



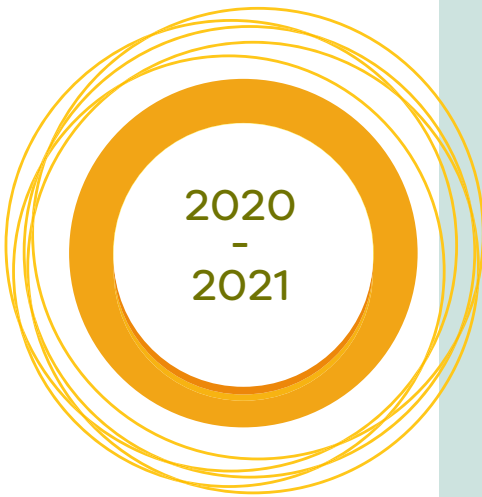
TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

November 2021
volume 43, issue 11

trinity TODAY

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



*all
saints'
day*

Sunday, Nov. 7

Please join us at worship to honor and celebrate Trinity's saints—both those whom we have welcomed into the Body of Christ through baptism, and those to whom we've said farewell as they've entered into life eternal. Names will be read at both worship services. Worship details at www.trinitylc.org.

farewell

Carol Joyce Mereness
Gary William Baggott
Dean William Sonnee
Verlin Vaughn Behm
Konrad Seighart Koosmann
Grace Dorothy Marquardt
Muriel Marie Nestrud
Donald LeRoy Simonson
Dwight Lyman Pederson
Verna June Ranten
Dwain John Cedarbloom
Clara Mae Slayhi
Mary Louise Leverty
Janet Roberta Rude
Mary Jane Oleson
Lorraine June Hoven
Dennis Harry Hooley
Frederick Morrill Hertenstein
Kathryne Norma Handevitd
Robert Eugene White
Arba-Della Beck
Norene Susan Petrick
Linda Jean Mills-Krebsbach
Robin Lee Buckles
Richard Charles Soderholm

John Eric Sutherland
Daniel Michael Herro
Karen Gladys Jackson
Remington
June Brochman
Eugene Alvin Hawkinson
James French

welcome

Wren Joyce Wiegand
Peyton Sophia &
Zoey Kathleen Gotch
Brooks William Karnuth
Malcolm Michael McAnally
Hudson Ohn Birkeland
Valerie Mae Lange
Eliza Layne Crusinberry
Eli Christopher England
Wyatt Charles &
Willow Marie Wolfe
Phoebe Joy Ehlenz
John Edward Adamson

A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury."

– Matthew 12:42-43



LEAD PASTOR THE REV. DR. CHRIS BELLEFEUILLE

Practice, Practice, Practice!

Worship and Music Director Search Team

With the change in Phil Kadidlo's role and Carol Carver's retirement, we have some big shoes to fill. Rather than filling two pairs, we will hire one full-time Director of Worship and Music, offering a competitive salary and full benefits. This is one way we will practice something that Trinity hasn't done in a long time—have one worship director.

While this person will be hired by and report to Pastor Chris, a search team has been assembled to select potential candidates, conduct interviews, and prayerfully support this important process. That team is Glenda Bjorum, Lily Goulette, Phil Hanson, Charlie Payne, Jen Rivera and Lucinda White.

This team will meet for the first time on Nov. 2 to review the job description, discuss vision for worship and music, and pray for our new partner in ministry. After that meeting, the job will be posted to various denominational and music industry job sites, as well as on the Trinity website. At that point, you are welcome to share the posting on any social media or with potential candidates.

If you have a person that you think might be a great fit, they can apply directly to Pastor Chris for now.

You are invited to share your ideas with any member of the team and they look forward to hearing from you. The team will not share information about potential candidates, either those we invite to interview or those who seek us out. We will protect the position of candidates currently serving in a church and the right of all candidates to control news about their participation in an interview process.

We welcome your prayers for the team and for the candidates.

Like many of you, I took piano lessons, for me this began in 3rd grade with Sister Lillian and went through my senior year in high school with Mr. Kearney. Practice was fun at first, then became burdensome, onerous. But a funny thing happened. As I gained proficiency, practice became more fun; more challenging music was a delight to play. And the more I practiced, the more I understood that practice is never finished. The most accomplished pianists are not only those that practiced the most as they were learning, but they also *remain* those who practice the most.

Practice becomes a way of life: learning, trying new things, gaining proficiency, being open to the truth that we make mistakes and from those mistakes we grow. Practice is not an admission of weakness or incompetency. *Practice is a courageous act of commitment.* Putting one's time, energy, and heart on the line for the sake of a wished-for goal.

Over the past year, Trinity has committed to becoming a "community of practice," beginning with the staff and council, who were introduced to the idea by Karen Gieseke, who worked with us on anti-racism training and more.

As a community of practice we don't expect that we will get everything right immediately, if ever! We create space for ourselves and others to learn, make mistakes, take faithful risks, ask questions, and try out new ideas. And offer courageous feedback and abundant forgiveness. With close examination of Scripture and prayerful gatherings, we can venture to learn about whiteness, privilege, racist systems. We can explore climate change, social justice, how to form faith in our children, and strengthen our own faith. We can try new things in worship, confirmation, and book groups.

We can also weather big changes. Because, as a community of practice, we never assume that things are "set," perfected, just as they ought to be forever. Instead, we face big changes as opportunities to pray, reflect, learn, and grow in faith—discovering who God is calling us to be and God's hopeful future for us.

Having Phil Kadidlo step away from music and worship, having Carol Carver set a retirement date. Big things. After 35 years, this will be a significant change for Trinity. There will be grief, remembering and celebration. And there will be a faithful search for a new full-time Director of Worship and Music, a new partner in our community of practice, to come alongside us in worship and discovery. There will be a time of adjustment and getting to know one another. We will try new things, retain selected former things, and learn together as we go.

In the meantime, please hold the search team in your prayers as they practice evaluating the job description, crafting interview questions, listening deeply, and discerning God's call. Pray for the new candidate as they themselves practice prayer, answering those questions, asking their own, and discerning God's call.

Being a community of practice means that everything we do is done in a spirit of faithful learning and exploration, from hiring to worship to prayer to stewardship. We aren't aiming for perfection; we are aiming for faithfulness and collaboration. What a gift it is to live uplifted by God's grace, not called to be perfect but called to practice. Together.

In peace,

Pastor Chris

Pastors, Sabbaticals, and Grants – Oh my!

Several months ago, council president Mel Sullivan wrote an article about Trinity's new sabbatical policy. (You can find that article on page 4 of the May 2021 *Trinity Today* at: <https://media.myworship-times4.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/50/2021/04/27162118/TT-May-2021.pdf>.) Our sabbatical policy will provide pastors 10 paid weeks off after 5 years of service—in addition to their usual vacation. Pastor Chris will qualify after her 5th anniversary coming up on Dec. 12, 2021 and is planning a sabbatical for the summer of 2022.

Our policy encourages pastors to apply for any of several grants that help fund sabbatical activities that are enriching and renewing. One of the largest and best known is the Lilly Foundation Clergy Renewal Grant through the Christian Theological Seminary. More info here: <https://lillyendowment.org/for-grantseekers/renewal-programs/pastors/>. This grant offers up to \$50,000 per grantee to pay for travel expenses and learning opportunities that help the grantee accomplish their goals for renewal.

Pastor Chris applied for such a grant and Trinity is thrilled to announce that we have been granted nearly \$50,000 to fund the activities that Pastor Chris has planned for next summer. This will include extra staff support for administering the grant, pulpit supply and pastoral support for Pastor Peter, congregational celebrations and activities, travel with each member of her family, coaching, and time on her favorite lake—all funded by this grant. (The grant does not cover the salary and benefits of the pastor on sabbatical. That remains the responsibility of the congregation.)

Trinity is delighted to be offered this opportunity to support more fully one of our pastors in rest, renewal, and re-creation—ensuring a vibrant return to ongoing ministry and partnership with us.

We will continue to share more details about sabbatical plans and how the congregation will be included in coming issues of *Trinity Today*.

If you have any question, please see council president Mel Sullivan, or Pastor Chris. We are excited to talk about it!

Congregational Council Appoints Bill Bjorum as Treasurer

A brief note from Bill—I am an active member of Trinity Church and have been since 1973. Glenda and I were married in the “old” sanctuary, both of our children were baptized, attended Sunday school, and were confirmed at Trinity, as were two of our five grandchildren. I have served in many roles at Trinity including: children’s ministry, adult ministry, usher, communion server, reader, several stewardship teams and drives, assisted in the construction of the current facility, several Cursillo teams, and I have previously served on the Church Council. I regularly attend service in person at the Big House, the drive in and lately, virtually. Newly reappointed to the Council, I find myself a Council Member and the Treasurer for the Council. I began this role August 2021 for a three-year term.



Stewardship as Participation in God's Love Poured Out

By Claudia Swendseid, Stewardship Team

Every year Trinity members are invited to support our collective ministries through their financial gifts, alongside other forms of stewardship. The Giving Appeal arises from the theological understanding that all we have is God's gift; to manage for the purpose of loving God and neighbor and God's entire creation. As Martin Luther says, "Possessions are not given that we may rely on them and glory in them.... but that we may use and enjoy them and share them with others."

As a practical matter, we are responsible, collectively, for Trinity's ministries through which we practice loving God and neighbor in tangible, life-affirming ways. We support these ministries by fulfilling our financial pledges—which pays for about 80% of Trinity's ministries. Thus, the Giving Appeal is critical to the health of our ministries.

Notably, Trinity has about 1200 member households of which about 350, or 30%, make annual pledges. About another 180 households give to Trinity without a pledge. In total then, about 45% of our member households support Trinity financially.

Do these numbers surprise you? It surprised me when I learned this. To which my main reaction is sadness. Sadness that so many members are forgoing a source of great joy. We all know what great pleasure we receive from giving gifts to those we love. So too with stewardship in all of its forms—we experience a deep sense of meaning and purpose, invested as we are in God's great work of love poured out on the world.

Mark 10: 17-27 is one of many Gospel examples where Jesus talks about money and stewardship. In this text Jesus converses with a "rich" man who asks Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Let's imagine this man in our current context. He lives in Stillwater, in a spacious home, multiple cars, a growing retirement account and more. He gives to church and other charities, volunteers, worships regularly, is a loving son, husband and father, an all-around good guy. His faith and

doing the right thing matter to him. He enjoys the respect he garners.

Jesus says, "Keep the commandments." The man responds, "Been doing that for years—what else?"

Was the man's question genuine or was he really seeking affirmation from Jesus, a back pat and assurance of eternal life? Regardless, Jesus looked at him and "loved him." Jesus answers out of love. Okay, there's one thing left. "Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

Wow. That's a big ask. Sell everything you have, give it to the poor and follow Jesus? The man was "shocked" and left sadly "for he had many possessions."

Why would Jesus ask so much of this man, who was a generous, respected community member; a faithful follower of God's commandments? Maybe Jesus believed this man was ready to transform his life. He had already done the basic stuff; maybe he was ready for this next big step in his faith journey.

Or, Jesus saw a hard truth. Despite the man's piety, he put his trust, foremost, in his wealth rather than in God. The first commandment says, I am the Lord Your God. You shall have no other gods. But for this man, his wealth proved to be at the center of his life; as such his god before God. The man's wealth had come to own him, so Jesus, out of love, invites him to set this burden down. To let go of false security. To let go in favor of Jesus' call, of God's love poured out, of grace upon grace.

The message I draw from this story is *not* that I or anyone else seeking to be God's faithful steward must sell everything we have and give it all to the poor. *I do* draw the message that Jesus invites us all to put God first, to trust fully in God, as the only real source of security, joy, life itself. To set aside aspects of our lives that get in the way. Could be wealth, accomplishments, family, knowledge, piety, a belief in self-sufficiency, or something else.



Speaking for myself, it is really hard to place my trust fully in God, each and every day and in every circumstance. It is really tempting to place my trust elsewhere—like my abilities, my savings, the love of friends and family, all sorts of things of this world rather than God. Of course, all of these things are wonderful gifts, indeed God's gifts, given to me to use and enjoy and share with others.

I don't stand in judgment of the rich man. I relate to him. I can imagine myself walking sadly away from Jesus' call. Fortunately, Jesus looks at all of us and loves us. Jesus sees in all of us that in which we put our trust and invites us to let go of anything that stands between us and God's love. Anything that is holding us back from trusting the only source of true joy, security and worthiness. The astonishingly steadfast love of God.

Which is why I think stewardship is such an important spiritual discipline. It's a type of regular practice of letting go. Letting go of material wealth; of time for my own purposes; of a belief in I can do it; of false security. Letting go of that which seeks to possess me in favor of Jesus' call to love God and neighbor and follow.

Lean into God's stewardship call to you with all your heart, mind and soul. Keep letting go. Keep coming back to grace upon grace. Hear God's declaration and promise—I am the Lord your God. Know the joy that comes from having no other gods before God, the source of love and abundant life.

Amen.

<https://trinitylc.org/giving/>

Trinity Financial Update

September Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2022

	This Year	Last Year
Contribution Income	71,722	74,935
Other Income	24,250	12,412
Total Income	<u>\$ 95,972</u>	<u>\$ 87,347</u>
less: Expenses	129,533	119,129
Surplus (Deficit)	<u><u>\$ (33,562)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (31,782)</u></u>

Long-Term Debt Summary:

Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,252,567	3,346,629
Increase (Decrease)	(8,348)	(7,184)
Long-Term Debt - End of September	<u><u>\$ 3,244,219</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,339,445</u></u>
Line of Credit Balance - September 30	\$ -	\$ -

September 2021

Financially, preliminary results for September 2021 were very similar to September of 2020. Contribution Income is off slightly vs. last year. Income from Fees & Payments and Building Rental increased as compared to September of 2020.

Here is a comparative summary this year vs. last, so far:

	Sept. 2020	Sept. 2021
Contribution Income:	\$74,935	\$71,722
Total Operating Income:	\$87,347	\$95,972
Operating Result:	(\$24,598)	(\$23,414)
Total Result:	(\$31,782)	(\$33,562)

Thank you for your support!



Budget Forums

Sunday, Nov. 14

at 10 am & Noon

Garden Room & Online

If you have an interest in, or questions about Trinity's budget, this forum is for you! We will review the 2022 proposed budget that will be presented for approval at the annual meeting. The 2021 Annual Report will be available to download prior to the budget forum.

This meeting will be held both in person and online. Details to attend online will be posted at www.trinitylc.org prior to the forum.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 21 at Noon

Worship Center & Online

Please join us for the annual meeting of our congregation. The annual meeting is held in November as our fiscal year end is Aug. 31. You have an important role to play in both the ministry and management at Trinity. Please bring any questions to the Budget Forum (see above).

This meeting will be held both in person and online. Details to attend online will be posted at www.trinitylc.org prior to the meeting.

Yes! Keep Trinity financially strong!



OFFERING

A time for offering takes place during all worship services. Collect offering in-person or at home.



GIVE ONLINE

Visit www.trinitylc.org then GIVING to make a secure one-time or recurring donation.



GIVE BY TEXT

Simply text the word GENERAL to 651-571-5585 to be taken to the secure online giving page at our new vendor ShelbyNext Giving.



Faith Milestones

Worship Orientation
Milestone – Ages 2-3
Sunday, Nov. 14 at 10 am
(between worship services)
Living Room
(lower level by library)

Research consistently shows us that a child's faith is nurtured by being present in worship. Trinity believes that children are full members in the faith community and that God speaks to both children and adults as we gather and support one another in our faith during worship. In fun and interactive ways, this Worship Milestone introduces young children, and the adults who care for them, to worship. Parents receive tools to help nurture their child's faith in worship and in daily life – because home is church, too. Complete this Milestone by attending the in-person Milestone Event on Sunday, Nov. 14; or, if participating remotely, pick up a kit from Trinity this fall to complete at home and schedule a family follow-up Zoom call with Sarah Olson prior to the end of May 2022. This Milestone is geared for ages 2-3. Read more and register at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/children/>

Congrats Sarah!

Sarah Olson, Trinity's Children and Family Faith Formation Coordinator, along with her husband Erik and daughter Silja welcomed a new baby to the family.

Otto Olson

Born Sept. 22 at 12:27 am

8 lbs 1 oz, 20"

Big sister is in love with "Baby Otto!"



ABIDE READERS

Accountability • Belonging •
Inclusion • Diversity • Equity

New this year! The One and Done book group is now ABIDE Readers.

We are called to open our hearts and minds to the stories and to the lives of our neighbors. Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors and he named them, in story after story, as the most vulnerable among us. Our neighbors have much to tell us today and we have very much to learn. Their stories may seem like a difficult and unwanted read, but like us, our neighbors abide in faith, hope and love. We will read, listen, learn, and respond in love.

With gratitude for the foundational work of Trinity's Racial Justice Ministry Team, the Saint Paul Area Synod's Road to Racial Justice, Luther Seminary's ABIDE focus, and Lutheran Social Service's commitment to the removal of barriers that sustain racism, ABIDE Readers have chosen to focus on Native Americans during this season of Thanksgiving.

We read with open eyes, ears, hearts, and hands because "What happens to one happens to us all. We can starve together or feast together." – Robin Wall Kimmerer.

We sincerely hope you will join us, for now on Zoom. We have so much to learn!

- Nov. 22 – *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

ABIDE Readers will decide whether to discuss the entire *Braiding Sweetgrass* book in November or by sections in the month(s) ahead.

- Dec. 27 – Book TBD

For the Zoom link and future communications, contact Ann Wolff at wolff701@msn.com. Books may be purchased at Valley Bookseller. Ask for the ABIDE Readers discount.

Adult Faith Forum with Bob Boyd
Sunday, Nov. 7 at 10 am
Garden Room at Trinity

The Apostle Paul

From Prosecutor to Evangelist

With the exception of Christ, it is difficult to identify anyone who had more influence on early Christianity than did the Apostle Paul. How did this person who was described as “little, bald-headed, bow-legged, highly-strung, and a poor speaker” help change the world? Our discussion will concentrate on Paul, the person—who he was and what made him “tick?”



All are welcome!

Questions? Contact Penny Catlin at pccatlin@juno.com

Who was he?

PLEASE NOTE: On Sunday, Nov. 14, please join us for the Budget Forum at 10 am in the Garden Room or online, see page 5 for details.

On Sunday, Sept. 12 we gathered after drive-in worship for sharing memories, music and treats to celebrate 35 Years of worship, music and more with Director of Worship Phil Kadidlo. Phil has moved into his new role as Director of AV.



Dear Friends,

Many of us have bible passages that when asked “what is your favorite bible verse?” you quickly quote – my number one favorite is Micah 6:8. (from the Inclusive Bible) “Listen here, mortal: God has already made abundantly clear what “good” is, and what YHWH needs from you: simply do justice, love kindness, and humbly walk with your God.” Or, as in the Message translation “Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don’t take yourself too seriously—take God seriously.” So, if that is my favorite, here is another favorite from Ecclesiastes, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.....”

And there is a time for every matter under heaven—and the time has come for me to step down from my position as Director of Music and Worship. I will say, in all honesty, with Phil’s stepping down from his position as worship director at Trinity, it became apparent that this was a good time for me also, as Trinity’s desire is to have one worship director who will oversee both traditional and contemporary worship.

I am a close second to Phil in longevity—into my 33rd year. It has been an amazing “run” for me; if you are supposed to work at a job where you lose track of time because you love it so much, I have done that. I have loved my time with the choirs,

creating worship, working with the concert series, the worship arts team, the fine arts team, the entire staff, and all the wonderful people of Trinity—and for the past 18 months—playing the organ. (You know, I began my career playing the organ, so I have really come full circle.) I have always been so proud to say, “yes, I am at Trinity, Stillwater.”

Just one short story—in my work at Augsburg Fortress Publishers in the Worship and Music Department, I would often bring newly developed materials to Trinity to try out! Trinity was often a test site—especially for choral music. Sometimes I wouldn’t know if I was really working for AF or Trinity! It was a marvelous pairing of jobs.

Things will be different at Trinity. But, things will be more than fine. Trinity has a tradition of excellent music and worship; I know this will continue with creative people in the lead. And it’s not time to say good-bye just yet—I will remain in my position through May 1, 2022—and after that, you might find me continuing to do “something” in music.

Thank you for letting me share my gifts with you these past 30 some years. It has been my honor and privilege to serve God and Trinity.

Soli Deo Gloria—

CC

Carol Carver, ccarver@trinitylc.org

Welcome, Kirby!

My name is Kirby Smith and I'm the interim contemporary music director for the church. Music has been my passion since as far back as I can remember. My hometown is St. Louis, MO and I ended up in this area after getting a music degree from UW River Falls. I met my spouse there in the first month of freshman year and Jeanna and I are still together after 50 years enjoying life in St. Paul. We have a lake cabin near Amery, WI and have always enjoyed the stops in the Stillwater area. The drive-in movie in Houlton was the site of many of our summer date nights when I could find a car to borrow. Also, I will always fondly remember our Lowell Inn dinner date when I popped the question.

Our one daughter lives a mile away from us, so we get to see her four kids ages 3-11 on an almost daily basis. Grandkids and golf are my two main activities away from church music. Before Trinity, I was the instrumental music director at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church of Plymouth for 32 years. I had recently retired, so when the interim part-time position came up at Trinity, I felt I could be of service to a church with so many good people and staff that were headed in the right direction.

I would also like to invite anyone that can sing or play an instrument to prayerfully consider joining us in our music making adventures. It's a fabulous way to use your time and talents to honor God's word and to enhance everyone's spiritual journey. Please call me at 612-423-1431 if you have interest or questions.



WORSHIP & MUSIC

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.

Nov. 7 _____ **Mark 12:38-44**

Nov. 14 _____ **Mark 13:1-8**

Nov. 21 _____ **John 18:33-37**

Thanksgiving _____ **Matthew 6:25-33**

Nov. 28 _____ **Luke 21:25-36**



NOTE: Daylight Saving ends Sunday, Nov. 7. Remember to set your clocks back one hour as needed.



Advent begins Sunday, Nov. 28

The First Sunday of Advent

HomeSick (HOPE)

Luke 21:25-36 | 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

As we begin Advent with the "Little Apocalypse" in Luke 21, we remember how far from home we are. The world is not as it should be. Many have lost their physical homes, many feel alone, and many are isolated. Many of us feel as if we are wandering with no clear way forward. This first week speaks to our deep longing—for our home to be made whole, made right, and made well. With deep longing, we watch for God. Thankfully, God enters a homesick world.

On View Now! A Glimpse of Trinity's 150 Years

A History Display Hutch was recently donated to Trinity to display artifacts related to our 150th Anniversary. The hutch is located on the east end of the Narthex, near the chapel.

Archivers Susan Stow and Marie Liberda gathered and researched artifacts from our early years. The current display will remain through November and another view of Trinity's history will be featured.

Please visit this important and interesting glimpse into our past. Note the candelabra placed on the top. Included among the many artifacts are:

- Hand-tooled Swedish Bible
- 100th Anniversary Plate
- Photo of First Parsonage (1882–1908)

The gathering of Trinity members began with one Swedish family, and grew to include 34 adults and 13 children. They became the charter members as the church organized in 1871. How fortunate we are to be able to learn where we have been, and continue to grow in faith as the Trinity Lutheran Church community.



All Saints:

WE REMEMBER



November 5
Central Lutheran Church
Minneapolis



November 7
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
Mahtomedi

LIVE CONCERTS

of remembrance,
perseverance,
and hope



Tickets at
NLCA.com/all-saints-2021



PHOTOS (clockwise from left):
Display Hutch
Hand-tooled Swedish Bible
100th Anniversary Plate
Photo of First Parsonage (1882–1908)



Holiday Hope

community thread

Volunteers Needed for Community Thread Holiday Hope

With December just around the corner it is time to think about volunteering with Community Thread's Holiday Hope. The program matches families, older adults, and adults with disabilities with sponsors who provide individually chosen gifts and a holiday meal. Also, donations of gifts of new clothing, teen items, and toys or gift cards in \$25 increments to grocery stores, gas stations, and retail stores are welcome.

If you have some time to give, volunteers are always needed at Community Thread in November or December to help with a variety of opportunities that make it possible for Holiday Hope to reach those in our community who need extra love and support during the holidays.

Last year over 700 households benefitted from the generosity of our community, and the need is greater than ever again this year. For more information, to register for Holiday Hope, or to volunteer—contact Community Thread's Community Engagement Director Jennifer Kmecik at 651-439-7434 or jkmecik@communitythreadmn.org.

Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner



By Charlie Payne, Coordinator

With one downward motion, the fork blends the cream sauce, white fish, and boiled potato into a new taste sensation and releases the seared meatball to the rich flavors of the brown gravy. A tine catches the edge of cranberry sauce for an explosion of tartness. Butter-glazed carrots, fresh

coleslaw, sliced rye bread, and hand-rolled lefse with sugar and butter complement and delight. A slice of pie and coffee stand ready for the finish.

Seated elbow to elbow with two hundred friends, neighbors, and family, amid a background buzz of conversation and laughter, tended by servers moving swiftly between tables, the diner enjoys not just great food but also a great experience. Celebrating its Scandinavian traditions, the Trinity Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner launches the Christmas season with a bang!

So it is with a heavy heart that we cannot present the dinner this fall as we all would want it to be. We are grateful to our 300-plus volunteers who stood ready and who continue to seek ways and work hard to support Trinity outreach missions. We hope to gather our community again soon to share a dinner prayer and lift a fork.

OUTREACH
MISSIONS



A Program of Prison Fellowship

Trinity to Participate in Angel Tree Ministry for Christmas This Year

Angel Tree is BACK! And volunteers are needed. Trinity partners with Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree ministry to provide Christmas gifts to children whose mom or dad is incarcerated.

Watch for the Angel Tree in the Narthex after worship later in November. The tree will be filled with tags bearing the names of children. Your gift will fill a child's heart with joy!

You can participate in the following ways:

- Select an "Angel" information tag from the tree and purchase an appropriate gift. Wrap the gift and bring back to church.
- Help sort and deliver the gifts.
- Donate money to buy gift cards for the children's caregivers.

Watch for additional information in the Friday email newsletter and Sunday bulletins.

Join the team that will help bring Christmas gifts to children of incarcerated parents. If you are interested in volunteering your time, contact Wendy Worner at wworner@earthlink.net or Sandy Wendt at sjwendt46@gmail.com.



NEW MEMBER SUNDAY!

New Member Recognition Sunday, Nov. 14 at both worship services

We will be receiving new members into the Trinity faith community during worship at both 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. Please give them a warm welcome!

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.



GLOW/AWE EVENT:

Fireside Gathering, Flashlight Hike & Star Gazing Thursday, Nov. 4 at 5:30 pm

Fireside gathering at Fogelberg's Stuga fire pit followed by flashlight hike to star gaze at William O'Brien State Park. Meet at the Fogelberg home at: 18018 St. Croix Trail N, Marine on St. Croix. Please bring a chair and your own beverage. RSVP to Joan Fogelberg at joan@123m.com or Sandy Wendt at sjwendt46@gmail.com. Read more at: <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/connections/glow-awe/>.

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
Dec. 16 – Feb. 3 | \$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 toddinsue2@aol.com.



Invitation to Renewal Women's Retreats

Half Day Retreat in November and Weekend Retreat in February

Come for time away with other Trinity women (and friends—all are welcome!) to be refreshed, spiritually uplifted, make new friends and strengthen connections with each other and with God. We will be focusing on *Invitation to Renewal*—renewing our hearts and minds while still navigating the pandemic, learning scripture-based Spiritual practices, enjoying creativity, contemplation and together unfolding the truth of who we are as beloved children of God. Led by Pastor Chris and Zanny Johnson.

Two women's retreats are being offered in November and February, both with the same theme of Invitation to Renewal. We are encouraging women to choose one or the other to maximize availability for participants.

HALF DAY RETREAT: Saturday, Nov. 13, 9 am to 1 pm Bethel Highlands Campus in Hudson | Cost: \$20

Cost includes hearty mid-morning snacks and materials.

Register for half day retreat at: <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/special-event/>

WEEKEND RETREAT: Feb. 4-6 (7 pm Friday evening to noon Sunday) at Assisi Heights Spirituality Center, Rochester MN | Cost: \$175

Cost includes three meals on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, overnight accommodations and materials.

Registration for weekend retreat coming soon!

Once registered, you will receive more detailed information by email the week before.

NOTE: We will follow all guidelines of the CDC regarding the pandemic, so changes to the above information may occur.



Free Online Mental Health Support Groups for Individuals and Families

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers a variety of free online peer support groups for adults and young adults living with a mental illness, their families, friends, spouses/partners, as well as parents of children and teens. African-American, GLBTQ and BIPOC community focused groups are also offered. Led by trained peer facilitators, the support groups help individuals and families learn coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. Find a complete listing of group meetings and how to join in by going to namimn.org and clicking on "Support Groups" or go straight to <https://namimn.org/support/nami-minnesota-support-groups/>.

NAMI Minnesota is a non-profit organization that works to improve the lives of children and adults with mental illnesses and their families through its programs of education, support and advocacy.

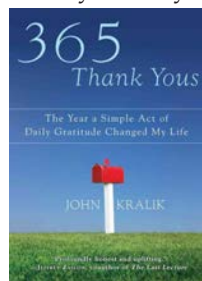


Gratitude in Trying Times

By Andrea Eckman, Library Volunteer

The Trinity Library Team is grateful that we can continue to serve you during the pandemic. Books are available to be checked out on Sunday mornings from the shelf in the narthex, and any specific requests for books can be sent to andreaeckman@gmail.com.

It can feel difficult to practice gratitude during trying times. These Trinity Library books can help!



365 Thank You's: The Year a Simple Act of Daily Gratitude Changed My Life by John Kralik—One recent December, at age 53, John Kralik found his life at a terrible, frightening low: his small law

firm was failing; he was struggling through a painful second divorce; he had grown distant from his two older children and was afraid he might lose contact with his young daughter; he was living in a tiny apartment where he froze in the winter and baked in the summer; he was 40 pounds overweight; his girlfriend had just broken up with him; and overall, his dearest life dreams—including hopes of upholding idealistic legal principles and of becoming a judge—seemed to have slipped beyond his reach.

Then, during a desperate walk in the hills on New Year's Day, John was struck by the belief that his life might become at least tolerable if, instead of focusing on what he didn't have, he could find some way to be grateful for what he had.

Inspired by a beautiful, simple note his ex-girlfriend had sent to thank him for his Christmas gift, John imagined that he might find a way to feel grateful by writing thank-you

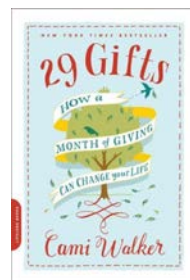
notes. To keep himself going, he set himself a goal—come what may—of writing 365 thank-you notes in the coming year.

One by one, day after day, he began to handwrite thank yous—for gifts or kindnesses he'd received from loved ones and coworkers, from past business associates and current foes, from college friends and doctors and store clerks and handymen and neighbors, and anyone, really, absolutely anyone, who'd done him a good turn, however large or small. Immediately after he'd sent his very first notes, significant and surprising benefits began to come John's way—from financial gain to true friendship, from weight loss to inner peace. While John wrote his notes, the economy collapsed, the bank across the street from his office failed, but thank-you note by thank-you note, John's whole life turned around. (From the Publisher.)

Attitudes of Gratitude: How to Give and Receive Joy Every Day of Your Life by M.J. Ryan—In *Attitudes of Gratitude*, M.

J. Ryan teaches readers how to unlock the fullness of their hearts and lives through the expression of gratitude. Gratitude helps us to return to our natural state of joyfulness, she writes, "where we notice what's right instead of what's wrong. It makes us feel complete, that we have everything we need, at least in this moment." In her introduction to this 10th anniversary edition, Ryan recounts current research that bolsters her original thinking—people who practice gratitude on a daily basis are, by and large, happier, healthier, and more effective in the world. She also shares with readers brand new, top 10 gratitude practices, which readers of the first edition and people she's taught and counseled over the years have provided to her. The concept of this book is very simple and very profound: Gratitude creates happiness. It's a fact of life (and science as it turns out). Plants create carbon dioxide and gratitude creates happiness. (From the Publisher.)

29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life by Cami Walker—At age thirty-five, Cami Walker was burdened by an intensified struggle



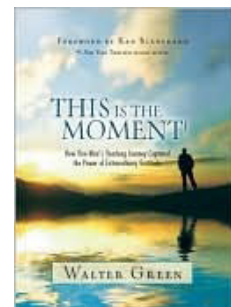
with multiple sclerosis, a chronic neurological disease that left her debilitated and depressed. Then she received an uncommon prescription from South African healer Mbali Creazzo: Give

away 29 gifts in 29 days. *29 Gifts* is the insightful story of the author's life change as she embraces and reflects on the naturally reciprocal process of giving. Many of Walker's gifts were simple, a phone call, spare change, a Kleenex. Yet the acts were transformative. By Day 29, not only had Walker's health and happiness improved, but she had created a worldwide giving movement. *29 Gifts* shows how a simple, daily practice of altruism can dramatically alter your outlook on the world. (From the Publisher.)

This Is The Moment! How One Man's Yearlong Journey Captured the Power of Extraordinary Gratitude by Walter Green—This transformative work is about

to take you on one man's extraordinary journey of gratitude. Over the course of a year, Walter Green traveled throughout the United States (and even abroad) to visit 44 of the people who have significantly impacted his life at various stages—be it as a young man trying to find his way in the world, a businessman building his career and family, or a man who sold his company and found new meaning in mentoring and philanthropy. During these visits, Walter conveyed his profound gratitude in a purposeful and explicit way. He wanted to tell these men and women how much they mattered to him before anyone's health or life was compromised and the opportunity was missed.

In this inspirational gem of a book, not only will you accompany Walter on his gratitude journey, but you'll also find yourself greatly moved by all that resulted from these powerful encounters. And as you read, you'll acquire the tools to create meaningful conversations with your own "road-changers," no matter what your age or



Continued on next page >

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BAPTISMS

- **Phoebe Joy Ehlenz**, daughter of Anthony & Heidi Ehlenz
- **James Edward Adamson**, son of Justin & Mackenzie Adamson

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.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

September 26

In-person _____ 115
 Live online viewers _____ 65
 Online views in one week _____ 109
 Drive-in _____ 171

October 3

In-person _____ 138
 Live online viewers _____ 74
 Online views in one week _____ 100
 Drive-in _____ 154

October 10

In-person _____ 138
 Live online viewers _____ 54
 Online views in one week _____ 117
 Drive-in _____ 136

October 17

In-person _____ 83
 Live online viewers _____ 78
 Online views in one week _____ 116
 Drive-in _____ 143

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

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

CORE VALUES

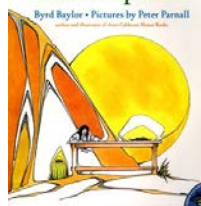
Exceptional Worship
 Radical Hospitality
 Authentic Community
 Lifelong Faith Formation
 Compassionate Action



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

life circumstance. These individuals could be family members, friends, teachers, colleagues, counselors, or any number of others who have influenced you. Your expressions of appreciation will undoubtedly enrich your relationships with them . . . and will provide you with amazing insights into your own life as well. (From the Publisher.)

The Table Where Rich People Sit



The Table Where Rich People Sit by Byrd Baylor—Mountain Girl knows her family doesn't have enough money. But as the family sits around their scratched-up kitchen table and discusses the

subject, her parents say they're rich. Don't her parents see her worn-out shoes or the patches on her little brother's pants?

They begin to count up the value of the things they have. How much is it worth to be able to see the sky all day and feel the wind and smell the coming rain? Or to watch a cactus bloom or to sleep outside under the stars? After a while, Mountain Girl begins to realize money may not be as important as she thought. Could her family really be rich after all? (From the Publisher.)

Ava And the Skimpy Picnic

by Elias Carr—Preschoolers can watch what happens as Ava and her friends decide to only bring a little bit of what they have for a picnic. After saying a prayer together, they learn that sharing more will save the picnic and turn it into a feast! (From the Publisher.)



Bears Gifts of the Spirit faith-based hardcover storybook!

This *Berenstain Bears Gifts of the Spirit* storybook, created by Mike Berenstain, son of Stan and Jan Berenstain, includes a soon-to-be classic story about the joy of sharing with family and friends! Children will love this sweet, faith-based story filled with fun, colorful illustrations—it's the perfect read-aloud for any day! (From the Publisher.)

The Berenstain Bears Gifts of the Spirit: Sharing by Mike Berenstain—Brother doesn't want to share his ice pop with Sister and Honey in this new Berenstain

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Office: 651-439-7400; Fax: 651-430-2935

Email: info@trinitylc.org

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To download and print this gratitude calendar, please visit:
trinitylc.org/learning/family.

November Family Faith Event 2021



<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1 What past experience are you most grateful for?	2 What in nature are you most grateful for?	3 What personal goal are you most grateful for achieving?	4 Name 3 people you are most grateful for.	5 What about school or work are you most grateful for?	6 What act of kindness are you most grateful for?
7 What about your body are you most grateful for?	8 What color are you most grateful for?	9 What ability or talent are you most grateful for?	10 What memory are you most grateful for?	11 What hobby are you most grateful for?	12 What food are you most grateful for?	13 What technology are you most grateful for?
14 What song are you most grateful for?	15 What gift are you most grateful to have received?	16 What books are you most grateful for?	17 What lessons are you most grateful to know?	18 What friendships are you most grateful for?	19 What smell are you most grateful for?	20 What freedoms are you most grateful for?
21 What past teachers are you most grateful for?	22 What sounds are you most grateful for?	23 What family members are you most grateful for?	24 What special place are you most grateful for?	25 Happy Thanksgiving! What about our church are you most grateful for?	26 What special keepsake are you most grateful for?	27 What traditions are you most grateful for?
28 Name something you are grateful for that money cannot buy?	29 What are you most grateful for today?	30 What are you grateful for this past month?	Add your own here!	Add your own here!	Add your own here!	

Gratitude is a great faith practice for all times of year, but this November, you are invited to take extra special time to practice an attitude of gratitude! Take a few minutes each day to discuss the prompts as a family. When a prompt has been completed, draw a heart over the day. Great conversation starters for dinner or in the car.