

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

9 a.m. Traditional Worship

11 a.m. Contemporary Worship

TODAY

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



Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

- Matthew 28:9-10



LEAD PASTOR THE REV. DR. CHRIS BELLEFEUILLE

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me." - Matthew 28:9-10

There They Will See Me

There they will see me.

I wish.

When our son Sam was very young, he had his own room. His two older siblings shared a room. Sam often slept in a sleeping bag on their floor. One night I was trying to encourage him to sleep in his own bed. He said he didn't want to be alone. I assured him that he wasn't alone, God and the guardian angels were with him. Sam said: "But, mom! I want someone I can see!"

Much of the life of faith is built on that which we cannot see. And not just our hopes. We endure grief based on the promise of a future with those we love. We endure suffering based on a promise that our suffering will not go unredeemed. We endure persecution based on the promise of the kingdom of heaven. We build churches knowing we won't see their future. Heck, we raise kids having no idea what is coming down the pike!

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews understands this strange and powerful truth for those who live in hope and trust. He writes: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Then he goes on to name the great ancestors of the faith, going ALL the way back: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, the Israelites, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Women are mentioned, if not by name. The writer speaks of a faith in that which is unseen that impelled these forebears onward.

Then he writes: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the

sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart."

By the time this newsletter arrives in your inbox or mailbox, Holy Weekwith its great Three Days—and Easter Sunday will be in sight. We will lean on the faith of our ancestor saints and gather to bear witness to the power of Jesus our pioneer, going ahead of us through suffering and death and being raised victorious from the grave. The theology of this letter is so tender. Jesus didn't raise himself. Matthew says: "He has been raised!" Could even Jesus have experienced a moment of trust in the unseen? And then all that Jesus endured so that we may not grow weary or lose heart.

Jesus remains our guide and companion through all that life brings: great food and harsh tears, companionship and isolation, fear and confidence, certainty and uncertainty, abundance and promise, and, yes, death and loss.

I am with Sam. I really want someone I can see. So, we look for Jesus in each other and in the peace and unity that comes in being part of a Christian community: holding faith for us when we cannot, celebrating together, grieving together, remembering together, reminding one another that we are God's, we are good, we are beloved, we belong. And there we see it. In each other. In the cross. In bread broken and hands held.

It's true, brothers, sisters and siblings. We will see Jesus.

Happy Easter,

Pastor Chris

PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



The Resurrection of the Whole Body

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia! Happy Easter, Dear Trinity!

The Good News of the Gospel of Jesus is all about the body, resurrecting our incarnate physical reality as well as who we are as a whole body—our flesh and fellowship in faith. In a recent session during the Sunday Forum (which has been great to have back in-person again this year!), our speaker, Dr. Lois Malcolm from Luther Seminary's New Testament department, shared about how all of God's past, present and future are made manifest in our bodies.

So much of modern Christianity and popular culture is exploring the intersection of faith and our bodies. Our bodies as individuals and as a whole are complex. Some of us don't like our bodies. Some of our relationship to the body is polarized. We may have small or big pain in our bodies. Our bodies continue to challenge and inspire us, both in health and the well-being of our spiritual centers.

All of it is in our bodies.

Living Lutheran has a great synopsis of the movie *The Whale* (which I both fear and look forward to watching) about the mixture of faith and finitude in our conflicted bodies. You can find it here: https://www.livinglutheran.org/2023/03/the-body-and-the-soul-in-the-whale/

At Easter, the hope that we cling to and the promise we see is how Jesus paves an unprecedented way forward for our bodies—even after experiencing excruciating violence from the body of his community.



But God is not done with this body. God is not finished with Jesus. His body invites a new understanding of what we confess in the Resurrection of the Body. Life in the body of Jesus springs eternal. Death is defeated. Nothing will stop or be able to separate us from God's love in our bodies.

This promise is true of our eternal destiny, but also steeped in our daily dying and rising in our Jesus-given bodies.

May you experience Easter in your whole body this year—loved, refreshed and resurrected anew.

The Whole Body of Christ. For the sake of the Whole World.

Blessed Eastertide,

Pastor Peter



Trinity Financial Update

February Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2023

	This Year	Last Year	'23 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	587,314	624,242	1,361,300	43%
Other Income	191,024	180,630	406,800	47%
Total Income	\$ 778,338	\$ 804,871	\$ 1,768,100	
less: Expenses	881,871	871,619	1,767,570	50%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (103,533)	\$ (66,748)	\$ 530	

Long-Term Debt Summary:					
Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.		3,136,046		3,252,465	
Increase (Decrease)		(59,750)		(57,687)	
Long-Term Debt - End of February	\$ 3	\$ 3,076,296		\$ 3,194,778	
Line of Credit Balance - February 28	\$	97,000	\$	70,000	



Trinity Scholarship Fund

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

Applications due
April 1

Financial Notes February 2023

Contribution Income for the fiscal year through February YTD is \$37K behind last fiscal year. Contribution Income for the month of February was \$89K, \$8K more than February 2022. Total Income YTD is \$24K less than this time last year. As discussed, we continue to see the timing and form of receipt of Contribution gifts fluctuating greatly v. past years, making it difficult to project expected fiscal year results. A 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 \$25K 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 \$51K higher than YTD February 2022 but, exactly in line with the approved budget for FY2023. Personnel Expense, \$26K higher, and Operations, \$25K 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 \$97K, compared to a balance of \$70K last year at this time.



Tom and Lynn Bjorkman
New residents to the River Valley in
Marine on St. Croix
Aspiring Crafters • Outdoor Enthusiasts



Mike and Chris [not pictured] **Cairl** Retired • North Hill • New to Stillwater



Jody Grams
In Stillwater with husband Bill since 2020
Retired • Loves reading • Walking and enjoying the beautiful St. Croix Valley



Hannah and Cory Hoffstatter, Hattie and Cole Two kids • Two dogs Sports-loving family



Vickie Jensen
Fairmeadows • Mom of two grown daughters • All about books and music



Elisabeth Olson, and son Griffin Brod
Big hearted • Service-oriented
Enthusiastic foodies



Courtney and Steven PallasOutdoorsy • Introverts • New to area



Leah and Mike Switzer,
Caroline and Jens
South Hill Stillwater • Active
Two young kids



Beth WarrickStillwater • North Hill •
Social work • Music lover
Travel with husband on Harleys

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, March 12 we welcomed these new members into our faith community. Please give them a warm welcome!

Judy O'Connell
Retired • Lives in Hudson
Enjoys reading, visiting friends and her
great-grandchildren

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[No Photo]

Balancing the Partnership of Capital Campaign Goals and Annual Giving

By Andrew Thelander Congregational Council President athelander@trinitylc.org

It's an exciting time to be a part of Trinity Lutheran Church! Our faith community continues to grow as we've recently welcomed 20 new members to our congregation. They join us and strengthen our shared mission: Because God first loved us, we live as Jesus in the world, loving God and loving neighbor.

And we are grateful for those who have increased their financial support for our mission through pledges for our comprehensive capital campaign of "New and Renewing – the Next 150 Years."

So far 148 households have pledged more than \$1.792 million, and we expect more pledges will be made. Already, this has surpassed our initial Foundational Goal of \$1.5 million which will eventually provide mortgage debt savings of \$56,000 annually, in addition to addressing the much-needed deferred maintenance of assets along with tithing 10 percent of all funds raised for the campaign to missions. The next target level we are approaching for our campaign goals includes a Mid-Tier Goal of \$2 million and then our Aspirational Goal of \$4,045,000 which, if achieved, would entirely pay off the mortgage providing debt savings of \$214,000 annually.

Over the past few years, Trinity has been on solid financial footing thanks to your faithful stewardship, hard work, and thoughtful leadership. Yet, as a church community we are not immune to the broader economic challenges and stock market worries

facing many families on an annual basis. The church is in the unique position of having its operating budget be funded primarily through the generosity of general giving of individuals and families making an annual commitment to share their financial gifts each year. We continue to see the timing and form of receipt of contribution gifts fluctuating greatly versus previous years, making it difficult to project expected results by the church's upcoming fiscal yearend on Aug. 31, 2023. Our current Contribution Income continues to be behind this year's budgeted amount and that of last year. Thus, we are carrying a balance in our Line of Credit of \$97,000, compared to a balance of \$70,000 last year at this time.

To continue and strengthen our shared ministry and outreach, it's important that gifts for the comprehensive campaign are in addition to offerings towards the operating budget through general giving. Your annual financial pledge and the capital campaign are interdependent and are hopefully seen as partners, not competitors, of one another. General giving provides the financial foundation that supports the church's day-to-day operational goals and expenses. It is the driving force behind unrestricted funding to support Trinity's mission and core values. The purpose of the capital campaign, in contrast, enables Trinity to expand its capacity beyond what its general annual giving is capable of by liberating itself from debt for generations to come, while providing much needed stewardship of our building and drive-in-property, along with transitioning Trinity's Outreach

Missions to become a part of our operating budget.

As individuals and families continue to make the commitment to share their financial gifts with Trinity Lutheran Church, we thank you for your faithful, generous response. We also want to give thanks to the individuals and families who continue to give prayerful discernment to fulfilling their annual giving pledge and participating in the comprehensive campaign. Every dollar is a gift and every amount matters. If you're not in a financial position to give currently, we always welcome your prayers. If you're in need of any support or are facing other hardships, we are here for you, and we encourage you to reach out to Pastor Chris and Pastor Peter or any member of Trinity's staff.

To give online now to support Trinity, or to check the status of your automated giving or current financial pledge, please visit: https://trinitylc.org/giving/

To learn more about making a pledge online or via a paper pledge form to the comprehensive campaign, please visit: https://trinitylc.org/welcome/comprehensive-campaign/

In addition to cash gifts, consider other creative ways to give—including the gift of common stock, qualified charitable distributions, donor-advised funds, trusts, and legacy gift planning. For more information or if you have any questions, you can contact Bob Eiselt at 651-439-7400, ext. 314 or beiselt@trinitylc.org; or Eric Trosdahl at 651-439-7400, ext. 311 or etrosdahl@trinitylc.org.

On behalf of Trinity, we are grateful for you and our shared ministry and outreach of being a faithful community in the heart of Stillwater.

every dollar is a gift every amount matters

Disclaimer: The information provided should be used for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax, legal or investment planning advice. Where specific advice is necessary or appropriate, you should consult with a qualified tax advisor, financial advisor or attorney who can advise on which, if any, of these strategies are suitable for your situation.

Three-Year Comprehensive Campaign From Your Spiritual Emphasis Team

by Karen Gieseke

For the Word of God is Living and Active. - Hebrews 4:12

Talented hands painted these promising words on the Trinity library wall in 2000, as part of the renewal of the church library ministry. Prior to that, the library space was tucked under the Fourth Street stairs, in what is now the "back office" of the Youth Room. As sometimes happens, the support and upkeep for the library ministry was resting on the shoulders of just a few, and while the commitment remained strong, the work was significant and the resources limited.

As a parent with two young children, we visited the public library frequently, looking to bring home stories which piqued our curiosity, sparked our imagination, and made us long to explore and learn more! I hoped for a similar experience in our Trinity church library, but it appeared the library might be ready for renewal and reimagination.

When the leadership at Trinity was approached about a refresh of the library ministry, the question not only planted a seed, but new life sprang forth! The "What ifs...?" transformed into new ideas and sketches, and soon the imagination of what was possible exceeded the original idea! "Can we refresh the library?" shifted to "Let's move and expand the library ministry!" Thanks to many hands the journey began!

This journey included connecting with the family of Pastor Norman Wold. The library space at the time was named the Wold Memorial Library, in memory of Trinity's Pastor Norman Wold (who served 1946-1969). When the vision for a renewed and relocated library ministry was shared with the Wold family, the family fully supported the vision, and shared that Pastor Wold had a heart for youth and families, and they were sure he would support this opportunity for renewal.

The journey began as library books, shelves, and more were moved to a new location near Trinity's Third Street entrance. Walls were painted, and books were thoughtfully reviewed, donated, and purchased with the intention to reflect

the needs and interests of the Trinity community.

And then something even more unexpected happened. A new seed was being planted and nurtured. A Trinity member quietly contacted the library ministry team and suggested our imaginations were needing a little more infusion of possibility. What if the size of the library space doubled? How might new technology be incorporated? Were there others beyond the Trinity community who could be served by a ministry that is about books and resources going outside the walls? This curious and lifelong learner shared his hope to fund such an imagination, and humbly shared how this idea and gift originated from his now passed spouse. A beautiful story unfolded of how he had always wanted to purchase a Cadillac for his beloved spouse, but she continually declined. Rather, she envisioned so many other needs in the world, including the gift of books, and the wonder and imagination books offer. This gift to the library ministry was a gift of gratitude for the generous and selfless nature of his spouse, and in thankfulness to God.

So a wall was knocked out and the library space doubled! Technology was integrated. The ministry grew both in physical space, but more importantly, in partnerships. More generous gifts were given, new individuals and groups utilized the resources, and a ministry was renewed with the daily reminder that God and God's word are living and active!

These faith-filled stories of imagination, possibility, generosity, prayer, and gratitude are woven into Trinity's history, and its future. Our journey together in the current comprehensive campaign creates opportunities for each of us to use our imaginations for the stories yet to be written. What is beginning as "Let's Renew" has the possibility to be turned upside down and be "Let's be New!" as we discern how to our support with our financial resources. our time, and our talents, and most importantly, our prayers. Please join together in praying for Trinity and the future God is calling us to!



THE NEXT 150 YEARS

Update

Pledges to date: 148 family units have pledged \$1,792,010

Campaign Goals

We are nearly 90 percent to our mid-tier goal!

Aspirational Goal \$4,045,000 Mortgage paid off! (mortgage debt savings of \$214,000 annually)

Mid-tier Goal **\$2 million** (mortgage debt savings of \$91,000 annually)

Foundational Goal \$1.5 million (mortgage debt savings of \$56,000 annually)

Celebration Sunday Worship Sunday, April 23 8:45 & 11 am

We dedicate our gifts and pledges during worship.

To read more, pledge or give - scan the QR code with your smartphone camera or visit: https://trinitylc. org/welcome/ comprehensivecampaign/



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PRAYER - Creator God, We give thanks to you for the stories of hope and possibility for the future. May stories from the past inspire our imaginations for the future! May resurrection hope and promise sustain and guide us, and remind us you are a God that is living and active in the world every day! Amen.





FOOD | CLOTHING | EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Thanks to all those who participated in the Minnesota FoodShare March campaign. More than 213 pounds was donated by Trinity! The children helped, the adults gave, and individuals were fed with your gifts. The need continues. You may bring non-perishable food items to Trinity anytime which will be delivered by the Outreach Missions team. Look for the big green bin with the Valley Outreach sign inside the 4th Street entrance near the elevators.







Loving Our Neighbor

By Kim Hanson, Trinity Member

Recently Trinity's ABIDE Book Group discussed *Solito: A Memoir* by Javier Zamora. I had the opportunity to prepare the opening devotion for our study. I appreciate this chance to share that content with you.

As a nine year-old child, Javier made a 3,000-mile journey from El Salvador to the United States to reunite with his parents. His parents had emigrated earlier; his father when Javier was one and his mother when he was five. He travelled with a group of strangers, and they were led by a paid "coyote." Javier expected the journey to take two weeks. It took two months—and for seven weeks his family had no news on his status.

This book is beautifully written, but by Javier as an adult. I had to remind myself that he was a child when he made this trip. He was a nine year-old boy who didn't even know how to tie his shoes. He was afraid to use a toilet for fear he would be flushed into the ocean. He embarked on this journey alone, without the only family he had ever known, hiking distances that he did not have the physical strength for, having to be carried on another's back. The very definition of vulnerable!

The Bible can offer conflicting views on many contemporary, social issues. However, in both the Old and New Testaments, scripture is crystal clear, unambiguous, in its instruction on how we are to treat the vulnerable, foreigners, sojourners:

- Leviticus 19:34 The foreigners among you must be treated as native born. Love them as yourself.
- Zechariah 7:10 Do not oppress widows, orphans, foreigners and poor people.
- Matthew 25:35 I was a stranger and you invited me in.

Yet some Christians would argue that taking action to secure our border (building walls, tightening immigration policies, separating children from parents) DOES NOT violate Biblical precepts because "they are illegal." Fear that "these people" will take our jobs is prevalent. Nationalism trumps Christian principles time and time again.

This limited capacity for "loving our neighbors" is discouraging. But it does not have the final word. As an exercise in opening our hearts and minds towards refugees I offer this challenge:

- Conduct an internet search, asking: What does the Bible say about loving your neighbor?
- Embark on a 30-day journey, studying one verse per day. (Don't worry... you won't run out of scripture!)
- Meditate. Ask God what God wants you to do with the Word.
- Embrace the change in your heart and look for opportunities to put it into action.

One action resource is Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Go to https://www.lirs.org/ to sign up to receive email from them. Download the "Stand Up Speak Up 2022" resource guide. It provides volunteer, donation and advocacy resources to individuals or congregations on support of refugees. Also, mark your calendar for World Refugee Day. This year it happens on Tuesday, June 20 and the theme is: Every Action Counts.

Yes, every action counts!

Note: The message below was written by two members of the Sadat Family Welcome Coalition—a group consisting of members of the Eastern Twin Cities Islamic Center, The Minnesota Council of Churches, Boutwell's Landing, and Ascension Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran churches—on the first anniversary of the Sadat family's arrival in the Twin Cities. The Sadats—father (36), mother (32), son (4) and daughters (5 and 7)— fled Afghanistan in September of 2022 and lived at Fort Dix for five months before being assigned to Minnesota to start their new lives.

Dear friends,

One year ago, the Sadats moved into their apartment; Spike and I have been reflecting on this milestone, and perhaps many of you have as well.

Little did we know, when we raised our hands and hearts to help an unknown family, what a miraculous journey lay ahead. Little did we know the friends we would make—both inside and outside our coalition—along the way: Strangers who gave time, household goods, money, clothing and food; friends who delivered meals, furniture and needed items; professionals who donated medical, dental and legal services; prayer partners who prayed and prayed; the "Driving Angels" who, with smiles on their faces, drove the father to and from work, and mom and children to parks and other events. These are but a few of the cherished friendships and relationships that have been created along the way.

I'm not sure any of us realized how our lives would change and how the Sadats would become woven into our hearts and lives. As we reflect on this important milestone, it is good to remember a few of the victories:

- The family finding an apartment and making it their home.
- The kids enrolling in school and finding friends and amazing, empathetic teachers and staff.
- The father finding employment (and one generous soul donating an E-bike so he could commute to and from work).
- The mom making friends, learning to ride the bus (this was huge for her!) so she could attend ELL classes.
- The family speaking English during dinner.
- Their dental and medical appointments are up to date—a huge accomplishment.



- Their lease is signed for another year.
- Their path to legal citizenship is well paved thanks to our pro-bono lawyer.
- They are becoming part of the Afghan community.

And we, in turn, have been able to learn of their culture and customs, partake in fabulous traditional meals, watch in awe of their gentle parenting style and see what real heroes look like.

Two of the largest obstacles faced by refugees in gaining independence are language and transportation. Each of the Sadats is rapidly becoming fluent in English—listening to them chat in English is heartwarming in every way. Recently, the father passed his written and behind-the-wheel driving tests and, because of a generously donated car, the second hurdle has been cleared. The father—formerly an orthopedic nurse in Afghanistan continues to set his sights on reentering the medical field in Minnesota. This is just the short list of what has been accomplished, and how far the Sadats have come in this short period of time.

The old sayings "many hands make light work" is so very true. For all of you, and the gifts you have shared this year, we are truly grateful. The father sums up his family's gratefulness with notes like this: "May God bless your team, we are grateful for how they have guided me and my family and for all they do for us. May they live 1,000 years."

From Spike and I—and the Sadats—a heartfelt thank you.

Kat and Spike Carlsen, Sadat Family Welcome Coalition

ATTEND RAMADAN IFTAR: Get to know your Muslim neighbors a little better The Eastern Twin Cities Islamic Center Wednesday, April 5 at 6:15 pm

As we go about our daily lives, it can be easy to focus on what divides us rather than what unites us. "Taking Heart" Ramadan Iftar—organized by the Minnesota Council of Churches— is a unique initiative that brings Christians, members of other faith communities, and Muslims together for food, conversation, and connection during Ramadan. Ramadan is a month of fasting and spiritual reflection for Muslims, and Taking Heart provides a space for non-Muslims to learn about this important observance and build relationships with their Muslim neighbors.

The Eastern Twin Cities Islamic Center (ETCIC) in Afton—a vital partner of Trinity and the coalition that has welcomed Afghan refugees to the Twin Cities—invites you and your family to Iftar being hosted April 5 at ETCIC in Afton.

For more information or to register, please visit: https://www.mnchurches. org/blog/2023/03/15/register-taking-heart-ramadan-iftar. Each participant must register individually. For questions, contact Spike Carlsen at carlsen@usinternet.com.



Easter



Worship Texts

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

April 2	Matthew 21:1-11
April 9	Matthew 28:1-10
April 16	John 20:19-31
April 23	Luke 24:13-35
April 30	John 10:1-10

Easter Hospitality – Sign up to greet or usher on Palm Sunday and Easter at: https://trinitystillwatermn. shelbvnextchms.com/external/ form/fecc4b7a-4lfl-469f-9826cb5cbf2ed493

Palm Sunday | Outdoor Community Worship & Palm Processional

April 2 | 10 am | Gather at Trinity's Main Entrance (4th St.)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to downtown closures for spring flooding, we will now meet at Trinity outside the Fourth Street doors. Palm processional with our community partners in Christ will be around the block to Third Street and then gather in the Worship Center to sing and commune together! All are welcome.

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

Good Friday Men's Breakfast | For All Men April 7 | 6:30 am | Garden Room

Start this holy day with fellowship, hearty breakfast made by John Weyrauch, music by Clark Weyrauch and short message from Trinity's new Visitation Pastor Rich Larson. Program wraps up by 7:45 am for those who need to get to work. For planning purposes please sign up at: https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms.com/external/ form/3640fc9d-5lb9-4964-9b06-e67ll4al3988

Good Friday Interactive Experience | For All Ages April 7 | 4-7 pm Open House Style | Garden Room

Please anticipate about 30 minutes to complete the experience. As people of faith, who experience the full scope of human emotion, we tenderly acknowledge the emotion of sorrow on Good Friday, reflecting on the unfair and undeserved suffering and death of Jesus. Easter becomes all the more meaningful for our children when we help model sorrow in gentle and accessible ways. Join us at Trinity for an experience catered just for young children on Good Friday!

Good Friday Worship | Seven Last Words of Christ

April 7 | 7 pm | Worship Center

Seven Last Words of Christ by Theodore Dubois featuring soloists Thomas Glass, Katherine Henly and Jack Swanson.

Easter Sunday Worship | Alleluia

April 9 7, 9 & II am Worship Center

7 am | Sunrise worship with choir, organ and instruments

9 am | Traditional worship with choirs, organ and instruments

II am | Contemporary worship with the worship band

Easter Egg Hunt | Family Faith Event

April 9 | 10 am | Green Space (or Gym)

The hope is to gather on the Green Space (Gym is backup location) to find eggs and have some fun with family and friends. Feel free to bring your own basket!



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

appreciate memorializing or honoring loved ones this Easter, we welcome appreciate memorials and honors directed toward maintenance and improbe printed in the May issue of <i>Trinity Today</i> . Please fill out the form below and the standard of the standard o	vements of our facilities. Easter Gar	den names will		
Church at P.O. Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082. Facilities Maintenance & Improvements \$				
In memory of: In honor of:				
Given by:				
Phone Number () Tot	Number () Total amount enclosed \$			

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Seven Last Words of Christ by Theodore Dubois

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.

Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 7 7 pm | Worship Center at Trinity

Featuring:

Trinity Choir – Clark Weyrauch, Director Organ & Piano – Carol Carver

Guest Soloists - Thomas Glass, Katherine Henly & Jack Swanson







Worship will also be available online on our website at https://trinitylc.org/worship-music/worship/online-worship/ and livestream on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/trinitylcstillwater/.



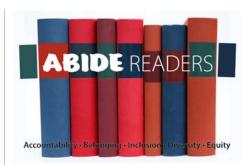
men's grief support

Wednesdays
2-3:30 pm | Trinity Library
April 26 to May 31 (Meeting for 6 weeks)
We gather to support one another
through deep listening, mutual
compassion and learn tools to help
navigate the grief of losing a spouse. 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.

men's bible study

Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Boutwells Landing

Pastor Steve Hokonson 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.



ABIDE READERS
Accountability • Belonging • Inclusion • Diversity • Equity

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

UPCOMING BOOK DISCUSSION:

Monday, April 24 | 6:30-8 pm on Zoom White Birch, Red Hawthorn: A Memoir by Nora Murphy

White Birch, Red Hawthorn: a Memoir is a small collection of soul-searching, truth-seeking, and thought-provoking reflections on the lands that Nora Murphy and her ancestors have called home for five generations. In a practice that is becoming more and more widespread—Land Acknowledgement Statements—Murphy says in her About The Author bio that she "was born and lives in Inmiża Ska, the white cliffs overlooking the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers in St. Paul."

We, too, have a land acknowledgement statement:

Trinity Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Očhéthi Šakówin Dakhóta people, specifically the Wahpekute Nation. We are on Dakota and Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) land. This land holds spiritual and ongoing importance for its original stewards, the Native nations and all Indigenous peoples of the St. Croix Valley region. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Archaeologists and historians believe Indigenous people began living in Minnesota at least 13,000 years ago. Long before John McKusick named Stillwater, its Dakota name was Hogan Wanke Kin and later the Ojibwe called this place Gijgoonzh-agomod.

Join us on Zoom, Monday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m. as we discuss how Murphy's memoir speaks to us individually and as a community of faith. The book is available at Valley Bookseller (ask for the book club discount) and in Trinity Library's ABIDE collection located in the Narthex. 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 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 ClassThursdays 9 – 10 am | In-person and on Zoom

May 11 – June 29 | \$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!

Read more and find a link to register at: https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/care/yoga/ Questions? Contact Sue Peterson at toddlinsue2@aol.com.



You're invited to an upcoming GLOW/AWE event!

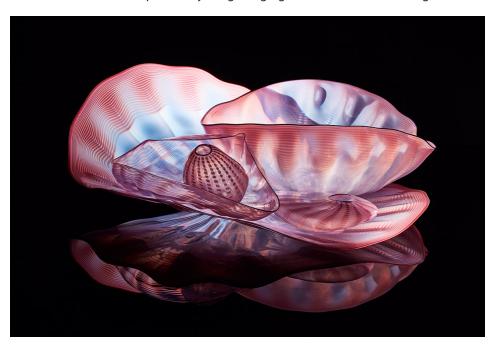
Cafesjian Art Trust

A Lasting Friendship: Gerard Cafesjian & Dale Chihuly Friday, April 21 at 10 am

Free admission!

Join us for a guided tour featuring items from the Dale Chihuly Glass Collection. Sign up now, limited spots available! Cafesjian Art Trust is located at: 4600 Churchill St. in Shoreview, MN. RSVP by April 14 to Mary Soderholm at mes1135@live.com or 651-475-5544.

GLOW/AWE (God Loving Outdoor Women) and (Awesome Women's Events) is a partnership committed to providing women of all ages and abilities, opportunities to experience God's creation through adventure, learning, sharing ideas, and developing friendships. All are welcome to share in the joy of community and faith. Read more about GLOW/AWE at: https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/connections/glow-awe/



Dale Chihuly, Seaform Set, 1984

talk & tea

Saturday, May 13 10-11:30 am | Garden Room Cost: \$25

Please join us for Trinity's annual Women's Talk & Tea! We will hear from the warm and wise local author and spiritual director Dianne Millis, eat delicious treats and enjoy each other's company! Register at: https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/868a258f-afb2-4e9f-a30e-49f555a20657



Can changing your story change your life?

More and more people entering middle age or approaching the end of life are trying to make sense of the disparity between what they thought their lives were going to be and what they actually are. In Re-Creating a Life: Learning How to Tell Our Most Life-Giving Story, author Dr. Diane Millis offers a set of questions and strategies for telling new stories about our lives that more closely reflect who we are and our possibilities.

Millis shows us how we can discover a more promising story of our lives through reflection, writing, and conversation with others. She writes, "It's not what we've experienced that defines us, but the stories we tell about our experiences."

In her presentation, Diane will help us develop our capacity to author a story to which we are drawn and learn how to help others do the same.

Diane M. Millis, PhD, loves to help people explore their own stories as a way to discover meaning, purpose, and joy in their lives. She is an author, spiritual director, retreat facilitator, and educator. Diane has taught at the University of Minnesota, the College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, Saint Catherine University and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. To learn more: www.dianemillis.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.



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. Read more at: https://trinitylc.org/learning/adult/adult-ed/

Living Our Faith in the Modern World:

Civic Life and Faith as Lutheran Christians

By Penny Catlin, Faith Forum Coordinator

April 2, 9 & 30 – No Sunday Forum on Palm Sunday and Easter, or on April 30.

April 16 – The Apostle Peter After Easter with Bob Boyd Please see the back cover.

April 23 – Caring for the Homeless: Emergency Housing, Settled and Sacred Settlements (Tiny Home Communities) with Meredith Campbell Meredith Campbell (Settled and Sacred Settlement Mosaic) and Trinity's Homeless Strategy & Advocacy Team (HSAT) will join us to update and educate us on the Settled objectives, Tiny Homes projects, Emergency Housing status of Washington County and legislative action needs.

Meredith has had an important career in advocacy for religious rights and justice. Her ability to assemble strong teams and equip them to accomplish goals is profound, and she does it with kindness and generosity.



Coming up in May!

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. – Micah 6:8

How do we do this in our civic life? What does this mean for us as individuals, a church community and an institution in our engagement with our government? It's a challenging question with many different thoughts and opinions.

In 2019, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly authorized the development of a social statement on "Civic Life and Faith" (sixty percent of voters are laypersons from across the country). An ELCA social statement is a teaching and policy document that provides a broad framework to assist in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life. These statements also establish ELCA teaching and set policy for our church's social witness. The steps and processes that go into developing an ELCA social statement are on the next page.

As part of the process, we all get to have input and a voice in the development of the statement through discussions of the study curriculum on civic life and faith created by a task force. Responses from study participants will be used in developing the draft of the social statement. Then there will be another opportunity to share your input on the drafted statement.

So why should you care? For me it's an exciting opportunity to be an active participant of the larger church. A chance to hear the thoughts and concerns of others and share my own. To discern what guidance would be helpful in navigating the intersection of faith and civic life in order to do God's work of love, justice and mercy in the care of our neighbors.

Look for opportunities in May to join a study on Sunday morning or Wednesday evenings (or you can create your own with study materials!). Please consider participating in a group discussion of the study and share your thoughts on this important topic. If you or a small group would be interested or have questions contact Pastor Peter at pwestonmiller@trinitylc.org or Penny Catlin at pccatlin@juno.com.

REQUEST RECEIVED:

?

Church Council

 Receives a request to consider a social document. To date, all requests have come from synod assemblies to a churchwide assembly and then through the Church Council.

SELECT:

Church Council

- · Reviews request.
- · Authorizes development of a statement.
- Appoints a task force.



LISTEN & STUDY:



Task force

- Conducts listening events with ELCA members.
- Learns from dozens of specialists.
- Creates brief resources and one major study for ELCA members.

DRAFT:



Task force

- Draws on what it has heard and learned to prepare a draft social statement.
- Provides the draft to ELCA members, who share responses to it through synodical hearings and direct feedback.
- Considers responses from synods and members to finalize the proposed social statement.

PROPOSE:



· Concludes work by offering a proposed social statement.



Conference of Bishops and synod assemblies

· Review and affirm or ask for changes.

Church Council

 Can amend and submits recommended proposed social statement to a churchwide assembly.

ADOPT:

Churchwide assembly

 Considers, amends and votes on statement (two-thirds endorsement required for passage).

USE:

ELCA



Uses statement
 as a basic tool for
 discernment, advocacy and
 action (other denominations
 sometimes rely on them too).

Source: Living Lutheran September 5, 2019

children & family

FAITH FORMATION



save the dates!

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Monday, June 19 - Thursday, June 22 | 6:30 - 8:00 pm | \$40 per child Trinity's Green Space (Gym as backup if weather conditions are poor)

Ages 4 - 9 (with lots of opportunities for older youth to serve as leaders and helpers!)

Our theme this year is Operation Restoration: Mending God's World! Join us this summer to explore the Bible and discover new ways to care for God's creation and for one another. Everyone, even the youngest among us, have been given the power

to heal, forgive, pray and rest—essential tools to join God in mending what's broken. At Operation Restoration, children learn more about their mending powers and practice being universe menders!

For more information and to register, scan the QR code with your smartphone camera or visit: https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/f97f08a4-dace-4d0b-bab1-21039c1b907a





APRIL FAMILY FAITH EVENT:

Easter Egg Hunt Easter Sunday, April 9 at 10 a.m. Green Space (or Gym)

The hope is to gather on the Green Space (Gym is backup location) to find eggs and have some fun with family and friends. Feel free to bring your own basket!

Milestones are significant moments that help us practice and affirm faith throughout the entire scope of life. Please enjoy these photos from our onenight Milestone Retreat that was held Feb. 19-20 at Camp Wapo for children in Grades 1-5 and their families.













RARA

(Fourth And Fifth Affinity) Group

for 4th & 5th Graders

Wednesdays 6:30-7:45 pm at Trinity

FAFA NEXT SESSION: An Artistic Medley Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm following Dinner Church March 29, (no meeting on April 5), April 12, 19, and 26 Office Conference Room

Fourth And Fifth Affinity (FAFA) groups are for 4th and 5th graders to combine learning something new with fellowship and connection. This session: An Artistic Medley! Each session will feature a craftsperson within our congregation sharing their artistic gifts. Some of the activities include cookie decorating, calligraphy, and more to come! This session is \$10 to help cover the cost of supplies. Register at: https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms.com/forms#!/builder/4920188c-90e2-41b5-918a-c8e47e0f61e8

Photos below from the last YogaDevotion FAFA session:







first communion

First Communion Preparation Class on Wednesday, April 5 from 5-7 pm in the Garden Room Celebrate taking communion at Maundy Thursday Worship, April 6 at 7 pm in the Worship Center In Holy Communion, Jesus feeds us spiritual food to strengthen our faith. While Trinity welcomes all to the table to partake in Holy Communion at any age, completing this milestone helps parents and children appreciate and understand more deeply the history and mystery of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, also called The Lord's Supper. Learn how to bake your own communion bread and discover the gift of love and belonging we receive in Holy Communion. This Milestone is geared for lower elementary, but available to all ages. Participants will celebrate taking communion during worship at the Maundy Thursday service. Dinner included with registration! Register at: https:// trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms. com/external/form/707f08a8-4fc3-48b1-b142-7ea4298d17b7

free concert!

Jolly Pops Thursday, April 13 from 5:30-7 pm St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School in Mahtomedi

Lake Area Discovery Centers (LADC) is presenting a free concert with fun activities for families to celebrate all children. Join Trinity's Sarah Olson and family at St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School located at 600 Mahtomedi Ave. to rock out with the Jolly Pops! Please RSVP at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXbY9Fr9NdSy3BISm6r3K9GTIQnPUvn108S7KqZafLdLuFtQ/viewform.



ALL THE STARS ISAIAH 40:26

· · · · · Camp Wapo · · · · ·

Faith is formed at bible camp! There is still time to sign up for camp this summer. Spots are going quickly, so register today! Read more at: https://trinitylc.org/learning/summer/camps/

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? 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—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 will experience a place of grace to make friends, experience new activities, and create 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 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!

REGISTER AT: HTTP://LWLBCI.
COM/TRINITY-STILLWATER

youth FAITH FORMATION



Confirmation Retreat for All Middle School Students & Leaders Friday, April 28 at 7 pm thru Saturday, April 29 at 11 am Camp St. Croix 532 County Road F Hudson, WI 54016 (Arrive at the Main Office/Lodge)

Celebrate the end of the confirmation year with some intentional time together, talking about faith and reflecting on how God is and will continue to use our gifts to call us to serve our neighbors in the world. There will be time for worship, small groups, food, playing and having fun!

We will be staying in heated cabins at the camp. Every small group will stay in a cabin with bunk beds, bathrooms with showers, and a common meeting area. Adult Leaders will stay in the cabins near students, as gender appropriate. Camp St. Croix is only about 20 minutes away from Trinity.

Please arrive at Camp St. Croix by 7 p.m. Students should eat dinner before arriving. (There are several food options on the Interstate 94/Carmichael Exit near camp if you'd like to stop and grab a bite before arriving at Camp St. Croix.) Kids will be ready for pick up from camp at 11 a.m. on Saturday. There is no cost for this retreat, as the fee was incorporated into the registration fee at the beginning of the year. This retreat is optional, but highly encouraged. We would love to see all 6/7/8 students attend this retreat as a part of their year of Confirmation!

Register at: https://trinitystillwatermn. shelbynextchms.com/external/ form/24f0c69d-0b94-4b84-9883ef6818a95c70

After registering, please see your confirmation email for a packing list and additional information!

Questions? Contact Monty Lysne at mlysne@trinitylc.org.

A Service First Mentality in Youth Ministry

By Monty Lysne Youth Faith Formation Coordinator

I love a good story. A friendship is full of them. After time away, these shared stories—experiences friends have with each other—can serve to rekindle relationships. We all need a storehouse of good memories and stories with others to remind us of why we enjoy being with them in the first place. When these stories are enhanced around genuine acts of faith-filled service, they move from pleasant memories to strong, deep, long-lasting connecting elements between people.

I have old friends from decades past who I worked with at summer camp. I rarely see some of them, but when we do get together, the shared storehouse of service memories and stories we have instantly bring us back together as if we'd never been apart.

This power of shared stories is just my personal favorite reason for a "service first" mentality in ministry. There are many more benefits, and it is why service is so foundational to our approach to high school ministries at Trinity.

A service mindset allows young people to take ownership of their faith, develop leadership skills and gain practical experience while serving others.

More importantly, combining service with learning builds vital social emotional competencies. Here's the good stuff:

- Serving grounds young people with a sense of belonging as they work together towards a common goal.
- Understanding and feeling the needs of others in service develops empathy, and empathy is the fuel for compassion.
- Serving others can expose young people to diverse backgrounds and experiences, helping them develop a broader perspective and understanding of the world.
- Service also helps young people develop a sense of gratitude for what they have and the opportunity to help others in need.

Trinity currently has a dozen high school students serving on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. These leaders help with everything from food prep to leading small groups to singing in the choir. Fantastic opportunities exist now for more kids to flex their servanthood muscles as ushers, greeters, musicians, technology helpers, communion servers, worship leaders, and more.

Our mission ministry re-launch continues to grow as we brought 16 young people on a mission trip to Puerto Rico last summer and will do the same with 22 students this summer. Our Summer Stretch program in June and July with middle school and high school kids also focuses on service to our wider community.

What we are currently trying to develop are mentor relationships with caring adults to support young people, affirm their giftedness, and help them identify their passion for the world. Building up the body of Christ means engaging the next generation of the church to be the church right now, both inside and outside the church walls.

I would love conversation partners and allies in this re-development. If you're interested, please reach out to connect!

Monty Lysne 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.



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/



BAPTISM

 Cameron Thomas Bjerk, son of Eli & Caitlin Bjerk

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.

NOTES on Worship Attendance:

- Ash Wednesday in-person worship cancelled due to weather.
- Online views in one week are one-minute or longer views.



Sunday, Feb. 19 (one service only) In-person 10 am ___ Live online views 10 am _____ 94 Online views/week 10 am 185 Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22 (online) Live online views _____ Online views/week ______ 84 Sunday, Feb. 26 In-person 8:45 am ______ 146 Live online views 8:45 am_____ 80 Online views/week 8:45 am__ 138 In-person 11 am ______ 110 Live online views 11 am _____ 22 Online views/week 11 am 49 Sunday, March 5 In-person 8:45 am _____ 167 Live online views 8:45 am _____ 114 Online views/week 8:45 am 223 In-person 11 am _____ 120 Live online views 11 am _____ 45 Online views/week 11 am ____ 86 Sunday, March 12 In-person 8:45 am Live online views 8:45 am ____ 113 Online views/week 8:45 am__ 186 In-person 11 am _____ 124 Live online views 11 am _____ 42 Online views/week 11 am ____ 83

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE



In-person 8:45 am _____ 133 Live online views 8:45 am _____ 79

Online views/week 8:45 am ___ 133
In-person 11 am _____ 82
Live online views 11 am _____ 17
Online views/week 11 am _____ 49

Sunday, March 19

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Faith Forum with Bob Boyd Sunday, April 16 | 10 am | Garden Room at Trinity

