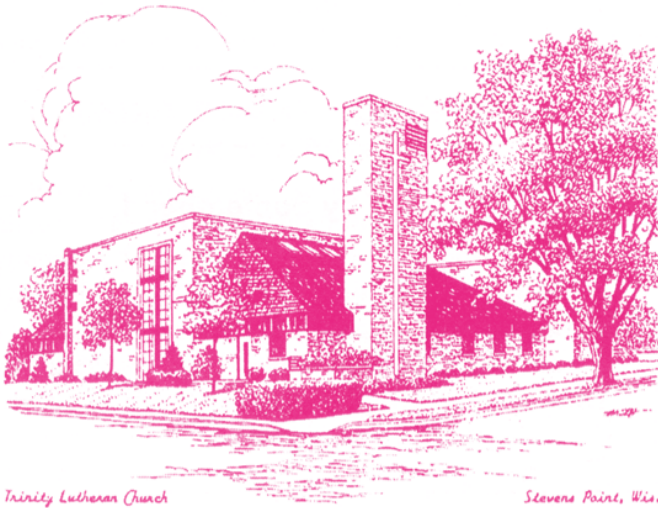


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WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

5:15 p.m. Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. Worship

Trinity Lutheran Church's Lenten Mid-Week Worship begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, with Worship at noon and 6:30 p.m. The service will include the Imposition of Ashes and the Lord's Supper.

The Committees of Trinity are cooperating to host soup suppers before each service beginning February 14 at 5:15 p.m. Be sure to attend and bring a friend!



Wednesdays during
Lent

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FEBRUARY 2018

Pastor's Column

From Epiphany to Lent

I have three things to share this month. First, a note that the season of Lent is coming early this year. Easter falls on April Fool's Day which will mean that, like St. Paul, we can all think of ourselves as fools for Christ. That places Ash Wednesday on February 14. As usual, we will have a service at noon and another at 6:30 that evening. And, we will begin our Lenten potluck suppers that evening at 5:15. Last year I saw first hand how popular these suppers and the following services are here at Trinity. I am excited about our coming Lenten season and the ways that it will focus our spiritual journeys.

Each Lent, we try to find a fitting theme to follow. This year the theme is being set by a group of congregations whose pastors will rotate in a "round robin." Each pastor will prepare one sermon and rotate among the participating churches, while the congregation stays at home to celebrate Lent in their usual way. After consulting a number of people, the worship planners have decided to use the popular Holden Evening Prayer for our Lenten services again this year. Our services will be at 6:30 pm each week.

Second, I want to let you know that we are proceeding in a good way regarding our search for a new Director of the Trinity Learning Center and Preschool. We have interviewed a number of good candidates and are close to making a decision. By the time of the publication of this article, I am confident we will already have made a selection. Unfortunately, this article needs to go to print before our final decision can be made. I'll be announcing the new director soon. Thanks are due to members of the Personnel Committee for their diligent work that brought us such fine candidates who have performed so well in the interview process.

Finally, a word of apology. I jumped the gun in previously reporting that we would try to move our Praise Band service to a weekly event. Upon further conversation at the worship committee meeting, it was agreed that our current goal would be to try to return to having the band play at both services on the fourth Sundays, and the second service on the second Sundays. The mistaken announcement led to some very good conversation about how we can enliven worship at all our services. We are still seeking an interim director for the band. Until one is found, we will need to continue our current practice of having the band lead us only at our fourth Sunday services.

Making public apologies is humbling, and we all need humble leaders. How refreshing it would be to hear more humble discourse from our state and national capitals. Let us pray that our new year will bring blessings to our congregation, our community, our region and our nation—and peace in our world.



Pastor Clay Schmit



Thank you to all the members of Trinity who have supported my campaign for conducting the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra. You have been generous and encouraging. I am pleased to announce that, through your generosity, mine was the winning campaign and my conducting debut will be on February 17 and 18.

Pastor Clay

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 19, 2017

Eleven members of Trinity participated in SafeZone training on November 30, to enhance learning on LGBTQ issues and language.

Administrative Secretary, Su Melby, will be retiring on March 2, 2018.

Pastor Clay will visit our sister synod and congregations in South Africa this July as part of a group hosted by Bishop Gerald Mansholt.

Jean Cunningham, director of the Trinity Learning Center and Preschool, has resigned effective January 19.

The Stevens Point Historical Preservation and Design Review Committee has approved a new sign for Trinity, however the approval does not include any electronic message feature. The Building and Grounds Committee will continue to work on the replacement, which is funded by a donor.

Karen Iiten
Church Council Secretary

SOUP SUPPERS ARE BACK

Join us each **Wednesday** evening at **5:15 p.m.** for our traditional “Soup Suppers” served prior to the Worship Services during Lent. They will begin on **February 14, Ash Wednesday**.

Soups are prepared and served each week by the many members of our Trinity Committees. We have some great cooks in our congregation and you are invited to dine on soup and share in the conversations with your friends.

Donations are given to local charities in the Stevens Point area.

*******All Are Invited*******

2018 Schedule for the cooks:

February 14	Building & Grounds and Youth & Family Committees
February 21	Finance and Communication Committees
February 28	Stewardship and Trinity Learning Center & Preschool Committees
March 7	Executive and GLO Committees
March 14	Personnel and Worship Committees
March 21	Christian Life & Growth and Christian Education Committees

CHOCOLATE SUNDAY

On **Sunday, February 18**, be sure to check out the Trinity Lutheran Church Women’s popular CHOCOLATE SUNDAY Fundraiser held during Middle Hour.

Come sample our homemade chocolate treats! Trinity Lutheran Church Women participate in many projects and your generous donation will help pay for the supplies we need. Also, check out the display showing many of the TLCW projects.

Non-chocolate and gluten free items will also be available.

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 18 – Chocolate Sunday
- April 7 – Tomorrow River Conference Spring Event, Good Shepherd in Plover
- April 12-13 - Rummage Sale
- May 3-5 - Rummage Sale
- Sep. 13-15 - Rummage Sale
- Oct. 4-6 - Rummage Sale

LENTEN COIN FOLDERS

This year, as in years past, the Global/Local Outreach Committee is sponsoring a Coin Offering during Lent. This year half of our coins will be used to renovate cabin interiors at the various campsites, specifically painted and replacing old carpet. The other half will support specific hunger programs in India, Malawi, and in the United States.



More information will be coming with your coin folder in the mail around Ash Wednesday. Let’s share our gifts this Lenten season by placing a quarter in a slot each day or making a donation by check. Thank you for your generosity.

TRINITY’S 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION FILM FESTIVAL

Attend Trinity’s 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Film Festival! On **Sunday, January 28 at 6:30 p.m.** visit key Martin Luther Reformation sites with noted Travel Broadcaster Rick Steves. He will take us through the European area where the Reformation was started. There will be time for questions and answers following the film and treats.



Mark your calendar: other films will be shown for the next three months:

February 25: The PBS documentary on Martin Luther

March 18: The 1953 Martin Luther film, “Here I Stand”

April 29: “Martin Luther”-the 2003 film

All films will be shown at 6:30 p.m.

Financial Statements

End of the year Financial Statements are available on the usher’s counter outside of the sanctuary. Please pick up your statement today.

Daily Texts

Daily Texts for 2018, a daily devotional with prayers and Bible verse is available on the counter near the sanctuary. An \$8.00 donation is suggested.

GROCERY DONATIONS

Interfaith Food Pantry (IFP), located in Plover, will be the recipient of our grocery cart donations during the month of February. They distribute food and other necessities on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Items they are most in need of include cereal; all kinds of canned fruit; pasta; pasta sauces; and health products ranging from body wash and shampoo to toothpaste and toothbrushes.

IFP distributes about 14,000 pounds of food a night. Much of the food is donated, but they also need cash donations to purchase items that haven't been donated. For instance, Mel Dow, the director, needs to purchase between 250 and 300 dozen eggs each night of distribution, so your cash donations are appreciated also. Just place them in the small blue box on the counter in the Narthex.

During 2017, between 20 and 30 new families came to the pantry each night they were open. November was an all-time high with 240 families each of the two nights. Of that number, one third of the families were seniors. In spite of the high numbers, each family only asked for help an average of slightly more than 5 times in 2017. What does that mean? It shows that families are using the pantry only as a safety net when they need help. One reason that the numbers are climbing is that the government is cutting Food Share (food stamps) back. When the state cuts back, there is more pressure on the food pantries.

Would you like to tour the Interfaith Food Pantry? Mel Dow, the IFP director, invites you to visit. So that he does not have too many people come at one time, please call 715-347-2689 to make an appointment. He would love to show you the facilities and how their distribution nights work.

It takes between 35-40 volunteers each distribution night. If you think you'd like to help out, give Mel a call. Thanks for your generosity. Let's continue to fill the grocery cart, not once but several times throughout the month of February.

Global and Local Outreach Committee

THANKS 😊

We were thankful for the Christmas decorations and those who helped put them up. But, there is the saying, "what goes up, must come down."

It was time for undecorating! Thank you to the following who helped undecorate: Russ Prusak, Tom Johnson, Diane Lavin, Carrie Bonikowske, Evelyn Widdel, Leanna Rusch, Alan & Nina Heckler, Glen Bauer, Kathy & Dave Bryer, Mary Lou & Dennis Bonikowske and Margaret Pitzrick.

The Worship Committee

SPARE-A-DIME



Our Spare-A-Dime recipient for the month of February is Lutheran Disaster Response for U.S. Wildfires Southern California. Fast-moving wildfires fueled by intense winds forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes in Southern California just weeks after fires destroyed more than 8,000 structures and led to more than 40 deaths in the state. In addition to the direct fire damage, recent rains have caused deadly mudslides in the same area.

Lutheran Disaster Response is actively addressing the overwhelming needs of those affected by these wildfires and subsequent mudslides. Your gifts will help LDR deliver a robust response on the long road to recovery. Our gifts will be used to help those affected in the area until the response is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support this response and others like it.

Thank you for your generous gifts.

Global and Local Outreach Committee

2018-2019 SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications are available in the church office. Ottem and Rasmussen forms must be returned by April 30. To qualify for the Ottem, you must be a Trinity member attending a Lutheran college or seminary full time. For the Rasmussen, you must be a full time student at a public or private college or technical college, and a member of Trinity.

Endowment and Memorial Gifts

CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY

Trinity youth will again be putting together care packages for Trinity members in college or the military. We are hoping to have these shipped and delivered before the end of the month. If you think your Trinity son, daughter or grandchild would like to receive one, please provide their name and address to the church office before Sunday, February 19 (or email Todd at tlcyouth@trinitysp.com)

If you would be interested in donating items or baked goods (bars or cookies) to be included in these packages, please see Todd for more information. Any contributions are appreciated!



TRINITY LEARNING CENTER NEWS

When you read this article, Trinity Learning Center & Preschool will be operating with a new Administrator/Director. I wish my successor well, and I pray the mission of Trinity Learning Center & Preschool will continue to be strong in the community.

As for myself, I do not know where the road will lead; but I have faith God has good things planned for me. I am thankful for Pastor Clay, Todd Lewis, Su Melby, Lori & Greg Kolodziej, Ralph & Diane Lavin, Dave & Pam Enerson, and for all others who gave me their support throughout the years. I am also thankful for the opportunity granted to me by Trinity Lutheran Church, to be the Administrator/Director of the Learning Center for the past 9 years, plus the friends I have made along the way. However, I am most thankful that I was able to help others; the low-income families, families, staff and congregational members who needed support, advice and opportunity, and my team I worked with to make Trinity Learning Center & Preschool an amazing childcare center.



May God bless all of you and the TLC Mission of TLC&P!

Sincerely,

Jean Cunningham

COFFEE KLATCH



Beans, beans, coffee beans! Your purchase of fair trade coffee helps make the world a better place!

This winter, we are featuring three varieties of coffee beans from Africa. Africa is home to more than 6,000 different varieties of coffee and offers some of the most complex flavors in the world.

In the Organic African Roots blend (Light Roast), Equal Exchange sources beans from three countries with storied histories and incredible coffee: Ethiopia, widely believed to be the birthplace of coffee; the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where a burgeoning coffee industry is quickly developing; and Uganda, where coffee trees grow on the stunning slopes of Mt. Elgon.

The Organic Ethiopian coffee (Full City Roast) is available in whole beans and ground. If you like Love Buzz, you may love Ethiopian, as well.

Purchase of the Organic Congo Coffee (Full City Roast) supports the work of the Panzi Hospital and educates the public about issues facing the D.R. Congo.

Looking for a Dark Roast? Check out the Organic French Roast, or give Midnight Sun a try - or a 5 pound bag of Peruvian French Roast!

What is your favorite? What would you like to see on the shelves? Want to write a coffee review? Send your answers to pamela@corcoranpuppets.com!

Pam Corcoran

EASTER DECORATIONS

One of the most meaningful symbols of Christ's resurrection is the lily. If you would like to contribute to the flowers and decorations for Easter morning, please return this form to the church office by March 25, 2018.



NAME _____

_____ plant(s) at \$20each = \$ _____

Given in Memory of:

Given in Celebration of:

_____ Please deliver my plant to a shut-in.

_____ I will pick up my plant immediately following the 10:45 a.m. service Easter Sunday.

_____ I will help with flower delivery.



LOOK AT THE ADVERTISERS SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH NEWSLETTER

This newsletter comes to you free of charge thanks to our sponsors. Please patronize these businesses and thank them for their support. Our sponsors this month are:



MANY THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS

Where Are They Now?—Catching Up With Missionaries Past

Ever wonder what happened to the Grow-Hansons, Peter and Sarah whom (with their two sons, Elijah and Simon) we sponsored in Senegal or to Kristen Opalinski in South Africa or, in more recent memory, Kevin Jacobson in Suriname? A bit of googling brought results.

From 2001-2011, Peter Hanson served in Senegal, West Africa, first as head of a cultural center in Dakar and then as a seminary instructor and mentor for pastors and other leaders in the Lutheran Church of Senegal. He is now the Lead Pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he also serves as head of staff, overseeing staff development and providing input to lay leadership groups. At Christ the King, he continues to emphasize God's Global Mission as "staff liaison to the Global Mission Team and Local Mission Partners." (If you carefully look around Trinity, you'll find gifts from Senegal generously presented to us.)

Our next missionary, whom we supported from 2012-2013, volunteered for the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program and, from headquarters in a suburb of Johannesburg, worked as a communications officer for the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa. Following her service, Kristin Opalinski visited us in 2014 with an eye-catching power point presentation in Fellowship Hall. Her facebook page lists her as a Design and Marketing Associate at Three Stones Consulting, "a strategy firm for the social sector specializing in financial sustainability, strategic direction, social impact, and resiliency...We work with those who bring a passion for social change and seek strategic direction." Now living in Chicago, she also acts as Communications Manager for Mission Advancement at the ELCA.

Finally, from 2014-2016 we welcomed Kevin Jacobson as our missionary from Suriname, South America. With deep roots in western Wisconsin, Reverend Jacobson was able to visit Trinity twice in three years, explaining his responsibilities as Pastor of Maartin Luther Kerk (church) in Paramaribo, the capital city. (Yes, he needed to preach in Dutch, the official language.) Currently he serves as the Assistant Director of Outreach in Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, which, from its headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, "welcomes and supports refugees and migrants entering the United States." (Most recently he was sighted at last summer's Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA in Minneapolis.)

We thank our missionaries for doing God's work in far-off lands and, once back in this country, for their continued service to the church and its mission.

GLO Committee



Trinity Youth's second-ever

Used Book Sale (CD's, DVD's, VHS and games, too)

**Sunday, February 11th
9AM - 2PM**

**Trinity Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
1410 Rogers Street-Stevens Point**

***All proceeds benefit our group's participation in the 2018 ELCA
Youth Gathering this summer in Houston***

Following Christ in this World

**February 3, 2018
Trinity Lutheran, Waupaca
10:00 am — 4:00 pm**

Be revived while gaining ideas for inspiring a passion for justice and an interest in advocacy in your congregations. We gather for worship each Sunday with diverse opinions on how to engage with problems in our communities, country and world. Explore how we come together to have a public voice as a church and why it is important. What do we have to say about children in poverty, the diminishing middle class, refugees, immigration, and other issues important to you? Gain tools for how advocacy can accompany your social ministries.

Bishop Gerald Mansholt, of the East Central Synod of WI will use his years of experience serving as a faith leader and advocating for fair public policies for immigrants and refugees to talk about the state of both groups locally and in our country. What kind of voice does the ELCA have? What can we do as Christians?

For more information contact the East Central Wisconsin Synod: 920-734-3797



We miss seeing your children. Sunday school numbers have dropped drastically in the past years. Ten years ago, we had over 100 students attend each Sunday. Even two years ago, we had 60 students each week. Now, we only have approximately 20-25 students from age 3 through high school with 11 adult volunteers weekly.

We are open to suggestions on improvements that can be made to increase student numbers. Please contact DeeAnn Donahue at d.donahue@charter.net with ideas.

Do you ever wonder what happens to the weekly offering the children bring in? Through Child Fund, we sponsor a five-year-old boy named Jelson, who lives in Honduras. Child Fund assists in developing programs to offer Jelson an education, clean water, and appropriate healthcare. Offering money is also used to sponsor a holiday basket for families in need. Last year, the students were able to purchase a variety of animals for people in need through ELCA.

During the month of February, students will learn about the Bible story of Jesus walking on water through experiments, projects, and Acting in a play. All of this will help children understand and strengthen their faith.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share the wonderful stories about God with your children.

Christian Education Committee

TRINITY LIBRARY

With the cold weather upon us, we hope you find time to keep warm with a good book.

Books to share with your children or grandchildren:

A Giraffe and a Half by Shel Silverstein (Pri Sil)
Enjoy a classic Shel Silverstein funny rhyming story.

The Best Story by Eileen Spinelli (Pri Spi)
When a contest at the local library offers a prize for the best story, a girl tries to write one using her family's suggestions, but she finally finds her own best story.

The Three Questions by Jon Muth (Pri Mut)
Nikolai asks his animal friends to help him answer three important questions: "When is the best time to do things?" "Who is the most important one?" and "What is the right thing to do?"

From our Intermediate and Adult sections:

Pharaoh's Daughter by Julius Lester (Int Les)
Subtitled *A Novel of Ancient Egypt*, this is a historical fiction account of the story of Moses and the Egyptian princess who saves him. This becomes the story of their rise to roles of great leadership.

The Silent Spillbills by Tor Seidler (Int Sei)
Thirteen-year-old Katerina, plagued by stuttering and lack of self-esteem, stands up to her cantankerous grandfather, head of Farnsworth Aeronautics, to save the unique Connecticut wetlands birds which inspired the design of the latest Farnsworth airplane.

Understanding Buddy by Marc Kornblatt (Int Kor)
When a new classmate stops speaking because of the sudden death of his mother, fifth-grader Sam tries to befriend him and risks destroying his relationship with his best friend, Alex.

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri (F Lah)
New arrivals from Calcutta, the Ganguli family tries their best to become Americans while missing their homeland. The name they bestow on their firstborn, Gogol, betrays all the conflicts of honoring tradition in a new world – conflicts that will haunt Gogol on his own winding path through divided loyalties, detours and love affairs.

Mary Coin by Marisa Silver (F Sil)
In 1936 Dorothea Lange snaps *Migrant Mother*, an iconic Depression era picture of young mother resting by the side of the road in central California. This photo is the inspiration for this story when survival was a day-to-day thing for her migrant farmworker subject.

The Nakano Thrift Shop by Hiromi Kawakami (F Kaw)
The thrift shop is the locale, but the stories of human relationships belong to the customers and staff. The unusual, unrelated, but intertwined characters make for a delightful tale.

Happy Reading!

7 Pat Gerbitz, for the Library Committee

SNOW POLICY

If school is canceled due to the weather on a Wednesday, Confirmation classes and Cherub and Youth Choirs will be canceled. Listen to radio stations WSPT & WYTE or check the Trinity website at www.trinitysp.com for cancellation information.

Trinity Quilt Makers

For many years, incoming students at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, have found a service project on their orientation calendar. In August 2017, Luther College Ministries and the Student Activities Council joined to lead a new project: making Fleece Tie Blankets for Lutheran World Relief. A group of 30 returning students helped organize the event, receiving grants from a local thrift store and Thrivent Financial to purchase materials. Those students coordinated the work of more than 500 incoming students over three hour shifts one Tuesday afternoon. After a brief introduction to LWR's mission, students broke up into small groups and assembled a total of 134 Fleece Tie Blankets. The project was a "joyful collaboration;" it offered a good way to talk about what it means to be an ELCA college and the global partnerships and relationships that bless the mission of Luther College," said Mike Blair, campus pastor.

Thanks to Katie, who responded to our plea for Quilting Day sewers. We still have another machine that needs an operator so our plea is still out there: **WANTED: Someone who will come on Quilting Days and sit and hem quilts on the machine. We can't keep up and need more sewers.**

We have two quilting days in February. They will be **Tuesday, February 13 and Thursday, February 22 from 9-3 in Fellowship Hall.** Coffee, tea and treats are served mid-morning. Come and join us, start a new activity in the New Year - 2018. You will be most welcome!

Lois Hagen



February Acolyte Schedule

	8:15 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
Feb. 4	Matt Davis Laura Rogan	Ian Houtman Ethan Thomas
Feb. 11	Tatum Thielman Colton Thielman	Allie Bena Alex Thompson
Feb. 14 (6:30 pm)	Taylor Moe	Alyssa Olson
Feb. 18	Zack Kolodziej Henry Kerske	Aileen Winn Grace Hydinger
Feb. 21 (6:30 pm)	Adam Rust	Ethan Thomas
Feb. 25	Matt Davis Elizabeth Oakland	Nathan Saari Griffin Slowinski
Feb. 28 (6:30 pm)	Tatum Thielman	Colton Thielman

GIVING THANKS

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia that was delivered. It is so big and full. I really enjoy it.

Ellie Bjorge

Thank you for the beautiful plant at Christmas. I am really enjoying it.

Art Fraske

The plants delivered by two Trinity members adds such a bright touch to my apartment. Thank you so much. I appreciate the remembrance.

Dee Krahn

Thank you so much for praying for me during difficult times. I really believe prayer helps and gets you through crisis. Also for the lovely poinsettia delivered to me. I really appreciated it and its beauty.

God bless you all,
Karen Oelk

Thank you on behalf of Operation Bootstrap for your thoughtful contribution. Because of caring people like you, our work of helping those in need in our community will continue to flourish. You may be assured that your donation will be put to good use.

Gratefully,
Operation Bootstrap

On behalf of the Salvation Army-Hope Center, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$50.00. We will use your donation to help those in need and I know they are thankful for people like you.

God Bless You!
The Salvation Army-Hope Center

LUNCH BUNCH



Please join us for our February Lunch Bunch at noon on Tuesday, February 20. Please call the church office at 715-344-2869 to say you'll join us. All are welcome!

Jane Flanagan
Jane Goudreau

From Our Bishop

In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us (2 Corinthians 5:19).

The five days I spent in Vancouver, British Columbia was a rich experience with colleague bishops from the United States and Canada. We had gathered for the annual Bishops Academy and the theme was “First Nations Peoples: Spirituality, Theology, Reconciliation.”

It was significant that we met in Canada where 10% of the population is First Nations People, compared to 1% or less in the United States. A sign of this stronger presence were front-page newspaper editorials and news stories about issues facing First Nation peoples, something we rarely see in the U.S. media.

Canada has invested time and energy in addressing issues related to First Nations People or Native Americans as we might say. In 2008 the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was organized in response to the abuse inflicted upon native peoples through the Indian Residential school system. The introduction to their work reads: “There is an emerging and compelling desire to put the events of the past behind us so that we can work towards a stronger and healthier future.”

The speakers at our event were Prairie Rose Seminole, ELCA Program Director for the American Indian, Alaska Native Ministries; Dr. Martin Brokenleg who served as Professor of Native American studies over 30 years at Augustana University, Sioux Falls, and The Right Reverend Mark MacDonald, the Anglican Church of Canada’s first National Indigenous Anglican Bishop. All of them referenced the work Canada has done in trying to come to terms with its history. As Prairie Rose told us, “you’ve done nothing wrong but you are benefitting from a history and a system of injustice and genocide.”

Through stories, a blanket exercise, and personal reflections we learned once again of the horror inflicted upon native peoples in North America – the displacement of populations, the dehumanization of people, the enormous suffering and death. The Church’s complicity also became painfully obvious, beginning with the Doctrine of Discovery. Papal rulings in the 14th century gave Christian explorers the right to lay claim to lands they “discovered” and to claim them for Christian Monarchs. In the centuries since, the Church has been involved “up to its eyeballs,” as one speaker said, in the dehumanization of indigenous people. “The Church participated openly and in animated ways, with ideologies and images that were intrinsically genocidal,” was the comment of Bishop MacDonald.

But there is the possibility for hope and healing. Reconciliation happens, said the bishop, when victims

reclaim their humanity and not because oppressors suddenly wake up to the reality of their evil. Victims are reconciled with what has happened in their history and oppressors are invited to repair the damage to their own humanity as they are invited into this well of grace.

Bishop MacDonald spoke of churches as “incubators of reconciliation” and lifted up 4 ways that congregations can participate in God’s mission of reconciling love. 1. One is to accompany the suffering. Reach out and listen to the stories of those who have suffered and endured centuries of oppression and neglect. 2. Another is to be a place of truth telling. Reconciliation only happens as the painful realities are noted and acknowledged. 3. Another is for congregations to be places of exemplary transformation by which, I think, he meant that we listen and learn and grow and change from interaction with the other. 4. Finally, we are all called to deeper levels of discipleship. We are called to integrate the will of God into our lives. With this I am reminded of the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer that it should be the ardent prayer of every Christian “to know and do the will of God.”

Bishop Elaine Sauer of the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod said she learned through her work with the Truth and Reconciliation process the importance of showing up. “We need to go, show up, and listen. Don’t look for resources or develop programs, just listen and learn.”

As I think about the many issues before us in this country, including coming to terms with our treatment of Native Americans, I think we would do well to listen and learn so that we can live into a stronger and healthier future. One of the recurring themes from our speakers was that God also meets us and speaks to us outside the realm of the Church.

One of the oldest Native American ministries in the Lutheran Church is right here in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. Church of the Wilderness is a Lutheran congregation and part of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community near Bowler. Their ancestral roots are in Stockbridge, Massachusetts having been forced into relocation several times before ending up in Wisconsin.

I wonder if God might be calling us in this synod, surrounded as we are by a rich heritage of First Nations People, to listen and learn and to be an “incubator of reconciliation”. We grow into a stronger and healthier future when we build community, hear the stories of others, and are transformed by the power of the Spirit at work among us. God has given us this promise in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

The Rev. Gerald Mansholt, Bishop East Central Synod of Wisconsin

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1410 Rogers Street • Stevens Point, WI 54481
www.trinitysp.com

CHURCH OFFICE

Phone(715) 344-2869
Hours.....Weekdays 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Answering Machine.....(715) 344-2869
Fax(715) 344-9123
Sunday Worship.....8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Middle Hour.....9:30 a.m.
All Committee Night.....Tuesday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m.
Church Council.....Monday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Trinity Website www.trinitysp.com

Twitter [@TrinityinPoint](https://twitter.com/TrinityinPoint)

Pastor Clay Schmit ClaySchmit@trinitysp.com

Todd Lewis ToddLewis@trinitysp.com

Su Melby..... SuMelby@trinitysp.com

Mary Werger..... clerk@trinitysp.com

Glen Bauer GlenBauer@trinitysp.com

Video Broadcast of Sunday Services on Mondays and Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. on Cable Access Channel 984.

CHURCH STAFF

CONTACT

CLAY SCHMIT, Senior Pastor 715-496-1957
TODD LEWIS, Youth and Family 864-4614
SU MELBY, Administrative Secretary 344-2869
MARY WERGER, Interim Office Assistant 344-2869
GLEN BAUER, Director, Building & Grounds 570-4931
BARB TOWEY, Organist 341-1825
HEIDI CORCORAN, Cherub, Youth & Senior Choir 592-3594
KATIE WROBLEWSKI, Organist & Bell Choir 572-3492
OPEN, TLC&P Director 344-2227
East Central Synod website/e-mail ecsw.org

CHURCH COUNCIL

HOME

JOEL LEMKE, President 572-0259
KATHY TRACHTE, Past President 341-0628
JEFF MARTIN, Vice President 341-9619
KAREN ILTEN, Secretary 341-6978
SUE ACALEY, Treasurer 345-9935
GAIL PUCCI, Building & Grounds 344-5497
PAM HOUTMAN, Christian Education 342-4491
TERRY KOCH, Christian Life & Growth 341-8540
OPEN, Communication
DIANE WITTE, Global/Local Outreach 295-2501
KATHY TRACHTE, Personnel 341-0628
OPEN, Stewardship 341-9335
OPEN, TLC&P
MARTIN LIEBER, Worship 341-7354
MELISSA MOLSKI, Youth & Family Ministry 252-8770

TOWER STAFF

Editor: Mary Werger, clerk@trinitysp.com
Tower Assembly: Joanne Joseph, Roberta Holthusen, Jim Henke
Diane & Ralph Lavin, Bea Berg, Carol Walther, Judy Spilde, Mary Ann Stevens

TOWER DEADLINE: February 20, 2018

FROM OUR CHURCH RECORDS THROUGH THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

	Budget	Actual		2016	2017
Envelope Offering (YTD)	\$424,452	\$463,501	Baptized Membership (January 1st)	1142	1142
Loose Offering	\$5,500	\$7,313	Confirmed Membership (January 1st)	845	840
Miscellaneous Income	\$2,000	\$818	Average Sunday Worship Attendance	186	194
World Hunger	\$7,500	\$4,581	Average Communion Attendance	151	157
Seasonal Offering	\$8,500	\$9,810	Average Sunday School Attendance	41	31
Receipts (YTD)	\$459,954	\$507,412			
Disbursements	\$552,443	\$502,252			
Net (+/-)	(\$92,489)	\$5,160			
Receipts (Month)	\$45,248	\$52,587			
Disbursements	\$41,209	\$49,090			
Net (+/-)	\$4,039	\$3,497			

Calendar of Events

February 

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Funeral Lunch Coordinators Ozz and Lois Hagen 715-344-7460				1 6:45 Men's Bible Study 10:30 Northcrest Service 1:00 Brookdale Service 4:00 TCLP Training 4:30 TLCP Class 5:00 Stephen Ministry 6:00 Stephen Ministry	2	3 1:00 Girl Scouts
4 8:15 Worship 9:30 SS, Turnout, Farrago 10:45 Worship	5 9:30 Women's Steering Committee 1:00 Service Broadcast 95/984 6:45 Boy Scouts 7:00 Charity Circle at Reid's	6 10:00 Whispering Pines 5:30 Personnel Committee 7:00 All Committee Night	7 11:00 Willow Brooke Services 4:00 Knitters 4:00 Cherubs 4:45 Youth Choir 6:00 Hand bells 6:30 Confirmation Y 1+2 7:00 Senior Choir 8:00 Service Broadcast 95/984	8 6:45 Men's Bible Study 10:30 Northcrest Service 10:30 Riverview Service 1:00 Brookdale Service 1:30 Wellington Service 4:30 TLCP Class	9	10
11 8:15 Worship 9:30 SS, Turnout, Farrago, Used Book Sale 10:45 Worship 5:00 Tubing	12 12:00 Joy Circle 1:00 Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 TLC& P Committee 6:45 Boy Scouts	13 9:00 Quilters 6:30 Building & Grounds 6:30 Cub Scouts	14 † Ash Wednesday 12:00 Worship 4:00 Knitters 4:00 Cherubs 4:45 Youth Choir 5:15 Soup Supper 6:30 Worship 7:30 Senior Choir 8:00 Service Broadcast 95/984	15 6:45 Men's Bible Study 10:30 Northcrest Service 1:00 Brookdale Service 4:30 TLCP Class	16 JYG	17 JYG
18 Chocolate Sunday 8:15 Worship 9:30 SS, Turnout, Farrago 10:45 Worship	19 1:00 Service Broadcast 95/984 6:45 Boy Scouts	20 Tower Deadline 9:30 Nursing Home Services 12:00 Lunch Bunch at Mikey's 2:00 Library Committee 5:30 Praise Band 6:30 Cub Scouts	21 4:00 Knitters 4:00 Cherubs 4:45 Youth Choir 5:15 Soup Supper 6:30 Mid Week Worship 7:15 Hand bells 7:15 Senior Choir 8:00 Service Broadcast 95/984	22 6:45 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Quilters 10:30 Northcrest Service 1:00 Brookdale Service 4:00 TCLP Training 4:30 TLCP Class	23	24
25 8:15 Worship 9:30 SS, Turnout, Farrago 10:45 Worship 6:30 Martin Luther Documentary	26 1:00 Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 Church Council 6:30 PCCCA 6:45 Boy Scouts	27 9:30 Nursing Home Services 6:30 Cub Scouts	28 4:00 Knitters 4:00 Cherubs 4:45 Youth Choir 5:15 Soup Supper 6:30 Mid Week Worship 7:15 Hand bells 7:15 Senior Choir 8:00 Service Broadcast 95/984			