

trinity long lake newsletter | advent edition 2023

advent calendar 2023

watch for Tuesday/Saturday emails and visit our website for details

worship together sundays 9am, wednesdays 6pm

advent sunday worship the women of advent: Anna, Elizabeth & Mary december 3, 10 & 17

NO wednesday worship december 20 & 27

wednesday dinners dec 6 | soup & salad dec 13 | chicken tenders jan 3 | lasagna jan 10 | breakfast for dinner

trinity kids christmas program december 3 | 11am

advent festival dec 3 | 11:30am

trinity women visit: the swedish institute december 6 | 6-8:30pm

christmas thunder carol-sing december 17 | 10:15am

christmas eve worship

1pm family worship **3pm** *festival worship* / trinity choir* **5pm** *festival worship** / chancel bells **10pm** communion worship* *with candlelight

1st sunday after christmas dec 31 | lessons & carols

shift | jan 7

benefit concert series begins jan 21 | Katherine Jacobson Fleisher



worship & music ministry advent & christmas eve

Mark Hemingway, Director of Worship & Music MarkH@TrinityLongLake.org

Worship in December is a little different from our traditional cycle at Trinity. Because Christmas Eve, our biggest worship day of the year, falls on a Sunday, we will only be celebrating three Sundays of Advent, as there will be no morning worship on December 24th. We look forward to worship with all our friends and guests during our four worship times on Christmas Eve.

Please notice the **return of the 10pm** Worship service. We will once again take time at the end of the day and gather for a calm, peace-filled time of worship, carols, and communion. For many this is often the most beloved and most meaningful Christmas tradition.

The 3pm and 5pm services will again feature many traditional carols and readings and will be highlighted by music from one of our large ensembles at each service. We hope you join us!

prayer shawl ministry

Pat Wulff | rwulff106@gmail.com

These gorgeous works of art are given to people experiencing life's ups and downs. We hope those prayer shawls wrap them in the warmth of prayer. These women also knit or crochet baby blankets given to children being baptized.

Thank you for the Prayer Shawl Ministry!

Naomi Nelson, Shari Flag, Lois Wenger, LeeAnn Scherer, Stacey Royal, Mary Johnson, Pat Wulff, Karen Jackson

The Prayer Shawl Group will be showing some of their craft and serving coffee and refreshments after worship, December 3rd.







promised JOY

I hear we're setting up Christmas trees in November now.

I usually get called a "grinch" at some point around this time of year because I have the audacity to insist that we follow proper holiday procedure and complete one holiday before we start celebrating the next. Apparently, I'm not letting people have their joy. Hence, *Pastor Grinch*.

Upon further reflection, though, I'm starting to soften. Or at least I'm entering this season with a new intention to lean into the joy, whenever it may arrive. Why not, right? What could it possibly hurt if we prioritize feeling a bit of joy in the face of everything else we're met with on a daily basis?

"If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."

I know it's not always this way for everyone,

but when I think of the joy of the holiday season, or at least the times when I've experienced that joy, it is almost always when I'm sharing space with others. It's the Thanksgiving table, the many places it's been and the many people with whom I've shared it. It's the first time I watched my own kid light up in front of the Christmas tree. It's eating lentil soup with my friend's family on New Year's Eve. It's singing my favorite hymns of the seasons, surrounded by the people who made me who I am.

Gathered community is God's intention for us. So much so that Jesus tells us that by abiding in Him and by abiding in one another, our joy may be complete (John 15). Paul furthers this by saying that joy is complete when we are one (Philippians 2). We are not necessarily promised joy, but we are promised that if there is joy to be found, despite the darkness that is sure to find us, it will be found in the company of others.

That's why I'm leaning in this year, and suggesting we all give it a try. Because if there is joy to be found this holiday season, I think we'll find it in one another. So, set up your tree a little early and let it be a gathering place for joy. Make room around your table. Know that when you sing, you join the chorus of all the saints, *gathered into one by the Holy Spirit*.

Look at that – this Grinch's heart is already starting to grow a couple sizes.

May your joy be complete,

Pastor Adam





PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

trinity long lake 2024 stewardship

Pastor Adam Butler | AdamB@TrinityLongLake.org Jeri Miller, *Congregational Life* | Jerilyn@TrinityLongLake.org

gathered into one

This fall we've been celebrating our collective generosity, being Gathered Into One by God for the sake of our community and our world. Over 400 Trinity members and friends attended one of our inaugural Stewardship Meals held over five days at the beginning of November. These occasions provided us with the opportunity to lift up the awesome ministries of this church, speak candidly about our current financial situation, and invite people into a generous response to our 2024 Stewardship Appeal. Then, on Celebration Sunday, November 19, we gave thanks to God for all the gifts we've been given and asked for everyone to physically bring in their pledge card or complete online.

If you haven't had a chance to look at your mailing, please review the materials online

at **TrinityLongLake.org/ONE** and prayerfully consider your response. This is a critical year for us as we come together to meet our 2024 annual budget.





Thank you for all you do to help us create space and place for gathered community at Trinity. Your generosity makes all the difference. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let's see what God can do through every one of us.



year end

Thank you for your year-end giving!

Trinity Lutheran Church documents year-end gifts in accordance with IRS regulations. **NOTE: this year December 31 is on a Sunday.** This means that any contributions you'd like to deduct for tax purposes in 2023 must be received by worship that day. **Offerings sent via mail must be postmarked by 12/30/2023**.

If you are making a stock transfer or a qualified charitable gift from a required minimum distribution, please contact Rindee Erdmann *Financial Manager* (952-473-8577 x136 or Rindee@TrinityLongLake.org) to let her know, as your name will not appear on the security when it is transferred.

As you make your gifts, be sure to indicate the amounts designated for 2023 operating ministry, and/or if you are making an initial gift for the Capital Appeal which will begin in 2024.





capital

Thank you to all who have made a pledge to the **Operating Fund**, making possible all that we do together for mission, ministry, and outreach. Beginning in 2024, you are also invited to support the **Capital Phase of our Comprehensive Campaign**.

Much more will be shared in the coming months. In addition to an optional tithe of your gifts for special outreach projects, the components include, **in order of priority**:

- 1 maintaining our property
- 2 managing our mortgage debt
- 3 reimagining our spaces (within the current footprint)

We are grateful for all who have provided our Trinity Church home as we seek to be good stewards and care for this gift!

Steve Tofteland Once a farmer, always a...

Steve at Interfaith Outreach Food Shelf



You moved to Long Lake from your farm. Where was your farm?

Seven miles west of Luverne, Minnesota. I farmed for 45 years. I raised corn and soybeans, mainly. I also produced market hogs for the first 25 years. I have had a hobby of raising one acre of sweet corn for the last 25 years.

How did you come up with your plot locally?

I met a man named Walt Raska who owned Walt's Garage in Orono for many years. He knew of a ½ acre plot on the end of Deer Hill Road owned by JoAnn Wahlfors. Walt was aware that I was looking for a place to plant sweet corn and asked JoAnn if she would like to rent her ½ acre to a retired farmer and she agreed.

How did you farm your corn?

JoAnn's son, Jay, let me use a tractor and rototiller to work the soil. I then used rear tine garden tiller and one row planter to plant the crop by hand. I purchased a two-wheel hand cultivator and pushed it by hand like my grandfather would have done 100 years ago to control the weeds on the row.

What did you do with the corn?

All the sweet corn was harvested by hand with the help of family, friends and Trinity volunteers. The sweet corn was given to family, friends, food shelves and churches such as Salem Lutheran.

How did it feel to accomplish this project?

I always enjoy seeing people happy eating sweet corn. I was surprised at myself for doing this project the old-fashioned way. The experience was well worth it.

Do you have plans for next spring?

I'm planning on doing this project next year.

trinity foundation thanksgiving

Pastor Adam Butler AdamB@TrinityLongLake.org

During this season of Thanksgiving, we are grateful for the vision of members who created the **Trinity Foundation** in 1997. Those members wanted to make a long-term impact on the mission and ministry of Trinity. During the past 26 years, the foundation has received gifts for many occasions and reasons. **Gifts have been made...**

- ...in memory of Trinity members who have died
- ...in celebration of the lives and accomplishments of individuals who are still among us

...by those with a passion for supporting Trinity's youth

We give thanks to God for donors who desire to make a lasting impact through Trinity's Foundation.

If you have any questions about Trinity Foundation, are interested in donating, or would like to become involved, please reach out to one of the Board members, or Pastor Adam.

trinity foundation board members

Mark Ihrke, *Chair* Ruth Bash, *Treasurer* Mary Soderstrom, *Secretary* Carol Narum Gavin Tempero Karen Van Buren



trinity small groups from the inside out

Pastor Ann Fenlason, *Associate Pastor* AnnF@TrinityLongLake.org

The **Trinity Small Groups** study that rolled out this fall is unlike previous small group study offerings in the past. *From the Inside Out + Discovering a Deeper and More Transformative Life with God*, focuses on the formation of our spiritual lives, starting with the premise that spiritual formation doesn't happen by accident. Instead, spiritual formation happens when we are intentional about centering our lives around being faithful to—and aware of— God each day, and the transformation

that comes with this brings joy and a

deeper relationship with God.

This study is comprised of **six sessions with a 15-minute streaming video** accompanying each session. Because the focus of *From the Inside Out* is on spiritual formation and forming a deeper relationship with God, **this study is a good fit for the upcoming Lenten season** (Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024) when the focus of the church year is always on self-reflection and turning back to God.

Copies of the study (including transcripts of the videos) can be found in the rack of the info desk outside the office or online (trinitylonglake.org/small-group). If you are interested in starting or joining a small group for Lent or earlier, please contact Pastor Ann or Jill Cornell, or see Trinity's website to sign up.

trinity quilters a special visit

Carol Ketcham | CarolKetcham@hotmail.com

Carol Ketcham, Sharon Ressler, Jean Perry, Lois Pearson and Millie Benjamin got together with **Orlou Jenson** at her new home at Haven Homes in Maple Plain. Orlou was our church secretary for many years and a member of the quilting group, meeting every other Monday morning.



Friendships grow deep when you meet often and they really enjoyed their time together. Orlou loves visitors!

How about adding Orlou to your Christmas card list: Orlou Jenson | Haven Homes, 4848 Gateway Blvd. Apt 212, Maple Plain 55359

Contact Carol if interested in joining the Quilters group.





Since September, Pastors Adam and Ann have alternately gone to **monthly gatherings** of Trinity members (and any others who may drop in) who reside at **Folkestone** in Wayzata. These informal meetings take place the **first Thursday of each month in the Lakeside Lounge**, and the pastors have enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to connect with Trinity members in this casual, inviting environment over coffee. These gatherings have deepened relationships and built connections, and have included short devotions and scripture readings, discussion of various topics, questions about faith, sharing prayer concerns, and simply enjoying the laughter and presence of each other.

A special thanks to Jennifer Weiss for coordinating this time at Folkestone!



trinity preschool monthly chapel time

Kelly Govrik, Preschool Director | Preschool@TrinityLongLake.org



by Lisa Choiniere, Preschool Teacher

"Love, love, love, that's what it's all about!"

Pastor Adam and Pastor Ann welcome our Trinity Preschoolers to *Chapel Time* each month in the sanctuary. We listen to a child-sized sermon, sing our hearts out and we learn about God's unwavering love for us. It's a pretty special time. Our preschoolers love our ukulele-playing pastors, they love getting stickers



for being such good listeners and they love sharing what they know about God, Jesus, family, friends and love.

This week we were reminded that God is everywhere! He is in our hearts and is always with us because he loves us so much. Not to be outdone, the children reminded Pastor Adam that:

"OK, but my mom makes good pancakes." "It's Sophie's birthday!" "We saw red AND yellow leaves." Set up a tour with Kelly to learn all about Trinity Preschool FOR CHILDREN 33 MONTHS TO PREK



"Pastor Adam is my soccer coach." whispered to his teacher

It's true! God is everywhere! Thank you to our pastors for sharing this time with our preschoolers. They may be little but they are the best representatives of kindness, joy and God's love.

"Everybody sing and shout. That's what it's all about. It's about love, love, love."

~ Pastor Ann taught us this song written by Herb Brokering

trinity women ministry **book club**

Cari Bullemer, Womens Ministry Liaison | CariB@TrinityLongLake.org

by Sarah Thiessen

A good book is like a good friend.

Or, so it was said; Once Upon A Time... I believe all who crossed the threshold at Carol Narum's this crisp autumn

evening would agree. Afterall, little equals the treasure of friendship and a good book. *Platonic* by Marisa, G. Franko PhD is our current read. A study on



friendship, *Platonic* unpacks a few

of the crumpled layers beneath the surface.

Carol set a warm tone equipping us with study guides and a buffet of light bites perfectly paired for the occasion. Uplifting conversation enriched the friendship-themed exploration of our book study. This evening, friendships spanning decades intersected with those sprouting post 2020 and even first introductions; including *Yours Truly*, the new girl on campus.

Rounding out a truly meaningful



evening, thoughtfully guided discussion knit balanced interaction for all attending. Part one was certainly thought provoking; we anticipate the same for the remainder of the study that will end in January.

Look for the next **Trinity Women Read It-n-Eat Book Club** this winter or contact Cari if you're interested in hosting one at your home.

children, youth & family ministry something for everyone

Julie Vagle, *Children & Family Director* | JulieV@TrinityLongLake.org Stacy Thoma, *Early Childhood Coordinator* | StacyT@TrinityLongLake.org



vacation bible school

Kids will learn all week about *diving into friendship with God.* Volunteers will guide crews, lead stations, and help in big and small ways to make VBS an amazing week for our kids.

scuba vbs | june 10-13



summer at camp wapo

The theme for the **summer at Camp Wapo** is "*Always*" based on Hebrews 13:8 and 1 Thessalonians 5:12. Registration for summer opens **January 15th** and our spots are held until Feb 15th when Trinity's guaranteed spots are open to anyone.

seeds wapo weekend | june 21-23 1st-3rd grade

camp wapo week | june 23-28 4th-8th grade

family camp wapo | july 26-28 all ages

service projects

Every year as one of their service projects, the **preschoolers make Christmas gift tags** that are sold at the AGAPE Gift Market. They learn that even though they are little, they can help others too! Our 5th graders went to Woodlands

next door during *Trinity Kids* to help the residents do a couple of fun fall crafts to decorate for the season. The kids jumped in to help residents glue and cut, offer help when needed and make sure each resident had a project to keep. The kids had so much fun they asked to come back in December before Christmas to make projects again with the residents.



club45

4th and 5th graders meet monthly on Wednesday night with a topic that

focuses on a Bible story. We play games, do activities, and get to know one another as we build friendships in Christ. Each month new kids and friends of our kids show up and we have the best time. In November we





talked about gratitude and read four Bible stories where gratitude was shown. Kids wrote notes of gratitude to give to someone special in their life. **Register online or text CLUB45 to Trinity.**



high school youth

2024 elca youth gathering july 15-21 | new orleans

This trip is for current Trinity 8th-12th graders. The estimated cost is \$1300; youth will hold a fundraiser February 25th to offset costs. In addition, scholarships are available.



Register by Dec 8th with a \$150 deposit; scan code, visit website or text GATHERING to

Trinity. Contact Julie for information.



mops this is motherhood

Mom's ministry meets twice a month the 1st and 3rd Thursday from 9:30-11:30am. **Text MOPS to register**.

why we love MOPS

- the friendships made between moms and between the children
- finding time for yourself in a busy season of life
- coming together with a community of moms who understand what you are going though
- learning and growing supporting one another as moms, parents, and friends

save the date camp fundraiser | sunday, feb 25

Congratulations to the 2023 Confirmation Class!



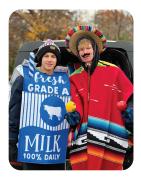


Loved ones, mentors, and small group leaders prayed over them during their blessing. In addition, each student received a gift book and portrait. Please continue to pray for these 9th graders- **our newest Trinity members!**

trunk or treat

by Sawyer Newell, 9th grader, host & event planner

NOTE: 9th graders preparing to confirm their baptism must complete a Faith Statement or Project.



I decided to do this as my Confirmation Faith Project because I believed that not enough people came to the church for more than



just the services, I wanted to give people an opportunity to come to appreciate the *community* of this church. The event was *Trunk or Treat* with vehicles hosted and decorated for Halloween, *complete with candy*. I was so lucky to have such wonderful people supporting me going through this project.

I was so excited for the morning of the event, and it did not disappoint. It was

so much better than I could have ever imagined and I got help from family, extended family, friends, fellow members of the community, pastors, and so many more people. *Thank you so much for all your support and I hope everyone had a Spooktacular time!*



high school youth hangin with ben

Ben Richter, The Wednesday Guy & HS Youth Associate | BenR@TrinityLongLake.org

HS Youth Group kicked off this fall on Wednesday nights with our *High School Associate*, **Ben Richter**! Ben is not new to Trinity or to the role of youth ministry as he brings a wealth of leadership skills and an endless number of crazy youth group games. Ben has been affectionately dubbed *"The Wednesday Guy"* and we are so glad to have him with us!

Our group is open to any 9th-12th graders and meets Wednesday evenings 7:30-9pm and HS Open Gym at 6:30pm. Join us!



MIDDLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CHAOS

this could get ugly

dec 8 | 7-9pm

prize for best ugly sweater christmas treats activities & games



MUST REGISTER SCAN OR TEXT FNL

outreach ministry serve near & far

Jill Cornell, Shared Ministries Director | JillC@TrinityLongLake.org

giving tree

Get into the giving spirit of Christmas early!

Our *Giving Tree* is up and provides an opportunity to share our blessings and help satisfy some needs in our community. Take a tag off the tree and return the gift(s) under the tree by the date listed. Our Trinity tradition, now over 20 years, will serve Interfaith Outreach, WeCan, LSS Homeless Youth, the Woodlands (group home next to Trinity), Long Lake Assisted Living, Simpson Shelter, and the Salem Lutheran Christmas Store. In addition, we will also be collecting socks, hats, mittens, waterproof gloves, and scarves for Shelters through Christmas.

Thank you, Trinity family, for your joyous, caring spirit over these many years. You do make a difference!!! And thanks to **Marlys Jenson** for coordinating the Giving Tree along with her team!

agape gift market

The market was bustling with shoppers and volunteers! We are grateful for everyone that supported the market in a variety of ways – donating items & baked goods, creating items, volunteering and of course, shopping the market!



agape mini-market

Shop the **AGAPE Mini-Market** in Trinity's **Fireside Room**. This is a great opportunity if you missed the market or still need to fulfill your list for teachers, families, and friends. **All net profits support Disaster Relief, Local & Global Missions**.



- sunday, dec 5 | 10-11:30am
- wednesday, dec 7 | 5-7pm
- sunday, dec 12 | 10-11:30am

interfaith outreach



Trinity has a long history of supporting Interfaith Outreach, a service agency supporting households in eight local communities including Long Lake. Since the spring, we have been back with Trinity volunteer shifts at the food shelf on the first Thursday of each month.

upcoming dates: dec 7 & jan 4

Regular volunteer, **Sharon Bergh** shared about her experience:

"I enjoy the volunteer time at IOCP getting to know the other volunteers from Trinity as well as interacting with the IOCP clients, helping them select groceries. It is a volunteer experience where you actually get to interact with those in the community who are using the IOCP resources and see how appreciative they are of the food shelf items. The once-a-month commitment is very manageable and rewarding and the time always goes really fast!"

In the last fiscal year, your support helped Interfaith make a difference in our community. They supported **4,756 neighbors across 1,545 households**. The focus of Interfaith is on food, emergency financial assistance, and welcoming new clients. A total of **353 households came to Interfaith Outreach for the first time.**

salem lutheran church – partnering together!

"We want to thank all of the people at Trinity for all of the help and support you have given us at Salem Lutheran. In particular, we want to thank you for all your help at the **State Fair Diner**. We could not do it without you!" -Marcia & the State Fair Committee





An opportunity to continue to build our relationship and volunteer with Salem members and serving their community will be their annual **Christmas Store** on **Sunday morning, December 16**.

pastor christian chavarria's visit leaves an impact on our kids



"While Pastor Christian was here visiting from El Salvador, he helped with one of Children's Messages. At the end of the message, he handed out crosses that he had painted to each of the kids. Both Tillie & Eloise received crosses and they were more than excited to show them to us and talk about them on the drive home. We were able to share some information about where Pastor Christian lives and that the Trinity Foundation had helped support a university student that was in the Seeds of Hope program. In addition, their Grandma Jeanne and Great-Grandma Mable had supported students in El Salvador and written to them! Their aunt (Tia) Suzelle had helped do some translating for them when needed. One of the crosses remained in the car while the other was carried inside. The next day when we picked up the kids from school, we

also drove a couple of other kids home. On the drive, one of the other kids spotted the cross and started asking questions. It was so wonderful to hear not only about the beautiful painting on the cross but also about the cross itself and what it represented. You never know what exactly kids pick up - but this certainly showed that Trinity Kids is absolutely amazing for them!"

- Gavin, Trish, Tillie and Eloise Tempero

music & worship

Mark Hemingway, *Director of Worship & Music* MarkH@TrinityLongLake.org

christmas thunder band * and carol-sing

The legend, the tradition, is back! **Calling any and all instrumentalists to join the fun**. We gather a band, anyone grade 5 through age 100 and play 6-7 favorite Christmas Carols. On **Sunday, December 17** the band will lead a carol-sing in the Great Hall at **10:15am**. This a wonderful tradition, and lots of fun. **Music and sign-up is available on the music room door**. Rehearsals are Sunday mornings after worship starting Nov 26. **Take out that instrument and spread the joy!**

Celebrating Our Youth Choir

We were so grateful to have **Pastor Christian Chavarria** visit Trinity for a

few days during his visit to Minnesota.

Church in El Salvador and expressed

his gratitude for us continuing to pray,

people and churches in El Salvador.

seeds of hope education

One of the ways to continue to support

and build relationships with our brothers

and sisters in El Salvador, is through the

Seeds of Hope Sponsorship program.

Individual Trinity members have been

supporting students through our Seeds of Hope program for 12 years through

financial support and letter writing or

communicating electronically. We have a

few younger, new students we'd love to

get sponsored by a family or individual.

If you are interested, please contact Jill.

The El Salvador school year is Jan-Nov.

el salvador -

support and build relationships with the

Pastor Christian represents the Lutheran

As Trinity is still finding its way in the new reality of post-pandemic church, I am very excited about the strong return of our **Youth Choir**. This ensemble of singers in Kindergarten through grade 5, rehearse most Wednesday afternoons at 4pm. This year we are thrilled to have **28 children** gather every week to have snack, play a bit, then learn the joy of singing and making music as a group.

They perform at our Sunday morning worship the first Sunday of each month. It is especially exciting to see the dedication of these students and their families. The first two Sundays that we have sung, I have had over 90 percent of the choir singing. That's an amazing turnout! These children are a wonderful group of singers, they enjoy spending time together, and most importantly singing praises to God. A special thank you to all the parents who make this a priority. **Please know the Youth Choir is always open to more singers, contact Mark.**

Also, if there are any adults who would enjoy spending 30-40 minutes Wednesday afternoons helping out with snacks and playtime, please talk to Mark. It will bring you great joy!

christmas eve worship

1pm family worship / youth choir
3pm festival worship & candlelight / trinity choir
5pm festival worship & candlelight / chancel bells
10pm holy communion & candlelight

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classical series



Pianist **Katherine** Jacobson Fleisher recently moved back to Minnesota and is organizing a **Benefit Concert Series** (event dates and details on our website). She is loaning her *Steinway*

Concert Grand for the events. All artists are donating their performances to benefit local and global missions. Katherine will inaugurate the 4-concert series with a recital of music by **Bach** and **Schubert**.

Katherine Jacobson Fleisher sunday, january 21 | 4pm

Donations requested for International Committee of the Red Cross

trinitarians

Ron Schulte | ronaldasch@msn.com 763.473.9633

The Trinitarians gather during the day for social events, service projects and helpful informational sessions. All adults are welcome. Details and sign-ups can be found at the SignUp Center, or contact Ron.



thurs, jan 18 | trinity game day and lunch

thurs, february 15 sidekick theatre Love Will Keep Us Together







TrinityLongLake.org 952.473.8577