



TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



APRIL 2025

INSIDE:

Lent, Holy Week & Easter
April Events at Trinity
Children's Ministry / VBS
Building Plan Announcement
Council Highlights
Calendar & Birthdays

Worship
Sundays at 9 am
Lent Wednesdays at 7 pm
Onsite & Online

STAFF:

Pastor	Jeffrey M. Engholm
Children's Ministry	Chelsea Farniok
Office Manager	Robyn Behrens
Financial Secretary	Gail Cassidy
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Grateful in All Seasons

All through the season of Lent we are singing the song, "O Christ the Same" at our Wednesday evening worship services. The song is based on this text from Hebrews 13: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. It's a reminder of the presence of Christ in our lives, no matter what happens around us. And it's also a reminder to simply be thankful in all things.

The first verse reminds us to be thankful for all the things in our past:

***O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
We bring our thanks to you for all our yesterdays.***

The second verse reminds us to be thankful for all the things in the present:

***O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given,
We bring our thanks to you for this the present hour.***

And the third verse reminds us to be thankful for all the things yet to come:

***O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
We bring our thanks to you for all that is to be.***

We're living in strange times, and in the midst of our worries and doubts and all the uncertainty, it's easy to get caught up in all the stress and forget to be grateful for what we have. But this song is written as a prayer of thankfulness, a prayer that we repeat over and over and over again: "O Christ, we bring our thanks for the past... O Christ, we bring our thanks for the present... O Christ, we bring our thanks for the future..." As the old saying goes, We don't know what tomorrow holds, but we know who holds tomorrow. So let us journey together through these uncertain times, through this season of Lent, and through this life of thankfulness that we get to live together.

~ God's Peace, Pastor Engholm

What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?

Lent Midweek Services

Wednesdays, April 2, 9

Light Supper from 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Services at 7:00 pm ~ Onsite & Online

We continue our Lenten midweek services with theme from Hebrews 13:8: *Jesus Christ, the Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever*. These words from scripture remind us that Jesus is the solid foundation of our lives, even in the midst of the changes that happen all around us.



Drive Thru Prayers

Monday - Friday, April 14 - 18
7:30 - 8:30 am

During Holy Week, Trinity will be offering prayers and free coffee to morning commuters driving by the church. All are invited to stop by for a cup of coffee and a prayer to start your day.

If you would like to volunteer to help with Drive Thru Prayers, please contact Marilyn Panzer at 952-807-5272 or mpanzer531@gmail.com.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday, April 13

9:00 am ~ Onsite & Online

Maundy Thursday, April 17

7:00 pm ~ Onsite & Online

Good Friday, April 18

7:00 pm ~ Onsite & Online



Palm Sunday Breakfast

Sunday, April 13

10:00 - 11:00 am

Join us for a continental breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 13 in the Fellowship Hall following worship. Rolls, juice, and coffee will be served as we shout "Hosanna!" and launch into Holy Week.



Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday, April 13

10:00 am

Families are invited to grab your baskets and head to Trinity to search for treat-filled eggs that remind us of the new life we receive in Christ. Meet in the Trinity parking lot for the big hunt!



Easter Sunday, April 20

9:00 & 10:30 am ~ Onsite

9:00 am ~ Online

Golden Agers / OWLS Luncheon

Maundy Thursday, April 17

12:00 Noon

Trinity's Golden Agers (members 70+) and OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) and a guest are invited to enjoy lunch in the Fellowship Hall on Maundy Thursday, April 17. A Maundy Thursday worship service with communion will follow the meal.

Children's Ministry



First Communion

Sunday, April 6

Celebrate with Trinity's Fifth Graders as they receive their First Communion, a sacred meal that strengthens our faith, forgives our sins, and unites us in Christ.



Join us for Vacation Bible School

June 16-19, 2025 • 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Family Dinner at 5 pm

Kids ages 3 years old through 4th Grade are invited to "True North" VBS at Trinity Lutheran Church this summer. Together, we'll see that Jesus is a faithful friend we can always trust! He is our True North!

Register @ www.trin.org/vbs



Underwear Update

During the month of February we held another fruitful Underwear Drive! The congregation donated 145 packages of underwear, along with 25 quilts, to the Free Store at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. It's great to make these donations and celebrate what our generosity can do, especially when it truly contributes to changing people's lives. Thank you again for your gifts!



OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Thursday, April 10 | 10:00 am

Join us for a special musical event and sing-along, featuring Joyce Harding and other fabulous Trinity musicians. Bring your friends and your singing voice!



The Colors of Holy Week: A Journey to the Cross and Beyond

During Holy Week, the parament and banner colors in our worship space help tell the story of Jesus' journey to the cross and his resurrection. On Maundy Thursday, the paraments are red, symbolizing the blood Jesus shed and the depth of His sacrifice. Good Friday's color is black, representing the darkness of Christ's death and the weight of sin. On Easter Sunday, the paraments are white, a color of light, joy, and new life in Christ's resurrection. Each color invites us to reflect on God's incredible love and the hope we have in Jesus during this season and always.

Congregational NEWS

SAVE THE DATE

Join us to say farewell to
Pastor Jeff & Susan Engholm
on Sunday, May 18!

Trinity Building Plan Announcement

As the Trinity Church Council and Property Committee begin to discuss future capital improvements, including upgrades to our north parking lot, it has been decided that Trinity will officially be letting go of Phases 2 & 3 of the 2013 long-range building plan. Phase 1 of this plan was completed in 2014, which included updated office space, more gathering space, improved handicap accessibility and air conditioning throughout the building.

A decade later, we recognize that Trinity's evolving ministry needs, stable attendance patterns, sufficient fellowship facilities, and the closure of our preschool in 2017 have made the expansions of Phases 2 & 3 unnecessary at this time. The Property Committee and Church Council plan to focus the church's capital resources on maintaining our historic building and ensuring Trinity remains a welcoming and vibrant space for generations to come.

If you have questions about the long-range building plan or the decision made about the additional phases, please reach out to a member of the Trinity Property Committee.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

March 18, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Fund summary February 2025

Beginning balance 2/1/2025:
-\$ 25,359.35
Operating Fund income: \$ 35,408.68
Operating Fund exps: \$ 30,929.70
Net balance (February): \$ 4,478.98

**Operating Fund balance as of
2/28/2025:** -\$ 20,880.37

**2025 operating fund EXPENSES
exceeded INCOME by \$6,045.08.**

Capital Improvement Fund:
There were no Capital Improvement expenses in February.

Cash Summary:
Bremer: \$ 57,000.55
(includes \$1,688.48 for Feb. federal withholding)

Citizen's Building Fund: \$ 78,093.54

M/S/C Steve Boylan / Nancy Stello / carried

PASTOR'S REPORT

Trinity collected 145 packages of underwear last month which were donated to Central Lutheran Free Store along with 25 quilts! Our Livestream Ministry continues to grow and they may be ready to seek additional people to help run the equipment on Sunday mornings. Lent began on March 5 and we continue our midweek suppers and services.

Upcoming events include: Pack the Pew Sunday March 30, Palm Sunday April 13, Holy Week April 14-20, Easter (2 services 9:00 and 10:30) on April 20, Graduate Blessings Sunday May 11, and Pastor's last day May 18.

MINISTRY REPORT

Property Committee: Steve Boylan shared the Property Committee's report, providing updates on projects, the "to do" list, ongoing landscaping care, long-term projects and recommendations.

OLD BUSINESS

The Council discussed the Property Committee recommendation to re-evaluate the 2013 long-range building plan. Consideration has been given to the flexible attendance patterns and expanded ministry reach; caring for our historic building; evolving fellowship needs (Phase 2); and educational wing changes (Phase 3).

Motion made that Trinity Lutheran Church let go of Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the 2013 building plan, as evolving ministry needs and sufficient current facilities make these expansions unnecessary at this time.

M/S/C Ryan Ress / Nick Neaton / carried

NEW BUSINESS

- The Nylunda Bell display was discussed.
- Nancy Pickering and Pastor Jeff shared about their attendance at the ELCA "Tool Kit for Congregational Lay Leaders."
- Motion made to approve nominees for the Transition Team representing a diverse group of Trinity members.

M/S/C Nick Neaton / Steve Boylan / carried

Team members will be notified soon and will begin work on the Ministry Assessment. The Council would like to thank everyone who volunteered!

- Pastor Jeff's last day at Trinity will be May 18. A special farewell is being planned.
- Council is in favor of hosting a School Supply Drive event coordinated by Gather & Grow Food Shelf at Trinity.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Quilters 9 am Handbells 5:30 pm	2 Prayer 12:30 pm Lent Supper 5:30 pm Worship Choir 6 pm Worship 7 pm Worship Band 7:45 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kurt Beckstrom Adam Kirkman Sarah Ress	3 Housekeepers 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kari Olson Sam Ragner	4	5
6 FIRST COMMUNION Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am	7 AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Brett Gens Grace Lopez	8 Quilters 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> David Sloneker	9 Prayer 12:30 pm Lent Supper 5:30 pm Youth Games 6 pm Worship Choir 6 pm Worship 7 pm Worship Band 7:45 pm	10 OWLS 10 am Finance Committee 6:30 pm	11 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Roger Anderson Mike Loehrs Cooper Thomson	12 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Emilie Empting Cindy Essen Amanda Hastings
13 PALM SUNDAY Worship 9 am Breakfast 10 - 11 am Easter Egg Hunt 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Nathan Zellmann	14 Apostles 8:30 am Priscilla Circle 2 pm AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kathy Baluski Linda Gray	15 Quilters 9 am Handbells 5:30 pm Council Mtg. 6:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Devin Horsman	16 FCA Breakfast 7 am Prayer 12:30 pm Property Mtg. 6 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY Golden Agers 12 pm Worship 7 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Bodil Empting Mike Haller Ben Lohmann Eric Skahaug	18 GOOD FRIDAY Worship 7 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tristan Eliason Cole Koets	19 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Stephen Bolea
Drive Thru Prayers 7:30 - 8:30 am each weekday morning of Holy Week in the Trinity parking lot.						
20 EASTER SUNDAY Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Worship 10:30 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Melissa Bauernfeind	21 <i>Church Office Closed</i> AA Meeting 8 pm	22 Quilters 9 am	23 Blood Drive 10 am Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Handbells 5:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tim Gulbrandson Carol Murray	24 Tidings 9:30 am	25 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sylvia Becker Jonah Blakstad	26 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Megan Oak
27 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Bernadine Venske	28 AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Trevor Brabec Scott Johnson Adelle Peterson	29	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> Russ Kuntz Nancy Wandersee			



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Join us for
EASTER

Holy Week
Palm Sunday, April 13 | Worship ~ 9:00 am
Maundy Thursday, April 17 | Worship ~ 7:00 pm
Good Friday, April 18 | Worship ~ 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 20
Worship Services
9:00 & 10:30 am (Onsite) | 9:00 am (Online)