

February 2024

Pastor's Page

Trinity Tidings
February 2024
Pastor Paul Cannon



TRINITY TIDINGS

Trinity Lutheran Church

Wandering Heart

Did you ever wonder why Easter is on a different day every year? It's not like Christmas (always December 25th) or even like Thanksgiving (always the fourth Thursday in November). Easter is always scheduled for the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox (March 21st).

You read that right. Easter moves to a new spot (sometimes in different months!) every year because it's based on the lunar calendar. Therefore, Easter could potentially land on any Sunday between March 22nd and April 25th (according to the Old Farmer's Almanac). If that makes sense to you, congratulations! You're the first.

It's unnecessarily confusing, but the one small upside is that sometimes the change in date presents us with an opportunity to reflect on something new or something we hadn't thought of before. This year, Easter falls on March 31st, which is early as far as Easter goes. That means Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent), falls early as well – February 14th – Valentine's Day.

Ash Wednesday, the day we mark with ashes and a grim reminder of our mortality, will be on Valentine's day this year – a day of pink hearts, sweet candies, and doe-eyed professions of love. It's quite the juxtaposition.

But in a way, it seems appropriate too. In Lent our chosen theme is Wandering Heart – not the pink hearts of Valentine's, but our own wandering hearts. We will be following Peter's story from the time Jesus invites him to get out of the boat, through the highs and lows of his faith journey, all the way to the cross. We will be exploring how Peter's heart and faith ebbed and flowed, from determined loyalty, to betrayal, and back once again to faith.

And how our hearts wander! Maybe you see a bit of yourself in Peter. At times, our hearts are steadfast, and at times we waiver. But we trust that through it all, Christ remains true. God knows our hearts, and the Holy Spirit directs our ways as we wander through the wilderness of our lives.

Journey with us this season! Join us on Wednesdays (10:00a and 6:30p) and on Sundays as we walk with wandering hearts toward the cross.



Ash Wednesday, February 14: 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. worship

Wednesdays February 21 through March 20: 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. worship

Palm Sunday, March 24: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. worship,
9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Brunch

Maundy Thursday, March 28: 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. worship
and First communion

Good Friday, March 29: 6:30 p.m. worship

Easter Sunday: 6:30 a.m. Cemetery Service, 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. worship

Children & Youth Ministry News

Family Sunday School/Children's Ministry

February will be filled with fun and fellowship for Sunday School families! On Sunday, February 11, we will be having our Hot Cocoa Party in the Fellowship hall. We will have fun make and take crafts, treats, cocoa, and Bingo from 9-9:45 a.m. The children will sing during the 10 a.m. service. 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 11. 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.

February 4 - Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45 a.m.

February 11 - Family Hot Cocoa Party, 9:00-9:45 a.m. Fellowship Hall -
Singing at 10:00 worship. Souper Bowl Soup Collection items due

February 18 - NO Sunday School - President's Day weekend

February 25 - Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45 a.m.



Confirmation

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

We will meet at 6:00 pm during Lent, with worship at 6:30 pm.

No Confirmation class on Ash Wednesday; please attend 6:30 pm worship.

EDGE High School Youth Ministry

February is a full month for our EDGE crew! EDGE will serve coffee hour first and then our soup lunch fundraiser at the annual meeting on February 4, at 11:00 a.m. We thank you for supporting our youth group Gathering trip and activities! Our group will also do a poverty simulation where we will shop for a specified number of meals on a limited budget. We will be donating all of the food purchased to the local food shelf and the Trinity grocery shelf. The Lent season begins on February 14 and we will start meeting earlier for discussion and fellowship time before attending Lenten worship services together as a group.

February 4 - EDGE hosts coffee hour/Soup Lunch Fundraiser at Annual Meeting 11:00 a.m.

February 7 - EDGE 6:00-7:30 p.m. - Poverty Simulation

February 14 - EDGE 6:00-6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30 p.m.

February 21 - EDGE 6:00-6:30 p.m. Worship at 6:30 p.m.

February 28 - EDGE 6:00-6:30 p.m. Worship at 6:30 p.m.



Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt Candy Donations Needed

A donation board is set up in the narthex with tags for our Easter egg hunt. We are asking for new, unopened bags of fun-sized Starburst and Skittles candy to be returned to the church office before Monday, March 4. Please only donate the requested kinds due to allergies. Fun-size is needed to fit inside the Easter eggs. THANK YOU for your help!

Holy Hotdish - Women's Bible Study and Fellowship

We gather again Sunday, February 4, from 6:00-7:15 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Trinity. We will be finishing the book of Nehemiah. We'll cover Week 5 in our study book and Nehemiah chapters 11-13. Remember to bring your Bible, study book, and a pen! Contact Marie with any questions.



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 or call the office at 651-674-7047. Thank you for considering being a part of this guiding group at Trinity.

The Noisy Offering collected January 7 and January 21 Coffee Hour will go to Thee Alliance / R.I.P. Medical Debt to help pay down medical debt for those in need. \$750.55 was collected, and Outreach will add an additional \$500.00.

Contributions reminder: If mailing in your contribution or using online bill pay, please include P.O. Box 447 in the mailing address. Also, please mark your contribution so the monies are directed to the appropriate fund. Thank you!

First Communion Classes

First Communion Instruction is open to *any and all* people who have not yet received Communion. If you or your child/ren would like to participate in this year's class, please fill out the form in the church office or on the website and return by March 18.



There will be 2 Parts for First Communion Instruction for 2024 (Please plan to attend both classes)

1. The first part will be on Thursday, March 21, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Trinity.
2. The second part will take place on Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 5:00 p.m. with the receiving of First Communion at our 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service that same night. We will be serving a supper of sandwiches, chips, applesauce, milk, and water to begin this evening.

Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Paul, Marie, or Courtney if you have any questions.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Annual Lenten Fish Fry

FRIDAYS 5PM -7PM

FEBRUARY 16 — MARCH 22

ALL YOU CAN EAT:

Fish

Hand Cut French Fries

Homemade Tartar Sauce

Coleslaw & Dinner Roll

Coffee & Milk

Pop available for purchase \$1



Meatless Spaghetti
Also Available!



\$15 ADULTS

\$5 KIDS (AGE 5-10)

UNDER 5 FREE!

Proceeds support Viking Vittles Program



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Place for You
38460 Lincoln Trail
North Branch, MN
Call 651.674.7047
with questions

Invite your friends and family to come, see and enjoy fresh French Fries, delicious fish, coleslaw and dessert bars.

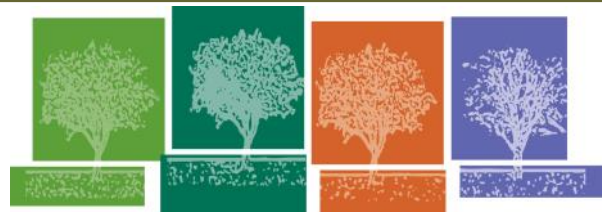
Volunteers needed for bringing bars and helping set up, serve and cleanup. Sign up sheets will be located in the Narthex.



Wandering Heart Lenten devotion booklets are included in this month's newsletter. This will be our theme throughout Lent.

Like, comment on, and share our daily facebook posts!

Our Annual Meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, February 4 in the Fellowship Hall. EDGE Youth Ministry will be serving a soup lunch as a fundraiser for their National Youth Gathering trip. Please plan to attend!

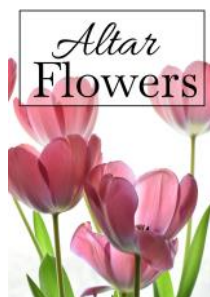


ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you to our decorating team (Lori Peterson, Holly Fairbanks, Candi Hals and Sue Swenson) for sharing their gifts in making our sanctuary so beautiful for Advent and Christmas!



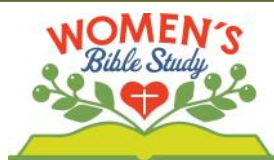
We are in need of a group or a couple of families to bring treats and serve at our 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 18. Please contact Julie or sign up on the bulletin board if you can help out. Thank you!



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 a.m. that Sunday. See Julie with questions.

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 February 13.

Martha Arnold, Chair person.



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!



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. Training is available if desired. If you are interested in helping out in this way please sign up in the narthex, or talk with Julie or Pastor Paul.



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

TRINITY WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE (TWIGS)

Upcoming Events

Saturday April 27 St. Paul Area Synod

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

See Ann Tanko with questions or to attend.

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!

ALTAR GUILD

Serving for the month
of February

Jan Nelson & Sharon Fairbanks



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

Fare for All at Trinity Lutheran Church.

3:00-5:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 7.

Fare for All is open to everyone! The more who shop the better the buying power of the organization. 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 or leave a message for Julie at 651-674-7047 to pickup.

February



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

Treasurer's Report

Statement of Income and Expenses

Month Ending December 31, 2023
Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch, MN

<u>Income</u>	December Actual	December Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Unified Giving	\$ 53,014	\$ 33,333	\$ 359,017	\$ 400,000
Loose Offering	\$ 1,106	\$ 375	\$ 7,047	\$ 4,500
Other Income	\$ 9,301	\$ 5,542	\$ 17,369	\$ 12,550
Phoenix Operating Reimbursement	\$ 1,864	\$ 2,500	\$ 30,096	\$ 30,000
Special Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Regular Giving	\$ 65,284	\$ 41,750	\$ 413,529	\$ 447,050
<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	\$ 30,518	\$ 46,765	\$ 362,379	\$ 427,553
Church Property	\$ 6,809	\$ 7,857	\$ 93,091	\$ 96,097
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 980	\$ 1,800
Learning & Youth	\$ 261	\$ 458	\$ 6,442	\$ 7,250
Worship	\$ 208	\$ 233	\$ 3,001	\$ 3,810
Witness & Service	\$ -	\$ 17	\$ 107	\$ 200
Sub-total General Expenses	\$ 37,797	\$ 55,481	\$ 466,000	\$ 536,710
Total Regular Expenses	\$ 40,505	\$ 58,189	\$ 498,500	\$ 569,210
Total Net Income - December 2023	\$ 24,778	\$ (16,439)		
Unified Support - Phoenix	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 84,000	\$ 84,000
Income Less Expense after Phoenix Support	\$ 31,778	\$ (9,439)		
Total Net Income - Year-To-Date			\$ (971)	\$ (38,160)

December Income was \$23,534 over the December Budget
December Expense was \$17,684 under the December Budget

Net Income is \$31,778 for December
Net Income is -\$971 Year to Date

Please consider online giving.

YTD Phoenix Rent Received \$238,807.38

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 Church Council

The Council had a pleasant surprise at the January meeting when Church Treasurer, Todd Fisk presented the financial reports. Due to generous giving in December, monthly income exceeded expenses for the month \$24,778.44. When the \$7,000 monthly support from Phoenix was included, our total deficit for 2023 was \$971.07. The budgeted deficit for 2023 was \$38,160. Ideally we need to operate without a deficit, but if we have to do so, a deficit of only \$971 is easier to swallow than one of \$38,160. Hopefully, we can improve our stewardship and have a balanced budget.



Another topic of discussion at the January meeting was the remodeling of the restrooms in the church portion of our building and adding handicapped facilities to both restrooms. We plan to get costs for these improvements and proceed if economically feasible.

Thank you to the following council members for their service this past year: Ann Tanko, Vicky Trampe, Stan Sjodahl, Aaron Nysse, Linda Born, Barb Nelson, Rosanne Johnson, Jeremy Edson and Todd Fisk. The terms of Ann, Vicky and Stan will expire as of the annual meeting. Ann and Vicky having served two consecutive 3-year terms. Jeremy has served as Vice-President the past year and will take over the presidential duties after the annual meeting. They have been an able and willing group to handle the duties of council of Trinity. It has been rewarding for me to have served with them.

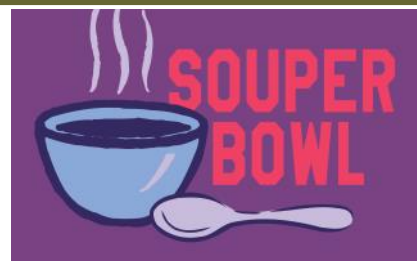
Tom Hals, Council President



To the Cemetery Fund in memory of Mark Tell from Bev Otterness

To the Food Shelf in memory of Elizabeth Ann "Betty" Rasmussen from Ted & Joan Nemetz

SOUPer Bowl Soup Collection has begun! Soup cans will be collected on the cart in the narthex from now until February 11. (Super Bowl Sunday) Trinity members along with our Sunday School students and families are invited to bring in cans/packets of soup throughout this time. All soup collected will be used to stock Trinity's grocery shelf and/or the North Branch Food Pantry. Thank you!



Attendance & Views

Date	In person	Online views
12/17 8a	55	56
12/17 10a	86	44
12/24 230p	182	118
12/24 400p	223	73
12/24 730p	132	106
12/31 9a	50	118
1/7 8a	44	56
1/7 10a	90	86
1/14 8a	30	41
1/14 10a	80	105

"Supper at Emmaus"

The banner above the pulpit is a 9' x 9' enlargement of the "Supper at Emmaus" painting by Chinese artist He Qi [pronounced Huh Chee]. He Qi gave Trinity permission to enlarge his painting into a banner for our sanctuary in 2008.

¹He Qi (1951) grew up in China during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). Having had some art lessons as a youth, he started painting Mao portraits in order to escape hard labor on the fields.

¹Religious art from the middle ages almost always shows biblical scenes with European-looking people, in European settings. This inspired He Qi to depict biblical stories with a Chinese background, and Chinese characters. He Qi's work shows the influence of medieval European art, as well as his familiarity with Chinese folk art. (¹ from BU School of Theology online publication)



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

*Trinity's Fellowship Team night at the movies! All are welcome! Simply meet at the North Branch Theater on **February 16** at 6:45 p.m., and we will decide on a movie. Discussion and dessert after the movie!*



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Return Service Requested

Mailing Label

February, 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: 8 am & 10 am in person worship
livestreamed on YouTube.

Available on facebook later. See our website for links.

Church email: office@trinitynorthbranch.org

Church website: 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

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

ANNUAL MEETING

*The Annual Meeting of the
Congregation will be held
February 4th at 11:00 am in
the Fellowship Hall.*

*EDGE Youth Ministry will be serving a soup lunch
fundraiser that will support their trip to the
National Youth Gathering this summer.
Cans of soup are being collected as well.
Annual Reports are available in the Narthex.
Please join us !*