

trinity long lake newsletter | spring edition 2024

spring calendar 2024

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

worship together

sundays 9am, wednesdays 6pm, lenten wednesdays 6:30pm (now thru march 20)

NO wednesday worship march 27

wednesday worship finale may 15

wednesday dinners

mar 13 | chili & cheese bread mar 20 | sloppy joes apr 3 | breakfast for dinner

holy week

palm sunday | march 24

maundy thursday | march 28 worship 11:30am (lunch to follow) worship 6:30pm

> **good friday** | march 29 worship 6:30pm

easter sunday | march 31 worship 9am festival worship 10:30am

benefit concert series

april 14 | Katherine Jacobson Fleisher april 28 | Yury Shadrin & Tian Lu

shift

march 24 | Shayla Reeves april 7 | Estelle Atkinson april 21 | Rolf Jacobson may 19 | Bricks to Bread

trinity women

may 7 | Renew. Refinish. Refresh.



TrinityLongLake.org 952.473.8577

Pastor Ann's sabbatical preparation & plan

We are so excited for **Pastor Ann** to have the chance to embrace the rhythm of sabbath and prioritize rest and renewal over her sabbatical. Of course, Pastor Ann is a vital piece of our staff and congregation, so her presence will be missed while she's away. **Here's how we're preparing for her sabbatical months:**

- Pastor Adam will absorb all pastoral responsibilities preaching, leading worship, baptisms, funerals, visits, emergency response, prayer, among other duties. Suitable coverage will be arranged as necessary in Pastor Adam's absence.
- We already have a slate of **guest preachers** arranged for various dates throughout the three months, and more to be filled in as the time approaches.
- Our lay Caring Team will continue their work of visiting and checking in on members, along with coordinating resources available to members.
- Jill Cornell, our *Shared Ministries Director*, will take primary responsibility for keeping prayer lists up to date and checking back in with those on the list or their families.
- Elisabeth Teichroew, our *Executive Director of Church Operations*, will continue attending or attend in her place committee and board meetings where Pastor Ann has also been present.
- For anything not listed here, our staff is prepared to properly direct you when you call or stop in.

Pastor Ann's sabbatical begins on May 20th and will run through August 19th. It is part of the sabbatical arrangement that Pastor Ann commits to returning to Trinity and remaining in her call for at least a year.

Our primary responsibility as a congregation, for the months leading up and then for the three months she is apart from us, is to pray for Pastor Ann and the time she's committing to restoration of body and soul. We will pray that God works within her over this time to renew her calling to ministry and life.



keep it holy Pefere I waste this article I did a quiel search on the constant of the week to allow Cod to replanish on

Before I wrote this article, I did a quick search on the Third Commandment—the one about the sabbath— and was surprised by one of the results: "The Third Commandment is seen as the least relevant in the modern era." Least relevant! I wondered when setting aside time for a sabbath became unimportant in this modern era. Even more curious, why would we let go of sabbath— a time for rest—so easily?

Many of us beyond a certain age remember a time when State law kept many stores closed on Sundays—as it was to be "a common day of rest, repose, recreation, and tranquility." Today, it is easy to understand arguments for religious freedom and why that law is no longer observed. While I am glad all people have that freedom, because the world and our lives have gotten so busy with nearly everything accessible all the time, has this been why we've essentially forgotten about God's command to remember the sabbath?

Somewhere along the way, burning the candle at both ends became the norm. Television stations used to sign off the air every night, but even they have embraced the 24-hour culture of Western society. Once computers became a mainstay in our homes, we could access the internet at any time of the day or night; and now technology has evolved to the point where computers and phones are so small we can wear them on a wrist or keep them in a pocket. It is pretty cool that we can so easily stay in touch with family and friends, even halfway across the world-yet it is defeating to our peace of mind to be at the beck and call of breaking news or tempted to spend hours scrolling through reels on social media platforms. Amidst the many voices that call for our attention, God's voice is in that mix, too. One way of paying attention to God's still, small voice is to do so through enjoying God's gift of sabbath-by taking that

one day out of the week to allow God to replenish and restore us in mind, body, and spirit. There are many ways of observing the sabbath, which we are exploring during Lent—we hope you are finding some different sabbath practices that resonate with you.

I am certainly learning in this journey along with you as I have not been an A-student when it comes to observing sabbath as the gift God intends me to make a priority in my life. Pentecost, May 19th, will be my final day with you before I begin my 3-month sabbatical. Two days later, I will head up to the North Shore to jumpstart the process of unplugging and set the tone for the months ahead. I do plan on getting in some good rest, as well as some reading, and flute and piano playing. My big trip will be spending a week out at Holden Village, in the Cascade Mountains in Washington. Holden is a Lutheran camp I've known of for many years and have always wanted to visit. I'll be joining up with an old college friend who worked there with her now-retired pastor husband years ago. I have also decided that one of my sabbatical goals will be to establish sabbath-taking as a priority; I look forward to all God will show me on this journey ahead.

I cannot thank Trinity enough for the opportunity of taking this sabbatical. I will be holding you in my prayers while I'm away, and I look forward to sharing my experiences with you upon my return. As always, I am grateful and am so very blessed by you.

God's peace,

Pastor Ann

outreach ministry

serve near & far

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

thrivent action teams

Are you a Thrivent Member? If so, you may qualify for two Thrivent Action Teams annually. Action Teams have been used to purchase supplies for:

- snack bags for Sparks mentoring program created by Trinity Kids preschoolers
- AGAPE Gift Market soup/dip mixes
- Blessing Bags assembled by members and handed out to those in need
- Worship Concert
- Advent Festival
- Trinity Women Retreat, and more!

Action Teams help us make a difference; each one includes up to \$250 in seed money for a project. We gather a team of friends, family, and members to work on a project used toward a fundraiser, educational event, or service activity. Please let Jill know if you are a Thrivent member and want to use your Action Team on a project or ministry area at Trinity.

To learn more about Thrivent Action Teams, scan code or visit Thrivent.com.





loved







In mid-February, 19 people helped to deliver *"We Care" Bags* to 55 households (115 people) as a reminder that they are loved deeply by God and our Trinity family.

"It was fun to do this together with Andrea Henneman.
We had a great afternoon visiting our friends at Folkstone.
We learned so much from each of them. I am so happy to spend time
with these cherished people." -Susan Vickerman

105
BOXES
PROVIDED
TO IOCP!

thanks for the cereal donations in february!

With the increased food costs, families on limited budgets are using cereal for a meal in addition to breakfast.

For the month of **March**, our goal is to provide **100 bottles** (24 oz) **of cooking oil** to the food shelf. We hope you will help the food shelf again with your donations.



lenten offering and service event





Our Lenten offering each year supports an outreach focus. This year, our Outreach Ministry team decided to support two organizations related to Mental Health: Walk-in Counseling Center (Mpls.) and Relate Counseling

Center (supporting western suburbs).
Scan code or text LENT to Trinity to donate.

In addition to financial

donations to each organization, we hope you will join us for **our event on**March 17 after worship. The event will include creating kits for self-care that we will donate to others and items for your own self-care. Watch for more details in weekly emails, bulletins and worship services.



Trinity's Outreach provides a variety of opportunities to serve within and outside the walls of Trinity. Whether it is volunteering at Simpson Shelter or Interfaith Outreach, sponsoring a Seeds of Hope student, helping with events led by Salem Lutheran Church, being a part of the AGAPE Gift Market, helping with a Community Meal or delivering meals to some of our members, donating food or other items, you are supporting these ways as we stay "busy" reaching out to the needs of others.

So, how do some members of Trinity's Outreach team find a time of rest or sabbath during the busyness?

From Melanie DeLuca From Chuck Ritchie

As an AGAPE Gift Market maker, the fall is a blur of activity to finish projects for the market at the same time of year that family and community events are in full swing for the holidays. After all that excitement, I enter January in a reflective mood to take a deep breath and think about the year ahead. I love to explore new ideas and make things from items others would throw away, but I also love to be around people and develop new relationships, so I decided to offer a January workshop to share my love of "making" with others. I enjoy encouraging people to explore their own creativity as much as I like making things myself! Learning new things and being social are two of the best things we can all do for our brains and health, so I am also being true to my annual goals of paying attention to my health. Our first painting workshop was such fun that I am planning another to explore making other items so I would love to hear from others who want to explore their creative side!



Members of the AGAPE team will share their talents in a **series of workshops**. As you work, they will talk about idea generation, product research, sourcing materials, quality, and more. To give an AGAPE Workshop a try, see the Sign-Up Center or contact Jill.

How do I find rest or stillness while serving at the food shelf at Interfaith Outreach? I find neither stillness nor rest as I serve per se, but I do find peace and satisfaction. Of the five or six clients that I assist each week, at least four will be Russianspeaking, and in some cases people I have known for more than 20 years through the food shelf. The peace and satisfaction come from the relationships, plain and simple. That goes for clients, staff, and volunteers. And when I brood upon the injustices, the violence, the discrimination in our world, I realize that IOCP is a place where I can play a part in helping to make even a small difference to at least a few people. And their sense of gratitude is enough to warm any heart.



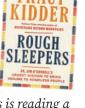
Trinity has a group shift the first Thursday of every month. Please see the Sign-Up Center, bulletin, or weekly emails for more information.

From Jerry Paulson

A way that I find stillness is reading a book. My current book is Rough Sleepers by Tracy Kidder. It chronicles the life of Dr. Jim O'Connell who dedicated much of his life to providing medical care to the homeless in the Boston MA area. The term "rough sleepers" refers to those who are homeless who, for a variety of reasons, choose to sleep outdoors even when there may be a shelter bed available. Dr. Jim worked to provide medical care to all the homeless whether they were in a shelter or not. He started doing the work mostly on his own, but eventually organized a large organization of volunteers and employees who provided care throughout the area. The book describes many characters who remind me of clients at the Simpson Housing shelter where Trinity has been providing a monthly hot meal since 2008 (pandemic excluded); it often leads me to reflect to particular people or situations encountered at those meals.



To volunteer at Simpson Shelter, see the Sign-Up Center, bulletins, emails, or connect with Jerry Paulson. Grandparents/grandkids, families and individuals all serve. We thank Jerry for leading this ministry!





These are exciting times in the life of Trinity as we give thanks for 91+ years as a congregation and look to the years ahead! We are already excited and grateful for your increased support for our annual ministry budget. *Thank you!*

Our focus now turns to raising funds above and beyond our general operating fund to support the work of our congregation. These special campaigns have been a part of Trinity's history.

The three most recent campaigns since construction of the Great Hall, when \$3.6M was raised from 2005-10 were:

2011-14 Mission & Mortgage Appeal – \$360,000 gifted

2014-17 Pray Forward, Pay Forward to Enhance Our Ministries – \$943,000

2018-21 Strategic Vision Campaign, Break Through in Faith – \$398,223 Your gifts for this three-year initiative (2024-27) with a goal of \$1.25M will:

grow our partnerships

An optional tithe (10%) of your gifts will be directed for two special projects supporting Interfaith
Outreach & Community Partners
and Salem Lutheran Church, Mpls

maintain our property

Includes roof replacement and repair, HVAC care, improved lighting, sound, and technology for in-person and online worship, and enhanced security systems for our facilities

fund our mortgage

Allowing more annual giving to be used for ministry and outreach

enhance our space

Strengthen our current footprint for ministry and community growth



Refer to your Capital Campaign

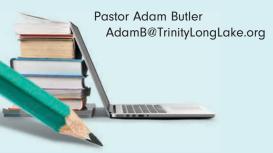
Packet or visit our website for further information. After you have had time to pray and reflect, please return your Pledge Card on, or before Commitment Sunday, March 17. For your convenience,



you can also complete your pledge online: TrinityLongLake.org/ ONE, scan code or text ONE to Trinity.

Thank you, as together we give thanks that through God's guidance, we have been *Gathered Into One*!

foundation



There will be some very exciting things happening at the **Trinity Foundation** this year. We have had such great leaders and board members that we are set up for some amazing growth with our new board members just joining! The Foundation has been pretty quiet in the past but you will be hearing more and more from us as the year goes on.

We were able to help support **24 Trinity Members in 2023** as they pursued their higher education as well as support Trinity Staff attend the **ELCA Youth Network Conference**. We want to help even more in 2024. The Foundation is working to expand and not just help students with college expenses or Trinity Staff attend educational conferences. To make this happen we will be getting involved in more events around Trinity and letting people know more about the Foundation.















thank you to our newest lay leaders!

Why did you say yes to the leadership opportunity?

Mary Johnson | Trinity Council

I said yes to this call, (although I did serve on the Council many years ago for 2 terms), because I feel it's important to be involved in decision-making and perhaps I can offer perspective from a history of this congregation. I also can appropriately represent the senior members of our congregation!

Sonja Lockman | Trinity Council

I have found the best way to make a home is to get involved, so that's what I've done over our 14 years at Trinity. As I've done more to participate at Trinity, I've come to know more people--which just keeps solidifying my love for our church. I am so grateful to have found such a warm group of people and the feeling of truly having a HOME at Trinity that I want to do whatever I can to give back. My faith compels me to service and I felt very honored that I would be asked to serve in this way.

Adam Nafstad | Trinity Preschool Board

I said yes because two of my children went to the preschool and had a great experience. I'm committed to helping this program thrive.

Mike Tulkki | Trinity Foundation

I said yes because Adam Nafstad said yes too! Happy to help however I can.

Mark Ihrke | Trinity Council

I said yes because I was asked. I see it as an opportunity to give back to the church and support our pastors and staff ensuring our church continues to be successful and impactful.

Tammy Swenson | Trinity Council

Trinity has been our home for 25 years. I was a Sunday School teacher and Confirmation leader while our kids were in those programs. Now that they're grown, I was looking to serve in other ways. We've gotten so much from Trinity over the years. I am more than happy to give back by serving on the Council.

Emma Koltes | Trinity Foundation

I said yes to being on the Foundation because Trinity has been a home for me all my life. It's provided me safety, comfort, and a place to nurture and grow my faith. An opportunity to be involved with a group that helps people, like Trinity has helped me, is a privilege–I had to say yes!

lay leadership makes the difference!

We often lament there aren't enough hours in the day, as if we had just a few more we could get it all done. Maybe we'd even find a moment to breathe. Truth is, we'd just fill those increased hours with more things to make us feel like we can't do it all.

One of the keys to finding rest in our lives is knowing and believing we can't do it all.

At Trinity, the way we try to embrace this reality is sharing the responsibility of our calling as God's people and the work that elicits. We have a wonderfully dedicated and faithful staff, but even more important are the ways our congregation members step up to lead in so many ways. From Trinity Kids and VBS teachers, to Caring Ministry visitors and worship volunteers, to committee members and officers, we have so many people answering God's call and joining in the mission and ministry of Trinity.

So, **THANK YOU** to each of you who says 'yes' to this vital piece of our life together. You make all the difference. And for those who are ready to take that step, keep your eyes and ears open for how God might be calling you into something similar.



council president

As I write my final letter as Council President, I reflect on the last two years in this position and keep coming back to one word, growth. It has been a growing experience for me to work with the Trinity staff and people of Trinity. My understanding has grown in learning not only how hard everyone at Trinity works, but in the love, and dedication for our church and community. My family has been on the receiving end of this love and now has been given great joy to be on the giving end. My growth in experiecing that Trinity is not only home for my family but a place that can be a home for the people in our community. It is exciting to see the growth in our ministries and it is exciting as we embark on our Capital Campaign to wonder what growth is next. My personal walk in faith has not always been easy, as life has happened, but this growth opportunity the church and the Trinity family has given me has strengthened my relationship with God and my focus to take a step forward each day.

Adam Holmes,

Council President

waluing rest & silence

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

As a musician, and music teacher; teaching the value, importance, and meaning of a rest can be one of the hardest concepts for beginning students, as well as advanced musicians. It goes so counter to our concept of "making music" as well as our cultural importance of always producing a product.

As many of you know, in music we use rhythmic notation that includes: quarter notes, half notes, etc. These notes show us how long to play, or hold each pitch. But, of equal importance, and that is often the hardest part, are rests, which represent the duration for **silence** in our music.

Often when teaching students about rhythmic notation we speak of the value of each note. Most of the notes are worth 1, 2, 3 beats. When students are asked the value of the corresponding Quarter Rest, or Half Rest, the answer is often, "It's not worth anything". How many times do we have the same approach to our lives? Rest is simply wasted time.

In music: rests represent the silence. The value of a half rest is usually 2 beats of silence. While we can teach this, beginning readers still struggle with waiting for the silence and giving the rest its full value. How often when students are playing music the first time, they plow right through the rest onto the next note without stopping for silence.

Composers use rests to create more interest, give space for reflection, and time for the ear to process the sounds we have heard, and connect the melodic line.

Our daily lives, and worship life, usually don't even have time set-aside for silence. I would encourage us all to find moments of rest; then take the time to value the silence. It always make the moments of music sweeter, more interesting, more appreciated, and easier to deal with.

Just like music, life without silence, and rest, becomes a constant drone of noise, more chaotic and less meaningful.

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.



thursday, april 18 daytrippers dinner theatre 'Til Beth Do Us Part

thursday, may 16 sidekick theatre **The Fabulous Lipitones**

trinity women

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













retreat 2024: give yourself grace

The Trinity Women mini-retreat was a huge success! More than 30 of us gathered at Trinity on February 10th (9-2pm). Led by *Health & Well-being Coach* Karin Dent, we began with a light breakfast followed by a mindfulness exercise to help us leave behind the craziness of life. Most then enjoyed a brisk 2-mile walk to discuss how we give ourselves grace while others tied fleece blankets to benefit Children's Hospital. A beautiful lunch ensued followed by a variety of breakout sessions to chose from–paint, crochet, sing, read the bible, or fly a drone–challenging ourselves while giving ourselves grace. The afternoon concluded with a yoga practice that took us out of our comfort zone.

"The entire event was beautiful. I felt cared for by all the thought that went into creating a hospitable environment with many activities throughout the day,"

"Liked the way it was set up, liked the crafts, the lunch was amazing. Liked it at the church, convenient, liked the hours. It was a very nice experience."

read it & eat tw book club

tuesday, march 12 6:30pm

Enjoy a light dinner & drinks while discussing the book, You're Already Amazing; Embracing Who You Are, Becoming All God Created You to Be by Holley Gerth. Sarah Thiessen and Cindy Bigham will be co-hosting at Sarah's in Orono. See signup on Trinity emails (limited to 10 women), and if you're interested in hosting a future book club at your home contact Cari.



ladies night out: tw shop at Art2Heart

tuesday, march 19 | 5-8pm

Enjoy a private shopping trip with drinks & light bites. 20% of our proceeds will benefit *Bricks to Bread* and future Trinity Women events.

spring dinner/speaker: renew. refinish. refresh.

tuesday, may 7 | 6-8:30pm

Dinner followed by speaker Amanda Ficek from *Mama's Happy*.

trinity preschool children play

Kelly Govrik, Preschool Director | Preschool@TrinityLongLake.org



At **Trinity Preschool**, the children play! Doing something fun allows a child's brain to take a break and relax. Children do feel stress and can be anxious. Play can be a natural way to take that break. Setting aside quiet time is also beneficial for children. This enables children to engage their imagination

and allows their creativity to flourish. When kids engage in quiet time, their attention, focus, and creativity increase. They learn how to manage boredom and turn it into an opportunity to problem-solve.

Set up a tour with Kelly to learn all about Trinity Preschool FOR CHILDREN 33 MONTHS TO PREK



children, youth & family

Julie Vagle, Director of Faith Formation + Children & Family | JulieV@TrinityLongLake.org Stacy Thoma, Early Childhood Coordinator | StacyT@TrinityLongLake.org

How does a busy mom find rest?



What an ironic question to reflect on as a mom of young kids in the thick of it and feeling tired myself. My immediate answer is consuming a lot of coffee, but I know that's not the answer. My kids are 4 (Sophie) and 7 (Blake) and the days often feel long and the years feel like they are moving too quickly. One of the most important things I do for myself is *daily movement*-yoga, a walk, going for a run, or a bike ride. When I have time for exercise everything else seems more manageable. *Connecting with other moms* is also important, and one way I do that is through our amazing **MOPS** program. Sharing in

the joys and struggles of parenting helps me feel less alone. For me personally I try to slow down and take time for myself. That might look different for you, but for me it's getting outside to exercise and connecting with friends either at MOPS or for coffee or reading a good book. Give yourself permission to slow down and ask for help when you need it. The laundry can wait, take a minute or 20 for yourself, you deserve it. Be still and listen to where God might be inviting you to slow down and create space and time for yourself.

How do we help our kids find rest and relaxation?

It's hard to slow our kids down when our schedules are so full and busy bringing them to activities, practices, and games. If we can create pockets of time at home where kids are free to use their imagination for play, we might see that this is just what they need. At church we seek to give kids a safe space to be themselves and know that they are loved and valued. We hope they can let their guard down and be comfortable to ask questions and wonder about God and their faith. May we find ways to give our kids time and space to slow down in whatever way their bodies and minds need.





vacation bible school

scuba vbs | june 10-13, 9-12pm

VBS Registration is OPEN for kids age 3 by June 1 through 4th grade. We are excited to dive deep into friendship with God under the sea. Register online.

Volunteers, both youth and adult are needed to make VBS a wonderful week. Find ways you can share your gifts with us. We need behind the scenes decorating help, take home projects, crew leaders, station leaders, donations of supplies, set up help, and more. Sign up to help on our website.

middle school summer stretch

july 10 & august 7

Save the dates for Summer Stretch service and fun days. Registration and details will be coming soon.

ms & hs youth

2024 elca youth gathering july 15-21 new orleans



A group of youth and adults are heading to New Orleans with more than 14,000 other ELCA teens from around the country. Our time will include evening mass gatherings with music and speakers, a service project day, a day at the interactive learning center, synod day with our local Minneapolis churches, and fun evening activities. The theme is "Created to Be" based on Psalm 139: I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. You can support our trip by coming to the Camp Fundraiser.

save the date

camp fundraiser | sunday, apr 21





march 24 | Shayla Reeves, WCCO TV Broadcaster & author

"Shayla brings a warmth and positive attitude that's contagious." Her book *Echo in the Distance*, is based on Martin Luther King's, *I Have a Dream* speech.

april 7 | Estelle Atkinson, Orono Senior & Equestrian

Trinity member Estelle will share how she rose to the top of the national circuit.

april 21 | Rolf Jacobson, Theologian

Rolf is the Chair of the Religion Department at Luther Seminary. He is always a popular speaker and incredibly insightful.

may 19 | Bricks to Bread, Nancy Alvarado & Brad Bakken

A nonprofit mission partner which helps build brick ovens for Costa Rican families seeking a sustainable income. Brick ovens not only help provide a family with income, but they often become a focal and gathering place for community events. Trinity member Brad Bakken went on a build and will share his learnings with us along with founder of Bricks to Bread, Nancy Alvarado.

If you miss a **SHIFT**, such as the one featuring Boyd Huppert, catch it online! Scan code for direct access to our YouTube channel.







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

At times of ministry transition, small numbers are expected, but what's not expected is the level of commitment this group has shown; the same group of 8-10 have been faithfully showing up every week without fail.

On top of our typical community building activities, we've been digging

into the topics of wellness, and what all of us as humans need. Namely, we need to feel: belonging, purpose, uniqueness, and hope. We finish the unit naming from where we find our hope. During Lent, we'll spend some time revisiting some old Sunday School Bible stories, which can look differently now that these young people are adults in the Church!

Exciting things lie ahead for the young people of Trinity!

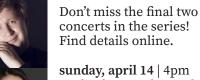


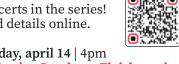
trinity lutheran church 2060 cty rd 6, long lake mn 55356 Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 4 Long Lake, MN



classical







sunday, april 14 | 4pm Katherine Jacobson Fleisher, piano sunday, april 28 | 4pm Yury Shadrin & Tian Lu, piano

trinity long lake newsletter | spring edition 2024



















TrinityLongLake.org 952.473.8577

RECENT MINISTRY EVENTS: Trinity Preschool Special Person Night, 4-year-old Prayer Pillow, Trinity Women Mini-Retreat, First Communion Class, Youth Choir, Generosity Brunch Packet Pick-up