

February 2025

## Pastor's Page

Trinity Tidings  
February 2025  
Pastor Paul Cannon

### Love Is ...

I've always wondered why those Valentine candy hearts are so popular; the taste of artificially sweetened chalk isn't for me, and I would guess I'm not alone in that opinion. But I suppose the real marketing genius of that famous February treat is the love messages inscribed on them.

Giving the "apple of your eye" a treat that says "I'm Yours" or "Be Mine" or "Sweet Love" has more appeal than the candy itself. I suppose we are willing to sacrifice a bit of flavor to let a romantic interest know how we feel! Love has a powerful hold on us all!

Somewhat appropriately, in church we are going to start the month of Valentines, with some of Paul's most famous thoughts on love. "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love" Paul writes, "I am a noisy gong or a clanging symbol." (1 Cor 13:1). It's a romantic notion! You can see why this verse might be popular in weddings. Words to profess our love ... except not really.

Because of it's popularity, 1 Corinthians 13, which (which we'll read on Feb. 2) is one of the most widely quoted and misunderstood Bible passages out there. You see, it's not actually talking about romantic love at all (that would be the Greek word eros). Paul is talking about self-giving love, which the Greeks referred to as agape.

He's addressing a community in conflict and his message to them in First Corinthians, is that everything they've done up to this point is meaningless if they don't put their differences aside for each other. If they aren't patient with each other, if they aren't kind, if they don't "bear all things, believe all things, hope all things and endure all things" for the sake of one another, then everything they've done has been for nothing.

And if you think of it that way, maybe it is appropriate for weddings, because marriages need those things too. Yes, the romantic "Be Mine" love of candy hearts is important, but so is agape; marriages need that type of love to thrive as well. And though I don't think "Self-sacrifice" "Patience" or "Endure all things" are catchy enough to print on a Valentine's candy, they might be the messages our relationships really need.



### ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held at 11:00 am Sunday, February 9. EDGE Youth Ministry will be serving a soup lunch as a fundraiser for youth trips and activities. Please plan to attend!

We are in need of three church council members beginning in February. These are three year terms, and the council meets monthly on the third Tuesday evening of each month. We currently have two candidates.



We are also in need of two Endowment Committee members. This is also a three year term. The Endowment committee meets a couple of times each year. We currently have two candidates.

Please see Julie or Pastor Paul if you would like to serve in this way.



# TRINITY TIDINGS Trinity Lutheran Church

# Children & Youth Ministry News

## Family Sunday School and Children's Ministry:

February will be a wonderful month of service projects and singing for our Sunday School students! We are collecting soup once again for our Souper Bowl soup drive. Please place your soup donations on the cart in the narthex by Sunday, February 9. All donations will be shared with the grocery shelf here at Trinity, the North Branch Food Shelf, and/or Viking Vittles. We will also be making fleece tie blankets to support local organizations this month. There will be no Sunday School on President's Day weekend. Our Sunday School students will sing 3 songs during 10:00 a.m. Worship on Sunday, February 23.

**February 2** - Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45 a.m. - Service Project

**February 9** - Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45 a.m. - Soup cans due for Souper Bowl Sunday!  
Annual Meeting and Soup Lunch at 11:00 a.m.

**February 16** - No Sunday School - President's Day Weekend Break

**February 23** - Family Sunday School/Music Practice 9:00-9:45, Sing in church at 10:00 a.m.



## Faith Friends

Faith Friends will meet on Wednesday, February 5, from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Join us in the Sunday School rooms for our seasonal Bible verse, craft, and activity. Everyone is invited to join for TLC Pizza Night from 6:00-6:30 p.m. TLC Pizza Night serves Domino's Pizza, salad, lemonade, cookies/bars, and water. (Suggested donation \$5/person).

## EDGE High School Youth Ministry

EDGE will serve our soup lunch fundraiser at the annual meeting on February 9, at 11:00 a.m. This fundraiser helps support our youth group mission trip and yearly activities! We are excited to have our biggest group in years of 11 students attend our mission trip to Wisconsin this July! Thank you for your financial and prayer support for these students and trips! We will also do a joint Confirmation/EDGE bowling trip at the end of the month. We are excited about our next NB Breakfast Club on February 5, from 7:00-7:30 a.m. for all 9-12 graders to come for food, friends, and an encouraging word before school.

**February 2** - EDGE serves coffee hour

**February 5** - NB Breakfast Club, 7:00-7:30 a.m.

**February 5** - TLC Pizza Night 6:00-6:30 p.m., EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**February 9** - Soup Lunch Fundraiser at the Annual Meeting 11:00 a.m.

**February 12** - EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**February 19** - EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**February 26** - EDGE 6:00-7:30 p.m. - Bowling Trip



**Breakfast Club** - North Branch Breakfast Club meets once a month and is for all 9-12 grade high school students. Our next one is Wednesday, February 5, from 7:00-7:30 a.m. before school in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity. Students can come for a yummy breakfast, friends, and an encouraging Word before school! Reach out to Marie to sign up to help.



## Holy Hotdish Bible Study

Our next gathering will be Sunday, February 2, 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 and fellowship, followed by Bible study on the book of Mark, discussion, and prayer. Upcoming dates are March 2 and April 6. Contact Marie to be added to our email list.



**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 9. All donations will be shared with the grocery shelf here at Trinity, the North Branch Food Shelf, and Viking Vittles. Thank you!

# COMMUNITY Our Little Free Libraries OUTREACH

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!

**Lutheran Disaster Response** is coordinating with the Southwest CA Synod, Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. Please pray for communities impacted by the wildfires. Gifts to "U.S. Wildfires" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires until the response is complete. To give by phone, call 800-638-3522. Checks or money orders payable to Lutheran Disaster Response can be mailed to: Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

If you have never tried **Bible Study**, now would be a great time to begin. We are an awesome group of ladies who meet with Pastor Paul and he goes over the Gospel lesson for the up coming week. We find it helps us all understand the lesson and it seems like we grasp the sermon better. There are no requirements, as we simply talk about the Gospel and share if we want to, what it means to us. We meet in the Genesis room for an hour or less on Thursday mornings at 9:00. Please think about joining us. We are looking forward to seeing you soon!



## Stewardship of Time and Talents:

It is that time of year! You should be receiving a form in the mail in the this week. Please take the time to consider and pray about your *'time and talent'* in all areas of ministry throughout Trinity over the year and beyond. Please reach out if you have questions. Forms should be returned in the offering plate on 2/9/2025; or to the office.

## First Communion Class

First Communion Class at Trinity will take place on Sunday, April 6, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. -1:30 p.m. We ask that a parent/guardian/caregiver/Godparent attend with each child. Please complete your registration form by Monday, March 31, 2025. Class will include lunch, lesson, making banners, and making First Communion bread. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Pastor Paul.



First Communion will take place on Maundy Thursday worship on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at Trinity Lutheran Church. Families are invited to arrive for photos at 6:00 p.m. and worship/receiving First Communion takes place at 6:30 p.m.

Please register your student for First Communion here: <https://forms.gle/HRZ1Na5xA2a5F6Zy6>

All ages welcome! We invite families to decide for themselves when their child is ready to receive Communion for the first time with the most common ages between 2nd-5th grade. Not all children are ready at the same age. Some cues to watch for that show your child may be ready include:

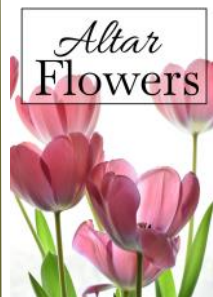
1. Is your child an active participant in worship?
2. Do they talk about what they heard in church and/or ask questions about it?
3. Does your child feel a longing or a spiritual excitement about receiving Communion?
4. Do they feel left out not receiving Communion with others in the community?

If you determine your child is ready to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, begin having conversations at home, read through the Bible passages about the Last Supper with your child (Matthew 26:17-29; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-38; and 1 Corinthians 11:23-25), and talk about it with your child while Communion is served during worship.

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, February 16. 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 11.**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 February  
Jan Nelson, Sharon Fairbanks



**Fare for All**  
**3:00-5:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 12.**  
**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)**



Please email articles for the March Trinity Tidings to [office@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:office@trinitynorthbranch.org) by February 16. Thank you!



**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, March are in the Narthex. 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.**

# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2 Worship Service/ Communion</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 am</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Coffee Hour 6:00 pm Holy Hot Dish	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Fellowship Team meeting	<b>4</b> 7:00 am Breakfast Club 5:30 pm Faith Friends 6:00 pm Pizza Dinner 6:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 PM EDGE Youth Group	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band	<b>8</b> 
<b>9 Worship Service/ Communion</b> <b>8:00 am &amp; 10:00 am</b> 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Annual Meeting & Soup Lunch	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Outreach meeting	<b>12</b> 3:00 pm Fare for All 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 PM EDGE Youth Group	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b>
<b>16 Worship Service/ Communion</b> <b>8:00 am &amp; 10:00 am</b> 9:00 am Coffee Hour	<b>17</b> Tidings articles due	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm Church Council	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 PM EDGE Youth Group	<b>20</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir practice	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Worship Service/ Communion</b> <b>8:00 am &amp; 10:00 am</b> 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 PM EDGE Youth Group	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band	<b>28</b>	

# Treasurer's Report

## Statement of Income and Expenses

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

<u>Income</u>	December Actual	December Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Unified Giving	\$ 56,713	\$ 29,917	\$ 376,741	\$ 359,000
Loose Offering	\$ 44	\$ 583	\$ 8,103	\$ 7,000
Other Income	\$ 8,995	\$ 8,925	\$ 20,928	\$ 15,200
Phoenix Operating Reimbursement	\$ 1,671	\$ 2,508	\$ 24,118	\$ 30,100
Special Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>Total Regular Giving</b>	<b>\$ 67,423</b>	<b>\$ 41,933</b>	<b>\$ 429,891</b>	<b>\$ 411,300</b>
<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	\$ 34,235	\$ 34,174	\$ 418,414	\$ 442,069
Church Property	\$ 6,276	\$ 8,458	\$ 93,447	\$ 107,115
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ 42	\$ 2,294	\$ 3,700
Learning & Youth	\$ 1,876	\$ 500	\$ 8,750	\$ 8,000
Worship	\$ 363	\$ 233	\$ 3,656	\$ 3,810
Witness & Service	\$ -	\$ 42	\$ 372	\$ 500
Sub-total General Expenses	\$ 42,750	\$ 43,449	\$ 526,933	\$ 565,194
 Total Regular Expenses	 \$ 45,458	 \$ 46,158	 \$ 559,433	 \$ 597,694
 Total Net Income - December 2023	 \$ 21,965	 \$ (4,224)		
Unified Support - Phoenix	\$ (22,000)	\$ 13,663	\$ 129,575	\$ 163,950
Income Less Expense after Phoenix Support	\$ (35)	\$ 9,438		
 Total Net Income - Year-To-Date			 \$ 33	 \$ (22,444)

December Income was \$25,490 over the December Budget  
December Expense was \$699 under the December Budget

Net Income is -\$35 for December  
Net Income is \$33 Year to Date

**Please consider online giving.**

YTD Phoenix Rent Received \$253,941.56

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Todd J. Fisk*  
Treasurer

**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!

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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.

**Wow, what a year!** As I sit here reflecting on the past and looking ahead to the future, I'm filled with gratitude for the incredible accomplishments we've achieved. These milestones will undoubtedly shape our congregation for years to come.

When I joined the council two years ago, I knew only a small circle of people from church, primarily through my children's activities. However, these past two years have been a journey of profound learning and growth, deepening my understanding of this congregation and the incredible individuals we serve.

This past year has witnessed remarkable growth in numerous ways. We are steadfast in our commitment to strengthening our church and fostering a supportive community both within our walls and within the greater world. Last spring, we embarked on a significant initiative to reduce our reliance on Phoenix Academy within our general operational budget, and I'm pleased to report that we are making steady progress towards this goal.

The "Pray, Play, and Practice what we Preach" campaign has been a resounding success, demonstrating the unwavering support and incredible strength of our congregation in upholding our church's mission.

I cordially invite each of you to join us for our annual meeting on February 9th, immediately following the 10:00 AM service. We will review the accomplishments of 2024, discuss our vision for 2025, elect three new council members, and continue to strengthen the foundation of this vibrant community. And to make the occasion even more enjoyable, the EDGE youth group will be treating us to a delicious array of soups!

I eagerly anticipate seeing you all there on the 9th.

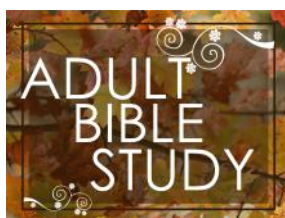
**P.S.** If you are interested in serving on the council, please reach out to Pastor Cannon or myself.

**Jeremy Edson**



**Undesignated** in memory of David & Elaine Hermann from Karen & Karla Hermann

<b>Attendance &amp; Views</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>In person</b>	<b>Online views</b>	
<b>12/22</b>	<b>8a</b>	45	95
	<b>10a</b>	92	92
<b>12/24</b>	<b>2p</b>	180	165
	<b>4p</b>	217	157
	<b>7p</b>	125	29
<b>12/29</b>	<b>9a</b>	62	120
<b>1/5</b>	<b>8a</b>	53	96
	<b>10a</b>	101	30
<b>1/12</b>	<b>8a</b>	43	143
	<b>10a</b>	77	169



**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 <https://forms.gle/xqENeiHvUbg1SWU29>

**Dates for Bible Study:** Come for all OR just some of the dates: 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.



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38460 Lincoln Trail  
PO Box 447  
North Branch, MN 55056

**Return Service Requested**

Mailing Label

# February 2025

## 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](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

Melissa Westmore, Director of Music 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](mailto: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,

