

January 2024

## Pastor's Page

January 2024

Pastor Paul Cannon



# TRINITY TIDINGS

# Trinity Lutheran Church

### Come and See!

I saw a study from 2018 about how often regular church goers (attend at least once a month), from different Christian denominations, invite people to church. 71% of Pentecostal and Non-Denominational church goers reported that they extended an invitation to at least one person in the last six months.

For Lutherans? Not so good. Only 55% percent say they invited at least one person in the same time frame. The numbers get worse. 41% of Lutherans say that they had not invited anyone to church in the past six months. Only 20% of non-denominational churches, 22% of Baptists, 23% of Pentecostal churches reported not inviting anyone.

Let's face it: Invitation is not something that we have historically been very comfortable with. There are a lot of reasons for it. We want to respect other people's cultures and customs. We feel awkward. We feel like it might be impolite, or it might make us seem pushy.

If you feel that way, I wouldn't blame you! I often feel it too. But I would also challenge you to think of it from the perspective of someone who isn't invited to something. If you never receive an invitation, my strong guess is that you'll never feel welcome!

Invitations don't have to be difficult. Jesus sets an example of how simple invitations can be in John's Gospel. He invites his first disciples with three simple words, "Come and See." Check it out! See for yourself what this is all about.

You don't have to invite them to worship either (sometimes that can feel intimidating for folks). There are awesome things happening at Trinity all the time! Invite them to something less threatening. Invite a neighbor to come with you to the Lenten Fish Frys! Invite a coworker to come along to help pack Viking Vittles. Invite a friend to join you for the Youth Group lock in!

Invitation can be scary, but it's not complicated. "Come and see!"



**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>/Christmas Eve** *(No morning worship services)*

**2:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion**

**4:00 p.m. Candlelight worship with Holy Communion**

**7:30 p.m. Candlelight worship with Holy Communion**

*(All services will be livestreamed on YouTube and available on Facebook later.)*

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Merry Christmas!**

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> One worship service at 9:00 a.m.**

# Children & Youth Ministry News

## Family Sunday School/Children's Ministry:

36 children led us through the beloved Christmas story during our Sunday School program this year. The program was beautiful and we're so proud of all the kiddos! This is one of our favorite events of the year and the program was a sweet reminder of the amazing love God has for each of us. There are so many wonderful folks to show our gratitude and appreciation for. THANK YOU to Courtney Fairbanks for directing the program, JoAnn Dolezalek for accompanying on piano, Sunday School volunteers, youth helpers, custodians, Trinity staff, and of course all of our Sunday School youth and families for their support. We had a fun cookie party to wrap up and celebrate together before Christmas break. When we return after the New Year we will focus on stories about Jesus from the New Testament. Wishing everyone a blessed and wonderful 2024!



**January 7** - Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45 a.m.

**January 14** - No Sunday School - MLK Weekend

**January 21** - Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45 a.m. - Service Project Day

**January 28** - Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45

**\*\*Save the date for our Hot Cocoa Party and Singing in Church on Sunday, February 11.\*\***



Confirmation continues to meet at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays.

There will be no Confirmation on Wednesday, December 27.



## EDGE High School Youth Ministry

EDGE had a blast at our Christmas party playing games and doing a fun gift exchange. After Christmas break we will return with a lock-in filled with food, fun, games, and a service project making fleece tie blankets to support local families and groups. Confirmation students will also join us for part of the fun. EDGE will also pack Viking Vittles, serve coffee hour, and get ready for a very busy February! We are praying for a blessed 2024 for all of our youth and families filled with God's peace and love.

**January 3** - EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**January 7** - EDGE serves coffee hour

**January 10** - EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**January 17** - EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m. - Viking Vittles packing

**January 24** - EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**January 31** - EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**February 4** - Soup Lunch Fundraiser and Annual Meeting 11:00 a.m.



## Holy Hotdish - Women's Bible Study and Fellowship

Holy Hotdish gathers again Sunday, January 7, from 6:00-7:15 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Trinity. We look forward to seeing you! We'll go over Nehemiah Chapter 9:1 - Chapter 10:39 and Week 4 in our study book. Bring your Bible, study book, and a pen! Contact Marie to get a study book and be added to our email list.



**We are in need of one person to join our Personnel Committee.** The committee meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month via zoom. If you are interested in joining this committee or would like to find out more, contact Sharon Lundberg or Julie at [office@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:office@trinitynorthbranch.org) or call the office at 651-674-7047.

**We are also in need of two people to join our Church Council.** The council meets at 7:00 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month. These are 3 year terms. If you would like to be a candidate for our church council or have questions, contact Tom Hals, Pastor Paul, or Julie.

Thank you for considering being a part of these guiding groups at Trinity.

## Viking Vittles

Viking Vittles was given the opportunity to provide meals from Chipotle to families receiving Viking Vittles. We received a call asking if we would be interested in picking up food from Chipotle as they were training their employees prior to opening. Unable to pass up free food and the opportunity to provide our families with a warm healthy meal was too appealing not to do.

Families were notified of this opportunity via flyers in the bags of food we send home for the weekend. They were required to email us to get a pickup code so that we could control the number of meals being distributed at each pickup time. After the Viking Vittles families had an opportunity to sign up, we still had more meals available so we provided the flyers to the food shelf to hand out to their clients.

We picked up food at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. on four days. We then brought the food to church and handed it out as families came to pick up. We were never given exact quantities of meals as it depended on the ability of the employees being trained as to how much would be available. Some days in addition to the prepared meals we were given bulk servings of ingredients. We donated this to Phoenix Academy to make lunch for their staff one day.

Some days we picked up way more food than expected so we donated many meals to Lakes Area EMS, North Branch Police, Chisago County Sheriff's Office, residents of Maple Commons, and a group home in town. In all we were able to provide over 500 meals to families and the above groups.

All of this was in addition to our regular packing of 232 bags of food each week plus 56 bags packed at St. John's. We are blessed to have such a fantastic core of volunteers that make sure this program continues to operate like clockwork each week. Volunteers are always welcome!



Thank you to all who donated gifts to 60 local foster children and 20 developmentally disabled adults. The coordinators of each program were thankful and overwhelmed by your generosity. Thank you for your support of this program each year!



### ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held at 11:00 am Sunday, February 4. EDGE Youth Ministry will be serving a soup lunch as a fundraiser for their mission trip. Please plan to attend!

The Noisy Offering we will collect on December 31 and January 7 will go to Thee Alliance to help pay down medical debt for those in need. If you'd like to donate by check, checks should be made payable to R.I.P. Medical Debt, or to Trinity Lutheran Church with RIP Medical Debt noted.

Every \$100 donated relieves \$10,000 in medical debts.



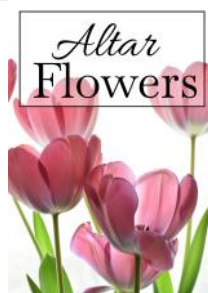
Our Women's Bible Study meets at 9 a.m. on Thursday mornings in our Genesis Room. Beginners and experienced Bible readers are encouraged to join at any time! (Bible Study will not meet December 28.)

We are looking for another volunteer to share the washing of the glass communion cups. This can be done following worship on Sundays, or on Monday.

Contact Julie if you could help out with this.



We are in need of a group or a couple of families to bring treats and serve at our 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour on Sunday, January 21. Please contact Julie or sign up on the bulletin board if you can help out. Thank you!



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

# BLESSING BAGS

I would like to thank all of those who were able to help out by donating items or funds, as well as those who came to help pack the children's Blessing Bags for Christmas.

We delivered the bags to Family Pathways, and it was determined that the greatest need was for the Refuge Network which supports individuals and their families dealing with domestic violence. There is no doubt that your generosity brought a little smile to a child's face.

If you can, in the coming months, please keep an eye out for kids and adult hats and insulated mittens/gloves that go on clearance through the season. It's a great way for us to provide these items every year on a budget.

Again, thank you for all you continue to do!  
Lori Fisk

**The Outreach Committee will be meeting the second Tuesday of every month at 9 a.m. in the Genesis Room. Many exciting projects are being planned for the next few months. Come and join us January 9.**

**Martha Arnold, Chair person.**



Ushers  
and  
Communion  
Assistants

We are looking for more people to help out as ushers at our 10 a.m. worship services, and will also need communion assistants at our 8 a.m. services. We also need volunteers for our Christmas Eve services. If you are interested in helping out in this way please sign up in the narthex, or talk with Julie or Pastor Paul.

Trinity's grocery shelf has seen an increase in use.

Non-perishable or personal care items, may be placed on the shelf. We have a freezer available as well. We have multiple requests for gas cards. If you'd like to make a monetary donation, note "Grocery Shelf " or "Gas Cards" on your donation and we will do the shopping for you. Thank you for supporting your community in this way!



Please email articles for the February Trinity Tidings to [office@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:office@trinitynorthbranch.org) by January 22. Thank you!

Join us for Coffee Hour following our 9 a.m. worship service on December 31, and wish Syl Marking a happy 90th birthday. The Marking family will be providing birthday cake for Coffee Hour that morning. Happy Birthday, Syl!



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)

## TRINITY WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE (TWIGS)

### Upcoming Events

**Saturday, January 27 at Our Savior's Stillwater**

**A Day of Making Comfort** - Gather with other women from the St Paul Area synod to make fleece blankets to be donated.

**Saturday April 27 St. Paul Area Synod**

**Women's Convention** at St. Paul Lutheran Wyoming MN

## ALTAR GUILD

Serving for the month  
of January

Karen Young & Ann Tanko



**Fare for All at Trinity Lutheran Church.**

**3:00-5:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 10.**

**Fare for All is open to everyone! The more who shop the better the buying power of the organization. [www.fareforall.org](http://www.fareforall.org)**



**Our weekly worship will be available each Sunday live at 8 & 10 a.m. 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!**





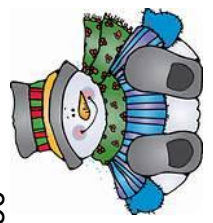



**"Christ in Our Home" daily devotionals for January, February and March have arrived.**

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



# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday worship services are livestreamed on YouTube, and available for viewing later on YouTube and facebook.	1 Church office is closed	2 	3 5:30 pm New Creation 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm EDGE Youth Ministry	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	5	6
7 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Teacher Leadership Meeting 6:00 pm Holy Hot Dish Bible study	8 8:30 am Outreach meeting	9 9:00 am Outreach meeting 10:00 am St Paul Area Synod Conference meeting	10 3:00-5:00 Fare for All 5:30 pm New Creation 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm EDGE Youth Ministry	11 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 	12	13
14 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour No Sunday School	15	16 7:00 pm Council Mtg  Church office may be closed. Please call ahead	17 5:30 pm New Creation 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm EDGE Youth Ministry	18 9:00 am Women's Bible Study  Church office may be closed. Please call ahead.	19 6:45 pm Fellowship at the movies	20
21 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School	22 8:30 am Fish Fry meeting  Tidings articles due 	23	24 5:30 pm New Creation 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm EDGE Youth Ministry	25 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	26 	27
28 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School	29 9:00 am Fellowship Team meeting	30 	31 5:30 pm New Creation 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm EDGE Youth Ministry			

# Treasurer's Report

## Statement of Income and Expenses

Month Ending November, 2023  
Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch, MN

	November Actual	November Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Unified Giving	\$ 26,007	\$ 33,333	\$ 306,023	\$ 363,073
Loose Offering	\$ 364	\$ 375	\$ 5,941	\$ 3,983
Other Income	\$ 870	\$ 442	\$ 8,049	\$ 7,047
Phoenix Operating Reimbursement	\$ 1,871	\$ 2,500	\$ 28,232	\$ 27,167
<b>Total Regular Giving</b>	<b>\$ 29,112</b>	<b>\$ 36,650</b>	<b>\$ 348,245</b>	<b>\$ 401,270</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>				
<b><u>Mission Support</u></b>				
Synod Support	\$ 2,429	\$ 2,429	\$ 26,721	\$ 26,721
Missionaries	\$ 188	\$ 188	\$ 2,063	\$ 2,063
Iringa Church Tanzania	\$ 92	\$ 92	\$ 1,008	\$ 1,008
Sub-total Mission Expenses	\$ 2,708	\$ 2,708	\$ 29,792	\$ 29,792
<b><u>General Expenses</u></b>				
Ministry Support	\$ 37,946	\$ 33,606	\$ 331,861	\$ 380,037
Church Property	\$ 5,844	\$ 7,057	\$ 86,281	\$ 90,753
Stewardship	\$ 183	\$ 150	\$ 980	\$ 1,650
Learning & Youth	\$ 681	\$ 458	\$ 6,181	\$ 6,808
Worship	\$ (44)	\$ 233	\$ 2,792	\$ 3,426
Witness & Service	\$ -	\$ 17	\$ 107	\$ 183
Sub-total General Expenses	\$ 44,610	\$ 41,521	\$ 428,202	\$ 482,857
<b>Total Regular Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 47,318</b>	<b>\$ 44,229</b>	<b>\$ 457,994</b>	<b>\$ 512,649</b>
Total Net Income - November 2023	\$ (18,206)	\$ (7,579)		
Unified Support-Phoenix	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 77,000	\$ 77,000.00
Income Less Expense after Phoenix Support	\$ (11,206)	\$ (579)		
Total Net Income - Year-To-Date			\$ (32,749)	\$ (34,379)

November Income was \$7,538 under the November Budget  
November Expense was \$3,089 over the November Budget

Net Income is -\$11,206 for November  
Net Income is -\$32,749 year to date

Please consider online giving.

YTD Phoenix Rent Received \$217,515.71

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 Church Council

The Council's primary concern at the December and January meetings will be finances. At the annual meeting last February a deficit budget was approved. We won't know how large the deficit for 2023 will actually be until mid-January. There should be adequate money in the church savings account to cover the 2023 deficit. Preparing a budget for 2024 will be the major focus of the upcoming council meetings. Preliminary numbers for 2024 show another deficit year, hopefully we can find a way to minimize and meet that deficit.



We also need two more members to serve on the church council for a three year term. Meetings are typically once per month. If you are willing to make this commitment please let Julie Morgan in the office or myself know.

Tom Hals, Council President



### Church History

Christmas 2023 is the fortieth Christmas celebrated in our present sanctuary. The first service held in our "new" building was on Sunday, December 23rd, 1984. Weather following the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service was -13°F and windy.

Just a couple of items concerning the construction of our building: the concrete for the exposed aggregate floor in the sanctuary was mixed in the chapel. The pews were assembled in the fellowship hall, with installation completed Thursday, December 20th.



*Trinity's Fellowship Team night at the movies! All are welcome! Simply meet at the North Branch Theater on **January 19** at 6:45 p.m., and we will decide on a movie. Discussion and dessert after the movie!*



**Undesignated** in memory of Ardell Ring from Karen Sorenson

**The Director of Worship & Arts** job description can be found on our website and bulletin board. See Pastor Paul with questions.

## Attendance & Views

Date	In person	Online views
11/19 8a	51	74
11/19 10a	108	57
11/23 7p	51	57
11/26 8a	36	58
11/26 10a	74	60
12/3 8a	46	68
12/3 10a	90	58
12/10 8a	43	60
12/10 10a	151	55

**Trinity is forming a team of Shalom Thrift Store volunteers.** A member would commit to working 4 hours one day a week each week. Shifts are 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. or 12:30-4:00 p.m. Duties would include pricing, sorting, accepting donations, cash register at the Cambridge store. As a team we receive a monthly stipend for the Outreach program at Trinity. If you are interested in helping out beginning in January, contact Julie, Carol Gustafson or Connie Deminsky. Carpooling may be an option. It is fun and it is rewarding!

### Did you know Trinity has a Prayer Shawl ministry?

The person making the shawl begins each shawl with prayers and blessings for the recipients, and prayers are continued through completion of the shawl.

If you know of someone who would like a prayer shawl, or if you would like to knit or crochet prayer shawls, please email [jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org), or call the office at 651-674-7047. They are always appreciated!





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Mailing Label

# January, 2024

## 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: 8a & 10 am in person worship  
livestreamed on YouTube. **(9:00 am on ly 12/31/23)**

Available on facebook later. See our website for links.

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

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

Pastor Paul Cannon ext. 12

Sue Danielzuk, Church Administrator ext 37

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

Courtney Fairbanks, Sunday School Coordinator ext. 15

Director of Worship and Arts  
open ext. 14

Julie Morgan, Church Office Manager ext. 10

Christopher Dehen, Financial Recorder

Lucas Starr, Audio Visual Manager

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  
Our Sister Congregation in Tanzania—Pawaga

### Church Council Members:

Tom Hals, Council Chair  
Linda Born, Jeremy Edson, Rosanne Johnson,  
Barb Nelson, Aaron Nysse, Stan Sjodahl,  
Ann Tanko, Vicky Trampe

