

trinity  
Lutheran Church

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Stillwater, MN 55082  
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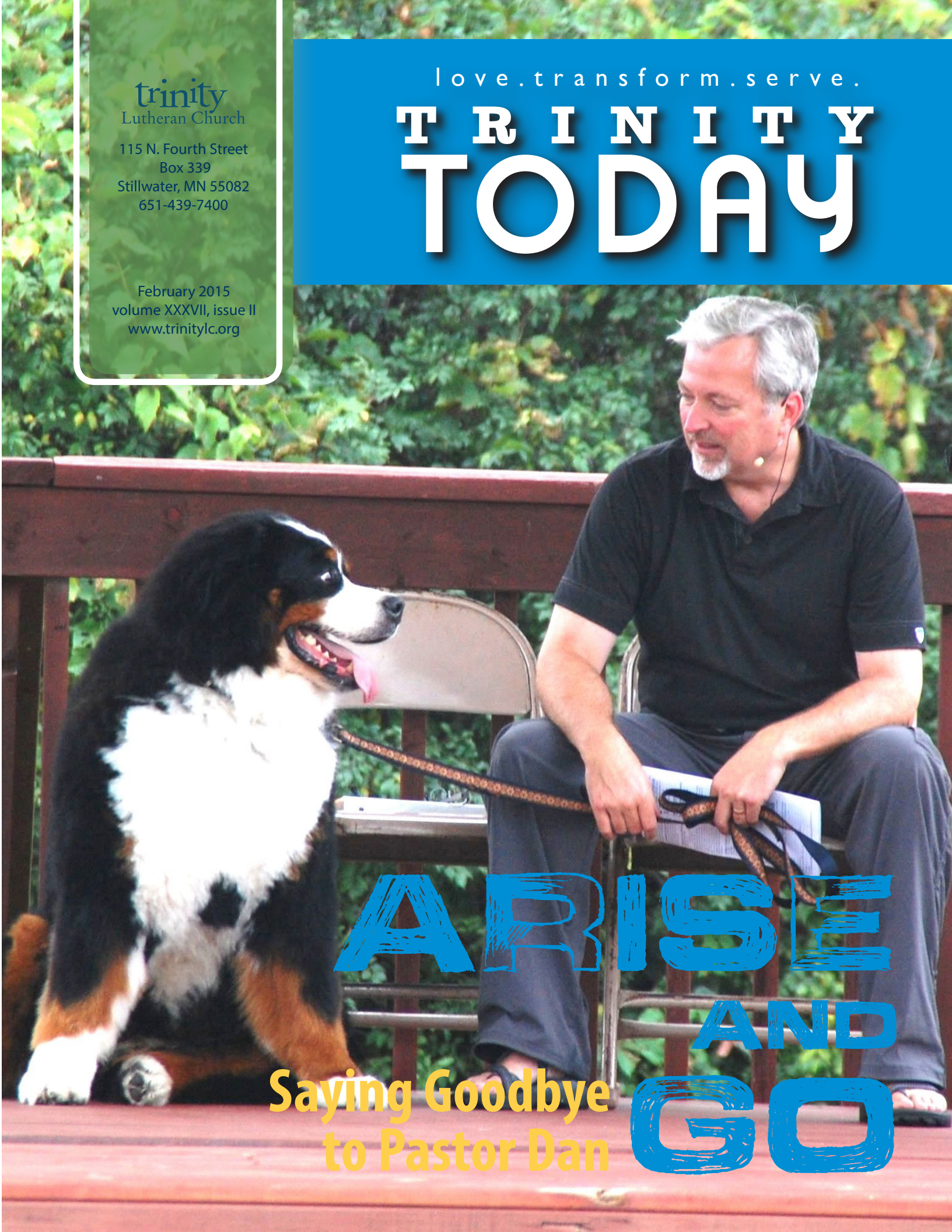
February 2015  
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[www.trinitylc.org](http://www.trinitylc.org)

love.transform.serve.

# TRINITY TODAY

ARISE  
AND  
GO

Saying Goodbye  
to Pastor Dan







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



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

*“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace...”*

—the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Philippians

## Thank you.

Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor. It is a position of great trust. Thank you, in many cases, for allowing me into your life in a very intimate way. I have had the great joy of every pastor: walking through some of life’s most beautiful and difficult moments with you. It is not only a faith journey for you, but also for the pastor — and each and every difficult moment faced with hope, every joyful moment met with gratitude, fills the heart of the pastor as much as it does the life of the person directly involved. Love and the Gospel (I think they are the same) are two-way streets: giving and receiving on both sides of the relationship. Thank you also for your companionship in the work and the way of Jesus: I have enjoyed every day working side-by-side with you. Aren’t we so very richly blessed to be the church together?

I think that I would have been a good circuit-riding evangelist. Trinity was nurtured in its earliest days by Swedish pastors who traveled from community to community to serve the people. I have a disposition that is well suited for variety, challenge, and beginning new things. God has a way of calling me into new adventures, and has

given me a certain set of gifts that lend themselves well to bringing new life into faith communities. As I have often encouraged you to listen well to God’s call, and to find places where your gifts are needed, it would only be right for me to do the same.

After almost 11 years together, we have shared much — much love, challenge, joy — and even some difficult stretches (but then, what is worthwhile that is not difficult?). We have come through it all as brothers and sisters in Christ, and for that, I am grateful. On Baptism Sunday, Jan. 11, I watched the community come forward and receive communion; it was a beautiful procession of saints. I am full of love for you all.

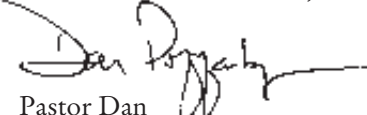
Trinity is in great hands: you have a wonderful and talented church Council, and they will be more than up to the task of leading and serving you well through this time of transition. The staff of Trinity is as talented and capable as any around (I could write a separate letter about that group of amazing people); they will keep you moving and thriving.

As for you? Look forward to the future

with hope, excitement and joy! This will be a great time for Trinity to peek into the future and uncover some new callings to serve the world. Trinity is a beautiful place, and you will find that many talented and gifted pastors will want to join this community. Your difficulty will be in choosing from them all.

In this next season of Trinity’s life, be generous. Be kind to one another. Be generous in hope, short in anxiety (“Be not afraid...God is with us”). Be generous in your giving; Trinity needs your financial support. Times of transition are times that require people to step up, not step back. Show your hope and faith in the future by making an extra investment in Trinity. If you want to say good-bye to me well, make an investment in my name (sorry, but I am still looking out for Trinity!). I can’t wait to hear the stories of what God will do in, with, and through you in the next few months!

With Gratitude and Love,

  
Pastor Dan

# nothing but Gratitude

I was in a park near the water on a sunny afternoon in Montreal when I got a call from Dan Poffenberger. I was attending a yoga training, but one of my mentors had said he’d found a church for me and would like to pass along my number. Not sure that I wanted to be a parish pastor, but wanting to respect my friend, I agreed to talk to this church. Dan and I talked for almost an hour that afternoon, and we had decided to meet for coffee when I was back in the U.S.

All of my yoga friends were just as surprised as I was. But I knew it was the right thing to pursue. Over the next few weeks, I got to talk more with Dan, to meet the staff at Trinity, and ultimately, interview with the call committee.

Fourteen months here, and I never could have guessed how happy I’d be! And I owe this wonderful opportunity to Dan. I never would have come here, or enjoyed it so much, without his partnership. And even as he leaves, I am so thankful to be a part of a congregation that is filled with love and support for one another. This is truly a one-of-a-kind place! And I am lucky to be part of its life.

Like all of you, saying goodbye to Dan will not be easy for me. His gifts of leadership, passion for excellence, and warm smile will be dearly missed. I have been so grateful for the time I got to spend learning from him and working alongside him.

Dan always said that we are all really “temporary” here at Trinity: the life of the congregation began before us and will continue long after us, and our work is to make the most of the time we have here. I am grateful that Dan brought me into the life of this congregation, and that he absolutely made the most of his time here.

As we prepare to say goodbye, Dan, we wish you all the best with new, exciting adventures ahead. We send you off with nothing but gratitude!

Thank you, for everything.

CARE MINISTRIES

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. —Romans 12:9-10

I feel there is nothing more truly artistic than to love people. —Vincent Van Gogh

Above all things, have intense and unfailing love for one another for love covers a multitude of sins. —1 Peter 4:8

I believe in Christ like I believe in the sun – not because I can see it, but by it I can see everything else. —CS Lewis

Care Coordinator

Zanny Johnson



The quotes at left are compiled from my Pinterest page (an online bulletin board), from the folder I entitled “Wise Words” as a starting point to this little essay on love.

Good thing hearts are elastic. Mine has stretched and expanded until I thought it would surely burst, but amazingly, it hasn't. In my 47 years of living, so so so many heart-wrenching and heart-expanding events have worn my heart paper-thin, yet still it beats. Still shines. Still aches and seeks and bleeds. Still reaches out and breaks a little every time I kiss my kids goodbye, every time I see that sweet young man at

Target help a customer, every time I sit in worship and have a moment to soak it all in.

When I remember to take time and my heart is in the right place, I can see and feel the heart of God beating in me. I feel God's love pumping through my blood, rushing to reach out and love others like God loves me. Tears prick behind my eyes and I know that God is good, God is love, and I am called. To love. —Zanny Johnson

Let us love one another as I have loved you. —John 13:34

Parish Nurse

Sue Peterson



Contact the Care Team

Church Office  
651-439-7400

Pastor Deb Ost  
Ext 107  
dost@trinitylc.org

Zanny Johnson  
Ext. 130  
zjohnson@trinityls.org

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

Show Yourself the Love

The human heart is a symbol of love. February is American Heart Month, a time to show yourself the love by making healthy changes to lower your risk of developing heart disease, which is the leading cause of death and disability for both men and women.

- To lower your risk:
- Eat healthy and aim for a healthy weight. If you're overweight, losing just 10 pounds can lower your risk of heart disease.
  - Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke.
  - Drink alcohol only in moderation. This means no more than 1 drink a day for women and no more than 2 drinks a day for men.
  - Get active! Aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate aerobic activity most days of the week.

- Control your cholesterol and blood pressure.

Learn about your risks for heart disease and stroke and stay heart healthy for yourself and your loved ones.

For more information and inspiration visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/salt/healthy> “28 days to a Healthier Heart”

May all be well with you,  
Sue Peterson  
Parish Nurse



**Blood Pressure Checks**  
Every Sunday in February  
Between Worship services in  
the Church Office.  
(Watch for signs!)

trinity  
Lutheran Church

CARE MINISTRY

Health/Wellness Interest Assessment 2015

The following are health education topics that may enhance our physical, spiritual, and emotional health. Which would you like to learn more about? Please check your choices.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> mental health                | <input type="checkbox"/> Alzheimer's disease        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> stress management            | <input type="checkbox"/> nutrition/healthy eating   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> substance abuse              | <input type="checkbox"/> gluten intolerance/allergy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> eating disorders             | <input type="checkbox"/> women's health issues      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> domestic violence/abuse      | <input type="checkbox"/> men's health issues        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pre and post-retirement      | <input type="checkbox"/> CPR training               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> concerns                     | <input type="checkbox"/> heart disease              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> advance care directives      | <input type="checkbox"/> stroke                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> elder law issues             | <input type="checkbox"/> high blood pressure        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> homecare                     | <input type="checkbox"/> arthritis                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> elder abuse                  | <input type="checkbox"/> diabetes                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nursing home placement       | <input type="checkbox"/> lung disease               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> caregiving for family member | <input type="checkbox"/> spirituality and illness   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> palliative care/hospice      | <input type="checkbox"/> grief and loss             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> end of life issues           | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                     |

Suggestions for speakers/presenters: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have expertise/training in health and wellness issues that you'd be willing to share? **YES** **NO**

What is your area of training? \_\_\_\_\_

Your name and contact information (optional) \_\_\_\_\_



The Care Ministries Team needs your input about which health education topics interest you!

Please fill out the questionnaire at left, place it in an envelope, and mail to the church office. Or, pick up a copy of the questionnaire on the Information Desk in the Commons after church. You can then return it to the Church Office or simply place it in the collection plate the next time you're in worship.

Your suggestions will help us plan education opportunities during 2015. Questions? Contact Sue Peterson, Parish Nurse at 651-439-7400 or [speterson@trinitylc.org](mailto:speterson@trinitylc.org).





## PASTOR DEBRA OST



### If We Know, We Go!

Our Care Ministries Team wants to support you through your times of emotional and spiritual suffering. We depend on you to let us know of your needs and your requests for support.

Our office is staffed Monday-Friday. If we are unable to take your call personally, please leave a message on the pastoral care and emergency phone line. Simply follow the recorded instructions and your call will be transferred directly to one of the pastors.

If you contact the office for a prayer request, please let us know if there are other ways you'd like to be supported. Know that, in all instances, your privacy will be respected and information will be shared only according to your wishes.

We want each of you to feel confident that you will receive the care you need. Remember, "If We Know, We Go!"

—Pastor Deb



FOOD | CLOTHING | EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

### Valley Outreach Volunteering

Valley Outreach Food Shelf needs volunteers to help clients choose their groceries on Feb. 23, 25 and 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and also in the evening on Feb. 24 from 4:30–7:30 p.m. If you can help, please leave a message at 651-341-8711 or email Kathy Hagen at sprucehaagen@comcast.net. And remember: you can always donate non-perishable food to Valley Outreach Food Shelf by leaving it in the green bin next to the 4th Street elevator at Trinity!

### Healing Hearts

by Sue Peterson, Parish Nurse

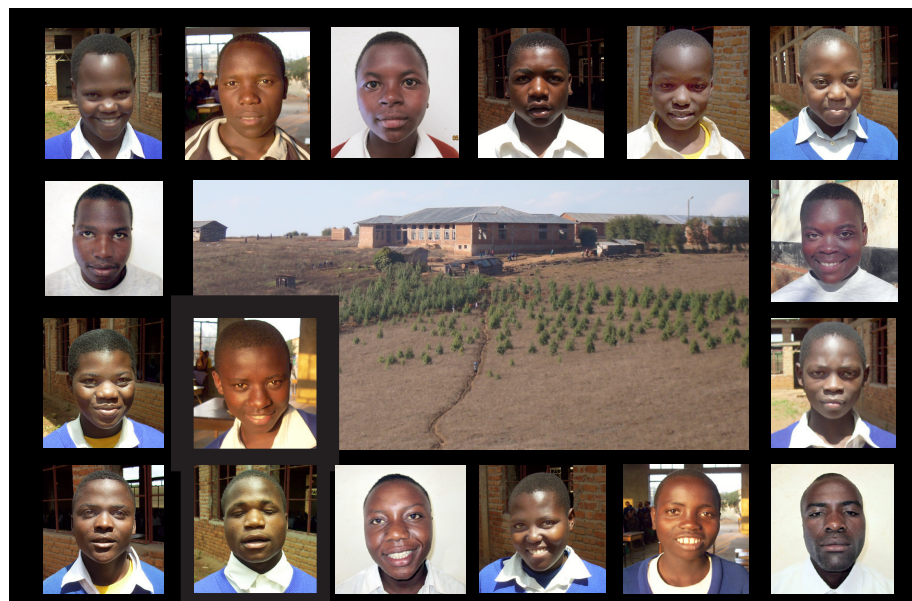
Are you caring for a seriously ill loved one and struggling with the physical and emotional demands of caregiving? Has your loved one's death left you searching to redefine your role and purpose in life?

The Healing Hearts group was created several years ago by Trinity members seeking support in circumstances just like yours. The group's name has changed several times over the years, but the care and compassion offered remains the same. It is a safe and confidential setting in which to share, listen, and pray through difficult times.

Healing Hearts meets at Trinity the first Thursday of every month at 2 p.m. There is no obligation to attend each month; simply come when you feel the need.

For more information, contact Lois Berglund at 651-342-0896, or call Pastor Deb or Zanny Johnson at the Church Office, 651-439-7400.

Bomalang'ombe Students in Mwatasi



## MISSIONS

By Tom Thiets, Director of Missions

## 2015-2016 Tanzania Scholarships

A sound education is one of the keys to ending the vicious cycle of poverty that grips most of Africa. Education provides the opportunity for economic independence and hope, and equips young people with the information and skills required for healthy life choices.

Trinity has provided scholarships for recommended students from our partner congregation in Mwatasi for many years. In keeping with our commitment to this strong and growing relationship, we are again seeking donations to sponsor students for the 2015-2016 school year. Please consider making a donation by January 31 to help support the students in their quest for an education. The basic required secondary school tuition is \$450, but donations in all amounts are welcome.

Trinity is committed to continued scholarship support for as many students as possible whose needs for tuition assistance are identified by our Mwatasi Lutheran Church partner congregation. Their scholarship committee identifies and prioritizes student needs annually and provides a list of qualifying students through the Iringa Diocese. Most of these scholarships are for secondary school, and some are for specialty training including seminary, teaching and nursing.

Through our partnership with the Mwatasi Lutheran Church, we have come to understand that, even though we may develop warm relationships with some students and young people, it is important that the Mwatasi committee select the appropriate scholarship recipients, as the committee understands all of the factors involved much better than we do.

Because the tuition does not cover the schools' infrastructure needs, and in keeping with the needs assessment and

request of the Iringa Diocese, Trinity's Tanzania mission education efforts were expanded in 2007 to financially support the infrastructure needs of the schools, beginning with the Bomalang'ombe Secondary School. The annual funding we provide for the infrastructure needs is raised through the annual **Take On Hunger – Feeding the Body, Mind,**

**& Spirit Golf Tournament**, and designated donations.

Your continued generosity and prayers are essential to helping the Iringa Diocese and the students of Mwatasi achieve their educational goals. As we follow Christ's call to serve, we are blessed in innumerable ways.

### Tanzania Education & Scholarship Fund Summary

Through this fund, Trinity Lutheran Church will sponsor as many of the recommended students as possible each year; as well, we will assist our partners in the Iringa Diocese to construct and maintain school facilities that meet the Tanzanian government's requirements using the funds raised at the annual golf tournament.

Trinity Lutheran Church's program will meet these goals by:

- Combining all education donations into one fund.
- Working in partnership with the Iringa Diocese.
- Working within the guidelines of the Iringa Diocese scholarship program.
- Providing scholarship funds for as many of the diocese-recommended students as possible while also investing in school facilities. The students are selected by the Iringa Diocese, not Trinity Lutheran Church.
- Providing educational scholarships across all vocations to diocese-recommended students. (i.e. Scholarships will be provided to students who desire a profession in nursing, teaching, engineering, and other disciplines, but the sponsored discipline may vary from year to year as students move through their academic career and needs in the village and diocese change.)
- Providing funding for improvements at the schools (e.g., facility, infrastructure, books, equipment, housing, etc.) per the Iringa Diocese facility plans.
- Potentially providing a salary scholarship to help initiate new teaching positions.

Trinity will disperse funds each year to provide for scholarships and facility improvements. Representative thank you letters from sponsored students will be published in Trinity Today and all letters will be on hand for review by sponsors. Trinity members also are welcome to correspond with sponsored students and the secondary schools in general, and also to send encouragement and assurance that they are remembered daily in prayer.

Trinity Lutheran Church's Scholarship Fund will follow the guidelines and administrative procedures of the Iringa Diocese and the SPAS partnership. In alignment with these programs, Trinity will not:

- Wire or give school funds directly to an individual student or staff member.
- Wire or give financial gifts to individual students or staff for supplies, housing, transportation, meals, etc.
- Accept individual or specific scholarship donations by name, gender, or vocation. The Mwatasi Lutheran Church Education Committee and the Iringa Diocese Scholarship Board determines which students receive support.
- Assign individual students to sponsors by name, gender, or vocation. The fund will corporately support diocese-recommended students.

In administering this program, the Tanzania Mission Team commits to be good stewards of all contributions, with the purpose of providing annual distributions from this fund for scholarships and infrastructure funding for schools in a manner that most effectively addresses the educational resource needs within the Iringa Diocese.





## Anticipating the New Year

By Tom Thiets

A new year! Time to page through that new calendar and jot down the opportunities that will unfold in the coming months.

Some of those calendar entries will be annual occurrences: birthdays, holidays, and anniversaries, each marking time and filling our lives with celebration.

Then there are those special occasions we plan with great hope and expectation: graduations, weddings, mission experiences, vacations, and other events that typically mark endings and beginnings along our life journey.

Mixed in along the way will be events of loss and birth that bring us both sadness and joy — and unexpected encounters with the Holy Spirit that rejuvenate our soul.

I experienced one such unexpected encounter during the October 2013 Tanzania mission trip, when we visited the Catholic special needs orphanage, Furaha, in the village of Ilula. There we met Neema, a 19-year-old woman who could barely walk as a result of an ill-fitting and broken prosthetic leg. It was heart breaking to watch her struggle to maintain balance and move about the courtyard. After some discussion, she allowed us to examine the prosthetic and make some temporary repairs. We parted ways with the promise to find her a new prosthesis.

When I returned home, I connected with Dan Davis, a Trinity member who had business contacts with the prosthetic manufacturer Ottobock. Our plan was to have a new prosthetic leg made from the information and photos we had gathered while I was in



## with Neema and Furaha

Tanzania. However, we soon learned that, in order to provide the best prosthetic, it had to be made and fit in Tanzania. The kind and generous folks at Ottobock connected us with a manufacturer in northern Tanzania, and donated the components for a new leg.

Everything came together in time for the October 2014 Tanzania mission trip. We delivered the components to the orphanage, and the manufacturer set a November date for Neema and a caregiver named Pili to travel 16 hours by bus to begin the process of building a new prosthetic leg.

Neema and Pili spent 24 days in a hotel as the process unfolded. Then, in late December, nearly a month after her departure from the orphanage, Neema returned with an entirely new perspective on life. No longer does she

shuffle along, bent over and desperately clutching for support. Instead, she moves along in a manner truly befitting her name, which means “grace”. Neema’s upright entrance caused quite a stir at the Furaha orphanage. The children cheered and shouted with joy as she gracefully walked into the courtyard where we had first met. Not so ironically, Furaha means joy.

So, as you look forward to and plan for this new year, please remember to leave some space for unexpected encounters with the Holy Spirit. They will rejuvenate your soul and sprinkle your journey with joy.

Explore this new year with grace and joy!





## W O R S H I P M I N I S T R I E S

# Ash Wednesday Schedule

Feb. 18

### WORSHIP SERVICES

Noon  
5 p.m.  
7 p.m.

### DINNER

Between the evening services

### WEEKLY LENTEN WORSHIP

Every Wednesday, Feb. 25-March 25  
Noon Worship followed by lunch  
in the Garden Room.

### Worship Note

You may have noticed some new communion words in worship!

We're continuing our exploration of the sacrament of communion, and for this season we have chosen a text from the Gospel of Matthew to serve as our Words of Institution.

We begin with words from Jesus' baptism, and then we hear about the abundance, compassion, and care of God as Jesus feeds the large crowds gathered. It's a great story of community coming together around a shared table, and of how the gifts we share become multiplied with Jesus' blessing to care for all in need.

In this new setting, we remember the promises of God in both baptism and communion in this weekly sacrament. If you would like to read more about the feeding of the five thousand, check out Matthew 14.

—Pastor Stephanie

**Remember, this  
bread is given for  
you.**

**Remember, this  
cup is given for  
you.**



Retired Men & AWE



The Rivertown Inn  
306 Olive Street West  
Stillwater, Minnesota

## Valentine's Day Party

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015  
5 p.m.

\$30 per person; \$60 per couple

Includes appetizers, desserts, coffee.  
Please register and pay online or in the Church Office by Feb. 4.

The Rivertown Inn is a five star facility, but is not equipped with a handicap entrance. However, there will be help available, if needed, to assist with steps, etc.

Questions? Contact Jon Fogelberg 715-755-2487 or e-mail Jon at jon@123m.com



**Thank You!**

What could be better than a hand-knit shawl wrapped around you on the day you are baptized, made by the loving souls who comprise the knitting ministry here at Trinity? If you were fortunate enough to attend worship on Sunday, Jan. 11, you witnessed this love in action: 17 of people, ranging in age from two months to adult, were baptized and received the tangible evidence of God's love and warmth in the form of a prayer/baptismal shawl. The Knitting Ministry here at Trinity is a group of women (where are the men knitters? Come on out!) who get together the last Thursday of every month in the Narthex at 2 p.m. for fellowship and knitting time. Knitting can also be done at home. For more information, contact Lois Walton at lois\_walton@g.com. And thank you, knitters, for being the hands and hearts of Christ.





# ARISE AND GO

## Saying Goodbye to Pastor Dan

*I asked, 'What am I to do, Lord?'  
The Lord said to me, 'Arise and go to Damascus; there you will be told everything that has been assigned to you to do.'*  
— Acts 22:10

There was no flash of lightning, and thankfully no blindness, but when God called Pastor Dan Poffenberger to arise and go, he listened.

On Jan. 6, Pastor Dan announced he had accepted a new call at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Prior Lake — not so far as Damascus, but not here in Stillwater, either.

After spending 11 years as Trinity's lead pastor, Pastor Dan's last Sunday will be Feb. 1.

If you're new to Trinity, you may not know how Pastor Dan got here. It was rather the result of God shutting a couple of doors and then opening a window. Doug Johnson, who chaired the Lead Pastor Call Committee that called Pastor Dan, explains:

I will never forget my first phone call with Dan.

It was Advent and the Senior Pastor Call Committee had been meeting since April. We had been meeting every week and had finally found two candidates we all agreed would be a good fit for Trinity no matter which one we selected. I was scheduled to announce to the congregation who our new pastor was going to be when the unexpected happened: they both turned us down. As the chair of the committee, I was responsible for standing before the two Sunday services and telling them that we had to start over. It was not a happy time!

The synod was great and immediately came up with two new candidates, one of whom was Dan. Since it was so close to Christmas, which is an extremely busy time for pastors, we

decided to take a break and interview the candidates after the holidays. I called both candidates and the first one was fine with waiting. Dan was not. He explained that, while he was growing up in Hopkins, Trinity always had such a great reputation as one of "the" churches in the Twin Cities. He wanted to be a part of that and did not want to wait until after Christmas to interview. So he came to interview; we were impressed.

After Christmas, we interviewed the other pastor and decided to visit both him and Dan at their home congregations. Our visit to Dan was first, and a group of us, together with spouses, made the trip to a suburb of Chicago. We met Dan and Gretchen for dinner that night. I sat across from Dan and next to him was Sheila Newcombe's seven-year-old granddaughter. I don't remember whether Dan said anything that impressed me that night; what did impress me is that he spent as much time talking with the seven-year-old as he did with me. I thought, This was a guy who had his priorities right.

When we got back to the hotel, I asked the group, including our spouses, to meet. I expressed the opinion that this might be the right person for Trinity and asked what others thought. After everyone had their say, we agreed that, if Dan didn't screw up his sermon the next day, we'd recommend to the whole committee that he was the person for Trinity.

He didn't screw up, and the rest is history.

When Pastor Dan arrived at Trinity,  
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he had his work cut out for him: the church had gone through a rough patch and had been under the supervision of an interim pastor for two-and-a-half years. Pastor Dan's first order of business was to streamline Trinity's staff, Congregational Council, and Groups & Teams. He also insisted that Trinity offer an intentional, inclusive welcome to everyone, no matter where they are in their journey with God. For many, this is his greatest legacy.

"His biggest contribution has been living a faithful and gracious life in our midst," says Dana Miller.

Eric Olson echoed that sentiment, "I think Dan made sure people felt welcomed and loved."

You didn't have to be in church to feel that, either. In fact, Todd King remembers encountering it in the most unlikely place: the ballot box.

"I had just sold my business and had said goodbye to the employees [and] I happened to run into Dan at the Stillwater Township hall, where we were voting," King says. "I was an emotional wreck and Dan was a great listener and comforter."

Pastor Dan's passion for intellectual inquiry transformed Trinity in another important way: theologically. He encouraged Lifelong Learning classes that delve into our most deeply held beliefs about God, spirituality, our strengths and purpose, and how they impact our lives.

"Dan's leadership opened up the theological eyes of Trinity," says Bob Eiselt. "He was instrumental in  
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encouraging that to happen."

Pastor Dan also acted as a visionary, hiring a full-time Missions Director to guide Trinity to becoming a more missional church; this allowed Trinity's local and international missions to blossom and grow into what they are today. He also guided the congregation in restructuring our property, partnering with the City of Stillwater to construct the parking structure on 3rd Street; moving the post office; revitalizing the Croix Center; and purchasing the Drive-In — all of which were consistent with the long-term vision of the congregation to secure Trinity's physical space for the future, and Pastor Dan's vision of building Trinity into a church that focused on three key elements: to love; to transform; and to serve.

"Pastor Dan has helped Trinity stretch in untold new ways," says Gail Olson. "Under his leadership, Trinity has expanded its learning opportunities and mission projects at home and abroad, and guided us to being a welcoming community. He is a highly gifted preacher and teacher and he will be deeply missed."

Perhaps Winnie the Pooh said it best:

*How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.*

Trinity has been lucky, indeed. Which makes saying goodbye so hard.

Good luck and God bless, Pastor Dan — we will miss you!





## ON PURPOSE

Jody Thone, On Purpose Ministries



# ADVENT PAUSE

## and The Gift of Invitation

An interview with Karen Gieseke by Jody Thone

*The Last Straw*, *The Christmas Letter*, and *Christmas Tapestry* are three of the stories that have been shared over the last 19 years through something Karen Gieseke dreamed up: Advent Pause. I sat down with Karen after this year's Advent Pause, Christmas and her daughter's wedding (it was a big December!) to reflect on one of our home-grown ministry treasures.



"It began with my own desire for more thoughtful, intentional moments in Advent. I wanted a counter-cultural gathering of women, one that wasn't about our busyness and more, more, more." Karen explained to me. "What if we hosted gatherings in people's homes, made them manageable for everyone, and partnered people with different roles – a hostess and a discussion/story leader?"

I am quickly reminded of Karen's natural talent for ideation as we talk. Back in the beginning, she partnered with Susan Lennartson to launch trainings and those first Advent Pause offerings.

One of the key things Karen points to in sustaining such a vibrant ministry is the gift of invitation. "When I started this, it was phone calls inviting people to serve from their strengths. There is something so honoring about naming the gifts that someone could bring to their community," she says. "Whether they respond with a yes, or no, is secondary. Giving the gift of noticing someone, naming their gifts, and inviting them into something is a big, big part of it for me."

That is so true: I have a Paul Tillich quote right by my computer that I look at each day that says, *The first duty of love is to listen.*

For the past three years, Karen has partnered with Lucinda White to extend invitations to a broader group of women. Working with all of the hosts, the discussion/story leaders, Lucinda, and others these past 19 years has enriched our community with the spirit of invitation — saying to women: your presence is meaningful and wanted. Of course, another key partner in this ministry is Mark Gieseke, who assists Karen each year in creating about 240 ornaments that accompany the story and theme.

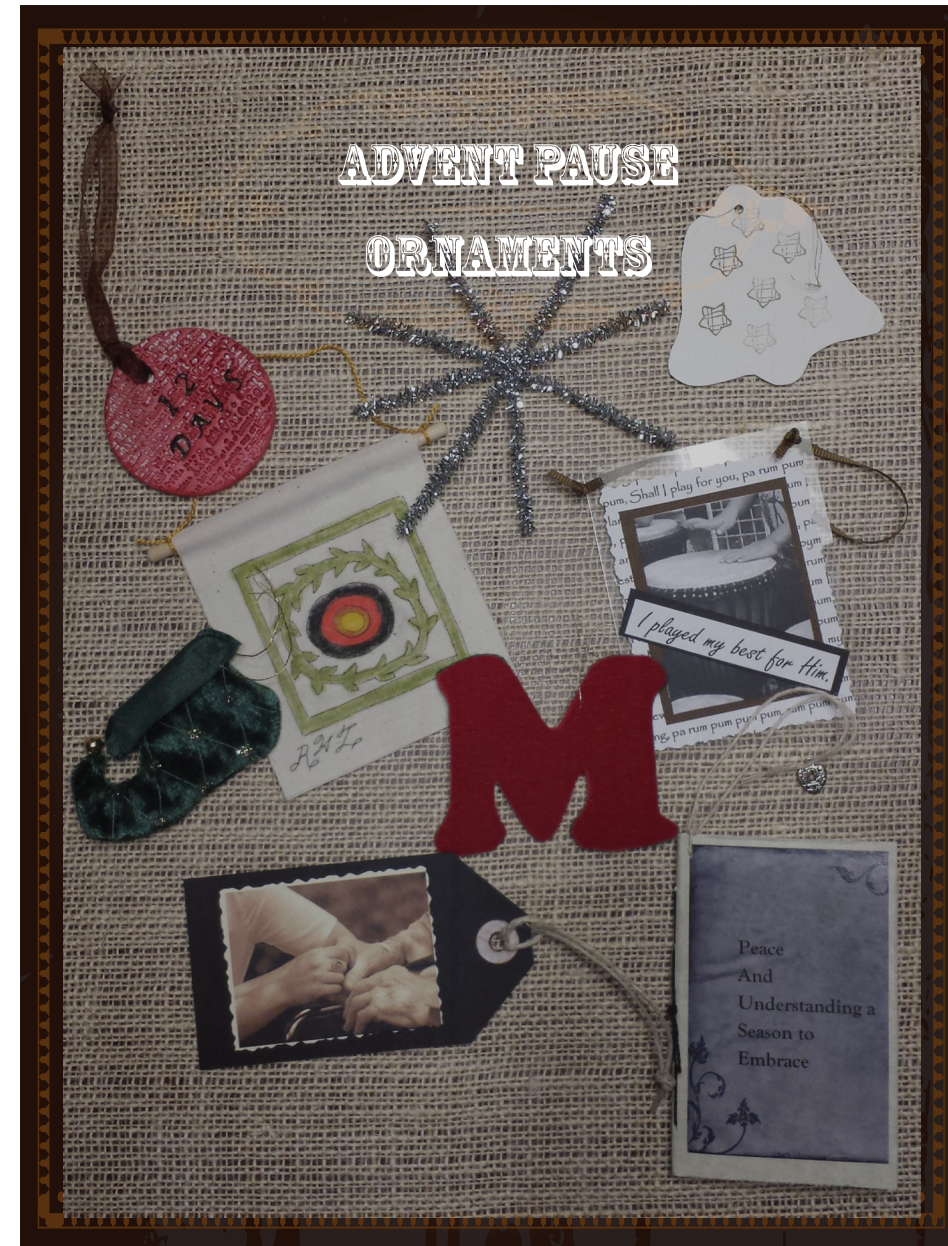
Many of you who are reading this story have attended an Advent Pause; you have gathered with dear friends,

had introductions to women who have become new friends, shared moments of peace and understanding and felt the sacred embrace of God. So that naturally prompted me to ask Karen, "Who invited you?" She pauses then answers, "There have been many wonderful voices of invitation in my life. To have someone pause long enough to notice that I could offer something to God's work in the world is an incredible gift."

Another Paul Tillich quote comes to my mind: *Faith is an act of a finite being who is grasped by, and turned to, the infinite.* That describes Karen Gieseke, who unleashed her creative power of faith to enrich our Trinity community!



Karen Gieseke



## Winter Weekend Getaway

Thursday, Feb. 5 – Sunday, Feb. 8; \$30



Enjoy a long weekend in the north woods of Grand Marais at Laura Holmes' cabin on Devil Track Lake. Optional activities will include downhill and cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, walking, and shopping in Grand Marais — plus lots of relaxing by the fire and being in fellowship with fabulous women! (Planning meeting on Jan. 29.) For more information, contact Laura Holmes at [mslaurabeth@comcast.net](mailto:mslaurabeth@comcast.net).

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By Todd King, Treasurer

### Long Range Financial Planning Team

The Long-Range Financial Planning Team, appointed by the Congregational Council, began meeting in early December. Now halfway through its scheduled initial phase, the team anticipates making a report at the Congregational Council's January meeting. 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.

### Finance Team and Pledging

Meanwhile, the on-going Finance Team is poised to meet on Jan. 19 to do a mid-fiscal year analysis of our pledging and year-to-date results to assess whether corrective actions (typically cuts in expenses) need to be undertaken. As of Jan. 4, we had received 393 pledges totaling \$1,031,884. While this is a fair result, revenues and contributions this fiscal year have trailed last year. To help Trinity retain its great programs and outstanding staff, this trend needs to change and ***your pledge can certainly help!*** If you are an automated giver, please consider increasing the amount of your automated gift.

### Croix Center

One of our two new Croix Center tenants has signed their lease! The second tenant is poised to sign their lease, as well, and begin build-out. However, we did run into some additional work that needed to be done on the electrical and floor, which delayed turning the space over to the tenants by about 60 days. We hope to see our new tenants in place by March 1.



## LEARNING TOGETHER IN 2015



### Learning Together Kicks Off with Baptism

Our very first Learning Hour happened on Sunday, Jan. 11, with kids and adults rotating through several interactive learning stations to explore and experience the promise of baptism. Activities included writing baptism welcome notes, creating ritual sheets for use at home, and listening to stories about baptism. We also baptized 17 children and adults. What a great day to come together in celebration of this sacrament!

All of the Sundays listed below are Learning Together Sundays. This means there is no separate Adult or Children's Learning on these dates. The Nursery, however, will be available for children birth to age three.

#### ***Sunday, Feb. 15—9:30 am***

Lent will be the focus of Learning Together Sunday, as we prepare for Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season.

#### ***March 8—9:30 a.m.***

Confirmation students will be flipping and serving pancakes to earn money for summer camp. All proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast directly benefit confirmation campers. Eat, share, and celebrate the mission and many service opportunities Trinity offers!

#### ***May 17—9:30 a.m.***

Worship is a beautiful spiritual practice that awakens our soul to praise and thank our creator. All ages will be invited to learn and experience this meaningful practice during this month's Learning Together Hour.





By Jody Nyenhuis



## Parents Night Out

**Friday, Feb. 6  
6-8 p.m.**

\$10 per child  
Birth through 4th grade

Leave the kids at Trinity  
& go on a date!

Confirmation and High School  
youth provide fun & games  
to raise money for summer  
camp.

**Register Online**



## Parenting is...

Parenting is a great adventure and a constant role to be lived out faithfully. There are no perfect parenting strategies; rather, there are preferred practices we determine are helpful by trial and error.

**One parent asked how we should respond to our sons and daughters when they ask, "Why do we have to go to church?"**

The answer? We don't HAVE to, we CHOOSE to — and you can fill in the reasons why attending church is part of your family's life. This question leads us into deeper conversations with our children about why and what faith means to us.

Thank you for the many wonderful ideas you put into the Parenting Class idea basket on Sunday, Jan. 11! I look forward to addressing them in the Parenting Class series that will be offered April 12, 19 & 26 and May 3 & 10. If you have topics you'd like included in this series, please send your ideas to me at [jnyenhuis@trinitylc.org](mailto:jnyenhuis@trinitylc.org).

## Mexico Mission Quilts

Each year, our high school Mexico Missionaries spend their Spring Break roofing houses. At the end of the week, the students give quilts to the families who live in the houses, as a blessing for their new homes. The quilts are a mission of our Sunday & Wednesday Learning students, who color quilt squares that are sewn together and then tied into a finished quilt.

That's where you come in! We need people to sew the squares together. All you really need to know how to do is sew a straight line — nothing complicated! Quilt kits are available after church in the Commons. We need the sewn quilt tops back by Feb. 15 so our kids can tie the quilts together.

If you can volunteer to sew a quilt, please contact Meg Gerlach at [mgerlach@trinitylc.org](mailto:mgerlach@trinitylc.org). Thank you!



# RACHEL KURTZ

On Jan. 7, local Christian singer and songwriter Rachel Kurtz shared her musical gifts with our Wednesday night learners and Confirmation students. Rachel's energy, humor, and passion for Christ were evident as she performed a variety of songs, from spirituals to original liturgies. One of many highlights was the performance of her original song "Make a Difference", which is familiar to Trinity families from Sunday worship. If you haven't heard Rachel perform, check out her music on her website: [rachelkurtz.org](http://rachelkurtz.org). (I would highly recommend her album "Broken and Low Down"). You can look for a new album from Rachel at the end of 2015!

—Kelsey Mans



## VBS Everest Comes to Trinity!

Vacation Bible School will be held June 15-19, and this year's theme is EVEREST: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power!

You will notice that we're shifting from hosting VBS at the end of summer to the beginning of summer. One of the reasons for this transition is to allow more adults the opportunity to volunteer and come alongside our kids.

To help us determine best time of day for you and your family to participate in VBS, please take our two-question survey at:

<http://tinyurl.com/Trinity-VBS-Survey>

or click on the QR code below to take the survey on your cell phone.





Pre-K to 3rd Grade  
Travels Through the Bible

By Sandy Troyan



Trinity’s youngest learners have been busy traveling through the Bible. At the beginning of the year, we began with Creation and have already made it to the life of Jesus. When learners have been asked their favorite story, there seems to be a tie between learning about when Joseph was in prison and the story of Queen Esther. One kindergartener said Esther was the best story because “we got to wear crowns.”

Whoever we’ve met while traveling through the Bible, there have been a few very important messages we’ve taken with us. They are:

- 1. Sometimes life is scary and sometimes we may be afraid, but God will be with us, just like God was with Joseph when he was in prison or Moses when he delivered God’s people out of Egypt.
- 2. We are all unique. Some of us have brown hair, some of us have red hair. Some of us prefer the color blue and others pink. God created us uniquely and loves us so much. This is a message we should not forget and one we should share wherever we go.
- 3. God is love. We see this in the promises God made to Abraham and the parting of the Red Sea to save the Israelites. But most recently, we’ve experienced this through the Birth of Jesus.

These three lessons are not going to disappear—we will see them come alive as we travel through the New Testament!

One-on-One Time: Parent/Child Dates

By Lake Area Discovery Center

One-on-one time is listed as one of the “7 Habits of Highly Effective Families.” What a great way to celebrate Valentines Day and show our children love then with the gift of time!

These parent/child “dates” can be a special outing or as simple as a run to the store together. If you find yourself running out of conversation starters with your child, Bret Nicholas and Paul Lowire (aka, The Question Guys) offer some suggestions in *Kid Chat*, which we’ve listed below. The questions are thought-provoking and promote creative thinking, and would also be great to take on a long car trip!

- If something besides rain or snow could fall from the sky, what would you want it to be? (What about jelly beans?)
- If you could be shrunk down to one inch tall for a day, what do you think would be the most exciting place to explore?
- If you had to work on a farm for one week during the summer, what job or chore do you think would be the most fun to do?
- If you could make anything at all twice as big as it already is, what would it be?
- What is one thing you are pretty certain you will be good at as an adult?
- What is the silliest thing you have ever done?
- If you could do anything you wanted—anything at all—for your next birthday, what would you do?

- If you could be taken to and from school each day in an unusual vehicle or machinery, what would be your form of transportation? (think tractor, firetruck or rocket!)
- If you won \$1,000 as part of a contest, how would you spend the money?
- If a drinking fountain would give you any drink of your choice to spout up, what drink would you choose the most often?
- What is your favorite month of the year? Why?
- If you could be any animal for one day, living in it’s environment and doing it’s thing, what animal would you be?
- What part of a typical day do you look forward to the most?
- In your opinion, what animal makes the funniest or most unusual sounds?

Lake Area Discovery Center is Trinity’s partner in providing educational experiences for pre-school children. The school currently is enrolling students for the 2015-16 school year. If you are interested in learning more about the program, please visit LADC online at [www.ladefamilies.org](http://www.ladefamilies.org) or call the main office at 651-762-7884.



**Did You Know?**  
You can prevent boil over when cooking foods like pasta, beans, or rice by placing a wooden spoon in the pot or across the top. We use a wooden chopstick at our house!

Want to know why? Because... Science!  
The wooden spoon (or chopstick) breaks the surface tension, allowing the bubbles to break harmlessly in the pot rather than clinging together and running down the side and making a mess.

By Linda Flood, Food Services Manager

FROM THE KITCHEN

Decadent Chocolate Pots

- 1 C chocolate chips
  - 1 egg \* see note at bottom
  - 2T sugar
  - pinch salt
  - 2T liquor of choice (or 2t vanilla extract)
  - 2/3 C whole milk (or 1/3 C skim and 1/3C half and half if you don’t regularly use whole)
  - In a blender combine all ingredients on low.
  - Carefully add boiling milk and blend until smooth.
  - Pour into four small ramekins and chill for at least one hour.
  - Top with whipped cream (optional).
- Since there is no baking —just “cooking” supplied by the boiling milk— use pasteurized eggs if you have any concerns.

Whole Wheat Chocolate Chip Scones

- 2 1/2 C white whole wheat flour
- 1/2 C sugar
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 t salt
- 6 T unsalted butter, chilled and chopped (omit salt if using salted butter)
- 1 cup whole milk (or 1/2 c skim and 1/2 c half and half)
- 1/2 C mini chocolate chips
- Preheat oven to 400F
- Whisk together the flour, sugar baking powder and salt.
- Cut in the butter with a pastry blender, two knives, or in a food processor until texture is that of coarse meal.
- Add milk and chocolate chips, mixing gently until just incorporated. It might look dry but let it rest in the bowl for five minutes in the fridge.
- Shape dough gently into a one-inch thick disc.
- Cut into wedges and bake on a parchment-lined baking sheet.
- Bake for 23-25 minutes or until golden brown.
- Cool on wire rack and serve.



BAPTIZED LEARNING

• Adison Rose-Stene Gray,  
daughter of Shawn & Mary Gray

• Nina Marie Fredkove,  
daughter of Mark &  
Windy Fredkove

• Penelope Joyce Corbett,  
daughter of Thomas &  
Daphne Corbett  
• John Thomas Corbett,  
son of Thomas & Daphne Corbett  
• Paul Bernard Corbett,  
son of Thomas & Daphne Corbett

• Brooke Drenning Darby (Adult)  
• Eliza DeMaria Darby,  
daughter of Jerry & Brooke Darby

• Elle Erin Fallon,  
daughter of Lawrence &  
Suzanne Fallon  
• Cooper Timothy Fallon,  
son of Lawrence & Suzanne Fallon

• Julian Michael Galvin,  
son of John & Katie Galvin  
• Harper Elizabeth Galvin,  
daughter of John & Katie Galvin  
• Kindra Elizabeth Madline (Adult)

• Jennifer Amanda Glassman  
(Adult)  
• Andrew Lawrence Glassman,  
son of David & Jennifer Glassman  
• Colin Brady Glassman,  
son of David & Jennifer Glassman

• Elliot James Lenz,  
son of Mark & Theresa Lenz

• Madeleine Elisabeth Reyes,  
daughter of Federico & Vanessa  
Reyes  
• Jaxson Jon Reyes,  
son of Federico & Vanessa Reyes  
• Evelyn Michele Reyes,  
daughter of Federico &  
Vanessa Reyes

• Cadance Elizabeth Nyblom,  
daughter of Bryan Nyblom &  
Karin Luskey  
• Aria Jean Luskey,  
daughter of Lendell &  
Karin Luskey

• Sunday, Feb. 1 at 9:30 a.m.  
On Purpose: Let Your Life Speak

• Sunday, Feb. 8 at 9: 30 a.m.  
On Purpose: Let Your Life Speak

• Sunday, Feb. 15 at 9:30 a.m.  
Intergenerational Sunday – Lent

• Sunday, Feb. 22 at 9:30 a.m.  
On Purpose: Let Your Life Speak

WORSHIP SYMPATHY

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| December 20 & 21   | January 3 & 4      |
| 5 p.m. .... 39     | 5 p.m. .... 61     |
| 9 a.m. .... 328    | 8:30 a.m. .... 158 |
| 10:30 a.m. .N/A    | 10:30 a.m. ... 382 |
| Christmas Eve      | January 10 & 11    |
| 2 p.m. .... 370    | 5 p.m. .... 62     |
| 3 p.m. .... 310    | 8:30 a.m. .... 254 |
| 4 p.m. .... 510    | 10:30 a.m. ... 294 |
| 5 p.m. .... 411    | January 17 & 18    |
| 7:30 p.m. .... 217 | 5 p.m. .... 92     |
| 9 p.m. .... 309    | 8:30 a.m. .... 246 |
| Christmas Day      | 10:30 a.m. ... 227 |
| 10 a.m. .... 133   |                    |

TRINITY TODAY

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WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

• 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

• The family and friends of  
Sandra Gosso

• The family and friends of  
Betty Larson



WELCOME

Welcome to Marilee Tangen, Trinity’s new  
Publications Specialist!

Marilee and her family are long-time  
members of Trinity. Her children,  
Caroline, 11, and Simon, 13, are involved  
in Wednesday Night Learning, and Marilee  
is active in Hearts of the Home Moms.

Marilee is a professional graphic designer  
whose work can be seen throughout  
Stillwater. In fact, she designed the  
logo for Our Schools Our Valley, the  
grassroots organization that promoted  
the ISD 834 bond measure of 2013 (and  
whose bumper stickers, which Marilee  
designed, were ubiquitous that year!).

This is Marilee’s first issue of *Trinity  
Today*. Please join us in welcoming her to  
Trinity’s staff!

—Kim Pleticha,  
Director of Communications

CALENDAR FEBRUARY 1 - 28, 2015

**Sun., Feb. 1**  
8:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center  
9 a.m. Couples Small Group: Library  
9:30 a.m. Sunday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level  
9:30 a.m. On Purpose-Let Your Life Speak: Room 108B  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center

**Mon., Feb. 2**  
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
8:45 a.m. Bridge for Trinity: Garden Room  
1:30 p.m. Commodity Food Distribution: Valley Outreach  
6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel  
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym  
7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

**Tues., Feb. 3**  
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library, Room 108B  
8:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study: Living Room  
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 Center

**Wed., Feb. 4**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
9:15 a.m. Heart of the Home Moms: Upper/Lower Levels  
5 p.m. Children’s Choirs: Choir Room, Worship Center  
5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Room  
6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr 7-9)-Worship: Worship Center  
6:15 p.m. Wednesday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level  
7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room, Worship Center  
7:30 p.m. The River Worship Gr. 9-12: Youth Area

**Thurs., Feb. 5**  
All Day GLOW-Winter Weekend: Grand Marais, MN  
7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
8 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous: Room 108A  
2 p.m. The Healing Hearts Group: Room 108B

**Fri., Feb. 6**  
All Day GLOW-Winter Weekend: Grand Marais, MN  
7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
10 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B  
6 p.m. Parents’ Night Out: Gym, Garden Room, Youth Room

**Sat., Feb. 7**  
All Day GLOW-Winter Weekend: Grand Marais, MN  
8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall  
8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
5 p.m. Worship, Communion: Worship Center

**Sun., Feb. 8**  
All Day GLOW-Winter Weekend: Grand Marais, MN  
8:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center  
9:30 a.m. Sunday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level  
9:30 a.m. On Purpose-Let Your Life Speak: Room 108B  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center  
12 p.m. Mexico Mission Adult Leaders: Living Room  
7 p.m. Women’s Book Group: Kowalski’s-Stillwater

**Mon., Feb. 9**  
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
1 p.m. Rebekah Circle: Library  
6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel  
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym  
7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

**Tues., Feb. 10**  
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library, Room 108B  
8:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study: Living Room  
9 a.m. Croixdale Sr. Communion  
9 a.m. Women’s Book Group: Library  
9:15 a.m. Leah Circle Meeting: Narthex  
10 a.m. Good Samaritan Sr. Communion  
10:45 a.m. Greeley Sr. Communion  
1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex  
5 p.m. Retired Men/AWE Valentine’s Event: Rivertown Inn  
6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library  
7 p.m. WALK Rehearsal: Worship Center

**Wed., Feb. 11**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
9 a.m. Play & Pray Group – Birth-Age 3: Gym  
9:30 a.m. Boutwells Landing Sr. Communion  
1 p.m. Oak Ridge Apts. Sr. Communion  
5 p.m. Children’s Choirs: Choir Room, Worship Center  
5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Room  
6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr 7-9): Worship Center  
6:15 p.m. Wednesday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level  
7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room, Worship Center  
7:30 p.m. The River Worship Gr. 9-12: Youth Area

**Thurs., Feb. 12**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
8 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous: Room 108A  
1 p.m. Martha Circle Meeting: Living Room

**Fri., Feb. 13**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
10 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B  
3 p.m. Mexico Mission ‘15 Overnight Starts: Gym,  
Garden Room, Youth Room

**Sat., Feb. 14**  
8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall  
8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
10 a.m. Mexico Mission ‘15 Overnight Ends: Gym,  
Garden Room, Youth Room  
5 p.m. Worship, Communion: Worship Center

**Sun., Feb. 15**  
8:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center  
9 a.m. Couples Small Group: Library  
9:30 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday-Lent: Garden Room  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center

**Mon., Feb. 16**  
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
4 p.m. Congregational Council Meeting: Office  
Conference Room  
6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel  
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym  
7 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Library

**Tues., Feb. 17**  
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library, Room 108B  
8:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study: Living Room  
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 Center

**Wed., Feb. 18—Ash Wednesday**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
9:15 a.m. Hearts of the Home Moms: Upper/Lower Levels  
10:15 a.m. Linden Sr. Communion  
12 p.m. Worship/Soup & sandwich lunch following service:  
Worship Center, Garden Room  
1 p.m. Rivertown Commons Sr. Communion

5 p.m. Children’s Choirs: Choir Room, Worship Center  
5 p.m. Worship for All: Worship Center  
6 p.m. Dinner for All: Garden Room  
7 p.m. Worship for All: Worship Center  
7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room, Worship Center

**Thurs., Feb. 19**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
8 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous: Room 108A

**Fri., Feb. 20**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
10 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B  
6 p.m. Jr. High 30-Hour Famine Begins

**Sat., Feb. 21**  
8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall  
8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
5 p.m. Worship, Communion: Worship Center  
5:30 p.m. Jr. High 30-Hour Famine Ends  
7:30 p.m. Valley Chamber Chorale Concert: Worship Center

**Sun., Feb. 22**  
8:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center  
9:30 a.m. Baptism Class: Living Room  
9:30 a.m. On Purpose-Let Your Life Speak: Room 108B  
9:30 a.m. Sunday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Nursery: Worship Center  
7 p.m. Women’s Book Group: Kowalski’s-Stillwater

**Mon., Feb. 23**  
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  
7 p.m. VCC Rehearsal: Worship Center

**Tues., Feb. 24**  
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Library, Room 108B  
8:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study: Living Room  
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 Center

**Wed., Feb. 25**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
10:30 a.m. Oak Park Senior Living Sr. Communion  
Noon Worship, Lunch  
5 p.m. Children’s Choirs: Choir Room, Worship Center  
5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Room  
6:15 p.m. Wednesday Learning (3 yrs-Gr 6): Lower Level  
6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr 7-9): Worship Center  
7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room, Worship Center  
7:30 p.m. The River Worship Gr. 9-12: Youth Area

**Thurs., Feb. 26**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
8 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous: Room 108A  
10 a.m. Knitting Ministry: Narthex  
7:30 p.m. SPCO Concert: Worship Center

**Fri., Feb. 27**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
10 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Room 108B

**Sat., Feb. 28**  
8 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting: Luther Hall  
8 a.m. AA Meeting: Library  
5 p.m. Worship, Communion: Worship Center



# TRINITY TODAY

love.transform.serve.

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## FINAL CALL FOR POETS!

# Lenten Poetry Book

We're once again looking to publish 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're looking for all kinds of poetry: rhyming, ballads, blank verse, couplets, free verse, limericks, narratives, sonnets, haiku, and even visual poetry (photos and art).

We want poems from people of ALL AGES — yes, that means children, teens and adults.

Give it a try — then email your poems to Carol Carver at [ccarver@trinitylc.org](mailto:ccarver@trinitylc.org) or drop off a hard copy in the Church Office.

**Deadline for submission EXTENDED to Wednesday, Jan. 28!**

Let this poem by Edwina Gateley inspire you!

### ***Let Your God Love You***

Be silent.  
Be still.  
Alone.  
Empty

Before your God.

Say nothing.

Ask nothing.

Be silent.

Be still.

Let your God look upon you.

That is all.

God knows.

God understands.

God loves you

With an enormous love,

And only wants

To look upon you

With that love.

Quiet.

Still.

Be.

Let your God—

Love you.

— Edwina Gateley