



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.trinitylc.org

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trinity TODAY

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



Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.
- John 6:21

Solo55Plus group is thriving! Above:
ChiliFest winners Lynne Krekelberg &
Teri Walen. More photos and information
on Page 10.



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

Happy 150th Birthday, Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater!

I was 12 years old when I first became aware of the swift passing of time. I remember sitting in my first math class of 7th grade thinking: Where had the summer gone? Is this what Mom means when she talks about time going so quickly? All these years later, that moment is one of those immovable boulders in the stream of my memory.

I can hardly believe that my 5th anniversary with you is within sight. What of you who joined the church as newlyweds and watched grandchildren baptized here! And those of you whose entire lives have unfolded within the holy community at the corner of 3rd and Myrtle? How is it possible that time has flown so swiftly by and here we are, 150 years old! Could Mrs. Smith have ever imagined it?

What years they have been. Trinity's 50th anniversary came on the heels of a global pandemic. Trinity's 100th anniversary came during a divisive war and racial unrest. Trinity's 150th anniversary ironically comes on the heels of a global pandemic amid racial uprisings. As a community, Trinity has walked as the body of Christ through a century and a half of worship, learning, service and care. A century and a half of hope, grief, transformation and possibility.

We will celebrate with cake and ice cream on the Green Space on our birthday, July 19. We will have a larger celebration for TrinityFEST at the drive-in on Sunday, Sept. 19. There will be a story cookbook to share

(including an updated history of the last 25 years by Susan Stow), a video archive with photos and music, and a wedding wear retrospective. Bishop Lull will preach as we look back and celebrate.

And we will look forward in hope and anticipation, imagining as our task laying the groundwork for the next 150 years. Because marking the past only serves us insofar as it serves the vibrant wellbeing of the future. From great successes to painful lessons, we look back to inform our view forward.

We look forward because God promises us a future with a hope (Jeremiah 29) and calls us to live as people of hope. What God does not promise is a future that looks just like the past. Instead, God invites us to walk into the future with our eyes wide open to our present realities. And among those realities is an entirely new congregation.

Yes! That's right! After nearly 18 months in pandemic, not one of us emerges unchanged. Not one. Everyone has been touched directly or indirectly by disease, death, job or income loss, fear, disrupted education/work, strained relationships, isolation, absence and more. For some of you this has been a time of deep trauma; for others the disruptions have left us feeling unmoored.

The fact is, we have all changed. So, as we return to something that resembles normalcy, I invite you to come with an attitude of deep curiosity. We can no longer assume we know well the familiar people in the pew next to us. Like us, they are changed. Not just because we are chubbier, greyer, or haven't yet cut our hair. We are changed in ways that are yet to be discovered.

And this new congregation of all new people might find that we have new ideas about how God has gifted us and is calling us forward! Yes! *We* are new, therefore *Trinity* is new!

God declares: See, I am making *all* things new! (Revelation 21) The resurrection is God's promise that loss and change are never simply

a door slammed shut. Loss and change are also opportunities for rebirth, rediscovery, curiosity and imaginations ignited.

We can't go back. Really, we never could. And now we are not the same people, the same congregation we were in March of 2020. Would we want to be? Would we want to have endured all that we have endured for the past months to emerge unaltered? Would that not make the time just calendar pages littering the floor?

We are, as promised in the resurrection, called ever forward into God's future.

We look forward to celebrating with cake and ice cream, we look forward to more openings. And above all we look forward to meeting you again for the very first time as we discover together who we are as a congregation now. And then laying the groundwork for the next 150 years.

Happy birthday, Trinity. And many more!

Pastor Chris



Cousins ham it up at Trinity drive-in! Pastor Chris, mother Natalie and sister Liz meet distant cousin Jon Fogelberg at the drive-in. Their relationship dates back to their common 18th great-grandfather, Jon Ragnvaldson Smor, who lived in Bergen, Norway (1240-1328).

PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION
THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



Jesus, Boats, and Staying Afloat in the Storm

I've been thinking a lot about boats and watercraft lately.

With the excessive heat in these last weeks, we have journeyed as a family to the shores of our local lakes for refreshment. We have splashed and swam. We have also paddled and portaged. We have spotted kayaks and canoes, jon boats and bayliners, even some pretty impressive blow-up unicorns.

One friend shared with me recently that he had been gifted a pair of handmade cedar canoes crafted by his father-in-law. They both needed some reconditioning after many miles of paddling, but he could not imagine a more amazing legacy treasure. One that he will now share with his own kids and hopefully with generations to come.

At the beginning of the pandemic, when the storm was just starting to wreak havoc across the world and then at our own organ, I remember the poem that named the tension and reality that while we are facing a similar storm globally, we may be in very different boats.

The pandemic has highlighted both our widely shared commonalities and experiences and challenges, as well as our deep differences and variability nuanced situational responses.

This is not a new phenomena for God's people to comprehend and we have incredible imagery about particularity in the parable of the lost sheep and in the indispensableness of the body of Christ.

The encouragement in early 2020 about boats was likely the same that Jesus was lifting up in year 20 and continues to rest on my heart today.

God invites us into a life of mercy and grace through all of our uncertain

waterways. No matter what we are paddling.

Maybe the most important thing is just to stop and to notice and to look around at all the other boats.

To give folks a little extra room and the benefit of the doubt.

To be conscientious in our reactions and responses.



To be ready to throw out a helping oar or rebuild a hull if needed.

To make sure we have all of our lifejackets zipped up securely.

I know I haven't always followed this guidance perfectly, and Lord knows we have not been our best selves through these last 16 months and counting.

In many ways, navigating these waters still feels like a little bit of a dance, with the amazing miracle of abundant vaccines to teens and adults, while our littlest ones are still not fully protected.

One foot in the boat. One foot still out.

One eye looking at the hopeful horizon of post-pandemic life. One eye still watching for the storm to flare up again.

This boat imagery isn't just for COVID-19 or its variants.

The world that Jesus loves and comes to sail, is both wild and out-of-order. Jesus will not just rebuke the strong

winds of the stormy seas, but illness and the demonic. He will eat with outsiders on the shore and he will call out those who are keeping our boats apart. In the end, he will give his life for the sake of getting us all to the other side of God's celestial waters.

We continue to follow Christ's lead through the storms of our time, in all kinds

of watercraft, noticing and seeing each other in the water, pulling together in seeking or helping, and living in God's promised hope of making it to the other side.

Staying afloat in God's enduring love,

Pastor Peter

note FROM COUNCIL

The expectation that we can be immersed in suffering and loss daily and not be touched by it is as unrealistic as expecting to be able to walk through water without getting wet.

– Rachel Naomi Remen

Unprecedented. Historical. Stressful. Challenging. Difficult.

If you think about the last 12 months, these are some of the words that you may think to use to describe your experiences. The pandemic and Covid has impacted every single person in the world in some manner. And, we are different because of these experience.

The differences for some may be minor. The differences for others may be extreme. Some have lost loved ones. Some have not seen loved ones for months. We have all felt the impact. As a congregation, we have learned how to lean into these times with support, love, adaptability and adjustments. We have had to be agile and make decisions that were out of love for our neighbor, following the science with our talented re-entry team.

These next evolution of this congregation will also require each of us to be curious, agile and patient. The Council, alongside of our talented staff, are asking ourselves what what we have learned and how to keep some of these innovations moving forward into the future. We are not the same people or the same congregation as we were one year ago. The things that worked before may not or likely will not work in the future. I am encouraging you to remain curious and inquisitive about this next evolution. Lean into the unknown knowing that God is there with us, helping guide our direction and share our love. We are neighbors, community and friends. And, while we may be stressed at times, we are also incredibly blessed to know God in an intimate way.

With gratitude,

Mel Sullivan,
Council President

My Stewardship Journey

By Tami Jensrud, Stewardship Team

I guess my stewardship journey started back in North Dakota where I grew up, by simply giving an offering at Sunday School every week. My mom would give my sister and I money to put in our Sunday School offering envelopes. When we would stay with our grandparents, my grandma always gave us (including my cousins) two quarters, one for the Sunday School offering plate and one for the church service offering plate.

Fast forward to 1996. Troy and I had lived in the Twin Cities for a couple years and had decided that we would rather get married in Stillwater instead of back in North Dakota, so our search for a Lutheran Church began. We landed on Trinity and were married on Oct. 5, 1996. We liked Trinity so much, we decided to become members before we were even married here.

In the time between then and now, our financial stewardship journey has taken many turns, simply because our financial situations have taken many turns. While we always put some sort of money in the offering plate at church, I wasn't always comfortable filling out a pledge card. There were years that we weren't able to fulfill our pledge, which ended up just making me feel sad and/or guilty, to be completely honest. For that reason, we chose not to pledge some years, in the hope that whatever we were able to give would be "extra" for the church.

For many of those "financial up and down years" we were able to give quite a bit of our time and talents by ushering, as a family, as many times as we could. Volunteering for odds and ends needs over the years. I taught Sunday School for 14 years. I ran the Wednesday pizza supper for four years and have been on the Stewardship Team for at least five years now. Giving of your time and talents is a very important gift to many organizations and I believe is a huge part of being a good steward.

Since I've been on the Stewardship Team, I finally was able to feel comfortable and proud to be able to fill out that pledge card every year. And even though it took some discipline, becoming an automated giver has helped us tremendously to finally fulfill our pledges. I'm 48 years old and have been an automated giver for only the past three or four years, so my financial stewardship journey has taken quite a while to get to a "comfortable place." I do feel that it's easier, as I get older, to feel "comfortable" with my pledging decisions. I think that is just simply a result of how our priorities and or resources tend to change as we get older.

So, as you ponder your own stewardship journey, please remember that it will never look like your neighbor's, because it's YOUR journey. Let God guide you through it...remember to simply listen.



Troy, Tami, Carter, Mason & Mackenzie (Mason's girlfriend)

Trinity Financial Update

May Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2021

	This Year	Last Year	'21 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	1,005,949	1,003,867	1,326,000	76%
Other Income	154,976	242,112	422,761	37%
Total Income	<u>\$ 1,160,926</u>	<u>\$ 1,245,979</u>	<u>\$ 1,748,761</u>	
less: Expenses	1,149,890	1,180,121	1,747,358	66%
Surplus (Deficit)	<u><u>\$ 11,036</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 65,858</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,403</u></u>	

Long-Term Debt Summary:

Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,346,629	3,410,152
Increase (Decrease)	(65,577)	(56,365) *
Long-Term Debt - End of May	<u><u>\$ 3,281,052</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,353,787</u></u>
Line of Credit Balance - May 31	\$ -	\$ -

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

Financial Highlights May 2021

Contribution Income for May of \$76K was \$13K less than May of 2020. Note that in April/May 2020, the first 2 full months of the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown of worship, we experienced a correspondingly strong outpouring of generosity from our congregation. Contribution Income YTD is still \$2K ahead of last year. Program Registrations, Fees & Payments and Building Rental Income are off a combined \$55K YTD vs. last year, showing the continuing effects of the pandemic and reduced activity in our building. Learning programs expenses are correspondingly down by \$25K YTD compared to 2020. As discussed, the timing of receipt of some annual Contribution gifts fluctuates every year. Overall, YTD Operating Expenses are \$44K less than YTD May 2020. May of 2020 was also the first of 3 months that we paid interest only on our mortgage with Thrivent, as Thrivent deferred principal payments for a 3-month period to assist congregations with the COVID-19 shutdowns. YTD our Contribution and Total Income continue to exceed expenses, enabling us to maintain our Line of Credit Balance at zero for the sixth straight month! Last year we also had a zero balance against the line at this time.



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.

July 4	Mark 6:1-13
July 11	Mark 6:14-29
July 18	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 25	John 6:1-21

Though the choir has not met in person for over a year, when they gathered for a picnic in May, it was as if a beat had not been missed. Everyone looked and sounded wonderful. Praise and thanks to God!

Virtual singing is a wonderful new tool for choirs, but nothing beats being together. Hopefully, come fall, we will be back singing together in worship!

PHOTOS: Trinity Choir Picnic



8:30 am
In-person
at Trinity

8:30 am
Livestream
& Online

10 am
Outdoors
at Drive-in

11 am
On TV
channel 18

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP**

Background vector created by starline - www.freepik.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Below is the worship schedule that will continue through Sunday, Sept. 19, with adjustments made as required by any changing conditions due to COVID-19.

8:30 a.m. – In-person at Trinity (limited capacity, sign up required)

<https://trinitylc.org/worship-music/worship/sign-up-for-worship/>

8:30 a.m. – Facebook Livestream & Online on our Web Site

www.facebook.com/trinitylcstillwater/

<https://trinitylc.org/worship-music/worship/online-worship/>

10 a.m. – Outdoor Worship at the Drive-in

<https://trinitylc.org/worship-music/worship/drive-in-summer-worship/>

11 a.m. – Watch on TV local channel 18

<https://trinitylc.org/worship-music/worship/>

We're Back! (well, almost) Show us what you've been up to! Trinity Art Show this Fall

While COVID-19 closures made life very different for all of us, it was also a time of renewed or NEW creativity! We've seen your paintings and mosaics and poetry on Instagram and Facebook, and in the fall, we'd like to have these creations hanging in the Narthex for all to see and enjoy.

Submissions can be anything from paintings to poetry, and everything in between. All ages are welcome to participate.

Perhaps you discovered chalk art or oil painting. Perhaps you spent your creative time learning how to sail, or biking the equivalent of the mileage from coast to coast. Perhaps you mastered the art of baking the perfect sourdough bread. Maybe you ventured into gardening and discovered that your Dahlias brightened up the neighborhood. We want to see it all, so consider the art of photography to showcase your prize-worthy flowers, your biking adventures, amazing driveway chalk illustrations, and more!

For now, simply submit the attached form by Aug. 1 to any member of the Fine Arts Committee or info@trinitylc.org. We will send you more information in August.

We will request art drop-off during the week of Sept. 7.

Questions? Contact any member of the Trinity Fine Arts Committee:

Carol Carver
651-439-7400 • ccarver@trinitylc.org

Sheila-Marie Untiedt
612-308-9994 • smuntiedt@hotmail.com

Sara Wagner
651-303-0540 • saraewagner@comcast.net



TRINITY ART SHOW

This form is available online at: <https://trinitylc.org/worship-music/art/fine-arts-team/>

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Artform (photography, painting, sculpture, etc.): _____



LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

Summer Stretch is back for middle schoolers and high schoolers! Happening in July. Sign up for faith, fun, service and time with friends. Questions? Contact Monty Lysne at mlysne@trinitylc.org.

Middle School Summer Stretch Tuesday, July 6 • Tuesday, July 13 • Wednesday, July 21

**Kids completed grades 6, 7 or 8
Cost is \$100 for all three days or \$40
for individual days**

Several churches in the Stillwater area have traditionally come together each summer to offer the Summer Stretch program for Middle Schoolers, and (with some small tweaks) we're offering it again this year! Each event runs 8:45 a.m. – about 4 p.m. (except July 21 which is all day at ValleyFair) and begins with a service project, bag lunch, then afternoon fun.



High School Summer Stretch Thursday, July 8 • Thursday, July 15 • Wednesday, July 21

**Kids completed grades 9-12
Cost is \$100 for all three days or \$40
for individual days**

Why should the middle schoolers have all the fun? So, in order for our High Schoolers to be able to gather, have some fun, and do some good work, we've designed Senior Stretch. It starts at 3 p.m. (except July 21 which is all day at ValleyFair) with some service work in

and around the area (inside and outside), followed by dinner and a fun activity in the evening.

Read more, view the schedule and sign up at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/summer/summer-stretch/>.

<https://trinitylc.org/learning/summer/summer-stretch/>

VBS 2021

Register Now!

<https://trinitylc.sportngin.com/register/form/568729947>

Or visit our web site at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/summer/vacation-bible-school/>



July 12-15, 6:30-8 pm on Trinity Green Space | Ages 4-9, \$30 per child

As the world cheers at the Summer Olympics, we are excited to celebrate with our own twist by recognizing all the ways that We're All on God's Team! Ages 4-9 are invited to join us for an all-outdoor Vacation Bible School from 6:30-8 p.m. on the Green Space, Monday, July 12 – Thursday, July 15 (Friday, July 16 is a flex day in the event of rain). Register at: <https://trinitylc.sportngin.com/register/form/568729947>

The Backpack Brigade is on!



Collection
July 26 –
Aug. 12

CONGREGATIONAL
LIFE &
CONNECTIONS



By Kristie Anderson, Coordinator

More than 25 brand new, sturdy, large backpacks have already been purchased by Trinity friends! We're partnering with Community Thread/United Way and FamilyMeans/Cimarron to walk alongside students from Stillwater Area Schools, and especially the young people living in the Cimarron neighborhood in Lake Elmo. We need more than 300 backpacks to assist all of these families and to help their students make a fresh start to another school year filled with possibility!

What hugely motivates me is the Bible story of the mustard seed. We start with a small idea based on real needs of our neighbors—the cost of going back to school is prohibitive for so many families. And with our faith that the 25 backpacks

will exponentially grow into a humongous pile of backpacks is like that of the mustard seed! We can do this, Trinity, and we are grateful for your help!

1. Backpacks are being collected between July 26–Aug. 12.
2. Call or email Kristie Anderson at 651-439-9133 or Jkjsa@hotmail.com when you've purchased a backpack so we can keep a running total.
3. Deliver your backpacks to Community Thread at 2300 Orleans St. W in Stillwater (be sure to indicate they're from Trinity)—OR drop them off at Trinity Monday–Thursday from 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (contact Jeannie in the church office at 651-439-7400—she'll be happy

to meet you at the door)—OR drop them in the bins at in-person or drive-in worship on Sunday mornings—OR drop them off at Kristie Anderson's house at 932 4th Ave. S in Stillwater (please call first at 651-439-9133). Thank you!

These pandemic years have been filled with so much uncertainty and grief. We have deep gratitude for every single backpack donated to help spread school joy to our community. Let's Stuff the Bus with backpacks!



Trinity's Knitting Ministry was happy to gather once again in person at Trinity. Note the impressive pile of beautiful prayer shawls.

SOLO55PLUS is Thriving

By Libby Shusterich, Solos Leadership Team

The pandemic did not slow down the Solos! We have grown to 84 members—13 joined in 2020, with another 7 so far in 2021. Wow!

Last summer we enjoyed several outdoor picnics bringing our own chairs, masks and beverages. We even had a dance demonstration, as well as a presentation on safety. We provided a delicious lunch from Brine's for our members at our picnic in Pioneer Park, and had a super fun hot dog roast at Otto Berg Park.

Throughout the year, we were keen to meet via Zoom every Friday evening. This was a great way to keep in touch and catch up with each other. We often played games, including Bingo, Trivia, Wheel of Fortune, Scavenger Hunt and Two Truths and a Lie. Our leadership team reached out specifically to those with limited access to technology.

We braved the winter weather and continued our weekly walks! We enjoy this so much we are now walking twice a week. We walk, on average, 2-3 miles. It's a great way to stay fit and active, while socializing.

Our weekly newsletter has been a huge hit with our members and is a key to keeping us connected. It's newsy, and also includes motivational sayings and prayers, as well as funny jokes and pictures. This last year we introduced and highlighted several members who were willing to share their short biographies and pictures. It was a wonderful way to get to know our members, especially during pandemic.

Recently, we have brought back one of our most popular events! Our "meet and greet, stay and eat" weekly restaurant gatherings on Thursday evenings. And it's going strong.

Our most recent event, ChiliFest, was a big success. We met at Cover Park where six members cooked chili and five volunteered to be judges. We also enjoyed fresh veggies and dip, cornbread muffins, lemon bars, brownies and pumpkin bars from members.

Most gratifying are the friendships we are making with one another. We look forward to another wonderful year!

If you are interested, contact us by email at SOLO55PLUS@gmail.com.



SOLO+PLUS

55

Singles Group
for Ages 55 & Up



FROM TOP: ChiliFest, Weekly Walkers
AT RIGHT FROM TOP: Three Johns, Three
Judys, Thursday Dinners, Leadership
Team—(back row) Margie Denton,
Margaret Irwin, Barb Martin, (front row)
Teri Walen, Libby Shusterich

Let's Have a Plastic Free July!



By Sheila Maybanks, Green Team

World Ocean Day was June 8. Sadly we've all seen the pictures of the floating "islands" of trash in our beautiful oceans. Maybe we've read about the microparticles of plastics in our blood.

But we can become a part of a global movement that helps millions be part of a solution—so we can have cleaner oceans, cleaner streets, cleaner bloodstreams and cleaner communities.

Around the world people are signing on for a Plastic Free July. Please visit: [https://](https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/)

www.plasticfreejuly.org/. It can be as little or as big as you want or can do. It's an action to reduce the use of single-use plastics in our daily lives. Some people can and do commit to living plastic-free lives—all of us can reduce our use of plastics for a month, and hopefully it can become a habit.

The "Big Four" of single use plastics are cups, straws, bottles and bags. Remember to carry your reusable shopping bags so you can say "no" to that umpteenth Target bag. Carry a coffee cup with you and say no thanks to the plastic one. Consider shopping more at farmer's markets where the fresh food is not double wrapped in plastic. Buy bulk in your own containers if possible. Lots of people are carrying metal straws now—so we can say "no straw, please." Please say no to buying water in plastic bottles, we all have water bottles and we have great water coming from our taps! It's picnic time—it's a bit of work but easy to bring silverware and dishes from home instead of plastic ones.

Have a great plastic free July!

Visit <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/> for more ideas and inspiration.

action! ITEMS

Together, we explore the racial inequities and history of unconstitutional policies and prejudices. And we ask ourselves how we can be better neighbors today. Trinity's Racial Justice Ministry Team is continuing the practice of weekly action items that began during Lent. Read more about this ministry at: <https://trinitylc.org/welcome/who-we-are/racial-justice/>.

GIVE: On the next page of this newsletter (Page 12), read about faith communities in the St. Croix Valley building tiny homes to end homelessness for those in Sacred Settlements. Homelessness disproportionately affects people of color. Be a part of it by giving a financial donation or volunteer your time.

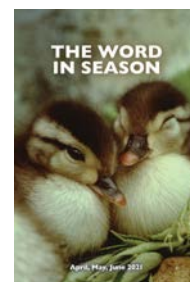


The Light in Me sees and honors the Light in each of You

YogaDevotion Chair/Flow Combo Class
Thursdays 9 – 10 am | Meeting on Zoom
Aug. 19 – Oct. 7 | \$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 <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/care/yoga/>
Questions? Contact Sue Peterson at todd@sue2@aol.com.



WORD IN SEASON DEVOTION

Just a quick note to let everyone know that the Word in Season, regular and large print, are available at church in the Narthex.

The devotional is now free to anyone that would like one.

Whether picking up your devotional is a return to a pre-pandemic pattern or is part of a new routine, we hope you enjoy it and find comfort in the words.

OUTREACH MISSIONS



INTERESTED IN WHAT A TINY HOME REALLY LOOKS LIKE?

There are several opportunities to see a model tiny home in person.

Visit the "Lil Peach" model tiny home on:

- Monday, July 19 from 6-8 p.m. at Trinity's 150th celebration on the Green Space
- Sunday, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m. at TrinityFEST at the Drive-in

Also look for Lil Peach at Stillwater's July 4th Celebration, St. Mary's Wild Rice Festival and the Washington County Fair.

Come and see firsthand what people are finally calling "home."



Building Tiny Homes to Reduce Homelessness

By Mark Weber, Homeless Strategy and Advocacy Team

Homelessness is a major issue in the United States and affects people in the Twin Cities including those in Washington County and the St. Croix Valley. It's estimated that on any given night there are around 7,000 people that are homeless in the Twin Cities. Lack of affordable housing and the COVID-19 outbreak have contributed to the situation.

The Homeless Strategy and Advocacy Team (HSAT) has been researching ways to alleviate homelessness and has recently partnered with the organization called Settled (www.settled.org) to sponsor a tiny home for a person experiencing chronic homelessness. HSAT is a collaboration of church members from several congregations in the St. Croix Valley that have an interest in reducing homelessness. Settled is a non-profit that activates and equips faith communities to pursue home with the homeless through sustainable housing, purposeful work, and supportive community.

These tiny homes are 8 feet by 20 feet homes that are built on a trailer and then placed in a Sacred Settlement that is on church-owned land. Sacred Settlements promote the Community First Approach and have "missionals" that live within the



settlement that help provide a support network and community.

There are several tiny home villages in the United States and the first one in Minnesota is being started this summer at Mosaic Church in St. Paul. The tiny home that HSAT will be sponsoring will be placed in the next Sacred Settlement that Settled is working on (leading candidates are Faith Lutheran in Forest Lake, Open Door Church in Maple Grove and Purpose Church in Minneapolis).

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There are several ways to do so!

1. Contribute financially to the sponsorship of the tiny home. Sponsorship of a tiny home is \$35,000 and the Outreach Mission's Team from Trinity Lutheran Church will match the first \$10,000 contributed. Please write a check to Trinity and (IMPORTANT!) specify "tiny home" in the memo line.
2. Volunteer to help with the actual build of the tiny home which will be constructed at Woodland Hills Church in St. Paul at 1740 Van Dyke Street (next to the Plaza Theater). It will take around 300 hours of volunteer labor to construct the tiny home.
3. Learn more about this initiative. Please explore the Settled web site at www.settled.org. Come out and see Lil Peach—a model tiny home—during the Stillwater community celebration of Trinity's 150 years in on Monday, July 19 from 6-8 p.m. on the Green Space.

If you have questions and/or to volunteer, please contact Mark Weber at markweber22@outlook.com. Please help support this HSAT homelessness initiative. Thank you!

Read more at: <https://trinitylc.org/outreach/homeless-strategy-advocacy-team/>

Through the Archives to Accompaniment

By Michele Hermansen, Outreach Missions Team

Many people have been wading through Trinity's archives in an effort to summarize 150 years of church history. My focus is the church's mission activity. Since its founding in 1871 as the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, this has been a church concerned with the well-being of other people.

At its 20th annual meeting on Jan. 4, 1892 the congregation voted that the entire offering one Sunday each month be devoted to mission work! The church also implemented membership dues that year to support the synod's educational institutions, which included Gustavus Adolphus College. These benevolence practices continued for decades.

After the church became Trinity Lutheran Church, there are reports of letters from missionaries supported in China, India and Japan; and talks given by missionaries returning from Africa. Regular support is provided to various charitable institutions in the metro and surrounding area. Reading the carefully hand-scripted notes of the Women's Missionary Society of the 1040's is an insightful window into our history and culture, as well as our mission activity.

Our big shift today is in *Accompaniment* as a lens and methodology for mission work. Accompaniment is walking together in solidarity that practices interdependence and mutuality. The values of Accompaniment are:

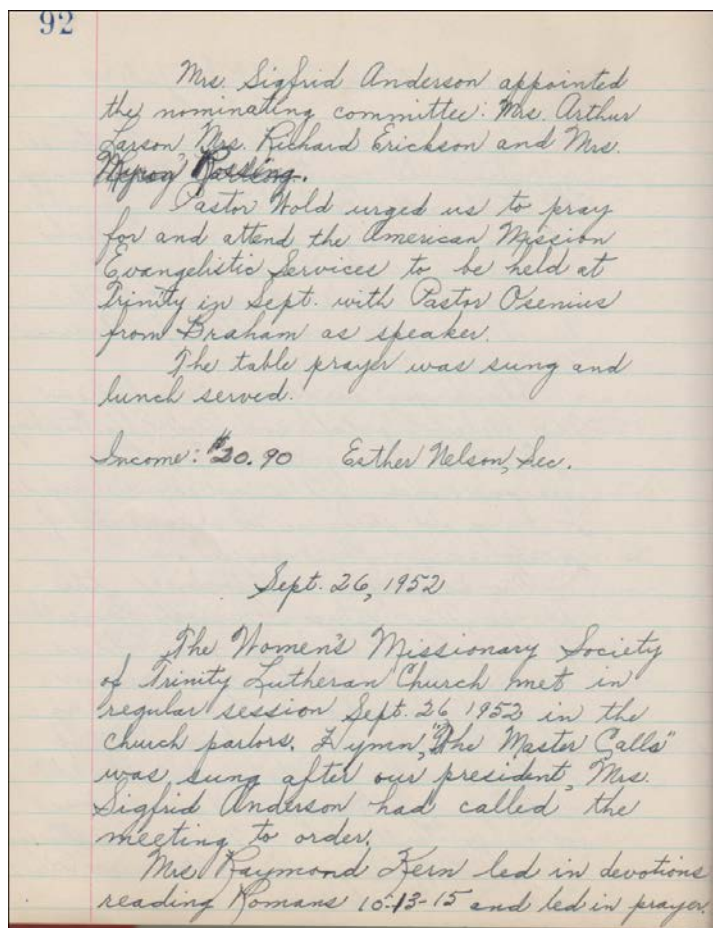
- Mutuality,
- Inclusivity,
- Vulnerability,
- Empowerment and
- Sustainability.

One way to visualize it as different than the "traditional" mission model is – *We are never trying to take God someplace; we recognize that God is already there! Accompaniment frees us to walk alongside one another and learn and appreciate how the presence of God is manifest in other people.*

Traditional Mission Viewpoints	Accompaniment Approach
Charity	Justice
"Over There"	Everywhere
Talking	Active Listening
Teacher	Active Learner, Participant
Dependency	Equality, Sustainability

The practices and values of Accompaniment also align well with our congregation's decision to be a Reconciling in Christ community, our welcome statement, and our congregational focus on social justice.

If you haven't had a chance to watch the ELCA's newly-released 30-minute documentary on Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson's 38+ years of ministry in Tanzania and other countries, it is a wonderful, real-life lesson in Accompaniment at work. Mark (who grew up at Trinity) and Linda are amazing people continuing to do outstanding things on God's behalf! Here is a link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ndF78g65cg>



Letter above from a notebook of Trinity mission notes in the 1950's.

Save the date!





We Love Trinity's Library!



By Norma Wilson, Library Volunteer

"Because God is at its focal point, the Trinity Library is a special place. It is a place to grow as a Christian, a place to find peace and compassion, and a place to be in God's presence." (Trinity Mission Statement)

We love the Trinity Library, and LADC! Recently when I entered the library, I found a wonderful booklet of hand drawn notes and pictures from the children and staff of LADC,

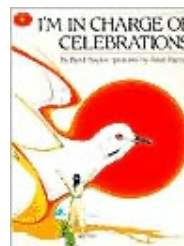
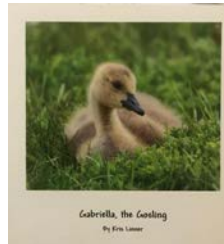
our church preschool program. They expressed: "Thank you for sharing this gift with us." We are grateful the LADC children were able to access library resources throughout the pandemic. We are grateful to Trinity's members who provide these materials!

Congratulations to Pastor Kris Linner who has recently published two new books and donated them to the Trinity Library. Pastor Kris used her love of nature photography and scripture to illustrate *God's Word God's Creation* (213 LINN). Verses of Scripture are paired with nature photos to create a book of worship, praise and guidance. *Gabriella, the Gosling* (E LINN) shares the story of a young gosling as she learns and grows with her family and neighbors. Gabby, learns to love and believe in herself. This precious story is illustrated with photos by Kris.

Kris previously published *My Brother Dave: Living Through a Loved One's Death* (155.9 LINN), significant for families in grief. *Women and the Word* (226 LINN) has been widely used for women's groups studying scripture. Please contact Pastor Kris at linner.kl@gmail.com to purchase books.

Many years ago, Picture Books were labeled with an E as "easy" books, but we know today they are "everybody" books. In a recent sermon, Pastor Peter referred to the book *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* (E ROSE), the story of a family outing that results in several challenges. He referred to the book in terms of living life and obstacles encountered—we have God's help in "going over, under, around and through" those events in our lives. You will find the following E books are truly for everybody.

Gratitude: *I'm In Charge of Celebrations* (E B), "In the desert, a young woman's love of her environment motivates many

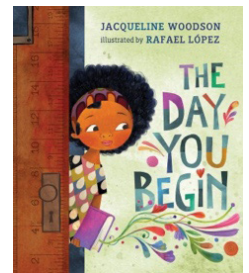


private celebrations: Coyote Day, Dust Devil Day, The Time of Falling Stars. The words are personal descriptions of responses to events." (School Library Journal) Where do you find celebrations and feelings of gratitude in your life situations?

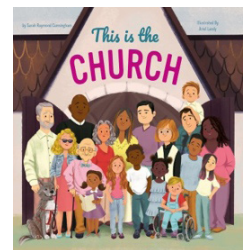
Environment: *Dear Earth...From Your Friends in Room 5* (E D) "This beautiful picture book is a celebration of every child's (Everybody's!) ability to connect with the environment and make a positive impact." (HarperCollins) You will learn about recycling, reducing energy, and conservation. How will you take care of God's Creations?



Social Themes: *The Day You Begin* (E W) "There will be times when you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you...this story places great value on literacy, reading, and imagination." A person has trouble finding her voice when others in the room have differing appearances and life experiences. (Horn Book) Do you find yourself in these situations sometime? How do you respond?



Church: *This Is the Church* (E C) Remember the rhyme, "This is the church, this is the steeple?" This update to the classic children's rhyme is an introduction to church for a new era, a whirlwind tour through all the wonderful things church can be and do and mean... from welcoming, to helping to feeding the hungry, church can be and do a lot of things. But ultimately that old rhyme said it best: the church is the people! (Beaming Books) Can you name ways Trinity supports you and others in faith and service?



Give the library team a genre, title, author, or subject. Volunteers Andrea Eckman, Barb Martin, Doreen Johnson, Cynthia Franzen and Norma Wilson are eager to help you and have you return to the Trinity Library!

WORSHIP ON TV

Watch Sunday Worship on local channel 18 through Valley Access
 Sunday 11 a.m.
 Wednesday Noon & 6 p.m.
 Thursday Midnight & 6 a.m.
 Saturday 11 p.m.

BAPTISMS

- **Valerie Mae Lange**, daughter of Jenna and Ashlee Lange
- **Hudson Ohn Birkeland**, son of Jory and Molly Birkeland

CORE VALUES

Exceptional Worship
 Radical Hospitality
 Authentic Community
 Lifelong Faith Formation
 Compassionate Action

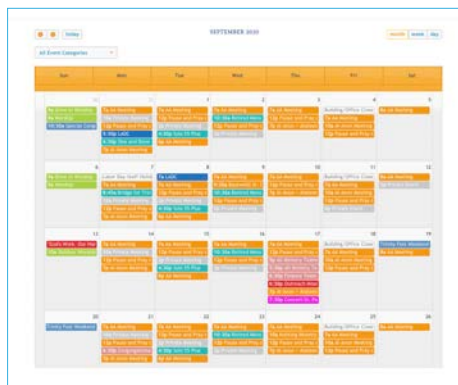


Because God
first loved us,
 we live as Jesus in the world,
loving God and
loving neighbor.

To read our full welcome statement please visit <https://trinitylc.org/welcome/who-we-are/reconciling-in-christ-process/>.

CALENDAR

Please see the calendar on our web site for events, meetings and other happenings at Trinity. The calendar includes in-person and online events. View the calendar at: <https://trinitylc.org/calendar/>



If you've spent time on Zoom, you'll know what this photo is all about. 😊



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To family and friends of **Kay Handevit**
- To Sharon on the death of her husband **Dennis Hooley**
- To family and friends of **Arba-Della Beck**
- To family and friends of **Bob White**

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

May 23

In-person _____ Not available
 Live online viewers _____ 63
 Online views in one week _____ 218
 Drive-in _____ 131

May 30

In-person _____ 30
 Live online viewers _____ 102
 Online views in one week _____ 267
 Drive-in _____ 155

June 6

In-person _____ 34
 Live online viewers _____ 72
 Online views in one week _____ 309
 Drive-in _____ 147

June 13

In-person _____ 34
 Live online viewers _____ 58
 Online views in one week _____ 311
 Drive-in _____ 118

trinity TODAY

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Email: info@trinitylc.org

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Community Cake & Ice Cream *Celebrating Trinity's 150th Birthday*

Monday, July 19, 6-8 pm

on Trinity's Outdoor Green Space at 115 4th St. N in Stillwater

The entire community is invited to celebrate this significant birthday with cake and ice cream outdoors at Trinity. Please bring a blanket or lawn chair. Rain date is Tuesday, July 20, same time and place.

Members of Trinity have been working on archives and history, living history with treasured garments, a story cookbook and more. Recipes for the popular Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner will be included in the story cookbook. Just one interesting discovery of the 150th anniversary team is letters and photos from the Correspondence Committee for Trinity military during World War II. From 1943 to 1946, ninety-three Trinity members serving overseas (some of whom made the ultimate sacrifice for our country) received letters from Trinity congregants.

Trinity is taking this opportunity to also look ahead—God's story still unfolding. On display at our celebrations will be Lil Peach, a 120 square foot model tiny home that is used to spread the word about Sacred Settlements—an innovative, research-based way to address long-term homelessness by developing holistic tiny home communities in cooperation with faith communities. Please see page 12 for more details.

Also save the date for our 5th annual TrinityFEST on Sunday, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m. at the Drive-in. Included will be worship with special music and a sermon by Bishop Patricia Lull, food trucks, living history, story cookbook available, art, ministry fair and more.

Read more at: <https://trinitylc.org/welcome/who-we-are/history/>



PHOTO: Jeff Taylor