



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.trinitylc.org

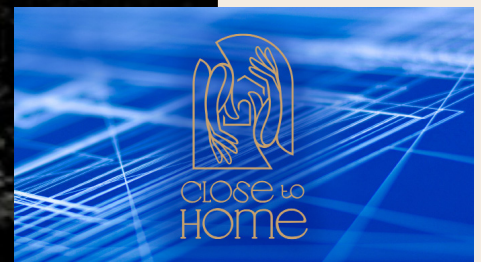
December 2021
volume 43, issue 12

trinity **TODAY**

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

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"
- Luke 2:13-14

PHOTO: from
the GLOW/AWE
Fireside Gathering,
Flashlight Hike &
Star Gazing event
at William O'Brien
State Park in
November. Please
see page 12 for
December event.



Advent & Christmas
details on pages 8-9.



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

Legacy Gifts and the Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

One of the benefits that some of our departed saints have left to Trinity is a portion of their estate. We are the beneficiaries of these estates large and small. The return on their gifts provides resources that enable Trinity to be a blessing to members of our congregation and the community beyond our doors. Financial blessings that take the form of scholarships, special music, facility improvements, benevolence and more.

All Saints' Sunday was the perfect day to celebrate these Trinity saints who provided for our church by giving to the fund. The Trinity Endowment Fund is a permanent fund created by legacy gifts of beloved, departed church members who wanted to continue to make a difference through Trinity's ministries, after their lifetimes.

The Trinity Endowment Fund totals \$1,336,762 (as of Aug. 31, 2021) and provided gifts of more than \$40,000 in fiscal year 2021 consistent with the wishes of the donors. The fund is managed and administered by the ELCA Endowment Fund and overseen by Trinity's Finance Committee.

Who are the saints in your lives? What is the legacy they have left to you? How do you honor them? If you are thinking about making a legacy gift in memory of a loved one or as part of your estate, consider the Trinity Endowment Fund. For a brochure and/or more information contact Bob Eiselt at beiselt@trinitylc.org or 651-439-7400, ext. 314.

Close to Home

Beloveds,

We are entering one of the holiest seasons of the church year — Advent, the four weeks that lead us to the celebration of the Incarnation of God-with-Us. There is something about the darkness this time of year that adds a poignant sense of longing and an ache for connection. Advent music is particularly haunting and evocative. I encourage you to dwell in Advent and not rush to the bells and jubilation of Christmas too quickly.

Advent creates space for us to prepare, wonder, imagine, hope and touch on the tender spots of our lives that sting a bit this time of year. Our theme for Advent is *Close to Home*. It calls to mind multiple images: things hitting “close to home,” homesickness, homemaking, heading home, moving, sanctuary, buildings and foundations. We will explore many of these themes in the next weeks.

Many years ago, when our son was at camp and homesick, he called his Grandpa Keith. Grandpa Keith knew just the right things to say. First, that being homesick was a good thing because it meant he came from a loving home. Then he told Sam that he himself was 18 years old the first time he left home, and he missed his mom so much his body hurt. It was balm to the ears of a 7-year-old boy and he ended up liking camp so well that he went back summer after summer.

As a child, we moved many times with my dad's job. Every few years we were the new kids in school. I still struggle with scenes in TV shows and movies that show the new student standing in the cafeteria wondering

where and with whom to eat lunch. Ouch. It was a rich childhood, peppered with moments of loneliness and longing until we found ourselves feeling at home again. For me, “back home” is wherever my parents are, regardless of address.

Another image that comes to mind was the day after my dad's death. My cousin appeared at my parents' home with a basket of supportive items. She had only recently lost her 30-year-old son. She hugged my mom and said, “This is not our home.” To her, death is going home to where we belong.

She is right. AND the incarnation graces the earthly part of our “being at home” as well. Our time on earth, loving and being loved, is central to who we are as God's creations. Perhaps the longing we feel at Advent is for the affirmation that we belong in both places, each in their due season. The coming of the Christ Child grounds us here for this time, as complicated and messy as earthly life, home, family and work can be. Jesus lived the fullness of it — blessing it on our behalf. And equipping us for the fullest possible experience of being human.

The fullest human experience includes feeling at home and feeling homesick, belonging and loneliness, love and longing, plenty and want, joy and sorrow. Advent invites us to plumb the depths of the human range of being as we make our tender way toward the day of the incarnation, day that blesses the fullness of creation — in and around us.

God's peace and deep joy of this season sustain and uphold you.

Pastor Chris

PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION
THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



May God's Sweet Gift...

May God's sweet gift and the need of home find you well-sheltered this Holy Season, making room again in this universe for the promise of Christ with us, for us, in us—and with us, for us, and in our neighbors.

Merry Christmas and God's Homecoming from the Weston Millers
(Pastor Peter, Ashley, Ella & Emily)



Trinity youth pack meals at Meals from the Heart – 63 middle schoolers, 14 high schoolers



Trinity children at Sunday Step Out Faith Formation



Sunday, Oct. 31 – last day at the drive-in for the season. Thank you to our amazing volunteers who make drive-in worship possible!



Drive-Thru Living Nativity
Sunday, Dec. 12

Noon–1:30 pm

Trinity Large Parking Lot

From the comfort of your warm car, drive by vignettes depicting the events surrounding the Christmas story. See you in Bethlehem!

We need many people of all ages to be our actors for this interactive and fun event! Sign up to participate as an actor in our outdoor Living Nativity drive-thru experience. You can be an angel, shepherd, Mary or Joseph or any of the figures from the nativity. No experience needed, low/no pressure costuming, very fun for individuals and families.

Questions? Contact Sheila-Marie Untiedt at smuntiedt@hotmail.com or 612-308-9994. Please sign up online at: <https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbnextchms.com/external/form/82852d2d-e264-4f7e-98c1-b20861c20d49> or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.



Stewardship and All Saints' Day

By Claudia Swendseid, Stewardship Team

All Saints' Day, which Trinity celebrated on Sunday, Nov. 7, is a day of solemn remembrance and thanks for our beloved dead — persons whose lives bore witness to God's love in our lives and in the world. On All Saints, Trinity names, in worship, each of our loved ones who have died in the past year. A holy reminder that we are indeed "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses."

All Saints' Day, in some sense, is about legacy and promise. The legacy of what these "saints" who have gone ahead, have left behind for us to build upon; and the promise of what lies ahead for we who follow Jesus, the gift of faith passed to us from others.

Another legacy that some of Trinity's saints have left to our church is a portion of their estate. We are the beneficiaries and stewards of these legacy gifts large and small. The return on their gifts, exceeding \$40,000 annually from the Trinity Endowment Fund* alone, provides resources that enable Trinity to be a blessing to members of our congregation and to the community beyond our doors. Financial blessings that take the form of scholarships, special music, facility improvements, outreach, and more.

When I picture a Christian "saint" I tend to imagine an exceptionally kind and generous person. A person steeped in prayer. Someone who lives as God's steward in all things — who is pretty close to perfect. In other words, I picture someone who doesn't resemble the all-to-imperfect me. But that's not how scripture speaks of saints.

Saint originates from the Greek word meaning "holy" or "set apart." For example, in Acts 9:13, a follower of Jesus named Ananias says, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man [Paul], how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem." Here, saints refer to all the believers at Jerusalem, not to a special group of Christians. The New Testament uses the word saint or saints 67 times. In every instance, the reference is to all believers, never a special group who serve God better than others or are seemingly more perfect than the rest of us.

Scripture is clear that we are all saints, despite our imperfections. We are all people who God has set apart for a holy purpose. And what holy purpose does God require of us? To love God and neighbor. To pass on to others the love and gifts and resources God has first given us. Which means, of course, that everybody's a saint. In training, maybe, but a saint. Everybody.

All Saints' Day, in this sense then, is a time to remember we are all God's saints and to devote ourselves more deeply to acting like it.

A beloved and departed saint whose life I reflect on at All Saints is my dad, M. Douglas Swendseid. A minister of word and sacrament. A reverend — although he didn't like that title, as he felt it separated him from all the other "ordinary" saints that God calls for holy purposes. Dad was a person who taught me, through example, that God's grace calls forth our holy gifts. That we are all saints in training, practicing a stewardship way of life as a pathway to an ordinary holiness.

My dad used his God-given gifts to preach the Gospel. He baptized hundreds of new saints and comforted as many who were dying. He established a literature society to translate Christian works. He spent his white privilege advocating for racial justice. He taught English to southeast Asian immigrants. He worked at a local food shelf. He established a family foundation through the ELCA that supports a Bible Camp in western North Dakota, and a scholarship fund at his alma mater, that supports students seeking internships at area non-profit organizations. And he tithed to his church throughout his life. Every day of his adult life he studied and prayed over the Bible until dementia took that grace from him. At which point, those of us who loved him, prayed on his behalf, knowing that God still heard his wordless prayer.

We all build our lives of ordinary sainthood on people like my dad — the saints who have gone before, who have graced our lives, but were also imperfect. Forever saints in training, living within a community of stewardship practice we call the church, the body of Christ.

I believe that part of our stewardship practice as a church is to treat one another as saints — meaning to look for the divine light of love in each other. To hold each other accountable to our holy purpose. To expect glory to God from one another in our worship and actions. To treat all life as sacred, beginning with each other and extending that treatment to strangers and the wider creation.

All Saints' Day and the stewardship life, to my way of thinking, are connected. For one, the saints that we revere — those who have gone and those of us who still live — all practice lives of generosity, sparked by God's love. Plus, All Saints' Day reminds us of our mortality, which helps us be better stewards of our lives. Because we know our life on earth is time-limited, we know we have to spend it well, and urgently. Now is the time to love as we can, to help those we can, to contribute our time and financial resources as we can, to lean into the mending of the world as we can. Knowledge of death prompts us. Now is the time to be the holy, loving people God creates us to be.

During the month of October, many of us have made our annual pledges to support and engage in Trinity's ministries, to lean into our holy purpose, to help God's love pour out on our world. If you are still considering your pledge, join us, practice stewardship with us, as another saint in training. Do so prayerfully, build on the legacy of beloved, departed saints in your life. Be open to where God is nudging you — not out of duty, but out of love.

All Saints' Day annually reminds us of our connectedness as Christians. Who is a saint? *You are.*

* Gifts to the Trinity Endowment Fund are invested in the ELCA Endowment Fund and professionally managed by the ELCA. Interest is paid out annually to support Trinity's ministries.

Please also see "Legacy Gifts and the Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment Fund" on page 2.

Trinity Financial Update

October Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2022

	This Year	Last Year	'22 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	159,066	161,731	1,354,800	12%
Other Income	43,819	32,000	388,586	11%
Total Income	<u>\$ 202,884</u>	<u>\$ 193,731</u>	<u>\$ 1,743,386</u>	
less: Expenses	260,838	243,910	1,742,006	15%
Surplus (Deficit)	<u><u>\$ (57,954)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (50,178)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,380</u></u>	

Long-Term Debt Summary:

Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,252,567	3,346,629
Increase (Decrease)	(16,724)	(14,393)
Long-Term Debt - End of October	<u><u>\$ 3,235,843</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,332,236</u></u>
Line of Credit Balance - October 31	\$ 30,000	\$ -



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. – Jeremiah 29:11

Make Your Pledge Today!

Join with the community of ordinary Trinity saints. Make your pledge today to support Trinity's ministries in 2022. Bear God's love poured out into the world to people who haven't experienced it yet. Reflect on how you can contribute your prayers, presence, financial resources, service and witness to Trinity's mission. Lean into your own life's holy purpose that God is calling forth. Set the Holy Spirit free among us.

Give back freely what was first given us. Make your pledge online at <https://trinitylc.org/giving/> or fill out a pledge card and return it to the church office. Thank you!

December 2021 • trinity.today.

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

Serving in Worship Milestone – Grade 3 Sunday, Dec. 19 at 10 am (between worship services) Living Room (lower level by library)

This is a fun milestone that workshops some of the different roles with which we can serve in worship. As the body of Christ, every member has a part and purpose. This body does Christ's work on earth so that all may know of God's unconditional and relentless love for each and every one of us.

One of our responses to God's radical love for us is worshipping God regularly. When we worship as the body of Christ, we are reminded that we are beloved children of God, sustaining us to go out into the world and continue being the hands and feet of Christ.

Families learn about the important leadership roles needed in worship and practice them together so children can serve in worship.

Complete this milestone by attending the in-person event on Sunday, Dec. 19; or, if participating remotely, pick up a kit from Trinity to complete at home. This milestone is geared for Grade 3.

Read more and register at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/children/>



ABIDE Readers Book Discussion

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer (chapter 4 to epilogue)

Monday, Dec. 27 | 6–7:30 pm on Zoom

Everyone is at a different point in the ARC (Awareness, Relationship and Commitment) of racial justice. ABIDE Readers hope to grow individually and as a faith community. We invite you to grow with us. The Trinity Library has a substantial ABIDE collection of books to increase our awareness. I have them at my home and am happy to deliver them to you.

ABIDE readers hold ourselves accountable to share some insights from our October discussion of *Night Flying Woman*:

- Our church and our homes are built on this beautiful land taken from Ojibway tribes. We feel a tremendous sense of accountability.
- Despite the enormous uprooting, loss, chaos and discrimination experienced by the author and her ancestors, her story is an optimistic and hope-filled affirmation of the traditions and strengths of her people. We admire the beauty, wisdom, courage and grace in this story and in her life.
- Sharing and respect for the earth, for plant and animal life, and for one another are two tenets of a philosophy of life that has defined and sustained generations of Indigenous people. We fall short when it comes to sharing all that we have and respecting the earth and all its people.
- As a young girl, the author's great-grandmother (Night-Flying Woman) sat before her grandparents who would ask, "Our daughter, what has been done today? Can you ask in truth and peace, 'Have I done enough today to earn the right to live tomorrow?'" Instead of learning from the Ojibway people, our ancestors separated children from their parents and grandparents and sent them to boarding schools, where they were physically and emotionally abused. We are horrified.
- The Ojibway people believe in the brotherhood of people and animal people. They believe that the Gitchi Manito has given them many gifts, and also that children must honor their mother and father. Christianity holds the same beliefs and we lament that white Christians thought that their God was different and superior to the extent that they tried to obliterate a people, their religion, language and culture.

We are called to love our neighbor and we have much to learn. We sincerely hope you will join us in reading and discussing on the following dates from **6 to 7:30 p.m.**

- **Monday, Dec. 27** – *Braiding Sweetgrass* – chapter 4 to epilogue (chapters 1-3 were discussed Nov. 22)
- **Monday, Jan. 24** *Dear White Christians: for those still longing for racial reconciliation* by Jennifer Harvey

For the Zoom link, to borrow books, or for more information, contact Ann Wolff at wolff701@msn.com. *Braiding Sweetgrass* is flying off the shelves and some books have been discounted and set aside at Valley Bookseller. *Dear White Christians* is available elsewhere. Read more and download the ABIDE Recommended Reading List at: <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/connections/abide-readers/>.



REMEMBERING THE CHILDREN

Trinity is participating in our Saint Paul Area Synod's designated period of remembrance, repentance and resolve to live in equitable partnership with neighbors of Native identity. Please look for the "Remembering the Children" display in the Narthex. The orange shirts are in honor and memory of the native children who never made it home from an Indian Boarding School. Also included in the memorial is a letter that was written on behalf of the Indigenous people throughout North America.

For more background, below is a letter from Bishop Patricia Lull:

Every culture pays special attention to the children in its care. Injury and harm done to the young impacts all generations. In recent months, we have heard news about the American Indian children who were sent away to boarding schools and died there without being returned to their families. This is a horrendous part of our nation's history, as are other atrocities against the tribal nations within the borders of what is now the United States and Canada.

The American Indian Alaskan Native Lutheran Association (AIANLA) within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has issued a letter on behalf of the Indigenous people throughout North America. I invite you to read this letter with care. Our response as people of Christian faith matters well beyond the boundaries of the Saint Paul Area Synod. Read the letter here: <https://files.constantcontact.com/bf74ce3a001/f5b5e15b-acd4-444f-a28c-604873ba7348.pdf>. [Letter is also available in the display in the Narthex.]

With this letter, fellow members of the ELCA invite you and your congregation to a time of repentance and learning in solidarity with the First Nations and Native children who never made it home from the residential schools.

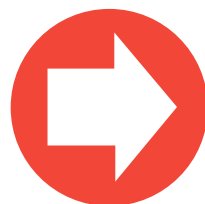
As a synod, we will dedicate the 225 days from October 1, 2021, to the end of the Synod Assembly

High School Mission Trip Informational Meeting Summer 2022 Missions Sunday, Dec. 5 | 7 – 8 pm | Garden Room at Trinity

Come be a part of an informational meeting describing our Summer 2022 Missions — Two Events, One Mission:

- Puerto Rico Mission Trip, June 25 – July 2, 2022 and
- The ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, July 24-28, 2022

There is no better time to serve in our own backyard and with the global church. Overview, schedules, costs and more will be covered this night. Come be a part of, and learn more about how you can be God's light, hands and heart in this world! For students and parents. Questions? Contact Monty Lysne at mllysne@trinitylc.org.



HYBRID ADULT FAITH FORUM

Sundays at 10 am (between services)

Garden Room (in-person) and on Zoom (online)

Join on Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82206139084>

Who Needs Christmas — A Video Study with Andy Stanley

As we enter the season of Advent we often liken this time as preparation for Christ's coming, but it's much more. The story of Jesus' birth was not what anyone really expected and further, it didn't start with his birth.

Adult Faith Forum will unpack the Christmas story during Advent using Andy Stanley's study "Who Needs Christmas." We will start with Genesis all the way through our experiences today. Please join us for one or all as we explore who needs Christmas and why we need Christmas. Please join us between services at 10 a.m. in the Garden Room or on Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82206139084>. Questions? Contact Pastor Peter or Penny Catlin at pccatlin@juno.com.

Sunday, Nov. 28 at 10 am — The Story Behind the Story

Sunday, Dec. 5 at 10 am — The Author of Life

Sunday, Dec. 12 at 10 am — The Message of Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 19 at 10 am — Ready or Not . . . He Is Coming

on May 14, 2022, as a period of remembrance, repentance, and resolve to live in equitable partnership with neighbors of Native identity. The letter explains the poignancy of hanging an orange banner in your worship space, as well as the significance of the number 225.

...

As communities of faith that care deeply about children, I invite you to join me in practices and prayer to make these 225 days a time of transformation for the sake of remembering these children.

Yours in Christ's service,
Bishop Patricia Lull



This Advent & Christmas season our theme at Trinity is *Close to Home*. When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Close to Home acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home— wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope and courage.

WORSHIP

www.trinitylc.org

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

Facebook Livestream>>
www.facebook.com/trinitylcstillwater/

Sunday, Nov. 28

8:45 am – In-person & Online Worship

11 am – In-person & Online Worship

Advent 1 – Homesick (Hope)

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

Sunday, Dec. 5

8:45 am – In-person & Online Worship

11 am – In-person & Online Worship

Advent 2 – Laying the Foundation (Peace)

Luke 1:57- 80; Philippians 1: 3-11

Sunday, Dec. 12

8:45 am – In-person & Online Worship

11 am – In-person & Online Worship

Advent 3 – A Home for All (Joy)

Luke 3: 18

Worship will include a “hasty nativity” – a story for all ages, told by all ages.

Sunday, Dec. 19

8:45 am – In-person & Online Worship

11 am – In-person & Online Worship

Advent 4 – Seeking Sanctuary (Love)

Luke 1: 39-55

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve – Invited Home

Luke 2: 1-20

In-person Worship at:

11 am – Worship for children and their families.

2 & 4 pm – Festival worship with communion, choir, band, instruments and organ. Limited capacity, registration required. Online signup will be available soon at www.trinitylc.org. **These two services will also be available online and livestream.**

7 & 9 pm – Candlelight worship with communion, vocal soloists, instruments and organ.

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day

10 am – In-person Worship

Luke 2: 1-20

Christmas worship with communion, organ and vocal soloist.

Sunday, Dec. 26 – Lessons & Carols

8:45 am – Online Only Worship

First Sunday of Christmas – Chosen Home

Luke 2: 41-52

A service for you to watch from home debuting at 8:45 a.m. Here the ancient story told in word and music. (No in-person worship this day.) A PBS worthy presentation!

Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022

10 am – In-person & Online Worship

Epiphany – Home by Another Way

Matthew 2: 1-12

(Only one worship service this day.)

Worship Volunteers for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Needed! Get in the Christmas spirit by greeting or ushering at worship at Trinity. Sign up online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e044eadab28a1ff2-worship2>.

CONCERTS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Please also see Advent Pause on page 13.

Concerts & Special Events at Trinity this Advent & Christmas Season

Saturday, Dec. 4 at 7 pm

Lake Wobegon® Brass Band Christmas Concert
Worship Center

Tickets: \$15, available at www.stillwaterzephyrtheatre.org

Sunday, Dec. 12 from noon-1:30 pm

Drive-thru Living Nativity

Trinity's large parking lot

All the characters will be in place. Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the shepherds, the angels — everyone will be there — you come too. See more details on page 3.

Sunday, Dec. 12 at 3 pm

Christmas with Cantus Concert

Worship Center

Cantus weaves together three holiday stories with time-honored carols and new classics. Blending narration and song, the program features *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and *The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree*, alongside the newly written *Dakota and the Snow Phoenix*, offering an opportunity to reflect on the meaning and joy of the holiday season. Tickets available at: <https://www.cantussings.org>

Sunday, Dec. 19 at 3 pm

Christmas at Trinity Concert

Worship Center

This year's Christmas at Trinity features the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra, soprano and Trinity member, Solveig Neseth, the Trinity Choir and world renowned violinist Peter Sheppard Skærved. You will hear classic favorites — as well as familiar and not-so-familiar music for the season. Plus, if you love to sing or hear Christmas carols, this is the place to be on Dec. 19. This concert is free — a free-will offering will be taken — and the concert is totally appropriate for all ages. (Here's an idea: plan a special holiday gathering following the concert.)

**WORSHIP
& MUSIC**

**Radical
Hospitality**

Online Signups

Worship Helpers Needed!

Online signups for Sunday morning worship helpers returns! Please sign up to usher or greet on Sunday mornings at Trinity. Volunteers needed at both 8:45 and 11 a.m. services. Fun, easy service activity for individuals and families. Get helpful reminders. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e044eadab28a1ff2-sunday>.

**TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES
PLEASE STAND BY**

Worship Rebroadcast on TV Channel 18 Unavailable

We sincerely apologize that a rebroadcast of Trinity worship on channel 18 through Valley Access Channels (VAC) is unavailable until further notice. Due to required updates beyond the control of VAC, all programming on channel 18 is temporarily suspended.

Please tune in to online worship if you are able. You do not need to be on Facebook to watch online worship. Online worship is provided on our web site on Sunday mornings or watch anytime at: <https://trinitylc.org/worship-music/worship/online-worship/>.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We joyfully recognized 20 new members to Trinity on Sunday, Nov. 14. When you see them, please extend your own personal welcome!

Not pictured: **Anne, Tim, Bree and Stefan Sheridan** Oak Park Heights • Love outdoor activities • Family of cooks



Lisa Bien-Sinz

Playful and fun-loving • Musical • Loves to serve seniors



Dan and Jane Johns

Musical (Jane plays the trumpet and Dan loves to sing) • Love the outdoors (especially up north, where they lived for 24 years) • Family-oriented



Kristin and Jeff Klemetsrud

Three-generations together in Lake Elmo • Avid readers and wannabee writers • Creative cooks (and passionate eaters)



Jenna, Ashlee and Valerie Lange

Holiday enthusiasts • New to Stillwater • Spontaneous



Jere Solberg, Andy Madline and Krew

Stillwater junior high sweethearts • New parents • Fun loving



Shay, Melissa, Maksim, Jaeger and Kai Tilander

Playful • Faithful • Courageous

Huge Thank You! Tiny Home Fundraising Success

Many thanks to everyone that donated money and/or time to successfully cover the cost of building a Tiny Home for a person experiencing homelessness as part of the Settled organization's Sacred Settlements project (<https://settled.org/>).

The Tiny Home's exterior construction is largely completed. However, volunteers are still needed to finish the interior and prepare the Sacred Settlement site at First Church of the Nazarene in St. Paul. Register to volunteer at <https://settled.org/connect/volunteer-interest/>.

Questions? Contact Mark Weber at 612-618-1509 or markrweber22@outlook.com.



PHOTO AT RIGHT: Tiny Home Community site under preparation at First Church of the Nazarene in St. Paul, MN.



THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!



OLD LAPTOPS NEEDED!

A resource organization out of Faith Lutheran in Forest Lake, called FLURB, refurbishes older laptops for students who cannot afford them. FLURB welcomes your old or unused laptops to refurbish with new hard drives, Windows 10, and 4GB power—to make them like new!

FLURB recently provided six upgraded laptops to International Students at Luther Seminary (you would not believe how grateful these students were) and sent two directly to Tanzania (Southern Diocese, Kidugala Bible School). These students are preparing for ordination. Another 4-8 upgraded machines are going to Tanzania for a non-profit NGO for food (they have property and a building already) in need of work stations for their helpers.

Read more about FLURB at <http://faithfl.org/faith-ministry-stories/flurb-update/>.

Don and Eunice Fultz are happy to collect your old laptops and get them to Faith Lutheran. Please contact them at defultz@comcast.net.



community thread

Volunteers and Donations Needed for Community Thread Holiday Hope

With Christmas 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 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 jennifer@communitythreadmn.org.



Register now for Food for Thought

It's finally time to officially start registering for Food For Thought! The schedule will be a bit shorter this year with three rather than the usual four meetings. Food For Thought is for anyone, not just couples, who like good food and interesting conversation with members of our Trinity family and friends. The host provides the main course with other participants responsible for the rest of the meal: salad & bread, appetizer & side, or dessert & dinner wine/ sparkling beverage.

Recipes are provided for each item on the menu. The goal is to meet with different people each time you gather for a dinner, but sometimes scheduling is difficult, we do our best. Dinners for eight are held in private homes so we ask that if you choose to participate you are vaccinated.

The dates are as follows and serve only as a guide. Hosts are welcome to change the date and/or time to accommodate the needs of the group:

- Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022
- Saturday, March 12, 2022
- Saturday, April 30, 2022

We also need people to fill in during the year so let us know if you would like to be placed on the substitute list.

To register please send your names, phone numbers, address, and email to Glenda Bjorum at bjorumsing@aol.com or David Brekke at david94645@aol.com by Monday, Dec. 20.

Food For Thought is a time for sharing and celebrating our faith and fellowship with old and new friends in a comfortable mealtime setting. We hope you will take time to sign up and join us for a time of fellowship and good eating!



GLOW/AWE EVENT:

CHRISTMAS SING ALONG WITH ROBIN CAIN & PHIL KADIDLO Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 pm Boutwells Landing Chapel

The time of year has come again to anticipate and celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ. All are invited to attend a special event Sing Along with Robin Cain and Phil Kadidlo at Boutwells Landing Chapel — a scale replica of First Presbyterian Church, which was originally built in 1857.

Seating is limited so be sure to reserve your spot by contacting Sandy Wendt at: sjwendt46@gmail.com or text 651-470-1902. There will be a free will offering and a bin for cold weather comfort items (any size) in support of the homeless community. Masks required.

Read more at: <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/connections/glow-awe/>.



Chapel at Boutwells Landing

Community Foot Care Clinic Thursday, Dec. 2, 9 am–4 pm at Trinity Hosted by the St. Croix Valley Faith Community Nurse Program


The nurse program is subsidizing the cost of services, resulting in a fee of \$25 per person. Registration and payment must be completed online at: <https://www.healthpartners.com/about/classes-events/> (type "foot" under name of event). Limited appointments available. Register for a one-hour appointment with a foot care clinician. Click on "Select a time" to schedule your appointment.

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 & thick nail care
- Corn and callous care
- Ingrown toenail care
- Identification of the need for specialized foot treatment and refer you to resources in your community.



GLOW/AWE group



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.



YOU are invited to an Advent PAUSE Gathering! Week of Dec. 5-11

This invitation is for YOU, to meet new women or gather with those you already know, and to give yourself a gift of time to pause — Advent P.A.U.S.E. (Peace And Understanding- a Season to Embrace).

A season of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE.

A season of invitation and anticipation. A season to create space in our home for God's story, where God's love is extended to all through our hearts, hands and hope. A season for us to settle our hearts and bodies, as we anticipate the news of God dwelling with us, wherever home is for this season.

Advent P.A.U.S.E. is a space for women of all ages, and for friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, and more to gather, and to share and experience a few moments of God's presence, love, and hope with and through each other. Come! Join others at a small gathering.

- A variety of dates and locations are offered to fit your schedule.
- The Advent PAUSE gatherings are scheduled during and around the week of Dec. 5-11
- The gatherings are available through two options this year. Choose which best fits for you:
 - 1) **Online, via ZOOM:** You will receive an email with a link after you have signed up.
 - 2) **In-person:** Individual health protocols described for each in-person Advent PAUSE. Please review these details on the sign-up sheet if you choose in-person.

Advent P.A.U.S.E. sign-up is available now through Dec. 11 at: <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/advent-pause/>

Gather, pause, and reflect on the hope and promise of Advent. Invite others to join you, too! For more information or questions, contact Karen Gieseke at kgieseke@live.com or 651-492-6610.

<https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/advent-pause/>



WEEKEND RETREAT: Feb. 4-6, 2022
(7 pm Friday evening to noon Sunday)
at Assisi Heights Spirituality Center,
Rochester MN | Cost: \$175

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.

Cost includes three meals on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, overnight accommodations and materials. Once registered, you will receive more detailed information by email. Register for retreat at: <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/special-event/>

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

PHOTOS: From half-day retreat in November with same theme.

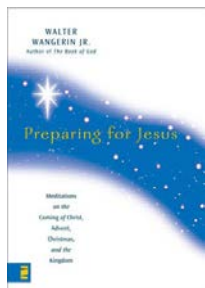




New Traditions!

By Andrea Eckman, Library Volunteer

Start a new holiday tradition with the help of the Trinity Library! Make a warm cup of tea or hot chocolate and gather the family around the tree to read some heartwarming and meaningful stories full of Christmas cheer and celebrations of Christ's birth. The library has a large collection of Christmas books that we display seasonally. Look for these and more in the narthex display starting in December.

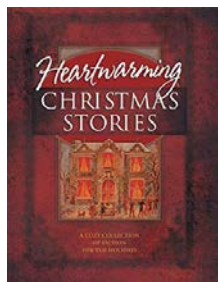


Preparing For Jesus: Meditations on the Coming of Christ, Advent, Christmas, and the Kingdom
In *Preparing for Jesus*, best-selling author and master storyteller Walter Wangerin, Jr. recreates verbal

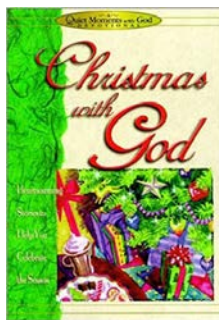
images of the events surrounding the Advent of Christ, offering a devotional journey into the heart of the Christmas season. Through rich detail and vivid images, these moving meditations make Christ's birth both intimate and immediate, allowing us to see Christmas from its original happening to its perennial recurrence in our hearts. *Preparing for Jesus* is sure to be a seasonal classic, treasured year after year. (From the publisher.)

Heartwarming Christmas Stories: A Cozy Collection of Fiction for the Holidays

Short enough to finish in a sitting, each of the stories in this collection offer a Christmas tale that will warm a fiction lover's heart in the coldest winter. Ranging in style from historical to contemporary to suspenseful to romantic, these stories surround



readers with the sights and sounds of Christmas, reminding them of the true meaning of this blessed season. (From the publisher.)

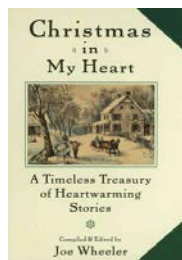
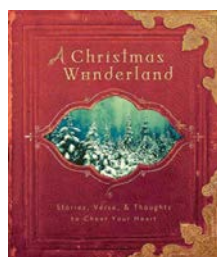


Christmas With God: Heartwarming Stories to Help You Celebrate the Season
Christmas with God encourages readers to keep Christ as the focus of the Christmas season. Each devotion

and Scripture is meant to re-energize the reader during the holiday season. (From the publisher.)

A Christmas Wonderland: Stories, Verse, and Thoughts to Cheer Your Heart

Do you want to experience the wonder of Christmas? Pull up a comfy chair and grab a cup of warm cocoa. *A Christmas Wonderland* will transport you to a place of wonder, of peace and into the presence of God. From heartwarming stories of simple Christmas celebrations to words of declaration and encouragement from Scripture, from funny stories of seeing Christmas through the eyes of a child to poems singing praise to Jesus, this is a very special collection of readings. (From the publisher.)



Christmas In My Heart: A Timeless Treasury of Heartwarming Stories
This anthology helps the reader to rediscover the family values inherent in this Christ-centered holy day. The 16 selections

range from the "Gift of the Magi" through works by respected writers such as Pearl Buck, Taylor Caldwell, and Madeleine L'Engle to lesser-known and anonymous authors. In its own way, each portrays God's intervention during dark times. Author David Grayson intimates that the kindness of Christmas is too grand to take in all at once; he prefers his Christmas kindness spread throughout the year. That's also a great prescription for consuming

these sensitive holiday morsels. (From the publisher.)

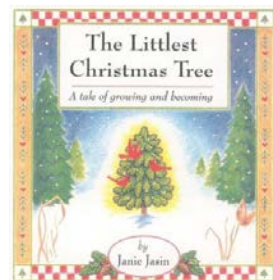
Home for the Holidays

The holidays have a way of bringing everyday life into sharper focus—as families and friends draw together, we dwell more on those we love and those we miss, and are reminded of times past but not forgotten. *Home for the Holidays* gathers the holiday memories of more than sixty prominent Americans—celebrities, politicians, authors, athletes, and artists—who generously donated their stories and artwork to Habitat for Humanity for inclusion in this book. Each provides a glimpse into the life of the contributor, creating a scrapbook of memories that will sweeten the holiday season for you and your family. (From the publisher.)



The Littlest Christmas Tree: A Tale of Growing and Becoming

For the smallest seedling on the tree farm, waiting and growing seem to take an eternity. As the seasons pass, the seedling observes the gifts that nature brings her—the sky, the wind, the birds and animals, and the sun and rain that help her grow. She dreams about the things she could become and gradually realizes that becoming a Christmas tree is only one of the many options life presents. (From the publisher.)



BAPTISM

- **Caleb James Ledman**, son of John Ledman and Kimberly England

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To family and friends of **Flo Claus**
- To family and friends of **Bill Quinn**

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, Oct. 24

In-person _____ 91
Live online viewers _____ 66
Online views in one week _____ 149
Drive-in _____ 121

Sunday, Oct. 31

In-person _____ 214
Live online viewers _____ 67
Online views in one week _____ 127
Drive-in _____ 215

Sunday, Nov. 7

In-person 8:45 am _____ 114
In-person 11 am _____ 88
Live online viewers _____ 81
Online views in one week _____ 172

Sunday, Nov. 14

In-person 8:45 am _____ 115
In-person 11 am _____ 139
Live online viewers _____ 95
Online views in one week _____ 136

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



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/>.



Online and In Person Support Groups for Families in Washington County

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors free support groups for families and friends of individuals living with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. An online Washington county support group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. For information, contact Dan at 612-341-8918.

NAMI also offers an in person family support group that meets on the first and third Mondays of each month, from

JOB OPENING

Trinity Lutheran Church
Stillwater, MN

Director of Worship and Music

Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater is seeking a full-time Director of Worship and Music. Read more at: <https://trinitylc.org/employment/>

6:30-8:00 p.m., at the Bayport Public Library, 582 4th St. N., in Bayport. Group members are required to wear masks and follow COVID-19 protocols. To learn more, see "support groups" at namimn.org.

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.

trinity TODAY

Publication Number: USPS 509650

Published once per month by

Trinity Lutheran Church, 115 4th St. N,
PO Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082

Editor, Design & Layout: Marilee Tangen
Some images from freepik.com

Articles for the next *Trinity Today* (January issue) are due Monday, Dec. 13, to begin arriving in mailboxes Thursday, Dec. 23.

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

Email: info@trinitylc.org

Trinity Today is available on Trinity's web site at www.trinitylc.org (click NEWS to download a PDF).

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115 4th St. N
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celebrating 150 years

651-439-7400
www.trinitylc.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP at Trinity & Online at 8:45 & 11 am

Text the word GENERAL to 651-571-5585 to securely give online



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Trinity's Christmas Garden & Local Benevolences Gift Opportunities

Form and payment must be turned in by Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021

In the spirit of honoring/memorializing loved ones this Christmas, we welcome donations toward local benevolences such as St. Croix Chaplaincy and Valley Outreach Emergency Fund and Food Shelf, or a Christmas Garden (floral display). Donor names will be printed in the January issue of *Trinity Today*.

NEW THIS YEAR! Give to the Christmas Garden & Local Benevolences online at: <https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/21017906-bbc2-4a8a-97f5-cb32bdf4e69a> or scan the QR code with your smartphone. Or fill out the form below and mail it with your payment to the Church Office at PO Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082. Thank you!

☐ Local Benevolences \$ _____

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

In memory of _____ In honor of _____

Given by _____

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

