

March 2022

Pastor's Page

Grace and Peace New Friends!

Rejoice!

*'Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.'* (Phil 4.4)

Thank you for the gift of being able to serve with you for a short time as the (bridge) Interim at Trinity! What "bridge" means is just that – I'll walk with you for a few weeks and bridge the gap until another pastor is free to come and serve as your interim pastor through the call process.

Just a word of introduction. I'm a retired ELCA pastor who recently moved back to the metro area. (Our address is Chisago City.) I've served two settled calls as well as four interim calls in the Southwestern Synod of Minnesota. My husband, Bill, grew up in Scandia, while Forest Lake was home for me, so we are somewhat familiar with this area. Bill is retired military and also served as a Director of Planned Giving for the ELCA before retirement. I've served in ordained ministry now for 28 years, which means we've had the pleasure of living in quite a number of places, meeting many delightful people with amazing stories of faith and life, and, in joyous as well as in the challenging times of life, we've experienced the wonder of God's Spirit continually at work.

I'm sure that this amazing Spirit continues to be at work here at Trinity, and will give all of us much to do for the sake of the kingdom as we daily Rejoice! And continue to live into our baptismal promises. So I thank you for your patience as we "adjust" to one another. And I thank you for this chance to share, if even for a short time, in the ministry of proclaiming Christ's love in word and deed!!

Blessings & Peace +,
Pastor Marlene Elmstrom



TRINITY TIDINGS

Trinity Lutheran Church



A First Communion Class will be held Thursday, April 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This instruction is open to any and all people who have not yet received Communion. If you or your child/children would like to participate in this year's class, forms are available in the office and on our website. . Parents are invited to attend the class with their child or children. Those participating in the class will be invited to commune for the first time on Maundy Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 pm. Contact Julie with questions. Please register by Monday, April 11.

Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt Candy Donations Needed -- A donation board is set up in the narthex with tags for candy needed for our event. We are asking for new, unopened bags of the following fun-sized candy to be returned to the church office before Monday, March 28. Please only donate the following kinds due to allergies: Starbursts and Skittles. Fun-size is needed to fit inside the Easter eggs.
THANK YOU for your help!





Full to the Brim
An expansive Lent

The scriptures for this Lenten season are filled with parables and promises of God’s abundant and expansive grace: Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise. These sacred texts are brimming with a gospel of grace. We’ve done nothing to deserve or earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills

over. *Full to the Brim* is an invitation into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It’s an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. It disrupts the scarcity mentality that capitalism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God’s lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

Full to the Brim, with resources from Sanctified Art, reminds us to trust the promise of our baptisms—God has already claimed us as God’s own and nothing we can do will ever change or erase that. If love is our beginning, how can we live our lives led by love’s promises? *Full to the Brim* reminds us to live fully and trust that we belong to God. We are encouraged to increase our capacity to receive and give grace and to fully discover the expansive life God dreams for us.

Our Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. The crosses on our foreheads this day tell a part of the story. The empty tomb tells a fuller, more expansive truth: death will not have the last word. There is more. God is more. This truth requires me to believe that I am truly worthy of love, belonging, and grace. It requires me to believe others are also. We, just as we are, are enough.

Come as you are, with all you that you are, to the Wednesday Lenten and Sunday morning worship services this Lenten season and be *Filled to the Brim* with God’s amazing love and grace. May you find the *Full to the Brim* devotional booklet included with this month’s Tidings a source of light and hope.

For many of us, one of the traditions of the Easter season is to give a gift in memory of or in honor of those we love and are thankful for. This is often in the form of a financial gift to our Easter flower garden in the sanctuary. While there will be some Easter flowers in the sanctuary this year, we have the cost of those covered. So, we are offering a different opportunity to remember loved ones this Lenten/Easter season and in doing so also help those who are in greatest need. We encourage you to give a gift towards the North Branch Food Shelf this year.



Fill out your Memorial/gratitude gift form below like you have done in the past when donating to the Easter garden and make your check out to Trinity Lutheran Church with North Branch Food Shelf in the memo line. We will then make out one check to the Food Shelf from Trinity. **Please return the form to the church office by Sunday, April 10.** Names of the memorialized will appear in the Easter bulletins. Forms received after April 10 will not be included in the bulletins

Thank-you for your continued generosity as we do the work of God’s people in this time and place!

In memory of:

In gratitude for

From:



worship will be held
**Wednesday March 2 at
 11:00 am and 7:00 pm in our
 Sanctuary.**

**Confirmation students
 attend 7:00 pm service.**



**will be held
 Wednesdays, March 9 -
 April 6 at 11:00 am and
 7:00 pm in our
 Sanctuary.**

**Confirmation students
 attend 7:00 pm services.**



Please email articles for the
 April Trinity Tidings to
office@trinitynorthbranch.org
 by March 15. Thank you!



To submit a prayer chain prayer
 request or to be added to the email
 recipient list, please call the office or
 email office@trinitynorthbranch.org.



If you are a Thrivent member, please consider applying for a \$250 Action Grant to help fund Trinity's Outreach projects! They can be used towards Viking Vittles, Blessing Bags, Trinity's Grocery Shelf, and other fundraising projects. Every Thrivent member is eligible to apply for a minimum of one action grant per year. They are simple to apply for as everything is done online and takes about 5 minutes. For more information stop in the office, email outreach@trinitynorthbranch.org, or contact Donna Setter at 612-363-5072.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR TRINITY'S HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Through the foresight and generosity of several members of our church, a scholarship fund has been established at Trinity Lutheran as part of our memorial fund giving. Following are the guidelines for high school seniors interested in applying.

1. The applicant must be a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.
2. The applicant must attend an ELCA affiliated school.
3. The scholarship will be paid directly to the school.
4. The scholarship will be for the graduating seniors in the present year and will be given in accordance with the guidelines of the school which the applicant is attending. If money remains available, it will be offered to students entering upper classes at ELCA schools.
5. Applicants must be full time students. Since each school has its own definition of full-time student, the definition at the school the applicant will be attending will be our guidelines for defining full time student.
6. The maximum scholarship will be \$500 but may be less depending on available funds and the number of qualified applicants. Please note that the number of applicants determine the amount of the individual scholarship award. The decision of the church council is all who apply and meet the guidelines will share equally in the scholarship fund.
7. Letters of application must be received by **May 1st** of the applicant's senior year and be accompanied by a letter of acceptance from the school the applicant will be attending. The letter of application should include the students name, address, phone number, name of school the student will be attending along with a statement that he/she is applying to receive the scholarship award. If the student knows whether or not the school to which he/she is applying has a matching fund plan, this information should also be included along with a copy of the letter of acceptance from the school. In cases where the application is an upperclassperson at an ELCA College, the letter of application must also be received by **May 1** for the following September—May school year. Verification that the upperclassperson meets all the above criteria will be required. A form is available in the church office and on the church website.
8. In the event there are additional moneys available after above criteria has been met, we will accept applications from other members who are students at other Christian affiliated schools.

Children & Youth Ministry News

Children's Ministry:

Sunday School children will be kicking off March with family-style Sunday School on Sunday, March 6, with our hot cocoa party in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00-9:45 a.m. Families will enjoy fun craft stations, cocoa, and cookies (Covid numbers allowing). Children will also be singing in church at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 6. We will have a few Sundays off for Spring Break and will meet back up at the end of March to practice our Palm Sunday songs. Save the date for our Sunday School Family Easter Egg Hunt, on Palm Sunday, April 10, at 9:30 a.m. outside on the Trinity lawn. (Will move to the Fellowship Hall if inclement weather.) Children will also share their palm branch parade and song at the 10:00 service on Palm Sunday. Watch for the RSVP email so we can be sure to have enough candy and goodie bags for everyone.

March 6: Family Style Sunday School and Hot Cocoa Party 9:00-9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, children sing at 10:00 a.m. worship

March 13 & March 20: NO Sunday School -- Spring Break

March 27: Prodigal Grace -- Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



The church nursery will be staffed for our 10:00 am worship services

EDGE High School Youth Ministry

We have a group of 7 youth and 2 adults heading to Luther Park in Danbury, WI, this July for our mission trip. We will be doing service projects on site at the camp and offsite in the local community. We're looking forward to opening our hearts to what God has in store for our group and growing in faith with one another. We appreciate your prayers and support of our youth on our trip! EDGE went on a winter hike at Anderson County Park at the end of February. We also donated our food from our County Market Poverty Simulation to the North Branch Food Shelf last month. We packed college care packages for the Lenten season and sent those out in February. EDGE will start meeting a little earlier for the Lenten season and will attend worship services together. At the end of March, EDGE will be helping stuff Easter eggs for the Sunday School Family Easter Egg hunt.

March 2 - EDGE meeting 6:00, Ash Wednesday worship at 7 p.m.

March 9 - EDGE packs Viking Vittles at 6:00, Lenten worship at 7 p.m.

March 16 - NO EDGE -- Spring Break

March 23 - EDGE meeting 6:00, Lenten worship at 7 p.m.

March 30 - EDGE packs Easter eggs at 6:00, Lenten worship at 7 p.m.



Trinity's Altar Guild needs your help! Due to aging and illness the Guild is shrinking. Do you have one hour a week, one week of the year to see that the altar area is neat, that the paraments are correct for the season and see to the general tidiness of the sanctuary. This can be done by men or women, couples. Current members will be available for training. If this is calling you, please let Julie in the office know of your willingness. Thank you!



Our weekly worship will be available each Sunday live at 8 & 10a on our YouTube channel, and about 90 minutes later on our facebook page. Links can be found on our website.

Like Trinity Lutheran Church on facebook, and comment on our posts! Worship videos are posted each Sunday!



Bible Study will not be meeting until further notice. If you'd like to be added to the email Bible Study, let Julie know at jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org.

"Christ in Our Home" daily devotionals for January, February and March have arrived.

Large and regular print books are available. If you'd like a copy, email jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org or leave a message for Julie at 651-674-7047 to pickup.



MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Masks required in the building at all times, except recommended at 10:00 am worship and youth events.	8 & 10 am worship services are livestreamed on YouTube, and available for viewing later on YouTube and facebook!	1 8:30 am Outreach Meeting	2 11:00 am Ash Wednesday worship 6:00 pm EDGE 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday worship	3 Church Office may be closed. Please call ahead.	4	5
6 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Family Style Sunday School	7	8 9:00 am Fellowship Meeting	9 11:00 am Lenten worship 3:00-5:00 pm Fare for All & Shoe Bus 6:00 pm EDGE 7:00 pm Lenten worship	10	11 9:00 am-3:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive	12 
13 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am No Sunday School	14	15 April Tidings articles due 7:00 pm Council Mtg	16 11:00 am Lenten Worship NO EDGE 7:00 pm Lenten worship	17 	18	19
20 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am No Sunday School	21	22	23 11:00 am Lenten Worship 6:00 pm EDGE 7:00 pm Lenten worship	24	25	26
27 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Sunday School	28 	29	30 11:00 am Lenten Worship 6:00 pm EDGE 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	31		

Treasurer's Report

Statement of Income and Expenses

Month Ending January 31, 2022
Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch, MN

<u>Income</u>	January Actual	January Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Unified Giving	\$ 33,347	\$ 29,740	\$ 33,347	\$ 29,740
Loose Offering	\$ 138	\$ 233	\$ 138	\$ 233
Other Income	\$ 124	\$ 83	\$ 124	\$ 83
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Phoenix Operating Reimbursement	\$ 3,099	\$ 2,167	\$ 3,099	\$ 2,167
Special Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Regular Giving	\$ 36,708	\$ 32,224	\$ 36,708	\$ 32,224
<u>Expenses</u>	January Actual	January Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<u>Mission Support</u>				
Synod Support	\$ 2,429	\$ 2,429	\$ 2,429	\$ 2,429
Missionaries	\$ 188	\$ 188	\$ 188	\$ 188
Iringa Church Tanzania	\$ 92	\$ 92	\$ 92	\$ 92
Sub-total Mission Expenses	\$ 2,708	\$ 2,708	\$ 2,708	\$ 2,708
<u>General Expenses</u>				
Ministry Support	\$ 26,692	\$ 32,005	\$ 26,692	\$ 32,005
Church Property	\$ 10,486	\$ 10,540	\$ 10,486	\$ 10,540
Stewardship	\$ 141	\$ 150	\$ 141	\$ 150
Learning & Youth	\$ 142	\$ 308	\$ 142	\$ 308
Worship	\$ 317	\$ 208	\$ 317	\$ 208
Witness & Service	\$ -	\$ 17	\$ -	\$ 17
Sub-total General Expenses	\$ 37,779	\$ 43,228	\$ 37,779	\$ 43,228
Total Regular Expenses	\$ 40,487	\$ 45,936	\$ 40,487	\$ 45,936
Total Net Income - January 2021	\$ (3,779)	\$ (13,713)		
Total Net Income - Year-To-Date			\$ (3,779)	\$ (13,713)

January Income was \$4,485 over the January Budget
January Expense was \$5,449 under the January Budget

Net Income is -\$3,779 for January
Net Income is -\$3,779 Year to Date

YTD Phoenix Rent Received \$22,314
Mortgage Balance as of 01/31/2022 \$129,971.31

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd J. Fisk

Treasurer

See our website www.trinitynorthbranch.org to give electronically on a one-time or recurring basis. Select the date and frequency (one time, weekly or monthly) and designate the amount and fund (Unified, Building, Viking Vittles, Memorial or Other.) Changes can easily be made at any time.

Offering can also be mailed to Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 447, North Branch, MN 55056.

FROM THE CHAIR.....

Hopefully, by the time this Tidings comes out, the weather will be a lot warmer and less windy than the month of February was.

We welcome Pastor Marlene Elmstrom as our interim bridge pastor, Pastor Marlene will be with us until April 3rd. We appreciate having her here with us during this transition time. That week of April 4th, we will welcome Pastor Greg Wilcox, who will then be our full time interim pastor until we call a new Senior Pastor. We are very grateful and fortunate to have these two interim pastors with us. Please take the time to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.



March is also the start of spring. I like to think of spring as a time when the snow is, hopefully, melting away and you can see signs of new life in the budding of trees and maybe some stems of flowers starting to come out of the ground. It can also be a time to see new life in our church, in continuing to support our roof fund and also trying to get our mortgage paid down.

Soon our Palm Sunday and Easter season will be upon us. We are so blessed as a congregation to have so much to look forward to in the coming months.

The season of spring brings hope. Let this be a start of rekindling your faith in the Lord Almighty. It is the time to renew your faith, and acknowledge His presence. Trust in Him, and you will prosper. Recognize Him again, and wait for His light to shine upon you. Let us believe in His blessings-both visible and invisible. Follow His words, be righteous and loving, and do good deeds to others. Let Him lead you to the right way. That's the essence of spring.

Linda Born



To the Roof Fund in memory of Harold Hansen from Bev Otterness



At Home Covid Tests

Public health has given us a small amount of at home Covid tests for us to distribute to shut-ins or those who are otherwise unable to get to a testing site. Please contact Sue or Julie if you know of someone who needs a test but is unable to otherwise be tested.

Gas & Grocery Cards

Requests for gas and grocery cards are on the rise. If you'd like to donate cards for us to give to those in need, we request a \$25 maximum on a County Market, Kwik Trip or Holiday (fuel only cards if possible). Cards may be brought to the office, or if you'd like to make a monetary donation, please note Gas & Grocery Cards, and we will pick up cards.

The Shoe Bus will be at Trinity with Fare for All on Wednesday, march 9 from 3:00-5:00 pm in our Fellowship Hall. See <https://goodinthehood.org/our-programs> for more information.

Viking Vittles Help Needed

We are looking for some members to help with packing Viking Vittles.

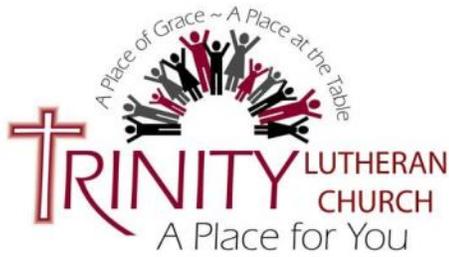
If you are able to help, please sign up at <https://signup.com/go/CPhKcVP> or call Mary Twitchell at 320-630-5040.

Fare for All is back at Trinity Lutheran Church. The next sales will be held 3:00-5:00 (new time) March 9 & April 6. See www.fareforall.org for details.

ALTAR GUILD

Serving for the month of March

Tom & Candi Hals



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
North Branch, MN
Permit 39

38460 Lincoln Trail
PO Box 447
North Branch, MN 55056

Return Service Requested

Mailing Label

March 2022

Partners in Ministry: The People of Trinity

Church Office: 651-674-7047 Church Fax: 651-674-7048
Church Office Hours: 8:00 am-3:00 pm Monday-Thursday
Sunday Worship: livestreamed at 8a & 10a on YouTube.
Available on facebook 930 & 1130a. See our website for links.
8:00 (masks required) & 10:00 a.m. (masks optional)
Church email: office@trinitynorthbranch.org
Church website: www.trinitynorthbranch.org
Pastor Marlene Elmstrom pastor@trinitynorthbranch.org ext. 12
Sue Danielzuk, Church Administrator
sdanielzuk@trinitynorthbranch.org ext. 37
Marie Ray, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
mray@trinitynorthbranch.org ext. 13
Sarah Krosschell, Sunday School Coordinator
skrosschell@trinitynorthbranch.org
Deb Aulich, Director of Worship and Arts
daulich@trinitynorthbranch.org ext. 14
Julie Morgan, Church Office Manager
jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org ext. 10
Christopher Dehen, Financial Recorder
cdehen@trinitynorthbranch.org
Jaron Roberts, Audio Visual Manager
jroberts@trinitynorthbranch.org

Tyler Olson: Sr. Choir Director
tolson@trinitynorthbranch.org
Roger Anderson & Jeff Hill, Custodians
Rick Olson & Luke Meyer, Cemetery Staff
Outreach Committee:
Outreach@trinitynorthbranch.org
Todd Fisk, Church Treasurer
Missionaries: Dr. Stephen Swanson family – Tanzania
Our Sister Congregation in Tanzania—Pawaga

Church Council Members:
Chris Judson, Council Chair
Linda Born, Lucas Edson, Tom Hals
Rosanne Johnson, Aaron Nysse, Stan Sjodahl,
Ann Tanko, Vicky Trampe

Are you receiving the Tidings by e-mail and by regular mail?
To reduce our expenses and receive only the email version, contact Julie at jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org