



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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trinity **TODAY**

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



Summer Stretch service at the Zephyr Theater. Braiding, braiding braiding!
More photos on Page 11.

He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

— Mark 9:35



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

Too Much Hope?

Jesus said to them, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

My dad and his brother Ken were the second set of twins born to my grandmother, Alma Marie Plante Bellefeuille. John and Martin hadn’t survived. Nor had an unnamed girl. But my dad and uncle did, along with seven other children. I remember doing the math and realizing that my grandma gave birth to 12 babies over 21 years. Twenty-one years of cloth diapers, late night feedings, and croup.

Grandma died in 1982 at the age of 82, her spine bent nearly in half from osteoporosis, a common malady among fine boned women bearing so many babies in poverty. She died with the medals of saints pinned to her pajamas and prayer cards stacked next to her bed. She died in the sure and certain hope of life eternal with God whom she loved without reservation.

My dad loved to tell stories about growing up in that crowded house. My grandpa worked only half time so there was never enough money. Like many of your grandmas, mine had a huge garden and several apple trees. She had both a modern range and the original wood-burning stove in her kitchen. Both were in constant use, something always being baked, roasted, boiled or canned. My dad used to say about supper time: “There was enough but never plenty.” They never missed a meal, but they never got seconds.

When my dad graduated from high school and entered the Air Force, he weighed 145 pounds. He said the most marvelous part of military service was three meals a day, all he could eat. And he ate. He gained 35 pounds his first year.

Grandma always shows up for me in stories that connect food to God.

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

I think about Grandma who literally gave her flesh for the life of 12 children. And her confidence in the bread that came down from heaven. She had so little. She worked so hard. She fed those surviving kids. Widowed early, she lived alone for over 20 years. And still her faith never faltered.

She was a devout Catholic. Having been raised Catholic myself, I understood the church’s position on many things, which, in those days, wasn’t exactly flexible. But Grandma revealed something of her God-shaped heart when she made the trip by bus from Callaway to Eau Claire where we were living at the time.

I was 17. My friend Amy had become pregnant over the summer. I was stunned and confused by the whole thing and eager to tell my grandma, this stalwart doyenne of the faith, praying constantly as she fingered the rosary she always kept in the pocket of her apron. I needed to know what she thought.

Her response? “Well, Chris, people do make mistakes.”

That’s it. No shock. No dismay. No righteous judgment. Only grace, understanding, acceptance and forgiveness.

Something sparked in me that day. After all these years, I think it was hope. Grandma showed me a side of the Christian faith that had not yet been revealed to me. Sure, my parents were forgiving but I never connected that with the religious experience of my childhood spent in weekly catechism. Grandma sparked hope inside me. Hope that we could get it

wrong and still love God and be loved by God.

Hope helped make sense of my grandma trudging day by day to worship a God who seemed never to have lifted the burden of poverty from her narrow shoulders. Hope made sense of her life in that house which poverty eventually consumed, shingle by shingle, just as osteoporosis consumed her spine. Hope made sense of her joy in the radiant painting of Mary that shone down from the wall in a house with so few possessions.

Hope is a powerful legacy for a grandmother to leave her granddaughter.

Perhaps you are familiar with The Hunger Games movies? They are based on a trio of dystopian novels by Suzanne Collins. The central plot point is a national competition to the death, staged for the salacious pleasure and revenge of the capital. The combatants are children between the ages of 12 and 18. Only one child survives the competition. Only one “wins.”

In the first movie, evil President Coriolanus Snow is talking to one of his henchmen. He asks him: “Do you know why we have a winner? Hope. Hope is the only thing stronger than fear. A little hope is effective. A lot of hope is dangerous. A spark is fine, as long as it is contained. So contain it.”

Now imagine the days following Jesus’ miraculous feeding of the 5,000. Can you imagine the religious leaders, standing in the back of the crowd, watching the people respond to Jesus? Can you imagine them saying the same thing? A little hope is fine. It keeps people’s head up, keeps them moving forward, working, paying taxes.

But too much hope? More than a spark? Dangerous. Threatening. Hope makes people hard to control, fear becomes a useless weapon in the face of too much hope.

What Jesus fed the people was hope. And not just a spark. Jesus offered hope that filled their bellies and left

CONTINUED on page 6>>

PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION
THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



Pan-Doomerang Planning

During the typical summer months, our Trinity staff begins to chart the course for the next year, to plan events and gatherings, TrinityFEST, God's Work Our Hands, Blessing Backpacks, and restarting Faith Formation. We think about what went well in the last year, what opportunities might be on the horizon, and what is going to best serve the spiritual development of our different constituencies. It's a mixture of excitement and nervousness, trying to recruit enough volunteers and make sure we are all on the same page. I look forward to this relaunch every year.

About a month after schools in southern states went back to in-person and cases among kids with COVID-19 started surging, I heard someone on the radio coin this term: pan-doomerang.

It named the kind of whiplash and false starts of our healing and recovery against the fast-mutating virus. Hospitals without beds, staff depleted and drained, new variants developing even fiercer spread.

For those in the church world it has felt like we are going back into the same kind of Fall as 2020, still unsteady, uncertain and hard to get set in stone.

We make plans and change them, make plans and change them again, while still trying to get to God's "yes" for our next faithful step.

As we move into this next season, we continue to be grateful for what we have been able to do together and the faith formation that has happened (even on the back burner) through this time. We also look forward to building more intimate community in the days ahead.

We continue to follow God's liberating love even as we follow the best science, trusting the Spirit to carry us through.

Prayers for all of you as you keep your families safe and faithfully parent and lead,

Pastor Peter



Thank you! Norma & Andrea

The Living Library is one of Trinity's greatest treasures. Not only does Trinity love to read, but the Library even includes many of our own authors, theologians, and storytellers. For the last 10 years, Norma Wilson has been an avid advocate for the collection of resources that help us inform and form faith as a community. I am so grateful for her amazing service to this ministry, her recommendations, her relevance, and connected curation. She has also built a great team of contributors and caretakers to support this ministry. Please join me in giving thanks for Norma.

Norma has now passed the torch to Andrea Eckman (thank you for accepting!) who will now lead this team. Take time to venture down to the Living Library by the 3rd St. Doors when you have a chance—you'll be impressed. And maybe you'll find something that helps us love God and love reading with our neighbors.

In gratitude,

Pastor Peter

membership NOTE

Our membership database is getting a much-needed upgrade. We thank you for your patience as we transition this fall and work out any bumps. We look forward to providing you better integrated service for registration, giving, and more!



God's Love Poured Out

By Claudia Swendseid, Stewardship Team

It's nearly October, which means Trinity's Giving Appeal for 2022 begins soon—on Sunday Oct. 3, to be precise. I look forward to this annual opportunity to support Trinity's ministries, much as I do other activities that begin anew each fall. Still in some more virtual and distanced forms, even as we slowly move forward from the pandemic. A new season of worship, re-engaging with friends returned from summer vacations, watching the trees turn brilliant hues of yellow, red, and orange, and the weather cool.

Jeremiah 29:11—For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope—what an apt bible verse for this time, as we celebrate 150 years of ministry and lean into God's plan for us as we embark on this year's annual giving appeal. In times of continuing uncertainty, like these, I find myself often in prayer, seeking God's guidance for my day. But honestly, that guidance isn't always clear to me. Instead I trust in God's plans for my welfare and a future with hope; sharing God's love poured out with my neighbor, and sharing my resources to support Trinity's ministries.

Making an annual pledge to Trinity is an important way in which my family supports God's plans. It's a concrete way in which we can share what we have to witness to the presence and grace of God in the world; to care for each other and for our neighbor in the wider world for the next 150 years. Our God is generous, and so are we, made as we are in God's own image. Beloved, each of us. No wonder we feel uplifted when we are generous—with our time, unique capabilities, and financial resources. No wonder we revere exceptionally generous and selfless people—like Mother

Theresa and Dr. Martin Luther King. So too, among our family members and friends, we esteem those who live lives of extravagant generosity, not those who spend their lives in extravagant self-indulgence.

Then there is Jesus, our perfect example of selflessness. In parable after parable, Jesus calls us to share and to do so sacrificially, to love God and neighbor as the way to live by faith, not by sight. In action after action, Jesus exemplifies a generous life. There's that guidance I'm praying for. So as followers of Jesus, we can't help but aspire to live generous lives of our own, leaning into God's plan.

Which brings me back to Trinity's 2022 Giving Appeal—an invitation to practice generosity by supporting Trinity's ministries. Clark and I have accepted this invitation; we've decided on our 2022 financial pledge to Trinity. As well, I urge you and your families to do so. Moreover, we have increased our annual pledge over 2021 levels. Why, because we want to grow Trinity's ministries as we move into our next 150 years. If you can do the same, please join us.

I've been amazed at how Trinity has adapted in light of COVID-19 restrictions and continued to pour out God's love among our members and into the wider world. Consider: • Online worship has actually increased participation, including from homes well outside our valley; the drive-in operated nearly year-round with enthusiastic attendance; and the Worship Center worship resumed April 18. • Trinity continued to grow, with new members, baptisms, and nearly 50 confirmands. • Trinity offered more than 30 small groups for every need and interest to enable members to connect, engage in ministry, and deepen their faith—groups that have remained active throughout the pandemic with over 725 persons participating and now slowly returning to in-person gatherings. • Nearly 300 youth and children and over 100 adults participated in faith formation activities, including a Lenten series focused on racial justice and equity. • Online Pause and Pray devotions continued and a new podcast, TrinityCast, was offered by our pastors. • Trinity strengthened its commitment to local and global missions, including forming a Homelessness Strategy and Advocacy Team that is raising funds to build a

tiny home • The Green Team sponsored a Bee Lawn on Trinity's green space • and more. God's love poured out. God's plan for Trinity. A future with hope.

Two more things:

1. How much you pledge doesn't matter, but making a pledge does. Our financial situations vary, which affects the amount we can pledge to Trinity. For example, in 2021, annual pledges to Trinity ranged from \$100 to over \$25,000. Making a pledge, at any level, is important, as in doing so we show our love for God and neighbor.
2. Fulfill your pledge by setting up an automatic payment, if possible, via a credit or debit card or through an electronic debit to your checking account. This helps Trinity by stabilizing its cash flow year-round and makes it easy for you to stay current on your pledge.

We've set three goals for the 2022 Giving Appeal:

- Raise \$1.08 million in pledged contributions—an increase of 2% over 2021.
- Engage 344 families in pledging—also a 2% increase over 2021.
- Inspire 20 new pledgers, continuing our growth in 2021.

The pledge drive kicks off on Sunday, Oct. 3 and concludes on Oct. 31.

Look to receive a letter, brochure and pledge form with more information in the mail. Trinity has shared God's love and Good News for 150 years. We look forward to the next 150 years as one body, beloved by God, sharing in a common life in Jesus, and guided by the Holy Spirit. Much of life will remain beyond our control, which makes it even more important to belong to a church community that anchors us in God's plans for our welfare and a future with hope. A church community that cares for each other, forgives each other and shares each other's burdens. Where we continue to worship together, strip away our own self-interest to serve others and witness to the presence and grace of God in the world. A community that is even more relevant in our current circumstances.

Lean into God's love for you. Lean into God's plan for you. Pray. Then, join me in making your 2022 pledge to Trinity Lutheran Church. Thank you!

Trinity Financial Update

July Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2021

	This Year	Last Year	'21 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	1,181,895	1,195,805	1,326,000	89%
Other Income	209,404	267,341	422,761	50%
Total Income	<u>\$ 1,391,299</u>	<u>\$ 1,463,146</u>	<u>\$ 1,748,761</u>	
less: Expenses	1,423,702	1,426,720	1,747,358	81%
Surplus (Deficit)	<u><u>\$ (32,403)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 36,426</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)	(84,538)	(56,365) *
Long-Term Debt - End of July	<u><u>\$ 3,262,091</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,353,787</u></u>
Line of Credit Balance - July 31	\$ -	\$ -

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

150 Gifts

Celebrate Trinity's 150th Anniversary by pledging 150 "gifts" in addition to your regular annual pledge/giving!

How about:

150 Gratitude Prayers

150 Dollars

150 Minutes of Ushering

150 Acts of Community Service

150 Thank You Notes

150 Minutes of Bible Study

150 Hours of Worship

150 of however you want to share God's love poured out!

Please begin to think about or even jot down your 150 "gifts" then watch for ways to share during the stewardship appeal in October.

Financial Highlights July 2021

As the summary above illustrates, July was not a strong month financially. Contribution Income for July of \$82K was \$19K less than July of 2020. Contribution Income YTD is \$14K behind last year. As discussed before, the timing of receipt of some annual Contribution gifts fluctuates every year. Program Registrations, Fees & Payments and Building Rental Income are off a combined \$47K YTD vs. last year, showing the continuing effects of the pandemic and reduced activity in our building. Learning programs expenses are correspondingly down by \$17K YTD compared to 2020. For the first time this year we are in a deficit position, driven by lower Contribution Income in July and a 3rd payroll in the month with a \$30K effect on expenses. Overall, YTD Operating Expenses are \$34K less than YTD June 2020. July of 2020 was also the third 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 shutdowns. As we compare the difference in bottom line this YTD v. last year, that accounts for over \$28,000 in additional expense in 2021 v. 2020. Although YTD expenses exceeded our Contribution and Total Income this month, we were able to manage cash and maintain our Line of Credit Balance at zero for the eighth straight month! Last year we also had a zero balance against the line at this time.

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twelve baskets brimming. Hope spilling down the hillside.

Sure, the people didn't quite get it. They keep following Jesus for more actual bread. And Jesus is trying to help them understand that what he fed them was hope, truth, possibility. Jesus even gets a little bit testy with them.

"Look, this isn't about flour, water, salt, and yeast. Even those who got manna in the wilderness eventually died. What I am offering you is the bread of life, my body, my love, my sacrifice, my willingness to shoulder the mantle of evil that is oppressing you. I am offering you the hope of liberation."

"Just as God liberated you from Pharaoh. Not a spark of liberation but a thundering crowded exodus. Just as God fed you with water and manna and quail in the wilderness. Not just a spark of nourishment but plenty. Just as God brought you back from exile to flourish and multiply."

"So will I, the bread of life, do more than sustain you for today. I am the bread of eternal life. Not a spark giving you hope for a faraway someday. But hope that rises up in you like yeast on fire. Stirring new life in you, eternal life as a daily journey of hope we make together."

Hope is dangerous. Because no matter how many vertebrae crack with the effort of enduring, this hope rises up to eternal life. This hope is Christ's life in you, Christ's gift to you, Hope is God's Spirit connecting with our spirit and coming alive in us as the bread that nourishes eternally.

I heard a great question this week: "What spiritual food are we feeding each other?"

We can take this passage from John, carve it up and plate it as a complex codex of how to get to Jesus and who gets left behind. Or we can take Jesus at his word and trust that this abundant, yeasty bread of life, offered up in his flesh, is enough to feed everyone with baskets left over.

The spiritual food that sustained my grandma was hope, hope burning unquenched because she returned time and again to the table where it was offered up with faithful hands.

The spiritual food that sustained my dad was hope, hope burning



Thank you for stuffing the bus!

By Kristie Anderson, Coordinator

Wow, Trinity! We stuffed the bus with backpacks! Together we collectively donated about 225 beautiful backpacks that were filled and distributed to Stillwater students in late August. This photo at right shows ALL of the backpacks donated to Community Thread, including those from Trinity.

What an amazing team! About 60 Trinity people participated! There were some additional fun mystery people who donated anonymously so our people count is an estimate. And \$1,465 was donated either directly to Community Thread or to be used by our shoppers to purchase backpacks on their behalf. Target, Walmart, Costco and Amazon were all used!

Your generosity is outstanding! Your hearts are open to help create positivity about returning to school.



Just know that the students' JOY was contagious as they explored their filled, brand-new backpacks!

Now, we must continue to walk alongside these young people in schools everywhere. Please promise to pray daily for the safety, health and well-being of all students, teachers and staff, and for the amazing learning that will occur! You can use this prayer adapted from Marian Wright Edelman or one of your own: "God, as we send our children back to school, help us to love and respect and act now to protect them all." God loves ALL children and God WILL hear our prayers.

unquenched because he learned at his mother's knee, he saw her forge ahead through difficulty, he saw her put on her hat and gloves and make her way to church every single day before breakfast, he saw her lips moving through the rosary as she sauteed pork for her meat pie, he watched and helped in those last days as she moved the pins of the saints from her apron to her pajamas and back again.

My grandma fed my dad a steady spiritual diet of hope. Hope in Christ. Hope in eternity. Hope in a God that never abandoned her. And my dad fed me.

And we, the body of Christ, we feed each other—returning to the living Word that nourishes, passing bread and wine from hand to hand in hospitality that is both cosmic and deeply personal. We feed one another the reminder of the water in which we are freshly washed day by day. We feed each other and offer to our neighbors a spiritual food that shores up our bones, lifts our hearts, and joins our hands. That dangerous hope—wielded in the name of Jesus—is life for the world.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Pastor Chris

HSAT

Homeless Strategy and Advocacy Team



Neighbors from St. Croix Valley faith communities working together on housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness.

WHO WE ARE: Neighbors from faith communities in the St. Croix Valley. Homeless Strategy and Advocacy Team (HSAT) is a collaboration of church members from several congregations in the St. Croix Valley that have an interest in reducing homelessness.

TINY HOME FUNDRAISER: HSAT is partnering with Settled—a non-profit that activates and equips faith communities to help reduce homelessness through sustainable housing, purposeful work, and supportive community. HSAT is working with Settled to advocate, fund raise and build tiny homes as a permanent, community-first solution for people experiencing homelessness. Settled develops communities of tiny homes called Sacred Settlements around the metro area. Visit www.settled.org for more information.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP: Consider making a monetary donation, ask about opportunities to lend your skilled labor, or learn more about the problem of homelessness.

1. Contribute financially to the sponsorship of the tiny home. Sponsorship of one tiny home is \$35,000. Give online at: <https://settled.kindful.com/hsat>. Or scan the QR code at right with your smartphone camera for the giving link.
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. Also visit: <https://trinitylc.org/outreach/homeless-strategy-advocacy-team/>.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION:

Contact a member of HSAT:

Mark Weber – markrweber22@outlook.com

Sandy Wendt – sjwendt46@gmail.com

Greg Otsuka – gregoryotsuka@gmail.com

Give online at: <https://settled.kindful.com/hsat>



OUTREACH MISSIONS



Sunday, Sept. 12

Please watch the bulletin, e-newsletter and Facebook for details on how this ELCA and Trinity tradition will continue this year!

WANT TO SEE A TINY HOME IN REAL LIFE?

Visit the "Lil Peach" model tiny home on:

- Sunday, Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Mary's Wild Rice Festival
- Sunday, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m. at TrinityFEST at the Drive-in

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





6th Annual
Trinity

FEST *Celebration*

God's story still unfolding—celebrating 150 years! Our big birthday celebration continues at TrinityFEST at the Drive-in with many special events.

Outdoors at the DRIVE-IN

Sunday, Sept. 19 at 10 am

TrinityFEST at Drive-in Worship

Sermon by Bishop Patricia Lull • Special Music

Food • Living History • Art • Ministry Fair

Story Cookbook available (with Lutefisk & Meatball recipes!)

View the model tiny home Lil Peach *and more!*

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. 5 **Mark 7:24-37**

Sept. 12 **Mark 8:27-38**

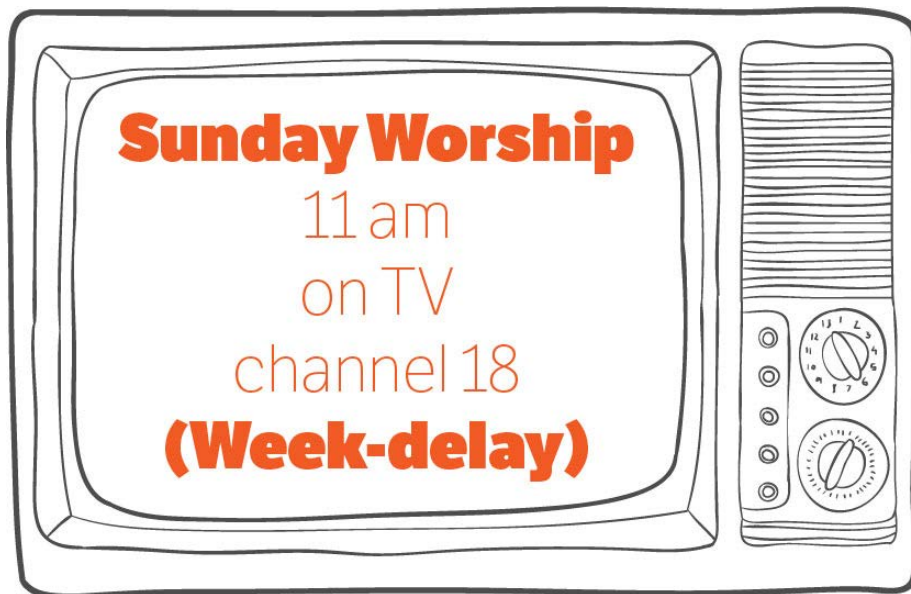
Sept. 19 **Mark 9:30-37**

Sept. 26 **Mark 9:38-50**

Celebrate Phil!

Sunday, Sept. 12

Let's celebrate Phil Kadidlo and his 35 years of music making at Trinity! Join us Sunday, Sept. 12 immediately following the drive-in service in Houlton, WI.



Sunday worship on TV channel 18 at 11 a.m. now week-delay broadcast. Due to ongoing technical difficulties, Trinity, along with all other area churches, is providing a week-delay rebroadcast of worship on Sunday mornings on TV channel 18. When you tune in to Valley Access Channel 18 on Sunday morning at 11 a.m., you will see the full worship service from the previous Sunday. The rebroadcast is the 8:30 a.m. indoor service that is in-person, livestream on Facebook and online on our web site. On Wednesday at Noon and for the remainder of the week, the current Sunday worship service will be broadcast. Read more at: <https://trinitylc.org/worship-music/worship/>

Calling all SUPER Singers in K–5th Grade for Children's Choir Rehearsals Wednesdays 4:30-5:15 pm, Chapel

Begins Sept. 15! Come and join our Children's Choir at Trinity this year! We will be meeting on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:15 p.m., starting Sept. 15 for children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade. We will sing at church on Sundays once a month, as well as other extra special events throughout the year!

Songs that are learned in childhood can stay with us for life. How wonderful to plant God's word in song in our children's minds. This instills the love of God, as it takes root and grows in the soul.

In Children's Choir, children can learn, grow, move and serve in God's kingdom—fostering their spiritual growth in their lives. Being a part of leading worship is important in their understanding of experiencing and sharing God's love. It is meaningful to the singers and the congregation as well!

For more information and to sign up, contact Sonia Esch at wisokiwi@msn.com.

Trinity Choir Returns (Hopefully)! Rehearsals Wednesdays 7 pm in the Worship Center

Begins Sept. 15! Yes, hopefully, the time for singing has returned. Choral singing—the activity that brings its participants benefits far too many to number: community, solace, joy, friendship, peace, musical knowledge, faith formation, to name a few.

The Trinity Choir is made up of Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass singers from high school throughout adulthood. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings and the choir sings most Sundays at traditional worship. Collaboration is key to the Trinity Choir—with the worship band, the children's choir, the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra and numerous instrumental and vocal soloists. If you have ever considered joining the choir, now is an opportune time. We will all be starting anew.

Rehearsals under safe COVID-19 guidelines. For more information and to sign up, contact Carol Carver at ccarver@trinitylc.org.





FAITH FORMATION

On Facebook?

Looking to connect with others in Trinity CYF programming? Join our Children, Youth and Families group.
Search: Trinity Stillwater CYF
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/776989392499282/>



CHILDREN & FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Birth – Grade 5

Look for registration to open soon. Please visit www.trinitylc.org > LEARNING for more information and for registration when it's available.

Registration for Children & Family Faith Formation offerings for the year covers Milestone Ministry, Sunday Step Out Faith Formation, and Monthly Family Faith Events. In-person, distance, and hybrid options available.

To volunteer with Sunday Step Out or to be on a rotation to help replenish Grace Space bags, please contact Sarah at solson@trinitylc.org or Pastor Peter at pwstonmiller@trinitylc.org.

Parent Orientation for Birth-Grade 5 Faith Formation is available online! Please visit <https://trinitylc.org/learning/family/> to view Sarah's video covering how Birth-Grade 5 Faith Formation works this year.

Leader Training for Step Out and Confirmation Small Group Leaders will be Wednesday, Sept. 22 from 6- 7:30 p.m. in the Garden Room.

CONFIRMATION FAITH FORMATION

Grades 6 – 9

Look for registration to open soon. Please visit www.trinitylc.org > LEARNING for more information and for registration when it's available.

Registration for Grade 6/7/8 gatherings for the year covers our regular small group Wednesday fellowship and learning get-togethers. Registration for Grade 9 covers our overnight retreat Oct. 8-9, and the lead-up to Confirmation Day on Oct. 31. In-person, distance, and hybrid options available for most situations.

Parent Orientation for 6/7/8 Faith Formation will be rolled into our first gathering with kids on Wednesday, Sept. 29 from 7-8 p.m. and will be live streamed as well. Please visit <https://trinitylc.org/middle-school/> for additional details.

Confirmation Day details for families of 9th graders will be arriving via email and in postal mail very soon. Confirmation Day is Sunday, Oct. 31.

To volunteer with 6/7/8 Confirmation as a small group guide or other helper, please contact Monty at mlysne@trinitylc.org or Pastor Peter at pwstonmiller@trinitylc.org.

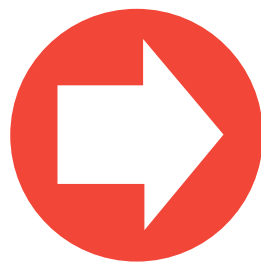
Leader Training for Confirmation Small Group Leaders will be Wednesday, Sept. 22 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Garden Room.

registration NOTE

We are working to get registration up on our new integrated one-stop-shop database ShelbyNext. We are excited for rolling this out together as a church and how it will enhance ministry. Please be patient and stayed tuned. It should be up shortly. Questions? Contact Pastor Chris at cbellefeuille@trinitylc.org.

Registration will be available at www.trinitylc.org.

Summer Stretch returned in July, a collaboration among area churches to combine faith, service, fun and friends for our youth.



ADULT FAITH FORUM

Sundays (between services)

I was wondering...

What does it mean to *be church*?

To “be church” could have many meanings to many different people. Trinity is celebrating its 150th anniversary of being *a church*. Throughout this time of COVID-19, Trinity has reminded us that we continue to *be church* in all circumstances. So I started wondering—What does it mean to be church? What has it meant for Trinity in the past, present and future? What did it mean to be church at the very beginning of following Jesus and after his resurrection and ascension? How do we go about *being church*? Is it mission, witness, community, ritual, worship, people, place, presence?

There are many images of the church throughout the Bible—the bride of Jesus, the vine on the branch, and part of the body of Christ to name just a few. All of these images illustrate a relationship with God. In this relationship Jesus tells us “to love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind.” Everything else flows from this including “to love your neighbor as yourself.” These images and commands are just some things that can help us discern how we are to be church.

Join us in Adult Faith Forum this fall to explore and share how we can “be church.” Adult Faith Forum will meet Sunday mornings after the first church service, hopefully both in person and on Zoom. All are welcome so please join us! Questions? Contact Pastor Peter at pwestonmiller@trinitylc.org or Penny Catlin at pccatlin@juno.com.

A sneak peek of what’s to come in Adult Faith Forum this fall:

- **Sunday, Sept. 26.** – Homeless Strategy Advocacy Team (HSAT) presentation on what’s happening and how to be involved with providing homes and support for those in our community without a place to live.
- **Month of October** – A video study of “Acts: Catching Up With the Spirit” including a visit by the author Matt Skinner. Join us to explore the questions: how did the first Christian communities be church and what can we learn from them?

View our ADULT ED PLAYLIST on Trinity's YouTube channel to view sessions from last year:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN3zsLTSVh-GI_5nDiEisa4WLC65o0KWS5

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & CONNECTIONS

NEWMEMBERSERIES!

The first three Sundays in October:

- Intro to Lutheranism and Bible 101,
- Telling our God Stories—Yes, You Have One! and
- Strengths Finder—The Image of God Created in You.

All classes are open to all—times to be determined.

New Member Recognition Sunday will be Nov. 14.

Stay tuned for more details!

men's bible study

GOING ON NOW!

Thursdays at 8 a.m.
Kowalski's Market, Stillwater location

Pastor Steve Hokanson is leading a men's bible study, Thursdays at 8 a.m. at Kowalski's Market, Stillwater location. Invite your friends and neighbors, as participants are from Trinity and other area churches. Questions? Contact John Hodler at johnhodler@gmail.com.



GROUP spiritual direction

What is group 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

"In 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.



Food for Thought Returning this Fall!

Exciting news! Food for Thought is back in the line up for ministries at Trinity. Food for Thought has been a small group option at Trinity for many years until the pandemic, but we are now hopeful it will be up and running again this fall.

Adult couples and singles of ALL ages are encouraged to participate, share, and grow in faith and friendship by participating in four dinners throughout the year. If you are single it is a great opportunity to invite a friend to join you and create your own couple, but it is not necessary.

How does it work, you ask?

~ We meet 4 times during the school year with 3 other couples in the home of a Trinity family. (Depending on when we start that number may change.)

~ Each time you will be at a different home with different participants. However, due to number of participants, you may dine with some couples more than once.

~ Each couple hosts once per year and recipes are provided.

~ You will prepare your assigned portion of the meal. Main course is provided by host home and others will bring either the appetizer & side, salad & bread, or dessert & wine or sparkling beverages.

~ Dates will be suggested but can be adjusted to meet the needs of the group. We also have a substitute list in case you cannot make one of your dinner dates.

Food for Thought is a fun way to get to know your Trinity family in a casual and conversational setting. The menus are set, and no gourmet experience is needed! Casual and stress-free is the theme! Watch the *Trinity Today*, check the weekly bulletin, and watch for email blasts to get the latest information about starting dates and final registration.

If you have questions or want to be put on the list of participants, please contact Glenda Bjorum at bjorumsing@aol.com or David Brekke at david94645@aol.com.



Bridge for Trinity

Monday, Sept. 6, 8:45 a.m.

Boutwell's Brownstone A Building

Bridge for Trinity will be played at Boutwell's Brownstone A building, Monday, Sept. 6, 8:45 a.m., unless there is a change in Boutwell's COVID-19 policy. Bridge players will be notified by email if it is cancelled. Contact Ann Wolff at wolff701@msn.com if you'd like to receive notices about Bridge. Bridge players must be fully vaccinated to be in line with the current policy. Players of all levels are welcome!

Community Foot Care Clinic

Cost: \$25

Monday, Sept. 13

9 am to 4 pm at Trinity

Certified Foot Care Registered Nurses will provide the following services: assessments to help you understand your risk factors and identify foot problems; educating you on taking care of your feet properly; nail cutting and thick nail care; corn and callous care; ingrown toenail care and identification of the need for specialized foot treatment with referral to resources. Sign up online for a one-hour time slot at: <https://www.healthpartners.com/about/classes-events/> (search for "foot" to bring up the event).

save the dates!

FOR WOMEN'S RETREATS

Women of Trinity, we will be enjoying time together again this coming year, both retreats cover the same material. Choose one of the following—

Saturday, Nov. 13 at Bethel, Highlands campus in Hudson (Time TBD)

OR

The weekend of Feb. 4-6, 2022 at Assisi Heights Spirituality Center in Rochester, MN

Stay tuned for more details!

SOLO 55+ PLUS

Singles Group
for Ages 55 & Up

Solo 55 Plus is a faith-based fellowship group for those single and over 55.

Frequent activities are planned and announced in a weekly newsletter. To receive the newsletter, become a member, or seek information, please send email to: SOLO55PLUS@gmail.com.

Have an ash tree?

By Gary Holthouse, Green Team

Did you enjoy sitting in the shade of that big tree in your yard or walking down the street these hot summer days in the comfort of the tree canopy on a street near you? I did, and as I walked, biked or drove around the Stillwater area I noticed that many of those big trees were ash trees. I wondered what the city would look like if they were gone. They will be, unless you or your neighbor or the city hires someone to treat them for the emerald ash borer.

From my experience in central New York all my ash trees died within five years of the emerald ash borer arriving in the area. I was in the country so the trees were in the woods behind the house, so I didn't have to spend thousands of dollars to take them down. Here in Stillwater I have an ash tree in front of my house and it shades the house nicely from the hot afternoon sun. I'm protecting it from the emerald ash borer by getting it treated every other year at a cost of about \$150.

Money well spent I think.

There are many reasons other than esthetic value to take care of that big tree in your yard, CO2 capture, oxygen generation, air purification and ambient cooling all of which are more important now than in years past. So, if you have an ash tree in your yard, find out about getting it treated. It's something you can do that in a small way will combat climate change. SavATree did my tree but there are many other companies that do this work. I was told its not too late for a treatment this year!



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

Oct. 14 – Dec. 9 | \$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 toddlinsue2@aol.com.

BAPTISMS

- **Eli Christopher England**, son of Jacob & Alexandra England
- **Eliza Layne Crusinberry**, daughter of Michael & Kelsey Crusinberry

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To family and friends of **Karen Remington**
- To family and friends of **Richard Soderholm**
- To family and friends of **Dr. John Sutherland**

WORSHIP ON TV

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

CORE VALUES

Exceptional Worship
 Radical Hospitality
 Authentic Community
 Lifelong Faith Formation
 Compassionate Action

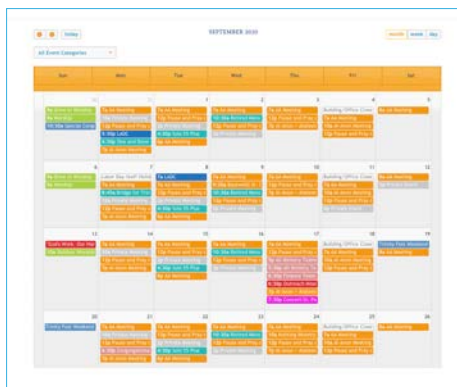


Because God
first loved us,
 we live as Jesus in the world,
loving God and
loving neighbor.

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/>



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

July 25

In-person _____ 56
 Live online viewers _____ 49
 Online views in one week _____ 97
 Drive-in _____ 137

August 1

In-person _____ 44
 Live online viewers _____ 53
 Online views in one week _____ 87
 Drive-in _____ 136

August 8

In-person _____ 35
 Live online viewers _____ 52
 Online views in one week _____ 108
 Drive-in _____ 105

August 15

In-person _____ 45
 Live online viewers _____ 42
 Online views in one week _____ 106
 Drive-in _____ 146

NOTE: Online views in one week are one-minute or longer views

trinity TODAY

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Email: info@trinitylc.org

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trinity **TODAY**

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Beginning Sunday, Sept. 26, Trinity's Fall Art Show will be on display in the Narthex.
Come see how creative Trinity members and friends have been during the pandemic!

**Fall
2021**

TRINITY ART SHOW

**All art,
all ages.**