

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



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



For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. – Matthew 18:20



VALLEY OUTREACH DONATIONS Aug. 9 – Food – 199 pounds, Cash – \$100 Aug. 16 – Food – 75 pounds, Cash – \$195 Aug. 23 – Food – 171 pounds, Cash – \$350 Total of \$1,090 (1 pound food =\$1) that's above the \$1,000 Outreach Missions challenge! Way to go Trinity, our shared ministry continues in all circumstances. Thank you to all the volunteers and everyone who donated! But don't stop now, the need continues and so does our collection each Sunday at the drive-in.



LEAD PASTOR THE REV. DR. CHRIS BELLEFEUILLE

To be, or not to be, that is the question: Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, Or to take arms against a sea of troubles And by opposing end them. ~Hamlet, Act 3, Scene 1

To Open, or Not to Reopen?

Friends and siblings in Christ,

As we consider safely reopening, the famous lines from Hamlet's soliloquy keep popping into my head. In this speech, Hamlet is pondering life and death, even suicide. Life is full of suffering and woe, but perhaps the alternative is worse.

It's a dark journey through Hamlet's mind. But we are not strangers to death, darkness, weariness or fear. And as people of the Gospel, we admit that hope has a habit of bubbling up in places expected and unexpected! To hope or to fear. To persist or despair. These are our questions. As is:

To open, or not to reopen, that is a question:

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer

The discomfort and inconvenience of isolation, masks and homeschooling,

Or to take arms against a sea of virus

And by opening risk them.

~with abject apologies to Wm. Shakespeare

It's not a fair comparison, but still we ponder: To re-open or not to re-open?

The answer is yes, kind of.

Beginning mid-to-late September, we will try a soft reopen for limited numbers this fall. Here is who will possibly come back:

- Small groups, circles, book and bible studies, ministry teams.
- We are doing a survey of our families to discover if there is an interested in rotating small groups through the building for children and youth faith formation.
- Limited outside groups, such as AA.

• Weddings and funerals with a capacity of 50 people, including all staff.

We are focusing the reopen on mission and ministry; we won't be open for strictly social gatherings. We encourage you to make the safest and most inclusive choice for your group, keeping in mind the well-being of your most vulnerable members.

Masks and distancing will be required. Entrance and exit will be "choreographed", coffee and treats cannot be shared. You may be asked to be flexible about the days and times you meet. And we continue to support the decision to remain virtual, especially if meeting in person will exclude those who could meet virtually.

The council will receive and respond to the Re-Entry Team's proposed pandemic plan and reopen guidelines at their August meeting. (This newsletter will have gone to print by then.) Group leaders will be notified shortly thereafter. Keep an eye on your email, the bulletin, and future issues of *Trinity Today*.

We covet your patience and earnest cooperation as we work our way through this transition. If the governor's orders change, we will swiftly comply.

What about in-person worship? While the governor allows us to worship at 50% capacity up to 250, the re-entry team, council and leaders do not believe that to be the safest choice. Also, offering worship to an even more limited number results in exclusion and increased isolation for the vulnerable, which is inconsistent with the spirit of Christian worship, the Gospel or Trinity's values of radical hospitality and authentic community. Therefore,

worship will continue online for the foreseeable future (and at the drive-in, weather permitting).

We all long to worship in person, especially when we hear that some churches are back in their sanctuaries. No one feels that more acutely than your pastors and worship staff. And we take seriously Jesus' command to love our neighbor. Even God, speaking through the prophets, asks God's people to reconsider the value of worship when they fail to tend the vulnerable in their midst. It is in that spirit, we preference the most vulnerable, wear our masks, offer the best online worship we can and, with you, look forward to the day when we can worship in person and no one is excluded.

To reopen or not to reopen? We move ahead in caution, safety and hope. Yes, these are days when hope feels hard to come by, but hope is at the center of the Gospel. Hope is our life's blood, our breath and our nourishment. So, from Paul's letter to the Romans:

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

In the eternal hope of Jesus Christ and in deep love for you.

Pastor Chris

PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



Re-entry, Re-hopening, and Redesigning

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. – Matthew 18:20

I heard a conversation on the radio about a month ago that featured a local coffee house and roaster in the Twin Cities. They were talking about how their business has changed and what they were doing to respond to the enduring nature of the pandemic.

One of the owners made the comment: "even more than just reopening our café for customers, this pandemic is challenging us to redesign our business, to redesign with our shared health and equity in mind."

That conversation has stuck with me over these last five months about re-entry and reopening. So many of our local businesses and non-profit organizations and long-established institutions have had to make significant pivots in order to survive.

This is true for the church too. We have made significant changes to keep our community safe and healthy. Of course, some have rightfully said that regardless of whether the church building is available, the church (as the Body of Christ) has never closed.

But what that conversation has also reminded me is that more than just trying to hang on or survive, this pandemic is calling the church to re-**hope**n and redesign.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we hear how Jesus' ministry is challenging communities (both Jewish and non-Jewish) to adapt, re-hope, and redesign the world to more reflect God's dream.

Jesus' ministry never dwelled so much on physical structures as it centered on people, equipping the masses to be remade in God's love again and again. We see hungry crowds fed. The broken called blessed. The injured are healed. Empty leaders are exposed. And outcasts proclaimed with great faith.

Wherever two or three are gathered. Talk about a socially distanced experience. Ministry doesn't have to be big for it to be blessed.

Think small. With so much of our ministry dispersed right now in our own homes and neighborhoods, it seems to me that God is calling us right where we need to be.

I'm looking forward to those "twos or threes" this Fall, not just re-entering physical spaces together, but how that focus will reshape and re-hope and re-design for God's love in the world. Whenever we get back to "normal."

It's going to be different (and different for everyone) but we trust that God will be making us new.

In God's Hopening,



REOPENING

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Congregational Council



Doug Johnson COUNCIL PRESIDENT ddjohnson802@yahoo.com



Krista Gossai VICE PRESIDENT k.gossai@gmail.com



Arba-Della Beck TREASURER arbadellabeck@gmail.com



Melanie Sullivan SECRETARY melsymn@yahoo.com



Dave Martin COUNCIL MEMBER davidwmartin2@gmail.com



Andrew Thelander COUNCIL MEMBER thelander.familia@gmail.com



Chris Bellefeuille, D.Min. LEAD PASTOR cbellefeuille@trinitylc.org

To reach all members of council, send email to council@trinitylc.org. More information including minutes and reports at www.trinitylc.org > WELCOME > WHO WE ARE > COUNCIL.



By Claudia Swendseid, Stewardship Team

Trinity's annual pledge drive kicksoff in October. In preparation, this article reflects my views on what Christian stewardship is and how it relates to making a financial pledge to your home church.

Lots of people, smarter than me and more steeped in theology, have defined and written about Christian stewardship. But to me it comes down to this: a life that seeks to imitate God's example of giving and selfless love.

Contemplate Psalm 24:1: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and all who live in it." Christian stewardship is rooted in this declaration. All that we have, all that we are, all that is this world belongs to God. All that comes into our hands is a trust from God; it is God-given.

Then there's John 3:16, a verse many of us can quote by heart: "For God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, so that everyone who believes him may not perish but may have eternal life." Not only does all the world belong to God, all the world is loved—a love made clear in God's own selfless act of giving. Practicing Christian stewardship is letting my love take form by following God's example.

Sure, that's an aspiration. But what better aspiration is there? Plus, I believe, as Genesis 1:27 says, "So God created humankind in God's own image, in the image of God, God created them." And when I think of God, I think of God being generous, full of compassion, the source of love, the ultimate gift giver.

Given this, and since I'm formed in God's image, you would think Christian stewardship would be easy-peasy. Well not for me. Living my life in imitation of God's example



of giving and selfless love is a tall order that I can only approximate in how I use my time and resources (all God-given).

Which brings me to back to making a financial pledge to my home church. I've begun to think about my annual pledge and giving to Trinity as part of my approximate imitation, but still a tangible act of love for God and God's world by supporting Trinity's ministries. Making my annual pledge to Trinity also grounds me in this community of faith. **Community**, for me, is a quality of the heart that declares I am alive not for myself alone but for one another. Trinity is a community through which God works, letting our love take form in service to others.

Especially at a time like this, when we know that many of our neighbors are experiencing illness, lost jobs, lost income and other forms of hardship we make our pledges, give and support Trinity's ministries as a faith community, each as we are able. I'm retired; I haven't lost a job; my income hasn't changed, which means that I can give a little more to Trinity while others may need to give a little less. In community, we share each other's

- continued on next page -

GIFTS MANAGEMENT

Trinity Financial Update

	July Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2020			
	This Year	Last Year	'20 Budget	% of Budge
Contribution Income	1,195,805	1,162,726	1,350,000	89%
Other Income	267,341	517,347	342,550	78%
Total Income	\$ 1,463,146	\$ 1,680,072	\$ 1,692,550	
less: Expenses	1,426,720	1,661,761	1,691,330	84%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 26.426	\$ 18,311	ć 1.220	
	\$ 36,426	\$ 18,311	\$ 1,220	
Long-Term Debt Summary:			<u>\$ 1,220</u>	
	3,410,152 (56,365) *	3,598,306	<u>\$ 1,220</u>	
Long-Term Debt Summary: Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,410,152	3,598,306	<u>\$ 1,220</u>	

2020 Thrivent Temporary Loan Relief to Congregations - 3 mos. Interest Only Mortgage Pymts (May - July)

burdens and we love each other where we are. We are the church and a faith community in all circumstances.

In the end, stewardship is a matter of the heart, following God's example and letting our love take form in a world that needs it desperately—"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21.

Between now and October 4 when Trinity's pledge drive kicks-off, lean into God's abundant love for you as stewardship's starting point. Prepare your heart through prayer, seeking God's guidance on how you can best give of your resources and yourself in supporting the work of Trinity. We never know as a faith community where our giving will take us, but we do know that the journey starts with God's love in our hearts, beckoning us to stretch out to our full potential. **Financial Note:** Financially, we remain in a stable position at present! Thanks to the faithful, generous response of our faith community to God's call for financial stewardship. YTD July 2020 results place us ahead of last year at this time, showing a total surplus of \$36K, v. an \$18K surplus in 2019. We ran at an overall deficit of \$21K for the month of July this year, compared to a \$10K surplus for the month of July 2019. Contribution Income of \$101K for the month of July 2020 is \$2K less than July 2019. YTD our Contribution Income is \$33K higher than a year ago at this time. Total Income is \$10K ahead of YTD July 2019. July 2019 includes \$20K of Endowment Funds released whereas, we have not applied any Endowment Funds yet in FY2020. Fees & Payments Income are \$18K less YTD than 2019. Learning programs expenses are also down by \$14K compared to 2019. Overall Operating Expenses are \$19K more YTD v. July 2019. Personnel Expense is \$43K higher YTD than last year (2% Staff pay increase effective Sept. 1 & July was a 3-pay period month). Our Line of Credit Balance still stands at \$0 as of today! Last year we were into the Line in May and carried a \$21,000 balance as of July 31.

OUTREACH MISSIONS



"God's work. Our hands."

A dedicated day of service in our community.

Sunday, Sept. 13

Please watch the bulletin, e-newsletter and web site at www.trinitylc.org for details on how this ELCA and Trinity tradition will continue this year!

We need your assistance now to commit to continuing education for these young people!



Education Needs in Mwatasi Continue

These youth are among the 25 students from Mwatasi, Tanzania attending Secondary School (our Jr/High School equivalent) this year with a scholarship through Trinity's Outreach Mission ministry. They were chosen by the Mwatasi Lutheran Church based on need, and as the congregation has grown, the need for scholarships grows with it. Most of our current scholarship recipients are from single-parent households or are being raised by grandparents or extended family.

Trinity's long-standing partner relationship with Mwatasi Lutheran Church in the Iringa Diocese, Tanzania is based upon accompanying each other in prayer, presence and projects. Education has been the cornerstone of project focus for the entire Saint Paul Area Synod.

We need your assistance now to commit to continuing education for these young people!

Over the years, this scholarship program has continued to happen without a lot of direct appeal, thanks to the many people who have visited Mwatasi, who were touched by people who visited, and who are passionate about education for all. Regular contributions to our Mwatasi Education Account are not incoming anymore and we need your help!

Our Outreach Mission Team needs to submit Trinity's commitments for 2021 education support for our Mwatasi partnership relationship November 1 and send the funds in December. To continue supporting our partners at previous levels, we need to raise approximately \$15,500. This will cover student scholarships to secondary school at our same level, continuation of post-secondary schoolarships of \$3,800 selected from candidates diocese-wide, and \$1,000 for school infrastructure maintenance in the diocese.

Please make a contribution—or if this is a group project that requires time to carry out—a commitment for a contribution by the end of April, payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, to the Outreach Mission Mwatasi Education Account in any amount that you are able. If this is a Christmas gift in someone's honor, please include a note to that effect so the Outreach Mission Team can provide you with a personalized Tanzania Gift Card.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers for the people of Mwatasi. The people of Mwatasi pray faithfully for us every day and stay up on the news of the U.S. and our area.

Thank you for your consideration of the education needs of the young people of Mwatasi. They have the faith and resilience to overcome many obstacles; a partial scholarship for school fees is one way we can help them to create their own better future.

Keep in mind that this is an ongoing relationship, and if you are able, please consider an annual contribution to the Mwatasi Education Fund in Outreach Missions. Songs are sung and danced, and prayers of gratitude are lifted in your name.

For questions or to make a contribution commitment, please contact Michele Hermansen at 612-868-2255 or michele2255@gmail.com.



By Sarah Olson, NEW Children & Family Faith Formation Coordinator, solson@trinitylc.org

It's a joy to be serving the Trinity community again. During my seminary studies back in 2011-2013, I was Trinity's Junior High Ministries Coordinator. It was a position that helped prepare me to serve as the Director of High School Ministry at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley for the past seven years. A lot of life has happened since 2013, so allow me to fill you in!

I met my husband, Erik, back in 2015. He jokes that we met the "oldfashioned" way. Online. Something special was there and we married in December of 2018. Our daughter and little bundle of delight, Silja (pronounced: sill – ya), was born November of 2019. The three of us live in the Downtown East neighborhood of Minneapolis along with our cat, Tellulah.

Erik and I share a deep love of traveling and have visited places like Guatemala, Latvia, Yosemite, and New Zealand, to name just a few. As soon is it's safe to travel again, we hope to pass on the love of experiencing and understanding God's great big world to Silja, too! As I continue to find my way out of the "new mom haze," I am re-discovering my love of running and yoga (I am also a certified yoga instructor). I also feed my soul by singing in the National Lutheran Choir.

My education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from Luther College ('07) and a Master's Degree in Children, Youth, & Family Ministry from Luther Seminary ('13).

I can't wait to know you and your family and look forward to growing in faith with the Trinity community!















September 2020 • trinity.today.

LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

ADULT FAITH FORUM THIS FALL Upcoming Wonderings

By Penny Catlin, Faith Forum Coordinator

We are looking forward to an enriching fall for the Adult Forum at Trinity! Here are some of the questions to keep in mind as we "wonder" together this fall: What does it mean to have faith or practice my faith? Is faith a belief, a feeling or an action? What does faith mean to you? How has your faith been challenged? What strengthens your faith?

In October we will look at practices and information on Wellbeing and Wholeness: What helps when we're hurting. Some of the topics will be:

- Minding your mental health during COVID 19 from NAMI
- The practice of prayer
- The Lord's Prayer
- Mindfulness/Mediation/Worship

In November we will spend time on Racial and Social Justice.

- What are we, the Trinity Community, doing and working on?
- What are our responsibilities as Christians? What should our response be?
- How do we as Christians speak up to promote our values within and beyond the Church to affect positive change?

During Advent we will spend time with the study, "Light of the World" by Amy-Jill Levine. We will be exploring the biblical text around the story of the birth of Jesus, the connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt.

Watch the bulletins, e-newsletter and web site at: https://trinitylc.org/learning/adult/ adult-ed/ for details. Looking forward to spending time wondering faithfully with you! Questions? Contact Pastor Peter or Penny Catlin at pccatlin@juno.com or 651-485-8319 (cell).

ONE & DONE BOOK GROUP

By Ann Wolff, Coordinator

I look forward to the One and Done Book Group discussion of *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James H. Cone, on Monday, Aug. 31 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. This is such a meaningful way to be connected. I have thoroughly appreciated these discussions and I hope you can join us. Email me at wolff701@msn.com for the zoom link.

The next book has been selected and its October discussion date will be announced. *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota* is a beautiful and poignant collection of essays by Minnesota authors.

I have some books from the Trinity Library and am happy to get them to anyone who would like to borrow them. Contact me by email or phone (651-260-3855) and I'll deliver them.

I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown

The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James H. Cone

When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor.., and Yourself by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond

Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S. by Lenny Duncan

How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

Same Kind of Different As Me by Ron Hall & and Denver Moore with Lynn Vincent

Waking Up White: and finding myself in the story of race by Debby Irving

Rough Crossings: Britain, the Slaves and the American Revolution by Simon Schama

Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth by Sarah Smarsh

Same Family, Different Colors: Confronting Colorism in America's Diverse Families by Lori L. Tharps

Love Thy Neighbor: A Muslim Doctor's Struggle for Home in Rural America by Ayaz Virgil with Alan Eisenstock

Still Wondering About Where is God in Suffering?



Thank you to Pastor Chris for leading a wonderful summer Bible study on the topic "Where Is God In Suffering?" About 35 people were part of the thought-provoking and faithenriching sessions. For those who could not attend don't worry, there were no clear-cut answers to our questions. However, some reassuring statements about God always being present and suffering with us. Also, the importance of being in relationship with God in all circumstances and how God also depends on us as we depend on God.

For continued exploration on this difficult topic Pastor Chris suggested the following books for consideration :

God and Human Suffering by Douglas John Hall

Faith Under Fire by Daniel Simundson

The Suffering of God by Terry Fretheim

The Will of God by Leslie Weatherhead

Night by Elie Wiesel

In God's Presence by Marjorie Suchocki

God, Medicine and Suffering by Stanley Hauerwas

Quarks, Chaos, and Christianity by John Polkinghorne

Please send any questions to Penny Catlin at pccatlin@juno.com or Pastor Chris.



A festive kick-off to fall. This year TrinityFEST will be a week of outdoor, physically-distanced gathering. More information on fall faith formation and activities will be revealed! At the DRIVE-IN Sunday, Sept. 20 TrinityFEST at Drive-in Worship at 9 am Treats Special Music Fall Activities

Rally Sunday!

On the Trinity GREEN SPACE

Wednesday, Sept. 23 CYF TrinityFEST 5:30-7 pm Taco Bar Catered by Acapulco Music Activities Blessing of the Devices All families!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE! FOR YOUTH

9th Grade Confirmation

Sunday, Sept. 20 from 4-5 pm — Meet on Green Space to talk about Confirmation stoles, projects and Confirmation Day (Wednesday Sept. 23 — CYF TrinityFESTat 5:30 pm on Green Space) (Sunday Sept. 27 at 1 pm — High School Ministry gathering at Drive-in) Sunday, Oct. 4 — 9th Grade Confirmation at 9 am Drive-in Worship (Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 11)

High School

Sunday Sept. 27 at 1 pm — High School Ministry gathering at Drive-in Sunday Oct. 25 at 1 pm — High School Ministry gathering at Drive-in



On Sunday, Aug. 23 we recognized last year's 9th grade confirmands with laying on of hands in physically-distanced family groups and honks of praise at drive-in worship.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

hoir in the Time of Covid









Choir in the Time of Covid *By Carol Carver, Director of Worship and Music*

Each year for the past 30 years it has been my great pleasure to write about the coming choir/music season at Trinity! Oh, how I look forward to those first rehearsals—seeing again those faces—hearing the voices—hugs and handshakes abound. BUT, it seems this year it will different—no in person hugs, no handshakes, no faces, no voices. Bummer! I miss those folks desperately. And, to top it all off, the word is that singing together, in person, will be one of the last things to return to our life together.

But wait—all is not lost—we have found a new way. Recording on our smart phones! I bet the people at Apple, when developing iPhones, never imagined them used as an alternative for live choirs, orchestras, string quartets, etc. But thanks to innovative people like super star conductor/composer Eric Whitacre and our own super star, Charlie Payne, we will sing for you. Maybe not every Sunday, but many Sundays we will come to you with recordings of both our adult and children's choirs. (And the worship band!)

Projects like this are huge undertakings—for the singers and for the tech people. First an accompaniment track is laid down—then one singer, probably a soprano, sings with that track—then individually one alto, one tenor and one bass sing with the one soprano then Charlie manipulates each recording so the singers are hearing predominantly their own part with the soprano in the background each singer in the choir is then sent a recording of the music and the music—they then make their own recording singing their part. Oh, how I would love to be in the room when these are made, I have heard stories of folks making 15 to 20 takes before they are satisfied with what they hear. Then, they upload this recording to Charlie who magically mixes all of these (25-40) recordings together to create a choir. Next, Phil comes in and edits to create the very best sound possible. Finally, Charlie creates a video to view as the choir singsmaybe the singers, maybe interpreting the music. WHEW! Not quite as easy as gathering on Wednesday evening, but we are God's creative people and we find a (new) way!

As I said, both the adults and children will be singing for worship in this new way, and both Sonia Esch, director of the children's choir, and I invite new singers to be part of this (ad) venture. Maybe you weren't free on Wednesday evening, or you just didn't have time to commit to choir-now is your opportunity. You can record anytime, day or night. It is fun and rewarding—and so enhances worship. For the children's choir (ages K grade 5) be in touch with Sonia Esch at wisokiwi@msn.com (see more details on the next page). For high school or older, be in touch with me at ccarver@trinitylc.org.

In addition to the choirs, you will continue to hear our marvelous song leaders. Even I have been amazed at the quality, commitment and joy they have brought to worship over these past five months.

So, onward we go, finding new and inventive ways to bring music to worship. And finally, my most sincere thanks for all your support, it is truly appreciated.



Trinity Children's Choir is going "VIRTUAL"!

By Sonia Esch, Children's Choir Director

We know that there is so much unknown about how the fall is going to look for everyone, but we have an opportunity for you with Trinity's Virtual Children's Choir. Each week a rehearsal video for the singers will be emailed out, teaching them an elementary-age-appropriate song. About once a month we'd have the kids make a voice recording (can be done on "Voice Memo" on a smart phone) singing the song, then send in and we would have it all "mixed" together with a picture of each child in the singing group—much like the Adult Choir did this summer with their beautiful anthem. It is a very exciting option with all we are missing due to COVID-19 restrictions (no group singing anywhere!). We would LOVE hearing the kids sing again—as would the whole congregation! Also, this would be something they could do anytime during the week when schedule allows—not just at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays like our in person rehearsals were.

If you have an elementary age super singer in your family who would like to be a part of our choir, please email Sonia Esch at wisokiwi@msn.com. Hopefully we can get back together to sing as a group sometime...someday but we will make the most of what we can do online for now!

"O sing unto the Lord a new song; for the Lord has done marvelous things..." - Psalm 98:1 Sunday Worship Online at 9 am Outdoors at 9 am On TV at 11 am

9 a.m.—Livestream and Online Worship from our Sanctuary

Worship led by organ, song leader or instrumentalists, incorporating historical yet relevant elements of Lutheran worship. We invite you to join our online community for music, liturgy and message relevant to our lives today.

Facebook Livestream>> facebook.com/trinitylcstillwater/

Online Worship>> trinitylc.org/worship-music/worship/ online-worship/

9 a.m.—Drive-in Worship in Houlton, WI with safe worship restrictions

Worship led by worship leader incorporating the best of contemporary Lutheran music. The congregation gathers in cars for a time of praise and worship following the pattern of Gathering, Word, Message, Meal and Sending. This year with safe worship restrictions during the pandemic. Drive-in worship will continue this fall, weather permitting.

Drive-in Worship>> trinitylc.org/worship-music/worship/drivein-summer-worship/

11 a.m.—Watch on TV channel 18

Trinity's traditional Sunday worship service is rebroadcast on channel 18 through Valley Access Channels:

Sunday 11 a.m. Wednesday Noon & 6 p.m. Thursday Midnight & 6 a.m. Friday 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Saturday 2 a.m. & 8 a.m.

Worship Helps

Download a bulletin and announcements for Sunday worship to view or print at home.

trinitylc.org/worship-music/worship/ bulletin-helps/

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.

Sept. 6	Matthew 18:15-20
Sept. 13	Matthew 18:21-35
Sept. 20	Matthew 20:1-16
Sept. 27	Matthew 21:23-32

Sign up online!

To volunteer at Sunday

drive-in worship.

Sign up online! To volunteer to help with drive-in worship

We are excited to offer online signups for Sunday morning volunteers at drivein worship. Thank you to Chuck & Joan Newman who are the lead ushers. Three additional volunteers are needed—a greeter and two ushers. In the interest of safety when directing cars, volunteers must be at least 18 years of age to volunteer at the drive-in. Sign up online and receive helpful reminders! https://www.signupgenius.com/

go/30e044eadab28a1ff2-worship1

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & CONNECTIONS



Weekly meetings online Tuesdays at 4:30 pm on Zoom!

Come meet other singles and join this faith-based social group.

During this time of social distancing we are meeting each Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. on Zoom.

For information on Solo 55 Plus send an email to SOLO55PLUS@gmail.com.



The Light in Me sees and honors the Light in each of You

Full Session Resumes for Fall! YogaDevotion Chair/Flow Combo Class

Thursdays 9 – 10 am | Meeting on Zoom September 10 – October 29 | \$72 for 8 classes

All classes meeting on Zoom. Register to receive the link.

Led by a trained yoga instructor, YogaDevotion is a practice of breath, prayer, and movement designed to encourage healthy living and a peaceful presence. For women and men of all skill levels and abilities. Beginners welcome, no experience needed!

Register and pay online at www.trinitylc.org, then REGISTER, then YogaDevotion. Questions? Contact Sue Peterson at toddlinsue2@aol.com.



Update on Trinity's Solar Garden

By Sheila Maybanks, Green Team

Innovative Power System, the builder for the solar arrays, reports that Xcel Energy is very backed up with approvals and connections for the 20 plus church solar projects. Apparently Xcel works on only one project per county at a time. Trinity is in the queue for Chisago County, where the garden will be built.

People in the solar industry are disappointed in the delay and there have been complaints filed with the Minnesota Utilities Commission.

The good news is that this is the "growing pains" of the expanding renewable energy grid!

Trinity is part of the growing number of churches benefiting from investing in renewables; we just have to wait a little longer to catch the benefits!



Jordan Bauer and Brian Toby Travel • Dogs! • Family





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

Meeting & Bible Study Wednesdays at 10:30 am Meeting on Zoom

The Retired Men's Group meets via Zoom each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. for a one-hour Bible study led by Pastor Steve Hokonson. Here is the Zoom meeting access information.

Zoom.us > Join a meeting Meeting ID: 872 5512 6414 Password: 964596

No in-person RMG events are planned at this time.

What is roup spiritual direction

Trusted companionship on life's journey of spiritual discovery

- Intentionally sacred time set apart in a safe space
- Non-judgmental, compassionate and active listening
- Slowing down and resting in the deep love of God
- Designed to refresh and renew your spirit and fill your soul
- Unfolding the truth of who you are as a beloved child of God

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

Group Spiritual direction may be for you if ...

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

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

Groups are now forming in September and we will meet virtually, for an hour every other week, for 10 weeks. Participants must have access to a computer, a commitment to attendance and confidentiality, and a willingness to share, be vulnerable and deeply listen to one another.

Contact Zanny Johnson at zjohnson@trinitylc.org if you are curious, want to find out more or are ready to jump in to this new, beautiful experience of group spiritual direction.

Women's small group ministry—join us!

By Zanny Johnson, Connections Coordinator

This summer we had a dozen Trinity women raise their hands to be in small groups with one another. These women have been gathering to learn together, support one another and participate in a tailor-made curriculum, written by Pastor Chris and myself.

We will be offering these small groups again this fall, and we would love for you to be a part!

The format of the groups is a brief check-in, a devotion, a topic for conversation and sharing, and prayer with the purpose of being spiritual support for one another and a creating deeper connection with each other and with God. Groups will meet once every 2 or 3 weeks, beginning in late September or October, at a mutually decided upon day and time by the groups themselves.

Groups are peer led by a few women of Trinity who have stepped to be group leaders/facilitators. (If you are interested in leading a group, please let me know!)

Please contact me if you would like to be in or lead a women's small group! Zanny Johnson at zjohnson@trinitylc.org.



Food for Thought Groups: **Postponing until 2021**

It's that time of year that we look forward to gathering with friends to share a meal, stories and laughter. Unfortunately, like so many things this year, we'll be postponing the start of Food for Thought until 2021. We will keep you posted and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year. If you have any questions, feel free to reach me via email at lizannskelton@hotmail.com.



Reading in All Circumstances: Search the Trinity Library!

By Norma Wilson, Library Volunteer

The Trinity Library is filled with resources to bring people closer to God during many facets of life. A vast selection of Fiction and Nonfiction books, both Christian and secular, help readers see God in every part of their lives.

During this time, when we are unable to visit the library to secure books, we would like you to have access to materials that are helpful to you. You may have a subject, an author or the title of a book you would like to read. You can find this by searching the Trinity Library online. The following directions will help you locate the resources you desire.

$\leftrightarrow \rightarrow \sigma$	e opec.Rbraryworld.com/opec/home.phy	p		\$	74 🔘 Passed 🔘
TRIN	ITY LUTHERAN				
	Home Al Work *	Sof	The v	٩	Cour
		 Line (Physic Ar Topics Passes) 			

Search the Trinity Library

- Use this link to access the Trinity Library: https://trinitylc.org/ learning/library/
- Click the SEARCH OUR CATALOG button
- Enter your key words into the text field, click the menu arrow to make choices about your search
- Click the menu arrow by the word SORT for more options
- Click the magnifying glass to locate books

If you find resources you wish to checkout, please email Norma Wilson at dwilson804@aol.com. Indicate the title and the Dewey Decimal location of the book which is on the spine of the book. We will provide contact-free pickup options for you. Questions are welcomed too! All the Library volunteers are wonderful!

The following topics may be of interest to you:

Antiracism

How to be an Antiracist 305.8 KEND

Waking Up White 305.8 IRVI

Between the World and Me 305.8 COAT

The Cross and the Lynching Tree **277.3** CONE

A Good time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota 305.8 SHIN

I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in A World Made for Whiteness 305.89 BROW

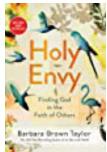
Love Thy Neighbor: A Muslim Doctor's Struggle for Home in Rural America 297 VIRJ

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism – DiAngelo 305.8 DIAN

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

Faith, Hope, Charity



Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others 261.2 TAYL Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American

City 339.4 DESM Almost Everything: Notes on Hope 170.4 LAMO

Finding Faith: A Search for What Makes Sense 239 MCLA

Blessed is the Ordinary 242.2 FROS

When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor and Yourself 261.8 CORB Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth 978.1 SMAR

More Five-Minute Devotions for Children: Celebrating God's World As A Family 242.6 KENN

Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence: Devotions for Every Day of the Year 242.2 Young

The Lord is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-third Psalm 223.2 KUSH

Youth

The Day You Begin E W

One EO

Thunder Boy Jr. E A

A is for Activist E N

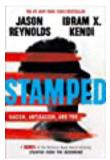
Alma and How She God Her Name E M This is the

This is the Church E C

Middle School-Secondary School

All American Boys – Reynolds JUV R (Recommended 12 and up)

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You YA 305.8



THANK YOU!

Dear Trinity Friends,

Words cannot adequately express my feelings of gratitude for the support you have shown my family and me as we grieve the loss of Lloyd. We have felt your love through cards, conversations, food and prayers and feel truly blessed to be surrounded by such a caring faith community as Trinity.

Jeannie and fami Lloyd F. Wendorf



CALENDAR

Please see the calendar on our web site for events, meetings and other happenings at Trinity. The calendar has been updated with online events. Thank you for you patience as we keep it up to date in an ever-changing time. Please let us know at info@trinitylc.org if your group or event is not listed. View the calendar at: https://trinitylc.org/calendar/

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

welcome

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



ONLINE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

July 19 Live viewers 66 Views/week 279 Drive-in 144	Views/week 288
July 26 Live viewers 104 Views/week 461 Drive-in (Cancelled due to weather)	Aug. 16 Live viewers 68 Views/week 344 Drive-in 146
Aug. 2 Live viewers65 Views/week288	

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Drive-in.....147

- At the Drive-in at 9 a.m.
- Livestream on Facebook at 9 a.m.
- Online worship at www.trinitylc.org at 9 a.m.
- Watch on TV at 11 a.m.

Watch Worship on local channel 18 through Valley Access Sundays at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at Noon & 6 p.m. Thursdays at Midnight & 6 a.m. Fridays at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Saturdays at 2 a.m. & 8 a.m.



Publication Number: USPS 509650 Published once per month by Trinity Lutheran Church, 115 4th St. N, PO Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082 Editor, Design & Layout: Marilee Tangen Some images from freepik.com Articles for the next *Trinity Today* (October issue) are due Monday, September 14, to begin arriving in mailboxes Friday, September 24.

Office: 651-439-7400; Fax: 651-430-2935 Email: info@trinitylc.org *Trinity Today* is available on Trinity's web site at www.trinitylc.org (click NEWS to download a PDF).

Postmaster: Send address changes to Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082. © Copyright 2020 Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater, MN



115 4th St. N • Box 339 Stillwater, MN 55082 • 651-439-7400 Periodical Postage Paid at Stillwater, MN 55082-0339

