

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

April 2022 volume 44, issue 4

# trinity TODAY

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

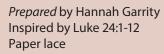


Quilts made and donated by our Quilting Ministry are now on the beds of the Sadat family, Afghan refugees resettling in Minnesota. Read more on page 12.

The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. – Luke 24:5

Fundamental Report For Street Points and the British and the B

HOLY WEEK & EASTER schedule and details on pages 8-9





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

# Rushing water, rushing lives?

#### What is up with the sound booth?

If you are worshipping in person, you've seen it. If you are worshipping online, you likely have not. There is highly-organized chaos in the sanctuary right now as we upgrade our video projector and screen and construct a new sound booth to accommodate equipment upgrades and a growing team.

Pandemic forced us to move to live streaming our worship gatherings. This move revealed the challenges of outdated or insufficient equipment. An anonymous gift has allowed us make the necessary and long-needed upgrades. All to bring you the best possible online worship experiences and improve our in-person visuals as well.

We give thanks to a huge team of capable and patient folks making this happen. And to our AV team for being adaptable as they are relocated to the center section of the sanctuary for a few weeks. All will be well in place before Holy Week!

If you have any questions of a technical nature, please reach out to AV guru, Phil Kadidlo at pkadidlo@trinitylc.org.

Our backyard seems to be atilt. The snow melt runs northward, keeping the sidewalk slick with water during the day, ice if it freezes over night.

Walking in from my car this weekend, I heard rushing water and traced it to the garage roof, snow melt making its way to the gutter and down the spout. The sound of spring. Some say if you put your ear against tree trunks you can hear the xylem and phloem stirring to life. On our morning walk—still booted—we love smashing through the thinning ice to expose the water racing down from the bluff. My palms sweat as I watch the cars of fisherfolk on the river ice—now cleared of fish houses—knowing what is moving underneath.

Rushing, trickling, moving water is the soundtrack of spring in the northern climes. Movement an indication that the long sleep is coming to an end. This year feels like waking from a sleep two years long. We hope against hope that this time COVID liberation is sticky, without another variant lurking in the shortening shadows. Our spirits begin to stir as we are released more comfortably into the outdoors, poking around gardens for indications of crocuses, peonies, and early tree buds.

Easter isn't here yet. And we are called to remain in the slower discipline of Lent a few weeks more. It's hard, but Christian disciplines serve us, not us them. So let it serve you. Keep your pace as steady as you can. Resist stuffing more into days already full. True Confessions? I find myself longing for the slow pace of early pandemic. Don't get me wrong, it was scary and filled with loss. And life took on a sabbath quality that made room to pay attention and pend for a bit with that strangely empty calendar. Reading *My Grandmother's Hands* has taught me to listen to my body. My filling calendar is not lightening my steps or easing the constriction in my chest. What might I learn from the clear sense that rushing through life isn't the same blessing as the rushing water of spring?

Perhaps the lesson is to notice that while water is rushing, spring isn't. Spring comes when it comes. Peonies emerge in God's timing, not because I need a bouquet. The practice of Lent is a long one. Holy Week longer still, as we wait. Making our way through the last meal, the aching remembrance of Good Friday, that long Saturday where even bright sunshine is tinted with grief. Until at last, on Easter Sunday the sun rises in God's good rhythm, calling us to sing praises and give thanks for life in all its gracious wonder and pacing.

So, friends, take your time. Spring is one of the unique gifts of life here. Let's not rush it. Let's not rush ourselves. Trusting that God holds time and God holds our human rhythms. Rather than letting rushing water stir an impulse to rush, let it be an invitation to stop, listen, smell, breathe, and wait.

A few days more and then—wow!

Pastor Chris

### **Council Announces Feasibility Study**

As we have begun to gather in person again and continue to reengage as a congregation, it is important that we assess where we are as individuals, and together as a community of faith.

Over the past year or so, the council has been working through a visioning process. Part of that process was to assess our financial position and evaluate our indebtedness. One way to continue this work of assessment and re-engagement is through a feasibility study for a potential capital campaign.

To that end, the congregational council has contracted with Steve Olson of Olson Advancement to conduct this feasibility study. (Three consulting firms were interviewed.) Steve is an ELCA pastor who served congregations in Washington State, served in advancement at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA, and has worked the past 22 years on stewardship and capital campaigns with congregations. He is proud to say that he has known members of Trinity since the 1970s when he welcomed campers as a counselor at Camp House in northern Minnesota!

A key element of the feasibility study will be interviews with a cross-section of the congregation to receive feedback about Trinity Lutheran Church and a potential capital campaign for building improvements, mortgage debt reduction, and mission. The interviews are 30-45 minutes in length and will take place in May. If you would like to take part, please contact Linda Flood in the church office at 651-439-7400 or Iflood@trinitylc.org. The interviews will be conducted in person at the church or by Zoom if you prefer. Details on dates and times will be provided in early May.

The report will be presented to the church council in July and subsequently made available to the congregation. Any potential further steps to conduct a capital campaign would be brought to the congregation for approval.

As it is a feasibility study only, target amounts and particular projects are yet to be determined. The feasibility study will help shape this. If you have other questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

God's Peace,

Andrew Thelander, Council President
The Rev. Dr. Chris Bellefeuille, Lead Pastor

PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION
THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



## God's Easter Tension: Brimming even in Brokenness

Our headlines and hearts are often full of rough stuff.

Full to the brim with brokenness: families in conflict, housing shortages, cycles of violence, racial reckoning, refugees fleeing from war, and the threat of endemic virus.

As I write this, we have just begun the long process of resettling our Afghan neighbors (where there is still a humanitarian crisis), while millions of Ukrainians are leaving their shelled homes and livelihoods.

And while we may be breathing a little easier from battling COVID-19 for two long years, the potential of other variants remains a reality.

It can all feel overwhelming and hopeless and meaningless.

I think that's how the disciples feel in the lead up to Easter. They are overwhelmed. The world is a mess full of violence and loss. Their savior and ours has been murdered. There doesn't seem like there is any way forward from here.

This hurting place is where God meets us in Jesus. In the tension of brokenness when it all looks shot.

God changes the ending. There is a path untrodden. A new way. Love overwhelms and brims over the grave. Jesus is alive.

The resurrection means that we can face these realities in different tension.

We can face our past and our present and our future, trusting that God may still bring goodness out of our despair.

Jesus' Resurrection means that we can do hard things, that we can live in uncertainty, that we can repair harm and find forgiveness, that our tears can be transformed into action.

We have done some of this good work through Lent to name the pain of our Indigenous siblings and our BIPOC neighbors and find a new way forward. We can keep looking for helpers in hurting places and collaborate to resettle folks fleeing for their lives.

In Christ, we can brim even in brokenness. In a world like ours, there is no other way.

Happy Easter,

Pastor Peter







## My Stewardship Story

By Noah Schumacher, Guest Contributor Hello friends,

My name is Noah Schumacher and I am here to tell you a little bit about my stewardship story.

My wife and I have been coming to Trinity since about 2009. We were occasional members the first ten or so years until finally three years ago, we decided to call Trinity our home. We wanted our kids to grow up in this church family due to the mission, value, purpose, and all of you that make this such a great place.

For the last 19 years I have been teaching middle school math here in Stillwater. Yep, a middle school math teacher. Growing up, it's every kid's dream. On the list of future professions, math teacher comes

in at number two right in between professional athlete and lead singer in a band.

My years at the middle school have connected me with many amazing kids. And like you, I believe in our kids. I believe they will do great things. I believe they will be the ones who can heal the world. My stewardship story starts long before I was a member of Trinity, because of these kids.

One of the great opportunities at Trinity is the mission trips. As long as I can remember I have sponsored former students to go make a difference in the world. This is such an awesome experience. I feel the need to do what I can to help anyone who wants to go.

Another piece of my stewardship story is making a financial contribution annually to the Trinity Library. My late mother-in-law was a former English teacher who loved to read. My wife and I felt it was a perfect fit to share her love of reading by helping provide for the library at Trinity.

As I mentioned earlier, I have spent most of my life with kids and now I am raising my own. Teaching my own children how to be stewards is a high priority. My wife and our two girls, Grace and Lucy, have been active in the Grace Spaces here at Trinity. Our family helped start the spaces, buy supplies, and pack the bags to allow children to worship with their families.

I only wish these Grace Spaces were around when my kids were a little younger as I vividly remember sitting in the pews at Trinity sweating so badly because my kids were dancing up and down the aisles. Twenty minutes into the service our crayons would have been broken, paper ripped, Cheerios and Goldfish crackers eaten. I would be sitting there hoping God realized that me wanting the service to be over had nothing to do with the message and certainly was not a knock on pastors Chris or Peter either (as I always love hearing their message). It was just the fact that the beads of sweat on my forehead were not stopping until we were safely having a cookie and fellowship in the Narthex.

A final piece of my Trinity stewardship is making a weekly financial donation. For us, this donation along with all things, has evolved over time. I remember when I was a kid my dad frantically writing a check as the donation plate was almost on his lap. I remember myself doing basically the same thing but this time grabbing any cash I had and giving it to my girls to put in the offering plate. Now, fortunately, I can give online. It is such an easy way to give by using this online feature. In a day and age where most of us can't find our checkbook and people buy things with Bitcoin, I love the online method.

Stewardship is more than just weekly financial giving. It is about finding opportunities to explore your passions, be an example to our children, and donate whatever you can to something you believe in.

There are so many amazing things happening at Trinity and so many ways to contribute. Whether it be the lutefisk dinner, tired men's group, children's ministry, yoga devotion, or children's milestones, I encourage you to seek out opportunities to give back to Trinity, whether it is financially or with your time and talents or all of the above.

I give to Trinity for our kids. I give to Trinity because together we can make a difference. Here at Trinity, we grow together. We support each other. We meet people where they are at. It is a loving, perfectly imperfect place for people to connect and grow. It's about being who you are. Accepted. Safe. Loved.

During this Lenten season let us all reflect on what is important. Let us further our journey on becoming stewards of our own faith. Let us take steps to explore our talents, our passions, and donate to something we believe in.

Thank you for your time, considerations, talents, contributions, and most importantly, thank you for being you.

I give to Trinity for our kids. I give to Trinity because together we can make a difference. Here at Trinity, we grow together.

#### **Trinity Financial Update**

#### February Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2022

	This Year	Last Year	'22 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	624,242	754,214	1,354,800	46%
Other Income	180,630	118,553	388,586	46%
Total Income	\$ 804,871	\$ 872,767	\$ 1,743,386	
less: Expenses	871,619	792,442	1,742,006	50%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (66,748)	\$ 80,325	\$ 1,380	

Long-Term Debt Summary:			
Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,252,465	3,346,629	
Increase (Decrease)	(57,687)	(43,486)	
Long-Term Debt - End of February	\$ 3,194,778	\$ 3,303,143	
Line of Credit Balance - February	\$ 70,000	\$ -	

# **Financial Highlights** February 2022

Contribution Income for the fiscal year through February YTD is \$130K behind last fiscal year. We are reviewing the details of our Contribution income to analyze and explain change vs. last year. Total Income YTD is \$79K less than last year at this time. As discussed, we continue to see the timing and form of receipt of Contribution gifts fluctuating greatly v. past years, making it difficult to project expected fiscal year results. Program Registrations, Fees & Payments and Building Rental Income are up a combined \$17K YTD vs. last year, showing an increased level of activity in our building and programming this year. Restricted Income is up \$35K over last year, reflecting use of funds for the Worship Technology Upgrade. Overall, YTD Operating Expenses are \$41K higher than YTD February 2021. As we compare the difference in deficit this YTD v. last year, the increase in Staff wages (includes 2% increase) and benefits of \$34K v. last YTD is impactful but, necessary. For the month of February, the overall deficit increased by \$25K. YTD our Contribution and Total Income continues the depressed trend of the fall season, causing us to carry a balance in our Line of Credit of \$70K, up \$70K over last year at this time.



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

Applications due
April 1

### men's bible study

**NEW LOCATION!** 

# Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Boutwells Landing > The Gables > Terrace Conference Room

Pastor Steve Hokonson is leading a men's bible study, Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. The Terrace Conference Room is located behind the library on the first floor of The Gables. Coffee and a breakfast snack can be purchased at the Boom Site Cafe just a few steps from the conference room; cafe opens at 8 a.m.

Invite your friends and neighbors, as participants are from Trinity and other area churches. Questions? Contact John Hodler at johnhodler@gmail.com.



### Retired Men's Golf | Thursday mornings at Applewood Golf Course

Spring is coming and so is golf season! If interested, please contact Jerry Nelson at 651-324-3176. Please leave a message or send a text. Or send an email to gan1@comcast.net.

### IN OUR community

#### **NEA BIG READ IN THE ST. CROIX VALLEY**

For the 8th year in a row, the St. Croix Valley has been chosen as an NEA Big Read community. The NEA Big Read in the St. Croix Valley is a one book, one community program that brings together residents from throughout the lower St. Croix Valley in Minnesota and Wisconsin around a common book. Art programming in 2022 will be centered on themes found in An American Sunrise: Poems by U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo. In 2019, Joy Harjo was appointed the 23rd United States Poet Laureate, the first Native American to hold the position and only the second person to serve three terms in the role. Read more at: https:// artreachstcroix.org/bigread/



#### ABIDE READERS BOOK DISCUSSION: Black Elk Speaks by John G. Neihardt Monday, March 28 6:30-8 pm on Zoom

"And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and I understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the Spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must lie together like one being. And I saw that the Sacred Hoop of my people was one of many hoops that made one circle, wide as daylight and as starlight, and in the center grew one Mighty flowering tree to shelter all the children of one mother and one father. And I saw that it was Holy." This passage from Black Elk Speaks by John G. Neihardt is an introduction to one of the faith journeys told in the Nov. 4, 2020 issue of Living Lutheran: "An ELCA Oglala Sioux Lakota pastor reflects on her ministry experience" by Joann Conroy. What a privilege and honor to have the Rev. Conroy, lead our Worship and Re-membering services and then answer all our questions during the discussions that follow.

John G. Neihardt is the poet laureate in perpetuity of Nebraska. Black Elk was an Óglala Sioux Lakota warrior and healer. Neihardt documented Black Elk's life story and his knowledge of Lakota history and traditions. Celebrated as a great spiritual text, Black Elk Speaks became the bestselling work in history by a Native American. We hope you can join us in this important discussion of our history. Email Ann Wolff at wolff701@msn.com for the Zoom link or for more information about ABIDE Readers. Watch the announcements for the April 25th book choice.

Trinity's growing ABIDE collection is conveniently available in the Narthex or find the list on our website at https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/connections/abide-readers/



#### SUNDAY adult faith FORUM

#### Sundays at 10 am (between services) Garden Room (in-person) & on Zoom (online) Join on Zoom at: https://us02web.zoom. us/j/82206139084

Please join us between services at 10 a.m. in the Garden Room or on Zoom. Questions? Contact Penny Catlin at pccatlin@juno.com.

Updates and information about Adult Faith Forum is posted on our web site at: https://trinitylc.org/learning/adult/adult-ed/.

# Monthly Conversation with Your Pastors Sunday, April 3

Preaching is always an invitation deeper into who we are as God's people and how that impacts everything we do with the rest of our lives. We look forward to this extended dialog, to engaging your questions and maybe adding a few more. We also hope to laugh and find hope together, loving God and loving our neighbors as Jesus in the Valley.

(No faith forum on Palm Sunday, April 10 or Easter Sunday, April 17.)

# Adult Faith Forum with Bob Boyd **Sunday, April 24 at 10 am**Garden Room at Trinity & on Zoom

# Judas Iscariot Friend or Traitor?



LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

Judas Iscariot is a controversial Biblical character who tends to get special attention during Lent and Easter of the Church year.
Although little is known about him, the role he

played in the arrest of Jesus has resulted in preconceptions about him — and Jesus. All four of the gospels indicate that his role in the arrest of Jesus was one of betrayal; however, the recent surfacing of the Gnostic Gospel of Judas has offered an alternative view — not a betrayer, but

a friend who assisted in God's intention for Jesus. The session will discuss what is known about Judas and the two alternatives.

## All are welcome!

# Holy Week & Easter

April 10 } **Palm Sunday** } Celebrates Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

#### 10 am - Outdoor Community Worship & Palm Processional

Worship with our community partners in Christ, meet at the Historic Lift Bridge in downtown Stillwater. We are pleased to join with First Presbyterian, Ascension Episcopal, First United Methodist, Our Savior's Lutheran, St. Paul's Lutheran and People's Congregational Church. Come walk and commune together on this Palm Sunday morning 2022.

April 14 } **Maundy Thursday** } Commemorates the foot washing and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles.

Noon – Drive-through communion 7 pm – Worship

April 15 **Good Friday** Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.

#### 11 am - Family Worship

Come experience Good Friday with all your senses. Worship designed for children, open to everyone!

#### 7 pm – Worship with Seven Last Words by John Michael Trotta

These words, haunting in their simplicity, expose a gamut of emotions experienced during the Passion. See, hear and feel these words through the spoken word, choir, soloists and instrumental ensemble.

April 17 } **Easter Sunday** } Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia. **7.9 & 11 am – Worship** 

7 am – Sunrise worship with choir, organ and instruments.

This beautiful service will begin in darkness and end with glorious light. Why worship at sunrise when you can worship later in the day? For Christians, the reason for timing a service to coincide with the rising of the sun is simple: It was dawn when the first believers — in every gospel account, women — went to the tomb of Jesus, found the rock rolled away from the entrance and the body of Jesus gone. So it makes sense that this that earth-shaking event would be celebrated as the sun comes up. Plus, the choir will host you for coffee after worship.

9 am – Traditional festival worship with children and adult choirs, organ and instruments.
 11 am – Contemporary festival worship with the worship band.

All worship services are in person at Trinity and will be available online. Except for Palm Sunday which is in-person only and gathers at the Historic Lift Bridge in downtown Stillwater. Find online worship at:

Facebook Livestream>> facebook.com/trinitylcstillwater/ On our web site>> trinitylc.org/worship-music/worship/online-worship/



#### **Worship Texts**

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

April 3 \_\_\_\_\_\_John 12:1-8

April 10 – Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40

Maundy Thursday

\_\_\_\_\_ John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday \_\_\_\_\_John 18:1-19:42

April 17 – Easter Sunday

Luke 24:1-12

April 24 \_\_\_\_\_ **John 20:19-31** 

#### Holy Week & Easter } The CYF Highlight Edition

#### April 10 } Palm Sunday

#### 10 am - Outdoor Community Worship & Palm Processional

In place of worship at Trinity, meet at the Historic Lift Bridge in downtown Stillwater at 10 a.m. for a community palm parade to celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem! Care for Creation Faith Milestone geared for Grade 1 meets Palm Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in the Living Room (see page 10).

#### April 14 \ Maundy Thursday

7 pm – Worship — Youth who participated in this year's First Communion Milestone are invited to worship and formally take their first communion.



#### April 15 } Good Friday

11 am - Family Worship — All are welcome to worship for an experiential worship service geared especially for children.

#### April 17 } Easter Sunday

8:30 & 10:30 am – Easter Egg Hunt — Families are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt before worship services. Meet on the Green Space (or the gym if weather doesn't permit) to find eggs, enjoy an art project, and take a family photo!













April 6 } Wednesday } Final in our Lent Worship & Book Study 6 pm - Re-Membering Prayer **Service & Discussion** 7 pm – My Grandmother's Hands **Book Study Groups** 

We have been so pleased to have the Rev. Joann Conroy, an ELCA Oglala Sioux Lakota pastor, lead us in worship and remembering during Lent. Our focus for this final Wednesday service during Lent will be Invitation to Immersion. What will we commit to after listening to the voices of our Indigenous siblings? Join us for a meaningful prayer service and discussion. All ages welcome.

After worship, we take a deep dive book study of My Grandmother's Hands by Resmaa Menakem as we seek to undo the systems of denigration and segregation still at work in white-body churches.

#### EASTER GARDEN – This form and payment must be turned in by Sunday, April 10

In the spirit of memorializing or honoring loved ones this Easter, we welcome donations toward an Easter Garden. We also appreciate memorials and honors directed toward maintenance and improvements of our facilities. Easter Garden names will be printed in the May issue of Trinity Today. Please fill out the form below and mail it along with payment to Trinity Lutheran Church at P.O. Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082.

Facilities Maintenance & Improvements	\$
Easter Garden (suggested donation \$20)	\$



This form is also available online. Please

scan the QR code with your smartphone camera. In memory of: In honor of: Given by: Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_\_) Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



#### **Summer Camp at WAPO**

Camp Wapo Registration Open! Trinity's 2022 dates:

#### **Seeds Summer Camp**

Seeds for children who have completed grades 1-3, July 15-17

#### **WAPO One Day Camp**

Wapo One Day for children who have completed grades 1-4, July 20 Check-in at 9 a.m. and pick up at 3 p.m.

#### **WAPO Youth Camp**

Youth Camp for youth who have completed grades 4-8, Aug. 14-19

#### **Youth Servant Leadership**

Youth Servant Leadership Camp for youth who have completed grades 9-12, multiple dates

Use our Trinity registration link for the easiest registration experience: http://lwlbci.com/trinity-stillwater

Visit https://trinitylc.org/learning/ summer/camps/ or https://lakewapo.org for more information!



#### Faith Milestones

# Care for Creation Milestone – Geared for Grade 1 Palm Sunday, April 10 8:30 am in the Living Room

This Milestone takes place on Sunday, April 10 at 8:30 am (please note time change!) in the Living Room. Before the community Palm Parade, gather at Trinity to learn about how money and the things we care for aren't just about what we do with them.

Caring for creation, or stewardship, is also about our relationship toward our gifts and recognizing it all belongs to God. This milestone helps children and parents learn more about how God intends for us to appreciate the gifts with which we have been entrusted.

If your family would still like to register your child for this Faith Milestone Event, please contact Sarah Olson at solson@trinitylc.org. Read more about milestone ministry at: https://trinitylc.org/learning/children/

#### Palms! First Communion! Good Friday for Kids! Easter Egg Hunt! Please see page 9 for } Holy Week & Easter } CYF Highlight Edition



NOTE FROM SARAH: The votes are in! Families are invited to participate in a **Service Fair** on Thursday, June 9 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. on the Green Space (we'll meet in the gym if weather doesn't permit). Stay tuned for more details!



#### GLOW/AWE EVENT: Spring Flower Show at the Como Conservatory Saturday, April 23

Meet at 9:30 am in Trinity parking lot to carpool | Entry time is 10:30 am You're invited to join us to see the Spring Flower Show at the Como Conservatory. Lunch after at the Como Pavilion. There is undercover seating and picnic tables might be available if it is a nice day. RSVP by Wednesday, April 13 to Sandy Wendt at sjwendt46@gmail.com so that tickets needed for entry (which are free) can be secured. Look forward to seeing you for "A breath of spring color."



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

# YogaDevotion Chair/Flow Combo Class Thursdays 9 – 10 am | Meeting on Zoom April 7 – May 26 | \$72 for 8 classes

All classes meeting on Zoom. Register to receive the link. 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, no experience needed!

Register and pay online at https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/care/yoga/Questions? Contact Sue Peterson at toddlinsue2@aol.com.



Saturday, May 14 10 to 11:30 a.m. | Garden Room at Trinity Guest Speaker Meta Herrick Carlson Cost: \$10

Please join us in person (can you believe it?) for Trinity's annual Talk and Tea, on Saturday, May 14 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Trinity's Garden Room. Registration fee is \$10.

We are so pleased to have Pastor Meta Herrick Carlson join us, author of *Ordinary Blessings*, *Speak it Plain*, and the brand-new *Ordinary Blessings for Parents*.

Meta Herrick Carlson (she/her/hers) is a pastor and poet living in Minneapolis on Dakota land. Meta cares about cultivating healthy systems and preaching that moves us toward mercy and justice. Her theology is informed by the sacred wisdom of

recovery ministry and survivors of sexual violence. She is also a co-founder of the Alter Guild podcast network.

Meta's first book *Ordinary Blessings: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Everyday Life* (Fortress Press, February 2020) proves a worthy gift in these uncertain times. Her second book *Speak It Plain: Words for Worship and Life Together* (Fortress Press, December 2020) contains blessings and resources for church nerds and liturgical worship communities. *Ordinary Blessings for Parents: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Family Life* is scheduled for release with Broadleaf Books on August 30, 2022.

"I write because I want to amplify what is already and always good enough about those around me. I imagine a world in which we are liberated from fear and shame, where everyone honors their real selves. It is good soil for planting consent, mercy, and joy that grow and flourish. It begins at home, in the ordinary. It begins with blessing."

Please come for fellowship, treats, and conversation with Pastor Meta! Her book Ordinary Blessings is available at Valley Bookseller, mention Trinity for a 15% discount. All her books will be available at the event.

Please register online, scan the QR code at right with your smartphone camera or visit: https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/talk-tea/

If you prefer, please call the church office at 651-439-7400 to register.



## SOLO PLUS PLUS Singles Group for Ages 55 & Up

Solo 55 Plus is a faith-based fellowship group for those single and over 55.

Frequent activities are planned and announced in a weekly newsletter. To receive the newsletter, become a member, or seek information, please send email to: SOLO55PLUS@gmail.com.



#### Bridge for Trinity Resumes First Mondays at 8:45 am Boutwell's Brownstone A Building

Bridge Players of all levels are welcome the 1st Monday of every month at Boutwell's Brownstone A Building, 5450 Nolan Parkway. We start playing at 8:45 a.m. and we're done at 11:45 a.m. Leave early, come late, bring friends, come alone. Coffee is provided. We also like to laugh, learn, and have fun. \$5/ time contributes to Trinity's mission and ministry. For more information, contact Nancy Hokonson, Phyllis Paulson, or Ann Wolff.

April 2022 • trinity.today.

Ordinary

Blessings



# UPDATE: **Outreach Missions Team**

By Marie Liberda, Outreach Missions Chair

The Sadat Family (our Afghan Refugees) are settling into life in Minnesota. The 8 year-old and 6 year-old have started school. The youngest is age 5. Dad has three years of schooling and has six years experience as an orthopedic nurse.



Anyone have ideas for a job for him?

Our Tuesday quilters have provided five quilts for the family. It was touching to see one of the daughters in her bed, under her quilt, making the sign of her heart with her hands. Thank you quilters.

A huge thank you to Spike and Kat Carlsen who work endless hours coordinating all the needs to be done to make this transition run smoothly. Randy and Marty Merton are also helping in so many ways, particularly with the medical needs. Thank you for your time and love to our new family.

The SFWC (Sadat Family Welcome Coalition) consisting of friends from Trinity, Ascension Episcopal (next door), Boutwells Justice Team and ETCIC (Eastern Twin Cities Islamic Center), along with the MCC (Metropolitan Council of Churches) has helped in so many ways. New friendships have evolved. Love for neighbor works. Through your gifts

and offerings, we have sent \$1,025 to the Afghan Refugee Fund, specifically for our family.

Contact Spike at Carlsen@usinternet.com or

Kat at katdcarlsen@gmail.com with all your ideas.

The Outreach Missions Ministry Team has dispersed the funds from the Thanksgiving 2021 offerings. Money has been sent to Valley Outreach (\$2,250), Community Thread (\$900), Afghan Refugee Fund (\$900), and the Anuak Food Program (\$450).

A \$2,500 gift has been sent to Global Health Ministries (for the Selian Hospice in Arusha, Tanzania) and a \$2,500 gift to Operation Bootstrap Africa (specifically the Mark and Linda Jacobson Endowed Scholarship to provide training to specialists) in memory of and thankfulness for Dr. Mark Jacobson. Many of our Trinity members have visited these two places and worked with Mark. Mark is a son of this congregation and died on Feb. 11, 2022 (see next page).

This month we also sent \$2,000 to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response Eastern Europe Crisis Response.

Our work changes and continues. We follow and are reminded of our mission statement: We will follow God's example of love by collaborating with others to facilitate a world in which the basic needs of all people are met in an environment of peace with justice.

# What does Accompaniment Mean? Why is it Important to Outreach Missions and in our Lives?

By Renae Oswald-Anderson, Outreach Missions Ministry Team Member

There are several definitions to accompaniment. For example, in music the accompaniment is what supports a solo or the choir. From a missions perspective—it means to walk along someone and be equal partners is a relationship of mutual respect for each other's lived experience.

The goal of accompaniment is to ensure that everyone's voice is heard and valued as EQUAL partners in the relationship and throughout the process. Regardless of circumstances, it is especially important for people who are participating in service or live in the community to have an EQUAL voice and be heard, seen, and valued as EQUAL partners.

We want to avoid the outcome of missions to be seen as charity or worse yet—"white saviorism" when working in the community, either locally or globally.

Being in a relationship or community with one another is rooted in the scripture, "Love thy neighbor" or as written in 1 Corinthians 12:12 "We are one body, with many members, all interdependent upon one another with joy and suffering."

In 2013, the ELCA published a document titled "Accompaniment, a Theology of Missions" which was reviewed and studied by the Outreach Mission team in 2017. Accompaniment frames our logo, it is the very foundation of our work in the community at large.

Listed below are the core values of accompaniment.

Mutuality – We all have something to give and we all have something to receive as we share our time, talents and resources.

**Inclusivity** – Everyone is included and no one is left out or behind. Sadly, our

BIPOC (Black, brown, Indigenous, and People of Color) brothers and sisters have experienced centuries of systematic racism. We each must reflect on our own stories, power, and privilege to build a more just and equitable society.

Vulnerability – Being open to sharing power, listening with an open mind and heart, and thinking outside the box results in creative options and solutions, mutual understanding, and continues the journey of reflection and life-long learning. Vulnerability is also a key ingredient in building trusting and lasting relationships.

Empowerment – Creating a place and space where power is shared so all voices are heard, honored, and respected. Those of us with privilege and power could and should share power. Standing up and speaking out where systems of repression continue to exist is an opportunity for advocacy to share our voice and faith.

Let us all work together to be the transformational power that embodies a just, compassionate, and equitable community for all.

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# Remembering Dr. Mark Jacobson

By Michele Hermansen

Pastor Chuck Claus was preaching one summer Sunday at the drive-in sometime between 2005 and 2010. Pastor Chuck and Flo had recently returned from teaching at Tumaini University in Tanzania, after which they visited Dr. Mark Jacobson in Arusha, Tanzania. Mark had grown up at Trinity, moved to Arusha in 1985 with his wife Linda to begin his medical ministry there, and Pastor Chuck gave an impassioned plea to raise money for neo-natal intensive care equipment for Selian Hospital. Although we were not yet members of Trinity and this was our first introduction to Dr. Jacobson, Pastor Chuck convinced us of the immediate need to financially support that NICU.

I could never have dreamed then how impactful Mark and Linda and their ministry would become in my life. I never dreamed that I would go to Tanzania—multiple times even; spend time listening to them; see their work first-hand; and understand some of what is possible with faith, vision, accompaniment and unwavering commitment.

Mark passed away on Feb. 11, 2022 at age 70 of brain cancer. Ten days later another world-changing Harvard grad, Dr. Paul Farmer, passed away unexpectedly at age 62 while working in Rwanda. I remember Flo Clause also introducing me to Dr. Farmer's work at Partners in Health through the book "Mountains Beyond Mountains" by Tracy Kidder. Within ten days, the world lost two of our greatest health advocates for the poor, anthropologists, humanitarians, and compassionate physicians of this age. It would be impossible to measure the true magnitude of their positive impact upon individuals,

societies, and our collective health care worldwide.

In honor of Dr. Jacobson's lifelong commitment to God's call to a wholistic ministry, the Outreach Mission Team on behalf of Trinity has given \$2,500 to the Mark and Linda Jacobson Endowed Scholarship (for specialists and nursing students) through Operation Bootstrap Africa, and \$2,500 to Global Health Ministries for the Selian Hospice Program.

Dr. Mark L. Jacobson Obituary

Mark was born in Stillwater, MN, to Reuben and C. Jean Jacobson. He grew up with his three sisters and became the youngest Eagle Scout in Minnesota, graduating from Stillwater High School in 1970. He graduated from Harvard college in 1974 and from medical school at the University of Minnesota in 1978.

Mark saw medicine as a tool to help serve others. After he completed his residency in internal medicine, Mark worked in refugee camps in Somalia for a short time and completed an MPH program at Johns Hopkins University, where he met his wife-to-be Linda in 1981. His partner in life and work, they graduated together in 1982 and were married in Linda's home of Chattanooga, TN later that year. The month after they were married they moved to Nairobi, Kenya, for community health work through Hopkins and USAID. Mark taught himself Swahili at that time.

Mark first went to Arusha, Tanzania in 1975 with his father to visit Lutheran missionaries and said, "It was life changing for me as God seemed to grab hold of me and show me that this was where God wanted me to serve. That was my calling." Mark and Linda moved to Arusha in 1985 and started working through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Arusha was their home of over 35 years where they raised their three daughters. They hosted countless friends, church, and medical groups in Ilboru, where Mark happily shared about Lutheran health care in Tanzania. Mark was a member of the Arusha Community Church from its inception. Throughout his life and career he charged (literally and figuratively!) along the challenging roads in Tanzania.

A man of vision and action, Mark grew a one-room clinic into two nationally recognized hospitals with more than 500 staff and 150,000 patients per year. The impact Mark had on healthcare in Tanzania is immeasurable. As health needs in the area changed, he developed programs around HIV/AIDS, obstetric fistula repair, palliative care and hospice (including co-founding

the African Palliative Care Association), cancer care (including as a board member of the Foundation for Cancer Care in Tanzania), the Plaster House rehab center, and medical training and scholarships for hundreds of staff (including surgical residencies and a new nursing school). In 2020, when COVID affected Mark and Linda's plans to divide their work and time between Minnesota and Tanzania, Mark quickly pivoted to consulting on health projects and COVID worldwide, from South Sudan and Bangladesh and provided guidance and comfort to his colleagues in this trying time.

Mark was a professor at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine and the University of Virginia School of Medicine and was known as 'Prof' to his Tanzanian colleagues. The Mark and Linda Jacobson Infusion Center in Moshi, Tanzania, is named in their honor. Mark was recognized for his work in international health by the Luther Institute, the Minnesota Medical Association, the American Medical Association Foundation, and the University of Minnesota Medical School, but what he really valued was that he helped build local health institutions that will remain in the care and leadership of Tanzanians.

Mark loved safari drives and bird watching on his 'Daktari's hatari safaris'. He enjoyed music throughout his life, from singing with his high school band (UTA), to singing with the Harvard Glee Club for the Pope under Leonard Bernstein, to directing the ACC church choir, to playing guitar around the campfire, to singing with his daughters. Mark also loved to travel (he and

Linda had a lifelong argument over who'd been to more countries - Linda won), and formed lifelong friendships in the squash court. He kept a sense of humor to the end: of his brain tumor he joked "I'm sick, but it's all in my head". Mark died at age 70 on February 11, 2022, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his loving wife Linda; his three daughters and their spouses, Laura Jacobson (James Wu), Sarah Jacobson (Stéphane Dérobert), and Katherine Jacobson; and his three sisters and their spouses, Lynn and Rich Voelbel, Jeanie Morrison, Kris Jacobson and Bill Chadwick, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by Bob Morrison.

Memorials are welcome to groups dear to Mark: Operation Bootstrap Africa (Mark and Linda Jacobson Endowed Scholarship to provide training to specialists); Global Health Ministries (for the Selian Hospice in Arusha); or the Foundation for Cancer Care in Tanzania (Brain Cancer Initiative at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center).



# **Environmentally Friendly Reads for Earth Month**

By Andrea Eckman, Library Volunteer

April is Earth month! It's a great time to check out one of these Earth-focused books. From local Minnesota authors' reflections on nature, to heartwarming animals stories, to nature activity guides for all ages, the Trinity Library has a fascinating collection of books celebrating God's Creation.

#### Animal stories: Heartwarming True Tales From The Animal Kingdom By Jane Yolk

Amazing animal stories that span the centuries come to life in this beautifully written and illustrated book. Some are sweet, some funny, some surprising, but all are emotionally powerful — the Capitolene geese who saved the Roman empire, Balto the Alaskan sled dog, Smoky the Bear, the passenger pigeon of WWI Cher Ami, and the latest internet sensation Christian the lion. A collection such as this comes along only once in a generation, full of heartwarming tales that families will read, re-read, and remember. (From the publisher.)

#### World Of Wonders: In Praise Of Whale Sharks, Fireflies, And Other Astonishments By Aimee Nezhukumatathil

From beloved, award-winning poet Aimee Nezhukumatathil comes a debut work of nonfiction—a collection of essays about the natural world, and the way its inhabitants can teach, support, and inspire us. As a child, Nezhukumatathil called many places home: the grounds of a Kansas mental institution, where her Filipina mother was a doctor; the open skies and tall mountains of Arizona, where she hiked with her Indian father; and the chillier climes of western New York and Ohio. But no matter where she was transplanted—no matter how awkward the fit or forbidding the landscape—she was able to turn to our world's fierce and funny creatures for guidance. "What the peacock can do," she tells us, "is remind

you of a home you will run away from and run back to all your life." The axolotl teaches us to smile, even in the face of unkindness: the touch-me-not plant shows us how to shake off unwanted advances; the narwhal demonstrates how to survive in hostile environments. Even in the strange and the unlovely, Nezhukumatathil finds beauty and kinship. For it is this way with wonder: it requires that we are curious enough to look past the distractions in order to fully appreciate the world's gifts. Warm, lyrical, and gorgeously illustrated by Fumi Nakamura, World of Wonders is a book of sustenance and joy. (From the publisher.)

#### The Bullhead Queen By Sue Leaf

The Western approach to nature has always operated under both spiritual and scientific views. While Christianity decrees that human beings have dominion over nature, evolutionary biology teaches us that we are but highly adapted animals among a biological network of millions of other species. What is our proper relationship to wild animals-and what is our responsibility to them? In The Bullhead Queen, Sue Leaf exemplifies the moral aspect of humans to nature through a collection of engaging meditations on the places she sees every day on Pioneer Lake in east-central Minnesota. Reflecting on the birds she peers at through binoculars and the Lutheran church that anchors the lake's southern shore, Leaf contemplates how her relationship to nature has been colored by the Christian theology of her childhood. Acknowledging the influence of the church on her view of the natural world, she follows the liturgical calendar as a thread, chronicling the change of seasons over the year. Leaf considers the results of the assumption that nature is ours to use: we continue to fish, trap, and hunt animals whose populations are ghosts of their former selves and produce mounting environmental pressures on their habitats. Observing the ways in which the heavy hand of human beings has changed the landscape of Pioneer Lake, and many others like it, she also rejoices in the ways in which the lakes remain wild and exuberant, influencing the lives of all who encounter them. (From the publisher.)

#### Lab Girl By Hope Jahren

Jahren has built three laboratories in which she's studied trees, flowers, seeds, and soil. She tells about her childhood in rural Minnesota with an uncompromising mother and a father who encouraged hours of play in his classroom's labs; about how she found a sanctuary in

science, and the disappointments, triumphs and exhilarating discoveries of scientific work. Yet at the core of this book is the story of a relationship Jahren forged with Bill, who becomes her lab partner and best friend. Their sometimes rogue adventures in science take them over the Atlantic to the ever-light skies of the North Pole and to tropical Hawaii, where she and her lab currently make their home. (From the publisher.)

#### Sharing Nature: Nature Awareness Activities For All Ages By Joseph Cornell

Sharing Nature with Children, selling more than half a million copies, sparked a worldwide revolution in nature education. Now that classic has been rewritten, with newly added activities and games—and combined with Sharing Nature with Children II in one complete volume. Fans of the original nature awareness classic will love this new version, which incorporates the author's latest insights. This phenomenal teaching tool, with its highly effective nature activities, will thrill new readers. (From the publisher.)

#### Outside. Exploring Nature: A First Introduction To Weather, Geology And the Night Sky By Maria Ana Peixe Dias

Even if we live in the city, nature is all around us: clouds and stars, trees and flowers, rocks and beaches, birds, reptiles, and mammals. Created in collaboration with a team of natural history experts, this book aims to arouse your curiosity about the natural world. It includes suggestions for activities and many illustrations to help the whole family get started, leave the house, and go out to discover—or simply admire the wonders of nature. Learn about the formation of the Earth, how the weather works, and what causes volcanoes and earthquakes with this comprehensive book, created in collaboration with a team of experts. (From the publisher.)

#### **Beastly Biomes By Carly Allen-Fletcher**

Animals, like people, live in many different environments called biomes. Deserts, forests, wetlands, and oceans support a wide range of animals and plants. Discover the different types of biomes and the creatures that live and thrive in those unique environments. (From the publisher.)

#### The Earth Book By Todd Parr

"I take care of the earth because I know I can do little things every day to make a BIG difference..." With his signature blend of playfulness and sensitivity,

Continued on next page >

Todd Parr explores the important, timely subject of environmental protection and conservation in this eco-friendly picture book. Featuring a circular die-cut Earth on the cover, and printed entirely with recycled materials and nontoxic soy inks, this book includes lots of easy, smart ideas on how we can all work together to make the Earth feel good - from planting a tree and using both sides of the paper, to saving energy and reusing old things in new ways. Equally whimsical and heartfelt, this sweet homage to our beautiful planet is sure to inspire readers of all ages to do their part in keeping the Earth happy and healthy. (From the publisher.)

#### One Earth By Eileen Spinelli

Celebrate our planet and discover easy ways to take care of it with this picture book that's perfect for budding environmentalists and nature lovers. Kids can count reasons to love the planet and ways to protect it in the pages of this conservation-themed book. Gentle verse reminds the reader of Earth's beautiesstarting with "one wide sweeping sky, two honey bees" and continuing all the way to "ten fields to plow." The text then starts counting backwards, listing simple ways children can help, such as reducing waste and reusing items. The conclusion takes us back to number one with the book's key message: "One Earth so beautiful. Remember—only one." At once celebration and challenge, this book will encourage children to take better care of the planet. (From the publisher.)

#### **Planet Earth By Jill McDonald**

Learn from home and explore the world with these fun and easy board books! This book teaches toddlers all about our amazing planet Earth with easyto-understand facts about countries, continents, oceans, landforms, habitats, and Earth's place in the solar system. Hello, World! is a series designed to introduce first nonfiction concepts to babies and toddlers. Told in clear and easy terms ("Light from the sun makes the moon shine") and featuring bright, cheerful illustrations, Planet Earth makes learning fun for young children. And each page offers helpful prompts for engaging with your child. It's a perfect way to bring science and nature into the

#### **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Sunday, Feb. 20	
In-person 8:45 am	103
In-person 11 am	_ 74
Live online views 8:45 am	125
Live online views 11 am	_ 38
Online views/week 8:45 am	
Online views/week 11 am	_ 87
Sunday, Feb. 27	
In-person 8:45 am	123
In-person 11 am	56
Live online views 8:45 am	109
Live online views 11 am Online views/week 8:45 am	_ 38
Online views/week 8:45 am	219
Online views/week 11 am	_ 70
Ash Wednesday, March 2	
In-person 7 pm	112
In-person 7 pm Live online views 7 pm	25
Online views/week 7 pm	- 55
Sunday, March 6	_
In-person 8:45 am	68
In-person 11 am	- 50
Live online views 8:45 am	123
Live online views 11 am	43
Online views/week 8:45 am	247
	77
Lent Wednesday, March 9	_
In-person 7 pm	20
In-person 7 pm Live online views 7 pm	_ 38
Online views/week 7 pm	73
Sunday, March 13	_
In-person 8:45 am	104
In-person 11 am	87
Live online views 8:45 am	35
Live online views 11 am	15
Live online views 11 am Online views/week 8:45 am	NA
Online views/week 11 am	118
	110
NOTE: Online views in one week are of	one-
minute or longer views	

busy world of a toddler, where learning never stops. (From the publisher.)

#### The Creation Of The World By Uwe Natus

This colorful picture book tells the story of the seven days of creation. From the formation of the stars to the blessing of all living creatures, kids will be delighted with the story of how God spoke the world into existence. (From the publisher.)

#### **BAPTISMS**

- Brooks Judd Colstad, son of Jacob & Abby Colstad
- Hannah Meree Borowske, daughter of Benjamin & Rachael Borowske

#### **CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY**

- To family and friends of **Lynnette Gillstrom**
- To family and friends of Vickie Cartony
- To family and friends of Hudson Birkeland



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: Marilee Tangen Some images from freepik.com Articles for the next *Trinity Today* (May issue) are due Monday, April 18, to begin arriving in mailboxes Wednesday, April 27.

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*Trinity Today* is available as a PDF at www.trinitylc.org (click NEWS)

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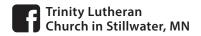
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SUNDAY WORSHIP at Trinity & Online at 8:45 & 11 am

Text the word GENERAL to 651-571-5585 to securely give online







June 20-23

Ages 4 - 9

6:30 - 8 p.m.

TODAY

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God's Living Children are invited to come and Splash in God's Living Water this June! We'll dig into incredible Bible stories and learn how God takes ordinary water to make something amazing: God's living water, that fills us up with love. Join us for a week of art, music, Scan the QR games and more! code with your Monday, June 20 smartphone - Thursday, June 23 camera to register 6:30 – 8 p.m. online. \$30 per child Interested in For ages 4-9, with lots volunteering? of opportunities for older Contact youth to serve as leaders Sarah Olson at and helpers. solon@trinitylc.org.