



**TRINITY**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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[www.trinitylc.org](http://www.trinitylc.org)

March 2024  
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# trinity TODAY

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



## *The Waterfall of Justice art exhibit: a place for prayer and hope*

Let justice flow like a river, and righteousness flow like an unfailing stream.

– Amos 5:11

*Waterfalls represent the waters of our baptism: ever-flowing, never-ceasing streams of holy water. Waterfalls also represent justice flowing down into the places where justice is needed, a mighty river that refreshes and restores us to God's love for all people.*

For several weeks in January and February, Trinity made available strips of fabric and markers for people of all ages to share their hopes, dreams, and prayers for justice in the world. These fabric strips are now combined into a Waterfall of Justice art exhibit and serve as a representation of this community's lament for a just world. The exhibit is a visual symbol of diversity, justice and hope for all of God's creation.

The Waterfall of Justice artwork is displayed in the Trinity Commons. This collaborative artwork is a place to pause, pray, experience a call to action, remember neighbors and siblings near and far, reflect on the words used in holy baptism, and feel God's love flowing for you and all God's beloved children.

**But Peter jumped to his feet and ran to the tomb. He stooped to look in and saw a few grave clothes, that's all. He walked away puzzled, shaking his head. – Luke 24:12 (MSG)**

## **Easter Sunday**

**7 a.m. Sunrise Worship**

**9 a.m. Traditional Worship**

**11 a.m. Contemporary Worship**

Holy Week & Easter schedule on page 10.



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



## PLEASE *note*

Friends, we are seeking the origin story of this beautiful piece of art. It's a bronze statue against a wood background, currently in the Living Room on our lower level. The statue bears the date 1996. We have been asking and looking at records, but have been unable to track down any details, including anything about the artist Jay Dommgyer.

If you have any information about how it came to be, how it was purchased, and/or about the artist, please contact Pastor Chris at [cbellefeuille@trinitylc.org](mailto:cbellefeuille@trinitylc.org) or call the church office at 651-439-7400. Thank you!

## Grave Clothes

But Peter jumped to his feet and ran to the tomb. He stooped to look in and saw a few grave clothes, that's all. He walked away puzzled, shaking his head. – Luke 24:12 (MSG)

Stooped to look in and saw a few grave clothes.

Grave clothes.

In Jesus' time, grave *clothes* were more like grave *cloths*. Fabric strips that bound the body, also called a shroud. Another cloth would cover the face. All of which would be specially woven or purchased for burial.

Grave clothes means something different now. When those we love die, and we have an open casket reviewal or do a full body burial, we carefully choose something for them to wear. A jersey from their favorite team, their best suit or dress. One of my uncles was buried in his "uniform" of a button-down shirt, crew neck sweater, and Dockers.

Then and now, these clothes or cloths would go with the deceased into the grave. Family or professionals tenderly wrapping the body in a last act of physical care.

After Jesus' crucifixion, death and burial—dawn comes after the long sabbath rest. The women go to the tomb and find Jesus missing. After they tell the disciples, Peter runs back and finds the grave clothes abandoned. Left behind. No longer of use.

It's easy to turn those grave clothes into a metaphor. What do we need to let die or leave behind in our own lives? How do we find resurrection, renewal, a fresh start in this life?

But if we jump too quickly to the metaphor, we lose the power of what happened outside of Jerusalem so many years ago. We lose the power of the incarnation and the true presence of God with us.

Jesus is born of a woman, grows through boyhood, learns in the synagogue, eats, grows tired, rests, physically touches and actually heals (not a metaphor in sight), he bleeds, he weakens, he dies. He is fully and utterly human even as he is God. The grave clothes matter because Jesus' humanity mattered—because our humanity matters. Moving too quickly to metaphorical grave clothes can rob us of the hope-giving power of the real thing.

That broken body was buried exactly like every other broken body of its time. Shrouded and buried. Then human death is defeated by the God of life! Those grave clothes are not the proper garment for the living, so they are cast aside. Jesus is alive. Death no longer has the final word. Life wins. Love wins.

The actual grave clothes matter because they are evidence that death is defeated by life and by love.

As you make your slow journey toward Easter, honor the humanity in you. Your body, your feelings, your capacity, even your mortality. Jesus came not to diminish or overshadow our humanity but to liberate us and to celebrate what God has done in creating us just as we are: life and love.

In life,

*Pastor Chris*



PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION  
THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



## Lent as the Lengthening of Love

Lent is shorthand for the “lengthening” in Middle English, pointing to longer days as springtime arrives. While this winter has been a head scratcher, I am definitely looking forward to longer days and more sunshine. Bring on the light!

In the Body of Christ, Lent also marks the time leading up to Easter and the joy of Christ’s risen life. But because Easter arrives quite early this year and we have literally just been smudged with ashes, my heart isn’t quite ready for that next chapter in the story.

I’m still leaning into the lengthening part of the liturgical calendar. Letting my eyes adjust to the changing season, allowing my body and heart to soak in the shift that’s happening.

As we have been pondering the intersection of our complex and intricate heart, including the messy heart of the Apostle Peter, I know I need a little more time to let my heart catch up to the Spirit.

A little more time to let my blood pressure slow. Maybe another few weeks to let this structured season seep into my veins and ventricles.

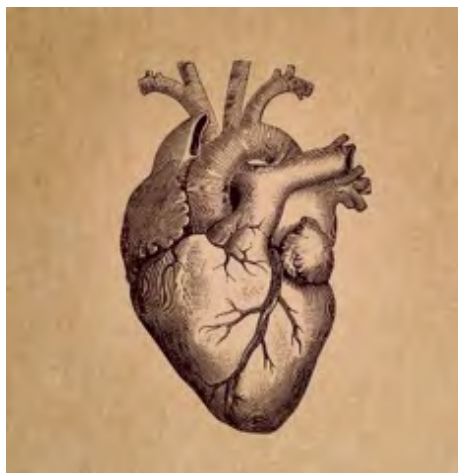
I don’t think this is as much resistance as it is an appreciation for the dynamic symbiosis that is happening inside our bodies, often pretty effortlessly to our consciousness and awareness.

I’ve been thinking a lot about how hard our hearts are working for us all the time.

100,000 beats a day.

2,000 gallons of blood pumped through all our extremities.

24/7, 365, thanks be to God.



We believe in a God who never sleeps and never stops working for our good, for our thriving, for our abundance, our clarity, our generosity, our beloved community.

This season of lengthening and stretching of our hearts invites us to imagine both our hearts and our neighbors in rhythm with God.

God never stops imagining a way forward for us. Through the wilderness, despite the cross, and beyond the grave.

May we all experience that feeling of lengthening in our hearts, centered on the promise of Christ’s ever-beating love.

*Pastor Peter*

### **Red Cross Blood Drive at Trinity Monday, March 4 | 1–7 pm in the Gym**

Every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood. Please schedule an appointment to donate blood. Visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> and search Trinity Stillwater, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or Alyce at 651-439-0573.



## Financial Update

Sarah Kinsman | Parish Administrator

*"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."* – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Greetings Trinity! Who does not like to receive an encouraging word? It is a simple message Paul gives the Thessalonians. "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

I wanted to share just some of the things that I have found to be encouraging recently here at Trinity. It demonstrates your robust commitment to Trinity! I hope you will find encouragement in them as well.

- Our mortgage has been reduced by \$591,553 in 2023.
- Our line of credit at our bank is at \$0 for the first time since January 2021.
- Our giving in the month of January was tremendous—as we received \$131,979 towards 2024 giving.
- Our Comprehensive Campaign has received \$889,581 to date.

I am full of gratitude for your commitment and generosity to your annual giving in support of the church—as well as the Comprehensive Campaign—that builds up this community of faith.

I urge you to remain invested in your church so that we can continue to encourage one another and build up our community to share God's love and grace. Thank you again for all you do to continue to make Trinity a healthy, vital, and viable community of faith!

## Stewardship Note

By Noah Schumacher | Stewardship Team

Hello friends, in preparation for our March *Trinity Today* entry, I came across this article written by Pastor Rob Blezard, who has written many posts on his site called The Stewardship Guy. The article resonated with me, so I thought I would share with you.

### Holistic stewardship for Lent

For centuries Lutherans have observed Lent with passionate devotion and prayerful attention to spiritual disciplines. These faith practices strengthen our souls and open our hearts to the resurrected Christ at Easter.

This year, try developing a sense of holistic stewardship for your life. Stewardship, of course, looks at how we use not just our financial abundance but all the blessings that God has given us—our health, our family and friends, our faith, our time, our intelligence, and so on.

Just as holistic medicine takes a "big picture" view of physical health as a dynamic interconnection of our body's systems, holistic stewardship helps us see and appreciate all our gifts in relationship to one another.

For instance, how does your stewardship of time interact with your stewardship of your relationships or health? How might more-thoughtful stewardship of your time improve your relationships or your health? How might better stewardship of time, relationships and health improve your financial abundance?

When you examine your stewardship of these and all your gifts in dynamic interconnection with one another, you can find more meaning and purpose as a disciple of Jesus.

To get there, for the days of Lent focus on just five major categories of the blessings God has given you easily remembered by the shorthand word FAITH.

**Family and friends**—nurturing relationships.

**Abundance**—finance and material possessions.

**Intelligence**—your mind and special talents.

**Time**—living fully 24/7.

**Health**—physical and emotional wellness.

Spend 15 minutes every day to prayerfully ponder and meditate on these FAITH blessings. A prayer journal or notebook may help you process and connect.

- Take stock of your blessings in each category, thanking God for them.
- Reflect on how they interrelate to give you joy and purpose and meaning.
- Ask God to help you use these gifts more wisely and fully for God's purposes.
- Imagine God blessing and enriching your life as you learn to steward these gifts in a way that they will support and enhance one another.

This Lent, let holistic stewardship help you envision your gifts and life more fully in God's reality, the reality called the Reign of God. It's the Reign that Jesus preached and proclaimed, and that he brought to fulfillment with the victory over death that we celebrate at Easter.

— Rob Blezard

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Pastor Blezard serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and works as content editor for <https://www.stewardshipoflife.org/>. He blogs at: <https://thestewardshipguy.com/>

## 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, 2024, to direct any remaining 2023 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**®

## **Trinity Financial Update: Sep '23 - Jan '24 = Fiscal Year To Date**

***NOTE: 1/31/2024 financial data was not finalized at "press time" for the March Trinity Today***

***The Long Term Debt Summary & Line of Credit Balance as of 1/31/2024 are shown below:***

<b><u>Long-Term Debt Summary:</u></b>	<b><u>This Year</u></b>	<b><u>Last Year</u></b>	<b><u>12 Month</u></b>
Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	2,655,486	3,136,046	<u>Difference</u>
Increase (Decrease) since beginning of FY	(179,390)	(49,718)	
Long-Term Debt Balance - Current Month	<b><u>\$ 2,476,096</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,086,328</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (610,232)</u></b>
Line of Credit Balance - Current Month	0	\$ 75,000	\$ (75,000)

## **FINANCIAL NOTES - JANUARY, 2024**

In place of comments about the prior month's financial update, I will share some of the items covered at Trinity's Finance Team Meeting held on February 13, 2024. Team members include Jeff Anderson (Treasurer & team chair), Phil Hanson, Jill Longnecker, Tom Olsen, John Olson, Noah Schumacher, Andrew Thelander and Clark Thurn plus staff members Pastor Chris Bellefeuille, Sarah Kinsman (Parish Administrator), Brenda Schumacher (Accounting Coordinator) and Eric Trosdahl (Financial Secretary.) Jocelyn Gohdes also attended as a guest/prospective member. We received a formal presentation of the prior year's financial audit from our CPA firm. Sarah presented some Stewardship data as well as a 4-month detail of Actual vs Budget financial results. Sarah also shared information regarding various options we will need to consider before a May, 2024 scheduled mortgage interest rate goes into effect. I provided a Comprehensive Campaign update (see below for additional details.)

Another important Trinity financial news item is that I will retire from the role of Treasurer effective at the next Church Council meeting on February 19, 2024. My intention was to serve a short term as Treasurer while Sarah Kinsman transitioned into her new position as Parish Administrator. I'm very pleased to announce that our new Treasurer will be Jill Longnecker, a current Finance Team member and church council member. She is also a long-time Trinity member and recognized congregational leader. I will remain on the Finance Team and as the Comprehensive Campaign Resource Coordinator.



***Submitted by Jeff Anderson, Treasurer***

## **COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN UPDATE- JANUARY, 2024**

As of January 31, 2024 our Comprehensive Campaign is approaching the end of its first year. The Congregational response has been strong and steady. Total pledges = 196 (almost 200!) Total pledged = \$1,928,409 (almost \$2 million!) with \$881,657 received through 1/31/2024. The amount received to date is 46% (almost half!) of the total three year pledged total.

As I mentioned last month, the Comprehensive Campaign Cabinet will be meeting in February to discuss various options to inform the congregation of a continuing vision for the campaign including additional opportunities to participate. Stay tuned!

***Submitted by Jeff Anderson, Comprehensive Campaign Resource Coordinator***



## CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH earth keepers. LEAVE IT BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT

#### CLIMATE CORNER T.I.P.s

Dear Trinity community, here are your March Earth Keeper T.I.P.s (Thoughtfully. Intentionally. Purposefully.)

Two recycle opportunities you may not know about are located at the River Market Community Co-op in downtown Stillwater.

- **Tags and Ties (TagBack)**
- **Packaging plastic (bubble wrap and other plastics used for shipping packages)**

We all have twist ties and other bag tags laying around. And we all get packages with plastic inside. No need to throw it out! Save it and bring it down to the co-op. The TagBack box is inside the front door and the plastic recycling slot is located with the other recycling in the store.



## Looking for some group activities? Check out LET'S GO events!

Itching to do something with a group? Check out LET'S GO events! Mark your calendars, we have events scheduled through June. Watch for more details as event dates approach. View the full list of events at: <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/connections/lets-go/>

#### COMING UP:

**Tiny Home Tour and Community Dinner**  
**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,**  
**Roseville**  
**Sunday, March 17 at 5:30 p.m.**

Have you wondered what a tiny home community looks like? Join us to see the home sponsored by Trinity, our home church. Gabrielle Clowdus, founder of Settled, and tiny home residents will also be present. A community dinner will follow the tour. Space is limited. Sign up by email to receive details and transportation options. RSVP by March 10 to Sandy Wendt at [sjwendt46@gmail.com](mailto:sjwendt46@gmail.com).



## Spiritual Care Grief Group

Wednesdays

March 6, 13, 20 & 27

10:30 am in the Trinity Library



For anyone in grief, you're invited to our Spiritual Care Grief Group every Wednesday in March. Led by staff member Zanny Johnson, Spiritual Director and Grief Educator, this group is for anyone experiencing grief. Grief is defined as any reflection of a connection that was lost. As David Kessler says, "Witnessing grief has the power to make someone feel supported, safe, and seen. It's reassuring to have one's grief seen and to know that it is a normal part of the human experience, and it doesn't have to be secretive or solitary."

Join us at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays in March in the Trinity Library on the lower level. Questions? Please contact Zanny Johnson at [zjohnson@trinitylc.org](mailto:zjohnson@trinitylc.org).



## ABIDE READERS

### NEXT BOOK DISCUSSION:

***The Great Escape: A True Story of Forced Labor and Immigrant Dreams in America* by Saket Soni**  
**Monday, March 25**

**6:30-8 p.m. via Zoom**

Join us for our next book discussion on March 25. All are welcome! For the Zoom link and more information, contact Ann Wolff at wolff701@msn.com or 651-260-3855. For a list of upcoming book discussions, visit: <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/connections/abide-readers/>

Sometimes we do not have time to read at all, let alone the books on our wish list or nightstand, and some of us just aren't readers. Fortunately, there are many different ways to begin to understand. Here are just a few ideas.

1. Google the author of our Zoom book choice of the month to find numerous opportunities to hear them share a bit of their amazing stories. Then, join

ABIDE Readers for a one and a half hour book discussion which always inspires fascinating and insightful personal experiences and connections within our group.

2. Your Racial Justice Ministry Team nominated Will Antell as the recipient of Stillwater's 2023 Human Rights Award and hosted a very moving and uplifting reception to honor him last July. We heard from Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, Assistant to Bishop Patricia Lull for Lay Leadership and Equity Initiatives. He acknowledged "the role of churches in causing devastating harm to Native People." He pledged "that things do not have to be as they are" and he emphasized "the church's commitment to the compassionate care of all people." Watch this recording of the events by our Valley Access Channel at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJyBeRlz\\_OU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJyBeRlz_OU)

3. If you only have 7 minutes and 11 seconds, go to YouTube and listen to *Lift Every Voice and Sing* by the Stanford Talisman Alumni Chorus.

4. If you only have 3 or 4 minutes, read one of Dr. Kelly Sherman Conroy's sacred thoughts blog posts at: <https://sacredthoughts.blog/>

And, if you missed the MLK breakfast at Trinity in January, be sure to listen to 19-year-old Marley Dias at: <https://www.mprnews.org/episode/2024/01/15/activistinfluencer-marley-dias-speaks-at-annual-mlk-breakfast>. You will be filled with awe. Her joy, hope, and her love of books and of people are contagious.

## New Member Tenders

Do you love meeting new people? Do you love Trinity? We would like to engage some singles, couples and families to come alongside new members and baptismal families to help build relationship and a sense of home.

What does this mean? If you sign up, you would be assigned to a new member household or a family where someone is newly baptized. (You could be assigned to more than one, if you wish.)

What is expected? To reach out to these folks with a welcoming phone call within the first two weeks to say hello and welcome. You might offer to answer questions, introduce them to other folks, or sit together on a Sunday or Wednesday when you are both in the building.

Then we ask that you reach out via phone, text or email at least four times more during the first year.

You can certainly do more! But this is the hoped for commitment.

Feeling called to tend our new members? Please contact Zanny Johnson at [zjohnson@trinitylc.org](mailto:zjohnson@trinitylc.org).

## Interested in joining Trinity?

### New Member Sunday is March 17

If you have been visiting us and feel it's time to make things official, please mark your calendars for our next new member Sunday on March 17! The congregation will receive you as a member during services that Sunday (at either 9 or 11 a.m. worship), with a New Member 101 class between services (at 10 a.m.) that same Sunday.

Our process is simple: fill out the new member form at: <https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbnextchms.com/external/form/3b524ebf-def1-4e43-af61-f349c20702e4>

Questions? Contact Zanny Johnson at [zjohnson@trinitylc.org](mailto:zjohnson@trinitylc.org).



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 7 – April 25 | \$88 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!

If you have a guest, want to try a class or want to take fewer than a full session of classes, you can purchase one or more drop-in-tickets. Read more and find a link to register at: <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/care/yoga/>

Questions? Contact Sue Peterson at [todd@sue2@aol.com](mailto:todd@sue2@aol.com).



ALL-IN EVENT  
(FOR EVERYONE)

SERIES:

## Striving for Peace by Humanizing Each Other

With Seema Pothini, Director of Ally  
Management at Humanize My Hoodie

**March 10 > Sunday  
Faith Forum at 10 a.m.**

Garden Room

**March 13 >  
Wednesday Faith  
Formation All-in Event  
at 6:30 p.m.**

Garden Room

**March 17 > Sunday  
Faith Forum at 10 a.m.**

Garden Room

Open Gym provided

**We welcome back** national educational equity speaker Seema Pothini for a series on Humanization. Seema will explore how a local movement utilizes fashion activism to destigmatize clothing—such as the hoodie—in order to challenge perceptions of threat associated with Black, Indigenous and people of color. Learn about institutional racism, macroaggressions, color blindness, the school-to-prison pipeline, and other barriers to learning that are impacting student success. Supervised open gym for young kids provided at all sessions.



Seema's passion for creating equitable classrooms, schools, and communities drives her commitment as an advocate for underserved youth. Her extensive experience improving student success in historically underperforming schools began when she taught in Houston. She was elected Teacher of the Year and appointed to the superintendent's committee to address the opportunity gap. In addition to teaching, she has worked as a K-12 cultural integration specialist and consultant, improving student outcomes by creating family, school, and community partnerships and providing staff development. Seema served as board president for Avenues for Homeless Youth and currently serves as president of the Minnesota chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education. She is also the author of Case Studies for Equity and Social Justice Education (with Paul Gorski).



# TRINITY concert series

## Valley Chamber Chorale

**March 3 | 3 pm | Worship Center**

Dan Forrest's Jubilate Deo brings to life the global aspect of the traditional Psalm 100 text, "O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands." Scored for chorus, orchestra, and soprano and alto soloists, Jubilate Deo is set in seven different languages including Mandarin Chinese, Zulu, Arabic, Hebrew, Latin, Spanish and English and draws from a wide spectrum of musical influences that results in a symbolic gesture of unity between cultures. Tickets: <https://valleychamberchorale.org/tickets/jubilatedeo>

## Journeymen's Chorus

**March 9 | 7 pm | Worship Center**

Come enjoy the sounds of this auditioned men's chorus! The chorus is also joined by guest ensembles Vocality and First Avenue Quartet. Tickets: [https://journeymenchorus.ludus.com/index.php?show\\_id=200447569](https://journeymenchorus.ludus.com/index.php?show_id=200447569)

## Stillwater Area High School Orchestra Concert

**March 12 | 7 pm | Worship Center**

## Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra

**March 14 | 7 pm | Worship Center**

Curated by Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) violinist Daria Adams, this Express Concert celebrates Johann Sebastian Bach and his undying influence through centuries of music-making across the world. Works by Heitor Villa-Lobos and Maria Kaneko Millar feature the qualities of dance central to much of Bach's work, and Bach's own Double Violin Concerto will showcase the SPCO's Eunice Kim and Daria Adams in a dynamic whirlwind accompanied by the full orchestra. Tickets: <https://www.thespc.org/>

## Cantus

**March 17 | 3 pm | Worship Center**

Mountain Nights: As sources of inspiration, challenge, and wonder, mountains have shaped human civilization as much as they've shaped our geography. In a program that showcases works by Zoltán Kodály, Chen Yi, and Gabriela Lena Frank, Cantus explores the far-ranging music of expansive skies and breathtaking summits. Enjoy a refreshed, informal concert experience – and get a sneak-peek at some of the music slated for an upcoming Cantus recording! (This concert is "pay-what-you-can.") Tickets: <https://www.cantussings.org/23-24-season/>

**WORSHIP  
& MUSIC**

## worship TEXTS

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

LENT

March 3 **Matthew 16:13-20,**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Psalm 19**

March 10 **Matthew 16:21-23,**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

March 17 **Matthew 18:15-22,**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Psalm 119:9-16**

Palm Sunday

March 24 \_\_\_\_\_ **Community Worship**  
Maundy Thursday

March 28 \_\_\_\_\_ **John 13:1-20**  
Good Friday

March 29 \_\_\_\_\_ **Requiem for a Living**  
EASTER

March 31 \_\_\_\_\_ **Luke 24: 1-12**



## EASTER GARDEN Memorials & Honors

This form and payment must be  
turned in by Sunday, March 24

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 \$25) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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.





# Holy Week & Easter



## Dinner Church Wednesdays at 5:30 pm Garden Room

Join us for Dinner Church with worship following our Lenten theme. Eat together. Worship together. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. with worship from 6-6:30 p.m., all in the Garden Room. Followed by faith formation opportunities for all ages. Read more at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/family/dinner-church/>

## Lenten Devotional booklet available in the Commons

Pick up your copy of the "Wandering Heart: Figuring out Faith with Peter" devotional booklet on the Information Desk in the Commons. This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. You will find art, reflections and poetry for this season of Lent.

## Palm Sunday | Community Worship & Palm Processional

**March 24 | 10 am | Gather at the historic Lift Bridge**

Worship and palm processional with our community partners in Christ, outdoors in downtown Stillwater. Meet at the historic lift bridge at Main and Chestnut Streets. Come walk and commune together on this Palm Sunday morning 2024. All are welcome! Trinity is the backup location in case of bad weather. (Please also see the back cover.)

## Maundy Thursday Worship | Celebrating First Communion

**March 28 | 7 pm | Worship Center**

Holy week worship with hand and foot washing. Discover the gift of love and belonging we receive in Holy Communion, celebrating those who just completed the Communion Preparation Class.

## Good Friday Men's Breakfast | For All Men

**March 29 | 7 am | Garden Room**

Please join servant-leader and public servant, Trinity's Council President and Stillwater School Board member Andrew Thelander who will share his experience on the forefront of faith and education. Andrew is a proud Pony parent and also works in finance. Come with questions and enjoy a delicious breakfast, along with world-class Trinity fellowship during Holy Week.

## Good Friday Worship | Requiem for the Living by Dan Forrest

**March 29 | 7 pm | Worship Center**

Worship and music featuring Requiem for the Living by Dan Forrest. Let the breathtaking harmonies and timeless beauty of this intricate composition help you navigate the breadth of emotions during the Holy Week. Featuring the Trinity Choir, Chamber Orchestra and soloists. Also see the next page.

## Easter Sunday Worship | Alleluia!

**March 31 | 7, 9 & 11 am | Worship Center**

**7 am** | Sunrise worship with choir, brass and organ

**9 am** | Festival worship with choir, brass and organ

**11 am** | Festival worship with the worship band

## Easter Egg-stravaganza | The Easter Season Continues!

**Saturday, April 6 | 10 am | Green Space (or Gym)**

Easter egg party in partnership with LADC. Join us as we look for eggs, play games, enjoy crafts, and have a snack together. Weather permitting, this event will be outside on the Green Space with the Gym as backup. Please bring your own basket or bag to collect eggs! See page 12 for more details.







a prayer for rest

## Good Friday Worship **Requiem for the Living** by Dan Forrest

**Friday,  
March 29  
7 pm  
Worship  
Center**

**Featuring the Trinity Choir,  
Clark Weyrauch, Director,  
Chamber Orchestra and  
Soloists—Mary Schneider,  
Laura Sactre-Fristad &  
Andrew Kreye**

A Requiem is a prayer for rest—traditionally, for the deceased. The five movements of Dan Forrest's Requiem for the Living (2013), however, form a narrative just as much for the living, and their own struggle with pain and sorrow, as for the dead. Let the breathtaking harmonies and timeless beauty of this intricate composition help you navigate the breadth of emotions during the Holy Week.







### Summer Camp at Wapo!

Register for Camp Wapo and explore the theme of "ALWAYS with us" this summer! In a world marked by constant change, this theme serves as a powerful reminder of God's unwavering love for us. Priority registration has ended, but Wapo continues to take registrations as space allows. Grab your spots for our Trinity dates today.

- **Seeds weekend for youth completed grades 1-3 is July 12-14**
- **Weeklong for youth completed grades 4 and up is Aug. 11-16**

Please use our link to register:

<http://lwlbc.com/trinity-stillwater>

### Sunday Open Gym | 10 a.m. For Children & Families

Open Gym is for children and families in between worship services. Coffee is available for parents who would like to stay in the Gym for fellowship; and for parents wishing to attend Sunday Faith Forum, the Gym is supervised by middle/high school youth volunteers.

## children & family FAITH FORMATION NOTES

### First Communion Preparation | Thursday, March 7 at 7 pm

Registration is now open for the Communion Preparation Class on Thursday, March 7 at 7 p.m. in the Garden Room. To register scan the QR code with your smartphone camera or visit the direct link at: <https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/2ff0a45e-1d5a-4ce1-affd-bd605ae42d77>



In Holy Communion, Jesus feeds us spiritual food to strengthen our faith and help us feed others. While Trinity welcomes all ages and levels of understanding to the table to partake in Holy Communion, completing this milestone helps parents and children appreciate and understand more deeply the history and mystery of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Learn how to bake your own communion bread and discover the gift of love and belonging we receive in Holy Communion.

Following the class, participants **celebrate taking communion during worship at either the Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, March 28 at 7 p.m.** (please note this is Stillwater's Spring Break) **or at the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 7.** This class is geared for lower elementary, but available to all ages.

### March Family Faith Event | Saturday, March 9 at 10 am

Registration is open for the March Family Faith Event: Games with the Parker family! Time to get your game on! Join the Parker family at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 9 in the Garden Room to enjoy snacks and play family-favorite board games. Bring some of your favorites or just show up and play! This event is free, but please sign up so we know how many to anticipate. To register, scan the QR code with your smartphone camera or visit the direct link at: <https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/f98dfca5-180c-4419-976a-e5fc4b9199b4>



### Calling all Girl Scouts! | Sunday, March 10

Trinity youth who participate in Girl Scouts are invited to help usher, greet, and serve coffee on Sunday, March 10 as a celebration of service to Trinity and in recognition of National Girl Scout Week (March 10-16). Please contact Karen Wasmundt at [kem5678@hotmail.com](mailto:kem5678@hotmail.com) if your Girl Scout is available to help that morning.

#### PLEASE NOTE!

Faith Lab does not meet on Wednesday, March 27. Stillwater's Spring Break and Holy Week overlap this year! Please see page 10 for Holy Week worship details.

#### SAVE THE DATE!

### Easter Egg-stravaganza

#### Saturday, April 6 at 10 am | Outdoors on the Green Space

Easter Egg-stravaganza is coming soon! The Easter season continues long after Easter Sunday ends. Spread out the celebration of Christ risen with an all-things Easter egg party in partnership between Trinity Lutheran and LADC on Saturday, April 6 at 10 a.m. Join us as we look for eggs, play games, enjoy crafts, and have a snack together! Weather permitting, this event will be outside on the Green Space with the Gym as backup. Please bring your own basket or bag to collect eggs! This event is free and open to all, but please RSVP so we know how many to anticipate. Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera or visit: at <https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/d0a953c7-699a-4c2c-b50e-c6b9775cb073>



#### SAVE THE DATE!

### Vacation Bible School 2024: Faith on the Waves!

#### Monday, June 17–Thursday, June 20 | 6:30–8 pm

Watch for more details and registration in early April!



## Sponsor a Youth Missionary!

Trip dates are:

**June 22–29, 2024**

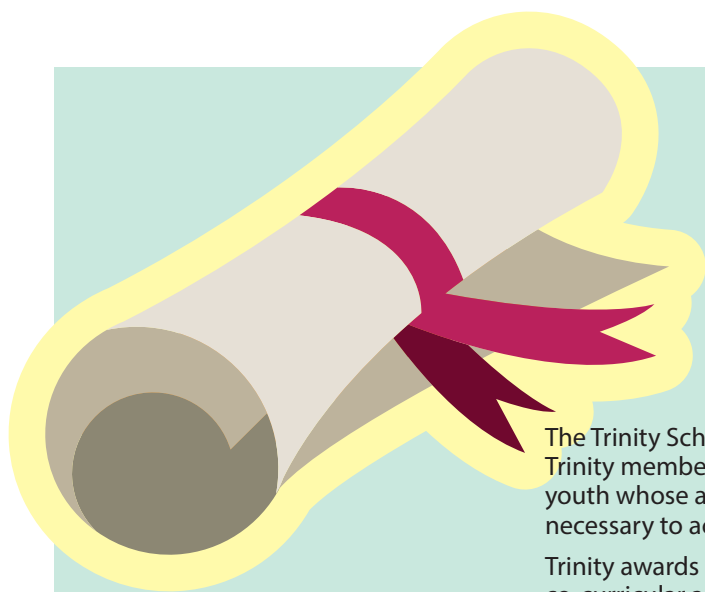
Puerto Rico is still recovering from Hurricanes Maria in September, 2017 as well as Fiona in September, 2022. Missionaries will work at multiple sites each day, cleaning up, painting, and doing light construction in the central region near Jayuya. Each evening will conclude with large-group time as missionaries break into small groups to discuss devotional materials. The group will also be organizing a Vacation Bible School for a partner congregation and will take some time at the end of the trip to see some of beautiful, historic San Juan. We will also be partnering with our host congregation with supplies and needs for their upcoming mission trips to Central America.

Please consider sponsoring a youth missionary for the Puerto Rico trip this summer! Trip dates are: June 22–29, 2024.

Read more at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/youth/high-school/>



Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to sponsor a missionary or visit:  
<https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbnextchms.com/external/form/5c2cbe9e-f9ae-4cc7-8886-3f41ec43bd77>



## 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 Monday, April 1. Please mail to: Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity Scholarship Fund, ATTN Sarah Kinsman, P.O. Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082.

**Applications due  
April 1**



PHOTOS: On Jan. 20, Trinity families bundled up and braved the cold together to explore the trail system at Autumn Hills Park. We spotted an owl, watched the sun set, and enjoyed hot chocolate! The company of others in God's beautiful creation warmed our hearts.



PHOTOS BELOW: Excuse our mess while we update the Garden Room!

### Helping Hands & Confirmands

Teamwork makes the dream work. It has been an amazing blessing to leverage the muscle of some of our Confirmation small groups for service right here at Trinity. We have a very faithful group of retired volunteers who tend to the care and upkeep of our sacred space between 4th and 3rd Streets in Stillwater, but we have expanded that crew to build investment and ownership with our youth. Led by small group leader Anne Sheridan and Helping Hands leader Chuck Newman, we have made great progress on reducing what has often been a problematic tripping hazard in one of Trinity's most-trafficked spaces. The plan is to level-out and carpet the edges for more square-footage and reduce falls.

The small group has also utilized Thrivent Action Team funds to write cards to Veterans. The church of Christ is always at its best in service and action.





PHOTOS: In January and February, Trinity youth who participated in the winter session of FAFA (fun and fellowship affinity), got to work side-by-side with Trinity adults with a passion for woodworking. Youth helped create play communion sets for young children to use in worship for a hands-on experience with the communion elements. Youth got to see how a block of wood gets shaped with a lathe, as well as roll up their sleeves to help sand, wax, and decorate. Look for these play sets to be introduced to the congregation on Sunday, April 7 at the 11 a.m. worship service.







## A Successful Day for Housing Insecurity Issues

*Jesus says to "love our neighbors as ourselves!"* Love of neighbors happened on Jan. 25 at the second annual PIT Stop Winter Event. This event was held at First Presbyterian Church through a collaboration of local faith communities (Trinity, St. Michael's/St. Mary's, Ascension, First Presbyterian), Washington County Community Services, and other service providers.

Thanks to your generosity, Trinity members, including the Trinity Outreach Missions Team, provided \$1,100 worth of gift cards for gas and food. Guests were able to freely choose donated winter apparel and accessories, including shoes, socks and pants. Infant and baby clothes were also available, as well as diapers and personal toiletries.

Representatives from Washington County, Oak Park Heights Police, health insurance companies, public health and legal aid were all available. Social service agencies, such as Valley Outreach, White

Bear Food Shelf and The Connect Center also offered assistance.

Breakfast, a hearty hot lunch and snacks were provided for those who desired. Haircuts were available, as well as sewing repair, specifically zipper repair. People who had current housing issues were immediately directed to social services and connections were made.

The PIT (Point in Time) Count occurs yearly all over the United States to help document and count those experiencing homelessness in our communities. The PIT Stop Event was initiated last year to coincide with this formal process.

Our St. Croix Valley community came together in a warm, festive, welcoming and non-judgemental setting.

Around 300 people attended! These neighbors enjoyed a supportive environment of lively and loving community. We celebrate as we walk alongside them and strive for positive relationships, following the call of Jesus!

## DID YOU know?

Our Saint Paul Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) supports over 1,000 students by sending scholarship money so that students can attend high school and some upper level classes to further their education. The money that we send from Trinity supports some of the students from our sister congregation who otherwise would be unable to attend these schools, due to financial reasons.

Look for more pictures to come as 13 individuals with a Trinity connection will be meeting these students this fall at Bomalong'ombe School in Tanzania.







## March Food Drive for Valley Outreach

### Bring items to worship any Sunday in March!

As listed on the Valley Outreach website, "Your gift of dollars, food and clothing make a difference at Valley Outreach. Every donation helps us serve the community and ensures we are a consistent presence for those in need."

Each March the Outreach Missions Team at Trinity participates in a large food drive to benefit Valley Outreach. Please bring your food items to church each Sunday in March and they will be delivered to Valley Outreach. On Palm Sunday, March 24, bring your food to the Lift Bridge and we will gather with other churches to help feed the hungry in the Stillwater area. Thanks for all you do for our neighbors.

### Top Food Shelf Needs

- Cash: \$25 cash donation goes a long way in purchasing food
- Spices and Oil: Salt/pepper, garlic, cumin, cinnamon, salad dressing, condiments, olive oil
- Canned Meats: Tuna, chicken, salmon, sardines
- Grains: Pasta, whole-grain pasta, rice, quinoa, couscous
- Household Paper Items: Paper towels, toilet paper
- Shelf Stable Items: Whole grain, hot or cold, kid-friendly cereal and ready to eat soup
- Hygiene Products: Soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, tampons, maxipads



FOOD | CLOTHING | EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

March 2024 • Trinity Today

Valley Outreach  
1901 Curve Crest Blvd. W  
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082  
<https://valleyoutreachmn.org/>  
651-430-2739  
[info@valleyoutreachmn.org](mailto:info@valleyoutreachmn.org)



## Outreach Missions Fundraiser

### Make a donation for a chance to win a quilt!

**Sundays, March 3, 10 and 17**  
**Drawing on Sunday, March 17**

The quilters of Trinity have been busy sewing and hand tying quilts to be donated to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). On Sunday, March 3 we will have a quilt blessing prior to sending the quilts we made to needed individuals in the world. See below the list of places that received quilts last year through LWR. An amazing 194,983 quilts went to eight countries.

- Angola – 24,140
- Democratic Republic of the Congo – 12, 375
- Georgia – 38,080
- Guatemala – 9,520
- Mali – 45,798
- Tanzania – 28,440
- Turkey – 11,880
- Ukraine – 24,750

The 15 members of the Quilting Ministry Team at Trinity have given one of their quilts to raise money for the General Mission Fund of Trinity. Make a donation for a chance to win the quilt before any church service on Sundays, March 3, 10 and 17. Drawing at 11 a.m. on Sunday, March 17.



# Living as Jesus in the World

Karen Gieseke | RIC Team Leader

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Trinity celebrated Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Sunday on Jan. 28; and the following week on Feb. 4, the RIC Team presented the Sunday Faith Forum topic: Reconciling In Christ—What does it mean for Trinity in 2024 and beyond?

These ministry opportunities reflect several of Trinity's core values, including Radical Hospitality, Engaging Worship, and Lifelong Faith Formation. Each week Trinity community members and visiting guests shared their gratitude for hearing and experiencing the message of God's love for all God's beloved children. Many people also shared a curiosity to continue learning more about God's LGBTQIA+ children, and understand how to better welcome, support, and seek justice for this specific group.

Below are several of the resources shared at the Feb. 4 Sunday Faith Forum. You are encouraged to be curious, lifelong learners, and grow in your learning about God's diversity. This is a starting point. The journey continues. Watch for upcoming and ongoing resources and opportunities through Trinity and the RIC Team.

The RIC Team welcomes questions, recommendations, and collaboration. You are invited to contact the team and share how to support you, your family, friends, and your learning. Please reach out to Karen Gieseke, RIC Team Leader, at [kgieseke@live.com](mailto:kgieseke@live.com).

## Learning Resources

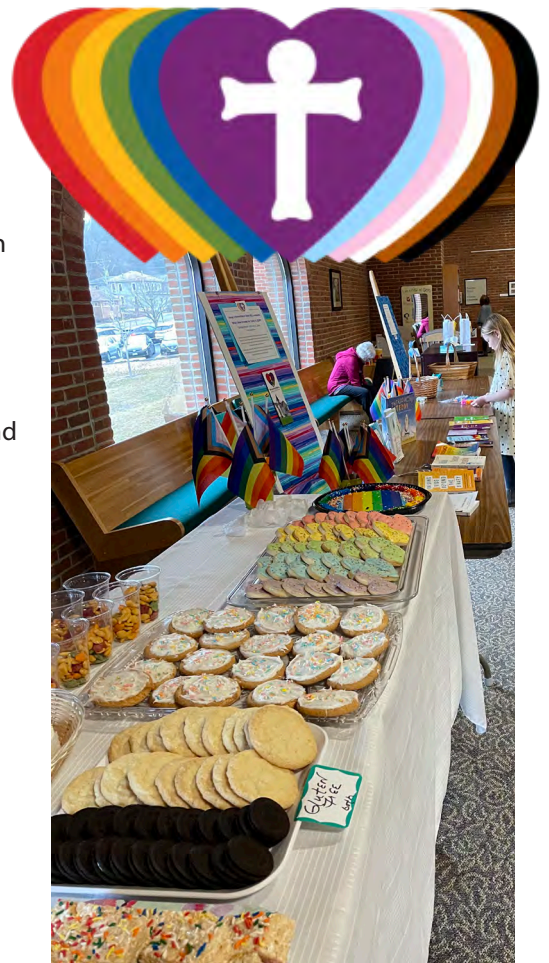
- Reconciling Works: [www.reconcilingworks.org](http://www.reconcilingworks.org)
- Clunky Questions: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/resources/sogie/clunky-questions/>
- Youth & Family Ministry: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/resources/sogie/clunkyquestions/>
- Queer Grace-online encyclopedia for LGBTQIA+ and Christian Life: <http://queer-grace.com/>
- ELCA Social statements (Human Sexuality): <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements>

## Support Resources

- PFLAG—supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them: [www.PFLAG.org](http://www.PFLAG.org)
- The Trevor Project: [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)
- Transforming Families: [www.tffmn.org](http://www.tffmn.org)
- MN Transgender Alliance: [www.minnesotatransgenderalliance.com](http://www.minnesotatransgenderalliance.com)

## Advocacy Resources

- ACLU: [www.aclu.org/issues/lgbtq-rights](http://www.aclu.org/issues/lgbtq-rights)
- Movement Advancement Project: <https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps>



## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

### Sunday, Jan. 21

In-person Trinity 9 am	136
Live online views 9 am	94
Online views/week 9 am	124
In-person Trinity 11 am	107
Live online views 11 am	43
Online views/week 11 am	76

### Sunday, Jan. 28

In-person Trinity 9 am	170
Live online views 9 am	74
Online views/week 9 am	124
In-person Trinity 11 am	107
Live online views 11 am	26
Online views/week 11 am	70

### Sunday, Feb. 4

In-person Trinity 9 am	168
Live online views 9 am	102
Online views/week 9 am	151
In-person Trinity 11 am	113
Live online views 11 am	28
Online views/week 11 am	54

### Sunday, Feb. 11 - one service only

In-person Trinity 10 am	282
Live online views 10 am	100
Online views/week 10 am	173

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

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To family and friends of **Kevin Charlsen**
- To family and friends of **James Hansen**
- To family and friends of **Gary Hanson**

## 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.

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Monday–Thursday | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

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

## WELCOME STATEMENT

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



### Tech Tuesdays with Clark & Monty First & Third Tuesdays, 1-2 pm in the Commons at Trinity

Do you have a computer, tablet or smartphone question or issue? Bring your technology issues and devices to get some assistance. No need to sign up, just show up! Also feel free to reach out to Clark or Monty anytime to seek help. Contact Clark Weyrauch at [cweyrauch@trinitylc.org](mailto:cweyrauch@trinitylc.org) or Monty Lysne at [mlysne@trinitylc.org](mailto:mlysne@trinitylc.org).

## THANK you

To all Trinity members and staff, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for the love, support and help for myself and my family with the passing of my mother. Words cannot express the appreciation and thanks to all of you in these times of loss. Your thoughts, prayers, and support have meant a lot in these trying times. From myself and my entire family, thank you for everything. God bless all of you and all be blessed.

– Tom Hosek, Lead Custodian

## trinity TODAY

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Articles for the next *Trinity Today* (April issue) are due Monday, March 18, to begin arriving in mailboxes Wednesday, March 27.

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

Email: [info@trinitylc.org](mailto:info@trinitylc.org)

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## **Palm Sunday** Outdoor Community Worship & Palm Processional

**March 24 at 10 am**  
Gather at the Lift Bridge

Worship and palm processional with our community partners in Christ, outdoors in downtown Stillwater. Meet at the historic lift bridge at Main and Chestnut Streets. Come walk and commune together on this Palm Sunday morning 2024. All are welcome! Trinity is the backup location in case of bad weather.

If you prefer indoor worship, may we suggest the 10 a.m. worship service at First Presbyterian Church located at 6201 Osgood Ave. N in Stillwater. They are an accessible and affirming congregation; and will be livestreaming the outdoor community worship at the lift bridge.

