



trinity
Lutheran Church

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Trinity Lutheran Church
115 N. Fourth Street, Box 339
Stillwater, MN 55082 • 651-439-7400

love.transform.serve.

TRINITY SUMMER WORSHIP

BEGINS WEEKEND OF MAY 26-27



Summer's just around the corner

Outdoor worship at the historic Hilltop Drive-in begins May 27, Memorial Day weekend. We will enjoy the same great hospitality as before, only even better, because you will be part of the SummerShare team this year!



We are looking for...

Two or more people to host at the coffee and refreshment tent each Sunday at 9 a.m. through Labor Day. You can sign up for one time or as many times as you wish. It's fun work and a great way to meet people. Contact Phil Kadidlo at pkadidlo@trinitylc.org or ext. 143 for more information. People with hands and hearts are wanted to serve as greeters, ushers and communion servers at the Drive-In and the 10 a.m. indoor service at Trinity. This is a wonderful way to give back and serve our Trinity family and friends. Contact Zanny Johnson at zjohnson@trinitylc.org or ext. 130 for information.

Sign up in the Commons or
online at www.trinitylc.org.

Saturdays
at 5 P.M. Evening Worship
@Trinity

Sundays
at 9 A.M. Outdoor Worship @
Hilltop Drive-In, Houlton, WI
Visit the Children, Youth & Family canopy near
the refreshments.

Special Drive-In Sundays

Sun., June 17 – Monroe Crossing
Concert following worship with Dads & Dogs
Brats/dogs for lunch, served by youth to raise funds for camps

Sun., July 15 – Classic Car Sunday

Sun., Aug. 5 – Motorcycle Sunday

Sun., Aug. 26 – Blessing of the Animals



Sundays
at 10 A.M. Cool Worship @
Trinity



MAY 26 - SEPTEMBER 2

A MESSAGE FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Ready, Set....Go!

Annual Meeting 2012 Wrap-up

We tried a few new things this year at the Annual Meeting; we were not sure exactly how it would turn out, but confident that we would be among friends who would forgive us for trying. Our ideas were validated by enthusiastic participation during the meeting and responses that we got after the meeting. Now I'm afraid we have set the bar high; what do we do next year? Don't worry, we already have some ideas brewing on how to take it up another notch.

Pure genius.

We are not sure who first suggested that we hold the meeting the same weekend as the return of the Mexico Missionaries, but wow; we had 153 Annual Meeting participants! When the calendar allows, we will follow this model again. In 2013 we already know it won't be possible, so we will probably hold it the weekend that we commission the Mexico Missionaries.

More is more.

We were concerned that we were trying to present too much material. We spent dozens of hours trying to get ideas, concepts and facts into a coherent structure that would be understandable and interesting. We had lots of help – council, committees, core leadership and members of the congregation contributed to our understanding of what the congregation wanted to know and how we could best make the presentations.

Double-teaming.

It seemed to be effective to have the Lead Pastor and the Council President share the presentations. Different styles and different passions allow for a varied and interesting experience for the participants.



Advertising.

We pulled out the stops to get the word out and prepare the participants so they could be ready and attuned to the topics that would be discussed. Our excellent communications team pulled this off very well and this will certainly be part of the model going forward.

Vision.

As a Council we were excited to begin the Vision 2020 conversation in preparation for the 150th Anniversary of Trinity. It was reaffirming to see the engagement of the meeting participants through the table discussions. Clearly there is an appetite for long-term planning. The Vision 2020 theme will continue to play an important role, not only at annual meetings, but at numerous group sessions in between Annual Meetings. Keep your eyes open for upcoming announcements!

Accomplishments.

1. We reviewed and approved a budget for 2012.
2. New drawings for the "Opening Doors" Capital Appeal were presented, progress of the Appeal was discussed as well as the potential for this exciting new facility addition.
3. We elected Sara Godfrey and Dana Miller to additional Council terms.
4. We learned about Vibrant Stewardship and we were inspired by a wonderful giving story from Bob and Darlene Parent.
5. In the roundtables, we pondered three questions revolving around our impact on the world, our exciting ministry and our resources and opportunities.

Love and Grace.

We know that many of you have been in leadership roles at Trinity, and many of you will be in those roles in years to come. We can only share with you how gratifying it is to experience the love and grace of such a wonderful gathering. We had some candid discussions with members of the congregation prior to the meeting, we had candid discussions during the meeting and we had candid discussions after the meeting. Our takeaway: Different perspectives, shared in the spirit of a love for God and a love for Trinity, are what make us a very special community that lives in God's grace.

To view the slide presentation from the meeting, visit our website at www.trinitylc.org, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "2012 Annual Meeting slide presentation."

Thank you for your participation and support. We are honored to serve as your Congregational Council.

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LIFELONG LEARNING

Upcoming Lifelong Learning Classes:



You have a theology. You are a theologian.

Building your Personal Theology: GOD

Wednesdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Cost for Journal and Materials: \$30 per person

Led by Pastor Dan Poffenberger

From a pocket knife in the past to an iPhone today, we all have ordinary, everyday, dependable things that make our lives better – like a workable theology. This class has pre-work and homework between sessions. Register online at www.trinitylc.org by Wed., May 23. **The ByPT:God* class is the prerequisite for all other classes in the *Building your Personal Theology* series.

Me? A theologian?

Mondays, June 4, 11, 18, 25, 7–8 p.m., No cost

Led by Pastor Siri Erickson

Get in touch with your inner theologian. This class will boost your confidence as a theologian and help you get ready for the *Building your Personal Theology* series. We will explore the factors that shape your theology: your experiences, your community, your knowledge from a wide range of fields and areas of study, your personality, and your relationship with scripture. If you are still wondering whether or not you are really a theologian, then this is the class for you! Register online at www.trinitylc.org by Wed., May 23.

Coming Soon: A Summer Engagement

A way to connect with Trinity staff this summer
Trinity staff members want to connect with you this summer; watch for information via email soon!

Here is an example of what you have to look forward to:

A study of *Sabbath*, by Wayne Muller

Led by Pastor Siri Erickson

“Life isn’t just about doing, working, producing, and performing. It is also about rest, play, delight, and spiritual connection with God, people and all creation. In our lives today, even summertime can feel “too busy.”

If you can’t take a sabbatical or long vacation this summer, you can experience the joy and delight of sabbath rest and communion with God. As we journey together through this book, we will drink from the sabbath wisdom of Wayne Muller and learn practices that will help us create a more life-giving balance between work and play, doing and being.

I read this book on a regular basis last summer during my sabbatical. It helped ground me in the true purpose of sabbath, which is simply to rest and find delight in the sheer fact of being alive. I am really looking forward to having this book and all of you as spiritual companions this summer.”

How it will work: You can buy the book at amazon.com for \$10. Send your name, email address, and cell phone number to Siri at s Erickson@trinitylc.org. Siri will send you a reading schedule for the summer.

- Once a week Siri will write an entry on her blog about sabbath-living, and you receive an email link to the entry. You can join the conversation about your summer-living experiences and reflections.
- Twice a week Siri will send out a text message with briefly-worded insights and inspiration from the readings for the week.

MUSIC MINISTRIES



Sine Nomine Choir recently recorded choral music for Augsburg Fortress, publisher for the ELCA. Members are, front row, left to right: Anna Swanson, Kaitlyn Ebret, Anya Nelson, Linnea Quarberg, Hadley Johnson. Back row: Director Carol Carver, Eliana Johnson, Mary Swanson, Rachel Coppock, Emily Johnson.



MISSIONS MINISTRIES



Tom Thiets
Director of
Missions

MISSION
update

When we rise each day, we mentally begin to write out the list of items that we need to focus upon. Some of us even write out that list. I think I might be personally keeping 3M in business by the number of Post-It notes I use each day!

Our "To Do" list can be filled with a broad range of items from filling the gas tank, to repairing the front door, to visiting a friend. Some days we fulfill every task, and some days seem to fall apart before we even get started. Interruptions, a change of plans or just plain fatigue can result in only a few items checked off the list. Then we rise to another day with a larger list than the day before.

Do we ever get to the end of the list? Is this what we are called to do in life? There are days when it is difficult to see beyond that list, but beneath it all lays the basic guidelines from scripture. In the book of Deuteronomy we are encouraged by the instructions to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

How do we add that to our list? While this may appear to be a daunting task, we must keep in mind we are never called to do more than what we are capable of doing. Some days our energy level is higher and our schedules are wide open, and other days we will never get beyond the first item. Relax. Whether our effort is large or small, God accepts what we have to offer. Our ability to express

our faith and love to God is accepted no matter where we are in our life. While our effort may appear to us as insignificant, we must remember that a small amount of love is still love. A weak faith is still faith.

How can I love God when there are days when I don't have any extra love to spread around? Micah 6:8 brings a clearer description of how we are to love our God each day: "Listen O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what God requires of you: to do justice, to love doing mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Here we find some basic building blocks for paving our pathway each day in the words of justice, mercy, and humility. Not easy, but doable one step at a time. Sometimes it is in the simple act of letting another car proceed before you at a four-way stop, or in correcting a clerk when you are not charged enough for a product at the store. Justice, mercy, and humility help us to peacefully coexist.

We will have days when we can do more, and we will. Some days will be filled with service and mission where we can express our love for God. The words of Matthew 25:35-40 will come to life: "When I was hungry, you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me; I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me. Truly whatever you did for one of the least of these you did for me."

Until then, no matter what your day brings, relax. Make a new list, or if possible take a day or two and live without a list! God is waiting patiently to receive you each day with open arms.

*Blessings, Tom Thiets
Director of Missions*

Amazing Facts about

Kids Against Hunger.

- In 2011, the 94 satellite operations and corporate headquarters packaged 40 million meals
- Our satellite, KAH-St. Croix Valley, ranked #11 (of the 94 satellites) in meals packaged at 1,025,568 (This includes our local event & an event in NY we organize & lead)
- Meals were shipped to 46 countries
- 83.2% were shipped abroad (33,280,000) through more than 400 partner organizations
- 16.8% were distributed within the USA (6,720,000)
- Top five countries receiving meals: Haiti, USA, Kenya, Philippines, Nicaragua
- Total number of volunteers: 200,367
- Minnesota ranked #1 with the highest number of volunteers: 34,317
- Total number of meals packaged since 1999: 242.6 million

MISSIONS MINISTRIES

Lutefisk Team leader(s) sought

Trinity's Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner is so much more than a historical event that honors the heritage of our founding families. This meal offers volunteers an opportunity to share their strengths and talents as they provide an inviting atmosphere of fellowship and joy to our community.

Last year's event gathered 775 guests throughout the day. While the guests shared a wonderful meal, rekindled friendships and met new folks, they also helped to support a variety of hunger-related ministries at Trinity. The proceeds of the dinner are used to help combat hunger locally and globally. These proceeds are vital as Trinity strives to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

This November's dinner will be the fifth and final one that Joan Newman and Lynn Schurrer have co-chaired. Trinity is looking for two or more people to take over this responsibility. This dinner is a very well-organized and documented event that has evolved over the years. Joan and Lynn are willing to mentor the new leaders during the planning of the 2012 dinner so the transition to 2013 will be smooth. If you are interested please contact Lynn at lschurrer@aol.com or Joan at chuckjoan.newman@comcast.net.

Last Sunday Supper opportunities

You are warmly invited to join the Last Sunday Supper team at their next meal service dates in Stillwater and St. Paul. This ministry is a wonderful opportunity to provide hospitality and hope to those in need. It doesn't matter whether your specialty is cooking, or serving cookies with a smile, you are welcome to join the team.

Last Sunday Supper next serving date: May 27

For more information please contact John Weyrauch at jmweyrauch@comcast.net

A Mwatasi thank you

Dear friends in Christ,

It is so long time since we have emailed each other. It is because of internet networking in our village but I hope everyone is fine at Trinity Lutheran Church. Kindly, I am sending you greetings and prayers from Mwatasi Congregation. We have been praying for you in every church service and everybody is aware of your mission presence at Mwatasi. We kindly pray and welcome you in Tanzania again this June. Students are doing well at the school. The village of Mwatasi feels blessed by our partnership, and despite the recent problems with our generators, most of the village is receiving safe water. God bless you all. Working bega-kwa-bega [shoulder-to-shoulder] will lead us to a strong faith in Jesus, to a great education and healthier families.

Thank you, Pastor Elias Kadinda

Vacation Bible School volunteers & donations sought Sky – Everything is Possible with God

Aug. 6-10, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We want you! Volunteers of all ages are needed for our Junior Crew (completed gr. 5 or 6), Crew Leaders (jr. high to adult), and Rotation Station Leaders (adults). Please contact Christine Lande at ext. 125 or clande@trinitylc.org to sign up or for more information. This August kids will discover that Everything is possible with God!

Donations are needed. We know summer gets busy, so let us do the shopping! Drop off your cash donations (from \$5 to \$100) in the Church Office or at the Children's Ministries tent at the Drive-In. Cash or checks are welcome (checks to TLC with VBS in the memo line). Please contact Christine Lande at ext. 125 or clande@trinitylc.org with questions. Thank you in advance for your support to this wonderful ministry.

Light up a Life in Tanzania

\$10 per light

For personal use, cost is \$25

(includes \$10 to donate a light)

Here's your chance to help students and others see in the dark in Tanzania. Purchase a high-quality, water-resistant, solar LED light that provides up to five hours of light per charge, and give those without electricity an opportunity to study, worship, light a path, or use for many other activities. Your donation of \$10 provides one light; if you wish to purchase one for your own use, the cost is \$25, of which \$10 is used to donate a light in Tanzania.

Your donation of a light can be made at www.trinitylc.org (scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Light Up a Life" in Tanzania). If you wish to purchase one for yourself, please contact Tom Thiets at tthiets@trinitylc.org or send a check payable to Trinity with "Light Up a Life" in the memo line, to the attention of Tom Thiets.



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Lutheran Church

"The impossible is possible."

Mission Tanzania 2012

Partner and Provide:

- Bomalang'ombe Secondary School roof, windows and doors
- Bomalang'ombe Secondary School water system expansion
- Mwatasi village water system improvements

\$60,000 to make the impossible possible



africa

destination unknown
JOURNEY
to the heart



Contact Tom Thiets at
tthiets@trinitylc.org with questions.

Make your donation online at
www.trinitylc.org or send a check with
Mission Tanzania 2012 in the memo line
to the attention of Tom Thiets.

GROUP & TEAM MINISTRIES



Tour of Target Field via Light Rail

Tue., May 22, Meet at 9:15 a.m. in Commons to carpool; return approx. 4 p.m. \$17/tour; lunch & light rail admission (\$1.50 adults; \$.75 seniors each way) on own
Experience a ride on the Light Rail and have a behind-the-scenes tour of Target Field plus lunch all in one fun day! Friends, male and female are welcome. Contact Donna Harder at 351-5043 or Shirley White at 351-0980 with questions.

MEN welcome!

RETIRED MEN'S EVENTS



AWE & Retired Men event: Cantus "Covers" – a Pop Concert

Thu., June 7; depart 6:15 p.m. sharp; concert 7:30 p.m. – Cowles Center for Dance & Performing Arts, Mpls; \$38/person
If you have never heard this group of nine men sing, now is your chance at this "stunning" concert. Most concerts are a capella; however, this time they will be joined by several other talented instrumentalists. We are sure you will find yourselves tapping your toes, snapping your fingers, clapping your hands and even singing along. AWE women contact Donna Harder at 351-5043 with questions. Retired Men contact Jack Nyenhuis at 651-303-7225. Register online at www.trinitylc.org.

Retired Men Event: Get to Know Pastor Candee

Tue., May 15, 9 a.m. – Garden Room
One year ago, Candee Moser was called as Trinity's Pastor of Care Ministries. Come listen to her share a bit of her background, her call to ministry and the work she does at Trinity. From teacher to nurse to pastor, God has led her on a variety of surprising journeys, complete with challenges and blessings. Contact Bob O'Neil at Irviking@comcast.net or 770-8881 with questions.

F R E E intergenerational womens' fashion show

Many Kinds of Beautiful

Wed., May 30 – 6:30 p.m.
Garden Room

Sally Winifred Latimer, licensed Fashion Feng Shui facilitator, is dedicated to helping women "dress with intention." With the help of five Trinity models, Sally will demonstrate how clothing can flatter your appearance, fulfill your essence, function for your lifestyle and fortify you for your goals. Coffee & dessert served. Spiritual practice led by Jody Thone.

Contact Marie Saterbak at 436-6252 or mcsaterbak@aol.com or Julie at jjolivette@trinitylc.org with questions.



GLOW Biking and Camping Adventure

June 22-24

Root River Trail, Lanesboro, MN

Two options: \$50/person for camping or

\$75/person to stay in the hostel; no bike trail fee

Trip mtg: Mon., June 11, 7 p.m. – Room 108B

Registration deadline: Fri., June 8

It's almost time for biking and camping along the Root River Trail in southern Minnesota. We'll be camping at the Old Barn Resort nestled in the heart of the bluff country on the Root River. We'll begin our ride at the Old Barn Resort on the paved Root River Trail (rated Minnesota's "most scenic" trail) and pedal to Lanesboro and back. Amenities include clean hot showers, flush toilets, electricity and heated pool. Canoes, kayaks and inner tubes are also available to rent on-site. If camping isn't your thing, you can stay at the Old Barn Resort Hostel for bunk-house style accommodations. To see the resort, visit www.barnresort.com. For more information, contact Jan Anderson via email at info@britishlabradors.com. Register online at www.trinitylc.org. Check out other GLOW summer adventures online as well!



Hilltoppers May gathering – Lasagna lunch!

Thu., May 17, Noon – Garden Room

The Kitchen Band from Woodbury Lutheran will entertain us. This is the last Hilltoppers until fall so come on out and have some fun!

Celebrating Seniors worship/communion picnic

Wed., June 6, 11 a.m.

Come to hear Pastor Candee's inspiring message. Immediately after the service, join your caring friends, who will prepare a picnic lunch for you, in the Garden Room. Do you like banjo music? Then you won't want to miss this one! We are fortunate to have Debbie Schreyer and her husband, Tom Owens, to entertain us. Debbie's career on the banjo began at age 9, when she played at the local Shakey's Pizza. Since that time she and Tom have traveled nationwide and participated in festivals and performed on riverboat excursions.



*Sy and Lois Gau,
parents of Julie Joliette*



A Parent's Legacy of Gratitude and Generosity

By Julie Joliette

I am 57 and have never known anything but gratitude and generosity! As I look back, I realize this is the legacy of my parents.

When I was in kindergarten, I remember feeling so grown-up on Christmas Eve when only I – the oldest child of 5 – got to go to midnight mass with my dad and grandparents. My dad gave me a nickel to put into the offering plate and I took this responsibility very seriously. There were many “magical” moments for me that night. As we arrived home it occurred to me that Santa may have already been at our house and could I take a peek? The bride doll left for me was beautiful, but even at that young age I recall being aware that it didn't top the feeling I experienced giving that nickel in the offering and participating in such a special worship service. I'm guessing that awareness was one of my first spiritual experiences of gratitude and generosity.

The next Christmas my mom took the four oldest children shopping. We were each given a couple dollars and instructed to buy something we would really like ourselves. Our next stop was to drop these gifts off where they would later be shared with children who otherwise would not receive a Christmas gift.

Again, this act of giving felt good. It wasn't until I was much older that my parents shared how financially challenged they were that year – my dad stayed home with us five kids and we lived on my mom's long-term substitute teaching job. They used their Christmas gift money from my grandma to purchase gifts for us that year. At the time, we ourselves may have been considered poor.

I'm not sure when our family started sponsoring children through Christian Children's and Compassion International – for most of my life a picture and bio of one would hang on our refrigerator and we would have fun corresponding and feeling connected as we personally knew someone half-way around the world. When I received my first paycheck, I immediately started my own sponsorship. Now I see pictures of sponsored children on the refrigerators of my own grown children and our son has even traveled to Haiti several times to spend time with the young boy he sponsors.

My parents never showered us with lots of gifts for any occasion. I can tell you “the gift” I received from them for almost every Christmas of my life through college....Barbie Doll, watch, wool skirt, clock radio, sweater, iron to name a few. Each was perfect and enjoyed and many I still have and cherish!

Our family has multiplied from seven original members to 35 (including grand and great-grand children). When we get together for Christmas it includes projects like two hours of food packing at the Kids Against Hunger location in Mankato and/or accompanying my mom as she takes her turn collecting recycling in our little hometown. It's also pretty common to have a jar on the table collecting donations for a “special project.” This year the project was for Kids Against Hunger because they had fallen short on funds to ship the packed meals. Grandchildren bring their suggestions now too and the causes we collaboratively help support physically and financially as part of our Christmas change in fun and experience.

Somewhere along the journey, Mom started a new tradition. At Thanksgiving everyone is given money to give away by Christmas. “Give it to something or someone in need that you feel passion about and be prepared to share when we get back together at Christmas.” As stories are shared, I am overwhelmed by two things: the glimpses into the hearts of my family members and the collective contribution our variety of gifts make throughout

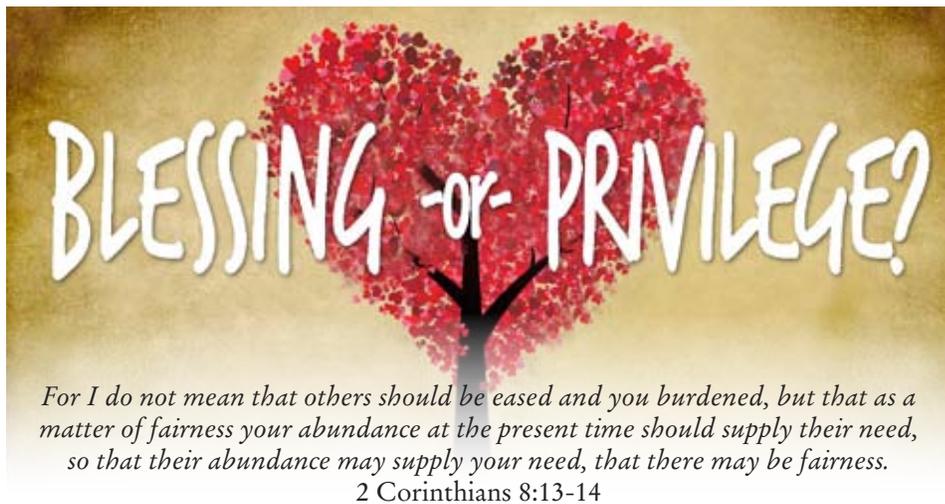
– growing in the grace of giving –

GRATEFUL HEARTS GENEROUS LIVES

the whole world. In some cases, even by grandchildren, donations are expanded and even doubled with their own money!

This was the first year that Claire, our 3-year old granddaughter, participated in sharing how she (and her family) chose to give the money. She presented great-grandma with a box of cards that she received as a thank you from the organization she gave to that helps save endangered animals. She then proceeded to tell her the name of each of the animals and how much she liked them and wanted them to stay on the earth. I'm not sure if Claire even knows what the words gratitude and generosity mean yet, but I do know that she is headed into a life that will practice both because of the family in which she was born. And that will make a positive difference to her and the world!

While dying of cancer 15 years ago, "Thank you" was the phrase that Dad spoke the most – to the personnel from hospice and to his family and friends who came to visit. He clearly entered the next life filled with gratitude. Mom continues to live this life filled with gratitude and outpouring actions of generosity! For this legacy I am sincerely grateful. Thank you Dad and Mom!



By Angie Brekke; angeliabrekke@gmail.com

Recently, I've thought a lot about our global economic realities—the increasingly unequal distribution of the world's resources and material wealth. I worry about the dark side of my personal economic prosperity.

- Who is suffering because I have more than my fair share?
- How does the desire to maintain my affluence silently creep into my religious, political and economic views?
- How have I softened Jesus' revolutionary story to fit within the framework of my "blessings?"

A dangerous idea often espoused by our culture—including some religious factions—is that God has blessed us (specifically the people of western cultures). We have this enormous material windfall because we have somehow earned God's favor. This logic then implies that the poor African child born with AIDS was cast out of God's good graces. This simply cannot be true. If God's love was unequal—which I believe is not the case—would God not give greater care to the sick, destitute child than to an affluent mother of three with a home of overflowing cupboards and closets?



God did not create the economic inequality that exists in the world today—we did.

Our invention of this economic machine fosters within us an insatiable demand for more. What is my personal responsibility within this economic machine? My personal resolutions:

- I need to reject the dominant cultural message of "more is better."
- I need to define "enough" for myself and my family.
- I need to be an intentional, thoughtful consumer, striving to create as little negative impact and eliminate unnecessary waste.

Perhaps the better question is what is my personal privilege? The Apostle Paul encouraged early Christian church members to essentially "pass it on," to share their abundance with their brothers and sisters so that none would be in need. By framing my abundance as a privilege, rather than a perverted blessing or an earned reward, I am freed from feelings of superiority or guilt and recognize the great opportunity before me: The privilege to meet the needs of others by sharing out of my abundance.

Discovering Joy – Hearing and acting on God’s nudges

By Tim Gillis and Kurt Frank



Kurt was turning away from God and I was starting to turn toward God. He felt like he had only one option and decided to act on it. The consequence was two 30-year consecutive life sentences with the slim chance of living long enough to be paroled. I had hit bottom and found hope in a memorable encounter with God. Kurt and I did not know each other and had no idea we had each set a course that would bring us together in a couple of years.

Kurt’s path led to the county jail where he saw no purpose for his life and wondered if anyone would ever forgive and love him again. With little or no hope to grasp onto, he was on depression medication and spent much of his time contemplating suicide. He was nudged to attend a revival meeting where he knelt before the cross and accepted Christ into his life. A Catholic nun and two Prison Fellowship mentors visited him at the county jail. They provided the seeds of hope that kept him on the path of building a deeper relationship with Christ.

While Kurt was suffering through the consequences of his choice, I was having a much different experience with mine. The warmth and comfort I experienced from my acceptance of God’s love, patience and forgiveness, became the energy source I needed to re-engage in life. My days were filled with alternating doses of hope, shame and fear. The defining moment during this time was gaining the strength to

knelt before a cross and surrender my brokenness to Christ. To this day, I am grateful that God provided a guide to that cross. Although I could not change the reality of the consequences of my choices, I could let my choice to surrender and accept God’s love lead me to a new reality. It was the beginning of a journey that included joining Trinity.

Kurt was transferred from the county jail to the maximum security prison in Oak Park Heights. His depression deepened with the loss of contact with the people who were providing him the seeds of hope to deal with his reality. During a break in his depressive state, he reached out through Prison Fellowship for a mentor. He wrote the potential mentor a letter that included information on the crime he committed, the pain it caused others, how he felt about what he had done and his relationship with Christ. He had no idea that this letter would put him on a path that would lead to a fifteen-year friendship with me.

While Kurt was reaching out for a mentor through Prison Fellowship, my walk with God led me to a Saturday morning breakfast at St. Andrews in Mahotmedi. The guest was a past director in the federal prison system. He talked about the results achieved through Prison Fellowship mentoring and the challenges the prison system had in providing resources for prisoners seeking a relationship with Christ. It turned into one of those moments

where I acted on the nudge I felt from God. I volunteered to become a Prison Fellowship mentor. Almost immediately I felt “buyers’ remorse.”

By the time I received Kurt’s letter, he had hit bottom and was on suicide watch. I did not see this opportunity to mentor Kurt as a gift from God. To the contrary I was very sure God had made a mistake. God must not have understood that I signed up to mentor a prisoner who committed a lesser crime. Surely God knew that my personal theology did not include forgiveness for someone like Kurt. I had envisioned mentoring a prisoner whose sentence included parole. I believe God used my reluctance to reinforce the importance of surrender and spiritual practices in discerning God’s voice. After many prayers and nature walks, it became clear that my initial reaction was not in sync with God’s heart. I turned to Christ’s teachings to overcome the fears and shame that I experienced when trying to reason my way to a decision.

Shortly after accepting the invitation to be his Prison Fellowship mentor, we met for the first time. We have spent an hour together every two weeks for the past fifteen years. Kurt has come from a place with no hope or purpose to a life filled with both. He has found ways to live with purpose in the prison system. He has been off depression medication for 10 years and spends time each day turning to God and the teachings of Christ for guidance. He is trusted by the

prison staff and has been forgiven for his crime by many of his fellow inmates and friends on the outside. Caring for the non-medical needs of patients in the prison hospital provides a way to serve other inmates. The money he earns goes toward personal needs, paying back money spent in prosecuting him, saving to pay for his burial, and contributing to his favorite charity.

My listening, hearing and acting on the nudge from God has resulted in the best seventeen years of my life. I have experienced more love, joy, peace, patience and contentment than at any other period of my life. Kurt's friendship has been instrumental in helping me build a personal theology that has sustained me through the ups and downs during this time. Members of Trinity's faith community provided resources and support that have helped me be a better mentor and friend to Kurt. Learning about personal theology, unique design and spiritual practices have helped me recognize and act on other nudges from God.

We are still journeying together. We look forward to our bi-monthly meetings. Kurt guides most visits to a discussion on faith and our relationship to Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit. The threads of these discussions are our personal theologies, unique design, discerning God's nudges and acting on them. We use the Bible and *The Wisdom of the Enneagram* as resource material for these discussions. We felt nudged to collaborate on telling the story of God's guiding hand in bringing us together on our spiritual journey. We hope we have told it in a way that fairly represents the reality of each of our lives and how God persisted in entering that reality with a love that has brought purpose and joy.

We both have developed a personal theology that embraces the idea that God's love is always accompanied with a measure of joy, peace, contentment, and patience. A measure that is amplified greatly when walking with God rather than striking off on our own. And, no matter how far we stray, God is ready to rejoin our journey when we have the courage to surrender. Do you wonder, as Kurt and I do, how much more joy we would experience if we turned and listened to God more often?

You are invited to a Summer of Contemplation

Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 a.m. on
Jody Thone's Backyard Patio

Start your day with lectio divina, silent meditation and other spiritual practices for building a life with more peace, contentment and joy. For information please contact Jody Thone at jthone@trinitylc.org.

CARE MINISTRIES WITH PASTOR CANDEE MOSER



As this issue of *Trinity Today* goes to print, I've just celebrated my first year anniversary of serving as Trinity's Pastor of Care Ministries. What an incredible year of learning it has been for me – and probably for all of you, too! As we know, no one does anything quite the same as it has been done before. Rather, God has created each one of us as unique individuals with wide and varied gifts to be shared with one another. Thank goodness we are not all carbon copies of one another. How boring that would be!

As I reflect on this past year, I must say thank you to all of you – staff, colleagues and people of TLC who have welcomed me with open arms, patiently taught me the ways of TLC and given me the freedom and opportunities to explore and develop my own way of being a minister in your midst. As a "Number 1" on the Enneagram, I can get very wrapped up in wanting to be a perfectionist, following the rules and wanting to do everything "right." Thank you for encouraging me to be myself, to let go of unrealistic expectations and to laugh – mostly at myself!

Also, I especially want to thank all of the volunteers who help me conduct monthly communion services at nine residences/care centers in the area. These services take a great deal of time and planning. Without those who help the residents get to and from the service, usher, set-up communion and provide music on a regular basis, I'd be lost, not to mention those who benefit from attending worship! I greatly appreciate your help as do the residents and staff at each of the facilities.

So again, I express my thanks and gratitude to God for all of you who've come into my life this past year. Each and every one of you is a gift! I look forward to our learning from one another, serving with each other and to all of the joys and challenges we will together share in the name of Jesus Christ. I offer this prayer, so pertinent for me as I look to the future – and maybe for you, too.

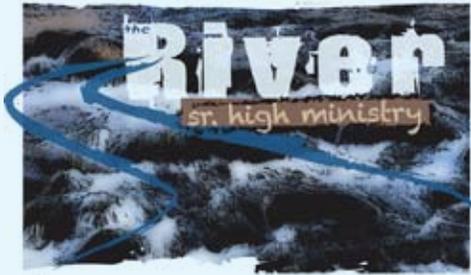
The New Year Faithful Companion

In this new year I pray:
To live deeply, with purpose,
To live freely, with detachment,
To live wisely, with humility,
To live justly, with compassion,
To live lovingly, with fidelity,
To live mindfully, with awareness,
To live gratefully, with generosity,
To live fully, with enthusiasm.

Help me to hold this vision
And to daily renew it in my heart,
Becoming ever more one with you,
My truest Self.

- from *Out of the Ordinary* by Joyce Rupp

YOUTH MINISTRIES



in the Youth Center
Wednesdays, 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Contact Cory Jones at 439-7400, ext. 144 or via email at cljones@trinitylc.org with questions. Join the River group on Facebook!



the River

SUMMER Schedule

Wednesdays, 7:15-8:15 p.m.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| June 6 | Otto Berg Park –
Ultimate Frisbee/Volleyball |
| June 13 | Pioneer Park |
| June 20 | @ the TLC Drive-In* -
BBQ and Movie |
| June 27 | @ Trinity |
| <hr/> | |
| July 4 | No River / Happy B-day
America! |
| July 11 | No River / Florida Beach
Camp |
| July 18 | @ the TLC Drive-In* -
BBQ and Movie |
| July 25 | Otto Berg Park
Ultimate Frisbee/Volleyball |
| <hr/> | |
| August 1 | @ Trinity – Dodgeball in
the Gym |
| August 8 | Pioneer Park |
| August 15 | @ the TLC Drive-In* -
BBQ and Movie |
| August 22 | @ Trinity |
| August 29 | Otto Berg Park
Ultimate Frisbee/Volleyball |

* The River runs from 7- 11 p.m.

J-GROUPS

Hey sr. high students, if you would like to be a part of a small group that you can journey together through life and faith, contact Cory Jones @ ext. 144 or cljones@trinitylc.org. Each J-Group will have a fun and caring adult leader that will walk alongside of you as you journey. Your J-Group can meet whenever and wherever you decide! Bible studies and other faith guides will be provided for meaningful faith discussions. **Fun and caring adults:** If you would like to be a J-Group leader, please contact Cory at cljones@trinitylc.org or ext. 144. Senior High Ministry is always looking for adults (21+) to be a part of students lives!

Golf Made Easy

Thursdays, June 14, 21 & 28
noon-3:30 p.m. – Oak Glen Golf Course
Students in grades 6-8; \$20/day or \$50/three days
20 spots available each day
Learn to play golf and/or improve your game from an expert golfer, a member of the Auburn University golf team, Rosson Anderson. **Sign up now; registration deadline June 10.** Contact TJ Anderson at ext. 120 or tanderson@trinitylc.org to register.



Camp Registration is open!

Register online now for:

July 9-15
2012
completed grades 9-12

FLORIDA BEACH CAMP

*Florida Beach Camp
July 9-15*

Hang out on the beach and go deeper in with Jesus! You and your friends will have a chance to experience Jesus through worship and awesome small group times. This trip is going to be amazing so you should come!

July 27-31 OR
July 31-Aug. 4
2012
completed grades 9-10

CIT

(Counselor-In-Training)

*C.I.T. (Counselor in Training)
July 27-31 or July 31-Aug. 4*

If you had an amazing time at Luther Dell camp and want to help another jr. high student have the same experience, then apply to be a Counselor in Training! As a C.I.T. you help lead a small group of students, run activities, games and assist the adult counselors and camp staff.

Register for all camps online at www.trinitylc.org

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Sunday/Wednesday learning wrap-up

Our theme for this ministry season has been "Love God, Love Others." This is based on the greatest commandment which we learned from Luke 10:25-28 when we studied the parable Jesus told about "the Good Samaritan." We learned more about love from Paul in I Corinthians 13 and the kids reflections on love can be seen on the canvas art piece hanging in the Narthex. God's love for us, shown through Jesus' birth, is always a part of our faith learning adventure as is the greatest story ever told, from the Last Supper to Jesus' resurrection at Easter. We spent time in Luke, chapter 15, where we heard the three parables about something being lost and the celebration that occurred when the coin, the sheep and the son were found! It has been a wonderful season of learning how much God loves us and how we can show love for God and others.

FAITH ROCKS!

Beginning last January the kids were encouraged to memorize the Bible verse of the month that came directly from the stories we were learning about. When kids learned and recited a verse to their Shepherd leader or a Children's Ministries leader they could then select a decorated "Faith Rock" to bring home as a reminder of the verse and the story they learned. The kids enthusiasm for learning these verses was fantastic to witness!

Helping Hearts & Hands Camp

Students completing grades 3-6
Tue., June 19, 26; July 10, 17, 24
9 a.m.-1 p.m.; \$50. Register by June 1
Students will explore their God-given strengths and make a difference in our community by using those strengths to serve others. Each morning begins with worship at Trinity. We then go into the community and experience a variety of ways to serve and show God's love to others. We end our morning of service with lunch (brought from home) and relationship building. On July 24 (rain date July 31), the fifth and final Tuesday of Helping Hearts and Hands, we will celebrate on the St. Croix River. Contact Jody at ext. 138 or jnyenhuis@trinitylc.org with questions.

Helping Hearts & Hands leaders wanted

If you love kids and service projects, we want you to consider being a small group leader for grades 4-6 Helping Hearts and Hands camp. See description and dates listed above. Students going into tenth grade would be a great fit for this role! Contact Jody Nyenhuis or Christine Lande in the Children's Office if interested.



Vacation Bible School volunteers sought

Sky – Everything is Possible with God

Aug. 6-10, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We want you! Volunteers of all ages are needed for our Junior Crew (completed gr. 5 or 6), Crew Leaders (jr. high to adult), and Rotation Station Leaders (adults). Please contact Christine Lande at ext. 125 or clande@trinitylc.org to sign up or for more information.



Camp WAPO SEEDS Weekend and Youth Camp

Spots still open!
Register online now
at www.trinitylc.org!



Donations welcome for Vacation Bible School

This August kids will discover that Everything is possible with God!

Donations are needed.

We know summer gets busy, so let us do the shopping! Drop off your cash donations (from \$5 to \$100) in the Church Office or at the Children's Ministries tent at the Drive-In. Cash or checks are welcome (checks to TLC with VBS in the memo line). Please contact Christine Lande at ext. 125 or clande@trinitylc.org with questions. Thank you in advance for your support to this wonderful ministry.



worship opportunities

- **Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m.:** The River (Gr. 9-12 youth worship)
- **Saturdays, 5 p.m.:** Evening Worship, Communion
- **Sundays, 9 a.m.:** Drive-In Worship, Houlton, WI
- **Sundays, 10 a.m.:** The WALK Contemporary Worship

Baptized:

- **Myles Thomas Funk**, son of Justin & Danielle Funk
- **Truman Elias Bednar**, son of Timothy & Rebecca Bednar
- **Logan Mark Madsen**, son of Tiera Madsen

Altar Flowers

- May 12 & 13 - To honor the 55th anniversary of **Chuck Claus' ordination** from Gettysburg Seminary, given by Flo and his family

Sympathy to

- The family and friends of **LaVonne Gavelek** whose funeral was held at Trinity on Mon., April 30

worship attendance

April 14 & 15	April 21 & 22
5 p.m.63	5 p.m.78
9 a.m.259	9 a.m.291
10:30 a.m.191	10:30 a.m.234
April 28 & 29	May 5 & 6
5 p.m.112	5 p.m.69
9 a.m.342	9 a.m.286
10:30 a.m.188	10:30 a.m.231

Interested in membership?

If you are interested in Trinity membership, information can be found on our website at www.trinitylc.org or contact Julie at jjolivette@trinitylc.org or ext. 108 with questions.

Worship services broadcast on Valley Access Channel:

Trinity worship services are broadcast at the following times:

- Sunday – 11 a.m.
- Wednesday – 1 & 7 p.m.
- Thursday – 1 & 7 a.m.
- Friday – 4 & 10 p.m.
- Saturday – 4 & 9 a.m.

trinity transportation

Sunday van schedule

Trinity's van is available for the Sunday, 10 a.m. worship service at Trinity. A van ride is available for members or non-members lacking other means of transportation. Please call the Church Office at 439-7400 between 9 a.m. Wednesday and 4 p.m. Thursday to reserve your seat each week. Estimated pick-up times for senior residences if you have reserved a seat:

- 9:15 a.m. – Boutwell's Landing at the main entrance
- 9:25 a.m. – Raymie Johnson
- 9:35 a.m. – Croixdale
- 9:40 a.m. – Oakridge
- 9:45 a.m. – Rivertown Commons

trinity.today.

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Fri., May 11

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

Sat., May 12

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

Sun., May 13 – Mother's Day

- Croix Center Open House after both services
- 9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
- 10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY

Mon., May 14

- 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 7:30 a.m. Women's Golf League: Off-site
- 9:15 a.m. Our Families First: Rm 106, Library Conf.
- 9:30 a.m. Vet's Committee Mtg: Narthex
- 12:30 p.m. Rebekah Circle Mtg: Library
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 6:30 p.m. Al-Anon Mtg: Library

Tue., May 15

- 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 9 a.m. Retired Men-Pastor Candee: Garden Rm
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: The Bikery
- 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
- 6 p.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 7 p.m. Walk Rehearsal: Worship Ctr

Wed., May 16

- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 9:15 a.m. Hearts of Home Moms
- 10:15 a.m. Linden Sr. Communion
- 7:15 p.m. The River Worship: Youth Ctr

Thu., May 17

- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Off-site
- Noon Hilltoppers: Garden Room

Fri., May 18

- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 10 a.m. Al-Anon Mtg: Room 108B
- 10:30 a.m. Boutwells Sr. Communion
- 1:15 p.m. Rivertown Commons Sr. Communion

Sat., May 19

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

Sun., May 20

- 9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
- 9 a.m. Couples Groups: Rm 108A/B, Libr Conf. Rm
- 10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
- 11:30 a.m. Class of 2012 Recognition Lunch: Garden Rm

Mon., May 21

- 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 7:30 a.m. Women's Golf League: Off-site
- 9:15 a.m. Our Families First: Rm 106, Library Conf.
- 4 p.m. Congregational Council Mtg: Office Conf.
- 4:30 p.m. Inspired by Gratitude Series: Living Rm
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 6:30 p.m. Al-Anon Mtg: Library

may 11-june 15

Tue., May 22

- 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: The Bikery
- 9:15 a.m. AWE-Tour Target Field: Commons
- 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
- 6 p.m. AA Mtg: Living Library

Wed., May 23

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study: Office Conf. Rm
- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 7:15 p.m. The River Worship: Youth Ctr

Thu., May 24

- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Off-site
- 10 a.m. Knitting Ministry: Living Rm

Fri., May 25

- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 10 a.m. Al-Anon Mtg: Room 108B
- 10 a.m. Raymie Johnson Sr. Communion
- 1:15 p.m. Oak Ridge Sr. Communion

Sat., May 26

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

Sun., May 27

- 9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION:
Hilltop Drive-In, Houlton, WI
- 10 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
- 7 p.m. Women's Book Group: Off-site

Mon., May 28 - Memorial Day

- Trinity Building closed
- 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 7:30 a.m. Women's Golf League: Off-site

Tue., May 29

- 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: The Bikery
- 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
- 6 p.m. AA Mtg: Living Library

Wed., May 30

- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 6:30 p.m. Many Kinds of Beautiful: Garden Rm
- 7:15 p.m. The River Worship: Youth Ctr

Thu., May 31

- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Off-site

Fri., June 1

- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 10 a.m. Al-Anon: Room 108B
- 1 p.m. BeFriender Mtg: Rm 108A

Sat., June 2

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

Sun., June 3

- 9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION:
Hilltop Drive-In, Houlton, WI
- 10 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY

Mon., June 4

- All Day Take-On Hunger Golf Tournament
- 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 7:30 a.m. Women's Golf League: Off-site
- 1:30 p.m. Commodity Distribution: 4th St. Entrance
- 6:30 p.m. Al-Anon Mtg: Library
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Me? A Theologian?: Living Rm

Tue., June 5

- 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: The Bikery
- 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
- 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library

Wed., June 6

- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 11 a.m. Sr. Communion/Lunch: Worship Ctr
- 6:30 p.m. Personal Theology-God: Living Rm
- 7:15 p.m. The River Worship: Otto Berg Park

Thu., June 7

- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Off-site
- 2 p.m. Healing Touch Group: Narthex
- 6 p.m. AWE & Retired Men-Cantus: Commons

Fri., June 8

- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 10 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Room 108B

Sat., June 9

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

Sun., June 10

- 9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION:
Hilltop Drive-In, Houlton, WI
- 10 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
- 7 p.m. Women's Book Group: Off-site

Mon., June 11

- 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 7:30 a.m. Women's Golf League: Off-site
- 4:30 p.m. Inspired by Gratitude Series: Living Rm
- 6:30 p.m. Al-Anon Mtg: Library
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Me? A Theologian?: Living Rm
- 7 p.m. GLOW Bike Info Mtg: Rm 108B

Tue., June 12

- 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: The Bikery
- 9 a.m. Croixdale Sr. Communion
- 9:45 a.m. Good Samaritan Sr. Communion
- 10:15 a.m. Greeley Sr. Communion
- 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
- 6 p.m. AA Meeting: Library

Wed., June 13

- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 6:30 p.m. Personal Theology-GOD: Living Rm
- 7:15 p.m. The River Worship: Pioneer Park

Thu., June 14

- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Narthex

Fri., June 15

- 7 a.m. AA Mtg: Living Library
- 10 a.m. Al-Anon Mtg: Room 108B
- 10:30 a.m. Boutwells Sr. Communion
- 1:15 p.m. Rivertown Commons Sr. Communion

Be the first to
see
the new
Post Office

OPEN HOUSE:
Sun., May 13,
after both services

You can be one of the first to take a look at the new home of Stillwater's Post Office. Trinity's Croix Center is nearing completion with an expected move-in date for the U.S. Postal Service at the end of May or beginning of June. Come check it out after worship services on Sun., May 13. Refreshments served.

Ashley Dull paintings lighting up Narthex through May

The Trinity Fine Arts team is proud to present the paintings of Twin Cities artist Ashley Dull. Trees and light are often the focus of her art because, "the strength of a tree is amazingly similar to the strength of the human spirit and the constancy of God." Her unique ability to create light and texture through the layered application of oil produces a stunning visual dimension. She is drawn to the connection humans have with nature and the power it holds. View more of Ashley's art at www.artbyashleydull.com and find her on Facebook!



Trinity website



Trinity giving

trinity.today.

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**4TH ANNUAL
TAKE ON
HUNGER**

**GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

**Monday,
June 4, 2012**

Stillwater Country Club

*Proceeds to benefit Mission Tanzania
and local hunger ministries*



Best Ball Scramble Event

10:30 a.m. – Registration & Lunch

Noon – Shotgun Start

5:30 p.m. – Dinner & Silent Auction

\$150 entry fee includes 18 holes, cart,
hot lunch, dinner, festivities (cash bar)

– Rain or Shine –

Contact
Tom Thiets at
651-439-7400, ext. 146
or tthiets@trinitylc.org
with questions or if you
would like to donate to
the silent auction.

Register and pay
online at:
www.trinitylc.org