

# The Trinity Times

FEBRUARY 2024

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

TRINITY  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

## WELCOME

*we're glad you're here*

### New Trinity New Members!

Ashley and Riley Olson, and their children  
Hunter, Aurora, and Harper.

Melanie Schmidt

Tom and Amy Stolee

Tammala (Tami) Pierce



Join us February 14 at 7:00 pm for  
Ash Wednesday Worship Service

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastors Column	4
Children & Youth	10
Adult Education	1
Trinity Women	3
Calendar	6-7
Church Council	8-9
Contact	12



### HELP TO SPREAD THE LOVE

The Community Life Committee will be providing valentine card DIY packets for families to take home and make a valentine. Address the valentine with the name and address provided and return it to the Trinity office so the card can be mailed to a shut-in member of Trinity. Let them know they are loved. If your kit does not contain a name and address, just send it to someone you love!

# Adult Forum



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

ISAIAH Comes to Trinity for Adult Forum on  
Sunday, February 18

Kathryn Lozada has been the Southern Minnesota Regional Organizer with ISAIAH, the noted nonpartisan organization promoting civic engagement, for six years. She has been organizing people of faith and shared values towards racial, economic, and climate justice in Minnesota. Join her at the Adult Forum to learn how ISAIAH has been working for years on the state and local levels to improve life for all of us. She is also ready to hear from Trinity members about needs of our loved ones, how our communities can thrive, and how we can put faith in action and potentially have more collective impact by partnering with other faith communities. This forum is extremely timely in relation to the presentations at the Simpson Forum and the current need to bring people together for the common good.

~ The Adult Education Committee

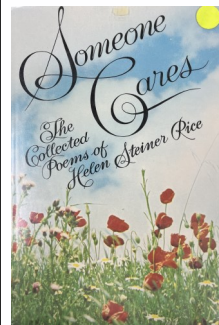
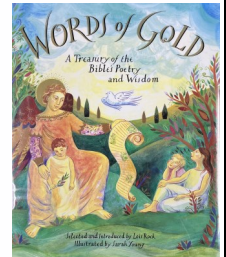


Featured in the  
Church Library

## February

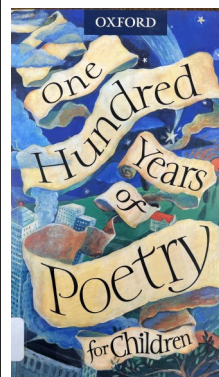
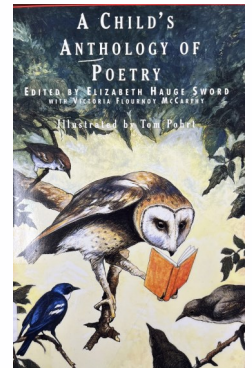
Put your HEART into reading this month and enjoy these selections of poems to warm your heart.

Words of Gold, A Treasury of the Bible's Poetry and Wisdom, (J 10A Roc), selected and illustrated by Lois Rock, Sarah Young. A perfect introduction to some of the world's greatest writings.



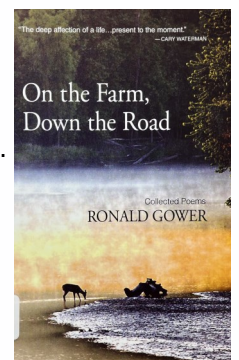
Someone Cares, The Collected Poems of Helen Steiner Rice. (10A R). Helen began writing inscriptions for greeting cards, and her goal was to provide comfort and inspiration for people suffering from loneliness, grief, ill health, depression and despair. This volume of her poems reveals the love of God, country and others, the richness of family life and the future.

A Child's Anthology of Poetry, edited by Elizabeth Hauge Sword with Victoria Flournoy McCarthy, (J10A Swo). Anonymous poems: Do you carrot all for me? Monday's Child is Fair of Face, The Cats of Kilkenny, The Witch of Willowby Wood, The Gingerbread Man, A Visit from Mr. Fox, and many more.



One Hundred Years of Poetry for Children, (J10A Har), by Michael Harrison. Humorous, thought-provoking poetry written over the last century. There is something here for everyone.

On the Farm, Down the Road, (10A Gow), collected poems by Ronald Gower. This Minnesota writer explores the mysteries and joys of rural living, loving and traveling.





## TRINITY WOMEN



Thank you to EVERYONE for your wonderful time, talents and treasures for our THANKOFFERING SERVICES which were held on January 14. Trinity Women met between services and elected officers for 2024: President Nancy Kruger, Vice President Jill Gatzke, Treasurer Nancy Roessler, Secretary Nancy Hanson.

Our next meeting is Sunday, February 11 at 9:00 am.

All are welcome!

Watch for Wednesday Lenten Soup Supper sign-ups as the first Wednesday is February 21.



# Thankoffering

"... gifts from individuals in gratitude for blessings."

- Women of the ELCA Constitution

## Lenten Soup Suppers

The Trinity Women (WELCA) will be organizing soup suppers on Wednesday nights during Lent. Serving will begin at 5:30 pm.

If you would like to help out with set-up, serving, clean-up, or bringing a homemade soup, please sign up on the sheet located in the narthex.

Although different groups will be hosting, volunteers are still needed and much appreciated.



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

## From Your Interim Pastor

## FEBRUARY (blues) NEWS

I don't know about any of you, but the month of February (at least to me) has always seemed like a "blue" month. Blue - as in the cold, lifeless and colorless landscape. Blue - as in bringing our levels of excitement way down and our thoughts about wanting to go somewhere - anywhere but here - way up. I think it is the month when more people want to leave this part of the country (even if only for a few days) more than at any other time. I will admit that this is the month of the year that I least look forward to and is one that I hope departs quickly. Maybe that is why people long ago gave it only 28 days (at least three out of every four years) before moving on to the month of March!

But there is something that I do look forward to each February - IT MEANS THAT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON OF LENT IS NOT FAR AWAY!

Now please know I love all the other liturgical seasons, but the season of Lent is the season that is always the most emotional and meaningful to me.

This year, the season of Lent begins on **Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> with Ash Wednesday worship.** I have shared this in many other congregations as it is worth repeating.

Did you know that: **Worldwide, more Christians attend worship on Ash Wednesday than on any other day of the year - and that includes Christmas and Easter!**

Ash Wednesday will be a special night here at Trinity Lutheran. We will take you on an Ash Wednesday service journey that will include the **imposition of ashes,**

**a special message and special music that you will not want to miss!**

Come to this special worship on Wednesday evening, February 14<sup>th</sup>, that will kick off the Lenten season in this year of our Lord - 2024!

**Worship at 7:00 PM**

**Come and be a part of this worldwide gathering of Christians as we begin the season of Lent!**

Blessings,

*Pastor Dave*

## Good Environmental News is Always Welcome!

There are scientific breakthroughs coming from the U of MN and across the pond from Denmark. They both are working on ways to get reusable fibers from discarded clothes. Danish scientists tackled the workout items we love because the elastic material, elastane, allows the fabric to stretch and adapt to our bodies. But when it's mixed with other fibers, the clothes are almost impossible to recycle. According to the journal, Green Chemistry, the new method can remove elastane from the nylon to allow recycling of the nylon fibers. They are now working on how to separate elastane from cotton fibers.

At the Duluth campus, grad students have worked with associate professor Abbie Clarke-Sather to create a Fiber Shredder. Unlike similar machines already on the market that cut fibers, the Shredder pulls fibers apart, which keeps them longer in length and makes it easier to resin them back into yarns that can be used.

For now we can donate usable clothes we no longer want to thrift stores. But wouldn't it be great if they could soon access this process..... for the old to be made new? Stay tuned.

~ shared with you by the Green Team.

FYI Thrift Again in Mankato will bail up some of the items for shipment to Africa. And if you consider your items to be in the "rag" stage - MRCI and Salvation Army Thrift Store will accept them if in bags clearly marked.

## Easy Ways to Reduce Your Waste

According to municipal solid waste data collected by the EPA over a 35 year period, the average American generates about 4.9 pounds of waste every day. Reducing waste may seem intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. You may not have the time or resources to do it perfectly, but don't let that stop you! From taking sustainable actions to purchasing eco friendly gifts, there are countless ways, big and small, to reduce your waste in a way that fits your lifestyle. To help you get started, we're sharing a collection of easy zero waste tips. No pressure or judgment — just try a few and see what works for you! And remember: don't let perfect be the enemy of good. The world needs millions of environmentally conscious people doing zero-waste imperfectly, not a handful doing it perfectly.

## Welcome to New and Current Committee Members

The Nomination Committee would like to thank the following people for volunteering their time.

Executive Committee: Marc Bachman, President; Andy Elofson, Vice President; Rita Gibbs, Secretary; Jim Kruger, Treasurer

Adult Education: Kris Rosacker (Chair), Barb Simpson, Al Behrends, Bill Nelsen

Children, Youth & Family: Katherine Dunn (Chair), Nancy Sizer, Gretchen Lind, Larissa Gieseke-Nieves, Joni Seitzer, Liz Harris

Community Life: Nancy Kruger (Chair), Vonnie Nelson-Borgmeier, Annette Meeks, Kathy Herberg, Kristen Loken, Melanie Schmidt

Mission: Kristie Gurrola (Chair), Mel Bexell, Sandi Francis, Beverly Pillars

Property: Paul Albers (Chair), Duane Krenz, Barry Wood, Leo Strong, Cody Olstad, Jeff Feder

Stewardship: Carolyn Dobler (Chair), Edi Thorstennson, Jason Bexell

Worship, Music & Arts: Nancy Roessler (Chair), Cary Albers, Erick Lind

Endowment: Darrell Jodock, Thomas Young, Marc Bachman, Carolyn Dobler, Justin Dunn

Finance: Jim Kruger (Chair), Mikkel Haugen, Jamie Seitzer, Bob Broeder, Cathy Carlson, Nate Newhouse

Personnel: Andy Elofson (Chair), Gretchen Bachman, Sarah Nelsen, Wendy Bachman, Kim Oeltjenburns, David Arpin

### Council Cliff Notes

The 2024 Kick-off Meeting for Committees and Council will be held Saturday, February 3 from 9:00 am to noon in the Gustafson Room,

Ash Wednesday service will not have a soup supper. The remainder of the Lent services will have soup suppers.

Sunday worship services will be held at 8:00 am and 10:00 am through May with the following exceptions.


There will be only a 10:00 service on February 11 (Transfiguration), Palm Sunday, March 24 and April 28 (last day of Sunday School). The summer schedule will revert to one service.

### *Dust of Snow*

*By Robert Frost*

*The way a crow  
Shook down on me  
From a hemlock tree*

*Has given my heart  
A change of mood  
And saved some part  
Of a day I rue*

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday
			
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p> <p>8:00 am    Worship Service</p> <p>9:00 am    Adult Forum               Coffee Fellowship               Celebration Singer Rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 am    Worship Service</p> <p>10:15 am    Sunday School</p>		<p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p> <p>5:30 pm    The Kitchen</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>11</b></p> <p>8:00 am    NO Worship Service</p> <p>9:00 am    Adult Forum               Coffee Fellowship               Celebration Singer Rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 am    Worship Service</p> <p>10:15 am    Sunday School</p>		<p style="text-align: right;"><b>12</b></p> <p>5:30 pm    The Kitchen</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>13</b></p> <p>5:30 pm    Finance Committee Meeting</p> <p>6:30 pm    Church Council Meeting</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p> <p>8:00 am    Worship Service</p> <p>9:00 am    Adult Forum               Coffee Fellowship               Celebration Singer Rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 am    Worship Service</p> <p>10:15 am    Sunday School</p> <p>12:00 pm    Private event</p>		<p style="text-align: right;"><b>19</b></p> <p>1:30 pm    Hope Circle Bible Study               At Realife Cooperative</p> <p>5:30 pm    The Kitchen</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Minnesota Valley Conference 20</b></p> <p>9:00 am    Mission Quilters</p> <p>7:00 pm    Green Team Meeting</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>25</b></p> <p>8:00 am    Worship Service</p> <p>9:00 am    Adult Forum               Coffee Fellowship               Celebration Singer Rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 am    Worship Service</p> <p>10:15 am    Sunday School</p>		<p style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></p> <p>5:30 pm    The Kitchen</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>27</b></p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 7:00 pm Simpson Forum	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Committee Retreat
<b>7</b> 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Confirmation	<b>8</b> 7:00 pm Simpson Forum	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	<b>15</b> 7:00 pm Simpson Forum	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Confirmation	<b>22</b> 7:00 pm Simpson Forum	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Confirmation	<b>29</b>		



## Church Council Meeting Minutes, January 9, 2024

**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

- The Christmas Eve services were very well attended.
- There will be soup suppers for the Lent services, but not for Ash Wednesday. The WELCA group will take charge of the Lent soup suppers. The eighth graders will be involved in the Lenten services.
- Pastor suggested an Easter breakfast. It was discussed and tabled to be discussed at the Council/Committee retreat.
- Transitional Task Force (TTF) had a guest speaker and discussed conflict resolution.
- Pastor will walk Trinity through the steps in the Interim process he is following at the Annual meeting. Also, there will be a monthly coffee/fellowship time where Pastor can provide the congregation with updates and answer any questions about the Interim process as we move through this. The first Pastor information/coffee time will be Sunday February 11 at 9:00 am between services.

#### 2. Treasurer's Report

The offerings as of December 31, 2023 were \$350,514. The total expenses through December 31, 2023 were \$326,177.

Offerings exceed expenses by \$24,337.

The checking account balance as of December 31, 2023 is \$89,265.

#### 3. Financial Update

- Marc will do Temple Talk to review the proposed 2024 budget on January 14.
- The proposed 2024 budget was discussed and approved. See Action Item 3.
- Information about a cemetery donation was reviewed. More information will need to be collected and reviewed before a decision can be made. A team needs to be assembled to study the information and make a recommendation

#### 4. New Business

- Lent Offerings – It was suggested the Lenten offerings be given a Ukrainian refugee that has moved to St. Peter. See Action Item 4.
- Council/Committee Retreat – This will be held Saturday, February 3 from 9:00 to noon at Trinity. This will involve all of the council and committee members to gather and exchange thoughts for the upcoming year. This will replace the normal monthly meeting for committees and council.

- New Members – There will be new members received on January 21 during the worship services.
- The Kitchen – The Kitchen has been operating again for the past 15 months. Attendance has grown and now serves about 80 people. They work with Second Harvest program and use the ServSafe guidelines.

#### 5. Old Business

Building Keys – There are still some church building keys that have not been returned. Please do so at your earliest convenience. 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 renter for the Miller house has moved in. Don will install the new water fountain in the narthex and has plans for the Audio Visual room in the Sanctuary. They will look into an elevator for the Sunday School wing to make it accessible.

Community Life: They will order corsages for the new members and have a reception. They plan to put together Valentines kits.

Children, Youth and Family: They are ordering Bibles for Sunday School students. The Sunday School students will sing at the Palm Sunday service. They are looking ahead to Vacation Bible School and will do it in-house with curriculum we currently have most likely in August in the evenings.

Worship, Music and Arts: New candles for altar have been ordered. The choir practices on Sunday mornings during the winter.

Mission: They reviewed projects they have completed in the past year and are planning ahead.

Adult Education: Book studies are planned for upcoming year.

Stewardship: They are brainstorming ideas for 2024.

Nominating: The committee is meeting regularly and has made good progress.

#### B. Responsibilities Assigned:

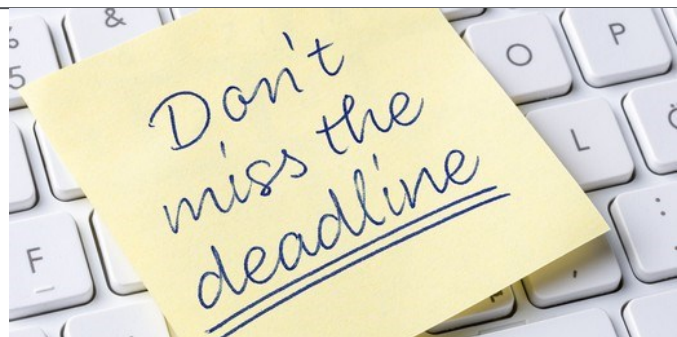
- Council members are requested to attend the Retreat on February 3rd.

#### Actions Taken:

1. Motion M/S/P to approve the agenda for the January Council meeting.
2. Motion M/S/P to approve the minutes of the December Council meeting.
3. Motion M/S/P to approve the proposed 2024 budget for Trinity.
4. Motion M/S/P to approve giving the Lenten offerings to Ukrainian refugee that has moved to St. Peter.
5. Motion M/S/P to approve a motion to adjourn.

**Next meeting:** Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 9:00 am.





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



## Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that Trinity Lutheran Church is situated on the ancestral homeland of the Wahpeton, Wahpekute, Sisseton, Očhéthi Šakówinj, 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.

## COMMITTEES

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Jim Kruger, Mikkel Haugen, Jamie Seitzer, Bob Broeder, Cathy Carlson, Nate Newhouse

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** Andy Elofson, Gretchen Bachman, Sarah Nelsen, Wendy Bachman, Kim Oeltjenburns, David Arpin

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:** Darrell Jodock, Thomas Young, Marc Bachman, Carolyn Dobler, Justin Dunn

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

**ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** Kris Rosacker, Barb Simpson, Al Behrends, Bill Nelsen

**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COMMITTEE:** Katherine Dunn, Nancy Sizer, Gretchen Lind, Larissa Gieseke-Nieves, Joni Seitzer, Liz Harris

**COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE:** Nancy Kruger, Vonnie Nelson-Borgmeier, Annette Meeks, Kathy Herberg, Kristen Loken, Melanie Schmidt

**MISSION COMMITTEE:** Kristie Gurrola, Mel Bexell, Sandi Francis, Beverly Pillars

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

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:** Carolyn Dobler, Edi Thorstennson, Jason Bexell

**WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS COMMITTEE:** Nancy Roessler, Cary Albers, Erick Lind

## CHURCH COUNCIL

**Marc Bachman (President)**

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

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

**Jim Kruger (Treasurer)** *Finance Committee Chair*

**Kris Rosacker** *Adult Education Committee Chair*

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

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

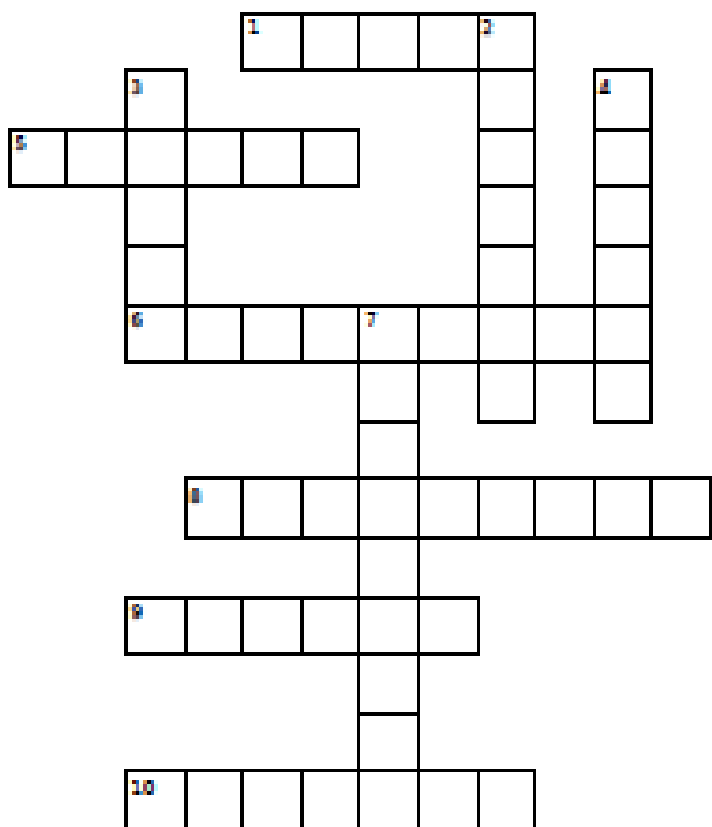
**Kristie Gurrola** *Mission Committee Chair*

**Paul Albers** *Property Committee Chair*

**Carolyn Dobler** *Stewardship Committee Chair*

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

# Winter Crossword Puzzle

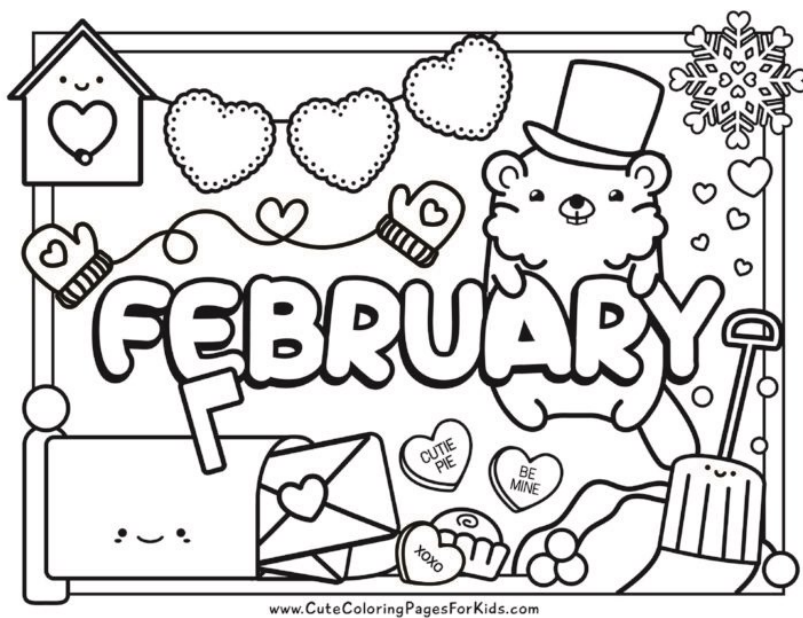
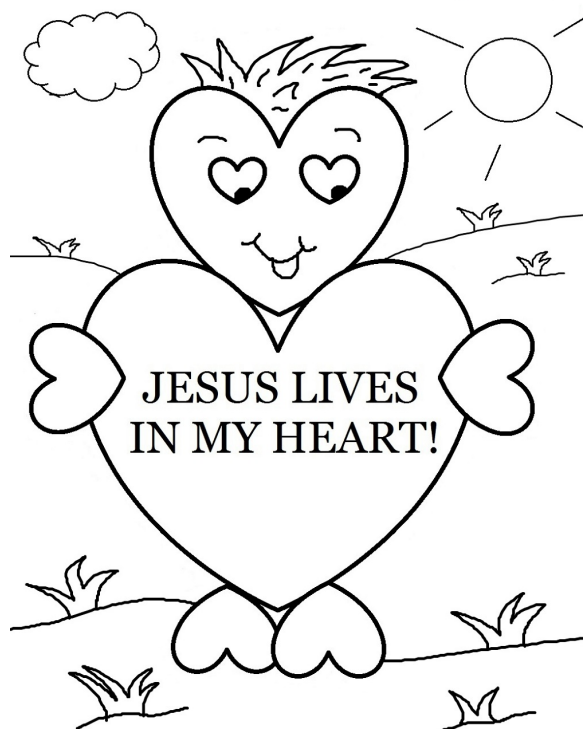


## Across:

1. Warm shoes that you wear outside in the winter.
5. A thin tapered object formed by frozen water drops.
6. A unique crystallized object that falls from the sky.
8. Something bears and other animals do to sleep during the winter.
9. Something scented that you light with a match.
10. You wear these on your hands to stay warm outside.

## Down:

2. Something you make out of snow with a carrot nose.
3. You might give or receive these for the holiday in wrapping paper.
4. Winter sport where you skate around with a puck
7. Something attached to your chimney that you can light a fire with.



## Lenten Drama Series

### “Oh, If They Could Only Speak”



“OH, IF THEY COULD ONLY SPEAK” is an original Lenten Drama series written by Pastor Dave over twenty-five years ago that brings to life five inanimate objects that played a role in the crucifixion of our Lord. We have associated these objects with pain, torture, death and sorrow. But what if they could speak? What would they say?

Join us each Wednesday night, beginning Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> as we will hear from each of these objects, beginning with the “crown of thorns”. Each Wednesday evening, we will dress a large cross in the front of the sanctuary and by the end of the Lenten season, we will have a unique “visual Image” that will add to the solemnness of the season.

**When: Wednesday evenings, February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20, at 6:45 pm**

**Where: Trinity Lutheran Church sanctuary**

**SPECIAL NOTE:** We will be having Soup Suppers each Wednesday night prior to the service that will be from 5:30 pm to 6:40 pm. Please join us for the meal and for the service!



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

Stamp

Address label

February



**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)

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