



PATHWAYS

DECEMBER 2024
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2125 TOWER DRIVE, WOODBURY MN 55125



A Letter from Pastor April

We are reminded in Ecclesiastes that there are seasons in life –a time to plant, and a time to harvest. Throughout all the seasons of life God is faithful.

It is with sadness and gratitude that I submit my resignation to you, my last Sunday in the pulpit will be Sunday, December 29, 2024. I am not leaving to serve another church, but to serve as the Director for the Center for Proclamation at the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation. On my last Sunday in the pulpit, December

29th, there will be a congregational meeting to dissolve my call, effective January 31, 2025. While I will be in the office December 30 and 31st, my four weeks of unused vacation will put my last effective day as January 31, 2025.

My twenty years in parish ministry have been extraordinarily fulfilling, but it has been two decades and I'm ready for what's next, a new adventure. After much prayer and conversation with trusted friends and colleagues, I have discerned that God is calling me to a different kind of ministry. I wasn't actively searching for a new position, rather this one found me and timing didn't align, and then it found me again.

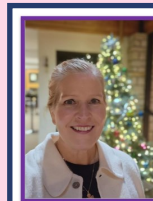
I expect the month ahead to be an emotional one. We have forged strong bonds together as the body of Christ, and leaving is hard. Please know that I am available to you in the next month. I would welcome the chance to have coffee, a meal, or visit and say goodbye.

I will continue to pray for you even as I leave you and I hope you will pray for me and my family as we say goodbye. The good news of the Gospel is that God is making all things new, and I know God has been and will continue to be faithful at Trinity as you enter this new season. I trust that as God calls me away from Trinity, God is already preparing the next pastor who will walk with you.

Thank you for an abundant seven years of ministry.

With much gratitude,
Grace to you, and peace,
Pastor April

A Goodbye Potluck for Pastor April



You're Invited to
**A Goodbye Gathering
Potluck for Pastor April**

Bring a plate of potluck finger foods to share!

Sun., Dec. 29th at 11AM (Fellowship Hall)



Congregational Meeting: Committee on Ministry, Sun., Dec. 8, 12PM



Trinity, You are invited to attend the upcoming **Committee on Ministry** meeting at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Sunday, December 8th @ 12:00 p.m. The goal of the meeting is to discuss the process moving forward. The meeting is also available using Zoom link, accessible in the Blast. During the meeting the Zoom chat function will be available for questions which we will try to watch for. The church will be communicating ongoing information mainly through the Blast. Thank you everyone.



2025 Trinity Pledge Cards & Survey of Talents

(Please turn to page 4 of Pathways Newsletter)



CLERK'S CORNER

BY JAY WILKINSON

We are in the midst of a Generosity Campaign for planning the 2025 budget. We are also requesting that each member complete the survey of talents. Both are requested to be returned to the church by Generosity Sunday, November 10th! Additional copies of each form are available in the church office. Please respond as soon as possible to reduce the amount of follow-up mailings and phone calls.

By now, you have, hopefully, read a letter mailed to you from Pastor April that she will be leaving us at the end of the year. Undoubtedly, this will present challenges to us. We are hoping to have a visit from Presbytery representatives after the worship service on Sunday, December 8. They will be able to explain the process that a Presbytery representative will lead us through and answer questions that each of us may be thinking about. Please plan to attend this informational session. We will also hold a congregational meeting after worship on December 29 to officially dissolve the relationship between Pastor April and our congregation.

At this time, we are expecting a significant deficit budget for 2025. While we have added a few new members this year, we have lost or are about to lose a number of significant donors. The Session has formed a temporary Work Group to address this situation and develop some possible solutions. Expect to hear from the Work Group and probably have another informational gathering of the congregation to hear your input. A date has not yet been determined for this.

As always, the Session appreciates each of our members and friends and encourages feedback on the mission and ministry of Trinity Presbyterian Church. Please keep our congregation in your prayers as we are encountering some significant challenges as we enter the new year.

Jay Wilkinson, Clerk of Session

Trinity Presbyterian Program Financial Summary			Thru month of	Oct-24
	Month Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Total Program Donations	\$20,513.55	\$269,964.84	\$192,324.84	\$230,789.82
Total Program Expenditures	\$23,642.37	\$288,390.94	\$201,857.07	\$242,191.36
Donations Less Expenses	(\$3,128.82)	(\$18,426.10)	(\$9,532.23)	(\$11,401.54)
Checking Roll Forward Add	\$1,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00
Income Less Expenses	(\$2,128.82)	(\$8,426.10)	\$467.77	\$598.46
Program Mortgage Expense	\$0.00	\$106,655.72		
Mortgage Principal Paid	\$0.00	\$106,236.11		
Mortgage Interest Paid	\$0.00	\$419.61		
Mortgage Balance	\$0.00			
			Actual program donations for 2024 thru October: \$269,964	
			Budgeted program donations through the month: \$192,324	
			Difference: \$77,640	
			Program donations w/JAN lg. donations prorated for 2024 thru Oct:	
			\$251,634	
			Budgeted program donations through the month: \$ 192,324	
			Difference: \$59,310	

December Services

12/15 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Christmas Joy Special Offering

10 AM (in person & on YouTube)

12/22 – Sunday Morning

Lessons & Carols

10 AM (in person & on YouTube)

12/22 – Sunday Evening Service:

Blue Christmas/Longest Night

7 PM (In person only, no YouTube)

12/24 - (Tue.) Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

7 PM (In person & Youtube)

12/29 - Pastor April's Last Service

& 11AM Goodbye Reception

***Please bring a finger food potluck item to share.



Unto us a child is born!



Blue Christmas/Longest Night Worship With Those Who Mourn

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people

in our congregations and communities. There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. Increasing numbers of churches are creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope.

Some churches hold a service of worship on the longest night of the year, which falls on or about December 21st, the Winter Solstice. There is an interesting convergence for this day as it is also the traditional feast day for Saint Thomas the Apostle. This linkage invites making some connections between Thomas's struggle to believe the tale of Jesus' resurrection, the long nights just before Christmas, and the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss.

Join us for our **Blue Christmas Worship Service on Sun., Dec. 22nd at 7PM.**

Christmas Joy Special Offering At Trinity, Sunday, Dec. 15th

Supporting Past, Present, and Future Leaders

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years! *Remember, when we all give a little, it adds up to a lot!*

WAYS TO GIVE

- Through your congregation
- Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy
- Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to give or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy

3.



2025 Pledge Cards & Survey of Talents

Trinity extends heartfelt gratitude for your generous pledges and unwavering support of the mission and ministry at Trinity Presbyterian Church! Your invaluable gifts of time, talent, and treasure are the lifeblood that allows us to spread love and grace within our congregation, community & beyond.

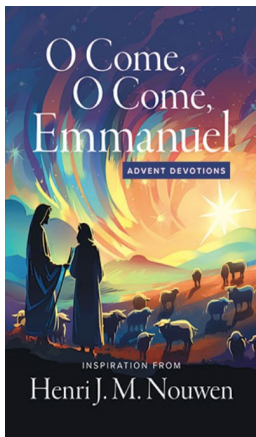
Thank you to those who have already responded by returning your 2025 giving card on Generosity Sunday, November 10th. If you have not yet returned your talent survey, please let Trinity know your intention as soon as possible. You may mail your card to Trinity, contact the office, email the office or contact Pastor April directly. Extra giving cards and surveys are available at the church if you need an extra one.

Your pledge allows us set our budgets for the upcoming year but also ensure that we can continue to serve others with joy and purpose. As you reflect on the profound impact that Trinity has on your life, we invite you to consider how you might increase your support. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us flourish together as a family. Thank you for being a vital part of this wonderful community!

Advent Daily Devotional

Trinity is offering a 32 page, daily Advent devotional booklet. Stop in and get yours today!

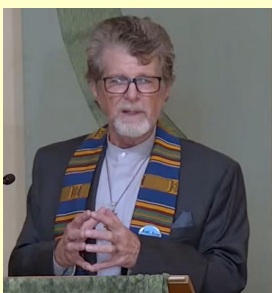
Sign up in the office to receive your Advent Devotional. Please look for the clipboard and be sure to check off your name once you claim your booklet.



Devotional Details: Inspiration for adults seeking quiet moments amid the busy weeks before Christmas. Enjoy the encouragement of Scripture paired with insights from the late Henri J.M. Nouwen. It includes reflections and prayers from seasoned author Steve Givens.

Trimming of Trinity's Christmas Tree

Congregants stayed after the worship service on Sunday, Nov. 24 to trim the church Christmas tree! Thank you to everyone for your help, and happy holidays to each of you!



Welcome Back Rev. David Stewart, Sunday, Dec. 8th

Join Trinity on Sunday, December 8th, as we welcome back Reverend David Stewart. He is the retired pastor of Dayton Avenue Presb. Church. He lives in the neighborhood and is a director of the Interfaith Action of Greater St Paul. His wife, Elona Street-Stewart, was very active in local school affairs and is the Executive of the Synod of Lakes & Prairies former co-moderator of PCUSA. He has three grown sons living in the area and proudest of all, three grand-children.



*Trinity wishes you
a very Happy
December Birthday!*

DeLaura A.
Sue B.
Jesse C.
Jack D.

Dan F.
Tove G.
Pierre L.
Jean M.

Comfort N.
Bob P.
Amy S.
Josh U.

Happy December Birthday!

Trinity gathered on Dec. 1st after the worship service to enjoy December birthday bagels and cream cheese. Trinity alternates between cakes and bagels each month for variety.

Please submit household birthdates both for the church database and especially for youth education planning purposes. Thank you!



Winter Safety Reminder: Snow & Ice Preparedness

Select proper footwear. Shoes or boots that have rubber or neoprene composite soles have better traction on ice than leather or plastic. There are also many slip on style ice grippers and cleat-style winter footwear accessories available in stores.

Use caution when entering & exiting your vehicle. In icy conditions, exit your vehicle first, then grab items you need from inside. Hold on to your vehicle for support.

Take short, shuffling steps. This makes it easier for your body to right itself before slipping.

Take your time. Assess your path. You may not see “black ice” until it is too late, causing you to seriously injure yourself. Assess your travel path by sliding your shoe or boot over it to see if it is slick.

Snow, ice and cold are just part of the yearly routine. If you would like to pull up to Trinity’s curb for drop offs, please do so. Again, use caution and alert the office if you plan to visit the church if you need assistance.

Photos by: Neal Strand



THANK YOU Volunteers!
TRUNK OR TREAT &
FOOD DRIVE





Children's Worship Bags for Children

New children's worship bags are available at Trinity. They are filled with quiet activities like coloring pages, small puzzles, Bible story booklets, and more!" The bags are designed to provide quiet activities for children to do during church services, particularly during sermons, to help them focus and stay engaged. Contents in each bag will vary but typically will contain a combination of the following items:

- Coloring books and crayons
- Bible story activity pages
- Small puzzles or mazes
- Stickers
- Playdough
- Sensory items like textured fabrics or beads
- Small toys or manipulatives

Worship Bag Benefits:

- Keeps kids occupied and less disruptive during worship
- Provides a sense of purpose and engagement during the sermon
- Can be themed to match the current Bible lesson



Teachers Needed for Trinity Sunday School

Trinity is in great need of volunteer teachers for the Sunday School class (Pre-k through 6th grade) that meets once per month for 12 months. Volunteers may choose one or several Sundays to teach. The sign up clipboard is in the office. Please contact Pastor April if you have any questions.

Trinity Sunday School kicked off in September and the fourth lesson will be taught on Sunday, December 15th. All youth ages Pre-K to 6th grade are invited to attend the class after the Children's Message: **An Illus-**

trated Invitation - Joining God at work in the world. Lesson #4: God's invitation in Hebrew Scriptures, Numbers 27:1-11: Five Daughters Demand to be Included.

Each lesson highlights a particular biblical story and provides opportunities to focus on hearing and reflecting on the story with open-ended questions, creating meaningful art, sharing in an interactive activity based on the story, and providing an opportunity to share God's love.

Module 1: God's Invitation in the Hebrew Scriptures

December: Numbers 27:1-11: Five Daughters Demand to be Included (Teachers: Miriam J. & Gayle S.)

Module 2: God's Invitation in the New Testament

January: Luke 2:41-52: God's Wisdom is w/the Child

February: Luke 19:1-10: Jesus Surprises Zacchaeus

March: Matthew 22:34-40: Love God & Your Neighbor

April: Acts 16:13-15: Lydia Extends an Invitation

Module 3: Accepting God's Invitation

May: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 24-25: Everywhere You Go

June: Leviticus 25:8-10: Jubilee

July: Acts 2:1-12; 37-47: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

August: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26: Remember Me

Can you help?
Please sign up
to teach any class
January through the month of
August (2 teachers per class).
A sign up clipboard is
located in the church office.
THANK YOU EVERYONE!

Church Calendar

DECEMBER

- 12/1 - 10AM Worship w/Communion and fellowship with December birthday bagels!
- 12/1 - RSVP deadline for Nov. 12th, Ladies Lunch.
- 12/2 - **Monday: RaiseRight orders are due today!**
- 12/4 - Bells Rehearsal 6pm/Choir Rehearsal, 7PM
- 12/7 - Men's Breakfast, 8AM-9:30AM
- 12/8 - 10AM Worship Service & Congregational Meeting at Trin. The Committee of Ministry at 12PM.
- 12/11 - Choir Rehearsal, 7PM
- 12/13 - Game Night at 7PM
- 12/10 - Tuesday, Deacons/CCMT Meeting, 10AM
- 12/12 - Ladies Lunch, Hazelwood at 11:30AM. RSVP's are required. Thank you
- 12/12 - Committees Meet, 6 & 7 PM
- 12/15 - 10AM Worship & Christmas Joy Special Offering, Sunday School #4, 11:00 ACLO
- 12/18 - Bells Rehearsal 6PM/Choir Rehearsal, 7PM
- 12/19 - Session Meets at 7PM (early due to holiday)
- 12/22 - 10AM Worship Service w/Lessons & Carols!
- 12/22 - **Blue Christmas Service**, 7PM
- 12/24 - **Christmas Eve Worship Service**, 7PM
- 12/25 - **Merry Christmas to all!**
- 12/29 - 10AM **Pastor April's Last Service & 11AM Goodbye Gathering & Potluck**
*****Please bring a finger food to share.**
- 12/29 - Stonecrest Sr. Living Worship Service, 1PM
- 12/31 - **Happy New Year!**

Vocal & Bell Choir Schedule

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Dec. 2: | 6 PM Bell Rehearsal |
| Dec. 4: | 6 PM Brass Rehearsal
7 PM Choir Rehearsal |
| Dec. 8: | 8:40 AM Bell Warm-ups (Pat-a-Pan Introit)
9:00 AM Hymn Warm-ups
9:30 AM Choir Warm-ups (Gloria for Spc. Mus.)
11:00 4Praise rehearsal with Steve |
| Dec. 11: | 6 PM Brass
7 PM Choir
8 PM 4Praise with Steve |
| Dec. 15: | 8:45 AM 4Praise Warm-ups (What Child is This for Special Music)
9:00 AM Hymn Warm-ups
9:30 AM Choir Warm-ups (Rise Up, Shepherds and Follow for Introit) |
| Dec. 18: | 6 PM Brass
7 PM Choir |
| Dec. 22: | Lessons & Carols
8:45 AM Brass Warm-ups
9:00 AM Hymn Warm-ups
9:30 AM Choir Warm-ups (Rise Up Shepherds and Follow and Candlelight Carol as part of Lessons and Carols) |
| Dec. 24: | 6:00 PM Choir Warm-ups (Candlelight Carol reprise)
6:15 PM Hymn and Brass Warm-ups
7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service |



Thanks for all the wonderful music! Tis the season! -Neal

MONTHLY TRINITY MEETINGS



Deacons/CCMT (Care Coordinator Ministry Team)
 Meets: 12/10, 10AM (Group meets on even months).

Committees: Thursday, 12/12, 6PM & 7PM at Trinity.
 Please submit meeting minutes to the office by the following Monday for session packet assembly.

Stated Session Meeting: Thursday, 12/19, 7PM,
 (Session meets early due to Christmas holiday).

Weekly Groups at Trinity



Trinity Vocal Choir & Bell Choir

Vocal Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM. Contact Choir Dir. Neal Strand with questions. If you are interested in joining the choir, please let Neal Strand know.

Bell Choir: (Per Neal Strand, Choir Director)

Bell Choir rehearsals will run through December 18th. Bell Choir rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM. Bell choir will play for the Christmas season. Please defer to direct communications with Choir Director, Neal Strand for any rehearsal changes with dates and times.

Outside Groups (classes/lessons):

Trinity rents church space to 3 businesses. The tenants currently provide classes for piano, martial arts and yoga.

- Piano Lessons: M-TH, afternoons & evenings
 Hours vary. Contact the office w/questions in the sanctuary and the small piano studio.
- Martial Arts Lessons: Monday eves from 4:15-7:15 PM & Saturdays, 12:30-2:15PM (fellowship hall).
- Yoga Classes: Tuesday evenings from 5:45-7:15PM (fellowship hall).

TRINITY SESSION - 2024

CLASS OF 2025



Stephanie Hoekstra



Samuel Mosisa



Rita Thomas



Brad Wright

CLASS OF 2026



Don Breckle



Emilia Effiom



John Griffiths

CLASS OF 2027



Jude Aborungong



Tom Rooney



Jane Williams



Jay Wilkinson
Clerk



Dan Freeman
Treasurer



Stephanie Hoekstra
Financial Secretary

2024-2025 Committees

Building & Grounds: *Rita, Tom, Jude

Worship : Jane, Samuel

Generosity & Finance: *John, Stephanie, Samuel

Mission & Outreach: *Brad, Emilia, Tom, Jude, Don

Personnel: *Brad, John, Jane

Nominating: *Don, Emilia

Christian Education: Vacant

Clerk: Jay

(* indicates chair of committee (this is subject to change)

Not currently serving elder members of Personnel: Steve T.

Not currently serving elder members of Generosity & Finance:
Jay W. & Dan F.

DEACONS & CARE COORDINATORS



Kathie Wilkinson
Deacon Moderator



Althea Hofer



Jane Willison



Gayle Strand



Miriam Johnson



Katharine Upson

TRINITY STAFF:

Rev. Dr. April Davis Campbell - Pastor

Amy Sachse - Office Administrator

Denis Evtuhin - Director of Music

Neal Strand - Choir Director



TRINITY MISSION STATEMENT:

*Growing in Christ,
Sharing God's Love.*

TRINITY CARES FOR:

*Creation, Community,
Family & Christian Growth*

Website: www.trinitywoodbury.org



Trinity Presbyterian Church

2125 Tower Drive

Woodbury, MN 55125

651-738-0045



The Friday Blast

Trinity's weekly news source!

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