

January 2026

## Pastor's Page

---

January 2026  
Pastor Paul Cannon

### New Year, New You

Happy New Year Trinity Lutheran!

New year, new you! Maybe you've heard that one before. This is the time of year for New Year's resolutions, where many of us promise to make those life changes that will transform us into a "better version of yourself." Eat better. Get to the gym. Lose weight. Sleep more. Spend Less. The list could go on and on and on.

Companies will be trying to sell you on these things. Diets, gym memberships, supplements, self-help books will all be marketed to you with testimonials from people who say you can become the person you have always wanted to be!

But hidden underneath all of those products is a message that is telling you that you aren't good enough. You need to change something about yourself in order to make a "better" version of you. The old you is therefore something undesirable or even unlovable.

Don't get me wrong – I think it's good to challenge yourself. It's good to have goals and work towards them. They might make you feel better, live healthier and get more out of life. There's a place for New Year's resolutions.

But this year, when you set your goals for 2026, I want you to remember something first: God loves YOU for who you already are. You don't need to change yourself in any way to make God love you more. Paul writes in Romans, "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus didn't wait for the "new you" because he loves the old you more than you could possibly imagine or understand. Nothing you can add to yourself (or take away) could change that.

So before you make your New Year's resolution for 2026, make sure to remind yourself that God's love for you is already more than enough.

---

### End of Life Presentation - 9am - January 25, 2025

Elizabeth Damico-Carper is the Director of Support Services at Brighton Hospice as well as a rostered leader in the St. Paul Area Synod. Elizabeth will lead our Sunday adult forum on end of life planning and approaching end of life conversations - we will lean on our faith traditions to sing and be led by God's promises! Elizabeth will also spend some time dispelling common misconceptions about hospice care and answering questions.



**Our Annual Meeting** will be held at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, February 8. EDGE Youth Ministry will be serving a soup lunch as a fundraiser for youth trips and activities.

**ANNUAL MEETING** Please plan to attend!

**We have two openings for our Church Council** beginning in February. The council generally meets at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. These are three year terms. We thank Rosanne Johnson and Barb Nelson for their time serving on our church council. Let Pastor Paul, a council member, or Julie know if you are interested or have questions.

TRINITY TIDINGS

Trinity Lutheran Church



# Children & Youth Ministry News

## Family Sunday School/Children's Ministry

We had a beautiful Sunday School Christmas program with 40 children leading us through the beloved Christmas story this year. We're proud of all the students! This is one of our favorite days of the year and the program was a sweet reminder of God's amazing love for each of us. THANK YOU to Courtney Fairbanks for directing the program, Melissa Westmore for accompanying on piano, Sunday School volunteers, youth helpers, custodians, Trinity staff, and of course all our Sunday School youth and families for being a part of it. We wrapped up with our cookie party to celebrate together before Christmas break. When we return after the New Year we will be hearing stories from the New Testament about Jesus. We wish everyone a blessed New Year wrapped in God's grace!

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

**January 11** - Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45 a.m.

**January 18** - No Sunday School - MLK Weekend

**January 25** - Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45

**February 1** - Hot Cocoa Party and Singing at 10:00 a.m. worship



## Faith Friends - January 14

Faith Friends will meet again on Wednesday, January 14, from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join for TLC Pizza Night from 6:00-6:30 p.m. serving Domino's Pizza, salad, lemonade, cookies/bars, and water. Faith Friends is for families with elementary aged children up to 5th grade. You can register for pizza night online here: <https://forms.gle/XpPLWYCMXwJvA7438>



## Confirmation

6th, 7th and 8th grades, meets Wednesday evenings

**January 7, 14, 21, 28** - Confirmation 6:30-7:30 pm



## EDGE High School Youth Ministry

EDGE has a number of service projects planned to kick off the New Year! Students will pack Viking Vittles, serve coffee hour, do our poverty simulation service project, and go visit and play games with Ecumen residents. We will also have a lock-in filled with food, fun, games, devotions, and a service project making fleece tie blankets for children in foster care. Confirmation students will also join us for part of the fun. We are praying for a blessed 2026 for all our youth and families filled with God's peace and love.

**January 4** - EDGE serves coffee hour

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

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

**January 14** - Pizza Night 6:00 p.m. EDGE 6:15-7:30 p.m. Poverty Simulation

**January 21** - EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m. - Viking Vittles Packing

**January 28** - EDGE 6:00-7:30 p.m. - Ecumen Game Night

**\*\*Save the date: February 8** - Soup Lunch Fundraiser and Annual Meeting 11:00 a.m.



**NB Breakfast Club** Breakfast Club gathers again on Wednesday, January 7, 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 to join us for a full breakfast, friends, fun, and an encouraging Word before school! To donate towards these meals please note "Breakfast Club" on your donation. Thank you!



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

New and gently used adult large and extra large hoodies are needed for our care closets. Please place them in the church office.

Blessing Bags Thank you for all your donations that helped to make the children's Christmas Blessing Bags a reality. *Pathways is always grateful for our generosity. Thanks also to those who helped set up before packing day and those who helped pack!* Lori Fisk

Trinity's Outreach Committee wants to remind the congregation that Outreach includes giving to our members, members friends and families. We want to reach those in need right in our church home and will provide confidential gifts to all in need. Please contact Julie or Martha Arnold at [marthaarnold@me.com](mailto:marthaarnold@me.com) with your requests.

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 office. Thank you!

Trinity Lutheran Church in North Branch is seeking a Part Time Assistant Custodian. This position's primary responsibility is to provide cleaning and minor building maintenance as well as yard work and snow removal. Candidate would need to be available to open and close building on rotating weekends with Lead Custodian and on an as needed basis.

Work schedule is Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am to 12 pm and a few hours every other weekend.

The full job description can be found at <https://trinitynorthbranch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Assistant-Custodian.pdf> See Sue with questions or to apply.



## Shobi's Table

Eric Gustafson, a former Trinity member, spoke at our Advent Tea about Shobi's Table, a pay as you can food truck that serves four locations in St. Paul. Food served is made from scratch, and made with love. They create a safe place to be, sharing comfort, nourishment and

encouragement to all. They provide the dignity of a restaurant experience to everyone who comes to the truck, and each customer is treated with respect as a valued member of the community. Shobi's Table is a common table where all are fed in body and soul. Shobi's Table celebrates a just and merciful world where all have access to good food and vibrant community. All are welcome to join them for a meal!

They served a delicious meal at our Advent Tea, and gave an informative presentation on their café on wheels. Shobi's table also provides catering services! For more information, to volunteer, or to donate, reach out at 651-377-8761 or [info@shobistable.org](mailto:info@shobistable.org).

**Senior Socials** in memory of Joni Olson from Evonne Peterson

**Music** in memory of Roger Nelson from Tom & Candi Hals

**Undesignated** in memory of Joni Olson from Scott & Karen Johnson

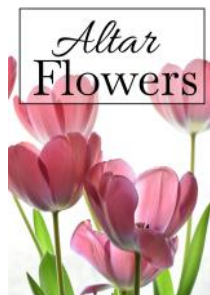
memorials  
& gifts

**Holy Hotdish Bible Study - "Ruth: Fields of Grace"** Our next gathering will be Sunday, January 4, 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 on the book of Ruth, discussion, and prayer. Upcoming dates are February 1 and March 1. Contact Marie to be added to our email list.

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!



Join us for Coffee Hour and Fellowship time between services each week. It's a great opportunity to meet new friends!



**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 January 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 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 January

Karen Young & Ann Tanko



**ALTAR GUILD**

## Fare for All

**3:00-5:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 21.**

**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 February Trinity Tidings to [office@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:office@trinitynorthbranch.org) by January 19. Thank you!



**Our weekly worship will be available each Sunday live at 8:00 & 10:00 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.**

# JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Services are broadcast live on YouTube and an hour after the service on facebook				1 Wishing you a blessed New Year!	2 6:00 pm EDGE/Confirmation Game Night EDGE Lock In	3
<b>4 Worship Service/ Communion</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 am</b> 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Holy Hot Dish	5 9:00 am Fellowship Meeting	6	7 7:00 am Breakfast Club 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm EDGE Youth Ministry	8 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band	9 	10
<b>11 Worship Service/ Communion</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 am</b> 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School	12 	13 9:00 am Outreach	14 5:30 pm Faith Friends 6:00 pm Pizza Night 6:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm EDGE Youth Ministry	15 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band 7:00 Bell Choir	16	17
<b>18 Worship Service/ Communion</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 am</b> 9:00 am Coffee Hour	19 Tidings articles due 	20 7:00 pm Church Council	21 3:00-5:00 pm Fare for All 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm EDGE Youth Ministry	22 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band 7:00 Choir	23	24
<b>25 Worship Service/ Communion</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 am</b> 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School	26	27	28 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm EDGE Youth Ministry	29 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band	30	31 

# Treasurer's Report

## Statement of Income and Expenses

Month Ending November 30, 2025  
Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch, MN

<u>Income</u>	November Actual	November Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Unified Giving	\$ 38,088	\$ 34,325	\$ 361,925	\$ 377,574
Loose Offering	\$ 1,070	\$ 667	\$ 9,289	\$ 7,333
Other Income	\$ 615	\$ 513	\$ 12,927	\$ 9,988
Phoenix Operating Reimbursement	\$ 1,703	\$ 2,000	\$ 25,842	\$ 22,000
Special Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Regular Giving</b>	<b>\$ 41,476</b>	<b>\$ 37,504</b>	<b>\$ 409,984</b>	<b>\$ 416,895</b>
<u>Expenses</u>	November Actual	November Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<u>Mission Support</u>				
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
<u>General Expenses</u>				
Ministry Support	\$ 35,807	\$ 34,979	\$ 404,043	\$ 423,715
Church Property	\$ 7,236	\$ 7,367	\$ 83,712	\$ 91,112
Stewardship	\$ 348	\$ 1,250	\$ 3,033	\$ 6,600
Learning & Youth	\$ 3,646	\$ 1,273	\$ 11,590	\$ 16,827
Worship	\$ 438	\$ 367	\$ 4,710	\$ 6,583
Audio Visual	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ 1,438	\$ 1,375
Witness & Service	\$ 231	\$ 404	\$ 773	\$ 3,546
Sub-total General Expenses	\$ 47,706	\$ 45,765	\$ 509,300	\$ 549,758
<b>Total Regular Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 50,415</b>	<b>\$ 48,473</b>	<b>\$ 539,091</b>	<b>\$ 579,550</b>
Total Net Income - November 2024	\$ (8,938)	\$ (10,969)	\$ (129,107)	\$ (162,655)
Unified Support - Phoenix	\$ 8,600	\$ 13,479	\$ 129,200	\$ 148,271
Income Less Expense after Phoenix Support	\$ (338)	\$ 2,510		
<b>Total Net Income - Year-To-Date</b>			<b>\$ 93</b>	<b>\$ (14,384)</b>

November Income was \$3,972 over the November Budget  
November Expense was \$1,942 over the November Budget

Net Income is -\$338 for November  
Net Income is \$93 Year to Date

YTD Phoenix Rent Received \$215,350

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!

---

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.



## We welcome Ed Figueroa to our A/V staff!

My name is Ed. I'm passionate about music and hold a degree in Music Production and Audio Engineering from Full Sail University. I've been at Trinity for a while now, mostly serving as a sub drummer, and I've also had the chance to play guitar here a few times.

I'm originally from Puerto Rico, the land of the eternal summer. Even though I've been in Minnesota for almost a decade, I don't think I'll ever fully get used to the winter weather. I'm grateful to be part of the Trinity community and look forward to continuing to serve.

Stop by the sound booth to welcome Ed to Trinity!



### **AUDIO-VISUAL** ---team---

#### **A/V volunteers needed Sunday mornings**

We are looking for volunteers to run the worship slides Sunday mornings. If you are interested or have questions, talk to Joe in the booth or message him at [jlewis@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:jlewis@trinitynorthbranch.org). Training is available.

### Attention Senior Citizens and Volunteers:

**Consider supporting our Chisago County Senior Center   Practice What We Preach-Enrich the lives of others.**

**A new mission opportunity:** gather your friends for coffee, or call and reserve a meal for lunch, or serve as a hostess/host from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for others coming to dine.

Steps to register: Once a year, call in, sign up for meals. Menus are provided monthly. Start by receiving the newsletter by calling 651-674-8658 or online at [chisagosrcenter.org](http://chisagosrcenter.org).

Call 651-674-1956 for lunch reservations, 24 hours in advance if possible.

Make a suggested donation of \$8.50-\$10.00 per meal: in- house dining or for lunches to go.

Enjoy quiet coffee between 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., meals served 11:45 a.m.—12:15 p.m. Monday-Friday, with music beginning at 11:15 a.m. on Tuesdays.

*"Our mission is to enrich the lives of Chisago County Senior Citizens and to support their individual lifestyles."*

See Judy Weiss or Connie Deminsky with questions.

<b>Attendance &amp; Views</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>In person</b>	<b>Online views</b>	
<b>11/16</b>	<b>8a</b>	43	119
	<b>10a</b>	127	123
<b>11/23</b>	<b>8a</b>	44	108
	<b>10a</b>	159	n/a
<b>11/27</b>	<b>630p</b>	55	18
<b>11/30</b>	<b>8a</b>	45	402
	<b>10a</b>	87	39
<b>12/7</b>	<b>8a</b>	59	297
	<b>10a</b>	112	202

### TWIGS Save the date-upcoming events

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR - WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Synodical Women's Convention  
Saturday April 25, 2026  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Circle Pines

KEY NOTE: Marcie R. Rendon, author of  
"Where They Last Saw Her"

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS TO COME

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR -SAVE THE DATE

TRIENNIAL GATHERING  
(National Women of the ELCA convention)  
July 16 - 19 2026   Des Moines, Iowa  
Visit [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org) for more information  
THEME: I AM WORTHY (PSALM 39:14)



38460 Lincoln Trail  
PO Box 447  
North Branch, MN 55056

**Return Service Requested**

**Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
North Branch, MN  
Permit 39**

Mailing Label

# January 2026

## 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 (available on YouTube and  
facebook, links on our website)  
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

Ed Figueroa, Audio Tech  
Joe Lewis, Video Technician Roger Anderson & Jeff Hill, Cus-

todians

Open, Cemetery Staff

Outreach Committee:  
[Outreach@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:Outreach@trinitynorthbranch.org)

Todd Fisk, Church Treasurer

Missionaries: 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

### ***Annual Meeting***

*The Annual Meeting of the  
Congregation will be held February 8th  
at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.  
Please plan to attend!*

