#### Pastor's Page

**Trinity Tidings April 2025** Pastor Paul Cannon

#### **Wonder of God**

A few weeks ago, I quoted an astrophysicist in one of my sermons. Upon reflection, I wondered if it sounded strange for a pastor to be quoting an atheist scientist from the pulpit. It probably was a little irreverent in some ways; I'm sure the ghosts of reverends past were frowning down on me.

But often when I listen to scientists like Brian Cox or Neil deGrasse Tyson talk about the universe, with such a sense of wonder and humility at the sheer size and scope of the stars, to my ears it borders on the divine.

Sometimes I feel like we've lost that sense of wonder and humility when we consider God. Much of what you hear when you walk into most American churches today, is an emphasis on the personalness of God. God who is there for you. God who loves you. God who walks with you. These are all true and good things!

But you also have to hold that in tension with the vastness of God. In comparison with God, we are so small and insignificant. Our ancient ancestors in faith had that same sense of wonder and humility before God, "What are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" asks the Psalmist (Psalm 8:4)

When we lose that sense of the awesomeness of God, then the personalness of God loses its meaning. If you don't realize how small and insignificant we are in comparison to the creator of the universe, then you won't ever understand what it really means that Jesus died for you.

We have to hold those two things in tension for it to have any meaning. As Easter approaches, we need that sense of reverence to truly understand what it means to have an empty tomb. To know that God cares for us on a personal level – enough to send his son to die on a cross – should truly humble us all.

Our God who created stars and galaxies, who sets to planets in motion, and cradles the universe like a mother hen, cares for you specifically. And that is a wonder to itself.

## Join us for Lent and Holy Week

#### Wednesdays through April 9

11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. worship

#### Palm Sunday, April 13:

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

#### **Maundy Thursday, April 17:**

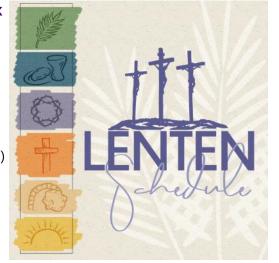
11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. worship and First Communion (6:30 p.m.)

#### **Good Friday, April 18:**

6:30 p.m. worship

#### **Easter Sunday, April 20:**

6:15 a.m. Cemetery Service 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. worship





## **Children & Youth Ministry News**

#### Family Sunday School and Children's Ministry

Thank you to everyone that donated candy for our Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt! We are looking forward to a fun day together in community and celebration! Everyone is invited to the EDGE Palm Sunday Brunch from 9:00-9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, followed by our Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45 a.m. outside on the lawn (will move to Sunday School rooms if inclement weather), and then singing and waving our palm branches at 10:00 a.m. worship. We will be wrapping up our Sunday School year on May 4, with our annual end of the year party with games and treats. We will also celebrate our group of 5th grade students who are moving on to confirmation next year!

April 6 - Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45 a.m.

April 13 - Palm Sunday Brunch 9:00-9:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 9:45 a.m. Sing in church 10:00 a.m.

April 20 - No Sunday School - Happy Easter! He is Risen!

April 27 - Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45 a.m.

May 4 - Last Day of Sunday School Party and Celebrate Graduating 5th Grade Students



EDGE will pack Easter eggs and goodie bags for the Sunday School Palm Sunday Easter egg hunt this month. We will also spend time packing at a Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack event. Everyone is invited to join us for our **Palm Sunday Brunch Fundraiser** on Sunday, April 13, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship hall. EDGE youth will be serving donuts, muffins, fruit, yogurt, cheese, coffee, and juice. Free will donations support youth trips and activities, including this year's mission trip to Wisconsin.

April 2 - EDGE 6:00-6:30 p.m. Lent worship 6:30-7:00p.m.

April 2 - NB Breakfast Club, 7:00-7:30 a.m.

**April 9** - EDGE 6:00-6:30 p.m. Lent worship 6:30-7:00p.m.

April 13 - Palm Sunday Brunch, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

April 16 - NO EDGE - Holy Week

April 23 - EDGE 5:30-8:30 p.m. FMSC Packing

**April 30** - EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m.



#### Trinity Senior Recognition for Class of 2025

We would like to invite you to join us for Trinity's Senior Recognition on Sunday, May 18, at 9:00 a.m. worship where we will bless the Class of 2025 and share the video slideshow. A reception will take place after the service with cupcakes and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Informational letters were mailed out and emailed to senior parents so please reach out to Marie if you did not receive one.

#### Class of 2025 Baccalaureate Service

Wednesday, June 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the North Branch Area High School Auditorium. Baccalaureate is a time where the community and area churches gather together to honor the graduating class. All senior students, their families, and the public are invited and welcome to this non-denominational service. This year's Baccalaureate will include music, scripture, speaker, prayer, and blessing for the Class of 2025.



WORSHIP SERVICE

#### **NB Breakfast Club**

Our next NB Breakfast Club is Wednesday, April 2, from 7:00-7:30 a.m. before school in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity, Breakfast Club is for all 9-12 grade high school students, Join us for a full breakfast, friends, fun, and an encouraging Word before school! Thank you to our amazing volunteer team for making this happen each month for our students! Reach out to Marie to volunteer to help.



#### Holy Hotdish Bible Study

We're wrapping up our year with a Succulent Workshop and Potluck Gathering on Sunday, April 6, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity. Cost is \$20/person. We will then be on break for the summer and returning in September.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Page 2





OMMUNITY 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 and wipes 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 baby wipes.

Blessing Bags We're gearing up for summer Blessing Bags again! Items that we are looking to collect are washcloths, travel size first-aid kits, sunscreen lip balm, travel wet wipes and tissue, playing cards, non-aerosol deodorant, travel size shampoos and soaps, non-aerosol sunscreen, feminine hygiene products, 10 ounce liquid detergent, dental floss and toothpaste. Also, now is a good time to keep your eye out for inexpensive warm hats and insulated mittens on the last chance winter clearance racks! If you are so inclined, I would be happy to store these seasonal purchases for you!

Please drop off any of your summer (or fall) donations in the designated container by May 1st. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THIS OUTREACH MINISTRY!!! Lori Fisk

#### **WOMEN OF THE ELCA ANNUAL CONVENTION**

The 36th Annual St. Paul Area Synodical Women's Convention will be held Saturday May 3, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Oakdale.

Our theme this year is rejoice in hope, based on Romans 12:12. We hold conventions to conduct the business of the St. Paul Area Synodical Women's organization (SWO), elect officers, board members, approve the budget and to set direction for the future.

It is also a time for community. We meet to renew friendships and make new friends. It is a great opportunity to see what else is going on in our synod. Cost is \$45 for the day (includes lunch). There will be learning sessions, worship and Bible Study with Bishop Lull. It will be a wonderful day. Registration forms are available in the office. Any questions, contact Ann Tanko artanko 15@gmail.com

#### Calling all orchestra musicians!

We are looking for volunteers to join our small orchestra that will be playing on April 20th, Easter Sunday. This would include brass, woodwinds, strings, etc. There will be a dress rehearsal on Wednesday evening, April 16th, at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Melissa if you have any questions or interest in joining us!



#### **Actors wanted**

We are seeking 6 to 8 actors to do a short scene from the Last Supper during the Maundy Thursday evening service, which begins at 6:30 p.m. We would ask the actors to arrive at 5:15 p.m. to rehearse the scene. The main characters will have a few short speaking lines. Please sign up in the Narthex, or reach out to Pastor Paul or Melissa with any questions or interest.

#### 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 then take place at 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 are welcome! We invite families to decide when their child is ready to receive Communion for the first time with the most common ages between 2nd-5th grade.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Page 3



#### "Water World" VBS Family Nights

Families are invited to be a part of "Water World" VBS Family Nights this summer! We will gather together 3 Wednesday evenings, June 11, 18, and 25, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Trinity. We look forward to learning about God's love for us through fun water themes, including Bible stories, games, science, art, music, and service projects this summer. Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. and activities will start at 6:00 each evening. There is no cost to attend. You can come to 1, 2, or all 3 nights. Please register by May 4, to ensure requested T-shirt sizes for everyone in your family. We can't wait to see you this summer!

Registration forms are available online and in the narthex. Reach out to Marie if you have any questions.

VBS/Summer in the Son Youth Leaders - Entering 7th grade - Outgoing 12th graders are invited to be youth leaders and helpers for our VBS Family Nights. Dates are Wednesdays: June 11, June 18, and June 25, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Youth leaders will have fun trips in the afternoon before coming back to set up, serve supper, and help with VBS each night. Reach out to Marie if you have any questions. Registration forms are available on the Narthex table. Please register by Sunday, May 4.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR TRINITY'S HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Trinity's scholarship applications for high school seniors attending an ELCA affiliated school are due to the church office by May 1. See Julie for more details and an application form.

If you would like to contribute toward purchasing plants for our loved one, please complete this form and place it in the offering The plants will adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday and will Easter memorial Garden in memory of or in gratitude for a plate or return it to the Church Office by Sunday, April 13 be distributed to our shut-ins after Easter. Names of the in the memorialized will appear after April 13 will not

Easter bulletins. Forms received In gratitude for: In memory of:

# Senior Socials 2025 are COMING SOON!

The LONG LOOONG winter has kept us apart, but soon we will be having a blast together again!

What is a Senior Social? It's a time for seniors to get together to have some fun; visit; eat good food; laugh at Kelly's sketchy jokes; sing-a-long to some toe tappin' music; play games; and just plain get out of the house!

How do you know if you are a senior? If this sounds fun, you are probably a senior! If you are not a senior but want to join in the fun, please contact Kelly or Julie to volunteer to help! We have about 20 volunteers each night and it's so fun! Anyone giving you a ride is welcome to join!

Some of our seniors like to dress for the themes (but some don't as well!)

Trinity Lutheran Church, 38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch

Here are the themes and dates for the year:

April  $10^{th}$  – April Showers 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

May  $8^{th}$  – Mexican Fiesta 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

June 12<sup>th</sup> – Take Me Out to the Ball Game 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

(Guest singer-Peter Larsen)

July 10th – The Jungle 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

August 14<sup>th</sup> – Hollywood 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. (Guest singer-Jenni Thyng)

September 11<sup>th</sup> – 60's Party with a full concert! 5:00 p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Requested: If you are able to call at least a week ahead to RSVP, it is helpful for us to plan food.

If you forget to call – no worries – come anyway!

RSVP to Julie in the church office 651-674-7047.

There is no cost for anyone attending Senior Socials!

If you would like to make a donation, you can do so with Julie in the church office 651-674-7047

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!!!!!





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 Easter Sunday, April.20 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 April 8.

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!

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!



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

#### ALTAR GUILD

Serving for the month of April

Jean Fairbanks Terry Moriarty



#### Fare for All

3:00-5:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 9.

Fare for All is open to everyone! The more who shop the better the buying power of the organization. www.fareforall.org



May Trinity Tidings to office @trinitynorthbranch.org by **April 15.** Thank you!

Please email articles for the



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 April, May and June 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.

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Saturday	5	12	19	26	
Friday	5:00 –7:00 pm Fish Fry	5:00 –7:00 pm Fish Fry	18 6:30 pm Good Friday worship	25	
Thursday	3 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir practice	10 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm Senior Dinner	9:00 am Women's Bible Study 11:00 am worship 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday worship	2 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	
Wednesday	2 7:00 am Breakfast Club 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm EDGE Youth Group 6:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Confirmation meeting	9 11:00 am Worship 3:00 pm Fare for All 5:15 pm Praise Band 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm EDGE Youth Group 6:30 pm Worship	16 5:30 pm Praise Band 6:15 pm Choir 6:30 pm Orchestra	23 1:00 pm Welcome & Hospitality Team meeting 5:30 pm EDGE-FMSC Packing 6:30 pm Confirmation pictures	30 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm EDGE Youth Group
Tuesday	1	8 9:00 am Outreach meeting	15 7:00 pm Church Council Tidings articles due	22	29
Monday	HOPP	7 9:00 am Fellowship Team meeting	14	21 Church office is closed	28
Sunday		6 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Coffee Hour 11:00-1:30 am First Communion Class 6:00 pm Holy Hot Dish	13 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 am & 10:00 am 9:45 am Sunday School Egg Hunt 9:00 am Palm Sunday Brunch	20 Easter Worship Service/Communion 8:00 am & 10:00 am 6:15 am Cemetery service 7:00 am Choir practice	27 Worship / Communion 8:00 am & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School

#### **Treasurer's Report**

#### Statement of Income and Expenses

Month Ending February 28, 2025
Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch, MN

	F	ebruary	F	ebruary		YTD		YTD
Income	Actual Budget		Actual		Budget			
Unified Giving	\$	32,455	\$	34,325	\$	64,679	\$	68,650
Loose Offering	\$	652	\$	667	\$	1,070	\$	1,333
Other Income	\$ \$ \$	19	\$	113	\$	616	\$	325
Phoenix Operating Reimbursement	\$	3,918	\$	3,000	\$	6,598	\$	5,500
Special Bequests	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Total Regular Giving	\$	37,044	\$	38,104	\$	72,963	\$	75,808
	F	ebruary	F	ebruary	ΥT	D	YTE	)
Expenses		Actual		Budget		Actual		Budget
Mission Support								
Synod Support	\$	2,429	\$	2,429	\$	4,858	\$	4,858
Missionaries	\$	188	\$	188	\$	375	\$	375
Iringa Church Tanzania	\$	92	\$	92	\$	183	\$	183
Sub-total Mission Expenses	\$	2,708	\$	2,708	\$	5,417	\$	5,417
General Expenses		Actual		Budget		Actual		Budget
Ministry Support	\$	34,737	\$	36,759	\$	67,891	\$	74,552
Church Property	\$	12,327	\$	11,887	\$	20,248	\$	20,195
Stewardship	\$	232	\$	250	\$	483	\$	520
Learning & Youth	\$	276	\$	968	\$	528	\$	1,536
Worship	\$ \$ \$ \$	309	\$	217	\$	390	\$	383
Audio Visual	\$	_	\$	125	\$	-	\$	250
Witness & Service	\$	309	\$	404	\$	379	\$	808
Sub-total General Expenses	\$	48,191	\$	50,610	\$	89,918	\$	98,245
Total Regular Expenses	\$	50,899	\$	53,318	\$	95,334	\$	103,662
Total Net Income - February 2025	\$	(13,856)	\$	(15,214)	\$	(22,371)	\$	(27,854)
Unified Support - Phoenix	\$	14,000	\$	13,479	\$	22,600	\$	26,958
Income Less Expense after Phoenix Suppor	\$	144	\$	(1,735)				
Total Net Income - Year-To-Date					\$	229	\$	(895)

February Income was \$1,060 under the February Budget February Expense was \$2,419 under the February Budget

Net Income is \$144 for February Net Income is \$229 Year to Date

Please consider online giving.

YTD Phoenix Rent Received \$41,367

Respectfully Submitted,

7odd g. 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!

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.

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Trinity Lutheran Church - North Branch

## Annual LENTEN FISH FRY

Fridays 5-7 p.m. | March 7-April 11, 2025

Fish
Hand-cut Fries
Coleslaw
Dessert
Coffee & Milk



Pop for \$1 Meatless spaghetti also available!



\$15 Adults \$5 Kids age 5-10 Kids under 5 FREE!

Proceeds support
Viking Vittles
Weekend backpack food program

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.

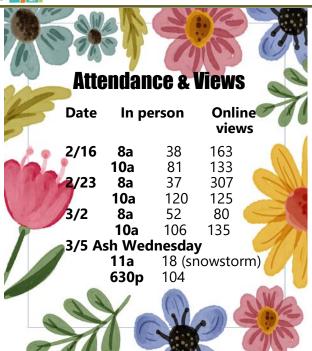


Everything In Between Lenten devotion booklets are available in the narthex. This will be our theme throughout Lent.

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



**Thee Alliance** in memory of Penny Boyce and JoAnn Nyholm from Tom & Candi Hals **Viking Vittles** in memory of Marlene Magnison from Vonnie & Dennis Johnson







38460 Lincoln Trail PO Box 447 North Branch, MN 55056

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## **April 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						
Church website: www	<u>ı.trinitynorthbra</u>	nch.org				
Pastor Paul Cannon			ext. 12			
Sue Danielzuk, Church	n Administrator		ext 37			
Marie Ray, Director of	Youth & Family	Ministries	ext. 13			
Courtney Fairbanks, S	unday School Co	oordinator	ext. 15			
Melissa Westmore, Dir	ector of Music		ext. 14			
Julie Morgan, Church	Office Manager		ext. 10			
Danielle Baumann, Vo	olunteer Coordin	nator				
Christopher Dehen, Fi	nancial Recorde	r				

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 Tiffany Byrne, Shari Denny,, Jeff Johnson, Rosanne Johnson, Jim Naggatz, Barb Nelson, Dan Peterson, John Swenson

