

April 2022

## Pastor's Page



TRINITY TIDINGS

# Trinity Lutheran Church



It's an interesting time of contrasts in our world right now, isn't it? The sun shines so brightly through my window that my eyes can hardly withstand it. Yet outside the morning temperatures, and the fact that the geese that returned to our pond found no open water, remind us that winter isn't quite through with us yet.

Looks deceive!

In these early spring days, the world looks so beautiful and inviting as the sun dances and glistens on the rain-washed ground– and especially on the ice-encrusted snow hills in the parking lot that the school children have found such a delight recently! Yet I know that when I venture out to walk, in some places at early times of the day, there could still be hidden spots of ice that scream danger. (And which could make me dance in ways that are not inviting or beautiful - especially for people my age 😊)

Looks deceive!

As I sit here in the peace and comfort of my office sipping my tea and thinking of all the wonderful and amazing things that are happening here at Trinity – and all the amazing volunteers that keep things happening - I also remember that there are people in other parts of the world that are frantically trying to escape the ravages of war! Lord, have mercy!!

Looks deceive!

As I've had the privilege to serve here with you for a time, I realize as I look out at your faces in worship – as I hear you laugh and interact with one another in the hallway – that for some there is also pain and challenges in life that are bravely masked by people continuing to put the best foot (and actions) forward.

Looks deceive!

There is much to fill our thoughts and our prayer time, isn't there? Especially as we've been privileged to share and contemplate the Lenten series, "Full to the Brim" together. Each week we recognize that we have much to celebrate and much to lament!

My prayer for you as you continue the journey to the promise of resurrection and new life – as you "begin again!" with Pastor Greg Wilcox as your intentional interim - is that in the midst of all the contrasts that might be a part of life in the days to come, that you will remember that looks can and sometimes do deceive. But not the cross! This instrument of torture and death for Jesus is also God's bold declaration and assurance of forgiveness and life for us and for this whole contrasting and messy world that God so loves!

So, thank you, my friends, for the privilege of serving with you in this bridge time. It has been a delight to share with you. And I trust that your days to come will be filled with joy as you count your blessings. And that they will also be filled with confidence as you (possibly?) face the surprising challenges that come your way! Either way, you are enough! You have enough, thanks be to God!! For you always have the gift of Jesus!

Blessings & Peace+, Pastor Marlene

### HOLY WEEK



**Palm Sunday, April 10:** 8:00 & 10:00 am worship

9:00 am Palm Sunday Brunch Youth Fundraiser

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE** (pastries, fruit, cheese, coffee, juice, tea) All are welcome!

**Maundy Thursday, April 14:** 11:00 am & 7:00 pm Worship

First Communion at 7:00 pm service (see page 2 to register for First Communion)

**Good Friday, April 15:** Worship 7:00 pm

**Easter Sunday, April 17:** 6:30 am Cemetery Service, 8:00 & 10:00 am Worship Services

9:00 am Coffee Hour

## 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.



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.

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 Easter flowers in the sanctuary this year, we have the cost of those covered. 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:

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In gratitude for

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From:

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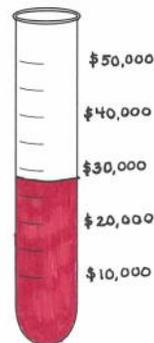
To submit a prayer chain prayer request or to be added to the email recipient list, please call the office or email [office@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:office@trinitynorthbranch.org).



Please email articles for the April Trinity Tidings to [office@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:office@trinitynorthbranch.org) by April 19. Thank you!

### Let's Raise the Roof!

The total cost of replacing the roof is \$164,315. We are in the midst of a campaign that is asking the congregation to raise at least \$50,000 towards that effort. With that and other available funds, the roof will be paid for in full! Any money over \$50,000 will help pay down the mortgage more quickly. Currently we have pledges and non-pledged donations of \$27,830, so we are just slightly over halfway to our goal with only a few months left to go before the work begins! Please consider contributing!



## An introduction to Rev. Greg Wilcox

Dear Friends at Trinity,

I'm happy to give you a little introduction to myself, with the hope that I will have the chance to learn about you and hear, at least a little, of your story. For me, that is an essential part of being a pastor and being a partner with you in mission and ministry.

My parents were missionaries in West Pakistan where I was born, but they soon moved back to the States and I grew up in Southern California. When my parents returned to the mission field—Nepal this time—I finished high school in Sioux Falls, SD. Post high school I went to a little Bible school—CLBS—in Los Angeles, then college back in Sioux Falls at Augustana University and seminary at Luther in St. Paul, MN. Starting in high school, and at times during college and at seminary as well, I worked as a nursing assistant in a variety of nursing homes—experiences that would provide important experiences for a future call.

My first call after seminary was in 1983 to a two-point parish in Hendrum, MN—a farming community of about 350 in the Red River Valley 30 miles north of Moorhead. In 1988 I accepted a call to specialized ministry with The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society—a senior services and long term care ministry affiliated with the ELCA. For 32 years I oversaw the mission and ministry of the Society working out of their corporate headquarters in Sioux Falls but traveling around the country doing inservices and workshops and retreats for residents and staff members at Good Samaritan communities around the country.

My wife Gail and I have been married for just over 40 years and we have four children, three sons and a daughter. Three of our kids are married and all of our kids—along with seven grandkids—live in the Twin Cities area.

One of my favorite pastimes through the past many years has been camping, canoeing and fishing—often in the Boundary Waters in Northern Minnesota. Because of that, and because of family and friends in the Twin Cities, we bought a lake place on North Center Lake by Lindstrom, MN ten years ago. After I retired from Good Samaritan in 2020, and my wife retired from her lay ministry position at our church in Sioux Falls, we moved full-time to our lake place.

I've just finished a year long interim ministry call in rural Amery, WI and I'm excited about beginning at Trinity on April 4. I'm looking forward to getting to know you and discovering together what God has in store for us in the months ahead.

In Christ's love, Rev. Greg Wilcox

**April 3 will be Pastor Marlene's last Sunday as our Bridge Interim Pastor. Join us at 9:00 am Coffee Hour to visit and share well wishes with Pastor Marlene!**

**Please sign up in the Narthex if you can bring muffins for Easter Sunday Coffee Hour on April 17.**

# Children & Youth Ministry News

## Children's Ministry:

THANK YOU to everyone who donated candy for our Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt! We were blown away by your support and appreciate your generosity. Our Sunday School Family Easter Egg Hunt will be on Palm Sunday, April 10, at 9:30 a.m. outside on the Trinity lawn. (will move inside if inclement weather) Children will also share their palm branch parade and song at the 10:00 service on Palm Sunday. There will be no Sunday School on April 3 or 17 (Easter Sunday) and we will meet again to dive into our New Testament stories at the end of April through May. Our Armor of God challenge kicked off and youth are busy memorizing The Lords' Prayer and a few other Bible memory verses this spring as well.



**April 3** -- No Sunday School (many teachers at women's retreat)

**April 10** -- Family Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 a.m. outside on Trinity lawn, Sing at 10:00 a.m. service

**April 17** -- No Sunday School -- Happy Easter! He is Risen!

**April 24** -- Lesson "The Resurrection" -- Matthew 27:62-28:16; Mark 16:1-13; Luke 24: 1-12; John 20:1-18

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**The church nursery will be staffed for our 10:00 am worship services 4/3, 10, 24**

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## Summer in the Son/VBS:

*Hop, Skip, and Jump* into God's love at Summer in the Son/VBS. We're working on details to be ready to share around Easter. Save the dates for June 15, 22, and 29.

## EDGE High School Youth Ministry

EDGE high school youth invite you to our Palm Sunday Brunch Fundraiser on Sunday, April 10, from 9-10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be serving donuts, rolls, fruit, cheese, coffee, juice, tea, water. Free will donation. All are welcome. We appreciate the support of EDGE Youth Group activities! EDGE has continued to meet early for discussion and fellowship before heading to Lent services on Wednesday evenings. Our group will be making empty tomb rolls together as we draw closer to Easter. EDGE is planning to do roadside cleanup this spring and 8th grade confirmation students will join us this month to pack Viking Vittles. Save the dates and be a youth leader/helper (grades 7-12) at Summer in the Son/VBS: June 15, 22, 29. More details to come around Easter.

**April 6** -- EDGE meeting 6:00 (making empty tomb rolls), Lenten worship at 7 p.m.

**April 10** -- Palm Sunday Brunch Fundraiser, 9-10 a.m. Fellowship Hall

**April 13** -- NO EDGE -- Holy Week

**April 20** -- EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m. Viking Vittles Packing

**April 27** -- EDGE 6:30-7:30 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!**



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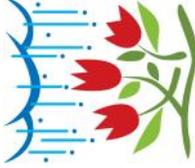
**Bible Study will not be meeting until further notice. If you'd like to be added to the email Bible Study, let Julie know at [jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org).**

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**"Christ in Our Home" daily devotionals for April, May and June have arrived.**

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

# APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Masks are not currently required in the building but are recommended when singing.</p>	<p>8 &amp; 10 am worship services are livestreamed on YouTube, and available for viewing later on YouTube and facebook!</p>				<p>1  </p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>3 Worship Service/ Communion</b>  <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 am</b>                      Pastor Marlene's last Sunday as Bridge Interim                      9:00 am Coffee Hour-visit with Pastor Marlene                      No Sunday School</p>	<p>4                      Welcome Rev Greg Wilcox!</p>	<p>5                      8:30 am Outreach Meeting-Genesis Room</p>	<p>6                      11:00 am Lenten worship                      3:00-5:00 pm Fare for All                      5:30 pm New Creation                      6:00 pm EDGE                      7:00 pm Lenten worship</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8  </p>	<p>9</p>
<p><b>10 Worship Service/ Communion</b>  <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 am</b>                      9:00 am Palm Sunday brunch                      9:30 am Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13                      5:30 pm New Creation                      NO EDGE                      7:00 pm Lenten worship</p>	<p>14                      11:00 am Maundy Thursday worship                      6:00 pm First Communion Class                      7:00 pm Maundy Thursday worship</p>	<p>15                      7:00 pm Good Friday worship</p>	<p>16</p>
<p><b>17 Easter</b>  <b>6:30 a.m. Cemetery service</b>                      Worship Service/ Communion  <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 am</b>                      9:00 am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>18  </p>	<p>19                      April Tidings articles due                      7:00 pm Council Mtg</p>	<p>20                      6:30 pm Confirmation                      6:30 pm EDGE</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p><b>24 Worship Service/ Communion</b>  <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 am</b>                      9:00 am Coffee Hour                      9:00 am Sunday School</p>	<p>25  </p>	<p>26  </p>	<p>27                      6:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation Photos                      6:30 pm EDGE</p>	<p>28  </p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

# Treasurer's Report

## Statement of Income and Expenses

Month Ending February 28, 2022  
Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch, MN

<u>Income</u>	February Actual	February Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Unified Giving	\$ 26,725	\$ 29,740	\$ 60,073	\$ 59,481
Loose Offering	\$ 73	\$ 233	\$ 211	\$ 467
Other Income	\$ 17	\$ 747	\$ 141	\$ 1,494
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Phoenix Operating Reimbursement	\$ 4,083	\$ 2,167	\$ 7,182	\$ 4,333
Special Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Regular Giving</b>	<b>\$ 30,898</b>	<b>\$ 32,887</b>	<b>\$ 67,607</b>	<b>\$ 65,775</b>
<u>Expenses</u>	February Actual	February Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<b>Mission Support</b>				
Synod Support	\$ 2,429	\$ 2,429	\$ 4,858	\$ 4,858
Missionaries	\$ 188	\$ 188	\$ 375	\$ 375
Iringa Church Tanzania	\$ 92	\$ 92	\$ 183	\$ 183
Sub-total Mission Expenses	\$ 2,708	\$ 2,708	\$ 5,417	\$ 5,417
<b>General Expenses</b>				
Ministry Support	\$ 28,427	\$ 32,455	\$ 55,119	\$ 64,910
Church Property	\$ 8,889	\$ 8,167	\$ 19,376	\$ 16,334
Stewardship	\$ 236	\$ 150	\$ 377	\$ 300
Learning & Youth	\$ 158	\$ 308	\$ 300	\$ 617
Worship	\$ -	\$ 208	\$ 317	\$ 417
Witness & Service	\$ -	\$ 17	\$ -	\$ 33
Sub-total General Expenses	\$ 37,710	\$ 41,306	\$ 75,489	\$ 82,611
<b>Total Regular Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 40,418</b>	<b>\$ 44,014</b>	<b>\$ 80,906</b>	<b>\$ 88,028</b>
<b>Total Net Income - February 2021</b>	<b>\$ (9,520)</b>	<b>\$ (11,127)</b>		
<b>Total Net Income - Year-To-Date</b>			<b>\$ (13,299)</b>	<b>\$ (22,253)</b>

February Income was \$1,989 under the February Budget  
February Expense was \$3,596 under the February Budget

Net Income is -\$9,520 for February  
Net Income is -\$13,299 Year to Date

Please consider online giving.

YTD Phoenix Rent Received \$44,627  
Mortgage Balance as of 02/28/2022 \$119,571

Respectfully Submitted,

*Todd J. Fisk*

Treasurer

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See our website [www.trinitynorthbranch.org](http://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.....

Spring is in the air, well depending on the day – it is Minnesota after-all! Regardless, the extra hours of daylight and the warmth of the sun is always refreshing this time of year.

For those that I have not met, my wife Erin and I have been members since 2005 and you can find us at the 10:00 service on most Sundays. Erin is a regular volunteer with Viking's Vittles and Fare For All, and we both co-led confirmation several years ago. Polaris keeps me busy with my day job which takes me to Wyoming on good days, but on most I am commuting to the cities like so many others in our community. Our daughter Norah is finishing her Junior year at North Branch Senior High and is a constant reminder of how quickly time passes.

As I take the chair of the council, I first want to thank Linda Born for her leadership as outgoing chair and commitment to sign up for another term. I also want to thank Dennis Aulich and Gary Porath for their service on the council as their terms draw to a close. We also welcome incoming council members Tom Hals and Aaron Nysse.

We continue to seek volunteers to add to our committees – if you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Julie, any of the committee chairs, or me.

Personnel Committee, Sharon Lundberg  
Outreach Committee, Vicky Trampe  
Cemetery Committee, Linda Born

TWIGS (Trinity Women in God's Service), Ann Tanko

Looking forward, God has let us know that 2022 will be a year of change and renewal for Trinity. It has been a blessing to have Pastor Marlene Elmstrom leading services and engaging with our staff, youth and congregation over the last several weeks. In April, we will welcome Pastor Greg Wilcox who will be with us for the next year as we renew our Vision and Mission to prepare for the call to a new pastor.

This process of Creating a Vibrant Future will give us time to reflect on the many blessings we have in our congregation, the impact we make in our communities, and how we create a sustainable future for Trinity enabling us to do God's work.

If you are interested in helping shape this future, please reach out to Julie or me and we will be sure to include you in upcoming communications.

Peace,  
Chris Judson



**To the Roof Fund** in memory of Ron Hult from Cher Bouley, Dave & Nancy Schroeder, Karen Nelson, Vicky & Doug Trampe, Tom & Jaime Sederberg, Ron & Diane Barsness, Kevan & Sharon Swenson, Jean Fairbanks, Tom & Candi Hals, Rodney & Bonnie Lofquist, Nancy Zachrisson, Cindee Anderson, Carol Stradinger, Ann & Albert Tanko, Lori Wenzel, Donna Brown, Evonne Peterson, Todd & Lori Fisk, Barb & Mike Nelson, Mary Sederberg, Jay & Karen Young, Jenny Lorge

**To Fellowship** in memory of Vicky Bergquist (Trudy Trendera's sister) and Harry Seidenkranz from Mike & Barb Nelson

**To the Roof Fund** in memory Charlene Nyberg, Vicky Bergquist and Harry Seidenkranz from Tom & Candi Hals

**To the Grocery Card** fund in memory of Harry Seidenkranz from Sue & Dennis Gustafson, Albert & Ann Tanko

**Undesignated** in memory of Del & Darlene Studer and Charlene Nyberg from Mary Sederberg

**To the Food Shelf** in memory of Orville Otterness from Bev Otterness

**To the Roof Fund** in memory of Todd Pearson and Ron Hult from Janelle Mork

**To the Roof Fund** in memory of Del & Darlene Studer from Ron & Diane Barsness

**To the Music Fund** in honor of Pastor Jon's willing voice from Tyler Olson

### **Viking Vittles Help Needed**

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

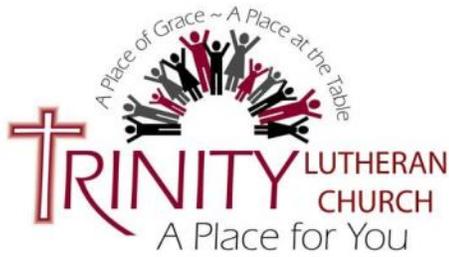
**If you are able to help, please sign up at <https://signup.com/go/CPhKcVP> or call Mary Twitchell at 320-630-5040.**

**Fare for All is back at Trinity Lutheran Church. The next sales will be held 3:00-5:00 (new time) April 6 & May 11. See [www.fareforall.org](http://www.fareforall.org) for details.**

### **ALTAR GUILD**

Serving for the month of April

Jean Fairbanks  
Terri Moriarty



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

## April 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: 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. in person and  
livestreamed on YouTube.

Available on facebook 930 & 1130a. See our website for links.

Church email: [office@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:office@trinitynorthbranch.org)

Church website: [www.trinitynorthbranch.org](http://www.trinitynorthbranch.org)

Pastor Marlene Elmstrom (through 4/3)

Rev Greg Wilcox (begins 4/4) [pastor@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:pastor@trinitynorthbranch.org)  
Cell 605-351-3289 ext. 12

Sue Danielzuk, Church Administrator  
[sdanielzuk@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:sdanielzuk@trinitynorthbranch.org) ext. 37

Marie Ray, Director of Youth & Family Ministries  
[mray@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:mray@trinitynorthbranch.org) ext. 13

Sarah Krosschell, Sunday School Coordinator  
[skrosschell@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:skrosschell@trinitynorthbranch.org)

Deb Aulich, Director of Worship and Arts  
[daulich@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:daulich@trinitynorthbranch.org) ext. 14

Julie Morgan, Church Office Manager  
[jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org) ext. 10

Christopher Dehen, Financial Recorder  
[cdehen@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:cdehen@trinitynorthbranch.org)

Jaron Roberts, Audio Visual Manager

[jroberts@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:jroberts@trinitynorthbranch.org)

Tyler Olson: Sr. Choir Director

[tolson@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:tolson@trinitynorthbranch.org)

Roger Anderson & Jeff Hill, Custodians

Rick Olson & Luke Meyer, Cemetery Staff

Outreach Committee:

[Outreach@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:Outreach@trinitynorthbranch.org)

Todd Fisk, Church Treasurer

Missionaries: Dr. Stephen Swanson family –  
Tanzania

#### 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](mailto:jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org)**