

trinity  
Lutheran Church

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www.trinitylc.org

love.transform.serve.

# TRINITY TODAY

what **LOVE** looks like

### He Comes to Us as One Unknown

He comes to us as one unknown,  
a breath unseen, unheard;  
as though within a heart of stone,  
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,  
a pulse of being stirred,  
a pulse of being stirred.

He comes when souls in silence lie  
and thoughts of day depart;  
half-seen upon the inward eye,  
a falling star across the sky  
of night within the heart,  
of night within the heart.

He comes to us in sound of seas,  
the ocean's fume and foam;  
yet small and still upon the breeze,  
a wind that stirs the tops of trees,  
a voice to call us home,  
a voice to call us home.

He comes in love as once he came  
by flesh and blood and birth;  
to bear within our mortal frame  
a life, a death, a saving name,  
for ev'ry child of earth,  
for ev'ry child of earth.

He comes in truth when faith is grown;  
believed, obeyed, adored;  
the Christ in all the scriptures shown,  
as yet unseen, but not unknown,  
our Savior and our Lord,  
our Savior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926  
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Advent & Christmas details on Pages 10-11.



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LEAD PASTOR  
CHRIS BELLEFEUILLE, D.MIN.

## WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE.

One of the poetic blessings of life in this north country is that Advent comes with the darkness.

Jesus came when the people of God were under the dark shadow of the Roman empire, aching for hope and liberation. They longed for light, just as we long for light. Maybe more now than in recent memory.

Our Advent and Christmas theme this year is "What Love Looks Like." Together we will dwell in the light and wonder of the incarnation of the Creator and the wonder that *we are worth God's risk*. This dark and holy season, there are multiple opportunities to dwell in the light of God's love.

**LOVE LOOKS LIKE:** Advent Sunday worship with its rhythms and sacraments grounds us in the life of a community that is the incarnate body of Jesus. Each Sunday will offer its own unique blessing.

**LOVE LOOKS LIKE:** Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. we offer a brief order of worship as part of Wednesday Faith Formation with our children and youth, who are a source of light in the darkness. Everyone is welcome to come and hear the glory of Mary's Magnificat and the way love turns the world upside down.

**LOVE LOOKS LIKE:** Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship when we gather in wonder of the incarnation to hear melodies, stories and prayers both modern and ancient.

**LOVE LOOKS LIKE:** This year we will meet the darkness in hope and grace on the longest night of the year. The Longest Night worship is Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. That evening, the longest dark of the year, we will worship sustained by music, candlelight and community. It is a lovely, quiet service for those who cannot face the high energy of the "holidays" or for those simply needing to step out of the frenzy for a moment. It is also a service to which you can invite those for whom church has become difficult or painful. Please join us.

And...

**LOVE LOOKS LIKE:** A congregation that joined its heart to God's and passed a new welcome statement that tears down false walls. *Love looks like* a congregation that reconciles with those hurt by the church over the centuries and moves into a future living Jesus' model of radical hospitality. *Love looks like* a church willing to take a risk for her neighbors.

**LOVE LOOKS LIKE:** A congregation that proclaims God's mission before our own. "Because God first loved us..." will ground our mission partnership with God's purpose in the world.

**LOVE LOOKS LIKE:** God at work in the people of Trinity Lutheran Church. Dec. 12 marks my second anniversary as your pastor. It has been a remarkable two years, learning who you are and who God has called you to be, growing in love, confidence, hope and hospitality. I look forward to sharing a future filled with light.

Wishing you a hope-filled Advent and a Christmas abounding in love,  
Pastor Chris

# Reconciling Works

LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



## We are a Reconciling in Christ Community!

A vote was held at the annual meeting on Nov. 18 to affirm Trinity Lutheran Church as a Reconciling in Christ community. Our Welcome Statement was overwhelmingly accepted and will serve as our declaration of inclusiveness and acceptance of all people in our faith community. Our statement will now become a living experience, as a welcome is a journey and not a destination. First, we will hold a celebratory worship service on Jan. 6. The Welcoming Ministry Team will pursue ways to weave our welcome into areas of leadership, education, worship, outreach and facilities. This is a deeply proud moment for Trinity. We have acknowledged the hurt, marginalization and rejection many people have suffered, some of whom we worship next to each week. Together we can proclaim that we embrace all, welcome all, and provide a safe and loving place to nurture our relationship with God and each other.

Below you may compare Trinity's Welcome Statement and Mission Statement. The Welcome Statement explicitly welcomes members of the LGBTQ community. The drafting and approval of this statement was a required aspect of becoming an official Reconciling in Christ church.

### Trinity Lutheran Church Welcome Statement

Trinity Lutheran Church is a faithful community in the heart of Stillwater.

We seek to be a church grounded in the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In doing so, we intentionally educate ourselves in becoming more effective advocates for all of God's people.

We embrace those of strong, uncertain, or undiscovered faith.

We embrace all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions.

We embrace every age, family structure, race, ethnicity, physical and mental capacity, and economic circumstance.

We believe all people have been created in the image of God, and therefore have valuable stories and infinite worth.

### Trinity Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Love Everyone, Transform Lives through Jesus, and Serve the World.

Wherever you are in your journey with God, you are welcome here.

We are an open, affirming community for people of all ages, families of all kinds, and people of every generation.

We appreciate a wide variety of backgrounds, perspectives, and beliefs.

### Welcoming Ministry Team:

Kristy Bjerk  
Carolyn Briol  
Jon Fogelberg  
Laura Fredericks  
Rachael Harvey  
Larry Loyer  
David Martin  
Carolyn Minor  
Jenny Rediske  
Emily Van Handel

**Save the date!**  
**Celebratory**  
**worship service on**  
**Sunday, Jan. 6**

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

## Financial Highlights

Financially, results YTD for October 2018 have us leveling off a bit after a strong start in September. Contribution Income for October 2018 was \$17K less than October 2017 but \$9K greater than last month. YTD our Contribution Income is \$2K less and Operating Expenses are \$47K less than a year ago at this time. Personnel Expenses are \$48K less YTD than last year.

Here is a comparative summary YTD, this year versus last, so far:

	Oct. 2017	Oct. 2018	Difference
Contribution Income:	\$172,923	\$170,846	(\$2,077)
Total Income:	\$236,958	\$227,315	(\$9,643)
Operating Result:	(\$53,414)	(\$16,008)	\$37,406
Total Result:	(\$75,191)	(\$29,754)	\$45,437

Thank you for your financial stewardship support to Trinity. See Financial Update below.

## Trinity Financial Update

### October '18 Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2019

	This Year	Last Year	FY '19 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	170,846	172,923	1,350,000	13%
Other Income	165,089	109,208	507,000	33%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 335,935</b>	<b>\$ 282,130</b>	<b>\$ 1,857,000</b>	
less: Expenses	365,689	357,322	1,852,000	20%
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (29,754)</b>	<b>\$ (75,191)</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	

### Long-Term Debt Summary:

Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,598,306 *	2,921,532
Increase (Decrease)	(13,746)	(21,778)
<b>Long-Term Debt - End of October</b>	<b>\$ 3,584,560</b>	<b>\$ 2,899,754</b>
Line of Credit Balance - October 31	\$ 33,924	\$ 853,394

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

## Please join us for these upcoming *family events*

### FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLING

**Saturday, Dec. 22, 2-5 pm**

Come one, come all! This is a fun and meaningful way to share the miracle of Jesus' birth and connect with some of our home-bound members (who LOVE to see children!). Meet outside the Trinity 4th Street doors at 2:00 pm and Angie Hong will direct from there. Questions? Contact Angie Hong at 952-261-9599 or algoodri@hotmail.com.

### WINTER FAMILY RETREAT Jan. 20-22, 2019

Wapo Lutheran Bible Camp is a beautiful setting for a winter retreat—complete with sledding, broomball, outdoor gaga pits, space for making snow sculptures and snow angels, lounge areas, meal service, and sleeping rooms with private baths. There's no school in Stillwater Jan. 21 and 22, so grab this opportunity to pull your kids away from electronics and play outside in God's beautiful creation while getting to know other Trinity Families.

Cost: Adults \$75/person, Youth (age 12-17) \$50/person, Children (age 3-11) \$40/person, Under age 3 are free, Family max of \$250

Families will drive themselves to arrive at camp between 5-6 pm on Sunday, Jan. 20. Camp Wapo is near Amery, WI—about 45 miles from Stillwater.

For more information and to register, visit [www.trinitylc.org](http://www.trinitylc.org), then LEARNING then FAMILY.

# WHAT IS YOUR ROSEBUD MOMENT?

By Christopher Johnson

One of my favorite films is "Citizen Kane." In the movie, it chronicles the life of Charles Kane played by Orson Welles in 1941. Without being a spoiler, Rosebud plays a role throughout the film with a nod toward simpler times and when he was truly happy.

During the busyness of the season, I am sure we all give pause to times in our life when things were simpler, and the world didn't move as fast as it does today. One of my most favorite memories stems from the late 1980's when I joined the Minneapolis Junior Chamber of Commerce ~ Jaycees. Originally, I joined for social reasons, but I soon experienced what it meant to share your time, talents and treasures.

During this time of year, it was an annual tradition to work with the Minneapolis Boys and Girls Club to take disadvantaged youth to Target to shop for their family. At the time, each child was allocated \$40 to spend for their family.

Each of us was paired up with a child where we took a school bus together to shop at Target followed by a lunch, wrapping, and carols at a local nursing home. I remember how difficult it was to sit down and quickly develop a spending strategy upon learning how many family members there were and having to redirect the conversation

away from why the money couldn't be spent on his or her wants.

Several of my friends had the same look of despair as to how we reconcile and allocate the funds amongst so many. In some cases, the family was large. That said, we took the child's hand and ventured off to find gift ideas. As we quickly got to know one another and explored Target for gift ideas, it reminded me of how fortunate we were at that point in time. I was early in my career; arguably, not making much money, yet I felt that I had so much more than they did. I remember adding a few dollars to help fund the cost of the gifts.

At times during the shopping, it was hard not to be overcome by the sense of both abundance and scarcity all in the same moment. Guilt followed by appreciation followed by gratefulness. I always remember the Bible verse from

Luke 12:48, "To whom much is given, much is expected."

That moment helping the child find gifts for their family has always had a profound impact on my life and my stewardship philosophy. In my view, Stewardship is a responsibility. Later, I soon met my wife Marilyn at another Minneapolis Jaycee event cooking for the homeless at the St. Stephens Shelter in Minneapolis.

Everything we have is from God. At this time of year, please spend time to reflect on how abundant God truly is and give thanks to God. We are so fortunate to live in the St. Croix Valley, in our state, in our country. We are also so fortunate to have Trinity Lutheran Church, the staff, the congregation and the many people that share their time, talents and treasures.

During the holiday season, please take time to pray and consider Trinity Lutheran Church in your holiday giving plan. Perhaps you too, have a Rosebud experience that may inspire you to give.





You are invited to an...

Peace **A**nd **U**nderstanding —  
a **S**eaSon to **E**mbrace

# Advent **PAUSE** Gathering

**During and around the week of Dec. 2-8**  
 For women of all ages: for friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, and more! Come join others at a small, relaxing gathering. A variety of dates and locations are offered to fit your schedule. Gather with a warm beverage in hand, pause, and reflect on the wonder of the season. Invite others to join you, too!

For more information or questions, contact Karen Gieseke at [kgieseke@live.com](mailto:kgieseke@live.com) or 651-492-6610. Advent P.A.U.S.E. sign-up is now through Dec. 2, at church on Sundays and Wednesdays, at the church office, or online at [www.trinitylc.org](http://www.trinitylc.org).



This month we again highlight one of the 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. December's prayer addresses the challenge and promise when we are approaching death.

## APPROACHING DEATH

### Psalm 121:1-2, 7-8

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

### John 11:25-26

Jesus said to Martha (Lazarus' sister), "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

## PRAYER

God of Hope and Promise,  
Your story for us begins with you taking  
chaos and making beauty, saying, "It is  
good." We are so grateful for these stories  
that remind us of your presence in life's  
chaos and in the calm. You can see what  
is beautiful even when our earthly eyes  
would only see the messiness.

Creator of all,  
You give us examples throughout  
creation of life in all its stages. We watch  
the seeds sprout, the thin stems become  
strong stalks, the flowers bloom, and the  
produce become bountiful. Then you  
show us there is a time for the plant to  
be done, having given all it can give—  
letting go, dying, and returning to the  
earth so it can nourish what is new to  
come.

Our human story is much the same  
as this story. We begin as a small and  
vulnerable seedling. We grow. We  
bloom. We spread joy, and then our  
energy becomes spent. Our bodies  
begin the journey home to return to  
the earth.

Lord, as you crafted the heavens and  
the earth, so too you craft each of us.

In the creation story, you promise to  
abide with us, to help us, and to watch  
over us—both now and forevermore,  
even as our bodies return to the earth.  
We are reminded that you are our  
maker. We remember and take hope  
in knowing you watch over our lives,  
and you promise us your love and  
presence in and through all things.

Help me keep my eyes on you, Lord,  
and one, day run to you—letting go,  
shedding this earthly, spent body,  
and entering new into the beauty  
and promise of the resurrection story,  
believing in all you promised to all  
your people. In your holy name, we  
pray.

Amen.

– Karen Gieseke

## JOB OPENING!

### Faith Community Nurse

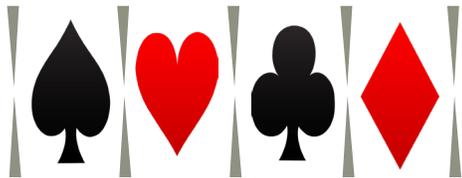
Lakeview Hospital seeks a Faith Community Nurse to partner with Trinity Lutheran Church to be a health education advocate, coordinate volunteers, and to promote the integration of the faith/healing relationship, working with individuals, families and groups throughout all stages of life and social-economic levels. To qualify you must be a MN licensed RN, have at least 3 years of experience as a RN, and have an understanding of mind, body and spirit and how it relates to health and wellness. This position works 15 hours/week with varying days and hours determined by the needs of Trinity Lutheran Church. To view and apply for this position visit [www.lakeviewhealth.org/lakeviewjobs](http://www.lakeviewhealth.org/lakeviewjobs)

You're invited to:  
Celebrating Seniors  
**Christmas  
Worship & Lunch**



Wednesday **Dec. 5** at **11 am**

Join us for worship in the Sanctuary followed by a holiday meal in the Garden Room with entertainment by our very own Zanny Johnson & Phil Kadidlo providing special music and carols.



**BRIDGE** FOR TRINITY

Monday, December 5  
 8:45-11:45 a.m., \$5  
 Boutwell's Brownstone A  
 Community Room  
 5450 Nolan Pkwy.  
 Boutwell's Landing

Overheard at Bridge for Trinity last month, "When I go to Bridge I always feel welcome and even though I'm a beginner, no one ever cares when I make a mistake. [We all make mistakes.] It makes me want to come back for more of the joy of playing bridge."

There are no mistakes. Just opportunities to learn. All are welcome, the first Monday of the month at Brownstone A Building, 5450 Nolan Parkway, Boutwell's Landing. We start playing at 8:45 a.m. and we're done at 11:45 a.m. Leave early, come late, bring friends, come alone. This is the most casual bridge you may ever play. We also like to laugh and have fun. \$5/time contributes to Trinity's mission and ministry.

60+ P.S.

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

Come meet other singles and join us for this thriving new faith-based social group. We have several events planned each week! Please send an e-mail to [60plussolo@gmail.com](mailto:60plussolo@gmail.com) to get a list of upcoming events.

**Most Sundays, 5-7 p.m.  
 Living Room at Trinity**

Please use the 3rd St. (East) doors



Retired Men from Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater, MN sponsored another great event open to all. Westminster Town Hall Forum featured Michael Beschloss and his latest book, *Presidents of War: From 1807 to Modern Times*. Westminster Presbyterian Church was again packed with 1,500 people. Amazing energy starting with Dan Chouinard and Bill Chouinard leading the audience singing war songs, *Tenting Tonight 1863*, *Bright Mohawk Valley 1896*, *Keep the Home Fires Burning 1915*, *White Cliffs of Dover 1941*, *Sentimental Journey, 1944*, *Blowin' In the Wind 1963* and *This Is My Song 1900-1934*. Recorded live on Minnesota Public Radio (MPR). Photo submitted by Jon Fogelberg.

**History Theatre in St. Paul  
 Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story**  
 Thursday, Dec. 13  
 Meet at Trinity at 8:30 am to carpool  
 (10 am performance)  
 \$28 per ticket

**RETIRED MEN**



1959. With the tragic crash of Buddy Holly's plane, a bright new star from Fargo emerged. Fifteen-year-old Bobby Velline performed at the Winter Dance Party in Moorhead, MN the day the music died. Bobby went on to record his first hit single, *Suzie Baby*, in Minneapolis—and soon would become a teen idol appearing on *American Bandstand* with Dick Clark and an international star who thrilled audiences for more than a decade with Top 40 hits like *Devil or Angel*, *The Night Has A Thousand Eyes*, *Come Back When You Grow Up Girl* and many more. Follow Bobby's musical journey that includes fellow pop stars like *Little Anthony & The Imperials*, *Ronnie & The Ronettes*, *Dion*, and *Del Shannon*.

Everyone is invited, including AWE & GLOW, to participate. Please join us! 30 Tickets Available, Center Seating Rows K and L. History Theatre is at: 30 East 10th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101

**Questions and to RSVP:** Please contact Jon Fogelberg at [jon@123m.com](mailto:jon@123m.com) or 651-398-6726 (h).



# KEEPSAKE WOOD NATIVITY STABLES

If you were in the building the evening of Nov. 7, you likely heard the sound of busy hammers. The 3rd Grade Faith Formation Students and their dads (and a couple moms) built creative keepsake wood stables that can be used in their homes at Christmastime this year and for years to come. Just imagine the faith-forming conversations as figurines of Baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph are displayed in these beautiful stables! Thank you wood-working extraordinaire, Spike Carlsen, and cutting-side-kick, Bruce Wiebe, for making this special activity possible!



## Sunday Children's Faith Formation (Pre-k to 2nd grade)

Our Sunday Faith Formation Children have been impressed by the amazing stories of Moses and God's faithfulness to the Israelites. Through reading the stories from the Spark Story Bible to acting the stories out to making crafts that can be used to retell these stories to singing "Pharaoh Pharaoh....let my people go" our children are experiencing God's love and faith is being formed. We will be moving to the Christmas Story in December—**mark your calendars so you don't miss the Christmas Pageant at 10 am on Dec. 16!**



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



**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Trinity CYF & LADC Trunk or Treat**  
What do you get when you mix costumes, multi-generations, candy, activities, and fresh air? FUN! So much fun that we are going to do this again next year. Enjoy these pictures from the fun this year.



## WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE: BIRTHDAY SERVANT

Last month, one of our young people had the amazing idea that instead of a traditional birthday party, they wanted to help set up treats on Sunday morning at church to honor their birth. It was a beautiful moment of service, alternative giving, and a wonderful way to mark another trip around the sun.

It was also an inspiring pre-Advent preview of *what love looks like* in this nostalgic season.

One of the traditions that we have adopted as a family is an Acts of Love Advent Calendar.

For us, each day is a motivational move to celebrate alternative ways that we can give and share the gift of God's love for us in Jesus.

Last year, we surprised our neighbors by bringing in their trash bins. We also brought family hygiene kits to our local food shelf and sang Christmas carols with church at our local nursing home.

I'll be honest, some days felt a little forced or like a chore. But every day was also rewarding because the gift of giving love never disappoints.

Ultimately, we remember that God is our great giver, but not just in the stuff that we share from Amazon under the tree.

It's also in the myriad ways that share incarnational and invitational love with our brothers and sisters and siblings and neighbors—person-to-person, new birth to new birth, day by day.

God's gift to us in Jesus is a birthday invite into this amazing selfless, service giving.

It's still what love looks like.

Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Peter



*what* **LOVE** *looks like*



My soul proclaims your greatness,  
O God!  
My heart rejoices in you, my Savior,  
because you have showered your  
servant with blessing!  
From now to the end of time,  
all generations will know the great  
things you have done for me.

Mighty One! Your name is holy!  
In every age,  
your compassion flows to those who  
revere you!  
But all who seek to exalt themselves  
in arrogance  
will be leveled by your power.

You have deposed the mighty from  
their seats of power,  
and have raised the lowly to  
high places.  
Those who suffer hunger,  
you have filled with good things.  
Those who are privileged,  
you have turned away empty-handed.

You have come to the aid of  
your people,  
in fulfillment of the promise you made  
to our ancestors—  
when you spoke blessing to Sarah  
and Hagar  
and all their descendants, to the  
utmost generation!

Magnificat (Song of Mary)  
Luke 1:46-55  
Contemporary adaptation from "From beyond the  
farthest hills: Scripture-intensive worship resources  
for Community of Christ congregations" blog

Advent begins Sunday, Dec. 2

## **SUNDAY, DEC. 16**

8:30 am – Breakfast sponsored by Children, Youth & Family

10 am – Children's Christmas Pageant (one service only)

3 pm – A Christmas Celebration Concert featuring the Trinity Choir, Carol Carver, director with Jonathan Prescott, vocal soloist & the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra

## **FRIDAY, DEC. 21**

7 pm – Longest Night Service, a contemplative service for those seeking solace

## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

11 am – Family Worship, a shorter service for children and their families

2 pm – Festive Worship with worship band

3 pm – Festive Worship with choir, organ and instruments

4 pm – Festive Worship with Communion with choir, organ and instruments

9 pm – Festive Candlelight Worship with Communion with choir, organ and instruments,  
8:30 pm Musical Prelude

## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

10 am – Festive Worship with Communion

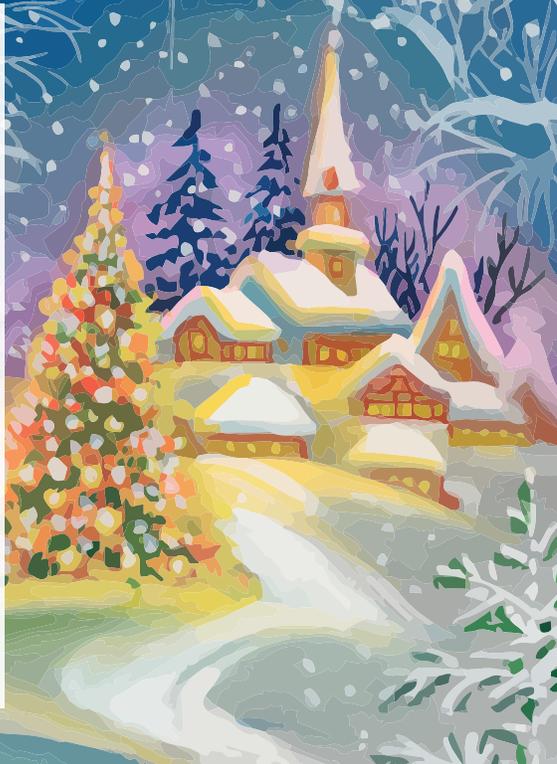


# A Christmas Celebration

featuring the Trinity Choir, Carol Carver, director  
with Jon Prescott, vocal soloist & the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra

Dec. 16, 2018 at 3 pm

Set aside Sunday, Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. for an afternoon of beautiful Christmas music in the candlelit Worship Center. The Trinity Choir will be joined by the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra in carols and other holiday favorites. Joining the choir and orchestra will be Trinity member and renowned bass/baritone Jon Prescott. Here's an idea: come to the concert with friends and family—plan a gathering/party afterwards—a perfect Christmas celebration. A free-will offering will be taken.



# Hospitality

By Ann Wolff, Hospitality Coordinator

Most of us volunteer to make coffee on Sunday morning because we feel like we should. Madi Dowling volunteers to get up early to make coffee and set-up the refreshments in the Commons and Narthex because she loves doing it. She especially wanted to do it on Nov. 18 because it was her 10th birthday! Thanks for your birthday gift, Madi. May we all be so generous with our gifts.

To make and serve coffee, make treats (no nuts), usher, greet, serve Communion, or put away the Communion elements after the 10:30 service, contact me at wolff701@msn.com or (651) 439-1972. No prior experience necessary. All are welcome. Thanks!

Pictured: Madi Dowling, Sylvia McCallister and Sara Dowling at a hospitality-planning soirée last summer



# Longest Night Service



Friday  
Dec. 21  
7 pm

Join us for an expression of Christmas worship designed for those seeking quiet contemplation, thoughtful music and rest. A lovely option for those for whom the more joyous celebrations can feel overwhelming. Refreshments to follow.

# From the Green Team

By Sheila Maybanks

Trinity's Green Team is applying for a grant that will provide the church with new recycling/compostable/trash containers. These will be large and clearly marked. The grant will also provide several months of compostable supplies and training. Our team was invited to share with the 4th and 5th grade Wednesday Faith Formation class on Oct. 24. Their theme was "Stewardship of God's Creation." At the end of the hour, the kids expressed interest in partnering with us to work on new recycling efforts at Trinity, as teachers, demonstrators and video makers!

We are excited about this opportunity to further Trinity's commitment to care for Creation and to use resources wisely. About five years ago, church leaders had an energy audit by Xcel Energy to look at how we might use energy resources more wisely. The newest and brightest result from this are the wonderful new LED lights throughout the Church. These bright and energy efficient lights are most "visible" in the Sanctuary! These new lights throughout

the church will save Trinity \$17,000 a year in energy costs. The cost to the church is about \$50,000; a grant from Xcel Energy covered \$20,000 and the remainder will be repaid in three years because of energy savings.

Trinity has 11 furnaces! (I don't know about you, but I only have one at home!) All these furnaces now have programmable thermostats which allows for adjusting temperature and fuel use according to usage. Closing the church building and offices on Fridays—and turning down the heat and cooling in the building—will save up to \$10,000 a year! There is a new high-efficiency furnace for the Narthex—more savings. Trinity is enrolled in "Saver's Switch", a utility program which allows the utility to turn down central air conditioning during peak times and results in a 10 percent discount on energy costs.

Take a look at the parking lot across from the church: it looks "pebbly." This is permeable asphalt which allows rain and snow to flow through the asphalt into the ground, instead of rushing to



the storm sewers and into our St. Croix River. There is also a rain garden in the parking lot which allows water to filter and percolate into the ground. This special pavement was made available through a grant from Washington County.

We are grateful for the foresight and the work of church leaders in making decisions that care for Creation, save resources and free up funds to be used for Church ministry.

We look forward to continuing this work of stewardship of God's Creation with the excellent help of our 4th and 5th grade kids—and of all Trinity members!



Pictured: Sheila Maybanks, Angie Hong and Bob Kriesel with kids and small group leaders of 4th & 5th grade Wednesday Faith Formation.

# Lutefisk &

## Meatball Dinner



Another Lutefisk and Meatball dinner has come and gone! We would like to thank each and every one of you who volunteered your time, talent, money or food to make this dinner a success. At the low end, we counted 426 volunteers it takes that week to put on the dinner and the planning has already started for next years dinner. We are very excited to announce that Charlie Payne will be taking over the role of lead Chairperson for 2019! Wish him well in his new role! I love that we are able to continue this rich heritage of Trinity Lutheran Church! Valsignelser ("Blessings" in Swedish), Kelly Klein & Jeannie Wendorf



# Update from Outreach Missions



In the last two months the following contributions have been made through Trinity Missions, thanks to generous support from Trinity members and friends for the Golf Tournament and Lutefisk Dinner fund raisers and directed donations:

\$500 for medical care for Anuak families whose relatives remaining in southern Ethiopia and South Sudan are suffering from political violence. The contribution was paid through the First Presbyterian emergency fund to help pay for medical care at hospitals in Ethiopia. Prayers are requested for peace for the people of the Anuak tribe.

\$2,000 to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response in response to hurricanes Florence and Michael.

\$2,000 to Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (Jacobson Ministries) paid through Global Health Ministries Account in conjunction with October Tanzania Travel Team visit. This December marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of the new ALMC.

\$9,900 for Mwatasi students' 2019 secondary school scholarships

Provided Swahili-English Bibles for currently sponsored Mwatasi students

in secondary school

Generously participated in Undie Sunday for Valley Outreach

Served a delicious and healthy meal to 39 guests and 10 helpers at the September Last Sunday Supper. This is an inter-faith cooperative program supported by Ascension, Trinity, and First Presbyterian Churches. Trinity serves the meal on Dec. 30. All are welcome.

Thank you for your loving generosity!



These five guys cut and wrap the lutefisk, the first step in preparing the fish for the dinner. They are showing the first fillet of 550 pounds!

– Photo contributed by Ron Felsch



The Sunshine Ministry sold 170 dishtowels and 77 dishcloths at the Lutefisk dinner! A very successful sale thanks to the efforts of 10 stitchers and painters sharing their talents. Thank you!



**WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE**  
Photo by Michele Hermansen

## Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner Proceeds

So many people work very hard each year to make the annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner a delicious meal that feeds many benevolent causes. Thank you to everyone, especially our leaders Jeannie Wendorf and Kelly Klein, who again helped to make this year's event a great intergenerational service and dining experience.

The proceeds of the Dinner are one of the many ways that Trinity reaches out and gives to others. Here are how the proceeds of the last two dinners were allocated by the Outreach Missions Team. We are still awaiting final results of this year's receipts and expenses.

### 2016 Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner Proceeds Distributions:

Social Justice Seed Money	\$4,000
Open Hands, Bethlehem Lutheran Midway St Paul	\$2,000
Valley Outreach Food Shelf	\$1,000
Lutheran Disaster Relief (for South Sudan)	\$1,000
Lutheran World Relief	\$1,600

### 2017 Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner:

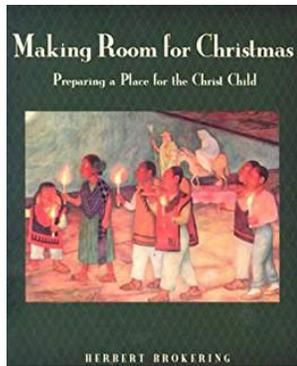
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$2,000
Anuak Refugee Van Program allocation	\$2,000
Open Hands, Bethlehem Lutheran Midway St Paul	\$2,000
Lutheran/Lakota Job Corps (Pine Ridge)	\$2,000
Balance pending distribution	\$ 811.62

# Page Turners in the Trinity Library: What Does Love Look Like?

"May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; and may you be able to feel, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high God's love really is." Eph. 3:18-19

By Norma Wilson, Library Volunteer

## Love Looks Like Christmas

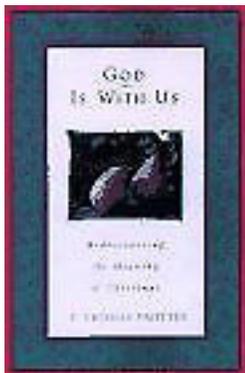


*Making Room for Christmas: Preparing a Place for the Christ Child* (242.3 BROK) Mary and Joseph are looking for lodging in a different home each day. They

visit a hospital, a halfway house, an airport, a birthday party and other places. Author Herb Brokering asks you, the reader: "Is there room here - in your home, your heart, - for Jesus to be born?"

*Unto Us Is Born: Christmas Conversations with the Mother of Jesus* (242.3 BROK) Herb Brokering was a pastor, writer, and poet who wrote these thirty-seven Christmas reflections. They are conversations with Mary, which invite us to "savor the real meaning of these holy days." (Miriam Winter)

*God is With us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Christmas* (242.3 TROT) In this collection of twenty-five reflections the author helps readers with "understanding the meaning of Christmas, so important in understanding ourselves as Christians." You may ponder ways the Christmas message of love could impact how hope for the world.



*100 Meditations for Advent and Christmas* (242.3 DEVO) This is a small devotional guide, but one that offers reflective thoughts through themes such as Preparing, Waiting, God with us and through us, Grateful hearts and New Beginnings. The book has a global perspective.

## Love Looks Like Kindness and Peace



*Above All, Be Kind: Raising a Humane Child in Challenging Times* (306.8 WEIL)

Chapters for early, middle, teenage, and young adult years are included. Weil provides suggestions to help children "become

more compassionate in their interactions with family and friends, and to grow up to make life choices that demonstrate respect for the environment, other species, and all people."

*Extravagant Love: A Gospel Gift for Disarming the Heart* (241.6 SCHR) The author shows ways to live a peaceful way as told in the Sermon on the Mount." Chapters include: Making peace with yourself, Seeking responses to conflict, Willingness to help those suffering, and Praying for grace and a desire to live a Christ like life.

*The Bernstein Bears: Blessed Are the Peacemakers* (E B) When cast members in a school play get angry, Brother and Sister Bear help with peacekeeping.

*One Smile* (E M) "When a child smiles, she sets off a chain of kindness that eventually comes full circle." Illumination Arts

*Pay It Forward* (JUV HYDE) Responding to a teacher's challenge, twelve-year-old Trevor helps three people, asks each to help three people, and so on." (Simon & Schuster)



## Love Looks Like Parenting and Gifts of New Books

*Every Parents Guide to Navigating Our Digital World* (649.1 POWE) The

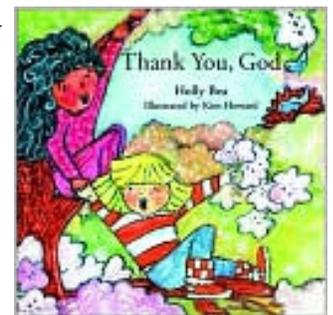


Fuller Institute provides input in the following areas: Raising kids that participate in social media thoughtfully and respectfully, a healthy approach to digital safety, Christ-like digital citizens, finding common ground and building great relationships with kids.

*Marcel's Letters* (940.5 PORT) Porter found French letters of love and survival while shopping in a Stillwater antique store. A man named Marcel wrote the letters in Berlin and mailed the letters to his family in France. The author had the letters translated and began a quest to uncover the mystery of his fate.

*The Girl in the Gatehouse* (FIC KLAS), *The Maid of Fairbourne Hall* (FIC KLAS) and *The Silent Governess* (FIC KLAS) are three Christian Fiction stories that won Christy awards. The author, Klassen, also won the Minnesota Book Award. The stories are set in 19th century England. Readers will learn about the intriguing life of a governess, secret novel writing, and the upstairs/downstairs tradition similar to Downton Abbey.

Thank you to God for the people who visit the Trinity Library, for the financial gifts and donations that have been given, for the space which provides community for many, for resources that are faith forming for learners, and for those who work with



love to fulfill the mission "to provide a ministry that spreads the Word of God to all of God's children."

- The Trinity Library Team

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On Nov. 18 we welcomed the following new members into our faith community. Please say hello when you see them!



Matt, Amy, Chloe, Isabel & Gabby Knowlan



Kathleen, Katherine & Matthew Larson



Sharon Longnecker

Katie McGaffigan & Bruce Nordquist



Joe, Rachel & Amy Schmeltzer



Michelle Vries

Peter & Ashley Weston Miller (Ella & Emily)

## Group Spiritual Direction

Dear friends in Christ,

In the spring of 2017, I answered the call to become a Spiritual Director, and lived for a month in Tucson, Arizona, where I did an intensive study at the Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction and completed my certification. It was the most life-giving, eye-opening, soul-filling four weeks of my life. I named my practice True Place, because I believe that who we really are, in the most distilled form: beloved, precious, and utterly valuable children of God. That is our True Place.

I LOVE this ministry of spiritual direction, and am so excited to share it with all of you, my Trinity family. We will be forming groups for spiritual direction starting just after the new year at Trinity. Please read the below primer about the ministry of spiritual direction, and let me or Pastor Chris know if this is something you would like to explore and be a part of. Groups will be held at Trinity, times/dates will be mutually agreed upon by participants. Most groups will meet bi-monthly for several weeks. There will be two informational meetings on Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

*"In group spiritual direction the goal is not to answer life's questions. The goal is to draw closer to God in the midst of the questions."* – Alyce Fryling

Spiritual direction may be for you...

- If you want to tend to your faith life in a deeper, more intentional way...
- If you sense that God is doing something new in your life...
- If you long for accompaniment or to accompany others in their faith journey...
- If you are struggling to discern the presence of God in your world...
- If you are willing to make a disciplined commitment.

Each of our spiritual journeys are unique to us alone, but growth and blessings come when we share those journeys with one another.

Group spiritual direction may be new to you. Here are some basics for you to know:

- The primary purpose of a spiritual direction group is to listen together for the movement of God's Spirit in each other's lives.
- Spiritual direction groups are usually made up of three to five people, including a trained Spiritual Director.
- A typical gathering includes a period of silence to prepare, one or two people sharing from their own life experience, prayerful listening and Spirit-prompted questions from the group, and a closing prayer.
- Each meeting is 90 minutes long.
- Confidentiality within the group is strictly honored.
- A commitment to attend each session is expected.
- Group Spiritual direction is different from a Bible study, coffee klatch, support group, adult education class, or a therapy group.

If in reading this you feel a stirring in your soul, follow the nudge and see where God leads you! Bless you, my sisters and brothers, and I am so excited to welcome you into the richness of spiritual direction. We are so happy to be able to offer this important faith forming experience.

Light and Love,

Zanny Johnson

[zjohnson@trinitylc.org](mailto:zjohnson@trinitylc.org)

*Two informational sessions for Group Spiritual direction:*

*Wednesday, Dec. 12*

*2 pm (Living Room) \$*

*7 pm (Luther Hall)*





# CALENDAR DECEMBER 1 - 31, 2018

## Saturday, December 1

- 8 am AA Meeting: Library
- 8 am Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B
- 2 pm Croix Chordsmen Christmas Concert: Worship Center

## Sunday, December 2—Advent 1

- 9 am Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 9 am Faith Formation (Age 4-Gr. 2): Garden Room
- 10 am Donuts & Discussion: Youth Room
- 10:30 am Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 10:30 am Faith Formation (Age 4-Gr. 2): Garden Room
- 5 pm 60+ Singles Group: Living Room

## Monday, December 3

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 8:45 am Bridge for Trinity: Boutwell's Brownstone A
- 6:30 pm Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 pm Al-Anon Meeting: Library

## Tuesday, December 4

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 8:30 am Women's Bible Study: Living Room
- 9 am Women's Book Club: Library
- 1 pm Prayer Group: Church Office
- 4 pm Quilting Ministry Group: Living Room
- 6 pm AA Meeting: Library

## Wednesday, December 5

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 9:15 am Christian Moms Fellowship: Lower Level
- 11 am Celebrating Seniors Christmas Worship & Lunch: Worship Center, Garden Room
- 5 pm Children's Choirs: Heritage Chapel
- 5:30 pm Family Pizza: Garden Room
- 6 pm Faith Formation (Gr. 3-9): Upper & Lower Levels
- 7 pm Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room & Worship Center
- 8 pm Wednesday Night Hoops Age 18+: Gym

## Thursday, December 6

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

## Friday, December 7

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 10 am Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

## Saturday, December 8

- 8 am AA Meeting: Library
- 8 am Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

## Sunday, December 9—Advent 2

- 9 am Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 9 am Faith Formation (Age 4-Gr. 2): Garden Room
- 10 am Donuts & Discussion: Youth Room
- 10:30 am Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 10:30 am Faith Formation (Age 4-Gr. 2): Garden Room
- 5 pm 60+ Singles Group: Living Room

## Monday, December 10

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 1 pm Rebekah Women's Circle: Library
- 6:30 pm Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 pm Al-Anon Meeting: Library

## Tuesday, December 11

- 7:30 am AA Meeting: Library
- 8:30 am Women's Bible Study: Living Room
- 9 am Women's Book Club: Library
- 9:15 am Leah Women's Circle: Narthex
- 1 pm Prayer Group: Church Office
- 4 pm Quilting Ministry Group: Living Room
- 6 pm AA Meeting: Library
- 6:45 pm Anna Women's Circle: Members' Homes

## Wednesday, December 12

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 9:30 am Boutwell's Sr. Communion: Boutwell's Landing
- 1 pm Marion Women's Circle: Members' Homes
- 5 pm Children's Choirs: Heritage Chapel
- 5:30 pm Family Pizza: Garden Room
- 6 pm Faith Formation (Gr. 3-9): Upper & Lower Levels
- 7 pm Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room & Worship Center
- 8 pm Wednesday Night Hoops Age 18+: Gym

## Thursday, December 13

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 8:30 am Retired Men's Group to History Theater: Meet at Trinity to carpool
- 9 am YogaDevotion Chair/Flow: Garden Room
- 1 pm Dorcas Women's Circle: Room 108B
- 1 pm Martha Women's Circle: Living Room
- 7 pm Al-Anon & Alateen Meeting: Room 108, Youth Center

## Friday, December 14

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 10 am Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

## Saturday, December 15

- 8 am AA Meeting: Library
- 8 am Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

## Sunday, December 16—Advent 3, one worship service only

- 8:30 am Breakfast Fundraiser sponsored by Children, Youth & Family: Garden Room
- 10 am Children's Christmas Pageant: Worship Center
- 10 am Donuts & Discussion: Youth Room
- 3 pm Christmas at Trinity Concert: Worship Center
- 5 pm 60+ Singles Group: Living Room

## Monday, December 17

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 10 am Ruth Women's Circle: Room 108B
- 6:30 pm Congregational Council Meeting: Office Conference Room
- 6:30 pm Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 pm Al-Anon Meeting: Library

## Tuesday, December 18

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 8:30 am Women's Bible Study: Living Room
- 9 am Women's Book Club: Library
- 1 pm Prayer Group: Church Office
- 4 pm Quilting Ministry Group: Living Room
- 6 pm AA Meeting: Library

## Wednesday, December 19

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 9:15 am Christian Moms Fellowship: Lower Level
- 5 pm Children's Choirs: Heritage Chapel
- 5:30 pm Family Pizza: Garden Room
- 6 pm Faith Formation (Gr. 3-9): Upper & Lower Levels
- 7 pm Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room & Worship Center
- 8 pm Wednesday Night Hoops Age 18+: Gym

## Thursday, December 20

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 9 am YogaDevotion Chair/Flow: Narthex
- 7 pm Congregational Life Ministry Team Meeting: Living Room
- 7 pm Al-Anon & Alateen Meeting: Room 108, Youth Center

## Friday, December 21

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 10 am Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B
- 7 pm Longest Night Worship: Worship Center

## Saturday, December 22

- 8 am AA Meeting: Library
- 8 am Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B
- 2 pm Family Event—Christmas Caroling: Meet at Trinity
- 7:30 pm Cantus Christmas Concert: Worship Center

## Sunday, December 23—Advent 4, No Faith Formation

- 9 am Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 10:30 am Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 5 pm 60+ Singles Group: Living Room

## Monday, December 24—Christmas Eve

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 11 am Family worship
- 2 pm Festive worship
- 3 pm Festive worship
- 4 pm Festive worship with communion
- 9 pm Festive candlelight worship with communion, 8:30 pm musical prelude

## Tuesday, December 25—Christmas Day

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 10 am Worship

## Wednesday, December 26

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library

## Thursday, December 27

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 9 am YogaDevotion Chair/Flow: Narthex
- 7 pm Al-Anon & Alateen Meeting: Room 108, Youth Center

## Friday, December 28

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 10 am Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

## Saturday, December 29

- 8 am AA Meeting: Library
- 8 am Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

## Sunday, December 30—one worship service only

- 10 am Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 5 pm 60+ Singles Group: Living Room

## Monday, December 31

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library



## Trinity's Christmas Garden & Local Benevolences Gift Opportunities

Form and payment must be turned in by Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018



In the spirit of honoring/memorializing loved ones this Christmas, we welcome donations toward a Christmas Garden. We also welcome honors/memorials directed toward local benevolences such as St. Croix Chaplaincy and Valley Outreach Emergency Fund and Food Shelf. Donor names will be printed in the January issue of *Trinity Today*. Please fill out the form below and bring it to the Church Office, mail it, or place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

Local Benevolences \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas Garden (suggested donation \$15) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_