

trinity
Lutheran Church

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January 2019
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www.trinitylc.org

love.transform.serve.

TRINITY TODAY



*Jesus said:
"I am the light of the world"*
— John 8:12

Children's Christmas
Pageant photos on
Pages 8-9.



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

Why Trinity?

Many of you read the article on the front page of the Star Tribune on Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018.

<http://www.startribune.com/transforming-the-church-of-the-future/502354521/>

It could be disheartening, indeed. But take a look at what your own Saint Paul Area Synod is doing by way of mission start congregations! It is exciting and inspiring:

New Mission Starts

Jesus sends the earliest disciples out into the world with the charge, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." This charge is the foundation for the work we do as a synod for evangelical mission.

In collaboration with the Domestic Mission Unit of the ELCA, the Saint Paul Area Synod works to "go and make new disciples". In some instances, this has meant launching new mission starts. These new mission starts are not any more special than existing ministries - they simply have come to be because the synod, congregations, and leaders have discerned the need for church to exist in these new ways.

Currently, the Saint Paul Area Synod has eight new starts and explorations. ...

Read more >

<https://www.spas-elca.org/mission/domestic-mission/new-mission-starts/>

Christian Friends!

As we enter the new year, many of us think about New Year's Resolutions. Some folks love them. Some folks deplore them.

When Ted and I lived in Plymouth, we were long time members of the Lifetime Fitness just a mile from our house. He was there constantly. I less so, but - thanks to a work out buddy or two - at least got there a few times per week. Each January 2nd we bemoan the crowds that flooded the cardio equipment, weight area and group fitness classes. And each year, the crowds would thin back to normal levels by early February. In truth, there were usually a few who became frequent (like Ted) or less frequent (like me) denizens of the gym.

There seems to be a desire to remake ourselves as a new year dawns. Shedding bad habits or unwanted pounds. Adding healthy and life-giving disciplines. It is a worthy endeavor. And sometimes results in a fresh start and new perspective. And often results in all too familiar frustration. Frankly, I admire anyone who tries a resolution.

Congregations strive to remake themselves as well. And with similar results. Energy is high and people stay

engaged...for a while. And then we settle back into old patterns.

Why does this happen? Usually because the changes congregations strive to make are too dramatic (but exciting!), not authentic to who we are (but so cool!) or not about who God is calling us to be (but we want to be like the cool church!) This year, as Trinity embarks on the journey to embrace and live into our new mission statement and core values and our new welcome statement, we will strive to be faithful to what is authentic for us. We hope to enhance and grow practices that are aligned with our core values and we expect to pare away those practices that are not.

In January, we will commit each Sunday to an exploration of one of the core values as we learn together how to be faithful to God's call. We will not burst into the new year as a completely remodeled version of ourselves. We probably won't invent a lot of new (but it's so exciting!) stuff. Instead, we will work to become the church God needs us to be in this time and this place.

Why Trinity? Because God first loved us, we live as Jesus in the world; loving God and loving neighbor.

So, resolve to be part of the why!

Blessings.

Pastor Chris

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



PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION
THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



God's Love and Light Around the world

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world." John 8:12

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Trinity!

Wow. I honestly can't believe it. January marks one year since joining this community and serving God alongside you.

Boy, has it gone by fast! It's been wonderful to witness Christ's light through you and the many ways that Trinity is shining God's vision in the Valley.

Tanzania Companionship

When I first felt drawn to Trinity, I was hoping for an opportunity to grow as a Christian public leader in the world. Part of that was the chance to learn from other Spirit-filled colleagues and staff (which has been AMAZING). But the other part of that for me was about getting outside of my comfort zone and experiencing God's light in new ways.

At the Synod Assembly in May, the director of the Bega Kwa Bega Tanzania Companionship shared this eye-opening fact: "The average Christian in the world today is under 30, female, and lives in sub-Saharan Africa."

He also lifted up a Leadership Summit opportunity to intentionally connect pastors from the Iringa Diocese with our synod—to learn from each other, deepen relationships, and grow in a global sense of our shared role in God's mission.

What I didn't realize at that time about Trinity was just how many amazing stories of faith forming ministry and transformation had happened alongside God's people in Tanzania.

God's light and love has been connecting Stillwater to Iringa in powerful ways for many years.

After talking with Pastor Chris, the Council, our Outreach Missions Team, and versed travelers, I applied and was accepted to join the Clergy Leadership Summit in Iringa.

From the end of January to mid-February, our group will be immersed in conversation and discernment about Christ's love and light in our world.

Generous Inspiration

While this really will be a huge stretch for me and our family, I couldn't have imagined this opportunity before coming to Trinity. It's not only a chance to connect with other colleagues around the world, but to see what God is doing anew here as well.

Thanks to those who have shared their stories and inspired me to take this leap of faith. Also, thanks to those who have helped sponsor this experience with their generosity.

Christ keeps calling us into light and love and I'm thankful to be serving, learning, and growing with you.

Thanks and Peace,
Pastor Peter



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> LEARNING> FAMILY.

Local Benevolences

IN HONOR OF:
 Family..... Bob & Deb Eiselt
 Peace Makers The Fogelberg Family
 Sunday Money Counters..... Anonymous
 Our Parents & Children..... Randy & Jeanne Carlson
 Eric Trosdahl & Larry Loyer..... Ute Erickson
 Our Family Jerry & Kay Nelson
 Trinity Prayer Group & Prayer Chain..... Darlene Parent
 Our Grandchildren..... Connie & Vic Thalacker
 Susan, Aakash, Laykha, Shaya & Azi..... Jerry & Arlene Herbst
 Trinity Quilters Carolyn Minor
 Marlys Foley..... Family
 Our Grandgirls..... Leif & Linda Erickson

IN MEMORY OF:
 Our Mothers..... Doug & Karen Dufty
 Dick Jeans – Dad Randy Jeans
 Helen Orff Eric & Larry Loyer-Trosdahl
 Skip Welke Welke & Rogness Families
 Lily Don & Gayle Lobitz
 Parents & Grandparents Richard Mikkelson Family
 Loved Ones..... Don & Phyllis Paulson
 Dale Martin..... Barb Martin
 Dan & David Walsh Susan Walsh
 Ken Erickson & Sabine Bugs Ute Erickson
 Walter Berglund..... Family
 James Brian Kopesky Gary & Lynn Schurrer
 Roger Olson Florence Olson
 Dorothy & Doug Wahlquist—Grandparents .. Christine, Jennifer & David Wahlquist

Nicholas White..... Solvay Peterson
 Keaton Larson..... Eric & Larry Loyer-Trosdahl
 LeRoy Swanson..... Norma & Family
 Leonard & Carol Malwitz; Rebecca Hansen... Ann & Clint Malwitz
 Helen Krauss & Irene Hedberg..... Florence Olson
 Carole Zempel & Nancy Kroening..... Jeannie
 Robert Parent Darlene Parent
 Mom & Dad & Grandma Langness Norma Langness Johnson
 Harold Segelstrom Marian
 Raymond Kennedy Pat Kennedy & Family
 Tom Wirtz Faye Wirtz
 Bernice Lindemann Bill & Rita Lawson
 Lily Ford-Melcher Eric & Larry Loyer-Trosdahl
 Dave Linner & David B. Linner II..... Evie Linner
 Bud & Floss Worner – My Parents..... Wendy Worner
 Parents..... Doug & Kathy Karnuth
 Audrey Jeans – My Godmother & Sue – My Sister..... Sandy
 Our Parents..... Fred & Dee Hertenstein
 Jack & Peggy Houston Family
 Audrey Jeans – Mom Randy Jeans
 Thomas Junker; Leo & Ardell Motylewski; Eileen Macksam
 Charyl Junker
 Our Parents & Siblings..... Chuck & Joan Newman
 Nicholas White..... Eric & Lucinda White
 Helmuth & Marcella Reinke; Bob & Irene Huber;
 Marlene Carlson; Sally French..... John & Pat Reinke

Christmas Garden

IN HONOR OF:
 Grandparents..... Zachary, Lilly & Suzy
 Our Families Norm & Jean Davis
 Our Grandchildren Ken & SuzAnne Olson
 Zachary, Lilly & Suzy Grandma & Grandpa Wasmundt
 Joyce & Julie Jerry & Arlene Herbst
 The Men & Women Serving in Our Country’s Military ... Marilyn & Christopher Johnson
 Avery Benson..... Babo & Gigi
 Our Family Ben & Joyce Patterson
 Musicians of Trinity Carol Carver
 Diane Sauers Anonymous
 Lutefisk Dinner Potato Peelers..... Anonymous
 Our Children & Grandchildren Roger Peterson Family
 Grandma Carol & Grandpa Dave Lily, Vanessa & Isaak Goulette

IN MEMORY OF:
 Mavis Mondor – Grandmother..... Christine, Jennifer & David Wahlquist
 Albert & Emma Potter John (son) & Mary Claire Potter
 Nicholas Haase..... Mommy, Daddy, Jackson & Audrey Haase
 Lorrie Reinheimer; Jean Jacobson Susan Gullickson
 Ruth Steinmetz Her Family
 Herman Liberda Steve Liberda
 David Foley & Sara Garavalia..... Marlys Foley
 Our Parents..... Lynae & John Olson
 Butch Schroeder Family & Arnold Steinmetz Family..... Don & Sandi Steinmetz

Norman & Melva Anderson Kathleen MacDonald & Family
 Lily The Fogelbergs
 William “Bill” Nelsen Barbara Stene
 Ed & Lois Studtman Sally; Nancy & Family
 Parker Graf Jason & Jocelyn Gohdes
 Glen, Barbara & David Olson Mary Claire (daughter & sister) & John Potter
 Mary Otto..... Noah, Mel, Grace & Lucy
 Harriett Behrman – We Miss You..... Brian & Janet Fenner
 Jin Sterry; Doris Sterry Toby & Florence
 Dorthy Agnes Hammerschmidt Rebbecca Olson
 Helen Orff Judd & Angie Orff; The Longnecker Family
 Parker Graf Cornell & Shirley Damian
 Debby Schuna; Art & Shirley Beisang Brandon, Laura & Girls (Richert)

Ron Becker Debra Becker
 Robert & Mona Graham; William & Mildred Cicero
 Dave & LaNay Graham
 David Foley & Sara Garavalia..... Lori Foley
 Ida, Susan, Auntie Bea & Other Loved Ones Mary Claire & John Potter
 Norman & Mary Ellen Lunderberg.....
 Carol, Bill, Jacob & Max Stauffer
 Frankie, Evelyn, Deanna & Darlene Peterson;
 Walter & Frances Schell Roger Peterson Family
 Grandma Carolyn..... Lily, Vanessa, & Isaak Goulette
 Jack & Peggy Houston Family
 Audrey Jeans – Mom Randy Jeans
 Thomas Junker; Leo & Ardell Motylewski; Eileen Macksam
 Charyl Junker
 Our Parents & Siblings..... Chuck & Joan Newman
 Nicholas White..... Eric & Lucinda White
 Helmuth & Marcella Reinke; Bob & Irene Huber; Marlene Carlson;
 Sally French John & Pat Reinke

Thank you!

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE, I'M GONNA LET IT SHINE

By Claudia Swendseid, Stewardship Team Chair

John 8:12: Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

When I was a teenager, my parents led a mission church near San Francisco. On the Feast of the Epiphany, church members brought their Christmas trees to the church parking lot where they became fodder for a huge bonfire. Gathered round the fire, we drank cocoa and apple cider and sang hymns, always ending with "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Gonna Let it Shine." And reflected as we all were in that blaze, we were shining, all of us shining bright.

Living in Jesus' light and shining that light brightly into our world as we follow Jesus seems to me an apt description of how to be a faithful steward. Jesus expects us to be an epiphany of Jesus light to everyone we meet. Saint Teresa of Avila puts this well: "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours." It wouldn't be a bad New Year's resolution simply to ponder that truth for a short while each

morning throughout 2019. Whether you use your hands to help prepare a meal for the homeless, or to write a check or send a text to help those devastated by the latest natural disaster, or to hold the hand of a person too sick to do anything but receive that sign of your love and concern, or to support Trinity's ministries through sharing your financial gifts or unique talents and time, in any or all such ways you can be an epiphany of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Epiphany means something like "manifest" or "appear." So, in the "Epiphany story" found in the second chapter of Matthew, Jesus appears or is made manifest to three wise men (read 'Gentiles') who come from far away seeking the baby. Upon seeing Jesus, they first pay homage by falling on their knees, praying and worshipping before the baby. Then the wise men open their "treasure chest" and present Jesus with the most precious and extravagant gifts available at the time — "gold, frankincense, and myrrh." These are gifts of thanksgiving for what God has done in becoming Jesus, in giving us the light of the world and the life of light. So, they respond by giving back to God. The Epiphany story is a stewardship story.

We too can participate in both of these

stories today by falling on our knees at the enormity of what God has done in Jesus; by praying and worshipping regularly; by shining Jesus' light of life fiercely into the world; and by sharing prolifically with others out of the bounty that God has given us in Jesus. *Arise, shine for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you (Isaiah 60:1).* Yes, this is what a steward's life looks like. Arise and shine, shine, shine. May the Holy Spirit in this New Year inspire us so to live.

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE, I'M GONNA LET IT SHINE

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE, I'M GONNA LET IT SHINE

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE, I'M GONNA LET IT SHINE

LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE.



Trinity Financial Update

November Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2019

	This Year	Last Year	'19 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	261,958	259,992	1,350,000	19%
Other Income	191,312	169,977	507,000	38%
Total Income	\$ 453,270	\$ 429,969	\$ 1,857,000	
less: Expenses	490,089	516,660	1,852,000	26%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (36,818)	\$ (86,690)	\$ 5,000	

Long-Term Debt Summary:

Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,598,306 *	2,921,532
Increase (Decrease)	(20,656)	(32,630)
Long-Term Debt - End of November	\$ 3,577,650	\$ 2,888,902
Line of Credit Balance - November 30	\$ 21,424	\$ 888,394

* Consolidation/Refinance of Existing Debt in May, 2018

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & CONNECTIONS

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. January's prayer addresses the challenge and promise when we are anticipating heaven.

ANTICIPATING HEAVEN

John 14:1-6

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and I will take you to myself, so that where I am, you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going. Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How

can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

PRAYER

Gracious God,

Today your beloved child [Name] and I come before you confident in your love, in your faithfulness each day and in your promise of an everlasting life in your heavenly home.

Compassionate God, we know that you are always at work within us. You have a home in our hearts. You know the depth and desires of our souls; you give us joy in your promises. [Name] and I are so grateful for the security of your presence in all times of our lives, when we feel joy or when we feel uncertain or worried. We pray now that you would send the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to [Name] in this moment of [his/her] day— filling [his/her] mind and heart with contentment, comfort, and peace.

Loving God, through your servant John, you tell us that your son, our Lord Jesus, is the way, the truth, and the life. We trust, as Jesus promised, that where Jesus is, we shall be, too. We remember his birth, born in a stable near an inn, an



earthly home in Bethlehem. We are grateful that you sent us your son, both God and human, so that we may be united with you. [Name] and I trust in our precious Lord Jesus and his promise to prepare another home, a holy place, heaven, where we will live together forever.

Creator God, what a beautiful earthly home you provide us in the St. Croix Valley, surrounded by trees, water, creatures of creation, and loving people in the family of God. We praise and thank you, God, for your gifts of home, the dwelling places you have prepared where we feel wrapped in security and blessed with unending love. In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

– Norma Wilson



A typical Tuesday morning at Trinity where the "Tuesday Guys" keep things running around here.



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

YogaDevotion Chair/Flow Combo Class Thursdays 9-10 a.m. | Jan. 3 - Feb. 21 | \$64/8 weeks

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

Led by a trained yoga instructor, YogaDevotion is a practice of breath, prayer, and movement designed to encourage healthy living and a peaceful presence.



BRIDGE FOR TRINITY
 Monday, Jan. 7 at 8:45 am, \$5
 Boutwell's Brownstone A Bldg.

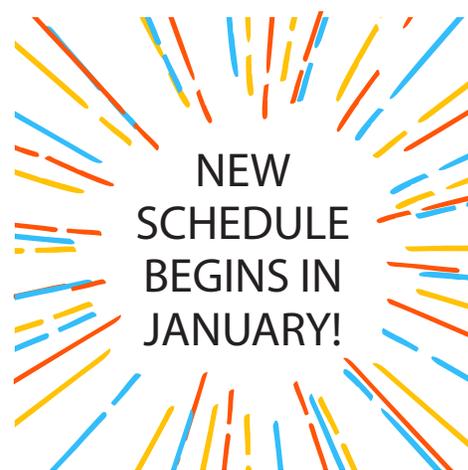
Bridge for Trinity. Bridge Players of all levels are welcome the 1st Monday of every month at Boutwell's Brownstone A Building, 5450 Nolan Parkway. We start playing at 8:45 a.m. and we're done at 11:45 a.m. Leave early, come late, bring friends, come alone. Coffee is provided. We also like to laugh, learn, and have fun. \$5/time contributes to Trinity's mission and ministry. For more information, contact Nancy Hokonson, Carol Huber, Phyllis Paulson, or Ann Wolff

60+ P.S.

60 Plus Solo: Over 60, Single and Active?

**2nd & 4th Sundays, 5-7 p.m.
 Living Room at Trinity**
 Please use the **3rd St. (East) doors**

Come meet other singles and join us for this thriving new faith-based social group. We have several events planned each week! NOTE: Starting in January we

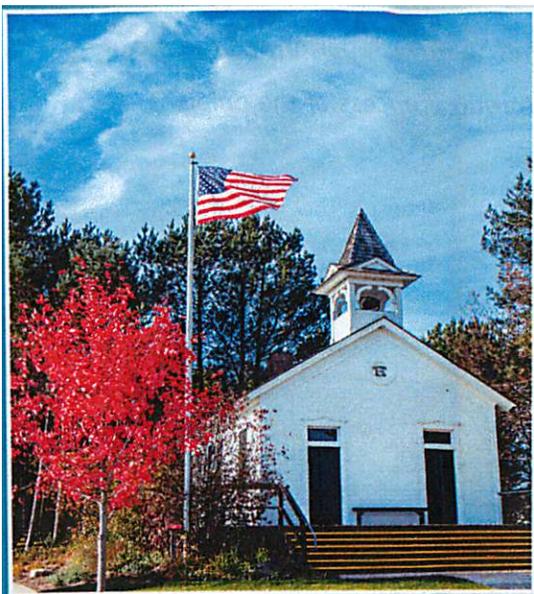


will be having regular meetings on the second and fourth Sundays each month. Weekly members activities will be held during the week. For a list of events or more information, please send an e-mail to: 60plussolo@gmail.com.

RETIRED MEN'S GROUP EVENTS

John Paquette – Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Thursday, Jan. 10 at 10 am, Garden Room
 The Retired Men's Group is excited to host John Paquette who has been with Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) for 27 years. He will discuss how DNA testing has helped in identifying people and bringing justice, allowing the BCA to reopen cold cases. Everyone is invited. Questions? Call Roger Bosmoe at 651-439-9423.



Valentine's Day Event

Thursday, Feb. 14 at 5:30 pm

First Presbyterian Historic Church Replica at
 5597 Norwich Parkway, Stillwater MN 55082

The Trinity Retired Men's Group cordially invites you to join us for a fun evening of fellowship and story telling on Valentine's Day Thursday, Feb. 14!

The setting will be in the Historic Church at Boutwells Landing right here in Stillwater. The church is a near to scale replica of the First Presbyterian church in Stillwater, circa 1857.

A catered dinner will be served and each guest is asked to bring a dessert to pass and their own beverage of choice. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Payment is to Trinity Lutheran Church.

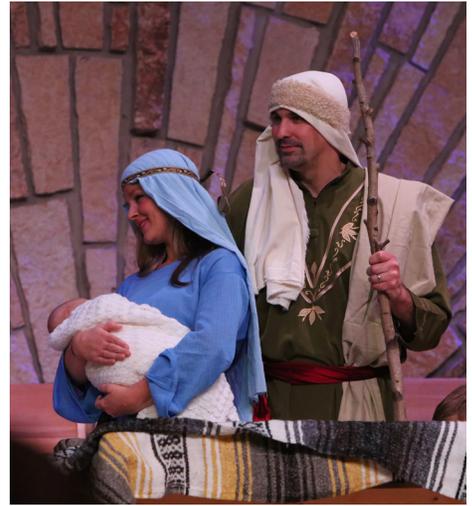
A total of 40 guests can be accommodated so reserve early by RSVP to Jon Fogelberg at jon@123m.com or call 615-398-6726.

PHOTO: First Presbyterian Historic Church Replica

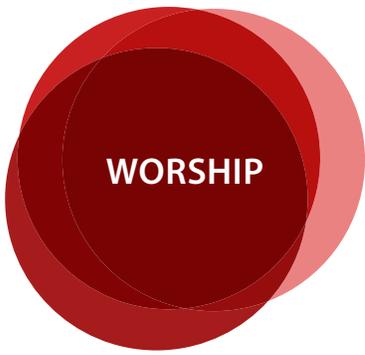


LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

THIS IS WHAT GOD'S LOVE LOOKS LIKE! The Children of Trinity, Gropel Family and talented musicians moved us to tears and laughter as they retold the story of how God came to earth as Emmanuel—God with us—during worship on Dec. 16. The pageant included art on the screen by 3rd-5th graders, beautifully sung songs written by our own Robin Cain, and acting that did not disappoint! Thank you to Michele Hermansen and Ryan Karlstad for the fabulous photos. — Julie Jolivette







Welcoming, Ushering, Greeting, Serving Coffee, Making Treats—It's that important!

By Ann Wolff, Hospitality Coordinator

A popular Christmas gift idea is to give coupons for gifts of time and talent—a certain number of prepared meals, household chores, car washing, babysitting, etc. In some families these are the norm, the expectations, the responsibility, the privilege of and

the gratitude for being part of the family. Yet, from another point of view, everything is a gift—every breath, every day, every person, everything.

May I suggest for the New Year, gifts of time and talent for Sunday morning:

- Ushering for One Month
- Greeting One Sunday Every Month
- Coffee Service One Sunday Every Month
- Making Treats (no nuts) One Sunday Every Month

Or, put together your own gift package of time and talent.

Of course, from another point of view, Worship Hospitality is a privilege and responsibility that we share as the body of Christ.

9:00 Ushering Teams are in place for Jan-March 2019. Trinity thanks them! Other opportunities are abundant. To find a special place for your time and talent, contact me, Ann Wolff at wolff701@msn.com or (651) 260-3855. Thanks!

PHOTO: Coffee Crew Henry Collyard & Leo Dowling

Worship Texts

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

January 6 **John 8:12-20** Light Comes

January 13 **John 3:22-36** John's Testimony

January 20 **Matthew 21:33-46** Parable

January 27 **Luke 6:46-49** Parable



Celebratory worship service on Sunday, Jan. 6

Each Sunday in January we are celebrating one of our new core values. On Jan. 6 we lift up "Radical Hospitality" by celebrating our certification as a "Reconciling in Christ Congregation" based on approval of the new welcome statement at our annual meeting last November.

A Note From Ann

I extend my deepest gratitude to all who welcome, usher, greet, make treats (no nuts), and serve coffee on Sundays, Christmas, and Easter. Because of conflicts all winter, I am passing the torch of the Hospitality Coordinator. To be part of a team of Planners or Coordinators, or to make their job easier by offering abundant gifts of hospitality, please contact me or Pastor Chris.

Thanks!

Ann Wolff

Thank you.

From the Green Team

By Sheila Maybanks

New Year's Resolutions:

A wonderful time of year, full of new possibilities! How about including a resolution (or 2!) to help care for creation?

Some ideas:

Decrease your trash: Buy unpackaged, unprepared produce; reuse the plastic bags from the supermarket at least once.

Stop buying bottled water—we are lucky enough to have great water in Minnesota; use and refill your water bottles. Many public water fountains now easily refill water bottles.

Carry and use your travel mug in your car, to the office, to church.

Are all your lights in your house LEDs? A great way to save energy—just look at our Sanctuary!

Consider signing up for Windsource through Excel. It costs a few pennies each month to opt for wind-source energy instead of coal sourced.

Schedule an Energy Audit, the cost (\$60) will save you money, save energy, and care for creation.



A few photos from Food for Thought—a fellowship and food group that shares in preparing and hosting a meal several times a year to gather around the dinner table for time to share and celebrate our common faith.



A Note From Pastor Chris

Re: *Hospitality* Ministry

Every single person who enters the building on a Sunday encounters at least one and usually three of the people on the Worship Hospitality Team. Each one of those people can make or break a first-time experience or a member's day. It is as much a part of our worship welcome as music, preaching etc.

Of all the feedback I have heard so far, no matter how much people might like the preaching or the music, if the hospitality is poor, they won't come back.

True facts.

THAT is how important what you do is.

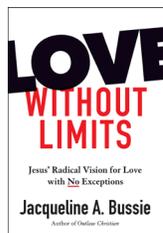
From the Trinity Library *By Norma Wilson, Library Volunteer*

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

– John 8: 12



There are many sources of light in our world: streetlights, yard lights, LED lights, candlelights, flashlights, and headlights. All of these lights help guide us in the darkness. As Lutherans we are beginning the season of Epiphany—the season of light. Children sing, "This Little Light of Mine, I'm gonna let it shine!" Jesus is the Light within us. Jesus is the Light that has come, calling us and empowering us to be the hands and feet of Christ in our world. The books highlighted this month help us to feel God within us, to love others and care for God's creation.



Love without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No Exceptions (248 BUSS) Concordia College Religion professor, Jacqueline Bussie urges readers to "love as God loves—without limits or exceptions." This book, a

selection for a Trinity Congregational book study, provides practical suggestions for people of faith who yearn for inclusivity.

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World (294.3 BSTA)

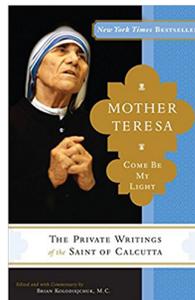
The Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, two significant spiritual leaders, met for a week in 2015.

They shared personal wisdom about living with joy even in the face of adversity, the daily practices that anchor their emotional and spiritual life, and desire to create a gift that would bring light to others. "They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering?"

Learning to Walk in the Dark (248.4 BROW) Barbara Taylor Brown explores light and darkness as religious aspects of Christianity. The author suggests two terms, "solar spirituality and lunar spirituality." Even in darkness we feel God's presence, guidance, and strength, bringing hope to new understandings of the world and challenging moments in life.

Come Be My Light (271.9 TERE) "If I ever become a Saint—I will surely be one of 'darkness.' I will continually be

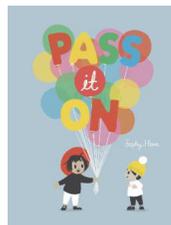
absent from Heaven—to light the light of those in darkness on earth." Mother Teresa is an example of compassion to those no one else would look after, caring for the poor, sick and people of all religions. This book contains her private writings, her work, struggles and spiritual heights



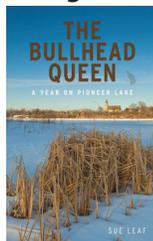
Be Kind (E M) As parents send their children off to school they many say, "Be kind!" Through the experiences of a child, author

Pat Zietlow Miller contemplates the nature of kindness, thoughtfulness and empathy. The images reflect diversity globally and locally.

Pass It On (E H) What a beautiful story about the power of kindness! "After all, if you spread happiness to others, even on a gray, rainy day, when you least expect it, like a bolt out of the blue, a smile or a chuckle might be passed right back to you! This heartwarming, upbeat book is the perfect way to bring a warm ray of sunshine into every reader's life." (Publisher)



Book Reviews: Light for Our Neighbors and World



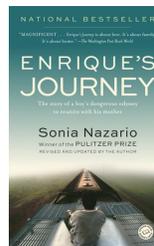
The Bullhead Queen: A Year on Pioneer Lake (508.7 LEAF), by Sue Leaf Like the church year, Sue Leaf's book on life on the shores of Chisago County's Pioneer Lake, begins in December—Advent.

Her book is a series of essays, meditations really, on our relationship and responsibilities to the natural world. As a naturalist, a mother, and a Christian, she looks at life on Pioneer Lake through the seasons and the human choices that affect the lake and the creatures living there.

This is a thoughtful book for Minnesotans. We love where we live;

we are blessed with a unique environment and yet, what are we doing to it? Are we caring for our world as we should?

– Review by Sheila Maybanks, Green Team, Trinity Library Volunteer and avid reader



Enrique's Journey: The True Story of a Boy Determined to Reunite with His Mother (305.23 NAVA) by Sonia Novario

Written over a decade ago, Enrique's Journey by Sonia Navario is ever

more relevant and resonant today in the midst of the immigration crisis that is gripping our country. As we observe the chaos and political hyperbole that surrounds the efforts of the "migrant caravans" to gain entry into the United States, the stories of the individuals and families who have traveled to our borders become lost and ignored.

Enrique's Journey focuses on the children of Central America who have braved uncertainty, hardship and even death to make the journey to the north on their own. It recounts the true-life quest of a young Honduran boy to become reunited with his mother. He was separated from her years ago when she became a migrant worker in the United States in an effort to alleviate the relentless poverty suffered by her family in their home country.

What makes this book unique in its authenticity is the author's physical reconstruction of parts of Enrique's trip, making her an actual witness to the dangers (including riding on the outside of trains and threats by gang members) and everyday hardships that he went through on his trip. Extensive interviews with her subject reveal his motivations and emotional travails even after his eventual arrival.

This award-winning book is not always an easy read but certainly a necessary one as we strive to grasp the human suffering that propels this extraordinary undertaking by people who are fleeing for the betterment, and even survival, of their lives.

– Reviewer Jerilyn Jackson, Tuesday Morning Book club member and avid reader

Update from Outreach Missions

By Michele Hermansen, Outreach Missions Ministry Team Co-chair

Outreach Mission financial activity approved at the Nov. 27 team meeting:

- \$821.62 to ELCA for Lutheran Disaster Response
- \$900 to ELCA for AMMPARO: Protecting Migrant Minors

There is good information on the ELCA website about AMMPARO and what it means to be a publicly engaged church. The word “amparo” in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA to accompany children today and in the future, to help ensure that vulnerable children are protected, and to work to find solutions that will acknowledge the humanity in all of God’s children.

Our team is looking forward to participating in the Renewal Retreat Saturday, Jan. 12 for all Trinity staff and ministry teams. It is a perfect time for the Outreach Missions Team to look forward at how we can best live

out our values in the next few years. Are we structured most effectively as a team? How should our funding priorities be determined? What are we missing? Is there something that may not be as pertinent as it used to be?

Currently, our whole team meets every other month (odd number months), the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. We welcome new members! Subcommittee structure presently is Youth and Family Missions, Local Ministries, Housing, Social Justice, Tanzania, and Special Projects.

Let us lift Pastor Peter in prayer as he prepares to participate in the BegaKwaBega (Shoulder to Shoulder) Leadership Summit with our partners in the Iringa Tanzania Diocese the first week in February. He is one of six pastors from this area who will meet in Iringa with Tanzanian pastors and discuss their vocation/call, culture/family histories, evangelism in our congregations, challenges in our churches, and how they support families in ministry.

When our mission travel team stayed with our partner congregation in

Mwatasi last October, we found so many similarities despite the perceived differences, and each partner has deep strengths to share.

Please keep Pastor Peter and his family in your prayers this month as he prepares for this new experience to share with and learn from his ministry peers in Tanzania.

Please join our Tanzania Travel Team in worship Sunday, Jan. 13 for a wonderful Tanzania celebration and time of sharing!



SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, Jan. 13
Tanzania celebration!



Gloria Williamson surrounded by just some of the Christmas gifts distributed to children who have an incarcerated parent through the Angel Tree program. Thank you to everyone who participated this year!



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

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To family and friends of **Keaton Larson**
- To family and friends of **Rebecca Marsnik**

THANK YOU!

A sincere thank you to Terry Arnesen for the Christmas trees in the Worship Center.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

December 2
9 am259
10:30 am178

December 9
9 am308
10:30 am199

December 16
10 am555

NAMI WASHINGTON COUNTY GAME DAY



**Sunday, January 20th
3:00-6:00pm**

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

Call:
651-645-2948 ext. 118
email:
affiliates@namimn.org



Join NAMI Washington County for our first ever Game Day this January!

This is a free event and all ages are welcome to join. Come enjoy snacks and board games with our NAMI Washington county volunteers. We will provide a variety of board games and card games, but you are welcome to bring your favorite games to share as well!

NAMI is partnering with Canvas Health for this event; both organizations will have a staffed table with local resources and informational handouts. Through this event we hope to encourage community involvement and acceptance of mental illness.



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.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAYS
9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. at Church

WEDNESDAYS
6 p.m. during Wednesday Faith Formation

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 TODAY

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CALENDAR JANUARY 1-31, 2019

Tuesday, January 1—New Year's Day/Staff Holiday, Building/Office Closed

7 am AA Meeting: Library

Wednesday, January 2

7 am AA Meeting: Library
5 pm Children's Choirs: Heritage Chapel
6 pm Leader Meeting Gr. 6-8: Offsite
6:30 pm Adult Faith Formation: Living Room

Thursday, January 3

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

Friday, January 4

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

Saturday, January 5

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

Sunday, January 6

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
10:30 am Adult Faith Formation: Living Room

Monday, January 7

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, January 8

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
6:30 pm Green Team Meeting: Office Conference Room
6:45 pm Anna Women's Circle: Members' Homes

Wednesday, January 9

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
6:30 pm Adult Faith Formation: Living Room
7 pm Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room & Worship Center
8 pm Wednesday Night Hoops Age 18+: Gym

Thursday, January 10

7 am AA Meeting: Library
9 am Retired Men's Group: Garden Room
9 am YogaDevotion Chair/Flow: Narthex
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, January 11

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

Saturday, January 12

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

Sunday, January 13

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
10:30 am Adult Faith Formation: Living Room
5 pm 60+ Singles Group: Living Room

Monday, January 14

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, January 15

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, January 16

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
6:30 pm Adult Faith Formation: Living Room
7 pm Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room & Worship Center
8 pm Wednesday Night Hoops Age 18+: Gym

Thursday, January 17

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

Friday, January 18

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

Saturday, January 19

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

Sunday, January 20—Winter Family Retreat at WAPO

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
10:30 am Adult Faith Formation: Living Room
1 pm CYF Tubing Day: Green Acres
3 pm NAMI Game Day: Garden Room

Monday, January 21—No School, Winter Family Retreat at WAPO

7 am AA Meeting: Library
6:30 pm Congregational Council Meeting: Office Conference Room
6:30 pm Tai Chi: Gym
7 pm Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tuesday, January 22—No School, Winter Family Retreat at WAPO

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
6:30 pm Outreach Missions Team Meeting: Office Conference Room

Wednesday, January 23

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

Thursday, January 24

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

Friday, January 25

7 am AA Meeting: Library
10 am Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B
5:30 pm GLOW Game Night: Garden Room & Gym

Saturday, January 26

8 am AA Meeting: Library
8 am Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B
Food for Thought Groups: Members' Homes

Sunday, January 27—Family Worship, No Faith Formation

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

Monday, January 28

7 am AA Meeting: Library
6:30 pm Tai Chi: Gym
7 pm Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tuesday, January 29

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, January 30

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
6:30 pm Adult Faith Formation: Living Room
7 pm Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room & Worship Center
8 pm Wednesday Night Hoops Age 18+: Gym

Thursday, January 31

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

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God Loving Outdoor Women



GLOW Game Night! Friday, Jan. 25, 5:30-8:30 pm Trinity Garden Room/Gym

Come shake off the winter blahs! Join GLOW for some fun, good natured competition. Kubk, indoor bocce ball, Pictionary or Scrabble anyone? Have a favorite game? Bring it along.

Bring an appetizer/snack or dessert and come play!

Questions? Contact Jill Longnecker at
Longneckerjill@yahoo.com or text/call 651-263-6802.