



TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



**When God began to create...the earth
was complete chaos.... Gen. 1:1-2a**

Not long ago, a new revision to the New Revised Standard Version Bible was released. Plenty of anxiety had been unleashed about its arrival. The concerns raised had to do with whether favorite verses would be left untouched. For some, the anxiety had reached such a fevered pitch that they vowed not to read the Bible. "Not any Bible," I asked a friend who told me this. "Nope," my friend said, their arms crossed, and voice raised. They admitted that change was hard for them. Even though he's a lifelong Lutheran, and Lutherans, at least theologically, proclaim that God is always making things new.

On the ground, though, change can be hard. Change is about loss before it's about something new. Loss causes grief and anxiety of the unknown. Loss shows up as "complete chaos," as the author of Genesis describes it. It's no wonder we fight against change. Who wants to lose what we have held dear? Who wants to grieve? Who wants to stare into an unknown future? We'll dwell in what we already know, thank you very much.

Chaos is not the enemy. Chaos is a part of the creative process. God is at work in what we do not understand. God makes things new in those situations and spaces in which we cannot see what God is doing – even when what God is doing is right in front of our faces. This latter reality brings us into a state of confusion. Confusion is a sign that God's grace is at work among us. The writer Anne Lamott writes, "I do not at all understand the mystery of grace – only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us." Confusion is a sign that God meets us where we are at, and that where we end up is not where we imagined.

Take heart. God is with you. By God's grace, I get to walk alongside of you, all the way through to when you call your new pastor. I look forward to seeing where God's grace takes us. Let's be on this journey together.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Paul Lutter, Interim Pastor



AUGUST 2025

INSIDE:

Welcome Pastor Paul
Pastoral Transition Update
Sunday School Registration
Pastoral Acts & Memorials
Council Highlights
Summer at Trinity Pictures

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?

Welcome Pastor Paul!

On Sunday, July 27, we installed Pastor Paul Lutter as our new interim pastor at Trinity! We're also thrilled to welcome his wife Jenny and daughter Annika into our church family. We look forward to getting to know Pastor Paul and his family in this new season of faith and ministry together!



You can contact Pastor Paul
at plutter@trin.org
or 507-440-0048

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. Please know I'm open and interested in conversation with you around each of these aspects. I'm curious about your perspective and insights. I welcome your questions and concerns. I'm excited to be in conversation with you.

STEP

1

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

This is the first aspect of this season of interim. I hope to get to know you – and for you to get to know me, my wife, and daughter. I'll want to get to know you and your family as well. I'll want to get to know your perspectives and insights about Trinity. But I'm also interested in getting to know more about you, too. These kinds of conversations aren't a one and done sort of thing. They happen slowly, over time, as we share in life together. They happen over coffee – even though I don't drink coffee – or a meal or even a walk. They happen during high school sports events, plays and concerts. The purpose of these conversations is to build relationship. In this process, relationships are essential as we engage together in the work of ministry. Over time, we will find a sense of trust between us. I've been told I'm a good listener, and that I do so without judgement or critique. I hope you find this to be true as well. I hold conversations in confidence, unless you tell me I can share what we've talked about with others. Let's get to know one another. I look forward to our conversations!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Paul



Sunday School starts on September 7

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. Each week, children 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



Want to Help Out with Children's Ministry?

If you are interested in any of the many ways to help out with Children's Ministry at Trinity, please reach out to Chelsea Farniok at cfarniok@trin.org.

- **Sunday School Leaders** Our Sunday School lessons are led by a rotation of wonderful parent volunteers. Each group has a lead volunteer and a helper for the week. Lesson plans are provided.
- **Nursery Attendants** We are in search of 1-2 high schoolers (16+ years old) or adults to serve as Nursery Attendants for the coming school year. Those interested should be able to commit to one to two Sunday mornings per month.
- **Children's Ministry Events** Throughout the year, we need volunteers to help with special events. Watch church announcements for these opportunities.



School Supply Drive

Collecting Donations Through August

Trinity Lutheran Church is partnering with Gather & Grow Food Shelf and Watertown-Mayer Elementary School for a School Supply Drive! We invite you to be part of this outreach by donating new school supplies to Trinity Lutheran Church through August. These supplies will be available to Watertown-Mayer students this coming school year through the Royals Room at the Elementary School.

Let's come together to support local students and families with a fresh start this fall. Thank you for your generosity and compassion!

Donations can be dropped off at the church office during regular hours or placed in the Royals Room basket at our Donation Station by the church's main parking lot entrance.



Golden Agers & OWLS Summer Picnic

Thursday, August 7 | 11:45 am

Trinity's Golden Agers (members 70+) and OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) and a guest are invited to enjoy a time of socializing and good food at our annual indoor picnic in the Trinity Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served at noon. Join us for food, friends, and fun!

Congregational NEWS

PASTORAL ACTS

WEDDING

Anna (Barfknecht) & Ben Goetz
United in Marriage on
June 28, 2025

FUNERALS

Gerry Pysick
October 17, 1941 ~ May 8, 2025
Service on June 27, 2025

Don Hendricks
November 7, 1956 ~ July 5, 2025
Service on July 19, 2025

GRAVESIDE BURIAL SERVICES

Eleanor Mewaldt
August 16, 1927 ~ June 7, 2025
Service on July 2, 2025

MEMORIALS

in memory of

Eleanor Mewaldt
\$652.63 ~ General Memorial
\$35 ~ Food Shelf

Arleen Hoes
\$20 ~ General Memorial

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

June 17, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Fund summary June 2025

Beginning balance 6/1/2025:
-\$ 29,903.79

Operating Fund inc: \$ 34,122.24
Operating Fund exps: \$ 20,989.87
Net balance (June): \$ 13,132.37

**Operating Fund balance as of
6/30/2025: -\$ 16,771.42**

**2025 operating fund EXPENSES
exceeded INCOME by \$1,916.13.**

Capital Improvement Fund:
No projects paid for this month

Cash Summary:
Bremer: \$ 62,362.89
(includes \$1,652.32 for June federal withholding)

Citizen's Building Fund: \$ 75,798.05

Comments

- 6% of operating fund income for benevolence to Minneapolis Area Synod amounted to \$2,045.58.
- June Xcel bill for fuel and electricity amounted to \$763.63 (down about \$75 from May.)
- Pastor Jeff's retirement accounted for expenses being down as we did not have a full-time pastor during June.
- Pulpit supply in the amount of \$200 per Sunday plus mileage was paid for the Sundays in June.

The Trinity Church Council did not meet in July. The following are the highlights from the June 17 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- Nylunda Bell Display project is ongoing.
- Request for use of space at Trinity by a community member for mental health counseling services will be discussed further when more information is obtained.
- The Community School Supply Drive is ongoing, though the planned distribution event to be held at Trinity has been canceled. We will try to make it happen next year.

NEW BUSINESS

- Pastor Paul Lutter has been accepted as our Interim Pastor with all paperwork complete with the Synod office. His start date is Wednesday, July 23, 2025.
- An invitation will be sent to the Foundation Board to have a member attend a Council meeting to present information on Trinity scholarship award selection.
- Discussion of Trinity's participation in Rails to Trails parade.



You're Invited: Help Shape Adult Faith Formation at Trinity

Pastor Paul loves engaging in meaningful, open, and fun faith conversations—and he wants your input! As we look ahead to the coming year of Adult Faith Formation, Pastor Paul is eager to hear your ideas. What would you like to explore together? What topics, questions, or studies spark your interest?

You're invited to join Pastor Paul for a conversation about what the upcoming year of adult education could look like—and bring a friend along, too! We'll meet in the Pioneer Room for this informal input session. Come to whichever gathering works best for you:

Sunday, August 17 @ 10:00 am
OR

Tuesday, August 19 @ 6:00 pm

Let's shape this year together. Pastor Paul is excited to hear what you think!

Trinity's 'Saints Went Marching In' the Watertown Rails to Trails Parade!

Many thank to Jason, Trevor, Maddie, Natalie, Nancy, Eileen and Gail for representing Trinity in the parade this year. The temps were sizzling, but not as hot as the tunes from *The World's Smallest Marching Band*! You brought the fun, the rhythm, and the spirit—thanks for making Trinity shine!

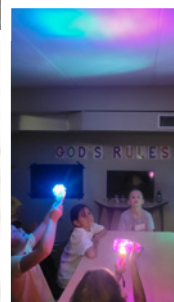
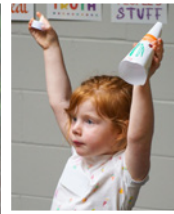


Have You Remembered Trinity Lutheran Church in Your Will?

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!

➡➡➡➡ VBS Pictures

Earlier this summer at Trinity VBS: a week full of laughter, learning, and lasting memories!
Thanks for being part of the fun!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Diane Hayes Julie Severson	4 AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mary Berhow Steve Boylan Ellyn Phearman	5 Quilters 9 am Finance Committee 6:30 pm	6 Prayer 12:30 pm	7 Housekeepers 9 am Golden Agers & OWLS Lunch 11:45 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Karen Rowan Jeana Salzsiedler	8 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Justin Kind	9
10 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Gary Alvig Nathan Behrens	11 AA Meeting 8 pm	12 Quilters 9 am Finance Committee 6:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kyle Horsman George Huber	13 Prayer 12:30 pm	14 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Anna Phearman Emma Hallermann	15 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Chad Matuska	16 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jackson Dalbey
17 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Adult Education Input Session 10 am	18 AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Angi Delaney Bob Lohmann Karson Tufte	19 Quilters 9 am Adult Education Input Session 6 pm Council Mtg. 6:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Marvin Nelson Lindsay Zumbunnen Lily McMahon Lukas Gilbert	20 Prayer 12:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Nathan Baluski Jim Morrow	21 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sara Hallermann Wesley Gruette	22 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kiersten Koets	23 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lorna Lambrecht Finley Erickson Jenny Lutter
24 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Brittany Olson Sara Stutsman Kendall Prigge	25 AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Chris Behrens Kelly Hirsch	26 Quilters 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Brent Graff Colton Bauernfeind	27 Prayer 12:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jack Hallermann	28 Tidings 9:30 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mark Bender Cory Mitteness Jimmy Gilles	29 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Todd Johnson Kylie Jerde	30
31 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ethan Danielson Carter Erickson						



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

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A Path of Persistence

Some Christian converts in an overseas village were diligent about daily prayer. In the thicket outside town, they each had a place where they prayed in solitude. Over time, these believers wore pathways through the brush to their special prayer areas. If someone neglected his or her prayer life, it was evident because fresh grass started growing on that footpath. Out of concern, fellow Christians offered this loving reminder: "Friend, there's grass growing on your path."

How worn is your own path to prayer? Are you persistent when answers don't seem to come? Do you trust that God will answer your prayers, according to his good and gracious will?

When you grow weary, remember this promise in Galatians 6:9 (NIV). "At the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."