



# TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



SEPTEMBER 2024

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- Sunday School Kick-Off
- Trinity Events in September
- Trinity Small Groups
- Pastoral Acts & Memorials
- Council Highlights
- Food Shelf Update

**Worship**  
**Sundays 9:00 am**  
**Onsite & Online**

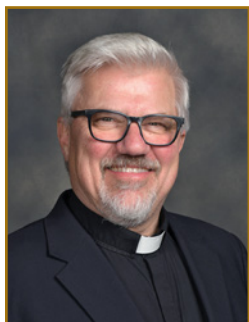
## STAFF:

Pastor	Jeffrey M. Engholm
Children's Ministry	Chelsea Farniok
Office Manager	Robyn Behrens
Financial Secretary	Gail Cassidy
Financial Administrator	Mary Jech

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



## Growing Together in God's Love

Greetings to all on this beautiful autumn morning! One of the questions I keep hearing these days is this: Where did the summer go? Yes, the summer seemed to fly by faster than ever this year. But isn't that how everything goes? Time moves on, seasons change, kids grow up, and another page is turned in the book of life.

What has changed for you lately? Did you have someone graduate among your friends or family? Did someone get married? Was there a birth? A death? A change in jobs? A change in location? Life is full of change, how could it be any different?

This year, our Sunday School kids (along with our whole congregation) are going to be grounded in the idea of change and growth as we are grounded in the presence of God. In fact, our theme for the coming year is **Growing Together in God's Love**. It's based on the reality that God is always with us through the changes and chances of life. In Ephesians 3:17, we hear these words:

*May Christ live in your hearts through faith,  
 as you are being rooted and grounded in love.*

It's a reminder that God is with us always, pulling us together, and grounding us in the love of God through every season of life.

~ God's Peace, Pastor Engholm

# What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?



## Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 8

We're getting excited for Sunday School at Trinity! Join us for Kick-Off Sunday on September 8, packed with a family scavenger hunt, 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](http://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](mailto:cfarniok@trin.org) if you're interested in volunteering.

## Back-To-School Blessing Sunday, September 8

All students, teachers and school staff are invited to come and receive a Back-To-School Blessing during worship on September 8! 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!

## Sunday Fellowship

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!

**CONFIRMATION  
CLASSES  
BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 25**

Visit [trin.org/confirmation](http://trin.org/confirmation) for details

**YOUTH  
MINISTRY**

It's a new year of Youth Ministry at Trinity!  
Youth in grades 6-12, watch your email for news about upcoming youth events!



## Trinity Worship Choir

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 18  
6:30 - 7:30 pm | Nylunda Chapel

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.



Trinity supports missionaries Rev. Andrew & Meredith Ronnevik, serving in Papua New Guinea, with prayer and financial support. You can sign up to support the Ronneviks by adding your name on the calendar in the back of the sanctuary and placing cash or a check in the offering plate on Sundays or give directly to the church office. You can also give on Trinity's Online Giving page under 'Special Gifts'. A \$25 donation supporting our ELCA missionaries is a great gift for a birthday or anniversary or a meaningful way to remember or honor a loved one.

# 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.



Thursday, September 19 | 10:00 am

The Trinity OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) meet on the third Thursday of the month for a variety of activities and events to relax, socialize, and enjoy Christian Fellowship together. This month, we are excited to welcome guest speaker, Linda Rupp. Linda will share her inspiring experiences from her multiple mission trips to Kenya. Join us to hear about Linda's impactful work and adventures. All are welcome to attend.

# Congregational NEWS

## PASTORAL ACTS

### FUNERALS

#### Stella Halvorson

July 20, 1924 ~ July 14, 2024  
Memorial Service August 9, 2024

#### Branden Searcy

August 25, 1995 ~ February 18, 2024  
Memorial Service August 24, 2024

## MEMORIALS

in memory of

#### Megan (Johnson) Zucaro

\$80 ~ Music Ministry

#### Stella Halvorson

\$200 ~ A/V Upgrade



## SAVE THE DATE

### Fall Cleanup Day at Trinity Sunday, October 6 | 1:00 pm

Trinity's landscaping could use a little TLC. Join us with your trimmers and pruners to help with some fall yard maintenance. Every helping hand is appreciated! More details coming soon.

## COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

August 20, 2024

### FINANCIAL REPORT

#### Operating Fund summary July 2024

**Beginning balance 7/1/2024:**  
-\$ 18,142.27  
Operating Fund income: \$21,545.38  
Operating Fund exps: \$29,503.82  
Net balance (July): -\$ 7,958.44

**Operating Fund balance as of  
7/31/2024: -\$ 26,100.71**

**2024 operating fund EXPENSES  
exceeded INCOME by \$25,588.79.**

#### Building Fund expenses:

Internal loan payment: \$5,000.00  
Mortgage loan balance: \$35,000.00

#### Cash Summary:

Bremer: \$55,403.49  
(includes \$1,508.38 for Jul. federal withholding)

Citizen's Building Fund: \$102,223.67

#### Comments:

- 6% of operating fund income for benevolence to Minneapolis Area synod amounted to \$1,289.88.
- Xcel bill for fuel and electricity amounted to \$1,085.69 (up about \$575 from June).

*M/S/C Nancy Pickering / Jason Koets / carried*

#### GUEST SPEAKER

Jim Holmlund, Executive Director of Love INC provided an overview of programs and services, including church partnerships and "gap ministries".

### PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Engholm highlighted that the new program year is kicking off on September 8, with return to Sunday School, Choir Rehearsals, Confirmation, and all the rest!

Looking back on the past month, Pastor reported on Trinity's involvement in the Rails to Trails parade, and on the annual outdoor service and Pet Blessing that same weekend. He also shared several heart-felt thank-you notes received this summer from graduating seniors in appreciation for the recognition, quilts, and financial support from scholarships.

He reported that the Audio/Visual program is proceeding with installation, and expected to be completed next month. Also, the Mission Cemetery project continues, and he is planning a celebration for re-dedication this fall.

### NEW BUSINESS

The Council is working towards their goals as established at the Annual Retreat, including:

- 1) Use of the Facility
- 2) Preservation of Assets
- 3) Mission Work
- 4) Community Outreach
- 5) Human Resources
- 6) Diverse Offerings.



## Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA

### Installation of Bishop Jen Nagel Saturday, September 21 | 10:30 am Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

The Minneapolis Area Synod office invites you to celebrate with us as the ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton installs Bishop Jen Nagel as Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod. A light reception will follow the installation service.

If you aren't able to make it in person, the service will be livestreamed. Find service details and a livestream link at [mpls-synod.org](http://mpls-synod.org).



### Savvy Social Security Seminar Thursday, September 26 2:00 pm OR 6:00 pm Trinity Fellowship Hall

Trinity is partnering with Thrivent and Henke Hess Financial Group to host an informational seminar about maximizing your social security income. Join us as we cover these common questions: When should I file for Social Security benefits? If I file and continue to work, how will my benefits be affected? Will I pay taxes on my Social Security benefits? Don't miss out on potential opportunities to maximize your retirement income!

#### RESERVE YOUR SPOT

Please email [henkehessfinancialgroup@thrivent.com](mailto:henkehessfinancialgroup@thrivent.com) or call (952) 442-8461 to reserve a place for yourself and a guest.

### Growing Together: Gather and Grow Now Serving Watertown



## GATHER - AND - GROW



Trinity Lutheran Church has a proud history of supporting our community food shelf through regular donations and special collection drives throughout the year. This past spring, Gather and Grow took over Friends For Life Watertown Food Shelf, continuing its mission with fresh energy and vision. We're excited to continue our generous support as Gather and Grow expands their services and makes an impact in our community.

Gather and Grow, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting hunger and promoting community well-being, will provide Watertown residents with access to a wider range of shopping options, including fresh food, personal care items, household supplies, and supportive services. By working with local partners and volunteers, Gather and Grow aims to ensure that everyone in Watertown has access to the resources needed to address food insecurity.

We look forward to this new chapter and the positive impact it will have on our community. Food shelf donations can always be dropped off at Trinity's Donation Station at our main parking lot entrance. Look for more opportunities to donate to and volunteer for Gather and Grow in the coming months. Thank you for your continued support and participation in making Watertown a vibrant and caring community.

**To learn more about Gather and Grow, please visit [www.gatherandgrowmn.org](http://www.gatherandgrowmn.org). You can also reach out to Gather and Grow Executive Director, Angie Cruzen, at [angie@gatherandgrowmn.org](mailto:angie@gatherandgrowmn.org)**

# Trinity events in Pictures



Blessing of the Pets Outdoor Service



Trinity's World's Smallest Marching Band in the Rails to Trails Parade



The Trinity crew enjoying Holden Village



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Worship</b> 9 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10 am  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jenna Berhow Emma Herman Maren McCain	<b>2</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i> <b>AA Meeting</b> 8 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jack Brueggemeier Denyalle Hembroff Kathryn Hoover John Mueller Alex Phearman	<b>3</b> <b>Quilting</b> 9 am  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Logan Matson	<b>4</b> <b>Prayer</b> 12:30 pm <b>Worship Band</b> 7:30 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sarah Chellen Noah Isakson Scott Isakson Allison Kind Janice Peterson	<b>5</b> <b>Housekeepers</b> 9 am	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Red Kirkman Andy McCain Brenda Reardon Claire Sieling
<b>8</b> <b>KICK-OFF SUNDAY</b> <b>Worship</b> 9 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10 am <b>Sunday School</b> 10 am	<b>9</b> <b>Apostles</b> 8:30 am <b>Priscilla Circle</b> 2 pm <b>AA Meeting</b> 8 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mary Beck Shelby Mueller	<b>10</b> <b>Quilting</b> 9 am  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jennifer Helmbrecht	<b>11</b> <b>Prayer</b> 12:30 pm <b>9th Grade Confirm. Meeting</b> 6:30 pm <b>Worship Band</b> 7:30 pm	<b>12</b> <b>Finance Committee</b> 6:30 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Gina Phearman	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Worship</b> 9 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10 am <b>Sunday School</b> 10 am	<b>16</b> <b>AA Meeting</b> 8 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Susan Engholm	<b>17</b> <b>Quilting</b> 9 am <b>Church Council Mtg.</b> 6:30 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Leighton Hirsch Liam McCain David Wandersee	<b>18</b> <b>FCA Breakfast</b> 7 am <b>Prayer</b> 12:30 pm <b>6-8th Grade Confirm. Meeting</b> 6:30 pm <b>Worship Choir</b> 6:30 pm <b>Worship Band</b> 7:30 pm	<b>19</b> <b>OWLS</b> 10 am	<b>20</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Griffin Guetzkow Diane Holmes Kate Illies Michael Matson	<b>21</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Stacey Lachermeier Brannon Volkart
<b>22</b> <b>Worship</b> 9 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10 am <b>Sunday School</b> 10 am	<b>23</b> <b>Apostles</b> 8:30 am <b>AA Meeting</b> 8 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Al Barfknecht Debora Christensen JoAnn Lohmann	<b>24</b> <b>Quilting</b> 9 am  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Raymond Gersema Melissa Gruette	<b>25</b> <b>Prayer</b> 12:30 pm <b>6-8th Grade Confirm. Class Begins</b> 6:30 pm <b>Worship Choir</b> 6:30 pm <b>Worship Band</b> 7:30 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Emery Erickson Paige Haller Bill Whitehead	<b>26</b> <b>Tidings</b> 9:30 am <b>Thrivent Social Security Seminars</b> 2 pm & 6 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jake Rosholt	<b>27</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Alaia Lopez Linda Stieve Jen Tufte	<b>28</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Alyson Blakstad
<b>29</b> <b>Worship</b> 9 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10 am <b>Sunday School</b> 10 am  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Curt Christensen Brett Leaf Denice Widmer	<b>30</b> <b>AA Meeting</b> 8 pm  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Charli Fautsch Curt Sandquist					

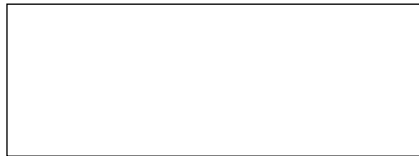


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## Total Immersion

In college, I took an American Sign Language class from a Deaf instructor who couldn't speak. On the first day, another staff member explained that we'd be experiencing total immersion. She left, and the classroom remained silently engaged for the rest of the semester.

Creatively, the instructor began by writing "same" and "different" on the whiteboard and demonstrating those signs. Then he took us through several examples where we were to use the signs to identify what was the same or different. That's how he taught ASL, graciously guiding us without audible voices. We embraced a brand-new approach to communicating.

The church can do that too. We can use "all that is within" us to praise God's holy name (Psalm 103:1). We can get creative and harness everything — all our senses — to worship.

This might mean removing distractions, learning a new style of music, using visual arts or engaging with a different culture — all while offering praise. Instead of feeling bound by what's familiar and comfortable, try to be immersed and all-in while worshipping the Lord!