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January 2022
volume 44, issue 1

trinity TODAY

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



ABIDE Readers book collection available in our Trinity Library, see pages 8-9.

ABIDE READERS

Accountability • Belonging • Inclusion • Diversity • Equity

But John intervened: "I'm baptizing you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will ignite the kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He's going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned."
– Luke 3:16-17 (MSG)



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

Congregational Council



Andrew Thelander
COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Krista Gossai
COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT



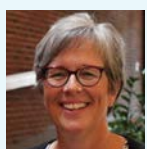
Tom Haugrud
COUNCIL SECRETARY



Bill Bjorum
COUNCIL TREASURER



Jill Longnecker
COUNCIL MEMBER



Chris Bellefeuille, D.Min.
LEAD PASTOR

Welcome to Jill Longnecker who was elected to our Congregational Council at the annual meeting of the congregation on Nov. 21, 2021. Officers, as listed above, were appointed at the following council meeting. Thank you to Mel Sullivan and Dave Martin for their service on council. One Council Member position remains open.

To reach all members of the council, send email to council@trinitylc.org. More information including minutes and reports at <https://trinitylc.org/welcome/who-we-are/council/>.

January.

But John intervened: "I'm baptizing you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will ignite the kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He's going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned." – Luke 3:16-17 (MSG)

January.

With it comes the question: What delights, losses, opportunities will this new year bring?

Having abandoned the repetitive failure of New Year's resolutions years ago, I wonder what it would look like to just let Jesus do the heavy lifting: sweeping, cleaning, ordering my life. And Trinity? What would it look like for Jesus to come and sweep our shared house clean, put things in proper order, and burn the trash?

Yikes!

Those of us who have hung around churches, or families, know all too well that we struggle to agree on what is trash and what is treasure. Too often (maybe it's just me) we move quickly to a defensive posture with our feet planted and arms crossed in front of our own favorite ministry, practice, stuff.

But Jesus doesn't ask us what we'd like to keep. Jesus doesn't sweep around that to which we tightly cling. Jesus comes and *sweeps house*: every corner, under the beds (lost coin, anyone?), deep into the corners. Nothing is

hidden, everything is at risk. Not just the stuff, the practices, the ministries— but carefully crafted plans, budgets, even our understanding of who we are.

This is all much harder to imagine if we hear John's words as threatening, ominous: Get your house in order or Jesus will PUT it in order! Beware the burning pile!

But what if we hear John's words as a proclamation of liberation! Jesus will make you new!

Seen through the eyes, and broom, of Jesus, what might go in the bin? What in our collective narrative might go out the door? What stumbles, missteps, and errors need acknowledgement, forgiveness, and letting go? What practices take more energy than they give life? What commitments are more habit than joy? What room might we make by letting the broom whisk through?

Looking back on the first five years of our shared journey, we have worked hard to strengthen ministry that is positive, biblically grounded, theologically the best of our Lutheran confessions, transparent, sustainable, and inclusive. With that foundation, it's rather thrilling to imagine what might God sweep out and what might the Holy Spirit ignite within.

In the wake of the impossible made possible, the Incarnation, we now live with Jesus in our midst, making all kinds of things possible.

So here is to 2022 and what God might be up to: sweeping, clearing, ordering, igniting and uplifting!

Peace.

Pastor Chris

PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION
THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



Thank you to Spike Carlsen, local author and woodworker, who led us in building keepsake nativity scenes on Sunday, Nov. 21.



CONFIRMED ON SUNDAY, OCT. 31

Jaxon Benson • Jeremiah 29:11
Elsa Eckman • Joshua 1:9
Luella Fresonke • Matthew 17:20
Anabel Gonnion • Proverbs 16:9
Carter Jensrud • Hebrews 13:8
Riley Johnson • Timothy 4:1
Brynne Klancher • Proverbs 3:5-6
Ethan Kutzer • Deuteronomy 3:22
Emma Olson • I Corinthians 13: 4-8
Madylyn Richert • Mark 10:27
Mackenzie Slachta • Jeremiah 29:11
Andrew Stinson • Philippians 4:13
Addison Teply • Nahum 1:7
June Thury • Psalm 46:5
Linnea Topper • Proverbs 12:10
Zander Wilichowski • Luke 5 1-11
Camille Wilk • 1 Chronicles 16:34

Wise Men Remind us to Steward Our Gifts

By Claudia Swendseid, Stewardship Team

“On entering the house, they [the wise men] saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” —Matthew 2:11

The wise men (or magi or astrologers) are the first persons in the New Testament to offer gifts to the baby Jesus—specifically, gold, frankincense and myrrh. Christian tradition suggests these men from “the East” were wealthy and learned. They traveled a great distance and faced significant hardship to worship and offer their treasures to Jesus. What a beautiful example of stewardship they set for all future generations, helping us understand the blessing of using and sharing God’s gifts.

To begin with, the wise men represent a sincere desire to seek after God, searching through science, nature, and their cultural traditions; leaning into their faith to discover God’s will for them, even when it was something so unbelievable. Imagine their long, arduous journey, possibly thousands of miles to reach Bethlehem, over mountains and deserts, a journey that took many months. Surely on such a trip they faced numerous dangers from nature, bandits, and the fear of the unknown.

What faith, determination and sacrifice they must have had. They surely faced questions and skepticism from friends and family at the start. During their journey, unexpected challenges and discouraging setbacks would have been commonplace. Yet they persevered. They overcame the difficult trials of their journey, and persisted in their search for God’s truth.

Their journey took them from King Herod’s palace in Jerusalem to the insignificant village of Bethlehem. When they finally met God’s truth, they found a Jewish peasant baby born in a barn. Imagine how astonishing that discovery must have been. Still, they went forward in faith, knelt down in worship and offered Jesus the most precious of their gifts. Even their leave taking was an act of faith and gift as they listened to God’s warning in a dream and didn’t return to Herod.

The story of the wise men is not simply a cute part of Christmas; rather, it represents central characters who



model a path of faith and stewardship worthy of reflection and imitation. They offer an example of a sincere search for God using the gifts they possess; a willingness to overcome significant obstacles in their journey towards God; and the witness of offering the best they had once they encounter the Christ Child.

Consider too, how the wise men are conscientious stewards with their knowledge, experience and wisdom, using their understanding of the stars to reach Bethlehem. As well they are stewards of their time and effort, journeying far. Further they are stewards of their wealth, showing that central to our worship of God is giving God our most valuable treasure—which is a way of saying, “You God are my treasure, not these things.”

The wise men highlight that true joy comes through sharing all that we have. Finally, they remind us that the most important gift in this story is the gift of Jesus; what we have first received from God. Gold, frankincense and myrrh are nice, but not all that important, when compared to a Jewish peasant baby, the hope of the world, the gift of grace, the source of love, God’s child, Jesus.

One day, a person complained to her pastor that the Church and Christianity is one continual “give, give, give.” To

which the pastor replied, “Thank you very much for the finest definition of Christianity I have ever heard. You are right, Christianity is all about a constant “give, give, give.” God giving God’s only Child to the world to show God’s unconditional love. The Child Jesus giving His life on the cross to forgive our sins and destroy death. Then our Lord’s disciples giving all they had to make sure God’s Good News of love was preached to all people everywhere. They not only gave away their homes and businesses, but even gave up their lives as martyrs in gratitude to God! And after all that giving of God to the world, yes, God does ask God’s followers today to imitate God’s own generosity by giving—by offering back some portion from all that God ultimately has given each person! So, yes, the Church and Christianity is one continual “give, give, and give,” but from a good and holy perspective!

The story of the wise men offers a challenging perspective of Christian Stewardship. We are called to understand that all we have in life—from life itself, to our intellectual abilities and specific talents, as well as to our faith experiences and material possessions—all we have in life is God’s holy gift. As we seek to follow Jesus, each of us is called, like the wise men, to steward these gifts.

Trinity Financial Update

November Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2022

	This Year	Last Year	'22 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	242,842	255,771	1,354,800	18%
Other Income	82,551	54,092	388,586	21%
Total Income	<u>\$ 325,393</u>	<u>\$ 309,863</u>	<u>\$ 1,743,386</u>	
less: Expenses	399,888	373,186	1,742,006	23%
Surplus (Deficit)	<u><u>\$ (74,495)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (63,324)</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)	(25,125)	(21,628)
Long-Term Debt - End of November	<u><u>\$ 3,227,443</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,325,001</u></u>
Line of Credit Balance - November 30	\$ 45,000	\$ 30,000

Financial Highlights November 2021

Contribution Income for November of \$84K was \$10K less than November of 2020. Contribution Income YTD is \$13K behind last year. Mission Revenue is up \$17K vs. last year as are Missions expenses (Tiny Home program). Program Registrations, Fees & Payments and Building Rental Income are up a combined \$14K YTD vs. last year, showing an increased level of activity in our building this fall. Total Income YTD is \$10K higher than last year at this time. As discussed, we continue to see the timing of receipt of some annual Contribution gifts fluctuates every year. Overall, YTD Operating Expenses are \$26K higher than YTD November 2020. As we compare the difference in deficit this YTD v. last year, the increase in Staff benefits of \$17K v. last YTD is impactful but, unavoidable. YTD our Contribution and Total Income continues the depressed trend of the fall season, causing us to carry a balance in our Line of Credit of \$45K, up \$15K v. last year at this time.

PLEASE NOTE: All Trinity staff will be "out of the office" Christmas Day through New Year's Day for some much needed time off. For emergencies, please call the church office at 651-439-7400 and follow the prompts. Thank you!



Faith Milestones

Blessing Bowls Milestone – Pre-K (age 4)

Sunday, Jan. 9 at 10 am
(between worship services)

Living Room

(lower level by library)

Help your child learn how to daily affirm their baptism with the Blessing Bowls Milestone. Our baptism celebrates our identity as “child of God,” the special relationship we have with God for all of eternity, and our belonging within the Body of Christ. How special to be reminded of this every day! This milestone develops a sense of security in who we are and whose we are by giving children the tools to refresh their hearts and celebrate being a child of God. Complete this Milestone by attending the in-person Milestone Event; or, if participating remotely, pick up a kit from Trinity to complete at home. This Milestone is geared for Pre-K (age 4).

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

Family Movie Night

Sunday, Jan. 16

6:30 pm, Garden Room

We’re working on a family movie night, hopefully in person. Watch for more details at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/family/>.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY MISSIONS 2022 – GLOCAL

In the last three decades, more than 1,700 students and more than 600 adults have been sent to various mission fields as representatives of Trinity Lutheran Church and the Stillwater community. Even though our recent attempts at a High School mission trip have been thwarted by COVID-19, we are hopeful that Summer 2022 will find us in a position to re-engage our Sr. High mission plans. In fact, Covid delays have allowed us to offer a unique two-pronged mission experience that normally could not happen. We’re calling it our global+local mission experience: GLOCAL!

Puerto Rico: July 25 – July 2, 2022

In the summer of 2022, we will travel to a site in Puerto Rico working with host congregations near San Juan. The island is still recovering from Hurricane Maria in September 2017 and earthquakes in January 2020. We will work at various sites each day, cleaning up, painting, and doing light construction. Each evening will conclude with devotional large-group time; songs fill the campsite and a message of good news is shared by an adult or student leader. The group may also be organizing a Vacation Bible School for their partner congregations and take some time at the end of the trip to see some of beautiful, historic San Juan. This is our GLOBAL focus.

ELCA Youth Gathering, Minneapolis: July 24 – 28, 2022

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. For the first time in decades, the 2022 Gathering will be held in and around Minneapolis, with large group sessions taking place at US Bank stadium. Participants will stay in hotels near the stadium and participate in three days of learning, fun, and service in our own back yard. This is our LOCAL focus.

A Two-For-One Missions Experience

Because of a quirk in Covid-19 delayed scheduling, we are offering what normally would be two alternating summer events during the same summer. Thanks to some scholarship funding, to make both events accessible, the ELCA Youth Gathering costs will be rolled into our regular costs and fundraising for our Puerto Rico Mission Trip. Family commitment (out-of-pocket) money for both events will remain \$500, and sponsorship requirements will also remain at the level they normally would be for our PR mission trip experience. In other words, participating in the Puerto Rico trip also allows students to experience the Youth Gathering at no extra cost. GLOBAL + LOCAL = GLOCAL!

Flexibility: Events and Costs, 2020 Sponsorships

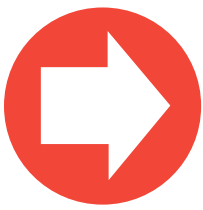
Schedules vary by family, so there is no requirement to attend both mission events. Students can choose one or the other (details on choosing the Gathering alone will be forthcoming), but we sincerely hope kids and families look at the fantastic opportunity to be involved in the life-changing experiences of both events. Also, we do not want cost to be a barrier for anyone, so scholarship help will be available as needed.

No mission experience would be possible if it were not for one group: the sponsors. For every wall painted or bucket of cement mixed, the sponsors’ hands are also taking part in the process, and missionaries will have the opportunity to ask for any needed sponsorships at worship services in 2022. Online sponsorship options will also be made available. Participants in our original PR 2020 trip who collected sponsorships will be able to count much of what was collected to the 2022 mission trip. Specific details will be shared as we solidify numbers of participants involved in our 2022 trip.

Calendars and Schedules

Applications for our Missions 2022 events are due at our next informational/introductory gathering for students and parents on Wednesday, Jan. 5 with a \$200 refundable commitment money deposit due then. Our monthly bonding/preparation meetings begin Jan. 17, with monthly gatherings occurring as we prepare.

The tradition of High School Missions is an important part of our congregation, and we are excited to offer this unique mission opportunity to students in 2022! Questions? Contact Monty Lysne, Youth Faith Formation Coordinator, at mlysne@trinitylc.org. Updates posted at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/youth/high-school/>.



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>

Please join us between services at 10 a.m. in the Garden Room or on Zoom.
Questions? Contact Penny Catlin at pccatlin@juno.com.

Updates and information about Adult Faith Forum is posted on our web site at:
<https://trinitylc.org/learning/adult/adult-ed/>.

Things Lost and Found: The Spirituality of Loss During COVID-19 with Pr. Ruth Sorenson-Prokosch

Sunday, Jan. 16

Pr. Ruth Sorenson-Prokosch is an ordained Pastor of the ELCA, and has served in various parishes throughout the Saint Paul Area Synod; she holds a certificate in Spiritual Direction from the Sojourners Institute. Most recently, Pr. Sorenson-Prokosch has begun Front Porch Spiritual Direction, where she journeys with people in their Christian faith using new and ancient tools of Christian spirituality. In this Adult Forum, Ruth will guide us through some practices to reflect upon the last year, especially the things postponed, lost, or misplaced during COVID-19...and how God is yet "making all things new."



Documentary & Discussion with Merri Guggisberg from Youth Service Bureau

Sunday, Jan. 23

My Ascension is a documentary film and movement to spread hope and fight suicide. In the film we learn first-hand from their families, friends, school officials and suicide prevention experts about the devastating effects of suicide and what can be done to prevent it. We will watch a portion of the movie and be guided in discussion by Merri Guggisberg. Merri Guggisberg joined Youth Service Bureau (YSB) in February 2017 after 10 years in youth ministry. She enjoys building relationships while bringing education and hope to parents, caregivers and youth. Merri has an education degree in Family & Consumer Science and a Hotel & Restaurant Management degree.



Faith-Based Advanced Care Planning Series with Annette Langdon, RN, BSN, MA

Sundays, Jan. 30 & Feb. 13

Biblical reflection and then some processing of final affairs (funeral, Advanced care planning, etc.). It was a way of living faithfully and being intentional about having these tough conversations.

Our guest presenter is Annette Langdon, RN, BSN, MA, who is a retired rostered leader on the Word and Service Roster of the ELCA and a current member of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA. Annette has been a leader and pioneer in Parish Nursing/ Faith Community Nursing for over 35 years, integrating faith and health. Before retirement, she served in the ministry of Advance Care Planning for M Health Fairview.



Monthly Conversation with Your Pastors

Pastors Chris and Peter love to preach. In good historically Lutheran fashion, that love radiates from the story of God—a mix of divine and human encounters that still continues today.

As we look to a new year (who even knows with 2022?), we invite you to a once a month conversation with your pastors! Preaching is always an invitation deeper into who we are as God's people and how that impacts everything we do with the rest of our lives. We look forward to this extended dialog, to engaging your questions and maybe adding a few more. We also hope to laugh and find hope together, loving God and loving our neighbors as Jesus in the Valley.

Grateful to be your Pastors,
PC and PP

Join your pastors in conversation during the Sunday Faith Forum in the Garden Room from 10-10:45 a.m. on these dates:

Jan. 9

Feb. 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

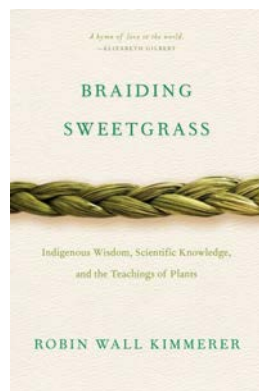
ABIDE Collection Inspires Readers

By Ann Wolff, Guest Contributor

The Trinity Library is pleased to support ABIDE Readers. ABIDE Readers is a new book group that discusses accountability, belonging, inclusion, diversity, and equity. Jesus told story after story of the marginalized and oppressed, the vulnerable and the voiceless—and the Trinity Library has a wealth of stories in its newly designated ABIDE collection of non-fiction and fiction.

Because the library is not currently easily accessible, you may check out books from the ABIDE Collection display in the Narthex during January or by contacting Ann Wolff who is holding the ABIDE Collection so that she can circulate the books. (Reach her at 651-260-3855 or wolff701@msn.com. We are continually adding to this collection, so please check back with the library over the coming year for additional materials.

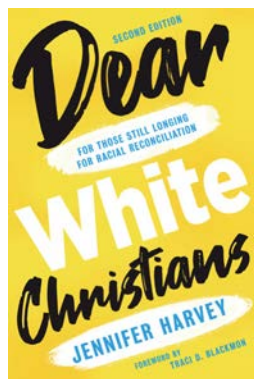
A few titles in the ABIDE collection:



***Braiding Sweetgrass*
by Robin Wall Kimmerer**

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries

and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. In reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return. (From the publisher.)



***Dear White Christians*
by Jennifer Harvey**

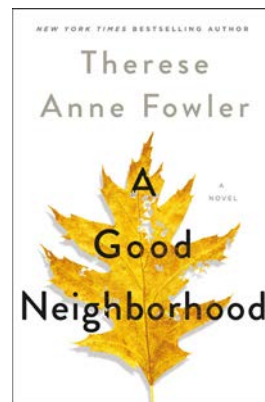
If reconciliation is the take-away point for the civil rights story we usually tell, then the takeaway point for the more complex, more

truthful civil rights story contained in *Dear White Christians* is reparations. From the preface to the second edition with the troubling and painful events of the last several years from the killing of numerous unarmed Black men and women at the hands of police to the rallying of white supremacists in Charlottesville, it is clearer than ever that the reconciliation paradigm, long favored by white Christians, has failed to heal the deep racial wounds in the church and American society.

In this provocative book, originally published in 2014, Jennifer Harvey argues for a radical shift away from the well-meaning but feeble longing for reconciliation toward a robustly biblical call for reparations. Now in its second edition with a new preface addressing the explosive changes in American culture and politics since 2014, as well as an appendix that explores what a reparations paradigm can actually look like *Dear White Christians* calls justice-committed Christians to do the gospel-inspired work of opposing racist social structures around them. Harvey's message is historically and scripturally rooted, making it ideal for facilitating the difficult but important discussions about race that are so desperately needed in churches and faith-centered classrooms across the country. (From the publisher.)

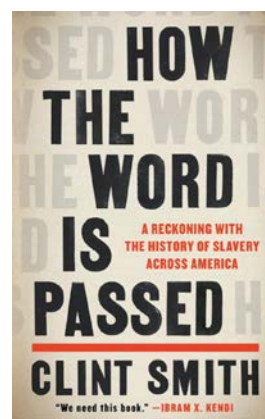
***A Good Neighborhood*
by Therese Anne Fowler**

The first page in Fowler's third novel, her first set in the present, lets readers know that there will be a funeral; they'll wonder whose it might be right up to the book's final pages. With his wife and two daughters, local HVAC celebrity Brad Whitman moves into his new dream house on the lot behind Valerie Alston-Holt's property, where



she lives with her son, Xavier, in charming Oak Knoll, North Carolina. When it's clear that the Alston-Holts' beloved, centuries-old oak tree is suffering because of the Whitmans'

construction, ecology professor Valerie, who is Black, takes action that prompts Brad, who is white, to reveal his true colors in a spiral of devastation. This is hardly an easy setup for the budding romance between teens Xavier and Juniper Whitman, which was already complicated by the purity promise Juniper's parents encouraged her to take. Narrated by the neighborhood, a diverse, collective "we" that sometimes interrupt their storytelling to reflect on all they knew and didn't know, this is a rippling story for fans of suspenseful domestic dramas. (From the publisher.)

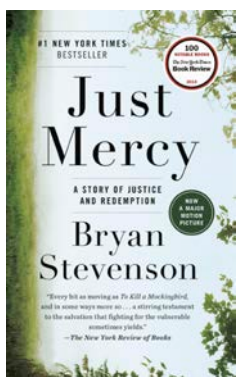


***How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning With The History Of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith**
Beginning in his hometown of New Orleans, Clint Smith leads the reader on

an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks 'those that are honest about the past and those that are not' that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history, and ourselves. It is the story of the Monticello Plantation in Virginia, the

estate where Thomas Jefferson wrote letters espousing the urgent need for liberty while enslaving more than four hundred people. It is the story of the Whitney Plantation, one of the only former plantations devoted to preserving the experience of the enslaved people whose lives and work sustained it. It is the story of Angola, a former plantation 'turned' maximum-security prison in Louisiana that is filled with Black men who work across the 18,000-acre land for virtually no pay. And it is the story of Blandford Cemetery, the final resting place of tens of thousands of Confederate soldiers.

A deeply researched and transporting exploration of the legacy of slavery and its imprint on centuries of American history, *How the Word Is Passed* illustrates how some of our country's most essential stories are hidden in plain view whether in places we might drive by on our way to work, holidays such as Juneteenth, or entire neighborhoods like downtown Manhattan, where the brutal history of the trade in enslaved men, women, and children has been deeply imprinted. Informed by scholarship and brought to life by the story of people living today, Smith's debut work of nonfiction is a landmark of reflection and insight that offers a new understanding of the hopeful role that memory and history can play in making sense of our country and how it has come to be. (From the publisher.)



Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
As a young Harvard law student testing himself in an internship in Georgia, Stevenson visited death-row inmates and saw firsthand the injustices suffered by

the poor and disadvantaged, how too many had been railroaded into convictions with inadequate legal representation. The visit made such an impression on Stevenson that he started the Equal Justice Institute in Montgomery, Alabama. One of his first clients was Walter McMillian, a young black man accused of murdering a white woman and imprisoned on death row even before he was tried. Stevenson alternates chapters on the shocking miscarriage of justice in

ABIDE Readers Book Discussion

Dear White Christians by Jennifer Harvey

Monday, Jan. 24 | 6:30–8 pm on Zoom

ABIDE Readers is an engaging group of Trinity members, non-members, women, men, monthly attendees and occasional drop-ins, who discuss books (and stories in other media formats) that open our hearts and minds to the stories and to the lives of our neighbors. And who are our neighbors? When Jesus was asked that question, he replied with the story of a man who had been beaten and robbed. The victim was ignored by a priest and a Levite (those who held the most sacred positions at the temple). But it was a Samaritan (Samaritans were despised by Jews) who responded with utmost grace and compassion. Jesus turned the question back to the lawyer:

Jesus: "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The lawyer: "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus: "Go and do likewise."

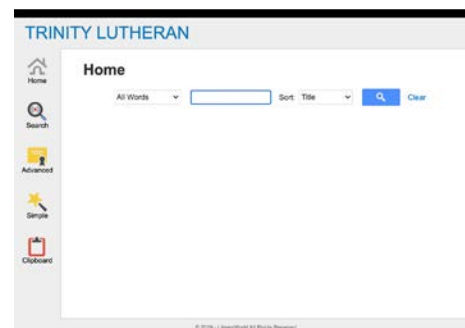
Accountability, belonging, inclusion, diversity, and equity are the group values of the ABIDE Readers. We have much to learn, to discuss, and to do. Our Trinity Library is building an ABIDE Collection that offers powerful stories that bring us together in faith, hope, and love. In November we had an inspiring discussion of the absolutely amazing *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We wrap up that book discussion on Dec. 27.

You are most welcome to join us anytime on the 4th Monday of the month, 6:30-8:00 p.m. on Zoom. The Jan. 24 book discussion will be *Dear White Christians* by Jennifer Harvey. Contact Ann Wolff at wolff701@msn.com for the link or to be on the email list.

McMillian's case, including police and prosecutorial misconduct, with other startling cases. The war on drugs and tough-on-crime political postures have resulted in hundreds of juveniles sentenced to life imprisonment without parole for non-homicidal offenses. Among the cases Stevenson cites: a 14-year-old condemned to death for killing his mother's abusive boyfriend and a mentally ill adolescent girl condemned to life in prison for second-degree murder for the death of young boys killed in a fire she started accidentally.

Through these cases and others, Stevenson details changes in victims' rights, incarceration of juveniles, death penalty reforms, inflexible sentencing laws, and the continued practices of injustice that see too many juveniles, minorities, and mentally ill people imprisoned in a frenzy of mass incarceration in the U.S. A passionate account of the ways our nation thwarts justice and inhumanely punishes the poor and disadvantaged. (From Booklist.)

Read more about the Trinity Library and search the online catalog for books at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/library/>



OUTREACH MISSIONS

SUPPLY DRIVE FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT TEAM—IN MOTION



Many of us saw it unfold in real time on the evening news—thousands of Afghan citizens clamoring to board American aircraft to flee the rule and wrath of the Taliban. Where did, or where will, these 75,000 to 100,000 men, women and children wind up? According to projections, up to 2,000 of these refugees will call Minnesota their new home.

What can we as members of Trinity do to help? A newly-formed branch of the Outreach Missions team is working to find out. At this point, this yet-to-be-named refugee resettlement team has:

- Collected truckloads of much-needed supplies and furniture for apartments for newly resettled Afghans (in partnership with Lutheran Social Services). The initial outpouring of donations has been amazing.
- Eagerly begun conversations with Ascension Episcopal Church (our next-door neighbors), the Social Justice Group from Boutwell's and the Eastern Twin Cities Islamic Center (ETCIC) about forming a coalition to help resettle refugees in the Twin Cities area.
- Connected with agencies in the Twin Cities area about cosponsoring new families resettling in the area. Co-sponsorship usually involves welcoming families and helping them get oriented to their new environment; helping with shopping, language, customs and using public transportation; supplying meals for the first few weeks and much more.
- Discussed co-sponsoring refugees from countries other than Afghanistan.

The evacuation from Afghanistan was a chaotic affair, and the nature of the resettlement process is no less chaotic. We will keep the Trinity community aware of progress—and how folks can help—as information unfolds. Contact Kat Carlsen, katdcarlsen@gmail.com or Spike Carlsen, Carlsen@usinternet.com for more information.



Have you noticed 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. To read more and see photos from other congregations participating in this synod effort, visit: <https://spas-elca.org/resources/for-congregations/remembering-the-children-congregation-photos/>.

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

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

Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022

10 am – In-person & Online Worship

Only one worship service this day at 10 a.m.

Epiphany – Home by Another Way **Matthew 2: 1-12**



PHOTOS: Thank you to all who participated in our Hasty Nativity on Sunday, Dec. 12 during both worship services. Thank you to Tracy & Monty Lysne for leading us in the Christmas story. Watch it on our YouTube channel at: https://youtu.be/b4Gj1_zNF_s.

January 2022 • trinity.today.

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.

Jan. 2 _____ **John 1:(1-9), 10-18**

Jan. 9 _____ **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

Jan. 16 _____ **John 2:1-11**

Jan. 23 _____ **Luke 4:14-21**

Jan. 30 _____ **Luke 4:21-30**

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>.

Worship on TV Channel 18 Restored

We apologize for the recent technical difficulties with our rebroadcast of worship on TV channel 18, and are pleased to let you know it has been restored.

Trinity's traditional Sunday worship service is rebroadcast on channel 18 through Valley Access Channels on Sundays at 11 a.m. Trinity, along with other area churches, provides a week-delay (worship service from the previous Sunday) rebroadcast of worship on Sunday mornings.

On Wednesday at Noon and for the remainder of the week, the current Sunday worship service will be broadcast. Worship at Trinity on TV channel 18 is available to watch at:

- Sunday 11 a.m. (week-delay)
- Wednesday Noon & 6 p.m.
- Thursday Midnight & 6 a.m.
- Saturday 11 p.m.

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

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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



Anne, Tim, Bree and Stefan Sheridan

Oak Park Heights • Love outdoor activities • Family of cooks

men's bible study CONTINUING IN JANUARY!

**Thursdays at 8 a.m.
New location to be announced soon!**

Pastor Steve Hokanson is leading a men's bible study, Thursdays at 8 a.m. We will no longer meet at Kowalski's Market due to lack of meeting space. The new bible study meeting location will be announced shortly. Invite your friends and neighbors, as participants are from Trinity and other area churches. Questions? Contact John Hodler at johnhodler@gmail.com.



Dear GLOW/AWE Friends,

As we begin a new year we look back with gratitude for all of you who were able to participate in a variety of GLOW/AWE events and those of you who supported the team in so many ways. We are honored to have been able to plan events for women of all ages and abilities.

In 2021 we snow-shoed, hiked several trails, dined casually at picnic tables, gathered at a winery, attended a theater event, played games, sat around a bonfire, feasted on a variety of great food and stargazed into the night sky.

Thank you for your support and friendship. We look forward to new adventures in 2022 and wish you all a Happy New Year.

Sandy Wendt (Team Leader), Joan Fogelberg, Lynne Funk, Beth Klein, Jill Longnecker, Mary Soderholm and Sandy Weber

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
Feb. 10 – March 31 | \$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.



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

Register at: <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/special-event/>

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 of private room with shared bathroom, 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.





IN HONOR OF:

Our Families _____ Norm & Jean Davis
 Our Children & Grandchildren _____ Roger Peterson Family

GIVEN BY:

IN MEMORY OF:

Mr. & Mrs. Cyprien – Kelly's Parents _____ Kelly Cyprien & Melissa Moon
 Ed & Lois Studtman _____ Sally Studtman & Nancy Millard
 Donovan Jacobson _____ Dolores Jacobson
 Barbara _____ Gary Holthouse
 Jane Oleson _____ The Oleson Family
 Tom Junker, Leo, Ardell & Eileen _____ Charyl Junker
 William "Bill" Achterling – Beloved Brother _____ Kelly Cyprien & Melissa Moon
 Frankie, Ev, Nan & Darlene Peterson; Walter & Frances Schell _____ Roger Peterson Family
 Helmuth & Marcella Reinke; Bob & Irene Huber _____ John & Pat Reinke
 Dick & Audrey Jeans _____ Randy Jeans
 Reno & Marlene Carlson; Ralph & Sally French _____ John & Pat Reinke
 John McCallister _____ Sylvia McCallister

GIVEN BY:

Local Benevolences

IN HONOR OF:

Family _____ Ken & SuzAnne Olson
 Zachary, Lilly, Suzy & Alissa – Grandchildren _____ Dick & Betty Wasmundt
 Our Family _____ Don & Gayle Lobitz
 Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren _____ Dee Hertenstein
 Karen Larson Family _____ Gretchen Turnblad

GIVEN BY:

IN MEMORY OF:

Flo Claus _____ Eric & Larry Loyer-Trosdahl
 Greg Peterson _____ David Peterson
 Robert Parent _____ Darlene Parent
 Chuck Aslaksen _____ Carolyn Minor
 Skip Welke _____ Welke & Rogness Families
 Carole Zempel & Nancy Kroening – Good Friends _____ Jeannie
 Our Parents & Siblings _____ Chuck & Joan Newman
 Dan Walsh _____ Sue Walsh
 David Goulette _____ Eric & Larry Loyer-Trosdahl
 Ken Erickson & Sabine Bugs _____ Ute Erickson & Michael Bugs
 Bob Minor _____ Carolyn Minor
 Fred M. Hertenstein _____ Dee Hertenstein
 Vince & Kevin Turnblad _____ Gretchen Turnblad
 Helmuth & Marcella Reinke; Bob & Irene Huber _____ John & Pat Reinke
 Dick & Audrey Jeans _____ Randy Jeans
 Reno & Marlene Carlson; Ralph & Sally French _____ John & Pat Reinke
 John McCallister _____ Sylvia McCallister

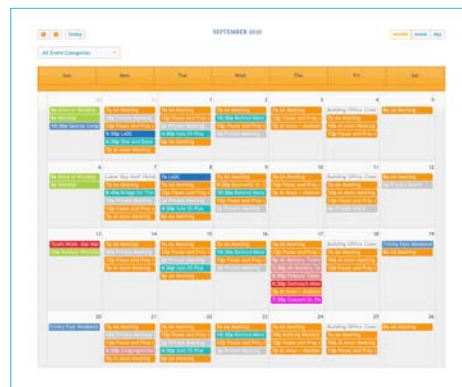
GIVEN BY:

BAPTISM

- **Otto David Allen Olson**, son of Erik & Sarah Olson
- **Krew Michael Madline**, son of Andrew Madline & Jere' Solberg

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To family and friends of **Jane Backe**
- To family and friends of **Ron Berglund**
- To family and friends of **Don Norell**



CALENDAR

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

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 welcome statement please visit <https://trinitylc.org/welcome/who-we-are/mission/>.

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/>

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, Nov. 21

In-person 8:45 am _____ 121
In-person 11 am _____ Not recorded
Live online views 8:45 am _____ 108
(No Facebook livestream)
Online views / week 8:45 am _____ 161

Sunday, Nov. 28

In-person 8:45 am _____ 98
In-person 11 am _____ 62
Live online views 8:45 am _____ 96
Online views / week 8:45 am _____ 143

Sunday, Dec. 5

In-person 8:45 am _____ 107
In-person 11 am _____ 80
Live online views 8:45 am _____ 121
Live online views 11 am _____ 29
(No Facebook livestream)
Online views / week 8:45 am _____ 208
Online views / week 11 am _____ 52

Sunday, Dec. 12

In-person 8:45 am _____ 127
In-person 11 am _____ 89
Live online views 8:45 am _____ 120
Live online views 11 am _____ 19
Online views / week 8:45 am _____ 177
Online views / week 11 am _____ 65

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

trinity
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TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

115 4th St. N
Stillwater, MN 55082

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



Trinity Lutheran
Church in Stillwater, MN



[trinity_stillwater](https://www.instagram.com/trinity_stillwater)

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ALL CREATION SINGS HYMNAL SUPPLEMENT APPEAL

Augsburg Fortress, together with the ELCA staff, has gathered the best of recent resources in ALL CREATION SINGS—a 300 page supplement. Used alongside our current hymnal, this supplement invites us to expand our prayer and song, joining our voices with the praise and sighs of all creation.

It includes expansive language for God and humankind, gender identity and sexual orientation, and faithful living in a society tragically affected by systemic racism, sexism, inequities in justice and economic opportunity. Please consider purchasing a copy (or a few) for use by our congregation.

Dedication of each book is available. Each pew volume is \$14.50. Ordering is easy — follow the link at right to make a very positive step in enhancing worship at Trinity. Thank you!

Give now at: <https://trinitystillwatermn.shelbnextchms.com/external/form/cc7a0f58-2bb6-47cf-99e0-2396f3c798bb> or scan the QR code below with your smartphone camera.

