

trinity
Lutheran Church

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August 2014
volume XXXVI, issue VIII
www.trinitylc.org

love.transform.serve.
**TRINITY
TODAY**



play.
pray.
provide.

My experience with the group was wonderful. They are a vibrant, enthusiastic, open, inquisitive group of young girls. I have great hopes for them as leaders someday soon. A very rewarding time for me. Fun to remember my early days in my home church.
- Donna Dielentheis

See story on page 10.



PASTOR DAN
POFFENBERGER

Summertime is a time to re-create, replenish, and re-commit ourselves to a life lived with intention. Isn't it wonderful to have some time to remember ourselves one to another: spending time at the lake, in the tent, on the mountain, in the backyard and on the deck? We find ourselves again, and have the time and opportunity to gain the inspiration necessary to dream a bit and to imagine how we might live more intentionally, make some changes and be ready to face fall and a new season of our life. Living up north, it seems that summer is just the natural time to re-set our lives.

In doing so, we play. As I write this, I am about to join my son Soren out at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, where he is the Retreat Coordinator. The camp is in full summer camp mode, and he invited me out to be the Camp Pastor in Residence for a week. I get to play! Sailing, hiking, white-water rafting, campfires and worship services — it will be fun, fun, fun.

I bet you are playing hard this summer; doesn't it give us life? We are built to play: it feeds us in a powerful way, and connects us one to another in new ways. I hope you find lots of time to play this summer.

Praying in the summer is a bit like breathing for me. The more I am outdoors, the richer my prayer life is. This summer, I have taken to spending my early mornings on our screen porch, and love to write serenaded by all of the birdsong, with an occasional deer strolling by. In the early morning air full of our backyard sounds, I pray, write, and watch. It is glorious. We play and we pray our way through summer.

Summer is a time for us to live out our lives as stewards. Being more connected with creation reminds us that we are called to steward it; being engaged with others reminds us that we must steward our relationships; being in touch with our inner life reminds us that we are a part of God's plan for this world, and that we are to use all that we have in stewardship to God and neighbor.

Remember, therefore, Trinity this summer. Wherever you are, please remember to support the ministry of your faith community. We are all busy during the summer, and it is easy to forget that ministry continues all summer (just look through this newsletter to get a sense of it), and that Trinity needs your financial support all year long.

To this end, there are several initiatives going on this summer, which you may be invited to participate in:

A (FISCAL) YEAR-END APPEAL

Trinity has changed its fiscal year to end in August. This means a significant year-end appeal will be in the air by the time you receive this newsletter. Please make sure to:

- Be current in your yearly giving by the end of August, and
- Respond to the Year-End Appeal by giving over and above your normal giving and help Trinity end this year with no deficit.

The (Fiscal) Year-End Appeal replaces a end-of-the-year appeal we traditionally held in December.



OUR GENERATION, OUR CHURCH, OUR TIME

There is a special reach out to the families of our Children's and Confirmation ministries. Of the almost 300 families with children enrolled in our programs, roughly 25% of them give regularly to support Trinity. Over the course of the summer, these families are being asked in a new way to support the ministries of Trinity; in the fall, they will be invited to learn, explore and grow as stewards and financial supporters of our faith community.

FISCAL YEAR-END GIVING

Some of our most faithful stewards and supporters of Trinity give once a year, traditionally in the last quarter. This group is being asked to plan their annual giving to happen prior to the end of Trinity's fiscal year in August. Letters have been sent out to many, and they are responding. If you fall in this category, please step up and make your annual support of Trinity this summer.

Play, Pray and Provide — what a great theme for the summer. Have a wonderful time playing, go deep in your prayer, and provide as you live out your stewardship this summer.

PASTOR
STEPHANIE VOS



HOW ARE YOU WASTING TIME THIS SUMMER?

Whether you are a child or an adult, experts assert that play — from rough-and-tumble to imaginative and free — is vital to healthy development and happiness.

As children, unstructured play is a way for us to explore and use our gifts. “If you just observe [children] and don’t try and direct them and watch what it is they like to do in play, you often will see a key to their innate talents,” says Dr. Stuart Brown, a psychiatrist and the founder of the National Institute of Play. “And if those talents are given fairly free reign, then you see that there is a union between self and talent. [T]his is nature’s way of sort of saying this is who you are and what you are.”

This goes for adults too. While you might not be inclined to climb around on jungle gyms or dress up as a cowboy or a princess, “play is anything that spontaneously is done for its own sake,” Brown says. We adults absolutely do this through activities that pull us out of time and out of our to-do list; activities that are pleasurable and apparently purposeless — in other words, the very dictionary definition of “play”.

It’s amazing to see the effects of play. Myriad studies show that play helps children practice verbal and nonverbal communication skills, learn to respond to their peers’ feelings, and experience others’ points of view through role-playing and, yes, even conflict. Adults, meantime, enhance creativity through play: interestingly, we become more creative when we think a task is “fun”.

We are wired to be playful; indeed, we need it to stay healthy. Clinical studies suggest the recent decline in children’s free play correlates with anxiety and depressive disorders that are five to eight times what they were 60 years ago; as well, today’s suicide rate for children younger than 15 is more than four times what it was back in the 1950s, when children spent hours outside each day in unstructured — and largely unsupervised — play.

If this doesn’t inspire you and your kids to get outside and play, I don’t know what will.

What are your favorite “playful” activities? Music, art, golf, tennis, gardening...? How do you make time to get lost in time? How can you join your kids in play? How can you model that sense of fun and ease for them?

Honestly, when did you last feel free and playful?

We often think summer is the time we get to play — up at the cabin, out on the river, kids at the park. But (and I hate to bring this up) it’s August. We can see fall from here! Fall — when we overcommit, overschedule and our calendars burst from everything to which we say yes.

What if this year were different? What if you left a little space for ease or even wildness? What if you weren’t always running from one place to the next?

I encourage you to make a little room for this divine frivolity — because it is divine. We are meant to be playful, and God is alive in us when we come alive in this way.

As Dr. Stuart Brown reminds us, “I think seeing a young child just immersed in play and watching them closely is a spiritual experience. And there is spirit emerging in play. Something non-material that’s a part of it that at least it’s hard for me to define it as just ions zipping around in a nervous system.”

So go on: waste time! Your health — and your kids — will thank you for it.

And God will smile.



UNIQUELY DESIGNED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: ON PURPOSE SUMMER READING LIST

By Jody Thone



Summer inspires me to broaden my reading and get curious about what's new or perhaps older, but catches my eye at this point in life.

I always read a few good historical novels (I just finished reading *Mrs. Poe*) but I also search out books that inspire me to think about God and my connection as a beloved child of God. On Purpose Ministries' goal is to help all of us explore our unique design and how we can make a difference. So here's the list I'll be reading on the dock, on the patio and in the tent this summer.



Because Nothing Looks Like God

By Lawrence Kushner and Karen Kushner

Who wouldn't be intrigued by these big questions: Where is God? What does God look like? How does God make things happen?



I Can Make a Difference

By Marion Wright Edelman.

A collection of stories, poems, songs, quotations, and folktales that speak to all children to let them know they can make a difference in today's world.

Journey to the Heart

By Frank X. Jelenek

Centering prayer for children — I love learning about spiritual practices for all ages!



The Quarter-Life Breakthrough

By Adam Smiley Poswolsky

A career guide for twenty- (and thirty-) somethings to get unstuck, pursue work that matters, and change the world. This book is for people who want to get paid for

who they are and what they believe. Most books and articles about twenty-somethings focus on the problem: why young people are doomed, in debt, depressed, lazy, unlucky, entitled, or addicted to Facebook. Instead, Adam Smiley Poswolsky offers a solution, so that anyone going through a quarter-life crisis can turn a moment of being stuck into a breakthrough and find meaningful work.

And for creative, deep inspiration, I'm journaling, doodling and pondering with *Soul Pancake: Chew on Life's Big Questions* by Rainn Wilson

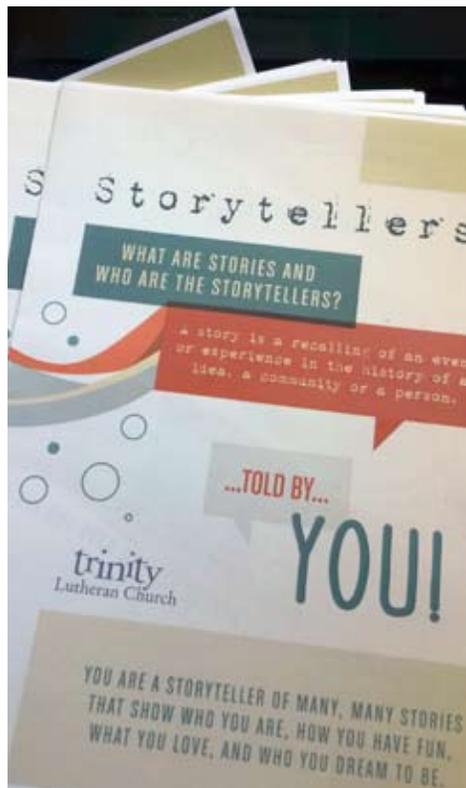


What are you reading? What is generating curiosity, inspiration and purpose in your life this summer?



Contemplative Practice

Join Jody every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. for Contemplative Practice. Contemplative practice includes lectio divina and other spiritual practices to draw you closer to God. During the summer months, the group heads outside to enjoy God's beautiful creation! For more information, email Jody at jthone@trinitylc.org.



LIFELONG LEARNING

“HEY REMEMBER THAT TIME...?”

#storytellersTR

By Allison Siburg, asiburg@trinitylc.org



“Hey, remember that time...?”

How many times does this phrase come up when you’re talking with someone? For me, it precedes some of my favorite conversations — mainly because I know I’ll likely be laughing hard by the end.

When we tell stories, we are reminded of who we are. We’re reminded who we belong to, who “gets” us, and who we dream to be. Stories root us, in a very particular way, to a core part of our identity like few things can. Just

like the stories we might share with our friends and family, the story of God also tells us who we are. Before the Bible was a physical book, it was a series of stories that were told over campfires, at open markets, at water wells, and over small dinners and big feasts. Pens, pencils, paper — even papyrus — hadn’t been invented yet, so grandparents depended on parents who depended on kids to remember the stories. This process of “telling” the story happened for generations (an example is Genesis 5: this goes on for a long time). These people in the Middle East, thousands of years ago, wanted their story and God’s story to be remembered so others would know who they were and who they were called to be.

Now you have an opportunity to contribute to this experience of telling your stories! God’s story is written on the pages of the Bible, and God’s story continues to be spoken to us through our stories of hope, love, laughter, joy, struggle, and change.

For the fall, I’ve created a five-part learning curriculum called Storytellers that helps you articulate your stories — whether in a small group, by yourself for personal reflection, or with your family. Feel free to pick up a copy of Storytellers in the Commons, or ask me for additional copies for your group.

After you have written your stories, share them on social media with the #storytellersTR hashtag or send them to Trinity’s Director of Communications Kim Pleticha (kpleticha@trinitylc.org) — or both! We’ll compile your stories into a church-wide collage to show the beauty of our intertwining stories and how God’s story runs through all of them.

If you have any questions about this, please don’t hesitate to email me or call me at extension 141.

discourse

Want to get in touch with what YOU believe about God? Join us for the next Discourse: God class!

Classes will be offered August 7, 14, 21 & 28 and also in September.

Discourse: God is a great way to dig deep and discover what YOU think about God and how you articulate your personal theology.

Contact Allison Siburg at asiburg@trinitylc.org for more information.

DISCOVERING YOUR THEOLOGICAL VOICE:

GOD



MISSIONS :

First Steps

By Tom Thiets



Every journey begins with a first step.

It's an old adage, but true nonetheless. Every day when we rise, we venture off on a journey. Most often we feel we're in control and know exactly where we're going. Even if we have no idea where our decisions will lead us, we claim we're in control.

A mission friend of mine reminds me that he says his morning prayer as soon as he wakes, before even getting out of bed.

"Dear Lord," he prays, "please guide me through this day. Let your will be mine. Guide my thoughts. Guide my words. Guide my steps. Amen."

Rather daring. Maybe even risky.

We love being in control, so to start your day by giving it away seems absurd. Yet, as my friend says, doing so offers him freedom: freedom to serve.

It's amazing how many first-step opportunities we're offered. Some we take, but many we dismiss as we focus on our own agenda.

I just returned from Tanzania, where I met with my friend Padre Filippo. Padre is a Sicilian priest who operates a two-site orphanage. He and his staff care for about 150 children, most of whom have special needs. Each day, the staff tends to the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of the children, despite a lack of equipment and supplies. Even with myriad challenges, Padre and his staff leader, an angel named Fausta, simply abound with love.

I first visited Padre Filippo's orphanage in July 2010, when I was leading a mission team in Tanzania. We had some extra supplies we planned to deliver to a local hospital, but someone from a nearby town suggested we consider giving them to the orphanage.

So we did just that. And just that easily we took our first step on a journey that makes one's heart sing.

Supplies ranging from bandages to Beanie Babies made a tangible difference to the kids — and the stop made just as much of a difference to us.

That first step led to two more visits, in 2011 and 2013, to bring hope and joy into the lives of the children and the staff. The October, 2013 mission included a shipping container of durable medical supplies: leg braces, walkers, wheelchairs. Two little girls, both just two years old, walked for the first time using some walkers included in that shipment. Neema, a 19-year-old woman, limped into the courtyard on an old prosthetic leg that was about five inches too short and broken at the ankle joint. The team gathered around her, made some repairs, and promised to find her a new prosthesis.

Now, it looks like that promise will come to fruition. We recently made contact with a company that will supply component parts for the prosthesis, as well as a specialist in northern Tanzania who will manufacture the new leg. We pray that we can bring Neema, the specialist, and the parts together later this year.

Please hold Neema and this process in your prayers as we continue on a journey that started four years, 8,000 miles, and one first step ago.

It just goes to show: you never know where you'll end up when you allow God to guide your steps — but it will always be better than where you originally planned to go. Amen.





TRINITY MISSIONS *Humv* ASSOCIATION Q&A

Question: Can you describe a “God moment” from the Guatemala mission trip?

Answer from Dr. Kevin Bjork

You asked about God Moments in Guatemala. For me, it is basically from the moment that I step off the plane until a couple weeks after we return. Just seeing things come together beyond our expectations, beyond our abilities and beyond our finances creates a stream of moments that can't really be fully explained. This year the big one was the laser. Doing green-light laser prostate surgery in the Guatemalan jungle seemed possible at first until I found out what was really involved and what can go wrong — at which time I probably would have bailed on it if we weren't in so deep. Then it worked, beyond anything I had hoped for. The equipment showed up, the patients showed up, Dr. Ted showed up, the laser worked and the patients did great! Bill's memorial garden with his family there was truly a highlight. We had a great group this year and watching them work together for a common good was pretty special.

The next mission trip to Guatemala is January 2015.

While this trip will mostly focus on medical issues we are exploring a partnership that will help in building a much needed elder-care center.

Practicing Generosity

By David Lose

Christians know a secret about generosity. Generosity is not the fruit of success or happiness or security. It is, instead, the source of all these things. Actually, it's not only Christians who know this. Seth Godin, one of my favorite thinkers, puts it this way:

Here's conventional wisdom: Success makes you happy. Happiness permits you to be generous. In fact, it actually works like this: Generosity makes you happy. Happy people are more likely to be successful.

Christians have sometimes named the "conventional" wisdom Godin talks about "worldly" wisdom, as it expresses the sensibilities that govern the world rather than the "kingdom logic" that Jesus announced during his earthly ministry.

Truth be told, however, it's easy for us to forget this. Not that we set out to be miserly or actively believe that we have to be wealthy before we can be generous. But there are so many conventional, worldly messages to this effect that it can be difficult to put into practice Jesus' teaching. Indeed, the primary message of the world is one of scarcity: there is not enough time, money, love, security, and more. Therefore, runs the conventional, worldly wisdom, we need to look out for ourselves first, making sure we have enough before we tend to others.

Jesus saw things differently. Addressing his disciples, Jesus told them not to be concerned about anything because they knew God loved them and would provide for them (see Matthew 6:25). Similarly, the Apostle Paul, caught up in Jesus' kingdom logic, argues against such anxious living by urging his friends in the community of Philippi to, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4). He goes on to tell them the following: "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (4:6).

The interesting thing about Paul's injunction is that he makes it while in prison. That's right, while he's sitting in

prison with no sure guarantee of what his future may hold, he instructs his friends to rejoice rather than to worry, trusting that God will provide, and to share with each other and all those in need.

While it's easy for us to assume that Paul must have been some kind of a spiritual giant to offer such counsel, the truth is somewhat different. As Paul himself says, "I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need."

Paul's secret, like Jesus' counsel to his disciples, is to trust God. But what I find most interesting about the Apostle's confession is that he had to learn to be content whether he was well-fed or hungry. Paul didn't start out this way, he learned through practice.

We, also, can learn to be more trusting and more generous through practice. What would it be like for a congregation to take time each week to reflect back on the acts of generosity its members had performed, witnessed, or experienced themselves? What if

we returned some of our offerings to our youth group and gave them the assignment of finding a worthy charity to give it to and then report back the impact of our collective giving? What if we sought volunteers willing to try to buy less and give away more and surrounded them with prayer and listened to what they learned? What if we made space in our newsletter and Sunday service for people to share stories of generosity? What if ...

The possibilities, of course, are nearly endless. And as we practice generosity we'll move more confidently from the conventional wisdom of the world to the kingdom logic Jesus taught.

David J. Lose is an assistant professor of homiletics at Luther Seminary. In May 2005, he received the Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching and was named Academic Dean in June of the same year, a post he held through 2008. He is the author of "Making Sense of Scripture" (2009) and "Confessing Jesus Christ: Preaching in a Postmodern World" (2003). David was recently called to be the President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



A Trinity student with Special Olympics athlete.



Preparing for Special Olympics.



Matthew 22:37-39

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind...
and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.



Hula hooping with athletes at Special Olympics



Taking a break at Special Olympics

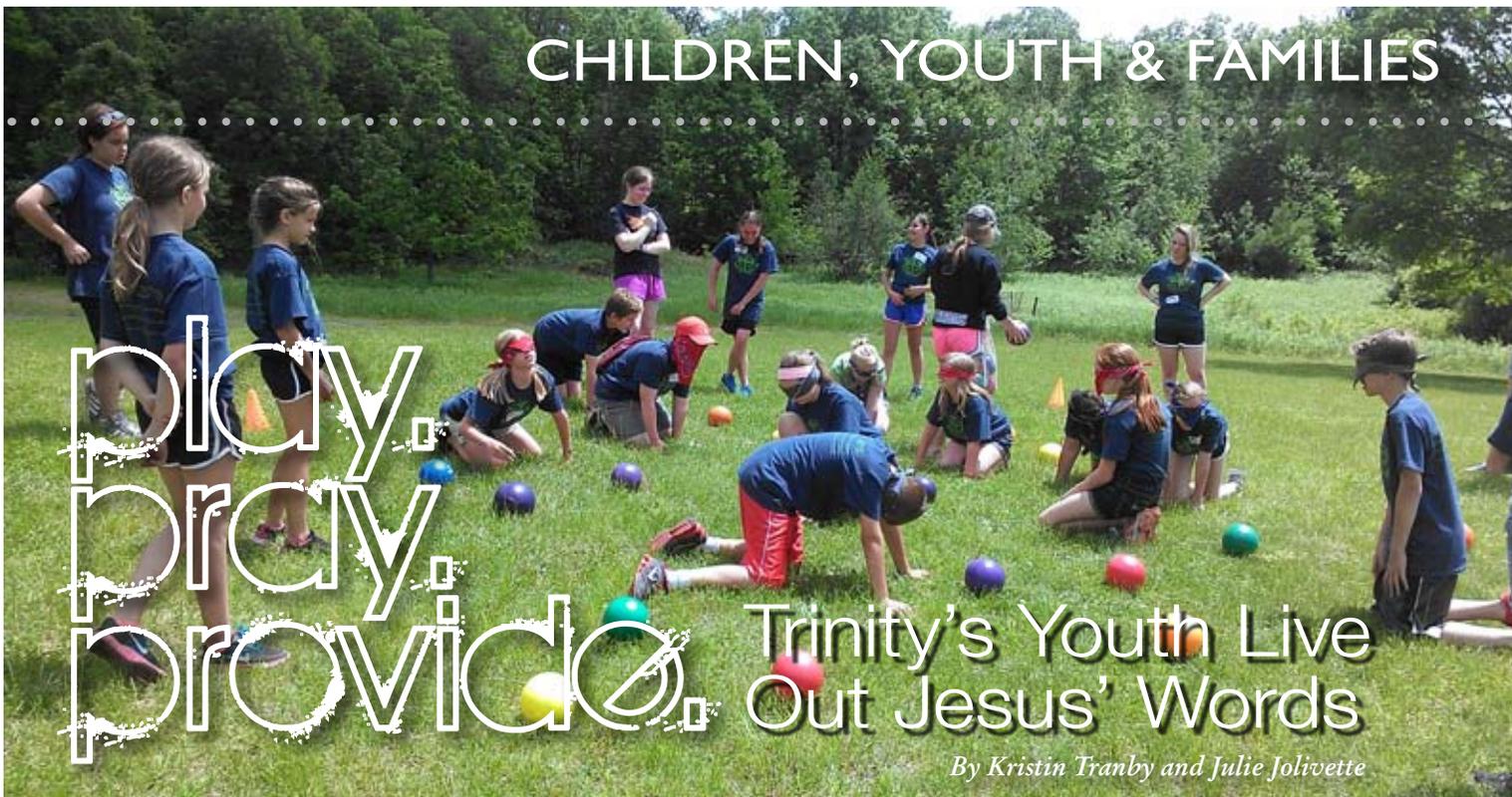


Enjoying time with old and new friends.



Signing Shirts

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



The Pharisees asked Jesus a simple (yet not so simple) question:

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

And Jesus’s answer was this: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

This summer, Trinity’s children and youth — through Helping Hearts and Hands and Summer Stretch—have lived out those words in big, big ways. It has been a joy to journey with them, to see their big hearts in action as they loved their neighbors, and to play alongside them as relationships grew.

The Helping Hearts and Hands kids kicked off their summer of service at Wapo Bible Camp, scraping and painting picnic tables to help improve the camp facilities. They also interviewed four “Senior Saints”: senior Trinity members who chatted with the kids about their faith and how it has shaped them throughout the years. These interviews were poignant for the kids, in that they realized people who may look “old” can actually be quite “young” (and, dare we say it, cool) once you get to know them. They also were eye-opening for the seniors.

“When Julie asked me to share my faith stories with young boys I told her I would rather fix her chairs,” chuckled Fred Hertenstein. “Ron [Hagen] and I showed the boys how to take the hard drives out of old computers before they were sent to recycling and [the boys] asked us faith questions while we worked. The boys were good workers and listeners and it was a good experience!”

“I was so impressed and inspired by the dreams and aspirations these young girls shared with me,” Lois Berglund said. “And they were so polite and confident — a real testament to their parents and blessing to me. Donna [Dielenths] and I promised them our prayers.”

Meantime, the Summer Stretch youth traveled to Ox Lake Bible Camp to pull weeds and shovel dirt for a new garden, then to Bethlehem Lutheran in St. Paul to sort clothing donations and cook for children enrolled in the church’s summertime Kids’ Club. Learning the church provides food and clothing to 300 people each and every week opened the kids’ eyes to the need around them.

“I liked sorting clothes and cooking at Bethlehem Lutheran Church,” said 8th grader Evelyn Young, “because in that church I could feel that we were helping God’s people to have a chance in life.”

“My high was being able to give back,” echoed 7th grader Jack Gray. “My low was seeing so many struggling and homeless people at Bethlehem Lutheran.”

Perhaps the most moving service project for both groups was working with athletes at the Special Olympics.

A Global Messenger from Special Olympics spoke to the kids about how much harm the “R Word” inflicts on those with special needs and their families. After hearing him speak, the kids all pledged to “Spread the Word to End the Word” by signing a large banner (pictured on Page 9). They then made signs for each delegation to carry during the Parade of Athletes at the Opening Ceremony.

Finally, the kids cheered on the Special Olympics athletes. It was heartwarming to see our kids encouraging the athletes and asking them about their medals. Many of our youth said they saw God at work in the joy and spirit of the athletes as they competed — even if they didn’t win. And it was obvious God also was at work in our youth.

“I saw God shining through the participants in their passion for helping other people — being God’s hands and feet,” said Eliana Johnson, one of Trinity’s summer interns.



And then there was prayer — lots of prayer. One of the most beautiful prayer moments happened when Sam Hoff closed his prayer with, “well goodbye then” rather than the traditional “Amen”. That simple, informal ending revealed so much about his relationship with God: he was talking with a friend, someone who loves him and whom he loves, someone with whom he’d speak with again soon — things we adults often forget in our more formal prayers.

Of course, the kids also did their fair share of playing. Helping Hearts and Hands rocked a raucous game of Gaga (which is something you have to see to fully appreciate), while Summer Stretch went to a St. Paul Saints game and to Valleyfair.

So yes, it certainly was a summer in which we PLAYED, PRAYED, and



PROVIDED. But really, we received more than we gave. We lived out Jesus’ Great Commandment and, in turn, felt Jesus’ love grow inside of us.

“The people we served had so much hope — it was amazing,” said 9th grader Sage Parker. “Everyone worked really hard; it was like we were family. Because of Summer Stretch, I started praying again.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



Summer is not necessarily a time of rest and relaxation for children, youth and families staff. In addition to laying out best practices for fall programming, summer camps are in full swing! Of course, connecting with God through camp is something that holds a very significant place in my faith life. I love the great outdoors and try to embrace all that God has created for us to enjoy. Pray for the play and learning that is inspired by the camp experience for all participants involved this summer!

—Jody Nyenhuis



Weird Animals VBS

By Kristin Tranby

It's almost here! From August 11-15, Trinity will be filled with Weird Animals and hundreds of children, youth and adult volunteers learning about Jesus' "one-of-a kind" love!

The spirit and enthusiasm of Vacation Bible School is absolutely contagious. From the moment children walk through the doors in the morning, they're greeted by friendly, excited Crew Leaders. At Sing & Play Stampede, they learn about the theme for the day and sing great songs. For the rest of the day, you will hear kids walking around singing "All around the world something's going on about Jesus' love. It's AMAZING!" (which is the theme song for VBS this year). You'll also hear lots of shouting — "JESUS LOVES YOU!" — whenever the Bible point is repeated. Every afternoon, the kids go home with one repeatable phrase and Bible verse. This year, we learn that:

Even when you're left out.... Jesus loves you!
Even though you're different... Jesus loves you!
Even when you don't understand... Jesus loves you!
Even though you do wrong... Jesus loves you!
Even when you're afraid... Jesus loves you!
What amazing truths about the love of Jesus!

These Bible points are reinforced throughout the day, as groups travel to One-Of-A-Kind Bible Adventures, KidVid Cinema, Untamed Games, Imagination Station, and even stop for a snack at the Critter Café.

Mission projects are a huge part of Vacation Bible School. This year, VBS kids and Trinity members will be collecting money to construct a water tower in Tanzania so that the children in the school will have access to clean, safe water — without having to walk miles and miles a day to collect it. Trinity Missions Director Tom Thiets will be traveling there in October to share pictures and stories from our VBS week!

Thank you to everyone for your support of Vacation Bible School. It's truly a life-changing ministry for everyone who is involved!

P.S. If you'd like to donate money for supplies or volunteer — or both! — I'd love to hear from you. You can reach me at ktranby@trinitylc.org or ext. 120.



Character Building

By Jeanne Degerstrom, LADC Parent Educator

Each child is a gift from God. We are given an opportunity to help shape the life of another human being. We show by example how spirituality and daily life emerge. Everything we do or say, every habit we have, our tone of voice, and our expressions all teach children and help form their earliest ideas about God, people and the world. Instilling values and character traits in your children will provide them with a strong foundation on which they can base their lives and build their futures.

- Ask God for help. Look inside, pray, meditate, keep a journal, and find role models. Nurture your faith and forge a path that is personal, creative, life affirming, and joyful.
- Create a home environment where children can love and serve our God and one another. Choose to mirror love, joy, optimism, faith, hope, honesty, kindness, generosity, understanding, and forgiveness. In doing so we nurture our children's souls.
- Build great family memories that revolve around your spiritual life. Doing this can yield dividends for generations.
- Treat others as you'd like your child to treat them. Children are always watching. Modeling kindness and caring behavior toward friends and relatives is an effective way to teach God's love and compassion.
- Help your child become his or her own problem solver. Guide and support your children as they work through conflicts or struggles, but avoid doing it for them.
- Encourage honesty and truthfulness. Give your child a chance to explain instead of automatically accusing him of wrongdoing. Help your child understand why he felt he needed to lie. Explain why lying is harmful (it destroys trust). Give your child a chance to fix his mistake.
- Model forgiveness by acknowledging your mistakes and apologizing when you need to. Accept your family member's shortcoming and encourage him or her to do better next time.
- Engage and involve your children in everyday tasks. Asking for their help makes children feel useful and important. Take time for training and work with your children until they learn how to do the job. When they feel ready to do the job alone, let them know you are available. Step back and don't help unless asked. By regularly involving your children in age-appropriate jobs with you, you're helping them develop a sense of responsibility.
- Share affection through warm hugs, smiles, kind words, humor and playfulness. Honor and share each other's feelings.

Lake Area Discovery Center (LADC) is a Christian based non-profit organization, partnered with Trinity, that provides programming for children ages two through five. For more info about LADC at Trinity, log on to www.LADCFamilies.org

G R O U P S & T E A M S

GLOW Fall Weekend Biking, Hiking, and Camping Adventure at Jay Cooke State Park

Sept. 19-21

Cost \$30; Minnesota State
Park permit required

Travel to Jay Cooke State

Park, located about two hours north of Stillwater near Duluth. The centerpiece of the park is the St. Louis River, which cascades through Jay Cooke's steep rock canyons. Scenic hiking trails wind along the bluffs of the river and the paved Willard Munger State Bike Trail travels through the park. Bikers and hikers of all ambitions will find varied exercise opportunities in a wondrous setting. Friday and Saturday night tent camping and electrical campsites for RV's will be available. The park has showers and flush toilets. Food, campsites and equipment will be discussed at a planning meeting the week prior to the trip. *Contact Jan Anderson at info@britishlabradors.com or Lisa Corcoran at e.w.corcoran@gmail.com. Please REGISTER online.*



MVP SEASON SCHEDULE

Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. — Trinity Garden Room
2014-2015 Season Pass: \$99 includes 5 events below
Season passes available for purchase

Sept. 23, 2014

Menu: Vittorio's Traditional Italian Meal

Speaker – Event Price: \$25

Nov. 18, 2014

Menu: Game Dinner & Fish Fry

Speaker – Event Price: \$25

Jan. 20, 2015

Menu: Stadium Fare

Speaker – Event Price: \$20

March 24, 2015

Menu: Footlong Hot Dog Fest

Speaker – Event Price: \$20

May 19, 2015

Menu: Steak & Lobster Dinner

Speaker – Event Price: \$30



MVP PUPOSE STATEMENT:

To provide opportunities for men (18 and older) to gather around sports themes for food, fellowship and inspiration.

CARE MINISTRIES



CARING IN THE INTERIM

By Zanny Johnson

As Pastor Dan announced in last month's issue of *Trinity Today*, the ball is indeed rolling regarding our vital ministry of Care! We will have a three-part team that includes a Care Pastor, a Parish Nurse, and my new role (with a very fancy title) as Congregational Care Coordinator.

Earlier this summer, I asked to scale back to part-time status to spend more time with my kids, so am squishing all my responsibilities — visitor and new members; worship planning and leading; worship assistant coordinating; and care ministry — into 20 hours a week. So thank you for your patience with me, and with all of us, as we transition into the fall — when I'll be back up to full speed and will joyfully embrace the new members of this team!

Also, I want to address concerns I have heard about how we disseminate information about the health issues, new babies and deaths of our fellow Trinity members. Our world is, more than ever, a place where confidentiality is of utmost importance, and we must walk the line between confidentiality and care. We truly want to minister to you and let our community surround you with love, prayer and support. In order to do that, we need explicit permission from you to share any health information about you. So please, call the Church Office to let us know about your needs and whether we can share this information with the Prayer Team and/or staff to best follow up and care for you.

One final note: if you feel a stirring to be more intentional about sharing of yourself in terms of relating to people, we have many opportunities! Trinity has myriad groups that care for people, including our BeFrienders team (people trained in active listening and befriending); our Caring Friends (who connect with all members 75+ through calls and cards, and also host a luncheon three times a year); our Knitting Ministry (who make prayer shawls, baby items and, —coming soon— baptismal shawls); our Prayer Team and Prayer Chain; our birthday callers; our Sunshine Ministry — the list goes on and on.

So please, call me, email me, let me know if you feel the tug of the Holy Spirit as you read the previous words to share of yourself in any of these ways.

Bless you!

HELP WANTED: DRIVE-IN COFFEE AND TREATS

Many of you know that coffee and scones are hugely popular at the 9 a.m. Drive-In service in Houlton.

What you might not know is that the people who bake those scones, make that coffee and serve it are all volunteers — coordinated by Director of Worship Ministries Phil Kadidlo. Phil's wife, Robin, serves as the Sunday morning "coach" most weekends.

Phil and Robin will be gone a few weekends this summer, so they need folks to step into their coordinator roles during that time. If you have a suitable hauling vehicle, can lift the medium-heavy coffee containers, and be at the Drive-In early to make coffee and lemonade, you're perfect for the job!

Please talk to Robin or Phil about signing up to help out (you can email Phil at pkadidlo@trinitylc.org). They're happy to train you! They also welcome additional set-up help and donated treats ANY weekend during the summer.

Sign up — or just show up at the church kitchen at 7:30 a.m. or at the Drive-In at 8 a.m. or so and pitch in!

Word in Season daily devotional books available

Pick up a copy of the daily devotional book *Word in Season* and enrich your life with scripture and a contemporary message for each day. A new collection is available quarterly. Its small size makes it easy to carry with you or have at your bedside. *Word in Season* replaces *Christ in Our Home*. Books are available in the Church Office for \$2 each (\$3 large print).

THANK YOU... PRAYER GROUP



Did you know there's a small group of people who meet at Trinity every Tuesday at 1 p.m. to pray?

The Trinity Prayer Team, led by saint Darlene Parent, includes Ute Erickson, Carol Taves and Jean Davis.

These wonderful women have a running list of prayer requests, and pray out loud for all the concerns and joys that are brought to them. They would love to have more people join them, and would be quick to say you don't need experience to do so! You don't even have to pray out loud: the only requirements are a half-hour of your time every Tuesday, a loving heart, and an understanding of and respect for confidentiality regarding the prayer requests.

Please thank these beautiful souls when you see them, and let me know if you are interested in being a part of the Prayer Team. I'll pass on the good news to Darlene and one of us will get back to you.

—Zanny

TREASURER'S CORNER: TRINITY FINANCIAL UPDATE

*By Bob Eiselt, Parish Administrator and
Todd King, Congregational Council Treasurer*

Market Performance Beneficial to Trinity's Endowment Account in 2012-2014

Recent market performance has significantly strengthened Trinity's Endowment Fund balance.

Trinity's Endowment funds are invested as part of a Pooled Trust, managed by the ELCA. The Pool is structured to provide stable, quarterly distributable income with growth over time in line with the expected long-term rate of inflation. The assets selected are in accordance with the criteria of social responsibility consistent with values and programs of the ELCA.

The ELCA distributes earnings back to Trinity on a quarterly basis. The annual distribution amount for 2013 & 2014 represents 4.25% of the average market value of the five previous year ends. The income is distributed at a standard distribution rate, determined by the ELCA to protect the principle of the investments.

ELCA endowment funds management fee is 1%, charged monthly.

Trinity's annual earnings for Calendar Year (CY) 2014, distributed back to Trinity by the ELCA, will be a little over \$36,000.

The fund's results over the past 2 years are as follows:

Balance at 12/31/11:	\$800,961
Balance at 12/31/12:	\$878,609 (9.69% rate of return - CY 2012)
Balance at 12/31/13:	\$982,127 (11.8% rate of return - CY 2013)
Balance as of 5/31/14:	\$1,013,660 (3.2% rate of return - 5 mos. of CY 2014)

The funds distributed back to Trinity each year are for use in the areas of ministry designated by the donors. Since its inception in 1997, Trinity's Endowment Fund has been a very useful addition to the financial resources that make it possible for ministry at Trinity to happen.

O P E N I N G D O O R S

Opening Doors: Your Church—Your Say

By Doug Johnson, “Opening Doors” Task Force Chair

Trinity’s Congregational Council on April 27 created the “Opening Doors” Appeal Review Task Force and directed it to develop a plan to bring the “Opening Doors” Appeal to a conclusion since the appeal did not meet its goal.

We, the members of the Task Force, have been charged with finding the best solution for Trinity — not raise money or place blame. But we need your help!

For the past month, we have asked you to either complete the “Opening Doors” survey or write to us about what you would like future Trinity facilities to look like and what you believe the best solution to the “Opening Doors” Appeal is. Many have already done so.

Once the survey is completed, the Task Force will study your ideas; the most feasible will be submitted to the Congregational Council in October. The congregation will vote on the outcome at the November Annual Meeting.

If you have not completed the survey, please take a moment to do so today — the instructions are included in the box to the right of this article.

The last day to submit your survey is Tuesday, Aug. 5.

If you have already completed the survey but have additional ideas, please submit them either by email to OpeningDoors@trinitylc.org, by mail to the church (Attn: “Opening Doors”), or put your letter in an envelope marked “Opening Doors” and place it in the offering plate.

This is your church and you need to have a say in its future!



Please take a moment to do the following:

1. Complete the survey and send us any ideas you have to bring the “Opening Doors” Appeal to a conclusion
2. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide both the Task Force and the people of Trinity as we look to Trinity’s future.

Complete the Survey!

- Online at: <http://tinyurl.com/OpeningDoorsSurvey>
- Scan the QR code on your smartphone: 
- Via Trinity’s website: log on to www.trinitylc.org and click on the link at the bottom of the home page
- By mail: fill out the survey on page 17 and mail it to the Church Office (Attn: “Opening Doors” Survey)
- At church: fill out the survey in the pews and place it in the offering plate

Opening Doors Task Force Survey



The “Opening Doors” Capital Appeal began in 2011 as a \$4 million appeal. The Appeal was later increased to \$5.3 million with a goal of 500 families participating.

In a letter to the congregation, it was reported that as of February 28, 2014 the “Opening Doors” Capital Appeal had received pledges and contributions in the amount of \$3.6 million from 345 families.

The “Opening Doors” Appeal Task Force has been charged with recommending to the Congregational Council and to the congregation a method of concluding the “Opening Doors” Capital Appeal. The Task Force needs to know what YOU think the best result of the Appeal should be. Your answers to the following questions will help us make our recommendation.

Take this opportunity to have a say in the future of your church.

1. What best describes your participation in the Trinity Opening Doors Capital Appeal? (choose one)

- Made a pledge or contribution that has already been fulfilled
- Made a pledge and intend to fulfill by the end of 2014
- Made a pledge and intend to fulfill by the end of 2015
- Made a pledge but will not be able to fulfill, but will contribute as able
- Did not pledge, but will contribute as able
- Made a pledge that will be fulfilled when the appeal is approved by congregational vote
- Have cancelled pledge
- Do not intend to pledge or contribute to this appeal
- Other (please explain): _____

2. If you did not pledge or contribute to the Opening Doors Capital Appeal, why not? (check all that apply)

- Was not asked
- Was not financially able
- Did not agree there was a need for additional space
- Did not agree with the proposed plan
- Believed Trinity had other financial needs
- Other (please explain): _____

3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “Trinity should continue to try to reach its Opening Doors Capital Appeal goals.”

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree Strongly disagree

If you agree and you have suggestions for meeting the goals, please share them here:

If you disagree and have suggestions about what to do with the pledges and contributions to the Opening Doors Capital Appeal, please share them here:

4. Where do you see the greatest need for additional space? (check all that apply)

- Adult learning Children’s learning Staff offices
- Youth worship Atrium/visiting area for socializing Storage
- No additional needs Other (please specify): _____

5. Where do you see need for additional funding other than for space? (check all that apply)

- Repair/improve existing building Expand/add programming
- Reduce existing mortgage Staffing None needed
- Other: _____

6. If the congregation decides not to move forward with an addition to the building, would you financially support other needs?

- Yes No

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about the Opening Doors Capital Appeal. If there is anything else that you would like to say, please write it here:

W O R S H I P

O P P O R T U N I T I E S

May 25 Through Aug. 31, 2014

- **Wednesdays, 7 p.m.**
The River Youth Worship (*Gr. 9-12*)
- **Saturdays, 5 p.m.**
Evening Worship, Communion
- **Sundays, 9 a.m.**
Drive-In Worship and Communion at Houlton, WI
- **Sundays, 10 a.m.**
Traditional Worship and Communion at Trinity

W O R S H I P

A T T E N D A N C E

June 21 & 22	July 12 & 13
5 p.m. 58	5 p.m. 49
Drive-In 373	Drive-In 341
10 a.m. 91	10 a.m. 101
June 28 & 29	July 19 & 20
5 p.m. 64	5 p.m. 36
Drive-In 187	Drive-In 385
10 a.m. 128	10 a.m. 129
July 5 & 6	
5 p.m. 36	
Drive-In 201	
10 a.m. 158	

B A P T I Z E D S Y M P A T H Y

- **Alissa Rose Ressler** – daughter of Charles & Amanda Ressler
- **Isabel Starr Sheets** – daughter of Matthew & Elizabeth Sheets
- **Juliette Marguerite Lalande** – daughter of Marc-Andre & Sara Lalande
- The family and friends of **Karol Roehrkasse** whose mother, **Shirely Steffan**, passed away on June 19.
- The family and friends of **Rita (Bill) Lawson**, whose mother, **Bernice Lindemann**, passed away on June 29.
- **Tom Hosek** & family whose niece, **Sara**, passed away on July 1.

T R I N I T Y

T R A N S P O R T A T I O N

Trinity's van is available for the Sunday, 10 a.m. worship service at Trinity. A van ride is available for members or non-members lacking other means of transportation. Please call the Church Office at 439-7400 between 9 a.m. Wednesday and 4 p.m. Thursday to reserve your seat each week. Estimated pick-up times for senior residences if you have reserved a seat:

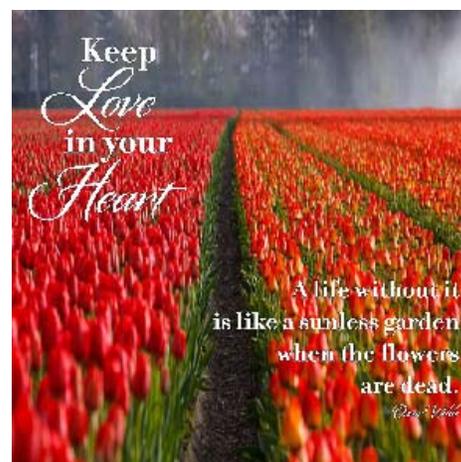
May 25, 2013 through Aug. 31, 2014

- 9:15 a.m. – Boutwell's Landing at the main entrance
- 9:25 a.m. – Raymie Johnson
- 9:35 a.m. – Croixdale
- 9:40 a.m. – Oak Ridge
- 9:45 a.m. – Rivertown Commons

T R I N I T Y T O D A Y

Publication Number: USPS 509650
Published once per month by
Trinity Lutheran Church, 115 N. 4th St.,
Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082
Editor: Kim Pleticha
Design & Layout: Amy Shalles
Articles for the next *Trinity Today* (September issue) are due Friday, August 8, to begin arriving in mailboxes Thursday, August 28.
Office: 651-439-7400; **Fax:** 651-430-2935
Email: trinitytoday@trinitylc.org
Trinity Today is also available in full-color at Trinity's web site at www.trinitylc.org
Postmaster: Send address changes to Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082.
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S O C I A L M E D I A



Join us & be inspired!



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CALENDAR JULY 25 — AUGUST 31

Fri., July 25

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 10 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Rm 108B
 10 a.m. Raymie Johnson Sr. Communion
 10:30 a.m. Oak Park Sr. Living Sr. Communion
 1:15 p.m. Oak Ridge Apts. Sr. Communion

Sat., July 26

8 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 8 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Luther Hall
 5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

Sun., July 27

*Campers
leave*

Luther Dell Confirmation Camp
 Roots Leadership Camp
 Counselor-in-Training - Luther Dell
 9 a.m. DRIVE-IN WORSHIP: Houlton, WI
 10 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION @ Trinity
 7 p.m. Women's Book Group

Mon., July 28

Luther Dell Confirmation Camp
 Roots Leadership Camp
 Counselor-in-Training - Luther Dell
 7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
 7 p.m. Al-Anon meeting: Library

Tue., July 29

Luther Dell Confirmation Camp
 Roots Leadership Camp
 Counselor-in-Training - Luther Dell
 7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
 9 a.m. Camp Nibble: Off-site
 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
 6 p.m. AA meeting: Library

Wed., July 30

Luther Dell Confirmation Camp
 Roots Leadership Camp
 Counselor-in-Training - Luther Dell
 7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 7 p.m. No River Worship

Thu., July 31

Luther Dell Confirmation Camp
 Roots Leadership Camp
 Counselor-in-Training - Luther Dell
 7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Off-site

Fri., August 1

*Campers
return*

Luther Dell Confirmation Camp
 Roots Leadership Camp
 Counselor-in-Training - Luther Dell
 7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 10 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Rm 108B

Sat., August 2

8 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 8 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Luther Hall
 5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

Sun., August 3

9 a.m. DRIVE-IN WORSHIP: Houlton, WI
 10 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION @ Trinity

Mon., August 4

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 8:45 a.m. Women's Bridge for Trinity
 1:30 p.m. Commodity Food Dist: Off-site
 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
 7 p.m. Al-Anon meeting: Library

Tue., August 5

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
 6 p.m. AA meeting: Library

Wed., August 6

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 7 p.m. The River Worship: Pioneer Park

Thu., August 7

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Off-site
 2 p.m. Healing Touch: Narthex
 7 p.m. Discourse Class-God: Living Room

Fri., August 8

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 10 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Rm 108B

Sat., August 9

8 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 8 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Luther Hall
 5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

Sun., August 10

9 a.m. DRIVE-IN WORSHIP: Houlton, WI
 10 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION @ Trinity
 7 p.m. Women's Book Group: Off-site

Mon., August 11

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 9 a.m. VBS-Weird Animals: Worship Ctr
 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
 7 p.m. Al-Anon meeting: Library

Tue., August 12

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 9 a.m. VBS-Weird Animals: Worship Ctr
 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
 9 a.m. Croixdale Sr. Communion
 10 a.m. Good Samaritan Sr. Communion
 10:30 a.m. Greeley Sr. Communion
 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
 6 p.m. AA meeting: Library

Wed., August 13

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 9 a.m. VBS-Weird Animals: Worship Ctr
 7 p.m. The River Worship: Hilltop Drive-In

Thu., August 14

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Off-site
 9 a.m. VBS-Weird Animals: Worship Ctr
 7 p.m. Discourse Class-God: OCR

Fri., August 15

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 9 a.m. VBS-Weird Animals: Worship Ctr
 10 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Rm 108B
 10:30 a.m. Boutwells Landing Sr. Communion
 1:15 p.m. Rivertown Commons Sr. Communion

Sat., August 16

8 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 8 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Luther Hall
 5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

Sun., August 17

9 a.m. DRIVE-IN WORSHIP: Houlton, WI
 10 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION @ Trinity

Mon., August 18

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 4 p.m. Congregational Council mtg: Office Conf.

6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
 7 p.m. Al-Anon meeting: Library

Tue., August 19

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
 6 p.m. AA meeting: Library

Wed., August 20

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 10:15 a.m. Linden Sr. Communion
 7 p.m. The River Worship: Washington Park

Thu., August 21

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Off-site
 7 p.m. Discourse Class-God: Living Room

Fri., August 22

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 10 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Rm 108B
 10 a.m. Raymie Johnson Sr. Communion
 10:30 a.m. Oak Park Sr. Living Sr. Communion
 1:15 p.m. Oak Ridge Apts. Sr. Communion

Sat., August 23

8 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 8 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Luther Hall
 5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

Sun., August 24

9 a.m. DRIVE-IN WORSHIP: Houlton, WI
 10 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION @ Trinity
 7 p.m. Women's Book Group: Off-site

Mon., August 25

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
 7 p.m. Al-Anon meeting: Library

Tue., August 26

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
 6 p.m. AA meeting: Library

Wed., August 27

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 7 p.m. No River Worship

Thu., August 28

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Off-site
 10 a.m. Knitting Ministry: Narthex
 7 p.m. Discourse Class-God: Living Room

Fri., August 29

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 10 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Rm 108B

Sat., August 30

8 a.m. AA meeting: Library
 8 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Luther Hall
 5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

Sun., August 31

9 a.m. DRIVE-IN WORSHIP: HOULTON, WI
 10 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION @ Trinity

TRINITY TODAY

love.transform.serve.

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Periodical
Postage Paid at
Stillwater, MN
55082-0339

VBS volunteers of all ages are needed for our Junior Crew (completed gr. 5 or 6), Crew Leaders (Jr. high to adult), and Rotation Station Leaders (adults).

Whether it is leading a small group, games, Bible stories, science, preparing snacks, helping in the preschool room or Nursery, there is a place for you at Weird Animals Vacation Bible School!

Please contact Kristin at x120 or ktranby@trinitylc.org.



Weird Animals – Where Jesus' Love is One-of-a Kind

August 11-15, 9 a.m.-noon

\$35/student; \$80/family maximum

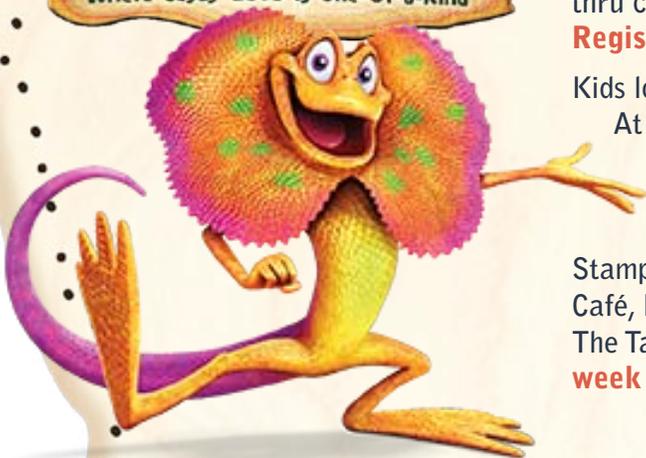
Students age 4 by June 1, 2014

thru completion of Grade 4

Register by July 31 at www.trinitylc.org!

Kids love crazy, weird animals — the weirder the better!

At VBS, kids will learn about many special, unique, rare, never-before-seen animals while they discover what Jesus' endless love means in their lives. Kids will experience that love through the Sing & Play Stampede, Imagination Station, Untamed Games, Critter Café, KidVid Cinema, One-of-a-Kind Bible Adventures and The Tail End. **Register early (spots do fill up) for a fun week full of weird animals and fun Bible adventures!**



VBS donations welcomed

We know summer gets busy, so let us do the shopping! Drop off your cash donations in the Church Office or at the Children's Ministries table at the Drive-In. Cash or checks, made out to Trinity with VBS in the memo line, are welcome! Please contact Jody Nyenhuis at jnyenhuis@trinitylc.org or ext. 138 with questions. Thank you in advance for your support of this wonderful summer ministry!