



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: 507.331.6579

Address: 530 4th Street NW Faribault, MN 55021

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 2

February 2024

WELCOME TO OUR INTERIM PASTOR!



Please come to Rev. Gueldner's Installation on Saturday, February 3, 5:30 p.m. at Trinity, Faribault. A potluck dinner will follow the service. Bring a large dish to share and come welcome Pastor Gueldner and his wife, Michelle!



Rev. Peter Gueldner
Intentional Interim Pastor

Trinity Family...

I look forward to meeting you, working with you, and studying God's Word together in a changing religious atmosphere in our country.

I want to share some fun facts about my wife, Michelle, and me. We met in 1983 in Liberia, West Africa, while I was on a buying trip as a Lutheran Bible Translators Support Services worker from our sister mission in Sierra Leone. At the time Michelle was staying with her LBT missionary parents, Norman and Shirley Jaschen, and substitute teaching at the American Cooperative School and U.S. Embassy.

We were married in October 1984 and served with LBT in Sierra Leone until 1988. Upon returning to Minnesota, we settled in Montrose and jumped back into the life of a normal American family while continuing to be actively involved in our home congregation(s). We eventually moved to our present house in Monticello where we raised our family. During these years, I worked at several local Ford dealerships. After homeschooling our kids, Michelle worked as a church office manager.

We celebrated our 39th anniversary last year and are the proud parents of four children, 3 daughters and a son. Three of our four children are married and have blessed us with 8 wonderful and busy grandchildren, ages 1-6.

I left the car repair business in 2005 to focus on earning my bachelor's degree in preparation for my seminary studies. After graduation from the Seminary, I awaited a call to serve in a church. During this interim time President Don Fondow asked me to serve a church in Ortonville, MN, when their pastor resigned his call after five years. We lived in Ortonville and served this congregation until I received my call the next spring to King of Glory, Blaine. I faithfully served King of Glory for twelve and one-half years before my call to Trinity, Faribault.

In late 2020 and early 2021, I received specialized training in Transitional and Intentional Interim Ministry. After completing this training, I served a part time Interim assignment in Monticello while at the same time continuing my fulltime duties at King of Glory.

Feel free to stop by the office and say hello.

Pastor and Michelle Gueldner

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52 Week Bible Reading Plan

	Epistles	The Law	History	Psalms	Poetry	Prophecy	Gospels
Week	(Sunday)	(Monday)	(Tuesday)	(Wednesday)	(Thursday)	(Friday)	(Saturday)
5					<u>February 1</u> Job 9-10	<u>February 2</u> Isaiah 23-28	<u>February 3</u> Matthew 11-13
6	4 Romans 11-12	5 Gen. 20-23	6 Judges 1-6	7 Psalms 15-17	8 Job 11-12	9 Isaiah 29-33	10 Matthew 14-16
7	11 Romans 13-14	12 Gen. 24-27	13 Judges 7-11	14 Psalms 18-20	15 Job 13-14	16 Isaiah 34-39	17 Matthew 17-19
8	18 Romans 15-16	19 Gen. 28-31	20 Judges 12-16	21 Psalms 21-23	22 Job 15-16	23 Isaiah 40-44	24 Matthew 20-22
9	25 1 Cor. 1-2	26 Gen. 32-35	27 Judges 17-21	28 Ps. 24-26	29 Job 17-18	<u>March 1</u> Isaiah 45-50	<u>March 2</u> Matthew 23-25

A WELL SHAKEN TREE

For several years I have read the Bible through twice in 12 months. It is a great and powerful tree, each word of which is a mighty branch. Each of these branches have I well shaken, so desirous was I to know what each one bore and what it would give me. And the shaking of them has never disappointed me.

~Martin Luther



SERVING TRINITY & FLS

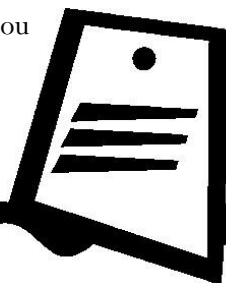
- Rev. Peter Gueldner,
Intentional Interim Pastor
- Rev. Hal Rex Longshore,
Visitation Pastor
- Rev. Gatluk, Reat,
Sudanese Evang. Lutheran
Mission Church
- Bill Kirkpatrick,
Finance Manager
- Nancy Simonson,
Family Ministry
- Jennifer Kingland,
Office Manager
- Bill & Mary Jewison,
Custodians
- Chrysteena Saehler,
FLS Administrator/Principal
- Jessica Lewis,
FLS Administrative
Secretary

Dear Trinity Family,

We have been richly blessed by our warm reception into your inviting and serving congregation of believers. You have made this time of change in our lives one of hope and anticipation as we enter in to all that our Lord wills for us in this season of our lives.

Thank you to all who prepared the coffee reception with the delicious food and beautiful table decorations, corsages and the many welcoming gifts. In the weeks ahead we look forward to meeting more of you and putting names to your faces.

In Gratitude and Love in Christ,
Roger and Sandy Malm



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School children will be deciding on their mission projects for the rest of the year.

The students will be singing in the 10:30 service on February 14.

2024 VBS, Scuba, is being tentatively planned for August 4-8. Preparations are beginning for this exciting event! Contact Nancy Simonson if you are interested in helping with the planning stage.



FAMILY MINISTRY

Grandparenting



Grandparents met on January 15 to view a video from Legacy Coalition. Good discussion followed.

Our next video will be on February 12 at 7 p.m. We will be watching "[Holy Sexuality and the Gospel – Grandparents Discipling Teens on Biblical Sexuality](#)". Everyone is invited to attend.

Grand Mondays are continuing on Zoom each Monday night at 7 p.m. through Legacycoalition.com. Various speakers talk about the special role grandparents have in encouraging the growth of their grandchildren's faith. Here are the topics in February:

FEBRUARY 5, 2024

TELLING OUR FAITH STORY

Jim and Karon Cecy, Senior Pastor-Teacher at Campus Bible Church of Fresno

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

A LEGACY THAT LASTS - PRESERVING AND TRANSFERRING YOUR FAMILY VALUES

Trudy Cathy White, Chick-fil-A Ambassador



Faith Legacy

On February 18 at 9:30-10:15 in the nursery, families of two-year-olds are invited to learn how to start "God Talk" in their homes. Picture Bibles will be given to families to read with their children. A blessing event will be held in a church service for the parents to present the Picture Bible to their child and bless them. An invitation will be sent. Contact Nancy Simonson for more information.

A NerfTime was held on January 28 with younger children enjoying Nerf activities from 1:30-3:00 p.m. and youth participating in games from 3:30-5:30 p.m.



Family Date Night



A special date night is being planned for Saturday, February 10. Couples (older adults or young adults) can enjoy a date without kids! We will babysit your kids (ages 3 and up) any time between 6-8:00 p.m. in the gym while you enjoy some time together. Please let Nancy Simonson know if you are planning to drop off your children.

Valentine Family Event

On February 11 during the Sunday school hour, parents and children are invited to a special Valentine event. Families will be making placemats for the Senior Center and Valentines to be included in the Meals on Wheels. Other games and activities are being planned.



HEART strings

Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.



CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

- a. We
- b. Above all,
- c. My command is this:
- d. And over all these virtues put on
- e. Greater
- f. See what great
- g. There is no fear in

1. each other as I have loved you. John 15:12
2. has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13
3. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18
4. each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8
5. the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1
6. because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19
7. which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14



Answers: a 6, b 4, c 1, d 7, e 2, f 5, g 3



Phone: 507-334-7982

526 Fourth Street NW, Faribault, MN 55021

administrator@flsweb.org

Theme 2023-2024:
"CONNECTED"
 John 15:1-5



What an incredible start to the 2024 calendar year here at FLS. January is always a time filled with the celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week. We had so much fun during the week between dress-up days, field trips, guest speakers, and the Souper Bowl.



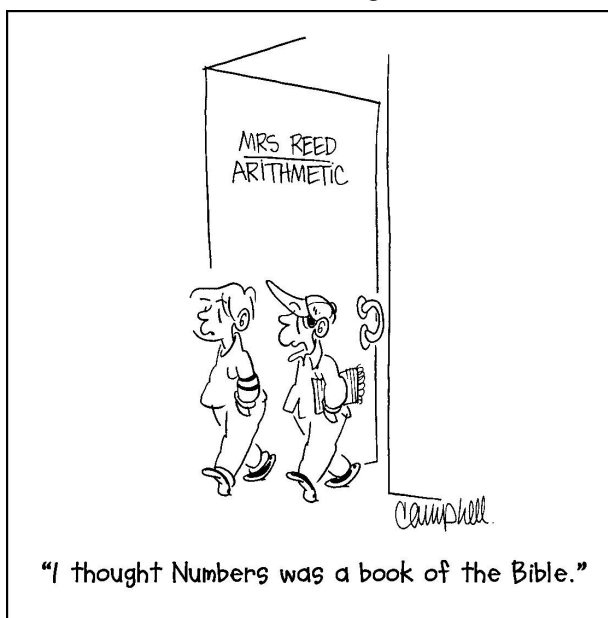
February is the month in which we begin our registration process for the next school year! It is crazy to think we are already gearing up for the 2024-2025 school year. Open house/Registration/Pre-K Night will be held on **Tuesday, February 13 from 5:00-6:30 PM**. With the new registration system we implemented last year, current families can register online. New families are also able to register directly online by going to our website (flsweb.org).

During the 2023-2024 school year, we had a total of 138 students at the school! Our lower grades are almost full, but we have space in the upper graders. We run private tours all year long for interested families.

Beyond the spiritual growth students are able to gain here, we give our students a well rounded education that will prepare them for the next steps in their journey. It cannot be overstated how much FLS strives to be a representation of everything that we stand for at Trinity and Peace. We take this responsibility with the utmost intentionality and will continue to strive to give our students the best Christ-centered education possible.

God's blessings,

Chrysteena Saehler
 Principal,
 Faribault Lutheran
 School



OUR KIDS HELPING OTHERS

On December 20, 2023, the 6th grade Confirmation Class sponsored a soup supper to support the Food Shelf at St. Vincent de Paul. They raised \$513 to help those in need!

6th grade confirmation class

*Pictured: Will Reindl, Bentley Lewis,
Brian Anderson (from St. Vincent),
Abby Schwartz, Curt Becher,
Summer Duskin*

Not pictured - Paduam "Ty" Reat



*Thank you for your kind
and helpful hearts!*



Happy February Birthday!

Special Greetings to Trinity members in Care Facilities or Shut Ins with February birthdays. We ask that you remember our fellow members in your prayers and help brighten their day with a card or visit.

2/22 Joan Eastman
843 Faribault Rd. Apt. 221
Faribault, MN 55021

2/28 Alice Gudknecht
1520 17th St. NW Apt. 124
Faribault, MN 55021

We thank God for all of our church family. You are invited to remember the birthdays of our Octogenarian and Nonagenarian congregation members. Say a kind word, offer a prayer or send a card!

Norman Liffengren (2/9), Virgil Luehrs (2/11), Don Dickison (2/14), Cynthia Hausmann (2/14),
Bob Meyer (2/23), Gerald Johnson (2/27)

MEMORIALS

Each gift has been recorded in the Trinity Lutheran Church Memorial Book located in the Church Office. We invite you to stop by the office and note the special donations given in love and remembrance. All gifts to Trinity Radio Club are recorded, then acknowledged by the Radio Club during their Sunday broadcasts.

IN MEMORY OF GARY MINER:

Sunday School Projects

\$500. by Family & Friends

IN MEMORY OF RAY SANDERS:



FLS Gymnasium Fund

\$20. by Howard Bode

IN MEMORY OF MARK TURNER:

FLS Gymnasium Fund

\$25. by Howard Bode

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11:30 Prayer Group	2 8:00 Men's Bible Study 11:40-3:30 FLS (Church Kitchen)	3 6am-4:15pm Sudanese Service of Prayer & Fasting 8-9:30 Basketball Camp (Gym) 5:30 Worship - Installation of Rev. Gueldner 6:30 Potluck Dinner (FH)
4 8:00 Worship 9:15 Cake & Coffee Reception for Rev. Peter Gueldner 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Parent Bible Study (Nursery) 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Worship -c 1:30-3:30 Bible Bowl	5 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV	6 8:30 Staff Mtg. 9:00 Bible Study 2-2:50 FLS (FH) 2-2:45 Violin lessons (MR) 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 6:30 LLB Mtg.	7 8:30 FLS Chapel 9:00 Quilting 2:30 New Perspective -c 4:00 Pleasant View Estates -c 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:00 Handbells 6:00 Connection (Schafer's) 7:00 Choir	8 11:30 Prayer Group 2:00 Human Care 5:30-8:00 AHG (MR, Gym, N, FH, After school care) 6:30 FLS Brd. (Trinity)	9 8:00 Men's Bible Study 11:40-3:30 FLS (Church Kitchen) 6:30-8:00 FLS Glow Dance (Gym)	10 8-9:30 Basketball Camp (Gym) 5:30 Worship -c 6-8:00 Date Night (Gym & MR) Date Night
11 8:00 Worship -c 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Sunday School-Valentine Event 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Worship 1:30-3:30 Bible Bowl 5-9:00 Neighborhood Group (Fellowship H)	12 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 7:00 Trumps' Bible Study (off site) 7:00 Grand Monday Night (Music Rm)	13 8:30 Staff Mtg. 9:00 Bible Study 12:00 FLS Pretzel Making (FH K) 2-7:00 FLS (FH) 2-2:45 Violin lessons (MR) 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 5-6:30 Registration/Open House/Pre-K Night	14 8:30 FLS Chapel 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Mill City -c 4:00 Emeralds -c 5:30 Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30 Handbells 7:00 Connection 7:00 Choir Ash Wednesday / Valentines Day	15 11:30 Prayer Group 3:30-8:00 FLS Parent/Teacher Conferences	16 8:00 Men's Bible Study 8-12:00 FLS Parent/Teacher Conferences 6-8:15 AHG (Gym) FLS - No School Newsletter Deadline	17 5:30 Worship
18 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Parent Bible Study (Nursery) 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Connection -c 1-4:00 Baby Shower (Fellowship Hall) 1:30-3:30 Bible Bowl	19 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV FLS - No School Presidents Day	20 8:30 Staff Mtg. 9:00 Bible Study 2-2:50 FLS (FH) 2-2:45 Violin lessons (MR) 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 6:30 Elders' Mtg.	21 8:30 FLS Chapel 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Milestone -c 3:30 Faribault Senior Living -c 5:30 Confirmation Class 5:30 Lenten Service 7:00 Connection 7:00 Choir	22 11:30 Prayer Group 5:30-8:00 AHG (FH, MR, Gym, N, After school care) Best Practices Conf. (22nd-24th)	23 8:00 Men's Bible Study 11:40-3:30 FLS (Church Kitchen) 1:00 Newsletters Assembled (Fellowship Hall)	24 5:30 Worship -c
25 8:00 Worship -c 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Parent Bible Study (Nursery) 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Connection 1:30-3:30 Bible Bowl 2:00 AHG (Fellowship Hall)	26 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 6:30 AHG Leaders' Mtg. 7:00 Trumps' Bible Study (off site)	27 8:30 Staff Mtg. 9:00 Bible Study 2-2:50 FLS (FH) 2-2:45 Violin lessons (MR) 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 7:00 Property Brd	28 8:30 FLS Chapel 9:00 Quilting 5:30 Lenten Service 6:30 FLS Baked Potato Supper 6:30 Handbells 7:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Connection	29 11:30 Prayer Group FLS - Set up for Winterim - Gym, Fellowship Hall, Music Room, Youth Room		

LAY LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES - JANUARY 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church
Lay Leadership Board Minutes
6:30 PM, Tuesday January 9, 2024

Attendance: Jeff Blume, Mitch Miller, Barb Beatty, Jim Boldt, Deb Malmanger, Penny Reichert
Guest: Chrysteena Saehler

Opening devotion and prayer led by Jeff

Faribault Lutheran School Report:

Chrysteena will be attending the final leadership summit on January 19th.

National Lutheran School Week will kick off with at the 10:30 service at Peace on January 21st.

There is one new student in the 5th grade.

Chrysteena inquired about the snow plowing contract. Does it include shoveling the sidewalk on the east side of the building where the children are dropped off and picked up? Bill will be contacted and arrangements made. A new shovel is also needed.

FOC (Financial Oversight Committee) report:

We finished the year with a surplus of \$32,000.

Sudanese Ministry/Rev Reat:

Jim updated us on his talks with Pastor Lee at the district about plans for the Sudanese Ministry.

Addition to the agenda:

Barb made a motion to raise the pay for the organist to \$100 per service. Penny seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion on Interim Pastor:

Housing: We have two possible apartments available. Pastor and his wife Michelle will be down to look at them and check out the town soon.

Start date: The installation is being scheduled for Saturday, February 3rd at 5:30 service with Pastor Klein officiating. Pastor Gueldner will start preaching on Sunday February 4th.

The board moved into Executive Session

The board moved out of Executive Session

Call Committee: Mitch made a motion to disband the current call committee. Deb Seconded. Motion Carried. Barb will send thank you notes to those that served.

Replacement for Steve Mullenex on LLB:

Following discussion Mitch made a motion to appoint Brian Fuchs to finish the two years left on Steve's term. Deb seconded. Motion carried.

Update Guest Pastor Schedule:

Jim will cancel guest pastors for February but will check with Pastor Gueldner as to dates he may need someone to give him time off.

Property Manager Discussion: Mitch will talk to property board about coordinating maintenance within the board.

The ceiling fans in church are becoming distractingly loud.

Needs attention before the high school choir concert in May.

Calendar items: Next meeting changed to Tuesday, February 6th to include Pastor Gueldner

Jeff adjourned the meeting followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Beatty

LLB Secretary

DECEMBER PASTORS' REPORT

Each month a Pastoral Report is prepared in the Church Office. Classes, meetings, appointments, worship services, visitations and communions are tracked and reported by each pastor. In each month's newsletter we will be including the most recent form on file (December 2023).

	Home Visits	Hospital or Jail	Office Visits	Pro-spect Calls	Shut Ins/ Others Com-muned Privately	Shut Ins/ Others Visited- No Communion	NH Worship Attended	NH Worship Com-muned	Worship Services	Classes Taught	Mtgs. Attend
Vacancy/ Guest Pastors	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	17	5	0
Lay Members	0	0	0	0	20	0	46	41	9	3	~

Baptisms: 0

Weddings: 0 Adult-Confirmed: 0

Released/Removed: Andrew Engquist

Transfers Out: 0

Transfer In: 0

Profession of Faith/Affirmation of Baptism: 0

Deaths/Funerals: 0

Notes: Rev. Boehme – 1 service; Rev. Klein – 6 services, Rev. Longshore – 5 Services, Rev. Stam – 4 services & 2 Bible Studies, Rev. Reat – 1 Service; Rev. Lane – 3 confirmation classes;

Elders/Lay – 3 weekend services, 6 nursing home services, and 3 confirmation classes

Official Acts:



Rev. Gatluk Reat December Report:
*Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran
Mission Church*

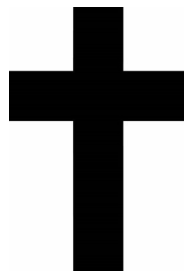
Worship Attendance

Week 1 – 30; Week 2 – 35; Week 4 – 40;
Christmas Eve – 150; Christmas Day - 341

Worship Services conducted in
Nuer & English in person and online.

OUR WAY OUT

While in London, Timothy Merrill was intrigued that signs with arrows read WAY OUT, rather than EXIT, as they do in America. "Everywhere I went, I saw signs that showed me the WAY OUT," he writes. That made him ponder all the Bible characters who looked for a WAY OUT of predicaments. Moses looked for a WAY OUT of Egypt, Daniel certainly wanted a WAY OUT of the lions' den and countless people thought (and still think) there's no WAY OUT from their sins. "The good news of the Gospel," Merrill writes, "is that Jesus Christ is the WAY OUT! He is our exit from the messes and disasters we create. He is the exit from sin and unrighteousness. He is the WAY OUT of a life without purpose and the WAY IN to an abundant life. And the symbol of the WAY OUT is not an arrow but a cross. What a blessing to know that Jesus knows — and is — the WAY OUT!"



A PRAYER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Lord of the winds,
I cry to Thee,
I that am dust,
and blown about
by every gust
I fly to Thee.

Lord of the waters,
unto Thee I call.
I that am weed
upon the waters borne,
and by the waters torn,
tossed by the waters,
at Thy feet I fall.

—Mary Coleridge (1861-1907)



TRINITY HAS RECEIVED RECOGNITION FOR MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY

Three Rivers Community Action recently awarded Trinity a Certificate of Recognition for the service members of our church have given over the years to deliver Meals on Wheels to our Faribault community.

Our congregation has helped with this very important service for many years when the first coordinators were Elmer and Elsie Schulz. Each October we are assigned to deliver 3-4 routes for a two-week period, and each year willing volunteers have come forward to help. If you ask these good people, they will tell you delivering a meal is only part of the service they provide.



Volunteers also check to make sure the people they deliver to are warm or cool enough, that they seem to be well, that they are indeed eating the meals delivered, and if there are needs that should be reported to the Three Rivers Coordinator. Add to that, it's a good chance to visit a bit with someone who might be lonely for a little conversation!

We wish to congratulate all of the volunteers who have helped, not just in 2023, but for all of the years Trinity has participated. Thank you!

Barb Mrosko

Emergency Blood Shortage

Blood donors of all blood types are urgently needed now to help ensure patients at hospitals across the country continue to receive critical medical care.



GIVE BLOOD—SAVE LIVES

Trinity will host a Blood Drive for the American Red Cross on

**Friday, March 15, 2024
11:00am - 5:00pm**

Tips for a Successful Blood Donation Before Your Donation:

1. Make an appointment by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (733-2767) or visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter: TrinityFaribault.
2. Eat iron-rich foods, such as red meat, fish, poultry, beans, spinach, iron-fortified cereals or raisins
3. Be well rested and hydrate - Get a good night sleep the night before your donation, eat healthy foods and drink extra liquids.

Additional Tips:

- ⇒ Donating Platelets? Don't take aspirin for 2 days before your appointment
- ⇒ Ask a friend to donate at the same time. You can support each other and do twice as much good!
- ⇒ Download the Blood Donor App to receive appointment reminders, start your RapidPass and more.

From Your Financial Manager . . .GOD'S GRACE AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY

After one and one half years, God has blessed us with a church pastor (Intentional Interim), starting on February 3, Rev. Peter Gueldner. Praise God!

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

All of us at Trinity, especially the elders and the LLB members have done a wonderful job filling in during that time. But what we have needed is a person to take on spiritual leadership of the congregation and to help guide us in rebuilding confidence and positivity going forward. He will also be a leader in working out any merging agreement between Peace and Trinity. We may now have the start of a new growth and stability path going forward but along with this huge God-given benefit, we also have a huge responsibility, both supportively and financially.

Let's talk finances. The end of the year is here and I have finished up the financial figures. The figures show good and bad traits. On the bad side, our contributions keep going down and down every year. In 2022 we received a little over \$620,000 for the year which, because we had pastors that year, left us \$20,000 in the red. Now, in end of year 2023, our income is even lower, at \$601,000, about a 3% decrease over last year.

Because we didn't have any called pastors in our budget during 2023, our expenses were very low. And even with our record low contributions, we ended the year \$23,000 in the black because of our low expenses. But such low expenses are no longer possible anymore in 2024. We can no longer ask temporary pastors with no paid benefits to help us out. After one and one half years we finally have a dedicated pastor back in the office again to help lead our church back into a sense of stability and confidence but that pastor has to be paid a normal pastor's salary with a normal pastor's benefits which are together about \$140K per year. That places our new budget for 2024 at \$720K. If we continue in 2024 with the same income as in 2023, we will wind up about \$120K in the hole by the end of the year. We do have about \$38K in LCEF savings given to us during 2020 (the first Covid year) by many very generous

members. But \$120K in the red will deplete those savings plus will use up most of the general fund balance leaving us with nothing at year's end.

We cannot continue at the current income rate.

And doing a one-time financial drive over the 2024 year is only a temporary measure. To keep our church financially healthy and stable long-term, we all must change out stewardship habits. Figures show we need to increase our giving habits by about 20% over what we gave in 2023 to meet our 2024 budget which includes just one full time pastor.

This whole revelation is probably very shocking to us all. But it's not that we are suddenly increasing our budget by a huge amount over what it was when Pr. Rieger and Werner were here, although inflation has had a significant effect. The main problem is that our giving has been dwindling ever since the Covid crisis. In 2021, our giving was about \$697K for the year, then in 2022 it was about \$620K (down 11%) and now in 2023 it was \$601K (down 3% more).

This year in 2024, we all need to seriously discuss stewardship and how we can improve it even with money not going as far as it used to. How lower giving will seriously affect our church, even in the near future. How it is our duty to return to the Lord what He has so graciously given us.

There will be more articles and stewardship thoughts coming up in the next few months. Please pray for our understanding of the problems and finding workable stewardship solutions.

And above all, please graciously welcome Pastor Gueldner to Trinity when he gets here on February 3.

Bill Kirkpatrick



Plan now to spend time with your brothers and sisters in the body of Christ - learning and growing in your life of service.

Pastors, parish professionals, educators, and lay people are all invited to experience the *encouragement* and *inspiration* of this two-day event.

Break-out sessions will be led by people involved with ministries that can be replicated in your congregation and community and are focused on one or more of the *Go First!* areas:

Life Together, Soul Care, Intentional Outreach, or Collaboration.

Registration is Open and Free!

To register, either:

Use the QR code or

Visit <https://www.mnsdistrict.org/go-first-initiative> and select the number of tickets needed.



A preview of the speakers who will be presenting at the *Go First!* Ministry Conference is available at the website above. With over 40 sessions to choose from, there will be something for everyone! (Sessions may vary as the conference draws closer.)

Please be sure to visit <https://www.mnsdistrict.org/go-first-initiative> to learn more!



Sunday, February 25th, 2024

- 1:00-2:00 PM REGISTRATION/
PRE-GAME "WARM UP"
- 2:00-2:30 PM INTRODUCING THE
TEAMS/JUMPERS PARADE
- 2:30 PM FIRST PLUNGER
- 3:30 PM GO HOME & THAW OUT!

ALL EVENTS AT CAMP OMEGA

** First one held here*

Fundraiser for Camp Omega

❄️ ❄️ **GOAL: 50 TEAMS OF JUMPERS** ❄️ ❄️


*Each team will raise funds and compete for
"traveling trophies" awarded to teams with the
highest pledges/sponsorships!*

- 50-50 split arrangement for youth groups/sports teams
- Name your team and dress in costumes (have fun with it!)
- Changing areas provided--but come prepared--bring towels
- Shoes must be worn and bring a "safety first mentality"
- Everyone must sign a "release waiver" to participate

**\$100
Channel Inn Gift
Certificate for
"Best Dressed"
Team!**

**For more information,
and/or to pre-register
a team of
jumpers contact
Russ@CampOmega.org or
call/text 507-384-7947**



 **Donation Link**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



530 4th Street NW
Faribault, MN 55021
Phone: 507-331-6579
Fax: 507-331-0986
School: 507-334-7982
www.trinityfaribault.org

Weekly Service Schedule - Saturday, 5:30pm
Sunday, 8:00am and 10:30am
Radio Broadcast: KDHL (AM 920)- Sunday, 8:00am
Consolidated Communications TV channel 10
& Charter/Spectrum channel 181,
Monday &/or Tuesday, 3:30pm

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.TRINITYFARIBAULT.ORG
8:00 & 10:30am services live streamed

WWW.TRINITYRADIOANDVIDEO.ORG
APPS FOR APPLE / ANDROID AVAILABLE

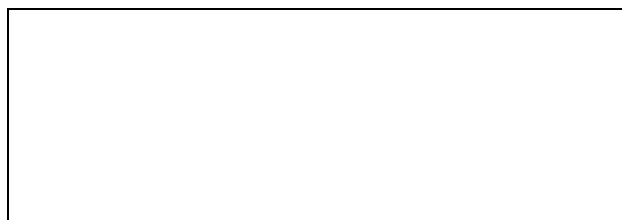
- OUR MISSION -
CONNECT, GROW, GO



2024

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Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 2024

5:30 p.m.

Lenten Services will continue each Wednesday...
February 21 & 28, March 6, 13, & 20 at 5:30 p.m.

We are in need of sponsors for our Lenten Suppers.

This is a great way to raise funds to support a special fund or project.
Available dates include February 14 (Ash Wednesday), February 21,
March 6 and March 13. Talk to Jennie in the church office.

If you are a Thrivent Member, Thrivent moneys are available to help
with expenses.



Ash Wednesday