

trinity
Lutheran Church

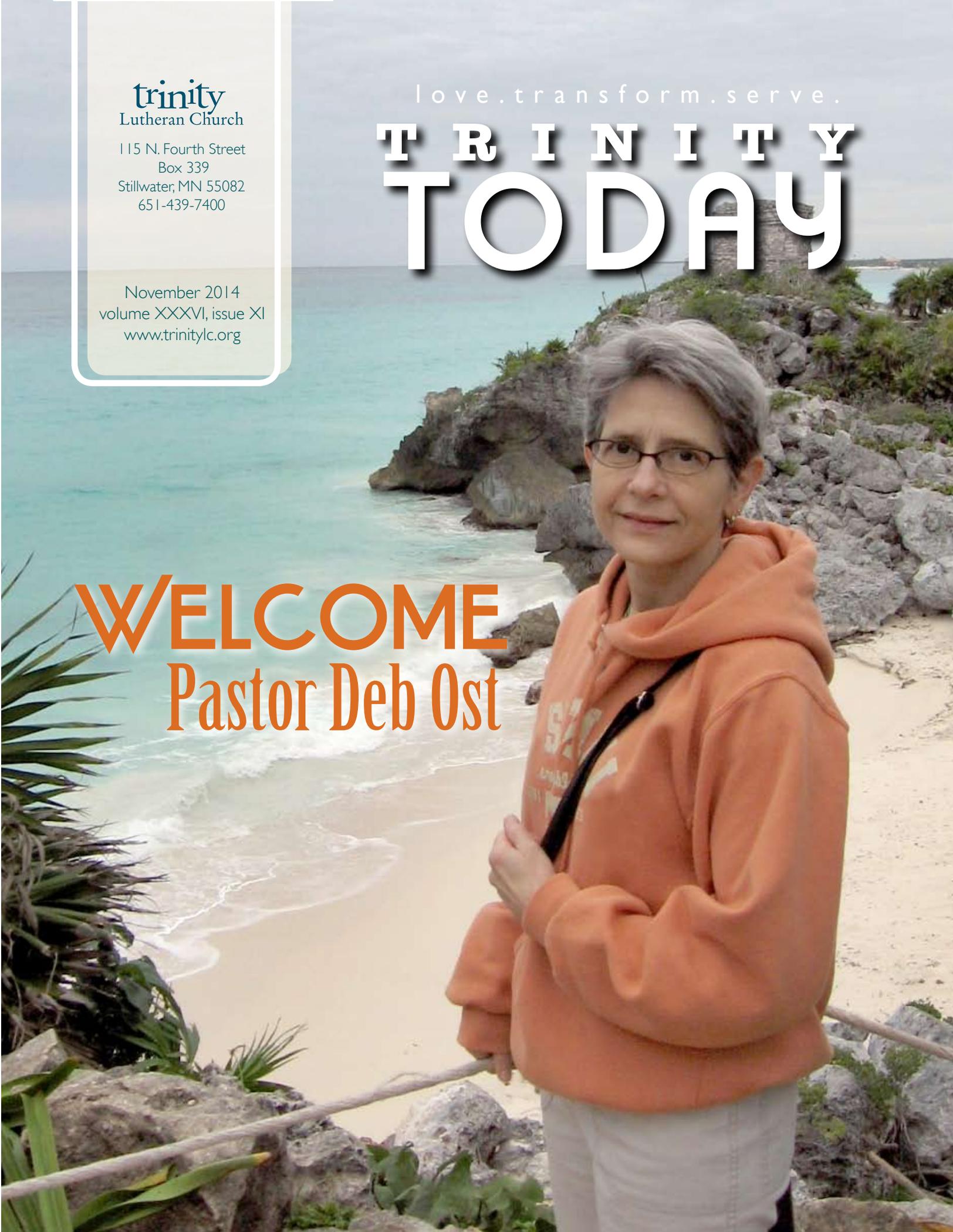
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love.transform.serve.

TRINITY TODAY

WELCOME
Pastor Deb Ost





PASTOR DAN
POFFENBERGER

OUR generation.
OUR church.
OUR time.



By now, our 2014-2015 Stewardship materials should have landed in your mailbox, and I am excited about the opportunity to grow in stewardship, the challenges of this particular ministry year, and the recognition that together we have all of the resources — talents, time and finances — that are needed to live out the mission set before us.

This year, Trinity’s Annual Stewardship has three goals:

- To lift up financial stewardship as a spiritual practice, a vital part of belonging to a faith community, and an essential part of whole-life stewardship;
- To encourage more individuals and families to support the ministry and mission of Trinity; and,
- To raise the funds necessary to perform our ministries with excellence

As part of our stewardship message this year, we are highlighting three ways we are strengthening Trinity’s ability to carry out its mission:

Maximize our staff

This year’s budget reflects some

significant changes to Trinity’s staff:

- Calling a Pastor of Family Faith Formation: a Pastor to engage the families of our children and youth
- Appointing a Director of Engagement: this person will innovate and guide our new member process and hospitality ministries, and support our groups and teams leadership.
- Launching the newly called and appointed Care Ministry Team: This team’s work will begin now, with much to be excited about as they explore new ways to respond to the needs of our community.

We are doing all of this with a net reduction staff costs. This is due to the reorganization of staff positions. We believe this refocusing of our staffing is responsive to the Faith and Family Vision 2020 team’s recommendations, the continued challenge to engage our visitors and new members, and to the growing needs of our seniors

Maximize Trinity’s financial base and capacity to do mission

Three new Stewardship Teams are being formed: a *Stewardship Education Team* that will continue to promote a culture of stewardship; a *Young Families and New Member Team* that will concentrate on teaching and equipping families who are new to the concept of stewardship; and an *Annual Stewardship Team*, which will envision, create and execute Trinity’s

annual stewardship efforts.

A *Missions Board* also will be created. This Board will help guide Trinity’s investments of people, time and money in our local, metro and global missional efforts and partnerships.

Plan for Trinity’s future needs

A *Long-Range Financial Planning Team* will be established. This team will look at our annual financial needs and our indebtedness to create a long-range financial plan that will allow Trinity to guarantee its long-term financial sustainability.

Trinity will be engaging a consulting firm to administer a *Congregational Assessment* to gauge Trinity’s vitality. This assessment will provide a rich set of data to guide the shape of our ministry for the future.

A *Facilities Management Team* is being created that will provide, in the very near future, a list of immediate and future facilities needs, and will be used to guide investments in our facility. This is a direct and exciting recommendation from the “Opening Doors” Review Team, and its work will be much anticipated.

Pledge Sunday is November 9th – please prepare your pledge and bring it to worship at any of the three services on this weekend!

This is an important year in the life of Trinity – it is another year of challenge, growth and blessings – please be prayerful and generous in your support of Trinity’s ministry. Thank you for all you do to make Trinity a blessing and a servant in the world.



YOU'RE REALLY A PASTOR?

I love when I get to talk about Trinity. It's so fun to tell people how amazing all of you are and how much I love my job. Usually the conversation goes like this:

Other person:

"You're really a pastor?"

Me:

"Yep, I'm really a pastor."

Other person:

"You don't seem like a pastor."

Me:

"Thanks. Yeah, it surprises me sometimes too. But the most surprising thing isn't that I'm a pastor, it's how much I LOVE MY JOB. The people are so wonderful and I get to be my whole self! It's a community that is open and welcoming and seeking to make a difference in the world."

Other person:

"That's what your church is like? Maybe I should check out church sometime..."

I seriously have a variation on this conversation at least once a week. It's so fun to be able to be excited about what I do and to be able to tell people about all of the great work that is happening in and through Trinity – and you make that happen!

Later this month marks my one-year anniversary at Trinity. Can you believe it?! When Pastor Dan called me last October, I didn't think I wanted to work in a church, let alone as a pastor. I was trying to make a run at yoga full-time. But he was smart and said, "You don't have to say yes to being a pastor forever, but is this the right place for you right now?" And the more I got to know the staff and culture and community of Trinity, the more I was drawn in. The rest is history! And I mean it, as much as I'm surprised by the fact that I'm a pastor, I'm more surprised by what a great fit this has been and how happy I am in doing this work.

As you may remember from my introduction all those months ago, I tend to move around a lot. Twelve months is the longest I've ever stayed in one place or had one job... so we're breaking records here, folks! And I couldn't imagine a better place to be doing it.

You all have given me my dream job. And for that I am so grateful.

In this month when we focus on giving thanks, I am filled with joy and appreciation for the amazing people I get to work with, the community I get to learn and grow and share with, the lives I get to be a part of, the opportunity to be my whole self, and the way that God has brought all of us together in this time to be a force for good and beauty in the world.

Here's to you, and to many more years of learning, growing, and having fun together!

SUNDAY LEARNING UPDATE

Many thanks to everyone who responded to our Sunday Learning Survey! 63% of respondents liked the idea of changing the Sunday Schedule to include a Sunday Learning Hour between the two Worship services, so we plan to move toward that. However, some wondered whether the 11 a.m. Worship time might be too late. So, we are asking for your input about possible Worship and Learning times. Which schedule do you prefer?

- 8:30 a.m. Worship**
9:30 a.m. Adult & Children's Learning
10:30 a.m. Worship
- 8:45 a.m. Worship**
9:45 a.m. Adult & Children's Learning
10:45 a.m. Worship
- 9 a.m. Worship**
10 a.m. Adult & Children's Learning
11 a.m. Worship

Scan the QR code below to take the survey online:



Why is Trinity proposing this change?

This proposal is a direct response to the Faith & Family 2020 Vision Team's recommendation to provide more intergenerational opportunities. With a learning hour sandwiched between two Worship services, we would have the time and the space to offer intergenerational opportunities. On special church service days, or when we have guest musicians, we could plan unique intergenerational events.

Why are we considering times other than the originally proposed 9 a.m. Worship, 10 a.m. Learning Hour and 11 a.m. Worship?

63% of respondents to the original survey said they loved the idea of having Adult and Children's Learning between the two Worship services. However, many wondered whether the 11 a.m. service time might be too late. Given this, we wanted your thoughts about other times that might work better for your family.

What about those who prefer to worship without children?

The Faith & Family 2020 Vision Team's research found that the strongest way to build lifelong faith in children is for them to see that faith modeled by their parents and other adults. We recognize that worshipping with children can be challenging at times. But it is so important for them to see us adults engaged in an active faith life! The nursery will continue to be available for children younger than three (and, in some cases, children who are slightly older).

What about social time?

This new schedule would allow for even more social time than our current schedule! We would have ample time between services to talk, learn, and otherwise interact with fellow Trinity members — this is one of the benefits of having an Adult and Children's Learning Hour.

Voice your opinion by filling out the Adult Learning Survey to the left and placing it in the offering plate, scanning the QR code, or by logging on to:

<http://tinyurl.com/Trinity-Learning-Survey-2>

We'll collect responses through Sunday, Oct. 26, and will let you know the NEW Worship times — and the start date — in the next issue of *Trinity Today*, as well as in church announcements, the bulletin, email, eNewsletter, and Facebook posts.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Pastor Dan Poffenberger at dpoffenberger@trinitylc.org or Pastor Stephanie Vos at svos@trinitylc.org.



INSIDE TRINITY: OUR CORE COMMITMENTS

Core Commitments express values and principles that guide and anchor an organization. Over the last few months I have been guiding Trinity staff in a collaborative process of defining our core commitments and what they mean to our ministry together. These commitments help us to know what to do, and what not to do, and most importantly how we all do ministry together.

TRINITY CORE COMMITMENTS

Together we are committed to:

- **Welcome and Inclusivity:** Fostering an environment that welcomes and includes whoever you are, and wherever you are on your journey as a beloved child of God.
- **Healthy Communication:** Communicating honestly, openly, and directly while maintaining confidentiality.
- **Intergenerational Community:** Cultivating and celebrating intergenerational faith relationships.
- **Faith Development Opportunities:** Honoring different pathways to faith and providing a variety of experiences to worship, learn, grow, serve, practice and connect.
- **Cultivating Spiritual Leaders:** Equipping and supporting people as they live out their spiritual leadership in their congregation, homes, workplaces and communities.
- **Ongoing Learning & Growth:** Best practices, research, and innovation to be our best for the world.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Developing and maintaining a vibrant economic engine for ministry.

Together with our new faith model (see last month's *Trinity Today*), I am excited about the alignment of ministry that is possible with these core pieces of our identity clarified and claimed.

I invite you to share your thoughts with me about these core commitments.

The Trinity staff are committed to excellence in ministry and we know that excellence requires ongoing learning & development. Our new core commitments stress both continuous learning, providing development opportunities and growing spiritual leaders. As a staff we want to model and commit to doing this work personally, while we coach and develop this in our community.

In line with these commitments, Jody Thone will be stepping into an expanded role.

As Director of Organization Development, Jody will be facilitating our staff development efforts.

In this role Jody will be meeting individually with each of our 20+ ministry leaders starting this fall to build individual development plans. These plans will be integrated into our performance management process and will be the joint responsibility of managers, individuals and Jody as process owner.

Jody's role will act as a liaison and advisor to the Senior Pastor and/or the Congregational Council and facilitate initiatives across the church, responsible for learning & development, performance and alignment of Trinity's mission, vision and values.

"I believe this work will help us achieve our ministry goals more effectively," says Pastor Dan Poffenberger, "grow us and strengthen us as a team and a staff, and help advance the mission of Trinity."



Contemplative Practice Group

Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 a.m. – Narthex

Join us each week for a spiritual practice group focused on contemplative living; the awareness that God is intimately present within and among us. Practices include; Lectio Divina, Silent Meditation, Guided Meditations, Prayer, Poetry and Creative Practices. *Call Jody Thone for more information 651-439-7400 ext. 119 or email her at jthone@trinitylc.org*

MISSIONS

By Tom Thiets, Director of Missions Ministries



WHY DO YOU GO TO CHURCH?

On a beautiful September evening, after passing through a series of security gates and doors at the formidable stone building on the hill outside of Sioux Falls, I climbed the stairs and entered in to a small room to join the council meeting of the St. Dymas Lutheran Church inside the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, SD.

The discussion that evening was focused on the council vote for a new council member from the list of candidates approved at a recent congregational election. There was honest debate and discussion about the merits of the three candidates with the most votes. Most of the conversation focused on the importance of the council decision meeting the desires of the congregation. It was an inspiring to witness the care that they expressed for their church. Another topic of conversation centered on repentance and forgiveness. The inmates never shied away from questions about their actions that landed them in prison. They frankly admitted their mistakes and discussed the process of apology to their victims. One shared that his prayer that he not be remembered for his actions on the worst day of his life.

Later on the conversation shifted to the question: “Why do you go to church?” “Well it’s not for the cookies” joked one of the inmates. Everyone laughed, because this church set inside the prison doesn’t serve cookies and coffee like most every Lutheran church on the outside. Then the conversation turned when man after man expressed the life giving energy that they receive from worship. “I’d say hope, but it is more than that.” said Jim “It’s really life. Through worship and Bible study, I am able to walk these hallways.”

“Pastor Bob preaches me back into God’s kingdom every week with Jesus’ message of love and forgiveness.” said another.

John wrapped up the conversation, saying “To me it means family, friends, a community that is there when I am feeling depressed, or having a problem that I need guidance with. I have been involved with St. Dymas for many years and I am proud to be able to serve God in being involved with the council and other activities.”

The meeting then ended with prayer and we climbed the final set of stairs to the chapel. I entered and stopped

in amazement. This chapel, which was remodeled by inmates over a three-year period, was remarkable. From the beautiful upholstered chairs made in the carpentry shop, to the artwork created in the cells that hung on the walls, to the splashes of color from the sunlight streaming through the stained glass windows, this chapel truly is an oasis of light in a very dark place.

A bright place where, week after week, this congregation serves up the good news of Jesus Christ on Thursday nights. Along with the hope found in the gospel, they serve up hospitality and respect as the entire council greets each member by name and shakes their hand. Inmates young and old, of every race, receive a heartfelt welcome. While I waited for the inmates to arrive, I stepped into a small meeting space at the back of the chapel where I could observe the inmates as they were lined up on the stairs waiting to check in with the security officer. The sternly focused faces devoid of emotion held out ID badges to be counted into the service softened with each handshake and word of welcome. Smiles blossomed with each step into this sanctuary of peace.





HOSPITALITO ATITLAN

Hospitalito Atitlan is an amazing place, caring for an extended community of 75,000, indigenous Tzutihil Mayan Indians. It is a 24/7 facility, staffed mostly by local Mayans, supplemented by outside volunteers. We have been a part of surgical mission trips to Guatemala since 1998 and became involved with the Hospitalito in 2005 when Hurricane Stan caused a mudslide that buried the village of Panabaj, including the small regional hospital. It left more than 200 Mayans dead, in what was declared a mass grave.

Through a partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church, we have assisted in nearly every aspect of design, construction, equipping, and staffing of the new hospital. Recently, we also have partnered with St. John's Lutheran Church of Mound, Lakeview Health in Stillwater, and HealthPartners to continue this effort. Corporate partnerships have allowed us to donate more than \$1 million of equipment and supplies to the hospital, including two anesthesia machines, two complete laparoscopic surgery setups, a green light laser to treat men with enlarged prostates so they can urinate without a catheter, and a full-service ambulance capable of transporting neonates (constructed on-site from a used Mitsubishi van that we purchased and converted).

Design and construction began in 2007 and the Hospitalito was completed in December 2011. Since then, we have made three surgical mission trips to the Hospitalito. On our most recent trip this past January, we saw 135 surgical patients, did more than 80 operations, installed more than 200 solar panels that now provide 80% of the Hospitalito's energy needs, built a perimeter security fence, and installed a beautiful healing garden behind the hospital, which we dedicated to Dr. Bill Falinski, an anesthesiologist from Tennessee who worked with us on many trips to Guatemala but died at age 56 from cancer — six months after joining us on our first surgical mission to the new hospital (his family worked with us to build the healing garden and is now endowing a nursing scholarship in his name for local Mayans through the Hospitalito).

Over the years we have welcomed more than 50 undergraduate students to work with our surgical teams in Guatemala — more than 60% of whom have gone on to either medical or physician's assistant school. They receive hands-on experience in surgery and pre- and post-operative patient care, and assist with non-medical projects. We will have nine students join us for our January 2015 trip.

Our goal has always been to help the Hospitalito become as independent as possible, and we work closely with its existing staff when we are there.

The complete story of the Hospitalito can be found on the hospital's web site: www.hospitalitoatilil.org.

Thank you for your gifts that make this happen!

—Kevin J Bjork, MD

The worship service unfolded with prayers, song, and communion. Voices sang out songs of praise. Prayers of repentance flowed from their hearts. Pastor Bob shared a story from his youth that connected the gospel to the lives of these men that was relevant and meaningful. At the end of the service words of encouragement were shared as everyone waited to be escorted back to their cellblock or to the front door. There were even a few jokes bantered back-and-forth about maybe switching destinations if any of the visitors desired to extend their stay.

I will never forget the group of about eight inmates that gathered in front of a window as they waited to be the last group to be escorted "home" for the night. They had opened a window to watch the sunset. They stood with their arms around each other's shoulders as the last golden rays of sunlight warmed their faces as they whispered short prayers of gratitude for the time to worship. As I drove away from the prison on the hill my mind was spinning with a variety of thoughts, but the predominant thought was: "Why Do You Go to Church?"

*Blessings and peace,
Tom Thiets*

P.S. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to take a road trip to Sioux Falls, SD. I am open to leading a group to worship with the congregation of St. Dysmas.

**MEXICO.MISSION.
2015**

MEETING NOTICE: 2015 Mexico Mission

Sun., Nov. 2, Noon — Worship Center

All interested adults and students welcome. Applications will be available on Nov. 2 and due back on Nov. 9. For more info please contact Kelsey Mans at kmans@trinitylc.org or Tom Thiets at tthiets@trinitylc.org

Hearts of the Home Moms

First, third & fifth Wednesdays
9:15-11:30 a.m.

Hearts of the Home is an interdenominational Christian-based group of moms who believe in supporting and nurturing each other through fellowship, small groups, prayer and service. Each meeting begins with fellowship and a brief devotional, followed by a small group study. Everyone is welcome, regardless of religion or ability to pay, and we are super excited to see you! *If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Maggie at 406-544-3304 or Amber 704-609-7132.*



Christmas at the James J. Hill Mansion

Thu., Dec. 4, 10 a.m. 75-minute tour
Meet in the Commons at 8:45 a.m. to carpool to 240 Summit Ave., St. Paul
Sign up by Thu., Nov. 20 in the Commons on Sundays or in the Church Office during the week.

\$9/adults, \$7/seniors (age 62+), pay at the door; Lunch following on your own at Boca Chica

Rugged stone, massive scale, fine detail and ingenious mechanical systems recall the powerful presence of James J. Hill, builder of the Great Northern Railway. Guides lead tours that help you imagine family and servant life in the Gilded Age mansion, the setting of the public and private lives of the Hill family. There will be a Victorian-decorated Christmas tree. *Please reimburse your driver for gas. Please contact Donna Harder at 651-351-5043 or 651-329-7047 if you have questions or are willing to drive for the carpool.*

Tuesday Book Group

Tuesdays, 9 a.m. – Trinity's Library
Join other women in friendship and lively conversation about fiction and non-fiction books covering a wide variety of topics and themes.

Jenny Hammer, 651-439-4351

Working Moms

Nov 8, 22; Dec 6, 9:30 a.m.

Tin Bins, Stillwater

Working Moms is a small group of supportive women living and learning about motherhood while managing their careers. You will find laughter, encouragement, coffee, sweet treats, and amazing friendship. *Elaine Knodt, Elaine_Knodt@yahoo.com, Melissa Haase, mhaasedvm@gmail.com*

Supporting Women as Professionals (SWAP)

Monthly on Tuesdays, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.
Take an intentional "break" to gather for a relaxing lunch and time to socialize, reflect, laugh and build relationships with other professional Christian women. Future dates and restaurant locations will be announced throughout the year via email. *To be placed on the email list, please contact Jolene Patterson at Jolene.Patterson@AndersenCorp.com or 651-485-2004.*

Tuesday Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 8:30-10:30 a.m. – Living Room
We are studying Kathleen Urtel Johnson's Bible study, *Whole Bible, Whole Life*. We start with prayer requests, and pray for these people at the end of our meeting. All of the study and Bible readings are done in class, so we have no homework, and everyone is invited to come as they are able. We are always open to new members. *Lynn Schurrer, 651-430-1632, Lschurrer@aol.com*

Sunday evening book group

Second & fourth Sundays, 7 p.m.

Kowalski's, Stillwater

Join other women in friendship and lively conversation about fiction and non-fiction books covering a wide variety of topics and themes.

Jenny Hammer, 651-439-4351

RETIRED MEN



Firefighters Hall & Museum

Tue., Nov. 11, 9 a.m.; Cost: \$5

Meet at Trinity to carpool

The Firefighter's Hall and Museum, in Northeast Minneapolis, is dedicated to preserving vintage firefighting equipment. The museum cares for a horse-drawn pumper, a beautiful brass steam-powered fire engine, fire trucks from the 1930s, and many more fire trucks and fire engines dating back 100 years. The museum offers special exhibits and we will tie in a discussion of fire safety and life saving programs. *If you have any questions, please contact Bob O'Neil at irviking@comcast.net or 651-770-8881.*



Game Dinner & Fish Fry

Nov. 18, 2014, 6-8 pm.

Garden Room – \$25

Register online at www.trinitylc.org.

MVP PUPOSE STATEMENT:

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



GLOW Trip to Jay Cook State Park

The GLOW group had a wonderful weekend enjoying the spectacular beauty of Jay Cook State Park and the Munger Trail. The fall colors were so beautiful! We all took a long bike ride, with a stop for lunch on Saturday; we took a shorter ride on Sunday, and had time for hikes on both Friday and Saturday. The weather cooperated during the day so we could enjoy God's beauty, then rained at night so we could appreciate a dry, warm camper. For more information about GLOW, please contact Lisa Corcoran at e.w.corcoran@gmail.com.



Sunday Couples Small Group Relationship Series

First and third Sundays of each month – Library

Have you heard the terms, “wise as an owl”, or “fast as a shark”? There is truth to those terms, especially when it comes to describing how you handle conflict in your relationships. Join us for a two-part series to learn more about what this means for you, and how it will affect your relationships. *Email Zach and Kate at zacharylee08@gmail.com questions.*

Yin Yoga

Wednesdays; 8-9 p.m.

Garden Room

FREE! All ages/levels welcome.

Pastor Stephanie invites people of all ages to learn this calm yet challenging yoga style that targets the ligaments, bones, and joints. Bring a yoga mat and dress comfortably. *Stephanie Vos, svos@trinitylc.org, 651-439-7400, ext. 113*

The Bridge Tai Chi Chuan

Mondays; 6:30-8 p.m. – Gym

\$25/month

These sessions are for people of all Tai Chi levels and offer an exploration of body, mind and spirit connections. Participants will improve:

- Mind/body awareness
- Energy level
- Flexibility
- Balance and coordination
- Concentration
- Lower back strength
- Reduce stress

Participants will also be more centered and self-aware. Contact *David Teschler, 612-991-5117.*

INTRODUCING TRINITY'S NEW PARISH NURSE: SUE PETERSON



Sue Peterson and her husband, Todd, have been Trinity members for more than 40 years. But now she's stepping into a new role: Trinity's new parish nurse.

"I want to help people toward better health by addressing their needs and concerns about their well being," Sue says. "Wellness not only encompasses physical health but emotional and spiritual health as well."

While Parish Nursing may be new to some, the concept was started in the 1980s and Trinity did have a parish nurse at one time. In fact, Sue remembers when she first became aware of parish nurse programs 15 years ago. The role interested her then, but she wasn't in a place in her life at which she could fully pursue it. Now she is, and she's eager to be involved in this healthcare ministry at her home church

as part of a Care Team.

"Some churches only have a parish nurse, but we have a complete Care Ministry Team," she says. This excites her, because it will allow her to focus on promoting wellness and the relationship of faith and health.

Sue is uniquely qualified to do this: she has been a nurse at Lakeview Hospital for four decades, currently in Oncology. She says working in oncology has prepared her to walk with people through stressful medical treatment, and counsel them appropriately.

"I have found that working in oncology is not as unpleasant as people may imagine it is," she says. "Yes, there may be sadness, but seeing the hope and strength of patients is truly inspiring."

While parish nurses are not allowed to give medical treatment to the congregation, such as bandage changes or administering medications, they are a source for medical referrals and support.

Sue and Todd have one son, Matthew, who grew up here at Trinity. She is proud of the fact that, with the support of our church, he has been an ordained minister for the past 10 years. He recently accepted a call at another Trinity Lutheran Church, in Moorhead, Minn. She is also very proud of her daughter-in-law, Melissa, and her two grandchildren: Oscar, 8, and Edda, 6.

Sue is scheduled to begin her work as Trinity's Parish Nurse on Nov. 10.



CARE MINISTRIES

Zanny Johnson

More and more I am astonished by the beautiful lives of folks I am privileged to know here at Trinity.

Perhaps because I am growing older, or am more and more keeping the company of friends who are of a certain age, or because I'm watching the leaves turn and fall fills me with melancholy, I am paying attention. The trend to "be in the now" and to practice mindfulness is, in my opinion, spot on. I am watching my friends here at Trinity live their lives out so well: caring for one another, learning from each other, leaning on one another.

Some examples: Caring Friends will be meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 12 from 1-3 p.m. to plan the Dec. 3 luncheon. Our faithful prayer team, led by Darlene Parent, still meets every Tuesday at 1 p.m. and would love for you to join them. Lois Walton and her knitters meet the last Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon, making beautiful prayer and baptismal shawls for our friends who need a reminder of God's love and warmth. Our BeFriends continue to listen and show support, and will reconvene their meetings once Pastor Deb is settled in. We also have volunteers who bring communion to those who are unable to attend Worship here at Trinity, which is another example of God's love and live poured out from one to another.

May you pour out your life for each other: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.

THANK YOU: PLANT COMMITTEE

Many thanks to our dedicated indoor and outdoor gardeners, for making the planters look gorgeous in all seasons:

Sarah Buerkley
Deb Gillis
Ron Felsch
Kathy Hagen
Annie Mikesch

Chuck and Joan Newman
Pat Reinke
Karol Roehrkasse
Lowell Saterbak

Reminder to parents: Please keep little ones off the planters — thank you!



“The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.”

—Albert Einstein

Where is the library? The Trinity Library can be found in Room 114, on the lower level of the church, close to the ramp just inside the 3rd Street entrance. The Trinity Library was the site of the spring Twin City Area Church Library Association workshop, and received acclamation from numerous church library participants. You have a remarkable church library!

Why do we have a church library? The Trinity Library provides a ministry, cooperatively with other Trinity ministries, to encourage the study of God’s Word and the growth of each person’s relationship with God. Materials that support the Narrative Lectionary currently used in Children’s Ministries, Confirmation, and Worship Services are located on the Library Kiosk and Trinity Library shelves. Staff-recommended books, Devotional books, Book Club donations, New York Bestsellers and Notable Books, children’s and seasonal books also can be found in these locations.

Who can use the Trinity Library? The library is available to the entire Trinity congregation, as well as our wider Stillwater community. It is open for your use whenever the church is open. To borrow a resource, simply remove the card from the card pocket, write your name on it, and place the card in the basket on the library desktop or Kiosk shelf. You can also search the library online on your smartphone or on your home computer! Go to the Trinity Website www.trinitylc.org and click Connect, then Library. You will find this icon to click and search.

Search the
Trinity Library
ONLINE  HERE

What will you find in the Trinity Library? The Trinity Library is filled with resources to bring people closer to God during many facets of life, whether birth or death, health or illness, relationships, workplace situations, personal enrichment, or leisure and enjoyment. Topical sections include the Hazelden Resource Recovery Library, Biblical References and Bible study resources, Nonfiction, Adult and Children’s Fiction, as well Music CDs and a variety of DVDs. Spiritual and playful paintings adorn the walls and pillars.

Why so many questions in this Trinity Today article? Rev. David Lose, President of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, recently authored *Making Sense of Scripture*. (220.6 LOSE) He states: “Questions are, I think, the engine of all great conversations...asking questions is essential to the life of faith. Questions are not the mark of an inadequate faith but instead are the mark of the kind of curious, searching, seeking faith that you will find all over the pages of scripture.” Lose’s desire is that questions will bring readers opportunities to interact with the Bible and bring “personal transformation of the heart and mind.” The Trinity Library mission is to help facilitate a growing personal relationship with God.

God is the focal point of the Trinity Library. Readers will find a welcoming environment where they can learn and grow in faith through resources that broaden knowledge and stimulate conversations about faith. As Lose states, through “thinking, wondering, questioning, and doubting, you might also find the capacity to hear God speaking a word to you.”

NOVEMBER RESOURCES

Adult Books:

29 Gifts: How A Month of Giving Can Change Your Life (248.6 WALK)

365 Thank You's: Simple Acts of Giving Can Change a Life (248.6 KRAL)

Attitudes of Gratitude (248.6 RYAN)

Choosing Gratitude: Your Journey to Joy (248.6 JOY)

Growing Grateful Kids (248.8 LARS)

Gratefulness, The Heart of Prayer (248.6 STEI)

Gratitude, A Way of Life (248.6 HAY)

It's Not What You've Got: Lessons for Kids (248.6 DYER)

Words of Gratitude (248.6 EMMO)

Children's Books:

Dear God, Thank You for My Family (E F)

Alexander, Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday (E V)

I'm Thankful Each Day! (E H)

Henry's Life as a Tulip Bulb: An Attitude of Gratitude (E B)

I'm in Charge of Celebrations (E B)

Thank You God (E H)

The Berenstain Bears Count Their Blessings (E B)

The Secret of Saying Thanks (E W)

Getting to Know Pastor Debra Ost

A Q&A With Trinity's
New Pastor of Mutual Care

.....



What was your life like growing up?

I grew up on a small, behind-the-times, farm in Parkers Prairie, Minn., about 20 miles north of Alexandria. Growing up, my three older brothers and I didn't have much in way of material things, but we possessed plenty of resourcefulness - long before recycling and re-purposing was trendy. My mom taught me to sew when I was very young and I made my very first dress (zipper and all) at age 10. I loved that little lime green dress.

Church was always a central part of my life, and my parents were devoted and faithful members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, LCMS. My mom was the preschool Sunday School teacher for 20 years. No to brag (but I will) I had perfect Sunday School attendance every year, and I have the little pin to prove it! Also, as a confirmation student, I dutifully memorized Luther's small catechism in preparation for my "public examination." Guess that totally dates me!

My dad's primary ministry was less formal than my mom's but equally as impactful. He attended funerals: of friends, neighbors, family, friends of family, family of friends... and I went to the funerals with him (until I was old enough to offer a convincing reason to stay home). At the funeral luncheons, Dad did his deal. He shared memories and stories of the deceased; he mingled, connected and made people laugh.

My mom made many nursing home visits to extended family members, and I was always her traveling partner. I never grew out of that habit.

My Aunt Lucy was the church organist and taught me to play the church's small electric organ - with limited success.

Growing up, I learned much about the support and encouragement of a faith community and habits of stewardship.



Some of those habits weren't so great, such as the church publishing year end giving reports in the Sunday bulletin. I'm sure it made for some interesting discussion at the dinner table that Sunday. Guilt and shame do not make for joyful giving.

Back in the 60s and 70s, there was no such thing as a "lady pastor" (and still isn't such a thing in the LCMS). So the idea of being an ordained pastor was not at all on my radar.

One of the most significant things I learned through my training and work as a chaplain is that, like it or not, we are products of our family of origin. Who we become is influenced tremendously by the people and events from our childhood. We spend our whole lives sorting out family relationships and discovering how we will fit into our emerging lives. And as we age or are confronted with the reality of our mortality, we naturally reflect about our lives, its meaning, our relationships and what sort of legacy we want to leave



behind. I became Grandma for the first time October 4th, so I guess I'm doing lots of my own reflecting these days.

You didn't start your career as a pastor. What called you to the ministry?

My first career was in clinical laboratory technology, most of which was in the



area of microbiology. It was while visiting Lutheran colleges and meeting with professors of religion with my oldest son, Kristian, that I became aware of my emerging call to ministry. I found myself rather envious of my son, thinking, “Why not me?” I had been very active at Augustana Lutheran in West St Paul, and was on the church council at the time. But this internal stirring was pointing me toward a concrete connection between my work and my faith. Some folks at Trinity probably know Gary Langness, who was my pastor at Augustana at that time. He gave me some very good advice, “Gary style,” and cautioned, “Make sure that internal stirring isn’t just gas.” I passed the Tums Test then took a leap of faith and enrolled at Luther Seminary in 2000.

I knew I had much to learn and many areas for growth. But, I wasn’t prepared for a simultaneous diagnosis of breast cancer. Through the encouragement and prayers of family and a multitude of supportive communities, I was able to navigate not only cancer treatments, but also move forward with seminary studies and a career change. Looking back, I’m not sure how I did it.

You’ve said being a hospice chaplain has been wonderfully fulfilling. Why?

It is a great privilege to accompany people, along with their loved ones, as they make their way into the next life. It is very humbling to be welcomed into such holy times and spaces with people who barely know me. Theologically, it’s when facing death that the “rubber hits the road.” Everything we know (or think we know) about God and faith is travelling with us during that final journey. It is I who am blessed by people’s stories, questions, prayers and raw emotions of those encounters, and I feel God’s presence in deep, soulful ways.

Why make the change to parish ministry?

My chaplaincy experience has given me a unique perspective on faith and its ongoing formation. I felt God was

leading me toward a ministry in which the issues of spiritual health and well-being could be addressed within the context of a caring Christian community and as part of a life-long process. I was looking for increased connectedness with a pastoral care team, more opportunities to draw upon scripture and my Lutheran faith traditions, and increased continuity and longer/broader relationships with those to whom I minister. When I learned about Trinity, it seemed to be the perfect fit.

What excites you most about working at Trinity?

I’m really pumped about working with the Mutual Care Ministry Team. I love the fact that Trinity has adopted a team model for pastoral care. I have great appreciation for the strength of a team in providing care. That’s the model of hospice care: there’s a whole team of people who offer their own unique skills and gifts to care for the whole person. I look forward to working with Zanny and Sue in developing a strong and reliable system of providing pastoral care for our mature members.

Your family is very important to you — can you tell us about them?

Steve is my devoted husband and life partner of 38 years. He is a retired high school physics teacher and long-time tenor in Augustana’s senior choir and loves to garden.

I have three inspiring children. Kristian and his wife Leah reside in Amherst MA; Matt and Jennifer reside in St. Paul along with their newborn son, Oscar; and Lauren lives in Minneapolis.

I am totally thrilled about my first grandchild and look forward to getting to know him. My mom died a year and a half ago at age 93. I still miss her every day. She was always open to trying new things and her motto in life was, “You can’t do it any younger!”

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Confirmation Worship kicks off!

On Wed., Oct. 1, the 7th, 8th and 9th grade confirmation young adults gathered in the Worship Center to sing, pray, learn, share communion and build relationship with God and one another. It was a beautiful gathering of young adults.

This year the following confirmation worship opportunities are scheduled. Please join us or check in with the confirmation young adults about how their year of faith formation is going!

Nov. 5 – Worship with AGAPE! Dave Scherer will be leading a unique hip hop worship service for people of all ages. All are welcome to hear this fantastic message of hope.

Dec. 3 – Advent Worship with Bethel Vespers Team, led by Tucker Jenson. Pastor Dan will be sharing the message.

Jan. 7 – Worship with Rachel Kurtz! Rachel is a Christian singer/songwriter from Minneapolis who has a magnetic stage presence and a voice like no other. This will be a very energetic, faith-filled service!

Feb. 18 – Ash Wednesday All Congregation Worship offered at both 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

March 4 – Join us for CAMP worship! A team from Luther Dell will be here to lead us in a fun, engaging service! Dave Peet, the Program Director of Luther Dell, will be speaking.

If you have questions or would like to be involved with confirmation worship, please contact Kelsey Mans at kmans@trinitylc.org or Jody Nyenhuis jnyenhuis@trinitylc.org.

JR. HIGH
* MINISTRY

Confirmation Meets Food!

FAMILY MEALS

Family meals are back and the relationship building around the table is fantastic between the confirmation young adults, parents and small group leaders. The food, of course, is another wonderful reason to gather!

7th Grade Family Meal - held Oct. 8

8th Grade Family Meal - Oct. 29

9th Grade Family Meal- Nov. 12

MEAL PACKING EVENT

Small Group leaders make sure you have your group signed up for the Confirmation Meal Packing Event to be held on Wednesday, Nov. 12. Sign up online: <http://tinyurl.com/2014-Meal-Packing>

Do You Know the CYF Staff?

If your heart beats fast for working with kids of a certain age (or all ages), please contact any one of us and we will find a place for you to serve in this meaningful ministry that comes alongside families living out their baptismal promises of ongoing faith formation practices!



Melissa Gubricky
CYF Specialist
Birth to 3 years of age

Strengths:

Developer, Empathy, Responsibility, Discipline, Consistency

Melissa's favorite thing about working at Trinity?

I love that I get to work with families who are in the same life stage as I am (I have children who are 2, 4, and 6!). I get to help develop and implement programs for the children and also have the privilege of getting to know the families personally as well as professionally.



Sandy Troyan
CYF Specialist
Pre-School to 3rd Grade

Strengths:

Communication, Developer, Empathy, Includer, Ideation

Sandy's favorite thing about working at Trinity?

During learning one week, I had the opportunity to sit in a circle with some first graders and wonder with them. There were no yes or no answers or other children saying you're wrong. Just wondering why God parted the Red Sea, wondering what Moses must have felt being asked to lead God's people to the promise land, and wondering who is God and what role does God have in their lives. The opportunity to wonder and explore is one of my favorite things about working at Trinity!



Julie Jolivette
CYF Specialist
4th-6th Grade

Strengths:

Activator, Winning

Others Over, Command, Positivity, Achiever

Julie's favorite thing about working at Trinity?

My personal mission statement is "Meet 'em where they're at, get better and have fun." Working with 4th - 6th grade students gives me lots of opportunities to be in my sweet spot! These kids are so much fun and have such good minds and hearts to learn through mega experiences on Wednesday and Sunday. Basically, I get to play! What's not to like?



We promise to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures...one step toward our children growing into confident persons who trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Bible Sundays – Keeping the Promise

On Sept. 21 at the 9 a.m. worship service, our kindergarten children and their parents were invited up front to receive an age-appropriate Bible called Spark Storybook. Afterward, they gathered in the Garden Room for donuts and an opportunity to get to know other parents in same stage of life; they also heard some suggestions about how to incorporate this new Bible into their daily lives.

On Sept. 28 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service, our 4th grade children and their parents were invited up front to receive the Spark Bible NRSV. This Bible includes numbered chapters and verses — and even some stickers to be used to highlight special stories and passages. These students will begin to wear these Bibles out in Wednesday and Sunday Learning at Trinity, as they participate in our year-long study called “Navigating the Bible 101.”

Thank you people of Trinity, for keeping the promise you made at the baptisms of these children! Your financial gifts have made it possible for us to place these Bibles into their hands. Your prayers and partnership help sustain the faith formation and spiritual growth of our children and their parents.

—Julie Jolivet, CYF Specialist 4th-6th Grade



Meg Gerlach
Children's
Ministries
Coordinator
Birth to
6th Grade

Strengths: Input, Connectedness, Context, Positivity, Relator

Meg's favorite thing about working at Trinity?

Knowing that, in my own way in support of programs, I am helping to shape the beliefs/religious values of the children.



Kelsey Mans
CYF Youth
Specialist
Strengths:
Arranger, Includer,

Responsibility, Harmony, Positivity

Kelsey's favorite thing about working at Trinity?

There is a constant buzz in this place, with people always figuring out how things can be done better, which resources we can turn to, or what experiences will give our young adults a life changing-encounter with Christ. It is a joy to be surrounded by so much ingenuity and dedication each day. Although, really, it's the young adults in the Trinity community who keep me coming back to work each day, motivated to inspire, teach and learn from them.



Kari Kahl
Youth
Ministries
Coordinator
7th-12th Grade

Strengths: Maximizer, Communicator, Positivity, Woo, Developer

Kari's favorite thing about working at Trinity?

We've been members at Trinity for many years now and, in the process, we've made many good friends. I love coming to work amongst friends every day and doing things I know can make a difference in their lives, and the lives of their kids.



Jody Nyenhuis
CYF Director
of Children's,
Youth and
Families
Ministries,

Confirmation Lead and 7th grade Confirmation Coach

Strengths: Activator, Arranger, Command, Intellection Input and Learner

Jody's favorite thing about working at Trinity?

This community of faith is full of faces representing every age and stage of life who regularly bring their eager hearts and minds to learn more of what it means to live into being a beloved child of God and follower of Christ. I just love being part of that!



A BIG STEP IN “STICKY” FAITH

By Mike Johnson, mjohnson4567@gmail.com

Over the past year, the Faith and Family 2020 Vision Team did quite a bit of work to figure out what causes “sticky faith” in a young person’s life. “Sticky faith” is a term coined by the Fuller Youth Institute (<http://fulleryouthinstitute.org/>) to mean a faith that “sticks” beyond high school.

The Fuller Youth Institute knows what it’s talking about: the organization distills research into practical resources for church youth workers and ministry leaders, publishing books, articles, downloadable resources and curriculum to help church leaders build strong faith in young people.

Through our research, we discovered many factors that contribute to building a strong and “sticky” faith. As a team, we distilled those factors into six “Cultural Imperatives” that are necessary to create a culture that builds a robust, long-lasting faith in youth:

- Faith Matters
- Connecting Generations Matters
- Parents Matter
- Other Impact Adults Matter
- Missional Expression Matters
- Scriptural Content Matters

As we move into this season of learning

and worship inside the church walls, you may notice some changes that incorporate the Cultural Imperatives identified by the Faith and Family 2020 Vision Team.

Perhaps the biggest change will be the new Learning Hour between Worship services on Sunday mornings.

graders to learn from our eighty years olds about why faith is important; it is equally important for kids to be a part of a conversation with adults about where the adults are in their faith life.

This creates a culture of living together in our faith, which is key to developing a strong, lifelong faith in our children.

Our youth need to see that faith is not simply a class they attend on Wednesdays because their parents force them to do so, but an integral part of who they are — who we all are— and who God intends us to be as we grow older.

The Faith & Family 2020 Vision Team worked very hard to develop a blueprint to assist Trinity in

developing lifelong faith in our youth. Any one of us would be happy to talk with you if you have questions!

Mike Johnson & Kathy Louma
Co-Chairs

Dave Kahl

Joel Lombard

Jill Longnecker

Jackie Peterson

Deb Simcik

Tina Swanson

Lucinda White

Norma Wilson

OUR YOUTH NEED TO SEE THAT FAITH IS NOT SIMPLY A CLASS THEY ATTEND ON WEDNESDAYS BECAUSE THEIR PARENTS FORCE THEM TO DO SO, BUT AN INTEGRAL PART OF WHO THEY ARE —WHO WE ALL ARE— AND WHO GOD INTENDS US TO BE AS WE GROW OLDER.

One of the things the Faith & Family 2020 Vision Team’s research revealed is the need for opportunities to tell our faith stories in ways that give our young people the language to talk about their own faith. The best way to do this is to hear each others stories; to spend time together talking about why our faith is important to us; and to spend time listening to each other.

That’s why our new Learning Hour on Sundays is such an opportunity for us. It gives us an occasion to sit in the same room and learn together — maybe not all of the time, but enough of the time that we will be able to learn from each other. It’s important for our second



Attitude of Gratitude: Developing Thankful children

It is getting to be the time of year when families and friends get together to give thanks. Some travel miles and others simply walk next door to celebrate Thanksgiving with their families. Whether you see your relatives on a regular basis or just a few times a year, Thanksgiving is a great time to get everyone together and focus on thanks and giving. There are many ways to grow your children with thankful, giving hearts. This "Attitude of Gratitude" starts at home by providing your child with multiple opportunities to use manners, learn about the world and those around them, and learn ways to help others.

Manners and helping out at home

Manners seem simple and basic, but they still need to be taught through modeling. Make it a "family affair" by setting up a routine with your child during meal times, clean-up times or play times. Children are capable of helping set the table, passing out food and cleaning up as early as 3 or 4 years old. Develop ways for your child to be successful at helping out.

A good way to do this is to give your child or children specific jobs during meal times. It is important to be specific about what you're asking them to do in order to prevent frustration on your or your child's part. For instance, if you were to say "put the plates on the table", you'd likely find a stack of plates on the edge of the table. However, if you change it to "please put a plate at each chair just like this" (model the behavior), you have given your children specific directions along with modeling so that they can see just how you like it. Don't forget to say your own please and thank you! Your children will ultimately learn the most by watching and listening to you.

Service Projects and Helping Others

After your children have experienced helping out at home, give them the opportunity to help outside of the home. The title "Service Project" can seem very daunting. However, it doesn't need to be. A service project can be as simple as raking the leaves for an elderly neighbor, picking up garbage cans that have been knocked over on a windy day, making a card for someone in the hospital, or helping another parent by having a play date with his or her child.

The main thing to remember is to talk with your child about whatever you do. Explain why you are doing it, what the person may be feeling and how it will make them feel better. There will be times when you may want to help out in a more serious situation in which an explanation may not be appropriate for your young child. Use your discretion in how you explain, but still give your child the opportunity to learn from helping others

Rachel Thoren is a Lead Teacher at the LADC Beaver Lake location.



Trinity's Helping Hands group put the final touches on the children's playhouse last month!

LIVING GENEROUSLY AT HOME

By Kent Johnson

Throughout twenty years of ordained ministry I have often mentioned my parents as role models in my faith formation. Naturally, people have inquired if I was a “PK” (preacher’s kid). Most of the time my response has been: “No, but I am a ‘TK’ (tither’s kid) — and for that I am forever grateful!”

Early in my childhood my parents entrusted me with an allowance. Along with my allowance came the expectation that I would put 10% of my allowance into my offering envelope each week. Receiving a weekly allowance meant I always had something to share with the ministry of the church. When I began to earn income mowing lawns, snow shoveling or babysitting, I was able to “do the simple math” and give 10% of that income. It was important to learn how to tithe.

Saturday evenings were predictable in my childhood home. During dinner my parents would ask my siblings and me if we had finished our Sunday school lesson and if we had prepared our offering envelope for church the next morning. We were not allowed to do anything else that evening until we showed them we were ready for Sunday. My little offering envelopes were initially filled with small change, then eventually small bills. My parents set an example for me by also placing their envelope into the offering plate

each week.

I also learned about generosity when my parents would talk with us about their giving. I remember one conversation in particular that took place in the car while driving home from a visit to our grandparents. My father turned down the radio to share the good news that he had received a bonus check at work. My siblings and I quickly quieted down when our mother

...IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO HELP OUR
CHILDREN DISCOVER THE JOY
OF LIVING GENEROUS LIVES

asked if we had ideas for using the bonus money. Of course we had many ideas of new things we wanted to have. After listening carefully, my parents told us about a family in need due to unemployment and a health crisis. Suddenly our “wants” looked different. As a family, we soon agreed that dad’s bonus would be a real blessing to that family. Generous people see the needs of others.

Unfortunately, my wife and I have not been as intentional in teaching our children how to be generous. Since we did not give our children allowances, it seemed pointless to teach our children about tithing when they did not have an

income from which to base their giving. Furthermore, my wife and I have found simply giving to be a helpful means for making our contributions to church so our children have not observed our regular giving during worship. Even so, it is never too late to help our children discover the joy of living generous lives.

As our second high school graduate has completed his summer job and is now heading off to college, I encouraged him to take a close look at his last paystub and to give thanks for all that he earned—and saved—this summer. I asked him to prayerfully consider making a contribution of 10% of his gross pay to church and a charity of his choice.

Giving a tithe of his summer earnings will seem like a huge amount to a college student. I told him it will never be easier to tithe, or more important, than right now. This is how he will discover the joy of living generously that will shape his entire life. It is my hope and prayer for all three of my children that, should they ever be asked, “Are you a PK?” they will each answer, “Yes, but better than that, I am a TK.”

Kent Johnson is the pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in La Crescent, Minn.

“THE MORE
GENEROUS WE ARE,
THE MORE JOYOUS
WE BECOME”

—William Arthur Ward

PLEDGE COMMITMENT
SUNDAY: NOV. 9

By now you should have received your Trinity Stewardship 2015 booklet (if you haven’t yet, don’t worry: you should receive it any day). This year’s booklet contains important information about Trinity’s vision for 2015, and why we need your help to make it happen. Please prayerfully consider your pledge for 2015, then join us for Pledge Commitment Sunday on Nov. 9. This is the day we’ll celebrate our commitment to Trinity by bringing our gifts forward and giving thanks for the blessings God has shown us.



OPENING DOORS
TO GOD – THE COMMUNITY – THE WORLD

“OPENING DOORS” TASK FORCE

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

By Doug Johnson, Task Force Chair

In April, Trinity’s Congregational Council created the “Opening Doors” Appeal Review Task Force to develop a plan to bring the “Opening Doors” Appeal to a conclusion.

The “Opening Doors” Appeal began in 2011, for the purpose of designing and constructing an expansion to the church. At the time, the entire cost of the project was estimated to be \$4 million, which would be raised through financial pledges and donations from the congregation; this amount increased to \$5.4 million at a later date. At last year’s annual meeting, the Council announced it would not move forward with a congregational vote on the project until 85% (\$4.6 million) of the money had been pledged or received, and 85% (500) of the families in the congregation had either pledged or contributed. As of last November, 69% of the money had been raised or pledged, and 70% of families were participating. Given this, the Council formed the “Opening Doors” Appeal Review Task Force to seek guidance from the congregation and recommend to the Council and congregation a plan to end the “Opening Doors” Appeal.

On October 2, the Task Force submitted its Executive Report containing its findings and recommendations. On October 8, that report was sent to every home, accompanied by a letter from Pastor Dan.

The report recommends six things:

1. Formally concluding the “Opening Doors” Appeal to raise money and pledges immediately.
2. Leaving the prospect of a future capital appeal to the judgment and discretion of the congregation.
3. Creating a Facilities Committee, which would report to the Congregational Council, that would be responsible assessing and prioritizing the needs of Trinity’s existing facilities and developing a long-term maintenance/ replacement plan.
4. Conducting an analysis of the Croix Center and providing the congregation with a recommendation for its future use.
5. Notifying all “Opening Doors” donors about the status of the Appeal, how their gift has been used and how much remains, and notifying them of the various options for designating what should happen with the remainder of their gift.
6. Notifying everyone who pledged to “Opening Doors”, but has not yet completed that pledge, about the various options for designating or cancelling their pledge.

The Task Force was especially concerned about the need for repairs in the present church building. To that

end, we included a Facility Maintenance Needs List in the addendum of our report. The Congregational Council echoes our concern and has agreed to form a Facilities Maintenance Team, the details of which are outlined in the 2015 Stewardship Booklet.

Shortly after this year’s Annual Meeting, a letter will be sent to each member who has contributed or pledged to the “Opening Doors” Capital Appeal. This letter will ask what the donor would like to do with his or her pledge. The Task Force has recommended that donors be given a number of options, all of which are outlined in the Executive Summary.

If you would like to read the entire Report and Recommendations of the “Opening Doors” Appeal Review Task Force, it is available on Trinity’s website (trinitylc.org à News à Opening Doors) or in the Church Office.

If you have questions or comments about this article or the “Opening Doors” Appeal Review Task Force report, please email OpeningDoors@trinitylc.org and someone from the Task Force will respond. Please include your name and telephone number in the email.

To read the full report, log on to trinitylc.org, hover over News, then click on Opening Doors, or pick up a copy of the report in the Church Office

ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, NOV. 16 AT NOON

By Bob Eiselt, Parish Administrator

The 144th Annual Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, Nov. 16 at Noon in the Garden Room.

This is your opportunity to play a part in your church's governance! The Annual Meeting is where we elect the 2015 Congregational Council, review the Treasurer's Report for fiscal year 2014, and approve the proposed budget for fiscal year 2015.

Attendance at the Annual Meeting is voluntary, but you are encouraged to show up and participate in this important congregational act.

Lunch will be served and nursery care is provided for young children.

A copy of the Annual Report will be available two weeks prior to the meeting in the Church Office.

For more information, please contact Bob Eiselt at beiselt@trinitylc.org or 651-439-7400 ext. 142.

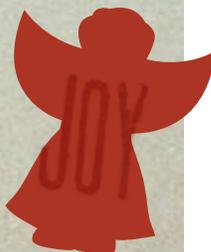
Help update our records

If you change your email, address or phone number, please contact the Church Office at 439-7400 and let us know. We want to make sure you get all the information you need to enjoy all Trinity has to offer.

Angel Tree Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 30

Pick a tag from the Angel Tree and buy a gift for a child whose parent is incarcerated. Presents are due (wrapped and ready to go) on Dec. 14. *If you have questions Gloria Williamson 651-430-1001.*



Lutefisk & MEATBALL DINNER



26 ways to have Fun & Fellowship!

Be a Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner Volunteer!

Prep Day: Wed., Nov. 5 – Dinner: Thu., Nov. 6

This annual event raises money for a variety of hunger-related ministries. Volunteers are needed for wait staff, set up & clean up, dishwashing, ticket sales & more! *For a list of all 26 job opportunities, contact Jeannie at jwendorf@trinitylc.org or 651-439-7400, ext. 111.*

Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner – Nov. 6, 2014

Thu., Nov. 6 – Seatings at: 11:30 a.m., 12:45, 4:15, 5:30 & 6:45 p.m.

TICKET PRICES: Adult – \$20; Children – K-Grade 6: \$6;

Under 5: Free – Cash or check only

Guests will be served at the hour indicated on ticket. All the trimmings – lefse, potatoes, dilled carrots, coleslaw, cranberries, rye bread, homemade pie! Purchase tickets before and after worship services at the Lutefisk ticket desk at the 4th St. entrance. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Order tickets via email at: lsaterbak@aol.com. Proceeds benefit Trinity's Hunger Missions. Supported by matching funds from Thrivent.

Help make lefse for the Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner

We will gather in the Trinity Kitchen on the following dates to make lefse for the Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner.

No experience necessary.

Tue., Oct. 21 – 6-9 p.m.

Thu., Oct. 23 – 6-9 p.m.

Mon., Oct. 27 – 6-9 p.m.

Tue., Oct. 28 – 6-9 p.m.

Please contact Kari Bartingale with questions at 651-430-3902.

Make a Pie for the Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner

We need LOTS of homemade pies for the Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner! If you can donate an apple, pumpkin or mincemeat pie (or all three!) for the dinner, please contact Debi Orff at dorff@kw.com or 651-283-5215.

Loaves & Fishes

Nov. 13 – Faith Lutheran Church, St. Paul

Trinity's Loaves & Fishes Ministry is a mission outreach partnership with Twin Cities-based Loaves & Fishes, a non-profit organization that coordinates multiple meal serving sites for individuals and families in need.

Jeff Anderson, 651-439-9133,

jeffatl@yahoo.com; Russ Savstrom,

651-430-0455, rsavstrom@yahoo.com

18TH ANNUAL VETERANS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, Nov. 9, 2014 at 2 p.m.

This year's Veterans' Service will feature special guest speaker Capt. David S. Ratte, Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science at the University of Minnesota Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) battalion.

Captain Dave Ratte is a Stillwater native who received his Bachelor of Science degree from the U. S. Naval Academy and his Master of Science degree from The George Washington University.

He commanded the USS Minneapolis-St. Paul in Operation Enduring Freedom, and also served as the Commander of Submarine Squadron 17, the largest squadron in the submarine force. On shore, he has worked at the U. S. Naval Academy, on the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, for the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Matters, and as the Deputy Director for the Navy's Strategic Systems Programs. He currently serves as the Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science at the University of Minnesota Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) battalion.

His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (gold star in lieu of fourth award), Meritorious Service Medal (gold star in lieu of second award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (silver star in lieu of sixth award), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

In addition to Capt. Ratte, the service will feature music by the Croix Chordsmen.

Please join us for this beautiful service to celebrate our veterans!

**18TH ANNUAL
VETERANS' SERVICE**

SUN., NOV. 9, 2014 • 2 P.M.

TRINITY WORSHIP CENTER

Special Guest Speaker:
Captain David S. Ratte

Music by:
*Craig Koehnen &
Croix Chordsmen*

W O R S H I P

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

- **Saturdays, 5 p.m.**
Evening Worship, Communion
- **Sundays, 9 a.m.**
Traditional Worship, Nursery, Communion
- **Sundays, 10:30 a.m.**
The WALK Contemporary Worship, Nursery, Communion

W O R S H I P

A T T E N D A N C E

September 20 & 21	October 4 & 5
5 p.m. 78	5 p.m. 48
9 a.m. 288	9 a.m. 263
10:30 a.m. ... 220	10:30 a.m. ... 264

September 27 & 28	October 11 & 12
5 p.m. 47	5 p.m. 55
9 a.m. 239	9 a.m. 356
10:30 a.m. ... 260	10:30 a.m. .N/A

.....
Recipe of the Month

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:

- 8:15 a.m. – Boutwell's Landing at the main entrance
- 8:25 a.m. – Raymie Johnson
- 8:35 a.m. – Croixdale
- 8:40 a.m. – Oakridge
- 8:45 a.m. – Rivertown Commons

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—Linda Flood, Food Services Manager

Holiday Corn Spoon Bread

It's like a corn souffle, in the slow cooker!

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 8 oz. pkg of light cream cheese, at room temp. | 1/2 t salt or garlic salt | 1 can cream style corn |
| 1/3 C sugar | 1/4 t nutmeg | 1 8.5 oz pkg corn bread/muffin mix (or 2/3 C flour, |
| 1 C skim milk | 1/4 t black pepper | 1/2 C yellow cornmeal, |
| 2 eggs, slightly beaten | 1 10-12 oz bag of frozen corn, thawed | 3 T sugar, 1 T baking powder, and 1/4 t salt) |
| 2 T butter, melted | | |

In large bowl beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Gradually beat in milk. Beat in eggs, butter and spices until blended. Stir in both corns. Stir in corn muffin mix until just moistened. Pour into 3 or 4 Qt slow cooker. It will expand as it cooks so don't be tempted to use a smaller slow cooker. Don't ask how I know this — just trust me! Cook on high for 3 to 3 1/2 hours or until center is almost set.

B A P T I Z E D

- **Sienna Nicole Granquist** – daughter of Jeremy & Maryna Granquist
- **Audrina Jamae Doerr** – daughter of Clayton Bach & Cassandra Doerr
- **Jack Thomas & Anna Brielle Klemenhagen**, children of Brian & Melissa Klemenhagen

S Y M P A T H Y

- to the family & friends of **Margaret Tuenge** who passed away on Sept. 17
- to the family & friends of **Betty (Bill) Fierke** who passed away on Sept. 17
- to the family & friends of **Edith Nelson** who passed away on Sept. 20
- to the family & friends of **Dan (Kaatje) Plourde, Deb (Don) Wishard, Cindy (Mark) Jackson & Melinda (Dave) Marson** on the death of their mother, Betty Plourde, on Sept. 23
- to the family & friends of **Sue Larson** whose husband, **Don**, passed away on Sept. 30
- to the family & friends of **Irene Prechel**, whose husband, **Henry**, passed away on Oct. 5
- to the family & friends of **Bill Schulze**, whose wife, **Catherine**, passed away on Oct. 8.

ALTAR FLOWERS

- Oct. 18-19: Flowers given in honor of **Norma Swanson's 90th birthday.**

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T R I N I T Y

T O D A Y

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SPECIAL NOTICE:
COMMUNITY MEAL-PACKING EVENT
November 8-12, 2014

We are changing the timing of our annual Community Meal Packing Event from February to November. We will be gathering this Nov. 8-12 at the Andersen Windows Headquarters in Oak Park Heights. Please watch for future notices and announcements about registration. For more information, please contact Tom Thiets at tthiets@trinitylc.org.

CALENDAR NOVEMBER 1 - 30

Sat., Nov. 1

- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
- 5 p.m. EVENING Worship, Communion

Sun., Nov. 2 – All Saints' Day

- 9 a.m. On Purpose-Uniquely Designed: Living Rm
- 9 a.m. TRADITIONAL Worship
- 9 a.m. Sunday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level
- 9 a.m. Couples Small Group: Library
- 10:30 a.m. The WALK CONTEMPORARY Worship
- 10:30 a.m. On Purpose-Uniquely Designed: Living Rm
- 11:45 a.m. New Member Reunion Luncheon: Garden Rm.
- Noon Mexico Mission '15 Info Mtg: Worship Ctr.
- 3 p.m. Trinity Choir/St. Croix Valley Symphony

Mon., Nov. 3

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8:45 a.m. Bridge for Trinity: Garden Rm
- 1:30 p.m. Commodity Food Distribution: Off-site
- 6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library
- 7 p.m. GLOW-Fall Book Discussion: Offsite

Tue., Nov. 4

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Rm
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
- 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
- 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 7 p.m. WALK Rehearsal: Worship Center

Wed., Nov. 5

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9:15 a.m. Hearts of the Home Moms
- 5 p.m. Children's Choirs: Choir Rm
- 5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Rm
- 6:15 p.m. Wednesday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level
- 6:16 p.m. Confirmation (Gr7-9): Worship Ctr
- 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Rm
- 7:30 p.m. The River Worship: Youth Area

Thu., Nov. 6

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 11:45 a.m. Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner: Garden Rm

Fri., Nov. 7

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

Sat., Nov. 8

- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Working Moms: Tin Bins
- 5 p.m. EVENING Worship, Communion

Sun., Nov. 9

- 9 a.m. TRADITIONAL Worship
- 9 a.m. Sunday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level
- 9 a.m. Lifelong Learning Class: Liv. Rm.
- 10:30 a.m. The WALK CONTEMPORARY Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Lifelong Learning Class: Liv. Rm.
- 2 p.m. Veteran's Service: Worship Ctr, Garden Rm
- 7 p.m. Women's Book Group: Kowalski's-Stillwater

Mon., Nov. 10

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 1 p.m. Rebekah Circle: Library
- 6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library
- 7 p.m. GLOW Bible Discussion: Off-site

Tue., Nov. 11

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Room
- 9 a.m. Retired Men's Group: Firefighters Museum
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
- 9 a.m. Croixdale Sr. Communion
- 9 a.m. Retired Men: Off Site
- 9:15 a.m. Leah Circle Meeting: Narthex
- 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
- 7 p.m. WALK Rehearsal: Worship Center

Wed., Nov. 12

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9 a.m. Play & Pray Group: Gym
- 1 p.m. caring friends Planning Mtg: Living Rm
- 5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Rm
- 6:15 p.m. Wednesday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level
- 6:16 p.m. Confirmation (Gr7-9): Worship Ctr
- 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Rm
- 7:30 p.m. The River Worship: Youth Area
- 8 p.m. Yin Yoga: Garden Room

Thu., Nov. 13

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 1 p.m. Martha Circle Mtg: Living Rm
- 4:30 p.m. Loaves & Fishes: Off-site

Fri., Nov. 14

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 10 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

Sat., Nov. 15

- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Luther Hall
- 5 p.m. EVENING Worship, Communion

Sun., Nov. 16 - New Member Sunday

- 9 a.m. Couples Small Group: Library Conf. Rm
- 9 a.m. Lifelong Learning Class: Living Rm
- 9 a.m. Sunday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level
- 9 a.m. TRADITIONAL Worship
- 10:30 a.m. The WALK CONTEMPORARY Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Lifelong Learning Class: Living Rm
- Noon Annual Meeting: Garden Rm

Mon., Nov. 17

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 4 p.m. Cong. Council Mtg.: Office Conf. Rm.
- 6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tue., Nov. 18

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Room
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
- 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
- 6 p.m. MVP: Game Dinner & Fish Fry: Garden Rm
- 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 7 p.m. WALK Rehearsal: Worship Center

Wed., Nov. 19

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9:15 a.m. Hearts of the Home Moms
- 10:15 a.m. Linden Sr. Communion
- 5 p.m. Children's Choirs: Choir Rom
- 5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Room
- 6:15 p.m. Wednesday Learning: Lower Level
- 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room
- 7:30 p.m. The River Worship: Youth Area
- 8 p.m. Yin Yoga: Garden Room

Thu., Nov. 20

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library

Fri., Nov. 21

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 10 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B
- 10:30 a.m. Boutwells Landing Sr. Communion
- 1:15 p.m. Rivertown Commons Sr. Communion

Sat., Nov. 22

- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Working Moms: Off-site
- 5 p.m. EVENING Worship, Communion

Sun., Nov. 23

- 9 a.m. Sunday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level
- 9 a.m. Lifelong Learning Class: Living Room
- 9 a.m. TRADITIONAL Worship
- 10:30 a.m. The WALK CONTEMPORARY Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Lifelong Learning Class: Living Room
- 7 p.m. Women's Book Group: Off-site

Mon., Nov. 24

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tue., Nov. 25

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- NO Women's Bible Study
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
- 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
- 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 7 p.m. WALK Rehearsal: Worship Center

Wed., Nov. 26

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- NO Children's or Confirmation Programs
- NO Yin Yoga

Thu., Nov. 27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library

Fri., Nov. 28 – Building/Office Closed

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 10 a.m. Raymie Johnson Sr. Communion
- 10:30 a.m. Oak Park Senior Living Sr. Communion
- 1:15 p.m. Oak Ridge Apts. Sr. Communion

Sat., Nov. 29

- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
- 5 p.m. EVENING Worship, Communion

Sun., Nov. 30 – First Week of Advent

- NO Children's Sunday Learning
- 9 a.m. Lifelong Learning Class: Living Room
- 9 a.m. TRADITIONAL Worship
- 10:30 a.m. The WALK CONTEMPORARY Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Lifelong Learning Class: Living Room
- Noon Mexico Missionaries & Adult Leaders Mtg

TRINITY
TODAY

love.transform.serve.

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CELEBRATE THE TRADITION

& Lutefisk

MEATBALL DINNER

Seatings at:

11:30 a.m., 12:45, 4:15, 5:30 & 6:45 p.m.

Take out meals also available.

All the trimmings – *lefse, potatoes, dilled carrots, coleslaw, cranberries, rye bread, homemade pie!*

Thu.,
Nov. 6
2014

Order
tickets via
email!

Order tickets via email at:
Lutefisk@trinitylc.org

*Proceeds benefit Trinity's Hunger Missions
Supported by matching funds from Thrivent.*

PURCHASE TICKETS

Before and after
all worship services
starting Sat., Oct. 11
at the desk at the
4th St. entrance.
Monday-Friday
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

TICKET PRICES:

ADULT – \$20

CHILDREN –
K-Grade 6: \$6
Under 5: Free

Cash or check only