

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 2025

Dear, Dear, Family of God:

We found this letter written during the midst of the pandemic, and yet the words seem as relevant today as they did then.

As I write this letter we have once again celebrated the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Every year I love re-hearing his eloquent, faith grounded and driven vision of a possible future. But it saddens me to realize how little progress we have made.

We are living in difficult times. Between all the divisions in our world, the personal pain, struggle and loss many of face, and the actual normal February cold and darkness, it is easy to feel exhausted and disheartened.

However, in such times I have found Dr. King's observations on darkness particularly helpful.

Midnight is a confusing hour, and one in which it is difficult to be faithful; but the relevancy and power of the church will be measured by its capacity to meet the needs of those who come at midnight.

The most inspiring word that the church can say to people at midnight is that no midnight is here to stay. Midnight is only a temporary development in the cycle of life's day.

Yes, the dawn will come. Disappointment, sorrow and despair are all born in midnight, but we may be consoled by the fact that morning will come. "Weeping may stay for a night," says the Psalmist, "but joy comes in the morning." This is the faith that will adjourn the assemblies of hopelessness, and bring new light into the dark chambers of pessimism.

We are uncertain what the future holds. But we can be positive that God's message of hope, new beginnings and new life has never been more needed or relevant. We –the church– are called to carry the light of God's love into the darkness and let it shatter old patterns of hatred, fear, and despair.

Soon we will start seeing Valentines' Day decorations. Let them remind us to celebrate God's deepest love which shatters every darkness. In the words of Dr. King: "We stand in life at midnight; we are always at the threshold of a new dawn."

Whatever dark and difficult time you may experience, may God's light, love, hope and peace be with you all, until you enter in the dawn of a bright new day.

Pastors Cristy and Dave



Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

MARK 16:16



On a special Sunday in January, Nate Shubat had the honor of witnessing the ministry of Breaking the Chains Church as Pastor David Rebey baptized two inmates.



TRINITY SENIOR HIGH YOUTH SUMMER TRIP

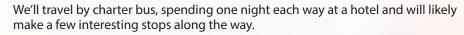
JULY 20 - 30, 2025 | Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center, South Dakota

Plans for the 2025 Senior High Youth Trip are falling into place!

This summer we are going on an immersion trip. We will be traveling to Pine Ridge, South Dakota where we will spend a week at the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center, learning about the lives of our Indigenous brothers and sisters on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

pineridgereconciliationcenter.org

The trip will take place July 20th – 30th



We'll spend 5 days living and learning at the reconciliation center.

Spaces are limited. We are limited to a maximum of 20 people, including adults.

Costs are still being determined. However, money should never be a reason for someone who wants to participate to be left out. If you want to go and the cost may be an issue, talk to us, and we'll see what we can work out.

If you are interested in going you need to let Pastor Cristy or Nate Shubat know, no later than Sunday February 16th.

While specifics will vary, a general flow for our time there will include presenters sharing their experiences, hopes, and views of life on the reservation. We will explore how history impacts contemporary life. There will be opportunities to discuss the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890, generational trauma, and how these historical events are part of daily life here on Pine Ridge Reservation.

Some of the sites that may be visited include Red Cloud Indian School, Wounded Knee, Wind Cave National Park, Crazy Horse monument, Red Cloud Renewable, The IHS hospital, and Thunder Valley. In addition, there may be additional sites and experiences as well.

WHY AN IMMERSION TRIP? | from pineridgereconciliationcenter.org Let's start with what it is not. It is not a mission trip—it is so much more. You are coming to meet the people of the reservation. You are not bringing Jesus; He is already here. You are not coming to fix anything. We want you to come and listen, learn, and grow. See the work we are doing.

We also want you to know that we are an active ministry. In addition to the immersions, we have other people in the building 7 days a week. We feed more than 1500 meals a month. We work with the homeless community and members of the Lutheran Lakota Job Corp are living in the building. This is a busy place!

Join us for an immersion that includes presentations that provide space for conversations and understanding of each other. The focus is on creating healthy, respectful relationships. You will hear of the history of the reservation and the historical trauma that affects the people even today.

We aim to help you break down negative stereotypes and develop a deeper appreciation for the people you meet.



Ready for an Adventure?

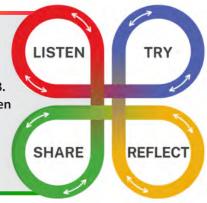
Mission Renewal is Beginning

Greetings from the Trinity Lutheran West Bend Adventures in Renewal Team! Unless you are on this team, your immediate response may be, "Say what?."

No worries, keep reading to learn more.

Mission Renewal is a process used by any church and/or congregation to review its approach to the world around it. The process teaches how to listen to God a little more closely, to consider what has changed in the community, and how the culture of the time may impact the faith work that's done. As the world's societal norms change, every church and/or congregation should consider how to react and respond to changes in societal norms. It needs to renew or revitalize its world mission on a regular basis. It's easy to get comfortable with the status quo, to sit back in the pew and let the world keep passing by, and to keep insulated and focus on things within the church's walls.

QUICK SUMMARY We are embarking on a Mission Renewal process. The Greater Milwaukee Synod has been supporting this process for churches/congregations since 2018. Previously called 'Faithful Innovation,' it has been expanded in the last year and is now called Adventures in Renewal. With the help and support of the synod, we started Trinity's renewal adventure in late September 2024.



As stated on the synod's website for **Adventures in Renewal**: *Learning our way into this new social landscape is nothing short of an adventure!* We believe the Spirit is leading and empowering churches to be renewed through listening, ministry experimentation, and deep connection with our neighbors.

Trinity's guiding team is supported by a coach (Jodi McMahon) and a pastor (Dave Schoob). The team members are: Katie Martin, Patrick Budoff, Rick Gilbertson, Loretta Lloyd, Hayley Kordosky, and Tom Bergerud. The guiding team has met a few times for training and expects to complete the training in April 2025.

One thing we have been learning in the training is how the early church had less focus on doing things inside a building and more focus on understanding the spiritual needs of the wider community. It was more focused on nurturing relationships in small groups and on sharing stories to explain what God wanted individuals and groups know about the Kingdom. It was more learning focused, and less "doing" focused.

Please keep this guiding team in your prayers as they consider how to share what they are learning with all of you, such that we all benefit from the adventure of mission renewal and ... Stay tuned!

ELCA TOGETHER IN MISSION EVENT

The Greater Milwaukee Synod will hold its **Together in Mission** event on **Saturday, February 15th** from **8 AM** to **3 PM** at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa. It is a time to worship, celebrate our partnership in the Gospel and attend workshops on a variety of topics. The cost is \$25.00 which includes lunch. Register at milwaukeesynod.org/event/together-in-mission-2025/



You are invited to participate in Trinity's annual

SOUPER BOWL of CARING WEEKEND

FEBRUARY 8th & 9th

During "SOUPER BOWL"
weekend, miniature grocery bags
will be placed on a display in the
Heritage room.
Each bag will represent
this year's Super Bowl teams.
You can vote for your favorite
team with your donation—the
grocery bag gathering the
most donations WINS!

On a day when people spend so much time and money on game snacks and parties, this is a good way to keep focused on what's really important—helping those experiencing food insecurity.

This year the proceeds will again be divided between our local food pantry and the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.





First Communion WORKSHOP

5th GRADE (or above) YOUTH AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

As part of their **KEEPING THE PROMISE** rotation, all 5th Grade (or above) youth *and* their parents/guardians are invited to come to a special workshop that will prepare them to receive their First Communion during the 9:30 AM worship on Sunday, March 2nd.

FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP INVOLVES TWO SESSIONS:

- FRIDAY, FEB 7™ | 6:30 8:30 PM
- SATURDAY, FEB 8TH | 9:30 AM NOON

There will be a group meal following the Saturday morning session. *This workshop is for BOTH the youth AND their parent(s)/guardian(s)*.

If you have a 5th Grader and your family has not recieved a letter about the First Communion Workshop, or haven't turned in the reply card included with the letter, **PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE ASAP!**

First Communion WORSHIP

5th Grade youth who complete the workshops will receive their First Communion during Worship on:

Sunday, MARCH 2nd | 9:30 AM

As part of their "Keeping the Promise Rotation" they will also be leading this worship service.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SHARING THE LOVE AND PROMISE OF GOD WITH KIDS FROM AGE 3 UP TO 6TH GRADE!

SEEIT, MAKEIT, TASTEIT, MOVEIT, TELLIT — SHAREIT!

SUNDAYS 9:30 AM—Come, join us anytime!

FEBRUARY 9TH

BRING-A-FRIEND SUNDAY!

3rd Grade BIBLE SUNDAY!

Keeping the Promise Rotation BEGINS!

SIXTH GRADE BRIDGE Confirmation

within Trinity's Children's Ministry program every year. It is made up of six workshops designed to help each grade level develop a deeper understanding of one aspect of the promise their parents made for them at their baptisms.

This rotation is designed directly from the baptismal vows:

In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him/her to the services of God's house, and teach him/her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he/she grows in years, you should place in his/her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his/her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, he/she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

For four weeks each 3 year old–5th Grader will be exposed to different presentations of the baptismal focus for their grade level.

Please make every attempt to have your children attend!

Little Lambs Baptism/Prayer/The Church

K-1st Grade The Lord's Prayer

2nd Grade The 10 Commandments3rd Grade The Books of the Bible4th Grade The Apostle's Creed

-16 | 14 | 16 |

5th Grade Worship and Communion First Communion Workshop

—see information workshop

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ATTENTION TRINITY ADULTS

Leaders needed for our last two rotations for this year:

- Easter Story Rotation | MARCH 16 APRIL 13
- The Greatest Commandment Rotation | APRIL 27 MAY 11

If you have a heart for kids, please consider signing up to help teach our kids about the **Easter Story** or **The Greatest Commandment**. Check out the schedule on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall or contact Alyssa—today! **Sharing God's love with Trinity's kids is guaranteed to positively impact your own life! GET INVOLVED WITH TRINITY'S CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM!**

Thank you,

Alyssa Brockman

trinitywestbendcm@gmail.com



F.I.S.H. << VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

4TH - 6TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 9 | 11 AM - NOON

Trinity's 4th - 6th graders are invited to join us for a **Valentine's Day Party** in Fellowship Hall. **Join us for some** fun, food, games, and prizes!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING F.I.S.H. EVENTS!

- St. Pat's Party | MARCH 9 | 11 AM NOON
- ReBirthday Party | APRIL 6 | 11 AM NOON



YOUTH PROGRAM WEDNESDAYS 6:30-8:00 PM

FEB 05 | 6th COMMANDMENT | SNACKS: Siena Scaffidi

FEB 12 | 6th COMMANDMENT | SNACKS: Amelia Walth

FEB 19 | 6th COMMANDMENT | SNACKS: Claire Brehmer

FEB 26 | 6th COMMANDMENT | SNACKS: Kennedy Butzler

MARCH 5 | ASH WEDNESDAY—NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation students are encouraged to attend Ash Wednesday Worship with their families Ash Wednesday Worship Services at NOON and 6:30 PM SC NDAN

SENIOR HIGH FIRST SUNDAY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 6 PM - 7:30 PM

Trinity's Senior High Ministry invites
ALL 9TH-12TH GRADE folks to gather
together for Senior High 1st Sunday
A monthly opportunity to get together,
share a light meal, and take some time to
renew yourself as a child of God.

- Connect or reconnect with friends.
- Recenter yourself with a short, interactive worship experience
- Recharge your passion for compassion
- Summer Immersion Trip Planning



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FUNDRAISER!

Our High School youth will be selling Seroogy's candy bars throughout February and March as a fundraiser toward their 2025 Summer Immersion Trip | ASSORTED FLAVORS—\$2 EACH

IT'S TIME TO GET READY FOR CAMP!

Join us in the Heritage Room on Sunday, FEBRUARY 23 for a CAMP COFFEE HOUR! See what camp is all about and hear from some of Trinity's campers!

Last year Alyssa Brockman traveled to Pine Lake Camp with 17 (1st -12th grade) campers for a week of fun and growing in faith. And, because Alyssa went to camp as a youth herself, she can attest that the experience kids take from their time at Pine Lake lasts a lifetime!



We will be going to Pine Lake Crossways Camp as a group for "WEEK 8" | JULY 27- AUGUST 1

Registration is OPEN NOW! - EARLY BIRD pricing ends March 15
Register your camper TODAY at crosswayscamps.org to insure your spot and take advantage of the EARLY BIRD pricing.

Camperships are available to anyone who needs assistance covering the cost for their camper. Please contact Alyssa with questions about camperships.





JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

We are blessed to have caring folks who make a big difference for Trinity's kids!

to my January VOLUNTEERS

John Kenworthy **Ashley Bungert** Susie Kelnhofer Jennifer Walth Lauren Gaszak **Kristin Robinson April Brodzeller** Sue Pawlowski Maureen O'Connell **Dane McIntyre Amelia Walth** Mia Hanvey Siena Scaffidi, **Makiyah Rouse** Victoria Kenworthy **Lucas Doede** Morgan Doede Mitchell Doede Jayden Hanvey **Kennedy Butzler**

Can't do it without you!



If you have a heart to share God's love and promise with our kids, PLEASE CONSIDER GETTING INVOLVED WITH











Son was acted out in TELLit: The youngest sonasks his father for his inheritance and leaves for a distant country. He lives it up and wasted all of his money. A famine came and he was forced take a job feeding pigs—the lowest job a man could have. The son was miserable and realized that he had been foolish. He decides to go home and ask his father for forgiveness. His father welcomes him with open arms, foregiveness and a great big hug!









LITTLE LAMB\$ learned that Jesus healed the crippled, blind, and sick. **JESUS CARES FOR OUR FAMILIES**.

TASTEIt: we make fruit salad and saved the scraps for the prodical son to feed the pigs.

MAKEIt: we made wire sculptures that represented the son coming home and being welcomed by his father MOVEIt: we played a Bible bowling trivia game with questions relating to the prodigal son



























Kaori Rosalina Ramos Benito is the Trinity congregation's Compassion International sponsored child. Kaori was born on February 10, 2013, she is about to turn 12 years old! She lives in a very poor coastal community of Pueblo Joven Huascar-B (PERU) with her parents and 3 brothers.

Our **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

offerings go toward Kaori's sponsorship, but your donations help us keep things on track. An extra monetary gift was sent for Kaori's birthday, which she gratefully used to buy a pair of jeans, a pair of sneakers and underwear.

for your prayers, encouragement and continued support to help sponsor Kaori!



You can drop a donation specified for Kaori at Trinity or scan this QR code (look for the Kaori box) to give directly to support Kaori's sponsorship right now!



1 Corinthians 13:13



ITEMS OF THE MONTH

BROWN RICE
WHOLE GRAIN CEREALS
BEANS



WEDNESDAYS | 6:30 PM

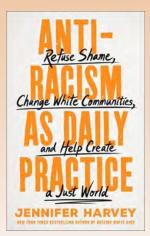
You are invited to join us for a member-lead Bible study that is open and casual. We meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM (perfect time for Confirmation parents) No pre-reading or homework—come with your curiosity and questions.

For more information please talk to Bill Duschek or Nancy Hanvey



The Trinity Comforters make blankets of warmth for people in need in and outside our community. Our blankets are made from (barely used and new) flat cotton sheets. No sewing skills needed! Join us on Thursdays afternoons to create comfort for others and share joy with each other in the process.

The Trinity Comforters are seeking new or barely used flat cotton sheets and appreciate your donaions!



ANTI-RACISM BOOK STUDY MONDAY | FEBRUARY 10 | 7 PM

In February I invite you all to read <u>Antiracism</u> <u>as Daily Practice</u> by Jennifer Harvey. *Here is a description of the book from Amazon:*

Antiracism as Daily Practice illustrates the many ways white Americans—those newly waking to the crisis of racism in 2020 and those already aware—can choose behaviors in our everyday lives to grow racial justice. Full of real life stories, this book shows how vital it is for white people to engage in and with our families,

through our social networks, in our neighborhoods, and at our jobs to make antiracism a daily living commitment. We have real power in our relationships with other white people—and not enough of us have used it. Dr. Harvey explains why we white people struggle with knowing what to do about racism, and explores the significance of emotions like grief and anger (as well as the harmful role of shame) in really reckoning with the transformation and change needed in our communities to become the partners in justice that Black communities and other communities of color need and deserve. Not only is such transformation vital to the well-being of U.S. democracy. It's vital to the freedom and wholeness of white people too.

Everyone is welcome to come discuss this book on Monday February 10th at 7pm.



Community Building is the ministry of bringing the inter-generational Trinity family of God together—to laugh, cry, work, grow, play and pray together.





Sourdough bread baking class for beginners!
Each person will leave with active sourdough starter and the know-how to be confident in making a sourdough loaf or other sourdough creations.

Participants will learn how to have their sourdough starter go dormant, but not die (for times they might need a break from baking for a bit), and then how to reactivate it to get it going again. Also, each person will get printouts of an easy to follow sourdough recipes.

COST \$30 PER PERSON | LIMITED TO 30 PARTICIPANTS Sign up in the Heritage Room or on SignUP Genius





bringing in your aluminum can pop tabs to benefit The Ronald McDonald House | Keep them coming! They add up and make a difference for families served by Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. House-shaped boxes are in the Heritage room to collect aluminum pop tabs all year long!

RETURN

| MMK YOU, for your support of ProjectRETURN —your donations are appreciated and used!

At this time, however, Project RETURN is in the process of moving and is unable to accept donations so please HOLD OFF bringing anything in for them now. I will let you kow as soon as they are settled in their new building and looking for donations again.

Nate Shubat



BLESSINGS

ON THE DAY YOU WERE BORN, GOD DANCED, ANGELS SANG AND THE STARS ALIGNED. WE HOPE THAT YOUR BIRTHDAY WILL BE A HAPPY CELEBRATION FILLED WITH BLESSINGS.

/laureen O'Connell	2	01
Ronald Wicke	2	02
Randall Cranney	2	03
Joann Poenitsch	2	03
Zachary Schicker	2	03
Ann Taylor	2	03
Amelia Walth	2	03
Seth Bergerud		04
Mari Borek	2	04
Ruth Ruh	2	05
Garrett Clark	2	06
Peyton Johnson	2	07
Lisa Clark	2	09
Chris Chlupp	2	11
Meghan Retzlaff	2	11
Ralph Crass	2	13
Jeff (Jay) Ellis	2	13
Andrea Ethier	2	14
Jo Hinzpeter	2	14
Denise Kenworthy	2	16
Cyrus Walth	2	16
Kolbrin Walth	2	16
Paul Anderson	2	19
Gabriella Liles	2	19
Kelly Draves	2	20
Mark Foyse	2	21
Jacob Kozlowski	2	22
Laurie Beth	2	23
Rich Nielsen	2	24
Curt Pitzen		24
Ronald Vore		24
Riley Weber	2	24
Linda Amacher		25
Kenneth Gauger		25
James Wulff		25
John Wilson	2	26
Ryan O'Shea	2	29



Triwity | Contact Information

Trinity Lutheran Church | ELCA | Reconciling in Christ | 140 N. 7TH AVE | WEST BEND, WI 53095 262-334-2125 | trinity@trinitywestbend.com | **trinitywestbend.com**

Pastor Cristy Schoob

Pastor David Schoob 262-483-0791

262-483-0792 cschoob@trinitywestbend.com

ds chood @trinity we stbend. com

Office Hours	MON - THURS	8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
		Y 8:00 AM - <u>NOON</u>

Sue Walker......*Parish Coordinator* swalker@trinitywestbend.com | 262-334-2125

Phil Wagner Facilities Manager

Congregation Council Members