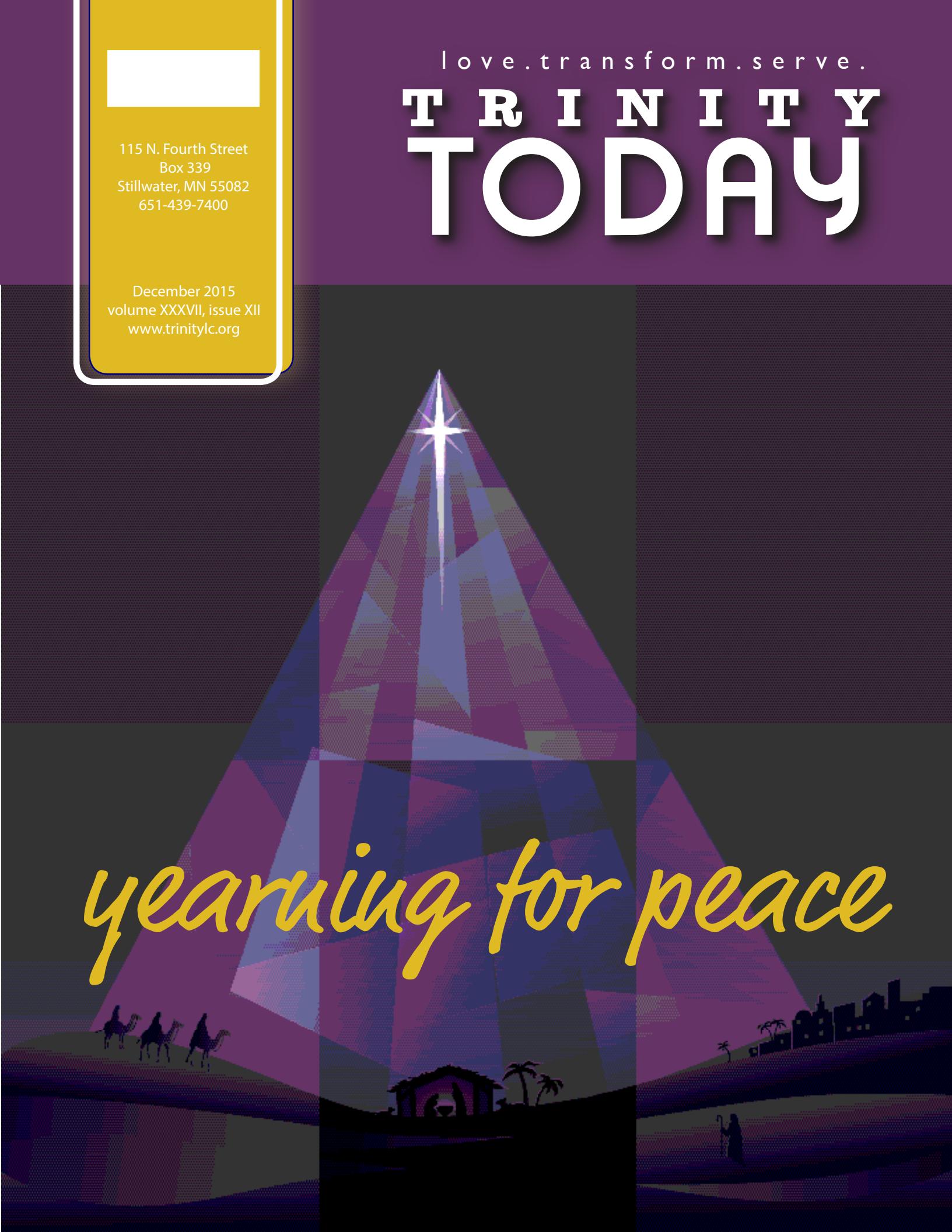


love.transform.serve.

TRINITY TODAY

115 N. Fourth Street
Box 339
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-439-7400

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yearning for peace



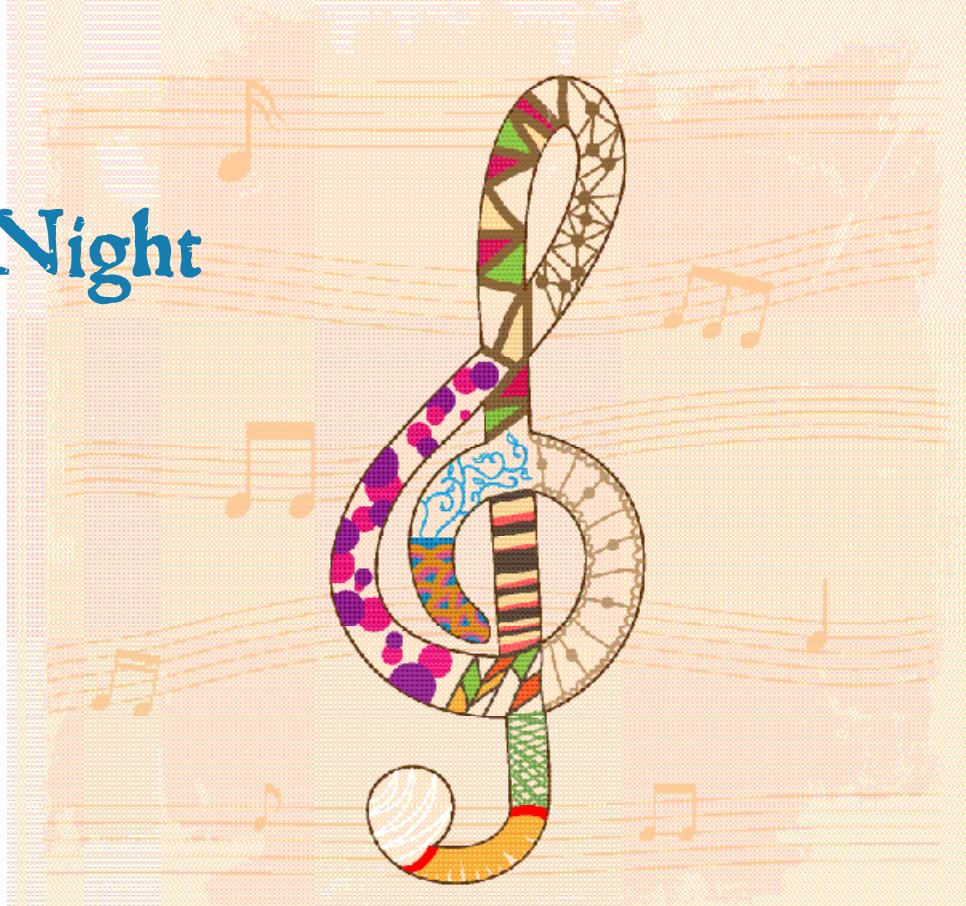
P A S T O R
D E B O S T

Lost in the Night

One of my much loved Advent songs is *Lost in the Night*, an old Finnish folk hymn. (#243 in the Red Hymnal) Its mournful melody draws me in and opens the door to for me to acknowledge my deepest longings, some of which I'm ready to embrace, others are just below the surface, and still others are buried deep within. I need songs and opportunities like this during the weeks of Advent to prepare for the Sacred Birth that rocks my world, rocks the world year after year, generation after generation. Songs like *O Christmas Tree*, *Go Tell it on the Mountain* and *Joy to the World* rush me forward too soon. My Advent pilgrimage takes time...

Lost in the Night is a crying out against an increasing sense of estrangement — from the world, from others, from my very myself. "Plaintively sighing with hearts full of anguish..." It calls for waiting, an active sort of waiting, a resolute seeking, a determined expectance for a glimmer of light to break through the dark night of the soul. "Longing for morning, the darkness to vanquish... Will not day come soon?"

Life is indiscriminate with its lessons on longing, waiting, seeking—and you and I are unwilling, impatient students at any age or stage of life's journey. "Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow?" Perhaps you long for relief from physical suffering and the many losses that accompany it; maybe you long for something to fill the emptiness, regret and lack of meaning in your life; or you seek release from the crushing weight of grief and sadness over the death of your beloved; maybe you need to break free from the burden of



guilt or your bondage to old hurts and angry pride and ache for long-overdue forgiveness and reconciliation. Whatever the specific, our mutual cry is, "Will you help us soon?"

We come to the manger on Christmas with all of our hurt, pain and suffering, yearning and hopeful that we might leave it behind as we begin finding our way back into the world again. We leave behind our darkness and our burdens as our way of honoring The One whose greatest joy comes from giving us the Light of Life. "Death's deepest shadows forever dispelling, Christ is coming soon!"

During your advent journey, please consider participating in **Trinity's Blue Christmas service Sunday December 20, at 5 p.m.** The service,

"**Blue Christmas: Holding on to Hope**," is intended to acknowledge the broad spectrum of pain, suffering, loss and grief that weighs us down with great intensity during the season of Christmas. Our cries and laments, yours and mine, give testimony to the ongoing need for the Messiah to bring light to our troubled world. We hear such a yearning for hope as *Lost in the Night* concludes, "Come and save us soon!"

You can hear *Lost in the Night* with this link or several other YouTube links.

<http://tinyurl.com/LostInTheNight>

I N T E R I M P A S T O R A L
A S S O C I A T E
S T E F A N I E F A U T H



Yearning...

Slowly, I am learning the ways of Trinity, and slowly I'm finding a way to be a faithful part of this diverse and wonderful community!

And as I go and try to find my way in this place, I hear more and more yearnings of the community. Maybe some of us yearn for change — and some of us yearn for everything to stay the same. Some of us yearn for those people we've said goodbye to in this last year. It all sounds reasonable to me.

They may be diverse in their voices, and diverse in their particular yearnings, but what I hear in each is a yearning for meaning – as well as a yearning for peace.

We want to *know* that what we do in church has meaning.

And we want to *know* that everything is going to be all right.

While I can't promise you nothing will change, I can promise you, there will be meaning.

And we will be all right.

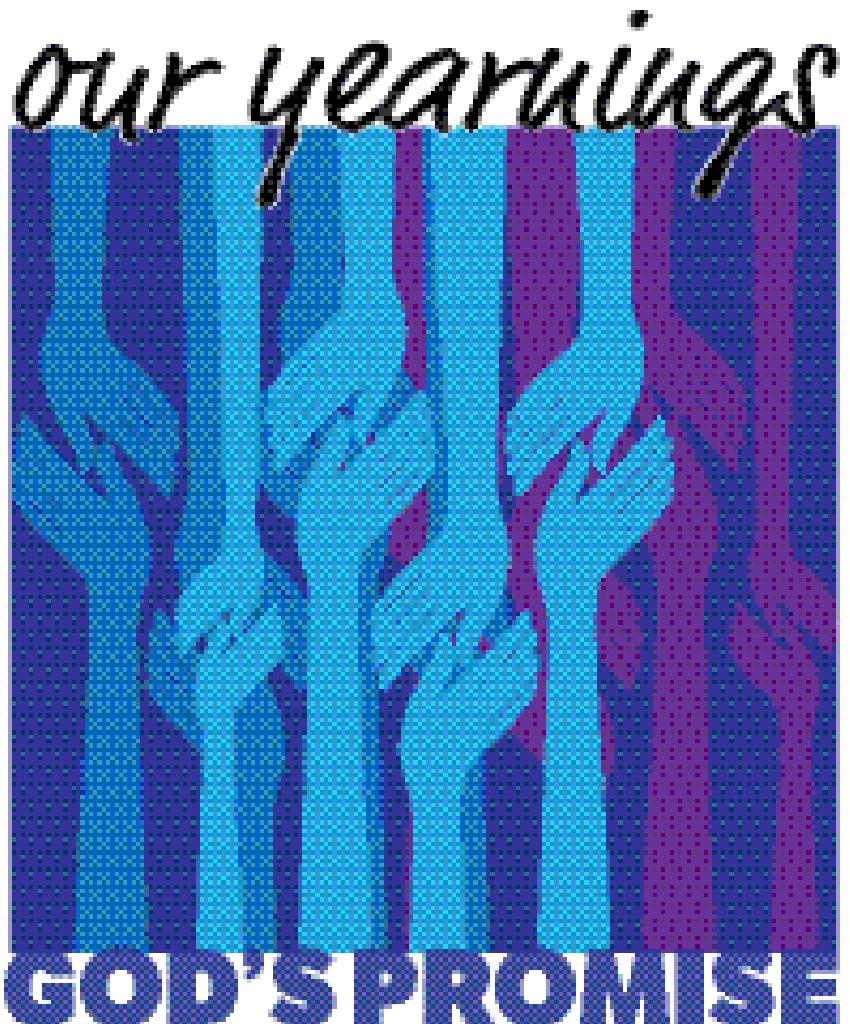
So long as we continue to look toward our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer — to listen to the charges from scripture, listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us today, and doing in our own hearts, and respond in the world with our love, our time and our service — we will be all right.

Because at the heart of all of this, God is our meaning. Following what God is calling us to do means we will be all right.

It may not always be easy — but we will be all right.

So as we continue to find our way in this time of transition, I ask that you to find ways for your yearnings to be heard — talk to a pastor, someone on the transition team, a member of council — and we will lean forward together with God, to build a bright future at Trinity that helps us to continue to Love, Transform and Serve, and to continue to be a place that welcomes all wherever they are on their journey with God.

Peace to you in this time, and always remember: if God is at the center, we will be all right!



From the Congregational Council **Watching. Waiting.**

Watching. Waiting.

The season of Advent looks forward to celebrating the birth of Christ and the fulfillment of God's promises to send someone who will change our lives.

Watching. Waiting.

In the stillness of near-winter we pause as we prepare ourselves for the coming birth of the One God sends to us.

Watching. Waiting.

Perhaps we cannot look fully forward until we take a look back. The past year has been a time of change for Trinity and we know more change will come in the New Year. Through it all, though, we remain constant as a congregation, shaped by the past but poised for the future.

Watching. Waiting.

And while we watch and we wait, we know this is also a season of giving thanks. We are grateful for so many things: One, a committed, talented staff who continue to shape and support our congregation's ministry, education and mission. We are grateful for our staff's resilience and dedication throughout the changes that occurred in 2015. And we are grateful to have been joined by Pastors Paul and Stefanie, and to have welcomed back Monty Lysne. Along with the rest of our ministry team, they have seen to the needs, ministry, and missions of the congregation in respectful and inspired ways. And the rest of our staff, often unrecognized—

our administrative, communications, and custodial staff—have made every bit of this possible through what they do, day in and day out.

We are also grateful for the work of our new Stewardship Committee, Missions Board, and Transition Team, as well as the ongoing work of our faith and family educators and volunteers, our missions participants, our finance and facilities team, our circles, our retired men's group, our confirmation volunteers, and many more. It is a testament to the powerful infrastructure upholding Trinity—our congregation—that all these efforts have moved forward regardless of the changes that have occurred. It is gratifying to see so many lay leaders digging deep into their talents and skills to support Trinity's ministry.

Our gratitude also goes out to our council members, noting especially the contributions of Sara Godfrey and Dana Miller, leaving council service after many years. This has been a challenging year for the council, with many hours of meeting to address the needs of the congregation that have emerged during this year. Not one has wavered in their commitment to seeing Trinity through its challenges and to seeing our congregation into the future in the best ways possible.

Finally and importantly, we are thankful for the entire Trinity congregation. You are the church. You make all our worship and ministry possible. You push, prod, and encourage, ever wanting to strengthen and embolden our ministry. You let us know your needs

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and hopes. You offer up gratefulness and insight, patience, courage, and commitment. You share your time, talent, and resources. You offer a smile, a gesture of peace, a song, a poem, a pie, and so much more. For all this we are grateful.

Thanks to God for each of you!



Itiweni Luhwago Visits Trinity

On Oct. 27, the Retired Men's Group and AWE hosted a visit by Itiweni Luhwago, the Senior SACCOs (Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations) Coordinator in Iringa, Tanzania. SACCOs provide small loans to assist business startups in Tanzania. Luhwago also is active in helping Tanzanian farmers to form AMCOS (Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies).

TRANSITION TEAM

Brothers and Sisters in Christ~

We are pleased to report to you that our Transition Team is up and running and embracing the work you, the congregation, affirmed as ours at the worship service at which we were commissioned.

The Transition Team is made up of three study groups

- Mission/Vision/Values
- Staffing/Leadership;
- Organizational/Governance Structure

The Team will assist our congregation in transitioning to our future and preparing the way for the Call Committee. We will do this by listening and discerning, sharing information, honoring our history, and fostering hope and energy for growth.

While the concept, role, and work of a Transition Team might seem new, and maybe even unnecessary, to some people, congregations that are serious about claiming the opportunities that pastoral leadership change affords now almost routinely employ a Transition Team. Our team, appointed by the Council from applications received, will work with the congregation in order to make recommendations that can better prepare and focus the Call Committee.

At the appropriate time, the Congregational Council will appoint a Call Committee, which will be given the observations and recommendations of the Transition Team in order to search for a new Senior Pastor. As a member of Trinity, you will be regularly informed about the progress of the work being done by the Transition Team; you also will be asked to engage with us in the process so that we may represent, to the best of our abilities, our congregational values, focus, and hopes for our future.

We thank you for your support and ask that you keep the team in your prayers.



MISSION/VISION VALUES

Karen Gieske – Chair
Dan Davis
Krista Gossia
Scott Kneeskern
Jeneal Olsen
Norma Wilson

STAFFING/LEADERSHIP

Bill Bjorum – Chair
Jim Brown
Gerrie Grandquist
Michelle Hermansen

ORGANIZATIONAL/ GOVERNANCE

Arba-Della Beck - Chair
Laura Fredricks
Tom Haugrud
Jeff Kanewischer
Sandy Wendt

Jill Longnecker – Team Facilitator
Mark Gieske – Recording Secretary



MISSIONS

By Tom Thiets, Director of Missions

SAVED! NOW WHAT?

One day when large groups of people were walking along with him, Jesus turned and told them: "Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters — yes, even one's own self! — can't be my disciple.

— Luke 14:25-27

The Cost of Being a Disciple

As his ministry unfolded, Jesus encountered larger crowds of people seeking to connect with the news they had heard about a new life that Jesus was teaching.

Jesus engaged these growing crowds and freely taught them of a kingdom that would come. But here in this passage, Jesus also frankly describes how a follower must make him and his teachings first priority. A very challenging concept, but one that fully discloses the cost of being a disciple.

In a recent conversation I had with a fellow traveler while waiting in an airport, the topic of “Being Saved” came up. I was intrigued by the man’s passion as he joyfully shared his faith journey and story of conversion. The story of his journey was like many others that I have heard, and in many ways it was a typical story that could be told by many of us.

In his journey he did not stumble down a deep slope of heavy drug or alcohol use and addiction. Nor did his journey include having to endure a dark path of abuse. Instead, his journey was one of growing up in a family who attended church, and of being confirmed. There were some bumps along the way: personal issues with family and friends, similar to most relationships — nothing extraordinary. Just a basic journey of school, family, friends, and a little bit of church.

He went on to describe, in emotional terms, times of indifference to faith. He tried to make sense of his internal feelings of loss or incompleteness, which he finally identified as being disconnected from Jesus. He described this disconnect

as a sense of emptiness. His journey took a turn toward the cross when he connected with a church. “It’s a great gathering of people,” he told me, “they helped guide me to a path of salvation.” Connecting with his faith filled that unnamable void inside of him.

Then he stopped and asked me “Well, what do think?”

“That’s wonderful. I’m happy for you,” I said. “Now what?”

He paused, then said, “I’m saved!”

Again I asked, “Now what?”

“Well, I’m attending church and Bible studies,” he said. Then he looked at me, “Do you think there’s more?”

That turned the conversation toward mission and bringing the gospel message to the world. Declaring a faith in Jesus and faithfully accepting his gift of grace requires us to place him first in our lives. Jesus is the teacher and we are each a learner: making him first in life is crucial for us. In the process of living out our faith, learning about Jesus means following him into the world. As we journey forward and encounter the issues of the world, his teachings must be at hand to strengthen our resolve to share the message of love. And as we do so, the words and actions of Jesus will empower us to bring about the kingdom of Heaven here on earth. After all, isn’t that what we pray for each Sunday?

“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Jesus calls us to be the salt that seasons the world; following his words and actions is the seasoning this world needs. While “being saved” may be the impetus for some of us to connect with Jesus and his promise of eternal life, it shouldn’t be confused as the goal — it’s only the beginning.

“Yes, there is more; this is just the beginning,” I said to my fellow traveler as we boarded the plane. “It’s time to be a kingdom builder.”

“Being saved” — it is here, in this newfound sense of connectivity to life, that Jesus calls us into the world.

As we longingly look toward the upcoming Christmas celebration, let us remember that the birth of the Christ child is not the end of a story; is the beginning — the beginning of our journey as disciples of Jesus.

Blessings and peace,

Tom Thiets

Director of Missions

**Pick an Angel
Tree Tag
Beginning
Nov. 29**



Trinity’s Angel Tree Christmas ministry works by connecting parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts.

Angel Tree will provide gifts for 65 children (in their incarcerated parents’ names).

Watch for the angel gift tags on the Angel Tree the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

Donations may also be made toward \$20 gift cards for the children’s caregivers.

Mission Guatemala Trip

Jan. 15-23, 2016

Join the Guatemala Mission Trip! This trip will include a mixture of medical and non-medical assistance. All are welcome! For more information, please contact Trinity’s Director of Missions, Tom Thiets, at tthiets@trinitylc.org.

ON PURPOSE

By Jody Thone, On Purpose Ministries



Voices of Career & Life Design

What's next in my career? What's possible for my life? How can I fully use my strengths and passions for good in this world? How do I better steward my time and energy? Is there a place for me? Can I find meaning and purpose? How can I make a difference? These were some of the questions pondered at On Purpose's recent Career & Life Design Class here at Trinity.

The four-week class brought together 15 people, from 23-to-71 years old, to reflect on their authentic identity and the intentional design of their lives. The class was a joy for me to facilitate and I wanted to share with you some of the participants' journeys.

Gina O'Conor:

"I believe that God placed this class in my life. I grew up going to Trinity as a child, but for a good 10+ years now my family and I have been members at Shepard of the Valley in Afton. About a month ago, in September, my father,

grandmother, and I randomly decided to come to a Sunday morning service at Trinity. This was the first time in many, many years we had been back, other than for a Christmas service here and there. Sitting in the pew waiting for the service to start, I found myself opening up the bulletin to read through the announcements. This is something I never take the time to do, or simply and honestly, never have the interest to look at, but for some reason I felt intrigued to look at them on this particular day. I mean, I can't remember the last time even glancing at the announcements section! Immediately this Career and Life Design class popped out to me and intrigued me. I'm a recent college grad, a recent mother, and at a point in my life where I'm struggling for direction. This class gave me the confidence, belief, and assurance that I am exactly where I should be, and God has amazing plans for me and my life. It created excitement to see that I can design my life specifically to my needs, interests,



and God-given purpose and talents. This class was *exactly* what I needed at this time, and I can't help but believe there was someone upstairs who had already signed me up."

Ann McLellan:

"This was an amazing class. I've been through a number of career classes and really liked this class due to the 'soft approach' of finding our individual values and passions in life. I especially liked the Criteria Prioritization Exercise, which was a different way to prioritize what's important to an individual. This exercise is a tremendous tool to help hone in a person's core being. I took this class to bring together what I completed in other career exploration classes to figure out 'What was I born to do'. It helped me to come to decisions I have been thinking about."

Michelle Doctor:

I thought a long time about this class and finally committed (quite last minute) to attend. I am glad that I did. I knew that I was not interested in finding a new career or job for myself, as I have had many of those over the last 30+ years. What I wanted to explore is 'what's next'. I know that I will not remain in my current job forever, but I want to contribute to my family and community for a long time. These weeks offered me a dedicated and focused time to reflect on what those next right steps might be for me. That road is not yet fully mapped out, but the direction seems more clear. Thanks for the opportunity to imagine."

Carol Stauffer:

"The Career and Life Design class offered a great opportunity to pause and take a deeper look at our lives, careers, strengths, priorities, meaning and future. I appreciated the process and structure provided for this intentional reflection. Jody is a skilled coach with keen discernment. It wasn't a heavy load, but more of a joyful unfolding of possibility!"

If you would like information about future Career & Life Design classes, please contact me at jthone@trinitylc.org or 651-439-7400 ext. 119.

CARE MINISTRIES

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Phillipians 4:6-7

Why is this peace that is promised to us so hard for me to hang onto? For me, peace is so elusive—so slippery—it's like herding cats. Like blow-drying the sand between the waves. Like trying to catch a greased pig. You get the idea.

Seriously, as I mull over the theme of “yearning for peace” this month, I realize that even though I spend a lot of time and energy pursuing a healthy state of mind—quiet time every morning, journaling, mindfulness, exercise—the thing I so long for and strive to attain can be summed up in one word: peace.

The reason I work so hard for this mental equilibrium is because I am a person prone to depression and anxiety and am treated for both. The sum of who I am —my inherited genetic tendency; the family I was born into with all that entailed (lots of love but *lots* of chaos, dysfunction, brokenness, and chemical addiction); my highly sensitive nature; the sudden and unexpected deaths of my father (1982), brother (2004), best friend (2006) and sister (2008)— make me long for, work at, and try to attain *peace*.

The good news, the best news, is that through it all—all the confusion and upendedness and sorrow; the dark and cold days; the feelings of hopelessness and despair; the death and disease that this broken and human life hands us at different times—we are given the gift of a God who loves us. Who promises us the peace that passes understanding. Who can handle, and even invites us to “with prayer and petition, and with thanksgiving, present our requests to God.” When I stop and really examine my pursuit, I realize I’m looking for what I already have—what all of us have—a God who created me, who loves me, who is with me. Who grants me peace.

I’m still going to follow the recipe I know works for me in my life—those good practices that keep me centered and grounded—by following the trail to the heart of God. To peace.

PEACE



*Zanny Johnson
Care Coordinator*



Blue Christmas Service *Holding onto Hope* Sunday, December 20 5 p.m.

Join us for this quietly beautiful service that honors your feelings of loss or disconnectedness with the Christmas season. Through prayer and song, we will lay down our burdens and hold onto hope. For more information, or for special prayer requests, please contact Care Pastor Deb Ost at dost@trinitylc.org or 439-7400 ext. 107.

Christmas Virus

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of the Christmas Virus:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment
- A loss of interest in judging other people
- A loss of interest interpreting the actions of others
- A loss of interest in conflict
- A loss of the ability to worry*
(*This is a very serious symptom)

- Frequent, overwhelming, episodes of appreciation
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature
- Frequent attacks of smiling
- A increase tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it

(Anonymous)

This is one virus I encourage you to acquire and spread!

Peace to all this
Christmas and may
all be well with you!



By Sue Peterson

Parish Nurse

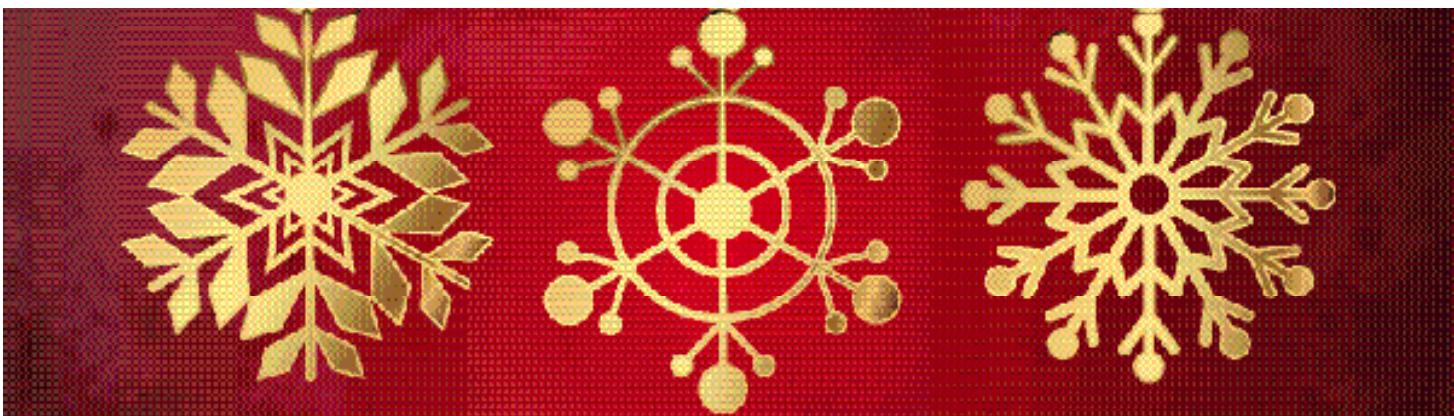
Contact the Care Team

Church Office
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



Trinity's Christmas Garden & Local Benevolences Gift Opportunities

Form and payment must be turned in by Sun., Dec. 13, 2015

In the spirit of honoring/memorializing loved ones this Christmas, we welcome donations toward a Christmas Garden. However, we would love to have the majority of the honors/memorials directed toward Local Benevolences such as St. Croix Chaplaincy, Valley Outreach/Food Shelf, etc. Donor names will be available at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services and in the January issue of *Trinity Today*. Please fill out the form below and either bring it to the Church Office, mail it, or place it in the offering plate.

Local Benevolences (*St. Croix Chaplaincy, Valley Outreach/Food Shelf, etc.*) \$ _____

Christmas Garden (*suggested donation \$15*) \$ _____

In memory of _____ In honor of _____

Given by _____

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



Christmas Peace Poetry

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
 "For hate is strong,
 And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
 The Wrong shall fail,
 The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

—Excerpt from: *Christmas Bells*
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

It is the Glad Season
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.
Flood waters recede into memory.
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us
As we make our way to higher ground.

Hope is born again in the faces of children
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening all things,
Even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness.
The word is Peace.
It is loud now. It is louder.
Louder than the explosion of bombs.

We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence.
It is what we have hungered for.
Not just the absence of war. But, true Peace.
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.
Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.

We, Angels and Mortal's, Believers and Non-Believers,
Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.
Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud.
Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves
And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.

Peace, My Brother.
Peace, My Sister.
Peace, My Soul.

—Excerpt from: *Amazing Peace*
Maya Angelou

yearning for peace



We look
forward to
seeing you in
worship this
Christmas
season!

yearning for peace

“Prophets & Angels”
A Festival of Lessons & Carols
Sunday, Dec. 20, 9 & 10:30 a.m.

Blue Christmas Service
Holding onto Hope
Sunday, Dec. 20, 5 p.m.

Live Nativity
Christmas Eve, 1 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services
2, 3, 4, 5, 7:30 & 9 p.m.
Communion at 7:30 & 9 p.m.

Christmas Day
With Communion
10 a.m.

*Nursery will not be available during
Christmas Eve services.*

*FREE parking in city parking ramp on
Third Street from Noon Christmas Eve
to Noon Christmas Day.*



Trinity's 9th Annual COMMUNITY MEAL-PACKING EVENT

With Meals from the Heart

NOVEMBER 7-11, 2015

Thank you to all who participated in the 9th annual Community Meal-Packing Event, with special thanks to Andersen Windows for providing the space to make this event happen!

328,240 Meals from the Heart total meals
74,592 pizza mac
253,648 rice dinner

About **1,100** volunteers over 5 days
10 local churches
8 businesses
10 civic groups/schools

Distributed by Ruby's Pantry at **70** locations in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa

Reaching **14,000** families as far away as North Dakota, South Dakota and Canada



CYF Presents Impact Parenting Sessions



Tracy Lysne



Dr. Rich Melheim



Jenny Hanlon

Being a caregiver of a child is a journey, and at times the road is rough. Wouldn't it be great to be better equipped for the journey? The Children, Youth and Family Ministries department is proud to present four "Impact Parenting" sessions designed to build skills and inspire parents, grandparents, and caregivers of school-aged kids. Let's travel together and support one another while we explore a variety of childraising topics. Each session will be held during the regular Wednesday night learning time slot (6:15-7:30 p.m.) in the Living Room, which is near the 3rd Street entrance next to the Trinity library.

December 2: Ages & Stages with Tracy Lysne

Is my five-year-old "normal" if all he does is talk about bodily functions? My 12-year-old always complains that her foot hurts, stomach hurts, or head hurts, what is going on? We will look at the work of behaviorists, psychologists, and educators to discover more about our kids developmentally at their current ages. We will explore the areas of social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth to discover what we can expect from our children at their current ages and what we can look forward to in the future.

January 27: How to Hold Your Family Together with Dr. Rich Melheim

What happens to children who check in with their parents every night before going to bed? What happens when a family shares highs and lows, scripture, talk, prayer, and blessing almost every night of their lives? What are the psychological, sociological, neurological, and theological benefits children receive when they are given such consistent, intentional care before drifting off to sleep each night? Join Dr. Rich Melheim as he introduces the origin, philosophy, and potential impact of five simple steps that can strengthen your family, one night at a time.

February 17: Tween Communication with Jenny Hanlon

Are you finding that communication with your tween feels strained? Are you sick of getting attitude from your tween, even when you're simply asking how her day was? Come for a discussion on how the tween brain and body are changing during these years, which will help you understand why they're acting the way they are. You'll leave the session with tips on how to effectively communicate with your tween so you can co-exist successfully and actually even enjoy each other's company!

March 9: Routines and Redirection with Tracy Lysne

Kids crave routine. They may fight it, but structure helps them feel safe and function better. Do you have a morning routine? A homework routine? A bedtime routine? We will talk about routines and how to best support our children as we create and maintain routines. We will also discuss words and learn how we can use our words in a positive way to redirect our children when they stray from our routines.

Confirmation Coat Drive

Now through Dec. 23, 2015

Trinity's Confirmation students are hosting a winter coat drive. Bethlehem Lutheran, our partner congregation in St. Paul, has a high need for winter coats of all sizes, children to adults. New or gently-used coats can be dropped off in the collection bin in the Commons. Once the collection time has ended, our students will deliver the coats to Bethlehem. If you have questions, please contact Kelsey Mans (kmans@trinitylc.org) or Tom Thiets (tthiets@trinitylc.org).

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



Fun for families at our first FamFest of the year: A Harvest Party Bonfire at the Drive-In in October! Haley Swanson (4th grade) and Jack Swanson (9th grade) were the winners of our pumpkin carving contest. And they're siblings...but I think you knew that!

Our young children are generous stewards!

If you ask a Trinity Sunday School child where their offerings go, they will say something like "to families who don't have enough food to eat." Why do *you* give? "Because Jesus wants us who have enough to share with those who don't."

On the first day of Sunday School this fall, we talked to the children about being generous stewards. We explained how our weekly offering would work and told them the money collected would be given to Valley Outreach Food Shelf (which was also explained). They responded the next Sunday with an offering of \$30.64! Since then, we start every session with one of the children on the microphone telling the story of where our offerings go and why we give them. It's amazing how this steady flow of giving delight accumulates!

October 4: \$26.05
October 11: \$29.52
October 25: \$18.72
November 1: \$31.31
November 8: \$20.69

Come down to the Garden Room at 9 a.m. some Sunday morning and meet these generous stewards and future philanthropists!





YOU MATTER

We are Trinity

LIVING GOD'S STORY

Chickens, Stewardship, and Trinity's Future

By Spike Carlsen

What would the reaction be from our congregation if, next Sunday, I brought a chicken up to the altar during the offering? I bet some people would be downright shocked. I know many of those worshipping in Mwatasi—our companion church in Tanzania—would be shocked too, because in an area where the per capita income is \$300 a year and a jembe digging tool is, to many, their most valued possession, a chicken is an offering of immense generosity. Yet I've seen chicken after chicken being proudly, yet humbly, carried to the Mwatasi altar on Sundays.



You are invited to an Advent PAUSE gathering!

Women of all ages gather for a time to pause and reflect as the season of Advent begins. Find a date, time or location that fits your schedule and share the everyday moments of the season.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new women or gather with those you already know. Give yourself a gift of time to pause.

Advent PAUSE gatherings will be held Dec. 2-10. Sign-up online at trinitylc.org or in the Commons.

For more information or questions, contact Karen Gieseke at kgieseke@live.com or 651-492-6610.

I start out this message on stewardship talking about Tanzania because Tanzania represents so much of what I know and have learned about giving. It represents the many ways we give and receive.

Stewardship has many faces.

- It's about giving freely of our strengths and talents. In my visits to Tanzania I've seen a rainbow of skills shared: Electrical linesmen running wire, physical therapists fitting prosthetics, carpenters building bunk beds, students laying bricks, retired folks teaching, and business people working with disabled kids. People share their skills because it's what God wants us to do. It's one of the most visible, tangible parts of stewardship.
- It's about giving freely of our time. It takes 30 hours of travel time to get from Stillwater, Minnesota to the highlands of Tanzania. People recognize and appreciate this effort. It says, "You really do care." It's not wasted time, it's invested time.
- It's about freely sharing our faith journey stories with others. One of the most emotional experiences of my life involved sitting in the back of a church in Bomalongombe with a small group from Trinity listening to the village choir rehearse. Granted, my emotional

GLOW presents:

Winter Retreat at Laura Holmes' Cabin

Thursday – Sunday, February 4-7

Enjoy a long weekend in the north woods of Grand Marais at Laura Holmes' cabin on Devil Track Lake. Optional activities will include downhill and cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, hiking, and being in fellowship with fabulous women. Activity level moderate to strenuous. Limited to 12 women. For questions and to sign up, contact Laura at mslaurabeth@comcast.net.

Retired Men's Group presents:

A Scandinavian Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 19 at 2 p.m.

Minnesota Orchestra

Sarah Hicks, Conductor

Nobody celebrates a Scandinavian Christmas better than the Minnesota Orchestra. Bundle up yourself and your spouse or significant other in your favorite Nordic sweaters for a delectable concert of warm Christmas cheer. If you have any questions, please contact Jon Fogelberg at jon@123m.com or 715-755-2487.

level was piqued by the three-year-old kid asleep in my arms, yet to hear familiar hymns being sung in a different language by friends of a vastly different culture made me realize we're all in this together; that stewardship and sharing work both ways. That many, maybe even most, times stewardship has little to do with our billfolds and everything to do with our hearts

- It's about giving freely of our resources because we've been given so much. In Mwatasi, offering baskets aren't passed; people walk forward—proudly—with their gifts. Often there's more than one basket—one to help a family in dire need, another to help support a remote preaching point. Some of the envelopes hold only a coin or two—yet they're full. They're full because people give joyously and to the best of their abilities. I've never left a church service in Tanzania with a dry eye or a less-than-full heart.

Trinity is embarking on an exciting new journey; one that needs to be fueled with talent, time, stories, prayer, money and more. Volunteer opportunities abound throughout the year. We can share our faith journey everyday. The ongoing pledge drive is one part of that journey; let's bring our best chickens to the altar. Let's do it now.

Celebrating Seniors

Wed., Dec. 2 at 11 a.m.

Worship Center, Garden Room

Worship together — all are welcome to receive communion.

Then enjoy a wonderful lunch and musical program by our own Zanny Johnson, Phil Kadidlo and Robin Cain. Questions? Please contact Zanny Johnson, 651-439-7400, ext. 130 or zjohnson@trinitylc.org.



Connect with God in a whole new way!

Next session: Jan 5-Feb. 23

In the Garden Room

\$55

Register online at trinitylc.org

Lutefisk & MEATBALL DINNER



THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU

To everyone involved, in any way, with the Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner, please know you made a difference and impacted many lives because you volunteered to help. Between 800-850 people enjoyed the meal and offered compliments about the "outstanding" lutefisk (baked with a different crew in charge this year), "best lefse ever", delicious pie, and friendly servers. From the fellowship of families who attended together, to new acquaintances made around the table, the true ministry of this meal was apparent! (If you brought a pie, don't forget to pick up your pie plate in the Church Office.)

Our hunger programs benefit from this meal, as it provides major sponsorship of the 9th annual community meal-packing event, Thanksgiving meal, and Bethlehem Midway in St. Paul.

We look forward to working with new leaders next year to carry on this Trinity Lutheran Church tradition. (If you'd like to volunteer, contact Tom Thiets at tthiets@trinitylc.org.)

With gratitude,
Jeannie Wendorf & Joanie Whipps, Co-chairs



BAPTIZED

- No baptisms in November.

SYMPATHY

- Family and friends of Jill Lee
- Christian Sympathy to Jolene Patterson and family on the death of her mother, Doreene Martell.

WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| October 25 | November 8 |
| 9 a.m. 275 | 9 a.m. 282 |
| 10:30 a.m. ... 167 | 10:30 a.m. ... 189 |
| | Veteran's |
| | Service..... 99 |
| November 1 | November 15 |
| All Saints' Day | 9 a.m. 317 |
| 9 a.m. 317 | 10:30 a.m. ... 304 |
| 10:30 a.m. ... 160 | 10:30 a.m. ... 288 |

WORSHIP

OPPORTUNITIES

9 a.m.
Traditional Worship

10:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship

Watch Worship on Valley Access
Channel 18
Wednesdays: 1 p.m., 7 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 a.m., 7 a.m.
Fridays: 4 p.m., 10 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m.

From the Kitchen

By Linda Flood, Food Services Manager

Holiday Chocolate Truffle Pie

Graham Cracker Crust:

1 pack from a box of 3 graham crackers
1/4 C sugar
5 T melted butter

Truffle Filling:

2/3 C heavy cream
6 oz. bittersweet chocolate chips

Whipped Chocolate Filling:

6 oz bittersweet chocolate chips
1 1/2 C heavy cream
1/2 t vanilla

Whipped Cream Topping:

1 C heavy cream
1/4 C powdered sugar

Directions:

1. Put a medium sized bowl in fridge to chill. (using in step 3)
2. Crush or grind graham crackers in food processor, Press into 8 or 9 in pie pan, bake for 7 minutes at 375, let cool.
3. In a saucepan bring 2/3 cream to a simmer, pour over 6 oz chocolate chips in a bowl, let stand 1 minute then gently whisk until smooth. Pour into crust and freeze for 20 minutes.
4. In a double boiler (or in microwave on low) heat 6 oz of chocolate chips with 1/2 cup of cream until chocolate is just melted, stirring often. Let cool to room temperature. In chilled bowl, whip 1 C cream until thick. Add in cooled chocolate mixture and vanilla and whip until soft peaks stage. Spread over the top of chilled pie first layer. Refrigerate overnight.
5. Just before serving, beat 1 C cream at medium speed until it begins to thicken. Add powdered sugar and whip until stiff peaks stage. Spread over top of pie, garnish with shaved chocolate, and show off your delicious masterpiece.

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Men's "Over 40" Basketball



Thursdays
Jan. 14-April 28
7:30-9 p.m.

Trinity's Gym

Questions? Contact Monty Lysne at
mlysne@trinitylc.org or 439-7400,
ext. 125

C A L E N D A R D E C E M B E R I - 3 1 , 2 0 1 5

Tues., December 1

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library, Room 108B
 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Room
 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
 4 p.m. Quilting Ministry Group: Living Room
 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
 6:30 p.m. YogaDevotion: Garden Room
 7 p.m. Worship Band Rehearsal: Worship Center

Wed., December 2

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 9:15 a.m. Hearts of the Home Moms: Lower Level
 11 a.m. Celebrating Seniors Christmas Worship & Dinner: Worship Center, Garden Room
 5 p.m. Children's Choirs Rehearsal: Choir Room
 5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Room
 6:15 p.m. Wednesday Learning (Gr. 3-6): Lower Level
 6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr. 7-9): Worship Center
 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room
 7:30 p.m. The River (Gr. 9-12): Youth Area

Thurs., December 3

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 7:30 a.m. Contemplative Spiritual Practice: Narthex
 2 p.m. The Healing Hearts Group: Room 108B
 6:30 p.m. Tree of Remembrance Service: Worship Center, Commons

Fri., December 4

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

Sat., December 5

- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
 2 p.m. Croix Chordsmen/Sweet Adelines Concert: Worship Center

Sun., December 6 – Advent 2

- Advent Pause Week
 9 a.m. Traditional Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
 9 a.m. Sunday School (4 yrs.–Gr. 2): Garden Room
 9 a.m. Couples Small Group: Library
 9 a.m. Pastries with the Prophets: Commons, Garden Room, Gym
 9:30 a.m. Working Moms Group: Tin Bins
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Communion: Worship Center
 4:30 p.m. AWE: The Santaland Diaries: Offsite
 6:30 p.m. Women's Book Group: Kowalski's

Mon., December 7

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 8:45 a.m. Bridge for Trinity: Garden Room
 1:30 p.m. Commodity Food Distribution: Valley Outreach
 6 p.m. Jubilate Bells: Heritage Chapel
 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tues., December 8

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library, Room 108B
 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Room
 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
 9 a.m. Croixdale Sr. Communion
 9 a.m. Leah Circle: Narthex
 10 a.m. Good Samaritan Sr. Communion
 10:45 a.m. Greeley Sr. Communion
 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
 4 p.m. Quilting Ministry Group: Living Room
 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
 6:30 p.m. YogaDevotion: Garden Room
 7 p.m. Worship Band Rehearsal: Worship Center
 7 p.m. Anna Circle: Members' Homes

Wed., December 9

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 9:30 a.m. Boutwells Landing Sr. Communion
 1 p.m. Marion Circle: Members' Homes
 1 p.m. Oak Ridge Apts. Sr. Communion
 5 p.m. Children's Choirs Rehearsal: Choir Room
 5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Room
 6:15 p.m. Wednesday Learning (Gr. 3-6): Lower Level
 6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr. 7-9): Worship Center
 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room
 7:30 p.m. The River (Gr. 9-12): Youth Area

Thurs., December 10

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 7:30 a.m. Contemplative Spiritual Practice: Narthex
 1 p.m. Martha Circle: Living Room
 1:30 p.m. Dorcas Circle: Members' Homes

Fri., December 11

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

Sat., December 12

- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
 7:30 p.m. Cantus: Worship Center

Sun., December 13 – Advent 3

- 9 a.m. Traditional Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
 9 a.m. Sunday School (4 yrs.–Gr. 2): Garden Room
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Communion: Worship Center

Mon., December 14

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 1 p.m. Rebekah Circle: Library
 4 p.m. Congregational Council Meeting: Office Conference Room
 6 p.m. Jubilate Bells: Heritage Chapel
 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tues., December 15

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library, Room 108B
 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Room
 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
 4 p.m. Quilting Ministry Group: Living Room
 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
 6:30 p.m. YogaDevotion: Garden Room
 7 p.m. Worship Band Rehearsal: Worship Center

Wed., December 16

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 9:15 a.m. Hearts of the Home Moms: Lower Level
 10:15 a.m. Linden Sr. Communion
 5 p.m. Children's Choirs: Choir Room
 5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Room
 6:15 p.m. Wednesday Learning (Gr. 3-6): Lower Level
 6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr. 7-9): Worship Center
 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room
 7:30 p.m. The River – Christmas (Gr. 9-12): Youth Area

Thurs., December 17

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 7:30 a.m. Contemplative Spiritual Practice: Narthex

Fri., December 18

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

Sat., December 19

- 8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
 2 p.m. Retired Men's Group: A Scandinavian Christmas: Minnesota Orchestra

Sun., December 20 – Advent 4

- 9 a.m. Lessons & Carols Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
 9 a.m. Sunday School (4 yrs.–Gr. 2): Garden Room
 9 a.m. Couples Small Group: Library
 10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols Worship, Communion: Worship Center
 5 p.m. Blue Christmas Service: Worship Center
 6:30 p.m. Women's Book Group: Kowalski's

Mon., December 21

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 9 a.m. Ruth Circle: Members' Homes
 6 p.m. Jubilate Bells: Heritage Chapel
 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
 7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tues., December 22

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library, Room 108B
 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
 6:30 p.m. YogaDevotion: Garden Room
 7 p.m. Worship Band Rehearsal: Worship Center

Wed., December 23 – No Children & Youth Programs

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 10:30 a.m. Oak Park Senior Living Sr. Communion
 11:30 a.m. Supporting Women as Professionals (SWAP)
 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room

Thurs., December 24 – Christmas Eve

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 7:30 a.m. Contemplative Spiritual Practice: Narthex
 1 p.m. Live Nativity: Outdoors
 2 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship: Worship Center
 3 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship: Worship Center
 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship: Worship Center
 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship: Worship Center
 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship, Communion: Worship Center
 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship, Communion: Worship Center

Fri., December 25 – Christmas Day

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 10 a.m. Christmas Day Worship, Communion: Worship Center

Sat., December 26

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

Sun., December 27 – No Sunday School

- 9 a.m. Traditional Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Communion: Worship Center

Mon., December 28

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

Tues., December 29

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library, Room 108B
 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
 6:30 p.m. YogaDevotion: Garden Room
 7 p.m. Worship Band Rehearsal: Worship Center

Wed., December 30 – No Children & Youth Programs

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library

- Thurs., December 31**
 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
 7:30 a.m. Contemplative Spiritual Practice: Narthex



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Sunday, Dec. 6
9-11:30 a.m.

You're Invited...

For a morning of crafts,
family pictures, pastries
& worship

Crafts provided by our
Lake Area Discovery
partners

Family pictures taken
and ready for you to pick
up by 11:30 a.m.

Delicious pastries

Youth-led worship
services at 9 & 10:30 a.m.