

May 2026

Pastor's Page

Trinity Tidings
May 2026
Pastor Paul Cannon



TRINITY TIDINGS

Trinity Lutheran Church

What's Your Why?

The last few months at Trinity we have been going through a visioning process. It started with the 1:1 conversations (thank you to all of you who participated!) and a congregational vitality survey. We pored over a demographic report of our area and discussed the opportunities of reaching out to our neighbors.

When we met as a visioning team, we keyed in on some values that we hold as a community – things we gathered from our 1:1 conversations. Community support, connecting to God, Inclusion, Faith Formation and yes FOOD, came up as key things that are core to who we are. Those things are more what we do, and not as much why we do them though.

But what we've really been trying to do more than anything, is to answer one simple question, "Why?" Why are we here? What is our purpose or goal in our ministry? It's a harder question than you think. Or at least, it's hard to boil down into one small sentence. After all we do a LOT here at TLC. From youth ministry, to outreach, to senior dinners, to worship, to so ... much ... MORE. That's really just the tip of the iceberg.

However, what we do isn't the same thing as why we do it. When we gathered with our visioning team back in April, we started the meeting by watching a video, featuring Simon Sinek, who is famous (among other reasons) for his TED talk "Start with Why." So that's where we started.

When we talked about the "Why?" of it all, people talked about sharing the love of Jesus, serving others and bringing people closer to God. I would be curious though what you think; what do you think Trinity's "why" is?

We would love to hear from you. If you have an answer to the "Why?" question, email it to me (pastor@trinitynorthbranch.org) and I'll forward it on to the team. And even if you don't have an answer right now, it's worth thinking about. Because if you want to move forward, the best place to start is by answering "why?".



Our summer worship schedule begins Sunday, May 17, with one service at 9:00 a.m. each week, followed by our Coffee Hour/Fellowship time. Services will continue to be available on Facebook and YouTube.

Coffee Hour hosts are needed for May 31 and June 7, as well as later in the summer. Sign up on the bulletin board to help out. Treats may be purchased or homemade.

Children & Youth Ministry News

Family Sunday School/Children's Ministry

Thank you to our amazing Teacher Leadership Team (Sarah, Dani, Abby, Jamie, Ellie, Megan, Marie, and Courtney) that helped pray, lead, and support our Sunday School program this year! We appreciate you! Thank you also to our Sunday School Coordinator, Courtney Fairbanks, for all her care, creativity, time, and energy she pours into making our program so fun and special for youth and families! We are grateful for the wonderful youth and families we get to learn and grow with at Trinity! We wrap up our Sunday School year on May 3, with an end of the year party and celebrating our 5th grade students who are moving on to confirmation next year! Blessings on a wonderful summer and we hope to see you all at VBS Family Nights in June!



May 3 - Last Day of Sunday School Party 9:00-9:45 a.m. Celebrate 5th Grade Students at 10:00 a.m. worship
June 10, 17, 24 - VBS Family Nights 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Confirmation

Congratulations to Trinity's nine confirmation students who will be confirmed at our 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, May 3!



EDGE High School Youth Group

EDGE wraps up the school year with our annual bonfire, serving at the Confirmation reception on May 3, and serving at the Senior Recognition reception on May 17. We have 2 EDGE seniors graduating this year, and they will sure be missed! Thank you to all the adult leaders that have helped make our EDGE events and activities possible this year, Alanna, Justin, Sarah, Kristin, Megan, Gigi, Sarah, Gretel, and Megan! We couldn't do it without this village and your support! We are now looking forward to summer fun at Summer in the Son/VBS in June!

May 3- EDGE serves Confirmation Reception/Coffee Hour
May 6- NB Breakfast Club, 7:00-7:30 a.m.
May 6- EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m. Bonfire offsite
May 17-Trinity Senior Recognition 9:00 a.m. Reception/Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m.
June 3 - Class of 2026 Baccalaureate Worship 7:00 p.m. NBAHS Auditorium



North Branch Breakfast Club Our last NB Breakfast Club for this school year is on Wednesday, May 6, 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, plus we are inviting current 8th graders (next year's incoming freshman) for a sneak peek to our last one) Join us for a full breakfast, friends, fun, and an encouraging Word before school! To donate towards the cost of these meals please note "Breakfast Club" on your donation or donate online. Thank you!



Trinity Senior Recognition for Class of 2026 - We would like to invite you to join us for Trinity's Senior Recognition on Sunday, May 17, at 9:00 a.m. worship where we will bless the Class of 2026 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 and emailed to senior parents we had contact information for so please reach out to Marie if you did not receive one.



Class of 2026 Baccalaureate Service -

Wednesday, June 3, 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 2026.

Baccalaureate
WORSHIP SERVICE

Gifts Given to the Glory of God

EDGE Youth Ministry in memory of Mary Jo Hiller (Jean Otterstrom's sister)
from Mike & Barb Nelson, Jean Otterstrom

Viking Vittles in memory of Lavonne Lee Bean from Lester & Pam Zentner





In recent months the outreach committee has been able to help with medical expenses incurred by Pastor Jon Yurk's father in Mexico prior to his passing. We assisted a woman in the nursing program at Pine Tech to go on a mission trip to Greece to work in a refugee camp, we also assisted the high school robotics team with travel expense for their trip to the national competition as well as assist an individual with medical expenses associated with a liver transplant. Working with the middle school we provided gift certificates to local immigrant families that they could use to purchase groceries; these people had been afraid to go to work because of the ICE raids. We also had Easter bags for our homebound members. Each bag contained a plant as well as some candy. Many members of our congregation helped deliver them to the individuals.

As always, we are here to assist members of congregation or relatives that have needs that they need help with. (Please talk to Julie or Martha Arnold)

Viking Vittles A huge thank to everyone that provided bars or helped during the fish fry. During the six weeks of Lent, we served over 1100 people and raised about \$10,000. 90% of which will go to Viking Vittles at 10% to youth programs. We do still have 4 5# bags of fish available for sale. (see Julie for information, these can be broken down to smaller bags) It was great to see so many of our members as well as community people come for dinner. We even had a group from Cambridge Lutheran and one from Immanuel that joined us one week.

Volunteers continue to pack and deliver bags to the Ed Center and Sunrise each week. We also continue to send food to St. John's for them to pack 56 bags each week. Both the middle school and high school pack bags to send home with students in need.

We are thankful for the support of the congregation both financially as well as volunteers.

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!

Noisy Offering ideas are needed from the congregation. We would like our members to give the Outreach Team a name and address of a 501 c3 organization which you are fond of and which we could dedicate to our special Noisy Offering Sunday (the months which have five Sundays). Outreach always contributes an additional \$500 to what is collected. There are green sign up forms and a form box in the Narthex for your use.

Trinity's Outreach Committee reminds the congregation that Outreach includes giving to our 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 your requests.

Path to Home Update This Summer will be a time of huge change for the Path to Home program as they move to a new facility. The new building is near completion. Path hopes to receive the Certificate of Occupancy in the near future and they will be busy preparing to house the program. During July, guests will use the new building during the day only. The guests will be fed and housed at the churches as they have in the past. Trinity will host the program from July 5th to July 19th. Our participation will remain the same as it has in the past.

After full transition to the new building in August, the opportunity for the churches to support the program will primarily be providing the evening meal. Meals will be prepared in the onsite commercial kitchen and we will need to follow commercial kitchen standards. We are asked to provide the food, prepare, and clean up after serving. Training will be provided to keep us in compliance with the standards and there will be Path staff on site to help with any questions.

Path is requesting/hoping that Trinity will commit to hosting evening meals three weeks per year. The weeks will not need to be consecutive and will not be limited to July and December as they have in the past. Path has requested that Trinity responds with a commitment by the end of May.

Kris and I need your help to determine the level of support Trinity will commit to in the future. We would like to discuss with as many volunteers as we can. Feel free to catch one of us at church or contact us via phone or e-mail.

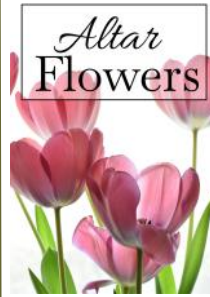
Thanks to all of the volunteers that have supported Path in the past. This life changing program would not exist without you.

Jeff Johnson, 612-718-0143, Kris Johnson, 651-295-6143

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 following the first service each week. It's a great opportunity to meet new friends! Hosts are needed for 9:00 a.m. May 31 & June 7 Coffee Hours. Sign up on the bulletin board to help out.



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 day. [8:45 summer Sundays] 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 May 12.

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 May
Barb & Steve Mork



ALTAR GUILD

Fare for All
3:00-5:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 20.
Fare for All is open to everyone! The more who shop the better the buying power of the organization. www.fareforall.org



Please email articles for the June Trinity Tidings to office@trinitynorthbranch.org by May 15. 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 April, May & 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.

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Confirmation	4 9:00 am Fellowship Team meeting	5 7:00 am Breakfast Club 6:30 pm EDGE Youth Ministry	6 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Senior Social 5:30 pm Praise Team	7 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Senior Social 5:30 pm Praise Team	8 	9
10 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour	11 	12 9:00 am Outreach	13	14 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 	15 Tidings articles due	16
17 Worship Service/ Communion 9:00 am Senior Recognition 10:00 am Coffee Hour	18	19 7:00 pm Church Council	20 3:00-5:00 pm Fare for All	21 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Team	22	23
24 & 31 Worship Service/ Communion 9:00 10:00 am Coffee Hour	25 	26	27 	28 9:00 am Women's Bible Study		

Job opening

Trinity Lutheran Church is currently seeking a dependable and skilled Media Technician to support both our contemporary and traditional Sunday worship services. The Worship Media Technician is responsible for live streaming / recording the weekly worship service and producing weekly worship power point media and other visual media as directed by the Lead Pastor and the Worship Director. This includes (but not limited to) Sunday worship services and other special services that take place during the year. An important part of this job is to recruit and train volunteers or substitutes to support or fill in as needed. See the full job description on indeed. See Pastor Paul with questions.

VBS Family Nights

Families are invited to be a part of VBS Family Nights this summer! We will gather together on 3 Wednesday evenings, June 10, 17, and 24, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Trinity. We look forward to learning about God's love filling us up through Bible stories, games, science, art, music, and service projects. 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 3**, to ensure requested T-shirt sizes for everyone in your family. We can't wait to see you this summer! Registration forms are available in the narthex and online here: <https://forms.gle/MwXik6QGBDoz2KZ78>. Reach out to Marie if you have any questions.



VBS/Summer in the Sun Youth Leaders - Entering 7th grade through Outgoing 12th graders are invited to be youth leaders and helpers for our VBS Family Nights. Dates are Wednesdays: June 10, June 17, and June 24, 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 3.**

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.** Thank you!



The Trinity men's group is always open to new people, please keep an eye out for upcoming opportunities to serve. Feel free to contact Chris Darst if you have any questions or suggestions to help our community. Thank you, Chris

TWIGS upcoming events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR -SAVE THE DATE

TRIENNIAL GATHERING (National Women of the ELCA convention) July 16 - 19 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa THEME: I AM WORTHY (PSALM 39:14) Visit welcatg.org or see Ann Tanko for more information

Attendance & Views

Date	In person	Online
3/15	Cancelled-storm	
3/18	11a 24 630p 55	n/a 100
3/22	8a 53 10a 105	112 124
3/25	11a 33 630p 65	n/a 143
3/29	8a 56 10a 163	133 148
4/2	11a 26 630p 57	n/a 43
4/3	630p 70	81
4/5	cemetery 16 8a 116 10a 275	n/a n/a 181



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, message dbaumann@trinitynorthbranch.org. Training is available.

Trinity will not be holding a rummage sale this year. We encourage donating to and volunteering at Shalom, as Trinity receives funds to be used towards community needs through our volunteers there.

Shalom Thrift Store volunteers needed.

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 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!



TRINITY
Lutheran Church

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North Branch, MN 55056

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Mailing Label

May 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
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 Music ext. 14

Julie Morgan, Church Office Manager ext. 10

Danielle Baumann, Volunteer Coordinator

Christopher Dehen, Financial Recorder

Ed Figueroa, Audio Tech efigueroa@trinitynorthbranch.org
Evan Spinler, Video Technician

Roger Anderson & Joe Gosewisch, Custodians

Shari Denny, Cemetery Staff

Outreach Committee:
Outreach@trinitynorthbranch.org

Todd Fisk, Church Treasurer

Missionaries: Our Sister Congregation in Tanzania—Pawaga

Church Council Members:
Dan Peterson, Council Chair
Alanna Baker, Tiffany Byrne, Shari Denny, Jeremy Edson, Jeff Johnson, Steve Mork, John Swenson, Jennie Tedrow





Senior Socials 2026

All community seniors are invited to join our Senior Socials! Have a great meal, sing along to toe-tappin' music, play games and visit with other seniors. There is no cost, so everyone can join! Call to RSVP to the church a week ahead, if you are able.

Where? Trinity Lutheran Church

38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch, MN 651-674-7047

What time? 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Here are the dates and themes:

May 7th – Sports – wear a sports jersey or shirt if you like!

June 11th – The Roaring 20's

June 25th – Rescheduled from April Out of This World Theme

July 16th – In the Good Ol' Summertime AND Talent Show!

Sign up if you would like to show off your talent!

August 13th – Wizard of Oz

September 17th – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Western Swing and Full

Concert! Wear your favorite country western wear or dress as your favorite Country Music Star!



Some of the seniors dress for the theme. Feel free to join in the fun!

Donations can be made to the Trinity Lutheran Church office.



Why Volunteer for Senior Socials?

1. To bring joy to those who brought us up - the people who have volunteered in our community and churches through our lives.
2. To connect all ages in our surrounding area.
3. To get out of the house! Loneliness and boredom do not just weigh on seniors, but people of all ages.
4. To give seniors a place to join others their age to support each other, laugh with each other, explore new things, and find new growth in their lives.

What do Volunteers do?

1. We laugh a lot!
2. Help prepare and serve food
3. Clear tables
4. Play games
5. Visit
6. Clean up (Putting chairs away, washing pans, wrapping up tablecloths table decorations).

How long does it take?

You decide! You can come early to help decorate and cook, stay a little longer to help clean up, or you can just come during serving time. You can also volunteer just to sit with seniors and visit. It's up to you to make it what you want it to be. We appreciate any help we can get!



Kelly Rogstad - contactkellyrogstad@gmail.com

763-607-8427

Julie Morgan - jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org

651-674-7047