

TRINITYnews

MARCH 2019

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 East Main Street
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Spring Grove, MN 55974

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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

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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



March 3: All Team Retreat

- 3:00-4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

March 6: Ash Wednesday

- Worship at Noon with imposition of ashes, coffee and bars following
- Worship at 7:00 p.m. with imposition of ashes

March 13-April 17: Mid-week Lent

- Meal served from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Worship at 7:00 p.m.

April 18: Maundy Thursday

- Worship at 7:00 p.m., with communion

April 19: Good Friday

- Tenebrae service at 7:00 p.m.

April 14: Palm Sunday

- Worship at 9:15 a.m.

April 21: Easter

- Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m.
- Easter Brunch served from 7:30-9:00 a.m.
- Festival service at 9:15 a.m.



LENTEN SUPPERS

Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall, all are invited!

- **March 13:** Breakfast for Dinner, hosted by the Youth
- **March 20:** Chili Supper for Habitat for Humanity, hosted by Mission in the World Team and Congregation Council members
- **March 27:** Baked Potato Bar, hosted by the Worship Team
- **April 3:** Trinity Music Groups
- **April 10:** hosted by the Care and Support Teams

Make supper easy and join us for delicious meals and conversation! Suppers are freewill donation.

Dear friends in Christ,

I've attended several seminars on "resilience" recently. The topic interested me because most of us face a challenge at some point in our lives, and our level of resilience can help us overcome the challenge.

A Mayo Clinic doctor illustrated it this way: Imagine you're driving. There are rumble strips on the side of the road that warn you if you're swerving toward the ditch. Your resilience is what helps you recover when you drift over the rumble strips.

Living in a rural area, most of us are aware of the challenges in the farm economy. I've been meeting with a number of others in the community – farmers, local community leaders, and more – who have a keen interest in seeing farmers and their families and related businesses thrive. We know that in a rural community, when farmers struggle, we are all affected. Farmers are our friends, our neighbors, our family members and members of our congregation.

We've been brainstorming ways to connect people to the resources they need to succeed, in the short and long term, to be resilient through the current challenges. I believe the support of a faith community is a big part of what strengthens resilience.

Jesus' ministry was conducted almost exclusively outdoors, in the small rural towns of first-century Israel, from the Sermon on the Mount to his final ascension. If you look at the parables he used to illustrate his messages, many of them are about people who work the land and what they produce: the sower, the weeds, the growing seed, the mustard seed, the unfruitful fig tree, the vineyard workers, and on and on. Jesus, too, had an acute interest in the agricultural community.

Last fall, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture launched MinnesotaFarmStress.com as a quick way to find people and organizations that are able to help Minnesota farmers and farm families with unique challenges on the farm, including financial, emotional, legal, family and other challenges. Resources include the Minnesota Farm & Rural Helpline at 833-600-2670, which is answered 24/7 by staff who are trained to help farmers who are struggling with stress or depression. The helpline connects callers to financial help, mental health counselors, legal assistance, and more.

Farmers can also learn what resources are available to assist with daily living needs, including electricity, health care, childcare and senior programs. And for financial issues, resources include free, confidential financial counseling for farmers through the University of Minnesota Extension at 800-232-9077.

The group I've been meeting with is working on resources closer to home. If you have ideas, or you'd like to be part of this team, please let me know. We're all in this together.

God bless you all,
~ Pastor Elizabeth

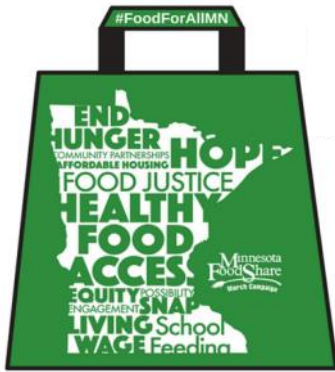
Lane's corner

Here's a deal! **Free men's breakfast** of pancakes with real Maple Syrup and scrambled eggs on Wednesday mornings at 6:30am in Lent starting March 13th. Here is the hitch, we will also be studying some Men in the Bible! Yeah, cool right?! We can eat **and** study at the same time, multitasking!

We start with Adam since he started all of this anyway. Then we'll go to Abraham, the so-called patriarch of three world religions! Moses will be next, then Joshua. We can learn from each of them things that will still apply to our lives today.

~ Pastor Lane





MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE - MARCH CAMPAIGN

Some people face food insecurity every day, while others struggle after an unexpected expense or decrease in income. Hunger can lead to poor health or illness in addition to poor performance at school or work.

The annual Minnesota Food Share March campaign promotes the collection of food and funds to stock food shelves across the state. As an official participant, Semcac's Food Shelf will receive a percentage of the undesignated statewide March Food Share funds. The allocation depends on the amount of food and money raised during March and on the number of people served during the remainder of the year.

The Care Team of Trinity Lutheran Church encourages donations of food and money to help with this campaign. Donations must be received by March 29 to count toward the March Food Share campaign.

Respond to food insecurity in our community by filling a grocery bag with much needed food and household items for our local Food Shelf. Trinity also has a Little Free Pantry (not to be confused with Semcac Food Shelf in Caladonia) that is located at the bottom of the stairs of the south entrance (closest to the parking lot). This Little Free Pantry is available for anyone to use; it has the same needs as the Semcac Food Shelf. Donations of canned soups, canned fruit, saltine crackers, scalloped or AuGratin potatoes, cream of mushroom soup, cream of chicken soup, tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, stewed tomatoes, pancake mix, and sugar.

CHILI SUPPER TO BENEFIT HABITAT PROJECT IN SPRING GROVE



On March 20 (second Wednesday of Lent) at 5:30 p.m., you can enjoy a delicious chili supper and also contribute to Spring Grove's Habitat for Humanity project. The menu will include homemade chili with toppings, cornbread, rolls, fruit, and ice cream floats. The Mission in the World Team and Congregation Council members will be hosting the meal.

The Church Council voted in February to make Trinity a non-profit sponsor of the Habitat for Humanity

project in Spring Grove. The property for the home has been purchased and work will start soon. The family selected to receive the home will be granted a 30-year, 0% interest mortgage. They, in return, must contribute 350 work-hours toward the project. As sponsors, Trinity will be organizing work teams and offering support to the family.

Food and shelter are two basic human needs. Join us on March 20 for food and help a deserving family gain a new shelter.

STAFFING UPDATE

After interviews with bookkeeper applicants, Lorilyn Dehning has been hired for the position, effective February 1. Any bookkeeping questions, information, receipts, expense vouchers, etc. that involve bookkeeping issues should be directed to Lorilyn by emailing her at trinity.sgtreasurer@gmail.com, leaving it on her desk in the office, or in the basket on the door if the office is closed. Please clearly indicate that the item is for her. Thank you!

ALL TEAM RETREAT Are you a member of a team at Trinity? Then this is for you! Please plan to attend the All Team Retreat on Sunday, March 3, from 3-4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be talking about the responsibilities and goals of the various teams and doing some brainstorming. We are looking forward to working together at Trinity!

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS NEEDED Would you be interested in helping prepare and/or serve communion? The Altar guild is need of members. If you are interested in learning what volunteering for this means, contact Linda Pierce, 498-5696.

THIRST DAY IS MARCH 21: "GOD GOT A DOG," BY CYNTHIA RYLANT

Does anyone remember the movie "Oh, God," starring John Denver with George Burns as God? Or do you remember the song "What if God was one of us?" by Joan Osborne? Or do you remember the TV show "Touched By an Angel"? Or for that matter, have you ever seen Michelangelo's "Creation of Adam," that marvelous painting that shows the hand of God touch the hand of Adam?

I could go on, but there is a long history of artists who've attempted to represent Christian theology in their art, and specifically to represent how much God longs to be close to us, to experience what we experience, to have real influence over our daily lives. Jesus really did experience our humanity, of course. We read the gospels to understand how much Jesus loved us and continues to love us.

But Cynthia Rylant has taken a more whimsical approach to showing God's humanity in her poetry. So for our next Thirst Day, we'll read her book, "God got a dog" (illustrated by Marla Frazee). There are multiple copies in the church office you can check out, and it won't take you long to read this. But I hope you spend some time savoring the poems. Which one touches your heart? Which one goes too far? See you at the parsonage on March 21 at 7:30 p.m.!



Thirst Day is always the **third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.** at the parsonage. The "B" in "BYOB" stands for... Bible ... book you'd like to share ... topic that challenges your belief ... or idea that makes you feel blessed. And bring a beverage as well. If you're thirsty for conversation about the Bible and topics of faith, we hope to see you at the parsonage for "Thirst Day". You don't have to read the book. Just show up for great fellowship!

CALLING A BISHOP TO SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD

Trinity is part of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. We are Church in the world, partnering in ministry around the globe, knit together through the Holy Spirit. We are Church regionally as a synod, spanning many diverse landscapes, from large cities and rural settings, with big urban churches and small country parishes. We are Church locally, supporting the leadership in each of our ministry sites to encourage our members to follow Jesus into a changing world, thankful for God's work among us in the past, and hopeful for where God will lead us in the future. We are Church. Together. We are a Reconciling in Christ synod that, meeting in Assembly, has adopted an Affirmation of Welcome to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

We—the SEMN Synod—are currently in the process of calling a new bishop. Eleven pastors have been selected as potential nominees for Bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. They are: Rev. Emily Carson, Rev. Heather Culuris, Rev. Sean Forde, Rev. Dena Gable, Rev. Heather Hammond, Rev. Regina Hassanally, Rev. Lisa Kipp, Rev. Glenn Monson, Rev. Kevin Olson, Rev. Kristen Venne, and Rev. John Weisenburger. To view profiles of each of the candidates, visit the Synod's website, semnsynod.org/candidates2019.

FEBRUARY CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Motions approved:

- To schedule the 2019 Annual Meeting for January 26, 2020.
- To accept the recommended changes to Trinity's funeral policies and stipends for visitations and funerals at Trinity, as presented by the Worship and Finance Teams.
- That Trinity endorse the youth/adult intergenerational mission trip to Puerto Rico in 2020 and fundraising events as approved by the Congregation Council.
- That Trinity endorse the youth to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2021 in Minneapolis and fundraising events as approved by the Congregation Council.
- For Trinity to be a non-profit sponsor of the Habitat for Humanity home in Spring Grove with a pledge of \$1,000.
- To have a professional photo of our new pastor taken by Kathrine Myrah for a cost of \$75 for the Historical Bulletin Board.
- To hold a Servant Sunday Brunch on March 31, with a freewill offering given to the Houston County Food Shelf and a First Fruits offering of 10% to ELCA benevolence commitment.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 13 at 7:45 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

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

LOVE DAY

The Love Day quilters are back in full swing for 2019. Thank you to all who have provided old blankets, fabric, curtains, sheets and the like which are put to good use making quilts. Please keep Love Day in mind when you find items that are no longer being used. We are grateful for your continued support.

If you would like to help tie quilts for this worthwhile project, consider joining us for Love Day and bring a friend. Many hands make light work. It is very rewarding to know that the quilts we make are keeping people warm in different areas of the world. Come, meet a great group of wonderful people and have a fun day. Love Day meets the last Friday of the month (January through October) at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to Bonnie Solberg for providing lunch in January, to Barb Morken for the February lunch and to Geri Worden for serving in March.

In addition to quilts, we also assemble school kits, baby care kits and personal care kits. Personal care kits are sometimes overlooked. The following items are included in each kit:

- One light-weight bath-size towel (maximum 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail clipper (attached file optional), remove packaging

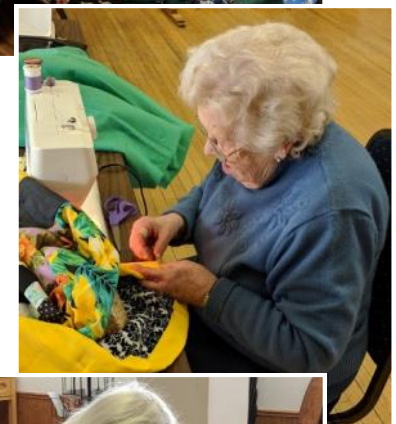
It helps to watch for sales; towels can be found at good prices, and often there are coupons in newspaper inserts for soap and toothbrushes—using them along with a sale equals purchases at great prices.

School kits are always in need of supplies. The following items are included in each kit:

- four 70-sheet notebooks, wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8 x 10½; no loose-leaf paper
- 30-centimeter (12-inch) ruler or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- pencil sharpener
- one blunt point scissors
- four unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- five ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- one box of 16 or 24 crayons
- one 2½" eraser

There are "shopping lists" at the main sanctuary entrance which provide lists of items that go into each kit.

Thank you, Mary Deters and Carol Rustad



WELCA PRESIDENT WELCA is looking for a president. Is this a role in which you would be interested? WELCA leads many wonderful service projects such as school kits, layettes, and quilts. Our meetings are casual and held during Love Day gatherings. The president is a contact person for the synod so that they have a person with whom they can communicate regarding activities and event opportunities. Trinity's WELCA officers occasionally meet in addition to the regular meeting in order to plan events.

If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please let the church office know or WELCA secretary Mary Newgaard or WELCA treasurer Judy Bratland. Your service would be a blessing to Trinity.

YOUTH STOCK SALES WERE A BIG SUCCESS! Thank you to all who purchased shares of stock in the youth program. We so appreciate your support and prayers. If you did not receive a call from one of Trinity's youth, we are sorry we missed you! If you would still like to purchase shares in the youth program, call Bekah at the church office! Shares are \$15 each and the money you give will go toward various youth trips and programs.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL QUILTING DAY

"Those who sleep under a quilt, sleep under a blanket of love."

March 16, 2019, is National Quilting Day (NQD). For nearly 70 years, compassionate people have put their faith into action and made quilts for people in need around the world. And not just a few quilts—hundreds of thousands of quilts every year. These gifts of love make life brighter, softer, and a bit more comfortable for our neighbors around the world struggling with displacement, chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster or conflict.

Thank you to all quilters, supporters of quilters, packers, drivers and cheerleaders of quilters! Your faithfulness in sharing your gifts and time weave the Holy Spirit into each and every quilt sent around the world. Lutheran World Relief thanks God for you every day! Resources and more information can be found at lwr.org/nqd. Or watch their Facebook page for live video feeds from events across the country, LWR Quilters & Kit Makers Community Facebook group facebook.com/groups/lwrquilters.

GRIEF BOX RESOURCES In the Fellowship Hall near the maple syrup display is now a box with resources for coping with grief. There are materials to help give support and guidance during a time of grief in people's lives. Please feel free to take materials and read them as needed. Some books are requested to be used and returned.

DO YOU HAVE THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS? "With Thrivent Choice, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go. Since 2010, more than \$330 million has been distributed to churches and nonprofits nationwide." (www.thrivent.com) Trinity Lutheran is one of the options for which to direct Choice Dollars. If you have Choice Dollars to direct, consider Trinity as an option. Thank you!

FREE ONLINE MAGAZINE Café is the free online magazine for young adult women, published by Woman of the ELCA. Scripture and reflections are written by young women in ministry who write about faith, relationships, advocacy and more. Although many women in their 20s and 30s contribute in every issue, Café can be used and shared by women of all ages. Every month Café offers a free podcast version of one of the articles. You can get the podcast from iTunes or go to boldcafe.org. From a short daily meditation time to Bible study Café offers young adult women a gift of reflection and insight into our ever changing Christian world.

PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP Trinity will be taking a mission trip to Puerto Rico in the summer of 2020! Anyone completing 8th grade and older are eligible to attend. That's right, **youth AND adults** can attend this mission trip!! Keep an eye out for more information to come! Questions? Contact Bekah!

INTRODUCING MIDDLE SCHOOL GAME NIGHTS! 7th and 8th graders are invited to a game night at Bekah's house every month for the rest of the school year! Game Night will start at 7:00 p.m. and will go until we're all gamed out! Game nights will be Fridays, March 15, April 12, and May 10. Come for air hockey, ping pong, MarioKart, board games, and snacks!

QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING YOUTH RELATED?

Bekah would be happy to answer your questions! She can be reached at 498-5291 or bekah@trinitysg.org



The Great Chocolate Chip Cookie Extravaganza!



Confirmation youth and WELCA put together 94 layettes and 50 school kits on February 6. Our confirmation students love serving others and being the hands and feet of God!



PHOTOS

The ice and snow from the storm of February 23/24 was too much to bear for a tree near the parsonage.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School & Babel, Psalm Study 2:00pm Communications 3-4pm, All Team Retreat 6:45pm Praise Band practice 8:00 pm 3:16s	4	5 10:00am Staffing Team, GR 7:00pm AI-Anon, TC	6 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:00pm Ash Wednesday service, coffee & bars after 1:00pm Release Time (K) 5:45pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation students meet with mentors 7:00pm Ash Wednesday service 8:00pm Choir	7 5:30pm Education, MR 7:00pm Finance Team, MR	1 World Day of Prayer	2 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
10 9:15am Worship/Praise Band 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School, Babel, Outreach, Stewardship 11:30am Tweeten Care Ctr Service 2:00pm Root River Conf mtg 6:45pm Youth Handbells 8:00pm 3:16s	11 1-5pm Vision & Planning, GR	12 9:00am Deborah Circle 5:00pm Support, GR 7:00pm AI-Anon, TC	13 9:30am Adah Circle 2:00pm Release Time (1 st) 5:30pm Lenten Supper 5:45pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation students meet with mentors 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Council 8:00pm Choir	14	15	16 National Quilting Day 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
17 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School, Babel 10:30am Property, 6:45pm Youth Handbells 8:00pm 3:16s	18 7:00pm Hannah Circle	19 10:00am Anna Circle 2:30pm Phoebe Circle 7:00pm AI-Anon, TC	20 2:00pm Release Time (2 nd) 5:30pm Lenten Supper 5:45pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation students meet with mentors 7:00pm Lenten Worship 8:00pm Choir	21 9:30am Communion at The Manor 7:30pm Thirst Day, parsonage	22 9:00am Love Day 12:00pm Newsletter info deadline	23
24 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School, Babel 6:45pm Youth Handbells 8:00pm 3:16s	25	26 7:00pm AI-Anon, TC	27 1:00pm Release Time (3 rd) 5:30pm Lenten Supper 5:45pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation students meet with mentors 7:00pm Lenten Worship 8:00pm Choir	28 9:30am Communion at Tweeten Apartments 10:30am Communion at Assisted Living 2:00pm Newsletter mailed	29	30
31 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School, Babel 6:45pm Youth Handbells 8:00pm 3:16s						

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for all that you do!

	MARCH 3	MARCH 6 Ash Wednesday	MARCH 10	MARCH 13 Lenten Service	MARCH 17	MARCH 20 Lenten Service	MARCH 24	MARCH 27 Lenten Service	MARCH 31
LECTOR	Janna Myrah		Carlyn Kraabel		Lee Hoekstra		Bev Nelson		Karen Gray
ACOLYTE(S)	Elijah Solum, Nathan Solberg	Jaxon Strinmoen, Reid Bjerke	Ava Olerud	n/a	August Allen, Ella Wennes	n/a	Dane Edgington	n/a	Caleb Griffin
COMMUNION SERVERS	Jan Kraabel, Ruth Johnsrud, Mark Schroeder	Glorianne Mulvenna, Deb Spence, Steve Morken	n/a	n/a	Mark & Betty Dokken, Karen Gray	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
COMMUNION BREAD	Sue Wiste								
ALTAR GUILD	Linda Pierce (chair), Marcia Holland, Betty Johnson, Doris Sherburne, Gloria Sagdalen								
COFFEE HOSTS	Renee & David Eiken, Kathy & Curt Roverud	n/a	Linda & Steve Kemp	n/a	Lorilyn Dehning, Danielle & Jeremy Myhre	n/a	Sarah & Mark Schroeder, Rachel & David Storlie	n/a	Stewardship Team
498-AMEN	March 3-16: Kari Alstad			March 17-30: Roxanne Finnesgard			March 31- April 13: Bev Nelson		
MEALS ON WHEELS	March 18-19: Kathy & David Myrah, March 20-21: Betty & Mark Dokken, March 22: Judy Roble, March 25: Elaine Van Minzel & Deb Brumm, March 26: Jan Kraabel, March 27-28: Mary Deters, March 29: Jan Kraabel								
SUNDAY USHERS	Kim Sherburne (captain), Steve Landsom, Chris Petersen, Greg Petersen, John Storlie, Rick Sundet								
LENT USHERS	n/a	Janna Myrah	n/a	Jean Ellingson	n/a	Jan Kraabel	n/a	Milly Halverson	n/a



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