

December 2024

Pastor's Page

Trinity Tidings
December 2024
Pastor Paul Cannon



TRINITY TIDINGS

Trinity Lutheran Church

This Christmas – Words for the Beginning

One of my kids was melting down the other day - like full blown temper tantrum – and when that happens, no words, logic or comfort will make it better. It was my turn to deal with it, so I walked up the stairs where the meltdown was happening, didn't say a word, glanced at my child writhing on the floor, gave them my best what's-going-on-here-look, and walked past them and into my bedroom.

I sat down, waited and listened. Pretty soon I heard some pouting (seemingly trying to get my attention) coming from the stairs, but still I waited. I didn't say a word.

Finally, a child came scowling into my room, jumped up next to me, and cuddled in. I didn't lecture, or rationalize or scold – I did the millennial parent thing and pulled out my phone so we could watch a YouTube video together (don't judge - a parent's gotta do what a parent's gotta do!)

Okay, it wasn't the perfect solution, but it was what my kid needed in the moment. Sometimes we just need a fresh start, which is exactly what the Christmas season offers us.

Our theme for Advent and Christmas this year is "Words for the Beginning" because the season of Advent is all about endings and beginnings. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving our God and our neighbors.

Join us this Christmas season as we explore all the ways Christ offers us fresh words for our own beginnings.



Advent and Christmas worship schedule

- Sunday, December 1** 8:00 & 10:00 *First Sunday of Advent worship*
- Sunday, December 8** 10:00 *Sunday School Christmas program/worship*
Cookie party to follow in the Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, December 15** 8:00 & 10:00 *Third Sunday of Advent worship*
- Sunday, December 22** 8:00 & 10:00 *Fourth Sunday of Advent worship*

Tuesday, December 24th/Christmas Eve

2:00, 4:00, 7:00 p.m. Candlelight worship with Holy Communion
(Livestreamed and available to view online later.)

Wednesday, December 25 *Merry Christmas!*

Sunday, December 29 *One worship service at 9:00 a.m.*

Children & Youth Ministry News

Family Sunday School/Children's Ministry

We are so excited to celebrate the birth of our Savior that brings good news of great joy for all people at our Christmas program on Sunday, December 8, at 10:00 a.m. We invite you to come watch the program and stay after for a cookie party in the Fellowship Hall. The children have been preparing for this special day and we know it will be a joyful delight this season. Special thank you to Courtney Fairbanks for directing, Lucas Starr for audio/visual, and Melissa Westmore for piano accompaniment along with all of our amazing Sunday School helpers and volunteers. Merry Christmas Blessings to our Trinity Family!

Upcoming Dates to know:

December 1 – Program Rehearsal/Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45 a.m.

December 8 – Program Rehearsal at 8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.,

Christmas Program at 10:00 a.m. service, Cookie Party to follow in the Fellowship Hall

December 15 – Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45 a.m. Christmas Sweater Party!

December 22 – NO Sunday School - Merry Christmas!

December 29 – NO Sunday School - Happy New Year!

January 5 – Family Sunday School Resumes 9:00-9:45 a.m.



Faith Friends

Faith Friends is a program for families with elementary aged children up to 5th grade. Join us in the Sunday School rooms for our seasonal Bible verse, craft, and activities. Faith Friends is family style and meets one Wednesday evening a month from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Our next date will be Wednesday, December 4, from 5:30-6:00 p.m. All families are invited to join for TLC Pizza Night from 6:00-6:30 p.m. TLC Pizza Night serves Domino's Pizza, salad, lemonade, and water. (Suggested donation \$5/person).

Register online at <https://forms.gle/g8WRQ3MtoyWn3MTx8> or paper forms can be found in the narthex.

EDGE High School Ministry

At the end of November, EDGE went on a Christmas outreach shopping trip to Target to help support the giving tree tags at Trinity. EDGE was also joined by 8th grade confirmation students to pack college care packages. This month, EDGE will focus on Advent and have our Christmas Party filled with cocoa and lights. After Christmas break, we'll be back in the New Year with a game night, service projects, Soup Lunch, and much more! We wish everyone a joyous and blessed Christmas season!

December 1 - EDGE Serves Coffee Hour

December 4 - TLC Pizza Night 6:00-6:30 p.m., EDGE Meets 6:30-7:30 p.m.

December 11 - EDGE Christmas Party: Cocoa and Lights offsite 6:00-7:30 p.m.

December 18- NO EDGE: Merry Christmas!

December 25- NO EDGE: Merry Christmas!

January 1 - NO EDGE: Happy New Year!



Holy Hotdish Bible Study - Gospel of Mark

Our next gathering will be Sunday, December 1, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity. This is a Bible study for women of all ages and is for beginners and experienced Bible readers alike. We begin with supper, refreshments, and fellowship, followed by Bible study, discussion, and prayer. Upcoming dates are January 5 and February 2. Contact Marie to be added to our email list.



Senior Socials in memory of Dale Nordaune from Abby Nordaune

Viking Vittles in memory of Duane Fisk from Dave & Martha Arnold

Undesignated in memory of Duane Fisk Gloria Karsky

Thee Alliance in memory of Thayle Swanson (sister of Tom Hals) from Ron & Diane Barsness, Sharon Fairbanks, Cindee Anderson, Tom & Candi Hals

EDGE Youth Group in memory of Thayle Swanson from Mike & Barb Nelson

Kitchen Fund in memory of David Scherer from Kathy Aho, Jane & Loren Magnison, Jean Fairbanks, Bonnie Nelson, Judy Ramberg, Vonna Humble, Ron & Diane Barsness,

EDGE Youth Ministry in memory of David Scherer from Mike & Barb Nelson



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

THANK YOU to all who donated and/or helped pack the fall blessing bags! But Gods' work is never done! We are now looking to pack 50 bags for children ages 0-13 and donate them to Pathways domestic violence program for Christmas. Please check out the board in the narthex for some items we are looking to include and drop off your donations by Sunday Dec. 1st. *We will pack again on Wednesday, December 4th at 9:00 a.m.*

Our Little Free Libraries are in need of books for all ages. Donations can be placed in the bin inside Door 12. Thank you!

Diaper Collection We are collecting disposable diapers for families in need. If you have a partial package of leftover diapers, or would like to purchase diapers, we will create bundles that could be distributed as needed. Please leave donations in the church office. We are especially in need of sizes 2, 4, and 6. Baby wipes are also needed. Thank you!

Trinity will be hosting the Path to Home Program from December 8th to December 22nd 2024. During this time we will host unhoused families at our church. Sign up sheets for volunteers will be available in early November. If you have any questions regarding volunteer opportunities feel free to contact Kris or Jeff Johnson at 612-718-0143.



Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ's birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike—all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ's story to an end. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown.

As you journey through this season, may you find words for belovedness and hope. May you find words for beginning again. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, love is your beginning.

Words for the Beginning Advent booklets are available in the narthex. Call or email the office to receive a copy by mail.



The Christmas Giving Tree has tags for 60 local foster children and 20 developmentally disabled adults. Gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 8. Suggested items are listed, you are not expected to purchase all items listed. All gifts should be unwrapped; using a gift bag is ideal. Thank you for your support of this program each year!

Christmas Season Poinsettia Garden

If you would like to contribute toward our Christmas season poinsettia garden in memory of or in gratitude for someone or something, please complete this form and return it to the church office. In order to be listed in the Christmas Eve insert, please return no later than Sunday, December 15th.

Forms received after December 15th will not be included in the Christmas eve insert.

(Please print. Thank-you!)

In memory of _____

In gratitude for: _____

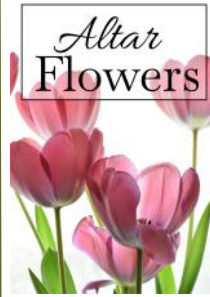
From _____

Mail to Trinity Lutheran Church, Attn: Julie Morgan, PO Box 447, North Branch, MN 55056

Greeting cards are sent periodically to our homebound members. If you are not receiving cards from Trinity and would like to be added to the mailing list, please call the office at 651-674-7047 and we will add you!



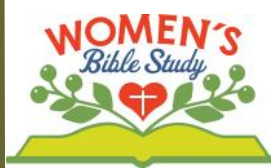
We are in need of a group or a couple of families to bring treats and serve at our 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour on Sunday, January 19. Please contact Julie or sign up on the bulletin board if you can help out. Thank you!



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 December 10.

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 volunteers to help out as ushers, greeters and communion assistants at our worship 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 Dani. 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

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 office@trinitynorthbranch.org

Trinity's grocery shelf has seen continued 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 our community in this way!

ALTAR GUILD
Serving for the month
of December

Jane Magnison & Sue Gustafson



Please email articles for the January Trinity Tidings to office@trinitynorthbranch.org by December 16. Thank you!

**Fare for All and The Shoe Bus
3:00-5:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 4.
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 October, November, December are in the Narthex. 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.

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 am & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Holy Hot Dish	2 9:00 am Fellowship Team meeting 6:00 pm Advent Tea	3	4 9:00 am Blessing Bag assembly 3:00-5:00 pm Fare for All /Shoe Bus 5:30 pm Faith Friends 6:00 am Pizza Night 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm EDGE Youth Group 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study	5 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band 6:15 pm Choir practice	6	7
8 Worship Service/ Communion 10:00 am only- Sunday School Program 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 pm Cookie Party Giving Tree gifts due Path Program hosting begins	9 Path Program hosting	10 9:00 am Outreach meeting Path Program hosting	11 6:30 pm Confirmation offsite* time may be changed 6:00 pm EDGE Youth Group offsite Path Program hosting	12 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band Path Program hosting	13	14 Path Program hosting
15 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 am & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School Path Program hosting	16 Tidings articles due Path program hosting	17 7:00 pm Church council meeting	18	19 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band 6:15 pm Choir practice Path program hosting	20	21 Path Program hosting
22 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 am & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour Path Program departs	23	24 2:00, 4:00, 7:00 pm candlelight worship	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Church office is closed	27	28
29 Worship Service/ Communion 9:00 am only Lessons & Carols 9:00 am Coffee Hour	30 Church office is closed this week	31				

Treasurer's Report

Statement of Income and Expenses

Month Ending October 31, 2024
Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch, MN

<u>Income</u>	October Actual	October Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Unified Giving	\$ 26,192	\$ 29,917	\$ 291,048	\$ 299,166
Loose Offering	\$ 2,357	\$ 583	\$ 7,198	\$ 5,833
Other Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,407	\$ 5,375
Phoenix Operating Reimbursement	\$ 1,722	\$ 2,508	\$ 20,770	\$ 25,083
Special Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Regular Giving	\$ 30,271	\$ 33,008	\$ 330,424	\$ 335,458
<u>Expenses</u>	October Actual	October Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Mission Support				
Synod Support	\$ 2,429	\$ 2,429	\$ 24,292	\$ 24,292
Missionaries	\$ 188	\$ 188	\$ 1,875	\$ 1,875
Iringa Church Tanzania	\$ 92	\$ 92	\$ 917	\$ 917
Sub-total Mission Expenses	\$ 2,708	\$ 2,708	\$ 27,083	\$ 27,083
General Expenses				
Ministry Support	\$ 31,111	\$ 33,868	\$ 335,461	\$ 359,611
Church Property	\$ 8,268	\$ 7,627	\$ 80,734	\$ 91,130
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ 42	\$ 2,099	\$ 3,417
Learning & Youth	\$ 673	\$ 500	\$ 5,751	\$ 7,000
Worship	\$ 439	\$ 358	\$ 3,131	\$ 3,343
Witness & Service	\$ -	\$ 42	\$ 372	\$ 417
Sub-total General Expenses	\$ 40,492	\$ 42,437	\$ 427,547	\$ 464,918
Total Regular Expenses	\$ 43,200	\$ 45,145	\$ 454,631	\$ 492,001
Total Net Income - October 2024	\$ (12,929)	\$ (12,137)		
Unified Support - Phoenix	\$ 12,000	\$ 13,663	\$ 124,575	\$ 136,625
Income Less Expense after Phoenix Support	\$ (929)	\$ 1,526		
Total Net Income - Year-To-Date			\$ 368	\$ (19,918)

October Income was \$2,738 under the October Budget
October Expense was \$1,945 under the October Budget

Net Income is -\$929 for October
Net Income is \$368 Year to Date

YTD Phoenix Rent Received \$209,875

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.



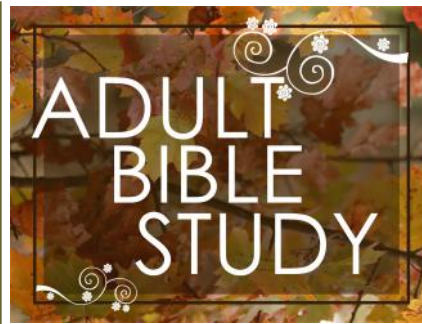
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas is looking for some volunteers to assist him in the A/V booth at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. each Sunday morning running the PowerPoint and YouTube stream. You could help at one service or the other, or both. No experience needed, Lucas will quickly train you! Please visit with him Sunday mornings or email lstarr@trinitynorthbranch.org to sign up or for more information.

Greeters (welcoming guests at the doors), **Communion Assistants** (distributing the wafers and wine) and **Ushers** (distribute bulletins, pass the offering plates and direct worshippers during communion) **are needed at both services each Sunday.** Sign up sheets are in the narthex. Please see Dani if you have questions.

We would like to add to our list of communion set up and clean up volunteers. You would be scheduled for one or the other or both (your choice) approximately one Sunday per month. Contact the office if you can help out.

We are looking for donations of cookies and servers for our TLC Pizza Nights. Our next event is December 4th. Sign up in the narthex to bring cookies or to help serve. Thank you!



Sign up for our new Adult Bible Study,

which will be taking place monthly (coinciding with TLC Pizza Night). This will be a monthly video/book based Bible study called "Making sense of

the Cross" presented by Dr. David Lose. Open to all adults in the congregation! Sign up on the sheet in the narthex or online

at <https://forms.gle/LiVuxZBnMXYP71y26>

Dates for Bible Study: Come for all OR just some of the dates: December 4th, January 8th, February 5th, March 19th

TLC Pizza Night Schedule

5:30-6:00p – "Faith Friends" elementary programming.

6:00-6:30p – Pizza Night in the fellowship hall.

6:30 - 7:30p- Bible Study (Rich Lundberg will lead). Confirmation, EDGE.

*Please sign up for Pizza Night separately.



We welcome new members Mandi Irkfetz, Gwen Leaf, JoAnn Nyholm, Joni Olson who joined Trinity on November 17.

We also welcome Jim Juntunen as Trinity's Assistant Custodian. Jim has replaced Jeff Hill, who has retired. Jim will be working Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, and alternate weekends with Roger.

We welcome you all to our Trinity family!

Attendance & Views

Date	In person	Online views
10/20 8a	56	32
10a	77	180
10/27 8a	52	184
10a	100	116
11/3 8a	70	160
10a	130	157
11/10 8a	56	116
10a	103	103
11/17 8a	52	82
10a	107	112

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!

Trinity has formed a team of Shalom Thrift Store volunteers. A member commits 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 contact Julie, Carol Gustafson or Connie Deminsky. Carpooling may be an option. It is fun and it is rewarding!



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38460 Lincoln Trail
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North Branch, MN 55056

Return Service Requested

Mailing Label

December 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 worship
(available on YouTube and facebook)
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

Melissa Westmore, Director of Worship and Arts ext. 14

Julie Morgan, Church Office Manager ext. 10

Danielle Baumann, Volunteer Coordinator

Christopher Dehen, Financial Recorder

Lucas Starr, Audio Visual Manager

Roger Anderson & Jim Juntunen, Custodians
Jason Vanous & 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:

Jeremy Edson, Council Chair
Linda Born, Tiffany Byrne, Shari Denny,
Tom Hals, Rosanne Johnson, Barb Nelson,
Aaron Nysse, John Swenson,



Christmas Eve
candlelight worship
2:00, 4:00, 7:00 pm

12/29 9:00 am
Lessons & Carols
worship