



TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



Grace & Peace

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. (Philippians 4:23)

When everything else is said and done in this year of transition, all that remains is this benediction: *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.* I hold so very much gratitude for our staff and Council. I'm grateful for their leadership as well as their faithfulness. I'm grateful for your faithfulness, too. Times of transition are often difficult, no matter how often you enter through the doors of this building. Questions have hung suspended in the air about our future, but before a pastor is called, a congregation discerns what the Spirit might call them to do. To listen to God, to ourselves, and to the wider community can overwhelm us. Yet God stills the waters and makes a way where formerly we were flummoxed. The Spirit leads.

Prayers were raised. Hearts were filled. We were nourished in, with, and under bread and wine; the promises in water and Word sustained us. God is present among us.

Now, I am overjoyed to share that our extended call has been accepted, and your new pastor will be starting with you this fall! How exciting! I know you will welcome him warmly and with good cheer. Your new pastor has gifts—but isn't perfect. This works out well, since you all, too, are wonderful—yet you all also are not perfect. 😊 Still, here's some good news: God's grace will be sufficient as you listen for God's voice and follow your call of mission and ministry. You don't do it alone. You will share in this ministry together in Christ Jesus.

As this season comes to a close, it is also time for me to say my goodbyes to Trinity. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to have served among you. The work of discernment is never finished, but in certain hope, you are sent into the world. God is with you. Which direction will you go? What will you do once you arrive? Whatever lies ahead, surrounded by God's grace, you have everything you need.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Paul Lutter, Interim Pastor



AUGUST 2026

INSIDE:

Welcome Our New Pastor
Looking Ahead to Fall
Sunday School Registration
Council Highlights
Pastor Paul's Farewell
Trinity Summer in Pictures

Worship
Sundays 9:00 am
Onsite & Online

STAFF:

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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www.trin.org

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

What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?

Welcome Pastor Adam Teske



The Church Council is excited to announce that Pastor Adam Teske has accepted the congregation's call to be our next solo pastor. The great work of the Transition Team creating our Trinity Ministry Site Profile and the Call Committee's diligent work in screening and interviewing candidates made this a

successful process and outcome. The connections he was able to make with the Call Committee and the responses that he gave to their thoughtful questions solidified in their view that he is the right person to help lead Trinity through the next stage of our journey.

Based on the recommendation of the Call Committee, the Church Council presented Pastor Adam to the congregation at a special congregational meeting on July 12. There the congregation voted to extend the call to Pastor Adam and he has graciously accepted and is looking forward to joining the great work of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Pastor Adam lives in the city of Carver, MN, with his wife, Kara, and their three children. For the last six years, Pastor Adam has been faithfully serving the congregation of West Union Lutheran Church in Cologne, MN. He stays busy in life outside of church with all of the joys of family and youth activities, finding time outdoors, and reading.

Pastor Adam comes to Trinity with a passion for engaging members of all ages in the life of the church and looks to welcome all who enter Trinity's doors with gratitude and love, just as they are. He has a special passion for engaging youth in the church as well as building up servant leaders within the congregation. His energy, passion and ability to connect will serve Trinity well.

Pastor Adam will begin his service to Trinity on Wednesday, September 2, and his official Installation Sunday with the congregation and Synod Bishop will be Sunday, September 20.

Meet & Greets with Pastor Adam Beginning in September

We are excited to kick off a series of casual Meet & Greets to help everyone get to know our new pastor, 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.

- **Want to Attend?** Join a small, welcoming group for a relaxed conversation and a chance to connect.
- **Interested in Hosting?** We're looking for individuals or families willing to host a small gathering (up to 15 people). You choose the format—a backyard dinner, morning coffee, a light breakfast, or a casual hang at the local coffee shop or bookstore.

Ready to connect? Visit www.trin.org and find the sign-up form under the EVENTS menu to let us know if you'd like to attend, host, or both! Please reply by August 16.



Save the Date for TrinFest 2026! Sunday, September 13

You're invited to a morning of fun and fellowship on September 13! It will be a time to connect, discover ways to get involved with our ministry teams, kick off our fall programming, and give a warm welcome to our new pastor. Join us for a festive morning of outdoor fellowship, lawn games, and ice cream sundaes! See you there!



Golden Agers & OWLS Summer Picnic

Thursday, August 13 | 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! If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the church office by August 7 at trinityoffice@trin.org or 952-955-1891. (The RSVPs are so that we have an estimate for how much food to prepare. Please know that you are welcome to attend even if you forget to RSVP in time!)

Trinity Confirmation

Save the Date

Confirmation Orientation Meetings

9th Grade - Wed., September 16

6th - 8th Grade - Wed., September 23

(Confirmation classes for 6th - 8th Grade begin on Wednesday, September 30)

Affirmation of Baptism / Rite of Confirmation Sunday (9th Grade)

Sunday, October 11, 2026



Sunday School begins 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 this year!

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.

Trinity Nursery Attendant Openings

Trinity is hiring 1-2 Nursery Attendants (age 16+) for the upcoming school year. This paid position requires a passion for kids and a commitment of 1-2 Sunday mornings per month from 8:30 to 10:45 am. If interested or for more information, please contact Chelsea Farniok at cfarniok@trin.org.

Congregational NEWS

MEMORIALS

in memory of

Bill Hoernemann

\$30 ~ General Memorial

Harlan Weege

\$20 ~ General Memorial

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

July 21, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Fund summary for June 2026

Beginning balance

6/1/2026: - \$ 20,690.60

Operating Fund inc.: \$ 25,453.48

Operating Fund exps: \$ 33,845.11

Net balance (June): - \$ 8,391.63

**Operating Fund balance as of
6/30/2026: - \$ 29,082.23**

**Year to date operating fund
expenses exceed income by
\$34,228.69**

Capital Improvement Expenses:
None

Cash Summary:
Old National: \$ 49,687.65
(includes \$2,616.92 June federal withholding)

Citizen's Capital Fund: \$83,304.23

Comments:

- 6% of operating fund income for benevolence to Minneapolis Area synod amounted to \$1,526.46.
- June Xcel bill for fuel and electricity amounted to \$1023.95 (up about \$150 from May).
- \$1,690 was paid to repair roof leaks.
- More than enough donations were taken in to cover the cost of VBS meals.
- Using up Bremer checks in the next month or so and ordered checks for Old National checking.

M/S/C Nancy Stello, Kari Olson, carried

OLD BUSINESS

- **Fall Kick-Off** planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 5:30 pm. Tammy will send an invite to Ministry Teams to attend and help plan. Kari will make an announcement during worship.
- **Congregation Meeting** on July 12, 2026 was discussed.
- **Call Process Update** We are waiting for official acceptance of call.
- **Pulpit Supply** Pastor Gale Reitan will cover all Sundays in August except August 2, 2026. Adam is finding someone for that date.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Staff Job Description Reviews.** Adam will take the lead, Steve and Kari will assist.
- **Farewell Service and Reception** for Pastor Paul Lutter will held on Sunday, July 26.
- **Teller & Communion Assignments:**
August Teller: Jim Sandquist
August 2nd Communion Assistants: Jim Sandquist, Nancy Stello, Corky Ibeling
September Teller: Nancy Stello.

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!

Celebrating Pastor Paul Lutter

On Sunday, July 26, our congregation gathered to give thanks for Pastor Paul Lutter's faithful ministry as our interim pastor over the past year. We worshiped together with wonderful music and held a heartfelt farewell reception for Pastor Paul, Jenny, and Annika featuring cake and sweets, beautiful handmade quilts, and warm fellowship. Thank you, Pastor Paul, for your dedicated leadership, spiritual insight, and guidance. We pray for rich blessings as you begin your next chapter!



A Fresh Look for Trinity!

Our newly completed front steps are officially finished, and they look fantastic! Thank you so much for your patience during construction.

Caring for our historic building takes continuous love and effort. By continuing to support **Trinity's Capital Improvement Fund**, you help us preserve our beautiful heritage while keeping our spaces safe, well-maintained, and welcoming for everyone who walks through our doors. Thank you for your faithful generosity!



➤➤➤➤ Last Month in Pictures

From VBS fun and inspiring worship music to marching together in the Rails to Trails parade, this summer is packed with joyful praise and connection at Trinity!



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



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CONNECT WITH US



Facebook/Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) Watertown MN



God's Bonus Days

An author writing in *Guideposts* magazine calls those nostalgic moments of memory "God's bonus days."

LaVerne Sexton recalled that in her family, life's unexpected dividends — a summer rainbow, a blazing sunset, a gentle spring thaw — were invitations to set aside ordinary tasks and celebrate something special.

She remembered one breathtaking day from her childhood when the sky stretched wide and impossibly blue, as if it had no edges at all. Her father grabbed the fishing poles and called out, "Let's play hooky, hon. It's one of God's bonus days."

Marion R. Vuilleumier ~ *Meditations by the Sea*