



TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



Jesus is Already in the Boat

Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion.... Mark 4:38ab, NRSVUE

There are storms and then there are storms. There is the storm that raged around the boat. And there was the anxiety of the disciples that raged on the boat. The disciples are experienced with navigating ships even in the worst weather. Yet they lose it when they see Jesus fast asleep in front of them. Why wasn't Jesus helping them? Why wasn't Jesus doing something in the face of danger? The disciples had watched Jesus in all kinds of difficult situations bring peace, comfort, consolation, and hope with just a few words. Why then does Jesus continue to sleep? Why the silence?

We may not know what it's like to battle storms on the sea. But we likely do know what it's like to wrestle through situations in our own lives that may feel insurmountable. What have those storms been in your life? In the life of family or friends? In the life of this congregation? You may not have said so out loud, but I'd venture to guess that at some point your words echoed those of the disciples: do you not care that we are struggling? That we're tired and not sure what to do? That we're perishing? (*Mk. 4:38, additions mine*)

As well intentioned as the disciples are in Mark's gospel, it's often the case they don't get things right. This is certainly true in this story. In their concern, they don't recognize that the Jesus whom they wished would help them out is already with them, in the same boat they are in. Though they rant and rail against Jesus's sleep, Jesus is there. Jesus will make all things new. The disciples knew Jesus could do this, but in this circumstance it's hard to see how it's going to happen. Their worry drowns out faith. So it goes for us, too.

Jesus looks the storm in the eye and commands it to stop. Recognizing Jesus' voice and having heard of Jesus' power to not only calm storms but also to create new life, stops. The disciples are dazed and confused. They wonder, how could all this happen? How, indeed.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Paul Lutter, Interim Pastor



SEPTEMBER 2025

INSIDE:

September Events at Trinity
Pastoral Transition Update
Adult Faith Formation
Council Highlights
Trinity Groups & Opportunities
Faith Resource Corner

Worship
Sundays at 9:00 am
Onsite & Online

STAFF:

Interim Pastor	Paul Lutter
Children's Ministry	Chelsea Farniok
Music Ministry	Hannah Rosholt
Office Manager	Robyn Behrens
Financial Secretary	Gail Cassidy
Financial Administrator	Mary Jech

Trinity Lutheran Church

513 Madison St SE | PO Box 1177
Watertown, MN 55388
phone: 952-955-1891
email: trinityoffice@trin.org

www.trin.org

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 am - Noon

What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?



Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 7

We're getting excited for Sunday School at Trinity! Join us for Kick-Off Sunday on September 7, packed with fun family activities, music, and tons of fun for everyone!

Children ages 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to join us this school year! Sunday School begins at 10:00 am, just after our church service. In each lesson, kids will hear the featured Bible Story, watch a short learning video, explaining the Bible Story in modern, easy-to-understand language, explore the Big Idea with a game or activity, and sing songs of praise.

Register online at
www.trin.org/sundayschool



Interested in Helping with Sunday School?

Our Sunday School lessons are led by a rotation of wonderful volunteers. We can always use more help, so contact Chelsea Farniok at cfarniok@trin.org if you're interested in volunteering.

PASTORAL TRANSITION PROCESS

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

The season of interim at Trinity has many aspects to it. In this newsletter space each month, I'll take up one of the aspects and invite you into some conversation around the life of the congregation through the lens of a particular aspect.

COMING TO TERMS WITH HISTORY

David Whyte, an Irish poet and philosopher, once said that for the Irish, "the thing about the past is that it isn't really the past." The past has an energy about it. It is there with us, whether we admit it or not.

Considering this, I want to invite you to join me in exploring Trinity Lutheran's history. We'll pay attention to the congregation's early history – including questions such as how and why Trinity Lutheran Church came to be – we'll pay attention to more recent history – think about what has happened at Trinity Lutheran over the past twenty years – and we'll look together at the last ten years or so as well. We'll make a timeline that shows where we've been and where we are now. We'll share stories about the congregation, its mission and ministry, and what we hope to become. And we'll wonder together about a sense of vision and mission that could carry us forward under the care of God's grace.

CONGREGATIONAL LISTENING SESSIONS

We'll hold our first of these sessions on **Sunday, September 28 from 10:15 - 11:45 am**. The focus of this session will be the early history of Trinity Lutheran Church. You are a part of the congregation's history. Come and hear! Come and tell your story! Come and see! Celebrate all God has done in our life together!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Paul Lutter

Back-To-School Blessing

Sunday, September 7

All students, teachers and school staff are invited to come and receive a Back-To-School Blessing during worship on September 7! All the folks at Trinity will help you start the year out right: grounded in the faith, surrounded by the saints, and astounded by the amazing grace of God!

Adult Faith Formation

7-week Study: Making Sense of Martin Luther



Thank you to all who came together recently to discuss Adult Faith Formation opportunities for the coming year. Pastor Paul will lead a weekly study of *Making Sense of Martin Luther* by David Lose. This series explains Martin Luther's core theological ideas in a conversational format, focusing on how his understanding of God's gospel informs daily life and faith.

DATES: September 24–November 6 (weekly sessions)

TIME: Choose either Wednesdays at 1:15 pm **OR** Thursdays at 6:30 pm.

No expertise required—just good conversation. Study materials will be provided. Choose whichever day works best for you. The content will be the same at the Wednesday and Thursday sessions each week.

If you are interested in joining the study, please sign up at www.trin.org under EVENTS or contact the church office.

If this topic doesn't seem interesting to you, please know that we'll have a number of opportunities throughout the year – each one a little different from the rest. Questions? Contact Pastor Paul at plutter@trin.org.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 24

Visit trin.org/confirmation for details

6th-8th Grade Confirmation Student/Parent Orientation Meeting

Wednesday, September 17 | 6:30 pm

Sunday Fellowship & Coffee Hour

Sundays | 10:00 am

Join us every Sunday after worship in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, conversation, and community. Whether you're looking to catch up with friends, make new ones, or simply enjoy a cup of coffee while your kids are in Sunday School, this is the place to be. Plus, on the first Sunday of each month, we'll celebrate birthdays with donuts and birthday candles! See you there!



Thursday, September 18 | 10:00 am

This month the OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) are revisiting a meaningful (and fun!) piece of our congregation's history. Back in 2008, during Trinity's 150th Anniversary, eight costumed storytellers brought to life the legacies of members who had gone before us in a special cemetery walk. Thanks to Gail Sommerfeld's filming, we'll get to enjoy these memorable stories once again.

To stay in the spirit, everyone is invited to wear black—don't worry, it's not that kind of funeral, just our playful nod to the theme! So come for good food, shared laughter, and thoughtful reflection on the legacies that shape us. The OWLS know how to make even funerals fun!

MEMORIALS

in memory of

Don Hendricks

\$65 ~ General Memorial

\$20 ~ Quilting

Gerry Pysick

\$25 ~ General Memorial

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

August 19, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Fund summary July 2025

Beginning balance 7/1/2025:
-\$ 16,741.42

Operating Fund inc: \$ 24,562.23
Operating Fund exps: \$ 26,323.08
Net balance (July): -\$ 1,760.85

**Operating Fund balance as of
6/30/2025:** -\$ 18,502.27

**2025 operating fund EXPENSES
exceeded INCOME by \$3,666.98.**

Capital Improvement Fund:
Chip/Seal South Parking Lot \$9,100

Cash Summary:
Bremer: \$ 60,080.91
(includes 1,630.14 for July federal withholding)

Citizen's Building Fund: \$ 75,458.69

Comments

- 6% of operating fund income for benevolence to Minneapolis Area synod amounted to \$1,471.56.
- July Xcel bill for fuel and electricity amounted to \$1,156.21 (up about \$390 from June).
- Pulpit supply in the amount of \$200 per Sunday plus mileage was paid for 3 Sundays in July.
- Pastor Lutter officially began his ministry here on July 23 and was paid from that date.

M/S/C Steve Boylan, Corky Ibeling, carried

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Lutter shared his thoughts on what he has been thinking about, what he has done, what he has heard, and his understanding of all of the normal anxiety surrounding our congregation during this transition.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Property Committee Report:** South parking lot has been repaved. Replacing church's front steps is on pause due to bid being more than expected. Discussions regarding future of parsonage will continue in September. Removal of two ash trees discussed.
- **Request for use of space at Trinity** by community mental health provider will continue in the future.
- **Scholarships** An invitation will be sent to the Foundation Board to have a member attend the September Council meeting to present information on Trinity scholarship award selection.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Sound System Addition** Discussed possible sound system enhancement for members with hearing loss. Steve is checking on the cost and options.
- **Transition Team and Call Committee** volunteers are not needed quite yet. Pastor Lutter will lead this effort in the future.

Have You Remembered Trinity Lutheran Church in Your Will?

Some people are able to continue to give to Trinity in death, as well as in life. Giving through your will helps to continue the 160-year tradition of ministry and mission at Trinity, continuing the legacy of your witness. With the advice of your attorney or tax adviser, the following language may be added to your will, trust, or codicil: **"I bequeath X% of my estate to Trinity Lutheran Church, 513 Madison Street SE, Watertown, MN 55388."** Thank you for considering a lasting gift to Trinity Lutheran Church!

Trinity GROUPS

Heavenly Housekeepers

1st Thursday of the month | 9:00 am

The Heavenly Housekeepers meet monthly to complete light housekeeping tasks around the church.

Quilting Ministry

Tuesdays | 9:00 am

Join the Trinity Quilters each Tuesday morning in the Nyulnda Chapel for a morning of quilting and conversation.

Trinity Apostles

2nd & 4th Mondays of the month | 8:30 am

Join the Trinity Apostles for coffee, fellowship and to check off a few "handyman" jobs from our to-do list. All are welcome to lend a hand.

Priscilla Circle

2nd Monday of the month | 2:00 pm

Priscilla Circle is a bible study for women that explores scripture and other faith topics. Contact Eileen Nelson (nelsej@gmail.com or 952-955-1491) for more details.

Weekly Prayer Gathering

Wednesdays | 12:30 pm

We are a people of prayer and believe God does amazing things when we simply ask. You are invited to join us weekly as we gather for an informal time of prayer for our congregation and community.



Trinity Worship Choir

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 10

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Trinity's worship choir will start weekly rehearsals this fall and will sing during worship several times throughout the year. If you are interested in singing with the choir this year, please contact Hannah Rosholt at hrosholt@trin.org.



Curious About Handbells?

Ever wondered what it's like to play handbells? Now's your chance! Join us for a fun, informal session where you can try out handbells and see what it's like to make music together in a small group. No pressure, just

a chance to give it a ring and enjoy the experience! If you're interested, contact Eileen Nelson at 952-955-1491 or nelsej@gmail.com or for more information.

Looking for Saint Lucia Leaders

The Saint Lucia Tea, Trinity's Scandinavian celebration of light, has been a tradition at Trinity for over 75 years, bringing joy, beauty, and community to our December celebrations. Each year, it has happened because caring and committed leaders have stepped up to make it possible. This year, we are in need of leaders to organize the Saint Lucia Tea. Without volunteers to guide the planning and preparation, we will not be able to hold the event in December. If you are interested in taking on a planning leadership role, or if you would like to learn more about what leadership involves, please contact the church office.



ELCA
MISSIONARY
SUPPORT



Trinity supports missionaries Rev. Andrew & Meredith Ronnevik in Papua New Guinea with prayer and financial support. Sign up at the Welcome Center to give \$25 (cash/check in the offering or church office) or donate online under "Special Gifts."

A Summer Celebration

Trinity's annual Golden Agers & OWLS Picnic was filled with laughter, a tasty meal, and some spirited games of bingo. We're grateful for everyone who came to share in the fun!



Important Meeting for Parents and Youth in Grades 6-12

Sunday, October 19 | 10:00 am

Let's get together to discuss how Trinity can provide meaningful youth ministry experiences this upcoming year. Trinity Youth in grade 6-12 and their parents are invited to join Pastor Paul after worship on Sunday, October 19 from 10:00-10:30 am in the Pioneer Room to get the conversation started. Bring your interest and your excitement for this vital ministry.

PASTOR PAUL'S FAITH RESOURCE CORNER

30-Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Each month in this space, I will raise up a book (or two) as a resource to encourage your faith. This month, I want to recommend *30-Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. Compiled and edited by Joshua Mauldin, this book provides a brief reading for thirty days by the Lutheran pastor, theologian, and professor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and a brief reflection each day based on those readings. Bonhoeffer's

life and ministry ended when he was put to death in a concentration camp toward the end of World War II. His writing continues to challenge, encourage, inspire, and teach us in our present moment. Check it out – better yet: read it in a group with a few friends and discuss it. I'd even be glad to have conversation with you about what you're reading and thinking.

30-Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, compiled and edited by Joshua Mauldin (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2019). Sixty-six pages. This book can be purchased online or borrowed as an ebook from various online resources.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Paul Lutter

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 LABOR DAY <i>Church Office Closed</i> AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jenna Berhow Emma Herman Maren McCain	2 Quilters 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> John Mueller Alex Phearman	3 Prayer 12:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm	4 Housekeepers 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Noah Isakson Scott Isakson Allison Kind Janice Peterson	5	6
7 KICK-OFF SUNDAY Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Red Kirkman Andy McCain Brenda Reardon Claire Sieling	8 Apostles 8:30 am Priscilla Circle 2 pm AA Meeting 8 pm	9 Quilters 9 am Finance Committee 6:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mary Beck Shelby Mueller	10 Prayer 12:30 pm 9th Grade Confirm. Meeting 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jennifer Helmbrecht	11	12	13
14 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am	15 AA Meeting 8 pm	16 Quilters 9 am Council Mtg. 6:30 pm	17 Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8th Grade Confirm. Meeting 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Leighton Hirsch Liam McCain David Wandersee	18 OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) 10:00 am	19	20 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Griffin Guetzkow Diane Holmes Kate Illies Michael Matson
21 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Stacey Lachermeier	22 Apostles 8:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm	23 Quilters 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Al Barfknecht Debora Christensen JoAnn Lohmann	24 Prayer 12:30 pm Adult Ed 1:15 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Raymond Gersema Melissa Gruette	25 Tidings 9:30 am Adult Ed 6:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Emery Erickson Paige Haller Bill Whitehead	26	27 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Alaia Lopez Linda Stieve Jen Tufte
28 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Trinity Listening Session 10:15 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Alyson Blakstad	29 AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Curt Christensen Denice Widmer	30 Quilters 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Charli Fautsch Ben Goetz Curt Sandquist				



513 MADISON ST SE | PO BOX 1177
WATERTOWN MN 55388
www.trin.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WATERTOWN MN
55388
PERMIT NO. 22

If you have a new address or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the church office at 952-955-1891 or trinityoffice@trin.org.



SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES FROM TRINITY

Stay up to date with what's going on at Trinity Lutheran Church. Sign up for email updates to receive eNewsletters and other church-wide announcements. Subscribe to Email Updates on our website www.trin.org.

CONNECT WITH US



Facebook/Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) Watertown MN



Seasons of Change, Signs of Grace

As autumn begins, we watch the world transform before our eyes. Leaves change color, the air turns crisp, and a new rhythm settles in. In these seasonal shifts, we are reminded of God's faithful hand over all of creation. Each season speaks of His order, care, and presence. Autumn, in particular, invites reflection. Just as the trees release their leaves, we are called to let go of what no longer serves us and make space for renewal.

This season also marks a return to routines—school schedules, church programs, and community events. As we step into new responsibilities or revisit familiar ones, may we do so with gratitude and trust. God is not only present in the harvest but in the quiet letting go. Let this autumn be a time to embrace God's steady rhythm, find beauty in change, and rest in His faithful promises that never cease—even as the world around us shifts.