

trinitynews

august 2023

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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

[trinitylutheransg](https://www.instagram.com/trinitylutheransg)
[trinityyouth203](https://www.instagram.com/trinityyouth203)



YouTube

Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove

Office hours:

Mon - Fri: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sundays at Trinity

9:15 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Listen live Sundays on KVIK 104.7 FM

www.kvikradio.com

and on Facebook Live

Saturday Worship 5:00 p.m.

1st and 3rd Saturdays each month

STAFF

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Gary Wilhelmson, Custodian

Rachel Storlie, Organist/Pianist

Scott Solberg, Choir Director

Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist

Mark Udstuen, Praise Band Leader

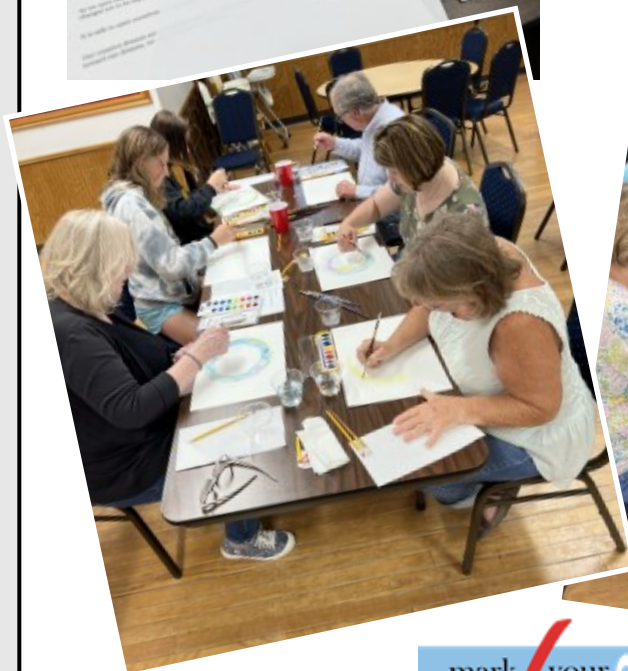
Rachel Udstuen, Pianist

Rick Sundet, Technology Lead

*Creativity is God's gift to us.
Using our creativity is our gift back to God.*

*When we open ourselves to our creativity,
we open ourselves to the Creator's
creativity within us and our lives.*

Art as Prayer class June 2023



mark  your Calendar

Wed. August 23 — Outreach Team sponsors Community Picnic at Music & Market

Wed. September 13 — Confirmation Orientation (7th-8th grades)

— Confirmation Service meeting (9th grade & parents)

Sun. September 17 — Rally Sunday (Bibles given to 3-yr. olds and 3rd graders during
worship, outdoor activities for all after worship)

Wed. September 20 — Fall Meatball Dinner

Sun. September 24 — Sunday School begins

Wed. September 27 — Wednesday Bible School begins

Sun. October 29 — Confirmation service for 9th grade youth

From our Lead Pastor

“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.” 1 Corinthians 13:12

Dear Family of God,

If you have been in my office or my house, you probably realized quickly that I love the visual arts. The visual arts include paintings, of course, but also sculpture and other artistic representations we can see and even touch. In fact, if you look around the church, there is art everywhere! Our beautiful stained-glass windows are art. Our Love Day ladies produce quilts that are artful. There is a large painting in the elevator entrance. We recently reframed a Hmong textile piece given to Trinity in thanks for supporting a refugee family. The steeple (soon to be reshingled – see article on p. 8) contains copper ornaments. The altar contains artistic ornamentation, as does the credence table.

Art is not necessary, of course, for a life of faith, but it can certainly enhance our spirituality and even help us comprehend God’s Word! The earliest Bibles included detailed illustrations, and Martin Luther worked closely with the artist Lucas Cranach the Elder to create images for Luther’s translation of the Bible and the Small Catechism.

In June, about 25 Trinity members young and old participated in an “Art as Prayer, Sacred Circles: The Shape of God” class hosted by the Communications Team and led by Mary Thompson, a regional artist who has taught at the Franciscan Spirituality Center in La Crosse. My “art as prayer” result hangs in my office. It was a blessed evening.

In this issue of the Trinity newsletter, you will find more ideas about art and faith, including an article reprinted from *Thrivent Magazine*, “Connecting art and faith” (see p. 14) and one from *Living Lutheran* (“United by Art, see p. 15) about how art can break down barriers to bring people together.

During these last days of summer, I hope you find a way to explore your faith in new ways and to “see” aspects of God in the art around us: in the beautiful landscape of the Driftless area; in the artistic elements found around the church; and in the beautiful faces of our faith community.

God bless you!

~Pr. Elizabeth

Additional Resources from Faith+Lead at Luther Seminary

What role can art play in your spiritual walk?

- Stained glass artist Rachel Postler describes the spiritual benefits of allowing ourselves to be bad at something: <https://faithlead.org/blog/interview-with-rachel-postler-stained-glass-artist>
- Patrick Cabello Hansel walks readers through engaging in the reading and writing of poetry as a private and powerful spiritual practice: <https://faithlead.org/blog/the-spirit-speaks-in-verse-poetry-as-a-blessing-to-ministry>
- Can you follow your soul's desire *and* responsibly share your God-given gifts? Visual artist Lara Hanson reflects: <https://faithlead.org/blog/art-and-the-day-job>
- Have you ever found yourself doodling during a sermon? One artist takes that impulse a step farther. Check out how John Knife Sterner's artistic process binds others into community: <https://faithlead.org/blog/art-connects-us-with-god>

From our Visitation Pastor

*“Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.” Psalm 86:11*

I preached a sermon on this Psalm on July 23rd. The point I was trying to make in the sermon was that there are all sorts of voices calling to us in this world. They all claim to be right and true even though they conflict with each other to the point that someone has to be wrong.

So how do we know the Lord's way? We can use our faith tools of Bible study, prayer and meditation, worship, and hang around with people of faith. But even then, we need to remember that we can be easily deceived. You could read C. S. Lewis' book the "Screwtape Letters" to get a good idea of deception. The book tells of an apprentice devil trying to corrupt a faithful person. Lewis tries to cover a lot of temptations.

In the end, I think, it takes a lifetime of trials and errors, experiencing God's grace and love.

A VISIT TO RELEASE TIME

Our congregation takes seriously its commitment avowed in the baptismal service to provide religious education for youth. A part of that commitment has been the Release Time program which was initiated almost one hundred years ago. In 1924 the first classes were held in a rented room at the cost of 15 cents per week for one child.

Barbara Arnold and I recently had the privilege of observing firsthand that the program continues ninety-nine years later in the very capable hands of Pastor Len Liptack and Kerri Jahnke. Seventeen kindergarteners interacted with Pastor Liptack and Kerri in song and discussion of the Easter story. The children were eager, engaged, and perceptive as they shared their understanding of Christ's sacrifice.

One kindergartener shared that while playing ball she put out her hand to stop a ball from hitting her friend and it really hurt, so we should be very grateful to Christ who gave his whole body.

As adult visitors, Barbara and I felt inspired and blessed by what we observed and we urge others to take the opportunity to visit classes. We offer our thanks to Pastor Liptack, Kerri, and Trinity congregation for their leadership in providing invaluable lessons for our children. ~ Janna Myrah

UPDATE ON THE USE OF TRINITY CENTER

The Congregation Council voted to repair (not replace) the existing boiler and do much-needed maintenance in both bathrooms at Trinity Center. The boiler is being repaired to heat the first floor only. The bathrooms will now have handicap-accessible stalls.

After much discussion, it was decided to return the Release Time program, as it currently exists, to Trinity Center for the 2023-24 school year. Release Time classes will be held in the former Beary Patch schoolroom on the first floor. We are grateful to Giants Heritage Center for allowing us to use space in their building during the 2022-23 school year.

In addition, the Council also voted to allow a counselor to use one of the upstairs schoolrooms for mental-health counseling on Thursdays from 10-5 beginning in late summer/early fall. Debbie Stone Nelson, formerly of Spring Grove, is a school-based therapist in Rochester who will volunteer one day a week in her hometown. This is a wonderful opportunity for the community.

Please note that the Trinity Center/Release Time Committee continues to meet to discuss the future of both the building and possible enhancements to the program.

UPDATE FROM LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF VISITOR EMMA WAGNER

On June 27, members of WELCA were pleased to welcome Emma Wagner, Manager for Congregational Engagement for Lutheran World Relief (LWR), to Trinity for several hours. Representing LWR, Emma wanted to thank the members of Trinity Lutheran Church for our generous donations to LWR over the past year and a half. In 2022, we gave a large donation to help fund relief efforts due to the humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine. Early in 2023, our Noisy Sunday offering was dedicated to relief efforts after the devastating earthquake affecting Turkey.



Emma gave us an update on the relief efforts, noting that hundreds of people in Turkey are now safe and secure, living with dignity and privacy in small container homes after living in tents during the harsh winter months. Typically, container homes are of short-term duration; however, because of the widespread devastation, many in Turkey will be in these homes for years. Each container can house up to six people and includes two rooms, a bathroom with a shower and toilet, a cooking area with a small sink, and a small garden plot. Each container costs just \$5,300.

In Ukraine, LWR began their work next door in Poland, working with Lutheran churches and other local agencies to provide housing, hygiene and baby kits, quilts (some possibly made by our own Love Day group!), and other needed items. In Ukraine itself, LWR has invested more than \$1 million to provide mobile medical units. The war has damaged many hospitals and clinics such that people with long-term medical needs, as well as children and expectant mothers now use the mobile units on a regular basis.

Emma also talked with the WELCA group about quilts and gave them the LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide that offers details about where quilts go, general assembly instructions, and more, along with information about school kits, personal care kits (which are very much in need right now), and baby care kits. These are all projects to which Trinity has contributed hundreds of items.

Lutheran World Relief is one of the most well-respected organizations in the world. The organization has earned an **87%** rating for Accountability & Finance from Charity Navigator, which rates nonprofits worldwide. LWR scores 10 out of 10 as it spends just 12 percent of its total budget on overhead, administrative staff and associated costs, and organizational meetings.



▲ A completed quilt ready to be donated.



▲ Working on tying a quilt during Love Day.

UPCOMING YOUTH ACTIVITIES**WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH BONFIRES**

We will continue to meet weekly on Wednesday evenings from 8-10 p.m. throughout August. ALL youth in 8th -12th grades are invited! Bring a friend! All are welcome! Do not need to be a Trinity member to attend. Meet in the church yard near the parking lot. Faith formation time, fellowship, activities, and s'mores!

**CONFIRMATION AND MORE!**

Confirmation begins with an important orientation and registration meeting — Wednesday, September 13, 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for **7th and 8th grade students and parents**, and mentors. Pizza will be served!

At the meeting, you'll learn about: quarterly core classes, Trinity U electives, mentor groups, acolyting, and worship notes. Plus you'll register for Trinity U electives.

What is Trinity U? Trinity U is Trinity's education program leading toward our Confirmation youth's Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation service. Trinity U consists of required quarterly core classes and electives from which your youth may choose. We ask that youth **and** parents come to the orientation meeting to learn more.

9th grade youth and parents meeting- Wednesday, September 13, 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is an important meeting to discuss preparations for the Affirmation of Baptism/ Confirmation Sunday service (Oct. 29).

RALLY SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 17

The Sunday School year will kick off on Sunday, September 17 with our Rally Sunday celebration.

Join us for worship at 9:15 a.m. with activities outside at 10:30 a.m. During worship, Bibles will be given to our 3-year old children and 3rd grade youth. Families, please join us for worship so that your child(ren) can be recognized and given their Bible!

Please email Kerri, cyf.trinitysg@gmail.com, to let her know you will be in attendance that Sunday.

This is also the time to register your children to participate in Sunday School. Please plan to register them during outdoor activities so that we can plan for our year ahead.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 24

Sunday School meets from 10:30 a.m.—11: 15 a.m.

Preschool – Kindergarten students will meet in the new preschool room. We also need 2-4 parents to help lead this time together.

1st - 2nd grade youth will meet in the new youth room at the church.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE SCHOOL - BEGINS SEPTEMBER 27

3rd–6th grade youth will meet Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m. in the new youth room at the church. ALL are invited to Wednesday Bible School! Bring your friends! Youth do not need to be a member to attend. The Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Director, leads this youth group-style program. There will be snacks, Bible lessons, faith formation, games, and lots of fun!

Parents — would you like to help? Bring snacks, help prepare the room, assist with games and Bible study, keep the youth and teachers in your prayers. Contact Kerri for details and any questions, cyf.trinitysg@gmail.com, or 498-5291.



Questions about youth-related items?

Contact Kerri Jahnke

cyf.trinitysg@gmail.com ▪ 498-5291

JUNE 12, 2023 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**Updates:**

- Employee Retention Credit (ERC) funds have started to arrive from the federal government. In May our first installment was \$17,678.15 which included some interest. Funds will be dispersed as they arrive as follows: \$3,500 to reimburse general fund for ERC consultant fees; \$2,400 Retention Staff Bonus (\$600 to Marlene, Stewart, Scott, and Gary); \$6,000 to First Fruits Mission team to decide on disbursement; \$40,000 to Special Projects Fund (new account); \$11,000 to increase the amount for loans to ourselves (currently \$14,000 with addition will be \$25,000).
- The \$6,000 offage has been audited and resolved. Going forward this will not happen because Special Accounts is being monitored more closely to balance the Profit & Loss statement with the Balance Sheet for each Special Account.
- Boy Scout entrance steps need to be fixed.
- Window in the women's bathroom needs to be fixed.
- The walk-out between the kitchen and the basement at the parsonage needs replacement.
- Bruce Bergsgaard installed the lightning rods on the parsonage.
- Trinity Center and Release Time Committee update: Heather Gray has volunteered to be the new chairperson. The committee plans to have a report ready sometime in August or September.
- AED equipment is on hold for now. The Tweeten Foundation has decided to fund EMT Training that will be coming to Spring Grove.
- The Master Planning Committee engaged in a lengthy discussion of the Trinity Center focusing on its cost and its purpose in the future. A majority of the members strongly suggested selling Trinity Center, while at the same time they unanimously agreed we should preserve the Release Time Program wherever it is housed. After much discussion it was apparent that Trinity needs the help of an architect before prioritizing these goals.
- Steeple Project: Jason Crawly will be sending the contract. The project will cost \$80,580. The funds will come from the ERC money of \$35K and \$15K from Special Accounts. to take the money from the ERC funds if a down payment is needed. There are 12 copper ornaments that will cost \$14K-\$15K to repair. The council suggested having a fundraiser to earn these funds for the ornaments.

Motions passed:

- to use \$30K from the second parsonage funds to complete the funding.
 - to take the money from the ERC funds if a down payment is needed,
-

JULY 12, 2023 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**Updates:**

- There was some minor disruption for three days in early July with someone dumping some food (from the Little Free Pantry) out of their containers inside and outside the church.
- A Love Day Quilt will be added to the food pantry once a month.
- Finance Team passed a motion to hire Kodet Architectural for services which will be in a motion later.
- Trinity Center update – working on the bathrooms, still working with the boiler.
- Krause Contract signed. No money down required. Mid-September is the goal for Krause to start the steeple project.
- Staffing Team went over PTO policy – six people will receive holiday pay thru 2023. Starting Jan. 1, 2024, all will receive holiday pay, with the exception of Marlene as she reduced her hours.
- Staffing Team reviewed our Sabbatical Policy – will talk to the Synod in what they will need to do for Pr. Elizabeth's sabbatical next summer.
- Trinity Center and Release Time Committee update –Team has not met since May. Feedback is needed from the committee before they can move forward.
- Use of Trinity Center for mental health counselor, Debbie Stone Nelson. A simple lease agreement will be created for her to sign.

Motions passed:

- to hire Kodet Architectural Firm for: Program and Concept Development Services (Kodet) \$13,200 and a Building Assessment and Cost Estimation Services (Kraus-Anderson) \$11,500. Total Lump Sum Fee \$24,700. It is recommended to take it out of building fund. An anonymous donor has offered \$24,000 for this project.
- to approve Sharon Hanson, Joyce Landsom, and Elaine Kjome as additional counters for weekly offerings. Judy Bratland has resigned from counting the weekly offering.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Complete minutes are on Trinity's website.

MASTER PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

At the June 7, 2023, Master Planning Committee meeting there was much discussion about Trinity Church and the many needs for utilization and enhancement of different areas of the church. A motion was presented and passed that Trinity Church needs the assistance of an architect. This motion then went to the Congregation Council which also passed the motion to hire Kodet Architectural Group out of Minneapolis to come to Trinity Church, assess the basic structure, and make recommendations for improvement. The firm would also look at program and concept development as described below in their letter.

Congregation members are invited to meet with members from Kodet on Wednesday, August 2, with four time slots available: 11-11:45 a.m., 12-12:45 p.m., 1-1:45 p.m., and 2-2:45 p.m. Please let the office know if you plan to attend so we have adequate space available.

The detailed services offered by Kodet are listed below. An anonymous donor has offered to pay for these services.

Program and Concept Development Services (Kodet Architectural Group) \$13,200

This portion takes into account all aspects of your site and facility, assessing the needs of the congregation with consideration to its best, most efficient, and welcoming use:

Develop a concept plan drawing showing all changes

- Develop a phasing drawing to implement plans
- Concept plan strategies to meet flexible future needs
- Concept plan drawing, site plan drawing, elevations, and perspective renderings (1 exterior, 1 interior) as mutually determined
- Concept plan Document
- Core Team meetings (Kick-off plus four meetings)
- Congregation meetings as required, typically one initial introduction and one final presentation
- Stakeholder meeting, generally two to four groups in one afternoon, as mutually determined
- Eight meetings in total included, in person and/or virtual as mutually determined

Building Assessment and Cost Estimation Services (Kraus-Anderson) \$11,500

Below is the proposed list of action items and deliverables:

- Site visit to review existing building condition
- Review and identify a deferred maintenance of the exterior enclosure (doors, walls, windows, siding, façade, etc.), Foundation systems, Structural systems (columns, support beams, trusses), roof systems, interior construction, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems.
- Provide documentation of current condition (included digital photos and images to identify potential areas of concern)
- Provide an overall review and status of the facility (KA will provide a final report and recommendation)

The process (and deliverables) will be as follows:

- Site Visit and site interview with key facility personnel (as available)
- Initial findings review and deferred maintenance review (including approximation of costs)
- Facility Condition Index (Measurement of building condition)
- Cost Estimation inclusive of building assessment and concept plans

Proposed Lump Sum/Stipulated Fee(Concept Plans, Assessment, and Cost Estimation): \$24,700

We are very excited to begin this process with Kodet. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Jacque Wennes, Chairperson, Master Planning Committee, jacquewen@aol.com

THE TRINITY STEEPLE: A BEACON OF HOPE IN SPRING GROVE

On June 11, a Special Congregational Meeting was held after worship to vote on making repairs to the church steeple. After 130 years, the shingles on the steeple have become damaged, and some have fallen off during high winds. The current shingles are heavy, and they also contain asbestos. In order to improve the look of the steeple as well as for safety reasons, the Property Team determined it was time to reshingle. Earlier in the year the Congregation Council voted to contract with Krause Konstruktion, experts in church steeple repair, to do the work. The congregation agreed, voting unanimously to proceed.

We expect the work to begin sometime in late September. The work to repair the steeple includes removing the old shingles, replacing them with new Davinci Single Width Synthetic Slate. It also includes fabricating and installing new copper roof edging, valleys and flashings, ornaments and the cross. The bulk of the project will be paid for with funds from the sale of the second parsonage in 2018, from refunds issued to Trinity from the Employee Retention Credit program, and from donations from the Roger Tollefsrud estate, WELCA, and other donations, for a total of \$80,580.

The congregation also voted to replace the 12 copper ornaments on top of the gables. This will cost an additional \$12-13,000. We are currently fundraising for that part of the project. If you are interested in “adopting” all or part of a copper ornament (approximately \$1000 each), please contact the office.



DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN GIVE TO TRINITY ELECTRONICALLY?

You can set up a Direct Debit Giving account to automatically transfer funds from your checking account, savings account, or credit card, to go directly to Trinity. You set the schedule as it best fits for you! How easy and convenient is that? Scan the QR code to be taken directly to the Contribute page on our website. Or visit our website, www.trinitysg.org, and click on “Contribute” on the right-hand side. Thank you for your gifts that support Trinity and its ministries!



Romans 12:6-8

⁶ *We all have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

TIME & TALENTS SURVEY What talents can you share at Trinity? We'd love to know! Fill out the Time & Talents Survey (youth through adult!) and let us know. Surveys are available at the sanctuary entrances and by scanning the QR code. Thank you!



TAKE WHAT YOU NEED, GIVE WHAT YOU CAN Our Little Free Pantry has been a great success. If you'd like to donate non-perishable items (one-serve chili, stew, ravioli, etc.; canned meats (chicken, tuna), potato packets, gravy; canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, Jello) please drop them off by the pantry — southwest door on Main Street, open 24/7, or add the items to the shelves in the appropriate spots placing new food at the back of each grouping. Monetary donations also help us shop for needed items. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the office, please indicate “Little Free Pantry” on the donation.

Thank you very much! ~ Care Team



We are highlighting each of our ministry teams in this newsletter and the upcoming newsletters for the rest of the year. Our teams' photos and information are also now on our website. Would you like to be a part of a team in 2024? Or have questions about a particular team? Let us know in the office or contact the team lead.

CARE TEAM



Members (from left to right):

- front row: Autumn Wiste, Kathy Anderson
- middle row: Laurie Moen, Joyce Bergrud
- back row: Karen Folstad, Kris Bjerke, Angie Berns, Betty Bergsgaard
- not pictured: Roxie Finnesgard

Listen, respond, care, serve and pray for others. The Care Team has the following tasks about Food Insecurity. We pack backpack bags for school children providing two breakfasts, two lunches, and 2-3 snacks for weekends. We inventory and stock The Little Free Pantry. We collect a special offering in the Fall called "Bag A Buck" for the Houston County Food Shelf. Our favorite fun activity is packing and delivering 40-45 Christmas Cheer Bags in December. They are filled with foods for quality meals, pancake mix and Zaffke Maple Syrup, treats for the kids, as well as gifts and gift certificates.

Besides being such a "foodie" group, our team schedules Meals On Wheels delivery folks and we line up 498-AMEN readers. We fund Baptism chests and some lovely ladies crochet and knit prayer shawls for us to deliver where needed.

If anyone would like to donate toward any of our projects, or if you could drive for Meals on Wheels, crochet, or stock food, let me know. And maybe one year you'd like to join this team. We're Fun!

Laurie Moen- Care Team Lead
mikelaumiemoen@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



Members (from left to right):

- Lara Wold Mendez, Hope Turner, Saundy Solum, Mary Zaffke, Milly Halverson

Trinity's Communication team has been working with the office staff to assist where needed, especially in calling every member to update the membership list. We have tried to find creative and efficient ways to gather up the overflowing time and talents of Trinity members. We are looking and noticing where and how we see God's work in our church, community and our world, and want to communicate what we see. This year we posted Hope Notes around town, and hosted Art as Prayer at Trinity. We also are the additional photographers for events Trinity is involved in, when Marlene is not able to attend. We are a great group to be part of, praying that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct our paths to ventures we know about and new things yet to come!

Please contact our lead, Mary Zaffke, zaffkmary@gmail.com if you have ideas for our group and consider saying "yes" to being part of Communications Team in the future!

We are highlighting each of our ministry teams in this newsletter and the upcoming newsletters for the rest of the year. Our teams' photos and information are also now on our website. Would you like to be a part of a team in 2024? Or have questions about a particular team? Let us know in the office or contact the team lead.

FINANCE TEAM



Members (counterclockwise from left):

- Kari Alstad, Steve Nelson (treasurer), Barbara Arnold, Jacque Wennes, Nicole Krenzke (bookkeeper), Lorilyn Dehning, Jean Ann Tweeten
- not pictured: Kathy Overland

The goal of the Finance Team is to produce an annual budget, monitor income and expenses that support the congregation, and review, analyze and make recommendations to the Congregation Council from the financial reports. The budget will support: pastoral and personnel on Trinity's staff, Mission in the World Team projects, worship services, lifelong faith through the Education Team, the Care Team, support the Outreach Team who develops faith-forming relationships, and Trinity's maintenance of properties.

We are always in appreciation of the generous donations provided by those who care deeply for the many needs and ministries of Trinity Lutheran Church. Respectfully submitted Jacque Wennes, Finance Team lead, jacquewen@aol.com.

STAFFING TEAM



Members:

- on the left: Betty Dokken, John Halverson
- on the right: Nancy Gulbranson, Danielle Myhre

The Staffing Team maintains supportive relationships with the pastors and lay staff. We develop and review job descriptions, perform annual reviews, and coordinate with the Council for salary increases. We are part of the interviewing and hiring of new employees following the guidelines of the Hiring Committee Policy and we conduct exit interviews with staff. We monitor areas of concern within the congregation related to pastoral care or ministry. The Staffing Team lead is Betty Dokken. She can be contacted at: bettydokken8@gmail.com.



HELPING HANDS BACKPACK GIVEAWAY — We are participating in this county-wide project. We will be collecting sanitation supplies (Kleenex, Clorox Wipes, deodorant, soap/body wash, feminine supplies etc.), school supplies, and backpacks. Donations can be placed on the stair-landing at the southwest entrance...look for signs. Please have donations dropped off by 4 p.m. Tuesday, August 8. Monetary donations are also accepted and can be given to the Helping Hands Backpack Giveaway account at Merchants Bank.

Volunteers are also needed:

Wed. August 9: 12:00 p.m.—?? For set-up (youth are welcome to help during this time)

Thu. August 10: 11:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. for distribution (adult volunteers only)

Fri. August 11: 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. for distribution (adult volunteers only)

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jessi Strinmoen, jstrinmoen@gmail.com.

Thank you for your donations and time! Together we can help families have a great start to the school year!

CIVIC LIFE AND FAITH

The ELCA is developing a social statement on Civic Life and Faith, the relationship of church and state and related matters, as called for by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Social statements are the ELCA's primary documents to address significant social issues. They are intended to aid reflection and shape conscience and to set forth the ELCA's teaching and policy on the major social issues and questions of contemporary life.

An ELCA task force provides primary leadership for the statement's development over a five-year period, using an established process of study and widespread participation in theological and moral deliberation.

The task force is now offering a six session study curriculum for use throughout our church. It provides a guide into the issues and invites participant feedback for the task force.

Learn more and find many resources and information here, www.elca.org/civicsandfaithstudy. The study response period is open through Oct. 15.

North Prairie Lutheran Church is offering six sessions for faith communities in the Root River Conference (Trinity's conference). They begin on Saturday, August 19 from 9-10 a.m. Future Saturday dates will be discussed at this first meeting. To reserve a seat, contact pastor Sarah Walker Brown, sarahjwalkerbrown@gmail.com.

More information can also be found here:

www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Civic-Life-and-Faith



▲► Youth in action sprucing up different areas of the church! Make sure to check out the updates the next time you're here!



▲▼ Wednesday night bonfire fun! Bonfires continue through August —ALL youth (8th-12th grades) are welcome!



► Judy Bratland enjoys collecting and assembling school kits that are given out through Lutheran World Relief.





Fun times at Day Camp and VBS!



▼ Eight 7th graders attended Confirmation Camp at Good Earth Village July 23-28. They spent time in community, outdoor ministry opportunities, daily Bible studies, and worship.



Stained glass window project is complete! And they look amazing!

Connecting art and faith

Georges Rouault

By Joanna Reiling Lindell/Thrivent
Collection of Religious Art

Luminous shards of color infuse this image of Christ with brilliance and passion, emphasizing the redemptive power of the Crucifixion. Though this scene is one of grief as disciples mourn Jesus, the promise of rejoicing and Christ's triumph can be glimpsed as radiant color of the sun breaks through the horizon.

Artists through the centuries have imagined the immense weight and emotion of the Crucifixion in innumerable examples. Crucifixion images are the most frequently created Passion scenes in the history of art. Early historical examples tend to stress the divinity of Christ, with later modern examples emphasizing his humanity. Here, we experience the overwhelming reality of Jesus' human body on the cross. The artist summons acute emotion as Jesus fills the entire span of this artwork, his body looms before us, laden with his sacrifice and the weighty meaning of this moment.

Georges Rouault worked in a style called expressionism, which sought to express the human experience through art. French Expressionist artists spoke in a visual language of color, communicating the depths of emotion and spirituality from their own personal feelings and perceptions. Color shaped this artist from an early age; Rouault apprenticed in a stained-glass workshop, an influence evident in



Georges Rouault (French, 1871-1958)
Le Christ en Croix (Christ on the Cross), 1936
Color etching and aquatint
25 1/2 x 19 3/8 inches

© 2023 Artists Rights Society (ARS),
New York / ADAGP, Paris

the saturated color and thick black outlines in this image.

Here, color may have a particularly important meaning; the Gospels describe that darkness swept across the sky as Jesus died on the cross, leading to many Crucifixion scenes filled with darkened skies. Rouault saw the Crucifixion as a symbol of love and sacrifice for humanity, and he presents this image in that spirit. The vitality of Christ's message and sacrifice glows from the jewel-like colors the artist uses; as vivid orange and yellow-gold hues emanate from behind the cross,

light and hope abound from Christ. Rouault's devout faith clearly informed the moving religious content in much of his artwork. He revived traditional religious imagery by evoking emotional responses to his artwork. Here, Christ is not alone. As he loved, even while dying, he is surrounded and loved by his disciples. Fittingly, this work has an alternate title; "That Ye Love One Another (Aimez-vous les uns les autres)." This title is in reference to John 13: 34-35, when Jesus offers a new commandment to his disciples to love one another. Such a poignant reminder that Christ's Crucifixion is the ultimate sign of love for humanity, and a reminder that we honor God and this sacrifice by truly loving one another.

Joanna Reiling Lindell is the director and curator of the Thrivent Art Collection (thriventcollection.com)

Reflecting

Are there relationships or moments in your life that help you feel the love of Christ?



Photos: Courtesy of Gallery at Morning Star

UNITED BY ART

By Stephanie N. Grimoldby

ARTISTS COME TOGETHER AT CHURCH-FOUNDED GALLERY

Art has a way of breaking down barriers and inviting people to come together as they find commonality in the pieces displayed. When you put art on a church campus, the chance to share God's love is an added bonus.

"There are [so] many amazing, creative community connections that we get to celebrate through art and music, and it's all a beautiful guise, to offer a platform to uplift

one another as fellow children of God," said Amelia Osborne of the Gallery at Morning Star (mslcn.org/thegallery). This nonprofit gallery and event space is located on the campus of Morning Star Lutheran Church in Matthews, N.C., just outside Charlotte.

The gallery was brought to life by church members and partners Osborne and Tom Eure, whose desire to "celebrate the beauty of



Amelia Osborne and Tom Eure are folk singers and members of Morning Star Lutheran Church, Matthews, N.C. Unable to tour during the pandemic, they turned to art as a way to connect with others and practice their creativity.

expression as a community” has become its mission statement.

“Art—in any form—is the best way to get things across to people,” said Eure, who curates the gallery with Osborne. “You can talk about everybody being the same ... but art breaks down barriers. Even though we all love God, art can break that down in a way. It softens the little barriers we put up for a little bit of a chance to see people for who they are, and that’s how we thought the gallery would make a difference.

“It doesn’t matter if you look like us, you worship like us, you love like us. It’s just about getting the community together in our space and getting to know each other.”

The Gallery at Morning Star celebrated its inaugural show in May 2022 and is currently hosting its fourth exhibition, “Ripple of Love.” Interest in the gallery has been steady—and sizable. An opening night draws 200 people, Eure said, adding, “Fifty percent of them are not members of our church, so that’s a great way to get to know the people around us.”

Mary Pollock of Matthews participated in the gallery’s first three shows and wasn’t bothered by their being hosted on church grounds. “Although I do not call myself a Christian, I am very spiritual and grateful for my artistic gifts,” she wrote in an email. “This opportunity, even in a ‘churchy’ setting, has helped me embrace my creativity and spread my wings.

“It is the expression of art [that] connects. Having a gallery on the campus of a church is a unique offering and lends itself to connectivity in the community. As for me, the most important thing is that I feel acceptance and safety when on the campus and with others there.”

A new way to connect

The idea of a church-based gallery developed organically from Osborne and Eure’s professional lives: they perform year-round as a folk duo and offer faith-based music and art programming through Inspired Arts & Sound.

The couple was unable to tour during the pandemic, so they looked for other ways to release their creative vibes and connect with people. One method was making “crankies”—a folk art storytelling device in which scrolling artwork is unspooled to share a story, with musical accompaniment.

They created a few crankies on their own, and as soon as they were able, they took their idea on the road, visiting 12 Lutheran congregations, community centers and nonprofits in the region with a giant scroll of paper on which participants were asked to trace their hand, decorate their handprint and explain what brought them closer to God.

That collaboration crankie, “Love Compels Us To,” ended up being 85 feet long, with 299 hands displayed.



A “crankie” is formed in collaboration with others, where participants trace their hands, decorate the handprints and describe what brought them closer to God.

“That kind of led us to the gallery thing,” Eure said. “We were going to these churches, [and we said], ‘Let’s keep doing this and find a way to use our music and art, and maybe we can bring back some of the artwork we do with them at a gallery at our church.’”

Eure and Osborne quickly learned there were already plenty of area artists who were eager to showcase their work. “There [are] so many artists everywhere,” Eure said. “They’re right here around us, so we don’t have to go somewhere else and bring it in.”

Sharing diversity

Shefalee V. Patel, a Hindu Indian artist who lives in South Charlotte, praised the gallery for its challenging themes, which Eure said were intentional. “Diversity is big, and our themes are big,” he said. “If you’re following the theme, you’re going to have to say something that means something.”

In the gallery’s first show, “Passing the Peace,” a young contributor who was undergoing gender transition used the opening reception to come out to their entire family. “It was lovely, and the piece was lovely,” Osborne said. “It was a proud moment for [the artist], and it was a safe space. ... If we didn’t do that first show for anyone other than [that artist] to take that first step, [it was worth it]. I love how the power of God works when we show that love.”

During the gallery’s second show, “How Can I Keep From Singing?,” Patel and other artists from

the India Association of Charlotte showcased a group project: a replica peacock titled “The Feathered Beauty.”

“Just going there and setting it up, people [were] asking questions about it and were curious about how it happened,” Patel said. “We all see these things about diversity and inclusion, but it’s the moments when those spaces are provided [that] the connections happen.”

In March the gallery worked with the Charlotte bookstore Shelves to host a book release with Nedra Glover Tawwab, author of *Drama Free*, who spoke about how to manage unhealthy family relationships.

Tawwab is a Black woman, Shelves is a Black female-owned business and probably 90% of the 200 attendees were Black. “A Lutheran church in North Carolina that had that many people of color in one room—that’s a pretty big deal,” Eure said.

Osborne was pleased that all the guests got to walk through the gallery, which proved to her that it enables outreach, not just room rental. “That’s important to us because we’re all about getting to know each other,” Eure added. “It’s about relationships for us. We’re not trying to get everyone to come worship with us, but we want to get to know you.” †





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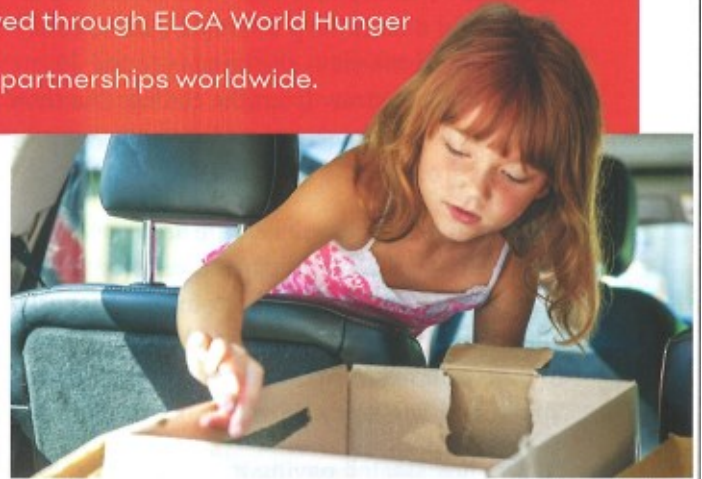
2022 IN REVIEW



Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

A volunteer at a church-run support point greets a refugee family who have just arrived in Slovakia.

Last year ELCA World Hunger awarded **436 grants** to partners in **67 countries** and **57 ELCA synods**. In total, **over 3.3 million** people were served through ELCA World Hunger partnerships worldwide.



Manna From Heaven, an ELCA World Hunger-supported ministry in Myra, Ky., runs a food and chicken delivery program.

Lutheran Disaster Response was at work in **42 countries** around the world and **26 states and territories** in the United States and the Caribbean, responding to hurricanes, tornadoes, conflict and migration, the Russia-Ukraine war and more.

In June 2022 the International Women Leaders program celebrated its **fourth full class** of **five scholars** graduating from ELCA colleges and universities.

The 2023 International Leaders Program gathering gave scholarship recipients the chance to meet in person for the first time since 2019.





FFL Mission Developer Scholarship recipient Perla Florez Ruiz gathers with the FFL community at the 25th-anniversary Scholarship Awards Celebration.

Fund for Leaders provided
nearly \$3.5 million
 in scholarship assistance to
375 ELCA seminary students during the **2022-2023 academic year.**

New ELCA congregations are taking shape throughout the United States and the Caribbean and in nearly every synod, with **322 "new starts"** currently in development and **33 begun during 2022.** More than **70% of total new starts are in ethnically diverse communities** and reflect growing diversity in their LGBTQIA+ leadership as well as their younger leaders and participants.



Danielle works at Refuge Bakery in Belgrade, Serbia. This program, run by the Asylum Protection Center (an ELCA partner), offers job training opportunities and community.

In 2022, **131 long-term missionaries** were at work in **45 countries** around the world, and 24 YAGM volunteers served in four country programs.

Thank You!

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!

Date	Lector	Acolytes	Communion Servers	Communion Bread Maker	Fellowship Hosts
August 6	Jan Kraabel	Joey Jaster Roland Bjerke	Lorilyn Dehning Milly Halverson	Peggy Landsom	Greg & Jacque Wennes Yvonne Krogstad
August 13	Jess Sherburne	Tyler Turner Renner Stagmeier			Nancy Gulbranson Justin, Joyce, & Jeff Landsom
August 20	Rachel Udstuen	Harper Myrah Jada Strinmoen	Gerald & Pat Oakes		Joyce Lee Kathy Anderson
August 27	Len Myrah	Merik Allen Emery Bartell			Barb & Dennis Gulbranson Bruce Hegge Janice Messner
August Ushers Families & Friends — can you help? Let us know in the office!		August Altar Guild Judy Bratland, chair Missy Bratland Rachel Olerud Peggy Landsom		498-AMEN July 23-August 5: Bethany Bergsgaard August 6-August 19: Mary Newgaard August 20-September 2: Greg Wennes	

Would you like to volunteer for one of the above tasks? We'd be happy to have you!

Please contact us in the office and let us know where you'd like to use your skills!

498-AMEN reminder

"Christ in our Home" devotional booklets and recording instructions are in the office.

After your last reading, please contact the next person on the list to remind them to begin. Thank you!

Prayer Chain 1	Prayer Chain 2
Joyce Landsom	Karen Gray
Nolie Kapplinger	Bev Nelson
Terry Holland	Janet Wold
Bonnie Solberg	Jan Lochner
Dawn Hewitt	Ruth Johnsrud
Lynn Rostad Anderson	Judy Bratland
Milly Halverson	



Has any of your contact information changed?

Please let us know in the office if you have a new email address, mailing address, or phone number.



Do you get our weekly Friday email?

It's a great way to stay in-the-know with what is going on at Trinity. Let us know in the office!

august happenings at Trinity

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Kodet Konstruktion meetings 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, FH 8-10pm HS Bonfire (8 th -12 th grade)	3	4	5 10:30am AA 5:00pm Worship/Communion
6 9am Hymn Sing 9:15am Worship/Holy Communion 10:15am Fellowship	7	8 9:00am Deborah 9:30am Anna, Assisted Living 4pm drop-off deadline for Helping Hands donations 7:00pm Finance Team, MR	9 9:30am Adah, Tweeten Apts. 5:30pm Master Planning, FH 7pm Council, FH 8-10pm HS Bonfire (8 th -12 th grade)	10 7:00pm Hannah, SG Library	11	12 10:30am AA
13 9am Hymn Sing 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 11:15am Worship at Nursing Home	14	15 2:00pm Phoebe Circle, FH	16 1:00pm Eve, Manor 8-10pm HS Bonfire (8 th -12 th grade)	17	18	19 10:30am AA 5:00pm Worship/Communion
20 9am Hymn Sing 9:15am Worship/Holy Communion/Baptism of Lucy Walseth 10:15am Fellowship	21	22	23 4-7pm Outreach Team serving at Music & Market 8-10pm HS Bonfire (8 th -12 th grade)	24 9:30am Worship at Tweeten Apt.	25 9am Love Day	26 10:30am AA
27 9am Hymn Sing 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship	28	29 10:00am Assisted Living service	30 8-10pm HS Bonfire (8 th -12 th grade)	31		

FH = Fellowship Hall (large room in basement)
MR = Middle Room (upstairs by offices)
YGR = Youth Gathering Room
(in basement near men's bathroom)

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