

trinity
Lutheran Church

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February 2019
volume 41, issue 2
www.trinitylc.org

love.transform.serve.

TRINITY TODAY



We  our amazing Trinity Choir and musical guests.

Please see Page 10.

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God has set God's seal."

— John 6: 26-27



LEAD PASTOR THE REV. DR. CHRIS BELLEFEUILLE

Relevance?

The Lord's Prayer

From time to time, someone will ask about why we use both versions of the Lord's Prayer in worship. Here is an excerpt from an email exchange:

The Lord's Prayer itself is based on the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 6. The "traditional" version of the Lord's Prayer is about 400 years old. The "modern" version of the prayer is arguably 40+ years old.

The modern version was an effort to better reflect Jesus' actual words in Matthew 6, to use language that people use in daily life and to fix some theological problems with the older version.

For example, Jesus says, "Do not bring us to the time of trial." The older prayer says, "Lead us not into temptation." There is a theological problem with suggesting that God would intentionally lead us into temptation. But asking God not to judge us is a theologically sound plaint.

Many churches have been slowly moving toward the modern one over the last decades. At Trinity, we use the modern version all but the first Sunday of the month, when we use the traditional one. And people are welcome to choose whichever version they like for funerals and weddings.

There is much more than can be said about the Lord's Prayer. While there are no immediate plans to change our practice, we will continue to ask questions. For example, the Bible tells us that we are all created in the image of God, so gender limiting language has its own problems. Do we want to limit the parental gender of God? Some churches pray: "Our Mother, Our Father..."

Something to talk about!

Relevance is a word *à la mode* for the church.

Merriam Webster defines relevance as: "relation to the matter at hand" or "practical and especially social applicability." Is it the role of the church to be practical and socially applicable? What does it mean for a church to be relevant? Or perhaps the more important question is: What does it mean for the Gospel to be relevant?

As the church, we are seekers, disciples of Jesus and proclaimers of the Gospel, in word and in action. We hear and tell the story of a God of abundant grace and steadfast love; then we live that love in the world.

The question about relevance arises because of the profoundly countercultural nature of the Gospel. Modern secular culture exhorts us to achieve, to spend, to acquire and to seek physical perfection. Whereas the Gospel exhorts us to give ourselves away, to live in service to our neighbors, to work for justice and peace, and to let go of our dedication to material acquisition. How could such a countercultural message be relevant!

Perhaps it helps to come at the question from another angle: Why is it so much easier to hear the seditious whispers of "you are fat," "you are a failure," "you could be a better parent" than it is to

hear the bold proclamation from the very mouth of God that you are good (tov in Hebrew), you are beloved, you belong, you have a role to play in God's dream?

The Gospel was never intended to make us more successful at living up to the world's standards. Quite the opposite. The Gospel calls us into a life that can, at times, be completely at odds with the world around us.

And yet, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news of God's goodness and grace is the most relevant word there is. The Gospel's relevance is grounded in the fact that Jesus is life for all people. The Gospel is relevant because in Christ we discover that, whoever you are, you are part of God's goodness. The Gospel is relevant because it gives us new eyes through which we can see Jesus in every neighbor: next door, across town, at work, in the pew behind you. The Gospel is relevant because it affirms that you have been gifted for partnership in God's dream and that you can live out that partnership in your daily work or in special service.

The countercultural relevance of the Gospel is risky. But it is a risk we take with God at our side. A risk we take in the context of a beloved community of fellow travelers. A risk that promises new life, even after the most devastating failure. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Chris

The Gospel was never intended to make us more successful at living up to the world's standards.

PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION
THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



Tidying Up with God

I'll be honest, I'm not the most tidy person in the world. My hair should be a good giveaway in that.

I grew up in a household that loved printed words—that was always filled with piles of books and stacks of paper. Usually on our dining room table.

Every night when we would eat dinner together as a family, we would have to move the stacks of letters, bills, and magazines to an adjacent shelf to make a little room for our food.

In my family, cleanliness was never next to Godliness. My folks were very faithful people but their way of creativity and saturation in words was also sometimes pretty messy.

I've also inherited that love of words and paper, and mess, but I learned pretty quickly and a little defiantly, that that wasn't going to fly in married life. We all create a little different nest together. My partner Ashley, who spent a little time growing up in Japan, invited me to try out the practices of the work of Marie Kondo and the *Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*. It's now become a hit Netflix show and is getting a lot of attention.

One of the things that really piqued my interest in *Tidying Up* was this desire for many of us to create simplicity and connectedness in our lives. It's about

having a vision. As a person of faith, I want who am I and what I have to be guided by what I believe about God. That's a spiritual process as much as just a physical one.

Marie helps in that spiritual process by getting us to a place of grace and gratitude with our stuff, regardless of our messiness. She loves the challenge of tidying up and she invites folks to be thankful for what they have, the protection of a house, and how it reflects our vision for the world.

She also calls us to look really closely at what we have and whether it sparks joy and love, or whether it would be better used by someone else to spark joy and love.

I'm learning a lot from the *Tidying Up* process, about what things bring me joy and what things I can thank and let go of. There is so much noise and distraction in our lives and it's important to remember that stuff can be a bondage to us.

Personally, I don't think God cares much whether our lives are a little physically messy or not. God knows our true mess. But I do think God cares whether our lives spark joy and love.

And maybe that also means loving our neighbors and loving the world a little more simply too.

Pastor Peter



Handprints from young people in Mwatasi.



GIFTS MANAGEMENT

Financial Note

Financially, results YTD for December 2018 were not as strong as December 2017. Contribution Income of \$185K for December 2018 was \$58K less than December 2017. \$36K of that decrease was due to pre-giving for 2018 in December 2017. A result of the tax law changes. The remaining difference may also be timing of giving to affect taxes by individuals. Actual "Christmas Offerings" were up by \$5,443 this Christmas at \$19,299! YTD our Contribution Income is \$56K less than a year ago. Total Income is off \$112K but, \$51K of that decrease is Missions revenue last year for Mexico. On the positive side our Operating Expenses are \$82K less than a year ago at this time. Personnel Expense is \$44K less YTD than last year. Also, on a very positive note: Our Line of Credit Balance as of 12/31/18 is zero! As of this writing we have managed to stay out of the line for over 30 days!

FEARLESS. FINANCIAL. WELLNESS.

By Zachary Lee, Stewardship Team

Fearless. Financial. Wellness can sound like something that simply doesn't go together. It can sound as strange as financial peace. Yet, in October of 2018 I had the privilege of meeting 10 incredible people who were working toward just that.

In October, I was blessed to meet this group, many who were couples, who came from various backgrounds (single, married, doctors, teachers, engineers, stay-at-home parent, retired) and everyone shared a common theme—they had financial goals that they were working on. No one was perfect, no one had it all figured out, and everyone was able to connect with the understanding that they wanted to improve in this area of their lives.

Finances can be scary, it can be overwhelming and sometimes it can be discouraging with knowing where to start. What should we prioritize? How can we save more? How are we ever going to pay for that?

That's why the three classes that we focused on were: *Living Without Fear*, *Taking Control*, and *Living Abundantly*.

In each class we built upon a foundation of looking at real-world examples of what we financially are challenged

with on a consistent basis, what scripture says about finances, and how we can live out our faith more abundantly in God's eyes.

This month's scripture theme comes from John 6: 26-27, Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God has set God's seal."

Every year since I've been on the Stewardship Team I have witnessed our congregation grow in the depths of our faith, support and love for each other and our community. This past year's Stewardship campaign has continued to show me the incredible power that God continues to fill in our spirit of giving and faith.

In 2019, I encourage you all to plan your financial future faithfully, live out your plan diligently, and continue to grace our blessed congregation with your prayers, your love and your support of our ever-growing and inclusive community. God Bless!

Trinity Financial Update

December Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2019

	This Year	Last Year	'19 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	446,606	502,870	1,350,000	33%
Other Income	217,925	229,329	507,000	43%
Total Income	<u>\$ 664,531</u>	<u>\$ 732,199</u>	<u>\$ 1,857,000</u>	
less: Expenses	622,681	676,386	1,852,000	34%
Surplus (Deficit)	<u><u>\$ 41,850</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 55,813</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,000</u></u>	

Long-Term Debt Summary:

Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,598,306 *	2,921,532
Increase (Decrease)	(27,590)	(43,513)
Long-Term Debt - End of December	<u><u>\$ 3,570,716</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,878,019</u></u>
Line of Credit Balance - December 31	\$ -	\$ 818,394

* Consolidation/Refinance of Existing Debt in May, 2018

From the Green Team

By Sheila Maybanks, Green Team

"God is entirely and personally present in the wilderness, in the garden, in the field."

"God writes the Gospel, not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and the clouds and the stars."

– Martin Luther

I was surprised to find these words of Martin Luther. We maybe think that our care and concern for the environment as something new, just in our troubled times.

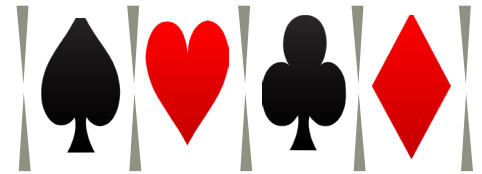
But care and concern for our Earth is rooted in the Bible—so, no surprise that Luther could be thinking about earth and God's plan for salvation.

In 1993 the ELCA adopted *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice*, a statement of the Biblical basis for caring for creation. Under the section "Current Crisis" it is heartbreaking to see that our situation has not



improved; it has worsened—global warming, loss of habitat, pollution—are further along than in 1993. But the statement offers *hope*, and calls for *justices*, and articulates how individuals and congregations might move forward in our care for the Earth.

You can read *Caring for Creation* at www.elca.org. There is also a copy in the Trinity Library!



BRIDGE FOR TRINITY

Monday, Feb. 4 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, call the church office to get in touch with Nancy Hokonson, Carol Huber, Phyllis Paulson, or Ann Wolff.



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

YogaDevotion Chair/Flow Combo Class

Thursdays 9 - 10 a.m. | Feb. 28 - April 18 | \$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 REGISTER, then 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.



This month highlight the final 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. February's prayer addresses the promise when searching for a Biblical sign of heaven.

A BIBLICAL SIGN OF HEAVEN

Job 19: 25

I know that my Redeemer lives and that in the end He will stand on the earth, and after my skin has been destroyed yet in my flesh I will see God, I myself will see Him with my own eyes. How my heart yearns within me.

PRAYER

Dear Lord God,
We are grateful for the Holy Bible, our bedrock of Christian faith. The Holy Scripture gives us assurance of a reality called Heaven. The first biblical mention of a relationship with you that points beyond death is in the book of Job.

Lord, thank you for your Spirit that inspired the writing of this great hymn at the end of the 18th century.

I know that my Redeemer lives.

What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, He lives, who once was dead

He lives, my ever-living Head.

Amen.

– Chuck and Flo Claus



WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL FORUM: **DAVID HOGG: Putting the USA over the NRA**

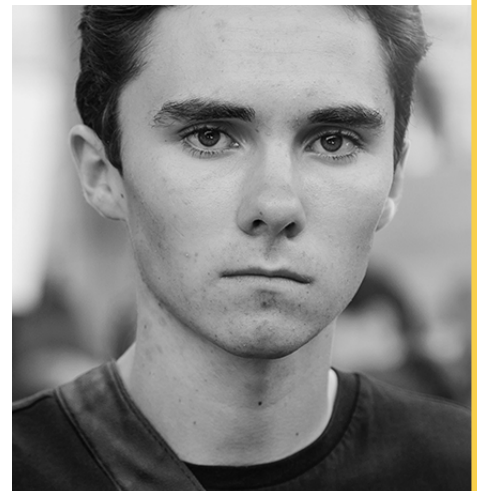
Tuesday, March 19 at Noon

David Hogg is a survivor of the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. He is among twenty Parkland students who founded Never Again MSD, a gun control advocacy group, and he is a founding member of March for Our Lives, one of the largest youth-led movements in the world. An advocate for ending gun violence in America, he has traveled the country calling for voter participation, civic engagement, and social activism. He and his younger sister, Lauren, are co-authors of the bestselling book *#NeverAgain: A New Generation Draws the Line* and contributors to the book *Glimmer of Hope: How Tragedy Sparked a Movement*, a compilation of writings from the founders of March for Our Lives. A recent graduate of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, he has received letters of acceptance from several universities but has chosen to take a year off to work on the 2018 midterm elections and to continue his activism on gun policy reform.

Free Event with light lunch included. Open to all! Mark your calendars for this exciting event. Signup will begin Feb. 10 in the Commons. Questions? Contact Joan Fogelberg at joan@123m.com



Westminster Town Hall Forum



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. Regular meetings on the second and fourth Sundays each month, with member activities planned each week! For a list of events or more information, please send an e-mail to: 60plussolo@gmail.com.

RETIRED MEN'S GROUP EVENTS

Snowshoeing Event

Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 10 am

Information including the event location, etc. will be sent out in early February. Includes a lesson, approximately one-hour nature hike and a bonfire afterwards with coffee, cocoa and s'mores.

Kerri Kolstad of "Wahoo! Adventures" will provide snowshoes, poles and lead the snowshoeing lesson. Cost is \$25/person for snowshoes, poles and the lesson. A \$5 discount if you provide your own snowshoes and poles. Sign-up is required as we have a limited number of openings left.

Below is a photo of the snowshoe gear that will be provided. These are the metal-framed snowshoes that are lighter weight and more streamlined than the old style snowshoes making it much easier to walk in snowshoes as it is more of a normal walking gait. Questions and to RSVP, contact John Hodler at 651-343-4638.



Valentine's Day Event

Thursday, Feb. 14 at 5:30 pm

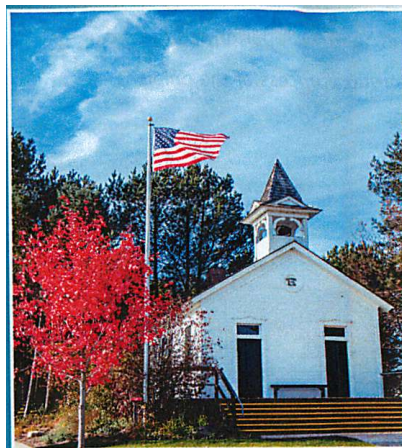
First Presbyterian Historic Church
Replica at 5597 Norwich Parkway,
Stillwater MN 55082

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 651-398-6726.



First Presbyterian Historic Church Replica

New Bell Museum & Planetarium

Wednesday, March 13

Meet at Trinity at 12:30 pm to carpool, \$18

Everyone is welcome for a guided tour of the New Bell Museum followed by the planetarium show. We will meet at Trinity prior to traveling to the Museum which is located on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus. The guided tour will be from 1:30-2:40 pm and the planetarium show will be 2:45-3:35 pm. Our special rates are \$12 for the Museum's tour/entry fee plus \$6 for the planetarium show. Payment is to Trinity Lutheran church, mark RMG Bell Museum on the check.

The new museum is experiencing large attendance numbers. Therefore, sign-up for this event must be completed by Feb. 19. Please RSVP to John Hodler at johnhodler@gmail.com or 651-343-4638.





Summer Camps for ages K-12

Registration is now open!

trinitylc.org > Learning > Summer > Camps

Spots fill quickly, so don't delay!



WAPO One-day Camp

Completed Grades K-2

Wednesday, July 17

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost: \$35

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

WAPO Seeds Camp

Completed Grades 1-3

July 12-14 Cost: \$175

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

trinitylc.org > Learning > Summer > Camps

WAPO Youth Camp

Completed Grades 4-8

July 14-19 Cost: \$455

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

WAPO Senior High Camp

Completed Grades 9-12

July 14-19 Cost: \$455

This program provides Senior High youth the opportunity to dig deeper in faith while growing in relationship with their peers. Each day will include Bible study, prayer practices, caring conversation, worship, games and community building. Senior High campers will spend a majority of their time at Ox Lake while also participating in some activities at the Wapo site throughout the week. Registration on Sunday and pick up on Friday will happen at the Ox Lake site. Come enjoy the fun and excitement of camp catered to Senior High Youth. Questions? Contact Monty Lysne at mlysne@trinitylc.org

Family Camp

July 19-21 OR Aug. 9-11

Join us for a weekend of faith formation and fun for the whole family! Create memories with one another through classic camp activities but also be challenged through age-specific programming. We are excited for a weekend growing in relationship with one another and Jesus Christ. More info: <http://campwapo.org/camp/wapo#family-camp>

High School Trip

Kayaking/Hiking at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Montana

June 15-22 Cost: \$435

Spend a week combining two fun and exciting adventures: two days kayaking on beautiful lake Koocanusa, camping out of your own kayak. After plying the crystal clear waters of Lake Koocanusa, spend two more days climbing the beautiful cliffs that rise above the water. Haven't climbed before? Never fear! Our guide has routes for all levels and abilities. Spend evening camping around Koocanusa cooking meals and enjoying time for reflection and Bible study. Questions? Contact Monty Lysne at mlysne@trinitylc.org

TRINITY'S DISCOVERY CENTER PRESCHOOL EXPANSION ANNOUNCEMENT

We are excited to announce a wonderful opportunity to serve more families with young children in the Trinity and Stillwater community.

Infant Programming is coming to Trinity's Discovery Center Fall of 2019!

Babies are ready to learn! Even before they can crawl, babies are exploring and learning, using their natural senses to explore the world. Trinity's Infant Program will encourage this learning by providing hands-on opportunities to touch, taste, smell and listen to the world around us in a safe and nurturing environment.

The Infant Program at Trinity will offer full-time, 8 or 10 hour/day schedules with YEAR-ROUND enrollment, beginning this September. (Infant Room children will receive priority placement in Trinity's Toddler Program (Explorers) when 16 months old in June, September, October or November.)

For more information, request an info/tuition book or schedule a tour visit ladcfamilies.org.



LAKE AREA
Discovery Center

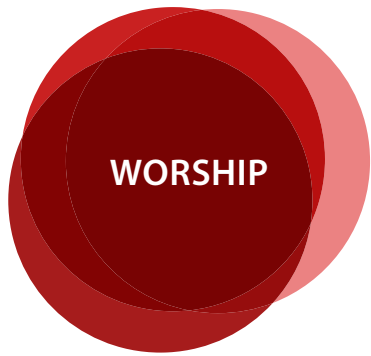
INFANT PROGRAMMING IS COMING TO TRINITY'S DISCOVERY CENTER FALL OF 2019!

BELOW: Thirteen young people helped serve breakfast on Dec. 16 and raised nearly \$1,400 for summer activities.

Thank you to Jerry & Arlene Herbst for securing a Thrivent Action Team grant to offset the cost of food and making this event a great success.

Thank you to all of our volunteers and participants for your partnership in making ministry happen here at Trinity!





WORSHIP

Worship Texts

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

February 3 **Luke 5: 33-39** Parables

February 10 **Luke 11: 5-13** Parables

February 17 **John 6: 26-71** Jesus Challenges

February 24 **John 7: 1-31** Calm Before Storm

Within These Walls By Carol Carver, Worship Director

A few years ago, I wrote an article for *Trinity Today* entitled "Within These Walls". I wanted to let you know about all the amazing things that happen, and are open to you, in our worship center/sanctuary. After a remarkable fall and December I thought it time to update you—and invite you again to all the goodness.

Our concert series is part of the outreach of Trinity: a way to say to absolutely everyone—whether you are a member, an occasional worshipper, or just a music lover—you are welcome here—come share this beautiful space with us.

In the past months we have hosted Cantus, a phenomenal men's singing group that travels the world, the world renowned St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Compass Rose Brass, the Croix Chordsmen and the Valley Chamber Chorale. If you are driving to the Cities for your music fix, remember, we have it right here at Trinity! The parking is free, the acoustic is stellar, the restaurants are close and you will see your friends and neighbors in the audience. AND NOW, the lighting is amazing.

On Dec. 16 the Trinity Choir joined with the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra (SCVSO) to bring an amazing concert to the space—featuring the Trinity Choir, the SCVSO and a host of Trinity soloists: Phil Kadidlo played the piano, Susan Carr read Maya Angelou, Zanny Johnson gave us a gorgeous rendition of "The Rose" and Jonathan Prescott delighted us with his stunning baritone voice. Jonathan is a new member who has sung around the world. We are thrilled to have him among us, and sharing his music with us.

Looking forward I encourage you to take note of the many opportunities coming up over the next few months—the Valley Chamber Chorale brings gorgeous choral music, as does the men's group Cantus and the Stillwater High School concert choir. The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra will be back—and for as little as \$10 you and your family can hear the best in the world.

We are blessed to have this space to share with our community. Come hear for yourself what beautiful sounds there are within these walls.



Jonathan Prescott

Trinity Choir



Please visit www.trinitylc.org > WORSHIP & MUSIC > MUSIC > CONCERT SERIES

Welcoming our new Hospitality Coordinator

By Trudi Lohne, Hospitality Coordinator

Hello Church Family,

My name is Trudi, and I have taken on the responsibility of Hospitality Coordinator here at Trinity. I realize that there are big shoes to fill, and a seemingly daunting task ahead of me, yet thankfully I have big feet J and an attitude of gratitude for life along with a sense of responsibility that comes from God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior with daily inspiration from the Holy Spirit. I find daily inspiration through the words that are found in 1 Peter 4:11 (NIV).

"If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever."

And, I often say to myself "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can..." when facing new or unfamiliar opportunities. Those oft used lines come from Watty Piper's 'The Little Engine That Could' story. If all y'all ever hear me say, "choo choo..." then know at that moment echoing in my gray matter is "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can..."

My son, Benson, and I, along with a miniature dachshund, Minnie, have lived in Stillwater for a little over six years. We have been attending Trinity regularly for five months. The opportunity to help Trinity's Hospitality Team by being part of the coffee crew was available in December, so I took it.

I did enjoy helping Ann Wolff make the coffee, set up the coffee service areas, get ice for the water and lemonade, and set out the treats. We talked as we worked and each of us come away learning something we hadn't known before. I call times like this 'cake moments' because just like it takes different ingredients, work, and time to make a cake, so too it takes people spending time working together to make meaningful experiences happen (cake moments).

Now, my "icing moment" came seeing all y'all drinking coffee/tea, hearing all the voices in conversation, seeing the kiddos running up to get a treat and a lemonade/water, and watching all the connected people.

I like both challenges and connecting with people, so I look forward to the task of coordinating the Trinity Hospitality Team. There are a lot greeters, ushers, and coffee crewmates on the list I was given and I hope to get to meet and know each of you. Thank you for your dedication to the important ministry of hospitality.

The greatest need on the Trinity Hospitality Team is for teammates at the 10:30 a.m. services. If you have time and the desire to help on the coffee crew, greet at the doors, or usher during the service please contact me. Thank you!

Call or text: 612-839-9006

Email: trudishelpinghands@gmail.com



Lent begins on *Ash Wednesday, March 6*

Ash Wednesday worship at Noon & 6 pm

Will include a meal, watch for more details.

Wednesday worship during Lent at 10 am & 6 pm

Corresponding book study and author visit *Love Without Limits* by Jacqueline Bussie—watch for more details!





Thrivent Members—
Did You Know?

Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2019, to direct any remaining 2018 Choice Dollars. Help support Trinity Lutheran Church. Choice dollars are designated equally between Outreach Missions and Building. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.



Valley Outreach

FOOD | CLOTHING | EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

A NOTE FROM VALLEY OUTREACH: WE NEED YOU!

Valley Outreach has seen incredible growth over the past year and has presented us with even more opportunities for volunteers to help!

To start this process, church members need to complete an application and attend an orientation using our community volunteer process:

- * Complete an application at <http://valleyoutreachmn.org/volunteermain.aspx>
- * Click on the green "APPLY NOW"
- * After you have completed the on-line application, you will sign up for an orientation
- * Create YOUR OWN SCHEDULE to volunteer!

Are you excited yet? Please see below for available orientation dates:

Tuesday, January 22	Tuesday, February 19
5:00-5:30 pm	5:00-5:30 pm

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Josh Cobb, Volunteer Manager
Valley Outreach
651-430-2739
Josh.Cobb@valleyoutreachmn.org



Celebratory worship service on Sunday, Jan. 6



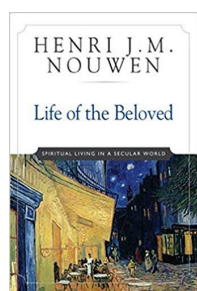
On Sunday, Jan. 6 we celebrated that Trinity is officially a Reconciling in Christ community that welcomes all God's people believing that all people are created in God's image. Thank you to our Welcoming Ministry Team for leading this process. To read the welcome statement, view the entire worship service, or read about the reconciling process, please visit www.trinitylc.org > WELCOME > WHO WE ARE > RECONCILING IN CHRIST.



From the Trinity Library By Norma Wilson, Library Volunteer



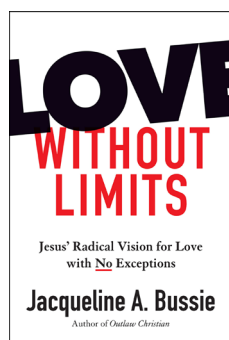
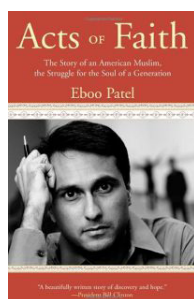
Recently, during a lunch conversation between Trinity women, the topic of choosing a personal word for the year was discussed. You can actually google “choosing a word for the year,” finding tips for selecting a word, the purpose for a word, and a word generator. Susan chose a word and posted it inside her back hallway as a family mantra for the year. Kristie found a word when she read a post by pastor and author Rachel Held Evans. Evans suggested the word “Beloved,” a word she found celebrated in the book, “Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World” by Henri Nouwen. God said, “This is my Beloved Son.” Trinity reflects God’s words with: “You are a Beloved Child of God. Welcome!” and “Because God first loved us, we live as Jesus in the world, loving God and loving neighbor.”



Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World (248.4 NOUW) Nouwen has written several books focusing on spiritual living. The heart of Nouwen’s teaching in this book “is his conviction that

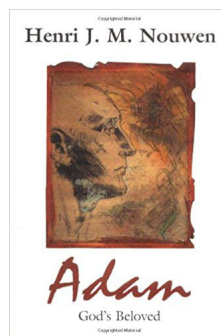
regardless of our religious tradition, we are beloved by God, but our ability to share that gift of belovedness with others is only as great as our ability to claim it for ourselves.” (E.Cottrell reviewer heartspoken.com)

Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation (290 PATE) Eboo Patel has an Oxford PHD in Sociology and founded the Interfaith Youth Core, “an organization that unites young people of different religions to perform community service and explore their common values.” He feels that interfaith understanding is the key. “This autobiography of a young activist captures how an angry youth can be transformed—by faith, by the community....” and become leaders in the cause for peace. (Publishers Weekly 2018)

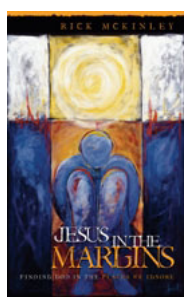


This book, a selection for a Trinity Congregational book study, provides practical suggestions for people of faith who yearn for inclusivity. Four copies of this book are available in the Trinity Library.

Adam, Beloved Child of God (248.8 NOUW) In the story of Adam, a severely handicapped young man, Nouwen “found a way to describe his own understanding of the Gospel message. Adam could not speak or even move without assistance. Grippled by frequent seizures, he spent his life in obscurity. And yet, for Nouwen, Adam became “my friend, my teacher, and my guide.” It was Adam who led Nouwen to a new understanding of his faith and what it means to be Beloved of God.” (Orbis Publisher) Study Guide available.

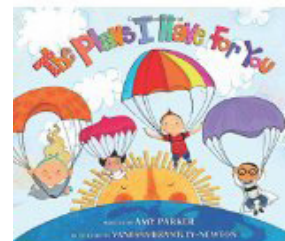


Love Without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for Love With No Exceptions (248 BUSS) Religion professor, Jacqueline Bussie urges readers to “love as God loves—without limits or exceptions.”



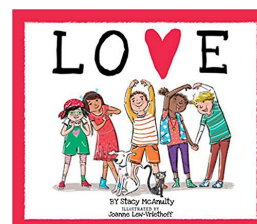
can identify with life in the margins because when God came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ, He landed in the margins. On purpose. And He chose to land there because it’s in the margins that broken lives get mended, prisoners are set free, and the poor hear the Good News.” (Multnomah Publishers)

Jesus in the Margins (248.4 MCK) “...Jesus knows what it’s like to be marginalized. He understands how it feels to have society shove you to the side, to not really be accepted, and in the end to be totally rejected. He



The Plans I Have for You (E P) Through illustrations and rhyme, author Parker describes the YOU Factory where God

gives each person the gifts to do the work that would allow them to do the work they were created to be, fulfilling a special purpose and making the world a better place.



Love (E M) McNulty describes how love connects family and community through sharing time and simple gestures of

kindness. The book shares diversity in culture and religion, adoption, use of sign language and family structure.

We would love to have you visit the Trinity Library on the lower level of the church near the third street ramp. You will find hundreds of books to provide award winning reading fiction and nonfiction to guide your understanding of: “Because God first loved us, we live as Jesus in the world, loving God and loving neighbor.”

See BOOK REVIEW on the next page.

BOOK REVIEW:

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine
by Gail Honeyman

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine (FIC HONE) is a poignant, funny and heart warming story about a highly intelligent and extremely socially awkward young woman. Eleanor lives a solitary and minimal existence in which her office job is her only avenue of social interaction with the world. Regarded by her peers as an oddity in the work setting, she performs her tasks without alliances and then secludes herself in her home where she indulges in a love obsession that provides a spark to counter her loneliness. She often appears to be accepting and even content with her life but given occasional glimpses into an escalating set of self-destructive behaviors the reader slowly becomes aware of the quiet desperation that rules her existence. She has carefully constructed a life filled with idiosyncrasies which, we learn, are dedicated to emotional survival.

Just when hopelessness seems to be winning the day, Eleanor is rescued by a series of events that break into her life of isolation and force social and emotional connections in the form of an elderly man's health crisis and a big-hearted co-worker whose simple kindness and acceptance mentors her engagement in the world.

Eleanor's lack of exposure to normal life experiences makes her somewhat of a foreigner in her own culture. Her narration reveals a snide and often hilarious perception of the social norms and niceties in the outside world that is passing her by. The author masterfully weaves Eleanor's story with sparingly dropped clues as to a traumatic past and the seeds of her emotional stultification. A couple of brilliant plot twist towards the end wraps up the story in an emotionally satisfying and intellectually rewarding way.

— Jerilyn Jackson
(Tuesday Book Club)

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

2018	2019
December 21	January 6
7 p.m.....40	9 a.m.258
	10:30 a.m.227
December 23	January 13
9 a.m.243	9 a.m.235
10:30 a.m.122	10:30 a.m.191
December 24	January 20
11 a.m.260	9 a.m.204
2 p.m.201	10:30 a.m.136
3 p.m.519	
4 p.m.555	
9 p.m.368	
December 25	
10 a.m. NA	
December 30	
10 a.m.232	

BAPTISM

- Remi Lee Piniewski, daughter of Shawn & Heather Piniewski

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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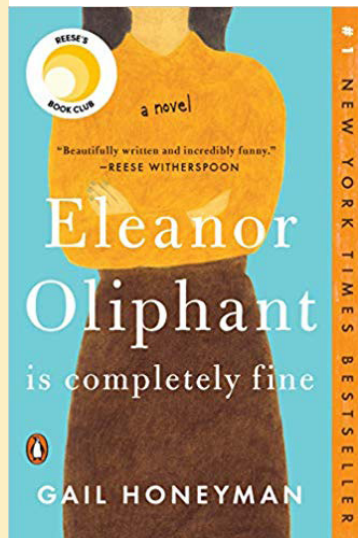
Editor, Design & Layout: Marilee Tangen
Articles for the next *Trinity Today* (March issue) are due Monday, February 11, to begin arriving in mailboxes Friday, February 22.

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Email: info@trinitylc.org

Trinity Today is available on Trinity's web site at www.trinitylc.org (click NEWS to download a PDF).

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CALENDAR FEBRUARY 1-28, 2019

Friday, February 1

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

Saturday, February 2

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

Sunday, February 3

- 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, February 4

- 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, February 5

- 7:30 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, February 6

- 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, February 7

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

Friday, February 8—9th Grade Confirmation Retreat

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

Saturday, February 9—9th Grade Confirmation Retreat

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

Sunday, February 10

- 9 am Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 9 am Faith Formation (Age 4-Gr. 2): Garden 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
- 6 pm Chipotle High School Ministry Dreaming & Planning Night: Worship Center

Monday, February 11

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

Tuesday, February 12

- 7 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, February 13

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 9:30 am Boutwell's Sr. Communion: Boutwell's Landing
- 10 am Retired Men's Group Snowshoeing Event: Offsite
- 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, February 14

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 9 am YogaDevotion Chair/Flow: Narthex
- 1 pm Martha Women's Circle: Living Room
- 1:30 pm Dorcas Women's Circle: Room 108B
- 5:30 pm Retired Men's Group Valentine's Event: First Presbyterian Church Replica at Boutwell's
- 7 pm Al-Anon & Alateen Meeting: Room 108, Youth Center

Friday, February 15

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

Saturday, February 16

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

Sunday, February 17

- 9 am Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 9 am Faith Formation (Age 4-Gr. 2): Garden 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, February 18

- 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, February 19

- 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, February 20

- 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, February 21

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

Friday, February 22—EPIC Middle School Lock-in

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

Saturday, February 23—EPIC Middle School Lock-in

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

Sunday, February 24

- 9 am Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 9 am Faith Formation (Age 4-Gr. 2): Garden 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, February 25

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

Tuesday, February 26

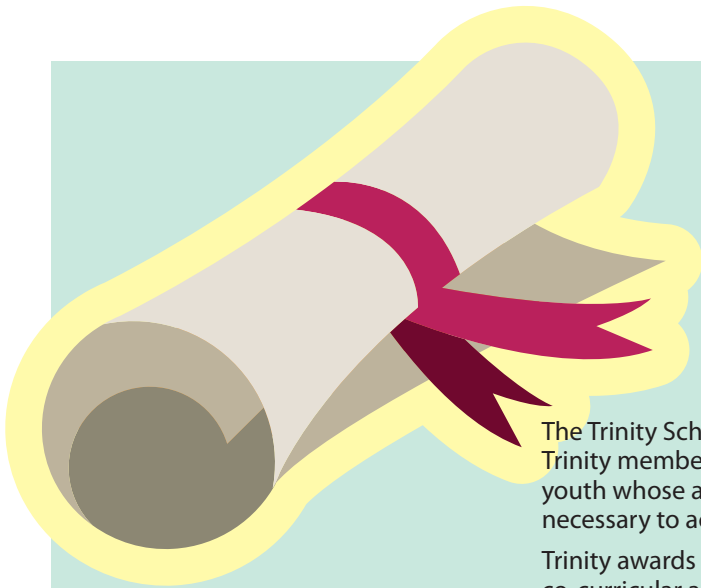
- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 8:30 am Women's Bible Study: Living Room
- 9 am Women's Book Club: Library
- 1 pm Prayer Group: Church Office
- 4 pm Quilting Ministry Group: Living Room
- 6 pm AA Meeting: Library
- 6:30 pm Outreach Missions Team Meeting: Office Conference Room

Wednesday, February 27

- 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, February 28

- 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



TRINITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Trinity Scholarship Fund was established by the estate of Jeanette Johnson, a Trinity member who dreamed of being able to offer college tuition assistance to youth whose achievement and character indicated they possessed the qualities necessary to achieve excellence in higher education.

Trinity awards up to four scholarships each year on the basis of academic status, co-curricular achievement, good citizenship and active involvement at Trinity. The trust also stipulates that scholarship recipients must be baptized at and confirmed by Trinity, and active participants in Trinity youth programs.

Once selected, scholarship winners may renew their scholarships for up to three additional years, providing they maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 or a "B-" or, in the absence of a similar grading system, remain in "fine academic standing" as indicated by official record. Scholarship recipients must reapply each year for renewal.

Scholarship applications are available online at www.trinitylc.org (then LEARNING, then YOUTH, then SCHOLARSHIP FUND).

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

**APPLICATIONS DUE
APRIL 1**