

trinity  
Lutheran Church

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

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love.transform.serve.

# TRINITY TODAY

God is faithful; by God you were called into the  
fellowship of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
– 1 Corinthians 1:9



Singles Group for Ages 60 & Older

More Photos on Page 10



LEAD PASTOR  
CHRIS BELLEFEUILLE

Siblings in Christ,

*Won't you please, won't you please,  
please won't you be my neighbor?*

The recent release of the movie “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” has caused renewed interest in Fred Rogers’ work and ministry. Some of us grew up watching Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood or our children and grandchildren did. 912 episodes over 31 seasons breaking new ground in race, ability, and economic status through a tender blend of fantasy and reality.

Truth be told, I spent more years rolling my eyes at Mr. Rogers than appreciating him. But as the tenor of the conversation in our country becomes increasingly less civil and we wrestle with immigration policy, I have developed a new appreciation for the boundary-crossing work of Fred Rogers. He had an expansive understanding of neighbor that can inform our work as the body of Christ.

The first thing Mr. Rogers did was establish a rhythm—a liturgy, if you will—setting the stage for what was to come. Coming in the door, changing from a sport coat to a sweater, from dress shoes into tennis shoes. While it might have seemed kind of nerdy, his reliable ritual announced to his viewers: Now is *neighbor* time.

The second thing Mr. Rogers did was treat everyone as a neighbor. He showed kindness and curiosity while allowing people to remain themselves; accepting them as they are. He crossed all kinds of boundaries in his show. He was courageous and empathetic. He invited people into his home.

Watching the show makes it all look so easy. And rather vanilla. Bland, even. Why, I wonder?

Jesus calls us to bold inclusion: going into the highways and bi-ways with a word of welcome and invitation to the banquet (Parable of the Feast, Luke 14:16-24). Jesus calls us to get our traveling clothes dirty and disrupt our own schedules to tend the battered and broken hearted; not only practicing critically important hospitality, but going to a place of radical risk and discomfort for the sake of neighbor (Parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37).

As disciples we must ask ourselves: **What can one congregation do to counter the “un-neighborly” discourse in our nation right now?** Whether it’s how we talk to and about those on the “other side of the aisle,” or how we think about immigration and refugee resettlement, the church must BE a life-giving, biblical, loving and sacramental model of conversation and engagement.

Let’s expand our understanding of what defines neighbor by developing respectful curiosity about the refugees massing at the borders. What would drive them so far from home with young children? What is it like where they are from that they would rather endure the rigors of our immigration system? Do we know the difference between economic immigrants and refugees seeking safety and asylum? Is one to be afforded greater welcome than the other? Why or why not? Let’s learn their stories well enough to inform solutions and systems to support them.

If you are interested in further such conversations, please let me know. You are not alone in your wondering. And our God is a God of wonder. Let’s wonder together.

In Christ,

Pastor Chris

Save the date!



Saturday, September 15  
Hymns & Hops at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 16  
Outdoor Worship at 10 a.m.

Food Trucks • Kid’s Activities



## What is a Welcome Statement?

The Welcoming Ministry Team continues to help our faith community in their journey to becoming an openly welcoming and affirming church; embracing and celebrating diversity in our church home and in our community. In April, the Welcoming Ministry Team was commissioned. We have completed a congregational assessment tool and training by Reconciling Works, along with conducting one-on-one conversations with many staff and congregation members in our discovery process. We continue the practice of encouraging open, positive conversations through the entire process.

We provided three forum presentations in April and May: The ELCA Sexuality Statement, LGBTQ Community in our Midst panel discussion and Reconciling in Christ 101. If you were not able to attend one of these informative topics, we will be offering another opportunity in September. Please join us!

We are currently writing our Welcome Statement. A Welcome Statement, different from the Mission Statement, shows others that your faith community has publicly committed to living as a welcoming faith community on a lifelong journey. The only requirement by Reconciling in Christ (RIC) is that our statement specifically includes “people of all sexual orientations and gender identities or lists lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, people explicitly.” Our Welcome Statement will be crafted to include an invitation to all people regardless of their differences. It is up to us how we wish to frame our welcome.

### Examples of Welcome Statements from around the country:

#### Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Hamden, CT

We, the members of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, joyfully affirm that every individual person is a child of God. We recognize that we are called to be one body with many members, and that all are necessary for the health and well-being of the body.

Whatever your race, ethnicity or heritage; Whether you are married, divorced, widowed, or single; Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression; Whether you are gay or straight, lesbian or bisexual, transgender or questioning; Whether you have spent a night in prison or have never gotten a parking ticket; Whether you work full time, part-time, are retired or searching for a job; Whether you are financially challenged or don't have to worry about money; Whether you are pre-school, in school, or done with all that; Whether you are young in body, mind or spirit, or feeling your age; Whether your belief is strong, wavering or non-existent; Whether you are comfortable sitting in a pew, need to stand, or enjoy boisterous participation.

We love you for every aspect of who you are. We welcome all people to join us in the wonder of the journey of faith and service.

#### Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church Vancouver, WA

We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. In Celebrating, Deepening and Sharing God's love, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church is a Christian community called to gather people from diverse backgrounds and to provide a safe and welcoming place that will enable all to grow in faith and service in the name of Jesus Christ. We, the members of Beautiful Savior, proclaim the

good news that all people are children of God beautifully and wonderfully made. We extend our welcome to people of all races, cultures and colors; to people of all sexual orientations, to people of all gender identities, to people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities; to people of every legal, economic, and marital status; and to those whom the world seeks to separate, divide or isolate. We celebrate your identity as a gift from God and you are wholly and enthusiastically welcomed into the life this congregation, including our worship and sacraments, holy rites, ministry of service and fellowship. We pledge to live as God's reconciling people in our life together as members of Beautiful Savior and in our outreach to the world.

#### Gift of Grace Lutheran Church Seattle, WA

Everyone is welcome here in the name of Jesus Christ, regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, religion or lack of religion.

As you can see by the small sampling, welcome statements are unique to each congregation, just as ours will be to Trinity Lutheran Church.

In September, we will share Trinity's draft Welcome Statement in the form of a survey and let you as congregation members reflect and respond to it. As always, we welcome and encourage open, constructive feedback and conversations.

If you have questions about this process or if you would like to be involved, please contact Jenny Rediske or Laura Fredericks. You can also find more information at [www.reconcilingworks.org](http://www.reconcilingworks.org).

Jenny Rediske  
715-557-0074

Laura Fredericks  
651-261-3208

# THANK YOU!



To Tim Gillis and our parking lot attendants for helping to raise funds for outreach missions at Trinity.

To our Tuesday Guys who had their "heads in the ceilings" while installing our new and improved lighting!



## Financial Highlights

During the month of May the church complete a refinancing of Trinity's debt. Perviously the church had three loans and these loans were consolidated into one loan. We used Thrivent Financial as the lending organization. The new loan arrangements will save the church approximately \$50,000 per year in debt service costs (principle and interest) on an annual basis. The refinancing was approved at a special Congregational meeting.

Financially, we are still in a deficit YTD. The deficit increased slightly in June partly due to timing of fees and payments v. May. For the fiscal YTD 2018, thru June, we show a deficit of \$19,275. That compares to a deficit of \$155K as of May, one year ago! Contribution Income for June 2018 was \$17K less than June 2017 but \$20K higher than last month. YTD our Contribution Income is \$86K higher and Operating Expense is \$70K less than a year ago at this time. If Contribution Income for July & August match last year's and we continue to hold expenses under budget, we could close FY'18 with a better than expected outcome.

**Good news!** We are close to meeting our budget goals for this fiscal year! Our fiscal year is ending soon, August 31, 2018. Please do your part to end the year strong by bringing your pledge up to date. We are grateful to all Trinity members and friends who give generously to God's work in the world through their pledges and other giving. Gratefully, Your Stewardship Team

## Trinity Financial Update

	June Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2018			
	This Year	Last Year	'18 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	1,071,126	998,719	1,300,000	82%
Other Income	499,484	387,062	466,000	107%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,570,610</b>	<b>\$ 1,385,781</b>	<b>\$ 1,766,000</b>	
less: Expenses	1,589,884	1,541,232	1,776,145	90%
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (19,275)</b>	<b>\$ (155,452)</b>	<b>\$ (10,145)</b>	

### Long-Term Debt Summary:

Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,619,892 *	3,050,204
Increase (Decrease)	(7,936)	(106,934)
<b>Long-Term Debt - End of June</b>	<b>\$ 3,611,956</b>	<b>\$ 2,943,271</b>
Line of Credit Balance - June 30	\$ 15,000	\$ 838,394

\* Consolidation/Refinance of Existing Debt in May, 2018

This article was first published on [www.luthersem.edu/stewardship](http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship).

# The Baptismal Call of Stewardship



Like many of you, I can't remember my own baptism. Yet, I'm reminded of it often in the act of public worship, and in the invitation to touch the water of the font. In today's post, pastor Taryn Montgomery shares a powerful story of how these baptismal practices connect beyond our minds and souls, to our wallets as well. Indeed, Taryn suggests God's powerful promise in the water and the cross makes a mark on all our life, even and especially on our wallets. We'll be taking a short summer break next week, but we'll be back on July 10.

Yours truly,  
Adam Copeland, Center for Stewardship Leaders

*Rev. Taryn Montgomery*

People who know me know just how important the baptismal marking of the cross is to me. Upon arrival in my current call, I quickly moved the font to the middle of the sanctuary: front and center, where the water is easily accessible and people are invited to play in it. And we do!

Every Sunday, congregants are encouraged to dip their finger in the font and place the invisible, yet ever-present cross on their forehead. From the new parent and their fresh-faced baby to the elder for whom this is a new and foreign practice, they do it.

We mark our foreheads. We bring our children to baptism. We see the connection between our faith and the story of Jesus Christ. We know that our baptismal call is deeply connected to God's invitation to discipleship,

outreach, and sharing the Good News beyond church walls.

Yet, I wonder—how often do we consider our baptismal call to Christian stewardship?

At a recent church council meeting, I invited congregational leaders to ponder this. Studying the story of Pentecost, we explored how the earliest Christians understood generosity and its connection to their newly formed faith. In Acts 2, Peter invites those early followers to repent and be baptized, and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Over 3,000 people heed his invitation and are washed in the water. Luke tells us, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (vs. 42).

He goes on in verses 44-45, "All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need."

Those first leaders took seriously their baptismal call to Christian stewardship. It was an expression of the faith they received in the water. Generosity flowed from the font of their every blessing.

As we wrapped up our devotion that night, I asked everyone to pass around a bowl of water and mark themselves with the cross. I then invited them to place their wallets in the middle of the table before us. I reminded them that everything we have is God's—our time and talents, and, here before us, our treasures. We are not our money, but our ability to share our resources with others is a very real part of who we are.

Like the apostles in Acts, we too have an invitation to distribute and share what we have with those in need.

Taking a bowl of water and a sprig of pine branch, I sprinkled the wallets before us. It was a visual reminder for us, that as you and I are marked with the cross of Christ in baptism, so are ALL of us—all that we are and all that we have.

Later in the meeting, we discussed a request from one of our local camps. They were asking for additional funding to help offset costs for campers in need. We give regularly to this particular camp and another one nearby. We are also in the middle of a capital campaign ourselves and just broke ground for an addition onto our own building. The reality of our need and the importance of others' generosity is not lost on us right now.

That's when Ryan spoke up, "Look at the table before us," pointing to the still damp wallets. "We have the ability to give. I think it's a no brainer."

Others agreed, and they decided on an amount to share with the camp who requested and an equal amount to the one who did not.

The cross' damp residue on my forehead reminds me daily of my baptismal call to love others, care for God's creation, and steward my gifts for the benefit of my neighbor. Our baptismal call invites us into a deeper understanding of Christian stewardship. All that we have, all that we are belongs to God—damp wallets included.

## For More Information

**Pastor Taryn Montgomery** is the Lead Pastor at Bread of Life Lutheran Church in Minot, North Dakota. She and her husband Christoph are the proud parents of three delightful children.

**Rethinking Stewardship:** Join us on July 25-27 for three days of conversation and exploration at Luther Seminary's Rethinking Stewardship: From Solemn Obligation to Inspired Choice. More information here.

Author information was updated as of the article's post date. Author profiles may not reflect author's current employment or location.

"Baptismal Font, Lutheran, LCM, March 2018" image by Deb Nystrom. Creative Commons licensing via Flickr.



This month we offer the seventh of twelve heartfelt prayers from Trinity's, "Visitation Prayers," booklet. All the prayers were written by members of our faith community. They address universal human concerns and challenges to our relationship with God: 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. August's prayer addresses those times when we are experiencing deep pain. 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](http://www.trinitylc.org).

## EXPERIENCING DEEP PAIN

### Psalm 6: 6-7, 9

*I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. My eyes waste away because of grief; they grow weak because of all my foes. The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord accepts my prayer.*

### Psalm 18: 1-2

*I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

## PRAYER

Lord,

Thank you for opening your arms to us when we are feeling so dark and alone, for allowing us to come to you with our pain and our brokenness. You, in Christ, have been here on this earth and borne the pain yourself that is so present in our world. You do know, God, you do.

Comfort us when we are burdened so deeply that we feel alone in our pain and problems.

God, you know our deepest needs. Let your Holy Spirit intercede with sighs too deep for words when we don't have the energy or don't know what to pray for anymore.

Wrap [Name] in your arms, and help [him/her] to feel your comforting presence. Help [Name] to lean into your arms and breathe in deeply; and with each breath, feel your spirit filling the dark places in [his/her] soul, bringing your light and comfort into [his/her] life.

Dear Lord, as you know, the roads in this earthly life are often full of rocks and bumps and unexpected turns. We pray today especially that you will give [Name] strength for the daily journey. Let any tears that are shed be tears of cleansing, like baptismal waters. Help [him/her] to feel the warmth of your presence, your solid foundation and your steadfast love.

Amen.

– Michele Hermansen

Dear Trinity Friends,

Thank you for the countless ways you honored my ministry at Trinity and blessed my leap of faith into retirement. Your thoughtful notes, emails, cards, gifts and hugs meant the world to me, and I will treasure them always.

I leave this message with you from among the many I received, "Just imagine... where God may lead you." Be it a particular destination on the map or a place within the context of our lives, the God of Resurrections is always drawing and directing you, me, us to wholeness and abundant life.

Tchau e obrigado!

*Pastor Deb*

(Pastor Deb is studying conversational Portuguese in preparation for traveling to Brazil this fall. Going to visit her grandkids...)



## Learn About Mental Health Initiatives in our Community

*By Jeneal Olsen, Trinity Member and NAMI Volunteer*

The Washington County Affiliate of NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is offering two informational opportunities in August and welcomes your attendance! NAMI Minnesota is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults with mental illness and their families. NAMI Minnesota offers education, support and advocacy.

**Get to Know NAMI** – for anyone interested in learning more about NAMI  
**Tuesday, August 7 at Trinity Lutheran Church** in Stillwater at 115 4th St. N.  
**6:30 – 7:30 PM**

Learn about classes and offerings by NAMI Minnesota and hear the impact NAMI has on people's lives. For registration (free!) contact Kay King 1-651-645-2948 X113 or kking@namimn.org (see flyer at right)

**Annual Informational Picnic at Pioneer Park** – for anyone interested in learning about NAMI support groups and other involvement opportunities in our community.

**Wednesday, August 15 at Pioneer Park** in Stillwater at 515 2nd St. N.  
**2:00 – 4:00 PM**

## Get to Know NAMI



**August 7, 2018**  
**6:30 – 7:30 pm**

### Stillwater

Trinity Lutheran Church  
115 4th St. N

For registration or information, contact:

**Kay King**  
1-651-645-2948 X113 or  
kking@namimn.org



1919 University Ave. W., Ste. 400  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
Phone: 1-651-645-2948  
Toll Free: 1-888-626-4435  
www.namimn.org

### Description:

Learn about the various programs, classes and offerings by NAMI Minnesota and hear the impact NAMI has on people's lives.

This one-hour class is offered monthly at the NAMI Minnesota office and is for anyone interested in learning more about NAMI.



NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults with mental illnesses and their families. NAMI Minnesota offers education, support and advocacy.

Next Event on the Green Space! **Wednesday, August 15**  
Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Worship at 6:15 p.m. Campfire at 7 p.m.  
**Featuring Joe Davis! Join us!**



Joe Davis is a nationally touring writer, speaker and performer based in Minneapolis, MN. He is the frontman of emerging soul, funk and spoken-word ensemble, The Poetic Diaspora, and the co-founder and Artistic Director of H-Cubed: Harrison, Healing and Harmony—a monthly event series centered on healing through the arts. As a student and educator, he has served as teaching artist at dozens of high schools and universities and most recently as the Artist-in-Residence at Luther Seminary, receiving a masters in Theology of the Arts.

# CALLING ALL VISUAL ARTISTS

A Trinity members' art show will launch as a part of TrinityFest in September. This is a show that will focus on many areas of the visual arts through the talents of our members and friends. Included would be painting, sculpture, pottery, weaving, and more. At this time, if you are interested in having your art as part of this show, or if you just have questions, please be in contact with Sara Wagner at [saraewagner@comcast.net](mailto:saraewagner@comcast.net) or Carol Carver at [ccarver@trinitylc.org](mailto:ccarver@trinitylc.org).



## Update from the Green Team

The Green Team Environmental Fair on April 22 provided lots of information and ideas on living in ways to help God's creation. Some of this information is available outside the church offices; hopefully it will be useful.

Recycling at Trinity is not working as well as it might: trash and recycling are too often "mixed", too much coffee goes in the trash, etc. What to do? Pastor Peter is working on a grant which would provide new and improved containers, education and training, and a supply of recyclable material.

God's Work, Our Hands will be on September 8. Activities will include a river clean up and buckthorn removal—watch for more details!

Interested in working with the Green Team? Please contact Sheila at [doher4@comcast.net](mailto:doher4@comcast.net).

## Welcome to Food For Thought!

by Glenda Bjorum, Coordinator

if you like tasty food and thoughtful conversation then Food For Thought is for you! Food For Thought has been a small group option at Trinity for many years providing an opportunity to make new friendships, renew old friendships, and deepen familiar friendships. Adult couples of ALL ages are encouraged to participate, share, and grow in faith and friendship by participating in the 4 Food For Thought dinners scheduled between November and April. By the way, you don't have to be a couple to join. Invite a friend and create a couple or contact Glenda Bjorum for help in finding someone in our Trinity family to pair with.

As participants in Food For Thought you will meet 4 times during the school year with 3 other couples for dinner in the home of a Trinity family. You will be responsible for preparing part of the meal. The host couple prepares the main course while the others prepare and bring the salad and bread or the appetizer and side or the dessert and dinner wine/sparkling beverage. Each time you meet we will try to schedule so you meet with 3 different couples though sometimes, because of numbers, you may dine with some couples more than once. Every time you will be responsible for a different part of the menu. Each couple hosts once and recipes are always provided so it is really easy.

This year's Food For Thought dates are Saturdays November 10, January 26, March 9, and April 6. The dates are merely guidelines and can be adjusted to meet the needs of your group. We also have a substitute list in case you cannot make your dinner date. Something new this year is a "Meet and Greet Gathering" on Saturday October 27 when we will meet together as a group to get acquainted with each other before the first scheduled dinner.

Food For Thought is a fun way to take a night off and get to know your Trinity family in a new way. It's for anyone who enjoys a good meal and conversation, it's casual and stress free and best of all, it's a special time of sharing and celebrating our common faith with other members of the Trinity family. If you are interested, have questions or wish to register for Food For Thought please contact Glenda Bjorum at 651-439-8521 or [bjorumsing@aol.com](mailto:bjorumsing@aol.com) Registration deadline is September 22. Let's meet and break bread together!



Saturdays

**November 10**

**January 26**

**March 9**

**April 6**

Sign up by September 22

**Contact:**

Glenda Bjorum [bjorumsing@aol.com](mailto:bjorumsing@aol.com)  
or 651-439-8521

**60 Plus Solo  
Over 60, Single and Active?**

**Most Sundays, 5-7 p.m.  
Living Room at Trinity**  
Come meet other singles and  
join us for this thriving new social  
group. Many additional events!

Please use the **3rd St. (East) doors.**  
Please send an e-mail to get a list of  
upcoming events!  
**60plussolo@gmail.com**



God is faithful; by God you were called into the  
fellowship of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
- 1 Corinthians 1: 9



# 60+ P.S.

Singles Group for Ages 60 & Older



# Hospitality

by Ann Wolff, Hospitality Coordinator

“Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.”

I think many of us like this hymn with its catchy tune and warm words of hospitality. It turns out we like to sing it, but we don't do it very well.

You may recall a recent invitation to a Hospitality Soirée that I hosted. In our group of 35, we all had the opportunity to meet people we didn't know—some new members, some who have been at Trinity for decades. We heard some sobering tales about our lack of welcome and engagement with visitors as well as with anyone we don't know. We felt a little better when we heard that other churches in the valley are no different, but Pastor Chris responded loudly and clearly, “THAT'S NOT OKAY! WE NEED TO BE DIFFERENT!”

We challenged ourselves to meet new people, sit (or park) in a different place, and take 5 minutes away from chatting with our friends to connect with someone we don't know. We invite you to do the same.

I also invite you to provide hospitality as an usher or greeter. There are abundant opportunities for summer and fall. All are welcome, all are needed—new members and those of you who have been at Trinity for decades. Contact me with your availability. Thanks!

wolff701@msn.com or (651) 439-1972

## Worship Texts

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

**August 5** Genesis 3: 1-24

**August 12** Genesis 4: 1-16

**August 19** Genesis 9: 1-17 (29)

**August 26** Genesis 11: 1-9



Margaret Prescott, Gloria Williamson, Norma Swanson & Kathy Horner

Don & Eunice Fultz, Glenda Bjorum



Lynn Most & Bill Bjorum



Madi, Sylvia McCallister & Sara Dowling

# SUMMER SCHOOL AT YALE

By Carol Carver, Worship Director

In June I had the distinct pleasure of spending a week at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut at a class on worship and music. The title of the class was “As Creation Groans: Worshiping God on Holy Ground”. Through lectures, seminars, worship and musical events we were led through the week by an outstanding group of presenters. The question was posed: As Christians at worship praise God for the bountiful creation of which we ourselves are part, how do we reconcile with the voice of lament and the damage to creation caused by human beings, including ourselves? And, in this time of urgent awakening to Earth’s peril, how do worship, music, and art draw us into faithful relationship with God and creation?

I came away with many things:

- a renewed sense of the adventure and depth of worship;
- when we speak of caring for creation we are speaking of more

than just what we dispose of and how much water we use;

- there is a wealth of new materials – hymns/songs/poetry/art – that speak to our contemporary issues;
- and, if we pay close attention, can we find Holy Ground in the profane places?

For me, going to Yale was like being on a high for four days - to be with people who share your interests, challenge your views, and bring new insights to your chosen field – worth every effort I made to get there!

Worship each day was held in the light filled chapel. As we worshiped, artist and a theologian Ted Lyddon Hatten, who describes his work as theopoetic and multidisciplinary, created images related to what was happening in worship. As a visual artist, he works with a variety of media, including myrrh, liquefaction, coffee grounds, beeswax (encaustic), dry pigment, egg tempera, grain, gunpowder, glass, sand, and salt. It was fascinating and thought provoking



to see how art can respond to and enlighten a text, a prayer, a song, or a mediation. (See the photo bottom left.)

Our music was eclectic – folk, classical, spirituals, new and old, and always relevant. We sang with piano, bass and guitar, led by marvelous theologian and musician Maggie Dawn. Sometimes I wanted to cry, the texts were so poignant. In this respect, I was reminded again of the importance of the songs we sing and that they speak to our age.

I will tell of just one of the amazing lectures – and there were many - Dr. Larry Rasmussen, considered one of the world’s foremost Christian environmental ethicists and professor of social ethics at Union Seminary (also taught at St. Olaf) gave an entire presentation as a letter to his three year old grandson (to be read in the future).

He spoke of his hopes and dreams for the earth in this new era and how practices such as music and ritual can help congregations negotiate change. He spoke for an hour – it was a long letter – he got a standing ovation.

Finally, probably the most importance take away for me was the importance of telling the story – the bible’s story – for it is the greatest story ever told. We heard it read, we heard it sung, we saw it with our eyes as the dancer and artist brought it to life. This is something we can do better. Watch for it.

Here is the text of one of the songs we learned:

*The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it –  
From seabed to sky, and from ocean to earth,  
The beauty from here to the farthest horizon,  
A gift to us all from the moment of birth.  
There is no way back to the garden of Eden,  
But the vision you promise is a city and home,  
Redeem us, O Lord, and the earth we belong to:  
Creation still groans for a new world to come.*

– MAGGIE DAWN

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as worship director, I am continually honored and humbled.



# LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

At the end of June, seven Trinity youth and two adult leaders, traveled to Denver, Colorado for a week of service, learning, and faith through the Center for Student Missions (CSM). CSM focuses on urban ministry around the country and walks youth through a variety of experiences that help them understand poverty and homelessness in the United States. During our week, we served with a variety of organizations that provide aid and companionship to homeless individuals and families. We were faced with some uncomfortable and challenging situations and learned first-hand that loving our neighbor isn't always an easy thing to do! Highlights included a homeless simulation in downtown Denver, serving at a summer camp for immigrant and refugee children, and talking with homeless families living in motels around the city.

## Denver Mission Trip Reflection EVELYN YOUNG - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AT SAHS



\*Sirens blared, backpacks and shopping carts lined the streets and the sun beat down across the city. As we drove through Denver, Colorado I began to realize that this urban ministry trip would be different compared to anything I had seen back home.

While our group was serving we encountered many new situations, conditions and people. Seeing the variety of people on the streets really surprised me. On our first night in Denver we toured the city and I learned many surprising facts. For example, 33 percent of the homeless population have jobs but are only earning close to \$25,000 a year, which is at the poverty line. I was shocked to learn that the average age of a homeless person is nine years old. Hearing this about the kids really stuck with me because no child should grow up that way. One night, we worked with a church organization and delivered food to families who were living out of motels. This was my favorite part of the trip because it allowed me the chance to interact with people and hear their stories. Many people wanted us to pray for them and were confident and trusting in God's plan. A lot of people had health concerns they wanted us to pray about. It made me so sad to see all of these people with health problems but no access to helpful resources. Seeing the kids living at the motels was the hardest part for me because they weren't able to grow up in a "normal" way. The kids I got to talk to the most were very little. They were dirty and hungry. One little boy who must have been about two, was eating chip crumbs off

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the ground. The little girl was covered in a rash, red marks and bruises. Their older brother was going into 5th grade and he was talking about what he wants to be when he grows up and he had so many things planned for his future. It was difficult to see those kids because the situation they were living in was preventing them from having a variety of opportunities for their future. There were so many similar encounters throughout the week and it made me recognize the severity of the hardships and challenges homeless people face day to day.

Throughout the trip, as I immersed myself into new situations, I realized how close God was to me. I talked to a lot of new people in Denver and this is where God guided me the most. He helped me to have confidence and helped me to find the right words to say to people in a tough situations. Not only was God working alongside me but he was also working in the actions of the kids we saw throughout the week. On two of the days on the trip we volunteered for Hope in Our City which is a summer camp for kids. Before the camp began, Ben, the leader, led a devotional with us. He talked to us about the importance of loving your neighbor and how it needs to go farther than just not being rude. Loving your neighbor needs to be intentional. While we played with the kids during those two days I saw God in each of them because they were so quick to love their neighbor. They didn't care or wonder about anyone's background. They didn't care how someone looked. Those kids would just come over and sit in your lap and start talking to you like they have known you all of their lives. This was a great example for me on what loving your neighbor really means and how God wants to see that love carried out.

From this trip I learned about how people work and how important it is to release expectations. The homeless people we saw were so kind, talkative and open. Growing up, I was taught not to talk to or stare at homeless people. This changed for me in Denver because I saw so much kindness in these people despite their unfortunate situation. A simple acknowledgement could make someone's day. I gained a new perspective on what it means to be homeless. It is not necessarily someone who doesn't have a job or someone who struggles with addiction. This trip opened my eyes to an issue occurring all over the United States. As a result of this experience I am looking for ways to get involved at home that will help the homeless. Spending time in Denver put my own life into perspective and not to take things for granted.

In Denver I experienced many unfamiliar things, however, God was right by my side to guide me. We are all God's children and he is working in each of our lives. God wants us to love our neighbor and this means being respectful and having a kind heart. This trip has brought me closer to God in so many ways and I am thankful for the opportunity to have come to these realizations and strengthen my relationship with God.\*

P A S T O R O F L I F E L O N G F A I T H  
F O R M A T I O N  
P E T E R W E S T O N M I L L E R



“God is faithful, by God you were called into the fellowship of Jesus Christ our Lord.”  
– 1 Corinthians 1:9

## Water Stops and Water Spots

In October, my partner Ashley is running her first marathon. And while I have never been a distance runner, I am excited for her and have been really impressed by her faithfulness to this big goal. She is determined, dedicated, and driven. I’m cheering her on.

As we have dipped our toes in the runner’s world, one of the cool marathon images that has stuck with me is the table of volunteers handing out water at multiple spots along the 26.2 miles.

Runners call them water stops.

With the help of these volunteers, a runner gets a quick rehydration, maybe splashes the cup of liquid onto their sweaty face, or is just cheered on like crazy:

“Way to Go!” – “You’re doing great!”  
– “Keep it up!”

I love that. We could all use a few more water stops in this marathon of life and faith.

I also like that water stop language to talk about the promises that God makes to us as a baptized child of God in fellowship with Jesus Christ and in our community.

We say as a community in our baptismal promises that we will:

- **live** among God’s faithful people;
- **hear** the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper;
- **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed;
- **serve** all people following the example of Jesus; and
- **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth

These are the ways that we all get rehydrated when we are thirsty, get a splash of God’s love to wake us up, or just to be cheered on in this marathon of faith.

I really like how this frames our life together, exploring God’s promise as a beloved baptized child of God.



As we look forward to the Fall and the more water stops for Faith Formation, my hope is that whether you are the one running or are passing out cups, that we all end up with a few waters spots. Dotted by God’s faithfulness. Reminded of God’s love in our baptism. Living, hearing, proclaiming, serving, and striving in Christ.

Pastor Peter



# Summer Missions Opportunities By Renae Oswald-Anderson, Co-Chair Outreach Missions Board

It's hard to believe we are looking at the lazy days of August. Don't forget to bring your excess garden bounty to Valley Outreach at 1911 Curve Crest Blvd. in Stillwater (valleyoutreachmn.org) as Produce Give Aways started in June and are held several times a month throughout the 834 school district service area. Food shelf demand increases when school is out as low-income families do not have access to free and reduced meal programs. Please check their website for other high demand items to donate.

August also means families start thinking about preparing their children to go back to school and purchasing school supplies. Trinity members can donate school supplies either through Community Thread's **Stuff the Bus** program which provides school supplies for students in District 834 (see flyer at right). School supplies may be dropped off at the Community Thread office located at 2300 Orleans Street in Stillwater prior to August 7th. For information contact Jennifer Kmecik at Jennifer@communitythreadmn.org.

The **Cimarron School Supply Drive** is an annual tradition headed by Kristie Anderson and her circle as well as women from GLOW. 100 backpacks and school supplies are needed for the children that attend Lake Elmo Elementary School. Children and their parents come to the Cimarron Community Center and shop picking out their favorite backpack, colorful folders, pencils, and markers. Everything is labeled by grade so the eager, young students get just what their teachers requested. To donate contact Kristie at 651-439-9133 or by e-mail at jksa@hotmail.com or Sandy Wendt at sjwendt46@gmail.com or by phone at 651-470-1902.

Trinity will also be participating in the churchwide service day **God's Work. Our Hands.** event on September 9th in conjunction with the St. Paul Area Synod. Please contact the church office if you would like to lead this event and/or offer a suggestion about an activity for members of all ages to participate in the broader community. More information will be forthcoming.

## Gratitude and thankfulness to:

– 10th Annual Golf Tournament Committee and to those who attended or donated to the event. This is the single largest fundraiser that support outreach mission efforts. This year's event raised over \$16,000.

Please stop and thank Vic Thalacker, John Hodler, Sandy Wendt, Wendy Klemz and Marlene Harty.

– Tim Gillis for organizing the parking lot attendants which last year raised over \$5,000 to support missions efforts. (Did you see the photo on Page 4?) Call Tim at 612-860-6916 to volunteer.

With gratitude to all who love their neighbors near and far!

# HELP LOCAL KIDS SUCCEED!

## SUPPORT STUFF THE BUS!

## DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES



### School Supply Donation Requests

- Headphones (not earbuds)
- Calculators
- Disinfecting wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Kleenex
- Band-aids
- Double sided tape
- Zip-lock bags
- Watercolor paints
- Dry erase markers
- Dry erasers
- Cardstock
- White copy paper
- Pencil sharpeners
- Index cards
- Stickers
- Rulers
- Protractors
- Decks of cards
- Dice
- Plastic silverware

**Drop off school supplies at**

Community Thread -  
 Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute-St. Croix  
 DiaSorin - First Resource Bank - First State Bank & Trust  
 - Lake Elmo Bank - MidWestOne Bank -  
 Landmark Group of Thrivent Financial - Lake Elmo-  
 United Way of Washington County-East

You can also donate online at  
[www.uwwce.org/donate](http://www.uwwce.org/donate)  
 Make sure to designate your  
 donation to Stuff the Bus!

**Thank you to our sponsor!**









Learn more at [www.CommunityThreadMN.org](http://www.CommunityThreadMN.org) or [www.uwwce.org](http://www.uwwce.org)

## Fall Tanzania Mission Trip Preparations Well Underway



*By Michele Hermansen, Co-Chair Outreach Missions Board*

The nine members of our team are preparing for our September 29 through October 15 trip to Tanzania. Members of our team include: Michele Hermansen (team leader), Pastor Chris Bellefeuille, Ted Olson, Fred Anderson, Marie Rogger, Vic Thalacker, Rick Belisle, Paul and Brenda Kaese.

We will enthusiastically carry all of you with us in our hearts as we travel from Dar es Salaam on the Western coast of Africa on the Indian Ocean, inland and south to the highlands of Tanzania where we will joyously reunite with our partner congregation of Mwatasi.

The people of Mwatasi will host us for four nights. While there we will learn about the growth of the church—they now have over 1,100 members with six preaching points and two other small stations where they do evangelism! For comparison they had three preaching points in 2005.

It has been 13 years since Trinity engaged with the people of Mwatasi to begin work on their village water system. That has been a project that no doubt changed lives of the people here who were involved in any way, whether you travelled to Tanzania or supported from home, as much as it changed the lives for the people of Mwatasi. We look forward to spending four days walking the streets of Mwatasi once again, checking the status of the water system, bringing some new pumps to replace the old ones, and seeing what's happening in the village, as well as checking in with Iringa Hope, their savings and loan program.

We have been keeping in touch with the village of Mwatasi primarily through St. Paul Partners, and in January 2017 with a visiting team of engineering students from the University of MN. We understand that it remains their goal to expand the water system to the portion of the village called Manyigi which is still using unsafe surface water. This will require at least one new well and new

distribution points (taps) and storage tanks. We will have more conversations in this regard to confirm information we have received, determine their plans and readiness, and determine needs for our support.

We have also arranged for an afternoon at the Bomalang'ombe Secondary School, which is a relatively short drive from the village of Mwatasi. We are looking forward to meeting the headmaster and students there. They have had problems with their well and having access to consistent safe water. This year Trinity, through the Outreach Missions Board, made arrangements with St. Paul Partners for repair of the well as soon as physically possible after the rainy season. It is easy to forget how privileged we are to have safe water in multiple faucets in our own homes.

After our first week, we'll fly north to Arusha to visit the medical missions led by Dr. Mark Jacobson and his wife Linda. Mark grew up here in Stillwater and at Trinity and has been an ELCA missionary serving in Tanzania for over 30 years. The major ministries include two hospitals, the largest hospice organization in Africa, Plaster House which serves rural children needing various types of complex surgery and recovery, a nursing school, and Widows Might which is a women's economic development mission.

As we continue to prepare and while we are gone, please pray for us and our partners in Tanzania. Please pray for good health, safe travel, and joy in the sharing of God's love and compassion. Please pray that we listen and learn with open hearts and minds, recognizing the strengths in the companions and partners we are meeting.

Asante Sana! (Thank you very much!)



Back row, left to right : Michele Hermansen, Marie Rogger, Pastor Chris Bellefeuille, Brenda Kaese  
Front row, left to right: Vic Thalacker, Fred Anderson, Ted Olson, Rick Kloetzke (Not pictured: Paul Kaese)

# CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To family and friends of **Janice Blaisdell**
- To family and friends of **Jim Jenson**
- To family and friends of **Audrey Jeans**

# BAPTISMS

- **Harley Elizabeth Kraemer**, daughter of Kyle & Anna Kraemer

# WORSHIP

## ATTENDANCE

<b>June 24</b>	<b>July 8</b>
9 a.m. ....153	9 a.m. ....138
10 a.m. ....205	10 a.m. ....219
<b>July 1</b>	<b>July 15</b>
9 a.m. ....140	9 a.m. ....158
10 a.m. ....158	10 a.m. ....182

# SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP

at Church



Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend

More information including directions to the drive-in at [www.trinitylc.org](http://www.trinitylc.org)

# WORSHIP

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Summer Sunday Worship**  
9 a.m. at Church and 10 a.m. at the Drive-in

**Wednesday, August 15**  
Dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by Worship with Joe Davis on the Green Space at 6:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Campfire

**Watch Worship on Valley Access Channel 18**

Sunday 11 a.m. (LIVE)  
Wednesday 1, 7, 11 p.m.  
Thursday 7, 11 a.m.  
Friday 4, 10 p.m.  
Saturday 2, 10 a.m.



Trinity Lutheran Church  
in Stillwater, MN

# TRINITY TODAY

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# CALENDAR AUGUST 1-31, 2018

## Wednesday, August 1

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
6:30 p.m. Worship Ministry Team Meeting: Office Conference Room

## Thursday, August 2

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

## Friday, August 3

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

## Saturday, August 4

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

## Sunday, August 5

9 a.m. Worship, Communion: Worship Center  
10 a.m. Hilltop Drive-In Worship: Houlton, WI  
5 p.m. 60+ Singles Group: Living Room

## Monday, August 6

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

## Tuesday, August 7

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
9 a.m. Women's Book Club: Library  
1 p.m. Prayer Group: Church Office  
6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library  
6:30 p.m. Get to Know NAMI: Living Room

## Wednesday, August 8

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
9:30 a.m. Boutwell's Sr. Communion: Boutwell's Landing

## Thursday, August 9

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

## Friday, August 10

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

## Saturday, August 11

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

## Sunday, August 12

9 a.m. Worship, Communion: Worship Center  
10 a.m. Hilltop Drive-In Worship: Houlton, WI  
5 p.m. 60+ Singles Group: Living Room

## Monday, August 13

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

## Tuesday, August 14—Primary Election Day

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
9 a.m. Women's Book Club: Library  
1 p.m. Prayer Group: Church Office  
6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library

## Wednesday, August 15

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
5:30 p.m. Dinner, Worship on the Green Space with Joe Davis & S'mores

## Thursday, August 16

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
7 p.m. Al-Anon & Alateen Meeting: Room 108, Youth Center

## Friday, August 17

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

## Saturday, August 18

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

## Sunday, August 19

9 a.m. Worship, Communion: Worship Center  
10 a.m. Hilltop Drive-In Worship: Houlton, WI  
5 p.m. 60+ Singles Group: Living Room

## Monday, August 20

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
6 p.m. Family Event—Prairie Hike at Belwin Conservancy: Meet at Stagecoach Prairie off Stagecoach Trail  
6:30 p.m. Congregational Council Meeting: Office Conference Room  
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym  
7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

## Tuesday, August 21

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

## Wednesday, August 22

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
1 p.m. Caring Friends Planning Meeting: Narthex

## Thursday, August 23

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
11 a.m. Knitting Ministry: Commons  
7 p.m. Al-Anon & Alateen Meeting: Room 108, Youth Center

## Friday, August 24

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
10 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B  
11 a.m. Blood Drive: Lower Level

## Saturday, August 25

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

## Sunday, August 26

9 a.m. Worship, Communion: Worship Center  
10 a.m. Hilltop Drive-In Worship: Houlton, WI  
5 p.m. 60+ Singles Group: Living Room

## Monday, August 27

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

## Tuesday, August 28

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
9 a.m. Women's Book Club: Library  
1 p.m. Prayer Group: Church Office  
6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library  
6:30 p.m. GLOW 4th Tuesday Bike Ride: Meet at Brown's Creek Trailhead

## Wednesday, August 29

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library

## Thursday, August 30

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
7 p.m. Al-Anon & Alateen Meeting: Room 108, Youth Center

## Friday, August 31

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



**Without A, B & O, we can't save anybody. You are the #MissingType we need.**

**Blood Drive**  
**Trinity Lutheran**  
115 North Fourth Street

**Friday, August 24, 2018**  
**11:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

Sponsored by Stillwater HS NHS

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter: SAHS to schedule an appointment.

As a thank you for your generosity, if you come to give at this drive, we'll send you a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card\*, via email. \*Restrictions apply, see [amazon.com/gc-legal](http://amazon.com/gc-legal). Terms and conditions apply. Visit: [RedCrossBlood.org/Together](http://RedCrossBlood.org/Together)

**Schedule your blood donation appointment today.**  
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God Loving Outdoor Women

## POTLUCK PICNIC AND BOCCE BALL

**August 15, 5:30-8 p.m.**  
**Lakeside Park, Bayport : free**

Come enjoy food, fellowship and a little friendly bocce lawn bowling. Bring something to share.

Contact Jill Longnecker at [jnjlony@msn.com](mailto:jnjlony@msn.com) or 651-263-6802.

## 4TH TUESDAY BIKE RIDE

**Tuesday, August 28 at 6:30 p.m.**

Bike Brown's Creek Trail with fellow GLOW women the 4th Tuesday of the month this summer. Meet at the trailhead in downtown Stillwater at 6:30 p.m., weather permitting. The trailhead is at the north end of town by the depot. All are welcome.

Contact Sandy Weber at [stillweber@hotmail.com](mailto:stillweber@hotmail.com).

