



TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



Why I Might Break a Rule or Two

Have you ever had a moment where you let something slip — what you were actually thinking, or what you actually wanted to do, before you'd fully decided to let anyone see it?

Let me tell you two moments that reveal a lot about me.

The first one happened in the sanctuary when I was leading worship during the children's conversation. There's a hand motion that goes with a certain song — the kind where your body just knows what to do before your brain catches up, because you learned it at Bible camp when you were nine. This particular motion is supposed to stay at camp. It is not supposed to show up in front of the whole congregation on a Sunday morning. But there I was, hands going, before I'd made any real decision about it at all. There were many chuckles and a few gasps.

That's pretty much how worship goes with me in general. I'll change the order of things if it serves the moment better than the bulletin does. I'll let a kid's question take over the children's conversation for thirty seconds if it needs to.

This second moment is a little less about breaking the rules and a little more about being vulnerable. I usually preach without notes; learning from my first call where I mostly preached to 100s of middle school students and they would mutiny if I read a script. No script means no place to hide if I'm feeling moved by the Spirit or something comes out that I hadn't quite planned to say.

One Sunday, that's exactly what happened. I told the congregation that I once got pulled over, and before the officer even reached my window, I made sure my collar was on and my name tag — the one that says "Pastor Adam" — was somewhere he could see it.

I didn't have to tell anyone that. I could have kept preaching about grace in general and let people assume I've got it all figured out. Instead it came out

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SEPTEMBER 2026

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Meet & Greet Pastor Adam
September Events at Trinity
Sunday School Registration
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Pastoral Acts / Memorials
Council Highlights

Worship
Sundays at 9:00 am
Onsite & Online

STAFF:

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

Trinity Lutheran Church

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

What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?

PASTOR ADAM CONTINUED

that even I, in a moment of nerves, went looking for a way to avoid a ticket (it didn't work). That's not exactly a flattering story. But it's an honest one, and being honest is what I'm after these days.

There's a researcher named Brené Brown who has spent decades studying this exact territory. She defines vulnerability as uncertainty, risk, and emotional exposure — the feeling right before you say the true thing instead of the easy thing. She's found something worth sitting with too: we can't selectively numb our feelings. If we armor up against embarrassment and fear, we armor up against joy and connection right along with it. You don't get to keep the good stuff and wall off the rest. It's a package deal.

Being vulnerable, to me, mostly means being honest with myself first — admitting the parts of my faith that still have questions in them, admitting when I don't know, admitting when I got it wrong last week and I'm trying again this week. It means I show up as more of who I actually am, instead of the more polished version I could perform if I wanted to. And when I do that, something strange happens: I find I can accept other people more easily too. It's hard to hold someone else's mess against them once you've stopped hiding your own.

If you look at how God chooses to show up in the world, it is not behind a wall. God shows up as a baby who needs to be fed and changed and carried, entirely dependent on people who could have

dropped him. Jesus weeps at his friend's grave in front of everyone. He asks his closest friends to stay awake with him in the garden because he doesn't want to be alone in his fear. He lets himself be arrested without a fight. He dies exposed, in public, with nothing to hide behind.

It also, and I don't think this gets said enough in church, means you have more fun. A facade is exhausting to maintain. There's no room to laugh at yourself when you're busy managing an image. Some of my favorite moments in ministry have come from letting go of the plan and just being a person in the room with other people.

So that's who you're getting as your pastor. Someone who will probably surprise you now and then — hand motions included. Someone who takes boundaries seriously and facades not at all. Someone who's trying to be honest about who I am so that you feel a little more free to be honest about who you are. And someone who genuinely believes that's where the good stuff of faith actually lives — not in the parts we've got polished and figured out, but in the parts we're brave enough to show each other.

That's the good news, as far as I can tell. God isn't waiting for us to get our act together. God shows up in the actual mess, right alongside us in it.

Blessings,
Pastor Adam Teske

A circular logo with a yellow background and a subtle gear-like pattern. The text "Meet & Greet" is in a large, blue, stylized font, with "with Pastor Adam" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it.

Meet & Greet
with Pastor Adam

Sign up for a Meet & Greet with Pastor Adam

We are excited to kick off a series of casual Meet & Greets to help everyone get to know our Pastor Adam—and to give him a chance to get to know you! Whether you'd like to simply join a gathering or open your doors as a host, we'd love for you to be part of it. Visit www.trin.org and find the sign-up form under the EVENTS menu to learn more and to let us know if you'd like to attend, host, or both!



Join Us for our TrinFest Kick Off Event!

Sunday, September 13

You're invited to TrinFest on Sunday, September 13, kicking off with worship at 9:00 am, followed by outdoor games, ministry connections, fellowship, and ice cream sundaes! It's the perfect chance to connect and welcome Trinity's new pastor—so bring a friend, grab a spoon, and jump right into the fun!



**6th-8th Grade Confirmation Student/
Parent Orientation Meeting**
Wednesday, September 23 | 6:30 pm



Sunday School Kicks Off on Sunday, September 13

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. Children will be placed in a Sunday School classroom by age. (Preschool, Kindergarten-1st Grade, 2nd-3rd Grade, 4th-5th Grade). Through shared moments of discovery, play, music, and celebration, kids will build friendships and grow in their understanding of God's love in an environment made just for them. We are so excited to welcome your kids to Sunday School at our TrinFest Kick Off event on Sunday, September 13!

Register online at
www.trin.org/sundayschool



Interested in Helping with Sunday School?

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. We can always use more volunteers, so if you're interested in helping out, please reach out to our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Chelsea Farniok at cfarniok@trin.org.

Congregational NEWS

PASTORAL ACTS

FUNERALS

Jim Morrow

8/20/1935 ~ 7/18/2026

Memorial Service on
August 1, 2026

Emmett Danielson

10/20/1931 ~ 8/23/2026

Memorial Service on
August 31, 2026

MEMORIALS

in memory of

Randy Feltmann

\$45 ~ General Memorial

Jim Morrow

\$45 ~ General Memorial

\$20 ~ Quilting



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Adam Rowan, *President*
Kevin Beck, *Vice President*
Tammy Vraspir, *Secretary*
Jim Sandquist, *Treasurer*
Steve Boylan
Corky Ibeling
Nick Neaton
Kari Olson
Nancy Stello

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

August 25, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Fund summary July 2026

Beginning balance 7/1/2026:

-\$ 29,082.23

Operating Fund inc: \$ 28,678.45

Operating Fund exps: \$ 37,181.95

Net balance (July): -\$ 8,503.50

Operating Fund balance as of

7/30/2026: -\$ 37,585.73

2026 operating fund EXPENSES exceeded INCOME by \$42,732.19.

Capital Improvement Expenses:

Replacing front steps and electrical
to the sign: \$30,794.66

Cash Summary:

Old National Bank: \$ 42,120.45
(includes 2,595.50 for July federal withholding)

Citizen's Building Fund: \$ 56,614.96

Comments

- 6% of operating fund income for benevolence to Minneapolis Area synod amounted to \$1,720.00.
- July Xcel bill for fuel and electricity amounted to \$1224.19 (up about \$200 from June).
- \$1,684.00 paid when a storm took out part of our fire alarm system.
- Cost for replacing the lock on the office door was \$329.13.
- Extra custodial expenses included \$243 for cleaning the carpet in the Fellowship Hall.

- Annual worship resource subscription was paid in the amount of \$549.
- Continuing Education reimbursement payment was made to Pastor Paul.
- Postage has gone up to \$.77
- Mileage has gone up to \$.76 (second increase since January).

M/S/C Kari Olson, Kevin Beck, carried

OLD BUSINESS

- **TrinFest Kick Off Event** is scheduled for Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 10:00 am. Final details were discussed.
- **Pastoral Transition** We are very excited to welcome Pastor Teske to Trinity next Wednesday! Installation is being planned for Sunday, September 20, 2026.
- **Communion Assistants/Tellers**
September Teller: Nancy Stello
Communion Assistants for September 6: Kari and Adam

NEW BUSINESS

- **Job Descriptions Review** will be further discussed next month.
- **Employee Handbook Updates** will be further discussed next month.
- **Watertown Chamber of Commerce Events** Jim will reach out to the Chamber to see if they need any help with upcoming events.



Thursday, September 17
10:00 am

Join Trinity OWLS for an inspiring morning with Linda Rupp as she shares stories from her five years ministering at New Hope Generation Academy in Lokichogio, Kenya. Learn how our monetary contributions provide desks, uniforms, books, and supplies for these students. Bring a friend and enjoy fellowship and treats while discovering the impact of this vital ministry!



BONUS: Following the OWLS gathering, stay for a casual Meet & Greet with Pastor Adam. All are welcome to attend.

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.
(Note: September's Housekeepers will meet on Sept. 10.)

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 9
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.



SERVE AT TRINITY

Opportunities to Serve at Trinity

Trinity is blessed with so many helping hands—and we'd love to add yours! Whether you enjoy greeting people as an usher, sharing God's story as a lector, pouring a cup of hospitality as a coffee host, assisting with communion, or helping our livestream reach those at home, there's a place for you. Serving on a Sunday morning is a joyful way to meet people, support our worship life, and make a real difference.

Ready to jump in?

Visit www.trin.org/serve to let us know where you'd like to volunteer, or reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Pickering at volunteer@trin.org to learn more. We can't wait to serve with you!



Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA

Minneapolis Area Synod Staff News

Pastor John Hulden's is retiring after 14 years of dedicated service on the Minneapolis Area Synod staff, during which he supported Trinity through our recent transition process. Following his official retirement at the end of September, a celebration will be held in his honor on Thursday, October 8, from 3 - 6 pm at Oak Knoll Lutheran Church (600 Hopkins Crossroad, Minnetonka, MN 55305).

The event will be an open-house format featuring refreshments, with a brief program scheduled for 4:30 pm. All are welcome to stop by and express gratitude to Pastor John for his guidance and wish him well in his next chapter.

Have You Remembered Trinity 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!

An Investment in Future Ministry

Are you or someone you know answering a call to Christian ministry? The Trinity Foundation is honored to support this journey through the C.P. Thompson Scholarship.

We know that the path to ministry doesn't always happen right after high school or college; often, it is a second or third career discovered later in life. If you know someone currently pursuing ministry who could benefit from this financial assistance, please let us know. You can reach out to the church office or any Trinity Foundation Board member for more information.

Foundation Board Members: Ed Rundell, Heather Berscheit, Dan Sieling, Jamie Isakson, Mary Gallus, Howie Gilles

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

(C) indicates a Communion Sunday



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Rest for the Soul

Studies show many Americans don't get enough sleep, and the effects can take a toll on both body and mind.

Whether it's a packed schedule or restless nights, a lack of rest makes it harder to think clearly, stay focused and care for our overall well-being. Over time, that constant fatigue begins to wear us down.

Our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. When we rush from one task to the next without pausing to spend time with God, we can feel just as drained. We need consistent, quiet moments with Him to stay grounded, encouraged and strong in our faith. Even Jesus made space for this kind of rest. Luke 5:16 tells us that He often withdrew to quiet places to pray. If He needed that time with the Father, how much more do we? When we step away from the noise and listen for God's voice, we find the renewal our souls have been longing for.