



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

March 2023
volume 45, issue 3

trinity TODAY

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



Share the Love photos
– see page 13

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
– John 11:25-26



seeking:

honest questions
for deeper faith

Lent & Easter schedule – see page 8



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

Saint and WHAT?!

Is it just me or does Lent feel like the season for sinners. What? You don't like that term?

If you have been around Lutherans for any length of time, you have no doubt heard the phrase "sinner and saint" used to describe the people of God. Our Lutheran theology holds that we are simultaneously: saint by the grace of Jesus Christ and sinner by origin. Or "simul justus et peccator." The sinner part is an argument based on the Doctrine of Original Sin which finds its roots in Augustinian thought and about which I could write pages. But for now, let's go with it. And please, hang with me. We are going somewhere good!

Article Two of the Augsburg Confession (one of our guiding documents) says: Our churches also teach that since the fall of Adam all people begotten in the natural way are born with sin, that is, without the fear of God, without trust in God, and with concupiscence; and that this disease, or vice of origin, is truly sin, even now condemning and bringing eternal death upon those not born again through Baptism and the Holy Spirit.

Our churches also condemn the Pelagians and others who deny that original depravity is sin, and who, to obscure the glory of Christ's merit and benefits, argue that people can be justified before God by their own strength and reason.

At the end of each funeral, we say the words: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant [Name]. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her/him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of saints in light. Amen.

The language of sin is not foreign to us. We open most Sunday worship services with a time of confession, confident that forgiveness will be forthcoming. And still, conversation about sin can be truly confusing and off-putting. Despite the efforts of some traditions, calling people sinners in order to impel them into relationship with Christ to avoid eternal condemnation isn't a compelling marketing strategy and severely short changes the incredible good new of what life in Christ can offer.

And we well might ask: What does it mean to be born "in sin?" How do we acknowledge the wrongs we do without falling into shame? Do the unbaptized go to hell? What about, gulp, me?

This is all much more than can be fully addressed in a monthly newsletter article but there is something here worthy of our time together. For today, we can say that biblically-based church teachings are sacred and shaping for us all. And yet, they never supersede scripture. We can also say that sin is real and we all struggle with it in its many forms.

And there is a larger truth at work in our lives.

Genesis 1 tells us that human beings are created *in God's image*. We were the last creatures breathed into being by God's speech—so far as Scripture records. And are made *in God's image*. (Worth repeating, don't you think?) After which "God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good." The Hebrew word for good is tov. Or

We are created in God's own image. Every single one of us. And God looked upon us and all of creation and called us tov. Not perfect. Not better than. Not without fault. Simply tov, good. Through God's own holy breath, God spoke into reality the essential goodness of each creature, each human.

God will never turn God's back on that which God created tov. We can never outsin God's love or capacity and willingness to forgive. We tell the children often and the adults not often enough. You cannot outsin the love of God. For you are God's image bearer and you are tov. You are good.

This year, during Lent, practice this. Sit quietly where you can be uninterrupted for a few moments. Place your hand on your chest or your belly. Breathe slowly for a few breaths. With your hand still on your chest or belly say out loud. "I am tov." Or "God calls me tov." Let that truth sink in deeply. Return to the practice when you are anxious, upset, hurt, struggling to sleep. "I am tov."

How does it change your breath, your body, your thought patterns? It is a temptation to move quickly into applying this to others. Which is good. And Jesus tells us to love others as we love ourselves. So practice a little self-love in the name of the God who made us tov, in God's own image. It is the foundation of neighbor love.

Remember always. You are tov.

Pastor Chris

טוב

PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION
THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



Is Holden Village Calling You Too?



On these longer and sometimes soul-crushing gray days of winter, I often find myself thinking about places that are warm and lush and green.

Since the summer of 2018, one of the places that comes to mind is the ELCA retreat center called Holden Village in the Cascade Mountains outside of Lake Chelan, Washington.

Fair warning: It's a little bit of a trek to get there in the first place. You have to fly in or ride the train and a bus to Chelan, then take a four-hour ferry ride followed by a thirty-minute bus excursion through the switchbacks toward this awe-inspiring vista of the camp. Sometimes there are lessons just in the journey. It's a wild place and definitely off-grid, which is also its appeal.

But once you arrive, Holden boasts a powerful welcome and great food and incredible daily worship. There are a variety of classes, art workshops, hiking adventures to pristine mountain lakes, and a kids' day-camp called Narnia. There's even a bowling alley and a newly-renovated jacuzzi and lots of local fauna.

I am planning part of my sabbatical in June and early July 2023 to be at Holden, serving as a volunteer in the kitchen and getting a little behind-the-scenes experience of this renewal organization, while being refreshed in the Cascade rhythms.

If this sounds like a balm to your soul or feel like you might be interested in learning more, please send me an email or give me a call at the church. Maybe you have already been and would like to share your memories or a story from your time there.

Maybe Holden Village is calling you too.

Find more details at their newly updated website: <https://www.holden-village.org/>

Pastor Peter

Red Cross Blood Drive at Trinity
Monday, March 6 | Noon to 8 p.m.

Keep an eye on the bulletin and Friday email newsletter for more details.

GIFTS MANAGEMENT

Trinity Financial Update

January Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2023

	This Year	Last Year	'23 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	498,366	543,499	1,361,300	37%
Other Income	177,842	162,877	406,800	44%
Total Income	<u>\$ 676,208</u>	<u>\$ 706,376</u>	<u>\$ 1,768,100</u>	
less: Expenses	760,680	748,014	1,767,570	43%
Surplus (Deficit)	<u><u>\$ (84,471)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (41,638)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 530</u></u>	

Long-Term Debt Summary:

Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,136,046	3,252,465
Increase (Decrease)	(49,718)	(47,999)
Long-Term Debt - End of January	<u><u>\$ 3,086,328</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,204,466</u></u>
Line of Credit Balance - January 31	\$ 75,000	\$ 55,000

Thrivent Members— Did You Know?

Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2023, to direct any remaining 2022 Choice Dollars. Help support Trinity Lutheran Church. Choice dollars are designated equally between Outreach Missions and Building. Go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

thrivent®

Financial Notes January 2023

Contribution Income for the fiscal year through January YTD is \$45K behind last fiscal year. Contribution Income for the month of January was \$99K, \$33K less than January 2022. Total Income YTD is \$34K less than this time last year. As discussed, we continue to see the timing and form of receipt of Contribution gifts fluctuating greatly vs. past years, making it difficult to project expected fiscal year results. A number of our members who pledge did not complete their pledge for CY 2022, representing a contribution income shortfall of over \$75K. Economic and stock market worries could very well be affecting this result. Program Registrations, Fees & Payments and Building Rental Income are up a combined \$20K YTD vs. last year, as we continue to experience increased levels of activity in our building and programming this year. Overall, YTD Operating Expenses are \$48K higher than YTD January 2022. Personnel Expense, \$23K higher, and Operations, \$24K higher, (TrinityFEST/Social Justice/History Books, Snow Removal, Insurance) and Worship, \$8K higher, account for the majority of that increase. Some of these expenses are offset by increases in Restricted Income and/or Fees & Payments. YTD our Contribution Income continues to lag behind last year and budget. Thus, we are carrying a balance in our Line of Credit of \$75K, compared to a balance of \$55K last year at this time.



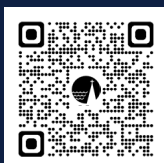
new&renewing

THE NEXT 150 YEARS

Commitment Sunday Worship
Sunday, March 5
8:45 & 11 am | Worship Center

To read more scan the QR code with your smartphone camera or visit: <https://trinitylc.org/welcome/comprehensive-campaign/>

Questions?
info@trinitylc.org
651-439-7400



THANK YOU to all who already have made gifts and pledges for our New and Renewing: The Next 150 Years Campaign! We are grateful for so many who have been involved in this opportunity to advance Trinity's mission outreach through a tithe of gifts received and by reducing monthly mortgage payments. In addition, gifts will be used for deferred maintenance projects beginning with the drive-in and then tuck-pointing on the chapel.

March 5 is Commitment Sunday. If you haven't already provided your pledge, please bring it that Sunday to worship. Together we will bring our gifts and prayers for Trinity and this campaign forward. If you will not be present in person, you are welcome to mail your response in the return envelope provided with your packet, or you can go online to pledge and to give (scan the QR code or follow the link above). Please call the church office if you have not received a packet.

We will continue our initial campaign follow-up through the month of March. Gifts and pledges of any amount are important. Participation matters!

JUST IMAGINE what Trinity can and will do through your gifts—in 2023 and for the next 150 years!

From your Campaign Spiritual Emphasis Team

by Mark Gieseke

Now to God, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly for more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
— Ephesians 3:20-21

I was not at Trinity yet when the building was remodeled in the early 1980s. Many of you were probably not either. But I have spoken to people who were. That project was powered by many volunteers who tell of life and faith-transforming experiences because of what God accomplished through God's power in them. Another example of abundant accomplishment was the purchase of the drive-in, which hosts our highest attended worship service and sustained our community through the pandemic with in-person worship.

One goal of the Comprehensive Campaign is to repay the debt that was acquired in order for Trinity to engage in these ministries and others. Trinity is on solid financial ground and now is the perfect time to give thanks for these past ministries, settle the bill, and enter the next 150 years with new and renewed transformative ministries that are more than we can imagine.

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up.

— Galatians 6:9

It's harvest time.

Please join me in praying for the ministry of Trinity.

Dear God, thank you for the abundance of resources and talents that you have given us. Please bless this "time of harvest" so that Trinity may be renewed for your mission. Amen.



every dollar is a gift
every amount matters

OUTREACH
MISSIONS

YOU are invited to travel to TANZANIA!



YOU are invited to join Mike Johnson and Michele Hermansen on an exhilarating trip to meet wonderful friends in our partner congregation of Mwatasi, Tanzania this year! Proposed trip dates are Oct. 8-22, 2023.

The trip will center around spending significant time living in the village with our partner congregation of Mwatasi, experiencing what the people of Tanzania can teach us. Walking alongside the pastor and various church members will allow us to see and learn about their strengths, challenges, goals, and breadth of their ministry. We will meet with members of Iringa Hope who belong to the SACCOS (savings and loan) and/or AMCOS agricultural cooperative to see and hear about the resulting changes in their lives.

While in Mwatasi, we will do some assessment of village water system status and meet with village leaders regarding plans and priorities for its sustainability, in conjunction with St. Paul Partners.

We also expect to visit two Secondary Schools to connect with students and see what education and scholarships mean to them, as well as their goals and challenges. Additionally, before going to the village we will be introduced to some of the other NGOs that serve villages in the area.

We will end the trip with one full day and two nights in Ruaha National Park where we will have the opportunity to see some of the animals that Tanzania and Africa are known for, on safari drives. This will give travelers the chance to begin processing what we have seen, as well as to experience the Africa many people see when they travel.

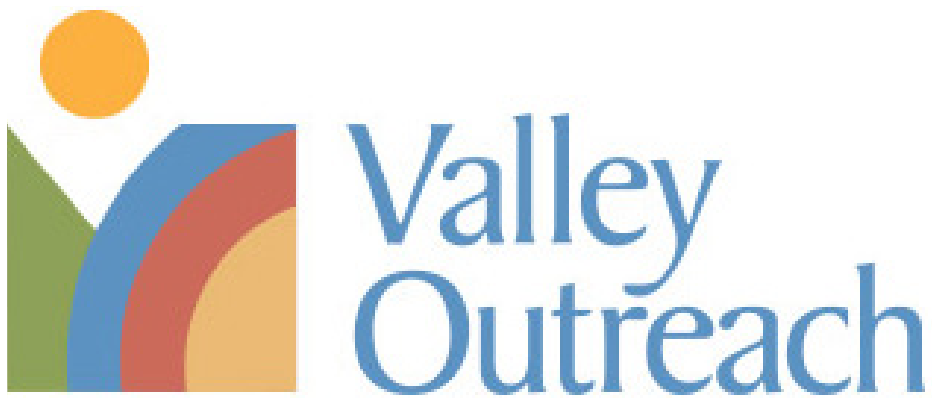
Cost of the trip per person is projected to be \$5,100. Each traveler will be responsible for their own trip cost.

So if you're feeling any sort of curiosity, intrigue, excitement, interest—don't ignore it, please!

Contact Michele Hermansen or Mike Johnson and let us know.

Michele Hermansen
michele2255@gmail.com
612-868-2255

Mike Johnson
mjohnson@lwr.org
651-470-5882



FOOD | CLOTHING | EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Food Drive

Bring your donations to worship on Sunday, March 12

Trinity is participating in the Valley Outreach Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign.

Bring your offerings of food and money to either worship service on Sunday, March 12. We'll place them under the altar to share with our neighbors in need. We ask that each individual bring an item to offer. How exciting to see kids present a box of mac and cheese to Valley Outreach! Let's share what we have.

What's better to donate? Food or Money?

The short answer is both. Food drive donations allow Valley Outreach to offer a wider variety of non-perishable foods, personal care items, and household paper goods.

All financial donations made between Feb. 27 and April 9, 2023 will be eligible for a proportional match from the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC).



Earthquake Relief

With the recent earthquake disaster in Turkey and Syria the Trinity Outreach Missions Team has given \$500 to **Lutheran Mideast Development** to work directly with those affected by the earthquake. If you would like to give additional gifts to this organization, you may write a check to Trinity and designate LUTHERAN MIDEAST DEVELOPMENT in the memo line.

Two additional organizations poised to offer assistance to those impacted by this tragedy and connected to our greater church:

Lutheran Disaster Response>>

https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse?_ga=2.94273567.322425233.1676234693-1135261686.1621824638

Lutheran World Relief>>

https://donate.lwr.org/give/465141/#!/donation/checkout?utm_source=website&utm_medium=blog&utm_content=textlink2&utm_campaign=QUAKE23&c_src=blog&c_src2=textlink2

Small Miracles at Winter PIT Stop Event

More than 110 community members participated in the Stillwater PIT Stop Resource event held on Thursday, Jan. 26 at First Presbyterian Church. The event was staffed by volunteers from Washington County, area faith communities (including Trinity), and service agencies. This "Warm Up with Free Resources!" event offered: hot breakfast and lunch, fresh produce and staple food, gas and food cards, opportunities to use showers, laundry facilities, haircuts, financial services, flu and COVID-19 vaccinations and test kits, personal care kits, winter clothing, and information about available services.

The PIT Stop event was planned in conjunction with the annual HUD-mandated Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of all persons who experience homelessness on a night in late January. This nationwide effort helps communities like Washington County understand the extent of homelessness, measure progress in addressing the problem, and ensure that future support and resources are directed where they are most needed.

Here's a real-time example of a small miracle that happened at this event:

A family had an imminent eviction notice. Washington County HOST staff, Washington County Emergency Assistance staff, and Valley Outreach staff were able to assist this family in applying for emergency funding. What would have taken days or weeks was resolved in a couple of hours.

Trinity will be involved with similar events in the future. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Jeff Anderson at jeffa409@gmail.com.



seeking: honest questions for deeper faith

In what ways can
you grow closer
to God?

What voices are
helpful in your
life right now?

Who inspires
your faith?

Jesus was
tempted in the
wilderness.
What distractions
in your
life pull you
off-center?

Sunday Worship | Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith **8:45 & 11 am | Worship Center at Trinity**

The lectionary for Year A offers us many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: Nicodemus comes to him in the veil of night, he approaches a Samaritan woman at a well, he heals a man born without sight. In these stories, each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Often, an unveiling occurs—assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows.

Wednesday Evenings during Lent | Dinner Church **March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29**

5:45 p.m. Dinner Church | Garden Room | \$5 suggested donation

Meal and worship with a Lenten theme. Dinner church is for EVERYONE—not just for a mix of families of different ages—but also a great time for singles, couples, and friends to join in the Body of Christ at Trinity! Join us in the Garden Room, worship begins at 6 p.m.

Palm Sunday | Outdoor Community Worship & Palm Processional **April 2 | 10 am**

Outdoor worship with our community partners in Christ. Gather at the Historic Lift Bridge in downtown Stillwater. Come walk and commune together on this Palm Sunday morning. For those who prefer, there will also be an indoor service at Trinity in the Worship Center (Trinity is also the backup indoor location for inclement weather).

Maundy Thursday Worship | Celebrating First Communion **April 6 | 7 pm | Worship Center at Trinity**

Good Friday Worship **Experiential Worship for Families with Young Children** **April 7 | 5:30 pm | Worship Center at Trinity**

Experience Good Friday through the senses in a shortened service specially designed for young children.

Worship with Seven Last Words of Christ by Theodore Dubois **April 7 | 7 pm | Worship Center at Trinity**

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

Easter Sunday | Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia. **April 9 | 7, 9 & 11 am | Worship Center at Trinity**

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

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

9 am | Traditional festival worship with children and adult choirs, organ and instruments.

11 am | Contemporary festival worship with the worship band.

CONCERT SERIES:

UNSUNG | Valley Chamber Chorale
Sunday, March 5 | 3 pm | Worship
Center at Trinity

Until recent years there has been so much focus on male composers that women who created music were often neglected, overlooked, or even seen as "less than real composers". There are hundreds of UNSUNG heroes to be recognized for their role in the history of music. We don't want to rewrite the story of music history but through this concert we want to add to it the women who count in the story. UNSUNG will explore and highlight female composers from throughout music history and today.

Tickets: <https://valleychamberchorale.org/tickets>



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.

March 5	John 3:1-17
March 12	John 4:5-42
March 19	John 9:1-41
March 26	John 11:1-45



I HEAR AMERICA SINGING | Cantus
Sunday, March 19 | 3 pm | Worship Center at Trinity

The view of one's life's work has taken on different meanings in societies and eras across the world. From servant and slavery systems of old, to the industrial revolution, to labor unions and the gig economy, our idea of work is ever-changing. As in all aspects of our culture, music has been a part of work every step of the way. Today, both the advent of remote-work and the emerging question of universal basic income are creating new paradigms and discussions about the meaning of work. Join Cantus for I Hear America Singing, a joyful examination of the role work has played in our lives in years past and how work might evolve into the future.

Tickets: <https://www.cantussings.org/hometown-series/>



Volunteers needed at all Sunday services. Fun, easy service activity for individuals and families. Please sign up to greet, usher or be part of the coffee crew. Read more: <https://trinitylc.org/worship-music/hospitality/volunteer/>



EASTER GARDEN – This form and payment must be turned in by Sunday, April 2

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

☐ Facilities Maintenance & Improvements \$ _____

☐ Easter Garden (suggested donation \$20) \$ _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Phone Number (_____) _____ Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to fill out this form online.





men's bible study

Beginning March 9
Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.
Boutwells Landing

The winter break is almost over! The Thursday morning Men's Bible Study will start back up at 8:30 a.m. on March 9. Pastor Steve Hokanson leads the men's Bible study which 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. Questions? Please contact John Hodler at johnhodler@gmail.com.

BIG KID CONFIRMATION **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.** **Living Room**

Most confirmation small group leaders say it was the best thing they did for their own faith formation. Each Wednesday evening whenever Confirmation for Grades 6/7/8 is in session we are studying the same things but from an adult perspective. Join us! Bring friends! Questions? Contact Pastor Chris at cbellefeuille@trinitylc.org.

men's grief support

Dates and times to be determined

New grief/spiritual direction group, specifically for widowers, forming now. If you are grieving a loss and would like spiritual support from other men on this same journey, please reach out to Zanny Johnson at zjohnson@trinitylc.org.



ABIDE READERS
 Accountability • Belonging •
 Inclusion • Diversity • Equity

BOOK DISCUSSIONS:
Last Mondays of the month
6:30-8 pm on Zoom

UPCOMING BOOK DISCUSSIONS:

Monday, Feb. 27 | 6:30-8 pm on Zoom

The Gatherings: Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relations
by Shirley N. Hager

Monday, March 27 | 6:30-8 pm on Zoom

The End of Bias: A Beginning: The Science and Practice of Overcoming Unconscious Bias
by Jessica Jordell

"Wow, this is worth my time. It's worth investing myself." This is how I feel about our ABIDE Readers gatherings and yet, these are Wayne's words, found on page 6 of *The Gatherings: Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relations* by Shirley N. Hager and Mawopiyen, which can be found on the book shelf in the Narthex, home to Trinity's ABIDE collection.

The power and strength of coming together to listen to new voices, see with new eyes, learn and unlearn, and build relationships has been awesome. *The Gatherings* recounts a unique and rare experience, but its lessons provide insights that I look forward to discussing via Zoom Monday, Feb. 27, 6:30-8:00 p.m. It will be a good segue to the book we chose for March 27, *The End of Bias: A Beginning: The Science and Practice of Overcoming Unconscious Bias* by Jessica Jordell. For your own copy of this meaningful and actionable book, Valley Bookseller offers a 15 percent book club discount.

For the Zoom link or more information, contact Ann Wolff at wolff701@msn.com or 651-260-3855. Join us whenever you can. All are welcome.

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



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
March 16 - May 4 | \$72 for 8 classes

Come and experience God's presence through the practice of yoga. Meeting in-person 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/>
 Questions? Contact Sue Peterson at toddinsue2@aol.com.

SOLO 55+ PLUS

Singles Group
for Ages 55 & Up

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

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

This winter the Solo 55 Plus group enjoyed walking the Gateway State Trail lit with hundreds of candle luminaries. Participants walked two miles and not only enjoyed a beautiful evening with friends, but a bonfire, hot chocolate and cider. Pictured below are Mary, Barb, Libby and Betty.



Sunday Forum | 10 a.m. | Garden Room

At Trinity we believe faith formation is a lifelong endeavor. Sunday Forum provides a wide variety of small group learning. Stay tuned to the bulletin and Friday email newsletter (sign up at: <https://trinitylc.org/e-news/email-subscriptions/>) for more information!

March 5 – Ask Your Pastors

Join Pastors Chris and Peter about current events at Trinity and beyond. Bring your questions!

March 12 – ELCA Lutheranism and Trinity 101

Learn more about our larger church the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as well as more about Trinity. Newcomers welcome!

March 19 – Apocalyptic Birth Pangs and Manifesting the Messiah in our Everyday Lives with Dr. Lois Malcolm

Many have described the present moment and all that is going on as “apocalyptic.” Join us for a discussion on this theme in the New Testament and how Paul’s letters address apocalypse in the early years of the church.

Lois Malcolm holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. She has taught at Luther Seminary since 1994. Malcolm grew up in the Philippines as the daughter of missionaries. Before becoming a theologian, she received a Master of Arts in applied linguistics from the University of Minnesota. She taught linguistics and English as a second language courses in the U. S. and overseas. Her books include “Holy Spirit: Creative Power in Our Lives” (Fortress, 2009); “God,” an edited volume for “The Westminster Collection of Sources of Christian Theology” (Westminster John Knox Press, 2012); and three forthcoming books: “A Theological Commentary on Second Corinthians” for the “Belief” series (Westminster John Knox); “Sophia Cries Out in the Street: Wisdom in Christian Theology” (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press); and “Christian Understandings of God: The Historical Trajectory,” “The Fortress Historical Trajectories Series” (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press).



March 26 – ENGAGE: the Saint Paul Area Synod Public Witness Committee on Gun Violence Prevention with the Rev. Dr. Ron Letnes

In 2015 Saint Paul Area Synod Bishop Patricia Lull requested the formation of a working group to address gun violence in our congregations and communities. Members of ENGAGE include pastors, concerned parents, gun owners, and activists in our community committed to prayerfully and respectfully reducing gun violence. There’s room for you, too.”

Come learn about ENGAGE, the Saint Paul Area Synod Public Witness Committee on Gun Violence Prevention. Our guest, the Rev. Dr. Ron Letnes, will share about their work and mission “to MEDITATE on, EDUCATE about, and ADVOCATE for gun violence prevention in the non-violent Spirit of Jesus.” Check out the website. It is a great resource, including archived posts written by Letnes.

<http://www.engageelca.org/>





MARCH FAMILY FAITH EVENT:

Lenten Prayer Calendar

This March, join other families from Trinity in a forty-day Lenten prayer journey. For instructions and a copy of the prayer calendar, visit: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/family>.



SAVE THE DATES! The final FAFA session of the season will run March 29 (not meeting during Holy Week on April 5), April 12, 19 and 26. More details coming soon! Read more about FAFA at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/children/4th-5th-grade/>



Preschool Registration is Now Open!

Trinity partners with Lake Area Discovery Center (LADC) to provide childcare in a preschool setting. Preschool registration is NOW OPEN for new families with infants to age 5 for the 2023-2024 school year! Full-time, half-time, and part-time options are available, as well as before and after school care.

LADC highlights include: Licensed teaching staff, NAEYC accredited and a Four Star Parent Aware rating, the highest rating possible in Minnesota.

Read more and register at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/children/preschool/>



Next Meeting:

High School Mission Trip

Puerto Rico Summer 2023

Sunday, March 12 | 7 – 8 pm

Garden Room at Trinity

This meeting is for students and adult leaders (parents not required). We will be doing some activities in small groups that relate to what our daily routine will be in Puerto Rico. More information at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/youth/high-school/> Questions? Contact Monty Lysne at mlysne@trinitylc.org.

Sponsor a high school

missionary for the Puerto Rico

trip this summer! Scan the QR code

at left with your smartphone camera to make your donation online.

Welcome Statement

Trinity Lutheran Church is a faithful community in the heart of Stillwater.

We seek to be a church grounded in the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In doing so, we intentionally educate ourselves in becoming more effective advocates for all of God's people.

We embrace those of strong, uncertain, or undiscovered faith.

We embrace all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions.

We embrace every age, family structure, race, ethnicity, physical and mental capacity, and economic circumstance.

We believe all people have been created in the image of God, and therefore have valuable stories and infinite worth.

New Member Sunday!

March 12

8:45 & 11 am | New Members Welcomed During Worship

10 am | ELCA Lutheranism and Trinity 101 Class

If you resonate with our welcome statement above and desire to join Trinity... YAY! Please fill out the simple membership form found on our website at: <https://trinitylc.org/welcome/join-trinity/>

Then plan to attend worship and class on New Member Sunday on March 12.

We will receive you into membership during worship at either the 8:45 or 11 a.m. service (choose what works best for you). Join us at Sunday Faith Forum between services at 10 a.m., downstairs in the Garden Room. Learn more about our larger church the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and more about Trinity. Questions? Please contact Zanny Johnson at zjohnson@trinitylc.org.



All ages gathered in the Gym on Sunday, Feb. 5 between services to make cards of care for elderly and home-bound members of our community. Cards were lovingly distributed before Valentine's Day. Thank you for helping to brighten someone's day!



SIGN UP **NOW** FOR SUMMER CAMP!



Faith is formed at bible camp! Trinity partners with Wapogasset (Wapo) Lutheran Bible Camp in Amery, WI.

WAPO ONE DAY CAMP (COMPLETED GRADES K-2)

**CHOOSE FROM JUNE 28,
JULY 26 OR AUG. 15, 2023**

\$45

Not quite ready for an overnight camp experience? Children who have completed grades K-2 are invited to try the Wapo One Day Camp! The One-Day program is a day long experience where campers get a taste of camp before enjoying an overnight program. One-Day campers play in the lake (weather permitting), eat a meal at camp, and enjoy games, Bible study, crafts, and so much more. A typical One-Day starts with check-in at 9 a.m. and ends with pick up at 3 p.m.

SEEDS SUMMER CAMP (COMPLETED GRADES 1-3)

JULY 14-16, 2023

\$260

This action packed session for our youngest campers is the perfect introduction to camp. Knowing that this may be some kid's first camp experience or even their first time away from home, our counselors will spend every moment with these campers. They will provide a safe and caring environment filled with music, Bible study, campfires, crafts, water activities and tons of games.

WAPO YOUTH CAMP (COMPLETED GRADES 4-8)

AUG. 13-18, 2023

\$610

Campers at Camp Wapo will experience a place of grace to meet new friends, experience new activities, and make memories that will last a lifetime. The week is packed with a variety of activities

that are meant to impact kids in a meaningful way, taking them higher, wider, longer and deeper into the love of God and community with each other. Each day includes Bible study, chapel, cabin activities, free time, field games and campfire. Summer youth camp at Camp Wapo is a week youth will never forget!

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

Bible camp participation and faith formation are proven to go hand-in-hand. Many Trinity people support this value through their financial gifts to our scholarship fund. We want every child to experience Bible Camp and we encourage you to access scholarship assistance if that will help make it happen for your child. Download the scholarship request form at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/summer/camps/>

REGISTER AT: [HTTP://LWLBCI.COM/TRINITY-STILLWATER](http://LWLBCI.COM/TRINITY-STILLWATER)

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

CORE VALUES

Engaging Worship
 Radical Hospitality
 Authentic Community
 Lifelong Faith Formation
 Compassionate Action

Read our welcome statement at: <https://trinitylc.org/welcome/who-we-are/mission/>



NAMI in-person family support meetings are held on the first Monday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Stillwater Public Library on the upper level at: 224 3rd St. N, Stillwater, MN 55082. Meetings are in the Margaret Rivers Room A.

Can't make this group or need more support? Other NAMI family support groups are also available. Family support group are also offered on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month using Zoom.

Family Support Group
 Date: Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday
 Time: 6:30-8 p.m.

Zoom Registration Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join-link>

It would be great to see you there.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, Jan. 22

In-person 8:45 am _____ 101
 Live online views 8:45 am _____ 93
 Online views/week 8:45 am _____ 133
 In-person 11 am _____ 125
 Live online views 11 am _____ 26
 Online views/week 11 am _____ 67

Sunday, Jan. 29

In-person 8:45 am _____ 126
 Live online views 8:45 am _____ 125
 Online views/week 8:45 am _____ 216
 In-person 11 am _____ 93
 Live online views 11 am _____ 18
 Online views/week 11 am _____ 75

Sunday, Feb. 5

In-person 8:45 am _____ 161
 Live online views 8:45 am _____ 82
 Online views/week 8:45 am _____ 147
 In-person 11 am _____ 117
 Live online views 11 am _____ 27
 Online views/week 11 am _____ 60

Sunday, Feb. 12

In-person 8:45 am _____ 171
 Live online views 8:45 am _____ 90
 Online views/week 8:45 am _____ 160
 In-person 11 am _____ 116
 Live online views 11 am _____ 32
 Online views/week 11 am _____ 71

NOTE: Online views in one week are one-minute or longer views.

BAPTISM

- **Reed Doyle Ahern**, son of Nathan & Nicole Ahern

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To family and friends of **Mary Anne Staberg**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open the following hours or by appointment.
 Monday–Thursday | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

WORSHIP ON TV

Watch Sunday Worship on local channel 14 through Valley Access
 Sunday at 11 a.m. (week delay)
 Sunday at 7 p.m.
 Monday at 7 a.m. & 1 p.m.

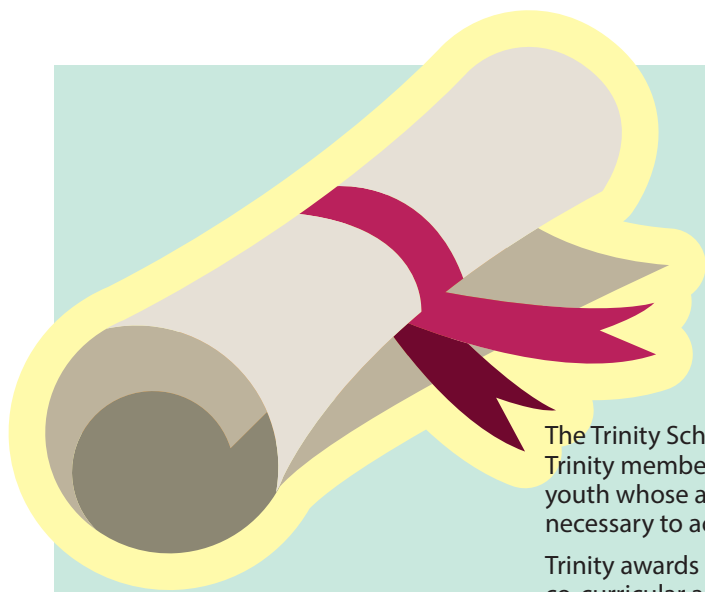


Publication Number: USPS 509650
Published once per month by
Trinity Lutheran Church, 115 4th St. N,
 PO Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082
Editor, Design & Layout: Marilee Tangen
 Some images from freepik.com
 Articles for the next *Trinity Today* (April issue) are due Monday, March 20, to begin arriving in mailboxes Wednesday, March 29.
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 2023 Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater, MN



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

Periodical
Postage Paid at
Stillwater, MN
55082-0339



Trinity Scholarship Fund

The Trinity Scholarship Fund was established by the estate of Jeanette Johnson, a Trinity member who dreamed of being able to offer college tuition assistance to youth whose achievement and character indicated they possessed the qualities necessary to achieve excellence in higher education.

Trinity awards up to four scholarships each year on the basis of academic status, co-curricular achievement, good citizenship and active involvement at Trinity. The trust also stipulates that scholarship recipients must be baptized at and confirmed by Trinity, and active participants in Trinity youth programs.

Once selected, scholarship winners may renew their scholarships for up to three additional years, providing they maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 or a "B-" or, in the absence of a similar grading system, remain in "fine academic standing" as indicated by official record. Scholarship recipients must reapply each year for renewal.

Scholarship applications and renewal applications are available online at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/youth/scholarship-fund/>.

All completed original scholarship and renewal applications must be received by Saturday, April 1. Please mail to: Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity Scholarship Fund, Attn Bob Eiselt, P.O. Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082.

**Applications due
April 1**