

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

Living Faith in the Modern World

Sunday Forum

A place for ALL adults and teens to wonder, learn, share and grow in faith

Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Garden Room

How are we to participate in our complex and changing world?

Do you ever feel like our world and society is a fast roller coaster to who knows where and you just want it to slow down or get off? It seems easier to just go back to what's comfortable for yourself, where everyone pretends to get along or stays in their "place." Well....Jesus has a different idea in the matter. Jesus shows us time and again that we are to engage in the world, beyond our fellow believers. To be a "public church," one that does not stand apart from the wounds and brokenness of the world, but to practice justice, grace and love of neighbor. Together let us explore how and what we can do as the body of Christ.

Please join us for the first session of the new program year!

Sunday, Sept. 25 Native Nations: Standing Together for Civil Rights

A film, presentation and discussion of the historic to present role of the Lutheran Church in the American Indian Civil Rights movement. This will be a great introduction to the Racial Justice Initiative at Trinity for greater awareness and understanding of the Native Peoples whose land our church resides on. Come to listen and ask questions in preparation of our October guest, Vance Blackfox (Cherokee), Desk Director for American Indian Alaskan Native Tribal Nations, ELCA, and the Founder and Director of Other+Wise.

New and Renewing

Friends in Christ,

It is an exciting time of year for many. Kids and parents looking forward to school. (I learned the name of a teacher or two on Sunday!) Teachers eager to meet the students behind the names. Churches ready to welcome folks back from summer to worship, learn, and serve in new ways. The coming art shows, color, sounds and smells of the changing season.

The season of fall signals a celebration of harvest, thanksgiving for the gifts of summer, and preparation for the season of renewal. This year, your council invites you to step into fall with your eyes cast on renewal.

This summer we conducted a feasibility study for a possible capital campaign. Steve Olson of Olson Advancement, our consultant, enjoyed meeting many of you and hearing what you had to say about your faith community.

The findings of the feasibility study affirm the possibility of a three-fold campaign: financial accompaniment (mission giving), improvements to our properties to enhance usability and welcome, and significant debt reduction to liberate our future and free up money for ministry.

In July, the Trinity Congregational Council voted to bring a capital campaign to a congregational vote at our annual meeting on Nov. 20.

A summary of feasibility study findings is included on page 14 of this issue. Please take a few minutes to review the results and direct any questions to Pastor Chris at cbellefeuille@trinitylc.org, Council President Andrew Thelander at athelander@trinitylc.org, orSteveOlson at steve@olsonadvancement.com.

It is important to underscore that a capital appeal is only *recommended* by the council. A capital campaign requires the affirmation of a congregational vote because it requires the

participation and commitment of the congregation to be a positive, hopefilled, and successful experience.

Over the next several months, the council will be bringing you more detailed information about the three areas of the campaign (financial accompaniment, capital improvements, and debt reduction) so you are well informed ahead of the annual meeting. Watch the Friday e-newsletter, *Trinity Today*, and visit the table in the Narthex (starting Sept. 25) for information and friendly faces to answer your questions.

We also invite your prayer. The last campaign closed without achieving its hoped for goals and some were left feeling sad, angry, or frustrated. We are mindful that it might feel a bit daunting to undertake such an effort again. But the feasibility study painted a hopeful picture. And we know from experience that the Spirit is moving at Trinity and that God still has work for us to do. How we steward what God has first given us is holy work. And prayer is a holy endeavor that will enlighten our path.

We give thanks for all that this building and, yes, the debt made possible. We celebrate the ways we have served our neighbors locally and across the globe over the years. And we anticipate the exciting possibility of taking a bold step forward in faith. Celebrating the past is best done by preparing for a future as long and as storied. We invite everyone to participate in this celebration of God's New and Renewing work in and through Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater.

Happy fall celebrations, everyone. Giving thanks to our generous God,

Pastor Chris

Please see the full Feasibility Study Summary beginning on Page 14.

PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



Not Going Back, but Forward Again in Gospel Basics

It's fun to see all the trappings and pageantry of fall festivities in full motion.

This edition of *Trinity Today* is bursting at its binding. Registrations are online for kids of all ages. Vance Blackfox is coming to town. Backpack drives are complete. Dinner Church is brewing. Various groups and Affinity are forming. TrinityFEST with inflatables and Joe Davis are on the horizon. Trinity's 150 years are still graciously and courageously unfolding.

God is good. All the time. All the time. God is good.

And while COVID-19 is not completely behind us, with the skill and aid of vaccines and treatments, we are without question in much better shape.

Of course, that doesn't mean we whip right back to the Spring of 2020.

We can't. Our communities have changed. We are not who we were then. Not just in a chronological sense, but in communal sense. We have said farewell to the faithful departed. Even from our own organ bench. Others have been blessed and released to new endeavors or different communities. Littles and adults have been washed in God's welcome, joining the shared communion of this spiritual homebase. New staff and new roles have been added. Just as the Holy Trinity is a fluid relationship, so too are we.

We have learned a great deal together as we lean into this new season, but we continue to invest and be steadfast in God's mission for Trinity:

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

Our life together continues to look like: Engaging Worship + Compassionate Action + Lifelong Faith Formation + Authentic Community + Radical Hospitality Which looks like you, Dear Church and Gospel Basics. Like the bread and cup. Love overflowing.

Not just in the big brick building, or online, or at the Drive-in, but together out in God's world.

I'm excited for all that's fresh and all that's familiar this fall.

I hope you are too,

Pastor Peter

"Or imagine a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and scour the house, looking in every nook and cranny until she finds it? And when she finds it you can be sure she'll call her friends and neighbors: 'Celebrate with me! I found my lost coin!' Count on it—that's the kind of party God's angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God."

Luke 15:8-10 (MSG)

Finding Affinity at Trinity

Biking. Birding. Empty Nesting. New to Town. Young Adult.

So much of life is about finding your people—especially God's people. We are wired for connection and relationships and meaningful companions that aren't just your family or even your friends. Forming and nurturing that community may happen organically but it often takes intentionality.

At Trinity, we are excited to continue weaving God's people together through a variety of shared interests and experiences.

This Fall, you are invited to join an Affinity Group.

Affinity Groups often consist of 6-8 individuals or 3-5 couples that gather regularly around a shared interest, activity, topic, or experience. They can be lots of different things (in addition to the ones above—fun photographers, young adults, LGBTQ families, busy bikers, nerdy historians, newly baptized, BIPOC, intentionally intergenerational, rugged runners, faithful wanderers, or any number of potential combinations.

These groups might meet for 6 weeks or 6 months or even longer.



As we continue to reorient, refresh, and resurrect our lives again especially in the wake of the pandemic, we would love for your participation and so would your neighbors.

Join a group by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera or follow the link below to find out more and get connected now.

https://trinitystillwatermn. shelbynextchms.com/external/form/ dc574bcc-7342-4d1b-8e9d-8c0ab07256cd

Find your place with God's people at Trinity.





Trinity Financial Update

	This Year	Last Year	'22 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	1,120,376	1,181,895	1,354,800	83%
Other Income	396,840	209,404	388,586	102%
Total Income	\$ 1,517,217	\$ 1,391,299	\$ 1,743,386	
less: Expenses	1,637,039	1,423,702	1,742,006	94%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (119,822)	\$ (32,403)	\$ 1,380	

Long-Term Debt Summary:		
Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,252,567	3,346,629
Increase (Decrease)	(106,557)	(84,538)
Long-Term Debt - End of July	\$ 3,146,010	\$ 3,262,091
Line of Credit Balance - July	\$ 142,000	\$ -



Thank you to Penny Catlin (photo: bottom right) who attended the Churchwide Assembly in July. The ELCA gathered in Columbus, Ohio, for the 2022 assembly. We are always grateful for those who invest time to serve as voting members on behalf of Trinity and the Saint Paul Area Synod.

Stay tuned for a recap of Penny's experience at the assembly!

Financial Highlights July 2022

Contribution Income for the fiscal year through July YTD is \$62K behind last fiscal year. Good news, Contribution Income for the month of July was \$116K, \$34K ahead of July 2021. Total Income YTD is \$106K 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. Several of our members who pledge responded positively to a personal email from Pastor Chris this month, however, 55 have yet to contribute in FY2022, representing a current contribution income shortfall of over \$55K. Program Registrations, Fees & Payments and Building Rental Income are up a combined \$31K 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 \$97K over last year, reflecting use of designated funds for the Worship Technology Upgrade. Overall, YTD Operating Expenses are \$114K higher than YTD July 2021. As we compare the difference in deficit this YTD v. last year, the increase in Staff wages (includes 2% increase) and benefits of \$64K v. last YTD is impactful but, necessary and under budget for FY2022. For the month of July, 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 \$142K, up \$142K over this time last year. A letter to the Congregation, from Pastor Chris, Andrew Thelander and Noah Schumacher, our new Stewardship Chair, alerting them to the deficit and offering actions they can follow to help appeared in the Trinity Today newsletter and on individual contribution statements mailed out in early July.

To Whom are You Grateful? How do you make contributions from your soul?

By Norma Wilson, Stewardship Guest Contributor

Dear friends in Christ,

When I was about 8 years old my family traveled from our small town to "the cities." My sister and I were very excited to see a movie in downtown Minneapolis. As we left the theatre, we grabbed our dad's hands to say "thank you." I remember a man coming over to tell my father what good children we were to express gratitude. I'm sure you also have witnessed actions of gratitude. Consider: To whom are you grateful? How do faith, love and gratitude impact your stewardship? How do you make contributions from your soul?

To whom are you grateful? Learning to say "thank you" every day becomes part of who we are in living grateful and generous lives. It becomes natural to express thanks for gifts, restaurant servers, helpful neighbors, family members in daily life, and in prayer and conversation with our God. As Christians, our response to God is gratitude, and we express our gratitude in the ways we steward all we have been given.

For about ten years, the Stewardship Team called itself the Gratitude Team. Through participation on Gratitude Team, we all became more intentionally expressive: "Thank you God for this beautiful day. Thank you God for the gift of my family. Thank you God for my kitchen and all that it holds." Stewardship focuses on God who created us and has given all that we are and all that we have. Gratitude produces generosity and leads to intentional and generous sharing with time, talent and resources. Be grateful and give thanks to God!

How do faith, love and gratitude impact your stewardship? Ephesians 3:14-21 is a personal favorite scripture; it is what I pray for my family and for you. Verse 17 states, "I pray that Christ will live in your heart by faith, and that your life will be strong in love and be built on love." This verse has explained as: "It is the indwelling of Christ in the hearts where love is produced. Christ cannot be simply a concept or a memory... Where Christ is, there is love." (K. Ruffcorn)

Through worship and Bible stories we learn that Jesus directed his life and ministry to loving and caring for others. Because of Jesus' life, our love for God and in gratitude for God's many gifts, we all respond financially to our church and the mission "to live as Jesus in the world, loving God and loving neighbor."

How do you make contributions from your soul?

Scripture tells us we are to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37)

A recommendation shared in a Gratitude Team class titled Grateful Hearts, Generous Lives, was to review the family budget and make financial pledges/contributions that reflect your soul—your beliefs and core values.

Stewardship, involving gifts of time, talent and resources to Trinity fits our beliefs and core values. Contributions support faith/spiritual development, worship, staffing, building needs and programs. Stewardship also leads to Local and Global Missions, loving our neighbors, and caring for God's creation. With love and gratitude make contributions according to your beliefs and your core values.

If you are interested in reading about gratitude, contributions from your soul, and living a lifestyle of generosity, checkout these books in the Trinity Library:

Giving Thanks: The Gifts of Gratitude 248.6 RYAN

The Soul of Money: Reclaiming the Wealth of our Inner Resources 248.6 TWIS

Giving, The Sacred Art: Creating a Lifestyle of Generosity 248.6 WRIG

My husband Dan and I are grateful to God for Trinity and the growth in faith this congregation continues to impart to our family. We believe young hearts can grow in gratitude and generosity. Gratitude and generosity crosses generations as it did over a half century ago to two young sisters who became moms, and now to their grandchildren who share gratefully each night about a goodness in their day.

Soli Deo Gloria—To God be the Glory! And with gratitude to God for you.

Thank you!

By Scott Kneeskern, Trinity Member

This past winter I asked if you could find forgiveness and love for people who many feel do not deserve it. Along with the blessing of Pastor Chris, Pastor Peter and the Outreach Missions Team, we put out bins to gather books for the Minnesota Corrections facilities. Just like the story of the loaves and fishes, the bins were overflowing with books. You donated 1,500 books! I cherish the conversations I had with many of you and the chance to make new friends.

In July, these books went to the St. Cloud correctional facility. The new librarian was beyond belief at the number of books. She said the inmates cherished the time they get to read, and they were so overjoyed to receive such a generous gift. While we were unloading the books, she saw "The Little Prince." She exclaimed that she had an inmate who had requested this very book and couldn't wait to get it to him.

Please know how humbled and full of love my heart feels for your generosity and love. The books truly honored my friend Chris, and I pray these books will bring some relief, hope, and comfort to the inmates who read them. We truly do walk the walk of Jesus at Trinity. Thank you Trinity family.





NEW MEMBER SERIES:

Sunday, Oct. 2 10 am in Room 108

Naming, Claiming & Aiming Your God-given Talents led by Karen Gieseke

What are your strengths? God created you in God's image, unique and gifted differently than anyone else! As a beloved child of God, you are invited to discover and explore your God-given talents, using the Clifton Strengths assessment as a tool to help vou describe vou and vour talents! Once you have named your talents, we will explore together how to claim and steward your time and energy; how to move your talents to the place of being a strength; how to thoughtfully reflect on managing one's weaknesses; and ideas on how to aim your strengths for God's work in the world, in whatever places God has called you to!

This class is for anyone wanting to either discover their strengths for the first time or who wish to get a refresher on their strengths. Contact Zanny Johnson at zjohnson@trinitylc.org if you need the Living Your Strengths book with codes to take the online strengths assessment. Please get the book and take the assessment before class.

Sunday, Oct. 9 10 am in Garden Room

(during Sunday Forum) What's a Lutheran/ELCA?

Sunday, Oct. 16 at both 8:45 & 11 a.m. worship services

New Member Sunday

Join us for New Member Sunday, when we joyfully receive new members during the service.

Any and all are welcome to come to the classes...and if you are considering membership with us, it's not too late! Scan the QR code with your smartphone to fill out the membership form...beloved

child of God, welcome!



yoéadevo ion

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

YogaDevotion Chair/Flow Combo Class

Thursdays 9—10 am | In-person and on Zoom Sept. 22 – Nov. 10 | \$72 for 8 classes

Come and experience God's presence through the practice of yoga. Meeting inperson in the Narthex and online through Zoom—choose the option that works for you. Led by a trained yoga instructor, YogaDevotion is a practice of breath, prayer, and movement designed to encourage healthy living and a peaceful presence. For women and men of all skill levels and abilities. Beginners welcome, no experience needed!

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



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.

men's bible study

Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. **Boutwells Landing > Skyview Conference Room**

Pastor Steve Hokonson is leading a Men's Bible study. The Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Skyview Conference Room located on the second floor of the Boutwells' main building located in Oak Park Heights. Invite your friends and neighbors, as participants are from Trinity and other area churches. Ouestions? Please contact John Hodler at johnhodler@gmail.com.



Community Foot Care Clinic Thursday, Sept. 22 9 am-4 pm at Trinity Hosted by St. Croix Valley Faith **Community Nurse Program**

The nurse program is subsidizing the cost of services, resulting in a fee of \$25 per person. Registration and payment must be completed online at: https:// www.healthpartners.com/about/classesevents/ (type "foot" under name of event). Limited appointments available. Register for a one-hour appointment with a foot care clinician. Click on "Select a time" to schedule your appointment.

Certified Foot Care Registered Nurses will provide the following services:

- Assessments to help you understand your risk factors and identify foot problems
- Educating you on taking care of your feet properly
- Nail cutting & thick nail care
- Corn and callous care
- Ingrown toenail care
- Identification of the need for specialized foot treatment and refer you to resources in your community.



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.

BOOK DISCUSSION:

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

When I was in school, I wasn't very interested in history. Nor did my family talk about their history and their ancestral culture. They erased those stories and dove into the melting pot, working hard, assimilating, always looking ahead to a prosperous future in this new land.

"Everything in US history is about the land: who oversaw it and planted crops on it, fished its waters, maintained its wildlife; who invaded and stole it; how it became a commodity ('real estate') broken into pieces to be bought and sold." This quote from page 1 of An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz makes history very real and very personal for me.

My mother's family farmed the land and my father's family milled its lumber. The lumber built our homes, our churches, our towns. What entitled my ancestors to this already inhabited land?

In case you haven't heard, The Doctrine of Discovery was ingrained in the mind-set of European colonizers and assured Christians that whatever land they saw was theirs to occupy and use. They believed that God had given them dominion over the land and all its resources. Our founding fathers took this right to the next level.

The ELCA repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery at its 2016 Churchwide Assembly. Our church family has much to learn and to unlearn about our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Upholding the values of accountability, belonging, inclusion, diversity, and equity, ABIDE Readers invite you to join us Sept. 26, 6:30-8 p.m. via Zoom. Both the original book and the young people's edition offer amazing stories of resistance and resilience. Read either or both. They are available in the Trinity Library, in our public libraries, and at Valley Bookseller with our book club discount. All are welcome — teens, especially! For more information or for the Zoom link contact Ann Wolff at wolff701@msn.com or (651) 260-3855.



Education Series with Vance Blackfox, Cherokee

Please save the dates for the upcoming education series with special guest Vance Blackfox, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, founder and director of Other+Wise, and serving as the Director of Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations for the ELCA. Read more about Blackfox at: https://www.otherwise.red/

Sunday, Oct. 2

Vance Blackfox preaches at both 8:45 and 11 a.m. services

2-4 p.m. – Blanket Exercise – Garden Room at Trinity (Ages 15 and up)

Tuesday, Oct. 4

6:30-8 p.m. – Indigenous Thought & Theology – Worship Center at Trinity (Open to all)

Wednesday, Oct. 5

6:30-8 p.m. – Indian 101 – Worship Center at Trinity (Open to all)
This will also be the curriculum for our confirmation youth on this night.

Events are free provided by a generous grant from our Saint Paul Area Synod, but do require registration which is coming soon. Brought to you by Trinity's Racial Justice Ministry Team.

The artwork connected to our theme of listen • understand • connect is by artist Dakota Hoska and is titled: Homeland, Dakota, 2016, 18x24 in., Monoprint, Chine-collé, pastel, on paper The name is Homeland (D)

From the artist: The people of the Očhéthi Šakówin are all one nation, The Council of Seven Fires, but we are separated geographically and because of this separation we adopted different dialects in our language. This piece is part of a series of 3 that showed the landscapes of these three different geographies and dialects. This piece is an interpretation of the homeland of the D dialect or Dakhóta faction of people who have traditionally inhabited what is now known as Minnesota and the Great Lakes region.

Read more about Hoska at: https://www.dakotahoska.com/about



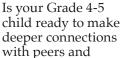
FAMILY FAITH FORMATION ORIENTATION Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 5:45 p.m. in the Garden Room

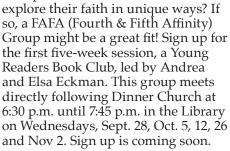
Bring your whole family for free pizza, a preview of Dinner Church, get to know your Lifelong Faith Formation team better, and learn more about the upcoming year.

LINDA SUE PARK

RAIRIF

FAFA (Fourth & Fifth Affinity) Group Wednesdays 6:30-7:45 pm in the Library Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 26 and Nov. 2





Participants will read and discuss sections of *Prairie Lotus* by Linda Sue Park. Pick up your discounted copy at Valley Bookseller!

From Kirkus Reviews: A "half-Chinese and half-white" girl finds her place in a Little House–inspired fictional settler town. Read the full review at: https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/linda-sue-park/prairie-lotus/

Registration coming soon at: https://trinitylc.org/learning/ children/4th-5th-grade/



REGISTER
NOW!
CHILDREN
& FAMILY
FAITH
FORMATION
FOR PRE K GRADE 5

2022-2023

CHILDREN & FAMILY FAITH FORMATION Pre-K (age 4) – Grade 5

Sundays at-a-glance:

8:45 am – Worship with Grace Spaces and the Calm Lounge

10-10:45 am – Weekly Faith Formation for Pre-K–Grade 5 families and Monthly Family Faith Events

11 am – Worship with Grace Spaces and the Calm Lounge

Weekly programming begins Sunday, Sept. 25

Worshipping as a family is central to cultivating faith that sticks for a lifetime. To help families hold worship as a routine priority, Trinity does not coincide programming with worship services. Each week, children can look forward to a Children's Message during worship with Faith Formation for Pre-K—Grade 5 families in between services from 10-10:45 am.

Weekly Sunday Faith Formation

is for children Pre-K—Grade 5 and their caregivers. Programming begins together as a large group to hear the day's story, then adults break off for a time of fellowship and facilitated discussion while children work on a hands-on activity

based on the day's story.

To register visit www. trinitylc.org or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.

vw. n your

Monthly Family Faith Events take place once a month, bridging fellowship, fun, and faith. Most MFFEs are on Sundays between worship services in lieu of weekly Sunday Faith Formation. All ages welcome to participate! No need to register. See the list of monthly events at: https://trinitylc.org/learning/family/

For September's event, please join us at TrinityFEST, see Page 11.



MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFIRMATION Grades 6/7/8

Wednesdays, Small Groups from 6:30 – 7:45 pm | Garden Room Open Gym at 5 pm | Dinner Church at 5:45 pm

Weekly programming begins Wednesday, Sept. 28

To register visit www. trinitylc.org or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.





9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION
Sept. 30-Oct. 1 – Overnight
Confirmation Retreat at Camp St. Croix
Sunday, Oct. 9 – Small Group Meeting
from 7–8 p.m. to go over projects

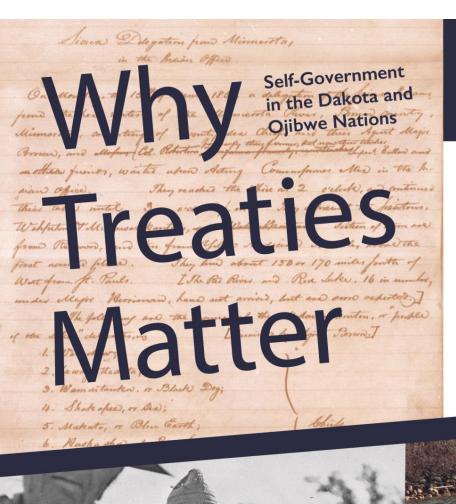
Sunday, Oct. 30 – Confirmation Day at Trinity

To register visit www. trinitylc.org or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.





Please see the back cover for an exciting new option for the whole family on Wednesday evenings this fall!



This interactive traveling exhibit emphasizes American Indian sovereignty as an ongoing continental reality. Learn from Dakota and Ojibwe Nations' new and innovative ways to create community, build sustainable systems, and relate to one another.

Trinity is honored to be the host site of the traveling exhibit Why Treaties Matter

Sept. 26 – Oct. 8

Trinity Lutheran Church Narthex





MINNESOTA
INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL







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.

Sept. 4	Luke 14:25-33
Sept. 11	Luke 15:1-10
Sept. 18	Luke 16:1-13
Sept. 25	Luke 16:19-31

Fall Worship Schedule

BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPT. 25

Please join us for TrinityFEST on Sunday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. outdoors at the Drivein. This is the only in-person worship service this day (no 8:45 a.m. in-person worship). The fall worship schedule described below begins Sunday, Sept. 25.

8:45 a.m. Worship

In-person and online worship at 8:45 a.m. at Trinity.

11 a.m. Worship

In-person and online worship at 11 a.m. at Trinity.

10 a.m. Learning Hour

Family & Children Faith Formation Sunday Forum

Worship Rebroadcast on TV Now on Channel 14

The rebroadcast of Trinity worship has moved to Channel 14 through Valley Access Channels (VAC). Following is the weekly schedule for Trinity worship on Channel 14: Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday at 7 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Sing! Sing! Sing!

By Clark Weyrauch, Worship Director

How are you feeling? Disconnected? Isolated? Just plain weird? I know I am. There's no doubt that the past couple years have been extremely challenging. We are still learning about COVID-19 and it's long-term effects on our health. Something that many researchers agree on is that it has contributed greatly to the "pandemic of loneliness" that is sweeping our nation.

In a recent study, 36 percent of respondents reported serious loneliness—feeling lonely "frequently" or "almost all the time or all the time" in the four weeks prior to the survey. That percentage shot up to 61 percent of people ages 18-25. Yikes. Turns out these feelings of loneliness can have all sorts of negative health consequences: depression and anxiety, heart problems, substance abuse, higher instances of mortality. This is serious stuff. We don't want to feel like this—have our health be negatively impacted—continue to be stuck in this rut.

I've heard that coming out of the pandemic, many of us are "reassessing" the things that occupy our time. People are shifting their priorities. I think there are many positives to that. We all know our time is precious and should be spent with the people we love and doing the things we love to do, but I fear the pandemic years challenged our sense of community.

And what can we here at Trinity do about it? Okay, so here's my pitch. What if I told you singing in a choir is probably the best thing you can do for your mental, physical, and spiritual health. In fact, it was Martin Luther who said that music is next to theology! Singing reduces stress, improves lung function, stimulates the immune response, and drum roll please—develops a sense of belonging and connection!

I get it. You haven't sung in a long time. You've never sung (but have always wanted to try it). You don't want to commit to the schedule (you don't have to be there ALL the time). You can't read music. I'm telling you, it's OKAY. Your kids are off to college (time to do something for yourself). Might it be worth it, after this horrible, nearly three-year pandemic to just get out there and be in community? It may just be the thing to reinvigorate your life!

I'm not just talking about choir here. You can sing/play with the worship band. You can join our communion bread baking team. You can be a part of our Worship Arts Team that prepares the Worship Center for festivals like Reformation, Christmas and Easter. You can usher or greet on Sunday morning. There really are many opportunities all of which are vital to the vibrant church community we want Trinity to be.

Trinity has a rich tradition of strong music ministry. I believe it is one of the greatest strengths of our beloved church. The truth is that strength can only continue to be so with the commitment of our amazing congregation members. We staff people can't do it alone! So, as we all come out of this pandemic time with our eyes squinting from the darkness, I invite you to seize this moment as an opportunity to get involved!

Trinity Choir

- Rehearsal Wednesdays 7-8:30 p.m. (September–May)
- Sing most Sundays at 8:45 a.m. worship (September–May)

Worship Band

- Rehearsal Tuesdays 7-8:30 p.m. (September–May)
- Lead worship most Sundays at 11 a.m. service

Bread Baking Team

Gather on a quarterly basis to bake communion bread in the Trinity kitchen

Worship Arts Team

Meet occasionally to prepare the Worship Center

Usher/Greeter

Volunteer as frequently as you wish!

Email Clark Weyrauch at cweyrauch@trinitylc.org to get plugged in!



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

Guest Preacher Joe Davis • Music • Food • Ministry Fair • Bounce House • 150th History Book available for purchase

and more!

Families of all ages and stages, come visit the Lifelong Faith Formation table at TrinityFEST on Sunday, Sept. 18! Hear more about the menu of exciting faith formation options available for birth through adulthood this year, including Dinner Church, and receive your complimentary, very own copy of Meta Herrick Carlson's newest book to be blessed by, Ordinary Blessings for Parents. We can't wait to see you there!

Do Your Kiddos Love to Sing?

Trinity's Children's Choir Singers in Kindergarten thru 5th Grade Rehearsals Wednesdays, 4:30-5:15 pm in the Heritage Chapel Begins Wednesday, Sept. 14

The Trinity Children's Choir, directed by Sonia Esch, welcomes all singers in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:15 p.m. in the old Chapel and we sing in church one Sunday a month.

In our practices, we learn songs that reflect the themes of the church seasons while concentrating on the basics technics of sharing our voice and talents together in a group.

Children are also encouraged to be active participants in church services by being worship leaders. Singing in the choir gives value to children as worshipers and helps to fortify their self-esteem and confidence being in front of the congregation.

Our first rehearsal is Wednesday, Sept. 14 from 4:30-5:15 p.m. Come join us! Questions? Contact Sonia Esch at wisokiwi@msn.com.



We are delighted to announce the return of Sunday morning coffee hour on Sept. 25.

Fresh coffee, water, and lemonade will be available between services in the Commons.

Sara Dowling has agreed to be our coffee hour coordinator. Thank you, Sara! But she can't do it all. We need your help to keep this fellowship opportunity humming. Sara will have written instructions and is happy to train all newcomers.

If you can cover a Sunday or a month of Sundays, please sign up at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e044eadab28a1ff2-coffee



By Andrea Eckman, Library Volunteer

God sees that every one of us has value beyond our knowing. Whether you are new to Trinity, a longtime member, a first time visitor, or the "lost coin," the joyful truth is that God is delighted to meet us wherever we are in life. These books, available in the Trinity Library, remind us of our worth and value to God.



Searching for Sunday: Leaving, and Finding the Church by Rachel Held Evans Like millions of her millennial peers, Rachel Held Evans didn't want to go

to church anymore. The hypocrisy, the politics, the gargantuan building budgets, the scandals—church culture seemed so far removed from Jesus. Yet, despite her cynicism and misgivings, something kept drawing her back to Church. And so she set out on a journey to understand Church and to find her place in it.

Centered around seven sacraments, Evans' quest takes readers through a liturgical year with stories about baptism, communion, confirmation, confession, marriage, vocation, and death that are funny, heartbreaking, and sharply honest.

A memoir about making do and taking risks, about the messiness of community and the power of grace, *Searching for Sunday* is about overcoming cynicism to find hope and, somewhere in between, Church. (From the publisher.)

One Coin Found by Emmy Kegler The stories of Scripture are for everyone. No exceptions. Emmy Kegler has a complicated relationship

God is delighted to meet us wherever we are in life



with the Bible. As a queer woman who grew up in both conservative Evangelical and progressive Protestant churches, she knows too well how Scripture can be used to wound and exclude. And

yet, the stories of Scripture continue to captivate and inspire her—both as a person of faith and as a pastor to a congregation.

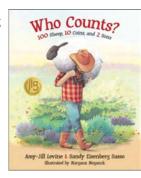
So she set out to fall in love with the Bible, wrestling with the stories inside, where she met a God who continues to seek us out—appearing again and again as a voice, a presence, and a promise.

Whenever we are pushed to the edges, our voices silenced, or our stories dismissed, God goes out after us—seeking us until we are found again. And God is seeking out those whose voices we too quickly silence and dismiss, too. Because God's story is a story of welcome and acceptance for everyone—no exceptions.

Kegler shows us that even when we feel like lost and dusty coins—rusted from others' indifference, misspent and misused—God picks up a broom and sweeps every corner of creation to find us. (From the publisher.)

Who Counts: 100 Sheep, 10 Coins, and 2 Sons by Amy-Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

Oh, no! The man is missing his sheep!
The woman is missing her coin!
The father is missing his son! Can you help them find what they are looking for?

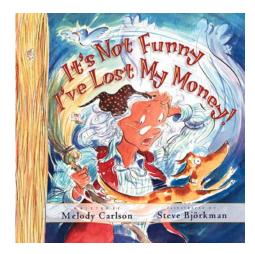


Who Counts? is a creative retelling of three popular parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. As young readers count to help the characters find what's missing, Who Counts? teaches that every one of us counts in God's eyes and that everyone should feel counted.

The stories are beautifully illustrated with modern-day characters and a diversity of ethnicities so that all children will be able to see themselves in the stories. (From the publisher.)

It's Not Funny, I've Lost My Money by Melody Carlson and Steve Bjorkman

The day has just begun,
And Hannah's counting one by one—
But oh no Something's wrong
One is lost One is gone
Please don't sit; look around
Hannah's fretting 'til it's found.
Read her tale and come and join
In her search for just one coin.
Come to learn that what is lost
Must be found at any cost.
(From the publisher.)



Trinity friends: Thank you for Stuffing the Bus!

By Kristie Anderson, Stuff the Bus Coordinator

You are amazing! About 70 Trinity families stuffed the bus. More than 225 large, sturdy beautiful backpacks filled with supplies—and about 50 really cute lunch boxes—went directly into the hands of Stillwater area students. The photo

shows a car stuffed to the brim on the way to Community Thread with some of your generous donations. In addition, Trinity friends donated \$2,800 to be spent purchasing backpacks! And about \$800 was donated directly to Community Thread.

The common refrain as Trinity people dropped off donations was how excited Community Thread organizers were with our strong partnership. The same message was repeated throughout the drive as we all began to realize how many more students registered this year. It was astounding. Last year we had 464 students participate, this year it was about 650; they even had to close registration early. Wow, that's a huge jump and a huge endeavor.

So we are grateful for each of you! We couldn't do this alone, without your investment of energy, time, money and thoughtfulness. I can't emphasize enough how much joy, gratitude and relief filled the families who received

these donations. But our hearts were also filled as we connected in such a concrete way with these young people as they began another school year.

So now, the new school year is here. Let's work on other ways to walk along-side our neighbors right here—donate clothes and food and time to Valley Outreach—become aware of the stresses that families face daily—volunteer to be a school tutor—vote for family-friendly policies—and promise to pray for these students and their families.

How fun to imagine the amazing young person who is wearing and using your donated backpack and/or lunch box! Pray for that young person! Thanks be to God!



"God's work. Our hands." Week of Sept. 6-11

Sign up at Trinity or the Drive-in!

Trinity will once again participate in the ELCA's day of service, this year providing a whole week of projects!

Community Thread, Valley Outreach and Youth Advantage are providing community outreach opportunities. Trinity is going to be the site for a kitchen deep cleaning day and a blanket making project, and there will be a big landscape project at the Drive-in. The final line up includes 10 events with a possible 77 volunteer opportunities. Lots of ways to serve!

Check out the options and sign up at Trinity or at the Drive-in. Registration continues through Sunday, Aug. 28. Questions? Contact Glenda Bjorum at bjorumsing@aol.com.





Prayers for Mwatasi Tanzania

Let us lift up our sisters and brother in Mwatasi Tanzania. While updating the water system for the village of Mwatasi more issues are being uncovered. Pray for safe water. Pray for clear communication. Pray for strengthened relationships.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FEASIBILITY STUDY SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW RESPONSES

Congregational Life

When asked, What are the **strengths** of Trinity Lutheran Church? The most common responses were:

- Worship and Music (preaching and music)
- Welcoming and Inclusive
- Community of Support for one another
- Theological Discourse/Adult Education
- Well-educated and talented congregation
- Mission Outreach
- Visibility in the Community

When asked, What are the **challenges** for Trinity Lutheran Church? The most common responses were:

- Finances
- Building and costs to maintain
- Pandemic
- Youth involvement
- Not as many volunteers compared to past
- Larger churches nearby with more programming

When asked, what are your *hopes and dreams* for Trinity Lutheran Church? The most common response was to *Grow Again*

Responses for both strengths and challenges were invited. There were far more responses to Trinity's strengths than challenges. Overall, there is deep appreciation and affection for Trinity Lutheran Church.

Summary of Responses to Case Statement

The three major components of the proposed campaign were each considered as very important by most respondents. The question was asked, *How important are each of the components of the proposed plan to you?*

Potential Campaign Component	Leve	2	
	Very	Somewhat	Not Important
Debt Reduction	58%	36%	6%
Capital Improvements	68%	27%	5%
Financial Accompaniment	56%	20%	24%

Openness and Readiness for Campaign

Responses when asked if Trinity should conduct a Capital Campaign:

•	Unqualified Yes	47%
•	Yes with reservations	37%
•	Uncertain	10%
•	No	6%

Timing for Capital Campaign

Is the Fall of 2022 a good time in the life of the congregation to proceed with this effort? If not, when?

•	Yes - Fall of 2022	27%
•	Uncertain	54%
•	Wait	19%

Anticipated Acceptance of a Campaign

In your opinion, what would be the acceptance of a Campaign in the congregation?

•	Excellent to Good	17%
•	Good	54%
•	Good to Fair	12.5%
•	Fair	4%
•	Poor/Uncertain	12.5%

Capital Campaign financial support

- 88% Indicated they would financially support the campaign.
- 12% Uncertain (not sure they would/could give over and above their annual support)
- 8 households provided estimates ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000

Legacy gift planning

Fifteen households indicated they have included Trinity Lutheran Church in their estate plans and an additional 8 indicated they are considering, or might consider, doing so.

Volunteer Support

In addition to providing financial support by all in support of the Campaign, 70% of those interviewed indicated they would be willing to volunteer time in leading or providing a supportive role, for a Campaign effort.

There is a broad base of financial and volunteer support for a capital campaign.

- 1. Share this report with leadership, all who participated in interviews, and throughout the congregation and provide opportunities for further questions and conversation.
- 2. Continue financial education on how the reduction/elimination of debt will advance the mission and ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church. Show how much interest could be saved by reducing/eliminating the mortgage, and dream of how those funds could be redirected for other purposes.
- 3. Further investigate estimated costs and plans for existing facilities upgrades. Share why care of the facilities is important in being good stewards of what has been provided by current and previous generations as a "platform for ministry".
- 4. Further research possible recipients for a Financial Accompaniment tithe.
- 5. Continue efforts to engage/re-engage members prior to the start of a campaign. Eventually, design and utilize the campaign as an opportunity to further strengthen and reengage the community.
- 6. The timing of the Campaign needs to be discussed further with leadership. Normally, a campaign for the Fall of 2022 combined with annual stewardship would be feasible and ready if the decision would soon be made to move forward. However, external factors such as the economy and pandemic are creating uncertainty for many.

An alternative potential option, which would also provide opportunity for further planning and preparation (recommendations 1-5 above) could be as follows:

August – October
 Pre-Campaign Communication
 November
 Vote of Congregation to Proceed

November/December Campaign Preparation and Advance Phase Begins

January – March
 All – congregational phase

- Include the three components of the proposed case statement (debt elimination/retirement; financial accompaniment, capital projects) in the campaign. Provide an invitation for campaign gifts, while allowing for designated giving to the components.
- 8. Set a 3 year, 3-tiered goal and share the potential impact of reaching each level and be clear about how the funds will be used overall and for each component.

Foundational goal: \$1.5 M.

\$150,000 Financial Accompaniment (10 % Tithe of unrestricted gifts)

\$675,000 Care and Upgrades to Facilities

\$675,000 Mortgage Reduction

Mid-tier goal: \$2M (\$500,000 additional)

\$200,000 Financial Accompaniment \$675,000 Care and Upgrades to Facilities

\$1,125,000 Mortgage Reduction

Aspirational goal: \$4.375 M

Financial Accompaniment, Care and Upgrades to Facilities,

Mortgage Elimination! (Currently approx. \$3.1 M, eliminating \$214,056 in **annual** debt service!) Eventually reaching this goal might include future estate gifts.

- 9. Include legacy gift planning and education during the entire span of this Campaign (and beyond). Trinity already has several households who have included Trinity in their estate plans, and many who are considering, or who would consider planning for an estate gift.
- 10. Begin envisioning and planning for a campaign that will help individuals and households grow in faith and generosity, regather and strengthen bonds as a community, as you look forward to the next 150 years of mission and ministry in the St. Croix Valley and beyond!

Thank you to all who participated in this study. I appreciated the opportunity I had to listen to your insights and responses. I look forward to the opportunity of further work with you in advancing the mission and ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Pastor Steve Olson <u>steve@olsonadvancement.com</u> 253-973-2611



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE Sunday, July 24 In-person 8:45 am Live online views 8:45 am 62 Online views/week 8:45 am__ 127 In-person Drive-in 10 am ____ 159 Sunday, July 31 In-person 8:45 am_ Live online views 8:45 am___ Online views/week 8:45 am__ 101 In-person Drive-in 10 am ____ 186 Sunday, Aug. 7 In-person 8:45 am Live online views 8:45 am_____ 67 Online views/week 8:45 am__ 139 In-person Drive-in 10 am ____ 164 Sunday, Aug. 14 In-person 8:45 am_ Live online views 8:45 am _____60 Online views/week 8:45 am_ In-person Drive-in 10 am ____ 201

| Page |

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#

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

NOTE: Online views in one week are one-

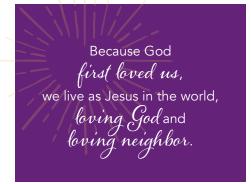
minute or longer views.

 To family and friends of Laurie Swanson

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Monday–Thursday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.



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/.



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* (October issue) are due Monday, Sept. 19, to begin arriving in mailboxes Wednesday, Sept. 28.

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

Email: info@trinitylc.org

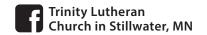
Trinity Today is available as a PDF at www.trinitylc.org (click NEWS)

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

651-439-7400 www.trinitylc.org









God is calling us back to the Table.

As we plan for the fall, we are excited to launch a new season at Trinity on Wednesday nights called Dinner Church.

Dinner Church offers a different kind of space to build on Trinity's values of dialog and discussion, room to accommodate our whole bodies, mingling with multiple generations, and a chance to lift our shared joys and challenges as followers of Jesus.

God's people have always celebrated the physical and spiritual nourishment around the Table. In the Wilderness or in the Upper Room or along the Galilee shore with Jesus, faith and food have flourished together. There's something special that happens when we are intentional about this unifying blend of the Divine.

Calendars have been tipped upside down. Weekends are busy. Patterns and rituals, including worshiping as a family, have been hard to reset. We hope this format of worship and fellowship will be a welcomed refresh to what has been a disrupted time in all our lives through the pandemic.

Wednesday evenings at Trinity
+ Starts Sept. 28 +
Something for the whole family

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

https://trinitylc.org/



WEDNESDAY EVENING MENU

4:30-5:15 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal (K-5th grade) - Chapel

5-5:45 p.m. Open Gym

5:45 p.m. Eat Together (meal catered by local favs with suggested donation) – Garden Room

6-6:30 p.m. Opening Prayer & Dinner Church - Garden Room

6:30-7:45 p.m. Break into Small Groups: FAFA (Fourth And Fifth grade Affinity group)

Confirmation for grades 6-8

Affinity Group for Parents/Caregivers

(Supervised play in the Gym for younger children)