

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

# TODAY

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







# LEAD PASTOR THE REV. DR. CHRIS BELLEFEUILLE

# Moved by a pulpit in sea air and ancient stone

Hello, friends!

Again, many thanks for the gift of sabbatical. It was just what the Spirit ordered for rest and renewal. And no small amount of fun and adventure to boot. I look forward to sharing pictures and stories and hearing from those of you who explored sabbatical time this summer in some small way.

For now, I will share one memory that comes to mind as I think about our life together in Christ.

Our middlest child Eliot and I journeyed through Scotland exploring standing stones and waterfalls and eating plenty of scones. We were able to check an item on my bucket list by visiting Iona, an island off the west coast of Scotland, one of the Inner Hebrides. Iona is often spoken of as a "thin place" where the veil between heaven and earth is particularly permeable. Saint Columba and 12 companions landed on the island in 563 C.E. and founded a monastery. Around 1200 a Benedictine abbey and an Augustinian nunnery were founded. The ruins of the nunnery are haunting and evocative. There are way-marking crosses around the island that are nearly a thousand years old. Restored in the 19th century, the abbey has retained a feeling of ancientness and long faith.

On Sunday morning, Eliot and I made our way to worship in the

abbey church. Most of us were visitors to the island, including those living in community for a week or more. The preacher that Sunday was Father Azariah France-Williams, a black Anglican priest from Manchester, England.

He stepped into the pulpit in that ancient worship space which smelled of old stone and sea air.

He was funny and engaging from the very beginning. He wove together scripture and literature, challenging us to imagine what it means to be called out, declared "naked" (ala the Emperor's New Clothes). He spoke of the lived experience of people of color, gay, queer and trans folks. He named George Floyd. As he spoke, I became aware that Eliot was crying, hard. I put my arms around Eliot and held them until they settled; and the service moved on to singing and communion.

Afterward, I asked Eliot where the emotion had come from. They (E's preferred pronoun) said it was overwhelming to be sitting in a church nearly a thousand years old, 4,000 miles from home and hear the name of a man murdered just three blocks from their house. And to hear their own experience as a trans person being named in love and compassion.

As a good Lutheran, I had two simultaneous feelings. First: I get it! It IS powerful and moving and holy to be in an ancient place with people from all over the world hearing the gospel preached as a word of belonging and healing. It was extraordinary to share it with my de-churched child.

The second feeling was: WHAT!?
There are pastors blocks from your
Minneapolis home preaching the same
message! Your own mom and her
colleague have named trans people
and George Floyd from the pulpit!

This shouldn't be such a singular experience. And you didn't have to come so far to have it! (I didn't SAY this to Eliot. It was a feeling...)

Eliot's observation set me back on my heels in ways uncomfortable and profound. What does it mean to sit with my beloved, who was raised in the church and is still so hungry to hear a word of love and acknowledgement from the church? And what obstacles prevent them from hearing it right in their own neighborhood, where this powerful Word is being regularly proclaimed?

It's easy to say, "Well, they should go to church! Get them in the building on a Sunday and they will hear it!" And yes, that is most certainly true. But Eliot and their peers aren't showing up for a host of reasons: distrust, prior harm, busy and engaging lives, and a public Christian voice that loudly decries the full humanity of those who are othered, considered less than or more sinful.

Hearing that proclaimed Word on Iona was amazing, even in a place we expect to hear a good word. I am left with wondering what other pulpits we might occupy away from the salt air and ancient stone. How the word of God's expansive love and call to partnership might be heard outside our walls. How we might help those in our own neighborhoods and communities discover what is being preached just as boldly—right here.

Sadly, I have no answers just now. Just the questions to ponder. I invite you to ponder them with me.

It's good to be back.

In deep gratitude,

Pastor Chris

# A statement on the killing of Jayland Walker

7/15/2022 3:40:00 PM

"I prayed with head bowed on my bosom, as though I grieved for a friend or a brother; I went about as one who laments for a mother, bowed down and in mourning" (Psalm 35:13b-14, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition).

### Dear Church,

Our prayers are with the family of Jayland Walker as they laid him to rest on Wednesday in Akron, Ohio, a place I know well and a community dear to my heart. We join all who gathered to mourn the brutal killing of their loved one. We remember also Daunte Wright, Sandra Bland, Philando Castile and Patrick Lyoya — just a handful of the multitude of other cases where a "routine" traffic stop ended with the death of a Black person. As we mourn, remember and await justice, so also must we act.

As people of hope, we must ask, when will such killings end? When will we no longer have to mourn the death of another like Jayland Walker, Breonna Taylor, Daunte Wright or George Floyd? As a church, we have acknowledged that "rooted in slavery, racism is manifested through the history of Jim Crow policies, racial segregation, the terror of lynching, extrajudicial killings by law enforcement, and the disproportionate incarceration of people of color" ("Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent," p. 2). Sadly, we know this will not end until the system is reformed. Police forces throughout this nation are designed to protect and serve, but clearly the system does not protect and serve everybody. Police departments, like many institutions, including the church, sustain structural racism. We cannot fault the individual officer for their racist actions without also faulting the overall system for enabling, and even encouraging, those actions. Structural racism is the reason that, since 2017, nearly 600 people have been killed by police after routine traffic stops (MappingPoliceViolence.us). In 2021, 28% of innocent people whose deaths were caused by police were Black, despite being only 13% of the U.S. population.

We must continue to educate ourselves about problems in policing and the police system today. Resources such as Campaign Zero show us that there are obstacles to effective reform but also that meaningful reform is possible and even necessary. For example, in Lansing, Michigan, changing the reasons for traffic stops reduces the chances of violence, but there is still a massive disparity between the number of Black and white drivers pulled over. In other words, the work must continue beyond learning about the problem, lamenting the problem and taking small steps toward reducing the problem. Long-term, meaningful action must be initiated and sustained.

We, as a church, must join in the call to reform our police forces to ensure that they not only continue to serve and protect but also serve everyone in our communities, regardless of skin color, ethnic background, gender identity, sexuality or creed. We call on the U.S. Senate, following the action already taken by the House, to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and for the enactment of similar police reform proposals under consideration at the state level, such as HB 1267, passed into law in 2021 in Washington state.

Jayland Walker's death could have been prevented if we had a police system that acted without prejudice in every instance, respecting each person's dignity. In Christ.

Elzaluon la Este

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### Read online at:

https://www.elca.org/ News-and-Events/8162

### **Additional Resources:**

ELCA criminal justice statement: download.elca.org/ELCA%20 Resource%20Repository/ Criminal\_JusticeSS.pdf?\_ga=2.162188796.1369034546.1656974946-639310046.1558039579 "Now Is the Time" study guide: download.elca.org/ELCA%20 Resource%20Repository/ DECLARATION\_OF\_PEOPLE\_OF\_AFRICAN\_DESCENT\_Study\_Guide.pdf

Legal Defense Fund statement:
naacpldf.org/press-release/ldf-issuesstatement-on-video-footage-of-policeshooting-of-jayland-walker/
Mapping Police Violence website:
mappingpoliceviolence.us/
Campaign Zero: campaignzero.org

# About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with more than 3.3 million members in more than 8,900 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.

### For information contact:

Candice Hill Buchbinder Public Relations Manager 773-380-2877 Candice.Buchbinder@ELCA.org. ELCA News



# **Trinity Financial Update**

June Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2022
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	This Year	Last Year	'22 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	1,004,123	1,099,772	1,354,800	74%
Other Income	366,629	177,637	388,586	94%
Total Income	\$ 1,370,751	\$ 1,277,409	\$ 1,743,386	
less: Expenses	1,480,774	1,269,707	1,742,006	85%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (110,023)	\$ 7,702	\$ 1,380	

Long-Term Debt Summary:		
Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,252,567	3,346,629
Increase (Decrease)	(96,727)	(75,045)
Long-Term Debt - End of June	\$ 3,155,841	\$ 3,271,583
Line of Credit Balance - June	\$ 108,000	\$ -

# Financial Highlights June 2022

Contribution Income for the fiscal year through June YTD is \$96K behind last fiscal year. Good news, Contribution Income for the month of June was \$101K, \$7K ahead of June 2021. Total Income YTD is \$75K ahead of this time last year. 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. A significant number of our members who pledge have yet to contribute in CY 2022, representing a current contribution income shortfall of over \$110K. Program Registrations, Fees & Payments and Building Rental Income are up a combined \$29K YTD vs. last year, as we continue to experience an increased level of activity in our building and programming this year. Restricted Income is up \$85K over last year, reflecting use of designated funds for the Worship Technology Upgrade. Overall, YTD Operating Expenses are \$120K higher than YTD June 2021. As we compare the difference in deficit

this YTD v. last year, the increase in

Friends in Christ,

The beauty of summer brings time on the river, worship at the drive-in, and the sober reminder that our fiscal year is coming to a close. And gratitude at the generosity of our congregation.

By now you have seen the letter, quarterly statement, and articles alerting you to the fact that together we are experiencing a budget deficit in excess of \$100,000.

The very good news is we have not overspent our budget and have not over-relied on unpledged income in our planning.

The full \$100,000 is unfulfilled pledged income.

A significant number of our pledging families, including Ted and I, have

Staff wages (includes 2% increase) and benefits of \$59K v. last YTD is impactful but, necessary and under budget for FY2022. For the month of June, the overall deficit increased by \$10K. YTD our Contribution Income continues to lag behind last year and budget. Thus, we continue to carry a balance in our Line of Credit of \$100K, up \$108K over this time last year.

not yet given anything toward our 2022 pledge. Ted and I are annual givers and often ride the market for maximum impact. However, by not sending in our pledge, we cause two things to happen: First, worry that the money is not coming for some unknown reason. Second, forcing Trinity to use its operating line of credit to meet our shared financial commitments.

% of

Will you please join Ted and me in submitting your pledged gift, or a portion of it, by Aug. 31 so we can end our fiscal year with a healthy bottom line—as we have for the past five years?

If for some reason you are unable to be current on your giving by Aug. 31, please let us know when it will be coming. If there is a reason you are unable or unwilling to fulfill your pledge, please let Pastor Chris know.

Thank you, friends, for your pledge and the heart that follows it. We give thanks always for the spirit of generosity and commitment to God's mission that shapes our lives together at Trinity.

In peace,

Pastor Chris

# A Steward is Someone Who Helps

By Noah Schumacher, Stewardship Team

As I pondered my stewardship message for this *Trinity Today*, I decided to go straight to the experts. And by experts I mean. . .children, specifically my daughters Grace and Lucy. When I think about the future of Trinity, of Minnesota, of our world, it is our children who I know and trust will steward our destiny.

I sat down with each daughter individually, because I wanted to make sure that I heard what came from each one's heart. (Also, I didn't want to type their responses in between arguing over who is a better Mario Kart player or who is in charge of the remote control). In all seriousness, both of my daughters, Grace, age 11 and Lucy, age 9 were able to thoughtfully connect to my questions on stewardship. To them, being a steward is someone who helps. So I asked them, how do YOU help with your time, talent, and resources?

### Time:

Grace feels like volunteering is a good way to help with her time. Clean-ups, Earth projects, passing out communion, and Maker Spaces/Grace Spaces/Busy Bags at church are all things that are a good use of her time. She mentioned maybe she could show how responsible she was by volunteering at the Cimarron Library instead of going to her next softball practice. Not quite, but her heart is in the right place.

Lucy went on a little different route. As a family we like to visit Minnesota state parks. Lucy loves reading the signs at these parks to learn about the past. Our last two trips to state parks she said she enjoyed learning about the history of the land at Fort Snelling and Crow Wing. Learning (and sharing that knowledge) is an amazing way to be a steward!

### Talents:

Grace listed that one of her biggest talents is riding her bike. She has always loved the outdoors and she feels by riding her bike she can help the Earth. Her bike gives her freedom, but she also notes that it is all green. She recently just discovered that her hoverboard was all electric too, so now she is curious if it would make it up the hill from downtown Stillwater? I love how her creative thinking is

problem solving AND stewardship for our Earth!

Lucy's idea of giving her talents starts with being a good leader. She feels cheering others on helps their talents come out. It also is an example of inclusion, compassion and caring for everyone. She added that coloring pictures, posters, and singing for grandparents and great grandparents to keep their spirits up is a way she can use her talent of art (she did NOT get the artistic talent from me).

### **Resources:**

Grace and Lucy both said this one is easy. They give what they (we) can. Both of our girls love putting money into the offering plate at church. They believe in giving birthday and piggy bank money to Trinity and to those in need. They are beginning to learn about organizations who we (Mel and I) support that steward our world.

One of the most insightful things my daughters said was when I asked them how they came up with ideas to be good stewards. They said to JUST THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU LIKE TO DO FOR FUN, WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN? If you like to play basketball, organize a time for kids to play basketball in the gym at church. If you like to help others, find a place to volunteer, pack meals, donate clothes/toys. Even if you don't have a lot of time, just be inclusive. Everyone has a talent, use that talent and share it with others.

Although these acts seem simple, we can learn a lot from kids.

Be a steward to Trinity by sharing your time, talents, and/or financial resources.

- Sign up to lead a children's message
- Join the Racial Justice Team or the Stewardship Team
- Sign up for automated financial support (https://trinitylc.org/ giving/)

Be a steward to your family, our community, our Earth.

- Become allies and activists to better our world.
- Read books, have conversations, and learn about our shared values

- and history of Native communities in Minnesota.
- Donate your time, talents and/ or resources to communities experiencing suffering or organizations that align with your stewardship beliefs.

As author and activist bell hooks said, "What we do is more important than what we say or what we say we believe." What will YOU do? To help Trinity? To advocate for the LGTBQ+ community? To support those who are marginalized, BIPOC, or are suffering from homelessness? What are your next steps to give back to our Mother Earth? I encourage you to please consider how you will use your time, talents, and financial resources to start or continue your stewardship journey. Mary Oliver, begs the question in her poem The Summer Day, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

Then he turned to the host. "The next time you put on a dinner, don't just invite your friends and family and rich neighbors, the kind of people who will return the favor. Invite some people who never get invited out, the misfits from the wrong side of the tracks. You'll be—and experience—a blessing. They won't be able to return the favor, but the favor will be returned—oh, how it will be returned!—at the resurrection of God's people."

– Luke 14:12-14 (MSG)





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.

# Trinity Ice Cream Paddle

Join the men and women from Trinity for some fellowship and a kayak adventure on the St. Croix River!

We will depart and return from/to William O'Brien State Park, which is about 1.5 to 2 hours on the water.

We will take a break to tour
Marine on the St Croix to
visit the old mill site and
waterfall, the historic
General Store and get an
Ice Cream Treat at Nita Mae's
Scoop just a block from the
River. Start picking your
Flavor!

Date: Tuesday, August 9th

Time: 10 am to 1pm

Meet at: William O'Brien State Park

Address: 16821 O Brien Trail N, Marine on St Croix, MN 55047

Follow park signs to the boat launch.

State park required - https://reservemn.usedirect.com/MinnesotaWeb/Passes/Passes.aspx

Marine on

St Croix

**Cost:** \$40 includes kayaks, lifevests, and paddles. Cash, check, or Venmo. No cost if you have your own gear.

**Kayak Route** - Around Greenberg Island to Marine on the St Croix and back to the park via a back channel. (see map) About 1.5 – 2 hours on the water.

**What to Bring:** Please dress in layers, shoes that strap on & can get wet, gloves, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, water bottle, and binoculars if you have them. Money for ice cream/snacks in Marine.

Kerri – 651.280.7299 or kerri@mywahooadventures.com



RSVP required, as we need at least ten kayak rentals to hold this event. RSVP to Lynne Funk at lynnef2019@gmail.com or 651-253-6695.



Marine on Saint Croix, MN 55047

Riverway Campground

Google





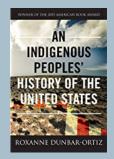
UPCOMING GLOW/AWE EVENT: Hike/Walk at Standing Cedars Saturday, Sept. 10 | Meet at 9:30 am Join us for a hike/walk (all walking paces welcome) at Standing Cedars in Osceola, WI. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the 4th Street church parking lot to carpool. After the hike/walk, we will stop at the Watershed Cafe for lunch. (In case of rain, it will be canceled.) To sign up or for any questions, please email Mary Soderholm at mes1135@live.com or call 612-715-5544.

More information about GLOW/ AWE can be found on our web site at: https://trinitylc.org/ congregational-life/connections/ glow-awe/

Here's more information about Standing Cedars in this description from the Wisconsin DNR: Standing Cedars features a diversity of natural community types situated on the varied topography along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. A mature mesic forest of sugar maple, red oak, basswood, yellow birch, and white pine is found in a narrow gorge tributary to the St. Croix. On the bluffs and hillsides are dry prairie and oak savanna remnants that support a population of the state-threatened plant. The prairie contains a diversity of other native species such as sideoats grama grass, needle grass, prairie coreopsis, white prairie clover, prairie smoke, hoary puccoon, false dandelion, lance-leaved ground cherry, wild bergamot, wood betony, and flowering spurge. Emanating from the base of the west-facing bluffs are springs and seeps that flow to the St. Croix River. These wet areas harbor the rare grass species along with swamp saxifrage, bulblet water-hemlock, cardinal flower, northern blueflag, marsh marigold, spring-cress, and water parsnip. Bird life is also diverse and includes many Species of Greatest Conservation Need, Others birds include black-billed cuckoo, eastern wood pewee, bank swallow, veery, brown thrasher, prothonotary warbler, ovenbird, mourning warbler, scarlet tanager, and red-breasted grosbeak. Standing Cedars is owned by the Standing Cedars Community Land Trust and was designated Wisconsin's 600th State Natural Area in 2009.

# SUMMER READ!

BOOK
DISCUSSION:
An Indigenous
Peoples'
History of the
United States
by Roxanne
Dunbar-Ortiz
Monday, Sept.
26 | 6:30-8 pm
on Zoom



"To learn and know this history is both a necessity and a responsibility to the ancestors and descendants of all parties," writes the author on page one of this illuminating and instructive book.

The acclaimed author and activist does not profess to tell 15,000+ years of history in 200 pages. It is her hope that this book will be "a springboard to dialogue about history, the present reality of Indigenous peoples' experience, and the meaning and future of the United States itself."

It will also be a springboard to activities made possible by the synod grant that Trinity received for the purpose of bringing greater awareness in ourselves and to our community about past and present Native culture and experiences.

I haven't read this book in its entirety, yet. I have referred to it often and re-read parts to help this new information sink in and stick. I actually have the original and the young readers' editions and they are both very helpful. The books are available in Trinity's ABIDE Collection in the Narthex, at our public libraries, and at Valley Bookseller (ask for our book club discount).

If you're not a reader or don't have time to read (I remember well those days), don't let that prevent you from joining our discussion. Dr. Dunbar-Ortiz has many lectures and book talks on YouTube. Even choosing one can put you on this path. Save the date: Monday, Sept. 26, 6:30-8 p.m. probably via Zoom. For more information contact Ann Wolff at wolff701@msn.com or 651-260-3855.

Read more about ABIDE at https:// trinitylc.org/congregational-life/ connections/abide-readers/





# Faith Milestones

Sunday, Aug. 7 AT DRIVE-IN WORSHIP

Celebrating the following faith milestones:

Care for Creation Milestone Serving in Worship Milestone Bible 101 Milestone 8 Kinds of Smart Milestone

Milestones are significant moments that help us practice and affirm faith. These moments are marked with caring conversation, Scripture, devotion, ritual, blessing, and presentation of a certificate.

Blessing of Wapo Youth & Servant Leadership Campers Sunday, Aug. 14 in Worship

We look forward to hearing stories from our Trinity children and youth who attend Camp Wapo this summer! But before you head off to camp, we want to bless all our campers. Camp participants are invited to receive a special blessing during worship on Sunday, Aug. 14 for youth doing the Youth and Servant Leadership Camp.

# Fall Registration:

Coming soon! Faith Formation offerings and registration for the 2022-23 year will be available this September. Join us at TrinityFEST at the drive-in on Sunday, Sept. 18 to hear more about faith formation options for the upcoming year, with programming slated to begin Sunday, Sept. 25.

# Trinity High School Puerto Rico Mission Trip 2022

Sixteen high school students and six adult leaders spent a hard-working, faithful, and successful week in and around the San Juan, Puerto Rico area on the 2022 high school mission trip. "After being shut down in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19, it seemed like this trip would never take place. But we finally made it. The kids were spectacular, and everything went off without a hitch," said trip organizer and Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Monty Lysne.

This trip was a departure from past Trinity mission trips with a summer time frame, a brand-new destination of Puerto Rico, and new trip partner in Minneapolis' Praying Pelican Missions (PPM). PPM handled all the on-the-ground transportation, lodging and work details, leaving Trinity missionaries to focus their time and energy on making an impact with their hands and hearts on work projects and other ministries.

The group was split in two with half doing painting and clean up at Iglesia del Nazareno Loiza Valley in Canovanas, PR and the other half leading a Vacation Bible School and painting the home of a member of Iglesia Bautista Belén in Carolina, PR. Both sites were close to the home base where the group stayed, a dorm complex at Iglesia Metodista Los Ángeles, near the San Juan airport.

Both groups worked during the day, then gathered back together each afternoon at the facilities of Iglesia Metodista for dinner, small group time and special events. Those special events included multiple evening trips to the nearby ocean, outings for ice cream, and a special night of salsa dancing instruction.

As the week finished up, the group was able to enjoy the sand and surf of a nearby San Juan beach, as well as a trip to the second oldest city in the Western Hemisphere, Old San Juan, to see the architecture, brightly painted buildings, and ancient 1550s fort El Morro.

Student missionary Lily Goulette described her experience at a "thank you" gathering for Trinity on July 17 at the 10 a.m. drive-in worship service: "This trip wasn't just about the physical work we did, it was about the relationships we built with each other and the community. The prayer











walk we took through the neighborhood of the church helped me feel more connected to the local people. I also got to make new friendships and build deeper connections with the other missionaries on the trip. Puerto Rico, in one word, was an experience."



































# **VBS Recap**

This past June Trinity welcomed 20 children and more than 20 high school and adult volunteers to church for Vacation Bible School! We splashed in God's living water, learning that water is just water, but when God gets involved...extraordinary things happen. Water is life in every sense of the word and nourishes us physically and spiritually.

Throughout our week of VBS, children learned about the life-giving blessing water provides to communities that don't have access to reliable drinking water around the world, like in our companion congregation in Mwatasi, Tanzania. One of Trinity's ongoing missions is to help provide water infrastructure and training (as well as scholarships for secondary schools) for our friends in Mwatasi. Children had the opportunity during Large Group time to help support this mission through a monetary offering. The goal for the week was to collect \$50 to support water efforts in Mwatasi and VBS participants knocked that goal out of the park! The grand total collected came to \$76.70. Asante sanna!







# **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.

Aug. 7	Luke 12:32-40
Aug. 14	Luke 12:49-56
Aug. 21	Luke 13:10-17
Aug. 28	Luke 14:1, 7-14





# Summer Sunday Worship

Now through Sunday, Sept. 11.

IN PERSON:

**8:45 a.m.** — Indoor Worship in our Sanctuary Indoor worship continues at 8:45 a.m. at Trinity.

10 a.m. — Outdoor Worship at the Drive-in, Houlton, WI Worship from your car or lawn chair. Read more about the drive-in at: https://trinitylc.org/worship-music/worship/drive-in-summer-worship/

### **ONLINE:**

**8:45 a.m.** — **Livestream Worship from Trinity** Watch on our web site at: https://trinitylc.org/worship-music/worship/online-worship/

# Coming up at Drive-in Worship

Sunday, Aug. 14: Worship with the Croix Chordsmen

Special Guests Croix Chordsmen will be providing several musical selections throughout worship.

Sunday, Aug. 28: Blessing of the Animals

Bring your (leashed and friendly) furry family members to the Drive-in to receive a special blessing in worship.

Sunday, Sept. 18: TrinityFEST (see back cover)

Our annual kick-off to fall ministries featuring awesome worship, music, food, and fellowship!





# Join the Backpack/Lunch Box Parade! Collection is now through Aug. 12

By Kristie Anderson, Stuff the Bus Coordinator

We just had the most fun! Sandy Wendt and I dropped off 25 large, beautiful backpacks and a couple lunch boxes to Community Thread using collective funds from friends at Trinity!

Trinity has been in a school supply partnership with Cimarron/FamilyMeans since 2013, and beginning last year, we joined in partnership with a larger community group which also includes Community Thread, the Stillwater School District, United Way and other businesses and churches. It's more JOY to come together as one entity now! You can join our parade!

- 1) Purchase large, sturdy backpacks and/or lunch boxes.
- 2) Deliver them to Trinity Mondays-Thursdays 9-5 pm, to the drive in or Trinity on Sunday mornings, to Kristie Anderson(651/439-9133)or Sandy Wendt(651/470-1902), or directly to Community Thread(2300 Orleans St W in Stillwater)by August 12.
- 3) You can also send monetary donations to Trinity (with backpacks in the memo line) or directly to Community Thread before August 8.
- 4) PLEASE contact Kristie at 651-439-9133 or jkjsa@hotmail.com with news of your donations so we can keep accurate records. Much appreciated!

We started this adventure with the hope that we'd try to help build up school excitement while at the same time diminish school cost concerns. Never in our wildest dreams did we ever imagine how deeply the Cimarron students and families would impact our lives! Please join our JOY-ous parade in this mutual effort to live as neighbors in our little corner of the world!

JOY-filled ANTICIPATION ~

- \* witnessing the JOY of all the local students who are registering right now for essential school supplies;
- \* sharing the JOY of buying 25 backpacks in mid-July using donated funds from Trinity supporters;
- \* looking forward to the JOY of students heading back to school with beautiful new backpacks and lunch boxes;
- \* joining willing Trinity worker bees who will JOY-fully distribute school supplies right into the JOY-ous hands of young people living at Cimarron in Lake Elmo!

We are filled with deep gratitude for your partnership in this collection!





# "God's work. Our hands."

By Glenda Bjorum, GWOH Coordinator

"In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven." – Matthew 5:16

This September congregations of the ELCA will join together for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, our annual day of service.

Before long it will be September and everyone will be enjoying lovely fall weather. It is also a time when families and individuals may need help with a number of cool weather indoor and outdoor tasks. With this in mind the ELCA has declared Sunday, Sept. 11 as "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. Trinity members of all ages will be offered a variety of opportunities to volunteer time and talents within our own church community and the community at large.

At this time we are connecting with Valley Outreach, Community Thread, The Connect Center, and the East Metro Water Education Program to design appropriate activities and tasks for families, individuals, and small groups. These community organizations along with the Trinity

community will be determining ways we can give of our gifts and talents and share God's love throughout the community. Plans for projects at Trinity are also being developed. There will be something for everyone!

The plan is to spread out the different activities during the week of Sept. 5-11 so everyone will be able to find something that fits their schedules.

Watch for more information in the Sunday weekly bulletins and email newsletters as plans fall into place and registration information becomes available. Be ready and eager to show God's and your love by sharing your time and talents this fall as we participate in "God's work. Our hands."

# **Accompaniment in Action, Ministering to Us!**

By Michele Hermansen, Outreach Missions Team

The response was overwhelming when the Outreach Mission Team reached out to our Tanzanian network of friends to share that Marlene Harty was being cared for by hospice and was nearing the end of her life. It was Accompaniment in Action! Heartfelt messages flowed in by email, WhatsAPP and Messenger. Each message was shared with Marlene's family and read to Marlene. They became a soothing balm for the family and the Mission Team and a testament to Accompaniment ministry as we collectively upheld Marlene in prayer and care.

Marlene, her family, and her friends were ministered to by our partners in Tanzania so lovingly and faithfully during her last days and following her death. Sharing with you some of the special messages:

Just 30 minutes ago we had evening devotion special for Mama Marlene.

Dear Mama Marlene, Apostle Paul in his book of 2 Timothy 4:7 he says: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." For sure we have nothing to say to God rather than being thankful for your love and support to the people. You will be living in our hearts forever. We will carry on in your footsteps. You will remain in our hearts and thoughts forever. Your friends in Tanzania gives you a big hug with love from bottom of hearts. The angels in heaven are singing for you with joy and love as signs of welcome. We keep you in safe hands of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

On behalf of my family and friends in Tanzania, Yours, Michael.

### Handwritten message from 12-yearold named after Marlene:

Dear my grandmother Marlene and your family. I am so sad to hear that you are serious side. For sure you are so special to me. I got this name from you!!! It is lovely name. I am so thankful for your love to me and my family. I assure you that you will remain in my heart forever. Your name Marlene will remain active as they will be call me every day. I will follow your footsteps always. You will be missed by your loved

family, by your friends in the World and by your Church in Stillwater. But I am glad that soon you will be going to our father in heaven, where there is no more pain, no more troubles. You will join with angels singing together with great joy!! Now / have to learn to live without you. But Jesus will be with us to give comfort and console our broken heart. We pray for you!! We sing for you!! We cry with joy for you because you have fought a good fight, you have finished your work in the earth, you have kept well your faith!!! GOODBYE our Lovely MAMA, Goodbye our Lovely BIBI, Goodbye our Lovely friend!!! We will meet you in the HEAVEN. ASANTA SANA MAMA MARLENE. YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER, MARLENE

This message totally broke my heart! I have continuously write emails and facebook messages to Mama Marlene with no response! Am real sorry about this but I can real say; our faith in Christ Jesus make us be happy and praise the Lord for the beautiful Gift, life, and legacy from Mama Marlene. So much to remember from Marlene.

I'll be making a call to Lead Pastor at Mwatasi on this. I can still remember great mission Marlene contributed at Mwatasi and Bomalang'ombe secondary school. Am praying for Mama Marlene.

I better tell you my mom also is not good at all. She has been hospitalized with Esophageal Cancer. It has been a very difficult moment and new experience of life. She has now reached a stage where she can't be able or respond to so many things. Doctors are working to do everything they can.

I can again feel the situation Mama Marlene has gone through. Please keep in touch with me. I feel honored and blessed to be informed on mama Marlene. Zachariah

## After Marlene's death:

It's evening here Tanzania. Standing at the top roof of this hospital and | read this mail that tells me Marlene is in Heaven! | praise and thank the Good Lord for her. | will remember a lot about her. Her legacy and mission will always live. Asante sana mama for this amazing love and sharing Marlene's life.

May the good Lord bless you. Zachariah Excerpt from letter written to Marlene's family members:

/ would like to extend my heart condolences to the family for the love and reminder of Mama's life since / knew her 2007. Please understand that:

- Your sorrow, it is my sorrow too,
- Your pain, it is my pain too.

I'm so sorry, my God strengthen you in this time of mourning, until her body is laid to rest in her eternal home. Go to the God who gave Mama life and even used it in Tanzania, Africa.

Dear families, your contribution of thoughts, energy, prayers and financially are greatly appreciated as they are the seed that lived in the heart, this is all to the glory of God Almighty.

Here is a testimony to why Marlene is called MAMA as the Tanzanian pronounces and names her.

Mama is a great honor.

[He goes into more detail in points 2-4 about Tanzanian tradition, then gives an example of Marlene's response when she first visited the Bomalang'ombe Secondary School and saw the poor conditions in which the students were living.]

Thank you very much brothers and sisters for your contributions and allowing MAMA to be a part of the ministry while Tanzania joins other ambassadors.

Thank God for the gift of life of Mama Marlene during her lifetime.

Let us look to the one who is above.

Hery J. Mtisi

During the funeral, Marlene's brotherin-law Daryl Prihoda presented a remembrance of Marlene which included the impact of sharing trips to Tanzania and understanding her relationships there. He closed his remarks with a video song and prayer from about 15 years ago of students at the Bomalang'ombe Secondary School. The song words were strikingly fitting: "My name is there, my name is there, my name is there forever; Your name is there, your name is there, your name is there forever."

Then while the students hummed the tune, one of the students said a prayer which is in part:

"We know that we got salvation by the blood of Jesus. Let me and you believe that Jesus will come and take us to live with him in heaven forever and ever. Amen."

Grace, the student who prayed the prayer stayed in touch with Marlene over the years, is now married to a missionary and living in Kenya and is one of the people who sent messages of comfort.

I'll close with a prayer for Marlene: Gracious God, thank you for the gift of your servant, Marlene Harty. We are grateful for the Accompaniment of our Tanzanian family who walked with us so lovingly during Marlene's final days and her funeral. We give thanks for our partners in the Mwatasi Lutheran Church, who pray regularly for all of us at Trinity. Thank you for all our friends and partners in Tanzania who continue to welcome us into their hearts and lives, who share this world and a faith with us, grieve with us in sorrow, rejoice with us in joy, and pray with us always. Amen.

# In Memory of Marlene Harty

August 25, 1944 – June 30, 2022

Marlene was a cherished member of the Trinity Outreach Missions Team and the Tanzania sub-committee.

She led mission fundraising through years of the mission golf tournaments with great intensity and purpose.

Marlene participated in Trinity mission trips to the U.S.-Mexico border for several years where food and clothing were distributed and sewing lessons were shared in Piedras Negras, Mexico. She also regularly accompanied Trinity youth groups to the Yucatan when they were constructing cement roofs on homes and buildings. Those who traveled with her describe her as a soft-spoken, compassionate presence, always listening to everyone else's stories and looking to meet the needs of others.

The passion for people and mission that Marlene always had seemed to soar even higher when she began traveling to Tanzania with Trinity mission teams in 2007. Despite a tendency for motion sickness exacerbated by the challenging road conditions, Marlene logged over 10 trips to Tanzania with

Trinity teams to visit her growing circle of Tanzanian friends and "family." She was known as Mama Marlene wherever she went, a term of respect and endearment.

Marlene developed special relationships with students, teachers and administrators at the Bomalang'ombe Secondary School. From her first visit to Tanzania, Marlene became passionate about the importance of education for Tanzanian young people, especially girls. She advocated wherever and whenever she could for education and scholarships,\* and for schools and teachers that provide good learning environments.

Those of us who were privileged to walk alongside her witnessed her compassion, gentle heart, ability to listen, strong spirit, and strong faith as she shared hope and prayed. Her unassuming toughness and tenacity enabled her to take on difficult travel circumstances without complaint and to defeat cancer.

Our condolences to the Harty family, and deep gratitude for sharing Mama Marlene with us.



\*Each year Trinity provides secondary school (high school) scholarships for about 26 youth of our Mwatasi partner congregation. The scholarship recipients are chosen by the Mwatasi Lutheran Church for a 4-year secondary school education from among the orphans in its congregation who do not have the funds for the school tuition. The Outreach Missions Team needs to raise \$15,000 annually for these scholarships, which includes a small amount for teacher training and two postsecondary scholarships. This year we have \$8,500 left to meet our goal. The Outreach Missions Team has designated \$1,000 from General Missions to Tanzania Scholarships in Marlene's honor.

# tiny home

# **UPDATE**

By John Hodler, Homeless Strategy & Advocacy Team

Mosaic Church of the Nazarene Settled Tiny Home community will soon house those experiencing homelessness.

The organization, Settled – Sacred Settlements, prioritizes sustainable housing, purposeful work, and supportive community and provides tiny homes for those experiencing chronic homelessness. The major obstacle preventing the creation of the first settlement was removed when the St. Paul City Council approved the creation of a Settled Tiny Home community on the property of the Mosaic Church of the Nazarene.

This link to an emotional five-minute video covers the "off-camera" last-minute pitfall (after four years of work) that almost derailed the St. Paul City Council approval of the Settled community. Also, it is a vivid pictorial of Gabrielle Clowdus' commitment to the Settled approach to getting the homeless into housing. https://settled.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3e0924af67e877370b898c687&id=0725b23374&e=f735d08f7f

City and state regulations were the obstacle to the Tiny Home settlement's creation, not neighborhood resistance. When asked about neighborhood resistance, a Church of the Nazarene lay leader responded, "We, the church, are part of the neighborhood, there is no resistance, everyone living next to the church knows us and trusts us, and welcomes the new neighbors the tiny home settlement will bring to the community."

Settled is the organization that we partnered with to fund and build a Tiny Home that will be placed in the next Settled Community. In September work will begin on three additional Tiny Homes for the next community. Read more at: https://trinitylc.org/outreach/homeless-strategy-advocacy-team/











PHOTOS: The lovely shaded location of some of the six tiny homes making up the community at the Church of the Nazarene. Steve Liberda installing skirting framing and John Hodler on location.

## **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

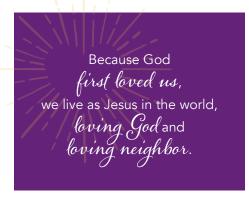
WORSHIP AT TENDANCE
Sunday, June 19 In-person 8:45 am 73
Live online views 8:45 am 57 Online views/week 8:45 am 97
In-person Drive-in 10 am 171
Sunday, June 26
In-person 8:45 am 48
Live online views 8:45 am 69
Online views/week 8:45 am 109
In-person Drive-in 10 am 154
Sunday, July 3
In-person 8:45 am 43
Live online views 8:45 am 65
Online views/week 8:45 am 135
In-person Drive-in 10 am 163
Sunday, July 10
In-person 8:45 am 69
Live online views 8:45 am 67
Online views/week 8:45 am 118
In-person Drive-in 10 am 159
Sunday, July 17
In-person 8:45 am 55
Live online views 8:45 am 91
Online views/week 8:45 am 142
In-person Drive-in 10 am 168
NOTE: Online views in one week are one- minute or longer views.

## **BAPTISMS**

 James Jeffrey McLaughlin, son of Jeremiah & Haley McLaughlin

### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

 To family and friends of Marlene Harty



CORE VALUES
Exceptional Worship
Radical Hospitality
Authentic Community
Lifelong Faith Formation
Compassionate Action



To read our welcome statement please visit https://trinitylc.org/welcome/whowe-are/mission/.

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### **CALENDAR**

Please see the calendar on our web site for events, meetings and other happenings at Trinity. The calendar includes in-person and online events, as well as community events happening at Trinity. View the calendar by visiting www.trinitylc.org then CALENDAR or direct link: https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms.com/calendar/calendar\_public/embeded/b1b938ab694a460eab9874a14aacfb8c#

# **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

The church office is open the following hours or by appointment.

Monday–Thursday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.



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*(September issue) are due Monday,
Aug. 15, to begin arriving in mailboxes
Wednesday, Aug. 24.

Office: 651-439-7400; Fax: 651-430-2935

Email: info@trinitylc.org

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

Postmaster: Send address changes to Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082. © Copyright 2022 Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater, MN



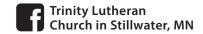
115 4th St. N Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7400 www.trinitylc.org

### **SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP**

8:45 am at Trinity & Online | 10 am at the Drive-in

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











Our annual kick-off to fall ministries featuring awesome worship, music, food, and fellowship!

# Outdoors at the DRIVE-IN

Sunday, Sept. 18 at 10 am TrinityFEST at Drive-in Worship

Music • Food • Ministry Fair • Games 150th History Book available for purchase and more!