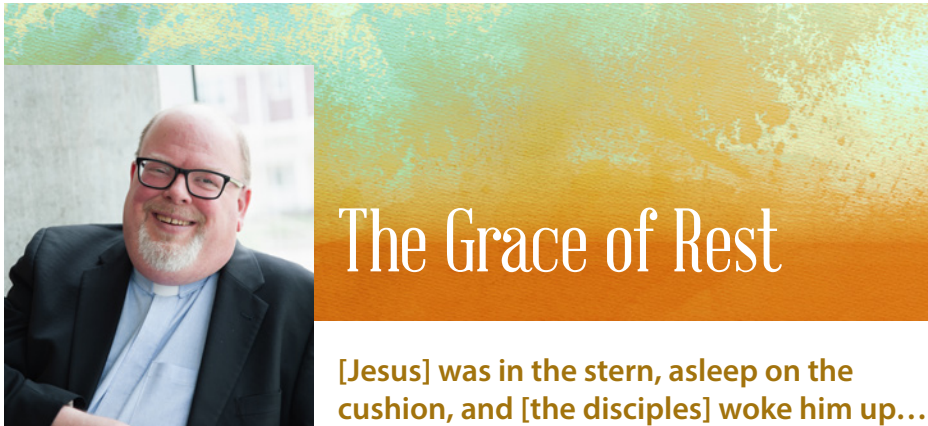




# TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



## The Grace of Rest

[Jesus] was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and [the disciples] woke him up...

(Mark 4:38)

In Scripture, the theme that God’s grace is more than sufficient comes up often. It is present in both creation accounts in Genesis. It is there when the author of 2 Corinthians reaches the point where the pain of a thorn in the flesh is so deeply lodged it seems as though nothing can be done. It shows up near the end of almost every book in the New Testament, offered in a blessing or a promise out of a sense of deep and abiding hope. It surprises nearly everyone—except for Jesus, who embodies it in each movement he makes and in each word he speaks. It is revealed in more ways than we can imagine. We are left unsure how to feel about this. This, also, is grace.

What are we to make of Jesus when, in response to the things happening around him, he curls up on a cushion in a boat and takes a nap? This image resonates with the rest God took after creation. Perhaps you wonder why both God and Jesus took naps at such pivotal times. Is it possible that God and Jesus had done everything and simply had nothing left to do? Were God and Jesus bored, fed up, or just needing to unplug for a while?

The late pastor and theologian Eugene Peterson once wrote that when we rest, God gets done with us what God cannot get done when we are running around like chickens with our heads cut off. This is why, in the third commandment, we are set free to rest. Rest is a grace. In and through it, we are given ample space to remember who we are. We are set free to rejoice in the relationships God has given us. When our measure of worth is tied to our productivity, we forget that God and our relationships—not only with others, but with the larger world and universe—are gifts declaring we are never alone. Our Triune God is always with us, and within that fellowship, we find others. Among this community, we are named and claimed as God’s own, gifted and loved in ways we cannot even begin to fathom. It may make our heads spin. It may be time for a nap!

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Paul Lutter, Interim Pastor



JUNE / JULY 2026

### INSIDE:

- Summer Worship Series
- Vacation Bible School
- Foundation Scholarships
- June / July Events
- Call Committee Corner
- Council Highlights

**Worship**  
**Sundays 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](http://www.trin.org)

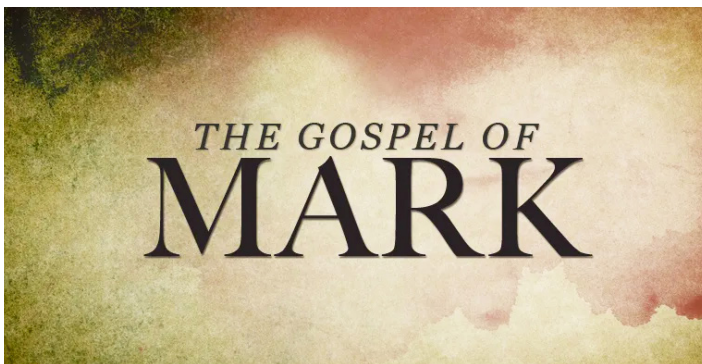
Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 am - Noon

# What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?



## Worship Series: Grounded in Connection

Relationships are the cornerstone of who we are as people of faith. They are how we learn, grow, and experience God's love and grace. Beginning Sunday, June 7, join us at Trinity for our summer worship series, *Grounded in Connection*. Through well-known Bible stories, we will explore both the beautiful joys and honest challenges of human relationship, community, and living together. In the midst of our complex lives, this series will remind us that God is always present, guiding us toward deeper connection, mercy, and grace. We can't wait to see you at worship this summer!



## The Gospel of Mark: An Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays, June 3 – 24

1:15 - 2:15 pm

While Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels, its brevity only fuels its intensity. Known for its breathless pace and the recurring phrase "and immediately," this narrative presents a Jesus who is constantly on the move and a Good News that refuses to stay put. We invite you to join us for a four-week study as we explore how the Gospel of Mark intersects with our own lives today. Come ready to discuss what God is up to in our world and our life together. Please let us know of your interest by signing up at [www.trin.org](http://www.trin.org) under the EVENTS menu.

Adventure is calling...



## Vacation Bible School at Trinity

June 15-18, 2026

5:30 - 7:30 pm

Family Dinner at 5 pm

Kids ages 3 years old through 4th Grade are invited to **Rainforest Falls VBS**, where we will explore the nature of God—discovering who God is and how much he loves us! Each evening will include a Bible story, singing, prayer, games, snacks, explorations, friendships, and more!

Register @ [www.trin.org/vbs](http://www.trin.org/vbs)





## Congratulations Class of 2026!

On Sunday, May 17, Trinity honored our high school graduates with a handmade quilt, our best wishes and God's blessings as they move on to their next adventures.

**Congratulations to Riley Delaney, Carter Erickson, Griffin Guetzkow, Emily Hecksel, Drew Isakson, Matthew Isakson, Jenna Kohls, Zachary Lohmann, Eliza Rowan, Hannah Skahaug, and Samuel Tronnes**

The Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation also awarded college scholarships to Drew Isakson, Matthew Isakson, Griffin Guezkow, Zachary Lohmann (*Trinity Preschool Scholarship*), Jenna Kohls (*Trinity Preschool Scholarship*) and Eliza Rowan (*Bergstrom Memorial and Elsie Sandquist Music Memorial Scholarships*).

The Trinity Foundation gratefully accepts donations to any of the scholarship funds throughout the year. You can give your gift directly to Trinity Lutheran Church and designate it to the scholarship of your choice.

## CALL COMMITTEE CORNER

The Call Committee Corner serves as a dedicated space for the committee to provide the congregation with regular updates throughout the prayerful process of calling a new pastor.

**June 2026 Update:** The Call Committee is currently in a season of discernment and have begun the process of gathering and reviewing nominations for pastoral candidates.

We are thankful to everyone who has submitted nominations and appreciate the thoughtful participation and support from the congregation. We are also grateful for the guidance and partnership of the Synod as we move through this important process together.

Please continue to keep the Call Committee, our congregation, and future candidates in your prayers as we seek God's wisdom and direction in the weeks ahead.



## Save the Date for a Youth Trip to Valleyfair! Tuesday, July 28

Calling all thrill-seekers! One of our favorite Trinity Youth summer traditions is officially on the calendar! On Tuesday, July 28, Trinity Youth (grades 6–12) and friends are invited to go to Valleyfair for a day of rides, laughs, and fun. Parents, keep an eye out for full details and signup info coming to your email inbox in June.

## 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

## PASTORAL ACTS

### WEDDING

**Rebecca (Cronk) & Kory Bender**  
United in Marriage on  
May 23, 2026

## MEMORIALS

**Scott Johnson**  
General Memorial ~ \$25

## COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

May 19, 2026

### FINANCIAL REPORT

#### Operating Fund summary for April 2026

##### Beginning balance

<b>4/1/2026:</b>	<b>-\$ 19,480.22</b>
Operating Fund inc.:	\$ 32,292.16
Operating Fund exps:	\$ 31,584.81
Net balance (April):	\$ 707.35

#### Operating Fund balance as of 4/30/2026: **-\$ 18,772.87**

#### Year to date operating fund expenses exceed income by **\$23,919.33.**

#### Capital Improvement Expenses:

None

#### Cash Summary:

Old National: \$ 59,906.91  
*(includes \$2,731.06 April federal withholding)*

Citizen's Capital Fund: \$77,683.98

#### Comments:

- 6% of operating fund income for benevolence to Minneapolis Area synod amounted to \$1,936.44.
- April Xcel bill for fuel and electricity amounted to \$1,227.31 (down about \$1,020 from March).
- Lent suppers, Palm Sunday Breakfast and Golden Agers Luncheon expenses were \$978 which was covered by donations.

- OWLS collection in the amount of \$415 went to the Royals Room at the WM Elementary School.

M/S/C Tammy Vraspir, Kari Olson, carried

### MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

- **Children's Ministry:** Chelsea Farniok presented a program evaluation and future visions for Children's Ministry including celebration of successes, current challenges, and strategic proposals, along with finding our leadership philosophy moving forward to meet our families where we can.

### OLD BUSINESS

- **Call Committee:** no new updates

### NEW BUSINESS

#### • Teller & Communion

##### Assignments:

June teller: Jim Sandquist  
June 7 communion assistants:  
Jim Sandquist, Adam Rowan,  
Kari Olson

- **Ministry Team Appeal** is being planned for Rally Sunday in the fall to encourage involvement in the life and work of Trinity.

# ➤➤➤ Last Month in Pictures

Last month at Trinity was packed with the joy of First Communion, celebrating our high school grads, and plenty of fun and games for Sunday School and Confirmation classes! We even managed to squeeze in a little hard work to get the church yard looking sharp—definitely a month well-spent!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>AA Meeting 8 pm</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Hugo Neaton	<b>2</b> <b>Quilting 9 am</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Carter Blackketter Tami Kugler	<b>3</b> <b>Prayer 12:30 pm</b> <b>Adult Bible Study 1:15 pm</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sheryl Forcier Brock Kohls Erin Singsank	<b>4</b> <b>Housekeepers 9 am</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Abby Otto Vic Thonn Megan Whitehead	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Worship 9 am</b> <b>Fellowship 10 am</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Luke Buttenhoff Kendra Tufte	<b>8</b> <b>AA Meeting 8 pm</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Greta Guetzkow	<b>9</b> <b>Quilting 9 am</b> <b>Finance Committee 6:30 pm</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sophia Paschke	<b>10</b> <b>Prayer 12:30 pm</b> <b>Adult Bible Study 1:15 pm</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Zackery Gallus Sophia Tronnes	<b>11</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kennedy Dalbey Logan Olson	<b>12</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kim Scanlon	<b>13</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Leona Schaupp
<b>14</b> <b>Worship 9 am</b> <b>Fellowship 10 am</b>	<b>Vacation Bible School June 15 - 18 • 5:30 - 7:30 pm</b>				<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>VBS 5:30 pm</b> <b>AA Meeting 8 pm</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Bruce Akins Cyndee Emmons Marilyn Panzer	<b>Quilting 9 am</b> <b>VBS 5:30 pm</b> <b>Church Council Mtg. 6:30 pm</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Christian Semeja	<b>Prayer 12:30 pm</b> <b>Adult Bible Study 1:15 pm</b> <b>VBS 5:30 pm</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Madelyn Johnson Betty Sommerfeld	<b>VBS 5:30 pm</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jeremy Bauernfeind		<i>Happy Birthday</i> Pam Diesman Shirley Johnson Cynthia Lindberg
<b>21</b> <b>FATHER'S DAY</b> <b>Worship 9 am</b> <b>Fellowship 10 am</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jim Gersema	<b>22</b> <b>AA Meeting 8 pm</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Oliver Baluski Aria Lopez	<b>23</b> <b>Quilting 9 am</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Emily Gruette Rob Illies	<b>24</b> <b>Prayer 12:30 pm</b> <b>Adult Bible Study 1:15 pm</b>	<b>25</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cody Kottke	<b>26</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kaye Kohls Nancy Pickering	<b>27</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Terri Gens Eric Hagelin Mitchell Markgraf
<b>28</b> <b>Worship 9 am</b> <b>Fellowship 10 am</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sawyer Hill Chad Jones Anne Otto Tyler Stutsman	<b>29</b> <b>AA Meeting 8 pm</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lennon Hill	<b>30</b> <b>Quilting 9 am</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jeff Jackson Albert Rundell Hubie Widmer				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> <b>Prayer</b> 12:30 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Laura Anderson	<b>2</b> <b>Housekeepers</b> 9 am  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tyler Berscheid	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jared Sieling
<b>5</b> <b>Worship</b> 9 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10 am	<b>6</b> <i>Church Office Closed in observance of Independence Day</i> <b>AA Meeting</b> 8 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sue Magnuson Stephanie Schmidt	<b>7</b> <b>Quilting</b> 9 am  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Geri Hagelin	<b>8</b> <b>Prayer</b> 12:30 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Corky Ibeling Owen Utendorfer Debbie Tuvey	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Becky Bender Sarah Tronnes Tammy Vraspir
<b>12</b> <b>Worship</b> 9 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10 am  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Travis Farniok	<b>13</b> <b>AA Meeting</b> 8 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jeff Neaton	<b>14</b> <b>Quilting</b> 9 am <b>Finance Committee</b> 6:30 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cheri Riley	<b>15</b> <b>Prayer</b> 12:30 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> AJ Hilgers	<b>16</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Chelsey Kuffenkam	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ed Salonek
<b>19</b> <b>Worship</b> 9 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10 am  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Michael Hill	<b>20</b> <b>AA Meeting</b> 8 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Don Moldenhauer	<b>21</b> <b>Quilting</b> 9 am <b>Church Council Mtg.</b> 6:30 pm	<b>22</b> <b>Prayer</b> 12:30 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Abigail Lohmann Isaac Vraspir	<b>23</b> <b>Tidings</b> 9:30 am	<b>24</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Adam Hastings Hailey Schmidt	<b>25</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Brian Brabec Leona Kottke Vi Kuehne
<b>26</b> <b>Worship</b> 9 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10 am	<b>27</b> <b>AA Meeting</b> 8 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cameryn Graff	<b>28</b> <b>YOUTH TRIP TO VALLEYFAIR</b> <b>Quilting</b> 9 am  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Zachary Durkin	<b>29</b> <b>Prayer</b> 12:30 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Eleanor Farniok	<b>30</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Steve Hendricks Amelia Moeller	<b>31</b>	

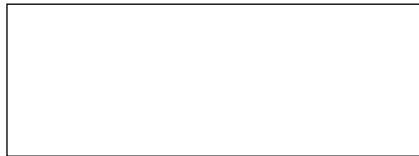


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**VBS**

Optional Family Dinner @ 5:00 pm each night.

**June 15 - 18 • 5:30-7:30 pm**  
For 3 year olds thru 4th Grade.  
You're invited to four fun-filled days of VBS!

**Register online at [www.trin.org/vbs](http://www.trin.org/vbs)**

**CONNECT WITH US**



Facebook/Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) Watertown MN



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