

trinity
Lutheran Church

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www.trinitylc.org

love.transform.serve.

TRINITY TODAY



Spotlight on the Trinity Library

Pages 10-12



Photos from the
December 17
Advent event
led by our
Children's Ministry
on Pages 14-15





LEAD PASTOR
CHRIS BELLEFEUILLE

Evangelical?

Religion and politics have become woven together in our country in strange ways. There have long been movements rooted in faith that have shaped our collective life: anti-slavery and civil rights come to mind. It is not only people of faith who have been out-spoken on these issues, but many Christians were called by their faith to take public, political action.

But there was a time when one did not automatically link certain Christian traditions with particular political leanings. Being Catholic usually meant being anti-abortion but not necessarily Republican. Being anti-abortion wasn't a "Republican issue" when I was growing up. My large, extended Catholic family was assertively anti-abortion but most were Democrats. While my Republican parents were largely silent on the issue.

Now, there seems to be an overwhelming inclination to link ideologies and isms in ways that are often inaccurate and always unhelpful. We assume Republicans to be evangelical, non-denominational Christians who oppose abortion, support the death penalty and guns and want to keep immigrants out. Democrats are assumed to be part of progressive religions, if they are

believed to be people of faith at all. They are labeled pro-choice, anti-death penalty, gun-haters who want to fling open the borders. And we reverse the assumptions. Evangelical? You must be a Republican. Atheist? Democrat.

Do those definitions offend you? They should. We seem to have lost our capacity to allow people to be the marvelous constellation of complexity and contradictions that make being human so marvelously surprising. Whether you are a Republican or a Democrat, you bring wisdom and perspective we all need. If we take time to listen to each other, we discover we all love our children, want good schools, safe food and decent health care. We want beautiful parks and natural spaces and we value the freedom to worship and speak our mind.

The same is true of the incredible diversity of religious expressions in this country. We have much to learn from one another and are wise to engage in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and partnerships. And again, we discover how much we have in common. *Within Christianity, we share the love of our Creator expressed through God-with-us, Jesus Christ* who entered another strange and divisive political reality.

What makes this time even more challenging is that formerly allied people are distancing themselves from each other publicly precisely because of our inclination to lump isms and ideologies. The term "evangelical" is under fire, with good reason, and many from within the evangelical tradition are suggesting that the word "evangelical" must be detached from Christianity before it does the church and the gospel movement irrevocable harm.

Peter Wehner, a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, wrote: "...I have concluded that the term evangelical — despite its rich history of proclaiming the "good news" of Christ to a broken world — has been so distorted that it is now undermining the Christian witness. Just the other day I received a note from a friend of mine, a pastor, who told me he no longer uses the label "evangelical"

to describe himself... 'because the term is now so stained as to ruin my ability to be what evangelicalism was supposed to be.' Another pastor told me, 'Evangelical is no longer a word we can use.' The reason, he explained, is that it's become not a religious identification so much as a political one. A third person, who heads a Christian organization, told me the term evangelical 'is now a tribal rather than a creedal description.'

We are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Does that mean we run the same risk of having our "brand tarnished" by the shifting definition of the term "evangelical?" Or can we claim this as a time to make a fresh, bold proclamation of the Good News (evangelion) born in Jesus Christ.

Lutherans are more than taciturn, Scandinavian hotdish eaters. We gather in multitude of languages, cultures and ethnicities to proclaim a wildly expansive gospel (evangelion) of grace, vocation and inclusion. We represent a broad array of political and ideological inclinations. As Lutherans, we are called by our baptismal vocation into the public sphere, our voice and vote shaped by our faith. Which means that once in a while, we will cancel each other out at the polls.

To be *evangelical* is to center ourselves around the Christ who unites us in our diversity. "Evangelical" means we are bold in sharing the good news, flinging open the doors of the church, going out and welcoming in. Being evangelical, for us, means the good news of Jesus Christ *must* be shared without reservation or judgment, allowing God in Christ to do the work of transforming hearts and lives through our hands and voices.

We are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are God's work. We are God's hands. We are God's voice. And we honor and pray for our Christian brothers and sisters whose identity and proclamation is in peril. Because it is Christ who unites us.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female. We are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

Pastor Chris

.....

Someone recently asked me why the pastors are now sitting up on the chancel near the band and choir instead of in the front pew during worship.

It is useful for us to sit where the other worship leaders are so we can communicate during worship, if necessary. Musicians, assistants and pastors can lead more effectively if we are together. Second, the geography works better when we are sitting closer to the places from where we lead worship. Third, the view is simply beautiful from the chancel!

The true essence is that God is the audience of all we do together in worship!

Trinity Financial Update

November Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2018

	This Year	Last Year	'17 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	259,992	256,542	1,300,000	20%
Other Income	169,977	103,299	466,000	36%
Total Income	\$ 429,969	\$ 359,841	\$ 1,766,000	
less: Expenses	516,660	451,885	1,776,145	29%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (86,690)	\$ (92,044)	(10,145)	

Long-Term Debt Summary:

Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	2,921,532	3,050,204
Increase (Decrease)	(32,630)	(31,600)
Long-Term Debt - End of November	\$ 2,888,902	\$ 3,018,604
Line of Credit Balance-November 30	\$ 888,394	\$ 897,221

Calendar Year-End Giving Tax Note

Do you itemize your charitable contributions? If so, you need to know that significant federal tax changes are on the way. Based on new details of the pending tax reform bill, it is set to include a proposal to increase the standard deduction. That could result in the percentage of filers who choose to itemize will drop sharply, since the only reason to do so is if your deductions exceed your standard deduction, meaning only 9 million out of approximately 40 million people will still likely qualify next year to itemize deductions including charitable gifts. Here are some additional key concepts for you to consider based on the most recent details of the proposed final tax bill:

1. The tax changes are set to take effect in tax year 2018.
2. Reduced individual tax rates for most Americans but actual tax savings will vary greatly depending on the size, location and circumstances of each family.
3. The standard deduction will almost double to \$24,000.00 for married couples (\$12,000.00 for single).
4. The deductions for state, local and property taxes will now be limited to a total of \$10,000.
5. Lowers cap on mortgage interest deduction if you take out a new mortgage on a first or second home you would only be allowed to deduct the interest on debt up to \$750,000. Homeowners who already have a mortgage would be unaffected by the change.
6. The deduction for interest paid on a home equity loans will no longer be

allowed. It's currently allowed on home equity loans up to \$100,000.

7. No changes to the tax-deferral amounts people are allowed to put into retirement plans such as 401(k)s and IRAs.
8. Deductible qualified medical expenses that exceed the taxpayer's adjusted gross income is being reduced from 10% to 7.5 percent of AGI.

If you are one of the estimated 31 million people that will no longer be itemizing your deductions, it may still make sense to complete your 2018 charitable contributions before December 31, 2017. That will allow you to claim them as an itemized deduction for this year, and avoid losing the deduction if you make the contribution in 2018 and then use the standard deduction. To combine your desire to help causes you believe and save on taxes, consider giving appreciated securities rather than cash, or consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution of your annual required minimum distribution (RMD) from an IRA. Another good strategy is to consider adding to or starting a donor advised fund, which can be used to take an immediate tax deduction before year-end, and then make recommendations on your own timetable for distributing the funds to your preferred qualified charitable organizations such as Trinity Lutheran Church.

Please call 651-439-7400 to speak with Bob Eiselt or Eric Trosdahl if you are interested in discussing any charitable gifting opportunities to Trinity before year-end.

Important Disclosure: The information provided here is subject to change based on final bill approval and should be used

Update

At the Congregational Annual Meeting in November, Doug Johnson was elected to a second term on council. Krista Gossai was elected to council for a 3-year term.



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ST. OLAF CHOIR
ANTON ARMSTRONG · CONDUCTOR



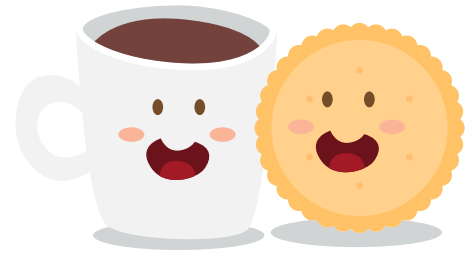
Sunday, January 21 » 3 P.M.

Trinity Lutheran Church

115 4th Street North · Stillwater, Minnesota

\$25 ADULTS · \$10 STUDENTS · TICKETS: stolaf.edu/tickets OR 800-363-5487

HOSPITALITY: ALL ARE WELCOME – ALL ARE NEEDED



by Ann Wolff, Hospitality Coordinator

What does it take? It takes you. It takes me. It takes all of us.

Every week, 20-25 individuals are recruited to usher, greet, and serve coffee on Sunday mornings, plus a lot more at Christmas and Easter. These are “volunteer” jobs, actually more like family roles and responsibilities. This is, of course, in addition to people who clean the worship center every week, decorate every week, sing in the choir, teach Sunday School, serve Communion, count the offerings, and make the Communion bread. I’m sure I have forgotten other necessary volunteer tasks.

Warmest thanks to the 130 families who ushered, greeted, and made coffee on Sunday mornings in 2017. More than 1,300 individuals are needed every year. What does it take for hospitality on Sunday mornings? It takes you. It takes me. It takes all of us. Please contact me to schedule regular or occasional hospitality at Trinity. No practice or preparation is required. Just show up on Sunday morning wearing your warmest welcome. Thanks!

Ann Wolff, Hospitality Coordinator,
651-260-3855 or wolff701@msn.com

Worship Texts

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

January 7 **John 1:35-51**
Jesus Says Come and See

January 14 **John 2:1-11**
Wedding at Cana

January 21 **John 2:13-25**
Jesus Cleanses the Temple

January 28 **John 3:1-21** Nicodemus

TRINITY Supports our FAITH Journey – Our GIVING Habits Change

by Tim Gillis, Stewardship Team Member

Deborah, my wife, introduced me to Trinity Lutheran Church of Stillwater in 2002. Trinity's staff and congregation have supported our journey in faithful living and as a result, we have made significant changes in our faithful giving habits.

Up to the time that my faith journey intersected with Trinity my history of giving could be described as transactional giving. When I gave I expected God to respond by meeting a need or needs that I believed were not being met. Whether the giving was small, large, sporadic, or scheduled, the underlying sentiment was the same. I expected God to respond with something that I wanted out of life.

As we worked with Trinity's staff and members on our faith formation, my faith grew and as it grew my primary reason for giving changed. I believe my first change in giving could still be described as transactional but transactional with a healthy twist. My expectation of God was expanded to include benefits for all people who were traveling on their faith journey with Trinity.

Trinity staff and members nurtured our faith journey with ministries that made us aware of how much God loved us and others. Through lifelong learning, on purpose and missions ministries, Deborah and I gained insights about our God-given strengths and unique design and how they could be applied to serve

God in the world. Understanding others' God-given strengths and unique design opened our eyes to how we could team with people God designed differently than us to make an even greater, positive difference in the world.

The contemporary Sunday services became a regular weekly renewal practice for Deborah and me. We found the music uplifting and the sermons made Christ's teachings relevant and meaningful in our daily living. The summer drive-in services drew friends of different Christian denominations to worship with us.

As a result of the above, we made another change in our giving. With the exception of a Christian radio station that plays contemporary Christian music, we decided to move all our charitable giving dollars to support Trinity. Supporting God's work in the world through Trinity's life-giving ministries just seemed more relational than the transactional giving I had previously practiced. We started pledging a yearly amount of money to Trinity—money to be used by others to deliver ministries they are called to provide. We automated our giving so the people managing the costs of delivering Trinity's ministries could be more efficient and effective in this task.

My faith journey at Trinity includes becoming a member of Trinity's Stewardship Team. This experience has made me acutely aware of the importance



Deborah & Tim Gillis

of coupling my giving to my faith. In making our pledge for 2018, Deborah and I considered how our giving needed to align with our faith. We decided this alignment could best be done by pooling our pledge with the pledges of other Trinity members to support God's work in the world through Trinity's life-giving ministries.

Deborah and I do not think this is the end of our story about how faithful living changes our faithful giving habits. Our continued discernment suggests that we need to release even more of the strings we attach to our giving and trust that God will do much more with it than we could ever imagine.



Pastor Peter Weston Miller

What does it mean to be a pastor?

We look forward to welcoming Pastor Peter Weston Miller to round out our staff. He will be in worship for the first time—and preaching—on January 21. It's an exciting time for our

congregation and long-awaited! And it's a good time to revisit what it means to be a pastor.

As Lutherans, we believe that all baptized Christians are called to share in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world, to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation.

Pastors are called from *within* the community to preach, teach and administer the sacraments on behalf of the community, for the sake of good order. Our specific call to *share in Christ's ministry and service in the world* comes through the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

When we install Pastor Peter, we will all make promises that will inform the precious and holy relationship between a pastor and congregation.

Pastor Peter will, as Pastor Deb and I did, reaffirm his ordination promise to "preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church and to pray for God's people, and nourish them with the word and sacraments."

And you will promise to pray for your pastors, help and honor them for their work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ.

I am confident that I speak for Pastor Deb and Pastor Peter when I say that we accept our call to be your pastors with solemnity and with great joy. And we pray for humility and humor as we support your journey of faith, proclaim the Gospel, celebrate the sacraments, preach, teach and care for you in the name of Christ.

What joy it will be to welcome Pastor Peter to our amazing staff team as we each—pastors, staff and congregation—faithfully live out our unique calls to share in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world, to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation.

– Pastor Chris

Open Arts Ministry

Do you love artistic endeavors, creative expressions and exploring your relationship with God? If so, please join in our new Open Arts Ministry (led by Zanny Johnson and Robin Cain).

Our opening time of contemplation and reflection is a short study of *Open the Door: A Journey to the True Self* by Joyce Rupp, followed by an art project to complete (or start and take home). You need not have any artistic "talent" to join us—just a desire to create, enlarge your own heart as a beloved child of God and explore ways to connect creativity with spirituality.

You will find us every second Wednesday of the month in the Living Room at Trinity from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$5 each session.

Please RSVP to Zanny at zjohnson@trinitylc.org.

This month: **January 10—Valentines**

yoga devotion

Come and experience God's presence through the practice of yoga.

YogaDevotion Chair/Flow Combo Class

**Thursdays 9-10 a.m.
January 4–February 22
\$64/8 weeks**

For women and men of all skill levels and abilities. Beginners welcome, no experience needed! All classes in the Narthex (except when otherwise noted). Register and pay online at www.trinitylc.org, then select REGISTER, then select YogaDevotion.

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 more information, contact Faith Community Nurse, Sue Peterson at speterson@trinitylc.org or 651-323-1335.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On November 19 we welcomed these members into our Trinity family. When you see them, please give them a warm welcome!



Chris Bellefeuille & Ted Olson



Mike Karlsrud



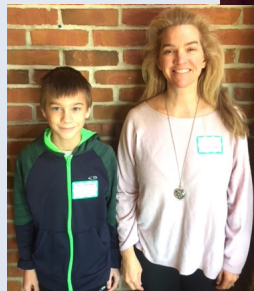
Doug & Karen Dufty



Emily & Nathan Karlsrud



Don & Eunice Fultz



Julie Landis & Colton



Nicolette & Phil Gropel, Eva & Gavin



Andrew & Kary Thelander, Cubby & Eddie



Kim & Phil Hanson



Emily & Mike VanHandel, Holly & Georgia



By Pastor Deb Ost

You have been hearing about our Volunteer Visitation Ministry program for the past few months. We are, at long last, getting, “up and running.” Before we could get going, however, it was essential that steps were taken to equip and support our volunteer visitors.

To that end, our Visitation Ministry workgroup decided we should provide a collection of prayers that volunteers could carry with them to visits. As we were pondering how to accomplish that, the Holy Spirit intervened, “Invite the people of Trinity to write the prayers!”

What resulted was a beautiful compilation of heartfelt prayers which arose from the authors’ own lived experiences. The prayers address twelve specific areas of concern. Not only will they assist our volunteer visitors, they will also serve as tangible connections between homebound members and our larger faith community. Fittingly, we have entitled the booklet *Visitation Prayers: A Companion for Trinity’s Volunteer Visitation Team*.

As we were preparing to send the booklet to our publisher (aka, Trinity’s printer), we realized that our Prayer Companion was a treasure trove too good to keep for ourselves. Consequently, the prayers will be shared in *Trinity Today*, one each month, beginning this month. The topics to be addressed: Seeking Hope, Feeling Lonely, Feeling Overwhelmed, Seeking Inner Peace, Feeling Angry with God, Seeking Patience, Experiencing Deep Pain, Seeking Assurance, Facing Serious Illness, Seeking Comfort, Approaching Death and Anticipating Heaven.

May you be moved and touched by these prayerful reflections throughout the year. And, wherever you reside, may you know that you are a vital member of the Body of Christ.

Seeking Hope

Seeking Hope Prayer

Psalm 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart
of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its
tumult.

Psalm 130:5-6

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the
morning,
more than those who watch for the
morning.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death,
nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things
present, nor things to come, nor powers,
nor height, nor depth, nor anything else
in all creation, will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our
Lord.

Most Gracious God,
We thank you for the richness of the
blessings you have provided: for our
friends and family, for those near and
far, for those throughout the Trinity
community and for those gathered here
today. We ask that you continue to be
the light that guides our path. We pray
that as we journey through the trials of
life that you provide your ever present
anchor in the storm, our help in ages
past and our hope for years to come.

It is that hope...

The hope that assures us, that despite
the darkness of the night, the sun will
rise radiant.

The hope that assures us that despite
the stark cold of the winter, the green of
spring will bring renewal and new life.

The hope that Paul wrote of to the
church at Rome when he assured us that
neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor
rulers, nor things present, nor things to
come, nor height, nor depth, nor any
other creature could separate us from
the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus
our Lord.

The hope that will never be false or
empty.

It is that hope, that as the hymn teaches
us, is our blessed assurance. It is our story
and it is our song that leads us to praise
you, our Savior, all day long. Amen.

– Nathan and Krista Gossai



7 Spiritual Practices for the New Year

1
Try praying at different times during the day. You may notice that you pray differently at different times of the day.

2
Laughter and rejoicing need to be a part of our faith life. Think of something funny that has happened, and thank God for giving us humor in our lives.

3
Loving yourself is the first step in “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Spend a few minutes writing about what it means to love yourself. Remember that God loves you.

Cultivating our faith life is an important part of wellness. Here are a few ways to gain new perspective of yourself, others and God throughout the year.



4
Meditation or listening is a part of our faith life that we often neglect. Consider taking five minutes to sit quietly and breathe. Try to quiet your inner voice and just listen.

5
Go for a prayerful walk and remember that all of creation belongs to God, though it can be easy to forget that. The air you breathe and the ground you walk on belong to God.

6
Pray a movement prayer. Stretch out your arms. Touch your toes. Stretch your neck. Feel the brilliance in God’s creation and the way that your body is put together.

7
Thankfulness comes in a variety of forms. Each day make a list of everything that you encounter for which you are thankful. At the end of the day, incorporate the list into a prayer.

Visit *Church Health Reader* for more healthy flyers: chreader.org
ILLUSTRATION BY TERRISCOFF.

FAITH FORMATION

On November 29, 3rd and 4th grade Wednesday Faith Formation students brought their dads or grandpas to the Trinity gym to make wood nativity stables under the guidance and leadership of Spike Carlsen. As you can see from these pictures, precious moments together were shared and keepsake treasures were created.



Reformation Roots January 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 10:30 a.m. Living Room in the lower level

Happy New Year! Questions have been floating around based on the fact that this is the beginning of year 501 of the Reformation! What should our Lutheran Church be passionate about starting this year? What should we be focused on to take us from the historical reformation to faith in action right now? What is the vision of the church and how do we get there?

As we start January, it's the beginning of the end of our Reformation Roots video-led discussion class. For three weeks we will look at two more historical events: political Reformation in England and also the Catholic Reformation. Then we will embark on a 21st century journey as we explore the many avenues and variety of responses to the questions, "Since I have been saved, what can I do? What is God calling me to do and be? What is my vocation in life? Because of the legacy of every bold reformer, how can I live out the reformation now?"

Many thanks go to our lay leaders this fall: Ron Hagen, Michelle Skjervold, Clark Thurn, Claudia Swendseid, John Hodler, and Jeff Anderson. We'll save a warm place for YOU as we continue the discussion of where we've been and where we'd like to go! Bring your visions for tomorrow!

Questions? Contact Kristie Anderson at jkjsa@hotmail.com.



On November 29, 5th grade Wednesday Faith Formation students gathered in the Trinity kitchen to make communion bread under the skilled leadership of Susan Carr from the Trinity Communion Bread Team. These same students then served their bread during communion at the December 6 Wednesday Worship Service. This was a positive experience for all!

MEXICO.MISSION.2018

Mexico Missionaries for the 2018 trip are looking for sponsors! A typical sponsorship is \$50.00 and supports the mission work completed in the Yucatán! Look for them after worship on Sundays or go to www.trinitylc.org > then select REGISTER > then 2018 Mexico Mission Online Sponsorship.



Spotlight on the Trinity Library

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5.

“This space would make a good library for our church,” thought Dr. Jim Jenson when he looked at an empty space in the church basement. In 1999 the smaller Norman Wold library moved to the larger current location, and is now referred to as the Trinity Library. Now at age 99, Dr. Jenson remains a supporter of the Trinity Library so that others might benefit from learning and faith formation. Jim is a person who saw a need and engaged with Karen Gieseke and others to fulfill a mission.



Dr. Jim Jenson & Kris Torma

Legacy writer Kris Torma and Norma Wilson visited with Dr. Jenson and inquired why he chose the Trinity Library as one of his missions. Jim shared that he attended a one-room schoolhouse with his sister and four brothers. Learning was important to him and his siblings. He had an interest in chemistry and biology, so attending medical school at the University of Minnesota was natural. His wife Ruth had her own library of thousands of books. While she was a voracious reader of a variety of genres, Jim spent his time reading medical journals. Learning continued to be important in the family; daughter Annette choosing to become a librarian.

Dr. Jenson shared Proverbs 3:5: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.* This is a good statement for learners! After retiring, Jim had his first Trinity Bible study with former Pastor Betsy Dolmar. His hope is that the resources in the Trinity Library will help people have an understanding of the Bible and Christian living through the variety of genres. (“A mystery is good too, he quipped. Someone is messed up, but it turns out right!”) Dr. Jenson feels the theological books are important, but should not be “too heavy” so they are relatable to readers. For families, Dr. Jenson knows children love books and encourages families to read to their children.

“Carpe Diem, seize the day!” were words spoken by this man who demonstrates his values and faith in a quiet manner. The Trinity Library and his hopes for learners are a manifestation of his faith. We are grateful Dr. Jenson recognized and met a need that continues to benefit others.

– Kris Torma and Norma Wilson

Trust in the
Lord with all
your heart
and lean not
on your own
understanding.
– Proverbs 3:5

The Library is for Learning

LADC

Just imagine what young Claire is thinking as she gazes at her LADC teacher, Miss Sarah. It might be, “I’m so lucky she brings me to the Trinity Library!”

Trinity is fortunate to partner with Lake Area Discovery Center as we together “provide an environment that promotes Christian values, honors diversity and fosters fellowship.” Pre-school children, ages 3-5, visit the library once a week for storytelling and book check-out. The children have an opportunity to choose faith-based books, as well as contemporary books that foster Christian values. One child wanted more Berenstain Bears books and we were able to provide titles such as *The Berenstain Bears: Kindness Counts* and *The Berenstain Bears: God Made the Colors*. LADC children circulation is about 120 books a month!

All parents are encouraged to visit the Trinity Library to select books for their children. Simply remove the card from the pocket, sign your name, and drop it in the card basket. Reading acclaimed books from the Trinity Library is part of faith formation in families.
– Norma Wilson, Library Volunteer

Faith Formation

Earlier in the fall, Sunday Children’s Faith Formation parents and children were given a tour of the Trinity Library. The children listened to a reading of *Twitch and the Invisible Wind* (E B), a story reminding children that God is always with them, like the wind. They explored the library learning how the books are organized, how to check out books, and how to return them.

Parents learned about the many family resources in the library including books on parenting, marriage, and family life. Each family was given a copy of the *Spark Story Bible Psalm Book: Prayers and Poems for Kids*—a collection of psalms rewritten in simpler language for children to understand. Families were encouraged to take it home and explore the psalms together before meals and at bedtime. There were over seventy books checked out that morning (a Trinity Library record!), and we hope that visiting the Trinity Library will become a Sunday routine for many families.

To make the library even more easily accessible for families, each Sunday the Trinity Library team assembles a display of children’s books pertaining to the theme discussed during the week’s Sunday Children’s Faith Formation lesson. The display is located in the cross-shaped bookshelf next to the Garden Room check-in table, and the books are available to checkout directly from the display. Families have been taking advantage of this resource to continue the discussion started during Sunday Children’s Faith Formation in their homes.

The Trinity Library is an invaluable resource for parents and children, providing tools for inspiration, guidance, and entertainment to encourage spiritual growth and development. With the increased exposure through tours and displays, we hope families will make a visit to the Trinity Library a regular part of their week!

– Andrea Eckman, Library Volunteer



“To make the library even more easily accessible for families, each Sunday the Trinity Library team assembles a display of children’s books pertaining to the theme discussed during the week’s Sunday Children’s Faith Formation lesson.”

Volunteer Opportunities in 2018

The Trinity Library operates with the help of an all-volunteer support staff. If you have ever thought it would be fun to help out in the library, you can get involved in this meaningful ministry! The volunteer team meets Monday mornings for two hours, but there is flexibility as well for individual schedules.

Volunteers who like organization and technology may manage circulation, file cards, shelve books, process new books, repair, make computer entries, or create and print labels.

Volunteers who write book reviews, create book displays, create a warm library environment, write notes, or plan library events express creativity. If you are interested in joining the team you will be welcomed gratefully.

– Doreen Johnson, Barb Martin, Sue Broberg, Sheila Maybanks, Andrea Eckman, Ann Wolff, Norma Wilson



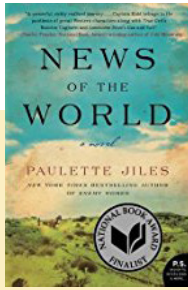
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Spotlight on the Trinity Library

Continued from previous page...



Book Review: Trinity Tuesday Morning Book Club



News of the World by Paulette Jiles

For a marvelous piece of historical fiction, treat yourself to *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. Set in post-Civil War Texas, it is a time of Wild West ethos, Indian skirmishes and racial upheaval. Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd is a grizzled war veteran and former printer who now makes his way in the world as a professional reader of newspapers and journals, traveling from town to town to entertain the crowds of town folk gathered to listen.

This solitary and somewhat lonely existence is shattered when he is charged with the task of returning a young white girl, who has lived with an Indian tribe since she was kidnapped in a raid four years earlier, to her birth relatives. For the second time in her short life she is thrust into a foreign culture and language. As the old man and his traumatized passenger make their 400-mile journey, they meet with threats from malevolent adversaries and kindnesses from strangers and friends. The child slowly emerges from her shock to reveal a fierce independence that challenges and endears. And a bond develops between the Captain and child, born of helplessness, trust, and mutual dependence.

This simple, engrossing tale flows with lyrical prose in the description of both landscape and human foibles. The reader is drawn into an emotional voyage with the heart-stirring connection between these two characters, the difficult road they travel, and the heart-wrenching choices that change their lives.

– Jerilyn Jackson, Book Club Member

Daily Devotions

Daily prayer has its roots in ancient Judaism. Early Christianity retained this practice of regular prayer, especially morning and evening. After the 4th century, when Christianity became “legal,” daily prayer moved from a personal and group practice to more formal prayers in the churches. The only books were hand written manuscripts and these were rare and precious. Very few people could read; the clergy read the scriptures to the people. Daily devotions were read from these huge manuscripts in the churches.

At the same time, monasteries were being established and daily devotions became a feature of monastic life. They usually consisted of the psalms, Scripture, and sacred writings from the church fathers. In monasteries, there were and still are, prayers seven times daily from Matins, around midnight, to Compline before retiring.

In the thirteenth century wealthy people were able to have devotional books called “books of hours.” These were often illustrated and richly ornamented. The Reformation, and the invention of the printing press, made the Scriptures and devotional books much more accessible for lay people. You no longer had to be in a monastery, or be wealthy to have access to books. Reading daily from a Bible, from a collection of sacred writing, or the lives of the saints, became activities for more and more of the faithful.

Now we have devotionals for everyone, for quilters, for new parents, for the aging, and for runners! Such daily reading helps put us in the long tradition of “saints” and offers another door to our faith development.

The Resource Recovery Library has a series of daily readings published by Hazelden: *The Promise of a New Day* (RR 242.2 RUPP), *Today I Will Do One Thing* (RR 616.86) *Food for Thought* (RR 616.85)

Other devotional resources available in the Trinity Library include: *The Cup of Our Life* (242.2 RUPP), *Mornings With Jesus* (242 AUGH), *Daily Readings from Spiritual Classics* (242.2 OFST); *Hope for Each Day* (242.2GRAH), *Forty Days and Forty Nights – Devotions for New Mothers* (248.8 WATT).

These books can provide inspiration and a quiet time for reflection in a busy day. Visit the Trinity Library to choose a devotional for your needs. You may make it a New Year’s resolution to make daily devotions a spiritual practice.

– Sheila Maybanks, Avid Reader and Library Volunteer



Dreaming about golf?

Reserve your place in the 10th Annual Dinner, Silent Action and Golf Tournament that benefits others!

Please visit the Trinity web site for more information at www.trinitylc.org, then select MISSIONS, then select Golf Tournament.

If interested in volunteering to help conduct this event, please contact:

Vic Thalacker (651) 439-9782

John Hodler (651) 343-4638

Wendy Klemz (651) 351-5393

SAVE THE DATE!

MONDAY June 4, 2018



Registration online at www.trinitylc.org > then click REGISTER

SIGN UP TODAY!

Contact Vic Thalacker at 651-439-9782 with tournament questions. Contact Wendy Klemz at 651-351-5393 or Marlene Harty at 651-439-6444 to donate to the silent auction.

MONDAY June 4, 2018

Stillwater Country Club Best Ball Scramble Event

10:30 a.m. Registration & Lunch

Noon Shotgun Start

5:30 p.m. Dinner & Silent Auction

Dinner Speaker

To be announced

Event Sponsorship \$1,000

4 golfers and cart, lunch, dinner

Foursome Sponsorship \$640

4 golfers and cart, lunch, dinner

Hole Sponsorship \$400

Signage

Individual Player \$160

Golf and cart, lunch, dinner;

paired with other player

Dinner and auction only

\$55/person

10TH ANNUAL
Service

FORE Others
GOLF TOURNAMENT

Benefits Hunger, Health & Housing

"LISTEN

...so that you may live!"

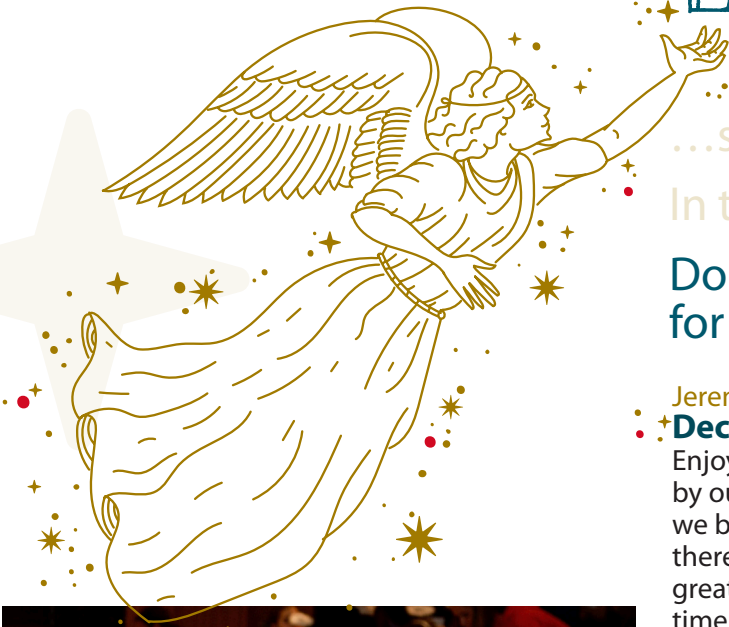
In the beginning was the Word."

Do not say, 'I am only a child'...
for you shall speak..."

Jeremiah 1:4-7

✦ **December 17, 2017 – 3rd Sunday in Advent**

Enjoy these photos from our December 17 worship event led by our Children's Ministry. Angels spoke to Mary and Joseph, we beheld of the birth of Jesus surrounded by animals, and there were visits by shepherds and wise men—all in the greatest story ever told. After worship we joined together for a time of fellowship and homemade cookies.





Christmas Garden

IN HONOR OF:

Lutefisk Potato Peelers Anonymous
 Odile Netko – Grandpa (93 yrs.)..... Trevor & Cole Anderson
 Our Family Ben & Joyce Patterson
 Grandchildren Miriam Bergmark & Dave Duepner
 The Christmas Tree Crew Anonymous
 Darlene Peterson; Our Children & Grandchildren..... Roger Peterson Family
 Our Children & Grandchildren Ron & Susan Stow
 Gloris Swager & Pat & Irene Kearney – Our Parents..... Dave & Denise Swager
 Grandma & Grandpa..... Zachary, Lilly, Suzy

GIVEN BY:

IN MEMORY OF:

Jin – Brother & Doris – Sister Toby & Florence
 Albert & Emma Potter John (son) & Mary Claire Potter
 John & Ken Swanson Glenn & Nancy Swanson
 John McCallister Chris & Marilyn Johnson
 William “Bill” Nelsen Barbara Stene
 Irene Hedberg & Helen Kraus..... Florence Olson
 Auntie Bea, Susan, Ida, Jan & Mary Mary Claire & John Potter
 Butch Schroeder & Arnold Steinmetz Families Don & Sandi Steinmetz
 Duane Meyer Pamela Meyer & Children
 Renee Rorvick Ronald Rorvick
 Mike & Susan Doe Brian, Gina & Oliver Doe
 Patti Bakken Ross Bakken
 Our Parents Patty & Gordy Schnaith
 Glen, Barbara & David Olson Mary Claire (daughter & sister) & John Potter
 Nicholas Haase..... Daddy, Mommy, Jackson & Audrey
 Arthur Romness; Loved Ones Elvera Romness & Family
 Frankie, Evelyn & Nan Peterson; Walter & Frances Schell..... Roger Peterson Family
 Our Parents..... Ron & Susan Stow
 Helmuth & Marcella Reinke; Bob & Irene Huber; Marlene Carlson; Sally French..... John & Pat Reinke
 Parents Richard & Pat Bourman
 Thomas Junker; Leo & Ardell Motylewski Charyl Junker
 Parents, Grandparents & Other Family Richard Mikkelson Family
 Family & Friends Kent & Deb Charpentier
 Mary Ellen Lunderberg Carol & Bill Stauffer
 Parents..... Lois Walton
 Carolyn – Beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother Dave Goulette & Family
 AG & Al Horning..... Robert Horning
 Pat Swager; Norris Swager Dave & Denise Swager
 Grandma Nancy..... Zachary, Lilly, Suzy

GIVEN BY:

RETIRED MEN



The Retired Men's Group invites you to:



A Day in the Life of the Washington County Sheriff

Tuesday, February 13
 9 a.m., Garden Room

The Washington County Sheriff's office will discuss a day in their life serving the community, jail operations, law enforcement training, current legal/community issues, investigations, and the consequences (positive and negative) they experience while being involved in law enforcement.

Questions? Contact John Hodler at 651-343-4638 or johnhodler@gmail.com.



Local Benevolences

IN HONOR OF:

Gloria Williamson Eric & Larry Loyer-Trosdahl
 Sam & Max Hoff Gene & Anna Swanson
 All who have worked at Bereavement Hospitality events Gerrie Granquist
 Ellen Neseth Eric & Larry Loyer-Trosdahl
 Marge Elliott..... Mark & Sandy Weber
 Our Children & Grandchildren Norm & Jean Davis
 Kristin & Peter Joanne Brown
 Ute Erickson Eric & Larry Loyer-Trosdahl
 Our Grandgirls..... Leif & Linda Erickson
 Kinsey, Kylie, Brandon & Kate Mom & Dad
 Mr. Ted Olson & Pastor Chris Bellefeuille Eric & Larry Loyer-Trosdahl
 Deb Orff & the Jubilate Bells..... Gerrie Granquist
 Pastor Deb Ost Sue Peterson, Faith Community Nurse
 Our Family Deb & Don Wishard
 Jeannie Wendorf Eric & Larry Loyer-Trosdahl
 Our Children & Grandchildren Doug & Kathy Karnuth
 Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren Fred & Dee Hertenstein
 Jack Houston..... Grandchildren
 Gloris Swager & Pat & Irene Kearney – Our Parents Dave & Denise Swager
 Grandma & Grandpa..... Zachary, Lilly, Suzy

GIVEN BY:

IN MEMORY OF:

Ernie Dielentheis..... Donna Dielentheis
 Walter Berglund..... Family
 Tom Wirtz..... Faye Wirtz & Family
 Ed & Lois Studtman – Our Parents Nancy Millard; Sally Studtman
 Henry Brochman June & Family
 Our Parents..... Dick & Julie Edstrom
 Dan, Dave & Todd Sue Walsh
 Raymond Kennedy Pat Kennedy & Family
 Harold Segelstrom Marian
 Good Friends..... Don & Gayle Lobitz
 Nancy Orn & Mary Wolff Marion Circle
 David Linner..... Kris, Greta & Tina
 LeRoy Swanson..... Norma & Family
 Sabine Bugs & Ken Erickson Ute Erickson
 Nils C. Johnson..... Diane & Richard Johnson
 Denis & Eric Brown Joanne Brown
 Bernice Lindemann Bill & Rita Lawson
 Skip Welke Welke & Rogness Families
 Our Parents..... Dar & Sandra Monson
 Vince & Kevin Turnblad..... Gretchen, Karen & Family
 Alma Langness; Fred & Lillian Hertenstein..... Norma Langness Johnson
 Kevin Claus..... Chuck & Flo Claus
 Loved Ones..... Glenn & Marianne Anderson
 Benjamin Thury Dan, Jess, Henry, June & Robin Thury
 Mavis Mondor – Grandmother Christine, Jennifer & David Wahlquist
 Richard Jeans..... Audrey Jeans & Randy Jeans
 Eldridge “Bub” Hallanger Nate & Diane Wood & Family
 Bob Osborne..... Eric & Larry Loyer-Trosdahl
 Our Parents Frank & Ordell Stewart
 Roger Olson..... Florence Olson
 Husband; Parents; Grandparents Marlys A. LeClaire
 Carol & George; Bob Joanne Brown
 Robert Parent..... Darlene & Greg Parent
 Carole Zempel & Nancy Kroening..... Jeannie
 Dorothy & Doug Wahlquist – Grandparents Christine, Josh, Jennifer, Beth & David
 Len Nestrud Dorcas Circle
 Dave Linner; Curt Anderson..... Jim & Michele Hermansen
 Pat Swager; Norris Swager..... Dave & Denise Swager
 Grandma Nancy Zachary, Lilly, Suzy
 Family Members Doug & Kathy Karnuth
 Our Parents Fred & Dee Hertenstein
 Peggy Houston Grandchildren
 Helmuth & Marcella Reinke; Bob & Irene Huber; Marlene Carlson; Sally French John & Pat Reinke
 Parents Richard & Pat Bourman
 Thomas Junker; Leo & Ardell Motylewski..... Charyl Junker
 Parents, Grandparents & Other Family Richard Mikkelson Family
 Family & Friends..... Kent & Deb Charpentier
 Mary Ellen Lunderberg..... Carol & Bill Stauffer
 Parents Lois Walton
 Carolyn – Beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother Dave Goulette & Family
 AG & Al Horning Robert Horning

GIVEN BY:

BAPTISMS

- Charles Terence Maguire, son of Brian & Cierra Maguire

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To the family and friends of JoAnne Segelstrom

WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE

November 26	December 10
9 a.m.252	9 a.m.315
10:30 a.m.161	10:30 a.m.125
	5 p.m.5
December 3	
9 a.m.314	December 17
10:30 a.m.150	10 a.m.575

PLEASE NOTE!

Free Parking in 3rd Street Ramp
In case you didn't know, there is free parking on Sundays in the 3rd Street ramp when you enter after 6 a.m. and exit before 1 p.m.

WORSHIP

OPPORTUNITIES

Regular Sunday Worship
9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday Contemplative Worship
January 14 at 5 p.m.

Watch Worship on Valley Access Channel 18

Wednesdays: 1 p.m., 7 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 a.m., 7 a.m.
Fridays: 4 p.m., 10 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m.
Sundays: 11 a.m.

Connecting
with the larger church



BENEDICTINE CENTER
OF ST. PAUL'S MONASTERY

Call for entries:
Benedictine Center Art Show

The Benedictine Center's art show, "Seeing God", features artists whose work helps viewers experience a sense of the Divine. The deadline for the Benedictine Center Juried Art Show is January 17.

Awards total \$375 (\$150 for first place, \$125 for second, \$100 for third). Awards will be announced January 31 at an official reception held in St. Paul's Monastery in Maplewood. In its seven-year history, this contest has attracted 180 local artists.

Contest rules, guidelines and entry forms, can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/2018juriedexhibit>. Or call 651-777-7251; email: benedictinecenter@stpaulsmonastery.org.

Entries will be exhibited at St. Paul's Monastery from January 31 through March 2. The Benedictine Center, a ministry of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery, is located at 2675 Benet Road in Maplewood.

TRINITY TODAY

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CALENDAR JANUARY 1 - 31, 2018

Monday, January 1—New Year's Day, Building/Office closed

Tuesday, January 2—No Women's Bible Study

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
- 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Church Office
- 4 p.m. Quilting Group: Living Room
- 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library

Wednesday, January 3—No Christian Moms Fellowship, Children's & Youth Programming or Trinity Choir

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 5 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center

Thursday, January 4

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9 a.m. YogaDevotion Chair/Flow: Narthex
- 6:30 p.m. Worship Ministry Team Meeting: Office Conference Room
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon & Alateen Meeting: Room 108, Youth Center

Friday, January 5

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 10 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

Saturday, January 6

- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

Sunday, January 7

- 9 a.m. Sunday Faith Formation (Age 4-Gr. 2): Garden Room
- 9 a.m. Traditional Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 10:30 a.m. Lifelong Learning Reformation Roots: Living Room
- Noon Mexico Mission Adult Leaders Meeting: Garden Room

Monday, January 8

- 8:45 a.m. Bridge for Trinity: Garden Rm
- 1 p.m. Rebekah Circle: Library
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tuesday, January 9

- 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Room
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
- 9 a.m. Retired Mens Group-Realities of Organic Farming & Food: Garden Room
- 9:15 a.m. Leah Circle: Narthex
- 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Church Office
- 4 p.m. Quilting Group: Living Room
- 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 7 p.m. Anna Circle: Members' Homes

Wednesday, January 10

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9:30 a.m. Boutwell's Sr. Communion: Boutwell's Landing
- 10 a.m. Open Art Ministry: Living Room
- 1 p.m. Marion Circle: Members' Homes
- 5 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center
- 5:30 p.m. Family Pizza: Garden Room
- 6:15 p.m. Family Worship: Worship Center
- 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center

Thursday, January 11

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9 a.m. YogaDevotion Chair/Flow: Garden Room
- 1 p.m. Martha Circle: Living Room
- 1:30 p.m. Dorcas Circle: Members' Homes
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon & Alateen Meeting: Room 108, Youth Center

Friday, January 12

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 10 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

Saturday, January 13

- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

Sunday, January 14

- 9 a.m. Sunday Faith Formation (Age 4-Gr. 2): Garden Room
- 9 a.m. Traditional Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 10:30 a.m. Lifelong Learning Reformation Roots: Living Room
- 5 p.m. Contemplative Worship: Heritage Chapel

Monday, January 15—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

- 9 a.m. Ruth Circle: Living Room
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tuesday, January 16

- 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Room
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
- 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Church Office
- 4 p.m. Quilting Group: Living Room
- 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library

Wednesday, January 17

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9:15 a.m. Christian Moms Fellowship (formerly Hearts of the Home Moms): Lower Level
- 5 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center
- 5:30 p.m. Family Pizza: Garden Room
- 6:15 p.m. Wednesday Faith Formation (Gr. 3-5): Lower Level
- 6:15 p.m. Middle School Faith Formation (Gr. 6-8): Worship Center
- 6:15 p.m. 9th Gr. Faith Formation: Garden Room
- 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center

Thursday, January 18

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9 a.m. YogaDevotion Chair/Flow: Garden Room
- 6:30 p.m. Congregational Council Meeting: Office Conference Room
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon & Alateen Meeting: Room 108, Youth Center

Friday, January 19

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 10 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

Saturday, January 20

- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B
- TBD Food for Thought Groups: Members' Homes

Sunday, January 21

- 9 a.m. Family Worship for Sunday Faith Formation, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 10:30 a.m. Lifelong Learning Reformation Roots: Living Room
- Noon Nashville Mission Trip Adult & Student Leader Meeting: Living Room
- 3 p.m. St. Olaf Choir Concert: Worship Center

Monday, January 22

- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tuesday, January 23

- 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Room
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
- 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Church Office
- 4 p.m. Quilting Group: Living Room
- 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library

Wednesday, January 24

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 11:30 a.m. Supporting Women As Professionals (SWAP): Offsite
- 5 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center
- 5:30 p.m. Family Pizza: Garden Room
- 6:15 p.m. Wednesday Faith Formation (Gr. 3-5): Lower Level
- 6:15 p.m. Middle School Faith Formation (Gr. 6-8): Worship Center
- 6:15 p.m. 9th Gr. Faith Formation: Garden Room
- 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center

Thursday, January 25

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9 a.m. YogaDevotion Chair/Flow: Narthex
- 10 a.m. Knitting Ministry: Narthex
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon & Alateen Meeting: Room 108, Youth Center

Friday, January 26

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 10 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

Saturday, January 27

- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

Sunday, January 28

- 9 a.m. Sunday Faith Formation (Age 4-Gr. 2): Garden Room
- 9 a.m. Traditional Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 10:30 a.m. Lifelong Learning Reformation Roots: Living Room
- 2 p.m. Family Sledding Day: Stillwater Middle School

Monday, January 29

- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tuesday, January 30

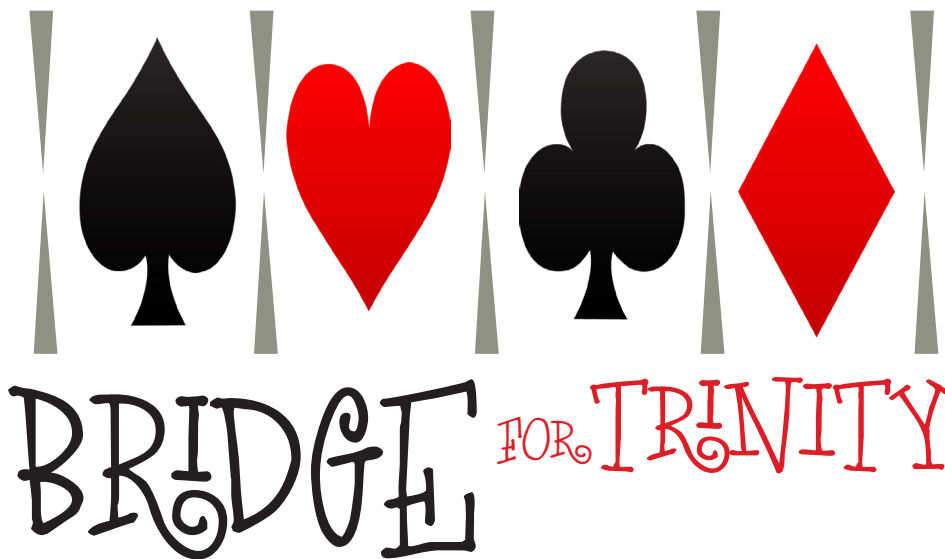
- 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Rm
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
- 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Church Office
- 4 p.m. Quilting Group: Living Rm
- 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library

Wednesday, January 31

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9:15 a.m. Christian Moms Fellowship (formerly Hearts of the Home Moms): Lower Level
- 5 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center
- 5:30 p.m. Family Pizza: Garden Room
- 6:15 p.m. Wednesday Faith Formation (Gr. 3-5): Lower Level
- 6:15 p.m. Middle School Faith Formation (Gr. 6-8): Worship Center
- 6:15 p.m. 9th Gr. Faith Formation: Garden Room
- 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center



Trinity Lutheran Church
in Stillwater, MN



by Steve Hokonson

Rachel's Christmas Story

Smack dab in the middle of the Christmas story is Rachel.

Matthew 2:18 – "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more."

Rachel, having great difficulty in child-birth, died giving birth to Benjamin, the son of Jacob. – Genesis 35:16-20

Rachel cried again in 586 BC, as "her children" were killed and deported into exile. – Jeremiah 31:15

In fact, she cried with the exact same words as in the Christmas story hundreds of years later.

Monday, January 8
8:45-11:45 a.m.
Garden Room, \$5

Rachel cries again this Christmas. Rachel, the matriarch of Christmas, cries down through history whenever her children are victimized by violence of any kind.

It's a part of the Christmas story we often ignore. But, many of the people who join us for bridge at Trinity know Rachel's grief. It is a part of the Christmas story.

But, it's not the end of the story.

Her son Benjamin became one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

"Her children" who were deported in 586 BC, returned to rebuild the temple again.

Jesus, the Christmas refugee, who fled to Egypt at Christmas, returned to die and make Easter JOY!

So, as one of my favorite Psalms proclaims, Psalm 30:5, "Weeping may last for the night, but JOY comes in the morning!"

Join us in the morning, January 8, 2018, at 8:45 a.m. at Bridge for Trinity in the Garden Room.