

The Trinity Times

FEBRUARY 2023

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

TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



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.

What Would Archie Bunker do?

Sunday, February 5 from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Take
Two!

Please join us as we watch an episode of "All in The Family" and explore topics related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We'll have popcorn and root beer floats to enjoy.

Please RSVP up on the sheet located on the bulletin board by the nursery or call the church office at 507- 934-4786

Childcare provided.

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The 2023 Simpson Forum

February 2, 9, 16 and 23
at 7:00 pm

Democracy and Christianity

The
Simpson
Forum

What is the role of Christians as responsible citizens in a democracy? This question is the basis of the 2023 Barbara and Justin Simpson Forum, DEMOCRACY & CHRISTIANITY, at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Peter. Along with such topics as the meaning of freedom, the role of patriotism and service, political allegiance, nationalism and civility, the forum speakers will address the shared responsibilities of Christians in a democratic - and divided - America. Join us for the Simpson Forum, February 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 7:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church as our speakers consider these and other questions. A brochure with more information is available in the narthex.

From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Roses are red violets are blue, Sugar is sweet and so are you! Here are a few variations of that little Valentine's Day message ... some are sweet and some are funny. Roses are red violets are blue, you've made all my dreams come true! Roses are red violets are blue, you know I've got my eyes on you! Roses are red, violets are yellow, being with you, makes me happy and mellow.

As you can well imagine, sweet expressions of friendship and messages of love will be sent and received in the days between now and February 14. But as great as those messages of love and friendship will be, no expression of love will ever measure up to God's expression of love for us. There are, of course, a multitude of passages from the Bible that proclaim God's love for us, but this one passage sums it up perfectly.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

For God so loved the world ... for God so loved you and me ... that he sent his own Son to save us from sin and death. For God so loved the world ... so loved you and me ... that he sent his own flesh and blood to give us new life now and eternal life when we draw our last breath. That is, after all, the sort of God He is -- full of grace and mercy, extravagant in love.

Ash Wednesday -- February 22 this year -- marks the beginning of a journey of love that led Jesus all the way to the cross for your sin, for my sin, for the sin of this whole world. We can never hear this great expression of God's love enough, so I hope you will make worship at 7:00 pm on Ash Wednesday part of your evening.

Then, looking past Ash Wednesday, I want to share with you the focus of worship the following Wednesdays of Lent -- March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. Worship each of those Wednesdays will include a reader's theater. Trinity folks will share a message on *Things of God: Sign, Coin, Cup, Thorn, and Sponge*. I hope you will make worship the Wednesday evenings (plus the Sunday mornings of Lent and every season of course) part of your life. Come, hear and experience again God's awesome love for you!

Before I end this newsletter article, here's one more poem for you. *Roses are red, violets are blue, God so loves you, forever and ever, it's true.* Share that love of God's with family, with friends, with everyone you meet.

In Christ,
Pastor Joy



Join us February 22 at 7:00 pm for
Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Contact the Pastor



Lead Pastor
Joy G. Ekstedt
pastorjoy@trinitystpeter.org

Children Message and Craft Time



Groundhog Day Word Search

burrow	hibernate
cloudy	hole
cold	holiday
day	mammal
emerge	Pennsylvania
February	prediction
forecast	Punxsutawney Phil
groundhog	rodent
shadow	underground
sign	weather
six weeks	winter
spring	

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

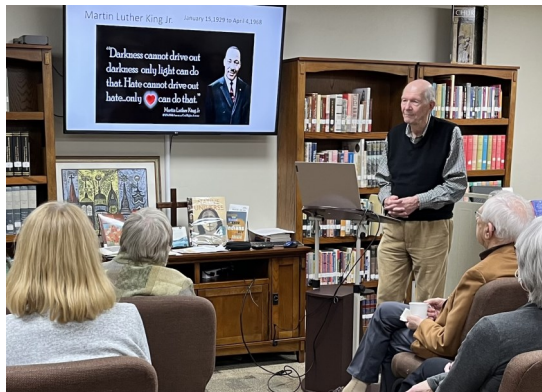
Adult Forum



"Martin Luther King, Civil Rights Then and Now".

Thank you to Pastor Bill Nelsen for sharing his experiences from his days in support of the famous Selma to Montgomery March and for the battle to pass the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

Pastor Bill Nelsen volunteered for Martin Luther King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Alabama in 1965. He, with his wife Margie, revisited Montgomery in April of 2022, they shared opportunities for everyone to connect with the meaning and events of the Civil Rights Movement and the steps that are still necessary to forge equality in our great nation.



GRACE ST.

Bible

Join us!

All are invited to TLC the second Thursday of the month for Bible study and great conversation. We meet in the fellowship hall at 10:30 am for about an hour.

Adult Education

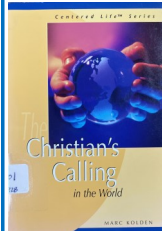
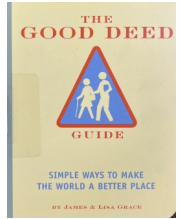


Featured in the Church Library

February

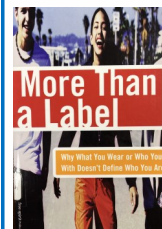
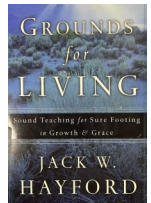
We hope you are keeping your New Year's reading resolutions going!

The Good Deed Guide, (6B Gra), by James and Lisa Grace. Simple ways to make the world a better place and become a better neighbor, a better friend, and a better citizen.



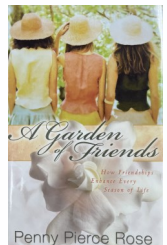
Christian's Calling in the World, (6 Kol). Our Work with God including faith and our callings, by Marc Kolden. A brief summary of Martin Luther's work on vocation and a practical essay on the idea that God calls people to have certain roles and responsibilities in their lives.

Grounds for Living, Sound teaching for Sure Footing in Growth & Grace, (5 Hay), by Jack W. Hayford. Pastor Jack's vision will equip you to serve God more boldly and effectively.



More Than a Label, (6 Muh), by Aisha Muharrar. Teens live with many labels every day and some are hurtful, hateful and untrue. You will discover that you are much more than just a label and YOU define you!

A Garden of Friends, (6 Ros), by Penny Pierce Rose. How friendships enhance every season of life. Agricultural parables teach spiritual truths and you will gain insights on biblical principles of friendship.



Bible Study

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

Lenten Soup Suppers



The Trinity Women (WELCA) will be hosting Lenten soup suppers on Wednesday nights during the month of March. At this time, plans are to begin serving at 5:00 pm.

If you would like to help out with set-up, serving, and/or clean-up, please sign up on the sign up sheet located on the women's bulletin board located in the hallway by the ladies restroom.



Tips From The Green Team

- ◆ Stay away from plastics
- ◆ Stay away from chemicals, they are harmful to our bodies and the environment.
- ◆ Read Labels! Can you understand the listed ingredients?

This spring and summer:

- ◆ Consider using a rain barrel
- ◆ Shop the local farmers market and purchase local produce.
- ◆ Keep an open mind to try new things and options!

These tips will benefit you and our planet.

Water Bottles



Save the date!

WELCA's Upcoming Meetings

WELCA meeting for all women of Trinity on Sunday, February 26 @ 10:15 am.

All Trinity Women are invited to attend our "2023 planning meeting" on Sunday, February 26, at 10:15am. We would love to get your input on our activities. You will also get the opportunity to learn what we do and see if there is anything you might want to help with whether it be one thing, two things, or more. Or perhaps you have a new idea for us to pursue.

SW MN Synodical Women's Organization Convention Slayton on Friday, May 5.

Spring Fling Brunch on Saturday, May 6.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Trinity Women are looking for a volunteer to serve as secretary for their group. Time commitment would be four formal meetings and planning meetings before an event. If you feel this is something you would be interested in or have questions about it, give Nancy a call or text at 507-340-9170. Thank you for your consideration!

Thankoffering Service

Trinity Women will be participating in a Thankoffering Service on Sunday, February 5, 2023. Pastor Heather Culuris, SW MN Synod Minister for Engaging Leaders, will be delivering the sermon at the service. Thankoffering envelopes will be available for the financial support of Trinity Women projects which include quilting and distribution to Lutheran World Relief and local shelters, school and health kits, and donations to several charitable organizations. WELCA also sells cards and napkins, provides volunteers for funeral services, hosts a spring event and advent brunch, sponsors bible studies, and much more.

Thank you for the generous support of Trinity Women from our congregation.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		
<p>5</p> <p>8:00 am Celebration Singers Rehearsal 9:00 am Thankoffering Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am Adult Forum 10:15 am Sunday School 6:00 pm What Would Archie Bunker Do?</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:30 pm The Kitchen</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 am Trinity Women Mission Quilters 5:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting</p>
<p>12</p> <p>8:00 am Celebration Singers Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship Service w Committee & Council Member Installation 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am Adult Forum 10:15 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Christikon Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:30 pm The Kitchen</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:00 am Celebration Singers Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am Adult Forum 10:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>Presidents Day</i> 1:30 pm Hope Circle At Realife Cooperative 5:30 pm The Kitchen</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 am Trinity Women Mission Quilters 7:30 pm dei.B Meeting</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8:00 am Celebration Singers Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am Adult Forum 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am WELCA Meeting for all Women 7:00 pm Green Team Meeting</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:30 pm The Kitchen</p>	<p>28</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Worship on Wednesday 7:00 pm Confirmation	2 7:00 pm Simpson Forum	3	4
8 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Worship on Wednesday 7:00 pm Confirmation	9 10:30 am Grace Street Bible Study 7:00 pm Simpson Forum	10	11 9:00 am-12:30 pm Committee Council Retreat
15 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Worship on Wednesday 7:00 pm Confirmation	16 2:15 pm Devotions & Communion at Benedictine Court 7:00 pm Simpson Forum	17	18
22 9:30 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm Confirmation	23 7:00 pm Simpson Forum	24	25



SHARE THE LOVE



Share your love with the Saint Peter Community and sponsor a meal at The Kitchen at Trinity Lutheran Church.

We are looking for families that would like to make a financial contribution to sponsoring a Monday night meal. We have a few options listed below

Please consider giving at one of the levels:

Level 1 \$150

Level 2 \$100

Level 3 \$75

We also need volunteers to help with cooking and serving the meals. Please consider a donation of your time. Send an email to servingtheneed56082@gmail.com and a link will be provided for you to sign up.

Please reach out to a church member for any questions or you can reach us at servingtheneed56082@gmail.com

Checks can be made to Trinity Lutheran with a note in the memo: "The Kitchen".

Trinity Lutheran- Sandi Francis
Church of St. Peter -Dean Peterson
Union Presbyterian- Jen Baxa
First Lutheran- Marilyn Kochsiek



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*



Our winter wonderland

A fresh snowfall can be beautiful ... and it can be treacherous. Because we want everyone to be safe, here's a reminder of Trinity's policy regarding winter weather and scheduled events at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Confirmation Classes and all Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) events will be cancelled if our public school dismisses early or is cancelled entirely due to weather issues. All involved will be informed if the church event is rescheduled.

In the case of inclement weather affecting Sunday School, Trinity's Lead Pastor, the President of the Congregation, and the Sunday School Coordinator will consult with each other. Cancellation of Sunday school will happen no later than 5:00 pm the preceding day.

Cancellation of Worship Services will be determined by Trinity's Lead Pastor and the President of the Congregation. Decisions regarding Wednesday evening services will be made by 4:00 pm that day, and Sunday morning worship services will be cancelled no later than 5:00 pm the preceding day.

Broadcasting cancellations will happen through Trinity's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TrinLuth), the church website (www.trinitystpeter.org), KEYC TV, and KNUJ-AM 860 radio.

In Memory of

Dennis Erickson

July 1, 1936 – January 5, 2023

Bev Aanonsen

March 28, 1934 – January 16, 2023

Worship Assistants

February		5	12	19	26
Lay Readers	9:00	Nancy Kruger	Jason Bexell	Wendy Bachman	Kathy Herberg
Ushers	9:00	Rita Kruger Jill Gatzke	Barb, Bailey & Leo Strong	Katherine Dunn Justin Dunn	
Council Assistants	9:00	Kayla Siewert	Kayla Siewert	Kayla Siewert	Kayla Siewert
Acolytes	9:00		Kai Strong	Michael Dunn	
Altar Care		Irene Hoehn	NA	Kayla Siewert	
Coffee Fellowship Hosts	10:00	Nancy Kruger Jim Kruger	Sandi Francis Kristi Gurrola	Meredith Young Tom Young	Meredith Young Tom Young

Please note: If you have made a change to the schedule, it may not be reflected here.

February	1	8	15	22
Council Assistants	Alie Hermanson	Alie Hermanson	Alie Hermanson	Alie Hermanson
Ushers	Alecia Guida Shaun Guida		Kathy Kukacka Chris Kukacka	
Acolytes	Ashton Guida	Noah Nieves	Emily Kukacka	
Altar Care	Rita Gibbs	NA	NA	NA



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. 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 Vanco Mobile through your app store.

Web: click on the Give button on our website.

Mail: 511 S 5th St, St. Peter, MN 56082

Thank you for your support!

Church Council Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2023

Present: Sarah Nelson, Kayla Siewert, Meredith Young, Rita Gibbs, Alie Hermanson, Nancy Kruger, Jeff Feder, Jim Timmerman, Carolyn Dobler, Cathy Carlson, Pastor Joy Ekstedt

Absent: None

Devotions: None

A. Business Discussed:**1. Pastor Joy's Report**

- Pastoral care – went to Sand Prairie Hill, Benedictine Court (assisted living) and Benedictine Living Community (nursing home) and served Holy Communion to members the weeks of December 6 and 13. Contacted TLC Companions about their availability to see their Companions. Also had conversations with Corrine Sprague's family and funeral director to attend to all the plans and the bulletin for her memorial service. Thank you to Pastor Bill Nelsen for also meeting with the Sprague family and leading the service.
- Thank you to Wendy Bachman, Nancy Sizer and Tim Kennedy for offering the message at mid-week Advent worship services. Thank you as well to Cathy Carlson for being the cantor for each of those services. They all did a fantastic job!
- Confirmation students met in small groups the Wednesday nights of Advent and had conversation about the traditions of the season. Classes resume January 4 and a new member of TLC, Eva Hendrickson has a great learning event planned for us!
- All of TLC's scheduled Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services happened despite the old fashioned blizzard which led some congregations to cancel services. Given the weather we had good attendance and great music.

- Prepared notes for and met with Lauryn Oberlander, Brenda Dent and Nancy Hanson who were the volunteers in the office during the holiday time. Thanks to each of them for their time.
- Kristen and I will be working on getting the annual report ready for the congregation's annual meeting. Thank you to Jen Hubrig who is working on the financial reports as well as the Narrative Budget – all for the annual meeting.
- As chair of SPAM (St Peter Area Ministerial Assoc) I learned about a program through Habitat for Humanity called "Aging in Place". It is meant to help elders stay longer, safely in their own homes. I have arranged to have a representative from HfH speak at the January SPAM meeting (hosted at TLC) regarding this program.
- TLC's WELCA is leading the Thank Offering service on Sunday, February 5 with snow date

planned for February 12. Thank you in advance to these women

2. Treasurer's Report:

- Offerings as of December 30 were \$346,224.93
- Total expenses through December have been \$452,315.23
- Expenses exceed offerings by \$89,126.88.
- Checking account balance as of December 30 is \$34,202.71

3. Housing Allowance

- Pr Joy requested that council approve her housing allowance of \$25,000. See Action Item 3.

4. Copier

- Pastor Joy brought the issue of the current copier machine will be coming up to the end of the service contract. Discussion about what was the past practice and what Trinity needs took place. Meredith volunteered to work with Kristen to review the situation.

5. Trauma Counseling

- The Bishop brought a variety of resources at the congregation meeting for the members when she came for misconduct of Nate Luong. One of the options was working with LSS Counselor Kay Kinkel for small group or one-on-one sessions. Also, another option is having the Bishop and/or Synod staff available for one-on-one sessions. No date has been set.

6. Committee Reports

- Property Committee: They are following up to get bids to fix the HVAC system.
- Community Life: In December they have treat bags for shut-ins and caroling was December 11.
- Children, Youth and Family: They are rethinking the time of Sunday School and possibly move it back to the previous time. They will be sending out an email questionnaire about the SS times. If the response to the survey is favorable to change the SS time, then it will be presented to council at the February meeting for a vote.
- Worship, Music and Arts: No report.
- Mission: They have reached out to other churches. The Kitchen to continue to increase the number of people attending. The d.e.i.-B. committee is under the Mission committee and they are looking to present another session the "What would Archie Bunker do? Part 2" on February 5 at 6:00pm.
- Adult Education: Continuing to fill in their schedule. Looking into possible book study to begin in March. The new display case is library!
- Stewardship: No report.

B. Responsibilities Assigned:

- Meredith will follow up with Kristen to review the copier machine situation.

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 Proposed Budget for 2023.
4. Motion M/S/P to approve to use Johnson & Hoehn Accountants for the 2023 payroll.
5. Motion M/S/P to approve authorization of the council president to contact an attorney to begin the process of eviction.
6. Motion M/S/P to approve contacting the Synod to bring trauma counselors to assist Trinity members.
7. Motion M/S/P to approve the alternate Annual Meeting date of February 12 at 10:15am.
8. Motion M/S/P to extend an invitation to the Bishop of the Synod for listening sessions at Trinity.

C. 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 housing allowance of \$25,000 for Pr Joy for 2023.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 6:30 pm

COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Avery Bachman, Marc Bachman, Mikkel Haugen, John Lammert, 2 vacancies

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: David Detlefson, Casey Dunker, Jennifer Lammert, Meredith Young

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 6 vacancies

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Al Behrends, Nancy Hanson, Bill Nelsen, Kris Rosacker, Barbara Simpson, Jim Timmerman, 1 vacancy

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COMMITTEE: Alie Hermanson, Eva Kracht, Gretchen Lind, Will Nelsen, Kristi Portuguese, Nancy Sizer, Maggie Weideman, 1 vacancy

COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE: Cathy Carlson, Nancy Kruger, Margie Nelson, Vonnie Nelson-Borgmeier, 2 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 Thorstennson, 2 vacancies

WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS COMMITTEE: Deb Dixon, Paul Matzke, Nancy Roessler, 3 vacancies

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*

CHURCH COUNCIL

Kayla Siewert (President)

Meredith Young (Vice President) Personnel Committee Chair

Rita Gibbs (Secretary) Nominating Committee Chair

Marc Bachman (Treasurer) Finance Committee Chair

Jim Timmerman Adult Education Committee Chair

Alie Hermanson Children, Youth and Families Committee Chair

Nancy Kruger Community Life Committee Chair

Mission Committee Chair

Jeff Feder Property Committee Chair

Carolyn Dobler Stewardship Committee Chair

Nancy Roessler Worship, Music & Arts Committee Chair

Pastor Joy Ekstedt: Oversees Finance, Community Life, Property, Stewardship, Endowment, Personnel, Nominating, and Worship, Music & Arts Committees

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

Stamp

Address label

February
♥



Trinity Lutheran Church

507 - 934 - 4786

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www.trinitystpeter.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Friday

8:30 am to
12:00 pm

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Joy G. Ekstedt

Kristen Thomas

Judy Maharry

Annette Meeks

Avis McDaniel

Nancy Sizer

Lead Pastor:

Church Secretary:

Church Administrator:

Organist/Pianist:

Celebration Singers Director:

PraiseBAND Director:

JOY! Choir Director:

Contact Information