



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

115 4th St. N
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-439-7400
www.trinitylc.org

December 2019
volume 41, issue 12

trinity TODAY

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



Advent & Christmas schedule see Pages 10 & 11

Sunday Faith Formation photos see Page 15

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people."
– Luke 2: 9-10



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

Waiting for the light

Waiting for the light.

This past weekend I had the great joy of spending three days with our eldest daughter, Maggie. She had purchased Ted's car and flew home from Northeastern Ohio, where she lives, to drive it back. I rode back with her, eager for time together and looking forward to being immersed in the life she has built for herself in Akron. (Which is a remarkably vibrant city!)

As Monday in Akron dawned, I woke with an ache in my bones that augers the arrival of an intense low-pressure system. Pulling back the drapes revealed an eerily gloomy day; not entirely unlike the deep threat of a June storm. But without the energy and anticipation of something coming. Maggie said that is what winters are like in Akron. Heavy, leaden gray. Warmer than ours, wetter. But with less sunshine.

My flight to MSP from Cleveland was an early one and we landed in sparkling sunshine. My spirit was hungry for the light. Hungrier than I had realized. And this after just a day and a half in the darkness.

Advent is a season set aside for waiting and watching. It was built into the liturgical year so that we—who are post-Easter people—can experience what it felt like to wait for a Messiah. For centuries, the people of God waited, hungry for light. Hungrier

perhaps than they realized. They were not a people without hope. After all, they trusted in God's ancient and abiding promise of deliverance. But the prophet Isaiah called them "the people who walked in darkness...."

Their darkness was not the darkness of an Akron winter. But it would not have been unlike the personal darkness of seasonal affective disorder, depression, grief, abuse, isolation or neglect. Neither would it have been unlike the communal darkness of poverty, oppression, conflict, exclusion, racism, or xenophobia.

Advent starts on Sunday, Dec. 1. Your pastors and worship leaders invite you to experiment with a seasonal discipline of weekly worship for the four weeks of Advent. Choose one service to attend each week or alternate between the two. Maybe one Sunday you will worship elsewhere with friends. But try the experience of letting weekly worship undergird your waiting and support you in whatever darkness in which you find yourself.

We also encourage you to step away from as much busy-ness as you can. Give yourself time to wait, time to anticipate, time to watch the darkness. Let the holy hunger of waiting on God lead you into the joy of what comes by the light of a glittering star. After a disciplined wait, Christmas comes with a poignant and deep joy, reaching into all the hungry, hidden places of your body, mind and soul. Filling you with a hope and joy that is enduring, even through the long Minnesota (and Ohio) winters.

Together and individually, we are entering a deeply holy time of year. May you be blessed as together we make our way through Advent.

In peace and longing,

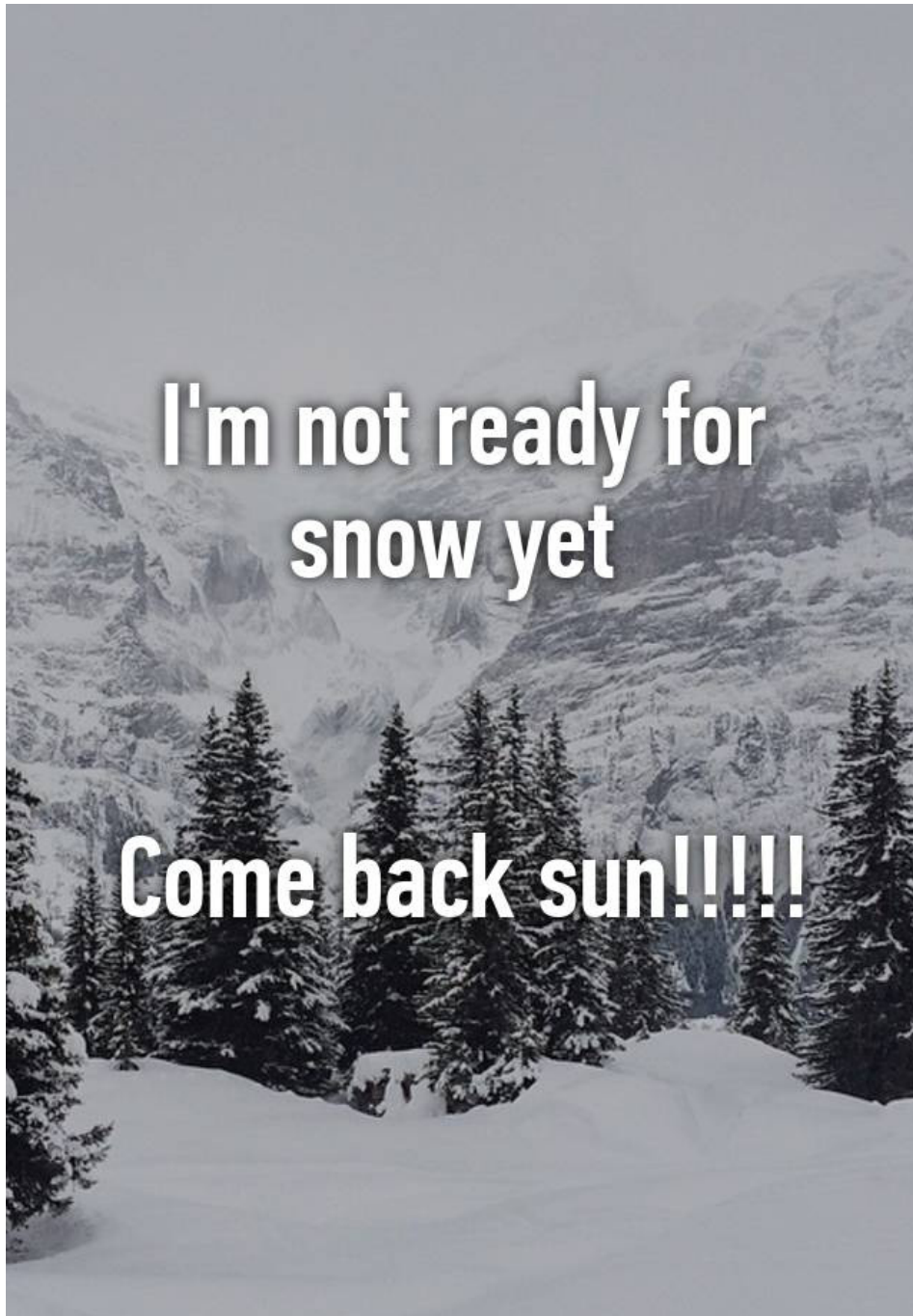
Pastor Chris



PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION
THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



NOT READY YET



I don't know about you, but I am not ready for winter.

I haven't even gotten all the leaves up yet. I still need to bleed my pipes so they don't freeze. I need to fire up my snow thrower so that it's ready when an actual snow storm hits.

It's amazing all the little pieces we do and prepare to survive this arctic climate.

But if I think about really hard, past my list of to-dos, I know that this season is and will always be full of beautiful traditions, renewed intentionality, and thoughtful anticipation.

We do the same things over and over. Maybe you do too.

We love going to Augsburg's Advent Vespers and listening to the choirs, and the poetry, and watch the movement of the candlelight.

We love counting down the days to Christmas with Advent Acts of Kindness and committing to service as a family as much as new toys.

It's also in Advent that we celebrate our oldest child's birth.

It's full. It's holy. It's lovely. It's magical.

And—I'm not ready.

Maybe the world never is.

But that's the great promise isn't it?

That regardless of if we feel or think we are ready, God chooses to enter our story. God makes a home among mortals. Jesus will be born.

And the whole chorus sings.

May this season of Joy and Light be a welcome sight for you and for your neighbors.

Even if you aren't ready.

Happy Advent,

Pastor Peter



Trinity Financial Update

October Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2020

	This Year	Last Year	'20 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	163,729	170,846	1,350,000	12%
Other Income	60,542	165,089	342,550	18%
Total Income	<u>\$ 224,271</u>	<u>\$ 335,935</u>	<u>\$ 1,692,550</u>	
less: Expenses	266,377	365,689	1,691,330	16%
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$ (42,106)</u>	<u>\$ (29,754)</u>	<u>\$ 1,220</u>	

Long-Term Debt Summary:

Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,410,152	3,598,306 *
Increase (Decrease)	(13,942)	13,746
Long-Term Debt - End of October	<u>\$ 3,396,210</u>	<u>\$ 3,612,053</u>
 Line of Credit Balance - October 31	 \$ 26,000	 \$ 33,924

* Consolidation/Refinance of Existing Debt in May, 2018

Family Christmas Caroling Monday, Dec. 23, 2-4 pm

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



designed by freepik



Generous God, Grateful People.

By Dick Engdahl, Guest Author

As a member who isn't visible or out front leading the Stewardship emphasis here at Trinity, I was uncertain when asked how to approach writing this column. My first thought was my need to express appreciation and say thank you to Claudia Swendseid and her Stewardship Team. These good folks devote time and effort year round to developing a comprehensive emphasis which strengthens and invigorates our collective understanding and commitment to Stewardship. I appreciate their work helping to fund Trinity's mission and ministry so that we can love and serve each other and further God's Kingdom—or as this year's theme emphasizes: Generous God, Grateful People.

While trying to bring my thoughts back to the task at hand, I noticed squirrels scurrying around our back yard, mostly comprised of a contingent of aggressive black squirrels. One black squirrel was gathering sunflower seeds from the ground under our bird feeder, probably preparing for cold and snow. A couple grey squirrels were trying to barge in, but they were quickly chased off by the black squirrel. Must be that the black squirrel doesn't believe in sharing the harvest?

That said, Stewardship has always been a challenging word for me to understand—and I assume it challenges others as well. Someone once told me Stewardship begins with God's Grace and that it encourages faith in action. This broad definition

suggests that I am not the owner, but a manager or steward of God's many gifts and blessings.

It is a challenge for me to fully accept that I don't own anything, that I am only a steward of all that I have and all that I am. I have to admit when I receive my monthly social security check my first thought is not that this belongs to God. After all, it has my name on it. But when I truly reflect on my blessings I fully, and I hope humbly, acknowledge a multitude of blessings—my wife Sharon, my family, career, health, financial resources, the blessings of retirement, heading south to escape the winter, and on and on. Through this wider lens I can praise God as the creator and owner and more fully respond to His incredible love through Jesus, His son. When I reflect on the big picture—on all of my blessings—I am enabled to respond with less emphasis on my ownership and more as a Christian Steward.

I'm pleased that the Stewardship Team, along with our pastors, challenges us to participate, to belong, to make the most of all that we are and of His many blessings to us. Is there no difference for them to educate and inform us of our Stewardship responsibilities than for them to teach and preach on the Ten Commandments? And being a manager does include funding Trinity's mission and ministry. The church should not refrain from calling us to be grateful and generous. As long as there are human beings with bodies and souls, our congregation will require material things in order to minister to them

from cradle to grave.

Obviously there are numerous other volunteers and Committees that deserve our thanks and gratitude. And we are so blessed with our pastors and our staff. I am grateful for the word and sacrament ministry, the Christ-centered theological foundation, the desire to reach out beyond the congregation, and the emphasis on inclusiveness—as well as the uplifting sprinkles of humor during worship. These mission and ministry values add to my motivation to financially support this faith community.

As a member of the Green Team Committee, I am also thankful that many recognize the need to face head on the threats to God's creation and to manage and use wisely our natural resources for the betterment of humanity and the planet on which we live.

And so I continue on my Stewardship journey. Sharon and I have pledged to this year's Generous God Grateful People emphasis. Many of you have also responded, and as a fellow member I say thank you.

I also recall a time-honored cliché that says "To do nothing is to make a decision." So if you haven't yet made a financial pledge, I encourage you to sit down, take a few minutes to reflect on your blessings, both large and small, and to then make a prayerful decision to pledge. It is your faith in response to a generous God—and it really feels good.

I'm just hoping the grey squirrels find an abundant source of sunflower seeds. Let's all pray for lots of generosity and gratitude!

"Must I be giving again and again, forever?"

"Oh, No," said the Angel – with a glance that pierced me through.

"Just give till the Master stops giving to you."

It's not so much what you gather but rather what you scatter.

The Gift of Books in the Trinity Library

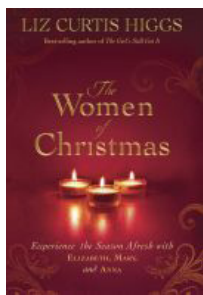
By Norma Wilson, Library Volunteer

JÓLABÓKAFLÓÐ, or the “Icelandic Book Flood” is the annual flood of new books in Iceland that occurs in the months before Christmas. According to tradition, when everyone has received the gift of a book they don their new pajamas, climb into fresh bed sheets and spend the night reading. How wonderful is the gift of a book. You may have learned about this tradition in a bookstore, in travel, or in a past *Trinity Today* article. Our Trinity Library is a special gift from many givers, and so once again we share this tradition.

The Trinity Library has numerous resources, truly gifts, to help guide daily living as we begin this New Year. Dietrich Bohnhoeffler in his book, *Life Together* (284.1 BOHN), speaks of gifts. “Christians, in their wholehearted joy in the good gifts of this physical life, acknowledge Jesus as the true giver of all good gifts; and beyond this, as the True Gift.”

Visit the Trinity Library to receive the following gifts:

The True Gift: Jesus Unto Us Is Born (242.3 BROK)



The Women of Christmas Experience the Season Afresh with Elizabeth, Mary and Anna (232.92 HIGG)

Christ the Lord Out of Egypt: A Novel (FIC RICE)

The Story of Christmas (BB P – Children’s Boardbook)

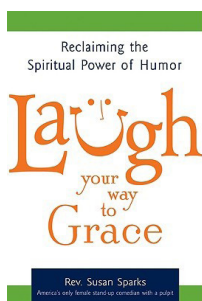
The Gift of Laughter

101 Ways to Get Your Adult Children to Move Out: And Make Them Think It Was Their Idea (818.54 MELH) Trinity’s Rich Melheim (Pastor, DMN)

Laugh Your Way to Grace: Reclaiming the Spiritual Power of Humor (233.5 SPAR)

Holy Humor Inspirational Wit and Cartoons (242.0 SPAR)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Double Down (JUV K)



The Gift of Friendship



Authentic Relationships (241.6 JACO)

The Kite Runner (FIC HOSS)

Goodbye Friend! Hello Friend! (E D)

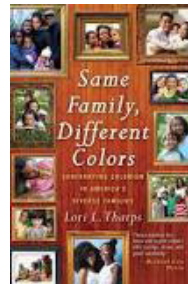
Grandparenting A Child with Autism: The Joy, Frustration and Growth of Living With Autism (618.9 GRUB) Sylvia Grubb, Trinity Author

The Gift of Welcome

Same Family, Different Colors: Confronting Colorism in America’s Diverse Families (305.8 THAR)

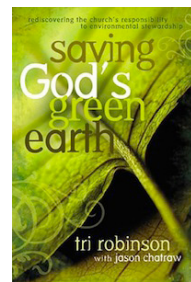
Dear Church: A Love Letter From A Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S. (286.6 DUNC)

God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical case in Support of Same Sex Relationship (261.8 VINE)



The Gift of Creation

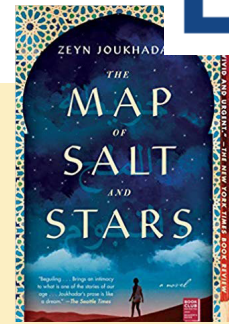
The Adventures of An Aluminum Can: A Story About Recycling (E 363.7 I)



Saving God’s Green Earth: Rediscovering the Church’s Responsibility to Environmental Stewardship (248 ROBI)

The Bullhead Queen: A Year on Pioneer Lake (508.7 LEAF)

So why are books such an important gift in Iceland? Children see grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles and cousins reading. Reading becomes a normal part of the day. Check out some books from the Trinity Library, and give yourself the gift of reading!



BOOK REVIEW

As *The Map of Salt and Stars* by Jennifer Zeynab Joukhadar begins, ten year old Nour and her family are moving from New York to Homs, Syria to be near relatives after the death of her beloved father. Within months of returning to their homeland, the enormity of their mistake is revealed as protests roil the streets and the bombs that were once thought to be a distant threat have crept closer. Tragedy inevitably strikes and the story is thrust into the horrific chaos that became an every day reality for the people of this country. They flee for their lives and become refugees seeking safety and home in a dangerous trek across the Middle East.

Nour, as narrator, brings to the novel the simple innocence and discovery of childhood. Having spent her young life in New York, she also brings western eyes to a very different land and circumstances that are hard for much of the world to grasp. A parallel story runs through the book as she recalls her father’s epic bedtime story of a young adventuress who, centuries ago, followed a similar path across the region, imbuing the storyline with a thread of heroism and hope.

The author graces the narrative with a poetic and vivid flow made even richer by endowing Nour with the perceptual phenomena of seeing colors as she hears words, a gift which solves dilemmas and proves to be life saving. This is a captivating story of a child asking the universal questions of life and meaning about which we have all wondered.

– Jerilyn Jackson

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Kim Dahlgren
Joyful, changing, adapting.



Dennis and Deb McGuire
Retired Florida snowbirds, fun family orientated and Minnesota natives.

On Oct. 27 we welcomed these members into our Trinity family. When you see them, please give them a warm welcome!



Kari Montague
Friendly, quiet and kind.



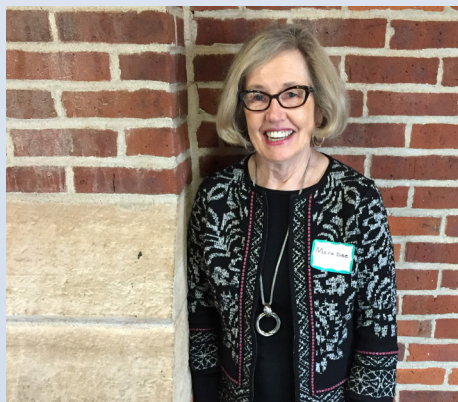
Kirsten and Rob Parker, Miranda Stafne, Eva Stafne, and James Parker
A teen, a tween and a toddler, oh my!



Libby Shusterich
Loving family, avid traveler, passionate about dogs.



Katie and Adam Trotter, William, Owen and Penelope
Moved back from Texas, new to Stillwater, Badgers.



Maradee Weinberg
Grateful, family and lake loving, Liberty resident.



Josh and Ann Wilichoswki, Zander, Adeline and Wren
Wisconsinites, 3 kiddos, vacation enthusiasts.



Lutherans Restoring Creation

By Sheila Maybanks, Green Team Lead

Lutherans Restoring Creation (LRC) is “a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the ELCA.”

Lutherans work in so many ways to care for creation—church school, camping programs, seminary education, liturgy and stewarding our churches. The clergy and council of Trinity have joined LRC to continue the work we have started here. LRC provides us with resources and a framework to further the commitment to creation.

Lutherans Restoring Creation is not an accreditation program but a way to mark what we have done and get inspiration for what more we can do!

Watch for a copy of the signed covenant coming soon. Read more at: www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org.



RETIREMENT MEN'S GROUP EVENT:

OUTDOOR STORIES

with Dennis Anderson, Star Tribune Columnist

Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 9 am in the Garden Room

Join Star Tribune's outdoor columnist and editor Dennis Anderson as he shares "Outdoor Stories." Anderson has a large library of stories about canoeing, fishing, hunting, adventure travel and conservation of the environment. The majority of these stories come from nearly forty years of newspaper work, during which he either personally participated in or witnessed the creation of each story.

Anderson was born in North Dakota and grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He is a University of Minnesota graduate. He and his wife, Jan, along with their Labrador retrievers, live on a small farm in the St. Croix River Valley.

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

More information at www.trinitylc.org > CONNECTIONS > GROUPS > RETIRED MEN'S GROUP.



You are invited to an Advent PAUSE Gathering

The special season of Advent is here, and with it comes the Advent PAUSE gatherings for women, during and around the week of Dec. 1-8.

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

For more information or questions, contact Karen Gieseke at kgieseke@live.com or 651-492-6610. Sign-up at church on Sundays and Wednesdays, in the church office, or online at www.trinitylc.org.

Celebrating Seniors

*Christmas
Worship & Lunch*

**Wednesday
Dec. 4
11 am – 1 pm**

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

SOLO 55+ PLUS

Singles Group
for Ages 55 & Up

**Solo 55 Plus: Over 55,
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 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: SOLO55PLUS@gmail.com.

OUR
SACRED
SELVES

Women's Retreats

Our Sacred Selves: Women's Retreat

WEEKEND RETREAT:
February 7-9, 2020
Assisi Heights in Rochester, MN
Cost: \$175

Included in the cost is two nights accommodations in your own room, all food and materials.

Come for time away with other Trinity women (and friends—all are welcome!) to be refreshed, spiritually uplifted, make new friends and strengthen connections with each other and with God.

We will be focusing on Our Sacred Selves—learning scripture-based Spiritual practices, enjoying creativity, contemplation and together unfolding the truth of who we are as beloved children of God.

Led by Pastor Chris, Zanny Johnson and our fabulous small group of volunteers, Sandy Wendt, Lucinda White and Rita Friesen.

Please register at www.trinitylc.org > CONNECTIONS > RETREATS.



*Monday, Dec. 2 at 8:45 am
Boutwell's Brownstone A Bldg.*

Bridge for Trinity. Bridge players of all levels are welcome the first 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.



A Christmas Celebration

*featuring the Trinity Choir, Carol Carver, director and Children's Choir, Sonja Esch, director,
with Clark Weyrauch, tenor & the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra, Kris Tjornehoj, director*

Sunday, December 15, 2019 | 3:00 pm

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

Free-will offering

Sundays, Dec. 1 & 8

9 & 10:30 am – Sunday worship
Advent begins.

Sunday, Dec. 15

Caramel rolls for sale before, between and after worship. All proceeds go to children's summer camp fund raiser.

9 & 10:30 am – Worship includes Christmas Drama by our talented youth and young adults.

3 pm – A Christmas Celebration Concert: the Trinity Choir, Children's Choir and the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra join forces to bring the music of Christmas to Trinity with special guest Clark Weyrauch. A free-will offering will be taken.

Friday, Dec. 20

7 pm – Longest night service for those seeking contemplation, music and rest

Sunday, Dec. 22

9 & 10:30 am – Sunday worship

Christmas Eve

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

2 pm – Festive worship with worship band

3 pm – Festive worship with choir, organ and instruments

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

9 pm – Candlelight worship and Communion with choir, guitar and cello; come at 8:30 p.m. for a musical prelude

Christmas Day

10 am – Festive worship and Communion

Sunday, Dec. 29

10 am – Lessons & Carols worship
(one service only)



And this Word was life. And this Word was light. And the darkness did not overcome it.

This year our journey through advent has us waking to, waiting and watching for, and walking in the light. We look to Christmas morning when we welcome the Light that is life to the world. The arrival of Jesus brings enduring light that no darkness can dim. Thank you for being part of that holy light.

We look forward to worshipping with you during this Advent and Christmas season.



**WORSHIP
& MUSIC**

Coffee & Treat Ministry

By Trudi Lohne, Hospitality Coordinator

While sitting at my kitchen counter sipping hot raspberry lemon tea the thought popped into my head to do some research on church coffee hours to garner information for this article. So...I typed the words "coffee hour at Lutheran church" in the Google search bar. In .055 seconds about 7,820,000 results appeared on the computer screen. The first result was a Google map with Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater, MN being the first thing I noticed. True story.

In the article, "The 4 C's of Fellowship" on Lifetouch.com, the author writes:

Coffee, community, comfort, and church are the foundation of fellowship across religions and denominations. Having a high-quality coffee hour at your church will consistently attract members, encouraging ongoing bonding and stimulating growth.

Our coffee fellowship before and between services doesn't just happen on its own. It takes supplies, stocking of supplies, restocking, and volunteers working together to prepare and set out airpots of coffee, lemonade and water, trays of treats, and then cleanup when finished.

Our Coffee Crew has two shifts each Sunday.

Shift #1 is from 8-9 a.m.

These volunteers prepare coffee, lemonade/water, plate treats, and setup serving areas in The Commons and Narthex.

Shift #2 is from 10-11 a.m.

These volunteers keep coffee flow going by replacing empty airpots and treats until finished. Then, cleanup.

Donna Schafer wrote, "The goal of coffee hour incarnationally is to embody the welcome Jesus gives us to His realm." ("Ministry Matters"/"The Art of Coffee Hour")

So, the questions I ask are: How are you embodying the welcome of Jesus during our coffee fellowship? Will you help prepare/setup coffee? Help with cleanup? Volunteers are needed to help both shifts of the Coffee Crew.

If making coffee or cleaning up isn't your thing, it's okay. You may help by making or buying treats that will be served with the coffee. Please prayerfully consider joining and helping on the Worship Hospitality Team as you are able.

Coffee Crew and Treat Provider roles are listed on our SignUpGenius online account, see the links below or e-mail or text me. Thanks all y'all. Blessings.

trudishelpinghands@gmail.com
612-839-9006

Sign up to bring treats:
www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044EADAB28A1FF2-worship

For links visit our web site at www.trinitylc.org > WORSHIP & MUSIC > HOSPITALITY > VOLUNTEER.

You may be Lutheran if... you think the four food groups are coffee, lefse, lutefisk, and Jell-O. (www.stlukeselca.com)

Worship Texts

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

Dec. 1 **Matthew 24: 36-44**

Dec. 8 **Matthew 3: 1-12**

Dec. 15 **Matthew 11: 2-11**

Dec. 22 **Matthew 1: 18-25**

Dec. 24 & 25 **Luke 2: 1-14, (15-20)**

Dec. 29 **Lessons & Carols** worship

Longest Night Service Friday, Dec. 20 at 7 pm

Join us for an expression of worship designed for those seeking an additional or alternative worship experience during the Christmas season. At the Longest Night Service you will find a bit more quiet, contemplative music, thoughtful readings and a spirit of restfulness. A lovely option for those for whom the more joyous celebrations can feel overwhelming. Refreshments to follow.



Your Light is Come! Member Art Show

Looking ahead to the season of Epiphany (beginning 12 days after Christmas on Jan. 6), our theme will be: Your Light is Come! Let's celebrate the Light of Jesus and also brighten up the dark days of winter with LIGHT artwork adorning church spaces.

All are welcome to submit artwork that speaks to the theme of LIGHT: paintings, photographs, mixed media, images, poetry, sculpture. Please bring artwork to the church office by Dec. 15. Artwork will be displayed Jan. 5 through February. Contact Sara Wagner at saraewagner@comcast.net if you are interested in participating in this art show.

baptism



AT TRINITY

BAPTISM ORIENTATION

Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020

11:45 am in the Garden Room

Those interested in Baptism at Trinity will hear about the Sacrament of Baptism and get answers to any questions. Contact the church office by Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 if you plan to attend.

Sundays available for Baptism:

Jan. 12

Feb. 9

March 8

April 11 (Saturday, Easter Vigil)

May 10

June 14

July 12

Aug. 9

In Christian baptism, some very important promises are made! So everyone involved in this important sacrament understands and takes those promises seriously, Trinity Lutheran Church offers baptism preparation classes with pastoral instruction on the meaning and responsibility of baptism. Every family scheduling their first baptism at Trinity is required to participate in baptism orientation. Parents, and sponsors when possible, are asked to attend this class in advance of the date set for baptism; often parents attend the baptism preparation before the baby arrives so that greater attention can be given to its significance.

For complete information about baptism at Trinity visit our web site at www.trinitylc.org > LEARNING > FAMILY > BAPTISM PREPARATION

December 2019 • trinity.today.

Adult Faith Forum Series



Sundays at 10:30 am
Garden Room at Trinity

My neighbor is a different faith.

Dec. 1, 8, 15 My neighbor is Jewish, Muslim, Native American, Buddhist, etc. How do other faiths practice their relationship with God and all of God's creation? Presentation from leaders of other faiths and world religion videos.

More information at www.trinitylc.org > LEARNING > ADULT > ADULT ED.

LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

PHOTOS BELOW

1. Many hands lighten the load!

At Julie Jolivette's (Children's Faith Formation Coordinator) invitation, these women and kids came to Trinity for a strong hour on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 10th. During that time they completed a number of Children's Faith Formation behind-the-scenes projects that would have taken Julie several days to get done. Besides helping out, this was a fun way for these young moms to get acquainted and feel more connected with their faith community. God is praised in so many ways as faith is formed!

2. Kindergarten Milestone – Prayer

These kindergarten children brought their families to Trinity Friday night, Nov. 1st, and we had a cozy time together around prayer.

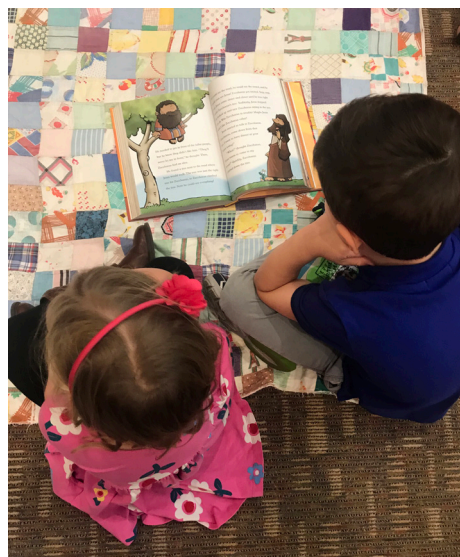


TRUNK or TREAT

Trunk or Treat 2019! Who knew a church parking lot could be so much fun?



On Oct. 29, Nicolette Gropel, Andrea Eckman and Norma Wilson brought Halloween Storytime to the Trinity Library. "Shake dem bones," tasty treats, lots of tricks and friendly costumes were enjoyed by all!



FAITH FORMATION

Do you ever wonder what the Faith Formation kids are up to between when they leave and return to worship on Sunday mornings at 9 and 10:30 a.m.? Above is a sneak peek of Pre-K to 2nd Grade Sunday Faith Formation.



Thank you to all who attended and the many hands that helped make possible the Anuak Community Benefit Concert on Sunday, Nov. 3. The concert featured five choirs, including the Trinity Choir, the Trinity Children's Choir, First Presbyterian Choir, Valley Chamber Chorale, and Our Saviors Lutheran Church, along with the featured choir, the Anuak African Choir.

The event raised \$16,660! Approximately 400 people were in attendance. A dessert reception followed the concert, with traditional breads provided by the Anuak community.



Last Sunday Supper

Last Sunday Supper Sunday, Dec. 29 at 5 pm

Served next door at Ascension Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, Last Sunday Supper is a FREE, delicious, home-cooked community dinner for people of all ages who live in the St. Croix Valley area. Everyone is invited! Please help this tradition to continue, join in fellowship. Last Sunday Supper is provided as a partnership between three local faith communities: Ascension Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church and Trinity Lutheran Church. To volunteer, please contact Josh Longnecker at 651-263-6803.



EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER



Emergency Winter Shelter

While they were there, the time came to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the Inn.

– Luke 2: 6-7 (NRSV)

The Christmas story is significant in many ways, not the least—the family had to seek *emergency winter shelter* in a stable. Many in our community face the same emergency shelter need during the winter months. Trinity is partnering in a community initiative that includes the Stillwater area faith community, civic groups, service organizations, Washington County Host team, and individuals called to provide potential life-saving shelter to those experiencing homelessness.

Emergency Winter Shelter operational planning meetings are currently underway, and the first volunteer training session is tentatively planned for Tuesday evening, Dec. 10. Please watch for confirmation of the date, time and location.

Trinity Lutheran Church and St. Andrews Community Resource Center will be the two locations for Emergency Winter Shelters in the coming months.

The shelter location dates, hours of operation, and temperature guidelines are as follows:

Emergency Winter Shelter – Dec. 29, 2019 through March 7, 2020, planning items:

Operation dates:

- St. Andrews Community Resource Center (SACRC) — Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 through Saturday, Jan. 31, 2020
- Trinity Lutheran Church (TLC) — Saturday, Feb. 1 through Saturday, March 7, 2020

Hours of operation:

- Daytime: volunteers 9:30 am–5:30 pm
- Nighttime: volunteers 5 pm – 10 am (multiple shifts will handle this period)

Temperature guidelines to open (actual temperature, not wind chill):

- Daytime: Zero (0)F degrees if forecasted for a minimum of 3 hours duration.
- Nighttime: Below (or equal to) 10 degrees below zero (0)F if forecasted for a minimum of 3 hours duration.

The initial volunteer signup has been very good, thank you. More volunteers are needed! Please sign up and reach out to others and ask them to help with this year's Emergency Winter Schedule.

Contact John or Jeff to sign up or get answers to your questions.

John Hodler
(c) 651 343 4638
johnhodler@gmail.com

Jeff Anderson
(c) 651 491-9280
jeffa409@gmail.com

Takk skal du ha

Thank you (above in Norwegian)!

The numbers stagger. Within 72 hours, over 300 volunteers descended on the Trinity kitchen to prepare and serve over 900 meals to benefit Trinity missions. Because of their generosity—donations not just of time but also of pies, cranberries, brown sugar, lefse, carrots, beautifully detailed dish towels and washcloths, and more—three quarters of every adult ticket sold will go to outreach missions. On behalf of Trinity, we give a heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in some way: cleaning, prepping, cooking, hosting, singing, performing, selling, serving, eating, and cleaning again.

For those wonderful volunteers, this is a mission of love. We especially thank those who, after many years of service, hung up their aprons this year. We especially thank Trinity's wonderful custodians who kept everything working smoothly. One of our volunteers expressed it best, "I had never thought so concretely about the fact that this is a service to our surrounding community. I see it as a huge fund raiser and a draw to lutefisk lovers everywhere. But now, I see it in a much larger context. And I'm proud that Trinity has provided this for so many years to the delight of so many people! And once again we heard throughout the day how fabulous each and every dish was!" God's peace to you.

– Charlie Payne, Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner Coordinator



Lovingly-prepared
 Under-appreciated
 Tasty
 Edible
 Fish
 Inspiring
 Scandinavian
 Kindness



why trinity?

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

core values

Exceptional Worship
Radical Hospitality
Authentic Community
Lifelong Faith Formation
Compassionate Action

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To family and friends of
Judith Funke

welcome

To read our full welcome statement please visit our web site at www.trinitylc.org > WELCOME > WHO WE ARE > RECONCILING IN CHRIST.



BAPTISMS

- **Laken Roy Lehmann**, son of Travis & Karlie Lehmann
- **Presley Jade Ehlenz**, daughter of Anthony & Heidi Ehlenz

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Oct. 27	Nov. 10
9 a.m.263	9 a.m.259
10:30 a.m.231	10:30 a.m.181
Nov. 3	Nov. 17
9 a.m.304	9 a.m.284
10:30 a.m.155	10:30 a.m.190

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY WORSHIP
at 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

The Current Worship at 7:07 pm
whenever Faith Formation meets

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.

Stillwater Area High School Presents

IndieFlix presents



Angst

RAISING
Awareness
AROUND
Anxiety

Angst is a documentary raising awareness around anxiety that shines a bright light on anxiety and offers resources, tools and hope. A highlight with this film is that the children and young adults featured are openly talking about their experiences with anxiety and other mental health challenges. Join YSB in our hope that just as the youth in this film share their candidness and bravery it will inspire our community to do the same.

Audience: 10+ with a caring adult & community members

**Join us for a Free Screening
& Interactive Panel Discussion**

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Resource Tables: 6-6:30pm

Screening & Panel Discussion: 6:30-8:30pm

Event will take place in the Stillwater Area High School Auditorium
5701 Stillwater Blvd N., Stillwater, MN 55082

View Trailer & Register: ysb.net/event

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Dec. 27.

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Email: info@trinitylc.org

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site at www.trinitylc.org (click NEWS to
download a PDF).

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CALENDAR DECEMBER 1-31, 2019

Sunday, December 1—Advent 1, Advent PAUSE

- 9 am Traditional Worship, Communion: Worship Center
- 9 am Children's Faith Formation: Worship Center
- 10:30 am Contemporary Worship, Communion: Worship Center
- 10:30 am Children's Faith Formation: Worship Center
- 10:30 am Adult Faith Forum—My Neighbor is a Different Faith: Garden Room

Monday, December 2—Advent PAUSE

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

Tuesday, December 3—Advent PAUSE

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

Wednesday, December 4—Advent PAUSE

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 11 am Celebrating Seniors Christmas Worship & Lunch: Worship Center & Garden Room
- 5 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal: Heritage Chapel
- 5:30 pm Family Pizza Dinner: Garden Room
- 6 pm Faith Formation Confirmation (Gr. 6-9): Upper & Lower Levels
- 7 pm Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room
- 7:07 pm The Current Worship: Worship Center
- 8 pm Wednesday Night Hoops: Gym

Thursday, December 5—Advent PAUSE

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

Friday, December 6—Advent PAUSE

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

Saturday, December 7—Advent PAUSE

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

Sunday, December 8—Advent 2

- 9 am Traditional Worship, Communion: Worship Center
- 9 am Children's Faith Formation: Worship Center
- 10:30 am Contemporary Worship, Communion: Worship Center
- 10:30 am Children's Faith Formation: Worship Center
- 10:30 am Adult Faith Forum—My neighbor is a different faith: Garden Room
- 5 pm Solo 55 Plus Singles Group: Living Room

Monday, December 9

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

Tuesday, December 10

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

Wednesday, December 11

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 9:30 am Boutwell's Sr. Communion: Boutwell's Landing
- 1 pm Marion Circle Meeting: Members' Homes
- 5 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal: Heritage Chapel
- 5:30 pm Family Pizza Dinner: Garden Room
- 6 pm Faith Formation Confirmation (Gr. 6-9): Upper & Lower Levels
- 7 pm Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room
- 7:07 pm The Current Worship: Worship Center
- 8 pm Wednesday Night Hoops: Gym

Thursday, December 12

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 9 am YogaDevotion Chair/Flow: Narthex
- 1 pm Martha Circle Meeting: Living Room
- 1 pm Dorcas Circle Meeting: Members' Homes
- 6:30 pm Finance Team Meeting: Office Conference Room
- 7 pm Al-Anon & Alateen Meeting: Room 108, Youth Center
- 7 pm AA Meeting: Library

Friday, December 13

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

Saturday, December 14

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

Sunday, December 15—Advent 3

- 9 am Traditional Worship, Communion: Worship Center
- 9 am Children's Faith Formation: Worship Center
- 10:30 am Contemporary Worship, Communion: Worship Center
- 10:30 am Children's Faith Formation: Worship Center
- 10:30 am Adult Faith Forum—My neighbor is a different faith: Garden Room
- 3 pm A Christmas Celebration Concert: Worship Center

Monday, December 16

- 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, December 17

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

Wednesday, December 18—No Family Dinner, Confirmation, The Current Worship or Hoops

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 5 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal: Heritage Chapel
- 7 pm Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room
- 8 pm Women's Community Building Small Group: Office Conference Room

Thursday, December 19

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

Friday, December 20

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 10 am Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B
- 7 pm Longest Night Worship: Worship Center
- 8 pm Retired Men's Group Outing: Offsite

Saturday, December 21

- 8 am AA Meeting: Library
- 8 am Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B
- 7:30 pm Christmas with Cantus Concert: Worship Center

Sunday, December 22—Advent 4

- 9 am Traditional Worship, Communion: Worship Center
- 9 am Children's Faith Formation: Worship Center
- 10:30 am Contemporary Worship, Communion: Worship Center
- 10:30 am Children's Faith Formation: Worship Center
- 5 pm Solo 55 Plus Singles Group: Living Room

Monday, December 23

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

Tuesday, December 24—Christmas Eve

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 11 am Family Worship: Worship Center
- 2 pm Worship: Worship Center
- 3 pm Worship: Worship Center
- 4 pm Worship & Communion: Worship Center
- 6 pm AA Meeting: Library
- 9 pm Candlelight Worship & Communion: Worship Center

Wednesday, December 25—Christmas Day

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 10 am Worship & Communion: Worship Center

Thursday, December 26—Staff Holiday, Building/Office Closed

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library

Friday, December 27

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library

Saturday, December 28

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

Sunday, December 29

- 10 am Lessons & Carols Worship (one service only): Worship Center

Monday, December 30

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

Tuesday, December 31

- 7 am AA Meeting: Library
- 1 pm Prayer Group: Church Office
- 6 pm AA Meeting: Library
- 6 pm Sing in the New Year Concert: Worship Center

PLEASE NOTE: The church office and building are closed on Thursday, Dec. 26 for staff Christmas holiday.

trinity
TODAY

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Trinity's Christmas Garden & Local Benevolences Gift Opportunities

Form and payment must be turned in by Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019



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

Local Benevolences \$ _____

Christmas Garden (suggested donation \$20) \$ _____

In memory of _____ In honor of _____

Given by _____

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