

trinity
Lutheran Church

115 N. Fourth Street
Box 339
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-439-7400

February 2018
volume 40, issue 2
www.trinitylc.org

love.transform.serve.

TRINITY TODAY

Lent 2018

Lenten Worship on Page 10

RECONNECT



Greetings from
Pastor Peter
on Page 4



Photos from the
Live Nativity
on Pages 12-13



LEAD PASTOR
CHRIS BELLEFEUILLE

Sister and brothers in Christ,

Much has been said about the strangeness of the times we live in. If we did a survey of history, we would find plenty of strange times—for various reasons. But one thing is certain: technology and social media have dramatically changed how we get our news, the connection to our nation/world, and exposure to people who are different from us.

And differences are abundant: race, gender, attraction, vocation, location, education, interests, religion, cat vs. dog lovers, sports teams, etc. From the serious to the silly, we can find differences aplenty. As Christians, we strive to respect the God-created humanity of all people and to live into the reality that no one falls outside the love of our remarkable God: “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

Unfortunately, the lived experience of too many people is **not** inclusion and acceptance. This is especially true for people of color, the LGBTQ and immigrant communities and certain religious populations—many of whom are also people of color and/or immigrants. Racism is real, powerful and destructive. Racism hurts us all: black or white, adult or child, citizen or visitor.

To better understand the forces that shape our culture and the experiences of our neighbors, we are partnering with St. Croix Family Resource Center, St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, Christ Presbyterian and People’s Congregational to host a series of learning opportunities about racism, culture and the church.

The lead-off event “Culture, Religion and Race” will lay the ground work and help define the terminology for additional, experiential opportunities to follow. We begin on Thursday, February 22 right here at Trinity. A simple supper will be offered at 6 p.m. The program runs from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. facilitated by the Rev. Herb Perkins—who uses the name Okogyeamon, given to him during a naming ceremony in Ghana. Through readings, teaching, videos, table conversations and more, Okogyeamon will help us open our hearts and minds. See the information at right.

After the presentation, you will be able to sign up for a book study and learning activities that take place in the following six weeks. We will be reading *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving. Books will be available for sale on the 22nd. Members of the four churches will offer one-time discussion groups for those who read the book. And each church will offer field trips, movies and other chances to learn and grow. In mid-April we will gather together again to debrief all we have learned.

This won’t be easy and may even be painful. But God’s greatest desire is that we love God and love our neighbor. And that takes work, love, prayer and partnership. I hope you will participate in some or all of this opportunity.

If you are interested in leading a book study or helping with the event on the February 22, please let me know!

One in Christ, I give thanks for each of you and for your courage.

Blessings,

Pastor Chris



Please join us at worship on **February 4** when we officially welcome Pastor Peter Weston Miller into service at Trinity. Pastor Peter will be installed at both the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services. Pastor Peter is our new Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation. See Page 4 for a bit about Peter, his family and his role at Trinity.



FEBRUARY 22, 2018 BUILDING COMMUNITY EVENT

Culture, Religion, and Race

Through group and interactive exercises, this session will explore how race influences our worldviews, conscious and unconscious communication through history, legacy, and socialization.

Okogyeamon, co-founder of ASDIC Metamorphosis (Antiracism Study Dialogue Circles) an esteemed antiracism workshop provider, will lead this session following supper at 6:45-8:45 p.m.

This presentation will kick off a series of experiential learning opportunities that will be offered at four local churches that will include a community book read, movies, field trips, dinners, presentations, and more.

For more information about this event, please call
651-767-2534

For more information about the series, please visit
<http://cultureandrace.org>



"How can you help build a community that knows we are all connected?"

LEARN HOW BELIEFS
ABOUT RACE CAN
DEFINE ANY
COMMUNITY

IN A KICKOFF OF A
SERIES

HOSTED IN
PARTNERSHIP BY:

St. Croix Family Resource
Center

Trinity Lutheran Church

People's Congregational
Church

St. Peter's United Church of
Christ

First Presbyterian Church

COME FOR A
COMMUNITY SUPPER
(FREE WILL DONATION)

6:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church
115 4th St N
Stillwater, MN 55082

Trinity Financial Update

December Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2018

	This Year	Last Year	'18 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	502,870	430,097	1,300,000	39%
Other Income	229,329	151,795	466,000	49%
Total Income	\$ 732,199	\$ 581,892	\$ 1,766,000	
less: Expenses	676,386	615,902	1,776,145	38%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 55,813	\$ (34,010)	(10,145)	

Long-Term Debt Summary:

Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	2,921,532	3,050,204
Increase (Decrease)	(43,513)	(42,372)
Long-Term Debt - End of December	\$ 2,878,019	\$ 3,007,833
Line of Credit Balance-December 31	\$ 818,394	\$ 887,221

Hello and Greetings Trinity!



It is a great joy to be joining you all in ministry and to be turning this page in the next chapter of God's hope-filled story for this community. This is the second congregation in the Twin Cities metro that I have served and I look forward to continuing to grow and learn as your Faith Formation Pastor.

One of my most defining characteristics is that I am a curious and passionate learner. I love learning new people, new places, and new things. There is always something more for us to experience and nurture in our God-given gifts. Being a cradle Lutheran, I've continually been drawn to the sense that we are forever reforming.

My partner Ashley and I met at Augsburg University and we have been married for six years. We have two daughters, Ella Jane is 4 years old and Emily is 1 year old. As a family we love to play in the outdoors and visit parks. We love

making and baking and breaking all forms of bread together. We play "tackle time," read books, come up with new adventures, have dance parties, garden, and generally love just being wild and silly.

As Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation my big areas of focus are:

- Meet LOTS of new people and families, develop deep Christ-filled relationships
- Be a team player and serve alongside this dynamic staff/community
- Nurture, support and grow a culture of intergenerational Christian faith formation
- Look for opportunities to partner and connect with God's work in the Valley

It is a blessing to be a part of this community and I pray that God continues to teach us a great deal together!

In Christ,

Pastor Peter



Thanks to You, We Finished Strong! *by Claudia Swendseid, Stewardship Team Lead*

In mid-October through year-end, Trinity’s Stewardship Team managed the annual Financial Stewardship Campaign. We invited you to give from open and generous hearts. We invited you to give out of gratefulness to God who loves us and provides for us abundantly. We invited you to give because Trinity’s ministries matter to you. Ministries, which your giving supports, make a difference to our families, our local neighbors, and the wider world. And you responded—generously and with hope for the future. Below is a recap of the results of your response to the Stewardship Campaign. As context, remember why your response is so important.

Financial Stewardship is the Foundation
Financial stewardship in the form of our pledges is the foundation for Trinity’s critical ministries. Our pledges represent over 80% of Trinity’s contribution income. And while God’s life-transforming grace is free, Trinity’s ministries are not.

- Your pledges support spirited worship on Sunday mornings, filled with music, God’s word and our sisters and brothers in Christ; summer outdoor worship at the drive-in and on Trinity’s green space; contemplative worship on second Sundays of the month and family worship on Wednesday nights.
- Your pledges support opportunities for our children and grandchildren to grow deeply in their faith, to hear stories about Jesus from birth through confirmation on Sundays and Wednesdays; plus, mission trips for high schoolers and summer camp for all.
- Your pledges support care ministries that surround our families at important milestones in our lives – births of children, baptism, new vocations, illnesses, deaths of loved ones, and more.
- Your pledges support service to our neighbor in Jesus’ name, inside and outside Trinity’s walls including Valley Outreach, Last Sunday Supper, Global Health Ministries, Open Hands in St. Paul Midway, Angel Tree Ministry, Anuak Refugee Support, Tanzania Outreach Missions, and more.

This and so much more makes Trinity an amazing place and is why we chose Trinity as our church home and support

its ministries through our financial stewardship.

Summary Results of Financial Stewardship Campaign

The Stewardship Team set three goals for this year’s Financial Stewardship Campaign. Each is reviewed in turn:

Financial Health Goal	Raise pledged contributions of \$1.13 million
2018 Result	Raised \$1,007,454 or about 89% of our goal

The Financial Health Goal was ambitious considering the results of recent past years. But the more generous our community of faith, the more we can share God’s love in the world and transform lives. Ambition is called for.

While we didn’t fully achieve this goal, the results are still outstanding. Thank you for your generosity. Total pledges increased notably over last year—that is, \$71,600 or about seven percent. If you have not yet made a pledge but feel called to do so during the year, we welcome your financial commitment at any time.

Increased Engagement Goal	Add 20 new pledgers
2018 Result	Added net 31 new pledgers

Our ability to do God’s work through Trinity’s ministries requires not only growth in financial pledges, but increased engagement or “skin in the game” where our church is concerned. We measure this in part by growth in the number of families making financial pledges to support Trinity’s ministries. Every faith community experiences some level of natural turnover each year. So, this too was an ambitious goal, which we exceeded by 50%. In total, 359 Trinity families made financial pledges for 2018 as compared to 328 last year.

We are also grateful to those families who give regularly to Trinity even without pledging. Nonetheless, an annual financial pledge is especially important in helping Trinity budget accurately and manage our financial resources prudently.

Improved Efficiency Goal	Add 25 new “automated givers”
2018 Result	Added 17 net new “automated givers”

This is the first year the Stewardship Team set an explicit efficiency goal. We

achieved more than half of our target, which is a great trend in the right direction. Automated giving is when a member fulfills their financial pledge to Trinity by establishing an automatic electronic payment from their bank account or via a credit or debit card. The schedule of automatic payments is established by the member and can be monthly, bi-weekly, or weekly. Automated giving ensures that contributions flow to Trinity throughout the year regardless of activities like vacation when we might not be in church to pay our pledge by check, which aligns better with expenses.

Some members do not like automated giving as they have nothing to place in the offering plate during worship. If this is a concern to you, note that pew cards are available that you can place in the plate stating you are an automated giver. If you are not yet an automated giver, you can make this change at any time through Trinity’s website or by calling the office.

With Prayer and Thanksgiving

The Stewardship Team is grateful to each and every one of you who have made a financial commitment in 2018 to Trinity. We know this can require sacrifice and making spending choices among a range of priorities. Know that through our collective giving, Trinity’s ministries will grow and evolve and amazing things will happen as God works through us. When our giving is intentional, increased, joyful, and in the name of Jesus, the world is transformed, and so are we. Our generosity affirms that together we want to bring forth God’s kingdom “on earth as it is in heaven”—a world of abundance, equity, and peace.

Trinity is blessed with stewards like you, who live and give faithfully of money, time and spirit. Pray with the Stewardship Team throughout this year to inspire in all of us a daily attitude of gratitude and generosity:

Generous God of overflowing abundance, we thank you for your continual provision for us and for all creation. Stir up your Holy Spirit in us, that we might recognize these gifts, be thankful for them, and share your abundance. Through our collective support of Trinity’s ministries, help us to accomplish far more in this world than we can possibly imagine. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Stay on Your Feet

Imagine you are sitting on your couch watching TV. You get up to go to the kitchen, but unexpectedly trip and tumble to the ground. You feel an ache in your knee and a bump on your head. What's even more confusing is that you don't know why you weren't able to keep your balance and stay on your feet.

If you are over age 65, this scenario may sound all too familiar. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2.8 million older people are treated in emergency departments for fall injuries each year. For too many, falls can have a catastrophic impact on their quality of life.

The good news about falls is that most can be prevented. Four key steps to staying on your feet include:

- practice balance and exercise regularly
- take recommended dietary allowance of Vitamin D
- get your eyes and ears checked
- use walking aids such as canes or walkers, if necessary

Learn more about these and many other techniques and information at "Stepping On", a falls prevention workshop that is being held at Trinity (see inset for details). By taking the proper preventative measures to reduce the risks of falling, you are taking positive steps to improve your health. It is time to stay on your feet and live your most vibrant life.

Sue Peterson
Faith
Community
Nurse



Stepping On

© Clemson & Swann (2017)

for falls prevention

Mondays, 10AM - Noon
February 19 – April 9
(No class April 2nd)

@ Trinity Lutheran Church
115 N. 4th St.
Stillwater, MN 55082
Meet in the Garden Room

To register, please contact:
Sue Peterson, Trinity Lutheran Faith
Community Nurse
651-439-7400 ext. 335
speterson@trinitylc.org

***Final day to register is February 2nd**

There is a **\$15** fee for the entire workshop.
Sponsored by the St. Croix Valley Faith
Community Nurse Program.



This program is sponsored, in part, by a Live Well at Home grant from Minnesota Department of Human Services.



Join this 7-week workshop where you'll learn exercises and strategies to help prevent you from falling.

Workshops are led by health professionals who, just like you, are concerned about falls. In addition, local guest experts provide information on **exercise, vision, safety, and medications.**

Did you know?

- More than one-fourth of people age 65 or older fall each year.
- Falls are the leading cause of injury and hospitalization for trauma and death among older adults.
- 40% of people who enter a nursing home had a fall in the prior 30 days.
- Falls are **not** a normal part of aging!



All Are Equal in Prayer

By Pastor Deb Ost

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

– Galatians 3:28

Nearly two millennia ago, the apostle Paul penned a letter (epistle) to the early Christian churches in the Roman province of Galatia (modern-day central Turkey). There was significant disagreement and animosity among Jesus’ followers concerning the “requirements” for being full members of the church. Distinctions and divisions were arising between those who were Jewish converts and those who were Gentiles (Greeks). Paul’s message to them was, “Hey, people! Stop thinking who you are, or where you’re from, makes an iota of difference in God’s eyes. You’re all equal, and equally unworthy, when it comes to God’s saving grace through Christ’s death and resurrection.”

At any time and any place in history, the “human condition” is a great equalizer among people, regardless

of country of origin, ethnicity, social status, gender, skin color, sexual orientation or expression of the Holy. The reality is, everyone encounters loss, humiliation, sickness, grief, fear and death. Ultimately, we all fall humbly before our loving creator and redeemer and cry out for grace, mercy, healing, strength, hope ... salvation. We are one before the cross of Christ: flawed and broken, beloved and saved. God hears our prayers and all are welcomed, honored and cherished.

Offered here is the second of twelve heartfelt prayers from Trinity’s newly created, “Visitation Prayers,” booklet. All the prayers were written by members of our faith community, and they address universal human concerns: 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. This month’s prayer focuses on loneliness. For more information about, “Visitation Prayers: A Companion for Trinity’s Volunteer Visitation Team,” refer to the January 2018 issue of Trinity Today, available on our website at www.trinitylc.org.



Feeling Lonely

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Prayer

God of Grace,

There are times when I am so lonely that I ache. Today is one of those times and I need you more than ever. Sometimes I forget that you are with me every step of the way. Sometimes I just can’t see my way to joy. I wonder if Jesus was ever lonely. Was he lonely when he spent forty days in the wilderness? Was he lonely, even when he was with his best friends at the Last Supper? Was he lonely when he hung on the cross, racked with pain? But I know that you claimed him as your only Son and gave him strength to get through.

Loving God, grant me the peace of your being. Strengthen me so that I may reach out to others to heal my loneliness and perhaps to help heal theirs.

God of Life, I ask that you touch me with your love and give me strength to reach past my loneliness. Remind me that you are always with me. Hold me in your hands and breathe your Holy Spirit on me.

I feel so much better when I talk to you, dear God. You open my eyes and my heart to your love and to the needs of others. Be with me today, dear God, and I will no longer be lonely.

In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

– Gail Olson

Ministry of Funeral Hospitality



Gerrie Granquist, Jean Groppoli & Donna Dielentheis

By Jean Groppoli

Trinity's Funeral Hospitality Committee offers compassionate support to bereaved families by facilitating a luncheon, meal or dessert buffet following a funeral service. This ministry has been provided by Trinity volunteers for almost 50 years and is available to all bereaved families within our extended faith community ("membership" is not required).

In years past, volunteers simply came together to provide all the food, as well as do the preparation, serving and clean up. Those early meals included classic comfort dishes such as "hot dish," sandwiches, Jell-O salads, rice pudding and homemade bars. Over time, our funeral hospitality has become more formally organized with a coordinator designated to help families plan a luncheon and arrange for food to be ordered from local markets or delivered by a local caterer. Volunteers are summoned to set tables, present and serve the food and provide necessary clean-up. At Trinity, each luncheon requires the time and commitment of eight to ten volunteers who collectively offer approximately 40-45 volunteer hours. No small contribution!

In recent years, Gerrie Granquist and Donna Dielentheis stepped up to serve as coordinator/co-coordinator of Trinity's Funeral Hospitality ministry. Each have participated in this essential ministry for more than 25 years, and we are deeply grateful for their faithful commitment. Jean Groppoli has recently assumed the role of coordinator after training under Gerrie and Donna during 2017. We would love to complete our team with 2-3 individuals willing to be co-leaders/co-coordinators.

Donna recalls a Christmas season several years ago when one of the co-chairs was out of the country. "Wouldn't you know, we were requested to serve five times during the week of her absence? Assisting one another, volunteers met the challenge admirably." This scenario is a good example of why we need vice-coordinators, people empowered to step in as coordinator when needed or to assist with coordinating a funeral luncheon.

Things change over time... We've discovered methods that are more expedient and economical, and we have necessarily adapted to new trends. One thing that hasn't changed is the need for kindness and comfort when you are mourning the death of a loved one. Trinity's Funeral Hospitality volunteers specialize in the gifts of kindness and comfort!

When the time comes that you need the service of Trinity's Funeral Hospitality Committee for a funeral luncheon, simply notify the church office, and let the funeral home know during your original consultation with them. In order to accommodate your needs, we request three full days' notice, if at all possible.

If you are interested in learning more about or volunteering for this ministry, please contact Jean Groppoli at 651-436-6810. For general questions about funerals, contact Jeannie Wendorf at the church office, 651-439-7400.



Register 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

10TH ANNUAL
Service

FORE Others
GOLF TOURNAMENT

Benefits Hunger, Health & Housing

THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 SPONSORS

Event Sponsors:

Bradshaw Celebration of Life Center
Thrivent Financial
Nick Rasmussen, CFP®, CRPC®, CAP®
Matthew Dobbins, FIC

Hole Sponsors:

M & H (Harty) Insurance Agency
PrimeStaff
Trient Technologies, Inc.
First State Bank & Trust
Lake Area Discovery Center
Hanson Family Foundation of Minnesota
Roof Tech
Johnson Motors–New Richmond
All Tech Electric, LLC
Jaime P. Junker, CPA

Foursome Sponsors:

Acapulco Mexican Restaurant
Cap Electric–Ted Harty
Foley Kalseim & Company, Ltd.
Hansonstone
Strategic Consulting & Coaching
Thrivent Financial
McGarry-Kearney Insurance Agency

Lent 2018

RECONNECT

Reconnect: One of the themes in the Gospel of John is of God's abiding, reconnecting, and incarnational wholeness in Christ. God keeps seeking to make things right for us showing us Jesus' miracles and eye-opening moments of relationship. As human beings are wired for connection with God and one another. But sometimes (oftentimes) our wires get crossed. Lent is an intentional time to focus on reconnecting our wires with God and our neighbors.

Join us on Sunday mornings as we taste, hear, see touch and smell all that Lent has to offer through the Gospel of John. Wednesday evening worship—for all ages and all kinds of families—features Holden Evening Prayer and a reflection on how Christ keeps rewiring us for love, joy, communion, and new life. And if you like to worship during the day during Lent, join us for worship at 10 a.m. Wednesday mornings—with coffee to follow. Come and see!

Make worship one of your Lenten disciplines—as we prepare for a glorious Easter morning!

February 14 Ash Wednesday

Worship at Noon & 7 p.m.

Soup and sandwich lunch following noon worship
Pasta dinner for all at 6:15 p.m. in Garden Room

Worship with a message, holy communion, and the imposition of ashes—a beautiful way to begin the journey.

February 21– March 28 Wednesdays during Lent

10 a.m. Worship with Coffee & Fellowship to follow
5:30 p.m. Family Dinner in the Garden Room
6:15 p.m. Wednesday Faith Formation Groups meet
7 p.m. Worship for all ages in the Worship Center

WORSHIP



HOSPITALITY *by Ann Wolff,* *Hospitality Coordinator*

A reflection on Pastor Tom Jolivette's recent sermon: "being present" is the basis for hospitality at Trinity. The presence of greeters welcoming worshippers as soon as they enter our church cannot be underestimated. Their presence includes a warm handshake and friendly smile that always warms hearts and lifts spirits. Their presence is affirming and helpful to a first-time worshipper. The same is true for the ushers. I could pick up a bulletin from a table, but when an usher hands me a bulletin, there's a connection that shows community and caring. Passing the offering plate and directing worshippers to the Communion table show community, hospitality, and a shared worship experience. And the coffee, lemonade and cookies! They provide an opportunity for all of us to be present for each other.

We come to worship seeking God's presence in words, music, bread and wine. God is also present in each of us.

Warmest thanks to regular and occasional greeters, ushers, and coffee servers. Many are needed, all are welcome. Contact me if you can help.

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



Trinity's Sunshine Ministry had a very successful kitchen towel sale at the Lutefisk Dinner—we sold out! Due to popular demand, we will be selling the towels for Mother's Day gifts.

Sunshine Ministry sends flowers to our members ages 75 and up on their birthdays. The sale of the dishtowels supports this ministry. If you like to embroider, please stop in the church office to pick up towels, thread and patterns. Your talents are greatly appreciated. Questions? Call Carolyn Minor at 651-439-7139.



by Ann Wolff

Bridge for Trinity, the first Monday of each month from 8:45-11:45 a.m., will be meeting in some alternate locations for the next few months because of scheduling conflicts. Join us February 5 in the party room at Boutwell's Brownstone A, 5450 Nolan Parkway. Brownstone A is located right behind the newly-constructed replica of the First Presbyterian Church. For more information contact Ann Wolff at (651) 439-1972 or wolff701@msn.com.

Monday, February 5
8:45-11:45 a.m., \$5
Boutwell's Brownstone A
Party Room 5450 Nolan Parkway

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.

February 4 **John 4:1-42**
The Woman at the Well

February 11 **John 9: 1-41**
The Man Born Blind

February 14 **Ash Wednesday**
John 10:1-18 The Good Shepherd

February 18 **John 11:1-44**
Jesus Raises Lazarus

February 25 **John 13:1-17**
Jesus Washes Feet

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. Unless there is a service call, a Sheriff's Department Canine Unit will give a brief demonstration.

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



LIVE NATIVITY Christmas Eve

By Monty Lysne

On a cold Christmas Eve morning, an all-ages group of 75 people and scores of animals converged on the Third Street lawn at Trinity Lutheran Church for the third annual "Live Nativity" gathering.

The event, organized by Trinity's Children, Youth and Family Ministries and supported by dozens of helpers, actors and volunteers from the church, was held as both a celebration for Trinity members on their way to Christmas Eve service, and as a "come and see" event for those in the community who may not experience a church or worship on Christmas. Actors and animals alike represented the Christmas story to all who stopped by.

A special thanks goes out to the Stoebner family who provided the various animals that helped the classic "manger scene" come alive. Chickens, an alpaca, rabbits, goats and other furry animals all joined in to help teach the story. Special thanks also goes to Michael and Kelsey Crusiberry, who played the parts of Mary and Joseph.

Photos by
Mike Stoebner





I Love to Read Month in the Trinity Library



Your word is a lamp to my feet and
a light to my path.

— Psalm 119: 105

By Norma Wilson, Library Volunteer

Readers find resources in the Trinity Library they love to read! In the Psalms we read, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Theologian Albert Barnes stated this “expression is very beautiful, and is full of instruction.” The word of God is our guide, helping direct our path. Commentaries, Bible Study aides, Biographies, Reference books and even Fiction can help our understanding of God’s word. Library volunteers can assist you in finding resources.

Andrea Eckman is in two book clubs and she loves to read! She is developing a Parent Resource Center located near the Garden Room.



She works closely with Children’s Ministries to match resources with the weekly Faith Formation lessons. Resources for parenting such as Trinity author Pastor Dr. Rich Melheim’s *Holding Your Family Together: 5 Simple Steps to Help Bring Your Family Closer to God and Each Other* (248.8 MELH) and Trinity author Jenny Hanlon’s book *Your Family Compass: A Parenting Guide for the Journey* (306.8 HANL) may help light your path.

Barb Martin, library decorator and avid reader, is involved with the Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Circle. Barb knows

Reference materials and commentaries impact learning. Helpful books include: *Bible Atlas & Companion*



(R 912 BARR), *The New Interpreter’s Bible – One Volume Commentary* (R 220.7 GAVE), *Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading* (200 PETE), and many commentaries such as *The Gospel According to John* (R LEWI).



Doreen Johnson loves to read and recently hosted a discussion of *An Altar in the World: A*

Geography of Faith (FIC TAYL) with her book club. Donated Fiction books from this group include *A Man Called Ove* (FIC BACK) and *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* (FIC SHAF). Volunteer Sheila Maybanks, also in this group, recommends *The Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus Christ* (232.9 ASLA) and *Fragments of Your Ancient Name: 365 Glimpses of the Divine for Daily Meditation* (202.1 RUPP) as a guidance “lamp.”

Norma Wilson, retired librarian, loves gratitude books that have provided a light to her path, including *Gratefulness, The Heart of Prayer: An Approach to Life in Fullness* (248.6 STEI), *The Lord is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-Third Psalm* (223.2 KUSH), *Growing Grateful Kid: Teaching Them to Appreciate an Extraordinary God in Ordinary Places* (248.4 LARS) and *Maybe God Is Like That Too!* (E G)



Visit the Trinity Library to find resources “to light your path” and help guide your journey.

Book Review: *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

A Gentleman in Moscow (FIC TOWL) is the charming tale of a former Russian aristocrat sentenced to exile in an old, elegant hotel in Moscow. Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov has written a subversive poem, much to the outrage of the Bolshevik authorities. He will now live out his life within the confines of his home, the Metropol Hotel, forced into cramped quarters and the threat of death upon escape. This becomes a wonderfully character-driven story as he takes to his humbled existence with dignity and humor.

In a multi-layered plot, the reader gets a glimpse of early 20th century Russian life and politics through the Count’s experiences with hotel patrons, the occasional visitor, and his window view of the familiar cityscape of which he used to be a participant. He has a surprisingly rich existence (though not without moments of despair) within the walls of his ersatz prison. The world of fine literature and music offers the usual opportunity for escape and intellectual challenge. He partakes of life in the hotel accommodations with his accustomed refinement of manner and sensibility. As the years proceed, his daily interaction with hotel staff becomes increasingly egalitarian and meaningful.

Particularly important to his maintenance of hope in the face of reduced circumstances is Count Rostov’s acquaintance with a precocious young girl who also resides in the hotel. Drawn into her world of spontaneity and curiosity about life’s mysteries, he is taken on adventures to parts unknown and unimagined in his former life in the hotel. Without sentimentality, their relationship develops into a respectful and lasting friendship. As the decades pass, she grows up and away, but their time together takes on a new significance as the decades pass.

– Jerilyn Jackson

Reformation Roots **BRANCHES** begins!

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Garden Room



Professor Hans Wiersma

Have we got a Valentine treat for all!

Professor Hans Wiersma, who teaches religion at Augsburg University in Minneapolis, will be teaching US on February 4! Since October 1, Sunday morning adult learners have been discussing videos on 1500s Reformation Roots where Professor Wiersma contributed immensely. And now we get to meet him in person! We are morphing from studying the past 500 years into exploring the next 500 years of the church--no longer Reformation Roots, now Reformation Branches!

Hans Wiersma is an ordained Lutheran pastor who, prior to joining the Augsburg faculty in 2004, served congregations in the Netherlands, California and Minnesota. His published work includes contributions to a variety of journals and books, including *Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms* and the second edition of Jim Kittelson's *Luther the Reformer*. We welcome his contributions to the conversation!

Beginning January 28, video clips (thanks to Monty Lysne!) of Trinity's own seminary-educated pastors will be shown as each offers their perspective of the future of the church. The cast

of video characters includes: Pastors Deb Ost, Tim Quarberg, Rich Melheim, Bob Kriesel, Tom Jolivette, Kris Linner, Don Fultz, and seminary student Matt Garavalia.

Then starting February 4 and continuing for 6 weeks, along with Professor Wiersma, we have LIVE Trinity pastors to further engage us in the conversation.

Questions to be explored include:

- Is there a need for a new reformation?
- What is your vision for the church of tomorrow? And how do we get there?
- What are effective methods of attracting young people and young families?
- What should we be passionate about as we look forward to year 501 of the reformation and beyond?
- Since I have been saved, what can I do now?
- How are people called and equipped to follow Jesus more fully?
- How should we study and worship using Luther's strong emphasis on both education and use of the common language?

Here's the schedule which includes the cast of live characters who will help us move forward:

- January 28: video clips of Trinity pastors
- February 4: Professor Hans Wiersma
- February 11: Pastor Chris Bellefeuille
- February 18: Pastors Rich Melheim and Tim Quarberg
- February 25: Pastors Steve Hokonson, Bob Kriesel, Kris Linner
- March 4: Pastors Tim Coltvet and Tom Jolivette; David Teschler
- March 11: Pastor Peter Weston Miller

We at Trinity are truly blessed to have all of these pastors willing to share their time, passion and expertise, always, with us. Come to hear their perspectives on where the church is heading. Join us for one or for all of these opportunities—even if you've never attended a class before. We promise a warm welcome, stimulating conversations, some laughter, and LOTS of learning! All are welcome! See you in the Garden Room beginning January 28 at 10:30 a.m.!

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



Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille



Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation Peter Weston Miller

Impact Parenting

Ages & Stages with Tracy Lysne

Wednesday

February 7

6:15-7:30 p.m.

Living Room

Is my 5 year-old "normal" if all he does is talk about bodily functions? My 9 year-old always complains that her foot hurts, tummy hurts or head hurts—what is going on? Join Tracy Lysne for a comprehensive look at the work of behaviorists, psychologists and educators to discover what we can expect from our children at their current age—and what we can look forward to in the future. No registration required. Grandparents welcome! For more information contact Monty Lysne at mlysne@trinitylc.org.



tlc summer CAMP 2018

Registration is now open!

www.trinitylc.org > Connect > Children > Summer Camp
Camp Fills quickly, so don't delay!

WAPO One-day Camp

AGES Completed Grades K-1

Wednesday, July 18
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Cost: \$35

Counselors will lead kids through a fun schedule that includes crafts, devotions, music, water activities, treats from the canteen and a ton of games. Parents must transport kids to and from camp. Call the Church Office for carpool list. Questions? Contact Melissa Gubricky at mgubricky@trinitylc.org

Register: <http://lwlbc.com/trinity-oneday>



WAPO Seeds Camp

AGES Completed Grades 2-3

July 13-15 Cost: \$165

Knowing that this may be some kid's first camp experience, our counselors will spend every moment with these campers. They will provide a safe and caring environment filled with music, Bible study, campfires, crafts, water activities and games. Questions? Contact Julie Jolivette at jjolivette@trinitylc.org

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

WAPO Youth Camp

AGES Completed Grades 4-6 & Completed Grades 7-9

July 15-20 Cost: \$430

The week is packed with a variety of activities that are meant to impact kids for life. Each day includes Bible study, chapel, cabin activities, free time, field games, campfire. Questions? Contact Julie Jolivette at jjolivette@trinitylc.org

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

A note about registration for Seeds & Youth Camps:
Any family who had an account in 2017 will be able to use their same account. If you have forgotten your password, follow this reset link <https://mycircuitree.com/CampWapo/ForgotPassword>
Any family who did not register for camp in 2017 will need to create a new account when they register.



Can you name the nine Fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22? Our Sunday Faith Formation Children can name them!



2-year olds receive Bibles Sunday, February 11

In grateful response to God's promise of new birth into a living hope through the Sacrament of Baptism, and our promise to "place into their hands the holy scriptures," Trinity is excited to connect with all 2-year old children and their parents. Age-appropriate Bibles will be distributed at this event as well as tips to help parents make Bible stories become alive for their children. We will chat about everyday faith and life and ways Trinity can be a supportive partner. Parents and children will have the opportunity to get to know others in the same stage of life.



Please contact:
Melissa Gubricky,
mgubricky@trinitylc.org
651-439-7400, ext. 322

EASTER BOOK FAIR! February 11 & 14 in the Commons

Shop faith-filled children's books from Sparkhouse at a special discount and earn money for Trinity Lutheran Church! Books will be on display in the commons before and after services on Sunday, February 11 and Ash Wednesday, February 14 (family service at 7 p.m.). Place orders and pay at that time, books will be delivered to Trinity two weeks later—in time for Easter!



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.

BAPTISMS

- Madelyn Ann Hadley Friday, daughter of Dave & Carrie Friday
- Thaelyn Barbara Lee Anderson, daughter of Tate & Jennaya Anderson
- Tucker Everett Ekren, son of Brandon & Bethany Ekren

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To family and friends of Marcella Thorene
- To family and friends of John (Jack) Houston

WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE

December 24	2018
11 a.m.	275
2 p.m.	228
3 p.m.	358
4 p.m.	521
9 p.m.	288
December 25	
10 a.m.	103
December 31	
10 a.m.	194
January 7	
9 a.m.	249
10:30 a.m.	162
January 14	
9 a.m.	200
10:30 a.m.	124
5 p.m.	0
January 21	
9 a.m.	251
10:30 a.m.	175

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.



Make a Meal Ministry

Trinity's Make a Meal Ministry provides meals to folks during times when a little extra help and support is needed. For more information on the Make a Meal Ministry (MMM!), please contact Zanny Johnson at zjohnson@trinitylc.org.



WORSHIP

OPPORTUNITIES

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

Second Sunday Contemplative Worship
February 11 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.

TRINITY TODAY

Publication Number: USPS 509650
Published once per month by Trinity Lutheran Church, 115 N. 4th St., Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082
Editor, Design & Layout: Marilee Tangen
Articles for the next *Trinity Today* (March issue) are due Monday, February 12, to begin arriving in mailboxes Friday, February 23.
Office: 651-439-7400; **Fax:** 651-430-2935
Email: info@trinitylc.org
Trinity Today is available on Trinity's web site at www.trinitylc.org (click NEWS then Trinity Today to download a PDF).
Postmaster: Send address changes to Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082. © Copyright 2018 Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater, MN

CALENDAR FEBRUARY 1 - 28, 2018

Thursday, February 1

- 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, February 2—GLOW Winter Weekend Getaway

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

Saturday, February 3—GLOW Winter Weekend Getaway

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

Sunday, February 4—GLOW Winter Weekend Getaway

- 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: Garden Room
- Noon Mexico Mission Adult Leaders & Parent Meeting: Garden Room

Monday, February 5

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8:45 a.m. Bridge for Trinity: Boutwell's Brownstone A Party Room, 5450 Nolan Parkway
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tuesday, February 6

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 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, February 7

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9:15 a.m. Christian Moms Fellowship: 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. Family Worship: Worship Center
- 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center

Thursday, February 8

- 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, February 9—9th Gr. Faith Formation Retreat, Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek, WI

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

Saturday, February 10—9th Gr. Faith Formation Retreat, Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek, WI

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

Sunday, February 11

- 9 a.m. 2 year-olds Receive Bibles: Youth Center
- 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: Garden Room
- 5 p.m. Contemplative Worship: Heritage Chapel

Monday, February 12

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 1 p.m. Rebekah Circle: Library
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tuesday, February 13

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Room
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
- 9 a.m. Retired Mens Group-Day in the Life of Washington County Sheriff: 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: Living Room

Wednesday, February 14—Ash Wednesday

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9:30 a.m. Boutwell's Sr. Communion: Boutwell's Landing
- Noon Ash Wednesday Worship, followed by Lunch: Heritage Chapel
- 1 p.m. Marion Circle Meeting: Members' Homes
- 5 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center
- 6:15 p.m. Dinner for All: Garden Room
- 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship: Worship Center
- 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center

Thursday, February 15

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

Friday, February 16

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

Saturday, February 17

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

Sunday, February 18

- 9 a.m. Family Worship for Sunday Faith Formation: Worship Center
- 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: Garden Room

Monday, February 19—President's Day

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9 a.m. Golf Tournament 2018 Committee Meeting: Living Room
- 9 a.m. Ruth Circle: Living Room
- 10 a.m. Stepping On Fall Prevention Class: Garden Room
- 6 p.m. Jubilate Bells: Heritage Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tuesday, February 20

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 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, February 21

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9:15 a.m. Christian Moms Fellowship: Lower Level
- 10 a.m. Lent Worship followed by coffee & fellowship: Heritage Chapel
- 5 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center
- 5:30 p.m. Family Dinner: 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. Lent Evening Worship: Worship Center
- 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center

Thursday, February 22

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

Friday, February 23

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

Saturday, February 24

- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B
- 7:30 p.m. Valley Chamber Chorale Concert: Worship Center

Sunday, February 25

- 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: Garden Room
- Noon Student & Adult Leader Mtg Nashville Mission Trip: Garden Room
- 3 p.m. Valley Chamber Chorale Concert: Worship Center

Monday, February 26

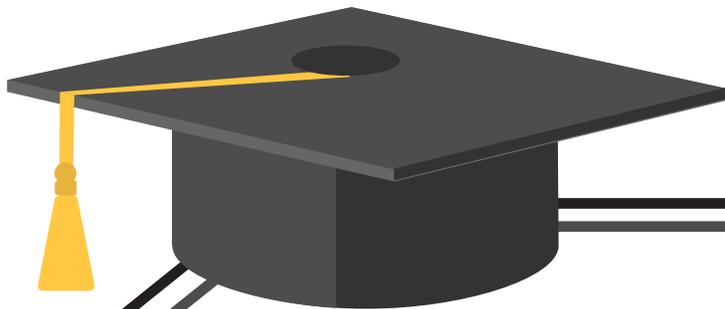
- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 10 a.m. Stepping On Fall Prevention Class: Garden Room
- 6 p.m. Jubilate Bells: Heritage Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tuesday, February 27

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 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, February 28

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9:30 a.m. Supporting Women As Professionals (SWAP): Offsite
- 10 a.m. Lent Worship followed by coffee & fellowship: Heritage Chapel
- 5 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center
- 5:30 p.m. Family Dinner: 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. Lent Evening Worship: Worship Center
- 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room/Worship Center



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 are available online at www.trinitylc.org (click on Connect, then Senior High, then Scholarship Fund).

All completed original scholarship and renewal applications must be received by Sunday, **April 1** (yes, that is Easter Sunday). Please drop off in the church office or mail to: Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity Scholarship Fund, Attn Bob Eiselt, P.O. Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082.

Applications due April 1