

# TRINITYnews

JANUARY 2019

VOLUME 25 ▪ ISSUE 1

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 East Main Street  
PO Box 188  
Spring Grove, MN 55974

507.498.5291  
www.trinitysg.org



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



Instagram  
trinityyouth203  
trinitylutheransg

### Office hours:

**Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri:** 10a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Wed:** Noon – 6:00 p.m.

### Sundays at Trinity

9:15 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

**Listen live on KVIK 104.7 FM**

### STAFF

*Elizabeth Hermeier, Lead Pastor*  
trinitysr@springgrove.coop

*Lane Zaffke, Visitation Pastor*  
lane.zaffke@gmail.com

*Bekah Leafblad, Dir. Of Children, Youth  
and Family Ministries*  
bekah@trinitysg.org

*Marlene Deschler, Admin. Professional*  
trinity@springgrove.coop

*Stewart Storlie, Admin. Professional*  
stewart@trinitysg.org

*David Myrah, Custodian*  
*Scott Solberg, Choir Director*  
*Rachel Storlie, Organist*  
*Willy Leafblad, Handbell Director*  
*Jean Ellingson, Pianist*  
*Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist*  
*Mark Udstuen, Praise Band leader*

## YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EMPTY BOWLS MEAL

**What is Empty Bowls?** The concept of Empty Bowls was founded by an art teacher in Michigan and another partner in 1990-91. They joined together to raise charitable funds for their community. The idea was to organize a charitable event to give artists and art students a way to make a personal difference. In the original event, students made bowls which were used as individual serving pieces for a fund-raising meal of soup and bread. Contributing guests kept the empty bowl. The concept has developed into "Empty Bowls." Trinity's Outreach Team and other volunteers have been hosting an Empty Bowls Meal for several years; we believe this will be our 6<sup>th</sup> year. This year we have been able to add in the opportunity to purchase a handmade pottery bowl, such as what the original concept promoted. The bowls are made by a potter and secured for this event.



**Trinity's Empty Bowls event is Sunday, January 20** beginning at 10:30 and will go until 12:30.

All the food items for this event are donated, from the homemade soups, to the fresh baked breads and muffins. This means 100% of the money gathered at the serving of the meal will go directly to the Houston County Food Shelf and the ELCA World Hunger Fund.

Donations are welcome from anyone who is interested in participating. If you'd like to make food or help in some way, please contact Mary Zaffke, 498-5823 or Karen Fried, 498-5611.

Hunger and issues related to hunger are alive and well in our communities. The face of hunger might look different in someone from Spring Grove as opposed to that of someone from Central Africa, but it is still something in our country. It is important for us to know that our neighbors are affected and what we do can make a difference. The Empty Bowls Event is just one way that we can spend some time and raise our awareness and do some good, all the while being fed delicious, tasty soups and breads.

## GIFTS FROM REVERSE ADVENT CALENDARS

We are happy that so many participated in our Reverse Advent Calendar ministry. Thank you to everyone for your gifts of LOVE! Every box of crackers, pair of socks, or money donated looks like love to us!

Bring your items from the Reverse Advent Calendars, look for the spot in the Fellowship Hall to **drop them off before Sunday, January 6**. We will be using a representation of these gifts as part of the celebration of Epiphany during worship that day. Thank you so much for your participation and gifts!

## PASTORS' PEN

Dear friends in Christ,

One of my favorite television programs is "The Vicar of Dibley," a BBC comedy from a number of years ago. The vicar (what the Church of England calls the pastor), Geraldine, is the first female vicar in a very small town in England full of very eccentric people. Kind of like Spring Grove. (Kidding!) There are only about 20 episodes, and it's well worth binge-watching over the holidays.

Anyway, in the first season of the show, when Christmas comes, Geraldine is reminded, over and over again by her eccentric parishioners, that this is her FIRST Christmas, and so the Christmas Day sermon must be VERY VERY special. She's reminded so often that she gets over-anxious and late on Christmas Eve she goes a little overboard with the Christmas cheer. I promise that won't happen to me.

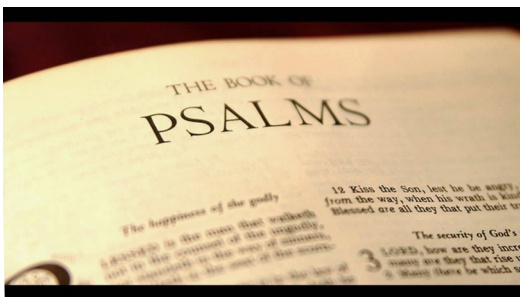
But it does remind me of all the firsts I've experienced since God called me here to Trinity. First sermon. First time presiding at communion. First baptism, wedding, funeral. First confirmation class. First church council meeting. First Rally Sunday. Etc. There will be a few more firsts before I celebrate the end of my first year.

But through it all, like the Apostle Paul, I praise God and I give thanks for you. Oh, my, how the Holy Spirit is working here. I see her (yes, the Holy Spirit is female) presence here in the rich music – bells, brass, praise, organ, piano, voices – in the vibrant youth programs, in the active ministries, and in your generous giving of yourselves – your time, your talents, and your resources. You have answered many calls this year, in many ways.

And so, I call on you to wonder about 2019. What is God calling us to do this year? What new ways are we going to try to build our faith? What does our neighbor need from us?

Jesus is here. Jesus chose us and Jesus knows us. What's next?

God bless you all,  
~ Pastor Elizabeth



Most of you reading this article can recite much of the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm if not all of it. It is ascribed to David. It is an expression of confidence in God's protection. The Lord is compared to a shepherd and we are the sheep of his pasture. There are many other psalms that are lesser known from the depth of the writer's soul just as the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Psalms are prayers that spring from the souls of believers. In the Bible, we have 150 psalms. There is also the Book of Lamentations which is made up of psalms as well. But the 150 psalms are like the top hit parade of psalms for the Israelites of the Old Testament and for us even today.

We will be studying the psalms in a six-week course on Sundays starting January 6 at 10:30 a.m. While we will be categorizing them to help make them a little easier to study, know that each one has its own personality and soul. It will help us to develop a deeper devotional and meditative life. I hope you can make it.

~ Pastor Lane

## VISIONING & PLANNING TEAM

In June of 2017, several members of the congregation met with a building consultant provided to us by the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA. The consultant, Anne Gerriets, made recommendations about our building concerns.

We are now ready to move to the next step and are looking for people to serve on the Visioning & Planning Team, the first team in this process. According to Anne and the MIF, *There are people in your congregation that are visionaries and can develop a plan for future growth and enhancement of the congregation. This team will consider the congregation's sacred history and what new ministries and programs you feel GOD is calling you to do for the members and families of the congregation, your community and throughout the world.*

This team will make recommendations to the Congregation Council for changes to our Church Facility and to the staff to enhance, strengthen, and expand current ministries and new ministries and programs for the future. The responsibilities of this group will include:

1. Review challenges in current ministries, programs and activities.
2. Discuss growth of current ministries and the addition of new ministries for the next 3 to 5 years.
3. Survey church committees, program supervisors and activity coordinators for space need ideas and improvements.
4. Review the church use by community groups and organizations.
5. Discuss building space for multi-purpose use and scheduling of programs and events.
6. Review outdoor opportunities for sports fields, picnic areas, playground space and parking.
7. Develop building space needs based on type of activity, program and size of group.
8. Review all storage needs for each group and activity.
9. Prioritize the building space needs from your research and information gathering.
10. List short-term issues that can be addressed to enhance the current church facility for great curb appeal and a welcoming first impression.
11. Make a presentation of the Team's recommendations for space needs and use to the Congregation Council.

We currently have three volunteers to serve on this committee and are looking for one or two more. Pastor Elizabeth and I will serve as ex officio members. If you feel called to serve in this exciting capacity, please give your name to the church office or to any Congregation Council member.

Thank you for your consideration. ~ Mary Deters, Trinity President

## NOVEMBER CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Motions approved:

- To approve the 2019 budget as presented by the Finance Team.
- To set January 13, 2019 as the Annual Meeting date.
- To accept the recommendation of the Education Team to sell 15 bean bags for \$20 each.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 9 at 7:45 p.m. in the Gathering Room.**

Complete minutes are on Trinity's website, at sanctuary entrances, and in the office.

**ANNUAL MEETING** Trinity's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 13 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Sanctuary. We'll worship at 9:15 a.m. and begin the Annual Meeting at 10:30 a.m. Refreshments will be available in the Sanctuary before the meeting begins. Remember, all confirmed members of Trinity are eligible to be voters at the meeting!



The January newsletter mailed earlier than usual in December. As a result, we didn't have year-end financial information available when it was printed. Look for that information at the Annual Meeting on January 13 – don't miss it! – and in future bulletins. Thank you again for your generosity!

**CHRISTMAS WAS A BUSY TIME FOR THE CARE TEAM.** We packed Christmas Cheer bags for 27 families and singles. The bags contained food for a delicious Christmas dinner. We also packed HIP backpacks for the school. The Care Team organized many books for members that are grieving. These books are available for check-out in the church. There are books for widow and widowers, children's books, and pamphlets that you can keep. The Care Team is the best very hard-working team. Every team member is a great team player.

~Milly Halverson, Care Team lead

**DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN GIVE ELECTRONICALLY?** Through Trinity's website, you can set up a Direct Debit Giving account to automatically transfer funds from your checking, savings account, or credit card, to go directly to Trinity. You set the schedule as it best fits for you! It's convenient and easy. Consider setting up your electronic giving account and discontinuing your envelopes...we can save money on envelope orders. Special festival offerings can be made electronically. Please contact the office regarding your envelopes so we can update our list.

To set up online giving, visit [www.trinitysg.org](http://www.trinitysg.org). On the right-hand side of the home page, click on the link "Contribute" then click on the bar "Contribute Online" and it will bring you to the site to set up your online giving account. If you set up using your debit card there are no additional fees charged to the church...BUT If you use your credit card for the automatic payment the church is charged a fee for the transaction. Questions? Just let us know! Thank you!

**WINTER WEATHER IS HERE!** Unless weather conditions are so severe around Spring Grove that travel is unsafe, services will be held at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday. Announcements about the Sunday service will be made by 7:30 a.m. that day and broadcast on KVIK 104.7 FM, KQYB 98.3 FM, KTTC Channel 10, and WXOW TV-19. Decisions about the Saturday service will be made by 3:30 p.m. that day and broadcast in the same way. Please stay safe when considering traveling in bad weather.

**DAILY DEVOTION BOOKLETS** Did you know that Trinity offers free daily devotion booklets — Christ in our Home. They are available at the church entrances or in the office. Each booklet contains three months of devotions. Pick up yours today!

## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME TO BE BUILT IN SPRING GROVE IN 2019!**

The La Crosse chapter of Habitat for Humanity has chosen Spring Grove as a sight in which to build a new home. A residential lot has been purchased with the plan of having a family in this new home by the fall of 2019.

What is needed to make this project a success is YOU! If you have expertise or a desire to serve on a subcommittee, please contact Steve Nelson at (507) 421-2212.

The subcommittees are:

- |                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) Fundraising | 2) Family selection            |
| 3) Volunteers  | 4) Supplies and Subcontractors |

If you are interested, the next meeting is Wednesday, December 5th at 5 p.m. in the Spring Grove Communications Building, Room 100.

**BEAN BAGS FOR SALE** The Education Team is selling some extra bean bags Trinity has! We are selling them for \$20 each. If you have any interest in purchasing a bean bag (or a few!) contact Bekah at the church office or via email, [bekah@trinitysg.org](mailto:bekah@trinitysg.org).

**"THIRST DAY" STARTING IN JANUARY** On January 17, and every third Thursday of the month, at 7:30 p.m., Pastor Elizabeth will host a "BYOB" get-together at the parsonage. It's not circle or a club; and there's nothing to join. It's just a chance for us to get together and quench our collective thirst. The "B" in "BYOB" is your own Bible, a book you'd like to share, a topic that challenges your belief, and idea that makes you feel blessed. (You should bring a beverage as well.) The reading we will be discussing is *Love Wins*, by Rob Bell. Copies of this book are now available in the church office, if you need one. No need to read the book to attend!







▲ Confirmation students sang Christmas carols at Tweenen Care Center and shared gifts with the residents.



◀ High school youth met at Bekah's house for a Christmas party that included decorating cookies, eating, and games.

## STOCK SALES

Make sure to answer your phones on the evenings of **January 17, 21, and 22!**

**Why, you ask?** The youth at Trinity will be calling YOU and asking if you would like to buy "shares of stock" in Trinity's youth program. These are not real shares of stock, rather a way to support the youth at Trinity in their future youth trips. Each share of stock is \$15 and stockholders can purchase as many shares as they would like.



The youth who travel on the upcoming youth trips will share their experiences with stockholders and other church members during worship on a Sunday after the trip. Future youth trips include a mission trip to Indianapolis, IN in July 2019 and the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis during the summer of 2021. Questions? Contact Bekah Leafblad at [bekah@trinitysg.org](mailto:bekah@trinitysg.org) or call the church office, 498-5291.

## CLASSES RESUME

- ▶ Sunday School resumes Sun. Jan. 6 at the church. We will begin with music in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. and conclude with class about 11:20 a.m.
- ▶ Babel in the Belfry will recommence on January 6 and will meet in the belfry (the room behind the organ in the balcony). Babel is open to any 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grader wanting to discuss the sermon from that day.
- ▶ Confirmation classes resume Wednesday, January 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

*Enjoy your Christmas break and we'll see you all in the new year!*



## QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING YOUTH RELATED?

Bekah would be happy to answer your questions!  
She can be reached at 498-5291 or [bekah@trinitysg.org](mailto:bekah@trinitysg.org)



### Blue hair!

Pastor Elizabeth's challenge as part of the Boiler/AC fundraiser was met and exceeded and she had blue hair on Sundays, December 2 and 9!



Confirmation students, Madilyn Ostern and Hunter Holland had the privilege of spraying Pastor Elizabeth's hair on December 2. ▲ ►

Property Team members, Lee Hoekstra and Dana Kjome, had the honor on December 9. ▼



BLESSINGS

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR BOILER / AC PROJECT!

As of December 16, \$215,499.24 in donations have been received! Thank you! We are still projecting the project to cost \$250,000. An updated amount along with a full list of those who have donated will be in the Annual Report and available at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 13, 2019. Thank you again for your support!



Sunday School Christmas program, "Bethlehem Night," with songs sung by Preschool through Kindergarten children. First grade through sixth grade children also sang and re-enacted the Christmas story. ▼ ►



Trinity Choir Christmas Concert that included special music by duets, trios, Thankful Brass, and the Adult Handbell Choir. An evening of beautiful music! ▼►



PHOTOS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 1:00pm Release Time (K) 5:00pm Worship Team, MR 6:00pm Confirmation w/ Supper 6:30pm Staffing Team, GR 7:00pm Adult Handbells 8:00pm Choir	3 5:30pm Education, MR 6:00pm Stewardship, GR 7:00pm Finance, MR	1	5 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
6 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:15am Fellowship, Psalm Study 10:30am Property, pr offc 10:30am Sunday School & Babel, church 1:00pm Audit of 2018 Financials 6:45pm Praise Band practice 8:00pm 3:16s	7	8 9:00am Deborah Circle 5:00pm Support, GR 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC	9 9:30am Adah Circle 2:00pm Release Time (1 <sup>st</sup> ) 6:00pm Confirmation w/ Supper 7:00pm Adult Handbells 7:45pm Council 8:00pm Choir	10	11	12 10:30am Praise Band practice
13 9:15am Worship/Praise Band 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School & Babel, church 10:30am ANNUAL MEETING 11:30am TCC Service 6:45pm Youth Handbells 8:00pm 3:16s	14	15 10:00am Anna Circle 2:30pm Phoebe 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC	16 2:00pm Release Time (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) 2:00pm Eve Circle 6:00pm Confirmation w/ Supper 7:00pm Adult Handbells 8:00pm Choir	17 9:30am Communion at The Manor 7:30pm Thirst Day	18	19 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
20 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:15am Fellowship, Psalm Study 10:30am Sunday School & Babel, church 10:30am Empty Bowls meal 6:45pm Youth Handbells 8:00pm 3:16s	21 7:00pm Hannah Circle	22 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC	23 1:00pm Release Time (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) 6:00pm Confirmation w/ Supper 7:00pm Adult Handbells 8:00pm Choir	24 9:30am Communion at Tweenen Apartments 10:30am Communion at Assisted Living	25 9:00am Love Day 12:00pm Newsletter info deadline	26
27 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship, Psalm Study 10:30am Sunday School & Babel, church 6:45pm Youth Handbells 8:00pm 3:16s	28	29 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC	30 6:00pm Confirmation w/ Supper 7:00pm Adult Handbells 8:00pm Choir	31 2:00pm Newsletter mailed		



# VOLUNTEERS

*Thank you for all that you do!*

	JANUARY 6	JANUARY 13	JANUARY 20	JANUARY 27
<b>LECTOR</b>	Bekah Leafblad	Willy Leafblad	Fred Arnold	Carolyn Olson
<b>ACOLYTE(S)</b>	Maggie Lile McKenzie Fisch	Lydia Solum	Ella Wennes Kylie Standahl	Alison Frydenlund
<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>	<i>Information coming soon — watch your mailbox for a list as well as info in bulletins.</i>			
<b>COMMUNION BREAD</b>	Marilyn Sylling	n/a	Marilyn Sylling	n/a
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Karen Bingham (chair), Bonnie Solberg, Marilyn Sylling, Deb Spence, Geri Worden, Terry Holland			
<b>COFFEE HOSTS</b>	<i>Information coming soon — watch your mailbox for a list as well as info in bulletins.</i>			
<b>498-AMEN</b>				
<b>MEALS ON WHEELS</b>	Mon. Dec. 31: Laurie Moen, Tue. Jan. 1: closed, Wed.-Thu. Jan. 2-3: Linda & Steve Kemp, Fri. Jan. 4: Laurie Moen			

**HAVE YOU...**moved? ...changed phone numbers? ...changed email addresses? Let the office know!  
Thanks!

**LET US KNOW.....**If you have a loved one ill or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit,  
or if any pastoral need arises.

**CONTACT TRINITY.....** (507) 498-5291, trinity@springgrove.coop

**ELECTRONIC VERSIONS.....** Would you like to receive the newsletter electronically instead of a paper  
version? Just let us know in the office! We also send a weekly email....would you like to receive it? Just let  
us know!

## FOLLOW TRINITY ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



Instagram: Youth account = trinityyouth203

Trinity Church account = trinitylutheransg



203 East Main Street  
PO Box 188  
Spring Grove, MN 55974

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Presorted Standard  
Non-profit Organization  
US Postage PAID  
Spring Grove, MN  
55974  
Permit No. 2

O God, you have been our help  
in ages past, our hope for years  
to come.

As we welcome this new year,  
bless us with peace.

Fill our days with the light of  
Christ and lead us on the path  
of life until we see you in our  
heavenly home.

You live and reign forever and  
ever. Amen

