

# The Trinity Times

JANUARY 2024

Published by Trinity Lutheran Church, Saint Peter, Minnesota, a congregation of the ELCA

TRINITY  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

## Trinity Christmas Caroling



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## Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Trinity's annual meeting will be on January 21st at 11:00 am in the sanctuary following the second worship service. Please make every effort to attend to review Trinity's Annual Report and stating our purpose together as a congregation, celebrating the life we have had together this past year and looking ahead as God leads us into the future. A make-up date is scheduled for January 28th at 11:00 am if inclement weather prohibits us from meeting on the 21st.

## From the Pastor

2024

A New Year

A New Church!

As I look out my office window on New Years Eve, 2023, my mind is already thinking about NEW THINGS:

What are some new and exciting things that I can do this year for the church that God has asked me to come in and be a partner in ministry with?

What are some new and exciting things this congregation can do to step out of the “old molds” that have slowed down or stopped new things from happening?

How can we take a new look at ministry to our youth and to ALL in our congregation?

These are just some of the things I would love to see Trinity Lutheran tackle in this year of our Lord, 2024!

Trinity has gone through a year of transition, and it is time to begin some NEW THINGS!

In my initial seven months here, I have seen a congregation that I believe wants to come out of this transitional period that has included the covid 19 years and a time of conflict, to a time of doing the great ministry that this church is known for!

We have work to do. The Transitional Task Force will help us! God will help us! As the old hymn says,

“Ponder anew, what the Almighty can do!”

Pastor Dave

HAPPY  
*new Year*

## 8 Green New Years Resolutions

## 1. Recycle More

Beyond the obvious recycling of aluminum, cardboard, paper, plastic, and so on – what items around your home or facility can be re-purposed or given to someone else who can use them instead of putting them in the trash? Think simply, but creatively (i.e. composting, art projects, etc) and you may find the perfect fit! Try to reduce the amount of trash you throw out.

## 2. Buy (or Grow) Natural Foods

Eat more seasonal fruits, vegetables and whole grains preferably locally grown when you can. Avoid the “boxed” processed foods and lean towards foods that come from the earth. Local organic foods will be free of pesticides and also don’t take so much energy to get to you.

## 3. Use the Re-Usable Shopping Bags.

In order for the reusable shopping bags to do any good, they have to be used! Find a way to remember to bring the earth-friendly bags with you to the store (keep them by the door or in your car) and reduce the number of plastic bags that you waste.

## 4. Think Local

Doing business locally not only helps our local economy to bloom, but also reduces the carbon footprint we are making on Mother Earth. Lessening your commute can save money, as well as provide more opportunities for walking or biking and getting in touch with the outdoors.

## 5. Do Second-Hand

Instead of buying books, borrow them from a friend or use the library. Second-hand clothes are money-savers and earth-friendly, especially for growing kids. When your kids outgrow their clothes, pass them on to a family in need, a thrift store, or find another way to recycle the clothing and textiles.

## 6. Teach Kids

Teach your kids about why it is so important to take care of our earth by leading by example and getting them involved. Sometimes they may teach us new things about the environment too. Be open to their ideas.

## 7. Do Green Business

Employees can put all their day-to-day environmental goals into hyper-drive at work too. Retail stores or factories may even consider purchasing a vertical baler for managing their recyclables or a busy mall or fast food restaurant may install an automatic trash compactor to minimize waste.

## 8. Be Water Smart

Buy a nice reusable water bottle and pledge to stop buying bottled water. Other ways to be smart about your water usage include collecting rain water, and simply minimizing water usage while brushing teeth and taking showers, etc.

Start with small easy tasks that can make a big impact when becoming a lifelong habit. Your 8 Green New Years Resolutions should be something that you can start simple, and build on.

What green New Years Resolutions are you aiming to achieve this year? What else would you add to this list?





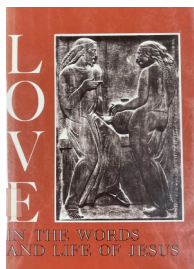




## December

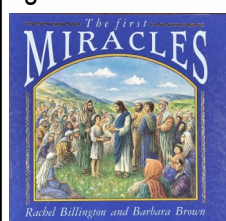
We hope your NEW YEARS resolutions include spending time in your Trinity Library.

LOVE IN THE WORDS AND LIFE OF JESUS, (1A Cou), by the Editors of Country Beautiful, illustrated with the Art of Ivan Mestrovic. A carefully selected collection of the words Christ spoke with love to neighbors as he walked the common road with others.



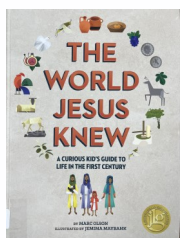
A BIOGRAPHY OF JESUS, (1A Cow), by Tom J. Cowley. 32 simple lessons from HIS life as told in the Bible's four Gospels.

THE BOOK OF JESUS FOR FAMILIES, (1 A Mil), by Calvin Miller. A collection of stories, songs, parables, and poems for all ages.



The first MIRACLES, (J1A Bil), by Rachel Billington and Barbara Brown. Through travels round the Holy Land, people knew Jesus was not just another prophet or teacher, but truly the son of God.

THE WORLD JESUS KNEW, (J1C Ols), by Marc Olson. A curious kid's guide to life in the first century. This book brings the Bible to life as you learn about religion and culture of the world Jesus knew.



## Adult Forum



All are welcome at 9: 00 am in the library.

**January 7** - Enjoy coffee and fellowship time, no presentation. The January Book Club selection, leading faithful INNOVATION, by Dwight Zscheile, will be available for book check out on the Narthex counter.

**January 14** - Presentation by Marc Bachman on the 2024 Trinity budget.

**January 21** - Simpson Forum preview.

**January 28** - Book Club discussion on "Leading Faithful INNOVATION", by Dwight Zscheile.

## The 2024 Simpson Forum, THE ETHICS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

As an election year looms amid concerns about the serious divisions within our country, our communities, and our families, the Barbara and Justin Simpson Forum has announced its 2024 Forum, THE ETHICS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, to address some of those concerns. The Forum is a 5-part series beginning at 7:00 pm on January 25 and continuing February 1, 8, 15 & 22, here at Trinity Lutheran Church. As in past years, the series will be presented live at Trinity and participants may attend either in person or on Zoom.

THE ETHICS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT will open with two lectures on the moral values taught in Old and New Testament scriptures. Presenters are Dr. Matt Skinner and Dr. Cameron Howard of Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Events 3 and 4 will feature Minnesota Supreme Court Justice G. Barry Anderson will address conservative moral values and Gustavus faculty member Dr. Peg O'Connor the liberal moral values that shape our personal political views. The 2024 series will conclude on February 22 with a case study exploring Minnesota's water issues and the division and interdependency that exist within the urban, suburban, and rural communities of our state. Pastor Jon Anderson, long-time Bishop of the SW Synod of the ELCA and current Luther Seminary faculty member, will make this final presentation.

Complete details on the 2024 Forum (including lecture descriptions and presenter biographies) and registration for THE ETHICS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, January 25, February 1, 8, 15 & 22, are available at [thesimpsonforum.com](http://thesimpsonforum.com). The deadline for registration is January 19, 2024.



## 2023 Trinity Women Advent Brunch



Gustavus St. Lucia Court 2022

Trinity Women hosted their annual Advent Brunch on Saturday, December 9, with a Saint Lucia celebration. As a part of the program, three young women from Gustavus joined us. These three girls were a part of the Gustavus Saint Lucia Court in 2022. They started out by singing Silent Night and then each of the girls spoke about their experiences as a part of the Saint Lucia Court. They shared with us how they were chosen and what it meant to each of them to be a part of the Court. They ended their presentation by singing Santa Lucia in Swedish and had those attending the brunch sing along. It was a very interesting and well-received program and enjoyed by all. Stay tuned as planning for the 2024 Advent Brunch has already begun!



## Annual Meeting

The Women of the ELCA of Trinity Lutheran Church follow the approved model constitution and bylaws as established by the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As such we will be holding our annual meeting on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 9:00 am. The purpose of this meeting is to receive reports, project plans, elect leadership, and adopt an annual budget. Please plan to attend this meeting. All women of Trinity are invited and encouraged to attend.

# Thankoffering

"... gifts from individuals in gratitude for blessings."  
- Women of the ELCA Constitution

The WELCA annual Thankoffering service will be held on Sunday, January 14. Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. Any woman interested in being a part of this special service should contact the church office.

Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA 

Don't forget to check the bulletin board in the hallway for WELCA event picture and updates.

JOIN US FOR  
**BIBLE STUDY**



Bible  
Study

Third Monday of each month at  
1:30 pm at Realife Cooperative

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	<b><i>New Year's Day</i></b> <b>1</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b> 5:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 pm CYF Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Music & Worship Meetings 7:00 pm All Monthly Committee Meetings
<b>7</b> 8:00 am Worship Service 9:00 am Adult Forum Coffee Fellowship Celebration Singer Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 5:30 pm TTF Meeting	<b>8</b> 5:30 pm The Kitchen	<b>9</b> 5:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
<b>14</b> 8:00 am Worship Service 9:00 am Adult Forum Coffee Fellowship Celebration Singer Rehearsal 10:00 am Thankoffering Service 10:15 am Sunday School 7:00 pm dei.b Meeting	<b><i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day 15</i></b> <b>Office Closed</b> 1:30 pm Hope Circle Bible Study At Realife Cooperative 5:30 pm The Kitchen	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Mission Quilters
<b>21</b> 8:00 am Worship Service 9:00 am Adult Forum Coffee Fellowship Celebration Singer Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship Service Mia H, Baptism 10:15 am Sunday School 11:00 am Annual Meeting	<b>22</b> 5:30 pm The Kitchen	<b>23</b>
<b>28</b> 8:00 am Worship Service 9:00 am Adult Forum Coffee Fellowship Celebration Singer Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>29</b> 5:30 pm The Kitchen	<b>30</b>



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> 9:30 am Staff Meeting 5:00 pm Mission Committee Mtg 5:30 pm Kitchen Meeting 6:15 pm Confirmation	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>10</b> 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Confirmation	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30 am Staff Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30 am Staff Meeting	<b>25</b> 7:00 pm Simpson Forum	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>31</b> 9:30 am Staff Meeting			



# Dust of Snow

By Robert Frost

The way a crow  
Shook down on me  
The dust of snow  
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart  
A change of mood  
And saved some part  
Of a day I had rued.



## HAPPY NEW YEAR



C S L L X N O I T U L O S E R  
A Z N A G A V A R T X E I Q I  
G G A T H E R I N G W Z N P N  
A F O T S W O S D R W L O L V  
D I D R O Z T H G I N D I M I  
H R T A H F Y T R A P W S E T  
F E B D F B I N H M G Y E U A  
N W Q I Q A Z F G D C G M S T  
N O I T A R B E L E C Q A J I  
L R M I Y R A U N A J L K H O  
K K H O C V W T R D A Q E J N  
I S K N X V J O I B U E R Z N  
Y Z P H C O U N T D O W N S M  
H W W J M U H N U X X O U Q R  
L F A A H S E Q S I O C O F G

CELEBRATION  
FIREWORKS  
JANUARY  
PARTY

COUNTDOWN  
GATHERING  
MIDNIGHT  
RESOLUTION

EXTRAVAGANZA  
INVITATION  
NOISEMAKER  
TRADITION







Any committees or individuals that have information for the **February** newsletter need to have it turned in **no later than January 20**.

Please use the **Publishing Request Form** which is available in the church office and send the information to: [editor@trinitystpeter.org](mailto:editor@trinitystpeter.org). Otherwise it may not be published.  
Thank you!

## Offering Options

We are so fortunate to have very generous members and friends that help us Gather, Grow and Go! If you are interested in supporting our ministries here are some options for you:

**Text:** send message to **844-373-8817** with the amount you would like to contribute (example: 25).

**App:** download the Vanco Mobile Faith app through your app store.

**Web:** click on the Give button on our website.

**Mail:** 511 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St, St. Peter, MN 56082

Thank you for your support!

Update  
your  
Information!



Have you moved? Do you have a new phone number or email address?

Please email the church office at [office@trinitystpeter.org](mailto:office@trinitystpeter.org) so we can update your account.

## Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that Trinity Lutheran Church is situated on the ancestral homeland of the Wahpeton, Wahpekute, Sisseton, Očhéthi Šakówin, and Dakota people. We also acknowledge that we as a church body have a variety of thoughts and feelings as to how we should reconcile this fact. We as a church commit to continuing the important work of challenging ourselves and our congregation to live the love of Christ in all we do.

## Church Council Meeting Minutes, December 12, 2023

**Present:** Kayla Siewert, Rita Gibbs, Carolyn Dobler, Nancy Roessler, Jim Timmerman, Nancy Kruger, Jeff Feder, Marc Bachman, Kathrine Dunn, Kristie Gurrola, Andy Elofson, Pr. Dave Christenson

**Absent:** None

**Devotions:** The Lord's Prayer

### A. Business Discussed

#### 1. Pastor Report

- It would be good to have the church all tidy for Christmas Eve services and plenty of help for ushering and greeting.
- Transitional Task Force (TTF) talked about the youth at Trinity and the need for a youth director.

#### 2. Treasurer's Report

- The offerings as of November 30, 2023 were \$279,533.
- The total expenses through November 30, 2023 were \$301,548.
- Expenses exceed offerings by \$22,015.
- The checking account balance as of November 30, 2023 is \$36,717.

#### 3. Financial Update

- Marc will do a Temple Talk to encourage year end giving.
- The Finance Committee has been working on a proposed budget for next year.
- Information about a cemetery donation was reviewed. More information will need to be collected and reviewed before a decision can be made.

#### 4. New Business

Office Coverage – volunteers will cover the office hours while Kristen is on vacation.

Collection of offering – it was discussed to pass

the offering collection plates through the pews at Sunday services, but due to a shortage of ushers this is not feasible at this time.

Building hours & church calendar – the building hours follow the office hours that are posted. In addition, the church is open when there is an event scheduled on the church calendar. Please remember to contact the office if you have an event.

Newsletter Deadline – the deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Annual Meeting – It was agreed that the Annual Meeting be held January 21, with a backup snow date of January 28. **See Action Item 3.**

Funeral Policy – Trinity's funeral policy was reviewed to see if we are meeting current situations. The fees were reviewed and we are below others in the area. Current Funeral Policy fees are *With Funeral Director*: Organist - \$125; Pastor - \$125; Custodian - \$50; Funeral Serving Group - \$125 to \$150. *Without Funeral Director*: Organist - \$125; Pastor - \$175; Custodian - \$75; Funeral Serving Group - \$150 to \$175. **See Action Items 4 & 5 & 6 & 7.**

#### 5. Old Business

Building Keys – Safety for people and property is a concern we have. The cost to rekey the church is significant and so it makes sense that the keys held by people other than staff be returned to the office. A notice has been posted to have building keys turned in by December 15. Reminder that the building is open for events that are on the church calendar. If there is need for other events/meeting, there is a 48 hour window needed for the custodian to accommodate special requests.

#### 6. Committee Reports

Property Committee: The rental house has been fixed up and the renter will move in at the beginning of the year. They will get quotes for narthex improvements that need to be contracted out.

Community Life: Prepared devotionals and bags for the homebound members. Caroling planned for December 17.

Children, Youth and Family: They are requesting a full time Youth Director. **See Action Item 8.** Sunday School Christmas Program went well. Planning a Caroling event with Community Life. Ordering Bibles for Sunday School.

Worship, Music and Arts: New candles for altar have been ordered.

Mission: Donations for winter coats went well. About 50 teen hygiene bags for high school students were assembled and donated. They are dispersing Endowment funds to these institutions: \$500 to South Africa Vryheid Circuit; \$300 to MN Adult & Teen Challenge; \$500 to Lutheran World Relief; \$400 to St. Peter Free Clinic; \$250 to The Kitchen; \$500 to St. Peter Pastors' Association; \$300 to Partners in Housing.

Adult Education: Book studies are planned for upcoming year.

Stewardship: They sent out Thank You notes for members who returned their promise cards. Looking to express gratitude for different areas in upcoming year.

#### B. Responsibilities Assigned:

- Council members are requested to assist with Christmas Eve services, greeting and other help as needed.

#### Actions Taken:

1. **Motion M/S/P to approve the agenda for the December Council meeting.**
2. **Motion M/S/P to approve the minutes of the November Council meeting.**
3. **Motion M/S/P to approve the Annual Meeting date of January 21 with snow date of January 28.**
4. **Motion M/S/P to approve the increase for Pastor fee from \$125 to \$175 for funerals that have Funeral Director and Pastor fee will be \$225 if there is no Funeral Director.**
5. **Motion M/S/P to approve a fee of \$100 for Tech services for funerals. This was not in the current policy,**



but the Funeral Director listed this as \$100 fee.

6. Motion M/S/P to approve funeral fees for non-Trinity member to be doubled.
7. Motion M/S/P to approve a flat fee of \$1,000 for funerals without a Funeral Director in addition to the listed funeral fees.
8. Motion M/S/P to approved that the Council supports Children, Youth & Family committee in their request to create a full time sustainable Youth Director position.
9. Motion M/S/P to approve a motion to adjourn.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 6:30 pm.



In Memory of

*Robert Volk*

*November 14, 1932 — December 08, 2023*

## COMMITTEES

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Avery Bachman, Marc Bachman, Bob Broeder, Mikkell Haugen, John Lammert, Jamie Seitzer

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** Gretchen Bachman, Wendy Bachman, David Detlefson, Casey Dunker, Andy Elofson, Jennifer Lammert, Sarah Nelsen

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:** Carolyn Dobler, Darrel Jodock, Jim Kruger, Marc Bachman, Thomas Young

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Rita Gibbs, 6 vacancies

**ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** Al Behrends, Nancy Hanson, Bill Nelsen, Kris Rosacker, Barbara Simpson, Jim Timmerman

**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COMMITTEE:** Katherine Dunn, Alie Hermanson, Gretchen Lind, Larissa Nieves, Kristi Portuguese, Nancy Sizer, 1 vacancy

**COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE:** Cathy Carlson, Nancy Kruger, Vonnie Nelson-Borgmeier, 3 vacancies

**MISSION COMMITTEE:** Mel Bexell, Sandi Francis, Sarah Conlon, Kristie Gurrola, Beverly Pillers

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE:** Paul Albers, Jeff Feder, Duane Krenz, Cody Olstad, Leo Strong, Barry Wood

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:** Jason Bexell, Brenda Dent, Carolyn Dobler, Edi Thorstenson, 2 vacancies

**WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS COMMITTEE:** Cary Albers, Deb Dixon, Paul Matzke, Nancy Roessler, Mari Feder, Avis McDaniel, 1 vacancy

## CHURCH COUNCIL

**Kayla Siewert (President)**

**Andy Elofson (Vice President)** *Personnel Committee Chair*

**Rita Gibbs (Secretary)** *Nominating Committee Chair*

**Marc Bachman (Treasurer)** *Finance Committee Chair*

**Jim Timmerman** *Adult Education Committee Chair*

**Katherine Dunn** *Children, Youth and Families Committee Chair*

**Nancy Kruger** *Community Life Committee Chair*

**Kristie Gurrola** *Mission Committee Chair*

**Jeff Feder** *Property Committee Chair*

**Carolyn Dobler** *Stewardship Committee Chair*

**Nancy Roessler** *Worship, Music & Arts Committee Chair*

Trinity Lutheran Church  
511 S Fifth Street,  
Saint. Peter, MN 56082

Stamp

Address label

January



507 - 934 - 4786  
[office@trinitystpeter.org](mailto:office@trinitystpeter.org)  
[www.trinitystpeter.org](http://www.trinitystpeter.org)

**Office Hours**  
**Monday - Friday**  
10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Contact Information

**Interim Pastor:**  
**Church Administrator:**  
**Youth Director**  
**Financial Support**  
**Building Supervisor**  
**Organist/Pianist:**  
**Celebration Singers Director:**  
**PraiseBAND Director:**  
**JOY! Choir Director:**

Rev. Dr. Dave Christenson  
Kristen Thomas

Josie Lust  
Don Carlson  
Judy Maharry  
Paul Matzke  
Avis McDaniel  
Nancy Sizer

[pastordave@trinitystpeter.org](mailto:pastordave@trinitystpeter.org)  
[office@trinitystpeter.org](mailto:office@trinitystpeter.org)

[finance@trinitystpeter.org](mailto:finance@trinitystpeter.org)  
[building@trinitystpeter.org](mailto:building@trinitystpeter.org)  
[music@trinitystpeter.org](mailto:music@trinitystpeter.org)  
[music@trinitystpeter.org](mailto:music@trinitystpeter.org)