

trinity
Lutheran Church

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love.transform.serve.

TRINITY TODAY

Rebirth, Renew — Re-energize!

**MEXICO.MISSION.
2015**





P A S T O R
M A R K B E N T S

From The Interim Pastor

A good and trusted friend of mine wrote an article that I wish to share with you.

The Rev. Dr. Steve L. Ullestad, Bishop of Northeastern Iowa Synod, wrote to his congregations in April, 2015. His words, my sentiments for Trinity:

Sometimes, in the middle of the night, cable channels show movies from a previous era.

The other night I caught a replay of the movie "The Rose."

I will let you and other critics determine how timeless the movie is. However, I believe that the theme song, written by Amanda McBroom, just may communicate eternal truths.

*Some say love, it is a river
that drowns the tender reed.*

*Some say love, it is a razor
that leaves your soul to bleed.*

*Some say love, it is a hunger
an endless aching need.*

*I say love, it is a flower
and you its only seed.*

When I was in high school I had a coach who enjoyed talking about his faith. He said that becoming a Christian was like a bee sting. You are stung with saving faith and after that everything changes. I kept waiting for the sting that never came.

Then I heard another presenter describe faith as a blooming flower and I could understand that. The seed is planted. It is nurtured, watered and grows. That is what I know.

*It's the heart, afraid of breaking,
that never learns to dance.*

*It's the dream, afraid of waking,
that never takes the chance.*

*It's the one who won't be taken,
who cannot seem to give.*

*And the soul, afraid of dying, that
never learns to live.*

This is the miracle of faith, if I seek life, I will need to give mine away.

*When the night has been too lonely
and the road has been too long.*

*And you think that love is only for
the lucky and the strong.*

*Just remember, in the winter,
far beneath the winter snow*

*Lies the seed that, with the sun's
love, in the spring becomes the rose.*

Spring is here!

As the transition season continues at Trinity, keep hope and be strengthened! God is with us and will lead us into a new and bright future!

God's peace,

Pastor Mark



P A S T O R
S T E P H A N I E V O S



A Time To Grow

The greatest message of Easter is that, as Friedrich Beuchner said, “The worst thing is never the last thing.”

We are reminded of this every spring, not just in our celebration of the Easter holiday, but by the very earth itself. After months of cold and darkness, the light returns, the temperature warms, the ice melts, the leaves bud. I don’t know about you, but I am thankful and ready for the return of this warming!

I get excited about all of the new possibilities that it brings. And it’s a wonderful time to think about questions of new beginnings and revitalization and awakening.

What is growing in you? What are you looking forward to? What is awakening in your spirit that is exciting and new? How are you changing and opening and blooming?

We’re in the same season here at Trinity. In the midst of change and turning, we’re thinking about what’s growing, what’s springing up, what’s new and what’s ahead.

Throughout May, we’ll also be reading stories of the church in its very beginnings, right after the days of Jesus, as they try to find their way — budding leaves just discovering what it meant to really come into their own.

It’s a great season: a time for reflection, exploration, pondering, and flowering.

It’s easy for summer to race by us, and we Minnesotans know how fleeting these days can be. But as you’re busy having fun, I encourage you to think about what newness, what vibrancy, what energy you can be tending to within yourself.



From the Congregational Council May 2015

Our congregation has been through some substantial changes in the last several months, and we want to thank you for all the constructive feedback and support the council has received throughout this time. It has been a time of flux for everyone and our pastoral and lay staff have been particularly affected. We appreciate their continuing efforts to ensure that both our ministry and worship are vibrant. We know your support makes that possible. Thanks to all!

A lot has been happening and there will be more going on in May—watch for updates noted below.

INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR MARK BENTS

We were pleased to welcome Pastor Mark Bents in March to serve as our interim senior pastor as we approach the call process. Pastor Mark will focus on helping us to prepare for that process while tending to the daily needs of Trinity and providing oversight and coordination with our pastoral and lay staff.

If you haven't met Pastor Mark yet, please be sure to introduce yourself in the coming weeks.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

We are delighted that Chris Johnson has agreed to serve as the chair of our new stewardship committee. Last fall the Congregational Council announced the creation of three new committees devoted to stewardship matters. Building on the important concepts identified at that time, we have created one overarching Stewardship Committee to coordinate our congregation's stewardship activities. Additional work groups will be formed as necessary to focus on particular stewardship needs. The stewardship committee members will be announced in May.

Stewardship is not just a committee topic, of course: it represents how we understand God's love and how we live and use the resources given to us — time, talent, and treasure. Your financial support and your participation make our ministry possible — it would not be

possible to do our ministry and to have our wonderful worship opportunities without them. We look forward to rich new opportunities to build our stewardship together.

HOLY COW SURVEY FOLLOW-UP

Thank you to all those who took the time to participate in the Holy Cow Church Assessment Tool survey, which ended on April 17! We received hundreds of survey responses. We will be posting a written summary of the responses; watch for more information in mid-May. The survey is designed to help measure the vibrancy of a congregation by getting feedback on the quality of relationships; a snapshot of congregants' attitudes on a variety of topics; the spiritual vitality, readiness, and resiliency of our congregation; and our financial capacity and willingness going forward.

We received several comments during the survey process from individuals who would have liked the opportunity to provide narrative feedback. Although that wasn't possible for this particular survey because of its standardized format, we invite you to contact Council members to share feedback you weren't able to provide — that could include particular points you would like to make or suggestions on what questions should be asked of congregational members during the call preparation process.

SENIOR PASTOR CALL PROCESS

In May, the Council will solicit applications from members interested in participating in the next critical phase of the senior pastor call preparation process. This will focus on preparing Trinity's ministry profile, which will include demographic data about our congregation and the broader community, the results of the Holy Cow survey, and other information to be solicited from the congregation in the next few months. The ministry profile will be used to assist Trinity's senior pastor call committee and the Saint Paul Area Synod to identify possible candidates. It's also an important tool for potential candidates in their discernment process.

MISSIONS BOARD

Everyone in our congregation has a role to play in Trinity's missions and we invite you to explore the best ways for you to participate—whether by being a sponsor, providing financial support, or being involved in our missions activities at home or abroad. If you would like more information about missions opportunities, check out <http://tinyurl.com/TrinityMissions> or contact our Missions Director, Tom Thiets, at tthiets@trinitylc.org. The Congregational Council announced the creation of a Missions Board last fall to provide direction, coordination, and oversight of Trinity's extensive missions work. The Missions Board charter has been completed and members have been appointed. This information and much more is available on Trinity's website, at <http://tinyurl.com/TrinityMissionsBoard>

Thanks for all your tremendous contributions to Trinity's missions work!

OPENING DOORS

Many thanks to all of our Opening Doors donors who have responded to requests about the distribution of remaining Opening Doors funds, and to Tom Jolivet and Kairos for leading us through this process. The results of this final closure process will be posted once it is complete. The gifts that have been redirected to other Trinity efforts are greatly appreciated and will help strengthen our congregation as we prepare for a new senior pastor. Again, thank you!

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Trinity's latest financial information is always available at <http://tinyurl.com/TrinityFinancials>. We are also looking at ways to provide snapshot information on attendance and finances in weekly bulletins or other formats. Again, stay tuned for more information! Each of you helps make Trinity and Trinity's ministry what it is. We can't say this enough: Thank you!



ON PURPOSE

By Jody Thone, On Purpose Ministries

Contemplative Practice

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
– John 1-5

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A Blessing for Equilibrium

Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore,
May the relief of laughter rinse through your soul.
As the wind loves to call things to dance, May your gravity be lightened by grace.
Like the dignity of moonlight restoring the earth,
May your thoughts incline with reverence and respect.
As water takes whatever shape it is in, So free may you be about who you become.
As silence smiles on the other side of what's said,
May your sense of irony bring perspective.
As time remains free of all that it frames,
May your mind stay clear of all its names.
May your prayer of listening deepen enough
to hear in the depths the laughter of god.

©John O'Donohue, To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings, Doubleday, 2008

This winter, the Contemplative Practice group has been contemplating scripture and blessings like those found above and, after sitting in silent meditation, we have been practicing felting. We had about 10-15 minutes each week for mindful felting, and you see we've had colorful expressions of our spirituality! So what is felting? We take wool and use a needle to poke it into the felt background piece. You have to be careful or the sharp needle can get you!

Please consider joining us while we are still inside each Thursday from 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the Narthex. We will move outside to my back patio beginning Thursday, May 21, and begin a new practice series.

Do you have questions about growing your personal spiritual practice time or your group's or team's spiritual practice time? I'd love to talk! E-mail me at jthone@trinitylc.org.



CARE MINISTRIES

Spring: a Time to Begin Anew

Even though I have had more than 40 years of nursing experience, I feel I am beginning anew. The role of a parish nurse (faith community nurse) adds another dimension not always seen in traditional nursing: the intentional care of the spirit.

To increase my knowledge in this area, I completed an intense week-long parish nurse ministry program in March. The course, offered by Concordia College, was held at Luther Seminary. A few weeks later, it was time for further education for my new beginning.

Enter Elvis, the Church Health Center, 300-400 parish nurses from around the world, and me — all together in Memphis, Tenn.

I was privileged to travel along with Shelly Rock, Director of the St. Croix Valley Parish Nurse Program, to the Westberg Symposium, held near the iconic Beale Street in Memphis, April 8-12.

We all came together (maybe not Elvis), as faith community nurses, educators, researchers, and clergy, to deepen our knowledge of healing ministry and to learn how to provide intentional care and growth of the spirit. While learning techniques and methods for offering this care to others, we also experienced and were reminded of self-care strategies.

I learned that The Church Health Center (churchhealthcenter.org) in Memphis is the largest faith-based healthcare organization of its type in the country. They provide quality, affordable healthcare, education, and prevention for working, uninsured people and families. They also provide support, consultation, and education for health ministries in churches.

It has truly been an exciting and spirit-filled time of learning, of new beginnings, and new life for me with a loving, encouraging, and supportive faith community surrounding me.

May you find new life through the Holy Spirit. Wherever you are in your personal faith journey — whether it is a new beginning or simply to begin anew — invite God to guide your way. God is always with you.

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

—Romans 8:11

May all be well with you!

By Sue Peterson

Parish Nurse



Thank you!

Contact the Care Team

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651-439-7400

Pastor Deb Ost
Ext 107
dost@trinitylc.org

Zanny Johnson
Ext. 130
zjohnson@trinityls.org

Sue Peterson
Call the Church Office
651-439-7400
speterson@trinitylc.org



Our Resurrection Story

Easter morning after worship, one of my young friends here at Trinity presented me with an original Easter drawing.

With colored markers, the young artist illustrated her rendering of the Easter story: loving hearts surrounding the cross; a smiling stick-figure Jesus standing near the cross; a large, waving Easter bunny; and a clunky, angry soldier (with a deceiving grin).

Others might see different things in her drawing. Perhaps the stick figure is Mary Magdalene; the clunky figure a dancing cross; the bunny actually a big Easter egg. However, the cross and the love encircling it are unmistakable components of the story. (We need not see Jesus to know he is present.)

Like my young friend, we each have our own unique understandings and interpretations of the Easter story. After all, even the four Gospels offer us slightly different versions.

Consider this: What if *you* sat down with a sheet of paper and a set of markers. What would you include in your account of the Easter story? Then, if you took a second sheet of paper, what would your *resurrection* story look like? By that I mean, where are you seeing and experiencing the signs of *new life* Jesus spoke of and died for? What's your version of "loving hearts surrounding the cross"?

We are imagining and visioning congregational resurrection stories at Trinity these days. Together, we are

gathering our stories. We are seeing and experiencing a variety of signs of *new life* and we anticipate many more in the months ahead.

Our faith community is packed with creativity, strengths, resources and gifts. Imagine us as a huge box of markers of every conceivable color: we have potential for creating and participating in amazingly beautiful resurrection stories.

So, let's step out to be the signs of *new life* through our ministries of serving and caring for our sisters and brothers in our congregation, our communities, and beyond. As we move forward, may "loving hearts surrounding the cross" always remain the unmistakable components of our story.



By Annika,
age 4 1/2



TRINITY

MISSIONS Alumni

ASSOCIATION

TMAA: May 2015 Memories of the Mexico Mission

By Lisa Hanson

In November of 2011, my eldest daughter *begged* me to allow her to be part of the 2012 Trinity Mexico Mission trip. I told her yes — but I engaged a parental bargaining chip and told her I would also apply to attend as an adult “chaperone”. Following much prayer and anticipation, I was selected to join the team.

My first *ab-ha* moment: During the five months prior to, as well as during, the trip, adults are not chaperones; they are Small Group Leaders. And as Small Group Leaders, they have a wonderful opportunity get to know their small groups, discuss important things about faith, ponder questions, and most importantly, share what it means to be God’s hands and feet — be it in Mexico or anywhere someone needs a helping hand.

My additional *ab-ha* moments: Life-changing events and faith-building moments I have experienced preparing for and working with students and other adults during our Mano Amiga Mission trips. During the last four years, I discovered a Spirit of Community at Trinity and in Mexico, in a variety of places.

To explain the Spirit of Community we feel in Mexico, I am going to share one of our toughest days that turned into one of our best days.

Our project was a church at which our team was working side-by-side with 60 church members of all ages. We were all excited, despite that fact that it was hot,

there was very little shade, and the distance between the cement-mixing station and the church was quite a haul.

We started as we always did: prepping the first twelve cement “*éclairs*”. Spirits were high. We were all together as a big group, knowing many hands would make for light work. Soon we began splitting up for specific jobs: workers went to the roof, to the full- and empty-bucket lines, to the ladder, and to the mixing and filling area.

Even with 60 church members, the team was stretched. There were ten-to-fifteen foot gaps between people in the empty bucket line. No problem: we just tossed that bucket to the next person with all of our might. But the people in the full bucket line were also spaced ten-to-fifteen feet apart. To move the full buckets, they often had to take several steps to reach the next person in line. This was extra energy we could not afford to expend if we were going to finish this job in one day. And, by the way, we had only one day.

Then something miraculous happened: without a word, adults and children emerged from homes all over the neighborhood and joined our team. Many did not have shoes or work gloves; they came without water bottles or sunglasses. But they came to help — and they came with smiles!

The Spirit of Community appeared for us at a time when hope and spirits were getting thin. The rest of the day, we worked side-by-side with our new friends.

There were smiles everywhere. And from this Spirit of Community we found a new level of energy.

I truly believe the Lord brought us all together that day — not only to help us finish the task at hand, but to allow all of us, the missionaries and the people of the town, to share in the great joy of completing their church.

The Mexico Mission helps us change the lives of our brothers and sisters in Mexico: that’s evident with every bucket of concrete. But I often wonder: do those who support the Mexico Missionaries truly realize the depth and breadth of their support? Do they know how much this mission also helps the faith and lives of the adult and student missionaries? Do the sponsors realize the impact of this mission on our congregation and our community?

For more than three decades, this ministry has been a pivotal point in the lives of many here in the Valley and beyond. It is only possible with their support, their Spirit of Community, that missionaries are able to participate in this mission where life-changing events happen.

Thank you to all who sponsor and pray for this ministry!

Mexico Mission has changed my life forever. My friends and co-workers have asked me how long I plan on being a part of the Mexico Mission now that Greg and my children are grown. My answer is and always will be, as long as God allows me to go!



Serving Beyond the Bars — May 2015

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Serving Beyond the Bars leadership team is so grateful for the generous response to the Second Annual Serving Beyond the Bars fundraising dinner on March 28. Nearly 200 people enjoyed the food of the Lake Elmo Inn, interesting speakers, amazing fellowship, and an intriguing keynote address by attorney Jeff Anderson.

Since the first Serving Beyond the Bars packing event in November 2013, more than 1,000 offenders and staff volunteers have packed 350,000 meals. The financial support from the dinner provides resources to continue this impactful ministry. By the close of 2015, all 10 Minnesota Department of Corrections facilities will have participated in at least one meal-packing event.

It is worth reviewing again this letter from a meal recipient:

We are very thankful for your meals here in northern Minnesota. If it wasn't for these meals and the hard work that goes into packaging and distribution; I don't know what I could have done to provide for my family this past year. I feel truly blessed living in Minnesota to have such great people who are trying to end hunger. Thank you for all of your hard work and care that is put into these meals that provide nutrition to the less fortunate/down on their luck. Thank you from my entire family.

Peace and blessings from your friends on the Serving Beyond the Bars leadership team at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mano Amiga, and the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

—Tom Thiets, Todd King, & Dan Davis



Meals from the Heart
What it means on our end is an opportunity to be part of our greater community beyond these walls. When we are able to invest in the lives of others through our service, it is so rewarding. It's empowering to experience that our work matters. When we're able to spend the day giving back to our community, it's transformative.

From from the letter above:

Meals from the Heart

What it means on our end is an opportunity to be part of our greater community beyond these walls. When we are able to invest in the lives of others through our service, it is so rewarding. It's empowering to experience that our work matters. When we're able to spend the day giving back to our community, it's transformative.

Excerpt from a letter written by an incarcerated participant in the 4th Serving Beyond the Bars packing event.



Rebirth, Renew — Re-energize!

Mexico Mission 2015: Borderless

By Tom Thiets, Director of Missions

It was another powerful week of building homes and faith!

Joshua 1:9 set the tone of this year's Mexico Mission trip:

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

This theme verse helped us to focus on the fact that God is always with us. Simply put: God has no borders! With this, we can live a life of faith confident in God's unwavering presence.

For more than three decades, Trinity has commissioned the Mexico Mission experience. This ministry has provided us the opportunity to grow in our faith while working alongside our mission partners in meaningful and significant service.

The Mexico Mission is possible through the blessings of support from many sponsors, who witness the outcomes of deepened faith development in the missionaries.

The mission site is located in Chuburna Puerto, Yucatan, Mexico, roughly six hours from Cancún on the Gulf Coast. Home to about 1,200 or so people, Chuburna Puerto remains a traditional fishing village, where fisherman catch fish by hand-line, one-at-a-time, in small open boats that venture miles out into the Gulf. It's also a vacation spot for the wealthy who live in the Yucatan capital of Merida. So, there's a mix of cabins on the Gulf side, near the beach, and family homes back toward the swampy backwater.

Our home for the week is the Presbyterian Church Bible Camp. There is am-





ple dormitory space for us to hang our hammocks, as well as a small kitchen and a covered dining area. All in all, it is truly a magical place for ministry.

This year, the team helped 17 families roof their homes — which means 17 families no longer will live in tar-paper shacks. This blessing was made possible through the partnership of more than 1,200 sponsors.

Roofing in the Yucatan means concrete work. Each batch consists of 12 five-gallon pails of sand, eight five-gallon pails of gravel, and two 110-pound bags of Portland Cement — all blended by hand on the ground and transported to the roof by bucket.

The group divides into work teams and completes four-to-five projects each day. In addition to the construction

work, we host about 200 children for a mini-Vacation Bible School program, complete with arts and crafts, games, and Biblical drama, followed by a lunch for the kids and their parents on Sunday afternoon.

The combination of hard work, powerful nightly worship, and small-group conversation allows everyone on the team to explore their faith journey. The 2015 Mexico Missionaries wish to thank all of the sponsors who supported this mission financially and with their prayers!



Embracing the WE in RE



Those who hope in the Lord with renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not grow faint.
— Isaiah 40:31

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing and perfect will of God.
— Romans 12:2

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
— Psalm 51:10

Re- is my favorite prefix. Think of all the wonderful words that become more wonderful with those two little letters before them:

New	renew
Birth	rebirth
Energize	reenergize
Arrange	rearrange
Assemble	reassemble
Appear	reappear
Do	redo
Claim	reclaim
Consider	reconsider
Join	rejoin
View	review
Value	revalue
Create	recreate

Renewal: Getting another chance.

Spring in Minnesota is a perfect example of hope and renewal. The amazement of new life from the dead; dry and brittle branches popping with tiny green buds; brown and decayed garden beds bursting with green shoots. Drenching rains soaking the ground, washing away the winter's gloomy gray, setting the stage for the riotous colors of newness.

Renewal. Spring sprung.

May we pay attention and learn from our natural world, the world our Creator has given us. May we pause and hold open: our hearts, our eyes, our souls. May we be quenched. Drenched. Renewed.

Amen.

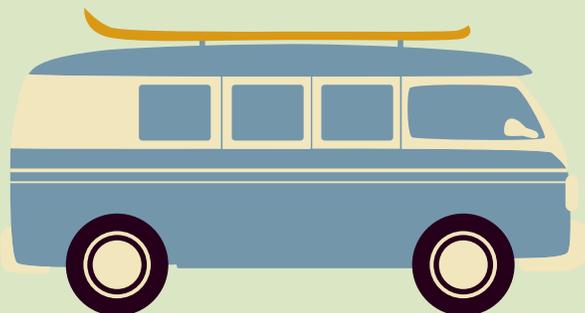
Kudos to Trinity's Musicians

Stillwater *Gazette* readers recently selected Trinity as the "Best Church Choir/Music Program." The award will appear in an upcoming issue of the *Gazette*, but we wanted to spread the good news here first. Be sure to congratulate our wonderful musicians (choir, band, bell choir, organist...) the next time you see them!

By Zanny Johnson

Care Coordinator





Trinity SUMMER WORSHIP

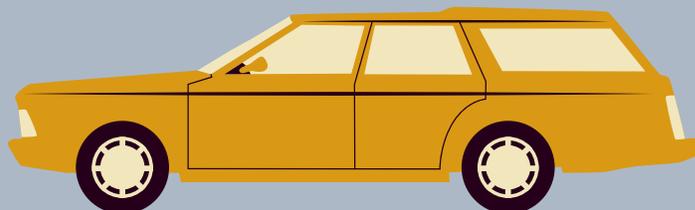
BEGINS
SUNDAY
MAY 24

Sunday
at 9A.M.



Outdoor Worship @ the Drive-In Houlton, WI

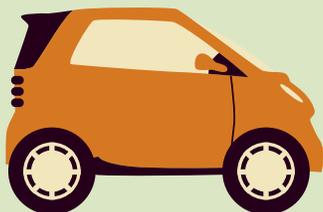
A mix of traditional hymns and contemporary songs with communion every week. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and sit up front. Come at 8:30 a.m. for scones and coffee!



Sunday
at 10A.M.

Cool Indoor Worship @ Trinity

Special music every Sunday AND it's air conditioned — peace, calm, beauty. Come early for coffee!



Please volunteer to usher, serve communion or help with coffee at the Drive-In OR usher/serve communion at the cool indoor worship. Great opportunity for families to serve together — no experience necessary! Scan the QR quode to sign up:



Memorial Day through Labor Day!

MAY 24 - SEPTEMBER 6



Keeping the Promise

By Julie Jolivette

Parents, sponsors and our congregation make the following promises at the baptisms of our children:

- to live with them among God's faithful people;
- to bring them to worship and holy communion;
- to teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments;
- to place in their hands the holy scriptures;
- and to nurture them in faith and prayer,
- *so they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.*

Julie Jolivette
jjolivette@trinitylc.org
439-7400 ext. 108



Here is an update of the most recent intentional partnerships between Trinity and parents as we strive to keep the promises we made:

Communion Instruction

Seven children, ranging in age from 7-11, attended 2 ½ hours of communion instruction with a parent on March 29. Most received their first communion on Maundy Thursday. Pictured from left to right: Front row – Isabella Kahl, Liam Dressel, Maxwell Cronk, Elsa Stebbins, Carter Mears Middle row – Kari Kahl, Nancy Dressel, Julie Cronk, Marny Stebbins, Marit Mears Back row – Tom Blair, Max Blair, Jeff Mears and Grace Mears



The Creed

The Lord's Prayer

Six first grade children and their parents gathered for an hour on April 12 for a conversation about the Lord's Prayer. Immediately afterward, they worshipped together and helped lead the congregation in saying the Lord's Prayer just before communion at the 10:30 a.m. service. Pictured left to right: Jana & Henry Collyard, Maddie & Susan Nelson, Eric, Lydia & Lucinda White, Drew & Todd Feustel, Jillian, Doug & Colleen Maddux and Adaline & Eric Gubricky

The Creed

Four sixth grade girls from three different schools brought their dance, gymnastic, and cheerleading skills together and created a beautiful interpretation of the Apostles' Creed. This winter, our 5th and 6th grade students have been memorizing the Apostles' Creed; we have encouraged them that this creed should be their starting point as they figure out and articulate what they believe. The girls shared their interpretation at the 5/6 Family Worship Service April 15. Pictured are Eliza Darby, Elliana Linn, Jayne Mapstone, and Elinor Untiedt.



Communion Instruction



The Lord's Prayer

Praying with Your Child

by Lake Area Discovery Center

Praying with your child is a great way to teach kids the value of prayer and to help build children's confidence in praying. Some ways you can help support your child in praying are:

Create a family prayer cube:

This is an LADC favorite! A prayer cube is a large dice with prayers on each facing side (where the dots typically would be). The child rolls the dice, and then as a group, the entire table sings the prayer out-loud together. We here at LADC have plenty of kid-friendly prayers we could share with you — please ask! Other ideas to put on the prayer cube are prompts like, “Dear Jesus, thank you for _____” or “Heavenly Father, I pray for my friend _____.” As a family, decide what you want to add to your prayer cube, print out your ideas, attach them to the faces of the cube, and use it anytime with your family!

Newspaper Prayer:

This idea comes from Focus on the Family. For this prayer, family members circle pictures or headings in a newspaper or magazine and then pray for those events, people, etc.

Prayer Journal:

Also a Focus on the Family suggestion, a prayer journal allows children to track and share their feelings through prayer. Young children may also want to express their prayers through drawing in the prayer journal. Use your journal as a way to see how God has responded to your prayers.

Pray.

Set aside time to pray for your child and their spiritual development. A great book on prayer is, *Praying for Your Elephant: Boldly Approaching Jesus with Radical and Audacious Prayer* by author and pastor Adam Stadtmiller.



Encourage your child to pray anytime:

Help them memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:17, “Pray without ceasing” (English Standard Version). Teach your child how special our prayers are to God and how He enjoys talking with us all the time through prayer.

Lake Area Discovery Center is Trinity Lutheran Church's partner in preschool care. For more information, log onto ladefamilies.org (Melissa Gubricky)

Check Out the Framed Fabric in the Narthex!

Each framed piece of fabric hanging on the West wall in the Narthex represents a 2014-15 5/6 BOC (Body of Christ) Small Group. During the year, students were encouraged to select a Bible verse that speaks to them — one that has special meaning and with which they feel a connection. We called these “Signature Verses”. This spring, students wrote their signature verses on the fabric pieces that now hang in frames in the Narthex. We encourage you to view these pieces of faith art. They will give you a little window into the faith and hearts of our 5th and 6th grade students — a.k.a, the future of the church and world. (Special thanks to Fred Hertenstein for making our frames and adding wire so they could be hung.)



Get Renewed in Library

By Norma Wilson, Library Volunteer

It was Wednesday night; there was energy in the church as junior high and elementary students were actively involved in learning. The Pre-K and kindergarten students had learned about the disciples and the Great Commission, and heard Pastor Bents' story of the Resurrection Wall. The children wanted to see this wall!

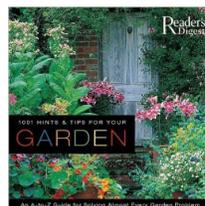
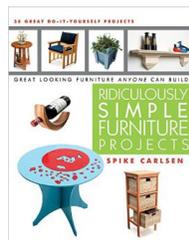
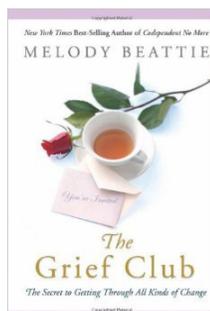
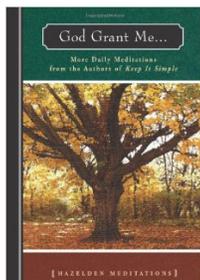
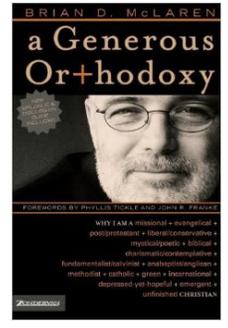
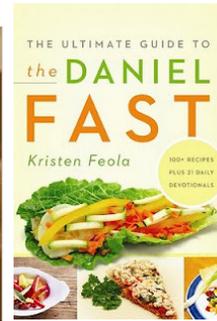
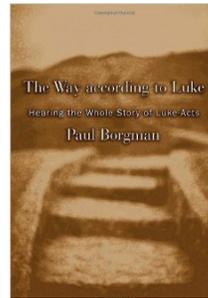
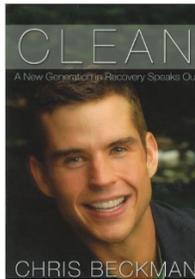
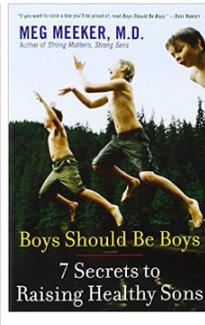
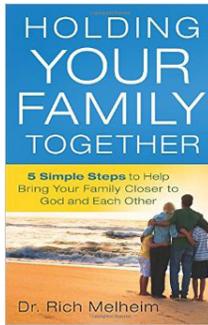
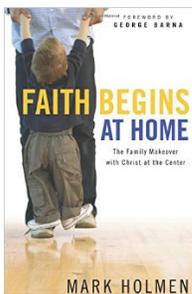
These littlest ones quietly walked into the stillness of the Worship Center, the only light focusing on the Resurrection Wall. It took just a few moments before the silence was gone! At that point, 15 children were crawling and lying on their tummies to look under the chairs to see the 12 slabs of stone around the half sun/moon. Their energy was like the burst of slabs covering the entire wall! Like the disciples, the kids were commissioned, "Child of God, Jesus loved you so much! Go tell everyone and love everyone!"

Trinity is filled with disciples. There are those who engage in mission works here and across the world; those who maintain our gardens and facility; those who lead and those who study; those who teach; those who mentor the young and older; those who sing; those who parent; those who pray; those who cook; those who hold the hands and hearts of others.

The Trinity Library has numerous resources to support these varying gifts and strengths of discipleship that build our church, renew and bring 'new life.' Examples include:

Parenting and Family Life:

- *Faith Begins at Home* 248.4 HOLM
- *Holding Your Family Together: 5 Simple Steps to Help Bring*



- *Your Family Closer To God and Each Other* 248.8 MELH
 - *Boys Should Be Boys* 649.1 MEEK
- Note: Heart of the Homes resources have a red heart on spine label

Study and New Insight:

- Reference & 200s section for Bible Study
- *Galatians and Romans* REF
 - *The Way According to Luke* 226.4 BORG
 - *A Generous Orthodoxy* 270.8 MCLA

Recovery Resources:

These resources have their own section, marked RR on the label

- *Clean: A New Generation of Recovery Speaks Out* RR 616.86
- *God Grant Me: More Daily Meditations* RR 616.86
- *The Grief Club: The Secret to Getting Through All Kinds of Change* RR 155.9

Hobbies:

Many additional resources are on the 600s shelf

- *1001 Hints & Tips For Your Garden* 635.READ
- *Ridiculously Simple Furniture Projects* 684.1 CARL
- *The Ultimate Guide to the Daniel Feast* 641.3 FEOL

How great to be like children who are curious and want to know more about Jesus, how to love others, and how to serve God. These learners also had an important message in song for all of us. It is pretty basic theology: "Jesus Loves Me" and "This Little Light of Mine!" (Yes, there are also many music books, DVDs and CD musical resources in the library!)

Search the Trinity Library at home! Go to: <http://www.trinitylc.org>
Click "Connect"
Scroll to "Library"
Click "Search The Trinity Library Online"

MVP 5 SEASONS

MEN. VALUE. PURPOSE.



HEADLINER:

University of St. Thomas
Head Football Coach,
Glen Carruso

**Tuesday, May 19
6-8 p.m.**

Garden Room

MENU:

**Steak & Lobster
Banquet**

\$30/person

Visit on Facebook @
www.facebook.com/mvp.trinitylc

Questions contact
Dana Johnson
at [danarjohnson90@
yahoo.com](mailto:danarjohnson90@yahoo.com)
or 612-408-0700.



Spring 2015 Events

All Trinity Women Invited!

2015 Kick Off

**Sunday, May 3
5-7:30 p.m.**

At the home of Laura Holmes

Light dinner will be served & we will collect clothing and household items to be donated to Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St Paul.

Please RSVP to Laura Holmes at msslaurabeth@comcast.net

Bike Ride

**Tuesday, May 19
6:30-8 p.m.**

Browns Creek & Gateway Trails

Explore these beautiful trails on a 1.5 hour bike ride (roughly 8-16 miles) with plenty of socializing afterward!

Please RSVP to Lisa Corcoran at e.w.corcoran@gmail.com



God Loving Outdoor Women

GLOW is a group of Trinity women of any age who love to experience active outdoor adventures while growing spiritually and making new friends.

BAPTIZED

- **Julia Mae & Ava Rae Nyberg**, daughters of Adam & Christa Nyberg
- **Gavin Robert Borowske**, son of Benjamin & Rachael Borowske
- **Jovi Virginia Kocon**, daughter of Todd & Jessica Kocon
- **Kate Elizabeth Wachter**, daughter Jason & Ann Wachter
- **Taylor Joyce & Hailey Brooks Sharon**, daughters of Brent Sharon & Taya Carlson
- **Jacob Christian Schindeldecker**, son of Daniel (Todd) & Melissa Schindeldecker

SYMPATHY

- To **Rich and Diane Johnson** on the death of their son Nils.

WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE

March 21 & 22 5 p.m. 140 8:30 a.m. 180 10:30 a.m. ... 275	Easter Vigil April 4 5 p.m. 100
March 28 & 29 5 p.m. 71 8:30 a.m. 296 10:30 a.m. ... 348	Easter April 5 8 a.m. 127 9 a.m. 383 10 a.m. 557 11 a.m. 496
Maundy Thursday April 2 Noon 33 7 p.m. 88	April 12 8:30 a.m. 193 10:30 a.m. ... 241
Good Friday April 3 7 p.m. 190	April 19 8:30 a.m. 281 10:30 a.m. ... 305

WORSHIP

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Sundays, 8:30 a.m.**
Traditional Worship, Nursery, Communion
- **Sundays, 10:30 a.m.**
Contemporary Worship, Nursery, Communion

Summer Schedule begins May 24!

- **Sundays, 9 a.m.**
Contemporary Outdoor Worship at the Drive-in in Houlton, WI
- **Sundays, 10 a.m.**
Cool Indoor Worship at Trinity

TRINITY TODAY

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Note from Linda:

Now that we seem to have reached spring, here is a fresh new recipe!

From the Kitchen

By Linda Flood, Food Services Manager

Skillet Gnocchi with Asparagus and Shrimp

- 1 bag shrimp, cooked medium
- 1 package whole-wheat gnocchi
- 1 lb asparagus, prepped and cut into one-inch pieces
- 1 1/2T oil
- 1 1/2T butter
- 1/3c white wine or chicken stock
- 1T crushed or minced garlic
- 2T lemon juice
- Salt & Pepper

Directions

1. Bring a large pot of water to boil and then toss in gnocchi.
2. Add butter and oil to a large skillet heated to medium-high.
3. When gnocchi floats, add garlic to hot oil, skim out gnocchi and add to skillet.
4. Add asparagus to boiling water for three minutes.
5. Toss gnocchi in skillet to brown on all sides.
6. Deglaze pan with wine and lemon juice.
7. Add asparagus. When sauce thickens, add cooked shrimp. If using uncooked shrimp, add just after deglazing pan.
8. Season with salt and pepper (and lemon zest if you have some!)

CALENDAR MAY 1 - 31, 2015

Fri., May 1

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

Sat., May 2

- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library

Sun., May 3

- 8:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Musical: Worship Center
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 5 p.m. GLOW Kick-off Party: Home of Laura Holmes

Mon., May 4

- 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

Tues., May 5

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library, Room 108B
- 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
- 7:30 p.m. Belle Women's Choir Concert: Worship Center

Wed., May 6

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9:15 a.m. Hearts of the Home Moms: Upper/Lower Levels
- 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room, Worship Center
- 7:30 p.m. The River Worship Gr. 9-12: Youth Area
- 8 p.m. Yin Yoga with Pastor Stephanie: Garden Room

Thurs., May 7

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous: Room 108A
- 2 p.m. The Healing Hearts Group: Room 108B

Fri., May 8

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

Sat., May 9

- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library

Sun., May 10 – Mother's Day

- 8:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning-Jesus, Bombs & Ice Cream: Living Room
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 7 p.m. Women's Book Group: Kowalski's Stillwater

Mon., May 11

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 1 p.m. Rebekah Circle Meeting: Library
- 6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Garden Room
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tues., May 12

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library, Room 108B
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
- 9 a.m. Croixdale Sr. Communion
- 9:15 a.m. Leah Circle Meeting: Garden Room
- 10 a.m. Good Samaritan Sr. Communion
- 10:45 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., May 13

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9 a.m. Play & Pray Group: Gym
- 9:30 a.m. Boutwells Landing Sr. Communion
- 1 p.m. Oak Ridge Apts. Sr. Communion
- 1 p.m. Caring Friends planning meeting: Narthex
- 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Worship Center
- 7:30 p.m. The River Worship Gr. 9-12: Youth Area
- 8 p.m. Yin Yoga with Pastor Stephanie, Garden Room

Thurs., May 14

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous: Room 108A
- 1 p.m. Martha Circle Meeting: Living Room
- 4:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes: Faith Lutheran St. Paul

Fri., May 15

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 10 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B
- 6 p.m. Parents Night Out: Lower Level

Sat., May 16

- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library

Sun., May 17

- 8:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
- 9 a.m. Couples Small Group: Library
- 9:30 a.m. Class of 2015 Recognition Breakfast
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center

Mon., May 18

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9 a.m. Ruth Circle Meeting
- 4 p.m. Congregational Council Meeting: Office Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tues., May 19

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library, Room 108B
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
- 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
- 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 6 p.m. MVP: Steak & Lobster Dinner: Garden Room

Wed., May 20

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 9:15 a.m. Hearts of the Home Moms: Upper/Lower Levels
- 10:15 a.m. Linden Sr. Communion
- 7:30 p.m. The River Worship Gr. 9-12: Youth Area
- 8 p.m. Yin Yoga with Pastor Stephanie: Garden Room

Thurs., May 21

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous: Room 108A

Fri., May 22

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

Sat., May 23

- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library

Sun., May 24 – Summer Worship Schedule Begins

- 9 a.m. Drive-in Worship: Houlton, WI
- 10 a.m. Worship, Communion: Worship Center
- 7 p.m. Women's Book Group: Kowalski's Stillwater

Mon., May 25 – Memorial Day: Building/Office Closed

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library

Tues., May 26

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library, Room 108B
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
- 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
- 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library

Wed., May 27

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 10:30 a.m. Oak Park Senior Living Sr. Communion
- 7:30 p.m. The River Worship Gr. 9-12: Youth Area

Thurs., May 28

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous: Room 108A
- 10 a.m. Knitting Ministry: Narthex

Fri., May 29

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

Sat., May 30

- 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library

Sun., May 31

- 9 a.m. Drive-in Worship: Houlton, WI
- 10 a.m. Worship, Communion: Worship Center

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55082-0339

Dreaming of doing something fun....?

All Congregation Picnic

Swing Dance

Hymn Sing

Movies on the Lawn

Ice Cream Social

Teach/Learn a New Skill

(sewing, knitting, pie-making,
tree-house building, etc.)

Got another idea?



Be a part of Trinity's new Congregational Events Team!

Julie Jolivette and Zanny Johnson will coach this new team, which will dream up great church events and then make 'em happen!

To join, email zjohnson@trinitylc.org or jjolivette@trinitylc.org.