

January 2013
volume XXXV, issue I
www.trinitylc.org

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

trinity
Lutheran Church

TRINITY TODAY

love.transform.serve.

JOIN YOUR TRINITY FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS 2012

BE BORN IN US TODAY

Christmas Eve

Mon., Dec. 24
2, 3, 4, 5, 7:30 & 9 p.m.

Special Children's message at all afternoon services.

Communion celebrated at 7:30 & 9 p.m.

Families are encouraged to worship together.

Nursery not available Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day

Tue., Dec. 25 – 10 a.m.

*Bring the kids in their pajamas and
enjoy hot chocolate, coffee and sweet rolls!*

Nursery not available Christmas Day.

*FREE parking in city parking ramp on Third Street
from noon Christmas Eve to noon Christmas Day.*

PASTOR DAN

P O F F E N B E R G E R



Love Has Come!

*Love has come – a light in the darkness!
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it.
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!
Love is born!
Come share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother.
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love!
Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.*

*Love has come.
He never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are
seeking.
Love! Love!
Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to You,
God on high!*

Words by Ken Bible
Music: French Carol Melody,
attr. to Saboly, 17th c.,
arr. by Ken Bible

Love has come! Join me this Christmas Eve as we celebrate the truth of God-with-us, Jesus. We come and worship in wonder and joy that God has come to shine forth – no, to explode – love into this world!

“Be Born in Us Today” is our theme this Christmas Eve; it is our worship, our hope, our prayer, our mission. With God’s Spirit, it can be true – Christ born in Bethlehem is also Christ born in us so that we might be love for the world!

Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love is the gift of Christmas! See you on Christmas Eve!

Pastor Dan

“Opening Doors” Capital Appeal Update

What a great set of meetings we had on the first weekend of December. Special thanks to the roughly 200 people who came to hear the Design Team give a report on the revised proposal to build a new, welcoming face at Trinity. We also shared an update on the “Opening Doors” Capital Appeal, and it was a great spirit of joy that surrounded the meeting. We are making progress and can see our goals in sight. Visit Trinity’s website at www.trinitylc.org to read about and see renderings of the proposed expansion.

You will find:

- Updates on the work of the Design Team since our last Annual Meeting
- Renderings of the updated design, based on congregational feedback
- Cost estimates
- Appeal goals and progress as of December 1, 2012
- Strategy to complete fundraising
- Next steps



Come see the beautiful renderings in the Narthex, and new banner in the Commons. Financial information will also be posted soon.

Several congregational informational meetings will be held in the next few months before the Annual Meeting on March 17.

Thanks to the Design Team, the “Opening Doors” Capital Appeal Team and the Trinity Congregational Council for their continued leadership and input!

CARE MINISTRIES



Whether we've experienced the death of a loved one recently or some years ago, the holidays bring to mind the memories of those we've loved and lost. In order that we might celebrate the gift of their life and acknowledge the depth of our loss, Nancy Copeland-Payton, author of *The Losses of Our Lives: The Sacred Gifts of Renewal in Everyday Loss* (Skylight Paths Publishing) offers some ideas on creating a meaningful remembrance.

- Place a new candle in a special place in your home. Light it in the morning or in the evening giving thanks for your loved one's presence in the past and for the memories you have now.
- After a loved one dies, there are often things we wish we'd said or things we'd like to say to them again. Sit near a picture of them and have those conversations. Remember the sound of their voices, how they spoke and their favorite words. Imagine what they'd like to say to you.
- Take time to explore the loss. Our identity changes when we are no longer someone's parent, child or spouse. What does this mean? Set aside time to think about that special person. What did you most love about him or her? What especially do you miss?
- Find meaningful items that remind you of the person. Gather them and put them in a special place. Let them help you reminisce about the person, stories from their life, and your time together.
- Smells and tastes evoke powerful memories. Bake their favorite dish, set a place setting for your loved one with their picture on the table and invite family members to share

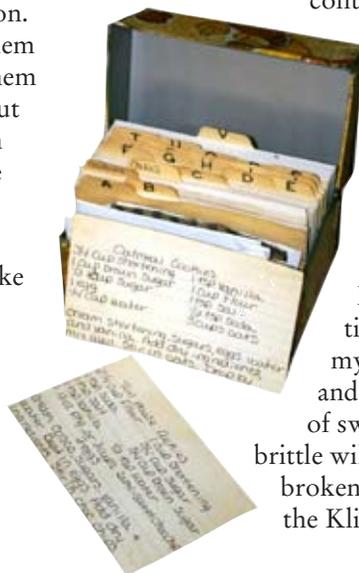


sacred stories.

- Dedicate something in their honor. Write a poem, establish an annual award, design a quilt, compose a song or paint a picture celebrating their life. Or, give your time and service to a cause in which they believed.
- Plant something living that will symbolize how their love continues to blossom and grow in your life. Create a memorial garden either in your own yard or in a public space.
- When the time is right to give away possessions, make it a ritual of gratitude for their life. Share a part of the story with the recipients.

- Create a book of memories with photos and favorite things of your beloved.
- Visit places that were special to you and your loved one. Bring a memento from that site to keep where you live.
- Continue to live and love as your loved one would want you to do. Bring the memory of their presence into the season's celebration by prayerfully giving a gift in their name, continuing to enjoy their favorite decorations, baking their most loved cookies or breads, surrounding yourself with people you love and who also loved them. (www.beliefnet.com)

Every year at Christmas time, you will find me in my kitchen, baking, creating and concocting all kinds of sweet treats. The peanut brittle will be patiently stirred, broken and finally weighed on the Klimesh Bakery scale, just as



those in my family did it for generations before me. The ginger cookies will be perfectly formed, sugared and baked before placing them in tins to be mailed to loved ones. Most of all, I'll cherish the memories of days gone by along with the spirit of my parents close beside me. This is their ever-living, ever-giving gift to me and yet, it is my gift of a meaningful ritual and remembrance in their honor. How will you remember and honor your loved ones this year?

Let me know! I'd love to hear your stories.

*Have a blessed, meaningful Christmas,
Pastor Candee*



In order to respect confidentiality and comply with HIPPA policy, Trinity cannot post, publish or publicize the names of those who are hospitalized. Also, respecting privacy rights means the only way Trinity pastors will be aware of your needs is if you or a family member contact Trinity at 439-7400. Hospitals and nursing homes cannot give us your information; this is for your protection. If you'd like your name placed on the prayer list or would like to be a part of the prayer chain or prayer team, please contact Pastor Candee Moser at cmoser@trinitylc.org or ext. 107. Thank you for understanding.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME TO TRINITY!

Pictured are a few of our new members received into our congregation on Dec. 2 – a small representation of the 79 total people who were received! Over the next weeks, please welcome these new partners in ministry.



Back Row: Tom & Heather Haugrud; Elaine Krueger; Berni & Mark Ester. Front Row: Todd, Monique, Grayson & Isaac Weiss



Nelson, Kristen, Sophie & Todd Weaver



Back Row: Bob & Susan Jordan; Sharon & Dick Engdahl; Marilynne & Dave Olson. Front Row: Jonathan, Benjamin & Kimberly Ryan; Scott, Deidra & Adilene Swenson; Kristine, Mike, Madison, Harper & Alice McDonald

GROUPS & TEAMS

If you want to learn more about or join Trinity, visit us online at www.trinitylc.org, or contact Zanny Johnson at ext. 130, or zjohnson@trinitylc.org.

Not pictured:

- Tylor, Pauline, Jasmine & An Li Allison
- David Beck
- Rick, Charleen & Christine Brennan
- Gail Casey
- Chad, Nicole, Tommy, Maria & Jack Dahl
- Brock & Tara Ehnert & Isabell Danell
- Angie, Lexy & Austin Fox
- Todd, Stacy, Mikalya, Taylor & Jackson Gilles
- Aaron & Melissa Haase
- Bob, Susan & Colleen Jordan & Lindsey Chaplin
- Patrick, Keelin & Ruairi McCallister
- Joan Orchard, Mark, Samuel & Thomas Buckrey
- Ron & Becky Peterson
- Shane, Markell, Eva & Adyson Pulver
- Marty, Susan, Charlie, Will, Michael & Luke Richards
- Mark, Jade & Landon Weyer
- Nate & Allison Wood
- Chris, Tonya & Zachary Wright



God Loving Outdoor Women

GLOW Bible Study – A Lenten Journey with the Lord’s Prayer

*Mon., Feb. 4, 18; March 4, 18, 7-8 p.m.
Cost: \$10; Home of Kat Carlsen,
220 4th St. S., Stillwater*

Join other women for an engaging and meaningful Bible study experience as we journey through the season of Lent together. The Bible study includes daily devotions that you can do on your own, as well as four gatherings for conversation and shared learning. Please register online at www.trinitylc.org or email Kat Carlsen at katdcarlsen@gmail.com

GLOW Winter Adventure

Jan. 31-Feb. 3; \$90

Join other GLOW women for a wintery weekend at the Holmes’ cabin on the beautiful North Shore. We will cook, play, laugh and enjoy winter activities, including downhill or cross-country skiing at Lutsen Mountains and snow shoeing or hiking on the Superior Hiking Trail. Whether a beginning or advanced skier or hiker, it will be a fun weekend filled with friendship, adventure and spiritual renewal. Space is limited: the first 13 to register and pay get to go on this adventure. The accommodations are cozy. Expect to share a bed with a new or old friend. We will carpool for our five-hour car ride on Thursday, with cars leaving at various times throughout the day. Extra costs include gas, possible lunch on the way up and back, and ski passes if you decide to spend a day at Lutsen.

Register online at www.trinitylc.org. Contact Aimée Schoenborn for more information at dschoenborn@somtel.net.

Bridge for Trinity

DATE

CHANGE:

FIRST Monday of month,

8:45 a.m.-noon

\$5 donation

Bridge-playing women of all levels are invited to play bridge for fun and to raise money for Trinity. All are welcome! We will meet the first Monday of every month, in the Garden Room, from 8:45 a.m. to noon. Bring a deck of cards; coffee provided.

No advance notice required.

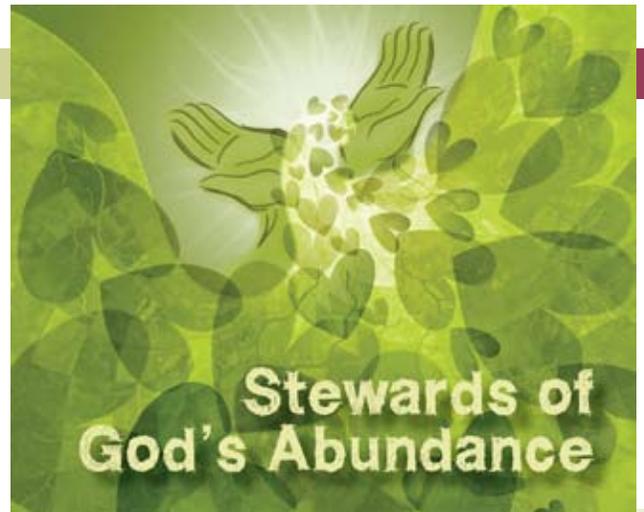
Contact Jan Pritchard via email at bridgefortrinity@gmail.com or 439-9008 with questions.



Knit your love into a hug

Imagine the comforting “hug” of a prayer shawl, the warmth of a knit hat on a cold night, or the joy of preparing for the baptism of a new baby with a special blanket. You can contribute to all of these and more! Knitting does not require large blocks of time and can be done at your home when you have time. We have an ongoing need for prayer shawls, baby blankets, scarves and hats. Most of these projects are appropriate for a beginner. No experience needed; we can teach you what you need to know. We meet most months at church on the fourth Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon. Contact Lois Walton at 439-6948 for additional information.

by Michele Hermansen
michele 2255@gmail.com



Vibrant Stewards Accept Interdependence (Characteristic 4)

Stewardship is about love and love is about connections. The good thing is, we are not in this alone. And what a perfect time, during the Christmas season and into a new year, to contemplate just how connected we are—with God and with this marvelous creation. We are told in both the Old Testament and New Testament that this very special child born to Mary and known as Immanuel is the sign directly from God that “God is with us.”

As God is with us, we are also reminded that we are connected to each other.

So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. (Romans 12: 5-6)

Instead speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

I was touched today in attending the funeral of a 94-year vibrant steward. Family members across three generations told how this father, grandfather, uncle and great-grandfather had loved, led, and encouraged each one of them, demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit and respect for nature. They are clearly connected and interdependent within the family and outside with the many circles that intersect it. They are acting on the lessons, accepting their role in the care of God’s whole creation.

Jim Mauney, an ELCA Bishop in Virginia and contributing author of *How Much is Enough?* writes, “Our connectedness is both time specific and across time. We are the recipients of the legacy of the faith of our forebearers. We have also received a world they developed and tended. We are also leaving a legacy, whether we do so intentionally or not. Our stewardship to generations to come is all about the way we are stewards of life now.:

Good and gracious God, we give you thanks for the gift of your very real presence with us through the gift of your son, Immanuel. We thank you for the community, the “common unity” we experience in our families, at Trinity and with your children worldwide. Like the St. Croix River that transcends both history and the spaces that touch and surround us, help us to contribute our resources in a growing and unending flow that nurtures your marvelous creation, now and into the future. Help us to experience the joy of Vibrant Stewardship. Amen.

CHARACTERISTICS OF VIBRANT STEWARDS

1. Trust God’s abundance

- a. We embody an attitude of gratitude and generosity.
- b. We believe we are called and freed to be caretakers of all that we are and have.

2. Ground ourselves in biblical and theological principles

- a. We believe in God as creator, and Jesus as role model and redeemer.
- b. We listen to and interpret all of scripture with an ear for stewardship themes.

3. Hold a holistic perspective

- a. We steward our whole lives including our time, energy, wisdom, bodies, money and other resources.
- b. We integrate our faith into our whole lives.

4. Accept interdependence

- a. We ground ourselves in God’s presence.
- b. We nurture an attitude of loving kindness toward all of God’s creation.

5. Promote justice

- a. We seek to understand the impact of social systems and structures.
- b. We align our decisions and actions to work toward universal peace and justice.

6. Embrace financial health as an expression of faith

- a. We allow money to flow to and through our lives in ways that nourish us and our world.
- b. We recognize our capacity to give is defined by our heart, not our pocketbook.

— growing in the grace of giving —

TREASURER'S C O R N E R

WRAPPING UP 2012

As the month of December progresses, Trinity is faced with its most important financial period of the year. Typically, 20 to 25% of our annual contribution income is given in the month of December. This year is no different. Our contributions to date stand at approximately \$1.325 million, meaning we will need about \$385,000 in December (roughly equal to December of 2011) to meet our 2012 contribution budget. This is particularly important in 2012, as other income sources were not as strong as expected. At this point, 61% of 2012 pledges are up to date and 39% are running behind. A strong finish is important to meet our budget and stay on track. Please “catch up” or consider an additional gift to help accomplish our goal.

It is also important that Trinity receives your gifts in a timely manner, prior to the end of the year, so we can correctly recognize your contribution in 2012.

If you are giving a gift of stock, please advise Bob Eiselt, at beiselt@trinitylc.org or Ellen Neseth at eneseth@trinitylc.org of your intention, and be sure to initiate that transaction with your broker so Trinity can receive and sell the stock prior to the end of the year.

RINGING IN 2013

Since Celebrating Stewardship weekend on Nov. 17 & 18 we have received 304 responses from Trinity households, totaling \$904,030. This is one of our strongest starts in the last decade and represents 52% of our preliminary-projected 2013 general contributions. If you have not completed your 2013 Giving Plan, please do so before the end of the year, so we can reach our goal of 500 Giving Plans.

*From my family to yours,
have a blessed Christmas!*

Todd King, Treasurer

NEWS from C H I L D R E N , Y O U T H & F A M I L Y



Pastor TJ Anderson has submitted his resignation as Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry (CYF) here at Trinity Lutheran Church effective at the end of his sabbatical. TJ's infectious passion and love

of the Gospel has been a blessing to the Trinity community, especially for countless young people and their families. As he has spent time in reflection during his sabbatical, TJ has felt the Spirit prompting him

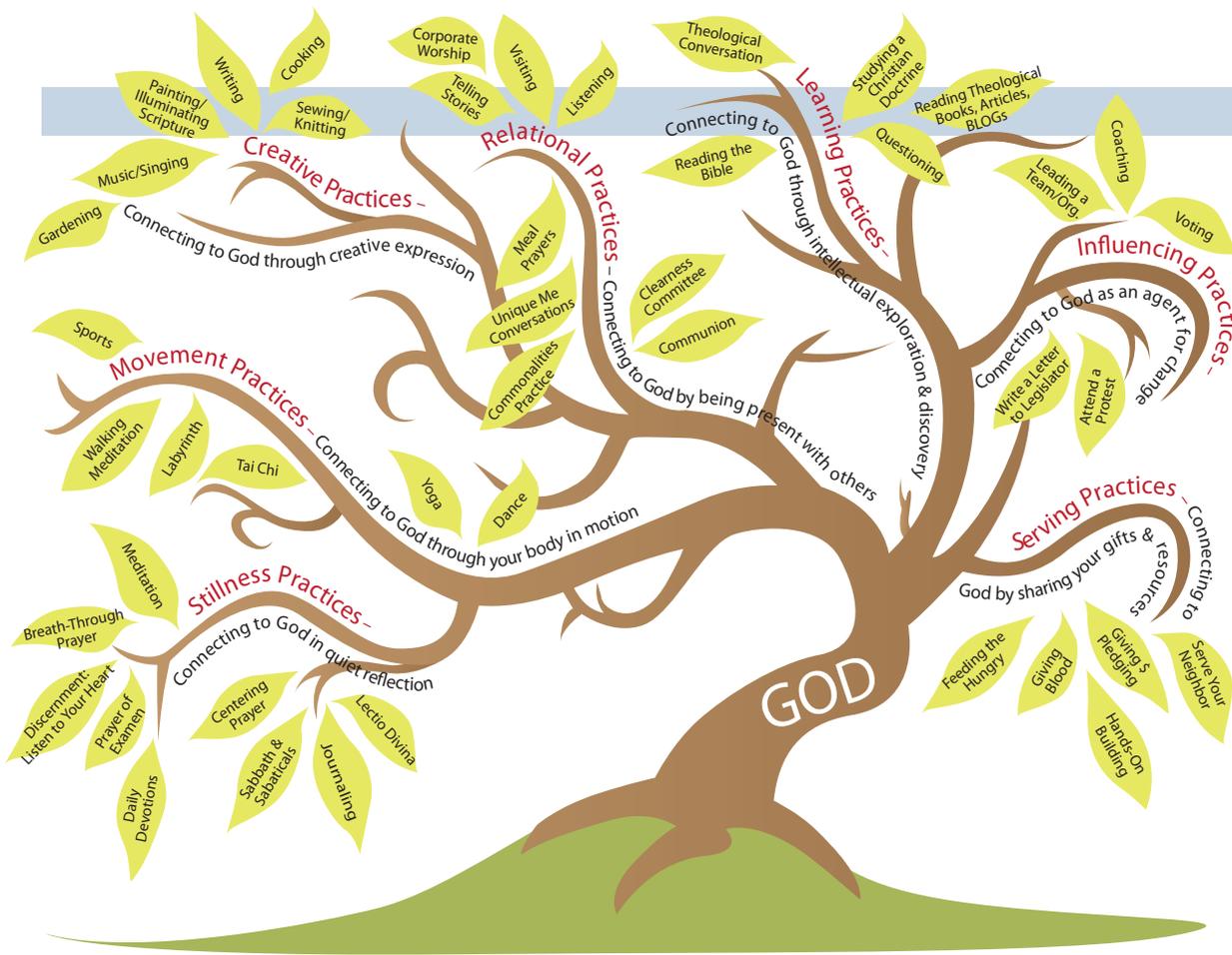
to explore a new direction to his ministry. TJ has served with excellence in youth ministry for over 25 years, and is looking forward to sharing his many gifts for ministry in new ways. We will soon announce a date for a celebration for the congregation to express its gratitude for TJ's service as a partner and leader in ministry. I am personally grateful for TJ's friendship and ministry here at Trinity.

Jody Nyenhuis has served as the Interim Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries in TJ's absence, and will now assume the role as full Director. Jody has developed and led the Children's Ministries Team with excellence, and has proven to be a gifted leader over the past three

months. Jody continues to lead the Children's Ministries Team as part of her job as Director of CYF Ministries. Cory Jones will continue as Student Ministries Director, partnering with Jody in that role as part of the CYF team.

Alex Jackson, a young man who has grown up here at Trinity now steps in as a part-time assistant for Student Ministries, working closely with **Cory Jones** to help build and support our senior high ministries. Alex will also support the rest of the CYF team; we look forward to Alex's high energy and enthusiasm, and his passion for building Christ-centered relationships with students of all ages.

Pastor Dan Poffenberger



“Eventually you realize that you don’t just say a prayer by yourself. Rather, you recognize that prayer is happening, and you just happen to be the channel and instrument. When your mind, your heart and your body are all present, which is always a gift, that full presence is prayer. At that moment God is able to use you, because you are out of the way and God is leading the way.”

Richard Rohr- From an unpublished talk given in Tucson, AZ

The Spiritual Practice Tree: Finding Your Practice

Sundays- Jan. 27, Feb. 3 & 10
10:30-11:30 a.m. – Living Room

We engage in spiritual practices to develop our relationship with God. Growing that relationship has some benefits. In the Bible the benefits of practice are referred to as, “The Fruit of the Spirit.” Today, people who practice and scientific studies have shown that spiritual practice brings:

- Inner peace
- Increased energy
- Better life balance
- More life purpose and meaning
- Emotional resiliency
- Greater ability to see things in a different light
- Built-in support to help make desired life changes

Understanding your unique design, how God has created you, can help you find your natural spiritual practices. Perhaps you are one of the many who were told that you had to do a certain practice (*let’s say, attend worship every week*) to be a Christian or that if you engaged in too much of a certain practice (*let’s say, questioning*) that you were not faithful. There are many spiritual practices, or ways of connecting to God. One practice is not better than another, they are simply different branches on the tree. Your unique design points to possible ways you can find practices that work well for you.

Once you’ve established your natural practices and want to add some “stretch” to your spiritual growth, you may consider adding additional practices that offer breadth & depth to your connection to God. These practices can open you up to new levels of spiritual growth and transformation. Join us after Christmas for an exploration of spiritual practices!

LIFELONG

LEARNING

Register for all classes online at www.trinitylc.org

Old Testament Great Course

Sundays, Jan. 13- April 28

10:30-11:30 a.m. – Garden Room

No cost. Come when you can.

Has the Old Testament always puzzled you? Are you curious about how to interpret some of the key Old Testament stories? Take a deep academic dive into the best research and thinking about key Old Testament stories. This class is for the intellectually-curious learner. No experience in Old Testament study is required. The Great Course lecturer is Professor Amy-Jill Levine.

Led by Anne Salo

Jan. 13	Covenant and Law, Part II
Jan. 20	The “Conquest”
Jan. 27	The Book of Judges, Part I
Feb. 3	The Book of Judges, Part II
Feb. 10	Samuel and Saul
Feb. 17	King David
Feb. 24	From King Solomon to Preclassical Prophecy
March 3	The Prophets and the Fall of the North
March 10	The Southern Kingdom
March 17	Babylonian Exile
March 24 & 31	No class due to Palm Sunday and Easter Worship Celebrations
April 7	Restoration and Theocracy
April 14	Wisdom Literature
April 21	Life in the Diaspora
April 28	Apocalyptic Literature



The Artist's Way

Saturdays, Jan. 19-March 9, 9:30-11 a.m.

Library Conference Room; \$12 book fee

Many of us wish we were more creative, or we feel we are but are unable to fully tap into that creativity. Applying the tools from Julia Cameron's pivotal book, *The Artist's Way*, we will practice methods of developing pathways through which creative energy can flow and nourish our lives. A commitment to contemplative writing and nurturing your creative passion

during the week, as well as your reflective contributions at the Saturday meeting will increase the benefits reaped from this book study.

Led by Kathy Hanson & Peg Ludtke

The History of Christianity Great Course

Tuesdays, Jan. 8- May 14

6:30-8 p.m. – Room 108B; \$10 course fee

Follow the trajectory of Christianity from its beginnings as a “cult of Jesus” to its rise as the largest and most global religious tradition in history. Explore the nature and role of faith, the rich diversity of Christian experience and theology, and the impact that Christianity has had on our world. No experience in the study of Christian history is necessary.

The Great Course lecturer is Professor Luke Timothy Johnson. *Led by Anne Salo*



Making Sense of the Cross

\$10 course fee: Two location options:

- 1. Tuesdays, Jan. 29-Feb. 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m. – Living Room*
- 2. At home on your computer (you need to have a high-speed internet connection)*

View the five course webcasts at your convenience from your home computer anytime between January 29 and March 11

Drawing from his recent and popular book, *Making Sense of the Cross*, Professor David Lose will lead you through an exploration of what the cross and resurrection have meant to Christians over the past 2000 years. This course is a webcast of a live class taught at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. For questions or more information, contact Pastor Siri Erickson at ext. 113 or serickson@trinitylc.org.



Animate Faith Groups

New small group communities forming during Winter/Spring 2013 at Trinity! No cost.

Are you looking for a small community of friends to share life and talk about what matters most? You will be grouped with other couples, singles, women or men who are in a similar stage of life with similar interests. Using the Animate Faith DVDs, your group will meet seven times for an hour to watch a lively and engaging 10-minute video that will spark faith conversations in your group. Groups will decide their own meeting times and locations. These conversations and groups are for everyone – no experience of any kind is required. Please complete a quick survey at www.trinitylc.org (scroll to the bottom and click on “Animate Group survey” under Lifelong Learning) to let us know your interests and preferences. For more information, contact Pastor Siri Erickson at serickson@trinitylc.org or Julie Jolivet at jjolivet@trinitylc.org.





Tom Thiets
Director of Missions

MISSION updates

MISSION MINISTRIES

Hope in the midst of pain

It was fitting that recently we focused on Psalm 23 as part of a Sunday teaching.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
I have all that I need.
He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.
He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.
You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.
You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.
Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

The inner strength required to truly live out these words is remarkable. To be aware of the fact that the current valley is only a low point on the journey to the next hilltop and recognize that the son is always present even in our darkest moment is the definition of faith. Graciously identifying small gifts of mercy as an anointing of God's grace while surrounded by the pain of illness, destruction, and disrespect is living out this psalm. Holding onto one's faith while walking through these valleys is living out the promise of God's love for us.

I am humbled and filled with a mix of emotions as I begin to convey the stories of three individuals that are living out this psalm. Even though these three individuals have never met, they are connected in my heart, because they each share the common bond of demonstrating a strong faith as they are currently walking through a personal valley of darkness and pain.

I begin in Guatemala with the story of Diego who arrived at the hospital to be treated by our mission team for a hernia. Diego is a hard-boned old man whose body shows the signs of a life of physical labor; yet there is warmth within his coal black eyes and stories of joy written in the wrinkles of his weather-worn face. Surrounded by his family and held in prayer, Diego was rolled into the operating room for what was presumed to be a hernia surgery. It turned into sad news as the procedure revealed the presence of a large tumor being removed along with what appeared to be an unfavorable diagnosis. Later, after some recovery and conversation, I was able to join the family in his room. In a calm steady voice, Diego spoke in his native Mayan

tongue. The translation to Spanish then English was filled with pauses and tears, "I am grateful for the gift of your presence. I would not know how sick I am without you being here to serve. I now understand what is before me. Thank you for helping to build this hospital that serves my community." Even though Diego had just found himself walking in a very dark, deep valley his thoughts and faith went to gratitude.

The Lord is my Shepherd.

My next friend, Alex, lives in a commuter and tourist city along the north coast of Long Island, NY. Alex and her husband emigrated from Chile 22 years ago. They lived in an inner city apartment in the Bronx until their family moved to their dream home in April 2012. Their tiny dream home, crunched onto a narrow 32-foot-wide lot, located 10 blocks from the ocean, was mostly destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. Seven months after just achieving their dream of 22 years, their dream was shattered, but the house was still standing. Their home was one of a few two-story homes in the area. Even though the main floor lay in ruin, they could rearrange the upstairs and struggle to survive while they re-build their lives.

We walked out of her flood-ravaged main floor in silence. We made our way out to the street where I stood alongside Alex, peering down the valley of destroyed homes, destroyed dreams, and huge piles of destroyed personal belongings. In silence, we wiped tears from our cheeks.

She turned to me and said through a smile framed in tears "Even in this condition, we would be considered rich back home in Chile. We will be fine, because we have friends like you."

He renews my strength.

My final story is about a friend here in the Midwest who is facing personal and professional challenges. The story of how poor communication, combined with the lack of respect, leading to broken relationships, is one that many of us encounter in our lives. It is difficult to interject faith and prayer into the corporate world, so this person of faith often finds himself set aside, alone and drifting, as the storm of accusation and disrespect swirls around them. Even though we had discussed the issues together over the past year, I had never fully understood the depth of pain he was experiencing. A few weeks ago as I was trying to connect with him during my busy travel schedule, I arrived at his office unannounced. I paused outside his closed door to see him deep in prayer with tears flowing through his hands that covered his face. Together, but separated through a closed door, I knelt and joined him in prayer. In this moment I began to know the depth of the pain and hurt. I departed to gather my thoughts and returned a bit later for conversation. The main topic of our conversation was about being blessed to be part of God's powerful ministry. Here, on his knees in the dark valley, his eyes recognized the brilliant presence and power of Jesus at work.

You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.

The gift I received and pass along in these stories is that through your faith,

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life.

Peace,
Tom Thiets

6th Annual
COMMUNITY MEAL-PACKING EVENT
Save the DATE Feb. 16-24, 2013

Andersen Windows Corporate Headquarters, 5909 Omaha Ave. N., Oak Park Heights, MN
FEE: \$25 minimum donation/person + two hours of time



We are ready for you, your families, friends, and small groups to sign-up for a two-hour packing session at the 6th Annual Community Meal-Packing Event. We look forward to serving together to fight hunger locally and around the world. Meals will be sent to Haiti and to the east coast for Hurricane Sandy relief.

To sign up, contact Chuck or Joan Newman at 651-436-8609.
For general event information contact Tom Thiets at 651-788-5112.

Christmas worship helpers needed

Ring in the spirit of Christmas by helping at one of our seven worship experiences on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day as an usher, greeter or communion server. No experience necessary, just a willing spirit and a joyful heart. Sign up in the Commons or online at www.trinitylc.org. Contact Zanny Johnson at ext. 130 or zjohnson@trinitylc.org with questions.

Steward your time as an usher

Looking for a quick and easy way to steward your gifts to Trinity? Consider the gift of ushering. No experience necessary and no long commitments, just a morning or two passing out bulletins and the offering plate. If there is a tug on your heart to serve, this may be a wonderful fit for you and a wonderful gift to Trinity. Contact Zanny Johnson at ext. 130 or zjohnson@trinitylc.org.

TRINITY
MISSIONS *Alumni*
ASSOCIATION

Bowling & lunch social event

Sun., Jan. 27, noon-2 p.m.
Woody's in Bayport; \$15

Current, new, and prospective members and their guests are welcome!
For more information contact Jill Longnecker at jlongnec@tcfbank.com.

LEARNING

UPDATE

In December, each of our 42 small groups constructed an Advent Wreath made up of each group members' hand prints and the four candles representing trust, hope, peace and joy. We will "light" (pull up the fired color tissue paper) each week in preparation for Jesus' birthday. The Advent candle lighting can be experienced each week in worship. Advent is a time of preparation for Christ's coming; what a wonderful season we celebrate together as the family of God.

In Children's Learning we are connecting to God's story through workshops of art, drama and games. The workshops are experiential and help us better understand this month's featured Bible story of "Wandering in the Wilderness," found in Exodus 16:1-36. Faith Rocks continue to motivate students to memorize a key Bible verse from each anchor story. The key verse from Exodus is to memorize one of the ten commandments and the bonus option is to memorize all ten!

No Children's Learning:

Sunday, Dec. 23

Wednesday, Dec. 26

Sunday, Dec. 30

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Quilting for Mexico Missions

In January, Children's Ministries is excited to partner again with our Mexico Missionaries to create quilts to deliver to families in March. Our anchor Bible story is Jesus feeding the 5,000 and we look forward to learning more about what it means to give of what we have, from our time, talent or resources. Our call is to live on purpose as good stewards of all that God has given us.



Quilters wanted

If you are able to help sew quilt pieces the children will be making in January, please contact Christine Lande at ext. 125 or clande@trinitylc.org. Mexico Missionaries will deliver the quilts to homeowners in Mexico in March.



Thank you to all the volunteers who make this festive event possible each year. This affordable inter-generational event allows families to come together in a relaxed setting to make crafts provided by our partner Lake Area Discovery Center, eat a delicious breakfast and sing along with Trinity's ninth-grade "Young Man Band" in the Worship Center. Many confirmation groups and their leaders served as the angels to make this event a heavenly celebration!



LADC 2013-14 registration opens soon

Trinity's Lake Area Discovery Center (LADC) is nationally accredited, taught by four-year licensed teachers and offers programs from 16-months to 5-years-old.

The Trinity location is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

2013/2014 School Year Fall Registration Schedule:

Jan. 2: Alumni Families Priority Placement
(call 762-7884/email: office@ladcfamilies.org for password)

Jan. 2: Partnered Church Members Priority
(call 762-7884/email: office@ladcfamilies.org for password)

Jan. 7: Registration OPENS TO THE PUBLIC (no password needed)

For more information on our classes offered, visit our website at www.ladcfamilies.org or call the main office at 762-7884.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Almost 70 student missionaries have stepped up and accepted the call to action this year! We will be taking approximately 90 student and adult missionaries to Chuburna, Mexico in March. However, our student missionaries are in need of your partnership – prayer and financial – to help them make this experience possible. Students will be looking for sponsorship partners to raise the funds necessary to be a part of this transformational trip; watch for them in their bright yellow t-shirts before and after worship services! Please pray about how God is calling you to help partner in this amazing experience. Contact Cory Jones at ext. 144 or cljones@trinitylc.org with any questions or concerns.



Confirmation students exploring the Bible, unique design and theology

Confirmation on Wednesday nights has a new look and feel. A great coaching team is in place to help our young adults as they explore and develop their faith. Seventh-grade coaches Sarah Bane and Dan Poffenberger, are leading this group through a fantastic journey of Bible exploration. Eighth-grade is led by Karen Gieseke, who listens and encourages students in the discovery of their unique design and purpose. Pastor Siri Erickson teaches ninth-grade students in the process of discovering they are theologians who can process, question and articulate their faith. With this lineup, it kind of makes one want to go back and do confirmation again!



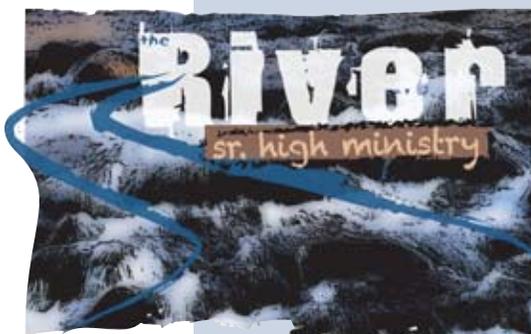
Ski & snowboard trip

Jan. 18-20 - Spirit Mountain, Duluth

Grades 7-12; \$150;

Register online by Jan. 7 at www.trinitylc.org

Ski all day Saturday and until noon on Sunday. Adventure Zone on Saturday night. More detailed itinerary and packing list mailed after you register. Trip includes: Transportation, lift tickets at Spirit Mountain, Adventure Zone admission in downtown Duluth, most meals. Extra money needed for two fast-food meals and for snacks on the slopes or at Adventure Zone. Price does not include ski/snowboard rental. Rentals are available through Spirit Mountain: ski rental: \$10/day; snowboard rental: \$20/day. Contact Sarah Bane at ext. 137 or sbane@trinitylc.org with questions.



7:30-9 p.m.
Garden Room

Come and experience Jesus through awesome music, genuine friendship and by exploring relevant issues of life and faith.

Look for The River on Facebook and Twitter @TheRiverTLC

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.**
The River Youth Worship (*Gr. 9-12*)
- **Saturdays, 5 p.m.**
Evening Worship, Communion
- **Sundays, 9 a.m.**
Traditional Worship, Nursery, Communion
- **Sundays, 10:30 a.m.**
The WALK
Contemporary Worship, Nursery, Communion

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Nov. 17 & 18	Nov. 24 & 25
5 p.m. 78	5 p.m. 64
9 a.m. 344	9 a.m. 269
10:30 a.m. ... 282	10:30 a.m. ... 307
Dec. 1 & 2	Dec. 8 & 9
5 p.m. 81	5 p.m. 84
9 a.m. 317	9 a.m. 224
10:30 a.m. .. NA	10:30 a.m. ... 310

BAPTIZED AT TRINITY

- **Nolan Daniel Clavette**, son of Samuel & Jaima Clavette
- **Ellie Ann Pearson**, daughter of Tory & Gabrielle Pearson
- **Clara Noel Gossai**, daughter of Nathan & Krista Gossai

SYMPATHY

- **Gretchen (Dan) Poffenberger**, whose brother, Erik Ranum, passed away on Nov. 11
- **Dale (Marilyn) Richert** and **Lois Peterson**, whose sister, Helen Peterson passed away, on Nov. 13
- **Jody Thone**, whose grandmother, Margaret Thone, passed away at the age of 105 ½ on Nov. 24
- **Brian (Tracy) Albertson**, whose father, DeWilton Albertson, passed away on Nov. 28

Help us keep our records up-to-date

If you change your email, address or phone number, please contact the Church Office at 651-439-7400 and let us know. We want to make sure you get all the information you need to enjoy all Trinity has to offer.

FLOWERS

- Dec. 8 & 9 - In loving memory of husband and father **Franklin Peterson**, and daughter **Deanna Peterson**, given by Evelyn Peterson and family

Large print bulletins available at all services

If you prefer a large print bulletin, please ask an usher as you enter the Worship Center. We hope these help make your worship experience more engaging and enjoyable.

Worship services broadcast on Valley Access Channel:

Trinity worship services are broadcast at the following times:

- Sun. – 11 a.m.; Wed. – 1 & 7 p.m.
- Thu. – 1 & 7 a.m.; Fri. – 4 & 10 p.m.
- Sat. – 4 & 9 a.m.



Trinity website



Trinity giving

TRINITY TRANSPORTATION

Sunday van schedule

Trinity's van is available for the Sunday, 9 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:

- 8:15 a.m. – Boutwell's Landing at the main entrance
- 8:25 a.m. – Raymie Johnson
- 8:35 a.m. – Croixdale
- 8:40 a.m. – Oakridge
- 8:45 a.m. – Rivertown Commons

TRINITY TODAY

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Fri., December 14

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

Sat., December 15

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

Sun., December 16 – Advent 3

9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
9 a.m. Couples Group: Rm 108B
9 a.m. Sunday Learning (3 yrs-Gr6): Lower Lvl
10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
10:30 a.m. Couples Group: Rm 108B
10:30 a.m. Old Testament Course: Garden Rm

Mon., December 17

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
4 p.m. Congregational Council meeting:
Office Conference Room
6 p.m. Jubilate Bells rehearsal: Heritage Chapel
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
6:30 p.m. Al-Anon meeting: Library

Tue., December 18

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Rm 108B
9 a.m. Women's Book Group: The Bikery
1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
6 p.m. AA meeting: Library
7 p.m. WALK rehearsal: Worship Center

Wed., December 19

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
9:15 a.m. Hearts of the Home Moms
10:15 a.m. Linden Sr. Communion
5 p.m. Children's Choirs
5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Rm
6:15 p.m. Wed. Learning (3yrs-Gr6): Lower Lvl
6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr7-9): Upper Lvl
7 p.m. Trinity Choir rehearsal: Worship Center
7:30 p.m. The River Christmas worship: Garden Rm

Thu., December 20

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Narthex

Fri., December 21

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

Sat., December 22

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

Sun., December 23 – No Sunday Learning

9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY

Mon., December 24 – Christmas Eve

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
2 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION
3 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION
4 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION
5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION
7:30 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION
9:00 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

Tue., December 25 – Christmas Day

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
10 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

Wed., December 26 – No Childrens/Conf./River

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study: Rm 108B
7 a.m. AA meeting: Library

Thu., December 27

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Narthex
No Knitting Ministry

Fri., December 28

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

Sat., December 29

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

Sun., December 30 – No Sunday Learning

9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY

Mon., December 31

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
6:30 p.m. Al-Anon meeting: Library

Tue., January 1 – Trinity Office & Building Closed

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library

Wed., January 2

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
No Hearts of the Home Moms
No Childrens/Conf./River Worship

Thu., January 3

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Narthex
2 p.m. Healing Touch Group: Narthex

Fri., January 4

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

Sat., January 5

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

Sun., January 6

9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
9 a.m. Sunday Learning (3 yrs-Gr6): Lower Lvl
10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
10:30 a.m. Couples Group: Rm 108B
Noon Missionary/Adult Ldr Mtg: Garden Rm

Mon., January 7

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
8:45 a.m. Women's Bridge for Trinity: Garden Rm
1:30 p.m. Commodity Distribution: 4th St. Entr.
6 p.m. Jubilate Bells rehearsal: Heritage Chapel
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
6:30 p.m. Al-Anon Mtg: Library

Tue., January 8

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Rm 108B
9 a.m. Retired Men – Alt. Energy: Garden Rm
9 a.m. Croixdale Sr. Communion
9:15 a.m. Leah Circle: Narthex
9:45 a.m. Good Sam. Sr. Communion
10:15 a.m. Greeley Sr. Communion
1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
6 p.m. AA meeting: Library

6:30 p.m. History of Christianity: Rm 108B
7 p.m. Anna Circle Mtg: Library
7 p.m. WALK rehearsal: Worship Center

Wed., January 9

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study: Room 108B
7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
5 p.m. Children's Choirs
5:30 p.m. Pizza Hour: Garden Rm
6:15 p.m. Wed. Learning (3yrs-Gr6): Lower Lvl
6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr7-9): Worship Ctr
6:15 p.m. Finding Your Place: Garden Rm
7 p.m. Trinity Choir rehearsal: Worship Center
7:30 p.m. The River Worship: Garden Room

Thu., January 10

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Narthex
4:30 p.m. Loaves & Fishes: Off-site

Fri., January 11

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

Sat., January 12

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

Sun., January 13

9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
9 a.m. Sunday Learning (3 yrs-Gr6): Lower Lvl
10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
10:30 a.m. Old Testament Course: Garden Rm
Noon Mexico Adult Leaders Mtg: Living Rm

Mon., January 14

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
6 p.m. Jubilate Bells rehearsal: Heritage Chapel
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
6:30 p.m. Al-Anon meeting: Library

Tue., January 15

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Rm 108B
9 a.m. Women's Book Group: The Bikery
1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
1 p.m. Rebekah Circle: Library
6 p.m. AA meeting: Library
7 p.m. WALK rehearsal: Worship Center
6:30 p.m. History of Christianity: Rm 108B

Wed., January 16

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
9:15 a.m. Hearts of the Home Moms
10:15 a.m. Linden Sr. Communion
5 p.m. Children's Choirs
5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Rm
6:15 p.m. Wed. Learning (3yrs-Gr6): Lower Lvl
6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr7-9): Upper Lvl
7 p.m. Trinity Choir rehearsal: Worship Center
7:30 p.m. The River Worship: Garden Rm

Thu., January 17

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Narthex

Fri., January 18

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
10:30 a.m. Boutwells Sr. Communion
1:15 p.m. Rivertown Commons Sr. Communion
4:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Ski Trip leaves for Duluth

WORSHIP — How do those things happen?



Marianne Geiger

Have you ever wondered how the worship space is transformed/adorned for each season of the church year? Whatever the season, the Fine Arts Group envisions, creates and installs flowers, banners, candles, and art eight to ten times a year to enhance the worship experience at Trinity. Their work is done mainly in the Worship Center, but extends to the Narthex, Commons and entrances. This is a group that abounds with ideas and collaboration, but, if they had to claim a leader, it would be David Brekke, who can transform almost anything into something beautiful.

Have you ever wondered who makes sure the Worship Center is ready for worship and other events each week? Who straightens the books and endless little cards in the racks? Who vacuums the pews? Who polishes the wood? That would be Joanne Brown and her team, who come in each and every week, when no one is around, and contributes time to make Trinity a welcoming place.

Finally, have you ever wondered how the communion meal appears on the table each week? Who sets the table, makes sure there is enough for all? Who bakes the delicious bread? When it comes to baking bread, the merriest band of bakers you could know are led by Susan Carr. Saturday evening the table is set by Mimi Murphy and Sundays are shared by Sylvia McAllister, Iona Holsten, Gerrie Granquist, Don & Deb Wishard, and Mark & Cindy Jackson.

If you have a chance, thank these behind-the-scenes workers for all they do to enhance our space and our worship!



Katie Beaudet and Haakon Carver



Judy Loe and Alyce Brekke