loving view of God.

We will enjoy time together, learn from Natalia and each other, engage in spiritual and creative practices, eat a delicious lunch and bask in being together.

Cost: \$50 includes speaker fee, all food and materials. (If the cost is prohibitive for you, please reach out to Zanny—scholarships are available). Register at Trinity by November 10. Tell your friends—all are welcome!!



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rivertown Inn Social

Sunday, October 11, 3-6 p.m.
306 Olive St. W., Stillwater
Bring something of your choice to share.
Come join us for friendly conversation!

International Education Day

Sunday, November 8, 1:00, River Room
Exchange students will share information about their country's history, culture, and what life is like in another part of the world.
An enlightening way to learn through the eyes of an exchange student.

Game Night with Youth | Grades 6 and up

Friday, November 13, 7:00-9:30
Board games, card games, pickleball, sardines. An intergenerational night of fun; come join in the fun!

Caroling

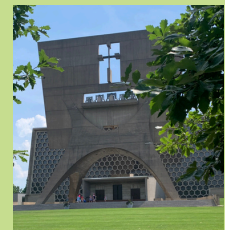
Monday, December 7 (note date change, previously Dec. 10)
Meet at 5:00 in 4th Street parking lot
The Estates at Greeley and The Estates at Linden.

100th Annual Concordia Christmas Concert

Orchestra Hall, Thursday, December 10, 5:00 p.m. Watch for information in emails and bulletins.

IMPORTANT: Tickets will be purchased October 27.

RSVP by October 22 to Sandy Wendt at sjwendt46@gmail.com if interested.



TRUTH AND HEALING

September 30, National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools, calls us to show solidarity with survivors and personal commitment to truth and reconciliation, by wearing an orange shirt. Churches of all denominations operated the schools, which we now know caused unconscionable harm and generational trauma. In 1973, 6-year-old Phyllis Webstad went to her first day of residential school wearing a shiny new orange shirt. It was immediately confiscated and she never saw it again. Forty years later Phyllis founded the Orange Shirt Society, calling people to listen with open hearts to the stories of survivors and their families and to remember those who never came home.

"Old myths die hard, and few die harder than the Columbus discovery," *All the Real Indians Died Off and 20 Other Myths about Native Americans*, available in Trinity's ABIDE Collection. Columbus was an instrument of the Doctrine of Discovery that justified conquest and colonization in the name of Christianity. Although the Doctrine has been repudiated, it is still in effect and was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2005.



To celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day, Pastor Larry Johnson, former interim pastor, will preach at both services, October 11th. Pastor Larry has immersed himself in learning from and connecting with Indigenous people

through classes, storytelling, presentations, cultural events, and Pow Wow gatherings. He came to Trinity in 2001 as a peacemaker and a healer. We have invited him to our journey toward truth and healing.

The buffalo symbolized, sustenance, survival, generosity, abundance, and self-sacrifice to Indigenous Peoples. An estimated 50-60 million buffalo, possibly even two or three times that many, roamed freely. By 1974, 325 remained—a U.S. military strategy to deprive Indigenous people of food, clothing, shelter and tools.



The vanishing Indian myth (Myth 1 in *All the Real Indians Died Off*) is completely untrue. With 11 federally recognized tribes and 100,000 Native Americans in Minnesota alone, they are still here. Will Raymond (Lakota) graduated from Stillwater in 2021 and is currently creative strategist for Tiwahe Foundation. Tiwahe means having a relative wherever you go. Their organizational goals are Honoring Family (Welcoming, Belonging, Resourcing and Reconnecting), Honoring Culture and Language, Honoring Commitment, and Honoring Reciprocity. "Growing up in an indigenous community that valued collective action, I learned the importance of valuing thy neighbor and elevating under-represented narratives often not seen by the major public. I practice this ideology in my art and with time invested in my community." We invited Will to speak at our Faith Forum October 11.

The Sacred Sites Tour led by Jim Bear Jacobs, Oct 17, 10:00-2:00 is an educational, powerful and transformational experience. We reserved this tour for Trinity because tours fill up so quickly it is difficult to get group reservations. Invite friends, especially teachers. Bring your teenagers at no cost. Register online or email Ann Malwitz acIntmal@comcast.net.

Ann Malwitz,

Ann Malwitz

Racial Justice Ministry Team

SACRED SITES TOUR

for greater awareness and understanding of the Dakota people, the original people of this area, who too often are invisible in their homeland



Jim Bear Jacobs

Email Ann Malwitz
acIntmal@comcast.net

if you would like to carpool. We will leave from the 4th Street Parking lot across from Trinity, at 9:15.

The cost of the tour is \$40 per person. In addition, Jim Bear will ask for generous tips. There is no charge for teens, but they must register because space is limited.

Contact Ann Malwitz (612) 210-6342 with changes to your reservation.

1946-2026: Eighty years of transformative news and information. What continues to impact us in 2026? Learning Together 101



1946. Unless it's the year of your birth, you may not recall significant moments from the year. But every year history books record notable and transformative news. A few examples of 1946 products introduced which continue to shape our lives include:

- Almond Joy candy bars
- Benadryl
- The food processor
- Tide laundry detergent
- Tupperware

1946. Authors and writers impact history and lives. Mystery writers, Agatha Christie and Caroline Keene (prior to Nancy Drew series) published books in 1946, and these classics continue to entertain today. Dr. Benjamin Spock, doctor and new author, published his well-known book—*The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care*, noted for how it "completely changed how children were raised in the latter half of the 20th century", becoming one of "the best-selling non-fiction books of all time."

1946. The Census of Religious Bodies reports 80% of Americans report being a member of a church. That same year the National Council of Churches convened Biblical scholars to write a contemporary version of the Bible, the (RSV) Revised Standard Version. The final version of the RSV became the first Bible ever published to include the word homosexual. The scholars researched two rare Koine Greek words—arsenokoitai and malakoi—found in I Corinthians 6:9, which refer to abusive and exploitive relationships. The team determined these Greek words be translated as homosexual-or same sex-relationships.

1971. A review of the RSV translation of the Bible resulted in the word homosexual being removed and replaced with sexual perverts. A mistranslation had occurred.

1946-1971. Several new Bible translations relied on the RSV Bible as the foundation for their text, and more versions were written and published which included the word homosexual.

What prompted the 1971 review and new text in the Revised Standard Version? Questions asked by David Fearon.

2022. The documentary **1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture** is released, telling the story of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible and David Fearon's questions.

2026. The Bible continues to be the best-selling book of all time, with a potential of 5-7 billion having been printed.



2026. Trinity's Pride Justice Ministry Team, along with Pastor Jen, is facilitating a multi-week viewing of the documentary, **1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture**, including an additional week to discuss the book *I Wish To Express-The Story He Never Got to Tell: David Fearon and the 1946 Bible Translation*.

YOU are invited to learn together what happened between 1946-2026!

1946 Documentary Viewing—TWO options available to watch the 92-minute film together.

1. **Faith Lab:** A portion of the documentary is viewed each week, followed by discussion. October 21, 28, November 4, 11 / 6:45-7:45pm, Living Room, Trinity
2. **Watch the full 92-minute documentary** followed by discussion. November 12, 6-8pm, River Room - Watch full 92-minutes followed by discussion.

Sign up here:

<https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/fb148758-0c2f-4953-9331-dd209eebb115>

BOOK DISCUSSION. *I Wish to Express-The Story He Never Got to Tell: David Fearon and the 1946 Bible Translation*, Kathy Baldock. Books may be purchased from Valley Bookseller for 15% discount.

Faith Lab: November 18, 6:45-7:45pm, Living Room

If dates and times don't fit your schedule, the documentary is available to rent and watch at: <https://www.1946themovie.com/>

We hope to see you as we learn together!

Questions? Contact Karen.

Karen Gieseke

Karen Gieseke,
Pride Justice Team Chair
kgieseke@live.com

500 ITEM COLLECTION CHALLENGE GOAL SMASHED!

Together, the Trinity community collected more than double the goal of 500 items in just three weeks. The Missions Team thanks you for your overflowing generosity!

- 500+ items delivered to Washington County's Emergency Housing Services Building
- 612 items used by volunteers at Trinity Fest to assemble 102 personal care kits to be distributed by Lutheran World Relief.
- Approximately 75 items to make baskets to welcome new refugees.



MISSIONS IN MOTION

The St. Croix Valley is rich with organizations serving the community and volunteer opportunities abound at each one.



community thread

COMMUNITY THREAD

2300 Orleans St in Stillwater /
342 5th Avenue N in Bayport.

Improves quality of life for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and families across our region. If you can drive a neighbor to an appointment; help with household tasks; welcome someone to an activity; lend a hand at a special event; share a skill, hobby, or professional talent; or support Holiday Hope, you can make a real local impact. For more detailed information or to explore volunteer opportunities, go to communitythreadmn.org. Upcoming events include:

- **October 8-10:** Baubles, Bangles, and Bling jewelry sale
- **December:** Holiday Hope



EMERGENCY HOUSING SERVICES BUILDING

15055 60th Street North,
Stillwater.

Whether shelter is needed for a few nights or a few months, residents are treated with dignity and respect and have their basic needs met. Staff works with each resident one-on-one to identify the cause of their homelessness and help develop a personalized plan to move toward self-sufficiency. For more detailed information on giving, clothing & personal care donations, or volunteer opportunities, go to steppingstone.org.



VALLEY OUTREACH

1901 Curve Crest Blvd W,
Stillwater.

Helping people move their lives forward through basic needs services and personalized support. Volunteers and donations are needed for both the food shelf and the StyleXchange, which provides free clothing to clients and a thrift store open to the public, offering high-quality, gently used clothing at affordable prices. For more detailed information on giving, donations, or volunteering, go to valleyoutreachmn.org.



THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE TRINITY MISSIONS TEAM

1. Refugee Resettlement & Inclusion
2. Housing Insecurity
3. Global Companions
4. Local Companions



THANK YOU FOR A GREAT
TRINITY FEST!



CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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



John Hodler
Council President



Kirsten Parker
Vice President



Shane Brockshus
Secretary



Mike Karlsrud
Treasurer



Bryan Barts
Council Member



Bill Bjorum
Council Member

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

To the family & friends of:

Penny Maddux
Don Hovland

BAPTISMS

Ivy Rowe Smith, child of Ezekiel & Leah Smith
Taylor Rose Dahlgren, child of Troy Dahlgren

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open the following hours or by appointment: Monday - Thursday | 9 AM – 5 PM

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.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Attendance	Early	Drive-In Cars/ People	Online Engagement	Animals Blessed
8/23	106	101/183	253	23
8/30	74	99/193	277	
9/6	57	81/137	315	
9/13	247			
9/20	140	11 a.m.: 63	276	

At Trinity, you are truly welcome. Whether you're exploring faith for the first time or have been on the journey for years, we invite you to bring your whole self - your questions, your hopes, your story. Rooted in God's unconditional love, we are a community where all are embraced, valued, and encouraged to grow.

Trinity's Core Values:

Engaging Worship
Radical Hospitality
Authentic Community
Lifelong Faith Formation
Compassionate Action

Inclusion Statement:

Read our Inclusion Statement at:
www.trinitylc.org

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"ONE GENERATION
SHALL COMMEND
YOUR WORKS TO
ANOTHER, AND SHALL
DECLARE YOUR
MIGHTY ACTS."
- PSALM 145:4

CREATING A FIRM FOUNDATION

For generations, faithful members of Trinity have helped build the strong foundation that supports our ministry today. We invite you to join us for a special opportunity to learn how your legacy can continue to nurture and strengthen Trinity for years to come.

Legacy Giving Presentation & Lunch
Thursday, October 29 | 11AM to 1 PM | River Room

We will begin with an engaging presentation by Tharan Leopold, Gifts Officer and Endowment Specialist with the ELCA Foundation, who will share practical information about legacy giving and the lasting impact it can have on the ministries and mission of Trinity. Following the presentation, we will enjoy lunch and fellowship together.

Hosted by the Trinity Stewardship Team

Please use the QR CODE to RSVP. Thank you.

