



TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



FEBRUARY 2025



The Beauty of Ordinary Days

As the month of February approaches, it's time to talk about my favorite holiday – Groundhog Day! Yes, I love this festive celebration that doesn't require any extra effort – no expensive gifts to buy, no special meals to plan, no added stress to our lives. You can do whatever you want, or nothing at all! This kind of ordinary celebration is especially needed this time

of year, when we continue to work our way through the cold, dark days of winter. It's going to be a while before warmer temperatures arrive, and it's easy to slip into the "SAD" that affects many people, also known as "Seasonal Affective Disorder". Feeling sad, depressed, or simply "down" is a very common and natural thing this time of year.

In 2 Corinthians 12:9, we read these words from our Lord: **My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.** When the Apostle Paul prayed to God for relief from his suffering, God didn't simply remove his pain, but actually reminded him that God is most present IN his pain. Power and weakness aren't opposites, they go hand in hand.

Below is a copy of a famous poem entitled, "Prayer of an Unknown Soldier". It's a reminder that the simplest, most ordinary things are the most powerful things in our lives. Blessings can even be found in hardship and difficulties.

I asked God for strength that I might achieve.
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health that I might do greater things.
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.
I asked for riches that I might be happy.
I was given poverty that I might be wise.
I asked for power that I might have the praise of men.
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life.
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am, among all men, most richly blessed...
if only because of You, Lord. Amen.

INSIDE:

- February Events at Trinity
- 2025 Stewardship Campaign
- Underwear Drive
- Children's Ministry
- Homebound Visitation
- Council Meeting Highlights

Worship
Sundays 9:00 am
Onsite & Online

STAFF:

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

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
513 Madison St SE | PO Box 1177
Watertown, MN 55388
phone: 952-955-1891
email: trinityoffice@trin.org

www.trin.org

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 am - Noon

What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?



We've Paid Off Trinity's Mortgage! Celebrate on Sunday, February 16

In 2013, Trinity embarked on a Capital Campaign called *In Christ New Light* in order to raise \$1.7 million for a major building project that would add office space, air conditioning, elevators, and Gathering Hall to our facility. In 2016, we held a second campaign called *Shine Where You Are* which brought down the debt even further. In 2019, we held a third campaign called *Shine On and Share God's Light*, which not only brought down the debt further, but added several additional much needed projects to our initiative.

With thanks to God and with gratitude to all those who have contributed to this effort, we have recently paid off the mortgage! In honor of the occasion, we are going to have a grand gathering on Sunday, February 16 after worship. Please join us as we gather together to celebrate this milestone event!



2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

This month, we will be embarking on our Annual Stewardship Campaign! The theme for this year's campaign is *Knit Together in Christ*, based on these words from 1 Corinthians 1:10: ***Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose.*** During the month of February we'll be celebrating how God knits us together as one family that is united together in the mind of God. In response to God's presence in our lives, we respond with our gifts of time, treasures, and talents.

You will be receiving a letter in the mail soon with all the details, including a Commitment Card for you to complete and return on Sunday, February 16. On that day, we will celebrate everything that God is doing among us by recommitting ourselves to the mission that God has called us to: sharing the good news of new life in Christ!



Volunteer Appreciation Sunday Sunday, February 16

Do you participate in one of the many ministries of Trinity? Have you ever served as an acolyte, reader, usher? Have you ever served coffee or served communion? Have you ever taught Sunday School, shoveled snow, or been on any Trinity team or committee? If you have ever served Trinity in ANY way in recent years, we want to celebrate YOU! In honor of all those who do so much for our congregation, you are invited to a celebration of all of our volunteers on Sunday, February 16. It will be a great day to recognize everyone who contributes to the ongoing ministry of our church!

UNDERWEAR DRIVE



Trinity's February Underwear Drive!

We're doing it again! For a third February now, we're collecting new underwear of all sizes to donate to Central Lutheran Church's "Free Store" in Minneapolis. This store is open every Monday to anyone who has unmet needs, and they can always use underwear! You are invited to bring in new packs of underwear from kids to adults sizes. Drop donations off in the special "Undie Bin" at our Donation Station at the main parking lot entrance. Each year, we've been able to collect over 100 pairs of underwear. Let's see if we can do it again!



Camp Sunday at Trinity Sunday, February 23

There's no better way to get through the cold, dark days of winter than to celebrate the great outdoors of God's beautiful creation! Join us for "Camp Sunday" where we'll join together in songs of prayer and praise in honor of all that God has made. Feel free to wear your flannels and camp sweatshirts to church that Sunday!

OWLS OLDER, WISER LUTHERANS Thursday, February 20 | 10:00 am

Trinity's OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) Fellowship Group is meeting in February for a Game Day. Bring your favorite card or board games and play with friends. All "older" and/or "wiser" Lutherans and friends are invited to attend.

Children's Ministry

Building Faith Through the Lord's Prayer



This month in Sunday School, we are excited to begin teaching the Lord's Prayer! The children will learn its meaning, importance, and how it helps us connect with God. We'll explore it together through engaging activities and discussions. We encourage families to practice it with your kids at home to reinforce what they're learning in class.



Sunday School Movie Morning Event Sunday, February 16

We'll have a special event in lieu of Sunday School on President's Day Weekend – POPCORN and MOVIE! Bring your blankets and your stuffies, and we'll enjoy a movie in the Nylunda Chapel.

Interested in Helping with Sunday School?

Our Sunday School lessons are led by a rotation of wonderful volunteers. We can always use more help, so contact Chelsea Farniok at cfarniok@trin.org if you're interested in volunteering.

Congregational NEWS

PASTORAL ACTS

FUNERALS

Leon Fritzke

12/22/1946 - 1/1/2025
Memorial Service on
January 11, 2025

Dick Stadlander

5/31/1940 - 1/14/2025
Memorial Service on
January 20, 2025

NEW MEMBERS

Cody & Mickey Kottke
Kendra, Leona

Scott & Jeanine Johnson
Faith

MEMORIALS

In memory of

Carl Jech
\$100 ~ General Fund

Leon Fritzke
\$25 ~ Quilting Ministry
\$1,490 ~ Building
Improvement Fund

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

January 21, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Fund summary December 2024

Beginning balance 12/1/2024:

-\$ 36,125.31

Operating Fund income: \$ 61,065.93

Operating Fund exps: \$ 39,198.52

Net balance (December): \$ 21,867.41

Operating Fund balance as of

12/31/2024: - \$ 14,257.90

2024 operating fund EXPENSES exceeded INCOME by \$13,745.98.

Building Fund expenses:

Internal loan payment: \$ 15,000.00

Mortgage loan balance: \$ 0.00

Cash Summary:

Bremer: \$ 67,337.36

(includes \$1,696.68 for Dec. federal withholding)

Citizen's Building Fund: \$ 66,640.97

M/S/C Nancy Stello / Ryan Ress / carried

Comments

- 6% of operating fund income for benevolence to Minneapolis Area synod amounted to \$3,662.
- December Xcel bill for fuel and electricity amounted to \$2,195.35 (up about \$1,170 from November)
- Biggest news is the final payment on the mortgage loan was made!

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Engholm thanked continuing Church Council members and bid farewell to outgoing members Diane Holmes and Jason Koets. He shared

appreciation for all the participation in the Advent activities and Christmas church services. Our Livestream Crew is continuing to learn and work with the new sound system enhancing both in-person and online services. The Financial Forum was held and the 2025 Spending Plan was presented. The Annual Stewardship Drive will be January 26 – February 16. A Celebration Sunday is being planned for February 16 to celebrate our annual stewardship campaign, all of our wonderful volunteers and paying off the building project debt! February will also include our annual Underwear Drive.

OLD BUSINESS

- Reviewed January 19 Financial Forum.

NEW BUSINESS

- Reviewed details for Annual Meeting on January 26.
- **Nylunda Bell** Discussion regarding monument for Nylunda bell is tabled for next month.
- **Celebration Sunday** will take place on February 16, and will celebrate our stewardship campaign, the mortgage payoff and will recognize church volunteers.
- **Pastoral Transition Process** Pastor John Hulden from the Mpls. Area Synod Office joined us to share information regarding the Pastoral Transition Process. First, it's time to celebrate Pastor Jeff! Soon after we will receive an Interim Pastor who will help with next steps.

Trinity's Homebound Visitation Ministry

We're Relaunching Trinity's Homebound Visitation Ministry!

Sunday, February 9 | 10:00 am
Pioneer Room

During the challenging times of Covid, we had to pause our cherished practice of assigning homebound Trinity members to members of the congregation for regular visits. While we've done our best to stay connected through emails, snail mail, and online communication, we all know there's nothing quite like the warmth of a personal visit.

Join us after worship on Sunday, February 9 in the Pioneer Room, for a meeting to brainstorm and plan the relaunch of this vital ministry. If you're interested in helping us reestablish these meaningful connections, please come and bring along anyone who might want to be part of this heartwarming opportunity.



REGISTER ONLINE
@ GLLM.ORG!
\$65 Discount
through Feb 13

GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES
SUMMER
CAMP 2025

Summer Bible Camp Opportunities

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries (GLLM) offers summer ministry and camps for Youth, Families, and Adults at three sites located along the shores of beautiful Minnesota lakes. Trinity also offers "camperships" to Trinity youth attending a summer Bible Camp. Learn more about GLLM with the link above and sign up for summer camp today!

Thank you

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for the many kind words you have shared with me after I announced my retirement! Words simply cannot express how grateful I am to have served alongside you over the past ten years since I arrived at Trinity in February 2015. As Susan and I move into the next chapter of our lives, please hold us in your prayers – you will certainly, and forever, be in ours. Shine On!

~ Pastor Jeff

Pastor Engholm will retire in May 2025.

Have You Remembered Trinity Lutheran Church in Your Will?

Some people are able to continue to give to Trinity in death, as well as in life. Giving through your will helps to continue the 167-year tradition of ministry and mission at Trinity, continuing the legacy of your witness. With the advice of your attorney or tax adviser, the following language may be added to your will, trust, or codicil: "I bequeath X% of my estate to Trinity Lutheran Church, 513 Madison Street SE, Watertown, MN 55388." Thank you for considering a lasting gift to Trinity!

Looking Ahead to Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and is a time for renewal and growth through worship, prayer and reflection before the celebration of Easter. Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

▶▶▶▶ Last Month in Pictures

Last month, we celebrated Epiphany, when the Wise Men made the long journey to find the Baby Jesus in the manger. Trinity's very own Wise Man traveled hither and yon, through valleys and hills, visiting truck stops, rest stops, coffee shops, book stores and grocery stores, all the while posting his photos on the Trinity Facebook page – did you see him on any of his adventures?



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Happy Birthday ----- Henry Blakstad Mary Gallus Bill Keller Kendra Kottke Jacob Rowan
2 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Happy Birthday ----- Kenzi Gohman Troy Hecksel	3 AA Meeting 8 pm Happy Birthday ----- Terrance Johnson	4 Quilters 9 am Happy Birthday ----- Eric Prigge	5 Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm Happy Birthday ----- Eric Prigge	6 Housekeepers 9 am Happy Birthday ----- Eleanor Rundell	7 Happy Birthday ----- Nathan Ragner	8 Happy Birthday ----- Courtney Matson
9 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Visitation Ministry Meeting 10 am Happy Birthday ----- Joyce Harding Mark Huber Leah Vraspir	10 Apostles 8:30 am Priscilla Circle 2 pm AA Meeting 8 pm Happy Birthday ----- Shelly Becker John Diesman Jackson Drahos Jeffrey Engholm	11 Quilters 9 am Happy Birthday ----- Eric Scanlon	12 Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm Happy Birthday ----- Hope Berscheit Ava Danielson	13 Finance Committee 6:30 pm Happy Birthday ----- Hope Berscheit Ava Danielson	14 Happy Birthday ----- Adrienne Quinlan Tucker Ritter	15 Happy Birthday ----- Heather Berscheit Scott Cassidy
16 CELEBRATION SUNDAY Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Youth Ministry Mtg. 10 am	17 AA Meeting 8 pm Happy Birthday ----- Fred Thomson	18 Quilters 9 am Council Mtg. 6:30 pm Happy Birthday ----- Nathan Kirkman	19 FCA Breakfast 7 am Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm Happy Birthday ----- Kevin McCain Audrey Ress Theo Rosholt	20 OWLS 10 am Happy Birthday ----- Kevin McCain Audrey Ress Theo Rosholt	21 Happy Birthday ----- David Filek Alice Gersema Ben Ragner Elena Salonek	22 Fellowship Hall Reserved Happy Birthday ----- Lois Hendricks Nels Tuvey
23 CAMP SUNDAY Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Happy Birthday ----- Kaden Blacketter Brielle Hirsch Amanda Lohmann EllaMae Neaton	24 Apostles 8:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm Happy Birthday ----- Randy Berhow Debra Dummer	25 Quilters 9 am Happy Birthday ----- Mitchell Erickson	26 Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm Happy Birthday ----- Mitchell Erickson	27 Tidings 9:30 am Happy Birthday ----- Dave Durkin	28 Happy Birthday ----- Cecilia Sieling Kameron Tufte	(February 29) Happy Birthday ----- Samuel Tronnes

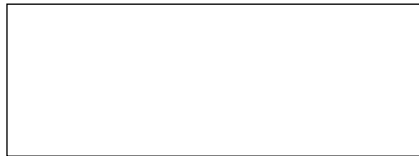


513 MADISON ST SE | PO BOX 1177
WATERTOWN MN 55388
www.trin.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WATERTOWN MN 55388
PERMIT NO. 22

If you have a new address or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the church office at 952-955-1891 or trinityoffice@trin.org.



SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES FROM TRINITY

Stay up to date with what's going on at Trinity Lutheran Church. Sign up for email updates to receive eNewsletters and other church-wide announcements. Subscribe to Email Updates on our website www.trin.org.



Like us on Facebook

Facebook/Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) Watertown MN



Follow us on Instagram @trinwatertown



Kindness Kickbacks

Random Acts of Kindness Day, observed each year on February 17, is a reminder of the power of altruism. Followers of Jesus express kindness selflessly, out of love for God and our neighbors. Yet in return, we reap emotional — and even physical — benefits.

Researchers have identified a “helper’s high” that can ease anxiety and depression. Spontaneous or planned acts of “pro-social spending” have been shown to reduce blood pressure, improve heart health, reduce pain and even extend longevity.

For maximum impact, experts recommend getting creative with random acts of kindness and mixing them up. But no matter how you spread kindness, you’re bound to experience blessings in return!