

February 2023



TRINITY TIDINGS

Trinity Lutheran Church

Pastor's Page

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.
Philippians 1: 3-5 NRSV

Dear Friends at Trinity,
I'm not sure yet when my last Sunday will be at Trinity, but since my contract with the church ends on February 28th, it seemed like a good time to write this little article. As I think about coming to the end of my time with you, I feel about you as Paul did about the Christians in Philippi: thankful. My time with you has flown by and I am filled with gratitude for all you shared with me. Thanks for all our times together in worship; thanks for the meetings we had and our times of conversation; thanks for the work we did, and our moments of laughter and play; thanks for your warm welcome and generosity of spirit; and thanks for sharing with me some very hard times too—times of sickness and loss and grief.

And like Paul when I pray for you it will be with a heart full of joy—remembering both the times we shared and anticipating the difference your faith will make in the lives of people in need in all the wide world around you.

God's richest blessing to each of you in Christ,
Pastor Greg



We are in need of a couple of people to serve on our Church Council. If you are interested or have questions, please email Julie at office@trinitynorthbranch.org, call the church office at 651-674-7047, or visit with Chris Judson.

We are also in need of three members for our Personnel Committee. The average time is about one hour per month, with a two year commitment. A link is available on our website with an overview of types of topics the committee works on throughout the year. Please let Julie or Sharon Lundberg know if you'd like to be a part of this committee.

We are looking for some new members for the Cemetery Committee. It generally is only a one meeting a year commitment. Contact David Johnson, Tom Hals, or the church office if you are interested.

We also need one person to join the Endowment Committee. This is for a three year term. The Committee generally meets a couple of times a year to allocate available fund. Contact Julie if you are interested or have questions.

Thank you for considering these opportunities!



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held February 12th at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Please plan to attend. Annual Reports will be available in the Narthex Sunday, January 29.

EDGE Youth Ministry will be serving soup lunch as a fundraiser for youth group trips and activities during the Annual Meeting. We hope you can come and enjoy a yummy bowl of soup. We appreciate your support of youth ministry at Trinity!

Children & Youth Ministry News

Children's Ministry

February will be filled with fun and fellowship for Sunday School families! We will have our Snow Play Day on Sunday, February 5, after 10:00 worship until 11:30 a.m. Families are invited to bring your snow gear and play outside at Trinity with us! We are collecting soup once again for our Souper Bowl soup drive. Please place your soup donations on the cart in the narthex by February 12. All donations will be shared with the grocery shelf here at Trinity and/or the North Branch food shelf. There will be no Sunday School on President's Day weekend. On Sunday, February 26, we will be having our Family Hot Cocoa Party in the Fellowship hall. We will have fun make and take crafts, treats, and cocoa from 9-9:45 a.m. and the children will sing during the 10 a.m. service.

February 5 - Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45 a.m. - Snow Play after 10:00 worship

February 12 - Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45 a.m. - Souper Bowl Soup Collection items due :)

February 19 - NO Sunday School - President's Day weekend

February 26 - Family Hot Cocoa Party, 9:00-9:45 a.m. Fellowship hall - Singing at 10:00 worship



Confirmation meets Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm. Call the church office at 651-674-7047 or fill in the form outside the office to sign up to acolyte or greet on Sunday mornings.

****During Lent Confirmation will meet from 6:30 –7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will then move to the sanctuary for our 7:00 pm Lenten worship services. This schedule will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22****

EDGE High School Youth Ministry

In February, EDGE will do our usual serving at coffee hour and packing Viking Vittles for the local community. EDGE youth group will be serving our soup lunch fundraiser at the annual meeting on February 12, at 11:00 a.m. We thank you for supporting our youth group mission trips and activities! Our group will also do a poverty simulation where we will need to buy a certain number of meals on a specific budget. We will be donating all of the food purchased to the local food shelf and the Trinity grocery shelf. The Lent season begins at the end of the month and we will start meeting earlier for discussion and fellowship time before attending Lenten worship services together as a group.

February 1 - EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m.

February 5 - EDGE hosts coffee hour

February 8 - EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m. - Viking Vittles packing

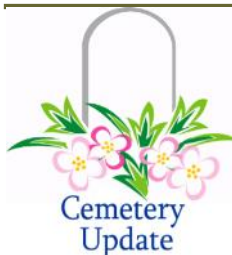
February 12 - Soup Lunch Fundraiser at Annual Meeting 11:00 a.m.

February 15 - EDGE 6:30-7:45 p.m. - Poverty Simulation

February 22 - EDGE 6:00-7:00 p.m., followed by Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m.



Be a part of our next women's Bible study gathering on Sunday, February 5, from 6:00-7:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity. Hotdish supper, refreshments, and fellowship to begin, followed by Bible study, discussion, and prayer. Please read John chapters 16, 17, and 18 before our next gathering. Come when you can, leave when you must. Our future dates will be March 5 and April 16. Contact Marie if you have any questions at office@trinitynorthbranch.org



The cost of graves is going up this year. The price will remain at \$400 until the end of May. On June 1, 2023 the price will go up to \$500. This is the first price raise since 2003. Call Julie at 651-674-7047 or talk with Roger Anderson to purchase a grave.

Cemetery deeds give ownership to the purchaser and their heirs. Heirs can be spouse, parents, children and grandchildren. The owner of a grave can gift a grave to a non-heir. A non-heir would be a friend, niece, nephew, aunt and uncle etc. Gifting a grave to a non-heir will now be charged a \$50 administrative fee for the transfer of ownership.

Feed My Starving Children Packing Opportunity



Trinity still has 18 spots available for packing at Feed My Starving Children (401 93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN) on Monday, February 20 (President's Day), from 11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. We will all meet at the packing facility. The minimum age requirement for packing at FMSC is 5 years old and you can see more volunteer FAQs on the FMSC website: <https://www.fmssc.org/about-us/faqs>. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please sign up by February 12. Reach out to Marie with questions at office@trinitynorthbranch.org



To EDGE Youth Ministry in memory of Lori Patterson from Mike & Barb Nelson

Undesignated in memory of Dan & Sandy Johnson from James & Jo Antolik

To the Roof Fund in memory of Winfred Causby from Mike & Barb Nelson, Tom & Candi Hals

To the Cemetery Fund in memory of Dolores Fairbanks from Butch & Sharalyn Olson

Undesignated in memory of Delores Fairbanks from Mike & Barb Nelson, Tom & Candi Hals

To the Christmas Poinsettia Garden in memory of husband Marvin (Swede) Nelson, grandson Jeremy Nelson and other loved ones from Karen Nelson

To the Christmas Poinsettia Garden in loving memory of our brother Christopher Hals Johnson and our parents Sandra & Daniel Johnson from Lynn, Paul, Caleb & Kendra Anderson; Erin, Jim, Henry, Avery & Sylvie Fallon

To the Youth Fund in memory of Skip Solle from Mike & Barb Nelson, Sue Gustafson, Bev Otterness, Doug & Kristi Sampson

Undesignated in memory of Myrtle Peterson from Jay & Karen Young

Undesignated in memory of Winfred Causby from Don Mcrae

To the Food Shelf in memory of Harriet Ryberg from Mike & Barb Nelson

Undesignated in memory of Skip Solle from Ron & Kathy Aho

Undesignated in memory of Dale Fairbanks from Sharon Fairbanks

Undesignated in memory of Norma Carlson from Carol Gustafson

To Viking Vittles in memory of Denny & Kirk Gustafson from Sue Gustafson



Join the Fellowship Team for dinner at the Orchid Restaurant in White Bear Township at 5:00 pm Saturday, February 18. Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board by February 12. All are welcome!



Save the date:

We have 50 tickets reserved for the July 25 Twins game vs. Seattle. Stay tuned for more details and sign up information.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Viking Vittles

Viking Vittles continues to purchase, pack and deliver 288 bags of food each week for students PK-5th grade. In addition, we supply three care closets; High School, Middle School and ALC; with food, personal care items and school supplies. This requires in excess of 30 hours per week. We have a very dedicated group of people that have been doing this for a number of years. We would like to expand that group to lessen the burden on everyone. We are looking for the following:

- 1 person to assist with packing Wednesdays twice a month
- 1 person to pick up food from Family Pathways twice a month
- 2 people to deliver totes to the schools once a month (usually Wednesday)



You must be able to lift 28-30#. A large SUV or pickup is needed for the delivery of the totes to the schools.

If you would like more information or to volunteer please call Donna at 612-363-5072 or email office@trinitynorthbranch.org.



Individual communion option available

If you are someone who has a little harder time navigating our sloped aisles in the sanctuary as you go down for communion, we have a communion option available! There are prefilled/disposable individual communion cups and wafers in baskets by the offering plates on the stands as you enter the sanctuary. You can take one and keep it with you until the communion part of the service. Then you will be able to stay in place in your pew and drink the wine and eat the wafer in a way that may be more comfortable for you. This does not replace the options of either coming down the aisles for communion or having the pastor/communion assistant bring communion to you in your pew. We want to offer this as another option to receive communion.

The Path Program is actively looking for volunteers to help out with **van driving**, using the *Path Program* van, to and from churches. If you know of anyone who might be a fit, call Jenny 763-691-0121 #2. It's a great opportunity to connect with the New Pathways' families and such an integral part of their program.

ALTAR GUILD

Serving for the month of February

Jan Nelson

Sharon Fairbanks

Trinity's Altar Guild needs your help! Due to aging and illness the Guild is shrinking. Do you have one hour a week, one month 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, or couples. Current members will be available for training. If this is calling you, please let Julie know of your willingness. Thank you!

Trinity's grocery shelf has seen an increase in use recently. If you'd like to donate non-perishable or personal care items, please bring them to the office. We have a freezer available as well. If you'd like to make a monetary donation, note "Grocery Shelf" on your donation and we will do the shopping for you.



Please email articles for the March Trinity Tidings to office@trinitynorthbranch.org by February 13. Thank you!



*Trinity's Fellowship Team night at the movies! All are welcome! Simply meet at the North Branch Theater on **February 17** at 6:45 pm, and we will decide on a movie. Discussion and dessert after the movie!*

Fare for All at Trinity Lutheran Church.

The next sales will be held 3:00-5:00

February 8th & March 8.

Fare for All is open to everyone! The more who shop the better they buying power of the organization!

We are collecting soup once again for our Souper Bowl soup drive. Please place your soup donations on the cart in the Narthex by February 12. All donations will be shared with the grocery shelf here at Trinity and/or the North Branch Food Shelf. Thank you!



Lenten Fish Fry We are looking into the possibility of holding our Friday Lenten Fish Fries this year. Many hands are needed to make this work. If you would be interested in helping during the meals, please email office@trinitynorthbranch.org or call the office at 651-674-7047. Thank you!

Thank you!

Words cannot express the feeling in our hearts. Thank you for being with us during this difficult time. Your thoughts, prayers, and words of sympathy will always be remembered. A heartfelt thank you to Pastor Greg Wilcox for the visits at Birchwood.
From the family of Karen Nelson-Forever in our hearts.



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!



"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 office@trinitynorthbranch.org or leave a message for Julie at 651-674-7047 to pickup.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30 pm New Creation 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm EDGE Youth Ministry	2 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	3	4
5 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Snow Play Day 6:00 pm Holy Hot Dish	6 9:00 am Fellowship Mtg	7	8 3:00-5:00 pm Fare for All 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm EDGE Youth Ministry	9 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 	10	11
12 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Annual Meeting & Soup Lunch	13	14 	15 5:30 pm New Creation 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm EDGE Youth Ministry Tidings articles due	16 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	17 6:30 pm Fellowship at the movies	18 
19 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour No Sunday School	20 11:30 am Feed My Starving Children Packing	21 7:00 pm Council Mtg	22 Ash Wednesday 10:00 am worship 5:30 pm New Creation 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm EDGE Youth Ministry 7:00 pm worship	23 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	24 	25
26 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School/ Hot Cocoa Party	27	28			Worship services are livesstreamed on YouTube, and available for viewing later on YouTube and facebook.	

Treasurer's Report

Statement of Income and Expenses

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

<u>Income</u>	December Actual	December Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Unified Giving	\$ 42,666	\$ 29,740	\$ 349,822	\$ 356,883
Loose Offering	\$ 1,137	\$ 233	\$ 4,546	\$ 2,800
Other Income	\$ 6,199	\$ 5,079	\$ 13,074	\$ 11,400
Grants - Employee Retention Credits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,890	\$ 57,089
Phoenix Operating Reimbursement	\$ 2,195	\$ 2,167	\$ 30,034	\$ 26,000
Special Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Regular Giving	\$ 52,197	\$ 37,220	\$ 453,367	\$ 454,172
<u>Expenses</u>	December Actual	December Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<u>Mission Support</u>				
Synod Support	\$ 2,429	\$ 2,429	\$ 29,150	\$ 29,150
Missionaries	\$ 188	\$ 188	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250
Iringa Church Tanzania	\$ 92	\$ 92	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100
Sub-total Mission Expenses	\$ 2,708	\$ 2,708	\$ 32,500	\$ 32,500
<u>General Expenses</u>				
Ministry Support	\$ 30,937	\$ 32,316	\$ 333,611	\$ 391,201
Church Property	\$ 7,173	\$ 6,804	\$ 88,778	\$ 82,706
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 940	\$ 1,800
Learning & Youth	\$ 341	\$ 308	\$ 3,987	\$ 5,950
Worship	\$ 601	\$ 208	\$ 2,764	\$ 3,270
Witness & Service	\$ -	\$ 17	\$ -	\$ 200
Sub-total General Expenses	\$ 39,052	\$ 39,803	\$ 430,080	\$ 485,127
Total Regular Expenses	\$ 41,760	\$ 42,512	\$ 462,580	\$ 517,627
Total Net Income - December 2022	\$ 10,437	\$ (5,292)		
Total Net Income - Year-To-Date			\$ (9,212)	\$ (63,455)

December Income was \$14,978 over the December Budget
December Expense was \$751 under the December Budget

Net Income is \$10,437 for December
Net Income is -\$9,212 year to date

Please consider online giving.

YTD Phoenix Rent Received \$260,950.66
Mortgage Balance as of 12/31/2022 - **PAID IN FULL**

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.....

As we prepare for the Annual Meeting on February 12th at 11:00 AM, it is a good time to reflect on 2022 and look forward to 2023. The Lord has certainly been at work among us throughout the last year and I am excited for what he has planned for us in 2023.

We opened 2022 by wishing Pastor Jon Yurk success in his future endeavors and welcoming two wonderful interim pastors into our congregation – Pastor Marlene Elmstrom and Pastor Greg Wilcox. Thank you both for your leadership, counsel and grace in this important time for our congregation.

Throughout the year, we continued to expand our in-person worship, adding back music and singing, thanks to Deb's leadership. With Jaron's support we continue to reach those that are unable to join us in-person through live streaming services every week. Thanks to Pastor Greg's leadership, we also resumed funeral services and re-established a visitation ministry team.

As part of the pastoral transition, we established the Ministry Exploration Team (MET). This team worked tirelessly throughout the year gathering input from the congregation to create our Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP serves as the call to our future full-time pastor. Thank you, Lucas Edson, Meghan Nysse, Marie Ray and Ann Tanko for all of the time you dedicated to this important work in 2022!

In November, we established the Call Committee who are actively seeking and interviewing candidates for our next full-time pastor. Thank you, September Dehen for stepping up to chair this important work, and thank you to the full committee – Kathy Aho, Emily Darst, Lucas Edson, Kristin Ferguson, Sarah Grovender, Rosanne Johnson, Sharon Lundberg, Jane Magnison, Gary Porath and Jenna Shoultz!

Our Outreach Committee continues to serve those in need throughout our community and beyond with expanded support for programs such as Viking's Vittles, Care Closets, Blessing Bags and more. At the close of 2022, we were able to once again host the Path to Home program in our church, welcoming multiple families over the Christmas holiday.

Through all of this great work, we also were able to maintain our facilities with a full roof replacement and a number of upgrades throughout the buildings. Finally, the close of 2022 was marked by the payoff of the mortgage on our education building – recently celebrated with a mortgage burning during Sunday services! Looking forward to 2023, I invite you to join us at the Annual Meeting on February 12th at 11:00 AM and I also ask you to keep the Call Committee in your prayers as they thoughtfully consider candidates for our next full-time pastor.

With my time on Council drawing to a close, I am grateful for Tom Hals partnership this last year and his leadership in the coming year. I am confident and inspired in the great work by our staff, Council and many volunteers, but it is through Faith that I am most excited for the future of Trinity!

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." -Isaiah 41:10

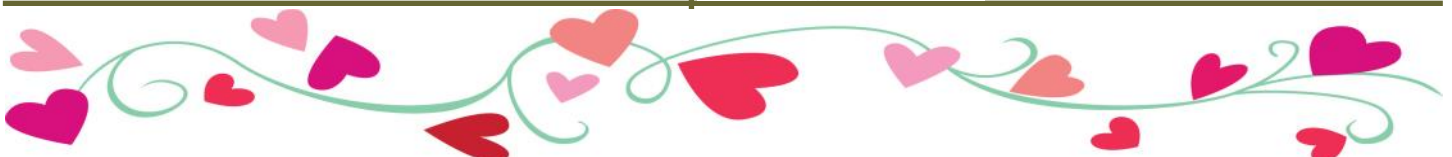
Thank You,
Chris Judson



The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, on February 22. This year we will have morning Lenten worship services at **10:00 am** (note the new time), and evening worship at 7:00 pm.

A friend
loves
at all times.
Proverbs 17:17

To sponsor altar flowers, please sign up on the calendar near the church office. Please bring an arrangement of fresh flowers prior to 7:45 am on that Sunday. See Julie or Deb with questions.





38460 Lincoln Trail
PO Box 447
North Branch, MN 55056

Return Service Requested

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

Mailing Label

February 2023

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 am & 10:00 am in person worship,
livestreamed on YouTube.

Available on facebook 10:30 am. See our website for links.

Church email: office@trinitynorthbranch.org

Church website: www.trinitynorthbranch.org

Rev Greg Wilcox ext. 12

Sue Danielzuk, Church Administrator ext. 37

Marie Ray, Director of Youth & Family Ministries ext. 13

Sarah Krosschell, Sunday School Coordinator

Deb Aulich, Director of Worship and Arts ext. 14

Julie Morgan, Church Office Manager ext. 10

Christopher Dehen, Financial Recorder

Jaron Roberts, Audio Visual Manager

Tyler Olson: Sr. Choir Director

Roger Anderson & Jeff Hill, Custodians
Rick Olson & Luke Meyer, Cemetery Staff

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 (Vice-Chair)

Rosanne Johnson, Aaron Nysse, Stan Sjodahl,

Ann Tanko, Vicky Trampe

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the

*Congregation will be held February 12th at
11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall*

