

# trinitynews

January 2021

volume 27 ▪ issue 1

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 East Main Street ▪ PO Box 188  
Spring Grove, MN 55974  
507.498.5291 ▪ [www.trinitysg.org](http://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 *Suspended*  
8:45 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School  
via At Home packets

Listen live Sundays on KVIK 104.7 FM  
[www.kvikradio.com](http://www.kvikradio.com)  
and Facebook

Saturday Worship 5:00 p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays each month  
*Suspended*

### STAFF

Elizabeth Hermeier, Lead Pastor  
[trinitysr@springgrove.coop](mailto:trinitysr@springgrove.coop)

Lane Zaffke, Visitation Pastor  
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Gary Wilhelmson, Custodian  
Rachel Storlie, Organist/Pianist  
Willy Leafblad, Handbell Director  
Jean Ellingson, Pianist/Organist  
Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist  
Mark Udstuen, Praise Band Leader  
Rick Sundet, Technology Lead

## FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

### Worship through February 15

*‘But Jesus called them to him and said ... “whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:25a,26b-28*

The Trinity COVID-19 Response Team\* met on Tuesday, January 5, via Zoom and agreed that it is best that worship and most other Trinity activities remain virtual through the second Sunday in February. This shows our love to God, our families, and our community.

### Here’s how we’re staying connected during this time:

- Call 498-HOPE for announcements and daily devotions from Pr. Elizabeth and Pr. Lane.
- Attend regular worship at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays on KVIK 104.7 FM and on Facebook Live.
- Come for drive-through communion on Sunday, January 17 and February 7 following worship, around 10 a.m.
- Bekah has prepared “take-home” Sunday School materials for families for January. 3:16s and Middle School Game Night are virtual during this time.
- The Wednesday Release Time program is suspended for the time being.
- Confirmation groups will meet via Zoom Wednesdays from January 6 – February 3 at 6 p.m.
- We will continue to host small family funerals in the sanctuary, with no visitation or fellowship. It is very important that COVID guidelines regarding masks and distancing be maintained at funerals.
- The AA group will continue to meet on Tuesdays and Saturdays to accommodate this crucial ministry during this time.
- The Cub Scouts will meet Tuesday afternoons when it’s too cold to meet outdoors.

The Response Team will meet again in early February to evaluate current conditions in the surrounding community. Check 498-HOPE and our website ([www.trinitysg.org](http://www.trinitysg.org)) for updates.

Thank you for your continued prayers for all those affected by COVID and for your ongoing support of Trinity’s ministries.

**\*Response Team:** Congregation President Saundy Solum, Pr. Elizabeth Hermeier, Pr. Lane Zaffke, CYF Director Bekah Leafblad, Marlene Deschler, Jean Ellingson, Gary Wilhelmson, Mary Zaffke, Rick Sundet, Anne Scheetz, and Rachel Udstuen

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7*

Blessed Epiphany, Beloved Body of Christ!

On January 6, we Christians commemorate the day the Magi arrived in Bethlehem. The three kings had followed a star that they believed would lead them to the "child who was born king of the Jews." And when they saw the newborn infant Jesus, they were "overwhelmed with joy." (Matthew 2:10)

When was the last time you were "overwhelmed with joy"?

According to the Rev. Dr. Christopher Benek, there is a difference between happiness and joy. Happiness is an emotion in which we "experience feelings ranging from contentment and satisfaction to bliss and intense pleasure," whereas joy "is a stronger, less common feeling than happiness. We experience joy when we achieve selflessness to the point of personal sacrifice. We feel joy when we are spiritually connected to God or people."

After the Magi knelt and paid homage and offered their gifts to Jesus, they "left for their own country by another road." I'd guess it was a longer, harder road, not a straight path to their homes. But they made the sacrifice because they had been warned that King Herod wanted to do harm to the newborn Jesus. They made this sacrifice out of love for Jesus.

We, too, have been making sacrifices out of love for Jesus, and for our neighbors and our community, and most especially for the vulnerable in our community. And, hard as it is not to see one-another, not to celebrate together, not to sing together, it brings me great joy that we have continued to make these sacrifices.

Epiphany, you see, is not just a day. Epiphany is not just the season between Christmas and Ash Wednesday. Epiphany is that continual, ongoing, everyday realization that we are called to serve God by serving our neighbor. We are called to follow the star, to pay homage, to offer gifts and to give thanks. We are called to be an example of what the kingdom of God can be.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

~ Pr. Elizabeth



Last year throughout my articles, we looked at different scriptures where God spoke to the Bible characters. Bible characters were not perfect human beings. In fact, I think many were mentioned in the Bible because they were far from perfect, but God chose to work through them anyway. It was to raise awareness that God may be trying to talk to us now. But why, you may ask, would God want to talk to us? The best answer that I can think of is in Genesis 1, a story of creation.

Genesis 1:26-27 *Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

God wants to communicate with what was created, especially what was created in the image of God.

**You are important to God because you were created in God's image!**

Of course God wants to talk to you!

~ Pr. Lane

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS: JANUARY 24 (Q&A) AND JANUARY 31 (ANNUAL MEETING)**

This year Trinity's Annual Meeting will occur virtually via Zoom so that we can meet safely during this time of COVID-19. *Please note: You do NOT have to have a computer to attend – you can “Zoom” to the meeting right on your phone – even a landline.*

In the next week, you will receive an information packet via mail with more details on how this will work, but in the meantime, here's what you need to know:



- We have three agenda items: 1) approving the 2021 budget, 2) voting on the ballot for new team members, and 3) voting on changes to Trinity's constitution (see summary on changes below).
- A copy of the Annual Report will be available to download electronically, or printed copies can be picked up at the church office, or we can mail one to you if requested.
- We will have a Question and Answer (Q&A) and "practice" meeting on Sunday, January 24 at 11 a.m. This will help us get all the technical aspects worked out, and also allow time for you to ask questions and offer feedback about the agenda items. You will also be able to offer written feedback ahead of the meeting.
- The actual Annual Meeting will occur via Zoom on January 31 at 11 a.m. *Please note: You must be present at the January 31 meeting to vote OR provide your votes in writing ahead of the meeting, but you do not have to attend the January 24 meeting to have your vote counted.*

Pr. Elizabeth and Congregation President Saundy Solum met with representatives of the Southeast Minnesota Synod in November to get guidance about how to conduct this meeting. We are confident we can accomplish this safely and effectively.

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW CHANGES**

Trinity's Constitution and Bylaw Committee and Congregation Council is recommending the following changes to Trinity's Constitution and Bylaws. Most of the changes were required changes from the SEMN Synod and were mainly wording changes. For example, changing the congregation to this congregation. However, there are a few additional changes that were recommended by the committee after input from others and passed by Council (Endowment Bylaws passed by each Endowment Committee).

**Here are the highlights:**

- All ten team leaders are voting members of Council, plus Lead Pastor, President, and Secretary thus making a Council with 13 voting members and one ex-officio member (Treasurer). See notes below for reasons why Treasurer is listed as ex-officio.
- Moving the Treasurer to a three-year term to be consistent with President and Secretary.
- Team leaders may not succeed themselves on the same team, nor shall they serve in a new team lead role without a one-year break in service.
- No officer shall hold more than one office at a time, nor shall they serve in a new team lead role without a one-year break in service.

**Reason why we recommend having the Treasurer as a non-voting member of Council:**

- There should only be one vote regarding finances, and that should be the team leader of Finance.
- The Finance Team leader focuses on long-term and the "big picture" of Trinity's finances and should be informed of current finances by the Treasurer and Bookkeeper. They are the voting member of Council.
- The Treasurer focuses on short-term and cash management and should be available to inform Council of the monthly finances as an ex-officio member of Council. They should advise Council regarding all financial issues.

## TRINITY'S MUSIC EXPLORERS



Martin Luther regarded music as essential to worship. He wrote, “next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.” Trinity has embraced those words. We are a ‘singing church’ and blessed with individuals with considerable musical gifts. We continue to miss the full expression of those gifts due to restrictions with COVID and look forward to the time restrictions are lifted and we can once again hear musical gifts in person.

In this in-between time, we have a great opportunity to explore Trinity’s music ministry — its rich past, current offerings and possibilities for the future. To do this, we are forming a committee. It will be comprised of three people from our Leadership Teams and three members of the congregation. This group will begin their work in February and conclude with a report to the Council in April.

Are you willing to assist with this exploratory review? Would you like more information on the process? If so, please contact the church office as soon as possible. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve!

## STOCK SALES IN FEBRUARY

Our annual youth fundraiser has been moved to February instead of January this year. In this fundraiser, youth will call your homes and ask you to purchase shares of stock in the youth program. These are not real shares of stock, rather a way to support and pray for the youth of our congregation. Watch for more information in the February newsletter as to when our youth will give you a call!

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HERITAGE HOUSE IN SPRING GROVE OPEN HOUSE

Trinity has been a sponsor of this Habitat for Humanity project in Spring Grove. The house is completed and there is an opportunity to view it before the family moves in sometime in February. The Open House will be Friday, January 15 from 3-5 pm and Saturday, January 16 from noon to 3 pm. The house is located at 304 1st Avenue SE. COVID protocols will be followed — please wear a mask and stay 6’ from other visitors. Thank you!

## AT-HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will not meet in person this month. Instead, Bekah sent out packets to Trinity families so that everyone can continue Sunday School at home and tailor it to their own schedules! Packets will include activities, coloring sheets, stories, puzzles and more! And don’t forget to see the “Bible Stories with Bekah” on our Trinity YouTube channel.

## HARVEST ENTREPRENEUR NETWORK

Calling all MN-based farmers, agricultural entrepreneurs, and food businesses! You are invited to apply to join the Harvest Entrepreneur Network (HEN), a free technical assistance program led by Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA). Through HEN, CEDA’s professional staff will provide free, one-on-one coaching to help with everything from crafting business plans to writing grants to deploying strategies for marketing. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, but spots are limited so apply today.

The HEN program also recently launched a number of free online resources, including recorded webinars on marketing, grant writing, and legal issues, as well as a new HEN Toolkit that covers many of the common issues agricultural entrepreneurs face. To access these resources and apply for free business coaching and assistance, visit <https://www.cedausa.com/agricultural-resources/>. This program is made possible in part by funding from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. CEDA is a Minnesota-based nonprofit organization dedicated to innovative community development practices and business growth in small towns. To learn more about HEN or CEDA, please contact Courtney Bergey Swanson at [courtney.bergey@cedausa.com](mailto:courtney.bergey@cedausa.com) or 507-251-9272.



**SOCK DRIVE**

The Outreach Team is holding a Sock Drive from now through February 28. Socks have been identified as a significant need within our region. Socks are frequently the most requested, but least donated, items at homeless shelters.

**LOCALLY SOCKS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT:**

- Trinity's Little Free Pantry (enter the door nearest the parking lot and go down the stairs)
- area schools

Socks will also be distributed to regional homeless shelters in La Crosse, Winona, Rochester, and the Twin Cities.

**WHAT'S NEEDED:**

- all types (crew, no-show, wool, athletic, etc.)
- all sizes (men, women, children, baby)

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

- purchase socks
- drop off at Trinity: There is a marked bin marked inside Trinity's Gathering Room (Old Sunday School Room -- go in the door nearest the parking lot, down the stairs, and to the room on the right)
- have them shipped directly:  
Trinity Lutheran Church (attn: Socks), 203 E. Main Street, Spring Grove, MN 55974
- donate money and the Outreach Team will shop in bulk and search out deals.
- \$100 purchases approximately 50 pairs of socks
- \$50 purchases approximately 25 pairs of socks
- \$15 purchases a pack of socks
- \$2 purchases about 1 pair of socks

**TO MAKE A DONATION OF ANY AMOUNT:**

- drop off cash/check at the Trinity church office (clearly marked: socks)
- Paypal to Lara Wold Mendez or Jessi Strinmoen
- Venmo to Jessica.Strinmoen

**SHARE THIS EVENT:**

- Coordinate your 4-H group, Church Group, Boy Scout Troop, Quilting Club, Coffee Ladies, Bleacher-sitting Families, or Bar Friends.
- Ask everyone to donate a package of socks (host a drop-off location at your house or business for those groups operating virtually!).
- Share your photos and updates on social media!
- Invite your FaceBook friends to this event.

**HELP MAKE THIS DRIVE A SUCCESS:**

- Are you a deal-finder or a coupon clipper? Share the best deals you find or do some shopping for us!
- Deliver socks to schools or other distribution places.
- Please contact Jessi by Facebook Messenger or [jstrinmoen@gmail.com](mailto:jstrinmoen@gmail.com) to volunteer.

You might be wondering why the Outreach team has solicited so many donations from you lately. Our team has been unable to pursue some of our regular activities that honor our mission of creating faith-forming relationships within and outside of our church because of COVID. We have temporarily switched gears and are doing our best to respond to some of the immediate needs identified within the community.

We hope that providing these opportunities to give will help you connect with your neighbors in generous, loving ways. We also hope that when we can gather in person, you join us there too.

**Thank you for your continuous and loving support!**

*The Outreach Team: Lara Mendez Wold, Janice Messner, Jessi Strinmoen,  
Terry Holland, Linda Nerstad Kemp, and Barb Gulbranson.*



## MILESTONES AT TRINITY IN 2020

### Baptisms

Theodore John Leafblad  
 Grant James Eiken  
 Brianna Rielle Lewis  
 Taylor James Lewis  
 Ruth Emily Kragness  
 Ares Bradley Skadsem  
 Timothy Russell Hansen  
 Liam Somerled Storlie  
 Alden James Gartner  
 Aubrey Janenne Gjere  
 Ava Robin Olson  
 Nolan Spencer Olson

### Marriages

Aryn (Jahnke) and Tyler Stortz  
 Jodi (Lee) and Johnathan Storlie



### Deaths

Florence Valborg Thorson  
 Cecelia Maxine Vesterse  
 Jane Ardell Wold  
 Bernice Anna Glasrud  
 Nathan Allan Kjome  
 Gordon Anthony Myhre  
 Sharon Adonna Delaney Storlie  
 Michael Scott Ellingson  
 Cameron Richard Brauer  
 Helen Dorothy Melbostad  
 Norma Ann Bentley  
 Patty Ring  
 Kurt Otto Onstad  
 Paul Wallace Johnson  
 Ronald James Nerstad  
 Milton Charles Myhre  
 Adelyn Marie Sanden  
 Steven Edgar Quinnell  
 Kenneth Eugene O'Connor  
 Joan Marlene Sherburne  
 Edward George Myrah  
 Marvin Kent Peacock  
 Thomas Gregory Kampschroer  
 Lavern Reiersen  
 Theodore Philander Kroshus  
 Patricia Jean Blagsvedt  
 Thomas Alan Ellingson  
 Truman Jarvis Haugstad  
 Owen DuWayne Hagen  
 Esther Jeanette Peacock

## Thank yous and notes that we have received....

*"Hi! I'm 74 and have never been on the receiving end of a charitable endeavor, but this last year was.....different! Thanksgiving was.....different! If it hadn't been for Trinity and your terrific people, Thanksgiving Dinner might have been a bowl of Cheerios. Keep up the good work!!"*

*"Trinity- It's 'uncanny'! I live about a block from Trinity and at six o'clock every evening I happen to be just coming home or leaving home and hear the 'chimes' doing hymns. Keep the Faith!! It's a bright spot for me!! Last night it was 36° and I was in the kitchen and I heard the chimes and went outside to listen to the hymns."*

*"Thank you very much for sharing the worship services, music, and messages on Facebook. We appreciate everything you do to share the love of our Savior, Jesus."*

*"Thank you so much for the donations of food, gifts, kindness, and time! We appreciate each of you! May your holidays be as blessed as you make us feel."*

*"Thank you so much for the Christmas meals! The food was very good and the gift bag was useful and a nice surprise!"*

**DECEMBER 9, 2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- The SEMN Synod Assembly will be in May and will be one day only and held remotely.
- Sunday School Christmas program will be held virtually, youth will send in videos.
- 5-week section of Confirmation begins January 6 and most will meet via Zoom.
- Sunday School students received At-Home Sunday School packets with stories, activities, and supplies.
- Care Ministry Team packed and delivered Christmas Cheer baskets to 31 homes. They also had requests for needs for blankets and through the Tweeten Lutheran blanket drive they were able to get and deliver blankets.
- Mission in the World Team is planning a Thankful Gifts catalog for holiday giving.
- Outreach Team helped orchestrate Thanksgiving Dinners for 276 people; 100 meals were delivered in the Spring Grove area.
- Scott Solberg resigned his temporary position on November 12.
- A Virtual Christmas Concert is being coordinated by the Worship Team of various individuals, small groups, and clips from previous concerts.
- The Facilities Planning Team said that we have received CAD drawings of the existing church footprint.
- No one has volunteered yet for the Diversity Committee.
- Discussion on locking all doors to the church. For now, the pilot lights on the stoves have been shut off as they are not in use. Pr. Elizabeth will talk to the insurance agent regarding what happens if damage is done in the church.

Motions passed:

- To adopt the following continuing resolution, C10.08.A20 'This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically' to this congregation's by-laws.
- To upgrade Trinity Center lock system.
- That a check for \$150 be sent to Root River Conference. (Offerings are used for guest speakers, etc.)

**Next Meeting: January 13 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.** Complete minutes are on Trinity's website.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF TRINITY AND ITS MINISTRIES**

Thank you so much for your continued support of Trinity and our ministries during this time when we can't be together.

We have options to receive your offering during this time when we will not be gathering at the Trinity building:

- ▶ **ELECTRONICALLY:** via our website, [www.trinitysg.org](http://www.trinitysg.org). Click on the "Contribute" link on the ride-side of the page.
- ▶ **BY MAIL:** Trinity Lutheran Church, 203 E. Main St., Spring Grove, MN 55974.

Remember — **sponsorships for the radio broadcast** (\$100) or **Missionary for a Day candle** (\$40) can also still be done. Do you have a certain date in mind?

Give us a call, 498-5291, and leave a message or send us an email, [trinity@springgrove.coop](mailto:trinity@springgrove.coop).

*Thank You*  
FOR  
**GIVING**  
...  
GENEROUSLY

**FRIDAY EMAILS**

On Fridays we send an email with news about the weekend and upcoming week. We are sending these via MailChimp. Please check your spam/junk/promotions folders to see if the email is "stuck" there. Scroll to the bottom of the email and click on the link "Add us to your address book." so that the weekly email goes directly to your inbox.

Not signed up for the weekly email? Let us know in the office and we'll get you on the list.

**YOUTUBE**

Did you miss a Sunday worship service? Would you like to hear a Bible story read to your children? All of this plus At-Home Sunday School videos, and more are all available on our YouTube channel. Many things to watch! Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove. For online newsletter readers, [Click here.](#)





◀ The Care Ministry Team put together 31 Christmas Cheer baskets for individuals and families in Spring Grove.



◀ Music for Sunday, December 13 worship....done in new ways to be safe.

◀ Rick Sundet has been working diligently to bring us upgraded equipment to broadcast our services digitally. A new booth for broadcasting has been created in the balcony.

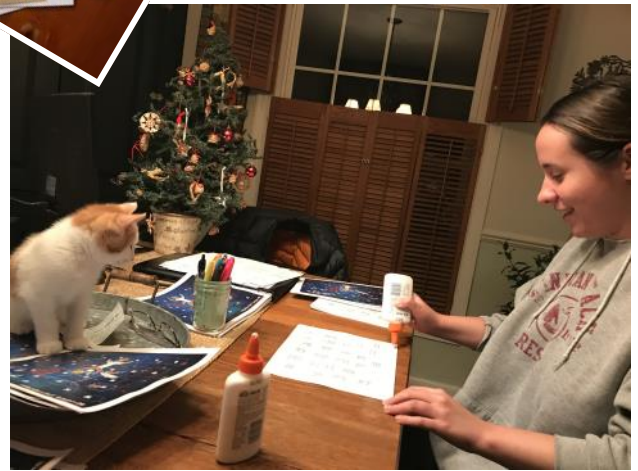
◀ The Zaffke family pre-recorded their lighting of the Advent candles. We are all learning new ways to make digital worship possible.





◀ The greeting cards and gifts were all donated!

▼ Olivia Mendez helped assemble the Reverse Advent calendars (with a little help from her friend!).



▲ The Outreach Team coordinated Christmas meals for families and individuals. The meals included food for Christmas Eve and Day as well as small gifts, handwritten personalized cards and toys. Many volunteers made this possible. Pictured with the gift bags they assembled for the meals are left to right in front, Sydney Holland, Bobbi Sue Holland and in back Tom Pecinovsky and Hunter Holland.

► Bishop Jim Arends retired in December. He was a pastor here at Trinity for many years. A retirement gift was given to Bishop Arends and his wife, Lynn, on behalf of the Trinity congregation. The gift was "A Year of Spring Grove — something from here for each month of the year." Thank you to all who helped creatively put this gift together and deliver it.





**Southeastern Minnesota Synod**  
*of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



December 21, 2020

*"...she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger..." (Luke 2:7)*

To the People of God in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod,

I often see, on social media, pictures and pontifications with the same basic message, *you are enough*. Whether it is convincing an exhausted parent, a self-conscious teen, an essential worker, an adult who feels all alone – no matter the audience, the message is the same, *you are enough*.

I'll admit these messages sometimes serve as a catalyst for little wells of tears to pool in my eyes. It feels so good to be seen. There is some piece of the message that touches on our human longing to know we matter and that all of our toil and work is not in vain.

But these messages, especially as of late, often ring hollow. There are so many things we do, so much time and energy and investment we pour into people, relationships, institutions, often without any guarantee of how things will turn out. We could give of ourselves completely, and it might never be enough. What then?

It can be easy to fall into a perpetual cycle of trying and investing and trying again until we finally collapse, exhausted. All of the social media messages in the world cannot guarantee that what we do will ever be enough.

You know what? The truth is I am not enough, and neither are you. On our own, we are not enough.

But there is someone who is.

His name is Jesus.

It has long been a mystery of the faith to me how a newborn wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger could be enough to meet the aching of the whole world. How could a child meet all of our needs? How could this One be enough to make us whole?

It is because (as you know) this child is the Son of God. This child is Emmanuel, God with us.

God with us.

And it is enough.

Dear church, I don't know how you are feeling as we come to the close of this calendar year. I know some of you are dragging. I know plenty of you are weary. Some of you are frustrated, and some of you are bone tired.



And I know this: I know the baby in the manger is enough to hold all of this and more. I know Jesus is enough to meet us in this moment and bring us a life of abundance. I know on Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ, the one who has come to save this weary world. He is the fulfillment of all our hopes and longings, and he is the one who walks with us in all things.

We may never be enough. That's okay. We don't have to be - because Jesus is.

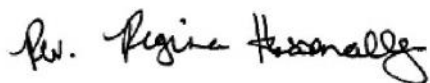
Jesus is enough for you. Jesus is enough for me. Jesus is enough for this whole, weary and wonderful world.

Jesus is enough.

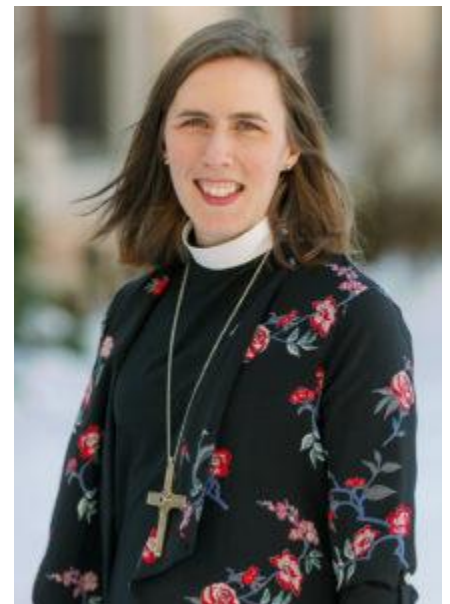
Dear church, I pray this Christmas season you would know the fullness of the life of Jesus in you. I pray your weariness would be exchanged for abundance. I pray your tiredness would be exchanged for rest. I pray your tireless efforts to be enough would be exchanged for a quiet confidence in the fullness of Jesus the Christ.

This Christmas, may Christ appear in you and me, and may our hearts know the sweet joy of Jesus Christ. He is more than enough.

In Christ,



Bishop Regina Hassanally  
Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA





Linda and Mark Jacobson are missionaries that Trinity helps support. Gifts to our Missionary for a Day candle go to support of the Jacobsons.

Merry Christmas!  
2020



Dear Friends,

Oh what a year!

Like all of you, our lives have been disrupted, put on hold, stuck in limbo, and yet we have been provided many opportunities for growth. Linda and I were heading back from Tanzania to Minnesota in March anticipating a quick turnaround to South Africa for our daughter Sarah and Stéphane's Wedding Day. Little did we know that not only was the wedding celebration delayed but that we would still be in Minnesota for Christmas 2020.



Oh what a year!

A year of working to avoid the virus while not losing contact with so many friends and family around the world. A year of losing good friends to Covid. A year of rude awakening to systemic racism our homeland. A year of unbelievable political turmoil. A year of dramatic evidence of climate change.

Oh what a year!

Yet a year of growth as we explored our own white fragility and privilege and struggled to find ways that we could be a part of the needed change in us



and in our society. A year of growth for Linda as she completed a course on sexual assault advocacy and joined the team of volunteer advocates with SOS Minnesota. A year of growth as we both sought to find a church home and do it virtually! We joined Redeemer Lutheran in Minneapolis as one of the more diverse congregations in the Twin Cities. A year of growth for us as we experienced four consecutive seasons in Minnesota with all the richness of color and change.



Oh what a year!

We both continued to transition from full time to part time missionaries. Mark continues to consult for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with special emphasis on our hospitals in Arusha, the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center Cancer Center in Moshi, the new ELCA clinic in Juba, South Sudan, serve a support role with Global Health Ministries and also with a small maternity and children's hospital in Bangladesh. Some highlights are the opening of the new campus for our ALMC School of Nursing and seeing the new Cancer Ward open at KCMC.



It's been an engaging year for sure, to learn to advocate and consult virtually. Mark was invited to assist Alight (the former American Refugee Committee) in



considering and planning their response to Covid. This was first with information and PPE, mental health, maintaining existing services, and now vaccination. It's been exciting to learn another organizational culture and language and see real leadership in human centered design for programming.

Oh What a Year!

We've had the joy of our youngest, Katherine, living in Minnesota as she works with Alight as well (hired long before me). She's living in St. Paul and has been making the most of camping and hiking opportunities in the area, favorites this year included trips to the Boundary Waters and the North Shore. Laura and James are in New York where Laura's work with informatics for the public hospital system of NYC put her into the maelstrom of trying to track and share relevant information about the surge that hit in Spring. James continues to love his role as a career coach for students and alumni of the Columbia Business School. They managed travel and quarantining and testing to visit us for lengthy visits this year. The virtual workplace is one of the blessings of Covid.



the  
have



Sarah and Stéphane have hunkered down in South Africa which has one of the higher Covid rates in Africa and some of the most stringent lockdown responses as well. It was poignant and then sorrowful to see the plans for a beautiful wedding celebration in the wine country of South Africa change from expected, to doubtful, to postponed, to we just can't know when. They are wonderful support for one another and bring each other joy and laughter. Sarah works

in the leading edge field of digital health with and through telephone apps for front line workers. Stéphane is an engineer with a ship building company specializing in yachts. It's pretty cool to see photos of him test piloting some of the beauties they build.

Oh what a year!

In a strange way, the coincidence of Advent and the arrival of the covid vaccine are a powerful image of awaiting and preparing for the gift of life. I am very much reminded of how I felt as a small child when I would see, a few days before Christmas, a package under the tree with my name on it. The two or three days that I had to wait felt interminable. And so, it is now for both the coming of Jesus into this world with love and hope and our anticipation of a vaccine which will allow us to return to beloved Africa.



Oh what a year!

Merry and Blessed Christmas,

*The Jacobsons*



*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11*

This is a simply a guide for a way to start praying for our community. We ask the Lord to shine the light of his grace into every corner of our community.

**God bless the year ahead.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>City Hall</b></p> <p>Pray for the mayor, city council city workers as they make decisions for our community and care for the upkeep of our city.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Police Department</b></p> <p>Pray for the police chief and officers as they respond to community needs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public School</b></p> <p>Pray for the students, teachers, principal, superintendent, staff, coaches, and janitorial workers.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Business and Restaurant</b></p> <p>Pray for owners and employees of small businesses and restaurants that are so vital to our city.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Funeral Home</b></p> <p>Pray for those who work with families in grief.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Veterans and Veterans’ Agencies</b></p> <p>Pray for veterans and those who show them support.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Churches</b></p> <p>Pray for pastors, leaders, staff, and congregations to faithfully serve Jesus’ call to love in word and deed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Grocery Store and Convenience Store</b></p> <p>Pray for workers and cleaning staff in these stores that provide essential services.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Senior and Care Centers</b></p> <p>Pray for seniors in our community and residents of these facilities and the caregivers, employees, and families.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Delivery Drivers, Postal Workers, and Truckers</b></p> <p>Pray for those workers who deliver much needed resources, mail, and packages across the area.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Clinics and Hospitals</b></p> <p>Pray for all doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers caring for the sick and vulnerable in clinics and hospitals.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pharmacies</b></p> <p>Pray for those working to provide needed medicines.</p>





**WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED TO TRINITY**

- **498-HOPE (4673)**  
-short daily messages and updates
- **498-AMEN (2636)**  
-daily devotions
- **www.trinitysg.org**  
-news, updates, info
- **Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove**  
-updates, music, worship, info
- **YouTube:**  
*Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove*  
-video recordings of worship, Bible Stories with Bekah
- **Instagram**  
-photos, updates
- **KVIK 104.7FM**  
- Sunday worship service,  
- www.kvikradio.com

*This is how we care for ourselves and our neighbors.*

**Friendly reminder on how to wear a mask.**

And remember....they need washing, too! 😊



**Yes!**  
nose, mouth, chin covered.

**No...**  
nose not covered.

**No...**  
nose, mouth, chin

**LITTLE FREE PANTRY**

Do you know someone that needs a little help with food or toiletries? Please let them know that Trinity has a Little Free Pantry in the lower level – enter using the southeast door (on Main Street, closest to the parking lot), head down the stairs and the pantry is directly ahead. Please remember to use hand sanitizer prior to picking up items. A hand sanitizer dispenser is directly inside the door.

**GOOD SAMARITAN FUND**

We also have a Good Samaritan Fund. Please call the church office if you or someone you know has a need.

**2021 498-AMEN READERS**



**Thank you for being a  
498-AMEN reader!**

Your time is appreciated and brings warmth and caring to everyone who listens.

If you find that you have a conflict with your dates, please try to find a replacement. You may contact Laurie Moen if need be, 498-3327.

Instructions and devotion booklets are available in the basket on the office door or in the office.

**Thank you for  
your service!**

DATE	READER
Dec. 26, 2020 – Jan. 9, 2021	Lori Wilhelmson
January 10 – 23	Milly Halverson
January 24 - February 6	Judy Bratland
February 7 – 13	Jennifer Wedmann
February 14 – 20	Joyce Landsom
February 21 – February 27	Mary Deters
February 28 – March 13	Kari Alstad
March 14 – 27	Roxanne Finnesgard
March 28 – April 10	Bev Nelson
April 11 – 24	Jan Lochner
April 25 – May 8	Lara Wold Mendez
May 9 – 22	Barb Gulbranson
May 23 – June 5	Nolie Kapplinger
June 6 – 12	Saundy Solum
June 13 – 19	Alisha Solum
June 20 – July 3	Janna Myrah
July 4 – 10	Ruth Johnsrud
July 11 – 24	Melissa Wold
July 25 – August 7	Bethany Bergsgaard
August 8 – 21	Mary Newgaard
August 22 – September 4	Greg Wennes
September 5 – 18	Jessica Kraus
September 19 – 25	Cheryl Mann
September 26– October 2	Joyce Landsom
October 3 – 16	Karen & Bill Fried
October 17 – 23	Ruth Johnsrud
October 24 – 30	Judy Bratland
October 31 – November 13	Karen Gray
November 14 – 27	Terry Holland
November 28 – December 11	Jean Ellingson
December 12 – 25	Deb Spence
Dec. 26, 2021–Jan. 8, 2022	Lori Wilhelmson

# January happenings at Trinity


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Happy New Year!  Office closed	2  10:30am AA
3  9:15am Worship, Facebook Live from SEMN Synod	4	5  3:30pm Cub Scouts, FH  5:00pm AA  7pm Response Team, Zoom	6  6:00pm Confirmation, Zoom  8:00 pm 3:16s, Zoom	7  6:00pm Education, Zoom  7:00pm Finance, MR	8  7:30pm Middle School Game Night, Zoom	9  10:30am AA
10  9:15am Worship, Facebook Live  10:30am Worship Team, Zoom  1:00pm auditors for Annual Report financials	11	12  3:30pm Cub Scouts, FH  5:00pm AA	13  6:00pm Confirmation, Zoom  7:00pm Council  8:00pm 3:16s, Zoom	14  7:00pm Handbell practice	15	16  10:30am AA
17  9:15am Worship, Facebook Live	18	19  3:30pm Cub Scouts, FH  5:00pm AA	20  6:00pm Confirmation, Zoom  7:00pm Handbell practice  8:00pm 3:16s, Zoom	21  7:00pm Staffing Team, Zoom	22  newsletter info due  7:30pm Middle School Game Night, Zoom	23  10:30am AA
24  9:15am Worship, Facebook Live  11:00am Pre- Meeting Q&A	25	26  3:30pm Cub Scouts, FH  5:00pm AA	27  6:00pm Confirmation, Zoom  7:00pm Handbell practice  8:00pm 3:16s, Zoom	28  2:00pm newsletter prepped	29	30
31  9:15am Worship, Facebook Live  11:00am Annual Meeting, Zoom & in-person			<b>FH</b> = Fellowship Hall (large room in basement) <b>MR</b> = Middle Room (upstairs by offices) <b>GR</b> = Gathering Room (in basement near men's bathroom) <b>TC</b> = Trinity Center			



*Trinity*  
Lutheran Church  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A close-up photograph of a hand with fingers spread, held in a prayerful gesture. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, reaching towards the right. The background is a soft, golden-brown glow with numerous small, bright, sparkling particles, creating a dreamy and ethereal atmosphere. The lighting is warm and directional, highlighting the contours of the hand.

***NEW YEAR PRAYER:***

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.