

TRINITY *news*

FEBRUARY 2020

VOLUME 26 ■ ISSUE 2

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

507.498.5291
www.trinitysg.org



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



Instagram
trinityyouth203
trinitylutheransg

Office hours:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 10 a.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

www.kvikradio.com

Saturday Worship

5:00 p.m.
1st and 3rd Saturdays each month

STAFF

Elizabeth Hermeier, Lead Pastor
trinitysr@springgrove.coop

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

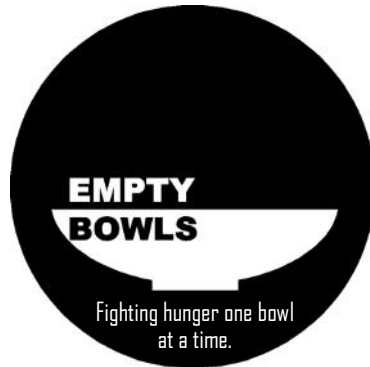
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Gary Wilhelmson, Custodian
Ben Salo, Trinity Center Custodian
Scott Solberg, Choir Director
Rachel Storlie, Organist/Pianist
Willy Leafblad, Handbell Director
Jean Ellingson, Pianist/Organist
Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist
Mark Udstuen, Praise Band leader



EMPTY BOWLS MEAL The concept of Empty Bowls was founded by an art teacher in Michigan and another partner in 1990-91. They joined together to raise charitable funds for their community. The idea was to organize a charitable event to give artists and art students a way to make a personal difference. In the original event, students made bowls which were used for a fund-raising meal of soup and bread. Contributing guests kept the empty bowl. The concept has developed into “Empty Bowls.”

Trinity’s Outreach Team and other volunteers have been hosting an Empty Bowls Meal for several years. All the food items for this event are donated – from the homemade soups, to the fresh baked breads and muffins. This means 100% of the money gathered at the serving of the meal will go directly to the Houston County Food Shelf and the ELCA World Hunger Fund.

Donations are welcome from anyone who is interested in participating. If you’d like to make food or help in some way, please contact Lara Wold Mendez, (507) 450-6118 or Jessi Strinmoen, (507) 923-5587 or jstrinmoen@gmail.com.

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



On Ash Wednesday we begin our 40-day journey toward Easter. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent, we humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.”

February 26: Ash Wednesday

- 12:00 p.m. worship with imposition of ashes, coffee and bars after
- 2:00 p.m. worship at Tweeten Care Center
- 7:00 p.m. worship with imposition of ashes

March 4-April 1: Mid-week Lent

- Meal served from 6:00-6:45 p.m.
- Worship at 7:00 p.m.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

Dear friends in Christ,

I love this passage from Micah. I also love the hymn “We Are Called,” #720 in our ELW red hymnal, based on the passage. I love this passage and this hymn so much that they were part of my ordination service and also my installation here at Trinity. FYI: It’s also written into our ELCA churchwide constitution.

Typically, what I love about this passage is our call to do justice and love kindness. That call seems to echo Jesus’ command for us to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.

But truth to tell, I don’t always think as much about what it means to “walk humbly” with God. But I feel like maybe I learned a little humility this last Christmas.

Most of you know I “powered through” our Trinity Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services with a sore throat, raspy voice, and cough. But I was a lot sicker than I thought and the next day ended up in the hospital with pneumonia. I’m so grateful to all the medical personnel here in Spring Grove and La Crosse for their kindness and professionalism. I’m so grateful to my mom for taking care of Greta while I was in the hospital. I’m so grateful for the many people who stopped by to shovel or leave groceries. I’m so grateful to Pastor Lane and the staff. And I’m so grateful for your prayers.



We all struggle with our humanity sometimes. I think especially we who are stoic Midwestern, Scandinavian, small-town and rural folks think we can do it all. But the truth is, we need each other, and we need God. As much as our neighbor needs our justice and kindness, we are called to be kind and just to ourselves as well. It can be a hard lesson to learn. But loving our neighbor as ourselves means loving ourselves as well.

Walk humbly. God is by your side.

God bless you all!

~ *Pastor Elizabeth*

Month 2 of God calls to us



The first month was about God walking in the garden with Adam and Eve. This month we will look at God talking to Moses through the burning bush.

Moses was tending his father-in-law’s sheep when he saw a bush burning but noticed that it never burned up. Thinking this was a curious sight he went over to check it out more closely. Imagine his surprise when God started to talk to him through the burning bush! It is no surprise that Moses becomes afraid.

God tells Moses about the plight of his people back in Egypt. God gives Moses the task to go to Egypt and bring the people out of Egypt. Moses immediately starts making excuses as to why he can’t do it. “Who am I?” says Moses (I’m a nobody). What if they don’t believe me? Who shall I say sent me? I am no good at public speaking. And on he goes making excuses. God answers “I will be with you.”

Most of my life I feel like Moses, especially when God calls. Who am I? Why should I do it? I’m not good enough. It is very inconvenient. Lots of excuses that in the end amount to nothing.

God calls to all of us. Maybe not through a burning bush but in many ways. Where we make excuses we need to understand that God calls us because with God’s help we can accomplish the work set before us.

~ *Pastor Lane*

SUB FOR BEKAH WHILE ON MATERNITY LEAVE Kaitlin Bratland has been hired as the substitute for Bekah while she is on maternity leave. Kaitlin currently works as a full-time Special Education teacher in the Spring Grove and Mabel-Canton school districts. While filling in for Bekah, Kaitlin will lead Middle School Game Nights, 3:16s, and Sunday School. Bekah will be returning to work sometime mid-March. Questions regarding any of these activities can be directed to Kaitlin at kaitbrat@gmail.com or (507) 450-8543. Or to the office, trinity@springgrove.coop or 498-5291. Thank you!

3:16S AND MIDDLE SCHOOL GAME NIGHT While Bekah is on maternity leave, these groups will be meeting at the Trinity Center. Middle School Game Night will meet February 7 & 21, March 6 & 20. 3:16s will meet February 19, March 4 & 18.

YOUTH STOCK SALES WERE A 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 like to purchase shares in the youth program, call the church office! Shares are \$15 each and the money you give will go toward various youth trips and programs.

JENNIFER WEDMANN BENEFIT ▪ SATURDAY, MARCH 7 ▪ 1PM AMERICAN LEGION

Jennifer and her husband, Fred, and 12-year old daughter live in Spring Grove and are active members of Trinity. Jennifer was diagnosed with Inflammatory breast cancer March 2015. She underwent chemotherapy, surgery and radiation. Her cancer went into remission and she enjoyed continuing to teach Special Education and work towards her master's degree in the Special Education field. After many months of headaches, it was discovered in February 2018, that the cancer had metastasized to her brain, preventing her from being able to complete her master's degree. Jennifer underwent brain surgery resulting in a semi-paralysis of her right side and speech difficulty, along with chemo and radiation once again. This, unfortunately, ended her teaching career and she spent the next 1½ years doing therapy to regain some movement of her right side and speech. In November 2019 she was once again told her cancer had returned and had invaded her bones. Surgery has been done to stabilize her right leg, while chemo and radiation have begun to tackle the cancer in the affected bones.

Donations for the auctions (ideas: experiences, event tickets, weekend get-a-ways, theme baskets, etc.) can be dropped off with Bobbi Holland, (507) 458-8556, Kris Holland-Rud, (507) 459-8979, or Rachel Bjerke at Spring Grove School front office. Arrangements can be made to pick up any donations. Questions? Email Bobbi at bobbih0407@gmail.com.

Monetary donations can be dropped off at Merchants Bank-Spring Grove, c/o Jennifer L. Wedmann Benefit

TRINITY U

Trinity U offers people of all ages the opportunity to gather for education, faith development, and mutual growth — youth, parents, grandparents, friends.... **EVERYONE is welcome!** The purpose of Trinity U is to create a relational confirmation program where students (and other members) understand that they can live out their faith in everything they do with their lives. Please register ahead of time. Registration form is on the website or stop in the office for a paper form. Questions? Contact the office, trinity@springgrove.coop or 498-5291.

FEBRUARY CLASS: Games at Gundersen, February 12 & 19, 4-4:30 p.m. Play games with the residents at Gundersen Tweeten Care Center. An opportunity to build relationships while playing games.

OTHER ELECTIVES: Middle School Game Night, 3:16s Youth Group, Praise Band, Choir, Sunday School help.

COUNCIL

JANUARY 8, 2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Motions approved:

- To rent an upstairs room at Trinity Center to the Little Gnome Preschool for \$15/day for their after school program for 1st-3rd grade children from 3-6 p.m. Little Gnome's insurance and janitor follows them.
- To accept the 2020 budget as amended.
- To give a First Fruits offering of 10% from our excess monies in 2019 (\$12, 269) to mission to be designated by the Mission in the World Team.

Updates:

- Recap of Advent and Christmas worship attendance — Christmas Eve: 325 at 3p.m., 144 at 8p.m.; Christmas Day: 92.
- Gifts purchased from Thankful Gifts catalog totaled \$5,595.
- 40-50 students attend rotational Sunday School.
- 23 Christmas Cheer packages were delivered in Spring Grove area; 9—\$10 gift certificates to HIP; 13—\$20 gift certificates to Sunrise Recovery Homes.
- Youth have been selling shares of stock.
- Update from Facilities Planning Committee: four architectural firms interviewed, all had vast experience designing, building, and remodeling churches. These firms were: VanMan from Plymouth MN, Rivers from La Crosse WI, CRW from Rochester MN, and Wieser Construction of La Crescent MN working with Cashman architectural firm from Sun Prairie WI. After much discussion by all committee members, they voted to choose Wieser/Cashman. Next step: To meet with the architect and builder and present to them the Visioning & Planning Team results concerning our needs in order to come up with a plan to remodel our church structure to meet those needs, with the goal of enhancing our ministry and mission.

Next Meeting: February 12 at 7:45 p.m. in the Gathering Room. Complete minutes are on Trinity's website, at sanctuary entrances, and in the office.

ANNUAL

ANNUAL MEETING ▪ JANUARY 26, 2020

Motions approved:

- to approve the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes.
- to accept the proposed 2020 budget.
- to approve the 2020 Team Ballot as presented.
- to table the motion to list the Trinity Center property for sale. *(Note from Pastor Elizabeth: The motion to list the Trinity Center property for sale was tabled at the Annual Meeting. As we go forward, we will continue to analyze our space needs both at the church and at Trinity Center to ensure we meet our missional needs, balanced with our need to be good stewards of both properties. The Release Time program and the Beary Patch pre-school are important missions of the church. The bottom line is that we will continue to support both programs, and we will not propose any changes unless and until we have an agreed-upon plan for both.)*

Other info:

- All 2019 financial obligations were met by year end. The \$10,000 line of credit at Merchants Bank was paid in full. The \$14,000 we borrowed from ourselves is outstanding. In addition to our benevolence to the SEMN Synod, the mission work of Trinity reached others for Christ in our community, country, and world (approx. \$41k).
- The budget presented for 2020 is \$303,300.
- Volunteers from the floor were requested to serve on the Nominating Committee along with outgoing Council members. Those members are: Lori Wilhelmson, Jessi Strinmoen, and Steve Nelson.
- Volunteers from the floor were requested to review and update Trinity's constitution in accordance with ELCA and also to review the make-up of Trinity's Congregation Council. Those on the committee are: Mary Deters, Lee Hoekstra, Steve Nelson, and Saundy Solum.

CHOIR We would love to have you join us! Our choir sings an anthem each Sunday morning September through May plus our Christmas concert in December. Practices are Wednesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. All ages from 7th grade through adult are invited to come and be a part of this vocal group. Don't worry if you can't commit to every single Sunday; we'd love to have your voice when you can be here! Questions about Choir? Contact Scott Solberg, 498-5472, or sjsol@springgrove.coop.

HANDBELL CHOIR A handbell choir is different from a vocal choir in that each person is responsible for certain specific notes. The group works together as a "team" as they each play rhythms and notes singly but together form a universal musical sound. Intrigued? Join us for practice in the sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. We'd love to have you! Questions about Handbell Choir? Contact Willy Leafblad, willy.leafblad@springgrove.k12.mn.us.

CPR, AED, FIRST AID, BLS CPR CLASSES The Spring Grove Ambulance Service is now teaching these classes through the American Heart Association. Classes are held at the ambulance office at 172 W. Main Street. For more info, a basic price sheet, or to set up a class, please contact Angie via text or call: (507) 458-9015.

LOVE DAY INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE! We have begun a new year of quilting and Lutheran World Relief kit-making with new ideas and goals! We meet the fourth Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Love Day is for EVERYONE** – quilters and non-quilters! You are welcome to come and watch, stay for a little while, or stay for the day. There will be "stand-up" projects and "sitting" jobs; something for everybody. If you haven't attended before, or if you would like to come back again after an absence, you are welcomed! **We look forward to seeing you!**

TRINITY WELCOMES ALL AS MEMBERS

The Outreach Team is working on gathering names of persons who might be interested in joining our family at Trinity. If you or someone you know are thinking about membership or if you have questions about it, please call the church office and let us know. We would love to talk to you about the joys of being a member at Trinity Lutheran and are excited to welcome you as a brother or sister in Christ.

ANYONE CAN SPONSOR THE LIGHTING OF THE MISSIONARY FOR A DAY CANDLE!

It can be in memory of, in celebration of, or in honor of, a loved one or a special event. A sponsorship is \$40 per Sunday. The funds collected support Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson who serve the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania. Contact the church office to reserve a date.

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORSHIP Trinity's service is broadcast on KVIK 104.7 in Decorah each Sunday and also streamed on their website, kvikradiol.com. The broadcasts are sponsored for \$100 each week. Do you have a loved one you would like to sponsor the broadcast in memory or in honor of? Just let us know in the office and we can find an available week.

Your children's bulletin unlocks ONLINE FUN at home.

Did you know there is a secret code on each week's Children's Bulletin?

This secret code is unique to Trinity and allows safe and secure access to online games that reinforce the message for the week. Children's Worship Bulletins @ Home takes advantage of the latest web security.

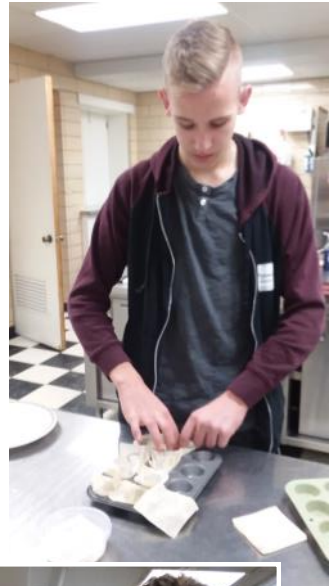
No data is captured about players, and there's no need to download any game plugins to a computer that might be vulnerable to spyware. Children will never see an ad, so you can feel confident that they're having a safe playing experience.

Step 1: Go to: Games.ChildrensBulletins.com

Step 2: Enter the secret code and choose a game to play!

Children's Worship Bulletins[™] @ HOME! 

PHOTOS



▲▶ Trinity U: Come Feast at the Great Banquet. The class made a complete meal with appetizers, pork tenderloin, potatoes, rolls, and dessert. They also learned how to fold cloth napkins.

◀ Pastor Lane not only preached, but accompanied hymns on violin with our organist/pianist Rachel Storlie.

▼ Sunday School youth sang and also collected Noisy Offering.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Team	3 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous, Trinity Center	4 10:30am Staffing Team, Pr. Elizabeth's office	5 2:00pm Release Time (K), TC 3:30pm Trinity U: Teen Girl's Survival Guide 6:00pm Confirmation Core 7:00pm Handbells 8:00pm Choir	6 5:30pm Education, MR 7:00pm Finance, MR	7 7:00pm Middle School Game Night, Trinity Ctr	8 10:00am Praise Band practice
9 9:15am Worship/Praise Band 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School, Outreach, Stewardship 1:30pm Root River Conference Assembly, Chatfield	10 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous, Trinity Center	11 9:00am Deborah Circle 7:00pm Support Team, GR	12 9:30am Adah Circle 1:00pm Release Time (1 st), TC 4:00pm TU: Games at Gundersen 7:00pm Handbell 7:45pm Council, GR 8:00pm Choir	13	14	15 5:00pm Worship/Communion
16 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:15am Fellowship <i>No Sunday School</i> 11:30am Tweenen Care Ctr. Service	17 7:00pm Hannah Circle; Narcotics Anonymous, Trinity Center	18 2:30pm Phoebe Circle	19 1:00pm Release Time (2 nd), TC 4:00pm TU: Games at Gundersen 7:00pm Handbells 8:00pm Choir; 3:16s, TC	20 9:30am Communion at The Manor	21 12:00pm Newsletter Info due 7:00pm Middle School Game Night, TC	22
23 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Empty Bowls, Sunday School,	24 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous, Trinity Center	25	26 12:00pm Ash Wednesday service & reception 12:30pm Release Time (3 rd), TC 2:00pm Ash Wed. service at Tweenen Care Ctr. 7:00pm Ash Wednesday service 8:00pm Choir, 3:16s	27 9:30am Communion at Tweenen Apartments 10:30am Communion at Assisted Living 2:00pm Newsletter mailed	28 9:00am Love Day	29

VOLUNTEERS — *Thank you for all that you do!*

	FEBRUARY 2	FEBRUARY 9	FEBRUARY 16	FEBRUARY 23	FEBRUARY 26 Ash Wednesday 7:00pm
LECTOR	Judy Bratland	Milly Halverson	Julianna Lile	Joyce Landsom	Kim Kapplinger
ACOLYTE(S)	Caleb Eiken, Emmet Engeldinger	Kohl Betcher	Grayson Staggemeier, Bryce Berns	Austin Conway	Eliot Bartell, Jaxon Strinmoen
COMMUNION SERVERS	Laurie Moen, Al Lochner	/	Jean Ann & Lonny Tweeten, Kim Kap- plinger	/	Glorianne Mulvenna, Deb Spence, Steve Morken
COMMUNION BREAD	Janice Messner				
ALTAR GUILD	Betty Johnson (chair), Marcia Holland, Doris Sherburne, Gloria Sagdalen, Linda Pierce, Betty Dokken				
USHERS	Dean Wiste (captain), Steve Morken, Bob Finnesgard, Bruce Hegge, Andy Anderson, Kim Kapplinger				
FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	Janna & Len Myrah, Christian Myrah, Doris Sherburne	Kristi & Phil Griffin, Mike & Deanna Solum, Kathrine & Matthew Myrah	Karen & Scott Bingham, Pete & Shari Wennes family	EMPTY BOWLS MEAL	/
498-AMEN	January 26-February 8: Judy Bratland; February 9-15: Jennifer Wedmann; February 16-22: Joyce Landsom; February 23-29: Mary Deters				
MEALS ON WHEELS	February 24 & 25: Linda & Steve Kemp February 26: Laurie & Mike Moen February 27 & 28: Nolie & Kim Kapplinger				

Have you kept us up-to-date with any new mailing addresses?

Phone numbers? Email addresses?

Please let us know of any changes so that we can have accurate records!

Thank you very much!!



PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 2020 TEAM DIRECTORY
Saundy Solum (20)	Sheri Allen (20-1yr)	Barbara Arnold (17, 19)	
CARE MINISTRY	SUPPORT	WORSHIP	
<i>Milly Halverson, leader (18)</i>	<i>Al Lochner, leader (20-1yr)</i>	<i>Willy Leafblad, leader (18)</i>	
Karen Cornella(17, 19)	SUPPORT—COMMUNICATIONS <i>Jean Ellingson, leader(20-2yr)</i> Rachel Bjerke (20) Mary Zaffke (19)	Kim Kapplinger (18, 20)	
Betty Dokken(16, 18, 20)		Aimee Murphy (18, 20)	
Laurie Moen(16, 18, 20)		Mark Schroeder (18, 20)	
Danielle Myhre (17, 19)	SUPPORT — FINANCE <i>Judy Tollefsrud, leader (20)</i> Kari Alstad (19) Al Frydenlund (17, 19) Carlyn Kraabel (17, 18*, 20) Brett Scheetz (19) Jean Ann Tweeten (18, 20)	Rachel Storlie (18, 20)	
Kathy Overland (19)		Rick Sundet (20)	
Jackie Parker (15, 17, 19)		Mark Udstuen(17, 19)	
Anne Scheetz (20)		Lori Wilhelmson(17, 19)	
Doris Sherburne (15, 17, 19)	SUPPORT — PROPERTY <i>Dan Alstad, leader, leader (20)</i> Andy Allen (17, 19) Dana Kjome (17, 19) Jerald Oakes (20) Greg Peterson (19) Kris Rud (18, 20) Lonny Tweeten (15, 17, 19)	HERITAGE ENDOWMENT	
EDUCATION <i>Jacque Wennes, leader (18)</i> Kelsey Bratland (youth: 18, 20) Amy Gross (19) Betty Johnson (18, 20) Jessica Kraus (20) Mary Newgaard (17, 19) Jessica Sherburne (17, 19)		<i>Jim Gray, chair (16, 19)</i>	
		Betty Bergsgaard, treas. (18)	
		Chris Deck (18)	
		Eric Frydenlund (17, 20)	
	Justin Landsom(15, 19)		
MISSION IN THE WORLD <i>Dean Wiste, leader (20)</i> Roxanne Finnesgard (15, 17, 19) Karen Gray (19) Janna Myrah (17, 19) Naomi Pollock (20) Stewart Storlie (20)	SUPPORT — STAFFING <i>Jan Kraabel, leader (20-2yr)</i> Jan Lochner (20) Bev Nelson (17, 19)	MISSION ENDOWMENT	
		Howard Deters (20)	
		Mark Dokken, treas. (18)	
		Bruce Hegge (18)	
		Bob Finnesgard (15, 18)	
OUTREACH <i>Lara Wold Mendez, leader (19)</i> Angie Berns (19) Barb Gulbranson (19) Terry Holland (20) Linda Nerstad Kemp (16, 18, 20) Janice Messner (18, 20) Lynn Solum (19) Jessi Strinmoen (19)	SUPPORT — STEWARDSHIP <i>Steve Kemp, leader (20)</i> Judy Bratland (17, 19) John Halverson(17, 19) Peggy Landsom (20) Julianna Lile (19) Steve Nelson (20)	SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT	
		Greg Wennes (18)	
		Candyce Deck (20)	
		Marlene Deschler (19)	
		Bill Fried (20)	
Bylaws Committee: Mary Deters, Lee Hoekstra, Steve Nelson, Saundy Solum Facilities Planning Team: Lenny Myrah (chair), Andy Allen, Barb Arnold, Mark Dokken, Nolie Kapplinger, Steve Kemp, Bev Nelson, Mark Udstuen, Jacque Wennes	2020 SYNOD ASSEMBLY Voting Members Milly Halverson Saundy Solum Rachel Udstuen NOMINATING COMMITTEE Steve Nelson Jessi Strinmoen Lori Wilhelmson	TERMS:	
		Team Leaders = 3 years, may not succeed themselves on same team. Team Members = 2 years, may succeed themselves two times Endowment Committee = 3 years, can serve no more than 2 consecutive terms Nominating Committee = composed of current year's out-going members of Council plus 3 others elected at Annual Meeting President and Secretary = 3 years, may not succeed themselves Treasurer = 2 years, may succeed self two times (for total of six years)	
		NOTE: Team members listed with * by a year indicates that they were re-elected in that particular year to off-set the terms so that all team members' terms did not expire the same year.	

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We are not yet what we shall be, but
**we are growing toward it,
the process is not yet finished...**

~Martin Luther

February 18, 1546 is the day that Martin Luther died at the age of 62. For a time, he was an Augustinian monk, but it is his work as a biblical scholar, translator of the Bible, public confessor of the faith, reformer of the liturgy, theologian, educator, and father of German vernacular literature that holds him in our remembrance. In Luther's own judgement, the greatest of all of his works was his catechism, written to instruct people in the basics of faith. And it was his baptism that sustained him in his trials as a reformer.