

trinity
Lutheran Church

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love.transform.serve.
TRINITY
TODAY

Listen
Connect
Discover

2015



P A S T O R
P O F F E N B E R G E R

Tending The Fire

Right after Thanksgiving, Gretchen and I flew out to the family cabin in northern Idaho. Our cabin is not quite like many of yours, within a two-four hour drive; ours requires a two-day road trip or a plane and a rental car. So, it is rare that we are there more than once in the summer. In fact, Gretchen, whose family owns the cabin, has never been there in the winter.

Until this trip.

Gretchen has begun a Masters degree program in Medical Practice Management and I am finishing up my Doctorate. So, this trip was a “study vacation”. We packed 30 pounds of books, two computers, iPads, cell phones, and a wi-fi hot spot, along with a few clothes, and off we went.

“Remote” would be a good word to begin this next sentence. Priest Lake (coincidence, but irony is duly noted) is in the Idaho panhandle, 40 miles or so from the Canadian boarder. The lake is 20 miles long, and up to 350 feet deep. Most of the lake is bordered by national or state forest. Some sections have cabins, and there are a couple of resorts. In the summer, our small part of the lake and its summer cabins are filled with people. But in December, which is when we were there, we went most days without seeing a person. (Ironically, on a long walk on a timber road, we encountered one old guy walking the opposite direction who was too busy talking on his cell phone to say hello. Thousands of acres of no one. Three

of us. Seemed odd.) Anyway, the point is that we were *really* alone. Together. Studying.

It was great. We were almost giddy at times. Surrounded by beauty, studying for hours (I was reading material concerning the first and second century Christian community — I kind of geeked out) with really no more to our day than coffee, devotions, study, food, hiking, sleep. Oh, and a fire.

That was my big job, other than sharing in the cooking. Lighting, watching, and tending the fire. Luckily, there’s a shed filled with split wood, and the cabin has a large bunker of wood and kindling alongside a wonderful and efficient fireplace that heats the living area and kitchen. My first morning task was to build and light the fire for the day. Then watch it, tend it, and replenish the wood and kindling.

We spent lots of time watching the fire. Mesmerized. Contemplative. It is one of the shared human experiences throughout all of history. No matter how “plugged in” you and I might be to all of our technology, I am willing to guess that all of you reading this have spent time staring into a fire, mesmerized, wondering.

Being a preacher, teacher and all, it was not long before I started to think about how faith is like a fire. Kindling, spark, oxygen, embers — all the constituent parts of a fire are easy metaphors for our faith. One morning, I started to

think about all of the people and events that were kindling for my faith and provided spark for some roaring flames in my life; and about how God provides oxygen (spirit, wind, pneuma).

How about you? Who/what has been the kindling for you?

Likewise, fire starts from small sparks, grows into roaring flames, calms down a bit for a long, slow burn. Dies out from time to time. Gets built back up again on embers and ashes, to start all over again in new forms. I started to wonder about the state of my faith fire.

How about yours? Kindled, roaring, mature, cool?

Like all metaphors, this one has limits. One of the curious differences between fires and faith is about who is watching and who is tending the fire? In many ways, the flame that is our faith is tended by God, who uses people, circumstances and even our own awareness to provide a spark and nudge our fire back to flame.

Our time at the cabin was wonderful. Studying was productive, thanks mainly to Gretchen. It was restorative, productive, fun.

And warm, thanks to a wonderful fire.

Faith is like a fire. Kindling, spark, oxygen, embers —
all the constituent parts of a fire are easy metaphors for our faith.



P A S T O R
S T E P H A N I E V O S

This New Year: Rediscover Yourself

When I was preaching at the confirmation worship service in December, I had each confirmation student write down on a note card something they had faith in; something that helped them live in-between their current (often difficult) reality, and the hope that they have in the future. I told the students no one would see their cards, so they could be honest in what they wrote. I was amazed at how engaged these students were! Everyone was quiet and listening, fully participating. It was so wonderful!

The next morning, as I was walking in to church, I saw one of these cards folded into a paper airplane and lying on the pavement. I picked it up and was amazed by what I saw. It said, in block letters: **FAITH**. And below it: *I can never lose myself*. I was so struck by this simple insight and reminder.

Whether or not you participate, January is a time of year that invites resolutions and change. It is an opportunity for us to examine our lives, reflect on how we’re doing, and live our lives with more intention.

brilliance. Sure, we sometimes obscure our statues with projections and striving. Sure, we all have a little sculpting to do. But the point is that the statue is already there. As one confirmation student reminded me, *I can never lose myself*.

Wherever you and I go, we carry our whole, complete, beloved selves. No matter what happens to us, we will always be able to be who we are. And resting in that knowing — resting in our selves — saves us from the work of having to constantly invent and create and

Every block of stone has a statue inside it, and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it.

—Michelangelo

That being said, I worry about our compulsion to change ourselves. New Years resolutions often stem from a place of dislike: wanting to change ourselves; wanting to be something we are not; dissatisfaction with ourselves. And that is hard for me, because while we are always growing and changing and learning and exploring, we cannot forget that we are already whole, already who we are meant to be.

Michelangelo said, “Every block of stone has a statue inside it, and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it.” We are each like that marble: our efforts for ‘improvement’ and all of our resolutions are just removing everything that gets in the way of our natural

improve who we think we should be.

Having survived (and maybe even enjoyed!) the rush of the holidays, having entered this brand new year, having resolved to be intentional, let’s train our sculptor’s eye on the discovery of ourselves — the discovery of the natural brilliance and beauty that exists within all of us. For bonus points, you could even begin to look at other people in that same way — not as people who need be changed, but as people who are complete and beautiful, and maybe need someone to help them see that.

It gives me great faith to know that I can never lose myself. That the ways that I have been created will always be with me and will always be a gift to the world. What a great reminder for this new season.

CARE MINISTRIES

Parish Nurse: What it is and What it Isn't

The most frequent question I am asked these days is "What is a Parish Nurse anyway?" Hopefully the following will define this unique role and clarify my position.

A parish nurse, or faith community nurse, is a registered nurse who has completed parish nurse education which focuses on spiritual, emotional, and physical wellness. The parish nurse, along with the care team, is committed to the health and healing ministry of the church.

You may see this ministry carried out in the following ways:

- Support given to individuals and families who are experiencing loss and grief, life transitions, health issues, or isolation; presence and prayer offered

during times of crisis as well as celebration

- Referrals to church or community services or support groups relating to family issues, life span changes, caregiving, health issues
- Promotion of healthy living through one on one conversations, small groups, screenings, community events, educational materials, speakers, trainers.

A parish nurse does not provide hands-on nursing care. They are not a substitute for pastoral care, medical care, home care, hospice, or social agencies, but rather they work in partnership with them.

As Trinity's parish nurse I hope to bring you opportunities to understand the ingredients of a full, balanced life. I will offer support as together we explore ways

to become as well as we can be in body, mind and spirit and find ways that we may then maintain our wellness.

You may contact me or any member of the care team through the church office, by phone, or via e-mail.

I'll leave you with some familiar words that are really more than 700 years old. They are attributed to Julian of Norwich, an English nun, philosopher and mystic, after a near-death experience in which she saw Heaven. She said God revealed this to her as an answer to her prayers:

All shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well.

May all be well with you.

—Sue Peterson, Parish Nurse



In Gratitude

Zanny Johnson, Care Coordinator

I am so grateful for so much, for so many, here at Trinity—it's hard to narrow down! But this month I choose the Caring Friends.

As I write this, I am coming off of a wonderful December luncheon with our Celebrating Seniors group, which is headed by our own Caring Friends.

Caring Friends are the folks who

have raised their hands to create and nurture relationships with members of our congregation who are 75 and older, and they are a perfect example of God's love and faithfulness. These Caring Friends connect with their seniors through calls, visits, cards and general outreach, out of the love and dedication they have for each other, for Trinity, and for Christ.

Thank you, Caring Friends—I am grateful for you.

Contact the Care Team

Pastor Deb Ost
Ext 107
dost@trinitylc.org

Zanny Johnson
Ext. 130
zjohnson@trinityls.org

Sue Peterson
Call the Church Office
651-439-7400
or email: speterson@trinitylc.org

PASTOR
DEBRA OST



We are each, and together, committed to caring for our faith community in holistic ways.

Every once in a while, things seem to happen and come together as if they were meant to be. Other times, despite our best efforts and due diligence, things just don't work out, leading me to conclude it wasn't meant to be. Although these are common clichés, they are actually theological statements describing how we understand how the world works, or more specifically, how God works in the world.

Typically, when things seem as if they were meant to be, there are some aspects along the way that didn't appear to be supporting a positive outcome. Likewise, when we hit a permanent roadblock, resulting in "I guess it just wasn't meant to be," there will be hopeful signs and occurrences that can be found during or after (the silver lining to the dark cloud).

It's not easy to sort out what's really a "God Thing," and what's simply a series of events leading up to a good thing.

That said, I believe Trinity's new Care Ministry Team, and how it came together, is both a God Thing and a very good thing — for the congregation as well as for three of us who comprise this team: Zanny, Sue and myself. From a parish nurse perspective, you could say, it's just what the doctor ordered. We are each, and together, committed to caring for our faith community in holistic ways.

As we start the new year, we will be learning more about the many ministries already taking place at Trinity; meeting people within the St. Croix

Valley; discovering myriad community services; and spending time with you amazing folks — on both sides of the caring coin. This, by the way, means *all* of us, as we often find ourselves simultaneously giving care while needing it, too.

We look forward to partnering with you in Trinity's ministry of caring for and blessing one another.

Pastor Deb's installation, Dec. 6



Care Team Commissioning, Dec. 6



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MISSIONS

By Tom Thiets, Director of Missions

Life is a Contact Sport

As I wrapped up the details of the Thanksgiving meal ministry, the faces of the many people we connected with throughout the celebration came to mind.

For my family, the Thanksgiving holiday has grown over the last three years, thanks to the invitation from John and Jody Weyrauch to host a Thanksgiving Day lunch served at Trinity.

The plan was simple: Gather as many people as possible to help prepare, cook, and serve a high-quality meal to be shared. All are welcome. All are invited to come serve, eat, and share conversation. It's not about economics. The worst case scenario would be our families sharing a fabulous meal and having some leftovers to share.

The first year we planned for 100 and served about 65. This year we planned for 250 and served 215. We track the numbers because they allow us to plan and prepare — but it's not about the numbers. It's about people: connecting, communicating, and sharing time.

The "simple plan" changed a bit when two more friends, Eric and Patti Olsen, joined us in this ministry. The plan grew to provide an opportunity for



gathered people. Through Christ, people came into contact with others. In Matthew 25: 35- 40 Christ calls us into contact with the people of the world.

I want to say thank you to the many folks who offered their time, talent, financial resources, — and themselves— to make this great ministry of thanksgiving possible.

Keep in contact.

The peace of Christ be with you,

—Tom Thiets

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

—Matthew 25:35-40

more people to make contact. Through partner churches, our numbers grew to more than 2,000, but the intent of the ministry remained the same — we simply had more people to prepare, cook, serve, share, connect, and enjoy a fabulous Thanksgiving meal.

These events are all about the connection of people coming together, because we are not solitary beings. We are designed and called into community. While Jesus spent some time alone in prayer, his ministry focused on people: Christ had contact with the people of the world; he



WORSHIP MINISTRIES

SECOND CALL FOR POETS!

LENTEN POETRY BOOK

We're once again looking for poets to submit poems for a Trinity poetry book — this time with a Lenten theme.

You may remember that we created a beautiful volume of poetry for Advent 2013. Now, we want to read what you have to say about Lent.

We seek poets young and old, and poetry of all types: rhyming, ballads, blank verse, couplets, free verse, limericks, narratives, sonnets, haiku, and even visual poetry (photos and art).

Look for inspiration in the Bible (our texts for Worship will be from the book of Matthew), the cross, nature, or scenes of beauty or tragedy — all can help guide your pen.

If you have never tried writing poetry before, don't let that stop you! The poet Pablo Neruda explains that poetry can come from anywhere, to anyone:

**And it was at that age...Poetry arrived
in search of me. I don't know, I don't know where
it came from, from winter or a river.
I don't know how or when,
no, they were not voices, they were not
words, nor silence,
but from a street I was summoned,
from the branches of night,
abruptly from the others,
among violent fires
or returning alone,
there I was without a face
and it touched me.**

**I did not know what to say, my mouth
had no way
with names
my eyes were blind,
and something started in my soul,
fever or forgotten wings,
and I made my own way,
deciphering
that fire
and I wrote the first faint line...**

—from *Poesia* by Pablo Neruda

So give it a try — then email your poems to Carol Carver at ccarver@trinitylc.org or drop off a hard copy in the Church Office.

The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2015.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Sing in the New Year

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 6-7:30 p.m.

Worship Center

\$15 adults, \$10 students

Featuring a roster of exciting young professional talent, this concert is sure to put you in the mood for a festive evening. Hear Stillwater natives Jack Swanson and Clark Weyrauch, along with Keith Browning, Carolyn Hoelhe, Anna Bridgman, Christina Pecce, and Michael Hewitt sing your favorite holiday classics (The Prayer, O Holy Night, Baby It's Cold Outside, I'm Dreaming of A White Christmas) show tunes, and standards. For tickets, please email Jackswanson92@gmail.com or call 651-325-8517

Peter Mayer,

Sunday, Jan. 4,

8:30 a.m. and 10:30

a.m. Worship Services



Join us for two very special Sunday morning Worship services!

Minnesota folk singer/songwriter Peter Mayer will join us for both services. Acclaimed for writing "songs for a small planet", his music speaks to the human journey, as well as the beauty and mystery of the world.

Rachel Kurtz

Wednesday, Jan. 7,

6:15 p.m.,

Worship Center

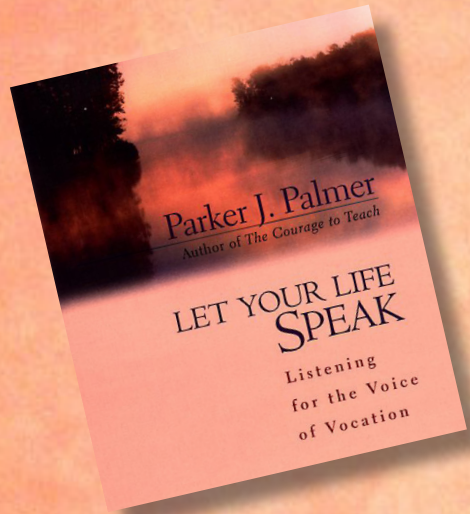
FREE



Rachel Kurtz's music is a little bit soul, a little bit gospel, a little bit Americana, and a lot of FUN! Join us for this intergenerational concert!

LISTENING TO ONE ANOTHER

By Jody Thone



Let Your Life Speak

Listening to the Voice of Vocation

with Jody Thone, Suzy Fallon, & Kathy Hanson

Six Sundays:

Jan. 18 & 25 * Feb. 1, 8 & 22 * March 1

There are a few teachers who really stand out to me. They are masters in their subjects and have a quality of being that radiates through their teachings. Parker Palmer is one of those masters.

I had the opportunity to study with him in person once, and his peaceful presence and clearly communicated wisdom still are models for me today.

Parker Palmer comes from the Quaker tradition; he is a writer, teacher, activist and the founder and Senior Partner of the Center for Courage & Renewal. In 2011, he was named an Utne Reader Visionary, one of “25 people who are changing your world.” His book, *Let Your Life Speak* is one of my favorites. I really encourage you to join us in class this winter or read along with us virtually.

Suzy Fallon



I have always been interested in learning. My love for knowledge and new ideas lead to me to live in Finland for a year so I could learn a new

language and culture, even though I had no connection to the country; to law

school, even though I had no interest in being a lawyer; to numerous churches, so I could learn more about the life of Jesus and The Bible; to starting my own business, so I could get out of my comfort zone; to nutrition school, so I could be better informed; and so much more. My love affair for learning is well documented by my Amazon Prime account!!

My quest started to take an internal swing after my mother had a catastrophic illness and I started to realize that I wanted to be more purposeful in the decisions I made. I started to look within and realized I had no idea who I really was or what I really wanted. I have spent the past eight years working on me and thought I had mostly figured myself out, but if I am honest, I knew something was missing. While I had explored my need to be perfect, my need to be right, my feelings of inadequacy and shame, and my willingness to be vulnerable, I really was no closer to figuring out what purpose God had for me in this life. More insightful, but still confused. Ugh.

Then, Jody Thone asked me to co-teach a class on listening and gave me a copy of Parker Palmer’s *Let Your Life Speak, Listening for the Voice of Vocation* and I realized immediately that this book was the

missing piece. Parker Palmer’s simple statement, “Before you tell your life what you intend to do with it, listen for what it intends to do with you,” literally has freed me. This idea, and Palmer’s insight on finding one’s true self, has opened the door to me listening to what my heart and soul have been trying to tell me all along! It has been like finding the missing piece of a jig-saw puzzle or the missing letter in a game of hangman! Parker’s work has helped me make sense of decisions I have made and situations I have created and feelings I have felt. It is also providing a spring board for further self-discovery.

If you’ve ever wondered, *what on earth am I here to do?* I hope you will join us for this six week journey!

Kathy Hanson

I love starting the week by attending the relevant and invigorating Sunday morning adult learning classes at Trinity. The sessions support living with purpose, honor spiritual questions, and offer time for reflective and meaningful



conversations. I always glean valuable insights, spiritual practices, and personal connections. So I am excited about jointly leading the upcoming *Listening to the Voice of Vocation* classes starting in January!



Vocation does not come from a voice ‘out there’ calling me to become something I am not, it comes from a voice ‘in here’ calling me to the person I was born to be.



Parker J. Palmer’s writings and commitment to true vocation have inspired me to seek clarity of purpose, connect soul with role, and find the spiritual courage to contribute authentically in community. The above quote from Parker J. Palmer’s, *Let your life speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation* invites a personal exploration into the meaning of vocation, the calling within: embracing our birthright gifts. I am very grateful and heartened to have the opportunity to work with Jody Thone and Suzy Fallon as “Listening to the Voice of Vocation” class facilitators.

Please join us in embarking on the Listening to the Voice of Vocation journey — wherever you are on your life journey. The class will delve into purposeful life questions explored in Parker Palmer’s book, such as “What

TREASURER’S REPORT

By Todd King, Treasurer

Following our Annual Meeting in November, the Congregational Council and Trinity’s Teams have been busy!

The Long-Range Financial Planning Team, appointed by the Council, began meeting in early December. Chaired by Tom Olsen, the purpose of the team is to examine various financial alternatives for Trinity, including annual budget modeling, capital for maintenance and future facility needs, general capital and special appeal needs, a property asset strategic plan, and debt analysis and planning.

Meantime, the ongoing Finance Team is poised to meet again in early January to do a mid-fiscal year analysis of our pledging and year-to-date results to assess whether corrective actions (generally cuts in expenses) need to be undertaken.

If you have not yet submitted your pledge this year, please do so now! This will help Trinity retain all of its great programs and outstanding staff.

The Facilities Maintenance Team was created before the Annual Meeting and has been meeting weekly. It is charged with conducting an assessment of Trinity’s physical plant needs. Its work will identify the needs of the facilities, prioritize these needs, and obtain cost estimates for needed repairs and improvements.

As soon as the Council receives the results of the Facilities Maintenance Team’s work, the Council will incorporate those results into a letter to the Congregation, asking each individual family what they want done with the remaining balance of their gifts to the Opening Doors Appeal. Those who have unpaid pledges to the Opening Doors Appeal will be asked if they intend to fulfill their pledges and, if so, how they want them to be used.

The Congregational Council decided in May 2014 to create the Opening Doors Appeal Task Force to determine how to effectively conclude the Appeal. The Council has now decided that all donations after May 31 may be refunded in full if requested by the donor. Donations prior to that date that have not been spent may also be refunded at the request of the donor on a pro-rata basis.

It is the Council’s prayerful hope that most or all donors to the Opening Doors effort will choose to allocate their gifts to other areas of need within Trinity. In the very near future, they will describe to you how you can do exactly that!

As always, the minutes of the Congregational Council’s monthly meetings, and the monthly Financial Reports, are available on Trinity’s website (click “News”, then “Governance”, then “FY ‘15 Minutes & Reports”). If you have any questions about Trinity’s budget or finances, you may contact me at toddking6@msn.com, or Bob Eiselt, Parish Administrator, at beiselt@trinitylc.org.

birthright gifts did I receive upon entering the world? How am I using them? Have they been abandoned due to external expectations? What is my true self saying and calling me to be?

As we live more deeply into the selfhood that is our birthright, we find

not only find personal fulfillment, but also communion with others and ways of serving the world’s deepest needs.

In the words of Parker Palmer, *We are here not only to transform the world but also to be transformed.*



Children's Sunday

Children led both the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services on Sunday, Dec. 14. Both the children's choirs and the 4th graders sang, while kids led the prayers and also serenaded the congregation on their instruments.



Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social

Connor Flood heartily enjoyed his pumpkin pie after the Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, Nov. 26. The service drew more than 50 people, all of whom gathered in the Commons afterward for an array of pies and some good conversation!



Celebrating Seniors Christmas Worship & Lunch

Pastor Deb Ost led the seniors in a Worship service, followed by lunch and a program by Pastor Rod Anderson, who portrayed Swedish pioneer Eric Norelius, the minister who brought Lutheranism to Minnesota in the 1860s.





Can You Sew?

The Mexico Mission folks are looking for people to help sew Mexico Mission quilts before February 23.

The kits are available at the Church Office, and include easy-to-follow directins. Really, all you need is basic sewing skills — as in, the ability to sew in a straight line!

If you have time to volunteer for this important ministry, please email Meg Gerlach at mgerlach@trinitylc.org or give her a call at 651-439-7400 ext. 125.



Working Moms

Tin Bins, Stillwater

Working Moms is a small group of supportive women living and learning about motherhood while managing their careers. You will find laughter, encouragement, coffee, sweet treats, and amazing friendship. *Elaine Knodt, Elaine_Knodt@yahoo.com, Melissa Haase, mhaasedvm@gmail.com*

Supporting Women as Professionals (SWAP)

Monthly on Tuesdays, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.

Take an intentional “break” to gather for a relaxing lunch and time to socialize, reflect, laugh and build relationships with other professional Christian women. Dates and locations will be announced via email. *To be placed on the email list, please contact Jolene Patterson at Jolene.Patterson@AndersenCorp.com or 651-485-2004.*

Tuesday Book Group

Tuesdays, 9 a.m. – Trinity’s Library

Join other women in friendship and lively conversation about fiction and non-fiction books covering a wide variety of topics and themes.

Jenny Hammer, 651-439-4351

Couples Group

First & Third Sundays, 9 a.m.

Trinity’s Library

Form a deeper relationship with your partner while meeting other couples here at Trinity!

For more information, contact Zach or Kate Lee at 651-285-1586.



Hearts of the Home Moms

First, third & fifth Wednesdays

9:15-11:30 a.m.

Hearts of the Home is an interdenominational Christian-based group of moms who believe in supporting and nurturing each other through fellowship, small groups, prayer and service. Each meeting begins with fellowship and a brief devotional, followed by a small group study. Everyone is welcome, regardless of religion or ability to pay, and we are super excited to see you! *If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Maggie at 406-544-3304 or Amber 704-609-7132.*

Sunday evening book group

Second & fourth Sundays, 7 p.m.

Kowalski’s, Stillwater

Join other women in friendship and lively conversation about fiction and non-fiction books covering a wide variety of topics and themes.

Jenny Hammer, 651-439-4351

Prayer Group

Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

Meet in the Narthex

Spend one hour each week praying for the people of Trinity. This is a beautiful and simple way to serve — please join us! *For more information, contact Pastor Deb. Ost, ext 107 or dost@trinitylc.org.*

G R O U P S & T E A M S

RETIRED MEN



Allen King Generating Station Tour

Tuesday, Jan. 13, 9 a.m.

Tour one of the cleanest coal-fired power plants in the country.

From 2004-2007, Excel Energy spent \$400 million to increase the efficiency of the Allen King Power Plant. Now, the plant’s emissions have dropped by 90%.

To sign up for the tour, please contact Dwight Pederson at dwhightpederson@hotmail.com



MVP January Stadium Dinner Featuring Richard Coffey

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 6 p.m.

Garden Room

\$20

Former Gopher and Timberwolf Richard Coffey joins us for our annual Stadium Fare dinner.

Coffey will talk not only about stepping outside our box, but living outside of it.

All men ages 18+ are invited to attend the dinner, which will feature hot dogs

and other stadium fare.

For more information or to purchase tickets, email Dana Johnson at danamikkijohnson@gmail.com



Rock Climbing at Vertical Endeavors

Sunday, Jan. 18

Meet at Trinity at 11:45 a.m. to carpool; climbing from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

\$30

Join us for a fun afternoon of indoor rock climbing — no experience necessary! We’ll meet at church after the 10:30 a.m. service, then carpool to Vertical Endeavors. After climbing, we’ll stop at Cosetta’s Italian Restaurant for lunch. *For more information, contact Jodi Weyrauch at jodiweyrauch@gmail.com*



Winter Weekend

Thursday - Sunday, Feb. 5-8

\$30

Get away fro a long weekend in Grand Marais! We’ll be staying at Laura Holmes’ cabin on Devil Track Lake. Optional activities include downhill and cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, walking, shopping in Grand Marais, relaxing by the fire, and being in fellowship with fabulous women. This event is limited to 12 women, so please register early! We’ll have a pre-planning meeting at Trinity on Thursday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. *For more information, contact Laura Holmes at mslaurabeth@comcast.net*



I want to start this new year by sincerely thanking all of you who have made donations to the nursery program. This fall we have been asked many times what we needed and it has been fantastic! Thank you so much for thinking of us and contributing to help make this Birth-3 Years ministry successful. We are always looking for donations of crackers, diapers, wipes, plastic bags and most importantly TIME. I am still looking for volunteers to fill some shifts in the nursery on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in helping out in any way, let me know and spread the word. Thanks again for your generosity and continuing to help this program be fun and inspiring! I am thankful for you this month!! Have a blessed and safe 201

Hearts of the Home Moms will be opening its spring registration at the beginning of January. Keep an eye on the Trinity website and the Birth-3 Years monthly newsletter for more details.

—Melissa Gubricky

Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes me but the one who sent me.

Mark 9:37



2014-2015
CONFIRMATION

Tucker Jensen Performs for Confirmation

Trinity confirmation students had a meaningful time of worship, reflection, and prayer on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

Tucker Jensen, a senior at Bethel University and a veteran of Camp WAPO, served as our worship leader for the evening. His presence was a true blessing and was well received by students. A

highlight was his solo performance of 'Love Came Down' by Brian Johnson. Its message of finding faith in Jesus, even when life takes a turn and leaves our hearts heavy, was incredibly powerful and well timed. I encourage you to find the acoustic performance of this song on YouTube!

Tucker will continue to lead worship for us in the coming months and I invite you to join us to experience his energy and passion for God.



Sponsor a Mexico Missionary!

Mexico Sponsorships have begun! Starting in December, high school students going on the Mexico Mission trip in March began their search for sponsors. Every student must find 23 sponsors who donate \$50 each to raise a total of \$1,150 for the trip.

This money is collected specifically for the mission work they do in the community of Chuburna, mainly going toward supplies, local construction expertise, and unexpected expenses that arise during the work process.

Without sponsors, the good work being done in the Chuburna community could not continue.

I encourage you to consider

sponsoring one or two youth this year!

Students will be in the Narthex and Commons areas in between church services on Saturdays and Sundays looking for sponsors.

Our theme this year is 'Borderless'. Students looking for sponsors will be wearing our blue-and-green 'Borderless' T-shirts.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Kelsey Mans at kmans@trinitylc.org or Tom Thiets at tthiets@trinitylc.org.

Thank you in advance for your support!

—Kelsey Mans,
CYF Specialist, Senior High

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Volunteer Ministry Leaders = Stewardship Role Models

Julie Jolivet, CYF Specialist, 4-6th Grades



Trinity didn't have to wait until Christmas to receive three of the best gifts we could ever imagine!

Sara Wagner (5th & 6th grades Wednesdays), Rachel Parkin (4th grade Wednesdays) and Tami Jensrud (4th - 6th grades Sundays) have generously been stewarding their time, energy, expertise,

and commitment to the faith formation in young people all year!

These women meet with me each week to brainstorm the best lesson plans possible and then either co-lead with me or lead solo so I can be with another group.

Students are the benefactors, as collaborative brain power and teaching style is so much better! On behalf of all the Trinity families with students in 4th-6th grade, **THANK YOU** Sara, Rachel and Tami, for being important impact adults in the lives of these kids!



Sara Wagner

It is my pleasure to work with Trinity's kids on Wednesday evenings. I have been involved with Children's Ministry since 1994. Working with kids has always given me great joy, and being able to play a part in the faith development of young people is a privilege. It is important to me to give back to my community, and Trinity is my faith community. I am happy to have been able to work alongside so many good people over the years. I cherish these friendships and partnerships and value their influence on my own faith journey.



Tami Jensrud

I feel my "volunteer calling" at Trinity has really been working with the Sunday School students. Now that I've been teaching them for well over a decade, I've been able to form great relationships with both the students and their parents. I feel as though I actually learn more about the Bible by teaching the young students. I very much enjoy my time with them.



Rachel Parkin

These 4th grade kids are amazing! They are so eager to learn and able to understand and relate what they learn to their lives. It is incredible to be a part of. I learn and grow in my own faith along with them as I hear stories again in a different way or their questions inspire me to think about something differently. It's been an inspiration and a joy to learn with them each Wednesday night.

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God & Your Family

By Tammy Junker,
LADC Stillwater Site Director

Love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself.
—Matthew 22:37-39

As I begin to think of New Years Resolutions and the direction in which I want my family to go, I have been processing what role God plays in my family.

What role does God play in your family? Does He have the high priority He should have? Does your family discuss His presence on a daily basis? Can you easily share with family members how God is working in your life?

God is present in our homes and in our lives, loving, healing, and empowering us. The challenge is to find God in the ordinary.

I am going to work this year to follow the above verse. Here are some ways to help your family grow together on their faith journey:

- Mealtime is an important time for families to share experiences. Have each family member tell one or two ways God blesses them each day. Possibilities: God helped everyone make it safely to school on the snow-covered roads.
- Prayer is an expression of our relationship with God. Parents can model and teach prayer in a variety of ways. Spontaneous prayer is one way. Simply talk to God about the events of the day. Or ask God for guidance. Prayer can be as simple as “help” on a tough day.
- The Bible is God’s way of teaching us. The stories inside are for us to read and learn from. Create a bedtime routine that includes the sharing of a bible story. There are many kid-friendly bibles. Find a



quality one and start a tradition.

- Blessings are a wonderful way to start and end the day. Use this or make one of our own: *May God keep everyone safe today as we go to work and play. Amen.*
- Play together as a family. Go bike riding, build a snow fort, play a board game, or talk a walk. Time spent doing this is a gift from God. The memories made and relationships strengthened will last a lifetime.

If you are interested in learning more about Lake Area Discovery Center, log onto www.ladcfamilies.org. Our 2015 school registration begins in January. Register online or by calling our main office at 651-762-7884.

Breakfast With Angels

By Jody Nyenhuis,
Director of Children’s, Youth & Families Ministries

Many families came to enjoy breakfast served by our very own confirmation ANGELS! This event is a wonderful intergenerational tradition that highlights our beautiful partnership with Lake Area Discover

Center and Christians of all ages. Families made crafts, took photos, devoured breakfast and watched a great program highlighting *God with us!*



Curl Up With A Good Book

By Sheila Maybanks Doherty and Norma Wilson,
Trinity Library Committee

Trinity Lutheran Church has a wonderful resource in its library, located on the lower level of the church. The collection includes reference works, a large selection of books for children, many devotional and inspirational books, resources for people in recovery, and a collection of contemporary fiction and nonfiction.

The Kiosk in the Narthex displays a sampling of these books, often a representation of topics presented in sermons, classes, fiction, or seasonal interests. These books are available for you to check out and take home, returning when you have completed using them.

The Library committee is working toward making the library more accessible and more useful to individuals and groups. The committee will soon be meeting with a variety of Trinity groups to ask for your input. We are eager to learn how the Library can assist your ministry and your learning. The committee also desires to hear how individuals currently use, or would use, the Trinity Library.

The Trinity Library volunteers, along with our coach, Pastor Stephanie, will fine-tune the role — or the roles — of the Library using your input.

Should we build more of a Biblical reference collection? Should we be collecting more parenting resources? How do you use the Trinity library—what should be emphasized in future acquisitions?

Former First Lady Laura Bush once said, “Libraries allow children (and adults) to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that, once a child (and an adult) learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.”

The Trinity resources in print and DVD/CD are extensive for both



The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.

—Albert Einstein

children and adults. An answer may not always be found, but knowledge will certainly be gained!

Some new resources you may want to read include:



Making Sense of Scripture: Big Questions About the Book of Faith, by Luther Seminary professor David Lose (220.6 LOSE)

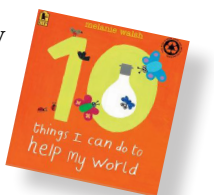
The book is written conversationally, responding to questions such as: What is the Bible? Is the Bible true? How is the Bible the Word of God? Where did the Bible come from? How can I read the Bible with greater understanding?

Author Anne Lamott’s new book, **Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace**



(248 LAMO) provides a message of hope that celebrates the triumph of light over the darkness in our lives. Lamott describes how victories change us — our perceptions, our perspectives, and our lives.

Children will enjoy Melanie Walsh’s book, **10 Things I Can Do To Help My World** (E W). Kids are reminded to use both sides of a paper, to turn off water, and given other environmental suggestions.



These wintery days and evenings are perfect for a cup of hot chocolate and a good book! Visit the Trinity Library and find a book, video, music CD, or a DVD that provides you with inspiration, comfort, theology, fiction and more. Through conversations with our community we hope your selection will be just what you need!

W O R S H I P
O P P O R T U N I T I E S

- **Saturdays, 5 p.m.**
Evening Worship, Communion
- **Sundays, 8:30 a.m.**
Traditional Worship, Nursery, Communion
- **Sundays, 10:30 a.m.**
Contemporary Worship, Nursery, Communion

L E A R N I N G
O P P O R T U N I T I E S

- **Sunday, Jan. 4 at 9:30 a.m.**
Fellowship & conversation
- **Sunday, Jan. 11 at 9: 30 a.m.**
Intergenerational education about baptism
- **Sunday, Jan. 18 at 9:30 a.m.**
Pastor Dan discusses communion
- **Sunday, Jan. 25 at 9:30 a.m.**
Dr. Craig Koester from Luther Seminary discusses Matthew

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R E M I N D E R

Sunday Worship times change as of January 4!

Traditional Worship is now at 8:30 a.m.

Adult & Children’s Learning is at 9:30 a.m.

Contemporary Worship remains at 10:30 a.m.

From The Kitchen

Linda Flood, Food Services Manager

This month’s recipe comes from Ute Erickson’s kitchen.

Last month, as the dedicated team that collates Trinity Today for mailing was hard at work, they enjoyed this wonderful cake. It was also shared with a few lucky staff members as well.

I can personally attest to this cake’s deliciousness, and Ute says it’s quite easy to make!

Enjoy!

Bundt Apple Cream Coffee Cake

½ cup butter

1 cup sugar

2 eggs

1 tsp soda

1 tsp baking powder

2 apples, peeled and finely chopped

½ tsp salt

1 cup sour cream

1 tsp vanilla

2 cups flour

Cream butter and sugar together, add eggs and beat well.

Mix in vanilla; sift dry ingredients together and add alternately with sour cream. Fold in apples.

Pour into greased and floured bundt pan, and sprinkle top with a mixture of !/2 cup brown sugar, 2 Tblsp butter, 1 tsp cinnamon, and 1/2 cup of chopped nuts.

Bake 40 minutes at 375 degree F.

B A P T I Z E D

- **Rylan Philip Castro,**
son Chelsey & Jennifer Castro
- **Eva Marie Massich**
daughter of Bryan & Stephanie Massich
- **Otis Wilfrid McBroom,**
son of Jacob & Laura McBroom

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S Y M P A T H Y

- The family and friends of **Annette Edwins**
- The family and friends of **Miriam Madsen**
- **Sally, Alex, Julia and Anna DiMartini** on the death of **Todd**, Sally’s husband and the children’s father.
- **Glenn Swanson**, on the death of his brother, John.

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W O R S H I P
A T T E N D A N C E

November 22 & 23	December 6 & 7
5 p.m. 53	5 p.m. 44
9 a.m. 276	9 a.m. 286
10:30 a.m. ... 210	10:30 a.m. ... 242
Nov. 29 & 30	December 13 & 14
5 p.m. 60	5 p.m. 64
9 a.m. 237	9 a.m. 352
10:30 a.m. ... 211	10:30 a.m. ... 412

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T R I N I T Y
T O D A Y

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Trinity Today is also available in full-color on Trinity’s web site at www.trinitylc.org (**click to download a PDF or use our flip viewer to read it on your mobile device**).

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C A L E N D A R J A N U A R Y 1 - 3 1 , 2 0 1 5

Thurs., Jan 1—Building/Office Closed

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library

Fri., Jan 2—Building/Office Closed

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library

Sat., Jan 3

8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

Sun. Jan 4

8:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
9 a.m. Couples Small Group: Library
9:30 a.m. Baptism Class: Garden Rm.
9:30 a.m. Sunday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level
9:30 a.m. Adult Learning: Living Rm.
10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
12 p.m. Mexico Missionaries & Adults: Garden Rm.

Mon., Jan 5

7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
8:45 a.m. Bridge for Trinity: Garden Rm.
1:30 p.m. Commodity Food Dist.: Valley Outreach
6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
7 p.m. Al Anon: Library

Tues., Jan 6

7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
8:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study: Living Rm.
9 a.m. Women’s Book Group: Library
1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
7 p.m. WALK Rehearsal: Worship Ctr.

Wed., Jan 7

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
9:15 a.m. Heart of the Home Moms: Upper & Lower
5 p.m. Children’s Choirs: Choir Rm. & Worship Ctr.
5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Rm.
6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr 7-9)-Worship: Worship Ctr.
6:15 p.m. Wednesday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level
7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Choir Rm. & Worship Ctr.
7:30 p.m. The River Worship: Youth Rm.

Thurs., Jan. 8

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
1 p.m. Martha Circle Meeting: Living Rm.
4:30 p.m. Loaves & Fishes: Faith Lutheran Church

Fri., Jan. 9

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

Sat., Jan. 10

8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION
6 p.m. Food for Thought: Offsite

Sun., Jan. 11

8:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
9:30 a.m. Sunday Learning (3yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level
9:30 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday-Baptism
10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION
12 p.m. Mexico Adult Leaders: Living Rm.
7 p.m. Women’s Book Group: Kowalski’s-Stillwater

Mon., Jan. 12

7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
1 p.m. Rebekah Circle: Library
6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel
6:30 a.m. Tai Chi: Gym
7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tues., Jan. 13

7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
8:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study: Living Rm.
9 a.m. Croixdale Sr. Communion
9 a.m. Women’s Book Group: Library
9 a.m. Retired Men-Tour Allen King Plant
9:15 a.m. Leah Circle Meeting: Narthex
10 a.m. Good Samaritan Sr. Communion
10:30 a.m. Greeley Sr. Communion
1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
7 p.m. WALK Rehearsal: Worship Ctr.

Wed., Jan. 14

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
9 a.m. Play & Pray Group: Gym
5 p.m. Children’s Choirs: Choir Rm. & Worship Ctr.
5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Rm.
6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr 7-9)-Worship: Worship Ctr.
6:15 p.m. Wednesday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level
7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Choir Rm. & Worship Ctr.
7:30 p.m. The River Worship: Youth Rm.

Thurs., Jan. 15

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library

Fri., Jan. 16

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
10 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Rm. 108B
10:30 a.m. Boutwells Landing Sr. Communion
1:15 p.m. Rivertown Commons Sr. Communion

Sat., Jan. 17

8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

Sun., Jan. 18

8:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
9 a.m. Couples Small Group: Library
9:30 a.m. Sunday Learning (3yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level
9:30 a.m. Adult Learning: Living Rm.
9:30 a.m. Let Your Life Speak: Rm. 108B
10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY

Mon., Jan. 19—Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
4 p.m. Cong. Council Meeting: Office Conf. Rm.
6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

Tues., Jan. 20

7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
8:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study: Living Rm.
9 a.m. Women’s Book Group: Library
1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
6 p.m. MVP-Stadium Fare: Garden Rm.
7 p.m. WALK Rehearsal: Worship Ctr.

Wed., Jan. 21

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
9:15 a.m. Hearts of the Home Moms: Upper & Lower
10:15 a.m. Linden Sr. Communion
5 p.m. Children’s Choirs: Choir Rm. & Worship Ctr.
5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Rm.
6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr 7-9)-Worship: Worship Ctr.
6:15 p.m. Wednesday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level
7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Choir Rm. & Worship Ctr.
7:30 p.m. The River Worship: Youth Rm.

Thurs., Jan. 22

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
10 a.m. Knitting Ministry: Narthex

Fri., Jan. 23

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
10 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Rm. 108B
10:30 a.m. Oak Park Senior Living Sr. Communion
1:15 p.m. Oak Ridge Apts. Sr. Communion

Sat., Jan. 24

8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
11:45 a.m. GLOW: Vertical Endeavors
5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION
7:30 p.m. The Singers of Trinity Concert: Worship Ctr.

Sun., Jan. 25

8:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
9:30 a.m. Sunday Learning (3yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level
9:30 a.m. Adult Learning: Living Rm.
9:30 a.m. Let Your Life Speak: Rm. 108B
10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
7 p.m. Women’s Book Club: Kowalski’s-Stillwater

Mon., Jan. 26

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

Tues., Jan. 27

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
8:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study: Living Rm.
9 a.m. Women’s Book Group: Library
1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library
7 p.m. WALK Rehearsal: Worship Ctr.

Wed., Jan. 28

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
5 p.m. Children’s Choirs: Choir Rm. & Worship Ctr.
5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Rm.
6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr 7-9)-Worship: Worship Ctr.
6:15 p.m. Wednesday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level
7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Choir Rm. & Worship Ctr.
7:30 p.m. The River Worship: Youth Rm.

Thur., Jan. 29

7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library

Fri., Jan. 30

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

Sat., Jan. 31

8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall
8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library
5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

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