



TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



MARCH 2025



INSIDE:

- Lent at Trinity
- Children's Ministry
- March is Food Share Month
- Council Meeting Highlights
- Pastoral Transition Team
- Last Month in Pictures

Worship

Sundays at 9 am

Lent Wednesdays at 7 pm

Onsite & Online

STAFF:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Pastor | Jeffrey M. Engholm |
| Children's Ministry | Chelsea Farniok |
| Office Manager | Robyn Behrens |
| Financial Secretary | Gail Cassidy |
| Financial Administrator | Mary Jech |

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Grief, Gratitude, and God's Love

My father passed away last spring, and my mother passed away about a month ago. They were both 95 years old, so I'm both grieving and grateful for their many years of life together. I've told many people about the death of my parents, and afterward they usually express their condolences. After that, they often thank me for talking openly about these losses,

even sharing their own stories of pain and loss with me. That doesn't really surprise me – I think sharing our stories is both healthy and hopeful. Life is full of both sorrow and joy, pain and promise, death and life, and our healing comes from sharing ALL these stories with each other.

There's another story worth sharing, especially during the season of Lent. It's the story of Jesus, the person who revealed the radical love of God in his teaching, preaching, and healing. In fact, this love was so radical that it eventually led to Jesus dying on a cross. Of course, we know that the love of God reaches even deeper than death and ultimately leads to new life. We also know that this journey from life, to death, and then on to new life is not just a "one time event" at the end of our lives. The new life of God is something we all receive every day of our lives, here and now, through the "little deaths" of disappointment, loss, and grief which lead us to deep joy, peace, and hope. As we share our stories with each other, we experience the eternal life and love of God even now.

In Romans 12 we read, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another." As we share our stories with each other, God's life and love lift us up together, right here, right now.

~ God's Peace, Pastor Engholm

What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 5

Service at 7:00 pm ~ Onsite & Online

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. On that evening we will gather to receive the gift of communion, receive the gift of ashes, and receive the gift of the presence of Christ in our lives again.



Lent Midweek Services

Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9

Light Supper from 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Services at 7:00 pm ~ Onsite & Online

Our Lenten theme this year is found in Hebrews 13:8: *Jesus Christ, the Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever.* These words from scripture remind us that Jesus is the solid foundation of our lives, even in the midst of the changes that happen all around us.

Many thanks to our speakers for sharing their stories of faith at these services: Lori Sieling, Tom Lindberg, Allison Neaton, Mary Gallus, and Steve Hendricks.



2025 Lenten Devotional Books

As we journey through the season of Lent, we invite you to pick up a copy of *There in God's Garden*, a special Lenten devotional from Luther Seminary. This thoughtful guide will help deepen your reflection

and prayer throughout this sacred season. Copies are available at the Trinity Welcome Center, near the church office. Please feel free to pick one up and use it as a companion for your Lenten walk with Christ.



Easter Garden Plant Sale

Order Deadline is March 19

Purchase a plant from the Trinity Easter Garden Sale to adorn Trinity's altar on Easter morning and then enjoy it at home all season long! Order forms are available at the Welcome Center or you can order online at www.trin.org/easter-garden.



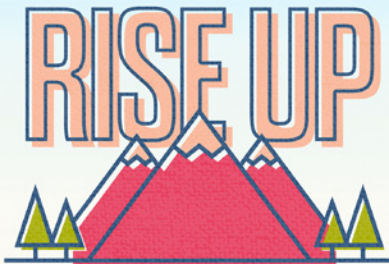
OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Thursday, March 20 | 10:00 am

Wear something green, bring a green food item to share and join the OWLS in the Fellowship Hall for a St. Patrick's Day potluck meal.

Save the Date for April OWLS Join us on Thursday, April 10 for a special musical event and sing-along, featuring Joyce Harding and other fabulous Trinity musicians. Bring your friends and your singing voice!

Children's Ministry



March Sunday School Theme: Rise Up

Grab your hiking boots and pitch a tent. It's time to summit through the story of Jesus, who rose from death and gave us everything we need for our journey. This month, we're learning about how the miracle of Jesus' resurrection strengthens us and changes our relationships in the best ways. This month, the children will also be making a resurrection tomb craft, reminding us of Jesus' victory over death.

A Movie Morning...with Popcorn!

A special thanks to the parent volunteers who organized the movie and snacks for Sunday School kids last month. What a way to enjoy a Sunday morning!



MN Food Share's March Campaign

Trinity will be collecting food, supplies and dollars for the **Gather and Grow Food Shelf**. As a community of faith, we are called to help those who are hungry and in need.

Food, Supplies & Cash Donations

Food shelves need all types of food and personal care products as well as monetary donations. Money allows the food shelves to stretch donations further because of their access to discount products and programs. Cash also gives them more flexibility to acquire perishable items like fresh produce, meat and dairy products.

Whether through prayers or donations, we thank you for your generosity this month during the Minnesota Food Share March Campaign!

Check out the "Pack the Pews" bags for a list of the items that Gather and Grow Food Shelf is in special need of this time of year.



Pack the Pews Sunday is March 30

Join Trinity for "Pack the Pews Sunday" as a part of Minnesota Food Share's March Campaign. Empty grocery bags will be available in the back rows of pews in the month of March. Everyone is encouraged to

take a bag (or two) home with them, fill it with non-perishable food items and/or household supplies and return it to church by Sunday, March 30. Thank you for your generosity during this Food Share Month.

Congregational NEWS



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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February 18, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Fund summary January 2025

Beginning balance 1/1/2025:
-\$ 14,257.90
Operating Fund income: \$ 25,122.21
Operating Fund exps: \$ 35,641.86
Net balance (January): -\$ 10,519.65

**Operating Fund balance as of
1/31/2025:** -\$ 24,777.55

**2025 operating fund EXPENSES
exceeded INCOME by \$10,519.65.**

Capital Improvement Fund:
There were no Capital Improvement expenses in January.

Cash Summary:
Bremer: \$ 56,888.21
(includes \$1,610.18 for Jan. federal withholding)

Citizen's Building Fund: \$ 71,303.66

M/S/C Steve Boylan / Jim Sandquist / carried

Comments

- 6% of operating fund income for benevolence to Minneapolis Area synod amounted to \$1,505.52.
- January Xcel bill for fuel and electricity amounted to \$2,477.52 (down about \$252 from December)
- Annual elevator maintenance contract was paid.
- Snow removal cost in Jan. was \$350.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Jeff Engholm extended thanks to Nick Neaton for leading our well-attended Annual Meeting, where our budget and constitutional

amendments were passed. He shared his appreciation for those who provide leadership as we wrapped up our Annual Stewardship Drive, recognized our many volunteers, and celebrated paying off our mortgage debt at our Celebration Sunday on February 16. Our Annual Underwear Drive is in full swing! Our Livestream Crew continues to fine tune its growing ministry. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship on March 5 and continues Wednesday evenings March 12-April 9.

OLD BUSINESS

- Reviewed Congregational Annual Meeting on January 26
- Reviewed Celebration Sunday, where we wrapped up our Annual Stewardship Drive, recognized our many volunteers, and celebrated paying off our mortgage debt

NEW BUSINESS

- The Pastoral transition process was discussed. Church Council is looking for a diverse group of Transition Team Volunteers to complete the Ministry Site Profile and work toward the first steps of pastoral transition. We will ask those interested to contact the church office or Dave Kind (763) 218-8713 / dkeclb@yahoo.com with questions or interest by March 16.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Two upcoming Synod events are being offered:

- Tool Kit: Workshops for Congregational Lay Leaders on March 15
- Synod Assembly on May 2-3

MEMORIALS

In memory of

Ann Engholm
\$50 ~ General Fund

Dick Stadtlander
\$595 ~ General Fund

PASTORAL TRANSITION



We're Forming a Pastoral Transition Team!

As Trinity enters a time of pastoral transition, we are called to lay a strong foundation for the next chapter of our ministry. The Transition Process is not only about finding a new pastor but also about defining the future directions and priorities of our congregation.

The Trinity Church Council is looking for a diverse group of volunteers to help complete the Ministry Site Profile, which will provide vital insights for our next steps. This process will guide the work of the call committee, synod staff, and potential candidates as they consider serving here at Trinity.

If you are interested in being part of this important work or have questions, please contact the church office or Dave Kind at 763-218-8713 or dkeclb@yahoo.com by March 16.

Together, let's build a bright future for Trinity!



Tool Kit for Congregational Lay Leaders

Saturday, March 15

8:15 am - Noon

Would you like to grow stronger in your faith while helping Trinity grow stronger as well? Then join us for the **"Minneapolis Area Synod Tool Kit"** at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Bloomington. Workshops will be offered on effective church leadership, stewardship, relational ministries, and more! More details and a link to sign up can be found on Trinity's website www.trin.org under Upcoming Events.

Thank you

Many thanks to the congregation for all the cards and condolences in response to the passing of my mother, Anna May Engholm. Special thanks for the donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on behalf of the congregation in her name. Very generous!

Pastor Jeff and Susan Engholm



The Colors of Lent: A Journey of Faith

Have you ever noticed that the banners and paraments—the fabric decorations on the altar, pulpit, and lectern—change color throughout the year? These shifts aren't just decorative; they hold deep meaning tied to the church's liturgical calendar, guiding us through the seasons of faith and worship. Each liturgical season has its own color, symbolizing the focus of that time.

As we enter Lent, the colors in our worship space reflect the season's meaning. On Transfiguration Sunday (March 2), we use white, symbolizing light, joy, and Christ's glory. On Ash Wednesday (March 5), black reminds us of ashes, mourning, and repentance as we begin Lent. Throughout the 40 days of Lent, purple represents penitence and reflection, calling us to prayer, fasting, and renewal as we prepare for Easter.

Each color guides our hearts in this season of repentance and hope, leading us to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

➤➤➤ Last Month in Pictures

Last month, we enjoyed our favorite camp songs and confirmation student skits on Camp Sunday, had fun on our snow tubing trip, and celebrated both our *Knit Together in Christ* stewardship drive and our many faithful volunteers on Celebration Sunday!



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|  <p>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA www.trin.org</p> | | | | | | <p>1 Happy Birthday Jacob Empting Andy Olson</p> |
| <p>2 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am</p> <p>Happy Birthday Allison Vierling</p> | <p>3 AA Meeting 8 pm</p> <p>Happy Birthday Geri Danielson Jack Zellmann</p> | <p>4 Quilters 9 am</p> <p>Happy Birthday Everley McCleary Jeff Peterson Ryan Ress</p> | <p>5 ASH WEDNESDAY Prayer 12:30 pm Worship Choir 6 pm Worship 7 pm Worship Band 7:45 pm</p> <p>Happy Birthday Libby Bottem</p> | <p>6 Housekeepers 9 am</p> | <p>7</p> <p>Happy Birthday Tom Matson</p> | <p>8</p> |
| <p>9 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am</p> <p>Happy Birthday Samantha Horsman Jim Sandquist</p> | <p>10 Apostles 8:30 am Priscilla Circle 2 pm AA Meeting 8 pm</p> <p>Happy Birthday Angela Eliason Diana Gilles Howie Gilles</p> | <p>11 Quilters 9 am</p> <p>Happy Birthday Marlene Bender</p> | <p>12 Prayer 12:30 pm Lent Supper 5:30 pm Youth Games 5:30 pm Worship Choir 6 pm Worship 7 pm Worship Band 7:45 pm</p> <p>Happy Birthday John Fritzke Tristan Gens Kayla Jones Dave Kind</p> | <p>13 Finance Committee 6:30 pm</p> <p>Happy Birthday Rachel Blacketter</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15 Fellowship Hall Reserved</p> <p>Happy Birthday Kara Loehrs</p> |
| <p>16 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am</p> <p>Happy Birthday Anja Gilbert</p> | <p>17 AA Meeting 8 pm</p> <p>Happy Birthday Tina Quinlan Mary Speckel</p> | <p>18 Quilters 9 am Council Mtg. 6:30 pm</p> | <p>19 FCA Breakfast 7 am Prayer 12:30 pm Lent Supper 5:30 pm Worship Choir 6 pm Worship 7 pm Worship Band 7:45 pm</p> | <p>20 OWLS 10 am</p> <p>Happy Birthday John Quinlan</p> | <p>21 Happy Birthday Diane Filek Betty Gulbrandson David Hirsch Rece Illies Mary Jech Katie Lohmann Eileen Nelson Rick Zellmann</p> | <p>22</p> <p>Happy Birthday Paige Erickson Dylan Hecksel</p> |
| <p>23 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am</p> <p>Happy Birthday Nancy Hendricks Joel Paschke</p> | <p>24 Apostles 8:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm</p> <p>Happy Birthday Katy Jo Danielson Emmarie Hirsch</p> | <p>25 Quilters 9 am</p> <p>Happy Birthday Bailey Hecksel</p> | <p>26 Prayer 12:30 pm Lent Supper 5:30 pm Worship Choir 6 pm Worship 7 pm Worship Band 7:45 pm</p> <p>Happy Birthday Greta Gersema Dustin Stutsman</p> | <p>27 Tidings 9:30 am</p> <p>Happy Birthday Jonathan Gallus Dustin Gens Julie Lague</p> | <p>28</p> <p>Happy Birthday Kevin Holmes Karla Keller Jim Salzsiedler</p> | <p>29</p> <p>Happy Birthday Mary Jacks</p> |
| <p>30 PACK THE PEWS SUNDAY Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am</p> <p>Happy Birthday Meg Erickson Heidi Guetzkow Sandy Loehrs Thomas McMahon</p> | <p>31 AA Meeting 8 pm</p> <p>Happy Birthday Sandy Beckman</p> | | | | | |

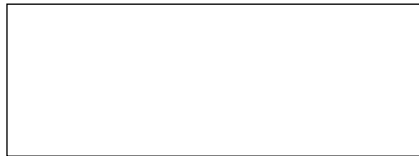


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Shining Light, Finding Light

“When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless,” observed Connecticut politician Pauline Keezer. “But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.” Indeed, it’s impossible to shine light in someone else’s life without lighting up your own.

We might think being generous toward another with our time or possessions leaves us with less. But as Jesus said, “Whoever loses their life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 10:39, NIV). How common it is that when we minister to others in Christ’s name, we find we have also — or perhaps even more so — received ministry. This is the miracle of God’s love at work.